



FCPF Technical Advisory Panel



Ghana Draft R-PP: Initial comments by the TAP



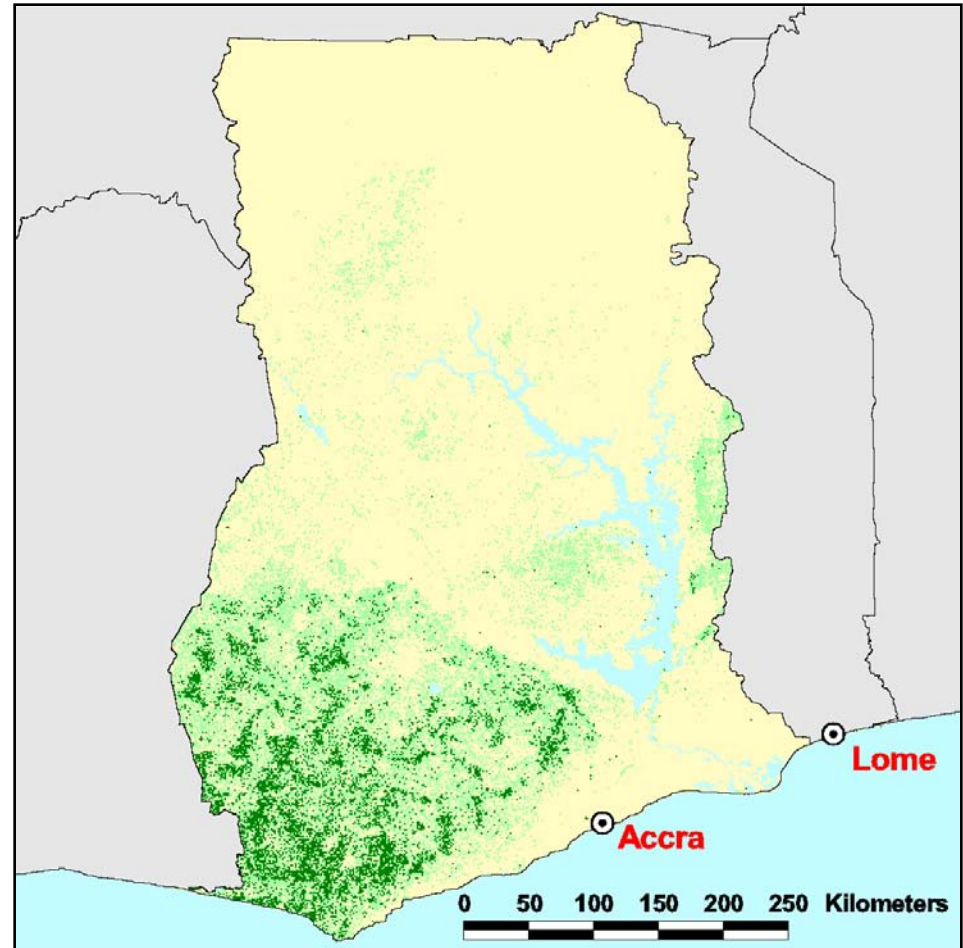
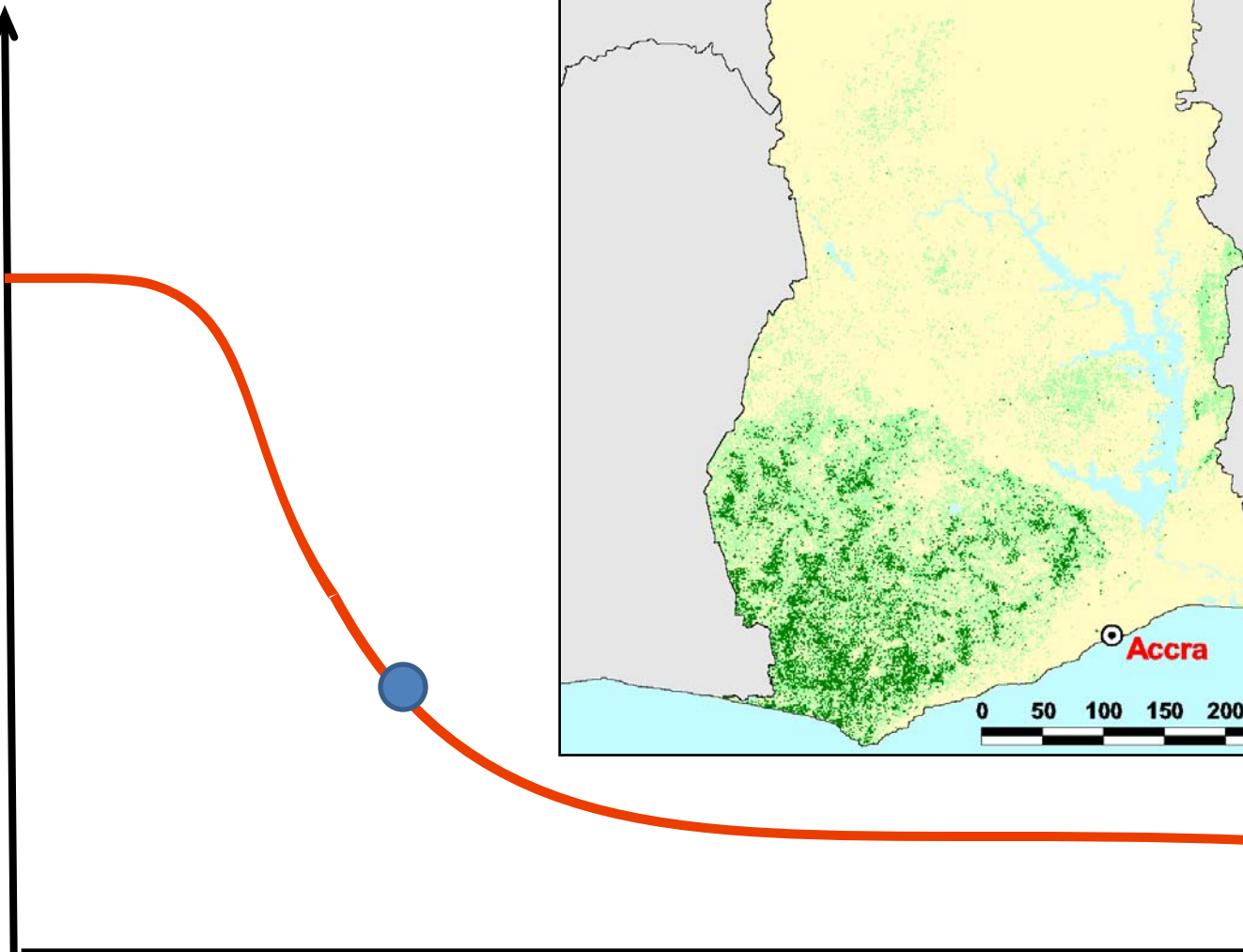
October 27, 2009

