Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
"Republic of Congo Emission Reductions Program"

Ninth Meeting of the Carbon Fund (CF9)

Brussels

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FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
ER Program Idea Background/Context

The Context of the Green Economic Vision and Climate Change

- Sustainable Forest Management Leader in Africa – 5.5 million ha under forest management (70% FSC)
- Government and CIB long-term partners in SFM – Since 2002
- Quick adopter of REDD+ via FCPF, UN-REDD and voluntary activity

**Congo has a long history of supporting SFM and is rapidly embracing REDD+ and its sustainability aspects**

- Rep. of Congo adopted a Sustainable Forest Management law in 2000
- The first FMP in 2005 and the first FSC certified was in 2006 - CIB
- Implementation of the RPP in 2010 led to:
  - o Grant Agreement with FCPF in 2012
  - o UN-REDD Program Convention in 2013
- Signing of MoU between Government and CIB-OLAM in 2012 led to the validation and verification of the North Pikounda REDD+ Project in 2013
- Introduction of the ER-PIN Idea in 2013 led to a submission of an ER-PIN in 2014

Congo as an HFLD country will face substantial increase in emissions from identified future drivers of deforestation. By mitigating a host of drivers instead of a single one, the Congo will be able to provide landscape emission reductions that reduce deforestation and degradation.

Currently Congo is focusing on:
Presenting its R-Package by Dec 2015
Concurrent focus on an ER-Program rollout
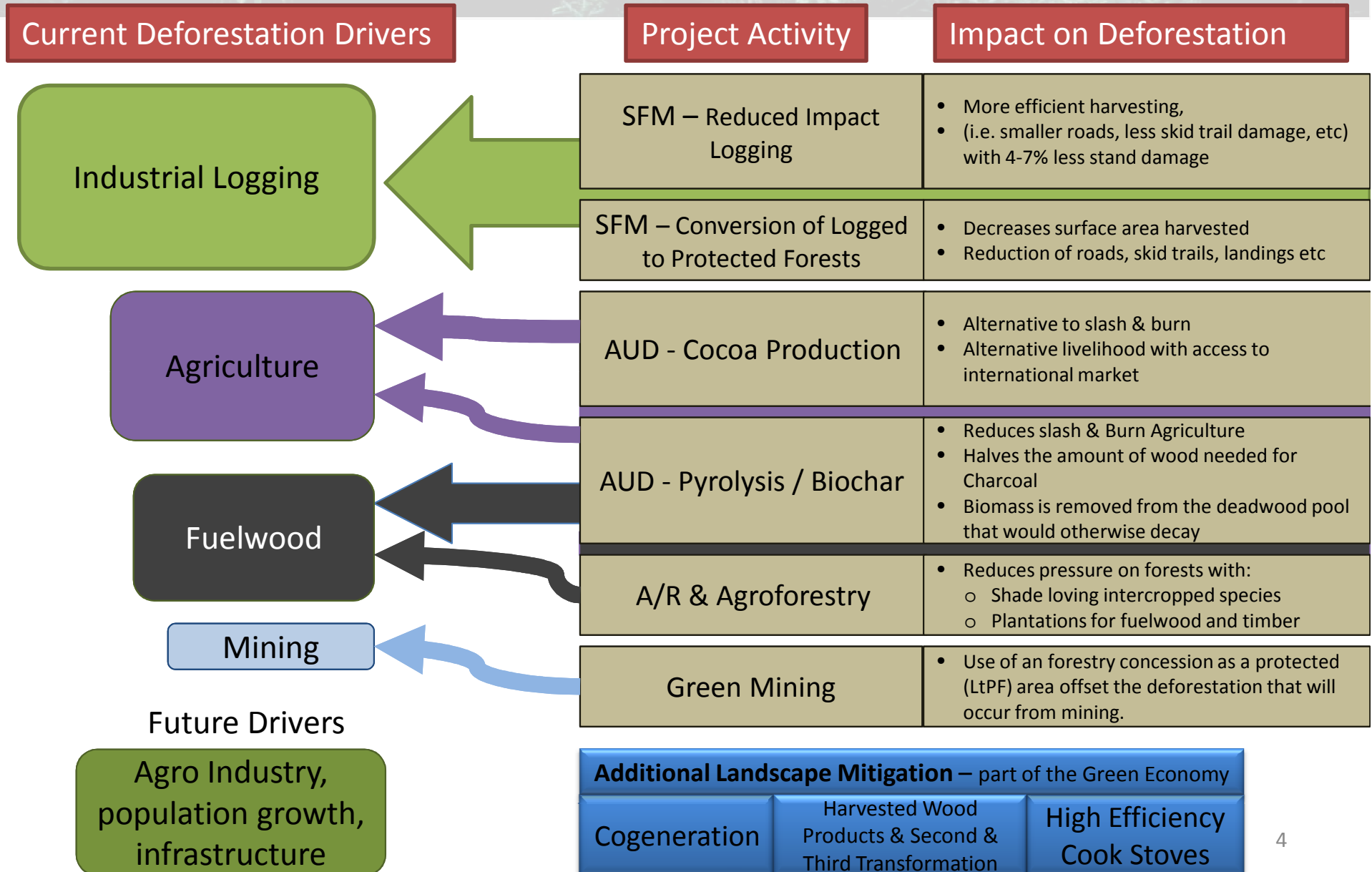
Republic of Congo ER-PIN Scale

