



# Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

## **Independent TAP Expert Review of Togo's REDD+ Readiness-Package**

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# Purpose and modalities of TAP review

“Assess whether a due process and approach was followed while performing the self-assessment of REDD+ Readiness”:

- Part A: Review of the self-assessment process of Togo’s R-Package
- Part B: Review of the results of the multi-stakeholder R-Package self-assessment
- Part C: Assess what still needs to be done to complete the Readiness Process
- -> TAP Conclusions and Recommendations

# Part A: Self-Assessment Process

- The participatory Self-Assessment process in Togo followed the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework Guidelines. The R-Package Report provides adequate details on the self-assessment process as well as its results;
- The self-assessment process was elaborate, including six regional workshops as well as a national workshop, mobilizing a total of 644 participants from diverse stakeholder groups. The 96.2% average response rate for the seven workshop invitations demonstrates the high levels of stakeholder interest in REDD+ in Togo. The R-Package report did not permit an assessment of whether there were major differences in perception of REDD+ Readiness between the various stakeholder groups;
- The R-Package report provides sufficient information on the actual status of REDD+ Readiness and on the work remaining.

# Part B: Summary of progress vis-à-vis FCPF criteria-1

Components	Goals	Evaluation	
		2017	2021
<b>1. Organization and consultations</b>			
1a. National REDD+ management systems	1) Accountability and transparency	Green	Green
	2) Operational mandate and budget	Yellow	Yellow
	3) Multisectoral coordination mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration	Yellow	Yellow
	4) Technical supervision capacity	Yellow	Green
	5) Fund management capacity	Green	Green
	6) Information feedback and appeal mechanism	Red	Yellow
1b. Consultation, Participation and Awareness	7) Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	Green	Green
	8) Consultation process	Orange	Green
	9) Dissemination of information and access to information	Yellow	Green
	10) Use and disclosure of consultation results	Red	Green
<b>2. REDD+ Readiness Strategy</b>			
2a. Land Use Assessment, Pilot Land Use Changes, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	11) Evaluation and analysis	Orange	Green
	12) Prioritization of direct and indirect factors/obstacles to forest development	Orange	Green
	13) Links between these favorable/unfavorable elements and REDD+ activities	Red	Green
	14) Action plans to take into account the right to natural resources, land tenure and governance	Orange	Yellow
	15) Implications for forest laws and policies	Orange	Green
2b. REDD+ strategic options	16) Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options	Orange	Green
	17) Feasibility assessment	Red	Green
	18) Implications of the strategic options for existing sectoral policies	Red	Yellow

# Part B: Summary of progress vis-à-vis FCPF criteria-2

Components	Goals	Evaluation	
		2017	2021
2c. Implementation Framework	19) Adoption and enforcement of laws and regulations	Red	Yellow
	20) Implementation guidelines	Red	Yellow
	21) Benefit-sharing mechanism	Red	Yellow
	22) National REDD+ register, monitoring of REDD+ activities	Orange	Orange
2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	23) Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards	Orange	Green
	24) Design of the REDD+ strategy according to the impacts	Red	Green
	25) Environmental and social management framework	Red	Green
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels			
	26) Demonstration of the method	Yellow	Green
	27) Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context	Orange	Green
	28) Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with the UNFCCC/IPCC guidelines.	Orange	Green
4. Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures			
4a. National Forest Monitoring System	29) Explanation of the monitoring method	Orange	Green
	30) Demonstration of the first application phases	Orange	Green
	31) Institutional arrangement and capacity	Orange	Yellow
4b. Information system on multiple benefits, governance, safeguards	32) Identification of non-carbon aspects and relevant social and environmental issues	Red	Yellow
	33) Monitoring, reporting and information exchange	Red	Orange
	34) Institutional arrangements and capacities	Orange	Orange

# Part B: REDD+ Readiness Progress: Component 1

## Component 1. Readiness, Organization and Consultation (criteria 1-10)

- A 2016 Government Decree established Togo's three REDD+ management bodies: CN-REDD+, NWG-REDD+ and the National REDD+ Coordination. The National REDD+ Committee (CN-REDD+) is a decision-making body consisting of 35 government and non-government representatives. CN-REDD+ has had few meetings, due to scheduling problems, and has not managed to secure funding for REDD+ implementation or for long-term oversight of REDD+ implementation;
- The National REDD+ Working Group (NWG-REDD+) is a technical body consisting of a multidisciplinary team whose members come from government, civil society and technical and financial partners. NWG-REDD+ supports both the CN-REDD+ and the National REDD+ Coordination described below. The National REDD+ Coordination ensures the day-to-day management of the REDD+ process, under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (MERF);
- Between 2016 and 2020, a total of 78 stakeholder information and awareness-raising workshops were organized, reaching 2,922 people. Consultations on the National REDD+ Strategy and the SESA also mobilized thousands of stakeholders. The stakeholder groups that were mobilized through these consultations provided inputs that strengthened key elements of REDD+ Readiness, including the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan and the SESA, among others.
- Togo has made tremendous efforts to share information with all REDD+ stakeholders, in a format and language that is understandable to them.

