The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template



a) forest monitoring and forest inventories:

The MEFCPE through the Department of Forest Inventorying and Management Planning (DIAF) for the inventories and the General Forestry and Water Commission (DGEF) for forest monitoring. The MEFCPE benefits from support provided by the Project for the Realisation of Forest Management Plans (PARPAF) for the realisation of forest inventories within the PEAs (Permits for Forest Exploitation and Management Planning).

b) forest law enforcement :

Forest law enforcement is carried out by the MEFCPE through the Forestry and Wildlife Control Brigades. The Ministry of Finance and Budget is the privileged interlocutor in the implementation of forest policy. The Ministry is responsible for the allocation of the MEFCPE's budget and the revision of forest taxation.

c) forestry and forest conservation:

The MEFCPE through the Wildlife and Protected Areas Department (DFAP) and the General Forestry and Water Commission (DGEF) are responsible for forestry and forest conservation.

The Ministry of commerce and industry in collaboration with the MEFCPE fixes the price of ligneous forest products and market values.

The Department of agricultural, livestock rearing, water, forestry, hunting and fishing works with the private sector and playing the role of advisor in the matter of forest resource management alongside the MEFCPE.

NGOs also play a role in sustainable forest management : the Committee for the Integrated Development of Communities (CODICOM), Green Pavilion, the CAR organisation for wildlife protection (OCDN), CRI of the Forest, WWF (World Wildlife Fund), the CAR forestry Syndicate and the young friends of wildlifeClub.

d) coordination across forest and agriculture sectors, and rural development:

A specific structure dedicated to the collaboration between MEFCPE and the Ministry of Rural Development does not currently exist. Punctual collaboration is generally established during trans-sectoral activities, such as the implementation of the Strategic Document for the Reduction of Poverty (DSRP) or the development of the new agro-pastoral land tenure code.

The Ministry of the Economy, Planning and International Cooperation (MEPCI) is the structure generally implicated in the coordination of multi-sectoral policies and activities. The members of this Ministry make up part of those steering committees constituted at the occasion of collaboration between trans-sectional activities.

3. Current country situation (consider the use of Annex 1 to help answer these questions): a) Where do forest deforestation and forest degradation occur in your country, and how extensive are they? (i.e., location, type of forest ecosystem and number of hectares deforested per year, differences across land tenure (e.g., national forest land, private land, community forest, etc.)):

The CAR's forest cover is very diverse and varies according to climatic zones, going from the dense tropical forests of the Southern plains to the tree and bush covered savannahs of the North. The dense tropical forest covers an area of 5 million ha, or 8.6% of the national territory. It is divided into two large massifs: 1) the commercially exploited south-western massif covering an area of 3.5 million ha; 2) the unexploited south-eastern massif known as the «Forest of Bangassou » covering an area of 1.5 million ha Further North can be found the tree and bush covered savannah covering 90% of the territory, this area is scattered with numerous forest galleries along a particularly dense Hydographic network. In the very Northern reaches of the country bushy savannah gives way to the Sahel covering 1.4% of the territory.

Localisation of deforestation and forest degradation.

The forest represents a fundamental element of the life of populations in the CAR, through the gathering of medicinal and edible plants, fruits and fungi, hunting, timber, fuelwood collection and charcoal manufacturing. The industrial use of ligneous material is much less important in terms of volume than for domestic consumption. In 2004 the FAO estimated that domestic wood consumption represented a volume of 2 million m³ whereas industrial production represented a volume of 901 000 m³. The important phenomena of forest degradation around the periphery of the country's principal urban zones has been remarked: Bangui, Berberati, Mbaïki, Bangassou, Nola, Birao and Bossangoa, etc. This degradation touches both the dense tropical forests and ligneous covered savannahs.

The development of deforestation and forest degradation has also been remarked along the principle road axis throughout the country (Bangui/Mbaïki, Bangui/Berberati, etc.), in particular in proximity to large sawmills in the south-western massif and around mining extraction zones (essentially diamonds, gold and uranium). The CAR is a victim of political instability of neighbouring countries, and the country is subject to localised pressure from refugees along the frontiers with Chad and Sudan. This pressure has a non-negligible effect on ligneous covered savannahs. Finally, agricultural development in the CAR is still weak being limited to auto-subsistence and marketing to those regions poor in agricultural products, such as towns and mining zones etc. Such agriculture provokes important damage to ligneous covered savannahs and tropical forests as a result of the technique of slash and burn agriculture. It also favours uncontrolled or wild bushfires, the effects of which can be seen in the bushy savannahs bordering forest zones and in the forest itself. Indeed, fires lit in the height of the dry season can become extremely violent often reaching the forest canopy.

Estimation of deforestation and forest degradation. The CAR is characterised by a historical rate of **deforestation**¹ **inferior to 0.1%**. **The Central African Forest Observatory** (OFAC) estimates net² deforestation between 1990-2000 at 0.07% and net measured forest degradation 0.02% for the entire south-western zone (State of Forests 2006). Duveiller *et al.* (2008) proposes a net estimation of deforestation between 1990-2000 of 0.06% on the basis of the sampling of 14 observation sites essentially located in forestry regions in the south of the country (Landsat TM/ETM+). The Forestry Resource Evaluation Programme (FRA 2005) realised by the FAO (FAO, 2005), proposes a deforestation rate of 0.1% for the 1990-2000 period and 0.1% between 2000-2005. Forest degradation is not taken into account in the FRA programme.

Land tenure situation. All land belongs to the State however the application of the new forestry code advocates the distinction between permanent and non-permanent forest domain. The permanent forest domain is comprised of the south-eastern forest massif and the savannah areas of the south-west. The non-permanent forest domain is composed of communal, private and community forests. Presently, before the application of the new forest Code, deforestation and forest degradation take place on State land and in forest concessions attributed to private forestry companies (slash and burn agriculture in harvesting zones, fuelwood collection, etc.).

b) Are there any estimates of greenhouse or carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in your country? If so, please summarize:

The precise estimation of CO_2 emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation is not possible in CAR due to the fact that there is an absence of specific data for calculating forest biomass and precise estimations of forest area lost. A National estimation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) was presented within the framework of the CAR's National Communication (NC) for the UNFCCC in 2002 (MEFCPE, 2003). Calculations are based on 1994 national statistical data and completed by an annual estimation of CO_2 emissions resulting from deforestation by default with the help of biomass data originating from GIEC guidelines for national GHG inventories. Emission results have been presented without distinction between deforestation and forest degradation. These estimations suffer from a certain amount of limitations such as : 1) lack of data reliability and accuracy; 2) lack of national experience in the elaboration of GHG inventories; 3) the absence of cartographic and national statistical information for the realisation of biomass inventories and carbon flows. It should be noted that certain forest production zones could provide a lot of useful data for calculating data on national biomass.

Data available in the literature.

According to the FAO (FAO, 2007): deforestation is estimated at 30.000 ha/year, the average carbon fraction is 123 t C/ha and annual emissions from the forestry sector are in the order of 3.7 m illion t C/year. According to Walker et al. (2008) forest area is estimated at 5.500.400 ha, the average carbon fraction: 70.9 t C/ha and annual forestry sector emissions 14.3 million t CO₂/year, considering an annual deforestation rate of 0.1% for 2000-2005. Emissions of CO2 in the wooded savannahs are not reflected in these estimates, while it represents a significant potential in the Congo Basin as showed by estimation provided in annex 8. A certain number of studies have shown that in tree covered savannahs repeated fires at the end of the dry season result in an important reduction in ligneous biomass (Hough, 1993; Scholes & Archer, 1997). In these conditions it is important for the CAR to develop knowledge on the impact of late fires in tree covered savannahs and the forest, and annually evaluate loss of forest biomass and GHG emissions.

¹ According to 11/COP.7 decision the UNFCCC defines deforestation as a direct anthropogenic conversion of a forest area to a non forested area

 $^{^2}$ « Net deforestation » within the framework of the FORAF project corresponds to deforested zones minus natural regeneration. In the case of natural regeneration, an area is considered to be forested and enters in the definition of « degradation »

c) Please describe what data are available for estimating deforestation and/or forest degradation. Are data published? Describe the major types of data, including by deforestation and forest degradation causes and regions if possible (e.g., area covered, resolution of maps or remote sensing data, date, etc.).

The World Resources Institute (WRI) has been mandated by the MEFCPE to complete an interactive atlas of the forests of CAR. The information assembled in this digital archive has essentially been produced by the PARPAF project, WWF and ECOFAC. An initial version of the atlas should be available at the beginning of 2009 and will provide a complete list of data that can be exploited in order to estimate deforestation and forest degradation rates. An initial evaluation of the information is cited below :

Satellite data. The CAR possesses DMC data for 2007. This data covers the entire south-west forest zone (resolution of 32m). A series of ASTER data covers the south-western forest zone in a non-homogenous manner for 2006 (25 images), 2007 (76 images) and 2008 (1 image) (resolution 15m). Finally, ALOS PALSAR data has been acquired for the south-western forest massif - 3 images in 2006, 12 images in 2007 and 6 images in 2008 near the Bangui region (resolution 10 to 20m). The Orthorectification of this data is not systematic. Discussions with different partners (France, CEEAC³ and DFID) are underway in order to study financing for the installation of a station in Libreville for direct satellite image reception, and implementation of a regional centre treating Central African images. The technical document has been discussed by several partners and is currently waiting for the launching of the feasibility study. This feasibility study should determine the possible synergies and complementarities with initiatives already underway in the sub region notably those of OFAC. The financing of the station is currently undergoing negotiation; a part of the finance could be derived on the basis of the conversion of national debt agreed by France in favour of the protection of forest ecosystems in Gabon. British ODA has manifested its interest to contribute up-to 1.5 million pounds sterling for the implementation of the station⁴. However, the actual installation of such a station in the region risks taking several years, a fact which is not at all compatible with the timeframe for REDD negotiations. Whilst waiting for the implementation of the station, and in order to react rapidly, the utilisation of a mobile station is being envisaged.

Aerial Photographs. Complete photographic cover of the south-western forest massif was carried out in 2002 under EU finance. The French Development Agency (AFD) then financed digitalisation and spatial correction of the images. Aerial photographs were acquired in 1989 within the framework of the PARN project for the south-western forest massif; however this data was unfortunately destroyed during political unrest in 1996/1997.

Changes in land use and cover. The only detailed land cover and usage map available for the entire country was provided by the 2000 Global Land Cover programme. There is therefore not currently any cartographic information available permitting the production of a map showing land cover changes.

Stratification maps. The PARPAF project has enabled the creation of forest stratification maps for the entire PEA under management plan in the south-western massif. These maps have been created from aerial photographs and forest inventories realised for management plans. They consist of GIS data based on a 1/50 000 scale. This type of information could be valorised within the framework of reporting on GHG emissions, therefore reaching a superior level of precision (Tier 2 for example).

National Forest Inventories. The most complete forest inventory carried out in the south-western massif was completed within the framework of the Natural Resources Management Project (PARN) between 1991-1994, with World Bank support (3.787,777 ha inventoried). The inventory was carried out throughout almost the entire south-west forest (with a sampling rate of 0.1%) and leans on the series of aerial photographs produced in 1989. The totality of the data from this inventory is conserved on a CD-ROM available from the forestry department (PRGIE, Regional Project for the Management of Environmental Information). Other inventories have been carried out within the framework of the implementation of PEA management plans under the umbrella of the PARPAF project.

The south eastern massif has been inventoried in the framework of the highly decentralised forest management and conservation project of the forest of Bangassou, financed by GEF (CAF/95/G31-Bangassou forest project). The results of this inventory have not yet been published. No inventory data is available for ligenous covered savannahs north of the 5th parallel. The most complete data on these regions can be obtained from Boulvert's 1986 work on the 1/1 000 000 phyto-geographic map of the CAR, in addition to the phyto-geographic documents of Central African savannahs (Boulvert, 1995), which present 1/5.000.000 division and distribution maps of 82 vegetative species characteristic of the savannahs of this region.

³ Economic Community of Central African States e (CEEAC)

⁴ CBFF could also participate

⁵ Veritas Bureau, mandated by CAR for the control of timber exportation receipts

⁶ Shifting slash and burn agriculture

d) What are the main causes of deforestation and/or forest degradation?

