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

UN-REDD PROGRAMME TWELFTH
POLICY BOARD MEETING

7 – 9 July 2014
Lima, Peru

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

1. Policy Board Submission

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

2. National Programme Summary

Details of National Programme

Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Programme ¹ Title	REDD+ readiness in Cote d'Ivoire
Implementing Partner(s) ²	The Ministry of Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development

Details of Participating UN Organizations' Representatives

UN Resident Coordinator: <i>Name: Babacar Cisse</i>	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> <i>Email: babacar.cisse@one.un.org</i>
FAO: <i>Name: Germain.Dasylda@fao.org</i> <i>Title: Representative</i>	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> <i>Email: germain.dasylda@fao.org</i>
UNDP: <i>Name: Luc-Joel Gregoire</i> <i>Title: Country Director</i>	Contact details: <i>Telephone: (225) 20 31 74 00</i> <i>Email: luc-joel.gregoire@undp.org</i>
UNEP: <i>Name: Daniel Pouakoyou</i> <i>Title: Regional Coordinator</i>	Contact details: <i>Telephone:</i> <i>Email: daniel.pouakoyou@unep.org</i>

Type of National Programme

Full NP:	Initial NP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Full NP	<input type="checkbox"/> New Initial NP
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from an Initial NP	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation from previous funding
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)

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

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

3. Executive Summary

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

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

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

REDD+ Readiness Plan (R-PP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contribution requested from the UN-REDD Programme

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. National Programme Budget (UN-REDD Fund Source only)*					
Outcomes	National Total (\$)	Pass-through Funding Allocations	FAO (\$)	UNDP (\$)	UNEP (\$)
Outcome 1	840,000		565,000	275,000	
Outcome 2	1,500,000		430,000	890,000	180,000
Outcome 3	660,000		500,000		160,000
Sub-total	3,000,000		1,495,000	1,165,000	340,000
Indirect Support Costs	210,000		104,650	81,550	23,800
Grand Total (\$)	3,210,000		1,599,650	1,246,550	363,800

NOTES:

- A breakdown of the budget allocations using the UNDG “harmonized input budget categories” must be provided to the UN-REDD Secretariat (for onward transmission to the Administrative Agent) with the signed NP document. Please see Annex 1.
- If requested and agreed to by the three participating UN Agencies and the Government, budget allocations per agency may be revised, as long as the total budget allocation is not changed.

5. Secretariat Review		
<i>Submission Criteria</i>		
(a)	Is the NP consistent with the UN-REDD Programme Strategy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Has the UN Resident Coordinator been involved in submitting the NP?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Is documentation of the in-country validation meeting(s) included?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	Did the validation include the national government counterpart (or designate)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Did the validation include civil society/indigenous peoples' representation as per the UN-REDD Operational Guidance ³ ?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(f)	Does the R-PP comply with the required format (<i>version 6, harmonized FCPF and UN-REDD format</i>)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(g)	Does the NP comply with UN-REDD Rules of Procedure and relevant Operational Guidance?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(h)	Is the required budget allocation provided (see section 4 above)?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(i)	Are the Indirect Support Costs within the approved rate?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(j)	Is the Programme Summary completed? (<i>for posting on website</i>)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
(k)	Is the Progress Report included? (<i>for supplementary funding only</i>)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unclear <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If the answer is 'No' or 'Unclear' to any question, or further explanation is required, please provide here:</p> <p>Items a and g will be completed at submission of the NP document as at this stage the R-PP itself is being submitted and following PB approval the NPD will be developed. Item k is not applicable to this submission.</p>		

³ In this context, the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways:

i. Self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements:

- selected through a participatory, consultative process
- having national coverage or networks
- previous experience working with the Government and UN system
- demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society/indigenous peoples organizations.

ii. Representative(s) who participated in a UN-REDD Programme scoping and/or formulation mission and sit(s) on a UN-REDD Programme consultative body established as a result of the mission.

iii. Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or indigenous peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Programme Steering Committee)

5. Secretariat Review

Review Issues

(l) Ownership of the NP by the government and non-government stakeholders

The R-PP for Cote d'Ivoire demonstrates a high level of government ownership, in particular as the institutional and elements of the legal framework for REDD+ have been put in place prior to the preparation of the R-PP. This demonstrates a high level of commitment to REDD+ in general as a key priority for the government and an instrument to help this post-conflict country engage on a green development pathway.

