

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT,
DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE ET
DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTION DE LA CONSERVATION
ET DE LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES
NATURELLES

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
PROTECTION OF NATURE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DEPARTMENT FOR CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT

**Request for UN-REDD Global Programme targeted support to Cameroon's
REDD+ Readiness Activities**

1- Introduction

This project is out to promote information-sharing and coordination between REDD+ and FLEGT processes. It will contribute to the national efforts of strengthening coordination within the forest sector as well as in relation to other land use sectors.

The activities to be financed by UN_REDD are part of a larger proposal titled "Building national capacity for stakeholder participation in for forest governance – FLEGT, REDD+ Interface". This proposal, developed by the REDD+ technical secretariat and in consultation with the FLEGT team, seeks to identify complementary funding to form a holistic approach to the REDD+, FLEGT interface in Cameroon. Details of the project are outlined below.

Project title: Building national capacity for stakeholder participation in forest governance (FLEGT_REDD+ Interface).

Principal implementing institutions: MINEPDED-MINFOF through the REDD+ and FLEGT technical secretariats;

Partner institutions and possible funders: UN-REDD/FAO, EU-FAO, PSFE, IUCN, WWF.

Beneficiaries: State institutions, Indigenous/local communities, local NGOs and CSOs, Mining and Forest exploitation companies etc.

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2- CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Participatory forest governance is a central concern for sustainable forest conservation policy development and implementation. The question of participatory forest governance provides a major justification for donor interest in the forest sector. This project addresses the governance implications of initiatives in the forest sector, particularly in promoting the effective coordination of the 'Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade' (FLEGT) and the REDD+ mechanism. This initiative is expected to achieve mutual benefits as well as improve forest governance in the country.

Despite the generally held view that REDD+ and FLEGT need to take the initiative in improving forest governance, and that clarification and recognition of customary tenure rights are key for both to be effective, REDD+ and FLEGT are evolving as decidedly different mechanisms, with different aims and processes – and hence, markedly differing but complementary approaches to preventing forest loss. Previous attempts to use donor assistance and external influence to leverage forest governance have had an uneven, often poor, record in the more challenging tropical contexts, be it through public or private sector (for example, forest certification). New initiatives linked to FLEGT are thus of particular interest, especially those that seek to use demand-side pressures to leverage reform development and implementation.

Therefore, improving forest governance may well lie at the heart of FLEGT and REDD+ implementation. The EU FLEGT Action Plan considers illegal logging a symptom of bad governance and that to address it, work needs to focus first and foremost on improving governance. Strengthening land tenure rights and access rights for forest dependent communities, increasing transparency, strengthening effective participation of all stakeholders, notably of civil society groups and indigenous peoples, and reducing corruption are all key elements of the VPA. On the other hand, the focus of REDD+ is on reducing **emissions** from deforestation and forest degradation and maintaining existing carbon stocks. To do this, forest carbon monitoring systems have to be established, social safeguards put in place and a benefit sharing mechanism developed with the participation of local and indigenous forest communities.

REDD's focus on forest carbon aims at creating a forest carbon market needed to deliver funds required for REDD to work. Forest carbon therefore needs to be monitored and accounted for. When such a market is realised in combination to the Payment for Environmental Services (PES), it would benefit forests communities. It therefore becomes imperative for REDD to focus on forest governance as well to strengthen the link with the existing EU sponsored FLEGT programme. The Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) that the EU proposed to establish with tropical timber exporting countries are of this type. VPAs and other FLEGT initiatives could well have a positive impact in terms of reducing the volume of illegal timber on the international market, and could set the context for responsible forest enterprise on public lands, aiding the development of mandatory standards and helping to bring transparency and accountability to the operations of the sector.

However, pursuing governance reform through trade agreements biases the process more towards the performance of timber operators than the obligations of governments to their citizens, and there is as yet little evidence that FLEGT initiatives

have delivered significant reforms in contentious areas such as tree tenure and other property rights. The collaboration between the FLEGT process and the REDD+ mechanism is surely going to promote greater transparency in tenure issues greater participation of the local actors in natural resources management.

Also, the FLEGT process could be much more consolidated through collaboration with the REDD+ mechanism, to promote pro-poor or equitable efforts that focus beyond trade agreements. In the long run, such initiatives shall enhance the political economy by promoting greater stakeholder participation in sustainable forest management. If this succeeds, then the actions of non-state agencies (NGOs and other 'civil society' actors) that have been prominent in the FLEGT process and have contributed positively to forest governance reforms, shall be able to assert and guarantee benefits that accrue from reduced pressure on the forest resources. Creating symbiotic link between the REDD+ mechanism and the FLEGT Process is likely to be a better approach in safeguarding the legitimate interests of non-state actors and local communities.

