

Additional note to the 13 September Statement of the Forests and Communities Platform on the Cameroon R-PP

Yaoundé, 13 October 2012

Following the statement of the Forests and Communities Platform on 13 September 2012, we, members of this platform meeting in a closed session at the Felydac Hotel in Yaoundé on 13 October 2012, analysed the new version of the Cameroon R-PP submitted on 28 September to the FCPF to assess to what extent the recommendations of our statement have been taken into account. Following our analysis, we noted with satisfaction the clear willingness of the Cameroon Government and that the following recommendations have been taken into account:

- Greater precision in the R-PP about how previous experiences of consultation and stakeholder engagement will inform the REDD process;
- Recognition of indigenous peoples and women as distinct groups in the planning of stakeholder consultation activities;
- Recognition in the R-PP that the experiences of the payments for ecosystem services (PES) and wildlife royalties will taken into account in the construction of benefit-sharing system for REDD+;
- Recognition in the R-PP of indigenous and local communities as the main beneficiaries of the potential benefits of REDD+;
- Inclusion of civil society organisations (CSOs) and community representatives in Social and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) capacity-building;
- Clarification of responsibilities and methodology for ensuring the synergy between REDD+ and other related processes and programs such as FLEGT;
- Clarification of how the REDD+ process will be integrated with legal reforms and revisions related to forest laws, land rights, mining, agro-pastoral, environmental and planning legislation.

However, the following points included in our 13 September statement have not been taken into account:

- There is a lack of recognition of the rights to land and resources of indigenous and local communities, which is necessary to ensure their access to the benefits associated with REDD+;

- The weak representation of NGOs and indigenous and local communities in the institutions managing the REDD+ process in Cameroon and the choice of decision-making by vote instead of consensus;
- The lack of information concerning the content and implementation strategy of FPIC (free, prior and informed consent);
- The possibility of neutral arbitration if consensus is not reached in disputes at the local level is not included;
- The absence of a draft terms of reference for the study on the drivers of deforestation and degradation;
- The lack of information on how the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will be implemented;
- The R-PP does not include decentralisation of the institutions in charge of management of the process to the local (council) level, which would help guarantee genuine ownership by local stakeholders and communities;
- The R-PP still includes the possibility that the private sector could be the primary beneficiary of REDD+ benefits.

The platform members