(m) Level of consultation, participation and engagement

The submission documents are compliant with the UN-REDD programme's policy and guidelines on stakeholder engagement, not only through the provision of signed minutes of the validation meeting but also as indicated in the annexes, through the consultative process that has involved a diversity of stakeholders across a range of interests, sectors, and regions within the country. As indicated further in the independent review, the level of ambition of the programme will require that a similar standard of consultation is upheld during implementation as well and a commensurate budget will need to be allocated for that.

Of interest and innovation in the context of this R-PP is the inclusion very early on of the private sector with the intention to address commodity production as one of the drivers of deforestation and also of the joint platform with FLEGT which aims to increase the interface between these two forest governance processes and increase synergies, efficiencies and coherence. As implementation starts and proceeds it will be important for this programme to document processes and lessons in order to share them with other countries that are also concurrently undertaking FLEGT and REDD+.

(n) Programme effectiveness, coherence with country strategies and other relevant initiatives, and cost-efficiency

The programme is highly congruent with the national strategies of the country, in particular the green development process that has been launched, as well as the broader forest governance processes. As indicated above, the country has already established institutional and coordination structures that aim at maximizing synergies. The level of organization and targeting of international assistance is equally well structured and demonstrates a thoughtful process of allocation of priorities and support. Should that same level of coordination led by the government be pursued during programme implementation, the cost-efficiency of the programme will likely prove to be one of the highest. It is recommended that this be tracked, maintained and strengthened throughout programme implementation.

5. Secretariat Review

Review Issues

(o) Management of risks and likelihood of success

Risks have been properly identified, including conflict-related risks, management related ones and the potential for corruption. The mitigation measures identified in the context of the R-PP are plausible and robust on paper, they will need to be monitored and implemented properly when the programmes start implementation. It is also recommended to conduct a regular review of risks and to adjust the programme's approach and strategy to address them as they emerge.

Other points:

The Cote d'Ivoire R-PP was presented to the UN-REDD Policy Board informally at its 11th meeting in Geneva. The comments of the PB have been integrated and incorporated into this new version now fully revised and aligned with version 6 of the R-PP. It is also noteworthy that the Cote d'Ivoire R-PP has been scrutinized by the FCPF PC and TAG and has received a satisfactory rating. The level of ambition, comprehensiveness and quality of the R-PP are laudable. As this is one of the very first R-PPs subjected to PB approval after FCPF-PC approval, the quality is clearly influenced by the first review under the FCPF. In going forward and in order to streamline further the process of approval, it may be useful for the PB to consider the NPD directly for countries where the R-PP has already been approved by the FCPF-PC.

This R-PP promises to be highly innovative and effective. It is recommended that proper resources and attention are provided to documenting lessons and processes during implementation in order to maximize the potential for transferring lessons from Cote d'Ivoire to other countries and to the global community.

6. Independent Technical Reviews

(a) Were independent technical reviews undertaken?

Yes No

Three independent technical reviews were undertaken, two of which were specifically requested to focus on aspects related to safeguards and payment for ecosystem services, while the third was focused on aspects related to private sector engagement and embedding REDD+ in broader development strategies.

6. Independent Technical Reviews

Synthesis of Independent Technical Reviews

With this project, RIC aims organizing the necessary structures, planning processes and legal framework to face climate change impacts. The country is already suffering due to savannization and decreasing of rainfall, both direct results of the huge rates of deforestation in the last 50 years.

The R-PP is well structured, follows state-of-art methodologies to assess participation, planning and monitoring processes. The systems that will be created are described as they can be in the best situation possible.

The major objective is to create a modern and effective REDD+ mechanism virtually from the scratch. UN-REDD+ is sought together with a pool of donors to support set up all the systems needed to achieve this goal. The main treat to the project is its dependency on political will in an environment of a quite recent stability and facing strong pressure for “old fashion development” and an international demand for new lands, in a country that didn’t yet secure land tenure.

Ivory Coast R-PP shows a lot of ambition for REDD+ as a mechanism to reverse a trend of relatively rapid deforestation while encouraging socio-economic development. To achieve this objective is might be recommendable to consider step-wise approach and further work on risks’ avoidance (especially considering the post conflict and still unstable political situation). Activities should be designed in order to ensure that objectives can be partly reached even in a difficult political situation.

It shows evidence of conflict sensitive, participative approaches and consultative process with coordination mechanisms build on consensus. The R-PP is coherent with national strategies, policies, National Development Plan 2012-2015, UNDAF 2013-2015 and other donors’ assistance frameworks (AFD, USAID, EU). Government co-financing is mainly in kind; discussions with the government to allocate 5%-10% of donors’ funding to REDD+ process are on going (c5).

A specific attention has been given to the involvement of all governmental institutions and other stakeholders and to participative methodologies to develop future activities and make decisions. A significant part of the consultation and participatory events expected in the next years has not funding ensured in the budget (see footnote 1) and future compliance must be monitored.

