



**National Programme
Submission Form – COTE D'IVOIRE**

UN-REDD PROGRAMME TWELFTH
POLICY BOARD MEETING

7 – 9 July 2014
Lima, Peru

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National Programme (NP)
Submission Form to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

1. Policy Board Submission

Policy Board Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. 12	Inter-sessional Meeting <input type="checkbox"/>
Date of Meeting: 7 - 9 July 2014	Date of Inter-sessional Decision:

2. National Programme Summary

<i>Details of National Programme</i>	
Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Programme ¹ Title	REDD+ readiness in Cote d'Ivoire
Implementing Partner(s) ²	The Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development
<i>Details of Participating UN Organizations' Representatives</i>	
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<i>Type of National Programme</i>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Full NP:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Full NP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from an Initial NP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Initial NP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Initial NP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from previous funding</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)</p>

¹ The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

² Refers to National counterparts. List the lead entity first.

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Côte d'Ivoire is strongly committed towards the international REDD+ mechanism, as evidenced by the adoption of Decree n°2012-1049 by the Council of Ministers on 24 October 2012. This decree endorses the national REDD+ process and establishes management structures for REDD+ readiness.

The Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD) was given the task of steering the national REDD+ process, by means of a National REDD+ Committee (CN-REDD+). A REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat (REDD+ SEP) was created to manage everyday planning, funding resources mobilization, technical support and the national participatory process towards REDD+ readiness. Furthermore, a partnership has been initiated with the FLEGT process (on forest law enforcement, governance and timber trade). The country also launched an approach to engage and ensure the participation of non-governmental stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector. A joint REDD+/FLEGT civil society platform was also established and is currently being organized. Finally, an interministerial REDD+ Taskforce, headed by the Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, which is strongly committed to the REDD+ process, was established to support the national political dialogue on REDD+.

Côte d'Ivoire also joined two international platforms supporting REDD+: the UN-REDD Programme (a partnership between FAO, UNDP et le UNEP) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF, supported by the World Bank). In addition, Côte d'Ivoire's work on REDD+ has been supported since 2013 by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the European Union REDD Facility (UE-REDD). A total of almost US\$10 million is being raised by Côte d'Ivoire with these international partners, which bears witness to the strong national political commitment for REDD+ and to the international recognition of Côte d'Ivoire's commitment.

REDD+ Readiness Plan (R-PP)

Since 2013, Côte d'Ivoire has been developing a REDD+ Readiness Plan, also referred to as R-PP, through a participatory approach and ambitious technical support. The document includes a context analysis for REDD+, and proposes a structure, actions and approaches for the country to become "REDD+ ready", in line with relevant international guidelines and standards from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the Cancun Agreements (2010) and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (2013).

The R-PP, which sets a roadmap for the national REDD+ process for 2014-2017, is the result of several months of planning, technical exchanges, multipartner consultations and dialogue with international partners, as well as FCPF and UN-REDD missions. Over 1500 people took part in awareness-raising and consultation activities, representing various national REDD+ stakeholders, including local communities, the civil society, the private sector, public authorities, technical and financial partners, women and youth associations, traditional authorities, local elected officials, academics and researchers, and the media.

Côte d'Ivoire's attached R-PP is structured in line with UN-REDD and FCPF's joint template. It defines shared

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roles and budget allocations for each international partner involved. The R-PP thus sets out the balanced coordination between technical and financial support from UN-REDD, FCPF, AFD and UE-REDD.

Côte d'Ivoire's R-PP was first endorsed by various national stakeholders in October 2013. An international technical review commissioned by FCPF in November 2013 then gave a positive assessment of the R-PP document, both on its technical and institutional components. Côte d'Ivoire submitted its R-PP to the FCPF Participants Committee and UN-REDD Policy Board, held jointly in Geneva in December 2013. The FCPF Participants Committee endorsed the R-PP and its funding request, subject to the country addressing the recommendations made by the international technical reviewers, and to the refinement of the planned activities, budget and financial management arrangements in 2014, with a view to signing the Grant Agreement with the World Bank.

Côte d'Ivoire's R-PP was validated on 9th May 2014 at a national workshop chaired by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development, and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator in Côte d'Ivoire. Over 150 participants from all stakeholder categories involved in REDD+ attended, including delegates from ministries and national public agencies, representatives of the civil society members of the FLEGT/REDD+ platform, traditional authorities, representatives from local communities, professionals from research centres, private sector stakeholders from the agricultural and forest sectors, media, national experts, opinion leaders and representatives from international technical and financial partners.

