

PRESENTATION GIVEN AT TRANSLinks REDD WORKSHOP

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Supporting National REDD Readiness in the Congo Basin

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WCS NY REDD meeting, June 22, 2009

TransLinks: Promoting Transformation by
Linking Natural Resources,
Economic Growth, and
Good Governance



REDD Context in the Congo Basin

- Second largest block of rainforest after the Amazon
- Very low rates of deforestation and degradation in Congo and Gabon, much higher in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Few sub-national REDD projects implemented
- Eighty percent of the region under commercial logging concessions
- Weak natural resource governance context and abrogation of government responsibility for conservation
- Traditionally strong WCS presence
- Significant donor interest in supporting REDD in Congo Basin

WCS Original Strategy: 2006-2008

- Modeled on Makira approach
- Develop pilot projects at WCS sites in the region to generate funds for conservation through avoided deforestation:
 - Nigeria: Cross River
 - Cameroon: Takamanda-Mone and Mbam-Djerem
 - DR Congo: Ituri and Mt Hoyo / Virungas
 - Gabon / Republic of Congo: ????

Linking Sub-National Projects to National REDD Readiness

AFD Partnership Initiative

- Three-pronged approach to REDD in the Congo Basin:
 - Development of pilot (sub-national) activities
 - Capacity-building at government level
 - Support for Congo Basin countries in global negotiations
- WCS taking the lead on implementation in Gabon and Congo; WWF in Cameroon and Central African Republic; CI in Equatorial Guinea; shared in DR Congo
- ONFI Technical Advisor to COMIFAC
- = €1.4m over 4 yrs ÷ 3 (WCS, WWF + CI) granted 2008

Continuing evolution toward integrated REDD proposals

CBFF proposal for \$6.8 million in 2008

- Avoided deforestation and agroforestry
- Direct payments scheme
- Limited to two sites (Cameroon and DRC) with little national REDD readiness work

NORAD proposal for \$2.4 million in 2009

- Four countries: Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, and Rep. of Congo
- Regional and country-level capacity to support national-level capacity-building and REDD planning in all four countries
- Coordinated WCS technical actions and lessons learned for 3 sub-national projects in DRC and Cameroon
- Sub-national REDD projects not predicated on market-only approach

Upfront Investments: Recent Readiness Activities

- Cameroon: €20,000 seed money obtained from EU/UNEP for Takamanda-Mone
- Congo: support for FCPF process, with substantially more requested for future
- DR Congo: limited to date owing to lack of resources
- Gabon: WCS national strategy includes training technicians (with IRET), developing training modules (at CEDAMM), and assessing carbon flux associated with logging industry

**Difficult to implement REDD strategy
further with existing resources**