It is difficult to obtain precise information on the phenomena of deforestation and forest degradation in the CAR, despite the fact that they are known in general to all natural resource sector users. Very few studies have been carried out enabling them to be quantified accurately and localised on a national scale. This lack of data was underlined during the REDD-COMIFAC workshop organised in Paris in March 2008. The realisation of thematic studies on this question is part of the 2008/2009 action programme proposed by Congo Basin Climate focal points destined towards the main donors. One can notice several direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation in addition to geographical variations (tab. 1) :

- i) **The practice of shifting slash and burn agriculture** has negative effects on ligneous covered savannahs and favours uncontrolled or wild bushfires. This anthropogenic influence is manifested in bushy savannahs on the edge of forests. In forest zones shifting slash and burn agriculture provokes forest fires resulting in important damage, as they are lit in the height of the dry season when biomass is at its most flammable. Moreover, to cultivate 1 ha of manioc it is necessary to clear between 3 and 7 ha of forested land.;
- ii) The removal of fuelwood is particularly important around large towns and cities (Bangui, Berbérati). Wood responds to 80% of population energy needs in Sub-Saharan Africa. This also seems to be the case in the CAR: according to the most recent estimate from 1992, fuelwood represented 87.7% of energy consumption (DSRP 2008-2010). Annual fuelwood consumption has been estimated by the FAO at 2 million m³ (i.e. more than twice the volume of wood exploited for timber) or the equivalent of an 8 000ha forest massif.
- iii) The removal of timber: Harvesting by forestry companies can lead to forest degradation, or even deforestation, when management plans are not respected. Due to lack of state control it is difficult to estimate to what degree management plans are effectively respected. However, the BIVAC⁵ which controls exports has recorded very little fraud in this sense, therefore leading one to assume that agreed volumes are for the most part respected. To this we can also add the recent development of diverse systems of traceability. A 2005 ITTO study indicated that only 5% of wood production within the country was obtained in a sustainable manner. However, 66% of the forest massif is currently under sustainable management planning and a supplementary 15% is working towards such planning. It is probable however that these figures might be obsolete. The monitoring on permanent plots of the Mbaiki station has helped to move some figures of the rates of forest recovery after logging and will be used in the national REDD preparation;
- iv) **Extensive livestock rearing** is practised in the entire ligneous savannah zone throughout the country reaching the forestry region in the south. **This provokes a rise in transhumant zones**, a degradation of grazing areas and the reduction in the quality of vegetation (blocking the growth of woody vegetation). Traditional practice of late bushfires provokes important damage to ligneous covered savannahs;
- v) **Bushfires associated with hunting and poaching**. In the eastern part of the RCA, bushfires are more commonly associated with traditional hunting and poaching than agriculture. These bushfires are generally uncontrolled and can burn large areas, especially when they are late in the season;
- vi) Artisan or industrial mining is practised in open cast pits (gold mining in Bambari, extraction of uranium at Bakouma and diamond mining in the south-western massif in the periphery and inside Bangassou forest). The development of these activities in forestry zones leads to important levels of deforestation and forest degradation. This is accompanied by the development of villages, crops, communication networks and the removal of fuelwood. Villages often remain, even once exploitation has terminated. The environment code prescribes the realisation of environmental impact studies and the restoration of sites, however the State does not have the means to apply or control this regulation.

	South-Western Massif	Massif of Bangassou	Wooded Savannah	Zones close to towns
Deforestation	AIB ⁶	AIB	AIB + Extensive livestock rearing Late bushfires	Removal of fuelwood Illegal logging
Degradation	Artis	an exploitation of alluvial d	iamonds + open cast minir	ng
	Non-controlled industrial forestry exploitation		Late bushfires Bushfires for hunting	

Table 1. Synthesis of direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the CAR

and poaching

The main underlying causes are:

- i) **The poverty of the rural population**: the population dependent on extensive production systems (agriculture, livestock) and wood taken without proper planning of the resource to meet their basic needs (energy, food, housing). These difficulties are increased by the cyclical fall in coffee prices, the only cash crop grown in the south-west area and which abandonment requires people to dedicate to subsistence crops;
- ii) **Insecurity of tenure** in CAR influences the phenomena of deforestation in several manners: *a*) farmers do not possess legally binding property deeds. Therefore they do not have access to credit for intensifying their production systems, resulting in a diminishing impact on the forest; *b*) without tenure rights local populations do not have the incentive to manage forest resource sustainably ; *c*) « the right of the axe » (traditional land tenure practice that allocate land to those who clear it) favours the breaking up of the forest massif around towns and villages and does not incite intensification of agricultural or livestock rearing practices (the inheritors of a producer do not divide their fathers parcel, on the contrary, they open new parcels and practice the same intensive system of shifting slash and burn agriculture) ;
- iii) The lack of State control of private forestry and mining sectors does not respect the forest code and weakens sustainability of natural resources. Forest and wildlife police exist within MEFCPE, but their means remain seriously limited for surveying a forest massif of 5 million hectares ;
- iv) **The instability of neighbouring countries** (Chad, S udan and DRC) weakens territorial control; moreover, the arrival of refuges raises pressure on natural resources. The discovery of petrol reserves in the north of the country has not simplified the situation;
- v) **National instability** observed during the decade 1995-2005 resulted in the regular displacement of certain populations from the capital towards forest zones, therefore increasing local pressure on the forest environment;
- vi) **The unequal division of the population** throughout the country, which is essentially concentrated in the south, centre-west and west. This division provokes net pressure on those forest massifs in the proximity of towns and along forest roads.
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e) What are the key issues in the area of forest law enforcement and forest sector governance (e.g., concession policies and enforcement, land tenure, forest policies, capacity to enforce laws, etc.?

The State fixed three important long-term objectives in its 1989 sectoral policy declaration: a) the preservation of forest ecosystem stability through sustainable management and development; b) the rational utilization of forest resources; and c) the protection of forest heritage for future generations. In order to respect its engagements the CAR has taken out a series of measures, the most important of which was the elaboration of a new forestry code in 2008. This code notably includes articles on the needs of local populations and the sustainable management of forests in PEA. Despite these important regulatory efforts, the CAR must pay particular attention to the following points :

- a) The lack of administrative capacity in terms of controlling the application of management plans in PEAs in the south-west massif threatens sustainable forest management. The MEFCPE lacks experience in the understanding and control of management plans, and does not possess the necessary financial and logistical resources for carrying out efficient controls of forestry operations. Moreover, the sanctions imposed by the law are not applied or respected ;
- **b**) Necessity to **clarify the PEA attribution process.** The current process of analysing propositions lacks transparency. The attribution of the last 3 PEAs has been delayed, threatening the elaboration of management plans and incoming of State revenues ;
- c) The CAR has manifested its desire to engage in the FLEGT process; however the necessary stages for its implementation have been seriously delayed. No independent observer has been identified for the moment and the situation of illegal logging is not clearly known in the country. The Veritas certification bureau has however been mandated by the government for the monitoring of forest tax calculations and the control of exports at frontiers and the port of Dou ala, Cameroon. Human and financial means are necessary for understanding and addressing the present state of illegal logging;
- d) A new forest code was adopted in 2008, it will be important to ensure that the State can implement the Code (recognition of indigenous people, inventories reflects all species, consideration of carbon topics, etc.);
- e) Improve the control and transparency of the Special Allocation Account for the Development of Forestry (CAS-DF) and improve retrocession of a part of revenues towards rural populations and national programmes

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financed by the CAS-DF;

- **f**) Lack of sovereignty of the State in Northern regions due to poverty and armed conflicts has led to the installation of non-legitimate authorities. Lack of control of these regions threatens the supply of natural ligneous resources used for fuelwood;
- g) The new agro-pastoral land tenure Code, which should reduce land insecurity in the savannah area;
- h) The need to promote certification, still too undeveloped in CAR.

4) What data are available on forest dwellers in lands potentially targeted for REDD activities (including indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers)? (e.g., number, land tenure or land classification, role in forest management, etc.):

The CAR is not densely populated (6.3/km2) with a total of 3.8 million inhabitants spread very unequally throughout the territory. High density areas are located in the south, west and central western areas and east and north-east are virtually empty. The majority of the population therefore lives in Central area of dense forest and savannah woodlands, but as a result of the extension of certain ethnic groups, there is an increase of the occupation of savannah and forest edges. The population of CAR is made up of several ethno-cultural groups, the Gbaya (28.8%), the Banda (22.9%), the Mandja (9.9%), the Ngbaka Bantu (7.9%), the Sara (7.9%), Arabs Fulani and Mboum (12%) and Ngbanda (3%). The dense south-west forest or the transitional areas of dense forest/savannah forests are traditionally occupied by pygmies: *i*) The **BaAka** (also known under the name of Bayaka, Biaka) live in the southern part of the country, their numbers are estimated to be between 8 000 and 20 000 individuals. Some are working in coffee plantations; *ii*) The **Bofi**, separated from the BaAka during the 19e/20e century, are thought to be around 3000 and live between Bélemboké and Manassao, in a mixed region of forest and savannah. Contrary to the BaAka Pygmies which are more attached to their nomadic mode of life, Bofi Pygmies are more likely to be sedentary at least for part of the year. There is also the **Bilo, or Bantous**, mainly fishermen living along Oubangui⁷ river.

The Pygmies exploit the forest for hunting and gathering of fuelwood and other non ligneous forest products. They are sometimes subjected to poor treatment and discrimination by other ethnic groups. At the national level Pygmies are not very well represented in the decision making process and not listened to when they express themselves publicly. Their level of education is low; they do not possess forest property rights and are submitted to the whims of national or local authorities who can decide at any moment to exclude them from a national park or a minin g exploitation zone.

Recent actions concerning the taking into account Pygmy rights should however be mentioned: *i*) Locally they are consulted for the elaboration of forest management plans and a restitution reunion is principally destined towards them; *ii*) WWF has just received EU funding for 3 years to work on the « sustainable life of Aboriginal populations». The objective of this project is to improve the living conditions of Pygmy populations, most notably through improving their social status (birth certificates, national identity cards, social security, working contract, etc.), and the development of adapted education systems. WWF is lobbying from long time for a better recognition of pygmies, including in the missions Balenboke and Monassao.

In the savannah zone, the main « Aboriginal » population is the **Peuls**. Certain are nomadic pastors and others mixed farmers (practising both agriculture and livestock rearing). Their number is difficult to estimate as many of them live in neighbouring countries during the dry season for the transhumance of livestock. The transhumance of livestock is associated with bushfires (sanitary reasons, facility of movement of animals, resting of pastures). Conflicts with sedentary farmers (trampling of crops, fire) arise during movements towards the south west of the country where population density is highest. Transhumance routes are variable from year to year and particularly difficult to control. They are vulnerable because they do not possess property or user rights and do not have other alternatives to transhumance. They also present a threat to ligneous savannah due to late fires that can spread over important areas; moreover the movements of these populations are difficult to control. The problematic of Central African savannahs and conflicts related to land use between nomads and farmers in particular, has been studied in depth under the sub-regional program on the savannahs of Central Africa (PRASAC).

The taking to consideration of «Aboriginal people» is however included in the new forest code (2008), this marks a clear improvement in comparison to the old code : they can not be excluded from a territory that is to become a protected area ; they can continue to practice their activities of traditional hunting and gathering (under the condition not to harm other communities); all concessions as part of the State forest domain must consult indigenous populations living in and nearby in view of industrial exploitation.

⁷ Report of the Working Group of experts of the African Commission for human rights and Aboriginal populations/communities, E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2005/WP.3, 2005

Populations including Aboriginal people have not yet been associated with discussions on the REDD strategy in the CAR. Dialogue around the opportunities offered by the REDD process should be carried out with local populations, through NGOs (Echelle, Maison de la Femme et de l'Enfant Pygmées, Maman du Bas Oubangui, Batagbako, Amis de la Nature) and those projects working directly alongside communities (Bangassou forest, WWF, Dzanga-Sangha project, ECOFAC in the framework of village hunting zones, etc.).

