



## SEMI-ANNUAL JOINT PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

Country/Global	<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>
Title:	<b>UN-REDD Programme (phase 1)</b>
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### I. PURPOSE

This programme aims at putting in place the enabling conditions for a REDD strategy in the DR Congo. Its core objectives are: (i) to prepare a Readiness Plan (R-Plan) through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach; (ii) to inform and train stakeholders in order for them to actively participate in the REDD process; and (iii) to lay the technical foundations for REDD. The programme is accordingly structured in 3 components that respond to each of these objectives.

The Programme corresponds to the phase-1 on UN-REDD, for the duration of approximately one year during which phase-2 will be formulated and duly submitted to the UN-REDD Policy Board. The budget for this phase is estimated at about US\$ 1.8 million. The programme was elaborated through a qualitative dialogue with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, both national and international. Its current structure and contents were developed during two multi-stakeholder and participatory REDD missions in January and May 2009.

The UN-REDD programme supports DRC through a robust readiness process, to allow the country to take part in the international REDD system which is expected to come out from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. It will set the conditions for the country to access international funding to address the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in a way that contributes to fight poverty and meet the MDGs. In this way, the programme is closely related to the overall national and UNDAF development goals in DRC. The practical support of the programme to build the national PRSP will become more and more concrete once the roadmap for the whole readiness process (phase 2) is finalised and endorsed.

The programme is financed from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) for UN-REDD, with funding from the Government of Norway and Denmark. The MDTF is implemented via a Pass-through mechanism, which distributes technical and financial roles among the participating agencies: FAO, UNDP and UNEP. Within country, the programme is lodged in

the REDD National Coordination (NC-REDD). The UN-REDD programme is the main support to the NC-REDD. In September 2009, a \$200,000 support was provided directly by the World Bank as part of the FCPF programme.

In the country, the programme is implemented by the NC-REDD, in a highly participative approach which includes:

- Public Authority (Government, Ministries, Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism and its various departments and agencies, National Assembly, Decentralised Authorities (Provincial governments and Assembly) and De-concentrated Authorities (Provincial Coordination).
- Civil Society, which is organising itself as a national platform, gathering progressively all the national and local associations and networks from every part of the civil society life (environment, human rights, minorities, confessions)
- International NGOs, Technical and Financial Partners (UN agencies, bilateral missions, GTZ(Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit), DFID(UK Department for International Development), AFD(Agence Française de Développement), WWF(World Wildlife Fund), AWF(African Wildlife Foundation), CI(Conservation International), WCS(Wildlife Conservation Society), ONFI(Office National des Forêts International)
- The private sector such as FEC (Fédération des Entreprises Congolaise), FIB (Fédération de Industriels du Bois) and Novacel)
- Academia; University of Kinshasa(UNIKIN), and University of Kisangani(UNIKIS)

## II. RESOURCES

During this phase 1, the overall UN-REDD resources in DRC were provided by Norway (\$1.8) and were spread across the three programme components as follows:

Outcomes	FAO (\$)	UNDP(\$)	UNEP(\$)	Total
1. Planning and coordination		600,000	80,000	680,000
2. Capacity Building		265,000		265,000
3. Technical dimensions	545,000		270,000	815,000
Indirect Support Cost (7%)	38,150	60,550	24,500	123,200
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>583,150</b>	<b>925,550</b>	<b>374,500</b>	<b>1,883,200</b>

For more details, see appendix A.

## III. RESULTS

The programme is progressing smoothly, at a good pace, delivering results faster than expected. There follows a summary of the state of implementation regarding the three key objectives of the project:

- (i) to prepare a Readiness Plan (R-Plan) through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach:
  - The R-Plan was finalised and delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010, after an intense highly inclusive, transparent and participative process that has been acknowledged by stakeholders of all kinds, and notably by national civil society, which supported

actively the drafting of the document. The R-Plan is a solid roadmap document, with substance and a length of about 150 pages, which was elaborated on the basis of several studies and data-collection exercises, consultations, working commissions and public audiences. It contains a vision with a timeline, a Results Framework, reflexions of substance, an institutional framework, plenty of operational and practical guidance elements, a broad and refined set of activities and interventions to realise (including 30 different action lines and over 100 tasks) and a detailed budget. This R-Plan served to secure financial allocations and approval by both the UN-REDD Policy Board and the FCPF's Participants Committee, which met in March 2010. Final improvements have been added to the R-Plan following comments received from the UN-REDD Policy Board, the FCPF Participant Committee, various technical review committees and civil society stakeholders. The final R-Plan was released on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This financial support to engage the implementation of the R-Plan is expected by September for UN-REDD and by the end of the year for the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) of the World Bank. Co-financing is being sought and to a large extent secured – its availability is expected by the end of the year. **The first project objective is thus fully met, beyond expectations.**

- (i) Inform and train stakeholders in order for them to actively participate in the REDD process
- A broad set of activities related to information, education, communication and consultations has been implemented during the first semester of 2010, in an intensive manner. For instance, the validation of the R-Plan, in January-February, engaged more than a hundred stakeholders, which participated in the process through 11 different workshops, mixing general scoping sessions with technical hands-on working groups. The round of workshops to introduce REDD in provinces was also completed, and a new round of training session for media professional was also launched in Kinshasa and provinces... As a summary, the information and training of stakeholders kept going at an intense pace during the whole semester.
- (ii) Lay the technical foundations for REDD.
- The momentum engaged in 2009 remained robust as UN-REDD's support allowed improving technical knowledge among a significant range of stakeholders, from technical divisions (Directions) within the Ministry for the Environment (MECNT) to Civil Society organisations, including various focal points in other Ministries, and at Presidential level, technical and financial partners, private sector, academia... These technical foundations are being laid in a way that fully involves stakeholders in the solution building process, through working groups and committees, including the preparation of the implementation of the National and Interministerial Committees.

