

**Meeting of FIP Pilot Countries
October 31, 2012 - Istanbul, Turkey**

Progress Updates from FIP Pilots

Country: Ghana

Investment Plan:

- X Endorsed
- Expected endorsement date: November 2012

Briefly outline three major advances, challenges and lessons learned arising from your investment planning and/or implementation process since the last meeting of FIP pilots.

Advances:

1. The Ghana investment planning process has benefitted greatly from the two peer reviews as well as comments from FIP Sub-Committee received on May 4th led to the following advances. These comments led to a major review of the Investment Plan (IP). Three key advances that were made during the review and revision of the IP were as follows:
 - Transformation
 - Focus
 - Calculation of GHG Emissions
2. Transformation
 - Widened Stakeholder Consultations
 - More consultations with the private sector & MDBs
 - Lesson's learnt of existing programmes – what is transformational in them.
 - Outcome - what are the key transformational elements
3. Focus
 - 1st draft GIP had a nationwide focus
 - However latest version of GIP is focused in 2 Regions which have the greatest potential for GHG reduction and increased co-benefits
 - Support of IUCN in determining priority regions.
4. Calculation of GHG emissions
 - On-going programme with FPP (Japan), Oxford Univ., Katoomba Group, FORIG etc. have led to the dev. of the Carbon map of Ghana.
 - Now able to calculate carbon savings of IP

Challenges:

1. MDB Co-ordination:
 - The MDBs are supporting the Government in the preparation of the Investment Plan and the preparation and implementation of the projects. A donor platform has been

created for donor engagement in the FIP process. However, the key constraint is the mainstreaming of their programmes and priorities in line with the objectives of the FIP.

2. Delays in Release of Funds – Bank of Ghana:
 - The Government of Ghana continues to provide leadership of the IP development process. However, funds for the development of the Ghana Investment Plan have been delayed due to the internal bureaucratic systems of the Bank of Ghana.
3. Sustaining the Interest of the Private Sector in the Planning Process – Long planning process affects the interests of the private sector:
 - One of the key aims of the IP is to develop a mix of interventions to catalyze long-term, transformational change and reforms, which will allow scaling up of activities and can be replicated both within the public as well as private sector, with the ultimate aim of reducing the emissions of GHG. Currently, the private sector has shown considerable interest and participated actively in the IP development process. However, the challenge is that the long period that has been used in the development of the IP has tended to wane the interest of some of the private sector bodies. Thus the Government of Ghana has been sustaining the interest of the private sector through a continuous dialogue process.

Lessons learned:

1. Need to engage key stakeholders & establishment of stakeholder platforms – Has led to better stakeholder and Institutional Co-ordination:
 - Strengthening relations with stakeholders through the provision of a stakeholder platform is a sound investment in better policy-making, better service delivery and, thus, a core element of good governance. Equally important, it contributes to building public trust in the FIP process and strengthens civic capacity.
2. Building the requisite Capacity to bring stakeholders to the same level for equitable participation:
 - One of the key lessons learnt is the need for capacity strengthening of especially the local communities and the private sector. This will be achieved through institutional and organisational development of the different stakeholder groupings. This will ensure a high-level of stakeholder ownership.
3. Building Synergies among existing programmes and the FIP:
 - A number of projects and programmes are currently on-going within the Environment and Natural Resources sectors. These include the Natural Resources and Environmental Government (NREG) programme, forest carbon partnership fund (FCPF) of the REDD⁺ processes, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), and the Non-Legally Binding Initiative (NLBI) of the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) processes. The strength of the FIP process is that it provides a framework for integrating all initiatives on REDD⁺ processes.

What is the most important value added and/or benefit from the FIP process in your country?

The most important value-added and/or benefits from the FIP Process are the creation of multi-

stakeholder platform to discuss sector-related problems. Multi-Stakeholder Consultation mechanism has also enabled greater participation of the key stakeholders such as community-based organisations (CSOs), Traditional Authorities, local communities and other government institutions in the implementation of the FIP.

Briefly outline the institutional arrangements for the coordination and oversight of the implementation of the investment plan as a program. What works and what needs improvement?

Institutional Arrangements

Two institutional arrangements have been set up for the development and implementation of the Investment Plan.

The first body is the **Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Council (ENRAC)**, which was established as a cross-sector, cabinet level body with oversight responsibility for national climate change issues including REDD+ initiatives. ENRAC is chaired by His Excellency, the Vice President of the Country.

The second body, which will be mainly responsible for the development and implementation of the FIP Process is the **Technical Co-Ordination Committee Plus (TCC⁺)**. The TCC⁺ is also responsible for the coordination of forest carbon partnership fund (FCPF) of the REDD⁺ processes, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), and the Non-Legally Binding Initiative (NLBI) of the United Nations Forest Forum (UNFF) processes. This would ensure the synergies and strengths of complementarity of different programs.

What is Working

The development of the FIP processes using the bottom-up approach with the active participation of local communities and other stakeholders together with the creation of multi-stakeholder platforms have been found to work. Details are as follows:

- **Multi-Stakeholder platform:** Through a comprehensive and exhaustive multi-stakeholder consultations process, Ghana developed its REDD⁺ and FIP processes.
- **Bottom-up approach:** One of the innovative mechanisms under the FIP is the bottom-up approach of development of both the R-PP and the Ghana Forest Investment Plan (GFIP). The approach involved first of all awareness creation of the objectives of the FIP followed by a stakeholder consultation process involving traditional authorities, community groups, environmental NGOs; private sector, particularly the timber industry, cocoa sector; and Ghana's Development Partners, to identify their concerns and key areas that the FIP should cover.

What Needs Improvement

What needs to be improved is MDB co-ordination. Currently, the Environmental and Natural Resources sectors in Ghana are supported by an Environment and Natural Resources Sector Group, led by the Netherlands Government and including the MDBs and other bi-lateral governments such as the U.K Government, German Government Japanese Government and European Union. It is expected that for the implementation of the FIP the existing ENR Sector Group will be expanded to include new donors to the REDD+ R-PP, including Switzerland,

United States of America.

What are the 3 major tasks ahead for your investment plan during the next 6-12 months?

1. Secure approval of GIP during the Sub-Committee meeting of the FIP in Istanbul, Turkey between 5th and 7th November, 2012.
2. Once approved, the next step would be to develop the three Concept Notes into Projects for implementation.
3. The third major step would be to initiate arrangements and structures to facilitate implementation. This will also include capacity building of Stakeholder Institutions