Components are more or less detailed but include preparatory works that give a good idea of the situation before REDD+ implementation and provide orientations for future development. This document would maybe benefit from more concision and from a better global coherence that is lacking a bit, giving the impression of too much complexity, a risk of less efficiency and of a need for coordination and optimization between REDD+ readiness activities.

Agriculture expansion has been highlighted among the direct drivers; and forest governance weakness among the indirect drivers. The R-PP identifies opportunities such as the implementation of a national system of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) to apply to agriculture and build on the synergy developed between the APV/FLEGT and REDD+ processes to address governance challenges by addressing forest

6. Independent Technical Reviews

loss/degradation, unregulated/undeveloped domestic market/illegalities, sustaining community/multi-actor participation in policy-making and resource access rights and benefit sharing, sustaining policy attention beyond negotiations/talks. Consideration of these drivers is identified as a part of the analysis of potential REDD+ strategies. The R-PP highlights the importance of the private sector engagement (forestry, agriculture) to increase the chances of success of the programme.

It will be important to adjust budgets to changing circumstances throughout the implementation process and to monitor expenditures to ensure continued cost efficiency. This efficiency, as well as the Programme effectiveness will highly depend on the capacity to optimize activities implementation. While working further on each component details, it might also be important to look for more coherence and optimization of expenses and processes over all components and activities.

With regards to the NFMS, a centralized data input, as the intend to do, required an impressive amount of time and trained personal – Brazil has good experience in decentralized and cooperative data base (BCDAM – decentralized database for the Amazon). Definition of a thesaurus to simplified the inclusion in the database of data collected by different institutions.

While frequently mentioned in the R-PP, the risks due to political instability, to the decline of State authority on some sectors and to the need for national reconciliation are not addressed. When refining the REDD+ strategy and the Programme (e.g. the institutional framework) it will be very important to ensure that activities are designed and implemented in a way that will mitigate those risks. The National Development Plan provides massive investments in infrastructure and agriculture that can work against the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. This should be taken into account in the context of preparation of the National REDD+ strategy.

The proposal takes risks in account, but donors – and UN-REDD+ among them – will need to support the ministries involved both with technically and financially. Social participation and organizational support, as well as legal modernization are key to the success of the proposal.

7. Secretariat Response

- Provide comments and request re-submission to a future Policy Board meeting
- Provide comments to be addressed before forwarding to the next immediate Policy Board meeting
- Forward to the Policy Board (with comments if necessary) with a recommendation to fund specific portions or phases (including an inception phase) of the NP
- Forward to the Policy Board (with comments if necessary) with a recommendation to fund the NP.

Explanation of Response:

Since PB11 and the first informal presentation of the Cote d'Ivoire R-PP, all comments of the PB have been taken on board. Furthermore, the R-PP has been subject to the review of the PC and TAP of the FCPF, resulting in a satisfactory rating. Lastly, all three independent reviews acknowledge the high quality and value of the R-PP.

8. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board

Decision of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board:

- Full NP approved, as per budget allocation in Section 4
- Initial NP approved, as per budget allocation in Section 4
- Approved with a revised budget of \$
- Approved with modification/condition
- Deferred/returned with comments for further consideration

Decision by the Policy Board:

The Policy Board approved **Cote D'Ivoire's** funding request of US\$ 3,210,000 for its National Programme, and associated budget allocation, as per the submission form, taking into account the recommendations from the independent technical reviews, and the Secretariat. These recommendations should be included in the R-PP and National Programme document prior to the finalization.

Comments:

The Full NP funding is approved by the Policy board. Comments and recommendations of the secretariat are included in the present submission form together with summaries of the independent reviews. The full details and comments of the technical reviews have been communicated to the national counterparts and agencies to be taken into account during the preparation of the NPD. The R-PP will require few if any adjustments as the reviews recognize its high quality and the comments provided during PB11 have already been addressed and incorporated.

8. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board

Waduwanatte L. Sumathipala
Chairman, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka
Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board



Signature

Date: 09.10.2014

Eduardo Rojas-Briaes
Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, FAO
Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board



Signature

Date: 8. 10. 2014

9. Administrative Agent Review

Action taken by the Administrative Agent: Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, Bureau of Management, UNDP

Programme consistent with provisions of the UN-REDD Programme MPTF Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Arrangements with donors.

Administrative Agent:

Yannick Glemarec, Executive Co-ordinator, Multi-Partner Trust Funds
Bureau of Management, United Nations Development Programme - MPTF Office

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Signature

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Date

