

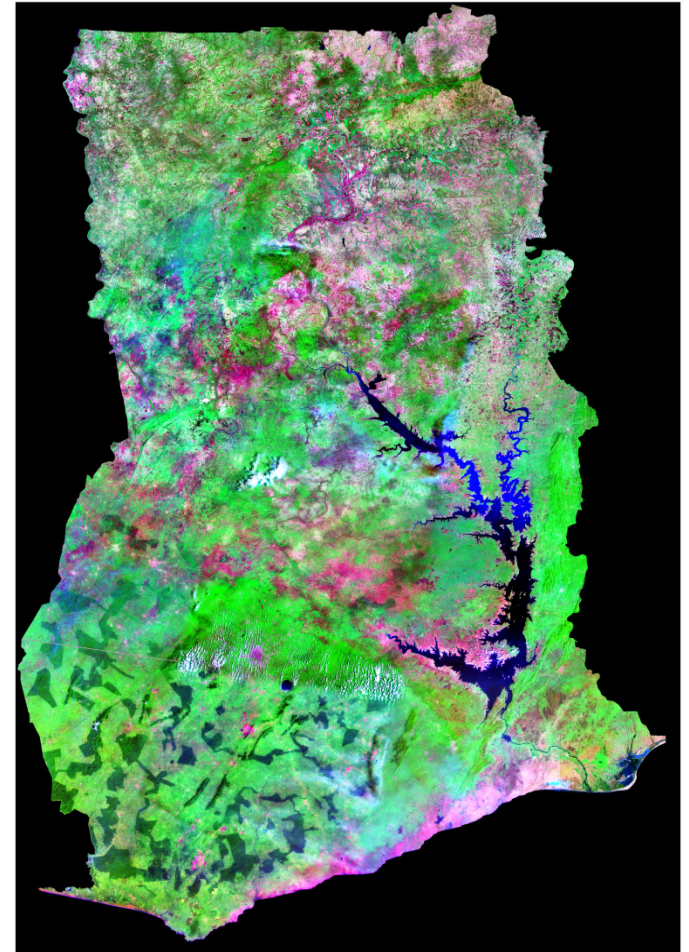
CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF REDD+ PROJECTS

A Conceptual View in the Context of Ghana

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INTRO

- My submission examines the possibilities of implementing nested REDD projects in Ghana, from a conceptual viewpoint.
- It would be instructive to note that most of the issues are still under discussions involving a wide array of stakeholders with varied interests and expectations, and that no new firm or concrete decisions have been reached yet.
- Nonetheless chances are that our discussions here could probably influence the shaping of the final modalities for REDD nested projects in Ghana in the coming years.

GHANA'S R-PP

- Ghana's is now implementing a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal which was approved in March 2010, following extensive stakeholder consultations.
- The R-PP is envisaged to lead to a REDDplus strategy development and establishment of the technical, policy, legal, management and monitoring arrangements necessary to enable Ghana to fully participate in a mechanism for REDDplus. Implementation of the R-PP is anticipated to continue through until early 2012/2013.
- Ghana has adopted a learning-by-doing approach and it is our belief that this would enable us to build the needed capacity and confidence to execute REDD effectively, efficiently and equitably.
- In broad terms, the R-PP entails three steps which are;
 - (a) Analysis, Preparation and Consultation
 - (b) Piloting and Testing and
 - (c) Becoming Ready.
- Currently activities are focused on (a) and (b).

GHANA'S R-PP (Cont.)

- The initial moves toward piloting and testing have been made with a call for proposals for REDD pilot projects, having already agreed a set of criteria required for participation in the pilots.
- A deadline for submission of proposals have been fixed for early April and it is our hope that the candidate projects would serve as a good model for learning lessons towards scaling-up under a full REDD+ regime.
- The demonstration phase would offer all actors the opportunity to apply all the theories and concepts that have been spawned, test capacity that have been developed, further learning through performing, and build useful experience for future up-scaling.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS

- In a consultative workshop on a possible REDD+ architecture for Ghana in September 2010 in Accra, which was organized by the Katoomba Group and their international and local partners, there was consensus that a nested approach for REDD would be a good path for Ghana.
- Nesting was viewed as a feasible, practical middle-ground between a purely national REDD approach and a freestanding sub-national option, with clear advantages that would benefit all stakeholders.
- However, there are questions surrounding the nested option that need to be probed and resolved in order to ensure that it yields effective results.

Some of these questions are;

KEY QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS (Cont.)

- ***Does Ghana encourage projects beginning promptly or as part of a long-term strategy?***
 - Ghana government favours prompt development and execution of REDD+ projects at the sub-national level for fast-learning, as well as generation of REDD benefits. This however requires active steps by government to provide an enabling environment to make it possible.
- ***What is the process for government registration and/or approval of projects?***
 - The process for registration of REDD projects is likely to take after that established for CDM under the Kyoto Protocol. In Ghana's case the DNA for REDD would be within the Ministry of Environment.
 - Ghana would be interested in conducting a review of how other developing countries are proposing to develop their Registries so that Ghana can learn from their ideas and experiences.
- ***Would the government recognize credits created by projects?***
 - REDD credits generated through approved/registered projects would be duly recognized by government
 - A Committee for Carbon Credits Trading has been established under the Ministry of Environment to lead the process of developing modalities for all carbon transactions.
- ***From government's perspective would projects receive funding from official sources or from markets?***
 - Projects could be financed from both public funds and markets, but given that the latter is still evolving and yet to mature, most funding would initially come from public sources (bilateral and multilateral).
 - In the short term, pilot projects chosen by government would need to have their own funding (i.e. not funded by R-PP), though CCU could provide capacity building support.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

- **National reference level vrs sub-national reference level**
 - Setting a reference level is crucial for implementing REDD and the process has been initiated for this important component within the R-PP.
 - There is an opportunity to collaborate and build on the efforts of the carbon map of Ghana, by undertaking land-use change modeling at project and national level,
 - Capacity in this area still remains inadequate and support from collaborators is highly desirable.
 - Projects may be credited for their mitigation activities by using proxies and/or through sub-national level reference level setting prior to the setting of a national reference level.
 - The issue of leakage has to be factored into all these decisions.

CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD (Cont.)

- **Awareness**
 - There is the need to intensify efforts at awareness creation to bring on board a wide range of groups with the potential to participate in the mechanism who are not yet involved.
- **Capacity**
 - Broadly speaking, capacity for implementing REDD effectively and efficiently is inadequate, given the complex and wide spectrum of issues to be addressed. There is therefore the need for capacity enhancement at all levels.
- **Land and Tree Tenure Issues**
 - Issues of land tenure and the distribution of benefits accruing from REDD are quite complicated and need to be resolved through dialogue among all relevant stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

- The Government of Ghana is working with key stakeholders to define a clear set of procedures and rules for carrying out carbon credit generating activities.
- These would include officially endorsing subnational activities and establishing transparent rules on the allocation of carbon rights, participation in subnational activities, and domestic approval requirements.
- By these steps, the Government of Ghana intends to enhance the overall attractiveness of its national REDD+ scheme and to send clear positive signals to important development partners from the public and private sector support and partake in Ghana's REDD process.
- Ghana would want to share experiences gained through the process of building a workable REDD architecture with countries in the Africa region and other developing countries participating in the REDD mechanism.

THANK

YOU