Interesting sources of information will be: *i*) socio-economic studies carried out during the realisation of management plans⁸; *ii*) the results of participatory diagnostics led by the NGO Echelle⁹.

5. Summarize key elements of the *current* strategy or programs that your government or other groups have put in place to address deforestation and forest degradation, if any:

a) What government, stakeholder or other process was used to arrive at the current strategy or programs? The CAR started to put importance on forest resources in the 1980s. Poor harvests, savannah fires and drop in State credits have been the key elements leading to the launching of a large study of the country's forest sector. A pilot site for the monitoring of forest dynamics under different types of degradation (Mbaiki permanent plots) was established in 1986. Date collection still continues today and research projects on the theme of carbon are envisaged. In 1989 the CAR outlined the important areas of a forerunning forest policy in the «declaration». The sectoral policy for the MEFCPE as well as the principle objectives retained are therefore : i) to assure the valorisation and rational utilisation of resources; *ii*) to preserve the natural balance of the forest environment; and iii) to ensure the durability of the forest through the mastering of forest management and development. In 1991 thanks to a loan from the World Bank the MEFCPE initiated the Natural Resources Management project (PARN) the objective of which is the implementation of a policy for the rational utilisation of forest resources, through forest inventories, agroforestry, management, institutional support, wildlife protection and financial management. This programme should equally influence the process of degradation which prevails in the south-west forest zone. In 1992, the CAR component of the ECOFAC project (EU finance) was the only one to include a section on sustainable forest management which resulted in the official approbation of the first forest management plan in the region. These efforts were pursued thanks to the AFD and implementation of a project for the development of a management plan with a forestry company on the border of the Dzanga-Sangha Park. This project which finished in 1997 led to MEFCPE initiating the PARPAF with the help of the AFD. This support programme targeted the realisation of management plans in those PEAs attributed to private forest companies. Since the signature of the declaration of Yaoundé the CAR (as for other Congo Basin countries) has confirmed its will to engage in the process of sustainable forest management and to fight against deforestation and forest degradation. In this context MEFPCE and UNFCCC focal point have tried to establish strong and durable alliances with neighbouring forested countries (Gabon, Cameroon, DRC, Guinea Equatorial and Congo), the private sector, NGOs, international donor community and the COMIFAC. These alliances have permitted representatives from CAR (essentially the MEFCPE) to participate in regional reunions to identify fundamental elements of the REDD problematic in Central Africa and to establish priority areas for work by the CAR (REDD-COMIFAC workshop March 2008, REDD workshop July 2008, REDD workshop October 2008).

Supported by WWF the bilateral cooperation, franco-german facilitation (PFBC) and research cabinets, representatives of Congo Basin countries identified a series of actions to be developed in the REDD framework and whether these actions should be developed at the regional or national level (Annexes 3 à 5). On the basis of this recent work MEFCPE and the UNFCCC focal point mobilised national and international operators in order to respond to the defined activities laid out in the regional and national action programme. Despite a particularly difficult national context linked to poverty, problems of governance and political instability of neighbouring countries, the CAR is trying to reinforce its alliances with those economic and technical operators able to support it in the development of its national REDD strategy. The mobilisation of partners around the UNFCCC focal point and MEFCPE often remains informal and suffers from the absence of a contractual framework and a lack of personnel able to concentrate fully on this activity. It is imperative that the CAR can reinforce its team in charge of the REDD strategy, on this point, the will of WWF to financially support the coordination of the REDD

⁸ In the exploited massif of the south-west management plans prescribe the demarcation of agricultural series inside permits, which are left to the disposition of villages. In order to delineate agricultural parcels, the PARPAF project based itself on the surveying of the number of households, predictions of the evolution of the population at the national level, average surface cultivated per household and length of the fallow period. Through socio-economic studies the agricultural practices of around 140.000 individuals have been studied.

⁹ The NGO Echelle works on supporting local development initiatives. All work realised is subject to a participatory diagnostic leading to the understanding of population needs and their difficulties

thematic in Central Africa through the COMIFAC will certainly enable the country to go forward in this sense. Finally, MEFCPE and the UNFCCC focal point benefited from the support of the French Embassy in Bangui and WWF-CAR for the organisation of a REDD workshop in Bangui on the 21st of November 2008 (Annex 3). This workshop was destined to reinforce the dialogue between MEFCPE and its national partners on the coordination of REDD activities and the proposition made by FCPF.

b) What major programs or policies are in place at the national, and the state or other subnational level? Governance:

- Adoption of the new forestry Code. The transition of the CAR government has adopted a series of measures for improving the forestry sector and fighting against those threatening the sustainability of forest resources in the country. In agreement with national objectives fixed in the DSRP (DSRP 2008-2010, 2008) the government adopted a new forestry Code in 2008. This code is meant to respond to the objectives of forest resource sustainability, the fight against poverty, biodiversity protection and fight against climate change (Art. 1). In light of the difficulties of the State concerning the respecting of regulations over the entire national territory, and towards the private sector in general, it is important to follow the implementation of the new Code, and even support it;
- Insertion of forestry sector programmes and activities in the proceedings of the Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty (DSRP). The DSRP is destined to become the unique reference framework for the partners of development. For this to happen, all activities written in the forestry sector will be inserted in the DSRP in order to seek financing. Moreover, the forestry sector should contribute towards the reduction of poverty in forested zones where the presence of a growing number of poor populations has been remarked;
- FLEGT. The MEFCPE sent a letter of intention to the EU expressing its desire to engage in negotiations towards a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). In December 2007 it was decided to establish a FLEGT Coordination Committee in addition to a corresponding AFLEG/FLEGT focal point. The AFLEG/FLEGT process is not system atically known by all stakeholders in the CAR as was noted by the forestry administration itself. The legal framework is under revision in view of particularly integrating and reinforcing the aspects of participatory management and sustainable management planning. No independent observer has yet been designated; however their recruitment has been stipulated in the new forestry code (Art. 37). The development of a system of national traceability was initiated in 2007. All stakeholders were implicated in this work the first results of which are expected in 2009;
- Creation of a mixed forestry activity control and verification brigade. This brigade is composed of members of the Departments of Forestry and Water, Finance (imports and customs) and the national police. The objective of the brigade is to carry out controls on forest harvesting, exports and fiscal declarations of all forestry companies. The financial and material capacity of this brigade is insufficient to ensure the efficient control of all harvesting operations;
- Implementation of grant modalities of the PEA of the permanent forest domain of the State. By Order n°011/MEFCP/CAB/S, 20th April 2005. This measure defines the modalities and conditions necessary for the obtaining of PEAs of the industrial exploitation zone of the State's permanent forest domain. The attribution procedures are carried out through calls for applications diffused and published. The evaluation of offers and the classification of submitters are examined by the Forest Permit Attribution Commission responsible for emitting technical advice. Despite this regulation going in the right sense towards fair competition between forestry companies and sustainable management of national resources, the call for applications lacks transparency. The PARPAF project, GTZ and WWF have made propositions for improvement of selection criteria of forestry companies, notably from the point of view of wildlife monitoring and certification;
- Implementation of a Programme for the Verification and Securing of Timber Export Receipts (PVSRB). The State controls wood exports through the services of an independent structure (Veritas Bureau) which ensures the control of forest companies's timber parks, frontiers and the port of Douala. All this information results in the assurance of full traceability of timber exports from the forest to the port of Douala. Veritas supports the MEFCPE and the Forestry Data Centre.

Sustainable forest management:

• **PARPAF. The objective is that in** 2011 all CAR's forests are under forest management plan. Forest potential will be known and exploited in a sustainable manner with a programme for the monitoring and control of activities. Of the 14 PEA of the permanent forest domain, 8 are currently under such plans, 3 are working towards their management plan and 3 are not as yet under the process (PEA not attributed for the moment). The implementation of management plans is one stage; however MEFCPE lacks the means and know-how to

control the proposed plans, and ensuring their correct application and sanctioning those companies that do not respect them;

- The South-West Development project is currently being prepared under AFD finance. The main result expected from this project will be local development at the forestry zone level, being linked to sustainable forest management activities. It should result in communes managing their resources rationally, essentially through forestry taxes, in order to improve living conditions and reduce poverty of those populations concerned;
- The bushfires observatory: a receiving station was set up in CAR with the support of the EU for the establishment of a receiving station observation data on bushfires. These data are being processed published by the JRC (ISPRA) in Italy.

Conservation:

- a) The CAR/ECOFAC Project (Programme for the Conservation of Central African Forest Ecosystems) whose objective is to understand, promote and encourage the protection and sustainable utilisation of natural forest resources of Ngotto (EU finance). The project, currently in step 4, helped to implement the concept of ZCV (hunting zone);
- b) Hunting interest Zones (ZIC) and protected areas. The national territory has been divided into ZIC covering 270.000 km², or 47% of the country's total surface area, the remainder being ordinary zones (53%). A network of 15 protected areas is distributed as follows: 1 integral reserve (IUCN category Ia), 5 National Parks which 1 is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage (UICN category II), 1 presidential park and 5 wildlife reserves (UICN category IV), 2 special reserves for multiple purposes and 1 biosphere reserve (UICN category IV). The entire network covers an area of 68.000 km² or 11% of national territory. The protected area system remains very random faced with the lack of means engaged for their protection under responsibility of MEFCPE. It should be noted however that protected areas situated in the forest massif of the south-west benefit from better protection than those in the north which suffer from a tack of control linked to the political situation in these areas. The National Parks "Manovo Gounda St. Floris" and "Bamingui-Bangoran" and the integral reserve "Vassako Bolo" are the only protected areas (*stricto sensus*) in the north receiving a management activity through the support of the European Union (ECOFAC). 58 sectors hunts sectors are also defined in CAR (IUCN category VI or AU).
- c) **Dzanga-Sangha Project, Bayanga.** This project was started by WWF and CAR government in 1988 its main objective is the management planning and the development of a multi-functional conservation zone within the forest of Dzanga-Sangha (a special dense, humid forest reserve) and a protection zone (Dzanga-Ndoki National Park). The BMZ also finance rural development activities implemented in the Reserve by GTZ;

Regional programs:

- COMIFAC convergence plan. The COMIFAC which was elaborated and adopted by the heads of State of the sub-region has agreed on a sub-regional Convergence Plan which includes 9 national and sub-regional strategic sustainable natural resource management priorities. The COMIFAC houses the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC). They are supported by several members of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in the elaboration of cartographic monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation throughout the entire Congo Basin. The OFAC, placed under the authority of COMIFAC, is seen as an accessible platform for all countries and gathers together all data on Central African forests;
- The CARPE programme is a USAID initiative that works towards biodiversity conservation and the fight against deforestation in the forests of Central Africa. CARPE, through the WWF, supports community natural resource management activities in the extreme south-west of the country in the special reserve of Dzanga-Sangha;
- A recent study on the **harmonisation of laws at the regional level should enable the supporting of CAR in its** engagement to clarify its own laws within the framew ork of FLEGT.

