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Challenges and lessons learnt on REDD+ benefit-sharing in the Republic of the Congo

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Content of the presentation

1. REDD+ benefit-sharing context in Central Africa
2. Local Development Funds in the Republic of Congo
3. Lessons learnt for future REDD+ developments

REDD+ benefit sharing: some context

REDD+ benefit-sharing framework

- REDD+ countries are reflecting on benefit-sharing arrangements in the context of the national REDD+ strategies and/or Emission Reduction Programs
- Limited guidelines from UNFCCC, UN REDD, FCPF, FIP
- Benefit-sharing is not a key feature of voluntary standards either (some exceptions)
- Methodological framework of FCPF Carbon Fund provides general guidelines to pilot performance-based payments, requiring:
  - Benefit-sharing plan
  - Transparency and participation
  - Acknowledgement of regulatory framework
  - Inclusion of non-carbon benefits

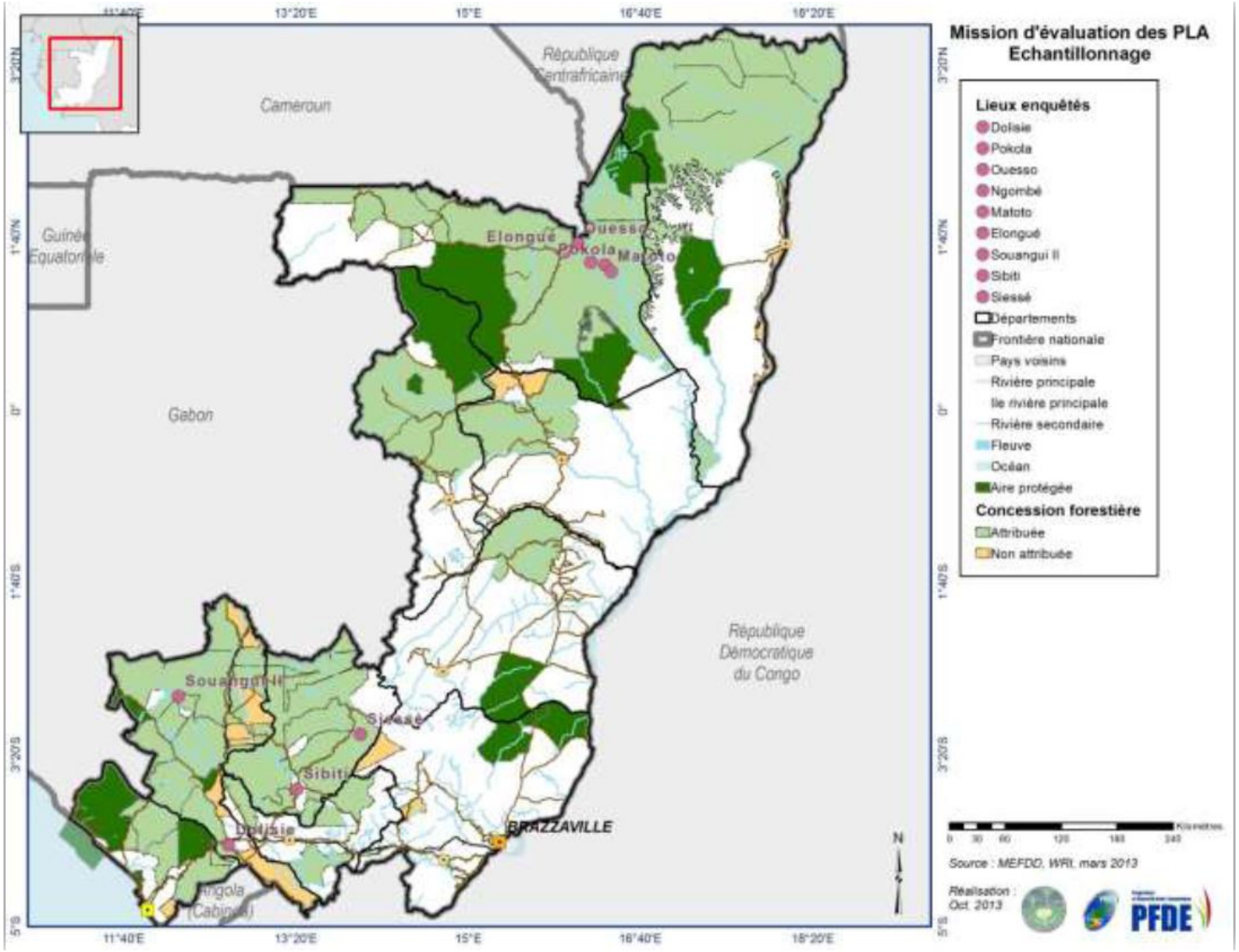
Experiences across different sectors in RoC