- The ER-Program boundary is composed of two administrative jurisdictions made up of the Northern two Départements of Sangha and Likouala totaling 123,000 km^2

- The location and scale is optimal for Sustainable Forestry Management REDD+ activities linked with sustainable agriculture and agroforestry as the North is dominated by industrial logging
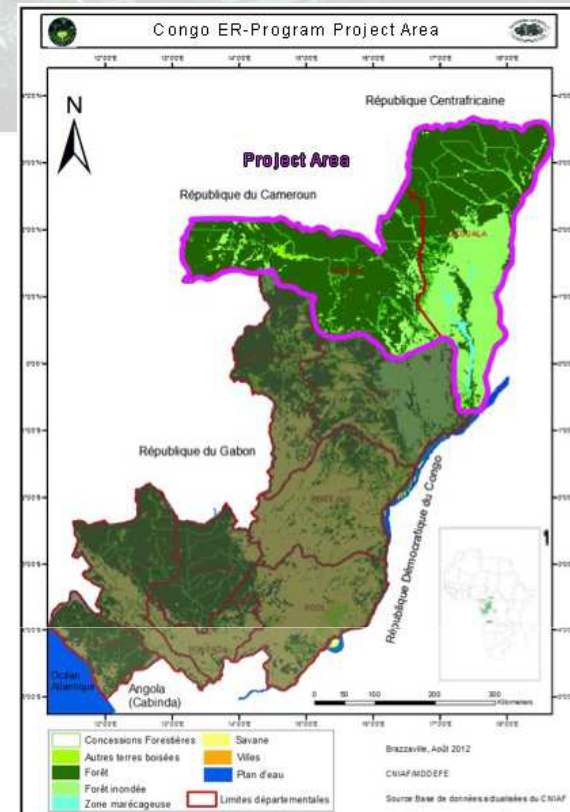
	Sangha	Likouala	Combined
Surface Area (ha)	5.78 million	6.57 million	12.35 million
Forest Cover (FACET 2013) (hectares & % of cover)	5.72 million (99%)	6.27 Million (95%)	11.99 million (97%)
2014 Estimated Inhabitants	109,000	196,000	305,000
Forest Concessions (No, of FMUs over ha)	6 over 3.2 million	9 over 2.53	5.73 million
FSC Forestry Activity (ha)	2.08 million	0.55 million	2.63 million
Timber Exploitation 2000-2010 (m3)	3,923,104.00	3,841,397.00	7,764,501

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Program Highlights – Strategic Links

Current Deforestation Drivers

Project Activity

Impact on Deforestation

Project Activity	Impact on Deforestation
SFM – Reduced Impact Logging	• More efficient harvesting, • (i.e. smaller roads, less skid trail damage, etc) with 4-7% less stand damage
SFM – Conversion of Logged to Protected Forests	• Decreases surface area harvested • Reduction of roads, skid trails, landings etc
AUD - Cocoa Production	• Alternative to slash & burn • Alternative livelihood with access to international market
AUD - Pyrolysis / Biochar	• Reduces slash & Burn Agriculture • Halves the amount of wood needed for Charcoal • Biomass is removed from the deadwood pool that would otherwise decay

A/R & Agroforestry	• Reduces pressure on forests with:
	  o Shade loving intercropped species
	  o Plantations for fuelwood and timber

Green Mining	• Use of an forestry concession as a protected (LtPF) area offset the deforestation that will occur from mining.

