REDD+ Benefit Sharing in Ghana: Background Paper

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Current REDD+ Progress in Ghana

Phase 1
- RPIN, R-PP Development
- R-PP Implementation Stage
- Piloting & Consultation

Phase 2
- Implementation of Policies, Measures

Phase 3
- REDD+ Ready
Phase 1 Activities

Initial capacity building for pilots; ✓

Establishment of pilots/demonstration activities;
Establishment of carbon accounting registry;
Consultation around demonstrations and pilots;

Testing of carbon measurement, accounting and MRV procedures; ▬ In Progress

Consultation on potential REDD+ policies, decisions and actions;
Training Needs Analysis for full REDD+ implementation.
Current REDD+ Progress in Ghana: Key Milestones

- National REDD+ Strategy
- National Baseline Biomass Map
- Committee for Carbon Credits Trading established under MESTI
- Roadmap to guide the design and implementation of a gender-sensitive REDD+ strategy
- Commissioned study to develop guidance for national scheme on benefit sharing and Carbon right – FC/CSIR-FORIG
- 3-year pilot project (2013 - 2015) in Wassa Amensfi to design pro-poor REDD+ benefit-sharing schemes – IUCN/BMU
REDD+ in Ghana: Key Stakeholders

RED+ PP (Ghana), 2010
**REDD+ Progress in Ghana & Past Dialogue Key Issues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Dialogue Issues</th>
<th>Is It addressed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Identifying and working with beneficiaries</td>
<td>Requires comprehensive study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basis for sharing benefits</td>
<td>Yet to be determined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forms of benefits</td>
<td>Only monetary considered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing &amp; Distribution Mechanism</td>
<td>Yet to be determined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross sectoral linkage</td>
<td>Addressed and still more required</td>
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**REDD+ Benefit Sharing: Key challenges**

**Identifying Beneficiaries**
- Illegal chainsaw operators/artisanal millers
- Communities surrounding Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs)
- Admitted farms in forest reserves

**Conditionality/Basis for sharing benefits**
- Input-based
- Performance-based
- Yet to be determined
REDD+ Benefit Sharing: Key challenges

Financing and Distribution Mechanism
- Dedicated Fund; Budgetary; Decentralized
- Vertical Distribution and Horizontal Distribution

Yet to be determined

Forms of benefits
- Monetary, overly considered
- Non-monetary, not considered
**REDD+ Benefit Sharing: Key challenges**

**Complex and Insecure land/tree Tenure**

Varied land tenure regimes (customary and statutory)
Land titling largely lacking. LAP project is addressing it

Tree Tenure: timber trees (naturally occurring) are owned by the State whether in reserves or areas outside reserves

**Carbon Rights**

No single operational definition of carbon right (sequestered carbon or carbon sinks)

Sequestered carbon: define ownership, transferability

Carbon sinks: Land – officially, traditional authorities, landowners, farmers
Trees – state owns carbon
**REDD+ Benefit Sharing: Key challenges**

*Cross-sectoral integration and coordination*

*Limited integration with relevant sectors plans and programs*
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Long-term Measure
Extensive assessment of all stakeholders and their relationship to forest resources and their potential role in REDD+ implementation

Key Actions:
Stakeholder scoping and analysis, Commissioned review study

Aim: ascertain legal and perceived rights to forest resources and the benefits they provide thru assessment of statutory and customary legal frameworks governing rights, use, management and ownership to forest resources

Short-term Measure
Small-scale stakeholder analyses in project areas to identify beneficiaries
Project contracts can then be used to secure their interest
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Adopt input-based approach

**Reason:** Ghana is in Phase 1 of REDD+ and even at Phase 2 it may still be developing a strong monitoring system.

**Long-term**
Adopt a combination of performance valuation and input-based evaluation as may be dictated by the project format or modality that is engaged. E.g. sub-national project may use input-based approach while a national project may go for performance-based approach.
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Adopt “horizontal approach”

Management of REDD+ benefit

Establish a multi-stakeholder governing body comprising representatives of communities, civil society, private sector, government and experts

Multi-stakeholder governing body: Technical Advisory; Fund Management and Disbursement; and Independent Monitoring and Auditing sub-committees
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Short-term Measure
Use lower-level legal instruments that do not require legislative approval, such as documented ministerial regulations.

Use project contracts to establish common positions on ownership and rights to benefits with parties undertaking REDD+ projects.
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Define carbon as a natural resource hence decouple carbon from its host (trees, soil). In this case, the State would be vested with the rights to carbon.

Alternatively, the State recognizes sinks (trees, soils) hence vest carbon right to the owners of the sinks. Potential benefits from carbon will accrue to anyone exercising ownership over such sinks.

Short-term Measure
Use contracts to vest and transfer carbon rights with project participants.
Way Forward: Addressing the Challenges

Undertake a vigorous cross-sectoral awareness creation and engagement mechanism

Identify conflicts and synergies with other sectorial plans
Conclusion
Thank You