6. What is the current thinking on what would be needed to r educe deforestation and forest degradation in your country? (e.g., potential programs, policies, capacity building, etc., at national or subnational level): The following programmess or activities could be developed and / or strengthened in the FCPF process FCPF:

• The innovative and ambitious participatory zoning of the entire national territory is planned within the framework of the new land tenure Code currently being approved by CAR, for agriculture, mining and logging. The REDD strategy could form a very active role in the successful implementation of the new land tenure Code in agro-pastoral areas targeted by strong support in the implementation of the law (to support the

establishment of village committees, communes, prefectures and national planning and land man agement, support for joint development plans and land tenure regulations participatory occupation of these lands, support the issuance of individual or collective land titles, etc.). The successful implementation of this law, while securing land tenure and promoting more investment in family farms, will promote greater involvement of people in safeguarding their forest heritage;

- Improvement of transparency in the allocation of resources resulting from forestry returns (CAS-DF): Faced with the appropriation of these resources by certain Mayors to the detriment of village communities, the State decided to render a part of forest resource allocations transparent via the Presidential decrees n°001/PR of 16 May 2007 and n°004/PR of 03 September 2007. Progress has been made, but the lack of transparency and late payments threaten some projects related to the forestry sector;
- Develop experiences for the payment of environmental servcies based on the experiences of participatory management of natural resources, such as in Dzanga-Sangha and Bangassou Forest (community management of big game hunting);
- In light of the CAR's small population, large territory and weak economic resources, it is essential to choose **forest monitoring approaches that are efficient and low cost.** The example of the Brazilian Governments PRODES system could act as a working base for the development of a system of deforestation control;
- Pursue analysis of forest dynamics in CAR in particular through the M'Baiki permanent plots project. M'Baiki was set up in 1981 by CIRAD with the Central African forest fund. Its three main objectives are: *i*) the study of the growth of valuable species related to simple treatments: *ii*) the study of stand evolution in terms of these treatments (mortality, natural recruitment of young stems, emergence of regeneration); *iii*) the study of the influence of treatment on production; *iv*) the estimated costs of intervention in relation to production gains. M'Baiki has been monitored since 1981 by regular inventories and is today one of the most important databases of Central Africa, particularly concerning its sustainability;
- Support towards the training of forestry experts: Presently there are not enough experts able to follow the REDD strategy at the national level. Two forestry training courses are available at the national level (the Superior Institute of Rural Development in Bangui and the Forestry technician training school in Grimari), however, the level of training suffers from a lack of general quality, as is the case for the whole of CAR's further education system (delayed university programmes and payments of teachers, etc.). Moreover, experts are not numerous and are heavily solicited in light of the current challenges in the matter of the environment (increasing of mandates);
- **Programme for the improvement of energetic efficiency in rural and urban zones.** Annual household consumption of fuelwood is more than twice that of the volume of wood exploited by forestry companies. The use of improved stoves could result in the significant reduction in the consumption of fuelwood. Supposing that half of all CAR households adopt this technique, this would result in the equivalent of a level of 4.000 ha of avoided deforestation per year¹⁰.
- **Programme for the intensification of rural agricultu re in dense forest zones and forest galleries.** In order to reduce the causes of deforestation linked to agricultural expansion; it is important to introduce new agricultural techniques to improve the traditional slash and burns system to a more intensive fertility management system. The adoption of new cultural techniques could be favoured through the implementation of a system of Payments for Environmental Services this would be partly provided by REDD revenues at the national level and by forestry companies which could therefore exploit a part of their agricultural series. The demonstration of additionality in relation to a reference scenario and the calibration of the PSE system in this zone will be relatively easy as all necessary data has already been collected by the PARPAF for the realisation of agricultural series;
- Take into account the unstable political situation of neighbouring countries in the framework of risks associated with CAR REDD strategy (loss of control of certain areas of the territory, brutal pressure on resources due to an influx of refugees, etc.).

a) How would those program mes address the main causes of deforestation? The programmes or actions cited above would intervene by acting on:

• **Strengthening sustainable forest management** in the south-west massif, already initiated by the CAR since the 1990s. SFM will enable both the maintenance of forest cover and for a poor country like CAR the

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development of a vital economic activity for local people. Finally, forest resources represent a fundamental source of income for the State and therefore their ability to promote the development of the country. Specific programmes should be conducted: *i*) the supporting of wood processing (species diversification). In 2007, approximately 50% of production was processed, whilst the forest Code indicates 60% (70% for the new Code). Initial investments are important and discouraging in times of economic uncertainty and recurring insecurity. Support for logging companies is necessary in order to restore a climate of confidence. Work already done by the PARPAF in this area can be used as a basis for establishing the necessary size of transformation tools; *ii*) support for certification. Presently, only one of eleven forest concessions (about 200.000ha attributed to the company IFB) is certified OLB (Origin and Legality of Wood). In 2004, Europe was the main destination for logs exports (60% by volume), whilst exports to China reached 31.4%. The decrease of the amount of taxes deducted by the State for certified companies (such as a diminution of the mercurial index value) could be seen as an incentive.

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- The development of a national strategy involving all stakeholders and in which direct involvement of existing networks will help civil society and indigenous people find their place when facing central government and other stakeholders (timber companies, NGOs, private operators, etc.). Accountability of civil society is a crucial factor in bringing people to consider the forest as their own property. The new forest Code will be an important tool for the development of the national REDD strategy as it lays down the base for a high regulatory consulting process with populations;
- Strengthening and securing the **protected areas network** of the country, including areas not yet covered by the support of multilateral and bilateral donors. Financial and technical support will help the CAR to develop the capacity to control illegal activities, maintain regular monitoring of natural resources and enhance economic potential of protected areas with local communities and for local communities;
- Building the State's capacities of control in terms of human resources, equipment, competence (lack of training, lack of means to carry out controls, abuse of authority, etc.) and regulatory framework (application of sanctions). It will be possible to monitor the implementation of regulations regarding sustainable forest resource use (forest management plan, respect of limits in PEAs, respect for agricultural series, etc.) and to ensure compliance regarding the bushfire season (fight against late and uncontrolled bushfires);
- By allowing communes, villages and indigenous people to **receive income** from logging, either through the redistribution of forest fees (40% for the Treasury, 30% for CAS-DF and 30% for communes located on the site of forest operations) or by the participatory management of the forest massif and its hunting potential. Management problems were identified at both the level of communes and the CAS-DF. These revenues could finance education programmes, electrical equipment, access roads, environmental awareness and contribute to poverty reduction reducing pressure on the forest;
- By **reducing firewood collection**, it would be possible to reduce forest degradation near large urban areas, sawmills, mining areas, roads, etc. ;
- By managing the development of mining without reducing mining activity (the opportunity cost would be too high to the country), by including it in the framework of the zoning of the territory and avoid overlapping of forestry licenses and mining permits, or at least the ensuring of an arrangement of interventions, which could be a first line of inquiry. The regulation of environmental impact studies should be enhanced alongside the private sector and MEFCPE;
- Improving the **acquisition or valorisation of detailed information** on actual forest cover, the precise location of deforestation and forest degradation hotspots, the estimation of carbon stocks in the rainforest and savannah, the real impact of late bushfires on forest cover and carbon storage and the dynamics of the savannah ecosystem (changes in the Sudano-Sahelian area, progression of the forest in the Sudano-Guinea area). Substantial work has already been made, particularly through the regional PRASAC programme and conducting a literature review will be a first step;
- By controlling the development of local, village agriculture without reducing production capacity in rainforest and forest gallery areas it will be possible to reduce the impact of urban development and economic activities (sawmills, mining, logging, etc.) on the forest and improve incomes to communes and indigenous people;

Early results could be achieved by improving transparency of the CAS-DF and participatory management of natural resources by supporting local and indigenous people in the formalization and implementation of

development projects and by an independent entity monitoring each of these steps in support of the government.

Meanwhile, a significant improvement in national forest cover estimation (multi-date mapping, forest inventories), would help to quickly identify deforestation hotspots and propose appropriate actions.

b) Would any cross-sectoral programs or policies also play a role in your REDD strategy (e.g., rural development policies, transportation or land use planning programs, etc.)?

The implementation of a National REDD strategy inevitably implies several economic sectors (forest, environment, agriculture, mining, taxation, transport) the interests of which are often divergent. Even if inter-ministerial collaboration in CAR is not frequent, punctual collaboration could be established. We can cite by order of priority those programmes or important trans-sectoral regulations from which the REDD strategy would benefit:

- The **regional GEF programme** for the reinforcing of institutional capacities on REDD and the sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin, driven by M. Doungoubé of the MEFCPE ;
- The implementation of the new **land tenure code** for the agro-pastoral sector. This is an example of a successful partnership between all Ministries and is driven by the Ministry of Rural Development. This programme should be continued through greater involvement of the Ministry of Rural Development in the REDD programme. The successful implementation of this land governance will reinforce the greater intensification of agro-systems, which is the only manner to ensure the greater protection of the forest capital;
- This text will essentially touch ligneous savannah regions and will almost certainly lead to a reduction in the insecurity of land tenure currently experienced by farmers.
- It is probable that the attribution of property rights and better transparency of land ownership will result in the reduction of pressure on forest resources which are often linked to a lack of accountability;
- The **project for the conservation and rational management of the forest of Bangassou,** financed by several donors has as its objective the development of capacities of the local population to manage resources from this forest in a sustainable manner;
- The **PARPAF**, through the reinforcing of sustainable forest management in all PEA;
- The **Dzanga-Sangha project** financed by **BMZ**, CARPE (USAID), CAWHFI (UNESCO), WWF-US and WWF Germany, ensuring the conservation of the forest in the extreme south-west of the country;
- The **Boukoko and La Lolé classified forests scientific programme**, led continuously by the CIRAD-Forest since 1982. This project seeks to study and predict the evolution of forest structure and dynamics post harvesting. The incredible data base for this project should be valorised within the framework of the implementation of specific allometric equations linked to CAR's tropical forests (Cirad, MEFCPE, Central African Institute for Forestry Research, (ICRA), University of Bangui and the French Development Agency);
- The Regional Programme for the Management of Environmental Information (PRGIE) valorises and centralises that knowledge relative to natural resources in Congo Basin countries.
- The future Development Project for the South-Western Region under finance from the French Development Agency (AFD);
- The recent FFEM project supporting public and private forest harvesting operators in the Congo Basin and Brazilian Amazon; The proposed energy efficiency plan should be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Mining and Energy as this programme will also contribute to their objectives (Ref. 6c);
- Agricultural intensification should be carried out in collaboration between the **Ministry of Agriculture** and **MEFCPE** and alternative solutions proposed to shifting slash and burn agriculture in forest zones. The Ministry of Agriculture has developed a long experience in the matter of the diffusion of agricultural techniques which will be of great importance in the implementation of this programme;
- Coordinate certain activities of the national REDD strategy with those from the PANA implemented in 2008;
- The CAR REDD strategy should be driven by a committee composed of representatives of all of the country's ministries in order to ensure its coherence with sectoral policies;

c) Have you considered the potential relationship between your potential REDD strategies and your country's broader development agenda in the forest and other relevant sectors? (e.g., agriculture, water, energy, transportation). If you have not considered this yet, you may want to identify it as an objective for your REDD planning process.

In 2006 the forestry sector represented between 10 and 13% of the CAR's GDP and 50% of the value of all exports. More than 4 000 people are directly employed by the sector, and several thousand indirectly, it is the most important private employer in the country. One of the national priorities is therefore the securing of the functioning

of the sector. Ensuring the sustainable management of the south-western forest massif and perpetuating its exploitation therefore contributes directly.

In the forestry sector, the REDD strategy developed by the CAR fits alongside the strategies and priority actions on the subject of forestry development, fixed notably by the DSRP, these are the following :

- The will to reinforce public institutional capacities and the application of regulatory texts ;
- The increase and diversification of production, coupled with the promotion of a efficient and competitive timber industry ;
- **The active implication of populations** in sustainable forest resource management and the increase in benefits for local populations;
- The establishment of **environmental impact studies** for all development projects (such studies are notably referred to in the application of the principles of the Clean Development Mechanism).

For the agricultural sector, the REDD strategy is equally in line with the strategy proposed by the DSRP which targets the promotion and modernisation of agriculture most notably through the processes of intensification and diversification.

Concerning the energy sector, one of the priorities of DSRP is the diversification of energy sources, the energy efficiency plan proposed in the REDD strategy seems to be quite complementary.

<u>The priorities of the PANA</u> also lie within the forestry sector, through 5 projects (out of a total of 10) each contributing to the REDD :

- Project for the reinforcing of **Community Institutions** for Eco-development (leading on from the «Bangassou Forest» project);
- Promotion of urban and peri-urban forestry;
- Management of Aboriginal vegetation for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Pastoral Areas within the locality of Bossem tele ;
- Community Participation in the reforestation and forest management of the Southern Zone East of Ombella M'Poko;
- Promotion of the carbonisation of wood waste originating from forestry companies.

Moreover, the study of **savannah ecosystems** and the understanding of their role against desertification joins the preoccupations of those countries signatory to the convention on desertification in 1995.