Current Deforestation Drivers:
- Industrial Logging
- Agriculture
- Fuelwood
- Mining

Future Drivers

Agro Industry, population growth, infrastructure

Additional Landscape Mitigation – part of the Green Economy

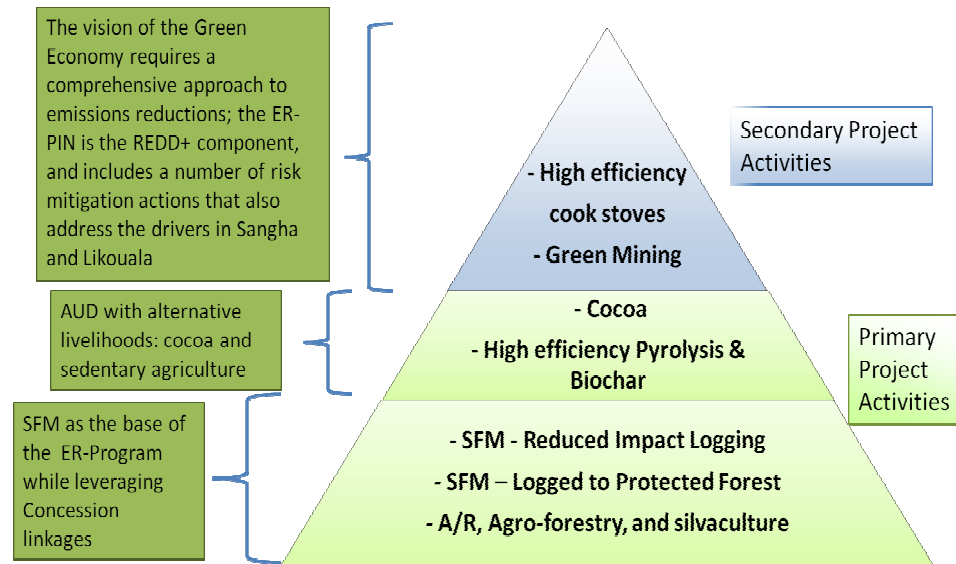| Cogeneration	Harvested Wood Products & Second & Third Transformation	High Efficiency Cook Stoves

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Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Program highlights

Key Characteristics & Strengths

Small country, less complex *then large countries with high population – will allow quick progress with REDD+ Readiness and concurrent ER-Program design. Lessons learned f*rom DRC and others will be applied.

REDD+ is the forestry component of the Green Economy. *This is a landscape approach. Even if there is a failure of methodological convergence (i.e. fuel switch projects like cook stoves) that make the result seem out of place in a* REDD+ proposal, most critical is that the activity ultimately will reduce the pressure of the current drivers while providing further non- carbon benefits.

Leverage the strengths of the Private Sector *- close cooperation with the government and CIB-OLAM for cocoa and carbon. Ministry of Agriculture and MEFDD are both involved and will ensure that cocoa production is supported both in the REDD+ and Agriculture context. While OLAM's access to the market and field trials over the past year indicate strong interest in up-take.*

The vision of the Green Economy requires a comprehensive approach to emissions reductions; the ER-PIN is the REDD+ component, and includes a number of risk mitigation actions that also address the drivers in Sangha and Likouala

AUD with alternative livelihoods: cocoa and sedentary agriculture

SFM as the base of the ER-Program while leveraging Concession linkages

Secondary Project Activities

Primary Project Activities

- High efficiency cook stoves
- Green Mining

- Cocoa
- High efficiency Pyrolysis & Biochar

- SFM - Reduced Impact Logging
- SFM – Logged to Protected Forest
- A/R, Agro-forestry, and silvaculture

Addresses all key national strategies with emission reductions targeting all key drivers - *2.3 million tCO$_2$e/year*

Testing of new emission reductions strategies *that integrate SFM, rehabilitation of the cocoa industry and introduction of biochar.*

Integration of National REDD+ outputs and strategies *with the design of the ER-Program to create a single cohesive REDD+ policy.*

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Country progress towards Readiness

REDD+ Readiness Package by December 2015

Rep. of Congo will undertake REDD+ Readiness and ER-Program concurrently, realizing that the Readiness Package needs to be completed prior to an ERPA signing.

Key achievements of REDD+ Readiness:
- Congo CN-REDD+ team is now completed
- The Four key contracted studies are in development:
    1. Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (*nearly completed*);
    2. REDD+ national strategy (*underway*);
    3. National REDD+ Implementation Framework (*underway*); and,
    4. SESA (*about to begin*).
- FAO is also closely cooperating with the Congo to speed up the development of Component 4 - Monitoring & Safeguards
- 2013 was dedicated to the alignment among programs (FCPF & UN REDD Programme) and the preparation of the key building blocks for the acceleration of the REDD+ Readiness process in 2014.

Additionally, as Congo is a small country with low population and good forest governance in place, progress to complete REDD+ Readiness will be swift allowing Congo to be able to sign an ERPA.

