



FIFTEENTH MEETING OF PARTNERS (MOP) OF CBFP (CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP)

Theme: Congo Basin Ecosystems: A source of Natural Capital, Producer of Economic Value and Driver of Green Growth for the Wellbeing of its People"

16th-19th June 2015

Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Stream 4: Climate and REDD + - June 15th-18th, 2015

REPORT OF THE SESSION « REDD BEYOND CARBON: PAYMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (PES) AND NON-CARBON BENEFITS IN A PROSPECT OF EMERGENCE FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICA STATES»

Day: Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Place: Room E of the « Palais des Congrès »

Duration: 2:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Main contacts for the session: Denis J. Sonwa (CIFOR) and Guillaume Lescuyer (CIRAD-CIFOR)

Rapporteurs: Jonas NGOUHOUO POUFOUN & Eugene Loh Chia

Rationale and objectives

Non-carbon benefits (NCBs) have been given specific focus under the Cancun agreement in 2010 and since the Bonn Conference, accounting for NCB when implementing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70¹ has become important. However, some questions have now become critical about “what can be considered as NCBs?”, “how may these NCBs be enhanced in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation process?”

A strategy to better recognize, incentivize and effectively promote NCBs requires a good identification and prioritization of such benefits at the national level. In this vein, the COMIFAC (Commission of Ministers in charge of Forests in Central Africa) has been concerned about the contextualization or breaking down of the opportunities offered by the NCBs approach in the REDD+ mechanism to account for the national development vision and priorities of its member countries. Indeed, the COMIFAC views the improvement of forest governance, preservation of ecosystem services, climate change adaptation², improvement of social and economic conditions, as well as support to social and cultural values as some key categories of NCBs.

This session seeks to contribute to these reflections, trying to address the question “To what extent the REDD+ approach may be combined with other PES schemes to generate non-carbon benefits in a political context of economic emergence for Central African states in the coming decades.

More precisely, this session has the following objectives:

- Understand how non-carbon benefits can be maximized in the design and implementation of national REDD+ strategies
- Explore ways on how to strengthen the synergies between adaptation and mitigation activities
- Explore the potential of a “landscape approach” to provide environmental services for socioeconomic development
- Explore how to integrate carbon finance, and finance for other ecosystem services, in an integrated financing strategy

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¹ Activities referred to in Paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16: (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation; (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation; (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks; (d) Sustainable management of forests; (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

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² Adaptation has increasingly become an attention-grabbing NCB. This create a need to reflect on the synergies between adaptation and Mitigation.

The session proceeded in 6 presentations, each followed by discussions between researchers, policy makers and other practitioners.

Presentations and discussions

Moderator: Richard Eba'a (CIFOR)

Presentation 1: Climate change and REDD+ in the emergence strategies in Central Africa - Joseph Amougou, UNFCCC Focal point – Cameroon

The presentation gave an overview of REDD+ in the context of the development priorities of the countries of Central Africa. Using Cameroon as a case study, he underscored that REDD+ is a sustainable development tool to achieve the 2035 emergence vision as well as the objective set up in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE). REDD+ is expected to deliver income generation, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services provisioning. In this context REDD+ is an opportunity to improve sustainable agriculture, sustainable livestock, sustainable fuelwood and improved stoves.

The presenter also mentioned some challenges in considering non-carbon benefits in REDD+ (REDD+ viewed here as a development tool). REDD+ is a tool that articulates around emission reduction through carbon stock conservation and sequestration and the provision of forest ecosystem services and the sustainable management of forest. In this light, the training and expertise on how to do their inventory, quantification and qualification for better valorization is required. To overcome these challenges, CIFOR and other research centers are solicited to support COMIFAC countries in this adventure that combines research, environmental management and development.

Presentation 2: PES and REDD+: the challenge of combination - Guillaume Lescuyer, CIRAD-CIFOR

The presentation analyzed the complementarity between REDD+ mechanism and other PES such as Biodiversity PES and Hydraulic PES in Central Africa. The researcher specifically investigated the possibility of financing biodiversity conservation and sustainable Hydraulic services with part financial resources from REDD+ finance. Assuming that sustainable forest management mitigates watershed degradation, water resources being more or less abundant, Biodiversity PES is presented as more favorable to the complementarity. However, the key challenges to be addressed are the consideration of the conservation of endangered flagship wild species and the anti-poaching strategy as REDD+ NCBs. He concluded that complementarity is possible between REDD+ and Biodiversity PES. However there must be a clear relationship, a clear valuation of the opportunity cost of activities in relation to ecosystem services and a clear evaluation of the risks and transaction costs.

