



PLANNING NATIONAL LAND AND FOREST ACTION TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE POVERTY IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Equatorial Guinea has a forest cover estimated at 2.5 million hectares, representing more than 90 percent of the national surface area. Despite this extensive cover, the estimated rates of forest loss (deforestation plus forest degradation) show a worrying upward trend, particularly for forest degradation.

In line with its international and regional commitments, in 2012 Equatorial Guinea started its national process of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). This project significantly contributed to moving forward the national REDD+ progress, engaging multiple actors in the fight against climate change.

In order to address the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and promote sustainable development, Equatorial Guinea decided to develop a National REDD+ Investment Plan.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project generated a solid basis for strategic decision-making on REDD+, in particular through the publication of two studies that provided much-needed updated information and data about the country's forests, forest change trends and the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Based on this updated data, the project supported the development of the REDD+ National Strategy through a participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders. Subsequently, the REDD+ National Investment Plan of Equatorial Guinea was developed and validated at national level, as a solid tool to plan, mobilize and coordinate resources for the implementation of the REDD+ National Strategy.

IMPACT

The project has played a catalytic role in mainstreaming environmental aspects in the development model of Equatorial Guinea, enhancing its contribution to the global fight against climate change. The new National Plan for Sustainable Development 2035 is expected to reflect this green approach, incorporating national REDD+ and climate change objectives. The project contributed to the conservation of the country's forests, allowing them to effectively mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and foster a sustainable development model. Progress was particularly significant in terms of cross-sectoral planning and coordination, availability and access of data for decision-making, development of strategic and planning documents, awareness-raising, capacity development and enhanced participation of multiple stakeholders.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 1 087 500

Duration

December 2016 – December 2019

Resource Partners

Central African Forest Initiative

Partners

Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment

Beneficiaries

Overall society, particularly rural communities, forest stakeholders (including local communities) and government institutions linked to REDD+

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- REDD+ consultation and communication activities undertaken, including two workshops on concepts related to climate change and forests for journalists and communicators, attracting 32 participants (21 women and 11 men).
- Spatial and qualitative studies of forest loss trends and related direct and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea: “Study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014” and “Historical analysis of deforestation and forest degradation 2004-2014”.
- REDD+ National Strategy developed and validated at national level in June 2018 and publicly launched in February 2019, building upon technical discussions with national experts and public officials, as well as on signed international agreements, national development plans and studies.
- The REDD+ National Investment Plan was developed in 2018, nationally validated in February 2019 and first presented to the Central African Forest Initiative Executive Board in April 2019. The final version was submitted to the Executive Board in March 2020.
- Five pilot investment projects integrated in the REDD+ National Investment Plan as so-called Integrated Local Programmes, which comprehensively address all drivers of forest loss in a specific jurisdiction. The target areas are Litoral and KieNtem provinces, Niefang Municipality, Bioko Island and Annobón Island.



Project Code
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Project Title
 Development of Equatorial Guinea’s REDD+ National Investment Plan (PNI REDD+)

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS