

An aerial photograph of a lush green forest. In the foreground, there is a cleared area with several rectangular plots, likely used for agriculture. The background is a dense, dark green forest. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular box on the left side of the image.

DRC Strategic Approach on REDD+

**4th Voluntary Meeting on the Coordination
of Support for REDD+**

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The Challenge: DRC's Forests under threat

A gigantic carbon sink...



152

Millions HA of forests

Above ground :
4 years of world's
emissions



Below ground :
13 years of US
emissions

...with millions of
forest dependent
people



25

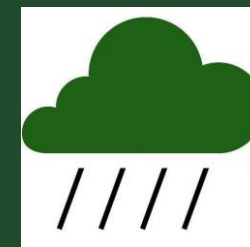
million people
in urban centers
depend on forests for
food



55

million people live
inside or in direct
vicinity of forests

...and geopolitical
implications



Congo River **2nd**
largest river by water flow
with and contribution to
rainfalls as far as Ethiopian
highlands

threatened by increasing forest loss:
over **half a million hectares lost per year**

Our Ambition & Challenges

Objectives

REDD+ Strategy

- ✓ Stabilize the forest cover to 63,5% of the territory by 2030
- ✓ Reduce the 500,000 ha forest loss a year to reach zero net forest loss by 2030

REDD+ Investment Plan

- ✓ Reduce the annual forest loss to 200,000 ha a year by 2022

CHALLENGES

- ✓ Complex interaction of direct and indirect drivers
- ✓ Size of the territory
- ➔ How to address these challenges to effectively alter DRC forest transition curve ?
- ➔ How to change land use patterns and trigger a sustainable transformation of the economy?

This can not be tackled by scattered projects focused on one given driver and geographical area

Drivers of Change

COMPLEX & SENSITIVE REFORMS:

land use, land tenure, law enforcement, etc.

NATION-WIDE PROGRAMS & COORDINATED PROVINCIAL & LOCAL INVESTMENTS



HIGH-LEVEL LEADERSHIP with the Government at the driving seat

CROSS-SECTORAL & MULTISTAKEHOLDERS COORDINATION

DRC's Answer

The Government of Democratic Republic of Congo developed a transformational **REDD+ Strategy, an ambitious vision endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 2012** seeking to stabilize forest cover and addressing the multiple drivers of deforestation in a systematic and comprehensive way.

PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK

- Key policies, measures and activities across 7 sectors
- Focus on reforms, nation wide programs and provincial investments
 - 1 billion USD for 2016-2021

REDD+ INVESTMENT PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Ensure national ownership, high level leadership and multi-stakeholders coordination, while complying with the highest fiduciary international standards

