

MINISTRY OF FOREST ECONOMY,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE
ENVIRONMENT

REPUBLIC OF CONGO
Unity * Work * Progress

C A B I N E T

NATIONAL REDD+ CORDINATION



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Participatory Self-Assessment of the
REDD+ Readiness Package in the
Republic of the Congo

Final Report, July 2016



Table of Contents

List of Acronyms	3
1. Introduction	5
2. The Republic of Congo’s Vision for REDD+	6
3. The REDD+ Readiness Process	7
Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultations	8
Sub-component 1a - National REDD+ Management Arrangements	8
Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	11
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation	14
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	14
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	16
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	17
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	19
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level / Reference Level	21
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	23
Sub-component 4a: National forest monitoring system	23
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	24
4. Summary of the Participatory Self-assessment Process	26
Consultation Process	26
Results of the Self-assessment and Validation of the R-Package	26
5. Work Program to Complete REDD+ Readiness	42
Annex 1: Summary of Recommendations from the Mid-Term Progress Review	46
Annex 2: Summary of Consultations between 2010 and 2015 on REDD+ Readiness	48

List of Acronyms

CACO-REDD	REDD+ Consultation Platform of Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous Peoples
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CNIAF	National Center for Inventories and Management of Forests and Wildlife Resources
CN-REDD	National REDD+ Coordination
CODEPA-REDD	Departmental REDD+ Committees
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
CONA-REDD	National REDD+ Committee
EFI	European Forest Institute
EGPRSP	Strategy Paper for Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction 2012-2016
ERPD	Emission Reductions Program Document
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FEDP	Forestry and Economic Diversification Project of the World Bank
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MEFDDE	Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NDP	National Development Plan 2012-2016
OSFAC	Satellite Observatory for Central African Forests
PCI-REDD+	Social and Environmental Safeguards for REDD+
PDSA	Agricultural Development Plan
PNAT	National Land Use Plan
PRONAR	National Program for Afforestation and Reforestation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, including Sustainable Forest Management, Sustainable Forest Conservation, and Increased Carbon Stocks
REL/FRL	Reference Emission Level / Forest Reference Level
RENAPAC	National Indigenous Peoples Network of the Republic of Congo
R-Package	Readiness Package
R-PP	REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations REDD+ Program

VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resources Institute

1. Introduction

The Republic of Congo is located in Central Africa, in the heart of the Congo forest basin. The Congo Basin is the second largest forest in the world extending over 342,000 km². The Republic of Congo's forest cover is estimated at about 23.9 million hectares, which is 71% of the surface area of the country according to analyses by the National Center for Inventories and Management of Forests and Wildlife Resources (CNIAF) in 2014. The Congolese population of 4.3 million people, which means 11 inhabitants per km², is highly dependent on forests for food security and energy needs.

The Congolese economy is heavily based on the exploitation of natural resources, especially oil and timber, which contribute to nearly 70% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agriculture, which employs 40% of the active population, contributes only 6% to the GDP. The majority of the population, especially the rural population, still lives in poverty and is heavily dependent on the exploitation of natural resources for survival. The country intends to explore ways of improving the livelihoods of the population and revitalizing the economy in the context of sustainable development.

The rate of deforestation and forest degradation has so far remained insignificant (less than 0.1% per year). This makes the Republic of Congo one of the last remaining countries in the world to still have significant, and more or less intact, forests. The deforestation rate will undoubtedly see an acceleration in the context of economic globalization which is conducive to the expansion of agriculture, bio-energy and extractive industries at the expense of natural forests. This situation bears significant risks to compromise socio-economic development in the long term. Therefore, the ambition of the country is build a national economy by 2025 that is based on the principles of sustainable development.

Aware of the role of forests in mitigating global climate change, the Republic of the Congo is firmly committed to the Paris Agreement and REDD+ mechanisms. It is also committed to undertake the necessary reforms and make serious investments to prevent the risks of accelerated deforestation and subsequent impacts by optimizing land use planning and moving towards a green economy.

The Republic of Congo has been engaged in REDD+ readiness since 2008. It is a member of the two multilateral organizations to support REDD+, namely since 2008 of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), administered by the World Bank, and since 2010 of the United Nations REDD+ Program (UN-REDD), which is a partnership of FAO, UNDP and UNEP.

The first major step under the FCPF was the development of [REDD+ Preparation Proposal \(R-PP\)](#) in a participatory way, which was officially released in September 2011. The R-PP contains the main strategic, technical, financial and methodological considerations to prepare for the implementation of REDD+ in the Republic of Congo. A status report on the implementation of the R-PP and respective financial resources was provided in the [Mid-Term Progress Report](#) (MTR) in March 2015.

A summary on how the [recommendations on the MTR](#) have been taken into consideration is provided in Annex 1.

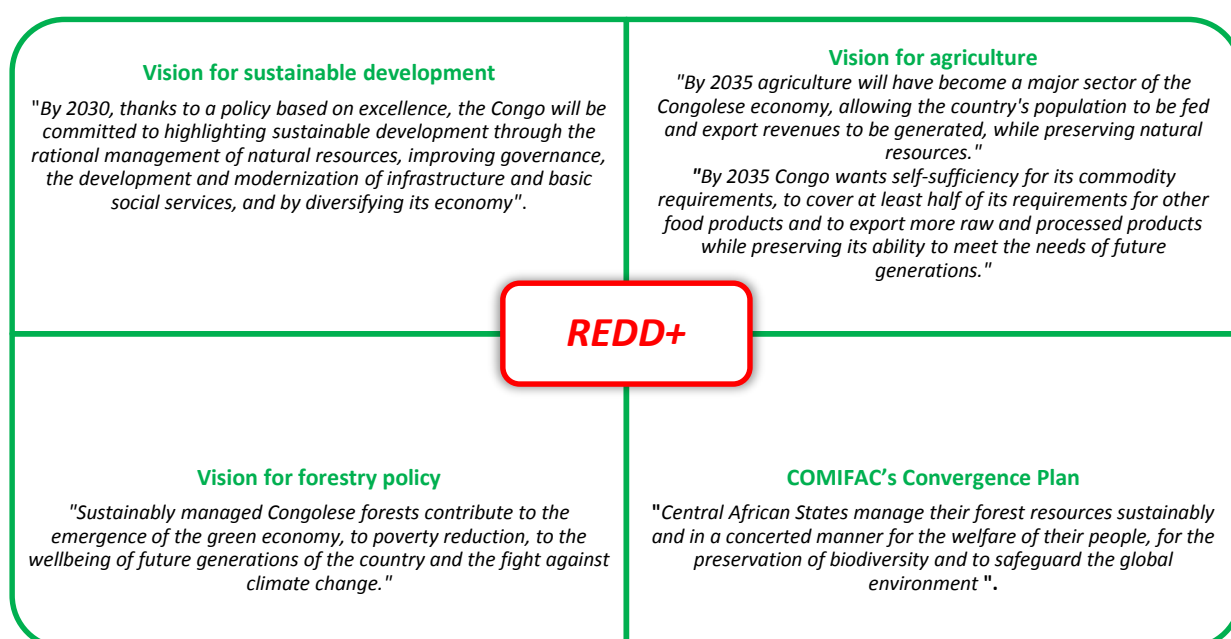
2. The Republic of Congo's Vision for REDD+

The Republic of Congo's vision for REDD+ emerges from the Strategy Paper for Growth, Employment and Poverty Reduction (EGPRSP) 2012-2016 and the National Development Plan (NDP) 2012-2016. Both documents constitute a "common compass", i.e. an integrated, unifying framework for sectoral policies, to guide the country towards the overall objective of accelerating growth, creating jobs and reducing poverty in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aspirations of the Congolese people. The Government's ambition is to (i) accelerate the modernization of the economy and of the Congolese society for greater, shared prosperity, and (ii) to initiate the gradual emergence of the country in the global economy.

On the one hand, the country has an immense amount of natural wealth, on the other part of its population lives below the poverty line. The country's REDD+ commitments therefore highlight that (i) the economic emergence of the country requires the use of natural resources while (ii) natural resources need to be managed in compliance with the principles of sustainable development. The current advanced version of the national REDD+ strategy is a response to these two issues.

The Republic of Congo sees REDD+ both as a tool for sustainable development and a pillar of the green economy. The REDD+ strategy is in line with the following objective of the country to diversify the economy by mobilizing the potentials of business and development: "By 2030, the diversification of the Republic of Congo's economy, obeying the norms and principles of conservation and sustainable ecosystem management, participatory management and the fight against poverty, will be effective through the emergence of a green economy. The strategic and technical tools of the REDD+ process are put in place and are operational for the benefit of the national and international community."

REDD+ will support the country in achieving its objectives by unifying the forest-related sectors and balancing various demands:



3. The REDD+ Readiness Process

This Readiness Package (R-Package) reflects on the Republic of Congo's progress on REDD+ since 2008. It is the result of a participatory self-assessment and presents a consensus reached between all stakeholders involved in REDD+ in the country. Out of the 34 criteria defined in the [FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework](#), 10 criteria were assessed as substantially progressed (green), 17 as satisfactorily progressed (yellow) and 7 require improvements (orange).

No.	Criteria	Assessment
1	Accountability and transparency	Green
2	Operating mandate and budget	Yellow
3	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	Yellow
4	Technical supervision capacity	Yellow
5	Funds management capacity	Yellow
6	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	Yellow
7	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	Yellow
8	Consultation processes	Green
9	Information sharing and accessibility of information	Yellow
10	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	Yellow
11	Assessment and analysis	Green
12	Prioritization of direct drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	Green
13	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	Green
14	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance	Yellow
15	Implications for forest law and policy	Green
16	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	Green
17	Feasibility assessment	Yellow
18	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	Yellow
19	Adoption and implementation of legislation / regulations	Yellow
20	Guidelines for implementation	Orange
21	Benefit-sharing mechanism	Yellow
22	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	Orange
23	Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	Green
24	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	Orange
25	Environmental and Social Management Framework	Orange
26	Demonstration of the methodology	Green
27	Use of historical data and adjusted for national circumstances	Yellow
28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	Yellow
29	Documentation of monitoring approach	Green
30	Demonstration of early system implementation	Orange
31	Institutional arrangements and capacities	Yellow
32	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects and social and environmental issues	Yellow
33	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	Orange
34	Institutional arrangements and capacities	Orange

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultations

Sub-component 1a - National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Accountability and transparency, operational mandate and budget

The Council of Ministers approved the [Decree No. 260-2015 of 27 February 2015](#) on the establishment, responsibilities, organization and functioning of the management bodies implementing the REDD+ process in the Republic of Congo. The national institutional architecture for the implementation of REDD+ is built around the following three management bodies:

1. **The National REDD+ Committee (CONA-REDD)** is under the responsibility of the Presidency. The CONA-REDD brings together 32 delegates from all stakeholder groups (public sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector) and is responsible for:
 - Deciding the vision and strategic options for REDD+ in the Republic of Congo;
 - Defining the guidelines and regulations on REDD+;
 - Arbitrating potential conflicts between national stakeholders in the REDD+ process;
 - Approving the work plan of the National REDD+ Coordination;
 - Hosting REDD+ discussions between national stakeholders;
 - Ensuring the follow up, monitoring and assessment of REDD+ implementation;
 - Setting the terms for the management and sharing of benefits related to REDD+.

