

**GCF Database: CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA**  
**Version 4: November 5, 2010**

**Database purpose:** To create a GCF knowledge database that will include the current REDD actions (programs, projects, policies) of member states and provinces and institutional, technical, financial, legal, and other needs to identify possible cooperation niches among GCF members as well as collective needs that could be approached by the GCF as a common benefit to all; and to provide information to elaborate communications materials and fundraising proposals.

**REDD Action** is defined as the possible initiatives associated with implementation of REDD (i.e., initiatives that seek to limit carbon emissions by reducing deforestation) which encompasses **2 levels of scale**:

1. **REDD projects** – REDD initiatives and activities carried out within a restricted area of defined boundaries (such as Protected Areas or private property) proposed by private actors (e.g. companies and civil society) and/or governments (e.g. State/Provincial, municipal, regional etc)
2. **REDD Program** - REDD initiatives, policies, strategies and activities within a larger scale (larger than REDD projects), encompassing the whole State/Province or regions within, led by the State/Provincial Government or in partnership with civil society. This includes capacity building as part of a phased approach to a REDD program.

**NOTE:** This assessment focuses on REDD Programs in seeking to understand the government's thinking, solutions and needs related to REDD. But REDD projects will be also assessed within the database.

**Structure of the Database:**

- I. GCF Member name:
- II. General Information of GCF Member  
Components / Elements of REDD Action
- III. Component 1: Environmental Service
- IV. Component 2 : Implementation mechanisms for REDD
- V. Component 3 : REDD Financing

**GCF Database Template**

**I. GCF Member name: Cross River State, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**II. General Information of GCF Member**

1. Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 22, 342.18km<sup>2</sup>
2. Population:
  - Total: 2,824,877 (as of 2005 population census)
  - Rural: 1,841, 1555
  - Ethnic groups (name/number): *describe name and number of indigenous and other rural populations*
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Efik	820,562
Bete	346,636
Ejagham	449,323
Ekoi	464,607
Bako	394,595
Boki	214,326
Mbembe	198,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,888,395</b>

3. GDP: (PPP dollar)
  - Total: \$9,292,059,207 (2007 estimate)
  - Forest sector: Unknown
  - Agricultural sector: Unknown
  - Main income products:
4. Per capita income: \$3,150 approximately
5. Human Development Index: 0.511, or 158/182 countries (2009 report, Nigeria as whole).
6. Forests (Typologies and Status):
  - Total forest area: It is estimated that in 2010 there are approximately 730,000 hectares of forests in Cross River. Various estimates using different procedures have been made of Cross River's forest, some of which are described below.
  - Main Forest Typologies (type/area):
  - ***Major Vegetation and Land Use types in Cross River State<sup>1</sup>***

Vegetation/Land Use	Portion of State (%)	Area (ha)
Intense (crop) Agriculture	42.4	889,039
Lowland Rain forest	39.6	829,412
Extensive (grazing) Agriculture	5.1	106,795
Fresh water swamp forest	3.2	62,755
Mangrove, without trees	1.8	38,114
Water bodies	1.6	33,476
Agriculture tree crop plantations	1.4	28,398
Trees/woodlands/shrubs	0.6	12,262
Urban (major + minor)	0.5	11,462

(1) <sup>1</sup> Beak-FRS (1999); Forest Resources Study Nigeria (FRS), Revised Forest Management Plan Cross River State

Montane Forest	0.5	11,376
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,023,089</b>

Source: Beak-FRS, 1999. Forest Resources Study Nigeria (FRS), Revised Forest Management Plan Cross River State.

Other classifications of the Cross River State environment are recorded below.

<b>ECOLOGICAL ZONES</b>	<b>AREA (hectares)</b>
Mangroves	48,000
Swamp Forest	52,000
Tropical High Forest*	729,000
Savannah Woodland	21,600
Plantations	46,000
Other land Uses	1,229,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,126,500</b>
* Including Cross River National Park (CRNP).	

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Status of Forests (%; km<sup>2</sup>):

- Original forest area (pre-human disturbance)
- Fully protected forests (strict use)
- Conserved forests (managed by traditional or indigenous peoples)
- Sustainably managed forests (under forest concessions)
- Forests without protection

Nigeria is estimated to have already lost about 90% of its original (pre-human) forest cover. Cross River State was originally mostly forested, and thus has lost on the order of 50% of its forests.

Three major forest management regimes are recognised in Cross River State. These are National Park, Forest Reserve and Community Forest Estate. From the forestry commission's 2001 estimate of total of 736,170 ha (7,361.7 Km<sup>2</sup>) of Tropical High Forest (THF) in Cross River State, approximately 40% (2955.1 Km<sup>2</sup>) is managed by the Cross River National Park under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. About 38% (2,773.85 Km<sup>2</sup>) is managed as forest reserve under the Cross River State government control, while 22% (1,632.75 Km<sup>2</sup>) is managed by communities. The Table below reflects the above figures.

