UNREDD/PB7/2011/7

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

National Programme Submission Form – Nigeria

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SEVENTH POLICY BOARD MEETING

13-14 October 2011
Berlin, Germany

In accordance with the decision of the Policy Board this document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of the UN-REDD Programme processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Participants are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings. Most of the UN-REDD Programmes meeting documents are available on the internet at: www.unredd.net.

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

1. Policy Board Submission	
Policy Board Meeting ☒ No. 7	Inter-sessional Meeting ☐
Date of Meeting: 13-14 Octobre 2011	Date of Inter-sessional Decision:

2. National Joint Programme Summary	
Details of National Joint Programme	
Country	Federal Republic of Nigeria
Programme[1] Title	Nigeria REDD+ Readiness Programme
Implementing Partner(s)[2]	Federal Ministry of Environment Forestry Commission of Cross River State
Details of Participating UN Organizations' Representatives	
UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Name: Mr. Daouda Touré *Title:* U.N. Resident Coordinator	Contact details: *Telephone:* N/A *Email:* daouda.toure@undp.org
FAO: *Name:* Ms. Louise Lobisa Setshwaelo *Title*: Country Representative	Contact details: *Telephone:* +234-9-4618744 *Email:* FAO-NG@fao.org
UNEP: *Name*: Ibrahim Thiaw Title: Director, Division of Environmental Policy	Contact details: *Telephone:* +254 20 7623508 *Email:* ibrahim.thiaw@unep.org
Type of National Joint Programme	
Full NJP: ☒ New Full NJP ☐ Continuation from an Initial NJP ☐ Other (explain)	Initial NJP ☐ New Initial NJP ☐ Continuation from previous funding ☐ 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

Nigeria's forests, which currently extend over 9.6 million hectares, have been dwindling rapidly over the past decades. The current deforestation rate is estimated at 3.7%, which is one of the highest in the world. Awareness of this issue is growing in the country and an ambitious nationwide reforestation programme with indigenous species and local involvement has been launched to simultaneously regain forest cover and improve community livelihoods across the country. In addition, Cross River State, which has more than 50% of Nigeria's remaining tropical high forests, declared a moratorium on timber extraction in 2008, now extended indefinitely, while starting to explore new environmental finance mechanisms to further protect the forests, with a priority focus on enhancing the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and rural dwellers. These initial steps to better protect the forests with a community focus and by exploring innovative means suggest a policy shift in Nigeria in the forest domain. However, the country needs further and more intense actions, coupled with external cooperation and support, to succeed in this crusade.

The REDD+ mechanism, as agreed under ongoing international negotiations in the climate-change convention, represents a valuable opportunity for Nigeria in their efforts for forest conservation, while contributing to climate change mitigation and enhancing community development alike. The Federal Government of Nigeria, reinforced by pioneering efforts from Cross River State, started to engage in REDD+ in 2009, requesting for membership of the UN-REDD Programme, which was granted. During 2010, with support from UNDP, the country took the first, tangible steps towards REDD+: it created the first REDD+ coordination and consultation structures, both at Federal level and in Cross River State, and conducted a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment of the REDD Context in Nigeria, thus setting the basis for REDD+ planning. Then the Federal Government with Cross River State embarked on preparing, consulting and validating a national REDD+ readiness programme, which was presented at the sixth UN-REDD Policy Board in March 2011. It was praised for its innovative approach, and received a number of comments for improvement with the aim of being finally considered for funding at the seventh UN-REDD Policy Board in October 2011. As part of developing and improving its proposal, Nigeria has launched work on various REDD+ streams, notably on socio-environmental safeguards, multiple ecosystem benefits, participatory governance assessment for REDD+, and enhanced capacities for UNFCCC reporting. A Nigeria REDD+ University was planned for September 2011 (then postponed in the aftermath of the Abuja bomb attack) as a major capacity-building event that will serve to build the basis for the programme’s inception, once approved.

The present proposal represents the primary means for Nigeria to access funding in order to embark on REDD+ readiness, doing so in line with negotiations under the UNFCCC, while integrating the federal, state and community levels for REDD+ in an innovative way. The country considers that the UN-REDD partnership, which was designed as a quick-start initiative to support countries to enhance capacities and stakeholder engagement for REDD+, is a suitable platform for their REDD+ readiness ambitions. The Federal Government of Nigeria and the Government of Cross River State are politically committed to develop and realise the REDD+ mechanism in the country, willing to work in synergy, combining their distinctive roles and capacities, employing participatory methods and advancing in close cooperation with the UN-REDD Programme.