The UN-REDD and World Bank joint mission in May 2014 recognized that the national REDD+ process in Côte d'Ivoire has led to the following achievements:

- The Government is now organized to manage REDD+ readiness, including through the REDD+ SEP, hosted by MINESUDD.
- Synergies exist between FLEGT and REDD+ processes.
- The country's civil society has progressed towards contributing to the REDD+ process, through a joint FLEGT/REDD+ platform bringing together various organizations, experiences and perspectives.
- The Government generated impetus for REDD+ at an interministerial level, by establishing an Interministerial REDD+ Taskforce, which will provide a basis for the political dialogue needed to ensure the success of the REDD+ mechanism and the transformational value of the upcoming national REDD+ strategy.
- The Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, responsible for drafting the National Development Plan, is strongly committed to REDD+. Furthermore, the Ministry's leadership wishes to see REDD+ criteria and standards quickly developed, with a view to incorporating them into the future National Development Plan, and to using them as guidelines in the development of the Government

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programme portfolio starting in 2015. These intentions underscore the strong belief that REDD+ will be a key driver in changing the country's national development policy.

- The approach for building a national REDD+ strategy was defined by integrating relevant international best practices and by ensuring that it is the result of iterative work to carry out technical analysis, consultations and political dialogue. The national REDD+ strategy proved to be a consolidating driver for the country's sustainable development goals and for the transition to a green economy in Côte d'Ivoire.

Contribution requested from the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme contribution to the REDD+ process in Côte d'Ivoire is well defined in the R-PP and in line with the country's vision and work plans, as well as the support of other international partners. In more concrete terms, UN-REDD will focus on providing technical and financial support to the following REDD+ key components:

- Engaging stakeholders in REDD+, by including and consulting with civil society players (R-PP: 1C)
- Carrying out in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation, which will feed – together with other analytical work – into the national consensus on REDD+ strategic options (R-PP: 2A and 1C)
- Assessing REDD+ multiple benefits (R-PP: 4B)
- Building the national REDD+ strategy, including political dialogue (R-PP: 2B and 1C)
- Reviewing financial options for REDD+, which is likely to result in the design and setup of a National REDD+ Fund (R-PP: 2C)
- Defining a preliminary REDD+ reference level (R-PP: 3)
- Building a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) (R-PP: 4A)
- Designing a safeguard information system (R-PP: 4B)

This work is closely aligned with the support planned by FCPF (especially the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and modeling studies of development pathways and their REDD+ components, etc.), by AFD (especially satellite images and maps) and by UE-REDD (on the links between agriculture and forests).

UN-REDD's support to stakeholder engagement (R-PP: 1C) will be delivered along two key axis. First, supporting the organization and participation of the civil society, including helping the FLEGT/REDD+ civil society platform operate and the implementation of the *REDD+ Stakeholder Engagement Plan*, currently under development. A mid-term assessment of the stakeholder engagement process and a quality control of participation et consultation on FLEGT and REDD+ are also planned under the UN-REDD support, with a view to improving participation, consultation and civil society engagement approaches during the REDD+ process.

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The UN-REDD will also support consultations and a multipartner dialogue on REDD+ during the development of the national REDD+ strategy (in link with R-PP: 2A and 2B), including by building a consensus on the framework for REDD+ strategic options, the work of thematic groups on strategic options, Interministerial REDD+ Taskforce sessions, technical training and training on strategic planning for REDD+, REDD+ participatory governance assessment, political dialogue at a high level, Côte d'Ivoire's international commitment, social and field survey activities to feed into the REDD+ process and other consultations and multipartner awareness-raising activities on various topics related to REDD+ readiness.

UN-REDD is also expected to fund and help facilitate the in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation (R-PP: 2A) which is the REDD+ baseline study and will start as soon as possible. This study will carefully analyze the – direct and indirect – drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including by geographically identifying each of these drivers, and by distinguishing past, current and likely future drivers. UN-REDD will also fund an assessment of the REDD+ multiple benefits (R-PP: 4B), based on UNEP's expertise in this field. These two main analytical axis will contribute, together with further analytical work funded by FCPF, AFD, UE-REDD and the Government, to reaching a national consensus on REDD+ strategic options, which will serve as a stepping stone before building a national REDD+ strategy (see R-PP: 2A). Moreover, the assessment on multiple benefits will buttress the environmental, social and strategic assessment funded by FCPF (R-PP: 2D) and provide indicators and data to design the safeguard information system (R-PP: 4B).

UN-REDD will act as a catalyst in the development of Côte d'Ivoire's national REDD+ strategy (R-PP: 2B, in close relation to 1C, 2A and 2D). This exercise integrates iteratively the analytical work, multipartner consultation, political dialogue and strategic outlook and planning, in order to develop a robust, transformative, reliable and sustainable national strategic document, including tangible goals and evaluation measures to assess its own performance. To ensure the success of this difficult task, UN-REDD will support the draft of technical papers addressing the outcomes of every completed analytical work, rally stakeholders through various events, provide international expertise to facilitate the technical dialogue and political dialogue, fund technical training and training on strategic planning for players involved in building the Strategy, help consolidating and drafting efforts and support political dialogue. The development of a national REDD+ strategy will essentially include the following steps: consensually agreed consolidation of REDD+ policy options based on the outcomes of preliminary analytical work (see R-PP: 2A & 2B); detailed formulation of strategic options (in link with the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, see R-PP: 2D); design of a national vision for REDD+ (in synergy with the national vision on sustainable development and the green economy); definition of a national REDD+ reference level (see R-PP: 3); political dialogue (within the Government and with international financial partners); prepare a consolidated set of legal, fiscal and institutional reforms; define financial options for REDD+ (see R-PP: 2C); draft the final national REDD+ strategy document to be validated by multiple partners and endorsed at a high political level; develop the first REDD+ investment plan; and finally develop a strategy to mobilize funds (see R-PP: 2C). The methodological approach, which will also be backed by UN-REDD with FCPF, will include among others the creation of