As a summary, the objectives of the first period of support from UN-REDD have been met, and DRC is ready to engage in the implementation of the R-Plan.

The activities undertaken during the period from January to June, 2010, cover the four components of the DRC's readiness roadmap, as follows:

**Component 1: National coordination, global running, IEC, consultation, mobilisation, and community empowerment**

- The R-Plan has been completed during this semester. Since January 2010, more than 100 people participated in the development and refinement of the R-PP. 4 consultation workshops were organised, around 50 people worked in specialised work groups through six work sessions to improve specific components of the document, and a validation workshop with 80 participants was organised. Exchanges with civil society were constant through the process.
- The round of workshops to launch the process throughout the country has been completed. After a three days workshop in Mbandaka, in Equateur province, in March, the last workshop took place in Lubumbashi from April 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, with the last day dedicated to civil society and network settlement.
- National ownership, participatory design and very extensive stakeholder consultation are key principles of the UN REDD programme. Providing substantive technical and logistical support and participating in the national level coordination structures (several committees and working groups) is key to support the work of the National Coordination. It is worth highlighting that the three agencies via their local and international team provide time to time support during all the UN-REDD & FCPF joint missions, conferences, meetings and the R-PP drafting.

Conferences and debates have been organised, for example with technical and financial partners (February the 18<sup>th</sup>) and notably in the Universities, UNIKIN, Institut Supérieur des Techniques Appliquées (ISTA) and , Institut Supérieur Pédagogique (ISP)—on June 18<sup>th</sup>

- Numerous activities have been mediatised, but some have been specifically developed for large media dissemination, for example a restitution of the Copenhagen negotiations on TV and radios (RTNC, Digital, RTGA on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Several products and tools for communication and training have been developed:
  - Calendars
  - Flyers
  - Articles
  - Radio and TV documentaries and shows (see above)
  - Radio and TV awareness raising spots under the form of small performance with professional actors
  - REDD song (in progress)
- A special emphasis was put on working closely and supporting the implementation of the national platform of civil society organisations and network, Groupe de Travail Climat REDD (GTCR). Numerous meetings were held to follow and support this process, and led to very encouraging results. Civil society participated in strategy development and studies; they were involved in the preparation of terms of reference, and were generally incorporated in the mission teams as complementary national experts. Civil society is organising itself through platforms at provincial level (currently operational in 5 different provinces out of 11). Civil society is the major vehicle on which the REDD is anchored at the local level, and so it is closely involved in the IEC Plan to cover the country with IEC and consultations campaign. By the end of the semester, the National Coordination also supported the GTCR efforts toward formal institutionalisation, in order to engage in an official relationship with the national authority and set up the rules of transparency and partnership with the

Ministry of Environment (this cooperation strengthening process is expected to lead to an MOU between the civil society platform (GTCR) and the Ministry of Environment.

- A Joint mission was organised from February 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, involving UN-REDD agencies, World Bank FCPF's representative, international NGO's representatives, a major financial partner, (Norway) and all relevant stakeholder within the country such as the MECNT, GTCR for civil society and other technical and financial partners. The success of this fourth joint mission was highlighted by a communiqué from the GTCR which greeted the momentum for an exemplary process for REDD in DRC.
- A whole recruitment and training process has been launched in June in order to prepare the National Coordination to fully endorse its position and role in the next stage. Terms of references for hiring 6 staffs within the UN-REDD have been prepared and circulated. A project to organise intense training courses for the new staff was initiated in June, and to be further developed in subsequent months. It's been eventually known as the First University of REDD and involved more than 250 participants among all stakeholders of the process in DRC and abroad.
- The UN-REDD has been also directly involved in supporting DRC with technical advice at international negotiations (UNFCCC Bonn sessions of April and June 2010, as well as more specific sessions on finance (Petersberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of May) or as part of the process to build and implement the Partnership for Forests (Paris on March 11<sup>th</sup>, Oslo on May the 27<sup>th</sup>). This support strengthened the position and credibility of DRC among the international community, and notably with donor countries for REDD. Numerous meeting and informal consultations have been held with these partners, and has led to close and regular links being set up between DRC and donor countries.
- This activity is particularly relevant when it comes to secure further funding for the REDD process in DRC, as the successful application of DRC to the FIP gave further evidence on June 24<sup>th</sup>. This preparatory work also helps preparing a multi-donor roundtable to complete the financial support to the R-Plan implementation to be held in the last months of 2010. The UN-REDD activities at the heart of the readiness process of DRC has triggered and increased REDD funding for the country (as illustrated by the FIP) and will certainly keep playing a key role in the next stages.
- National Coordination also contributed to spreading DRC's experience and work at various occasions, for example in supporting the process of readiness in the Republic of Congo (workshop of Brazzaville on January 20<sup>th</sup>) or in sharing its experience with other countries (South-South cooperation with Indonesia and Brazil, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, presentation of SESA at PC6 of the FCPF in Guyana on June 29<sup>th</sup>). UNDP and UNEP both contributed to the experience sharing within Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) countries by supporting the participation of delegates, including civil society members, in various regional and international forums.

**Component 2: Building national strategy and technical, institutional and legal readiness**

As part of component 2 of the national REDD process, studies, general consultations and preparation on key issues like MRV and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) were carried out

- A major study on drivers and actors of deforestation and forest degradation in DRC continued, with three specific workflows on (i) the quantitative analysis run by UCL, (ii) the intensive qualitative analysis by UNEP as part of its post-conflict environmental analysis, and (iii) the extensive qualitative analysis by FAO. The objective of this work is to reach a national consensus on drivers of deforestation and degradation by the end of the first trimester 2011.
- For the quantitative study, the production of data on trends from 2000 and 2005 could not be completed by end of June 2010 due to technical problems that have now been fixed and a first preliminary report has been issued in July. This work is mainly run by experts in Belgium, but a whole process of discussion on the ground with national stakeholders will take place in the second half of 2010, and a proposal of the methodology (including consultations in provinces) will be discussed jointly with national stakeholders in August.
- Regarding UNEP contribution under the Post-Conflict Environmental Assessment, qualitative information on deforestation factors have been collected from different sites in DR Congo, province by province. The work of compilation and analysis of data was ongoing by the end of June 2010, in order to provide information to support the field investigation phase to be led by FAO (see above).
- Regarding the extensive quality analysis from FAO, the first synthesis produced in December 2009 based on bibliography review was upgraded and circulated in provinces as part of dialogue sessions initiated with Bandundu in April 2010, and followed by Orientale. This dialogue process intends to refine the bibliography analysis, contribute to build trust, and set up the ground for national consensus on the drivers of deforestation and degradation. The dialogue in provinces will be completed and a synthesis document will be produced in the second semester.
- Assessment of successful forest conservation experiences and lessons learned is also a key study in the readiness process. It has been divided in two phases. The first phase took place between January and February 2010, and consisted in a desk review run by an international and two national consultants. Regarding the second stage, the terms of reference, consultants' selection and budget organisation were settled by the end of June. The mission will be carried out by an international consultant and three national consultants from August to October 2010. The second phase will lay the emphasis on field work to come out with information on best ways to design REDD projects. For both phase 1 and 2, national experts were also hired among civil society to foster participation, exchange and transparency.
- The readiness process also requires DRC to build capacity and tools to manage social and environmental, economic and governance impacts and co-benefits from the REDD process. During the first semester 2010, National Coordination initiated the work on the socio-environmental component under (SESA). Meetings, consultations of parties, ToR drafting started and will keep going under the supervision of the National REDD Office, with a strong leadership and support from UNEP. A Supervision Committee has been set up to run the SESA and its outcome. It gathers the services of the ddivision des Services Environnementaux Ministry (DSE) GEEC, GTCR (Civil Society), NC-REDD and its partners (UNEP, World Bank in particular).

- Otherwise, consultations and preliminary thoughts and ToR writing were carried out as regard the other planned studies. For example, the national analysis of current sector-based programmes has been framed and mutualised with UNDP process to support the Ministry of Plan with the national process toward the second Document Stratégique de Croissance et de Réduction de la Pauvreté. The mission started in July 2010. Also, the study on the implementation framework, including a special and early emphasis on the financial and fiduciary system to channel international money to the various users nationally and locally. The first ToRs were included in the R-PP, and further talks were carried out with partners, including the World Bank and Greenpeace. The ToRs are expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2011. An overview of targeted financial system is expected before the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP16) in Cancun, and the study on implementation framework should also be launched by then.
- , Two ongoing studies depend on the progress on other studies. The study to design national reference scenario still requires more input from the study on the drivers of deforestation and the study on sector-based programmes nationwide. Also, the discussions on the revenue distribution and sharing study are still at their earlier stage. A draft of the TOR was made available in the R-PP document, and further contribution have been received even though reflexions are still ongoing nationally, with the GTCR and internationally with UNEP (workshops on co-benefits and sharing process). Also, it appears that further guidance on strategic options are compulsory before engaging in-depth on this benefit sharing issue.
- During the first quarter of 2010, the preparation of the MRV system continued at a relatively low pace. The final proposal from FAO as discussed and endorsed by Direction des Inventaires et de l'Aménagement Forestier (DIAF) and Direction du Développement Durable (DDD) was incorporated in the R-Plan in March 2010, but the interest from other stakeholders such as the Japanese International Cooperation System (JICS), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and United States Aid Agency (USAID) in supporting this MRV building has kept the finalisation of the target and the associated plan of action on hold. Several assessment missions and discussions were held with stakeholders during the second trimester, and no clear picture of the role and responsibilities of each contributor has been provided so far by the Ministry. Moreover, FAO has also been working simultaneously on a proposal to integrate national and regional MRV systems, with the idea of making a more robust and efficient system. This integration process didn't allow moving as fast as expected at the national level. At last, on the ground, the training of the staff from the Minister in charge of implementing on the ground assessment has started in Kisangani with funding from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).
- Several informal consultations have been organised to start framing the process to build the national strategy. A first presentation was notably discussed on February 18<sup>th</sup> during the pre-validation workshop of the R-Plan, with the active participation of Province Ministries. As an outcome, the National Coordination has been designing a system of coordination which focuses on each option and REDD lever in DRC, directly linked to the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradation. This system is expected to be set up during the last quarter of 2010. It is also expected to allow the engagement of all stakeholders into the strategy building process, providing

robust sector-based analysis and synthesis to support national integrated vision and planning.