	<b>Forest management types</b>	<b>Area Km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Proportion of total Tropical High Forests %</b>
1	Cross River National park	2,955.1	40
2	Forest Reserves	2,773.85	38
3	Community Forest	1,632.75	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,361.7</b>	<b>100</b>

- Source: compiled from data collected from Cartographic unit, CRS Forestry Commission, 2001

- Fourteen forest reserves exist in Cross River State. They contain gazetted land held by government for the conservation and sustainable management and production of forest resources. Table below shows the different forest reserves in the state.

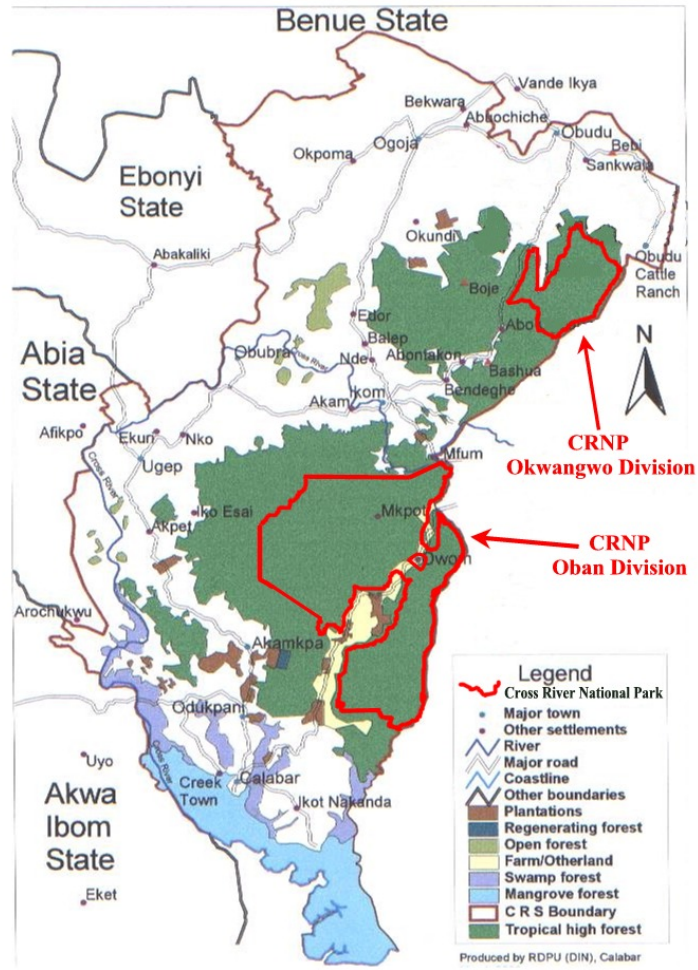
#### Forest Reserves in Cross River state

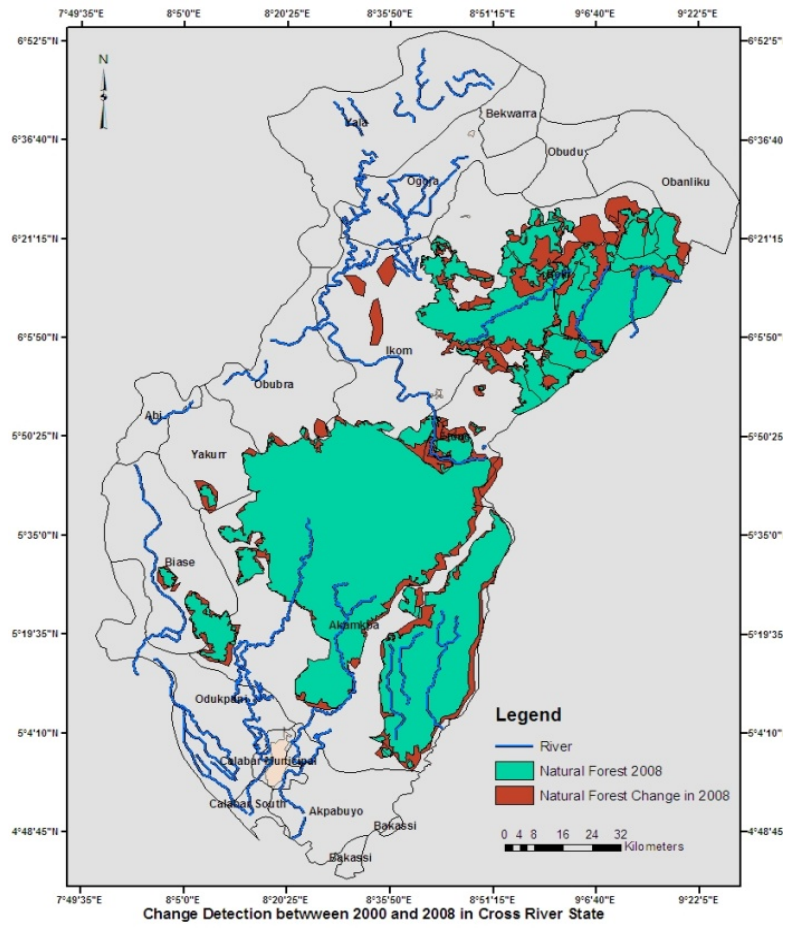
S/No	Name	Location	Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Area
1	Afi FR	Boki	402.87	14.5
2	Agoi FR	Akamkpa/Biase/Yakurr	44.38	1.6
3	Cross River North FR	Etung	146.05	5.3
4	Cross River South FR	Etung/Ikom	526.3	19
5	Ekinta FR	Akamkpa/Akpabuyo	117.12	4
6	Gabu FR	Yala	4.75	0.17
7	Ikom Fuel Wood FR	Ikom	1.75	0.06
8	Ikrigon FR	Ikom	5.77	0.2
9	Lower Eyong FR	Odukpani	20.89	0.75
10	Oban Block FR	Akamkpa/Odukpani	736.63	26.6
11	Ukpon FR	Obubra/Yakurr	315.72	11.4
12	Umon Ndealichi FR	Biase/Odukpani	112.01	4
13	Uwet Odot FR	Akamkpa/Biase/Odukpa	302.8	11
14	Yache FR	Yala	36.79	1.3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,773.83</b>	<b>100</b>