Finally, it is clear that the CAR must imperatively improve its **road network** in order to open up certain regions of the country and improve the profitability of forest exploitation, by reducing timber transport costs towards the port of Douala in Cameroon. It is important to coordinate those road development programmes necessary for the CAR with the REDD strategy, especially as these roads inevitably cross the south-western forest massif.

d) Has any technical assistance already been received, or is planned on REDD? (e.g., technical consulting, analysis of deforestation or forest degradation in country, etc, and by whom):

Since March 2006 the CAR and all Congo Basin countries have benefited from support from France and several members of the CBFP (World Bank, WWF, IUCN...) within the framework of negotiations on climate. This support has been carried out by ONF-International and has resulted in the organisation of several reunions between the Climate focal points of each country in order to prepare for important deadlines (COP, SBSTA, and Submissions) and organise exchanges with other countries or groups of countries in the EU and Latin America. These reunions included :

- March 2006, preparation for the first REDD submission (Libreville);
- June 2006, preparation for the UNFCCC workshop in Rome ;
- October 2006, preparation of COP12 (Nairobi);
- February 2007, preparation for the second REDD submission (Costa Rica) ;
- July 2007, preparation for the third REDD submission (Douala);
- October 2007, preparation of COP13 ;
- March 2008, Scientific workshop on REDD mechanisms and preparation for REDD submission (Paris) organised in Paris by ONF International and jointly financed by France and Germany;
- July 2008, first Regional R-PIN coordination workshop for Congo Basin countries as a result of the FCPF

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Steering Committee in Paris (financed by the French development agency) ;

- October 2008, second Regional R-PIN coordination workshop for Congo Basin countries as a result of the FCPF Steering Committee in Paris (financed by WWF-US).

The AFD, WWF, WCS and CI have joined together in order to develop a project on the problems of climate change in Central Africa. This project (which has just started) tackles in particular the REDD problematic through the development of support towards capacity building and training on REDD methodologies and instruments. The WWF is to be responsible for implementing this project in the CAR.

The EU finances the FORAF project which works on the monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation in Congo Basin countries. Numerous CBFF projects are currently undergoing evaluation for CAR or for Central Africa in general (list available on Congo Basin Forest Fund website). Moreover, there is also the upcoming regional GEF project for the reinforcing of the institutional capacity on the REDD and sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin.

Forestry activities are also supported regularly or occasionally (financing of diverse projects linked to training provision of material etc.) by the Organisation for the Conservation of African Wildlife (OCFSA), the Central African Protected Areas Network (RAPAC), the COMIFAC and the Conference on Central African Tropical Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP), the FAO, the German development agency (GTZ), USAID, the World Bank, the French Development Agency (AFD), Funds for help and cooperation (FAC), the African Timber Organisation (ATO), the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and African Development Bank (ADB).

7. What are your thoughts on the type of stakeholder consultation process you would use to: a) create a dialogue with stakeholders about their viewpoints, and b) evaluate the role various stakeholders can play in developing and implementing strategies or programs under FCPF support?

a) How are stakeholders normally consulted and involved in the forest sector about new programs or policies?

The ministry in charge of forests is generally supported by NGOs, the private sector and bilateral and international programmes to inform and / or involve civil society in defining new programmes, regulation enforcement and validation of forest management plans or participatory management in hunting areas (PARPAF, Dzanga-Sangha project and management project of Bangasson forest). These operators typically develop systems for consultations on a case by case basis to establish a dialogue with people who sometimes do not grasp the implications of decisions concerning the forest sector. It is therefore important for these operators to identify key people in villages and communes that will play the role of spokesman.

This raises the question of the weakness of certain NGOs at the institutional and technical level. Some environmental topics are totally absent from NGOs action plans (involvement in forest management, taking into account the rights of local communities or indigenous peoples, recent international agreements). On the government's side partnerships with international or private sector organizations are rare or nonexistent and the knowledge of policies and processes such as FLEGT or REDD is limited to a small number of NGOs. A recent study still in press, under the institutional support of PARPAF submitted a set of recommendations on how logging companies can engage local consultation by developing forest management plans. The study also analyzed the need to support municipalities in the identification, definition, implementation and monitoring of local development projects from forest exploitation revenues.

Under the finance law, a percentage of fees (logging and reforestation) are directly returned to those communes present or adjacent on logging sites. To address the lack of on the ground follow-up action it technical committee was recently established composed of representatives of MEFCPE, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, and civil society. The objectives of this technical committee are to validate an annual action plan communal activities. It is difficult to obtain information on the effectiveness of this mechanism.

b) Have any stakeholder consultations on REDD or reducing deforestation been held in the past several years? If so, what groups were involved, when and where, and what were the major findings?:

SFM has been a major concern for the CAR and MEFCPE since the 1990s, as has been shown by the establishment of the PARN programme. The lack of financial resources and teams in charge of climate Change topics in CAR has not allowed for the realization of early consultation workshops. However, in November 2008, with funding from WWF-CAR and the French Embassy in Bangui, a consultation workshop was held in Bangui bringing together severalstakeholders from government, civil society and bilateral cooperation (annex 3).

c) What stakeholder consultation and implementation role discussion process might be used for

discussions across federal government agencies, institutes, etc.?

An interdepartmental exchange platform dedicated to REDD, based on the model of the MDP-COMIFAC unit (interdepartmental exchange platform on 'Mitigation Component' under the National Steering Committee of the UNFCCC/PK) should be established to sustain and regularize dialogue between representatives of different ministries and national and international institutions: Ministry of Environment, Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; the University of Bangui, the National Committee against bush fires and other disasters; Rural Education and Training Centres (CREF), the Documentation Centre, Information and Training for Development (CIFOR); WWF, GTZ, the French cooperation, etc.. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of the forestry sector on the national economy, *iii*) overall investment estimation; and *iv*) training of forest engineers (research and attribution of scholarships). This platform could work on defining national goals of REDD and validating their consistency with those sectoral policies in place.

In practice, this type of consultation rarely involves all stakeholders in the process, especially rural populations and indigenous people (south-west forest and Bangassou forest) who are poorly structured and do not possess the financial resources to be represented in Bangui. It is therefore important to ensure the involvement of NGOs in the process that will act as spokesmen or support the participation of representatives of rural populations and indigenous people.

d) Across state or other sub-national governments or institutions?

The CAR is one of the 10 member countries of COMIFAC, organization ratified by 7 states of Central Africa in 2005. The CAR currently holds the COMIFAC presidency for two years from October 2008. COMIFAC was created in order to manage in a concerted way the Congo Basin's forests, through a common platform called "convergence plan" which includes ten strategic sections. The first section puts special emphasis on the 1992 Rio de Janeiro conventions of which the United Nations, Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The fight against deforestation and forest degradation is one of the concerns of the COMIFAC. Thus, this regional structure will provide a platform for discussion, exchange and negotiation for the development of a REDD mechanism in the Congo Basin.

The six forest countries of COMIFAC (Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon) have clearly expressed their willingness to propose a regional approach in international discussions on climate change and particularly on the REDD. Several joint submissions have been proposed to the UNFCCC and go in this direction. The COMIFAC also supported the organization of training workshops (September 2008 - training for GHG inventories in Paris), the organization of thematic workshops (March 2008-REDD workshop in Paris COMIFAC) and workshops between climate focal points to define a regional position within the REDD and FCPF (July 2008 in Paris, in October 2008 in Washington). All those activities, financed by French and German Cooperation and WWF-US, are held under the auspices of the COMIFAC.

In addition, COMIFAC country representatives have expressed the need to establish a regional platform to coordinate REDD. This platform could strengthen the organization and mobilization of national and international actors to consolidate national capacities, dissemination of knowledge about the REDD, stakeholder consultation and coordination of actions and REDD projects in the region.

e) For other stakeholders on forest and agriculture lands and sect ors, (e.g., NGOs, private sector, etc.)?

In the south-west forest region the PARPAF programme and NGOs will be ideal partners in the framework of consultations on SFM and implementation of activities under the FCPF. Environmental and forest sector NGOs are few in comparison to other sectors. These NGOs are mainly involved in: *i*) environmental education; *ii*) reforestation activities; *iii*) activities in rural development and / or alternatives to the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources (fish, livestock, combined crops, medicinal plants); *iv*) and support to fundamental organizations (animation, organization in federations and cooperatives). Environmental NGOs are grouped under the NGO Network for Environment and Sustainable Development (RONGEDD) whose activity is now limited. In the forestry and environment sector different sub-regional civil society representatives are grouped within CEFDHAC (Conference on Dense Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa) having their national representation in CAR (women network, youth network, parliamentarians network, indigenous peoples network, etc.).

Existing structures developed under the Project for the conservation and sustainable management of Bangassou forest should be valued and maintained. In forest savannah areas, it is necessary to determine what would be the

best solution, particularly by enhancing those experiences gained in participatory natural resource management of the ECOFAC ZCV project in the north of the country, as well as the valorisation of the experiences of the sub-regional programme in the savannahs of Central Africa (PRASAC).

f) For forest-dwelling indigenous people and other forest dwellers?

Given the differences in management and the use of CAR's forests, it will probably be wise under the REDD, to consider several processes and means of consultation for the south-east and south-west forests and the savannah:

- <u>The south-west forest</u> of CAR is an area of logging and conservation. It has therefore been the object of intense management, planning and consultation activities for the implementation of forest management plans in the PEA and working plans for national parks or reserves. Within the framework of forest management plans, efforts are being made to establish a commune and/or village organization to facilitate consultations and validations. Support projects would be needed to fulfil this objective (revive programmes like the AFD's PDRSO for example);
- 2) <u>The south-east forest</u> of CAR is outside the logging process mainly because of its remoteness and difficult access, but it has also been the subject of a sustainable management programme of forest resources and hunting supported by UNDP. The programme has also developed a structured organization to establish a dialogue between villages, communes and project managers;
- 3) <u>The savannah has benefited from the Northern Region Development Programme (PDRN)</u>, and the ECOFAC-ZCV and PRASAC programmes. Consultation efforts and participatory management of natural resources carried out with local populations can be valued under the REDD.

8. Implementing REDD strategies:

a) What are the potential challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies or programs, and how might they be overcome? (e.g., lack of financing, lack of technical capacity, governance issues like weak law enforcement, lack of consistency between REDD plans and other development plans or programs, etc.): The implementation of the CAR's REDD strategy faces the following challenges:

- The country's low level of economic resources will not permit it to engage upon sustainable and complete commitment to the REDD without the support of bilateral and multilateral donors, and a dialogue and coordination of efforts towards its proposed national REDD strategy. The interdepartmental exchange platform could also be a consultation support between government and major donors wishing to support CAR in the implementation of its REDD strategy;
- Lack of human resources in the private and public sector. Without the development of national capacity in terms of the carbon concept (REDD, GHG inventory, etc.) it will not be possible to develop a sustainable REDD strategy in CAR. However, real skills exist in terms of forest inventory on which the developing of specific REDD protocols could lean. It will be necessary to consider strengthening capacity in all activities related to REDD (through workshops, university courses, scholarships, upgrading of existing postgraduate diplomas, etc.) and ensure work opportunities for trained people in projects, public institutions and REDD activity monitoring bodies;
- Lack of State governance outside of industrial forest production areas, the inefficiency of the implementation of sanctions and the non-application of the regulations of the different Codes (forest, environment, etc.);
- The establishment of a fair scenario. A historical reference scenario is not possible for CAR as well as for other Congo Basin countries. The continued efforts of CAR towards sustainable resource management, in a country plagued by poverty, should be taken into account in establishing a baseline scenario. The COMIFAC should be a platform for negotiation and discussions to formalize a fair deal for the CAR and other Congo Basin countries, taking into account the threats to forests (economic, political unrest, firewood collection, development of roads, etc.);
- Lack of cartographic and satellite data. This subject might be partially solved by OFAC and through the creation of a receiving station in the Congo Basin. However, it is imperative to build capacity in CAR and to producing country-specific data and strengthen a permanent unit for production and processing of cartographic environmental data;
- Lack of knowledge on forest resources in the wooded savannah. It will require a comprehensive review of the state of resources compared to an historical reference date, and evaluate precisely the impact of late bushfires on forests and GHG emissions;
- The sustainability of protected areas, generally threatened by a lack of resources and state control;
- Low interdepartmental dialogue could delay the adoption of the REDD strategy by all development actors

in CAR. Based on those efforts undertaken by the MEFCPE and UNFCCC focal point for a dialogue between all stakeholders, it will be necessary to quickly implement a unit specifically dedicated to REDD to reinforce current CAR working capacities in the area;

- **Political conflicts** in neighbouring countries could create areas in which the CAR will not have control under the REDD, particularly in the north. If international mediation can not solve these problems, it will be necessary to consider a special status for those areas outside state control, such as exclusion from national GHG reporting;

b) Would performance-based payments though REDD be a major incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation? Please, explain why. (i.e., performance-based payments would occur *after* REDD activities reduce deforestation, and monitoring has occurred):

The incentive effect of REDD incomes will essentially be perceived by the Government, public institutions, NGOs and the private sector. Given the poverty of the people, lack of education and coordination between villages and communes, the incentive effect of REDD incomes might be seen by people if they are supported local partners (NGOs, international programmes, government), to be able to channel funding and to obtain a maximum of benefits. It will be necessary to provide support to villages and communes *i*) regarding coordination so that all residents (including indigenous people) can express their needs and wishes; *ii*) in supporting people in joint project formulation and the evaluation of its costs and realisation Major participatory natural resource management projects committed for several years in CAR (Dzanga-Sangha, Bangassou Forest, ECOFAC-ZCV, etc.) are important experimental sources to that can bequickly evaluated for the CAR in order to consider the most pertinent solutions. This reflection will be developed within the framework of FCPF activities.