### **Component 3: Building and implementation of a programme of experimentation**

- After the first workshop on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, two other workshops were held in Kinshasa on January the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. This provided an avenue for introducing the vision of the NC-REDD in terms of pilot projects, and debate the way to evaluate sector-based initiatives, identify, select and build integrated pilot projects. NC-REDD, GTCR, private sector representatives and various technical and financial partners came together to share a more practical and factual understanding on how REDD may be shaped on the ground, and what critical points must be explored to build the REDD strategy.
- Following the workshops, NC-REDD have been coordinating the work of various partners to develop 7 integrated pilot projects. For instance, on the ground missions were carried out to support civil society of Orientale Province to develop its pilot project (in Mambasa, Ituri, and January 2010 and in Kisangani and Isangi, April 2010). Concept notes were endorsed by the Minister and introduced to the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) in March 2010. They all received approval and a mission from CBFF took place in April to help frame the document proposals. By the end of June 2010, the preparation of the document proposal was still ongoing, with first projects expected to be finalised and hopefully funded before the end of 2010. Each project will be operating various complementary levers to address the causes of deforestation and degradation in various situations and ecosystems in DRC. The projects will be set up as partnerships between the Ministry of Environment and the project managers on the ground, which can be either from international NGO (WWF \*2, AWF, WCS), national civil society (Ocean, Premi-Congo) or a national private company (Novacel). Each project leader will engage in various partnerships with local stakeholders on their specific area of capacity, for example in the field of agriculture intensification, reforestation, agro-forestry, capacity building, land tenure settlement, land use mapping and planning, law enforcement etc.
- The National Coordination also supported the Ministry of Environment to develop specific projects on agro-forestry and reforestation, which were also added to the pipeline of projects requesting funds from (CBFF).
- Beyond these integrated projects, the NC-REDD also worked on organising the various sector-based projects and initiatives related to REDD in DRC. Large consultations have been carried out, including with several project developers like NGOs (Conservation International,) or private sector companies (ERA, JADORA). It has to be highlighted that progressively, financial partners are systematically checking the coherence between projects developed and the national strategy, not only based on the projects developers arguments but directly by requesting the Ministry to validate such cooperation. Such a switch in the attitude of donors is expected to support the performance of the overall process, as it's been systematically implemented by the African Development Bank through CBFF.

### **Component 4: Building and anticipated implementation of a REDD+ strategy**



- First informal consultations were held on the issue, but this component will be developed in a more intensive manner during the second half of 2010.

Based on all the above activities, some key features and lessons can be drawn, and the various challenges identified previously have evolved and have been integrated in the R-Plan. For instance, major issues and highlights encompass the following:

- During the period, the National Coordination kept positioning itself as a central engine for the REDD national process, laying bridges with programmes and directions in the MECNT and beyond, with other Ministries, building trust and acknowledgment from the civil society, progressively engaging private sector, and ensuring daily cooperation with all stakeholders.
- Cooperation between UN-REDD agencies and FCPF is essential and can allow a very profitable flexibility for the country. The way and the pace the money has been disbursed and made available to the country are critical and give evidence of the complementarities of the UN-REDD programme and the FCPF. According to each agencies constraints and procedures, daily coordination allows managing the funds with flexibility to find solutions to every needs and expectations as regard operational implementation. The close interpersonal relationship among agencies has been an obvious factor of success for the REDD process in DRC. Roles and responsibilities among various workflows has always been shared and updated smoothly (for instance with the upgrading support of the World Bank on SESA with UNEP), and daily cooperation allows sharing of information and inclusion of e other partners and avoiding competition. For example, the World Bank has been welcome and eventually played a relevant role at the REDD University that was originally led by UNDP, and the World Bank again can bring added value to the analysis of national financial mechanisms for REDD even though it's funded by UNEP.
- Relationship and proximity between UN agencies themselves is also important, and the cooperation based on Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNDP and UNEP to deliver fast flexible money to the Information, Education, Communication (IEC) activities in March 2010, or to manage and finance the assessment of successful forest conservation experiences and lessons learned are other illustrations of such a close cooperation. The integration of FAO in the daily coordination has been restricted by the fact that FAO runs a fair part of its activity from Rome. The hiring of a FAO professional dedicated to MRV and based in Kinshasa is expected to improve the coordination with NC-REDD.
- As anticipated previously, REDD is not only about technical issues, but is first and foremost a human challenge. Technical instruments must be put under control (MRV, reference emission level) but it should not divert priorities from finding efficient and sustainable ways to reducing deforestation and degradation of forest on the ground, which requires building and implementing a sustainable development strategy with high political and organisational implications and constraints. After six more month of preparation, this concern is strongly grounded in the national process, and the REDD readiness process is now mostly considered as political and managerial dynamics, rather than a scientific challenge. This positioning of the process has been really useful to catch partners' interest and foster stakeholders' involvement and empowerment.