CONA-REDD held its inaugural session in October 2015 and adopted its rules of procedure. Since then, it did not hold a regular session, mainly because of the presidential election period. However, the CONA-REDD members have been invited to REDD+ related meetings in their function as National REDD+ Committee and contributed to the debates. At the moment, the Decree on REDD+ institutions is being revised in order to establish two chambers of CONA-REDD: one at technical level and one at ministerial level. Financial support for the functioning of CONA-REDD is foreseen under the additional FCFP grant (see Chapter 5).

2. **The 12 Departmental REDD+ Committees (CODEPA-REDD)**, which each include 26 delegates from all stakeholder groups (public sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector) have the following tasks:
 - Facilitating the implementation of the decisions of the National REDD+ Committee and the REDD+ process at the departmental level;
 - Hosting REDD+ discussions between departmental stakeholders;
 - Making proposals to the National REDD+ Committee;
 - Arbitrating potential conflicts between departmental stakeholders in REDD+ process.

The CODEPA-REDD have been working effectively since March 2015 following the publication of the Decree on REDD+. They adopted their internal rules of procedure and have been involved in consultations with the National REDD+ Coordination on the REDD+ strategy, the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and other topics. Financial support for the functioning of CODEPA-REDD is foreseen under the additional FCFP grant (see Chapter 5).

3. **The National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD)** is under the administrative and technical supervision of the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and the

Environment (MEFDDE). The CN-REDD works with a team of different experts led by a National Coordinator. It is the technical body for the daily management of the REDD+ process and responsible for:

- Carrying out activities for CONA-REDD;
- Preparing CONA-REDD sessions;
- Maintaining contact with the various national and departmental platforms and facilitating consultations;
- Implementing the annual work plan and all daily obligations related to REDD+.

The CN-REDD consists of a team of about 15 inter-disciplinary experts and is fully functional. It is important to note that the team has been strengthened by an international expert, who works as an Assistant Coordinator. Her function is to support the finalization of REDD+ readiness and development of the Emission Reductions Program in the Northern Congo. Decentralized CN-REDD units in the departments were established with some delay. The first three units were financed by UN-REDD, additional units were added in the additional FCPF grant. The decentralized CN-REDD units have begun their work now.

The CN-REDD has funding from the FCPF and UN-REDD dedicated to REDD+ readiness: The FCPF readiness grant of US \$3.4 million supplemented by an additional grant of US \$5.2m until December 2017 and an US \$4 million grant from the UN-REDD Program, which ends on July 31, 2016.

Mechanism for multi-sectoral coordination and cross-sector collaboration

Multi-sectoral coordination is facilitated by the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD. The CONA-REDD has nine representatives from the ministries involved in the management and exploitation of natural resources to ensure the coordination of activities with national or sectoral frameworks: Forestry, environment, agriculture, mining, energy, planning, finance, land use planning and land tenure. Similarly, these ministries are represented in the CODEPA-REDD through their decentralized structures, namely the Departmental Directorates.

Furthermore, the CN-REDD relies on the network of designated REDD+ focal points in the ministries that are related to the development of REDD+ tools through consultations and validation workshops. REDD+ has attracted the attention of other sectors that are concerned regarding the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, such as the practice of slash and burn agriculture and the very high level of dependency on wood energy. It should be noted that the lack of continuity in the participation of representatives or those without sufficient authority could affect the efficiency of cross-sectoral coordination.

High-level multi-sectoral coordination was promoted during the development of the national REDD+ strategy through the establishment of a high-level forum which brought together representatives from the ministries of mining, agriculture and land use planning to ensure the integration of policies across different sectors.

In particular, REDD+ has become a catalyzing force in several areas, such as the review of the land policy and the development of the National Land Use Plan (PNAT), in which the CN-REDD has been closely involved. Furthermore, REDD+ has influenced the review of the Environment Law, which requires conducting an environmental impact assessment and develop an Environmental and Social

Management Plan; the Forest Code, which addresses the possibility of planned deforestation; the new forest policy; and the Framework Law on Land Use Planning. This demonstrates clear steps towards the integration of REDD+ in sectoral policies. Some of these laws and their implementing decrees are still under review.

Technical supervision capacity and funds management capacities

Funds from the FCPF are managed under the responsibility of the World Bank's Forest and Economic Diversification Project (FEDP). The FEDP fiduciary agent publishes all calls for proposals for readiness tenders. The bidders' proposals are reviewed by the CN-REDD. Financial audits in compliance with World Bank procedures are carried out by independent auditors approved by the World Bank on a yearly basis. As regards UN-REDD, the UN agencies are responsible for the financial management of funds. The establishment of a specific fund for REDD+ is being considered for the future. The [study on the REDD+ implementation framework](#) presents different options for such a REDD+ fund. The further assessment of a REDD+ financial mechanism is foreseen under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

The CONA-REDD is mandated to approve work plans and provide monitoring, control and assessment of the implementation of REDD+. Pending the full operationalization of the CONA, the annual work plans and budgets have been approved by the FCPF and UN-REDD. The interim and annual reports are submitted to the donors as well to assess progress on implementation. This annual work plans and budgets allow the CN-REDD to ensure the coordination, supervision and monitoring of activities.

Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

Although the feedback and grievance redress mechanism (FGRM) is not yet developed, a preliminary survey on mechanisms for conflict resolution in the country has been carried out. The results were used to develop a [draft FGRM](#). The Republic of Congo has a number of FGRM-type of systems for traditional conflict resolution, which will be capitalized on. The FCPF additional grant provides the funds required for the development of the FGRM in the first half of 2017 (see Chapter 5).

It is also important to note that one of the CONA-REDD's roles is to mediate potential conflicts between national stakeholders in the REDD+ processes if they cannot be solved at lower levels. A complaint or an appeal that has not been resolved at the departmental level by the CODEPA-REDD, for example, may be filed with the CONA-REDD. The full operationalization of the CONA-REDD is important to ensure the proper handling of complaints.

Assessment subcomponent 1a

The final average assessment for sub-component 1a is **yellow (good progress)**. There have been advances on all fronts regarding national REDD+ management arrangements. The CN-REDD works well at the national level and decentralized CN-REDD units have also begun their work now. Mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination are in place and will be further strengthened. The FGRM remains to be developed under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Subcomponent 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach

Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

The following groups of stakeholders are involved in REDD+ readiness across different platforms:

- The Congolese civil society is very much involved in the REDD+ process at the national level through its **REDD+ Consultation Platform of Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous Peoples (CACO-REDD)**. The CACO-REDD was created in January 2012. The current Steering Committee has 29 members, including 16 members for civil society and 13 members from Indigenous Peoples. Civil society, through the CACO-REDD, has played an important role for the adoption of the Republic of Congo's R-PP in 2010 and the approval of the country's [Emission Reductions Program Idea Note \(ER-PIN\)](#) in 2014. Furthermore, CACO-REDD participates in all workshops organized by the CN-REDD. The capacities of the CACO-REDD as well as governance and representation structures remain to be further strengthened. These activities are planned with the additional FCFPF grant to ensure effective participation in the REDD+ process (see Chapter 5).
- The **National Indigenous Peoples Network of the Republic of Congo (RENAPAC)**, has been engaged in the REDD+ process since 2008. Since 2012, it has been part of the CACO-REDD. RENAPAC regularly organizes visits to indigenous communities to raise their awareness on REDD+. The members of this network are mostly indigenous themselves and therefore have high legitimacy in these communities. The capacities of the RENAPAC as well as governance and representation structures remain to be further strengthened. These activities are planned with the additional FCFP grant to ensure effective participation in the REDD+ process (see Chapter 5).
- **The private sector** is represented by UNICONGO. The involvement of the private sector is to increase ownership on the REDD+ process by supporting local initiatives and implementing REDD+ pilot projects. The level of private sector participation in the REDD+ process has remained low to date.
- **The REDD+ related ministries** are represented through their REDD+ focal points and high level forums in order to ensure cross-sectoral coordination.
- **The CODEPA-REDD** allow the representation of the aforementioned stakeholder groups at departmental level. They have participated in the REDD+ process since 2013 in an ad hoc manner. Their structure was formalized by [Decree No. 260-2015 of February 27, 2015](#). However, the involvement of CODEPA-REDD varies according to the degree that departments prioritize forest management and REDD+. The capacities of members of the CODEPA-REDD remain to be strengthened as do the governance and representation structures. These activities are planned in the additional FCFP grant to ensure effective participation in the REDD+ process (see Chapter 5).

The [Decree No. 260-2015 of February 27, 2015](#) institutionalizes the participation of different groups of stakeholders with the creation of the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD where each of them has its representatives.

Consultation processes

The inclusion of stakeholders in the REDD+ process through consultation processes has been guaranteed in the Republic of Congo. Examples for intensive consultation processes include the development of the R-PP, the national REDD+ strategy, the communication plan and the national environmental and social safeguards (PCI-REDD+). A summary of the consultations between 2010 and 2015 are presented in Annex 2.

Stakeholders are consulted in Brazzaville, the national capital, and across departments (departmental and district capitals and other places). Each stakeholder group is invited to appoint its representatives independently although for each entity there is a gender quota (at least 25% female representatives). Gender balance and timely access to information in a culturally appropriate manner for consultations are to be further strengthened for most effective stakeholder participation. Similarly, the operationalization of the CODEPA-REDD should allow more effective participation of Indigenous Peoples.