FCPF Participants Committee

For the TAP-group Ghana: Jürgen Blaser

Ghana: REDD-plus (addressing carbon footprints in forests and outside forests)

Relative
Forest
cover



The countries on the transitional curve...

R-PP Component 1: Organize and consult

Standard 1a

National Readiness Management Arrangements

Assessment

- National REDD-plus Secretariat operational under the FC. Need to delineate institutional responsibilities. Link to other bodies (e.g. National Climate Change Committee; NREAC) to be established
- Complex institutional environment with potential for conflicting situations; this needs to be further thought through: the more inclusive you are, the more complicated will be the institutional arrangements
- National REDD steering committee in place but has only advisory functions. It is not clear how the different stakeholders are included in the decisional process on REDD-plus planning

Standard 1a: Cross-cutting nature of design and workings of readiness arrangements

R-PP Component 1: Organize and consult

Standard 1a

National Readiness Management Arrangements

Recommendations

- Clarify management arrangements for R-PP implementation
- Demonstrate how the REDD-plus will be integrated in the broader Sustainable Development Strategy of the country (e.g. through a communication planning process on REDD-plus)
- Clarify further the TORs of the REDD-plus secretariat for the R-PP implementation process
- Define procedural rights of representatives in the National Steering Committee

Standard 1a: Cross-cutting nature of design and workings of readiness arrangements

R-PP Component 1: Organize and consult

Standard 1b

Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

Assessment

- Considering the short time available, the consultation process for R-PP preparation phase was satisfactory so far
- Except for the engagement of traditional chiefs: Considering the land tenure system in Ghana, the involvement of traditional chiefs is a key pre-requisite for the development of a comprehensive REDD-plus strategy.
- REDD-plus is more inclusive, but important stakeholders, e.g. statutory and recognized women's groups, the National Youth Council and other recognized youth groups Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana is missing in consultation
- The proposal on the potential role of the various stakeholders (presented in Table 2, Component 2) seems not have been widely consulted

Standard 1b: Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders: Inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation

R-PP Component 1: Organize and consult

Standard 1b

Stakeholder Consultation and Participation

Recommendations

- By teaming up with appropriate partners, conduct a broader consultation process with the National House of Chiefs, the Regional Houses of Chiefs and a selection of forest communities and adapt the R-PP according to the main recommendations received from this process.
- Define further the role and responsibilities of the various stakeholders and rights holders in the R-PP implementation (e.g. confirm Table 2)
- Respect time and customs needed for traditional chiefs' opinions to be expressed on the issue of REDD-plus (under consideration that the main consultation will be conducted in R-PP implementation)

Standard 1b: Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders: Inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2a

Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy, and Governance

Assessment

- Generally well established section on drivers of DD, some links to rates of emissions should be made, if possible
- Insufficient use of lessons learnt from past or ongoing initiatives in the forest and other sectors (including sector support; protected area management)
- A considerable amount of studies are proposed: some could already be frontloaded in the REDD-Strategy (e.g. shade-tolerant cocoa)
- The analysis of current land-use and potential for REDD seems to be incomplete
- Governance issues in forest reserves not sufficiently considered in the proposal; there is mention of a background paper on forest reserves (Annex 1), however this annex is missing

Standard 2a: identify major land use trends, direct and indirect DD drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD, and major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues. Document past successes and failures

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2a

Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy, and Governance

Recommendations

- Critically assess the results from past interventions to conserve forests and include lessons learnt from them in the R-PP planning
- Consider to include in the R-PP process the results from the emerging Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)
- Make a clearer distinction between direct and indirect drivers of DD and describe how this links to carbon footprints
- Revise the TORs for the DD studies accordingly

Standard 2a: identify major land use trends, direct and indirect DD drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD, and major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues. Document past successes and failures

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2b

REDD Strategy Options

Assessment

- REDD strategy options clearly laid out: proposing 2 overlapping thematic areas: Theme A that focuses on the traditional forest sector and Theme B that focuses on REDD approaches on non-forestry land.
- Some lack of completeness (e.g. SFM-options in forest reserves as carbon offset; strategies beyond the high-forest zone (e.g. in savannah area).
- One of the approaches to develop a REDD strategy includes a challenge fund for activities of civil society to support REDD-Strategy formulation. The proposal is yet not fully designed and need to be further clarified

Standard 2b: Alignment of the proposed REDD strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies: the R-PP should also includes a summary of the emerging REDD strategy .

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2b

REDD Strategy Options

Recommendations

- Consider the results of the various pilot projects ongoing in the country and reflect on their importance in respect to the proposed REDD strategy development
- Analyse the necessary institutional arrangements and leadership for a future REDD-strategy
- Foster more on changes in incentive schemes to use forests, protect forests and plant trees
- More information is needed on ongoing governance reforms (e.g. VPAs)
- Better articulation with other projects/activities and determine if some of them can serve the REDD purpose

Standard 2b: Alignment of the proposed REDD strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies: the R-PP also includes a summary of the emerging REDD strategy .

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2c

REDD Implementation Framework

Assessment

- Key requirements for implementation and ensuring accountability are rightly described and the priorities for the readiness preparation are logical and relevant.
- Nonetheless, what is lacking is the link to the policy direction and the clarification of roles among existing and potential entities
- Responsibilities among the authorities participating in the REDD-plus processes regarding coordination, MRV and implementation is not fully clear. Provisions in respect to sub-national involvement by regional authorities and local stakeholders are missing.

Standard 2c: Elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD in the country setting that identifies key issues, and explores potential arrangements

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2c

REDD Implementation Framework

Recommendations

- Examine (in the R-PP implementation) the creation of an apex institution with sufficient convening power to implement a future REDD strategy
- Be clear on the fact that the institutional outline set for the R-PP will not hamper future REDD implementation
- Be more country-specific when describing the steps for REDD-implementation in Ghana (e.g. on benefit-sharing schemes; carbon ownership)
- Be more specific on the analytical work needed on management of REDD revenues

Standard 2c: Elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD in the country setting that identifies key issues, and explores potential arrangements

R-PP Component 2: Prepare the REDD Strategy

Standard 2d

Assessment of Social and Environmental Impacts

Assessment

- The proposal does not refer to the guidance given by FCPF in regard to SESAs
- The proposal does not show any ownership of national authorities of the SESA process

Recommendations

- Demonstrate ownership for the assessment
- Link the SEI assessments with the relevant Ghanaian institutions capable to create necessary capacities and to implement safeguards
- Clearly determine what will be done in the R-PP implementation, referring to SESA and national SEAs

Standard 2d: A Program of work for due diligence for strategic environmental and social impact assessment (SESAs) in compliance with the World Bank's safeguard policies

R-PP Component 3: Develop a Reference Scenario

Standard 3

Reference scenario

Assessment

- Presentation of a number of clear steps to develop estimates of historic emissions using IPCC's framework. It appears very generic however.
- The review of existing data reveals that they are most probably inappropriate to serve as a basis for estimating carbon stocks. A Gap analysis will be crucial (existing data, new data needs, how to obtain data, define time duration)
- As Ghana's REDD-plus approach emphasises also on carbon enhancement (e.g. revegetation), assessment of its drivers is also needed
- The different objectives and activities on national and sub national level and their linkages need to be better explained.