- Confidence between stakeholders is compulsory, and the credibility of DRC's State is maybe the key factor of success of the whole process. To this extent, the founding principles of the national process have been fully respected during the last months of activities (transparency, participation.), and the global support from the national civil society to the process is the best argument to support such a statement. Eventually, the activities of the past semester contributed to strengthen the trust among stakeholders. The involvement and confidence of private sector players is another frontline that should be addressed more strongly in the coming months. But in spite of a shift between civil society working daily with the NC-REDD on the one hand, and the private sector which is more in a state of expectation, this challenge is being progressively answered and results so far are encouraging.
- It has been also stressed that the programme must remain realistic to be effective, but is doomed to embrace a global and systemic approach and set high ambitions if it is to sustainably achieve the objectives of the REDD initiative. To this regard, the vision and leadership of the Minister of the Environment highly contributed to spread the "big picture" approach within the country and so to boost mobilisation of stakeholders, including other Ministries and provincial administrations. In the mean time, the NC-REDD has clearly analysed and has been given the needs to secure the operational coordination and implementation of the R-Plan, and a process of recruitment is under way to ensure the means to manage this process smoothly. The constant "dialogue" remained strong between the global vision and the operational feasibility of implementation..
- All the above elements of constraint and concern have fuelled the building of the R-Plan, and responses are integrated in its plan of action. For further details on activities, achievements and the overall partnership dynamic around the programme, please refer to the final R-Plan (V3.1 dated July 15th).

#### **IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

The future work plan is directly related to the content of the R-Plan. However, the implementation of the R-Plan is a dynamic process that requires adjustments in order to better meet the moving challenges and priorities. Thus, the updated work plan for the second half of 2010 is not systematically meeting the exact same activities as planned in the R-Plan. Indeed, an operational and detailed re-planning was carried out to check the coherence between resources available, priorities and time constraints. This period of transition to phase 2 of REDD readiness process is being managed as smoothly as possible in terms of financial resources and support. The activity planning is in full continuity of action, and the administrative and financial capacities of the NC-REDD play a key role in smoothing the transition down. Below are some already completed activities (report submitted in August) ongoing and future activities based on the work plan.

#### **Component 1: National coordination, global running, IEC, consultation and mobilisation, community's empowerment**

- the National Committee and the Inter-ministerial Committee for REDD Launched:
  - A two days training session was organised by NC-REDD to the members of the two committees on July 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and the first meeting of the committees took

place on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and kick-started by an opening briefing from the Minister of Environment. The second semester 2010 should allow agreeing on the operational rules of management of the committees and increase the capacities of members, and so to securing the efficiency of the national REDD governance system on the long run.

- Accelerating the decentralisation of the REDD process
  - The contribution of Provinces in the building of the national REDD strategy and the implementation of pilot projects and anticipated programmes will be essential to ensure consistency and feasibility, and should be encouraged progressively. During the last quarter of 2010, two or three REDD coordinators should be hired and settled in pilot Provinces. Some support to civil society organisation in Provinces should also be delivered and organised by then.
- Recruitment for the NC-REDD
  - The NC-REDD must hire new staff to reach the targeted situation suggested in the R-Plan that will allow delivering at best on its role and responsibilities. The process was initiated in June and will keep going until September. A programme of training and integration should secure the future effectiveness of the larger team.
  - As regard the training programme, the first focused and small-scaled initiative eventually has become a very ambitious training programme labelled the “First International REDD University in DRC”. The event was opened and closed by the Minister of Environment. The UN Deputy Special Representative in DRC also delivered a speech at the closing ceremony. From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, 18 sessions covering all the aspects of REDD and encompassing 70 presentations gathered more than 250 people from all stakeholders of the national and international process, including REDD officers from 15 countries from the COMIFAC and other African regions.
  - Regarding the integration efforts, a seminar planned early September with all the NC-REDD staff and invited guests will allow team building, setting up cooperation and basic management rules, and ensuring participative planning and full empowerment of staff members over their individual roadmaps.
- Implementation of the (IEC) Plan for 2012
 

During the second quarter of 2010, the NC-REDD will mainly work on three issues:

  - Producing IEC tools: several means of communication are still under work (REDD song, movie, radio and TV sketches, flyers, newsletter, and website) which should be completed by the end of 2010.
  - Running national IEC campaign by ensuring dissemination of IEC tools through national media (TV, radio, newspaper, civil society networks)
  - Preparing the local IEC and consultation campaign throughout the country that will take place in 2011 (see R-Plan), implying to hire three supervisors, ensure training of trainers, develop the content of the local missions, and organise logistics to spread the campaign in the first 30 territories with support from and to the GTCR.

Moreover, the process of structuring a national wide local network of community-based radio should be framed during the upcoming months through an extensive consultations process.

- Supporting the international negotiation process and bilateral/multilateral relations on financial and technical support to REDD
  - Beyond the specific agreement signed between UNDP and the Kingdom of Norway to support the Ministry of Environment with the international negotiations efforts, the NC-REDD programme will keep advising and supporting the efficient participation of various stakeholders to negotiations. Several technical meetings are forecast between July and December 2010, including UNFCCC in Bonn in August, FCPF in Washington DC on delivery partners in September, UNFCCC in Tianjin in October, the UN-REDD programme Policy Board, FCPF's Participants Committee (PC7) and FIP subcommittee coordinated meetings in Washington DC in November, and UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun in November and early December 2010. The support from NC-REDD includes financial support to participants, organisation of side events and dissemination of the information regarding the national process, and technical advice to strengthen DRC's diplomatic capacities on REDD.
- Securing financial resources for the REDD national process
  - Following the selection of DRC to the Forest Investment Programme of the World Bank, the NC-REDD will work on the "investment strategy" with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other partners. It is expected that most of the FIP support will be targeted to component 4 "anticipated programmes"
  - R-Plan round table: In order to close the budget of the R-Plan over the period 2010-2012, the NC-REDD will facilitate a roundtable of nationally-based donor communities, including bilateral and multilateral financial partners. By the end of the year 2010, the R-Plan parts that will still request funding will be packaged and a completed funding request will be posted to the CBFF.
  - NC-REDD should also follow up with the disbursement of the second phase of the UN-REDD and FCPF programmes (respectively 5,5M\$ and 3,4M\$).

