



Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa (PRESA)

GUINEA Sites Progress report

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TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES



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to overcome poverty

Preamble

Revisiting the case of Guinea during the 3rd IAG meeting, the importance of Fouta Djallon has been emphasized in terms of historical background and the ongoing drivers of deforestation which led to the inclusion of Fouta Djallon as a prominent core site in the PRESA original document submitted to IFAD with the aim to cover the whole East and West Africa. Critical ES in that ecosystem are Water quality & quantity for more 8 countries, Biodiversity conservation (hotspot of biodiversity and high endemism) and tree planting for carbon sequestration (communities having the tree planting culture since decades)

In this line, the project team in charge of Fouta Djallon core site pursued the activities implementation according to the recommendation of the last IAC meeting held in March 2009. This progress report shares key activities carried out, main achievements, constraints and perspectives.

A. STATE OF ACTIVITIES UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

Key activities carried out during this reporting period have been as follow:

1. Participation in sub regional policy review processes (Fouta Djallon highlands influences about 9 countries) where key notes presentation on PES concepts and potential options were made to a community of specialized states services and NRM practitioners from civil society/ private sector.
2. Simplified scoping study in the Fouta Djallon targeted landscapes to meet and discuss with potential project partners in Conakry and on the field, make an inventory of environmental services potential in Guinea and the relevant policy conditions that support or inhibit their development.
3. Organisation of a multi stakeholders meeting to analyse PES issues and stakes and develop a road map for future developments in the areas of ecosystems.
4. Forging sustainable links with Environmental science Departments of the University of Conakry for partnership
5. GIS Data collation and simplified Mapping
6. Enhancing community of practice: Training events and other meetings

B. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Policy Review process in the sub region

ICRAF and his consortium have been involved alongside other key stakeholders to push policy related issues for the past two years in the sub region. The first FD dependent country to start reviewing its NRM related policies is Sierra Leone and this was launched in multi stakeholders workshop held in February 2009 in Freetown. After the introduction of the law review process and methodology, an overview of current legislation and policies was done, followed by highlights on international trends and best practices. In this session, the PRESA FD Site coordinator made a brief presentation on CRES & REDD, which caught the attention of participants especially on the aspects compensation and rewards mechanisms (non cash and cash options), drawn from LAMIL, PRESA and RUPES experiences to involve communities in NRM initiatives.

Group working sessions thereafter analysed the existing policy documents, indentified weakness and gaps of the laws and regulations before formulating valuable recommendations to render them more current, comprehensive and implementable.

Key highlights of the workshop outcomes

In Sierra Leone, the main weaknesses were identified as follow:

- Some titles in the existing acts and policy document are no longer in use
- No impact assessment was indicated before any public work or mining activities.
- Minister was given immense of power and this may lead to some abuse
- International conventions are not referred to in most cases
- Governance related to forestry extraction and transboundary issues are absent in the texts
- Coordination among relevant ministries is not clear
- The role of research seems not to be recognised anywhere in the policies

Some of ideas which cut across target documents to be reviewed included

- Decentralisation and Governance of Forest resources,
- Rewards and compensation mechanisms for classified forests stewardship,
- Transboundary cooperation through Mano river Union framework,
- Periodic national multi resource inventories,
- Environmental Impact Assessment,
- Promotion of gene banks, herbarium and arboreta to ensure the survival of endangered species.

Simplified scoping study in the Fouta Djallon targeted landscapes

This activity ought to be backstopped by the core team from PRESA but due to time constraints, only the site team (the Coordinator, 1 Lecturer from CERE –Conakry University, and 1Msc Intern student) carried out the study within 4 sites selected according to criteria such as accessibility, community dynamism in co-management, importance and size of the ecosystem in terms of watershed and biodiversity, previous and ongoing ICRAF work on non cash reward and motivation. Through participatory tools and methodologies (questionnaires/interviews, focus group discussions, community meetings) and direct observations, environmental services and potentials along side the potential local partners were identified. A detailed work to describe the potential project landscapes (drivers, land use, environmental services etc) was completed and the appraisal of environmental services policy landscape is underway.

Organisation of a multi stakeholders meeting in Guinea

In an effort to get more views and information to strengthen PRESA community of practice, a multi stakeholders meeting was organised in mid August 2009 in collaboration with the Environmental Science Department -University of Conakry (CERE) to analyse PES issues and stakes and develop a road map for future developments in the areas of ecosystems. About 20 stakeholders from organisations and services attended the one day workshop including the representatives from Community based Organisations, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Geology and Mines, UN agencies(FAO, UNPD), national NGOs, Mining companies and Researchers from the country universities. During technical sessions, participants made contributions on main threats to current Fouta Djallon natural forests, synergies for action to implement PES in Guinea landscapes and future perspectives in term of research for livelihoods and conservation.

Some Policy constraints and weaknesses in the upper Guinea sub region

As documented in previous reports, Fouta Djallon highlands extend its associates services to several countries and people. During the series of meetings with grassroots communities, technocrats and policy makers, preliminary policy constraints were identified as follow:

- Governance related to forestry extraction and transboundary issues are absent in the texts both in Guinea and Sierra Leone and It is observed that no Policy text or legal / regulatory framework exist on transboundary landscapes management
- There is a cross sectorial interferences (in terms of mandates), leading to overlaps and conflicting interests within a given domain
- The state structural instability is high in the sub region especially in MRU member countries, rendering stakeholder collaboration very difficult
- Low or no mastery of policies content for enforcement and compliance by forest edge communities
- Low or no domestication of international signed conventions into national policies
- Poor political will to comply with trust funds related to international mechanisms (e.g: CDM, REDD, RAMSAR, CC)

Two main questions emerging from high level policy makers during the debates in Guinea and Sierra Leone are:

1. *How do we interest communities in forest reserve conservation?*

The preliminary answers derived from ongoing analysis of lessons learnt were provided by the ICRAF team to policy makers and shapers. In fact, in order to create and maintain communities' enthusiasm in forest reserve conservation, it appears important to work out a mechanism that tackles the following:

- Responding to practical needs of communities according to their priorities
- Valuing local knowledge and traditional values (what is important to communities: money or other things? what has been going on before we got involved?)
- Empowering communities for collective actions towards PNRM
- Integrating appropriate biodiversity friendly technologies and management practices
- Setting up appropriate incentive mechanisms based mostly on non cash options

2. *How do you address the aspects of environmental risks such as conflicts between wildlife and humans?*

The answers here are not yet clear (Carry out EIA and think about alternatives) and research need to provide more insights.

The main outcomes of this series of activities were the sharing of the state of art in terms of ongoing initiatives on the ground especially PES like mechanism developed and tested in Fouta Djallon, identification of policy constraints (as per above), the definition of the process to update existing policies, and task force to pursue the work and catalyze the process in the other 3 countries. The various discussions would also enrich the process we have started to produce a policy brief on "Boosting "Agro"Forestry and Environmental policies reform through lessons from Upper Guinea transboundary landscape management initiatives"

OTHER ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Forging links with Environmental science Departments - University of Conakry

As requested by the IAC meetings, there was a need to link PRESA activities, negotiations with the Department of Environmental Sciences (Conakry University) have been pursued and partnership strengthened.

The "CERE", Centre d'Etude et de recherche en Environnement, is a joint program between the University of Conakry and Montreal University (Canada) created since 1993. The training is organised during 2 years and includes theoretical and practical courses in the environmental sciences and related disciplines: Global Environmental Problems, GIS and Mapping, Environmental education, EIA, Biodiversity and NRM, Landscape

management, Policy and Regulations in Environment, Research methodology and statistics, Water and sanitation, Internship and thesis writing and Defence.

From this collaboration, a senior researcher was put at the PRESA team disposal to guide research and co supervise students within the framework of ongoing activities. A consultant contract has been established for him with specific research outputs, while one female Msc Student is carrying out her thesis research work on “Analyse des options pour la compensation des services environnementaux de la foret classée de Pincely - Mamou”

Conceptualisation and Data collection are completed under the supervision of the site coordinator pending analysis, final write up and defence.

Collecting preliminary GIS base data

The LAMIL GIS unit has collated existing data and some maps have been produced showing critical Chimps habitats, agroforestry based PES like innovations implemented to rewards forests stewardship in Nyalama, Souti Ynafou, balayan Souroumba and Sincery Ourla. This work will be pursued including inter alia the spatial mapping with support from the PRESA core team.

Enhancing community of practice: Training events and other meetings

Other activities carried out included the participation in various training workshops such as BESSA training event, Shangrila writeshop in China, Modelling workshop in Ouagadougou, and multi partners meetings such as Mano River Union Forest technical Meetings, IAC meeting

C. CONSTRAINTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Though the country is in a difficult political situation, the current military “transitional” government has agreed to carry out elections in one year. It is thus expected a relative stability. However, the USAID funded project on witch PRESA was building on has ended on the 30th September and efforts are being made to leverage more funding. This may require additional budget to keep up the PRESA activities in Guinea.

For the upcoming months, it is envisaged that work planned and not finalized in the previous quarters will be pursued, including:

1. Completing the Analysis of the institutional/policy architecture
2. Scoping buyers and sellers needs
3. Conducting Cost /Benefit analysis for different options
4. Strengthening Dialogue and operationalizing the mechanisms in at least 1 site
5. Synthesizing one policy brief and pursue the supervision of one Msc Thesis