The Nigeria REDD+ Readiness Programme envisions a two-track approach to achieve REDD+ readiness in Nigeria, based on: (i) the development of institutional and technical capacities at Federal level, and (ii) carrying out intense institutional, strategy-building and demonstration activities in Cross River State. In this sense, this REDD+ readiness programme will simultaneously build capacities at federal (national) and state (sub-national) levels, in a cooperative fashion. Federal-level work will provide the national policy direction for REDD+. State-level progress will inform the national process and guide pragmatically other states interested in REDD+. Cross River State has been retained as the pioneer, state-level demonstration model for a number of reasons, such as its political leadership and manifest engagement in forest conservation, its efforts to bringing the REDD+ mechanism in Nigeria, and its major potential for GHG emissions reduction from the forest sector in view that it hosts over 50% of the country's high tropical forests. The Nigeria’s approach to REDD+ represents an innovative process in the world, suiting well the recent Cancun Agreements on climate change (2010).

3. Executive Summary

The goal of the Programme is to enable Nigeria to contribute to climate change mitigation through improved forest conservation and enhancing sustainable community livelihoods. The objective is to build the REDD+ mechanism in Nigeria, using Cross River State as a demonstration model. The Programme is structured in four outcomes, two at the Federal level and two focusing on Cross River State, as follows:

1. Improved institutional and technical capacity at the national level.
2. Framework for REDD+ expansion across Nigeria prepared.
3. Institutional and technical capacity for REDD+ in Cross River State strengthened.
4. REDD+ readiness demonstrated in Cross River State.

These outcomes are unfolded into 14 outputs and a broad set of core and indicative activities, all structured into a coherent and detailed Results Framework. The outputs and proposed activities address all REDD+ readiness components as proposed internationally, and include support for management of REDD+ readiness (both at federal level and in Cross River State), stakeholder engagement, learning and dialogue (from the federal level to communities), enhanced regional and international engagement on REDD+, a national MRV framework coupled with Cross River State's forest monitoring capacity, establishment of mechanisms for social & environmental safeguards and the promotion of multiple benefits, coordinated support for REDD+ experimental and field initiatives in Cross River State, and broad dissemination of the knowledge and best practices that will emerge throughout the implementation of the Programme. Specific outputs also provide for building a preliminary national strategy for expanding REDD+ across Nigeria (to allow the rolling out of REDD+ in new states) and a REDD+ Strategy in Cross River State (to trigger transition to REDD's phase 2).

The Programme’s budget is US$ 4 million, as currently available from the UN-REDD Programme for the Africa region. This will allow substantial progress, although some outputs will need co-financing to be fully attained. The proposed timing is two and a half years, with implementation intended to start in January 2012. The three UN-REDD agencies (namely FAO, UNDP and UNEP) will share technical and fiduciary responsibilities. The Programme will be implemented by two units: the National REDD+ Secretariat (under the aegis of the Special Climate Change Unit, and the technical support of the Federal Department of Forestry) and the Forestry Commission of Cross River State. They will have management and implementation responsibilities for outcomes 1-2 and 3-4, respectively. The National Advisory Council on REDD+ will be slightly reformed to serve as the Programme's Executive Board. The National REDD+ Technical Committee will provide technical advice and support across the entire programme activities, in close cooperation with Cross River State’s REDD+ team. A number of mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, technical support and policy advice are envisaged to guide and enrich the implementation. In view of the weak capacities for REDD+ in the country and the wish of country stakeholders to progress at a good pace, the Programme will recruit a number of national and international professionals to support smooth implementation, provide high technical quality and foster dynamic stakeholder engagement.

The two-track approach of Nigeria, which combines efforts at both national (Federal) and sub-national (Cross River State) levels, will allow an integrated, multifaceted process for REDD+, from federal governance to forest communities. It is envisaged that as federal capacities grow, new Nigerian states with political commitment will join in the REDD+ process. The intended intense action in Cross River State will in turn inform the national REDD+ readiness framework and provide a model for replication in other interested states, as appropriate. This approach is not only dynamic, building from the bottom up, but it is politically appropriate since Nigeria is a federal country where states and local communities hold rights over the forests and also exercise major policy and investment roles. It is equally the most feasible approach in view that Nigeria is a vast and complex country, with uneven levels of REDD+ awareness and interest across their 36 states. This approach is thus based on a pragmatic, learning and scaling-up dynamic.