It is clear that the transfer of State revenues associated with REDD or projects towards local populations and indigenous people should rely in part on the existing system of forest taxation, bound to *i*) Treasury; *ii*) CAS-DF; and *iii*) communes. Using a financial incentive through forest taxation should follow an imperative clarification of its redistribution by the state. Meanwhile, it will certainly be necessary to develop a mechanism for direct income redistribution to people based on their involvements in the process of SFM (SFM plan, fight against forest fires, etc.) and conservation of protected areas.

Solutions identified to strengthen the incentive from REDD incomes will probably depend on local conditions in which REDD programmes are to be developed. In the current state of reflection, it is possible to propose the following criteria: i) the need to involve local leaders who combine proximity of people and knowledge of realities in the field; ii) prioritize the role of elected officials by local beneficiaries; iii) and use an independent and recognized entity to carry out the monitoring and evaluation of the flow of revenues.

Finally, the carbon legislation of CAR has not been yet established and will therefore be a fundamental strategic component for the development of REDD projects and REDD policy in CAR. Two CDM A/R projects are being developed, carried by SCAF and SEFCA. It is likely that the development of these two projects will accelerate the need to give a ruling on carbon legislation.

9. REDD strategy monitoring and implementation:

a) How is forest cover and land use change monitored today, and by whom? (e.g., forest inventory, mapping, remote sensing analysis, etc.):

There is no national land cover and land use change monitoring programme in the CAR. The country suffers from the absence of a national structure capable of gathering mapping information and to pilot forest monitoring programmes. Cartographic information in the CAR is mainly produced, stored and managed by international and regional projects (PARPAF, ECOFAC, CARPE, FORAF), private forestry sector and NGOs. There is a receiving station installed in Bangui as part of the bushfires observatory, but in the absence of human capacity in the country, data is processed and analyzed by the European Research Centre (JRC) installed in Italy (IPSRA).

MEFCPE has recently commissioned WRI, through the Global Forest Watch project, to create an interactive atlas of CAR's forests. A first version of this atlas will be available in January 2009 and provide government, industry and the public with free and quality access to relevant useful spatial information data on the forestry sector (geographical boundaries of PEA, forest management plans, cartographic information, annual cutting areas, location of wood processing units as well as their capacity, protected areas, etc.).

The University of Bangui has a GIS laboratory; it is not operational however due to lack of financial and human resources.

PARPAF project, mandated by the MEFCPE to accompany logging companies to implement their forest management plans, is the structure that has gathered the most cartographic information and forest inventory data on

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the south-west forest. The forest management plan monitoring cell planned by the PARPAF project will soon be transferred within the forestry administration, which should benefit from enhanced human capacity and equipment for monitoring, control and mapping.

b) What are the constraints of the current monitoring system? What constraints for its application to reducing deforestation and forest degradation? (e.g., system cannot detect brest degradation of forest stands, too costly, data only available for 2 years, etc.):

- i) **National forest cover baseline**: Global Land Cover 2000 is the unique national forest land cover available in the CAR. Without judging the quality of this product, it is clearly insufficient to establish a historical baseline of the country's forest cover (scale, classification, etc.). In addition, logging activity in the southwest has especially focused on mapping and monitoring activities in the region, leaving aside the savannahs and Bangassou forest. Knowledge of these forests is quite insufficient (land cover, impact of bushfires on forest mosaics, etc.);
- ii) Availability of satellite imagery: CAR does not have a satellite image database covering the territory and to conduct annual monitoring of the forest. This lack of information therefore does not make it possible to estimate accurately the effects of deforestation and forest degradation, the phenomenon can sometimes be very quick (especially for forest degradation). The installation of a receiving station in the sub-region could help to develop a regional forest cover monitoring system;
- iii) **The absence of a national operational cartographic institution:** currently CAR does not have a dedicated institution to address cartographic topics that can host a national forest monitoring system;
- National competences outside of NGOs and international programmes. CAR does not have the technical expertise and trained personnel to carry out forest monitoring and the estimation of GHG emissions linked to the forestry sector. Technical skills are needed in the field of remote sensing, development of GIS and the use of IPCC GHG inventory guidelines;
- v) **Coordination and promotion of experiences:** as CAR does not have a permanent structure capable of collecting national data regarding cartography and land eover, it is important to promote data produced by civil society and international and regional programmes so as not to repeat the same efforts and to enhance existing information (PARN, PARPAE, Bangassou Forest project, ECOFAC project, etc.). WRI is State initiative that should clarify all national cartographic data;
- vi) Awareness: There is a significant gap between international negotiations regarding REDD and the understanding of the mechanism by civil society and public institutions. As with the "Forest Day" organized by CIFOR (04/08 in Yaoundé) and the REDD-COMIFAC workshop (03/08 in Paris), it is important to develop further opportunities to bring together actors working on carbon and forestry issues;
- vii) **Cartographic standards:** the absence of a cartographic institute or **a** assimilated structure raises the problem of national mapping standards such as the national projection system and national topographic database (useful for geographical correction of satellite images and aerial photography), road networks, village distribution (useful to indirectly estimate forest degradation), etc. However, standards were set for the development of forest management plans that detail prescription techniques for mapping, remote sensing and GIS. Specific attention is given to the geographical correction of cartographic information;
- viii) **Forest Mosaics:** the forest monitoring system should be capable of detecting complex landscape units as forest and agricultural mosaics, disruption of the spectral response of the soil, etc.

c) How would you envision REDD activities and program performance would be monitored? (e.g., changes in forest cover or deforestation or forest degradation rates resulting from programs, using what approaches, etc.)

Before suggesting a detailed methodology for forests and REDD project performance monitoring it is more appropriate at this stage for the CAR to present a ranking of milestones that the country must overcome. By resolving each of these points, the country would have the basic elements to develop a correct monitoring methodology:

- i) **Forest definition**: CAR has not yet provided its definition of the forest which is to be adopted under the UNFCCC. The adoption of this definition will be a fundamental step that CAR will have to pass in order to begin the REDD "Readiness" step. The adoption of the definition will also be a clear signal to private operators that CAR is supporting those CDM A/R initiatives in preparation.
- ii) **Forest mapping** Establish a forest map for a reference year, identified from historical data available in OFAC databases;

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- iii) Synthesis of existing dendrometric data. CAR has benefited from several decades of forest management plan support programmes in the south-west forest (PARN, ECOFAC PARPAF). The large amount of data accumulated during these programmes should be collected and used to calculate the main expansion and conversion factors needed to estimate forest biomass and carbon stock. This data is necessary along with relevant geographic information to support CAR's REDD strategy. This system could effectively identify priority areas for conservation or management under the REDD;
- iv) **Savannah fires**. Coordinate international programmes on the monitoring of savannah fires, to provide the RCA with quality and secure information on the progress and distribution of such fires. The appropriation by the country of bushfire observatory results appears necessary;
- v) **External audit.** Allow the identification of an independent entity to monitor national REDD programmes (forest inventories, land cover maps, land cover changes, GHG accounting/reporting).

10. Additional benefits of potential REDD strategy:

a) Are there other non-carbon benefits that you expect to realize through implementation of the REDD strategy (e.g., social, environmental, economic, biodiversity)? What are they, where, how much? Additional benefits of the CAR REDD strategy would include:

- an improvement of transparency in the functioning of the CAS-DF;
- a secure income for the state and commune by ensuring the sustainability of the forest resource;
- **fight against poverty** by involving the local population and indigenous people in the sustainable management of forest resources;
- the **implication of indigenous people** in the implementation of **REDD** would lead to the respecting of their lifestyles and needs;
- **fight against erosion** and the enforcement of exploitation rules in sensitive forest areas such as forests galleries;
- maintaining dense forest cover and forest protection galleries will participate in the **protection of water** resources for the whole country;
- maintaining biodiversity in forests and wooded savannahs, along with **good wildlife management** would extend the experience of participative hunting management and provide incomes to local populations and indigenous people;
- **improving the systemic knowledge** on savannahs through the continuation of conservation programmes in protected and logging areas;
- **improving energy efficiency** will enhance living conditions of local populations and may free up time for other productive activities;
- **intensification of agriculture** will improve living conditions of forest dwelling communities, and help CAR to reach agricultural self-sufficiency;
- fight against desertification and local effects of climate change;
- A real appropriation of the forestry potential of CAR's wooded savannahs which are a potential resource, which as yet is not sufficiently valued.

b) Is biodiversity conservation being monitored at present? If so, what kind, where, and how?

Biodiversity monitoring is under the responsibility of MEFCPE, through its department of wildlife management and protected areas. However, this department has too few resources to ensure regular monitoring and to focus on species other than key species. In PEAs, ecological studies are routinely conducted during the implementation of forest management plans, and take into account the variability of vegetative formations, flora and wildlife richness as well as signs of resource exploitation and their impact on the environment. The interest of these studies is to identify environmentally sensitive areas, which can be divided into protection or research series.

Specific data has also been obtained in natural reserves and national parks, particularly in the context of international programmes: *i*) monitoring of the ecology of elephants in the Dzanga-Sangha project (WWF / GTZ); *ii*) in the tri-national Sangha project (CAR, Cameroon and Republic of Congo) all fauna and flora was inventoried. Concerning the CAR this includes the Dzanga-Ndoki National Park, and the Dzanga-Sangha special reserve; *iii*) in the N'gotto forest, through the establishment of the forest management plan (ECOFAC project). The forest management plan was prepared 10 years ago by ECOFAC and revised in 2007 by PARPAF. ECOFAC must now prepare the management plan for the Bodingué park; *iv*) in the Bangassou forest (south-east), food and pharmaceutical plants (for the local population) and small, medium and big game species have been inventoried; *v*) in northern CAR, the Bangoran Bamingui-of-Manovo Gounda-St Floris national parks, and the hunting ar eas of Sangbé, Gordil, Bamingui, the ECOFAC programme (which follows the Development Program me of the Northern Region - PDRN) is in charge of environmental monitoring and wildlife conservation, over 80,000 sq. km (annex

10).

c) Under your early ideas on introducing REDD, would biodiversity conservation also be monitored? How? Biodiversity is an important resource for rural and indigenous people, therefore it is necessary to introduce a biodiversity monitoring component in CAR's REDD programmes. The strengthening of SFM, through the support in the preparation of forest management plans, certification (FSC) and the selection of harvesting plans before granting PEAs, should intensify information on biodiversity monitoring in forested area. In savannahs data coordination arising from monitoring program mes in hunting areas could be a source of valuable information on wildlife.

d) Are rural livelihood benefits currently monitored? If so, what benefits, where, and how?

In the framework of the implementation of the DSRP (DSRP 2008-2010, 2008), socio-economic studies have been conducted on incomes in major regions of the country, between rural and urban areas, access to education or the state of infrastructure. Despite the existence of such **national statistics**, as an indicator generally used by international organizations, socio-economic information is still largely insufficient to accurately track the impact of a national strategy such as REDD in CAR.