Information sharing and accessibility of information

[A communication strategy and plan](#) was approved by stakeholders in July 2013 subsequent to various consultations in four different areas of the country (Departments of Sangha, Kouilou, Pointe-Noire and Pool). Its main objective is to encourage stakeholders to understand and take ownership of the REDD+ process and thus be included in REDD+ activities. The communication plan provides for the coordination, design and implementation of communication tools, and the distribution of information on REDD+ strategic and technical tools.

The communication plan defines the organization of communication activities, target audiences, content (themes and key messages) and the most appropriate media. For example, some newsletters have already been prepared and shared. It should be noted that certain documents, such as the R-PP, have been distributed in the three national languages: French, Lingala and Kituba. Furthermore, the CN-REDD Document Library, a documentation center set up with the support of the European Forest Institute (EFI), allows users to access documents and information.

To date, the lack of sufficient funding has prevented the full implementation of the communication plan. The additional FCPF grant therefore foresees funding to support the implementation of the communication plan including, among others, the development of tools to increase awareness of Indigenous Peoples, the capacity of the CACO-REDD, the organization of REDD+ and the creation of a website to distribute information widely (see Chapter 5).

Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

The CN-REDD has organized many workshops for dialog and consultation with the stakeholder groups with the objective to receive input for the development of REDD+ tools. The comments and contributions of stakeholders are documented and incorporated into draft documents before final versions are approved by the same stakeholder groups during validation workshops. It should be noted that the documentation of consultations, the traceability of changes and the sharing of revised documents in a timely manner remain to be further strengthened to enable greater ownership of REDD+ tools by all stakeholders.

Assessment sub-component 1b

Most criteria for this sub-component are **yellow (good progress)** thanks to the consultation processes put in place to ensure stakeholder participation. In particular, stakeholders highlighted the creation of the CODEPA-REDD and the formalizing of their role regarding communication as a great asset. The operationalization of the CODEPA-REDD advanced further in some departments during the R-Package self-assessment phase and will further enhance the effectiveness of consultation and participation. The proper functioning of all departments is part of the remaining work plan presented in Chapter 5. Further awareness raising and communication on some specific technical REDD+ aspects is important for the civil society and to be continued through the implementation of the communication plan and strengthening of stakeholders' capacities.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Assessment and analysis

The assessment of land use in the Republic of Congo was conducted through two main studies:

- [Spatial study and prioritization of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation \(July 2014\);](#)
- [Study on the consumption of wood energy based on household surveys \(October 2014\).](#)

These studies of all administrative departments of the country have confirmed the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation that were identified in the R-PP and enabled the development of REDD+ strategy options (Figure 1).

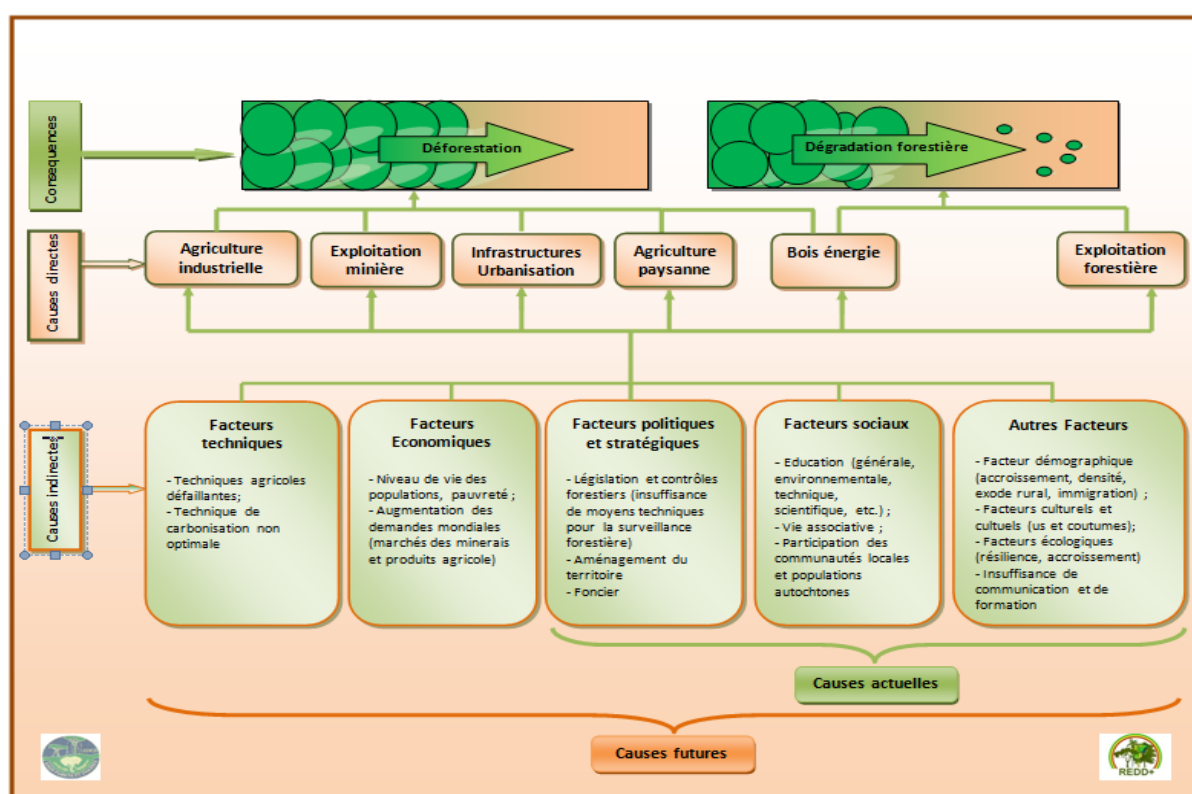


Figure 1: Direct drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (Source: National REDD+ Strategy of the Republic of the Congo, version of June 16, 2016)

It is important to note that the validation of the spatial study in November 2014 resulted in a national consensus about the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at national level. Furthermore, forest monitoring activities conducted in collaboration with the GAF consultancy have also demonstrated the relationship between favorable and unfavorable conditions for REDD+. The work with GAF also contributed to reinforce local monitoring capacities in line with IPCC guidelines.

Regarding land issues, a set of laws on state and private land tenure, finance, urban and agricultural land tenure are related to REDD+. In particular, [Law No. 43-2014 of October 10, 2014](#) guides land use

planning and provides the legal framework for land use in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. This law facilitates the finalization of the PNAT, which will be based on the land-use mapping that is currently being finalized by CNIAF in the framework of the "National multi-resource forest inventory for the development of the National Land Use Plan" project.

Finally, good governance issues are addressed through the management plans required by the Forest Code (although their implementation is delayed in some areas of the country) and the VPA-FLEGT process (Voluntary Partnership Agreements with the European Union under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade initiative) to support compliance with the country's laws and regulations on forests. In addition, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is a valuable tool for forest companies to establish good governance and sustainable management practices. In order to realize the full potential of certification for the Congolese forest sector, the country has launched an initiative to set up a national forest certification scheme ([Order no. 13 of January 23, 2014](#)).

Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement and links between drivers / barriers and REDD+ activities

The two above-mentioned studies were taken into account in the drafting of the national REDD+ strategy to prioritize direct and indirect drivers of deforestation. Consultations with stakeholders were conducted in 2015 on the first draft of the strategy. Important revisions are ongoing on the second draft to better address wood energy and agriculture as drivers of deforestation. Respective consultations were held at the regular meetings of the CODEPA-REDD and high-level meetings with relevant ministries between April and June 2016. In addition, the [Emission Reductions Program Idea Note \(ER-PIN\)](#) of 2014 describes the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation for the Northern Congo.

The links between the drivers of deforestation and REDD+ activities are presented in the advanced version of the [national REDD+ strategy](#), which was validated in June 2016. The revisions during the development of the REDD+ strategy reflect an increasing systematization of the relationship between drivers of deforestation and REDD+ activities, especially in the agriculture sector.

Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance

The finalization of the PNAT will be key to addressing issues related to land tenure and rights to natural resources in the medium and long term. The PNAT will include the following land uses: permanent forest (= forests owned by the State and forests belonging to public entities, municipalities and other local authorities), non-permanent (= protected forests), agriculture, mining, rural areas, urban areas, hunting and fishing. It will allocate land use zones according to development and management goals in a national participatory process led by the Ministry of Planning and Land Management and involving the public sector, civil society and the private sector. Activities related to the finalization of the PNAT are foreseen under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Implications for forest law and policy

REDD+ has unfolded a catalytic function in many respects, including momentum regarding the development of the PNAT as well as the revisions of the Act on the Environment and the Forest Code to take account of deforestation. It is important to ensure and formalize continuous coordination between the CN-REDD and the actors involved in the development of the PNAT.

Assessment sub-component 2a

This sub-component has been evaluated as **green (substantial progress)**. The analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and their prioritization is completed. The development of the PNAT is ongoing. The work program in Chapter 5 includes updates to the national REDD+ strategy and support for the further development of the PNAT.

Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options

In the first phase of developing the national REDD+ strategy, a series of working groups and consultation workshops were held in every department of the country to consolidate the REDD+ strategy options and formulate a logical framework for REDD+ activities tailored to the departments.

A series of preliminary strategic options were presented already in the R-PP. The [BRLI study of 2014](#) assessed 28 options with a view to (i) reducing emissions and/or (ii) increasing the removal of greenhouse gases through forest activities. The strategic options were further discussed and prioritized during consultation workshops in 2014. The first draft of the Republic of Congo's national REDD+ strategy was approved by stakeholders (public sector, private sector, civil society and the local population of the country's 12 departments) in December 2014. Further consultations took place with technical and financial partners (e.g. UN-REDD, FCPF, French Development Agency - AFD) in 2015 and with national and local stakeholders in April 2016. The second round of consultations focused on the better integration of emerging drivers of deforestation, in particular the development of industrial agriculture and mining activities. The advanced version of the [national REDD+ strategy](#) with prioritized strategic options and sets of activities was validated in June 2016. Further updates that may be required for the national REDD+ strategy, in particular related to the finalization of the SESA process (see sub-component 2d), are budgeted for under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Feasibility assessment

Several studies have been conducted and further work is underway to assess the feasibility of REDD+ strategy options:

- Practical experience of the REDD+ pilot project in North Pikouanda;
- Development of the Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD) in Sangha/Likouala;
- [Cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ strategy options](#);
- SESA of REDD+ options in a participatory manner;
- [Mapping of multiple benefits](#) of REDD+;
- Development of a National REDD+ Investment Framework in the context of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).