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Political commitment

Government of the Republic of Congo - High Level Support

The government, through both the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development & Ministry of Agriculture is committed to its Green Vision of the future of Congo as is reflected by its creation of protected areas for biodiversity conservation (nearly 4 million ha or 12 % of the total surface area of Congo), reforestation of 12,450 hectares (ha) of degraded forest and early adoption of forest management planning.

Civil Society & Private Sector – Buy-In

Since the introduction of the ER-PIN in March of 2013, there have been 17 REDD+ meetings and consultations, many focusing specifically on the ER-PIN concept. The Republic of Congo Emission Reduction Program has received high-level political support and buy-in from civil society and the private sector.

Civil Society

- *CACO REDD (National, Sangha & Likouala)*
- *Wildlife Conservation Society*
- *UICN*

CACO-REDD has been a supporter of the ER-PIN process; it was consulted at various levels and will continue to be consulted in the future ER-P design process.

Private Sector

- *OLAM International*
- Congolese Industrielle des Bois (CIB)
- *Danzer Group (IFO)*
- Industrial Society Forest of Congo (SIFCO)
- *Congo Iron SA (Sundance Resource Group)*

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Non-carbon benefits

Non Carbon Benefits	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities (including indigenous communities)	**Government**	**Private Sector**
Biodiversity Conservation	- Wildlife Protection - Access to NTFP - Access to Forest Medicinal Products	- Enhanced Wildlife Monitoring	- Improved International Reputation
Governance & Rights	- Enhanced Direct Community Participation - Strengthening of land tenure - Democratization of forest resources - Feedback, grievance redress mechanisms	- strengthening of forest governance - Increased Forest monitoring capabilities	- Enhanced relations with local communities - Integration with national land use planning efforts
Economic Benefits	- Enhanced agricultural yields - Access to international markets for cocoa, coffee and other tradable commodities - Increased jobs & income - Enhancement of skill sets - increased access to education & health care	- Reestablishment of cocoa sector - Opportunity to rehabilitate Coffee sector - Opportunity to enhance national agricultural output - Diversification of agricultural economy - Diversification of Forest Economy	- Access to new business opportunities - Alternative income streams from existing business operations - Improved international reputation
Climate Change Adaptation	- Climate Change resistant agricultural techniques - Greater knowledge of adaptation needs - increased food security	- Increased access to climate change adaptation funding	- Climate Change resistant business strategies
Community Benefits	- Increased equity in communities - Enhanced benefit sharing structures	- Enhanced relations with communities	- Strengthening of community relations and partnerships

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Diversity and learning value

The Congo's ER-Program is not only a pilot jurisdictional REDD+ project, but it is a major component of the country's vision of a Green Economy which in turn is the basis for long-term sustainable development in the forestry and agricultural sectors as well as more efficient and sustainable energy consumption

1.   **Partnerships with Private Sector in Forestry – Industrial logging is the major driver for the North**
- Leverage existing mechanisms and capacity that are more prevalent in the private sector
- Private sector and the Government will work together to seek solutions to climate change issues, including mitigation and adaptation
- Carbon incentives will promote SFM and further certification in the forestry sector

2. Rehabilitation of the Cocoa Sector
- Re-establishment of a high value cash crop with the assistance of carbon finance.
- Simultaneously addressing slash & burn agriculture as a major driver of deforestation

3. First large scale effort demonstrating effectiveness of Biochar for agriculture yield enhancement to promote sedentary agriculture
- Easily accessible agricultural input promotes sedentary agriculture
- Biochar effort to address the challenges associated with food insecurity and climate change
- Reduce the emissions associated with the deadwood pool
- Long-term storage capabilities of stable carbon in the soil

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Consistency with Methodological Framework (1)

The Congo ER PIN has followed the FCPF Methodological Framework in developing the ER-PIN, and while not all indicators can be complied with at this time, the ER-Program Design will address any outstanding issues

Level of Ambition
- The Congo ER-Program is addressing a significant portion of its national forestry related emissions by using well established and new and measures to reduce emissions at the scale of two of the eleven Départements of Congo.
- The programmatic approach seeks to include all relevant stakeholders in order to use a variety of forest emissions mitigation interventions that closely follow the identified REDD+ Strategic Options as well as the developing national REDD+ strategy.

Carbon Accounting
- The Reference Period will be from 2000-2013 in order to account for emissions associated with planned and unplanned plantations and infrastructure development (N.B this is a change from the submitted ER-PIN based on feedback the RoC has received)
- During the Program design phase, issues related to uncertainties will be addressed.
- The REL was informed by the spatial explicit deforestation studies conducted in relation to ongoing Congo national REDD+ development.
- Forest Monitoring Systems of the ER-Program will be the same ones used in the national REDD+ program and will include community participation in monitoring and reporting activity when possible.