3. Executive Summary

The Nigeria REDD+ Readiness Programme has been developed with inputs from a range of Nigerian and international technical and policy specialists, including support from UN-REDD professionals. It was enriched by a series of consultations, UN-REDD support missions, and appraisal/validation events in Abuja, the federal capital, and in Cross River State, between November 2010 and August 2011, including forest community representatives. It was prepared under the spirit of the quick-start approach of the UN-REDD Programme, hence aiming at mobilising prompt initial funding and UN advice to explore and start building REDD+. The Programme was first presented and discussed at the sixth UN-REDD Policy Board in March 2011. It was later improved by addressing comments received from members of the UN-REDD Policy Board, from a 3-member Independent Technical Review team commissioned by the UN-REDD Secretariat, and from a number of technical and dialogue events in Nigeria (notably on governance and socio-environmental safeguards). This Programme is submitted for consideration for financial support by the UN-REDD Policy Board at its seventh meeting in October 2011. It is expected that the Programme will serve as a platform to mobilise more partners, alliances and funding for full-fledge REDD+ work across all Nigeria.

4. National Programme Budget (UN-REDD Fund Source only)*					
Outcomes	**National Total ($)**	**Pass-through Funding Allocations**	**FAO ($)**	**UNDP ($)**	**UNEP ($)**
Outcome 1: Improved institutional and technical capacity at the national level	725,000			645,000	80,000
Outcome 2: Framework for REDD+ expansion across Nigeria prepared	485,000		395,000	90,000	
Outcome 3: Institutional & technical capacity for REDD+ in Cross River State strengthened	1,615,318		662,000	953,318	
Outcome 4: REDD+ readiness demonstrated in Cross River State	913,000			555,000	358,000
Sub-total	3,738,318		1,057,000	2,243,318	438,000
Indirect Support Costs	261,682		73,990	157,032	30,660
Grand Total ($)	4,000,000		1,130,990	2,400,350	468,660

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 NJP document. Please see Annex 1.

- If requested and agreed 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		
Submission Criteria		
(a)	Is the NJP consistent with the UN-REDD Programme Framework Document?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(b)	Has the UN Resident Coordinator been involved in submitting the NJP?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(c)	Is documentation of the in-country validation meeting(s) included?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(d)	Did the validation include the national government counterpart (or designate)?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(e)	Did the validation include civil society/Indigenous Peoples representation as per the UN-REDD Operational Guidance[3]?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(f)	Does the NJP comply with the required format *(incl., cover page, results framework, etc.)*?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(g)	Does the NJP comply with UN-REDD Rules of Procedure and relevant Operational Guidance?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(h)	Is the required budget allocation provided (see section 3 above)?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(i)	Are the Indirect Support Costs within the approved rate?	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(j)	Is the Programme Summary completed? *(for posting on website)*	Yes ☒ No ☐ Unclear ☐
(k)	Is the Progress Report included? *(for supplementary funding only)*	Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐
If the answer is 'No' or 'Unclear' to any question, or further explanation is required, please provide here:		

[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 NJP by government and non-government stakeholders

The document demonstrates clear ownership and high-level political commitment by the Government of Nigeria. The National Programme Document (NPD) has been developed by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Forestry Commission of Cross River State with the support of the UN-Agencies. According to the document, the REDD+ processes in Nigeria is mainstreamed with other Government sectors, and has taken into account existing relevant policies, strategies and regulations both at Federal and State levels.

The initial institutional structure for coordination on REDD+ is established in Nigeria, through the creation of a

- A National Advisory Council on REDD+
- A National Technical REDD+ Committee, and
- The National REDD+ Secretariat

Nigeria is also, upon their request, piloting UN-REDD+ participatory governance assessment (PGA) that aims to help the country to build REDD+ governance under a country led process.

(m)	Level of consultation, participation and engagement

Nigeria initially drafted its National Programme planning to submit it for consideration by the sixth Policy Board. However, since the document was not submitted on time for consideration, it was only available as an information document at that meeting. The stakeholder's appraisal of the National Programme (validation meeting) was carried out in February 2011, and had the participation of more than 100 government and non-government stakeholders including civil society and indigenous people's representatives.

Since then, and as reported in this revised version of the National Programme Document, further consultation activities have been carried out including initial consultations for PGA and the development of FPIC guidelines.

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

The objective of the Nigeria's National Programme is directly linked to the Nigeria's National Forest Policy (2006) and other relevant national and state level strategies. Although is not mentioned in the document, the NPD also consistent with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF, 2009-2012), in particular with the first area of concentration (governance and accountability).

