



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011**



# **GHANA: FORESTRY COMMISSION & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity  
building workshop on REDD-plus,  
Cape Town, South Africa  
20-23 September 2011*

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## National experience with REDD-plus

- Ghana's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) has already been completed, received the approval of the FCPF since March 2010 and being implemented.
- Consultations leading to the finalization of the R-PP were extensive and intensive, albeit with a lot of room for improvement. Multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder teams were constituted to provide the necessary input, including representatives of forest communities and stool land owners.
- A multi-stakeholder National REDD Working Group (NRWG) is responsible for the development and implementation of the R-PP, with its activities coordinated by the National REDD+ Secretariat hosted by the Forestry Commission.
- Membership of the NRWG include biodiversity experts including custodians of indigenous traditional knowledge, technocrats, researchers and academia.
- Indigenous and local communities are represented on the National REDD+ Working Group through the representative of the NFF as well as the traditional leadership and NGOs.

# National experience with biodiversity safeguards

- In pursuance of meeting the requirements of national biodiversity and social safeguards of the REDD+ mechanisms, Terms of Reference have been completed and received WB approval following the review of drafts submitted by the National REDD+ Working Group.
- Safeguards based on World Bank and National safeguard policies, and international best practice for a sustainable, inclusive and equitable REDD+ programme by the end of the year 2011.
- We do not envisage any major obstacles for the application of the biodiversity safeguards. The key actors of the REDD+ process recognize the need for the safeguards which serves the interests of all in the long-term
- There is still the need for a better and broader understanding of the value of the biodiversity and social safeguards and its application among the various stakeholder groups at all levels to ensure its effective implementation towards



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# National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

- The Task Team of the National REDD+ Working Group responsible for Social and Environmental Safeguards Assessment (SESA) is working on refining the biodiversity impact indicators as well as the survey instruments needed for impact assessments. These will be tested during the REDD+ demonstration phase. The process is being led by the EPA which has extensive experience in this area.
- The National Biodiversity Committee which is hosted by the Ministry of Environment has yet to complete the National Ecological Gap Analysis. However ecological sustainability challenges in areas outside the protected areas and forest reserves are being addressed through initiatives such as the CREMA concept and other off-reserve forest management interventions.
- UNEP-WCMC has conducted a preliminary analyses are based on regional and global data which provides the basis for exploring the potential for co-benefits of carbon management for climate change mitigation under REDD+ in Ghana. This was useful for the preparation of Ghana's R-PP.
- Further to this, a Carbon Map for Ghana has just been produced based on best available national data.



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# Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

- ECOWAS launched the Dialogue on Forests in West Africa in 2005 as an important step bringing member states together to sustainably manage their forest and wildlife resources for their populations' well being and safeguarding the environment.
- In January 2009, Ghana hosted a regional workshop to review the draft report on Dialogue on Forests in West Africa which among other things addressed trans-border issues, the improvement of competency in forest governance, and how best to coordinate forest policies. The document was adopted on June 8 2010 in Cotonou by the sector Ministers in the ECOWAS region.
- However information on this process has been limited among key stakeholders, and there has been a clear lack of action to provide opportunities for mutual reinforcement of capacity and sharing of lessons and experiences.

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***Thank You!***  
***Merci!***

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