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thematic multipartner groups for each prioritized strategic option, work of the new Interministerial REDD+ Taskforce (lead by the Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development), meetings for political dialogue (including a high level political forum on REDD+, in connection with a wider advocacy effort by Côte d'Ivoire internationally), and efforts to have the strategy validated nationally and endorsed at a higher political level.

As for the REDD+ implementation framework, UN-REDD will review funding options for REDD+, as well as the design and creation of a National REDD+ Fund (see R-PP: 2C). As a matter of fact, the setup of a National REDD+ Fund is already considered by the country as a financial option, as proposed in the R-PP. This Fund will be established based on international requirements for climate finance and on UNDP's expertise in this field. The National REDD+ Fund will become the financial arm of the national REDD+ strategy, channel international funding and domestic resources towards REDD+ investment, and support efforts towards a green economy, facilitate the country's access to the upcoming Green Climate Fund of the UNFCCC and will manage payments for environmental services, including REDD+ credits. Moreover, UN-REDD will support the design of a REDD+ Registry or a REDD+ data management platform, which will be connected to the national forest monitoring system (see R-PP: 4A), to the National REDD+ Fund (see R-P: 2C) and to the Safeguard information system (see R-PP: 4B).

UN-REDD will also support the development of a reference level for REDD+ (see R-PP: 3), which is crucial to assess the actual impact of REDD+ activities. This reference level will integrate historical rates of deforestation and forest degradation, while taking into account historical greenhouse gas emissions and national circumstances. A preliminary work to define forests in Côte d'Ivoire and various types of settlement will also be necessary. Disaggregated statistical data on the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation will also be collected and analysed.

UN-REDD will also help building a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), which is key in the functioning of a REDD+ mechanism (see R-PP: 4A). The NFMS will be built as a prerequisite for the Measurement, Reporting and Verification, and Monitoring of forest carbon (MRV&M system), which will be developed in accordance with decision 4/CP.15 of UNFCCC (on methodological recommendations on REDD+-related activities), with guides on good practices and guidelines on land and forest use sectors developed by IPCC in 2003 and 2006. FAO will provide support-technical advice and basic funding to build NFMS and MRV&M. All information collected through the monitoring system will be gathered on a database and made available to stakeholders via the NFMS *geo-portal*.

Finally, UN-REDD will support the design of a Safeguard information system for REDD+ (see R-PP: 4B), in line with UNFCCC guidelines, especially the *Cancun Agreements* (2010) and the *Warsaw Framework for REDD+* (2013). This work will be closely linked to the content of the national REDD+ strategy (see R-PP: 2B) and based on the results and data of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (see R-PP: 2D) and analysis of REDD+ multiple benefits (see R-PP: 4B).

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Moreover, UN-REDD will support the efficient result-based management of REDD work. This will include coordinating international partners, launching UN-REDD's and FCPF's work plans expected by the end of 2014, and carrying out the final assessment of UN-REDD-funded actions (see R-PP: 2A).

The *programme* will be placed under the tutelage of the Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development. Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ SEP will act as the *programme* management unit. UN-REDD agencies will be in charge for supporting the *programme* implementation and funding, and for quality control. FAO will be the coordinating agency inside UN-REDD. The United Nations Resident Coordinator will supervise the *programme* and ensure that the United Nations participating agencies fulfil their duties.

A steering committee will be set up to supervise the *programme*, that is to approve annual work plans and budgets and provide strategic guidance. It will be chaired by MINESUDD general inspector and co-chaired by FAO representative, and it will involve (i) the Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, (ii) the REDD+ national coordinator, (iii) the head of the UNDP country-office director and (iv) a UNEP representative. An *ad-hoc* Advisory council will be created if needed, to provide resolutions at a high political level regarding the *programme* and related actions; it will be co-chaired by the Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. The composition and functioning of these two *programme* management committees will be detailed in the *Côte d'Ivoire UN-REDD National Joint Programme* document.

UN-REDD agencies, in their funding and delivery activities with REDD+ SEP, will comply with UN-REDD's internal principles and with UN-REDD Policy Board guidelines for the implementation of National Programmes. Given that it is a National Programme, **Côte d'Ivoire chose implementation arrangements prioritising national ownership and management**. Funds will be managed in the most coherent way possible; for this purpose, the United Nations *Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers* (HACT) will apply, according to guidelines from *micro-assessments* of delivery partners carried out by the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, including "direct payment" options and the setup of *memorandums of understanding* with national implementing partners. Direct implementation can also be used if required by the agencies' internal regulations while ensuring national ownership. A micro-assessment of REDD+ SEP was prioritized by the

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