## **Component 2: Building national strategy and technical, institutional and legal readiness**

- Launching and framing the Thematic Coordination Groups (TCG)
  - A workshop to bring together all stakeholders of the national REDD process in DRC is being planned. It will elaborate on direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and build a mapping of options and levers to fight deforestation and forest degradation in DRC. For each option, a Thematic Coordination Group will be constituted, led by a public administration, facilitated by the NC-REDD, and supported by the contribution of various stakeholders in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner. Each TCG will then set up its internal organisation, objectives and roadmap.
- Carrying on the study on drivers and actors of deforestation
  - Regarding the qualitative part of the study, the dialogue with Provinces will be speeded up on the basis of the national review of bibliography and UNEP Post-Conflict Environmental Analysis. The national synthesis report will be upgraded soon after and validated during a national workshop with dissemination in Provinces. In addition, the results from consultation in Provinces will also be transferred progressively to the quantitative study side. This dialogue is expected to contribute to the national consensus in order to support the endorsement of the future REDD national strategy by all stakeholders in the country.

- Regarding the quantitative study run by Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) under a contract with FAO as part of the UN-REDD support to DRC, a workshop is expected to put all stakeholders around the table to agree on the methodology to run the on-the-ground inquiry and observations study, and consultation within the country. Soon after the validation of the protocol, training sessions will be organised and the work will start on the ground in order to integrate the previous analysis, check, finalise and refine the results (including the quantification of deforestation and degradation patterns and drivers), and to forge understanding and consensus among national stakeholders.
- Completing the assessment of successful forest conservation experiences and lessons learned
  - The last part of the study will begin in August and will last until mid-October. Results will support the work of relevant TCG and the analytical and framing work associated with pilot projects and anticipated programmes (components 3 and 4).
- Running the review of sector-based programmes in various Ministries associated with the REDD process
  - A study run by UNDP as support to the Ministry of Planning was initiated in July 2010, and closely linked to the REDD agenda. Through this mission, a group of consultants will mainstream climate change and REDD in various Ministries' strategic planning. Thanks to this close cooperation between climate-oriented consultants and Ministries, various programmes are expected to come up and some may be developed further and faster so as to become anticipated programmes (component 4). Also, the outcomes will serve as robust material to later build the national reference scenario for emissions and capture. By the end of 2010, a mapping of all sector-based strategies and programmes will be made available to guide the work and cooperation opportunities of the national REDD programme.
- Launching the preliminary studies on the implementation framework
  - The implementation framework is a vast issue than can be arranged as various building blocks. Between June and December 2010, the NC-REDD will focus in priority on the analysis and framing of the future national financial mechanism for REDD. TORs still have to be completed and validated, before hiring technical assistance to run the study. It will consist in building on large national, regional and international experiences to identify and set up the various preliminary options, to assess the gaps with national context and vision, and to come up with a decision of DRC's Government that will pave the way to the implementation stage. Preliminary results are expected by Cancun COP16.
- Launching the SESA core analytical work
  - The TOR for the core analytical mission for SESA is still being discussed within the World Bank. As far as UN-REDD is concerned, the integration of UNDP-led work on the tools to frame and facilitate the systematic assessment of socio-environmental impacts and co-benefits within the methodology of the World Bank-led SESA is under way. UNEP as well will work closely on this issue, since the UN agency will be in charge of capitalising on the SESA to build the socio-environmental management tool and the overall "MRV system on co-benefits".

The technical assistants hired to carry out the core analytical work of SESA are expected to be recruited by the end of 2010 to start the operational work early in 2011.

- Finalising the framing and the roadmap to implement the MRV for carbon
  - The work on MRV has been led directly by DIAF and DDD within the MECNT, with the support of FAO and within a competitive context between various players like the Japanese from JICS and JICA, USAID, and other players from Brazil and France. In spite of various efforts of consultation and dialogue, the situation is still very confusing, and the challenge of the NC-REDD will consist in assembling all the elements and proposals and reaching the approval of various partners on a vision, related objectives and associated roadmap to implement the MRV carbon system in DRC as soon as possible. Diagnostics and numerous negotiations will certainly be required within the coming months, according to a plan of action that still has to be agreed by the partners within the MECNT (DIAF, DDD, and Cabinet of the Minister). Meanwhile, some training activities are expected to continue under the funding of ITTO and FAO, as well as equipment transfers.

### **Component 3: Building and implementation of a programme of experimentation**

- Completing the seven integrated pilot projects and securing the financial support from CBFF (see part 3 above for a summary of the programmes)
  - By the end of 2010, it is expected that at least 4 out of 7 projects will be funded by CBFF in order to start operation early in 2011. Further work is required to complete the project documents, to formalise the agreements between the Ministry of Environment and the operational project leader, as well as between the project leader and the other specialised implementing partners.
- Setting up the framework for implementation of REDD pilot projects and initiatives in DRC.
 