The results of these studies have been considered in the development of the national REDD+ strategy. Further information resulting from ongoing work, such as the SESA process, will be used to update the national REDD+ strategy on a continuous basis.

Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

The second round of consultations on the national REDD+ strategy targeted its coherence with the country's sectoral policies as well broader development objectives, for example the green economy pathway. Accordingly, the national REDD+ strategy aims at:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and developing alternative activities that generate jobs and secure sustainable income;
- Promoting national efforts regarding sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks;
- Contributing to a green economy and the fight against poverty.

Cross-sectoral coordination has been promoted, among others through the high level forums organized in April 2016. They brought together the Directors General of the various ministries related to REDD+, namely forestry, environment, agriculture, mining, energy, planning, finance, land use planning, health and scientific research. These forums have contributed significantly to the second draft of the national REDD+ strategy and improved alignment with the NDP and agricultural development plans. Support for cross-sectoral coordination and high-level dialogue will continue under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Assessment sub-component 2b

This sub-component has been evaluated as **yellow (good progress)**. Two rounds of substantial consultations have led to the validation of an advanced version of the national REDD+ strategy. Since the SESA process is still ongoing, further updates to the national REDD+ strategy may be required and are budgeted for.

Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework

Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations

The legal framework for the environment and management of natural resources comprises many laws, decrees and orders. Due to the particularity of legal issues around climate change in general and REDD+ in particular, the Republic of Congo has undertaken a revision of the law on environmental protection and the Forest Code. The revisions include provisions for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy and for defining the ownership of carbon credits.

The Constitution of November 6, 2015 makes the management and protection of the environment a constitutional principle with resulting obligations for both the state and citizens. The constitution can therefore be seen as an anchor for the implementation of the REDD+ in the Republic of Congo.

[The national strategy for sustainable development](#) is currently being formulated and includes reference to the national REDD+ strategy emphasizing REDD+ as a tool for sustainable development.

[Act 5 of February 25, 2011 on the promotion and protection of indigenous rights](#) is a major achievement to ensure the recognition of indigenous rights including on land use.

[Act No. 003/91 of April 23, 1991 on environmental protection](#) has a multi-sectoral scope and foresees the creation of a fund for environmental protection. The public purpose is reiterated in Article 2 which

states: "Any development project in the People's Republic of Congo must include an environmental impact assessment." To this end, [Decree No. 2009-415 of November 20, 2009](#) defines the scope, content and procedures for environmental and social impact assessments. In order to take account of later developments on environmental issues, such as the Rio Conference in 1992 and the emergence of the REDD+ mechanism, the act has undergone a review in 2013. The review includes general provisions related to the national REDD+ strategy. The revised text has already been approved by national stakeholders and is now subject to the approval by the Council of Ministers.

[Act 16-2000 of November 20, 2000 on the Forest Code](#) aims at achieving the ultimate goals of sustainable development. The law clarifies the land tenure system and establishes "an appropriate legal framework for the sustainable management of forests and forest land on the basis of rational management of resources; to define the national forest estate and to determine the criteria and standards of organization and collaborative and participatory management" (Article 1). It classifies the national forest estate, which comprises State forest area and private forest land. The Forest Code of 2000 in its current form does not meet the requirements of the REDD+ mechanism. Therefore, it has been revised to include provisions related to the national REDD+ strategy and the legal treatment of carbon rights. In particular, the revised Forest Code clarifies the following issues: creation of a new type of forest (community forests), reference to climate change and the national REDD+ strategy, certification becomes a legal obligation, and afforestation and reforestation. A [preliminary version of the new Forest Code](#) was approved by national stakeholders in June 2014, further work is underway. The revised Forest Code will be renamed into Act on Forests.

The forestry policy the Republic of Congo has until now been rather scattered across various strategic documents. The emergence of new concerns related to climate change, law enforcement, the conservation of biodiversity, the production of renewable energy, the integration of forestry into local development and the evolution of the international dialog on forests has led to the formulation of a forest policy. In June 2014, the vision of the new forest policy for 2015 to 2025 was approved by national stakeholders in a workshop organized by the MEFDDE. The vision reads as follows: "Congolese forests, sustainably managed, contribute to the emergence of a green economy, reduction in poverty, welfare of present and future generations of the country and the fight against climate change". It also prioritizes REDD+ as follows: "promotion of REDD+ and the implementation of payment for environmental services mechanisms". Moreover, the forest policy establishes the principle of community forests. The [new forestry policy \(draft version\)](#) is still pending approval by the Council of Ministers and will facilitate the implementation of the Act on Forests.

The National Program for Afforestation and Reforestation (PRONAR) is mainly a response to the impacts of climate change and wood energy demand. More than 80% of the country's population uses wood energy. PRONAR aims at establishing 1 million hectares of forests and agroforestry plantations over 10 years starting in 2011.

Guidelines for implementation and benefit sharing mechanism

The main work regarding the implementation of REDD+ is the [study on the REDD+ implementation framework](#), which was approved by stakeholders in May 2014. It proposes also options regarding carbon rights. Furthermore, the draft text of the new Forest Code includes provisions on carbon rights, which grant rights to individuals and legal entities governed by public law. A more detailed analysis on

carbon rights is being conducted in the context of the Emission Reductions Program in Northern Congo and will be available in the advanced draft of the ERP.

The mechanism for sharing multiple benefits of REDD+ is under development based on the results of the study on the REDD+ implementation framework as well as the [study on existing benefit-sharing arrangements](#) in the Republic of Congo. The [proposed mechanism for sharing multiple benefits](#) will be subject to further consultations with stakeholders to ensure transparency and full and effective participation. The remaining work on the benefit sharing mechanism is part of the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

The Republic of Congo has decided to design a national REDD+ registry. It is currently under development led by the CN-REDD+ with technical support from the Information System for Forest Management and Sustainable Development (SIFODD), which is a project established by the Government of the Republic of Congo in 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SIFODD and UNDP for this purpose in February 2015. A number of meetings have taken place since to assess progress regarding the software development and [operations manual of the REDD+ registry](#). Process has been slow recently because of SIFODD's financial difficulties. Further work on the registry is taken into account in the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Assessment sub-component 2c

Most indicators in this sub-component are **yellow (good progress)**. The Republic of Congo has an advanced legal framework to guide the implementation of REDD+. An analysis of options for the REDD+ implementation framework has been conducted and the implementation guidelines will be developed until 2017. Work continues on the establishment of a benefit-sharing mechanism and national REDD+ registry.

Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts

Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues

The analysis of social and environmental issues, including potential risks of REDD+ activities, related to the population, the environment and the economy is pursued through the following two activities:

- Development of national standards, the Principles, Criteria and Indicators for REDD+ (PCI-REDD+), and
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

The [PCI-REDD+](#), which consist of 8 principles, 32 criteria and 115 indicators, have been developed through a participatory process with stakeholders in the twelve departments including a series of technical workshops regarding consistency with sectoral policies and international agreements. Furthermore, attention has been paid to respecting UNFCCC guidance on safeguards, the World Bank's Operational Policies, and other relevant guidance. All consultation reports are available at the CODEPA-REDD and the CN-REDD. They were approved during a national multi-stakeholder workshop

in December 2014 in Brazzaville. As a next steps, verifiers were defined for each indicator in April 2015 in order to make the PCI-REDD+ more operational. They will now be field tested in four locations, including two sites in the program area of the ERP, to assess feasibility and relevance (see work program in Chapter 5).

REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts and Environmental and Social Management Framework

The SESA process has been conducted in parallel to the development of the national REDD+ strategy, facilitated by the BRLI consulting firm. [A preliminary SESA report](#) and [models for social and environmental impact analysis](#) are available. Further stakeholder participation is required to complete the SESA process. Accordingly, discussions are ongoing with the CODEPA-REDD at departmental level and with Indigenous Peoples at district level to organize the consultations to identify in more detail social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ strategy options. It is expected that the final SESA report will be available at the end of 2016. The SESA report will serve to review the advanced draft of the national REDD+ strategy and consolidate REDD+ strategy options further.

In conjunction with the SESA process, the following safeguards instruments are being developed as a result of the SESA (draft documents as of August 2015):

- [ESMF](#),
- [Functional \(Process\) Framework](#),
- [Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework](#),
- [Pesticides Management Framework](#),
- [Resettlement Policy Framework](#).

Assessment sub-component 2d

This sub-component has been evaluated as **orange (more effort required)**. There is progress regarding the analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues through the national standards (PCI-REDD+) and the SESA process. More work is required to complete the SESA process in a participatory manner and finalize the safeguards instruments (ESMF and sub-frameworks) as captured in the work program in Chapter 5.

Component 3: Reference Emissions Level / Reference Level

Demonstration of the methodology

The Republic of Congo submitted its [forest reference emission level \(FREL\) to UNFCCC](#) in January 2016. The document is currently under review by UNFCCC experts. The submission presents a detailed description of the steps and calculations used to establish the national reference level, including:

- Historical data on deforestation,
- The methodological approach for the adjustment according to national circumstances,
- Expected emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation in future years (2012-2025).

The submission of the FREL at national level is the result of work since 2015 in collaboration of the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) team of the CN-REDD (supported by FAO), CNIAF and the Marien Ngouabi University. The Republic of Congo adopted a phased approach for the FREL as suggested in decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 10. The current FREL reflects the best information available at the time and it will be modified in the future if better data become available. Further work related to the reference level is summarized in the work program in Chapter 5.

Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

The historical average emissions from unplanned deforestation as well as planned and unplanned degradation have been calculated using the methodology presented in the reference emission level and represent a total of 21.6 million tons CO₂/year.

A complete map of the country was compiled on the basis of the forest definition to determine the historical rate of deforestation. The map show the loss of forests between 2000 and 2012 and brings together the results of previous deforestation analyses (e.g. GAF Study 2013, Hansen and others 2013 and FACET 2012). The map is conservative in the sense that the loss estimate is lower than estimates of FACET and GFC, which used less accurate mapping units than the approach described in the FREL. The emission factors were calculated on the basis of data from the National Forest Inventory (NFI). Forest cover data on the map and other relevant documents have yet to be made available to stakeholders.

An adjustment for national circumstances was made taking into account the National Development Plan as follows:

- **Planned deforestation:** Although the historical level of deforestation in the Republic of Congo is still very modest, there are huge opportunities for the development of cash crops like coffee, cocoa and palm oil, which the government intends to boost in order to diversify the national economy and improve growth. The mining sector will also experience a major boom, especially with the entry into production of iron mines. Other emerging sectors such as infrastructure and energy, and other data from the sectors covered by this analysis have not been included for lack of reliable data. This non-inclusion is considered conservative.
- **Unplanned deforestation:** Moreover, it is likely that large-scale development and economic investments in rural areas linked to the establishment of agricultural concessions may stimulate unplanned deforestation. Due to the lack of detailed information from similar

developments in the Congo region, the FREL does not yet include an adjustment for unplanned deforestation.

- **Planned degradation:** Out of the 53 forest concessions, 43 are included in the calculation of emissions from forest degradation in the reference period. Ten new concessions have been granted and will be put into operation. With the development of these new forest concessions, emissions due to forest degradation are estimated to increase from 15.3 million tons CO₂ per year to 19.1 million tons CO₂ per year (an increase of 3.8 million tons CO₂).

The sum of historical emissions and the adjustment lead to a FREL of 39.09 million tons of CO₂eq. The adjustment represents 44% of total emissions included in the FREL.

Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

The Republic of Congo has followed the guidelines provided by the UNFCCC including:

- The rules for establishing reference emission levels for forests and reference levels for forests in decision 12/CP.17;
- The guidelines on emission levels in the annex to decision 12/CP.17;
- The Good Practice Guidelines for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (GPG-LULUCF) - IPCC 2003;
- The IPCC guidelines for national inventories of greenhouse gases of 2006.

In addition, the Republic of the Congo has followed the guidelines of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI 2013).

By following these methodologies, the FREL takes into account sources of emissions connected with:

- planned deforestation (DEF-PL),
- unplanned deforestation (DEF-NOPL),
- Planned Forest Degradation (DEG-PL),
- Unplanned Forest Degradation (DEG-NOPL), for which the data comes from the [study on wood energy consumption](#).

Revisions to the FREL are likely based on feedback from the UNFCCC expert forum and considered in the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5). The FREL will be revised every two years depending on developments and observed changes in deforestation and forest degradation.

Assessment component 3

This sub-component has been evaluated as **yellow (good progress)** by stakeholders. The Republic of Congo has submitted its FREL to the UNFCCC. Revisions may be required following feedback from the UNFCCC experts. A special effort will be made regarding the communication of key elements of the FREL to stakeholders (including civil society) for better understanding of this readiness component, as captured in the work program in Chapter 5.

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

Sub-component 4a: National forest monitoring system

The objective of the MRV system is to monitor emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to allow the country to assess performance against the reference level. FREL. An MRV unit has been created in CNIAF to support the REDD+ process in the Congo, in particular to assist the CN-REDD in the processing of satellite data and the forest inventory.

The Republic of Congo released a [report on the proposed national MRV system](#), called the SYNA-MRV, in November 2015. The report provides a description of the main components of the monitoring system comprising a national REDD+ registry and an independent REDD+ observer as well as four technical modules.

First, the registry is a database of REDD+ activities and projects and will be linked with the national Integrated Forestry Information System (IFIS), which is supported by the MEFDDE and WRI. In addition, discussions are underway with the FLEGT initiative regarding the establishment of an independent REDD+ observer related to experiences with the FLEGT observer. Preliminary ideas regarding the Terms of Reference for a REDD+ independent observer have been assessed. The work program for readiness in Chapter 5 includes the development, formalization and operationalization of an independent observer.

Second, there are four technical modules:

- The monitoring of policies and measures will mainly build on reports from the forest administration and control services, certification bodies and independent observers. The country has also identified social and environmental issues related to REDD+ through the PCI-REDD+ and SESA process. Tracking the operationalization of laws, policies and regulations is part of the PCI-REDD+.
- The Satellite Land Monitoring System will be performed by the MRV unit within the CNIAF to support the REDD+ process in the Republic of Congo. The MRV work program includes the strengthening of operational capabilities of the CNIAF regarding (i) Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing, (ii) the inventory and management of forest and wildlife resources, (iii) community development, and (iv) research and development. An assessment of the technical capabilities of CNIAF was conducted by FAO. Partners for technical training include the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Satellite Observatory for Central African Forests (OSFAC). The country's forest monitoring system is based on the TerraAmazon platform and expected to be operational in the coming months. Nevertheless, the steady and rapid acquisition of satellite images remains a difficulty for the MRV unit because of weak internet connectivity.
- The National Forest Inventory (NFI) was conducted across the country by CNIAF between 2010 and 2015, according to the methodology developed with FAO, i.e. focused on a sample of 1,800

plots clustered around 450 Sampling Units. The SYNA-MRV will use the NFI database to collect biomass data, assess forest carbon stocks and changes in carbon stocks, and update as required the emission factors by forest type.

- The National Greenhouse Gas Inventory will be used to report to the UNFCCC. The country has already published two national communications in 2001 and 2009. The third communication is currently being prepared.

The additional grant from the FCPF includes remaining activities for the MRV system and capacity building as well as further consultations with stakeholders (see Chapter 5).

Assessment sub-component 4a

This sub-component has been evaluated as **yellow (good progress)**. The Republic of Congo has completed conceptual development work on the MRV system. Further work remains to be done to operationalize it at national level. Capacities have been built within CNIAF and will be further strengthened. The remaining activities will be financed by the FCPF, EFI and FAO (see Chapter 5).

Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues

Non-carbon benefits and social and environmental issues have been identified through various initiatives:

- Form F6 of the NFI and the MEFDDE report on non-timber forest products have identified non-carbon benefits, such as the creation of local development funds, direct and indirect jobs, increased level of skills and education of staff and local populations, access to drinking water, support for rural women, and education, health and community development for local populations.
- The [mapping of multiple REDD+ benefits](#), such as ecosystem services and biodiversity, was conducted with support of UNEP-WCMC in 2014. The mapping exercise used NFI data to categorize non-carbon benefits.
- The PCI-REDD+ and SESA process have identified potential positive and negative social and environmental impacts related to the implementation of REDD+ in the Republic of Congo. The strengthening of capacities on social and environmental issues are included in the additional grant from the FCPF (see Chapter 5).

Monitoring, reporting and information sharing, and institutional arrangements and capacities

The Republic of Congo is working to develop a system for the monitoring of:

- Impacts of the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy on social and environmental issues in conjunction with the national REDD+ standards (PCI-REDD+);
- Governance of REDD+ implementation at the national level, particularly the functioning of national REDD+ arrangements.

The development of a Safeguards Information System (SIS) is work in progress. A [preliminary version of the SIS](#) defines the potential structure of the SIS and the flow of information. The mandates and responsibilities of the different bodies and stakeholders remain to be defined. The institutional arrangements will be developed in cooperation with the CN-REDD's MRV unit. The implementation of these arrangements and capacity building are foreseen under the additional FCPF grant (see Chapter 5).

Assessment sub-component 4b

Most indicators in this sub-component are **orange (more effort required)**. Progress has been made regarding the identification of non-carbon benefits and the mapping of multiple REDD+ benefits. The SIS is under development and expected to be implemented in 2017. This work is done in parallel with the completion of the SESA and development of the ESMF.

4. Summary of the Participatory Self-assessment Process

Consultation Process

The consultation process with stakeholders was conducted by an independent facilitator, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) following the guidance provided in the [FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework](#). The report about the self-assessment process is provided here:

<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/republic-congo>

It outlines the methodology used, the organization of consultations and the results obtained for each group of stakeholders on the weaknesses, strengths and recommendations for REDD+ as well as the assessment per indicator.

Consultation workshops were held over a period of two weeks between 18 and 26 May 2016. Four stakeholder groups were identified for consultations: civil society through the CACO-REDD platform, the public sector through the REDD+ focal points, technical and financial partners, and the departmental committees for REDD+. A total of 65 people participated in the consultations, including 29 representatives of civil society and Indigenous Peoples, 19 from the public sector, 9 technical and financial partners and 8 representatives of CODEPA-REDD.

It is important to note that since the beginning of the REDD+ process in 2011, representatives of the organizations participating in the REDD+ process have often changed for various reasons. This could affect the results of the assessment in terms of knowledge about and awareness of the REDD+ process. Note also that the appointment of representatives does not follow a quota mechanism to help ensure the participation of women. This group has therefore been under-represented in the consultation process.

The Draft 0 of the R-Package was further developed in line with the comments received from stakeholders during the consultation process. The revised R-Package was presented on July 5, 2016 for approval by stakeholders.

Results of the Self-assessment and Validation of the R-Package

Table 1 below summarizes the conclusions of the discussions with stakeholders on the R-Package (Draft 0). Each group was asked to name the strengths, weaknesses and recommendations to move towards the end of the REDD+ preparation phase.

Progress indicators for each component

During the consultation phase on the R-Package, stakeholders indicated the level of progress that seemed appropriate to them with colors (green, yellow, orange and red) following the FCPF guideline. In order to obtain the final assessment for each indicator and sub-component, an average was calculated from the results for all stakeholder groups (which are captured in the process report).

In view of the findings during the self-assessment process and the difficulties expressed by some stakeholders in assessing some components, it was considered appropriate to revisit the results of this assessment, re-explaining and re-contextualizing the advances in each component to the stakeholders in a workshop. Based on a presentation by the CN-EDD, the first assessments made during the consultation period on Draft 0 were reviewed by the participants of the validation workshop. The participants worked in three groups, namely (i) public sector (22 members), (ii) civil society (5 members) and (iii) technical and financial partners (6 members), to reassess the indicators based on additional information provided by the CN-REDD. Questions from participants during the validation workshop helped clarify important points of methodology (color choice) and the period to be considered for the assessment of the R-Package.

Table 2 below shows the average indicator assessment by stakeholders during the first consultation phase (on Draft 0), the assessments during the validation workshop (revised Draft), and the average of both processes.