Standard 3: Work plan for how the reference scenario for REDD will be developed, including early ideas on feasibility of which methods to use; major data requirements and capacity needs, and linkages to the monitoring system design

R-PP Component 3: Develop a Reference Scenario

Standard 3

Reference scenario

Recommendations

- Better link the assessment of drivers, current MRV capacities and capacity gaps to obtain key historical data
- Specify more approaches used when dealing with missing data
- Provide a better understanding on how the national strategy will be linked with a national MRV system and sub national measurement of carbon stock changes
- Consider to widen-up the capacity-building program on carbon accounting in the country to all interested institutions and organizations

Standard 3: Work plan for how the reference scenario for REDD will be developed, including early ideas on feasibility of which methods to use; major data requirements and capacity needs, and linkages to the monitoring system design

R-PP Component 4: Design a monitoring system

Standard 4

Design a monitoring system

Assessment

- Good overview in general terms, but not specific enough for Ghana and insufficiently linked to component 2 and 3
- Lack of a description on how to elaborate a clear design of a MRV system linked with the proposed strategy approaches.
- Not enough emphasis is given to the institutional arrangements for MRV
- REDD-plus will have additional challenges to the MRV system (e.g. double counting); this has yet not been included in the planning

Standard 4: Initial design of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation. Include early ideas on including capability to monitor other benefits and impacts, and to assess the impacts of the REDD strategy in the forest sector

R-PP Component 4: Design a monitoring system

Standard 4

Design a monitoring system

Recommendations

- Specify more in detail how the R-PP will define the steps for a national process to evolve an MRV system as part of the national REDD strategy
- Make an effort to describe how you would organize the MRV system (which will be developed in the R-PP implementation)
- Propose initial ideas on the role of civil society, local government authorities, forest communities and land owners in the MRV system

Standard 4: Initial design of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation. Include early ideas on including capability to monitor other benefits and impacts, and to assess the impacts of the REDD strategy in the forest sector

R-PP Component 5: Schedule and Budget

Standard 5

Completeness of information and resource requirements

Assessment

- Timeline well elaborated, but most probably overambitious
- Budget not enough specified, cannot be assessed.
- Before finalising the R-PP proposal, negotiate and integrate the additional contributions by other donors than FCPF

Recommendations

- Eventually revise time line
- For the time being, the TAP cannot assess budgeting as there is no overall budget provided
- Important to identify in-kind contribution and other donor contributions

Standard 5: identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish the R-PP. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF, as well as from other international sources needs to be elaborated

R-PP Component 6: Design Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Standard

Design a program monitoring and evaluation framework

Assessment

- Monitoring is proposed to be embedded in the Multi-donor sector budget program framework (NREG)
- Need to develop clear indicators on progress of R-PP implementation

Recommendations

- Develop indicators to monitor progress in the R-PP implementation
- Develop an indicator set to monitor progress towards readiness

Standard 6: Describe the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities

Overall assessment

- Well advanced draft, TAP congratulates the country team for the preparation of the current draft
- R-PP proposal in many parts complete and fairly comprehensive, but need to be more specific to the Ghana context
- Clear references to capacities and knowledge gaps and proposals on how to handle them
- Innovative approach, REDD-plus in particular from an enhancement of sinks perspective. Solution package goes beyond carbon, and addresses issues relating to land and tree holding
- Considerable initial consultation effort that yet has not been concluded (in particular to consultations with traditional chiefs
- Country and government ownership is not evident in the writing of the document (e.g. very few references to Ghana-specific examples)

Overall recommendations

- Overall ownership and leadership of the Government for the R-PP process – as opposed to the FC – should be demonstrated
- Demonstrate further clear leadership and the needed convening power to implement (in future) a REDD-plus approach
- Demonstrate ownership for the REDD-plus formulation and implementation process by traditional chiefs and rights holders
- Be more specific and link better activities proposed between component 2 (REDD strategy), 3 (Reference scenario) and 4 (MRV)
- Reflect further on the (future) national REDD implementation arrangements and on how to address these in the R-PP and thus make the R-PP more focused to the specific context of Ghana