A package proposal to organise the REDD initiatives and projects design, implementation, coordination and assessment in DRC will be developed based on:

  - A national registry of REDD projects and initiatives, with several entries on project types and locations, project developers, or on financial partners. This registry includes formalising the data requested during the registration phase and the continuous progress reports
  - A template for formal agreements between the Ministry of Environment and project developers
  - A process of validation of the projects ensuring transparency, involving for example the REDD National Committee.

All technical specifications started being discussed and upgraded from June to August 2010, and are expected to be decided and implemented before November 2010.
- Supporting the design, the approach, the coordination and the monitoring of sector-based pilot projects and initiatives.
  - Beyond the instruments to frame, register and monitor the pilot projects and initiatives, it will be necessary to manage the first case already introduced by NGOs, private companies and other implementing partners. Thus, formal MOU are expected to be prepared, negotiated and signed between the MECNT and

partners like CI regarding the Tayna Reserve, Jadora regarding the REDD project to improve practices in logging concession. Moreover, the two projects led by the Ministry and expected to be funded by CBFF will also require formal cooperation agreements and support to be mainstreamed in the overall REDD strategy building process. The first projects developers will certainly request assistance to register their data and start working with the progress report model.

#### **Component 4: Building and anticipated implementation of a REDD+ strategy**

- Preparing between 4 to 6 programmes to be launched in Cancun
  - The preliminary case for several anticipated programmes will be built to allow the Minister to select the priority programmes that will be developed (in a robust but preliminary version) before Cancun COP16. So far, eight proposals include four sector-based programmes (Afforestation and reforestation in areas of activities around towns, agriculture intensification and sedentary practices in forested areas, accelerated nation-wide spreading of improved stoves, and fighting illegal logging), three enabling programmes (harmonisation and land tenure reform, zoning and land use provincial and national planning, and improvement of business conditions for green private initiatives), and a REDD geographically-integrated programme at the significant scale of a district or a small Province.
  - A task force will have to be hired by NC-REDD to work specifically on the preparation of these programmes, under the leadership of relevant Ministries and in close collaboration with various initiatives as developed above (review of Ministries programmes related to climate, support to mainstream REDD within their sector-based programmes, and assessment of successful forest conservation experiences). Preliminary work will be presented in Cancun, but the in-depth planning work is expected to last until the end of the first quarter of 2011.

As it's been run so far, those activities result from a fully endorsed planning process managed by the National Coordination and naturally suggest some adjustments on targets and outputs as planned by the joint programme in a first stage. For example, the perspective of COP16 in Cancun in the challenging context of the newly born Partnership for Forests offers political and financial opportunities that called for prioritising the anticipated programmes building (component 4), the design of the REDD national financial mechanism (part of the component 2) and the implementation of a registry of REDD finance and projects in DRC (part of the component 3). Obviously such priorities will slow down other workflows of the readiness process, but all guidance and trade-offs are fully led nationally by NC-REDD and will be taken over progressively by the National REDD Committee, with due compliance with the UN-REDD guidelines.

Beyond short term priorities, two key strategic approaches have been highlighted. The first one consists in speeding up decentralisation process for REDD, in an attempt to create the conditions for further endorsement and support to the process, to improve the quality of the national strategy to be built and to multiply laboratories for innovations, while maintaining a national coordination and coherence between local initiatives and preventing moves where Provinces would consider themselves free from any national guidelines and harmonisation. The second priority consists in scaling up the degree of empowerment of the REDD issue by

other Ministries and higher levels of the State, to ensure better cross-sector integration and joint programmes and monitoring. Both strategic approaches are supported within the next semester's plan of action through various workflows and expected results (see above).

Naturally, achievements, partnerships, lessons learnt, national threats and opportunities are shaping the work plan ahead. For example among others, one key element of the DRC national context is the coming national elections for Presidency expected to take place in late 2011. The political parties are already manoeuvring, and this environment can create opportunities (land tenure reform) or threats (instability, hijacking of the REDD process to serve political interests etc.). The national REDD governance system in place should be given full support and confidence to work in a very flexible and adaptive manner to run the readiness process in a successful way.

The budget required for the coming six months is relevant to the current provisions available or expected by mid-September as part of the disbursement for phase 2. All activities of the R-Plan supported by the UN-REDD programme are being detailed in the R-Plan for the year 2010, and dispatched accordingly between phase 1 and phase 2.

## V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

Participating UN Org	Total Transferred Up to 30 June 2010	Cumulative Up to 30 June 2010	
		Commitments	Disbursements
UNDP	925,550	67,965	760,468
FAO	583,150	-	174,203
UNEP	374,500	185,500	166,500

- In summary, the level of disbursement at the end of June 2010 must be deemed as coherent with expectations. It is about two months late compared to the first planning in May 2009, but this delay is fully consistent with the current situation and comes from a budget planning update led by National Coordination earlier in 2010. Some of the initial funds were reallocated to studies which are expected by the second half of 2010 (in particular studies funded by UNEP on implementation framework and the national financial mechanism). The overall planning update and budget execution allows a smooth transition to the second phase of support from UN-REDD and FCPF.
- Regarding financial management and implementation, Government has expressed a concern on its weak ability to follow up and track financial expenditures under the FAO allocation. Government has requested that at the end of the project, an audit is conducted, as per usual custom. Finally the Government has requested that for Phase 2 of the UN-REDD Programme, financial management is done at Kinshasa-level, with due oversight and decision-making from the National Coordination for REDD (NC-REDD). FAO is dedicated to improve its accounting system and the coordination with the MECNT/NC-REDD in terms of implementation.



## APPENDIX A

**Work Plan for UN REDD DR Congo Quick Start Programme (Phase I)**  
**Period (tentative): June 2009 – May 2010**

	Outputs	Activities	Implementing partners (*)	PLANNED BUDGET		
				Source	Description	Amount (US\$)
<b>1. Planning and coordination</b>	REDD coordination and management	National REDD office	MECNT, WB	UNDP	Office rental, equipment, travel, logistics, consultants	145,000
		REDD committees	MECNT	UNDP	Meetings, travel	25,000
		UN-REDD Chief Technical Advisor	-	UNDP	Salary	180,000
		UN-REDD Admin-Finance officer	-	UNDP	Salary	35,000
		IEC specialist	MECNT, WB	UNDP	Salary	25,000
		R-Plan advise and drafting	MECNT, WB	UNDP	Consultants	40,000
		Support to negotiations	Government	UNDP	Consultants/advisors, travel, technical assistance	50,000
	Civil society preparedness for REDD decision-making	Civil society's Working Group	CSOs	UNDP	Meetings, publications	20,000
		Participation in DRC delegations	CSOs	UNDP	Travel	30,000
		Consultations (national/provincial levels)	CSOs	UNDP	Workshops, travel	50,000
	Cooperation with COMIFAC on REDD methodologies and lessons-learned	DRC-COMIFAC working group	COMIFAC, MECNT	UNEP	Meetings, travel	15,000
Joint technical workshops on REDD		COMIFAC, SPIAF	UNEP	Workshops, travel	35,000	
Study and UNEP technical inputs' mission		-	UNEP	Technical assistance, consultancy, travel	30,000	
<b>2. Capacity building</b>	Capacity building plan	Needs assessment and plan on REDD capacity-building	MECNT, WHRC, CSOs	UNDP	Consultants	10,000
		IEC materials	CSOs	UNDP	Consultants, publications	35,000
	REDD communication action	Communication events		UNDP	Consultants, media, events	25,000
	Capacity-building (general)	Training, workshops, meetings	MECNT, CSOs, WHRC	UNDP	Events, travel, technical assistance	120,000
	Capacity-building (specialised)	Specialised technical training; Support to REDD data collection partners; Study tours	SPIAF, RRN, WHRC	UNDP	Training, meetings, equipment, travel	75,000
<b>3. Technical dimensions</b>	Policy framework	Policy note on REDD and policy review for REDD	DED/DDD, FCPF (co-financing)	FAO	Study, field visits, consultation	20,000
	Development of measurement protocols and sampling design for a national forest Carbon survey	Scoping study and Stratification/definition of different forest types for Carbon content	SPIAF, OFAC	FAO	Study, technical assistance	40,000
		Sampling design for each forest type	SPIAF, OFAC	FAO	Technical assistance, travel	10,000
		Development of C inventory/measurement protocols	SPIAF, OFAC	FAO	Technical assistance, travel	20,000
		Staff training for C inventory/measurement	SPIAF, OFAC, ERAIFT, Kisangani University	FAO	Technical assistance, training events, logistics, travel	60,000
		Test C inventory/measurement in one forest type	SPIAF, OFAC, Kisangani University	FAO	Technical assistance, logistics, travel	190,000
	Studies and assessment for a better grasp of key issues relevant for building a REDD regime	Assessment of successful forest conservation experiences. Analysis and development of REDD project-design models.	MECNT, CSOs, PCEA project (co-financing)	UNEP	Consultancies, fieldwork, workshops, technical assistance, publications	100,000
		Environmental and social assessment of REDD		UNEP	Technical assistance, consultancies	120,000
		Studies on "drivers of deforestation" and on "land tenure and forests"	FCPF (co-financing), Government, CSOs	FAO	Studies, field visits, consultations	25,000
		Study on revenue distribution on natural resources (current practice and options for REDD)	MECNT, Min. Finance, WB, CSOs	UNEP	Consultancy	50,000
		Studies and consultations on Reference Scenario options	DDD, OFAC, FCPF (co-financing)	FAO	Technical assistance, travel, expert meeting	60,000
	Development of methods for reporting and verification at sub-national level	Assessments, field visits, studies, consultations and report drafting	DDD, SPIAF, OFAC	FAO	Technical assistance, travel, consultants, logistics	120,000
	<b>Indirect costs (**)</b>	FAO – 7% of implemented budget	-	FAO	Implementation support	38,150
UNDP – 7% of implemented budget		-	UNDP	Implementation support	60,550	
UNEP – 7% of implemented budget		-	UNEP	Implementation support	24,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1,883,200</b>	

(\*) "Implementing partners" are tentative partners: they will be selected and confirmed during implementation on the basis of competences and expertise. Some of the activities will be co-financed and thus co-implemented with the FCPF Grant.

(\*\*) Indirect support costs of 7% are required as per rules of the UN-REDD Multi-donor Trust Fund and they are detailed per agency in accordance with the pass-through modality. They serve for oversight and administration functions.