

The Forest Sector of the DRC: a joint donor perspective

Chatham House Meeting on Alternative
Forest Uses and Innovative Financing

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The Brussels Declaration

- This presentation follows the main axes of the Brussels declaration (International Conference on DRC forests - feb. 2007)
- Overall consensus on DRC forest governance agenda and on the urgent need to promote alternative forest management models and innovative financing mechanisms
- Follow-up at a high-level meeting in Washington in April at the WB led to the development of innovative concepts that are to be discussed today and tomorrow

The case for the forests of the DRC

- 60 % of the forests of the Congo Basin:
livelihoods, biodiversity, environmental services
- Legacy of past mismanagement and post-conflict situation: at cross-roads between opportunities and risks
- New context: windows of opportunity to link greenhouse gas mitigation with conservation of forests and biodiversity and local community benefits = focus of this meeting

Institutional framework in DRC

- Priority Agenda and Forest Code (2002)
- Cancellation of 25 mio ha of concessions in 2002
- Moratorium on new concessions (2002)
- Legal review of concessions (21 mio ha)
- Forests included into PRSP, Governance Compact and Country Assistance Framework

Gaps between policy and practice

- Illegal exploitation, encouraged by the weakness of the state institutions and the absence of control in the field
- Moratorium regularly breached
- Innovations of forest code partially or not applied
- Destruction of and increasing pressure on protected areas
- Recent achievements are important but fragile: risk of policy reversal and/or sidetracking of ongoing reforms – moratorium, legal review

Critical Steps forward

- Pursue the ongoing governance reforms, and strengthen institutions, simultaneously at the national, provincial and local levels
- Promote participatory zoning and land-use planning
- Promote implementation and coordination of improved legislation and policies
- Develop the broader vision/multipurpose forests

International Initiatives

- The priority agenda of the DR Congo is being supported by a coalition of donors, be it at regional (CBFP/COMIFAC) or at the national level

Multi-Donor Forest Trust Fund

- Joined initiative by EC, Belgium, France, UK, Luxembourg and Germany; prepared by FAO, administered by WB, to be executed by MINENV
- Focus on forest governance: support to MINENV and civil society for implementing the Priority Agenda and the Forest Code in the field
- Joint funding mechanism (basket funding): Donor harmonisation and coordination (Paris Declaration)
- Support for the development of a national forest and conservation sector programme (PNFoCo)
- Flexible design; COS, annual planning and M&E, open to additional partners, contributions, activities

Towards Innovative Systems and Mechanisms

- DRC has grand potential for environmental services (carbon, biodiversity, ...), instruments which are currently being developed and/or refined
- International interest for forests of DRC should logically be translated in a willingness to pay for its preservation
- Cop 13 (Bali) decided to include incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a post-Kyoto regulatory framework

Towards Innovative Systems and Mechanisms

- A special effort, of innovation and political engagement at the highest levels, is necessary to develop such systems, based on equitable contracts between the government and the local communities
- This represents an approach which is complementary to classic development aid
- These new mechanisms need at the same time help to reduce poverty and protect environmental quality and integrity