



MRV REDD+
**Perspectives from some Congo basin
countries**

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Engagement in REDD+ process and UNFCCC

- Signatories of the UNFCCC and all engaged in the REDD+ process;
- Submitted INDC with forest as a main component;
- Ratified the Paris Agreement;
- Varying levels of progress in the REDD+ process/FCPF:
 - DRC: National REDD+ strategy, Investment plan, FRL submitted to UNFCCC, ER-Program; MRV system under development;
 - Rep Congo: National REDD+ strategy, Investment plan (draft), Carbon Fund pipeline, FRL submitted to UNFCCC, MRV system under development;
 - Cameroon: National REDD+ strategy, Investment plan (draft), ER-PIN approved, MRV system under development;
 - CAR: Initial stages of Readiness, MRV system under development;
 - Gabon: Climate Action Plan, MRV system under development;
- Prepared two national communications.

MRV REDD+ Institutional Arrangements

- RoC: National Centre for Inventory and Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources (CNIAF)
- Cameroon: Sub-directorate of Forest Inventory and Management (MINFOF), Sub-directorate of Ecological Monitoring (MINEPDED), National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC)
- DRC: Directorate of Forest Inventory & Management (DIAF)
- Gabon: Gabonese Space Agency (AGEOS)

Available datasets (1)

- Country-specific Activity Data - Cameroon
 - Wall-to-wall maps 1990, 2000, 2010 (5 ha MMU; forest non-forest)
 - Wall-to-wall maps 1990, 2000, 2010 (1ha MMU; forest-non-forest; change categorised into IPCC classes)
 - Wall-to-wall maps 2000-2015 (Landsat pixel-based; forest loss)
- Country-specific EF - Cameroon
 - National Forest Inventory 2003-2005
 - Auxilliary data (Annual statistics on timber extraction, damage factor related to selective exploitation of timber; allometric equation; statistics on illegal logging etc..)

Available datasets (2)

- Country-specific Activity Data – RoC
 - Wall-to-wall maps 1990, 2000, 2010 (1ha MMU; forest-non-forest; change categorised into IPCC classes)
 - Wall-to-wall maps 2000-2016 (Landsat pixel-based; forest loss)
- Country-specific EF - RoC
 - National Forest Inventory 2017
 - Auxilliary data (Annual statistics on timber extraction; statistics on fuelwood consumption; damage factor for timeber exploitation; allometric equation etc.)

Data needs and sources

- AD related to specific drivers and land use/cover change categories
 - IPCC compliant land categorization: remote sensing data
 - Agriculture expansion (agro-industrial, semi-industrial, small-holder, slash and burn): remote sensing data (HR and VHR images; and ground-based inventory)
 - Settlement/infrastructure extension: remote sensing data (HR and VHR images) and ground based inventory;
 - Forest exploitation (timber harvest, logging roads and trails etc.): remote sensing, statistics from logging companies
 - Fuel wood extraction: socio-economic and household surveys

Data needs and sources (2)

- AD related to positive change (regrowth or forest gain): remote sensing and ground-based inventories;
- Forest types: remote sensing and ground-based inventory;
- EF related to different carbon pools (requirement of NFI taking REDD+ reporting into consideration): remote sensing and ground-based inventory.

Institutional and organisational challenges

- No clear-cut mandate with accompanying roles and responsibilities relevant for a functional MRV system;
- Absence of a work program that guarantees that trained experts can continuously exercise their skills;
- Inadequate human capacity – lack of a critical mass of experts to assess AD and estimate EF;
- Lack of knowledge/training on specific thematic areas required for GHG accounting;

Institutional and organisational challenges (2)

- Lack of financial resources to implement activities;
- Low staff motivation (no salaries/“low” wages);
- Inadequate hardware and software;
- Inadequate office infrastructure /equipment (internet, electricity, printers etc..);
- Difficulty to access satellite imagery (even freely available images);
- No storage capacity – when available the absence of a computer network makes it cumbersome to access the in-house available images.

Technical and methodological challenges

- Persistent cloud cover impeding the use of optical satellites coupled with lack of knowledge on RADAR remote sensing technology;
- No clear or straight-forward methodology to account for changes in forest land remaining forest land;
- Difficulties in accounting for all sources of error (uncertainty).

Conceptual issues (1)

- Varying reporting requirements/standards
 - Generic UNFCCC/IPCC – stepwise improving with time; Tiers 1, 2 and 3; account for uncertainty;
 - Stringent in results-based payments (>Tier 2; probably with uncertainty thresholds)
- Different reporting scales
 - national,
 - subnational (landscape, jurisdiction)

Conceptual issues (2)

- Multiple MRV REDD+ actors and stakeholders
 - Government
 - Subnational governments
 - Project Promoters
 - Service providers etc..
- MRV Scope, approaches, methods and tools
 - Complexities and differences in the measured and monitored phenomena using variable approaches, methods and tools.

Perspectives

- Notable progress in MRV REDD+/ sometimes dissociated from GHG reporting;
 - Integrate and/or strengthen link between MRV REDD+ and overall GHG inventory
- Assessment of AD & estimation of EF heavily based on technical and financial support from partner institutions;
 - Enhance national ownership through sustainable capacity building/training programs incorporating academia & research
- Varying reporting requirements/standards, different reporting scales, actors/stakeholder, scope, methodologies etc.
 - Develop robust/sustainable institutional arrangements with clear national reporting principles.



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