Table 1. Results of the self-assessment on Draft 0 of the R-Package

No.	Criteria	Strengths	Weaknesses	Recommendations for further activities
Component 1: Organization of the preparation and consultation				
1a. REDD+ national management systems				
1	Accountability and Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of the CN-REDD, CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD by presidential decree • Representation at national and departmental level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD which are non-operational due to lack of funds • CODEPA-REDD operate on an ad-hoc basis pending financing • Low capacities and ownership of the REDD+ process by members of the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the capacity of the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD • Improve communication on management decisions made in meetings
2	Mandate and operational budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presidential decree sets out the specific mandates for the CN-REDD, the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD-REDD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD-REDD have no budget • Lack of material resources for CODEPA-REDD (IT, Internet access etc.) • A single meeting of CONA-REDD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter a budget line in the state budget to allow operation of the CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD-REDD
3	Mechanism for multi-sectoral coordination and cross-sector collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the CONA-REDD must allow multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral coordination through its representatives • Appointment of REDD+ focal points within the Ministries related to REDD+ • High-level inter-ministerial forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CONA-REDD is not operational, so multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination is not effective • Lack of continuity of the REDD+ focal points • No REDD+ activities at the local level to demonstrate inter-sectoral coordination • Coordination with non-forest sectors remains difficult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalize the CONA-REDD for it to ensure multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination, particularly in relation to the Prime Minister • Expedite passage towards the investment phase to implement activities

4	Technical supervision capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good technical supervision of activities by the CN-REDD through its various units and the CNIAF • Presence of CN-REDD representatives in 3 departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor control of the REDD+ process by some stakeholders, limiting their role and the effectiveness of technical supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacities of stakeholders • CN-REDD must show greater leadership in relation to other Ministries • Establish facilitators of the CN-REDD in all departments
5	Fund management capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairly effective management and budget monitoring by the FEDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation funds managed by the FAO for UN-REDD and the FEDP for the PCPF • Dependence of the trust unit on other structures • Lack of budget transparency in preparing for REDD+, in particular for civil society activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the trust unit's capacities to ensure they are empowered
6	Mechanism for feedback and appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing traditional mechanisms to pass the information to CONA-REDD and CODEPA-REDD-REDD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information feedback mechanism and settlement of appeals is not yet in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing the mechanisms for resolving existing conflicts to structure the information feedback and complaints mechanism
1b. Consultation, participation and awareness				
7	Participation and commitment of major stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The different groups of stakeholders are represented in the CODEPA-REDD-REDD, CONA-REDD and CACO-REDD • Participation of indigenous peoples in CODEPA-REDD and CONA-REDD • REDD+ focal points in the Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector participation • Management structures non-operational due to lack of budget • Poor operation of some CODEPA-REDD (civil society representation, reports of activities without consensus) • Lack of continuity in the participation of representatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalization of the responsibilities of REDD+ focal points to ensure constant participation and feedback • Establish mechanisms for the representation of women in REDD+ management structures

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The definition of representation and participation remains complex, particularly for indigenous peoples • Difference in involvement between departments based on the prioritization of forest management and REDD+ 	
8	Consultation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-selection of representatives of different stakeholder sectors for consultations • Gender quotas for CODEPA-REDD • Multi-stakeholder workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in distributing documents, which influences the appointment of representatives • Short notice for consultation • Little working time for the technical supervision structures • Sometimes superficial treatment at workshops • Lack of documentation on the consultation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen communication and awareness in the departments, especially for local people • Distribution of documents within a reasonable time to permit reading and appointment for effective participation
9	Information distribution and access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a communication plan • Translation of the R-PP into Lingala and Kituba • Workshop organization and communication notes • Existence of information sheets and mailing lists • Setting up substitutes in some CODEPA-REDD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of radio and television programs • No website or social networks • No information distributed to communities • Distribution of certain documents by internet while the majority of stakeholders do not have access to it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the CACO-REDD to take the role of communicator • Formalize the role of CODEPA-REDD and representatives of civil society to improve communication with communities within the departments • Create a website and newsletters • Use social networks • Printing and distribution of documents

10	Use and disclosure of the results of consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops for consultation and approval of documents • Distribution of documents after revision • Restoration of advances by the CN-REDD during workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of documentation on discussions during consultations in the minutes • Insufficient time to comment on the documents • Lack of traceability of changes • Amended documents not returned to stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the return mechanism for the amended documentation and the traceability of changes • Improve the time management of the document review
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Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy

2a. Assessment of land use, the drivers of land use change, laws, policies and forest governance

11	Assessment and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the drivers of deforestation (BRLI) • Wood energy study • Analysis on the implementation framework and the legal framework (Agrer) • Analysis of land issues (PRONAR) • Consideration of REDD+ in the PNAT • FLEGT study by the EFI • Client Earth diagnostic study on land issues • Presence of tools: framework law for land development, new forest code • Leverage effect of REDD+ for the review of laws and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination between the different components of the analysis of the legal framework, the forest policy, the PNAT and land issues • Land-use overlay problem • Implementing legislation missing: land planning, environmental law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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12	Ranking of direct and indirect drivers for development of the forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization of drivers of deforestation at the departmental level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low involvement and enrollment by land owners in the proposed actions • Low inclusion of agriculture in the strategy - the key driver of deforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
13	Links between these favorable/unfavorable elements and the activities of REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link between wood energy and pilot projects such as PRONAR • Links between forest management and agriculture • Advances in the ERPD which allows the strategy to be contributed to • Discussions on the prioritization of REDD+ activities and engines at the departmental level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak links between the main engines and actions • Lack of appreciation of existing experiences of sustainable agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the intensification of agriculture
14	Action plans to take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of structures: Local Development Fund, VPA for the traceability of timber, independent observer • Efforts to recover the strategies and policies of the various sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of involvement of sectoral stakeholders • Unavailability of sectoral strategies and policies • Failure to implement (PDL) • Policy coherence issue and overlapping use of land unresolved • Gap between the national and departmental processes on land use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalize the CONA-REDD to ensure inter-sectoral coordination • Accelerate land reform

15	Impact on forestry laws and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment of laws and other instruments: environmental law, and forest law which recognizes customary law • FLEGT/REDD overlap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of detail on the review of non-forest sectors • Weak progress on land issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice REDD/PNAT cooperation • Develop measures to address unplanned deforestation
2b. REDD+ strategic options				
16	Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops on the development of the national REDD+ strategy with the focal points of ministries, a forum of 'knowledgeable parties' and high-level representatives • Consideration of inter-sectoral coordination • Focus on the implementation of good practices in the forest sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low participation of civil society in the development of the national REDD+ strategy • Delays in the development of allometric equations • No assessment of wood energy issues • Lack of clarity on the impact of REDD+ on good practice in the forestry sector • Lack of progress on sustainable agriculture issues • Undefined potential emission reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater involvement of civil society • Put more emphasis on wood/coal energy and agriculture in the national REDD+ strategy • Expedite the prioritization of strategic options • Need to locate priority areas for each activity • Need to prioritize the strategic options
17	Feasibility assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a strategic study on the development of cocoa • Discussions at the departmental level on the social and environmental impacts of different strategic options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unplanned deforestation not taken into account • Delay in preparing the SESA • Need to locate where actions will be implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish SESA • Finalize piloting PCI-REDD+ in the field
18	Impacts of strategic options on sectoral policies in force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-up of the national land use plan • Multi-sectoral workshops, especially between ministries, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistency between the strategic options and the options proposed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the PNAT and ensure its consistency with the REDD+

		<p>agribusiness and the mining industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of work on the legal framework for conversion wood by FLEGT independent observer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential problems of conflict between the NDP and REDD+ • Uncertainty on the achievement of strategic options as far as agribusiness is concerned • Need to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with agribusiness for the use of non-forested areas • Strengthen inter-sectoral coordination
2c. Implementation framework				
19	Adoption and application of laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of REDD+ in the revision of the Forest Code and the Law on the Environment • Law on Land Planning • Start-up of the PNAT • FLEGT process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of enforcement of forest law • Non-existing implementation orders: Law on Indigenous Peoples, Law on Land Planning • Slowness of the FLEGT process • Slow progress on finalizing the revised laws and codes • PNAT not yet operational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement and forest policy • Adoption of the PNAT • Monitoring of decrees and laws related to REDD+ • CONA-REDD potential to influence the progress of sectoral laws
20	Implementation guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft texts on carbon rights, the mechanism for sharing benefits, funding methods, the complaints mechanism and the approval of pilot projects • Implementation Framework Study (Agrer) • Study on benefit sharing (EFI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texts being developed and little information on their progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the approval of the texts • Distribution and consultation with stakeholders on draft texts • Rely on development NGOs for the management of interests and conflicts • Rely on assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the LDF process
21	Benefit-sharing arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary text on benefit sharing • Preliminary study on the LDF (experience acquired) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No practical experience of benefit sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the implementation process of the benefit-sharing arrangement

22	National REDD+ register and REDD+ monitoring system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of a reflection on the register system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of systems or register of REDD+ projects and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the national register system and activity monitoring system • Distribute information on the development of systems or the project register
2d. Social and Environmental Impacts				
23	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existence of PCI-REDD+ and verifiers developed through participatory processes • The existence of a multi-stakeholder forum to finalize the SESA according to the preliminary SESA study carried out by BRLI • Workshops on the impacts and benefits in two departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No participatory process for the SESA • Weak ownership of environmental and social impacts by civil society • PCI-REDD+ non-operational • Lack of coherence between the PCI-REDD+ and the strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build the capacity of stakeholders on the social and environmental impacts • Expedite consultations on the SESA - not only the approval of documents but the identification of social and environmental impacts • Distribute the finalized versions of the PCI-REDD+ and clarify their use • Extending the identification of social and environmental impacts to all departments
24	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations at the departmental level on social and environmental impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SESA in the process of being finalized • Absence of the SESA does not cause the strategic options to be prioritized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the development process of the SESA • Take into account the results of the SESA to prioritize the strategic options
25	Environmental and Social Management Framework		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESMF in the process of being finalized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the development process of the ESMF