There is therefore the need to maintain the value of the macro-political effects of the FLEGT process under the spotlight, and to re-enforce this with the REDD+ mechanism in regards to the future structure and dynamics of forest governance and tenure as well as safeguards and benefit sharing that are fundamental in stakeholder participation.

3- OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

In the R-PP of Cameroon, there exist theoretical synergies between the REDD+ mechanism and the FLEGT process and these need to be made more concrete. At the level of consultation and participation, the two process look similar but the REDD+ mechanism places more emphasis on safeguards and tenure issues that need to be explored in future conservation strategy.

The principal objective of this project is to carry out national capacity building for stakeholders to foster participation of state and non-state actors in forest governance.

Specific objectives of the project include:

Objective 1: Raise awareness of relevant stakeholders on the linkages between REDD+ and FLEGT and encouraging their participation in the processes (UN-REDD/FAO target);

Objective 2: Facilitate regular information-sharing between REDD+ and FLEGT processes and stakeholders, in the context of cross-sectoral coordination (UN-REDD/FAO target);

Objective 3: Identify and use good practices developed by the FLEGT process and make this useful to the REDD+ mechanism;

Objective 4: Train the VPA/FLEGT team of REDD+ related issues and the REDD+ coordination team on FLEGT issues;

Objective 5: Develop joint collaboration activities between FLEGT and REDD+.

4- EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Awareness raising to relevant stakeholders on the linkages between REDD+ and FLEGT and their participation in the processes are encouraged (FAO target);
- Regular information-sharing between REDD+ and FLEGT processes and stakeholders, in the context of cross-sectoral coordination are promoted (FAO target);
- Good practices developed by the FLEGT process are identified and used to enhance the REDD+ mechanism;
- The REDD+ and the FLEGT teams are trained;
- Joint activities of REDD+ and FLEGT are developed and implemented;

5- ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION, TIME FRAME AND BUDGET

ACTIVITY	BUDGET US \$	TIME FRAME	OBSERVATION
Objective 1: Raise awareness of relevant stakeholders on the linkages between REDD+ and FLEGT and encourage their participation in the processes			
Two-day national workshop on REDD+ and FLEGT	16,000 USD	August 2013-Sept 2014	UN-REDD/FAO as funding agency Workshops
Objective 2: Facilitate regular information-sharing between REDD+ and FLEGT processes and stakeholders, in the context of cross-sectoral coordination			
Informal platform of exchange on REDD+, FLEGT and related forest sector activities	11,400 USD	August 2013-Sept 2014	UN-REDD/FAO as funding agency Workshops
Regular information bulletins on REDD+ and FLEGT activities	8,400 USD	Quarterly	UN-REDD/FAO as funding agency Information Bulletins
Total request from UN-REDD/FAO	35,800 USD		
Objective 3: Identify and use good practices developed by the FLEGT process and make this useful to the REDD+ mechanism	45,000	May 2013-December 2013	Other funding agencies Consultancy services and Workshops
Objective 4: Train the VPA/FLEGT team of REDD+ related issues and the REDD+ coordination team on FLEGT issues	60,000	Sept-December 2013	Other funding agencies Consultancy services and International exchange travels
Objective 5: Develop joint collaboration activities between FLEGT and REDD+	70,000	June 2013-March 2014	Consultancy services
Total requested from other funding agencies	165,000		
Total request	200,800 US\$		

The project will insert itself in national efforts towards REDD+ readiness, for which the VPA/FLEGT process – which is well advanced in Cameroun - has been identified as providing valuable achievements in terms of legislation, consultation and dialogue with stakeholders. An important element of REDD+ readiness will therefore be to capitalize on the teachings of the VPA/FLEG process and through information and knowledge sharing, establish synergies in the implementation of REDD+ activities, wherever appropriate.

The length of the project is expected to be 12 months and activities are due to start by August-September 2013. A second phase of the project may be considered for 2014, possibly in collaboration with other organizations, in which case another formal request for support would be sent to the UN-REDD Programme in due time.

The detailed Terms of References (TdRs) for each activity shall be forwarded to you when we receive your financial approval.