Locally, monitoring of the living conditions of populations is usually conducted by NGOs or international development programmes. This is punctual monitoring, the methodology and indicators for which are specific to individual projects. For example, under the **Dzanga-Sangha project**, the evolution of living conditions of local people is followed over several years by aspecific component of the project, in charge of local development aspects (introduced by GTZ). For its part, the NGO "Echelle", produces two types of evaluation to assess the improvement of living conditions of people in each of the projects it leads: i) a community assessment, based on dialogue with people to understand their perceptions of the project, their expectations, and what is improving. This assessment is conducted both at midterm and end of the project, ii) a more traditional evaluation, based on the measurement of indicators at the beginning and end of the project. Under the participatory management of natural resources **in the Bangassou forest** (UNDP project), regular monitoring of populations has been conducted in 3 sub-prefectures (6 communes / approximately 20,000 inhabitants).

In the south-west forests, the implementation of forest management plans requires a dialogue with local populations and a socio-economic study. However, after validation of forest management plans, no regular monitoring is required by the MEFCPE. If logging companies were committed to FSC certification, then regular audits would be required for, among other things, the evaluation of benefits to people. The recent study on socio-economic support to forest management planning outlines the basics concerning the regular monitoring that logging companies, in collaboration with the government, should put in place.

e) Under your early ideas on introducing REDD, would rural livelihood benefits also be monitored? How?

As it has been previously developed, it appears that future REDD projects should use the experience of participatory development projects and that these projects require the establishment of an organisation to support village committees and communes. Today, NGOs like "Echelle", analyze the positive and negative impacts of projects on people through these committees. It is therefore reasonable to think that such a system could also be developed to monitor the impact of REDD income on people's living conditions.

Most logging companies have already established a dialogue with representatives of communes localized in their PEAs (implementation of forest management plans, demarcation of the agricultural series, exploitation of annual cutting areas, etc.). Once the network is established, it will be easier to communicate with the local population and assess the effects of REDD income.

Because of their continued presence in the field and their need to establish a dialogue with villages and communes, NGOs and logging companies will be the designated carriers of support in obtaining regular monitoring of people's living conditions. Representative indicators of the country's situation remain to be defined and to ensure that they will alert authorities and project managers if any deterioration of living conditions is detected.

11. What type of assistance are you likely to request from the FCPF Readiness Mechanism? a) Setting up a transparent stakeholder consultation on REDD (e.g., outreach, workshops, publications, etc.):

The lack of communication between the rural, private and administrative sector is a limiting factor in CAR. This is the result of a combination of physical and economic factors such as territory size, poverty, the lack of road network and transport, the inefficiency of the electricity network and political factors such as lack of state control over private operators (mining, logging, etc.) or certain areas of the territory due to political instability in neighbouring countries. Regarding the future REDD mechanism, it is important for CAR to develop effective means of communication within the country (between MEFCPE and the rest of the Administration and between MEFCPE and rural areas).

The eligibility of CAR for the FCPF process will enable the country to work on specific consultation processes in the country which will take into account its difficult economic situation:

- i) Financial and technical support of a national REDD committee;
- ii) Capacity building within the MEFCPE to provide skills on climate change topics and carbon mechanisms;
- iii) Valorisation of consultation methods developed by NGOs or private operators in rural areas;
- iv) Identify new consultation solutions to disseminate information in the country relative to REDD, on the national REDD strategy and strengthen communication with rural populations.

b) Developing a reference case of deforestation trends: Assessment of historical emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation, or projections into the future.

On the basis of decisions taken at the REDD-COMIFAC workshop, and analysis of data available in CAR, the country asks the FCPF to finance and/or provide the necessary technical support to address the following studies and analysis:

- The forest definition under the UNFCCC (<u>national approach</u>). Quickly finance technical support in determining the best definition of forest balancing opportunities for development of CDM A/R and REDD projects that respect the CAR commitments in the fight against poverty and climate change and the protection of biodiversity;
- ii) A diagnostic study on available methodologies for modeling that would be the most appropriate to build a land cover model in CAR (regional approach COMIFAC);
- iii) The preparation of terms of reference for the series of studies required to calculate the reference scenario (<u>national approach</u>) and support the funding of studies:
 - a. A detailed study of the causes of deforestation and degradation as well as their evolution (<u>national approach</u>). The causes of deforestation and forest degradation are identified broadly across the country, with more precision for the south-west forest, widely focused by many international cooperation projects. In the rest of the country, the phenomenon is less documented, localized and quantified. This is why such a study should be conducted throughout the entire territory based on the work to be done in parallel with regard to forest land cover change. This work would be completed by a **prospective study of trends** of the phenomena of deforestation and forest degradation in the medium and long term, highlighting the likely trends of development of international markets in the forest sector, as well as demographic changes, and consequences for CAR;

An analysis of current or future sectoral policies in CAR (national approach);

A stratification of the national forest area (<u>national approach</u>). Based on the precedent analysis, classification of the forest area would identify those areas subject to the same pressures of deforestation and degradation. This distinction will allow CAR to propose specific REDD measures for each area.

 iv) A study on policy implications of the proposed REDD mechanisms (regional approach COMIFAC). Analyze challenges and risks of REDD for CAR in terms of governance and development, but also on forest dwelling populations;

The results obtained in CAR will be summarized with other eligible Congo Basin countries to propose a finer deforestation and degradation scenario throughout the entire Central African forest massif. This work would be carried out under the aegis of the COMIFAC.

c) Developing a national REDD Strategy: Identification of programs to reduce deforestation and design of a system for providing targeted financial incentives for REDD to land users and organizations (e.g., delivery of payments, governance issues, etc.):

The strategy proposed by the CAR is not yet sufficiently developed to accurately determine the points on which the FCPF would be solicited. However the following topics could be developed quickly thanks to the support of the FCPF:

- i) Strengthen reflection on CAR's national REDD strategy. The support of the FCPF team will be particularly relevant to think on a REDD mechanism likely to benefit countries such as those in Central Africa, whose rates of deforestation and degradation are low in comparison to other countries in the FCPF process. These good results are the consequences of a strict forest policy conducted over the last twenty years, and the adoption of a new forestry code this year. The REDD mechanism should necessarily take these past efforts into account;
- ii) The State will be in charge of monitoring and implementation of the national REDD strategy and will develop and strengthen actions to preserve ecosystems, strengthening policies for SFM and national capacity to control and monitor forest activities. Local REDD local will be developed by private operators, communes or villages with common interests or social affinities / histories / economics, with support from field workers such as CODICOM, Echelle, UNDP, ECOFAC, GTZ / WWF ...). No mechanisms for the redistributing of REDD income have been defined as yet in CAR. However, the national experiences in participatory management of natural resources are numerous in CAR and will have to be valued under the REDD. This is why FCPF support will be used to synthesize the experience and identify what is working and what is not. Based on this analysis solutions of REDD income redistribution will be developed.

d) Design of a system to monitor emissions and emission reductions from deforestation and/or forest degradation:

In order to have a realistic monitoring system, CAR has to solve the following issues, on which the FCPF could provide support :

- i) National skills regarding the inventorying of biomass. In order to prepare its second National Communication (CN), the CAR has already received assistance from UNFCCC, GTZ and the French Cooperation to develop skills regarding national GHG emission inventories and reporting. The opportunity of financing a UNFCCC expert to coordinate the national team in charge of realizing the CN and to develop a methodological basis of a GHG national inventory and a national inventory for deforestation and degradation emissions should be considered. Even if a UNFCCC expert provides their support it should not erase the need for CAR to create its own national skills and maintain the national team, in order that it could be able to repeat GHG inventories annually: *i*) through the creation of a governmental unit funded with REDD revenues; *ii*) through the creation of a national engineering firm funded with REDD revenues; *iii*) or through the solicitation of an independent control organisation, such as an independent observer;
- ii) Allometric equations for biomass and carbon estimations. Clarification of CAR biomass and forest carbon data through the definition of specific expansion and conversion factors for different CAR forest types (south-east, south-west and savamah). To achieve this it will be necessary to gather all those studies realized in CAR (such as M'baiki forest monitoring programme) and develop expansion factors;
- iii) National forest inventory in the remaining forest domain (savannah and south-east). A lot of inventory data is available for the south-west forest area, as well as precise stratification maps (PARN, PARPAF, ECOFAC, WWF/GTZ). But very little representative data is available for the other parts of the forest domain. Therefore it will be necessary to implement a new national forest inventory, based on existing data and well suited to the savannahs forest structure;
- iv) **National forest monitoring, definition of a baseline scenario.** CAR, in accordance with other COMIFAC members eligible for the FCPF, decided to coordinate forest monitoring at the COMIFAC level, through the OFAC. The implementation of this forest monitoring system still has to be discussed and adopted with CAR representatives. It will be important for CAR to be supported by FCPF in order to make pertinent technical choices for the monitoring system. The development of a national forest inventory and a forest monitoring system will enable the working towards a definition of a baseline scenario for CAR.

e) Other?:

In addition to above mentioned activities, two more topics could be supported:

i) Support to the educational system. Because of inadequate diplomas and a lack of job opportunities, CAR has a lack of GIS and remote sensing experts. In 2006, the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, UMR 8586), supported by the French cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), created a postgraduate in "Geomatics and Development" in the University of Bangui. Lessons are given both by Central African teachers and CNRS teachers. The experience is recent and suffers from numerous problems such as: *i*)

the lack of computers, commercial software and GPS; ii) lack of infrastructure for students; iii) lack of permanent teachers; iv) lack of financial support to students, such as scholarships, which would help them attend lessons in better conditions; v) and lack of serious job opportunities for graduated. CAR is asking for concrete support for the development of local skills regarding GIS and remote sensing, in order to enhance its expertise in public and private organizations. Financial, technical and logistic support could be addressed to this postgraduate diploma;

ii) Implementation of a REDD Scientific Committee. CAR needs a national technical working group efficient in the forest and carbon thematic. This group will provide technical support to the CAR government and will be dedicating to the monitoring and technical supports of both the national REDD strategy and REDD projects developed in the country. This group will have continuous contacts with the scientific community and UNFCCC. The implementation of this committee will require the identification of competent national experts on the thematic of carbon and forests, financial support to these experts and support for them to participate in negotiations and technical evolutions on REDD (funding several experts in order to share the task of participating to international meetings and continuous internet access, etc.).

12. Please state donors and other international partners that are already cooperating with you on the preparation of relevant analytical work on REDD. Do you anticipate these or other donors will cooperate with you on REDD strategies a nd FCPF, and if so, then how?:

Present and past cooperation:

- The German Cooperation through :
 - The co-financing of the REDD COMIFAC workshop, which took place in Paris in March 2008. During this workshop, climate focal points from Congo Basin countries and different REDD specialists were brought together;
 - The co-financing (with the Cameroonian French Embassy and COMIFAC) of CAR expert training regarding national GHG inventories. During training, LULUCF emissions and absorptions were specifically detailed, using revised IPCC 1996 and 2006 baselines.
- The CAR French Embassy (Bangui SCAC) and WWF CAR joined together to support the last revision of the CAR RPIN.
- **The French Development Agency** (AFD) supported CAR mobilization for submitting the first versions of the RPIN to the FCPF. AFD is also co-financing a regional project for a partnership approach with NGOs (WWF, WCS and CI).
- European Union, through its regional programmes FORAF and ECOFAC.
- CIRAD, through the M'baiki program me, regarding south-west forest dynamics.
- United Nations Environmental Programme (PNUE) and French Global Environment Fund(FFEM), through the CASCADE project ;

Future and prospective cooperation :

- PFBC funding agencies, currently under German presidency;
- WWF may finance support to the COMIFAC for regional REDD coordination;
- **DFID** and **Norwegian Cooperation** are involved in the implementation of a specific fund for the Congo Basin (CBFF). Several CAR projects are under review (2nd step).

13. Potential Nest Steps and Schedule:

Have you identified your priority first steps to move toward Readiness for REDD activities? Do you have an estimated timeframe for them yet, or not?

A detailed picture of regional and national REDD activities, and a regional agenda are presented in Annexes 4 to 8.

