



Status of REDD+/Forest Governance in Central Africa: Challenges of Implementation

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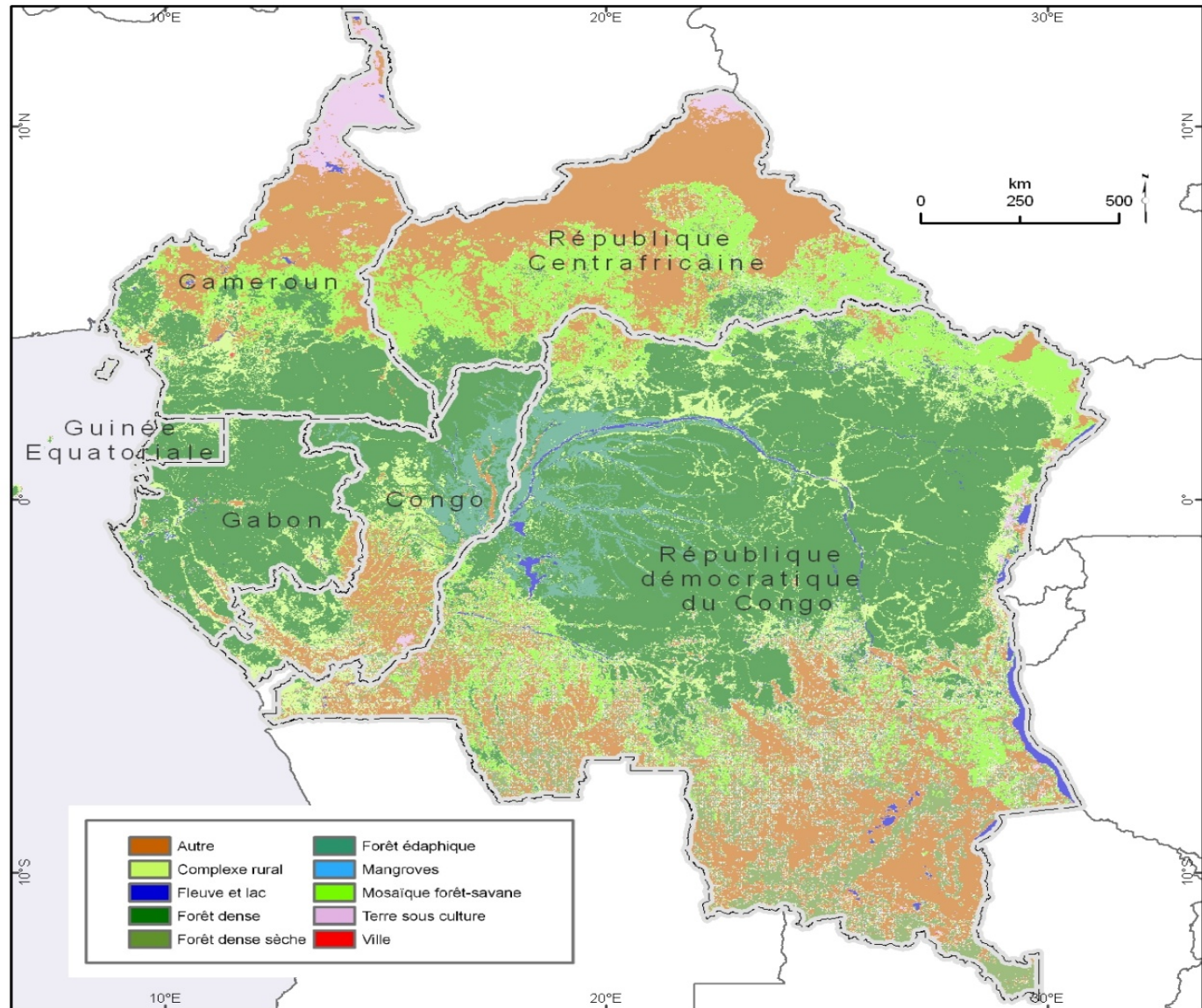
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Outline of Presentation



