

# **IMPLEMENTING REDD+ IN GHANA: CONTEXTUALISATION AND SOME CHALLENGES**

**Background Information for the REDDplus  
Readiness Field Dialogue in Ghana**

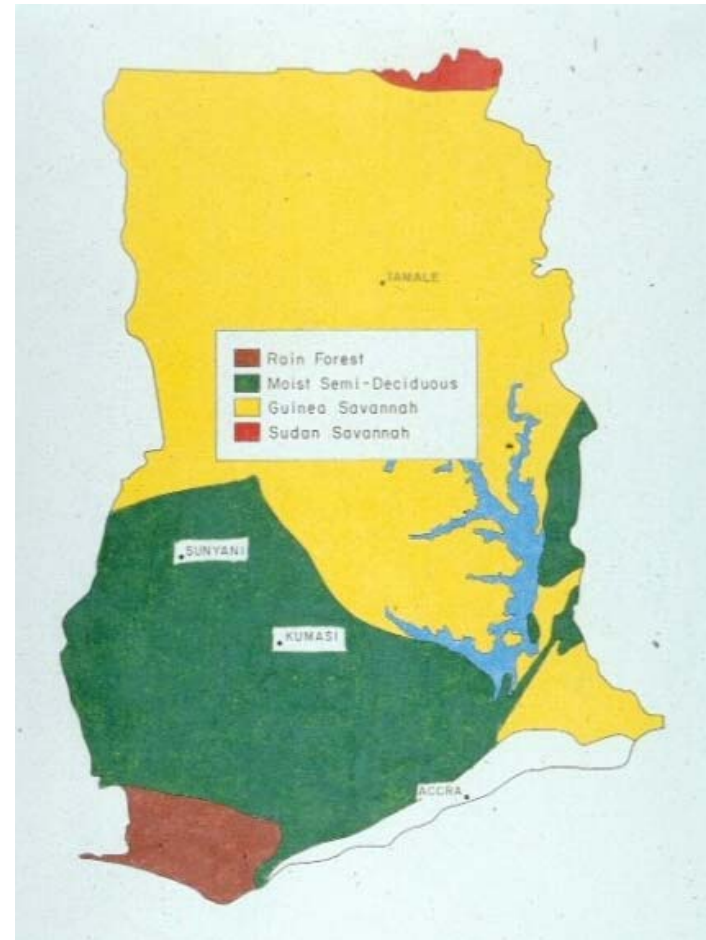
**November 16-19, 2009**

# Presentation outline

- Ghana and her forest cover
- Deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana: Trends and key drivers
- REDD+ in Ghana: What has been done and what next
- Forests tenure rights
- REDD and tenure issues
- REDD+ in Ghana: Some challenges and concerns
- The way forward

# Ghana

- Tropical West African country
- **Population:** 20 million
- **Land area:** 23.95 million hectares
- Two main vegetation zones-tropical high forest & savannah
- **Area under reservation:** 1.76 million hectares



Vegetation map of Ghana

# Forest loss and degradation: Historical perspectives I

- 1948 forest policy promoted deforestation and forest degradation in off-reserve areas
- Further impetus for forest loss and degradation was provided by a Structural Adjustment programme in the 1980s

# Historical perspectives II

- 1994 forest and wildlife policy sought sustainable management of off-reserve forests and participation of local people in forest management
- Despite efforts, forest regeneration continued to lag behind forest loss
- Between 1990 and 2005, Ghana lost 25.9% of her forest cover, which translates into 1.931 million hectares of lost forests

# Forest loss and degradation: current trends

- Installed processing capacity: 5 million m<sup>3</sup> per annum
- Actual processing: 3.3- 4.4 million m<sup>3</sup> per annum
- Annual allowable cut: 2 million m<sup>3</sup> per annum
- Deforestation rate: 65,000 ha per annum
- In FRs problem more of degradation rather than deforestation

# Key drivers of forest loss and degradation

- Forest industry over-capacity
- Policy/market failures in the timber sector
- Burgeoning population in both rural and urban areas
- Increasing local demand for agricultural and wood products
- High demand for wood and forest products on the international market
- Heavy dependence on charcoal and wood-fuel for rural and urban energy
- Limited technology in farming systems and continued reliance on cyclical 'slash and burn' agriculture