3. Reference emissions levels / reference levels				
26	Demonstration of the method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of the FREL to the UNFCCC • Two methodologies used for the UNFCCC and the ERPD with similar results • Reliable historical analysis: remote sensing information correlated with NFI plots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cohesion: some drivers considered in the reference level but not reflected in the strategic options • FREL: appropriate methodology but adjustment not clearly justified • Low participation of civil society in the FREL process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacities of civil society in the FREL
27	Use of historical data and adaptation in the national context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERDP: adjustments based on the PDSA • Existence of the map of forest cover change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cohesion: some drivers considered in the reference level but not reflected in the strategic options • FREL: appropriate methodology but adjustment not clearly justified • Confidentiality of areas of activity • Lack of transparency in data and documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate access to data and the forest cover map
28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and compliance with the UNFCCC guidelines and the recommendations and guidance of the IPCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data can be checked for the historical calculation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions projects based on standard equations, work on allometric equations has barely begun • Collaboration between the CN-REDD and universities is limited • Ignoring of agriculture (particularly slash-and-burn) 	

Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures				
4a. National Forest Monitoring System				
29	Explanation of monitoring method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of tools: NFI plots, Global Forest Watch, FLEGT, remote sensing • Training of CNIAF agents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coherence in the structures of the different tools • No data centralization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalization of the MRV system • Implementation of pilot activities to test the system
30	Demonstration of the first phases of application		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify implementation areas for REDD+ in order to analyze possible leakage • Limited collaboration with universities 	
31	Institutional arrangements and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation of CN-REDD and CNIAF functions • MRV unit housed at CNIAF • Requirements identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandates for procedures and distribution of results remain to be defined • Need to clarify the role of independent observer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the implementation of procedures and distribution of data
4b. Information system on the multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards				
32	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon, and relevant social and environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take account of certain social-economic parameters in the NFI • Current mapping of non-carbon benefits (UNEP-WCMC) • Identification of non-timber benefits in two departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-publication of the mapping study on non-carbon benefits • Limited understanding of non-carbon benefits by local communities and indigenous peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the identification of non-timber benefits to other departments • Strengthen awareness activities on non-carbon-linked benefits for stakeholders
33	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of work on the SIS • Dialog on the development of independent observer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on SIS remains at a conceptual level • Information management mechanism still to be defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the objectives of SIS • Take donors' procedures into account • Initiate discussions on SIS with stakeholders

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication between independent observers for FLEGT and REDD+ • Existence of WRI's Forest Transparency Initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity on role of REDD+ independent observer and the involvement of civil society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the operationalization of SIS
34	Institutional arrangements and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of players who should be involved in the SIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination between players involved in the SIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate discussions on SIS with stakeholders

Table 2. Results of self-assessment (Draft 0) and the final report of the validation workshop

No.	Criteria	Initial feedback (Draft 0)	Validation workshop result	Final Average
Component 1: Organization of the preparation and consultation				
1a. REDD+ national management systems				
1	Accountability and Transparency	Yellow	Green	Green
2	Mandate and operational budget	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
3	Mechanism for multi-sectoral coordination and cross-sector collaboration	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
4	Technical supervision capacity	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
5	Fund management capacity	Orange	Green	Yellow
6	Mechanism for feedback and appeals	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
1b. Consultation, participation and awareness				
7	Participation and commitment of major stakeholders	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

No.	Criteria	Initial feedback (Draft 0)	Validation workshop result	Final Average
8	Consultation processes			
9	Information distribution and access to information			
10	Use and disclosure of the results of consultations			
Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy				
2a. Assessment of land use, the drivers of land use change, laws, policies and forest governance				
11	Assessment and analysis			
12	Ranking of direct and indirect drivers for development of the forests			
13	Links between these favorable/unfavorable elements and the activities of REDD+			
14	Action plans to take into account the rights to natural resources, land tenure and governance			
15	Impact on forestry laws and policies			
2b. REDD+ strategic options				
16	Selection and prioritization of strategic options for REDD+			
17	Feasibility assessment			
18	Impacts of strategic options on sectoral policies in force			

No.	Criteria	Initial feedback (Draft 0)	Validation workshop result	Final Average
2c. Implementation framework				
19	Adoption and application of laws and regulations			
20	Implementation guidelines			
21	Benefit-sharing arrangement			
22	National REDD+ register and REDD+ monitoring system			
2d. Social and Environmental Impacts				
23	Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards			
24	The design of the REDD+ strategy based on impact			
25	Environmental and Social Management Framework			
3. Reference emissions levels / reference levels				
26	Demonstration of the method			
27	Use of historical data and adaptation in the national context			
28	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and compliance with the UNFCCC guidelines and the recommendations and guidance of the IPCC			
Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures				
4a. National Forest Monitoring System				

No.	Criteria	Initial feedback (Draft 0)	Validation workshop result	Final Average
29	Explanation of monitoring method	Yellow	Dark Green	Dark Green
30	Demonstration of the first phases of application	Red	Yellow	Orange
31	Institutional arrangements and capacity	Orange	Yellow	Yellow
4b. Information system on the multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards				
32	Identification of aspects not connected with carbon, and relevant social and environmental issues	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
33	Monitoring, reporting, and exchange of information	Orange	Orange	Orange
34	Institutional arrangements and capacity	Red	Orange	Orange

5. Work Program to Complete REDD+ Readiness

During the self-assessment, participants identified key activities to be implemented for improving the weaknesses identified and thus allowing each of the criteria to go to green. This work program is designed to cover the implementation period until 2017 supported by the \$5.2m additional grant of the FCPF.

Component 1 Readiness Organization and Consultations			
Component 1a. National REDD+ management arrangements			
Theme	Main activities	Calendar	Source of funding
Functioning of REDD+ institutions: CONA-REDD, CODEPA-REDD and decentralized units of the CN-REDD	Technical meetings, IT provision etc.	Throughout 2016-2017	FCPF US \$2,004,000 and State budget
Multi-sectoral coordination	Formalization of the roles and responsibilities of ministerial focal points, coordination with the agribusiness and mining sectors; Meetings to support high-level political dialogue	October 2016 and on continuous basis	FCPF US \$140,000 And State budget
Establishment of FGRM	Participatory development of the FGRM including workshops, IT support / recruitment of a firm to establish a national FGRM, application in the Emission Reductions Program in Northern Congo	September 2016 - May 2017	FCPF US \$200,000
Component 1b. Consultation, participation and awareness			
Theme	Main activities	Calendar	Source of funding
Improved communication	Develop a web platform	December 2016 – February 2017	FCPF US \$70,000
	Launch of the 4th REDD awareness campaign	June - November 2016	FCPF US \$115,000
	Optimization of the use of communications technology (radio, TV, internet)	June - September 2016	FCPF US \$72,000
	Implement other components of the communication plan (besides awareness campaign and technology)	August 2016 – August 2017	FCPF US \$373,000

	Involvement of REDD+ structures in communication (CODEPA-REDD, Departmental Directorates, CACO-REDD, decentralized units, others)	Throughout 2016-2017	FCPF through implementation of communication plan (budget above)
Information and awareness of the technical aspects of FREL and SYNA MRV, targeting in particular civil society	Facilitation of the transfer of technical knowledge through thematic groups within the various institutions (e.g. CACO-REDD, CODEPA-REDD, ministries)	August – December 2016	FCPF through the support given to REDD+ institutions (see budget above)
Transparency and consultation process	Formalize the procedures for processing and tracking comments and feedback involving the decentralized structures	September 2016 - May 2017	FCPF through activities related to FGRM
Strengthen civil society participation	Building the capacity of the civil society platform (i) regarding their organization and (ii) regarding legal and professional support	September 2016 – June 2017	FCPF US \$ 60,000
Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy			
Component 2a. Assessment of land use, drivers of land use change, laws, policies and forest governance			
Theme	Main activities	Calendar	Source of funding
Integration of REDD+ in the PNAT	CNIAF support for development of the National Land Use Plan (Reference mapping, departmental and national workshops)	July 2016	FAO
	Formalization of the role of the CN-REDD in the working groups for the PNAT and contributions to PNAT development	January – October 2017	FCPF US \$50,000
	Support for the participation of the forest sector in the preparation of the PNAT	January – October 2017	FEDP US \$255,000
Component 2b. REDD+ strategy options			
Theme	Main activities	Calendar	Source of funding
Prioritization of strategic options and finalization of the national strategy	Rewriting and finalizing the national strategy	Finalized in July 2016	UNDP US \$20,000
	Incorporation of elements from SESA in the final version of the national strategy and further updates as needed	September 2016, ongoing until 2017 as needed	FCPF US \$40,000

Component 2c. Implementation framework			
Theme	Main activities	Calendar	Source of funding
Approval of the new Forest Code and its implementing legislation	Promote dialog with partners to expedite the finalization of the new Forest Code and its implementing legislation	July - September 2016	FEDP US \$20,000
Application of forest and environmental laws	Development of implementing legislation for the new Forest Code	Until December 2016	FEDP US \$560,000
Operationalization of all REDD+ tools	Recruitment of a firm specializing in organization to prepare a procedural manual for each tool	December 2016 - June 2017	FCPF US \$160,000
Benefit-sharing arrangement	Technical meetings (with the forums and CONA-REDD) and consultations with stakeholders to define benefit sharing principles at national level	November 2016 – March 2017	FCPF US \$130,000
	Development of the advanced draft of the benefit-sharing arrangements in the Emissions Reductions Program in Northern Congo	August 2016 – June 2017	
National REDD+ registry	Develop and validate the registry	September 2016 - April 2017	FCPF US \$20,000
REDD+ financial mechanism	Legal support to develop a REDD+ financial mechanism	January – August 2016	FCPF US \$ 100,000
Component 2d. Social and Environmental Impacts			
Theme	Main activity	Calendar	Source of funding
Finalization of the SESA and ESMF	Recruitment of a consultant for the consolidation of the SESA and ESMF	September - November 2016	FCPF US \$50,000
Capacity building for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment	Consultation for the local SESA to respond to the stakeholders	July – November 2016	FCPF US \$ 60,0000
	Capacity building workshop for stakeholders on the social and environmental impacts	August 2016 – March 2017	
Test for the application of national standards (PCI-REDD+)	Identify pilot sites in the ER program in the North (x2), South (x2) and the Centre (x1) and perform field tests	August 2016 - August 2017	FCPF US \$50,000
Component 3 Reference Emissions Level for the Forests			

