



EVALUATION OF THE PROS AND CONS OF DIFFERENT FOREST DEFINITIONS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Ref.
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Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
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Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>Ivory Coast has lost more than 85% of its forest cover between 1880 and 2008, under the combined effect of the agriculture expansion and unsustainable forestry. Without appropriate measures, it is estimated that deforestation could increase further by 2030, especially under the pressure of rice sectors, yam, cocoa, rubber and palm oil. The task is therefore hard for the Ivorian government, which has set a goal of reaching 20% of forest cover. The government intends to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through its commitment in the REDD+ mechanism. To carry out this double objective, the country needs a national forest monitoring system (SNSF), designed to monitor changes in forest cover over time and space.</p> <p>In parallel, the private sector is organizing to meet a growing demand for products from sustainable agriculture. Through the AIPH, the palm oil sector began to interpret certain principles, criteria and indicators of the RSPO certification standard (<i>Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil</i>), in order to adapt the label's requirements to the country's realities. The monitoring of the impacts on forests is an essential element for which the sector has little knowledge at present.</p> <p>It is in this context that the REDD+ National Commission of Côte d'Ivoire requested technical support from the European Forest Institute (EFI) to assess the pros and cons of different definitions of forest in Ivory Coast, particularly in the REDD+ and the RSPO certification standard contexts. The objective of this study is to provide practical recommendations for the definition and monitoring of forests at national level, taking into account national capabilities, best practices recommended by the IPCC, as well as potential economic and environmental impacts.</p>	<p>A mission took place in September 2014 in Abidjan to meet the main stakeholders concerned by this issue: CN-REDD+, BNEDT-CCT, AFD, CURAT, IGT, SODEFOR, OIPR, AIPH, FIRCA, GIZ, DPIF and FLEGT cell of the Ministry of Forestry.</p> <p>The three components of this study were :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a state of the art of international best practices in defining forests and forest monitoring systems (IPCC guidelines in the AFOLU sector; GOF-C-GOLD Sourcebook for REDD + guidelines; RSPO guidelines; HCS approach) ; • Collecting information on national capacities and developing a position paper on technical options for forest monitoring, opting for the best cost / effectiveness ratio; • Quantitative and qualitative analyzes of economic and environmental implications of different forest definitions: case studies in cocoa and oil palm industries from Landsat, IKONOS and Rapideye images processing, and final recommendations (phase conducted with support from the Joint research Centre - JRC – of the European Commission under the ReCaREDD project). <p>Finally, specific support was provided to facilitate the dissemination of the study's results by the REDD+ National Commission towards members of the RSPO Roundtable in Ivory Coast. To this end, a five-page technical note entitled "<i>Definition of forest and deforestation monitoring in the palm oil sector</i>" has been produced as a contribution to the national RSPO principles and criteria interpretation process.</p>