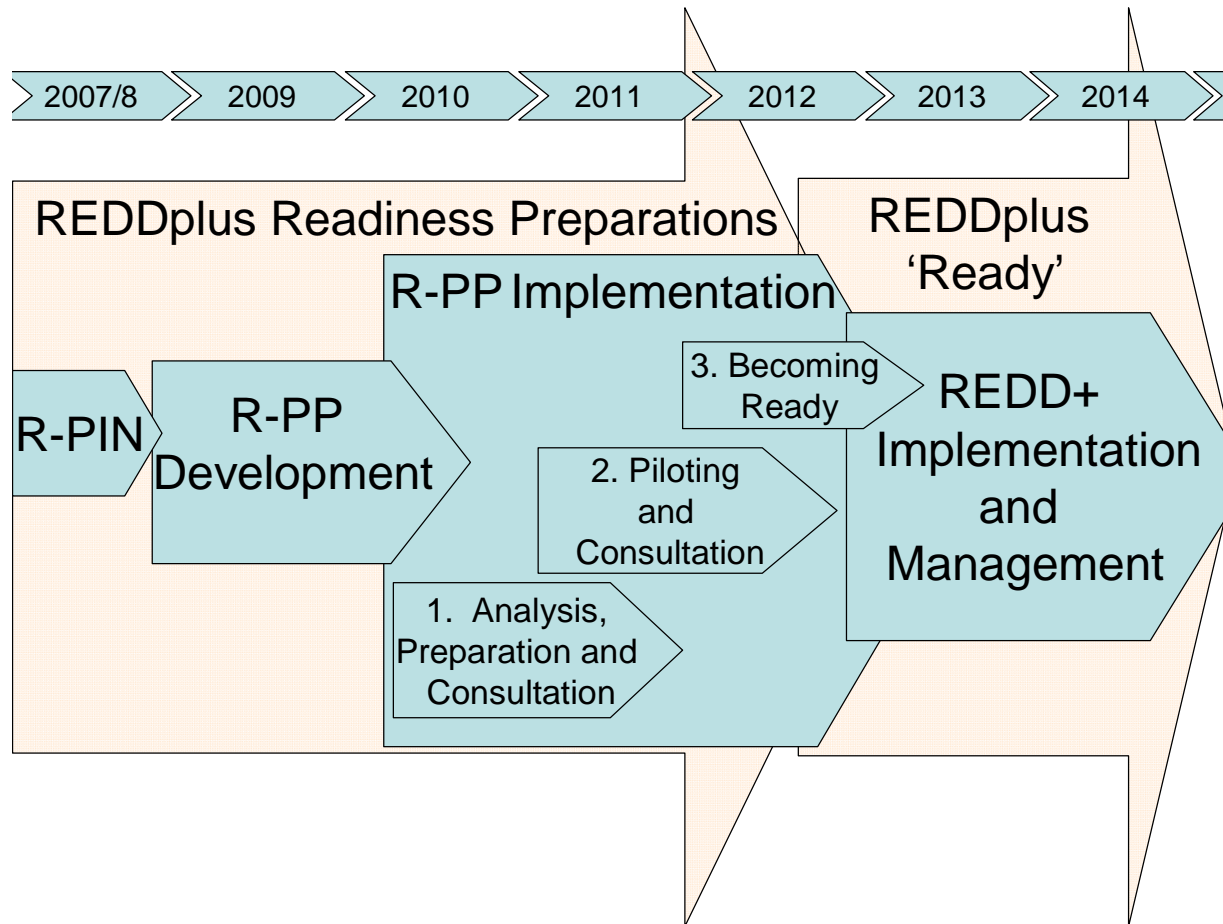
# Efforts to address forest loss and degradation

- Ghana-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Initiative
- FSC Forest Certification Programme
- Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Programme (NREG)
- Plantation programmes

# REDD+ in Ghana: What has been done and what next

- A REDDplus Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) submitted and approved by the World Bank
- A REDDplus Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) drafted with funding from World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
- R-PP to be submitted in January 2010