Theme	Main activity	Calendar	Source of funding
Finalization of FREL Report	Integration of comments from the UNFCCC, and distribution of the approved report	Until December 2016	FAO
National allometric equations	Expedite the start of the research project on allometric equations	Until December 2016	COMIFAC
Treatment of unplanned deforestation in the FREL	Modelling the unplanned deforestation in Sangha and Likouala	May 2016 - February 2017	WCS
Capacity building on reference level	Training on reference scenarios	August 2016 – April 2017	FCPF US \$30,000
Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures			
Component 4a Forest monitoring and measurement system			
Theme	Main activity	Calendar	Source of funding
Operationalization of SYNA MRV	Recruitment of the unit leader to the CN-REDD and the establishment of procedures and mandates for the distribution of results of the SYNA MRV	July 2016 – December 2017	FCPF US \$96,000
	Acquisition of satellite images	August 2016, in 2017 as needed	FCPF US \$40,000
	Training of national experts in GIS and Remote Sensing	December 2016 - May 2017	FCPF US \$30,000
	Installation of the TerraMayombe system	Until December 2016	FAO
REDD+ independent observer	Proposal of a mandate, logical framework and terms of reference for independent observer	July – September 2016	EFI
Component 4b Information system on the multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards			
Theme	Main activity	Calendar	Source of funding
Operationalization of SIS	Distribution of documents and consultation on the proposed structure for the SIS	September 2016	CN-REDD
	Operationalisation of the SIS and adaptation for the Emission Reductions Program	September 2016 – March 2017	FCPF US \$60,000

Annex 1: Summary of Recommendations from the Mid-Term Progress Review

Recommendations	Key Elements to Address Comments
Consider how to involve relevant sectors in addition to the forestry sector in the REDD+ institutional arrangements, in particular the National REDD+ Committee, and promote inter-sectoral dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONA-REDD will be restructured to have two chambers and, thus, ensure high-level inter-sectoral dialogue: One at technical level and one at ministerial level. The Decree on REDD+ institutions will be revised, accordingly. • Reinforcement of multi-sector forums on specific issues such as the national REDD+ strategy, SESA and the benefit sharing mechanism. • Strengthened policy dialogue on strategic REDD+ options with mining and agricultural sectors to strengthen national capacities in November-December 2015
Provide information on a long-term vision to build forest sector capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term vision to build forest sector capacity is explained in the national REDD+ strategy options 1 and 2 with the following objectives: (i) Strengthen governance and ensure sustainable funding for the emergence of a green economy and (ii) Ensure sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems through a concerted regional planning process
In the development of national REDD+ strategy options, take account of national land use planning and measures to address risks of leakage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the latest version of the national REDD+ strategy, the sub-options 1.2 and 1.3 deal with land use planning. Their respective objectives are (i) to strengthen the planning and securing of land and resources at national level and (ii) to strengthen the planning and securing of State land reserves. • The management of leakage risks is foreseen through the coordination of the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy, the National Land Use Plan (PNAT) and land use planning work to be proposed to CAFI.
Develop a feedback and grievance redress mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FGRM national draft is available • The recruitment process of a firm to design the final FGRM is in progress. Final FGRM should be available in the first half of 2017.
Continue efforts to involve indigenous peoples, local communities, and other key stakeholders, with particular attention to women, in the REDD+ process; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the consultations (e.g. SESA, benefit sharing, ERPD, CODEPA) special attention is paid to the representation of women and Indigenous Peoples. • Representativeness is ensured in every REDD+ institutional structure, e.g. in CODEPA: there are 5 representatives of Indigenous Peoples, 8 of civil society and at least 20 % of CODEPA members are women (e.g. in CODEPA-Bouenza there

	<p>are 4 women and one of them is indigenous; the President of CODEPA-Niari is a woman).</p>
<p>Continue with the consultation process including at provincial level, where appropriate, and ensure that relevant information flows between the national and provincial levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The link between the national and departmental levels is now made through CODEPA-REDD (that have become permanent bodies since the MTR). Since 2015, CODEPA went through capacity building and were trained to do consultations. • Interviewers and supervisors were trained to do consultations on social and environmental aspects and ESMF (30% are women) in each district and village of the departments. • A number of consultations have been held since the MTR at departmental level (e.g. SESA , benefit sharing, ERPD) and will continue. • The "4th communication campaign" on REDD + is underway.

Annex 2: Summary of Consultations between 2010 and 2015 on REDD+ Readiness

N°	Activités de sensibilisation et de consultation – Composante 1b	Dates	Lieu	Source de financement
1	<i>Atelier d'information et de sensibilisation des enseignants chercheurs et étudiants de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Agronomie et de Foresterie de l'Université Marien Ngouabi</i>	Avril 2013	Brazzaville	FCPF
2	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des enseignants chercheurs et étudiants de la Faculté des Sciences et Techniques de l'Université Marien Ngouabi</i>	Mai 2013	Brazzaville	FCPF
3	<i>Atelier de validation des versions lingala et kituba du R-PP</i>	Mai 2013	Brazzaville	Gouv.
4	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des parties prenantes du Département de la Sangha sur le Programme de Réduction des Emissions (ER-PIN) avec le Fonds Carbone de la BM</i>	Mai 2013	Ouessou	FCPF
5	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation du personnel du Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et du Développement Durable sur le processus REDD+</i>	Juin 2013	Brazzaville	FCPF
6	<i>Atelier d'information des enseignants chercheurs et étudiants de l'Université Marien Ngouabi sur les enjeux de la Modélisation dans la REDD+</i>	Juin 2013	Brazzaville	FCPF
7	<i>Atelier national de consultation et de validation de la stratégie et du plan de communication pour le processus REDD+</i>	Juillet 2013	Brazzaville	PNUD
8	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des organisations de la société civile et des peuples autochtones sur le processus REDD+</i>	Septembre 2013	Brazzaville	PNUD
9	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des parties prenantes du Département de Pointe-Noire sur la REDD+</i>	Novembre 2013	Pointe-Noire	PNUD
10	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des parties prenantes du Département de la Lékoumou sur la REDD+</i>	Novembre 2013	Sibiti	PNUD
11	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des parties prenantes du Département de la Bouenza sur la REDD+</i>	Novembre 2013	Madingou	PNUD
12	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des parties prenantes du Département du Niari sur la REDD+</i>	Décembre 2013	Dolisie	FCPF
13	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des points focaux REDD+ des Ministères</i>	Déc.2013	Brazzaville	FCPF
14	<i>Atelier de consultation et de sensibilisation du personnel du Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et du Développement Durable sur le Programme de Réduction des Emissions (ER-PIN) avec le Fonds Carbone de la BM</i>	Janvier 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
15	<i>Focus groupes avec les populations autochtones du Département de la Likouala</i>	Mars 2014	Impfondo	FCPF Gouv
16	<i>Réunion de sensibilisation des Chefs de villages du Département de la Likouala, présents au FIPAC III sur la REDD+ et le R-PP</i>	Mars 2014	Impfondo	FCPF Gouv
17	<i>Atelier national sur la validation de la définition « forêt » dans le contexte de la REDD+ en République du Congo.</i>	Avril 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
18	<i>Ateliers de consultation des parties prenantes départementales pour la consolidation de la stratégie nationale REDD+ de la République du Congo</i>	Août 2014	11 Départements	PNUD

19	<i>Ateliers de consultation des parties prenantes départementales pour la consolidation des Sauvegardes Environnementales et Sociales (PCI-REDD+)</i>	Août 2014	5 Départements	PNUD
20	<i>Atelier de lancement de l'étude sur l'Évaluation Environnementale Sociale et Stratégique du processus REDD+ en République du Congo</i>	25 Août 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
21	<i>Consultations des parties prenantes dans 12 départements du pays pour la consolidation de la mouture préliminaire des PCI-REDD</i>	5-31 Août 2014	Likouala, Sangha, Pool, Pointe-Noire, Plateaux	ONU – REDD
22	<i>Mise en œuvre de l'étude (collecte des données et consultations)</i>	1 ^{er} et 2 Septembre 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
23	<i>Poursuite des ateliers de consultation des parties prenantes départementales pour la consolidation de la stratégie nationale REDD+</i>	Octobre 2014	Brazzaville	PNUD
24	<i>Poursuite de la mise en place des Comités Départementaux REDD+.</i>	Octobre 2014	Brazzaville	PNUD
25	<i>Ateliers de consultation des parties prenantes départementales pour la consolidation des Sauvegardes Environnementales et Sociales (PCI-REDD+) de la République du Congo</i>	Novembre 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
26	<i>Atelier d'information des parties prenantes sur les outils stratégiques et techniques du processus REDD+ en République du Congo</i>	Novembre 2014	Brazzaville	PNUD
27	<i>Atelier de sensibilisation des cadres du Ministère des Mines et de la Géologie sur les enjeux de la REDD+ et les impacts des usages superposés sur les terres forestières</i>	Novembre 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
28	<i>Consultations des parties prenantes dans 12 départements du pays pour la consolidation de la mouture préliminaire des PCI-REDD</i>	Du 4 au 5 Nov. 2014	Kouilou, Niari, Bouenza, Lékoumou, Cuvette, Cuvette-Ouest	ONU – REDD
29	<i>Atelier de consolidation des PCI pour la mise en cohérence des PCI-REDD+ avec les politiques nationales et les engagements pris au titre des conventions et accords sous régionaux et internationaux.</i>	Du 11 au 13 Novembre 2014	Brazzaville	ONU - REDD
30	<i>Atelier national de validation de la mouture 1 de la stratégie nationale REDD+ de la République du Congo</i>	Décembre 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
31	<i>Atelier national de validation de la mouture 1 des Sauvegardes Environnementales et Sociales (PCI-REDD+)</i>	Déc. 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
32	<i>Tenu de l'atelier de validation des PCI-REDD+ avec toutes les parties prenantes</i>	Du 19 au 20 décembre 2014	Brazzaville	FCPF
33	<i>Atelier de lancement de l'élaboration du plan d'investissement pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale REDD+</i>	06-07 juillet 2015	Brazzaville	FCPF
34	<i>Atelier de consolidation de la stratégie nationale REDD+ avec le secteur des Mines</i>	23-24 Novembre 2015	Brazzaville	ONU-REDD
35	<i>Atelier de consolidation de la stratégie nationale REDD+ avec le secteur Agro-industriel</i>	18-19 Novembre 2015	Brazzaville	ONU-REDD