- Background: Forest Governance and REDD+ in Central Africa
- Forest Governance Initiatives in Central Africa
- Status of REDD+ in Central Africa
- Challenges of Governance and REDD+ Implementation
- Conclusions

Central Africa



Background - Governance



- Timber is one of the natural resource commodity that flows through Central Africa in many ways, but the production is sometimes illegal.
- Poor forest governance has cost Central Africa dearly in terms of reduced goods and services, lost taxes and royalties, the erosion of livelihoods, and degraded forests.
- The political response has been slow, but national and regional FLEG processes have been undertaken including the efforts to implement the 2003 Yaounde AFLEG Ministerial Declaration on improving forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG).
- Voluntary Partnerships Agreement (VPA), is one important tool for addressing forest governance issues, especially legality.

What is the Problem?

- Concern about illegal logging
 - In some countries: 80-90% of logging is illegal - Majority consumed domestically
- Justification:
 - Poverty alleviation and societal equity
 - Reduce forest loss
 - Promote SFM and conservation
 - Capture revenues for the State – economic growth



Problems with the Laws in Central Africa

- Forestry laws tend to give preferential access to large-scale forestry enterprises
- Rights of ownership, use and access often not recognised
- Procedures for communities to secure rights often difficult & costly – selective application
- Forest-related laws frequently contradictory and incompatible
- Definition of 'legal' forest use thus highly contentious



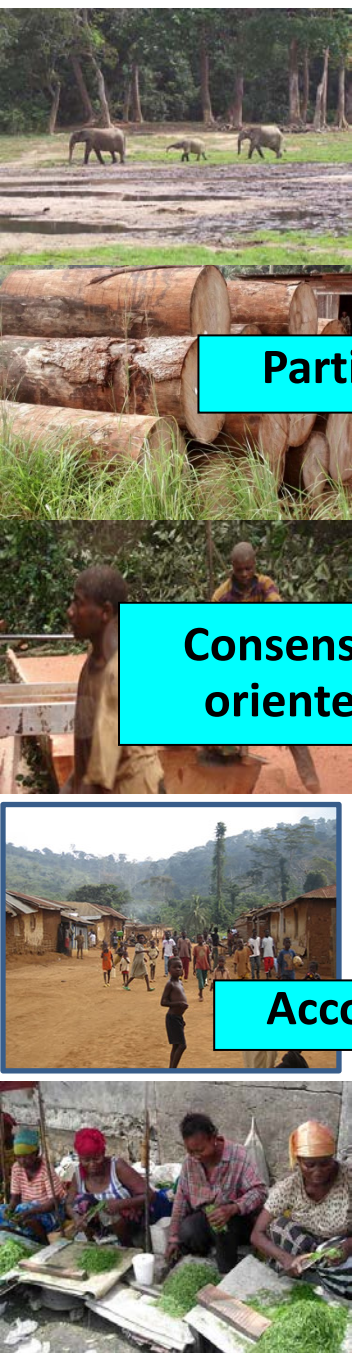
What does 'forest governance' mean?

- No clear agreement on exactly what this comprises, nor on how to assess whether it is being done well
- Direct indicator of the state of forest governance in Africa is the extent of illegal logging
 - estimated as being around 50–60% of total logging activities in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea
 - 70% for Gabon



The process by which decisions about forest management are made and implemented

The elements of good forest governance



Transparent

Participatory

Responsive

**Consensus
oriented**

***Good Forest
Governance***

**Effective and
efficient**

Accountable

**Equitable and
inclusive**

**Follows the rule of
law**

Responses to Governance Issues in Central Africa

- Policy and Legislative Reviews – Cameroon, Gabon, CAR, Rep. Of Congo.
- Heads of States Conference on Forests - 1999
- Establishment of COMIFAC
- Plan des Convergence
- AFLEG Ministerial Conference in 2003
- Forest Certification – Over 800,000 ha certified in Cameroon
- Development of VPA with the EU – Cameroon, CAR, Republic of Congo.