NATIONAL REDD+ FUND

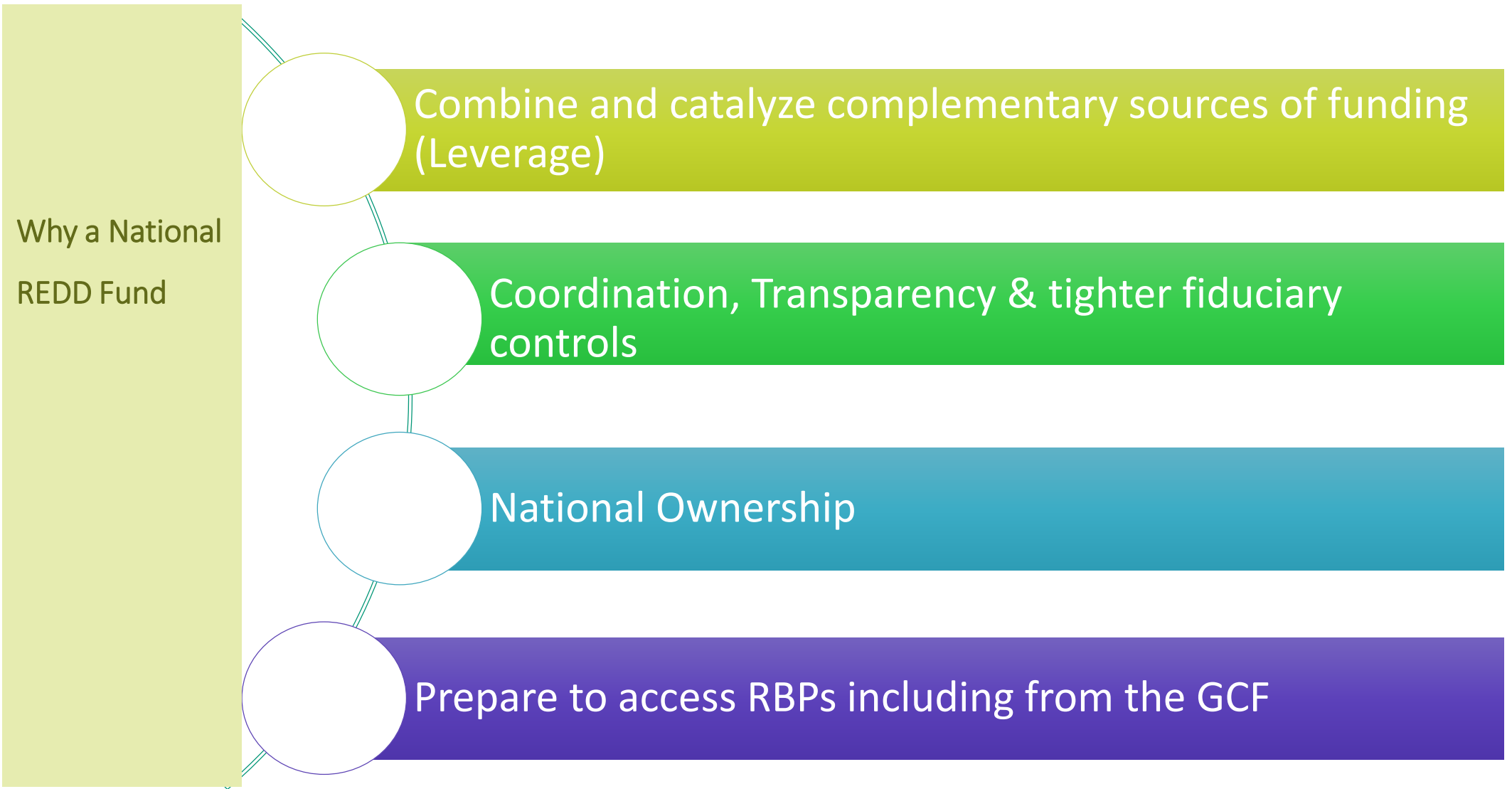
REDD+ Investment Plan

- ✓ **Holistic approach** to tackle the multiple drivers of deforestation using multiple financing instruments
- ✓ **Put land use planning at the heart of its vision** to protect & restore natural forests and significantly increase agricultural productivity.
- ✓ Portfolio of transformative REDD+ programs which focus on:
 - i. **structural reforms**, to foster spatial planning, secure land tenure, improve governance and increase agricultural productivity
 - ii. **investments at provincial levels** to drive a sustainable, inclusive model of rural development and create new socioeconomic opportunities for local communities, farmers and smallholders,
- ✓ Currently funded by CAFI (200 M USD), the FIP (60 M USD) and negotiation with the FCPF CF:
 - CAFI funds the land use planning and land tenure reforms, the revision of, forestry agricultural and energy policies, as well as 8 programs at the provincial level including the Bandundu and Mai Ndombe Provinces in which the FIP and the future payments from the CF operate

REDD+ National Fund (FONAREDD)

- ✓ Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Finance, co-chaired by the Minister of Env., which includes 4 other Ministers in charge of key land use sectors as well civil society, private sector and contributors members
- ✓ Operational since 2016 after the signing of a 200 M USD Letter of Intent with CAFI
 - Steering Committee met 3 times in 10 months → Praised by partners as an unprecedented & effective coordination mechanism to foster policy dialogue
 - 180 M\$ under Programming, 80 M\$ approved and 40 M S transferred to the Agencies
 - Cancellation of illegal contracts
- ✓ Administered by the UN MPTF → Pass through in which each Executing Agency endorses its fiduciary responsibility and therefore applies its own financial rules and regulations
- ✓ Executing Agencies: UN, IDB, bilateral cooperation agencies (AFD, JIKA, KfW, GIZ, etc) & INGO
- ✓ DRC REDD+ Focal Point to UNFCCC designated the National REDD+ Fund as the national entity to receive RBP, based on a joint decision from the Ministers of Finance and Environment

FONAREDD: THE MECHANISM TO IMPLEMENT THE INVESTMENT PLAN



Lessons learned & Challenges

- Need for **strategic, holistic and country driven approach** to address complex drivers of deforestation spanning over different sectors → Critical need for robust governance structures and coordination mechanisms under high level leadership to foster the required structural reforms and ensure **consistency** across the different policies and measures
- **Partners should contribute to the existing programmatic and governance frameworks that country put in place** to support its efforts to seek and foster a transformational approach.
- REDD+ should **go beyond project based approach but project-based mindset is still prevalent** → Weaken the efforts of the Government to be on the driving seat and jeopardize national ownership over the required structural reforms processes
- **Mutual trust** lays the foundational basis of solid and fruitful partnerships

Lessons learned & Challenges

- **No clear dividing lines between mitigation and development measures** on REDD+ → Funding sources which only seek to achieve « strict » mitigation results jeopardize programming efforts towards transformational change → Change in land use patterns require investments on enabling policies and measures !! Land use is not a mere industrial process
- The attribution of ER to specific activities goes against the cross sectoriality of REDD+
- **HFLD countries:** Critical need to acknowledge that deforestation will happen in these countries → the issue is about how to curve down the deforestation transition curve
- **Early assumptions on the cost of abatement in the land and forest sectors were unrealistic** → The scale of required investment were underestimated
- Despite the coordination efforts, the deployment of donor funding doesn't comply with discourse of alignment

DR Congo invites partners to contribute in making the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ a strong tool for the effective implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground and the Voluntary REDD+ Coordination of Support a real gathering to monitor this implementation

THANK YOU

www.cafi.org : see DRC page
<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3CD00>