5. Secretariat Review	
Review Issues	
(o)	Management of risks and likelihood of success
The document includes a risk assessment section including proposed measures to mitigate risks. The Secretariat recommends that this section is further improved prior the NPD's signature strengthening the risk assessment and linking it to the results framework, monitoring framework, and reporting obligations. Nigeria could also consider if they wish to apply the Social & Environmental Principles and Criteria and the draft Tool as a way of voluntarily strengthening the risk management framework.	
Other points: The Secretariat considers that the vast majority of the recommendations from independent reviewers and initial comments by Policy Board members have been sufficiently addressed in the National Programme Document in consideration. It recommends further explanation of how emission displacement and leakage will be addressed specifically in terms of the design and implementation of the monitoring and MRV system at a national level.	

6. Independent Technical Review		
(a)	Was an independent technical review undertaken?	Yes ☒ No ☐
If not, why not?		

6. Independent Technical Review

Synthesis of Independent Technical Review

The Secretariat sent Nigeria's NPD to three independent technical reviewers on March 2011, the comments from independent reviewers and Policy Board members that submitted their initial written comments were forwarded to the Government, and have been incorporated into the National Programme Document submitted for consideration by the seventh Policy Board meeting. A response matrix explaining how the comments are addressed is included as part of this submission.

The reviewers highlighted:

- The innovative approach of Nigeria's REDD+ plans, including the integration of Federal and State-level REDD+ readiness plans
- The rapid progress Nigeria made on REDD+ readiness through the preparation of the National Programme document
- The high level of ownership and political commitment for REDD+ in Nigeria while acknowledging the work that stills need to be done regarding capacity building to build up a reasonable degree of understanding of REDD+ among stakeholders

Recommendations from Policy Board members included:

- Ensuring addressing the risk of displacement of emissions and adhering to the Cancun agreements, considering that Nigeria proposes a two track approach for REDD+ readiness (Federal and state levels)
- Addressing questions regarding if rapid progress at a State level through REDD + phases would be consistent with agreed international REDD+ standards
- Requesting clarification on the conceptual framework for Nigeria's approach to REDD+ safeguards
- Requesting a description of the role that illegality plays on driving deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria
- Furthering the stakeholder engagement process
- Adding more data on forest resources from information available on other sources
- Improving the analysis on drivers of deforestation, particularly for the Cross River State
- Clarifying the level of co-financing needed to achieve the proposed results and the proposed actions to achieve the co-financing

More detailed comments are available in the full reports.

The Secretariat considers that the vast majority of the recommendations have been sufficiently addressed in the National Programme Document for consideration by the seventh Policy Board, and acknowledges that some recommendations are relevant to the inception/implementation phase of the National Programme. The response matrix also includes the latest comments and proposes means of addressing them during the implementation.

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 NJP
- ☒ Forward to the Policy Board (with comments if necessary) with a recommendation to fund the NJP.

7. Secretariat Response

Explanation of Response:

The Secretariat considers Nigeria's submission as consistent with the UN-REDD Programme framework documents and the rules of procedures and operational guidance. The proposal shows strong Government ownership and a sufficient initial consultation processes. It also reflects an innovative and comprehensive plan for REDD+ readiness in the country. The Secretariat recommends the Policy Board approves the funding allocation request.

8. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board

Decision of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board:

- ☐ Full NJP approved, as per budget allocation in Section 4
- ☐ Initial NJP 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

Comments:

8. Decision of the UN-REDD Policy Board

Yetti Rusli
Senior Adviser to the Minister of Forestry on Environment and Climate Change, Indonesia
Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

_____
Signature

Alexander Müller
Assistant Director General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department, FAO
Co-Chair, UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

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Signature

9. Administrative Agent Review

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

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

Administrative Agent:
Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Co-ordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Funds
Bureau of Management, United Nations Development Programme - MDTF Office

…… ……..
Signature Date

Annex 1: Standard Joint Programme Budget

CATEGORY	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT COST	NUMBER OF UNITS	AMOUNT**
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport				
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)				
3. Training of counterparts				
4. Contracts				
5. Other direct costs				
Total Programme Costs				
Indirect Support costs***				
GRAND TOTAL**				

**** The AA requires only completion of 'AMOUNT,' 'Total Programme Costs,' Indirect Support Costs,' and 'GRAND TOTAL.' The Steering Committee may require additional details which can be included in this budget.

*** Indirect support cost should be in line with the rate or range specified in the Fund TOR (or Joint Programme Document) and MOU and SAA for the particular JP. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs is 7%.

All other costs incurred by each Participating UN Organization in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 62/209 (2008 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review principle of full cost recovery).

Note: This budget format needs to be submitted for each Participating Organization's budget allocation within a National Joint Programme, in addition to the total budget for the entire Joint Programme.