Key Challenges of Governance in Central Africa



1. Stakeholder participation – TRIPARTITE APPROACH:

- Problems too big to be solved by Governments alone – CS and private sector support required
- Broadening the engagement beyond the forest sector
- Good preparation to improve quality of participation

2. Planning and action – POLICY-PRACTICE LOOP:

- Translating international declarations into national and local action and being able to demonstrate/measure results
- Link policy reform to realities on the ground

3. Continuity:

- Maintaining momentum after high profile events
- Learning lessons across FLEG countries and regions to build better processes and support implementation

4. Illegal logging and broader governance reform:

- Addressing domestic trade and markets
- Address the full range of laws relating to forests and peoples, not just forestry laws
- Maintaining the linkage to poverty & sustainable development agendas

Background to REDD+



- **Stern 2006: Curbing deforestation is a cost-effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and can offer significant reductions fairly quickly. It also helps preserve biodiversity and protect soil and water quality.
- **Stern 2008: Deforestation is also a development issue**
An estimated 1.6 billion people depend on forests directly for their livelihoods. The international community is committed to supporting developing country governments as they move towards sustainable development, and poverty reduction.

Why REDD+

- Role of forest in climate change mitigation
 - Forests are critically useful for the sequestration of carbon dioxide
 - Deforestation account for about 20% of carbon emissions into the atmosphere
- However:
 - There are different expectations from the international communities, national governments and forest communities
 - Forests are more than sticks of carbon



Forest in a Landscape



Governance issues are fundamental



- Deep roots of forest problems lie in policy decisions or indecision of the past
- E.g. overcapacity; limited value-addition in the wood industry; lost of economic rents; disenfranchised rural communities.
- Past mistakes not only show importance of policy frameworks but indicate that improvements are possible.
- REDD could provide new impetus to governance reform or reinforce old mistakes

Responses to REDD+ Issues in Central Africa

- Another international lead “Paradigm Shifts” in support of forest
- Signatories to UNFCCC.
- Expressions of interest to the international agencies responsible for initiating the process – FCPF and UN-REDD
- Definition of R-PIN and R-PPs
- Central African common position on REDD+
- 6 Countries in Central Africa already involved
 - Cameroon
 - Central African Republic
 - DRC
 - Equatorial Guinea
 - Gabon
 - Republic of Congo

Challenges in REDD+ Implementation

- Countries weak technical capacity
 - Support to participatory MRV processes
 - Problems preparing for international meetings
 - Communication and information.
- Policy and Legislative Processes ;
 - Benefit sharing arrangements,
 - Land tenure and rights
- Engaging various categories of stakeholders – especially the forest communities and the private sector.
- Funding for REDD+ activities.
- Land Use planning and management



Governance challenges for REDD to grapple with

- Payments for REDD appealing at the global level but it is at the national and sub-national level that the real challenges emerge:
- How to avoid creating perverse incentives for forest owners?
- How to ensure that REDD payments fairly benefit forest managers, forest owners and forest communities?
- How to target payments on forests most at risk of deforestation and degradation to ensure additionality?
- Above all, how to establish a reliable contractual basis to implement payment schemes in situations of imperfect forest governance and unclear land tenure?



Can REDD improve, not exacerbate, problems with tenure and local benefit?

- Hard to determine who should benefit from REDD when tree tenure and carbon rights unclear.
- Risk that only powerful actors capture REDD benefits while passing on REDD costs to the poor.
- If REDD increases value of forests and trees it may also increase conflicts.
- What is clear is that REDD is not going to make long-standing tenure and rights issues disappear.



Conclusions

- Countries where FLEG is working indicated 'best bets' for REDD implementation
- Forests and land use need to be dealt with in an integrated manner
- The potential contribution that a multi-function, multiple value forest resource can make to climate change CANNOT BE REALISED unless "REDD-type" arrangements are better aligned with the broader forest governance reform





THANK YOU