# Part B: REDD+ Readiness Progress: Component 2

## Component 2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation (Criteria 11-25)

- The analysis of deforestation and forest degradation was done using a robust methodology, combining satellite imagery with higher resolution datasets in order to quantify direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation - a challenging task in Togo's sub-humid and dry forest context;
- The process for identifying and prioritizing key drivers and related REDD+ strategy options was made more robust by regular stakeholder consultation, on the results of initial thematic studies as well as on REDD+ strategy options, which were further refined during the highly participatory SESA process;
- Togo is well-advanced with respect to the identification of natural resource rights related issues and reforms needed - for example, the country's Land Law has already been revised. Togo's national REDD+ strategy will have major implications for the improvement of forest laws and policies, some of which are currently underway, such as the revision of the forest law to integrate the REDD+ dimension. Togo also identified the need for an improvement in forest governance, through the strengthening of forest resource management institutions and through better collaboration among concerned stakeholders;
- A few key elements of the REDD+ Implementation Framework still need more work, such as the legal instrument for carbon governance (which is also necessary to formalize the Benefit Sharing Mechanism) and the National REDD+ Registry.

# Part B: REDD+ Readiness Progress: Component 3

## Component 3. Forest Reference Emissions Levels/Forest Reference levels (criteria 26-28)

- Togo has made considerable progress, having submitted its first national Forest Reference Level (FRL) to UNFCCC in 2020, based on IPCC Tier 3 methods and historical data for the 2003-2018 period, without any adjustment;
- For the moment, Togo's FRL excludes many GHG emissions and removals activities and a few carbon pools for lack of data. While this is acceptable under the step-wise approach to improve FRLs progressively (which is allowed under UNFCCC rules), it also carries some risks. The current exclusion of emissions and removals from degradation and restoration, from vegetation fires, and from woodlands with 10-30% tree cover carries some risk of “leakage” from sources/activities that are covered by the FRL to those that are not;
- According to the R-Package, the soundness of Togo's FRL was confirmed by the independent technical assessment carried out for the UNFCCC in June 2020. This assessment, however, is not yet available on the UNFCCC website.



# Part B: REDD+ Readiness Progress: Component 4

## Component 4. Monitoring system for forests and safeguards (Criteria 29-34)

- Togo's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was designed on the basis of accepted international guidelines and has been nationally approved. The capacities of Togolese institutions contributing to the NFMS have been strengthened and their mandates clarified, with the first FRL produced in 2020 providing the "proof of concept" for its effectiveness. However, the NFMS has not yet been institutionalized, as it will be integrated in the forthcoming National REDD+ Registry;
- The self-assessment did not go into much detail on which non-carbon benefits were deemed most important. It would seem that some of Togo's proposed REDD+ strategy options have important social benefits (for example, fuel-efficient wood stoves improving women's respiratory health) and that such benefits would offer scope for additional stakeholder and resource mobilization;
- The Safeguard Information System (SIS) is still in the early stages of development, but stakeholders have been consulted, the scope of the SIS has been identified and the possibilities for local hosting are being explored;

# Part C: What still needs to be done

REDD+ areas in Togo where additional work will be needed include:

- The National REDD+ Registry, which will also be the institutional anchor for the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS);
- The Multiple Benefits and Safeguards Information System (SIS);
- Addressing outstanding legal reforms, including the (ongoing) revision of the Forest Law, the SESA decree, and the Carbon Governance Act (which is also necessary for formalizing the Benefit Sharing Mechanism, BSM);
- Improvement of the Forest Reference Level (FRL), in line with the stepwise approach adopted by Togo, to cover additional REDD+ activities and carbon pools, and reduce the risk of “leakage”;
- Mobilizing resources for REDD+ implementation and for long-term funding of REDD+ oversight and management.

# TAP Conclusions and recommendations

- The TAP reviewer is of the opinion that the **R-Package report provides a comprehensive picture of REDD+ Readiness progress achieved in Togo and of the work that remains to be done.** The highly participatory approach and the extended timeframe (January - August 2021) adopted for the Self-assessment process have no doubt contributed to the R-Package quality;
- **Togo has made excellent progress since the Mid-Term Review**, with 31 criteria having progressed well or significantly (GREEN/YELLOW scores), compared with only 8 criteria in 2017.
- **Stakeholder outreach and consultation during the REDD+ Readiness process have been excellent**, and this has led to significant improvement of the National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment;
- There are **three main legal reforms necessary for REDD+ implementation** including the adoption of the Forest Law currently under revision, the SESA decree, and the Carbon Governance Act (which is also necessary for formalizing the Benefit Sharing Mechanism, BSM). In addition, **the National REDD+ Registry needs to be established**;
- **Resource mobilization for REDD+ implementation, and for the long-term oversight and management of the REDD+ process, should now receive the highest priority.** Strengthening of forest resource management institutions and improved collaboration among concerned stakeholders will be needed to improve forest governance. The functioning of the CN-REDD+ will also require enhancements.

# TAP presentation on Togo R-package

THANK YOU!

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