



RESTRUCTURING THE NATIONAL REFORESTATION SERVICE

Ref.
75

| Expert | Country | Volume (md) | Amount* (€) | Beneficiary | Funding | Start date | End date | Partner(s) | Reference |
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| Detailed description of the project | Services provided |
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| <p>The National Reforestation Service of the Republic of Congo (SNR) was founded in 1989, following the dissolution of the Congolese State Forest Agency (OCF). The SNR is a public institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment (MDDEFE), with numerous technical and scientific missions: public plantations on behalf of the State or local administrations, technical assistance to private investors and promoters of forest plantations and agroforestry projects, technical assistance to logging companies with the reforestation component of their forest management plans, protection of watersheds, valorisation of non ligneous forest products, dissemination of technical information, production and dissemination of seeds and seedlings for local populations, research and development.</p> <p>The SNR employs 300 workers (half of which are permanent) distributed within the network of local SNR agencies and forest stations, forest nurseries and pilot units for forest management, reforestation and agro-forestry (UPARA).</p> <p>Despite this, the SNR is unable to achieve all its missions. The country is facing new challenges, with the elaboration of a new forest policy based on sustainable forest management, reconstitution of degraded forests and reforestation, with the rising use and scarcity of fuel-wood from sustainable sources, with the development of private forestry encouraged by the National Afforestation/Reforestation Program (ProNAR) and with the growing role of forestry in climate change mitigation. The restructuring of the SNR is therefore an absolute necessity.</p> <p>In this context, the study was undertaken in order to carry out a deep diagnosis of the SNR with the aim of supporting the redefinition of its missions and proposing a relevant organization, as well as identifying an adapted status, operating resources and adequate financing schemes.</p> | <p>The expert was in charge of the organisational and operational diagnosis, within the team of experts led by Ernst and Young.</p> <p>A mission was organized in order to meet with the MDDEFE and SNR representatives in Brazzaville. Several field trips were made to Kinkala, Brazzaville and Kintélé (SNR nurseries) and to the PK45 forest station (1963 and 1978 plantations with <i>Millettia laurentii</i>, <i>Pinus oocarpa</i>, <i>Pinus caribea</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i>).</p> <p>A diagnostic report was prepared in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the SNR. Based on this report, propositions were made regarding the reorganisation of the services of the SNR, in order to better fit with its missions and challenges. The following three strategic issues were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of operational planning: it is necessary to define local long-term strategic orientations, based on the national forest policy orientations, as well as 5-year-period to implement these operational plans in the context of local orientations; • Lack of financial autonomy: the SNR must identify external sources of income, to complement public subsidies. As an example, the SNR could commercialise its technical assistance to private forestry promoters. The State could also pay a percentage of its plantations revenues to the SNR (those plantations being actually managed by the SNR); • Lack of skills: the SNR must reinforce its skills by developing partnerships with R&D institutions at regional and international levels. It should also strengthen its training with adapted courses. |