# Phasing of Ghana's REDDplus Progress [Source: R-PP draft document]



# Forests tenure rights

Land Category	Resource Management Category	Tenure rights	Current status
All lands	Mining	Minerals vested in the state thus licenses granted by government.	Mining increasingly being extended into FRs
Reserve	Wildlife Reserves	State acquired but reversion to land owners upon de-reservation	Largely intact but limited benefit to forest fringe communities
	Forest Reserves	Still owned by stools/skins but vested by the state under Forest Ordinance (Cap 157) in return for 50% share of revenues and access to NTFPs domestic use	Severe degradation due to illegal farming & harvesting, apathy from lack of adequate benefits
Off-Reserve	Dedicated Forests	Community managed with restrictions on use under general technical advice by govt.	Only a few existing and not backed by legislation nor adequate financial resource to effect proper management.
	Farms and Fallows	Unrestricted use for farming and other purposes but timber tree exploitation controlled by the state.	Slash and burn has reduced productive capacity thus resort to more fertile FRs.

# Statutory Tenures

Stakeholder	Rights regime	Nature of rights	Status
Forestry Commission	Statutory	Planning and implementation over management of FRs	Inadequate resources but pursuing collaborative programmes to improve forest management
Timber Contractors	Statutory	Harvesting of timber trees released by the FC under sustainability principles	100s of contracts existing but enterprises under threat from dwindling timber supplies
Forest fringe communities	Statutory	Participation in plantation development (MTS). TUPs for non-commercial usage.	1,000s participating in restoration of degraded forest reserves

## De-facto Tenures?

Illegal chain saw operators	none	De facto due to the pervasive and widespread nature of operations	Thousands of forest fringe communities and other workers operating across several areas in both reserve and off-reserve areas.
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# R-PP Imperatives

- **Policy Analysis:** the NEC's and Expert Groups will carry out policy analysis to help the NRSC and FC design policy reform proposals that are conducive to a long term, sustainable land and forest management.
- ***Land and carbon rights:*** An allied issue is the question of land tenure and how carbon rights will relate to the underlying land rights (which can be expected to play a determinant role in conditioning public attitudes to carbon payments).
- Existing **tree tenure** arrangements will be reviewed to optimise the incentives for tree conservation and replanting. This is a priority from the perspectives of both timber production and the enhancement of carbon stock
- A *National Expert Consultation on Allocation of Terrestrial Carbon Rights* will be constituted . Focus will be on the implications of current land and tree tenure arrangements for the allocation of carbon rights, and advise on any **changes to legislation** required to operationalise carbon rights.

# REDD+ in Ghana: Main challenges

- Funding
- Technical capacity
- Effective stakeholder participation
- Equitable distribution of REDDplus benefits

# Tenure related challenges

- Lack of incentives to conserve and replant trees
- Lack of policy and legal structures for small-scale and community-based resource management
- New plantation policies in place
- Tree and land tenure regimes merit urgent review

# Underlying issues

- National level accounting but localized actions
- Benefit distribution channel bureaucracy and structures
- Individual actions but communal benefit
- Devising benefit more attractive than existing benefits from current land use activities and rights
- Gaining understanding of REDD and its implications of climate change on ordinary actors

# Some critical questions

- Which REDD+ activities would provide most benefits to the nation and local people?
- Which part of our forests must be committed to REDD? And for how many years?
- What are the implications of REDD+ for timber revenues (local and national levels), given the high contribution of timber to the national economy.
- Who will make sure that the livelihood sources of local communities are protected, especially against possible land grab in a market-based carbon market?

# Way Forward Scenario

- National 'Climate Change' Policy
- REDD Strategy
  - » Determine market and fund programmes
  - » Assign FRs & Off-Rsv areas
  - » Set Targets & modalities – areas, activities, payments, institutions, etc.
- FRs – FC prescriptions - adequate funding

- Off-reserve – Voluntary, must be dependent on strong incentives
  - Prescriptions - CREMA/Dedicated Forests, farms, fallows, woodlots, fire mgt.
  - Publicity
  - Registration of ‘participants’-TAs, FBOs, CRMCs, DAs, etc.
  - Sign agreements
  - implementation and monitoring

# Recommendations

- Rigorous evaluation of costs and benefits accruing to those whose tenure rights will be affected due to REDD.
- Need to take into consideration existing institutions, programs, initiatives – e.g., MTS, timber concessions
- Thorough and transparent consultations, probably using third party experts
- Communicating what REDD actually means and highlighting the uncertainties associated with potential loss of tenure rights
- Linking REDD fund contribution to GDP and green house emissions per capita of a nation.

Thank you