Presentation 3: Co-benefits of REDD+ in the Congo Basin: Realities and current barriers for implementation - Denis Sonwa, (CIFOR)

The presentation focused on social realities (religious pluralism, multiculturalism and multilingualism), economic realities (poverty, low industrialization), ecological realities (high species diversity) as well as the barriers to get access on NCBs. The presenter subsequently described some possible solutions to address those barriers. Forest governance improvements and economic value enhancement were presented as potential additional NCBs. The underestimation of the value of ecosystem services, lack of human capital and technology, lack of sustainable farming techniques as well as insufficient governance were identified among the main challenges. As a conclusion, coupling the current funding mechanisms (phase 1 and 2 of REDD+, UNFCCC, GEF, SBSTA ...) to other non-financial mechanisms REDD + (UNFCCC RIO Convention, CBD, other instruments COMIFAC) may provide potential solutions to reduce barriers and recovery of the non-carbon benefits.

Presentation 4: The co-benefits of REDD+ for the logging concessions of Central Africa: Case study and lessons - Florian Claeys, (AgroParisTech, CIRAD, LEF)

The presentation analyzed the feasibility of carbon-based and biodiversity-based compensatory payments to fund Improved Forest Management (IFM) projects in Congo Basin forest concessions. The bioeconomic approach that was used is a coupling of a model of forest dynamics to a model of a forest logging company. Based on a unique 30-years-long monitoring of a Central African forest, simulations led to opposite results for the two considered kinds of incentives. Contrary to carbon, that was an effective and cost-efficient option, biodiversity was far less satisfactory and completely inappropriate to set a compensatory payment by results.

The presenter suggested that, to value NCB such as biodiversity in REDD+ projects, it was necessary to adopt incentive mechanisms radically different from the current system adopted for valuing carbon benefits, based on permanent credits. He also suggested strengthening the implementation and monitoring of forest plots to better assess the impact of climate change and of logging on forest dynamics and biodiversity.

Presentation 5: Adaptation to climate change as co-benefits from REDD+: Examples from the Congo Basin - Anne Marie Tiani (CIFOR)

The presentation demonstrated the links between adaptation as a co-benefit and REDD+ in the context of the Congo Basin. Depending on how it is designed and implemented, REDD+ has the potentials to improve the adaptive capacity, tenure rights, income, biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem goods and services. In this light adaptation should be integrated in the different stages of REDD+ design and implementation.

Presentation 6: Landscape approach to valorize co-benefits of REDD+ and PES for development: Lessons from Indonesia - Philippe Guizol, (CIRAD-CIFOR)

Using Indonesia as a case study, the presentation showed how the new Forest Management Units (FMU) policy could help the implementation of the REDD+

mechanism and offer new opportunities to combat illegal logging and forest degradation. The FMU is also a development tool, with the strong involvement of local stakeholders in defining rules and regulation. It also has potential to attract green funds.

Key messages after plenary and group discussions

After presentations and discussions this session on “REDD+ Co-Benefits and PES in a context of emergence” came out with the following key messages for climate change and REDD+ in the context of NCB and co-benefits in Central Africa.

1. Key co-benefits related to REDD + include:
 - Adaptation to Climate and the resilience of forest ecosystems and human societies
 - Forest Governance Improvements
 - Preservation of ecosystem services and biodiversity
 - Improve social and economic conditions
 - The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices resulting to higher performance
 - The reduction of poaching
 - The improvement of economic, cultural and social values of forest ecosystems and biodiversity.
2. That NCBs can be maximized if REDD + funding are oriented to the change observed in un-sustainable practices related to extensive slash and burn agriculture, illegal logging, extensive and uncontrolled breeding, lack of land use planning and the lack of coordination between the various departments operating in the land use sector
3. From the example of FMU in Indonesia, creating FMU following a landscape approach will better promote the multi functionality of forest ecosystems resulting in the provision of ecosystem services for socioeconomic development.
4. The complementarity between biodiversity PES and REDD+ and the different methods of evaluating biodiversity through the "Improved Forest Management projects (IFM)" can strengthen the provision of non-carbon benefits.
5. Challenges related to the identification, access and exploitation of NCBs include: the undervaluation of ecosystem services, the low level of human capital and technology, governance issues, costs appropriateness of different activities related to ecosystem services and the risks and transaction costs which are often not well evaluated.
6. Combining the current funding mechanisms and other non- REDD+ financing mechanisms can help overcome these challenges.