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Consistency with Methodological Framework

Historical emissions

The Reference Period will be from 2000-2013 in order to account for emissions associated with planned and unplanned plantations and infrastructure development.

Congo's unique circumstances are that it has historically low deforestation, however
- Since 2010 substantial road building has occurred in Sangha Dept.
- Since 2011 ATAMA Palm has begun land-clearing to begin operations
- Since 2011 Sangha Palm has begun land-clearing to begin operations

The 2000-2013 RoC Historical REL will consist of:
1. 2000-2010 remotely sensed data (for 2013, data to be added during the design phase) for deforestation
2. 2000-2013 Planned Degradation (Nat. Harvesting data)
3. 2011-2013 Planned Deforestation (Road Building and Oil Palm Plantations)

Upward Adjustment

The RoC then chose to apply the upward adjusted upwards by 0.1% of carbon stock based on additional planned infrastructure, oil palm and macro-agriculture development.

All upward adjustments will be supported by documentation showing that the condition for the adjustment existed within the reference period.

Historical REL 2000-2013	Average Annual REL (tCO2e)
Unplanned Deforestation (REL_{UPLDEF})	2,100,051
Planned Degradation (REL_{PLDEG})	2,832,475
Planned Deforestation (REL_{PLDEF})	1,345,983
Total Aggregated Sangha & Likouala Historical RE	6,278,509
Adjustment to REL (0.1% of 2010 carbon Stock)	5,112,412
Total Aggregated Sangha & Likouala REL including HFLD Adjustment	**11,390,921**

Republic of Congo ER-PIN
Emission Reductions Generated

Mitigation Activity	Estimated Annual Emission Reductions (tCO2e)			Estimated Emissions as a percentage of the annual REL	Estimated Emission Reductions until 2020
	Average	Low	High	Average	
Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation & Degradation					
Cocoa production avoiding unplanned deforestation	902,655	593,311	1,101,862	7.924%	4,513,273.75
Biochar	361,062	243,915	452,985	3.170%	1,805,309.50
Improved charcoal production efficiency	180,531	56,172	104,319	1.585%	902,654.75
High Efficiency Cook Stoves		Not Expected to be significant			
Avoiding Planned Degradation	-				
SFM- Reduced Impact Logging	-	Not Expected to be significant			
SFM - Conversion of logged forests to protected forests	270,796	188,720	350,480	2.377%	1,353,982.13
Green Mining (protected areas)	631,858	436,100	809,900	5.547%	3,159,291.63
Sinks					
Afforestation/Reforestation (including community Agroforestry)		Not Expected to be significant			
Totals	**2,346,902**	**1,518,217**	**2,819,546**		**11,734,512**

The Congo anticipates that the FCPF CF can purchase all of the emission reductions from the program.

Republic of Congo ER-PIN Consistency with Methodological Framework cont.

Safeguards
- The ER-Program design and the SESA process will occur simultaneously, and the Congo will benefit from the two processes being able to integrate their outputs into a single coherent approach
- The ER-Program Safeguards Plan will be developed concurrently with the ER-Program Document and will include appropriate monitoring and oversight through the National and Local ER-Program Implementation Boards.
- FGRM will be in place by Feb 2015 to be operational during the design phase and can be based on existing systems.

Sustainable Program Design and Implementation
- The ER-Program will address all of the key drivers of deforestation and degradation in Sangha and Likouala which are: logging, agriculture, infrastructure development (including urban growth) and agro-industry.
- The Benefit sharing system will be based on the general principles of the ER-Program and will be completed prior to the signing of an ERPA in an consultative, transparent and participatory process.

ER Program Transactions
- The Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development has provided the authority to undertake the ER-Process leading to an ERPA.
- A National REDD+ Registry will manage the ER-Program data management system to avoid double counting while a third party can be used to establish a transaction registry.

Republic of Congo ER-PIN Summary

The Republic of Congo ER-Program:

1. Will leverage a public private partnership for capacity, finance and long term sustainable development in the context of REDD+

2. The only Industrial logging SFM Program – will be a global showcase of REDD+ SFM

3. Will address multiple drivers with multiple ER activities, all targeted to the emerging national REDD+ strategy with significant non-carbon benefits

4. Field tested cocoa restart component will provide a solid alternative livelihood to shifting slash & burn agriculture and can be augmented by biochar.

5. The scale of the program is reaching 1/3 of the country

1990-2000

2000 - 2010