- A number of benefit-sharing mechanisms already exist, and experiences are very different across sectors (forest, mining, oil, conservation, eco-tourism…)
- The forest sector is the best documented, and the most regulated and advanced
- Mostly compensation mechanism for the restricted use of natural resources by local communities
- Benefits shared are not reflecting actual costs, but driven by political choices, market standards and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Legal frameworks usually have provisions for benefit-sharing, but implementing decrees and enforcement mechanisms are often missing

Key questions

- Are there existing revenue sharing mechanisms which could be used in the context of REDD+?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in using existing mechanisms?

Local Development Funds in the Republic of the Congo


Mission d'évaluation des PLA
Echantillonnage
Lieux enquêtés
Dolisie
Pokola
Ouesso
Ngombé
Matoto
Elongué
Souangui II
Sibiti
Siessé
Départements
Frontière nationale
Pays voisins
Rivière principale
Ile rivière principale
Rivière secondaire
Fleuve
Océan
Aire protégée
Concession forestière
Attribuée
Non attribuée
Cameroun
République Centrafricaine
Guinée Equatoriale
Gabon
République Démocratique du Congo
Angola (Cabinda)
BRAZZAVILLE
Elongué
Ouesso
Pokola
Matoto
Souangui II
Siessé
Sibiti
Dolisie
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Source : MEFDD, WRI, mars 2013
Réalisation : Oct. 2013
PFDE

Local Development Funds

- The most advanced benefit-sharing experience
- Forest enterprises have social obligations framed by their forest management plans, such as the set up of a local development fund
- Annual contributions (EUR 0,3 / m^3) are used to fund micro projects to support community development within the concession boundaries
- Local development funds are eligible to receive other sources of funding

Building on existing models

- Existing forest sector model for benefit-sharing is close to the community level, links various levels of governance (concession, community, department) and has multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms
- It provides a model that is simple, adapted to the local context, recognized and understood by stakeholders

- Limited to benefit sharing to communities, in some forest concessions
- Governance and efficiency should be improved

3. Lessons learnt

Incentivizing climate-smart land use

- Distributing the REDD+ benefits (rent) according to a pre-negotiated distribution key is often arbitrary and not responding to local realities (e.g. x% is distributed to affected communities)
- A mix of incentives should be provided including support to low carbon activities and projects at community level:
  - This approach allows to clarify communities access and use rights over the land where activities are being implemented
  - Low carbon activities can in turn generate additional sources of income
- E.g. In the Republic of the Congo, smallholder cocoa production will be incentivized to lower the impact of slash and burn agriculture (= REDD+ activity). Revenues from the sale of cocoa will provide additional revenues to communities

Responding to community needs

- Communities have very different needs, depending on the different socio-economic contexts (going from basic medical and education needs to stronger tenure security or support for income generating activities)
- Community development plans could help to frame the activities and prioritize over the long term
- Rather then being organized by the state, benefit sharing can be organized by a non-state actor, while a multistakeholder steering committee ensures alignment with governmental priorities

Balance between equity and performance

- Jurisdictional programs offer the opportunity to demonstrate and test sustainable land-use policy and activities. A balance need to be found between supporting enabling activities and rewarding performance
- Capacity building of stakeholders is necessary to ensure inclusive and participatory benefit sharing and promote local development
- Safeguards need to be in place to provide confidence to stakeholders, such as:
  - Ensure benefit sharing mechanisms are well described in the legal framework to provide legal certainty to project operators and beneficiaries
  - Complaint mechanism ensure stakeholders accountability and provide beneficiaries with the opportunity to be heard in case of problems
  - Any mechanism developed needs to be based on proper consultations and FPIC. It requires time to build common understanding and reach agreement

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Thank you

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