At the national level, CAR is working on a national agenda for REDD activities. Priority will be given to : - **The implementation of a REDD Scientific Committee**, that could improve CAR preparation to REDD and to the R-PLAN formulation;

- The **organization of stakeholder consultations**, including with indigenous people as it was not possible to do it in the framework of the R-PIN.

- The framework for a national forest mapping and monitoring system, in agreement with the regional approach on forest monitoring;

- Reinforce national capacity in: biomass assessment, forest inventories, forest monitoring, etc.
- Develop knowledge on savannah forest and savannah fire;

14. List any Attachments included (Optional: 15 pages maximum.) Annexe 1. Acronyms AFD : French Development Agency **APV**: Voluntary Partnership Agreement CASCADE : Carbon finance for Agriculture, Forestry, Conservation and Actions against DEforestation CAS-DF : Special Affectation Account for Forest and Development CBFF : Congo Basin Forest Fund CDF: Center of forest data **CCNUCC : United Nations Framework Convention en Climate Change CEEAC : Economic Community of Central African States** CNRS: National Center for Scientific Research COMIFAC : Commission of Ministers in charge of Forests in Central Africa **DIAF** : Direction of Inventories and Forest Management DFAP : Direction of wildlife and protected areas DFE: State Forest Domain DFID : UK Department for International Development DGEF : General Direction of waters and forests ECOFAC : Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa FLEGT : Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade FFEM : French Global Environment Fund FRM : Forest Resource Management GFW : Global Forest Watch LULUCF : Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry MEFCPE : Ministry of Waters, Forest, Hunting, Fishing, and Environment MEPCI : Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation OFAC : Observatory of Central African forests PARN : Project of Natural Resources Development PARPAF : Support Project for the Preparation of Forest Development Plans PDRN : Development Program for the Northern Region PEA: Permits for forest exploitation and management planning PFBC : Partnership for Congo Basin Forests PNUD : United Nations Program for Development PNUE : United Nations Program for Environment RGPH : General Census of Population and Living PSC : Special Permit for logging RCA : Central African Republic UE : European Union WRI : World Resources Institute WWF : World Wildlife Fund ZCV : Village Hunting Zones Annexe 2. Bibliography

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Annexe 3. <u>Participant list to the R-PIN preparation workshop held in Bangui the 21st</u> <u>November 2008</u>

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Annexe 4. Articulation of national and regional REDD activities¹¹

Components	Sub-Components	Activities	Regional implementation	National implementation	Regional coordination	Technical partners	Financial partners	Facilitation	Working group on REDD
1. Overview o	f deforestation and f	forest degradation							
	1.1 Study of defore	station and degradation causes							
		Review on DD causes mentioned in the « State of forests » and writing of a synthesis document	Х			OFAC (CIFOR, CIRAD, Maryland, etc)	PFBC members	World Bank	DRC focal point – French cooperation
		Area assessment (refers to the transverse component "emissions monitoring")							
	1.2 Analysis of nati	ional policies and their impact on DD							
		Synthesis of recent studies, suited to REDD Focal Points needs Identification of lanalysis/studies lacking		X					
		Design of terms of reference for additional studies		Х					
		Carrying out of national studies		X			FCPF/autre	World Bank	Focal Point – World Bank
		Regional synthesis of national studies	Х	X					
	1.3 Assessment of	GHG emissions from historical and current DD							
		Refers to the transverse component « emissions monitoring »							
2. Baseline en	nissions from DD								
	2.1 Development of	f baseline scenarios							
		Design of terms of reference for national and regional studies	X						
		Step 1. Evaluation of existing methodologies / choice of the modelling approach	X			FCPF/ REDD scientific committee	FCPF	World Bank	Gabon Focal Poin - FCPF
		Step 2. Assessment of future DD drivers and modelling of future DD pressure	X	Х		OFAC (CIFOR, CIRAD, Maryland, etc), WHRC, Scientific committee	World Bank/ others (PFBC, Norway)	World Bank	Gabon Focal Point- World Bank
		Step 3. Assessment of possible baseline(s)		Х	Х		FCPF		
	2.2 Assessment of (GHG emissions under the baseline(s) scenario(s)							
		Refers to the transverse component « emissions monitoring »							

¹¹ Minutes of the workshop REDD COMIFAC -October 2008, Washington

Annexe 5. Articulation of national and reg	ional REDD activities ¹² , following previous table

Components	Sub-Components	Activities	Regional implementation	National implementation	Regional coordination	Technical partners	Financial partners	Facilitation	Working group on REDD
3. Design and a	analysis of possible st	trategies against DD							
	3.1 Assessment of fo	easible policies							
		Improvement of existing policies		Х			FCPF		
		Development of new policies		Х			FCPF		
	3.2 Comparative st	udy on these policies using impact modelling							
		Assessment of avoided GHG emissions		Х			FCPF		
-		Evaluation of induced constraints		X			FCPF		
		Economic, social and environmental analysis (oppportunity costs) Study of alternative emission reductions in other sectors		X X	1	7	FCPF FCPF		
	3.3 Consultation an	d validation							
		Consultation and validation		X					
		Official adoption by the Governments		X					
4. Framework	for implementing R	EDD							
		Design of the way of connecting national and project scales / Implementation of national carbon registries		Х			FCPF		
		Implementation of mechanisms for distributing REDD revenues/incentives		Х			FCPF		
		Design of the leg al carbon framework		Х			FCPF		
		Design of mechanisms for financial management and REDD credits marketing		Х			FCPF		



¹² Minutes of the workshop REDD COMIFAC -October 2008, Washington

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Annexe 6.	Articulation of national and regional REDD activities, transverse components ¹³	

Components	Sub-Components	Activities	Regional implementation	National implementation	Regional coordination	Technical partners	Financial partners	Working group on REDD
1-System of	GHG emissions follo	owing up (calculation and monitoring)						
	1.1 System of fore	st cover monitoring						
		Synthesis of existing data	Х			OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Study of satellite images availability	Х			OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Assessment of national capacities (infrastructures and images)		X		OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Mobilization of a mobile receiving station	Х			OFAC/OSFAC		
		Study for implementing a receiving station	Х			OFAC/OSFAC	AFD/DFID	AFD
		Choice of the adequate monitoring methodology	X			OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Implementation of a receiving station	X			OFAC/OSFAC	AFD/DFID	AFD
		Images pretreatment	Х			OFAC/OSFAC		
		Setting up/strengthening of national GIS units		X	Х	OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF	
		Image treatment and interpretation		X		OFAC/OSFAC	FCPF	
	1.2 Carbon stocks	measures						
		Analysis of existing agents and data		Х		OFAC	FCPF	
		Design of studies terms of reference	X			OFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Carrying out of national studies - carbon stocks / allometric equations		Х		OFAC	GEF/FCPF	
		Regional synthesis of national studies	X			OFAC	FCPF regional approach	
		Platform for technical exchange of data between countries	Х			Tech. & sc. committee on REDD /OFAC	GEF/FCPF regional approach	
		Setting up/strengthening of national forest inventories		Х	Х	OFAC	FCPF	
	1.3 Reporting of G	GHG emissions from REDD, by using GIEC guidelines						
	_	Capacity building/ inventories training	Х	Х			France/GTZ/UNREDD/FCPF	
2 – Institution								
	2.1 Implementation	n of REDD regional coordination authorities						
		Implementation of a regional platform for consultation between partners	Х					
		Implementation of a regional REDD scientific committee	Х					
		Reinforcement of the REDD COMIFAC working group	Х					
		Support to REDD regional coordination	Х					

¹³ Minutes of the workshop REDD COMIFAC -October 2008, Washington

Annexe 7. Articulation of national and reg	ional REDD activities, transverse components	¹⁴ , following previous table

Components	Sub-Components	Activities	Regional implementation	National implementation	Region al coordination	Technical partners	Financial partners	Facilitation	Working group on REDD
2 – Institution	nal context								
	2.2 Implementatio	n of REDD national coordination authorities							
		Operationalize/implement REDD national committees		X			FCPF		
	2.3 Implication an	d consultation of civil society							
		Preparation of civil society consultation plan for the entire process		X			FCPF		
		Implementation of the consultation plan		X			FCPF		
3 – Negotiatio	on support (refers to	sheet A3)							
	3.1 Support to Cer	ntral African negotiators							
		Planning of consultation meetings	Х						
		Preparation of orientation technical documents	Х						
		Strengthening of countries participation to important negotiation meetings	X	Y					
	3.2 Support to stra	ategic studies							
		Carrying out of a study of REDD mechanisms impact on national policies	X						
		Assessment of national opinions on REDD	X						
	3.3 Development of	f technical exchanges							
		Planning of regional/international technical and scientific workshops	X						
		Consultations with negotiators from other regions	X						

¹⁴ Minutes of the workshop REDD COMIFAC -October 2008, Washington

Annexe 8. Support to international negotiations¹⁵

Components	Sub-Components	Activities	09/08	10/08	11/08	12/08	01/09	02/09	03/09	04/09	05/09	06/09	07/09	08/09	09/09	10/09	11/09	12/09	01/10 02/10	03/1
1. Support to	Central African negotiators																			
	1.1 Planning of consultation meeting																			
	Planning of consultation meetings between African national experts per country), before the main intu (SBSTA and COP) and to prepare regional submi- discussion process framework	ernational negotiations meetings			1				2		N	$\mathbf{>}$	3				4			5
	1.2 Preparation of orientation technical docume	ents																		
	Design of technical documents and synthetic pape understanding (i) of what is in stake in the negotial evocated during the negotiation process. (These do and analysis of (i) main definitions -forest, degrad options suited to the different countries).	tion and (ii) of mechanisms ocuments should include a review					~													
	1.3 Strengthening of countries participation to	important negotiation meetings																		
	(1) Ensuring a better representation of central afr important international meetings (SBSTA, COP, a of the cost of additional delegates	ican delegations during the ther conferences) : taking charge																		
	(2) Reinforcing delegations with english-speaking	african experts						-												
	(3) Organizing side events during important conve	entions																		
2. Support to	strategic studies																			
	2.1 Carrying out of a study of REDD mechanism	ns impact on national policies																		
	Analysis of political and strategic implications of analysis of the mechanisms consistency with other (biodiversity, desertification, WTO).																			
	2.2 Assessment of national opinions on REDD																			
	Analysis of national stands during the negotiation	s																		T
3. Developme	nt of technical exchanges																			
	3.1 Planning of regional/international technical	and scientific workshops																		
	Planning of an international scientific workshop p	er year																		
	3.2 Consultations with negotiators from other r	regions																		
	Participation of African delegates to other regione EU, Latin America) and participation of delegates organized in Central Africa																			

¹⁵ Minutes of the workshop REDD COMIFAC -October 2008, Washington

Annexe 9. Estimation of carbon stocks in Congo Basin countries: State of knowledge (draft, to be published : Global Environnement Monitoring -European Union)

Carbon stocks estimation at country level and compare our estimates with some published values from the literature

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	Cameroon	Congo Rep.	Gabon	Eq. Guinea	Cent. Afr. Rep.	Dem. Rep. Congo
			milli	on tones of Carbon	7	
1. Closed evergreen lowland forests	3,483	3,685	4,357	387	1,577	16,390
2. Swamp forests	138	0	12	4	6	1,442
3. Sub-montane forests (900-1500m)	22	0	•	15	0	250
4. Montane forests (>1500m)	1	575	10	0	0	1,036
Total humid forests						
Mosaic forest / croplands	197	293	145	41	26	2,142
Mosaic forest / savanna	619	0	0	0	2,315	2,896
Closed deciduous forest	0	0	0	0	0	1,200
Deciduous woodland	684	6	2	1	1,658	1,812
Open deciduous shrubland, sparse trees	108	199	31	0	258	760
Fotal country (this chapter)	5,251	4,758	4,557	448	5,840	27,928
Total country (Gaston et al. 1998)	3,131	2,822	3,892	349	3,740	16,316
Total country (Gibbs et al. 2007)	3,454-6,138	3,458-5,472	3,063-4,742	268-474	3,176-7,405	20,416-36,672

Annexe 10. Area of the program ECOFAC/ZCV



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