- Adapted from data collected from Cross River state Forestry commission

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Supporting images:





Change Detection between 2000 and 2008 in Cross River State

## Components / Elements of REDD Action

### III. Component 1: Environmental Service

#### 1. Deforestation dynamics monitoring

1.1 Deforestation is known? Y

1.2 Deforested area (km<sup>2</sup>): 98,400 hectare (1972-1992 only).

1.3 Average deforestation rate (km<sup>2</sup>/year): The most recent reliable estimate of deforestation in the state (from 1991 to 2001) shows a deforestation rate of 1.2 % for the tropical high forest (see below). Flasse (2002) tabulates the different types of vegetation in Cross River State and the change in area between 1991 and 2001.

#### Forest Type & Change, 1991-2001

Forest/Land Use Types	1991 Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	%	2001 Area (Km <sup>2</sup> )	%	% (Loss or Gain)
Tropical high forest	7,290	34.27	6,406.35	30.37	-12.1
Open forest	194	0.91	1,206.91	5.72	522.1
Swamp forest	520	2.44	516.86	2.45	- 0.6
Mangrove forest	480	2.26	476.75	2.26	-0.7
Regenerating forest	15	0.07	14.71	0.07	-2.0
Oil palm plantation	219	1.03	185.68	0.88	-15.2
Rubber plantation	146	0.69	134.02	0.64	-8.2
Gmelina plantation	95	0.45	101.64	0.48	7.0
Farm/other land	12,316	57.89	12,050.21	57.13	-2.2
CRS Total	21,275	100.00	21,093.11	100.00	0.9

Source: Flasse Consulting, October 2002

Between 1978 and 1995, the area occupied by natural forests in Cross River State decreased from 52.7% to 44.8% (FORMECU 1998). Further Assessments carried out between 1991 to 2001 and 2000 to 2008, indicated additional losses.

Tables 2.4 and 2.5, adapted from both Flasse consulting, 2002 (for the Forestry Commission) and Bisong, 2010 (for Nigeria Strategic Investment Framework for strategic Land Management (NSIF-SLM) reveals the status of forest cover and change for 1991-2001 & 2000 to 2008 respectively.

#### Natural Forest Status 1991 – 2001

Assessment Year	Total forest cover (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% cover as Total land area.	Forest cover loss loses (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Forest cover loss	Method / Quality of data	Assessor	Prepared for source
1991	7920	34.3%	-1514	-12.1%	LandSAT TM (188- 50) ground survey	Flasse Consulting	Forestry Commission

Assessment Year	Total forest cover (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% cover as Total land area.	Forest cover loss loses (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Forest cover loss	Method / Quality of data	Assessor	Prepared for source
2001	6406	30%			LandSAT ETM Imagery, 30m Res.		

Source: Flasse Consulting, 2002

From table above, the total forest cover of Cross River State in 1991 was 7,920 Km<sup>2</sup>, which accounted for 34.3% of the state land area; by 2001, the total forest cover had declined to 6,406 Km<sup>2</sup> making up about 30% of the total land area. The forest loss between the two period is -1514 Km<sup>2</sup> reflecting a 12% decline in forest cover.

#### Natural Forest Status 2000-2008

Assessment Year	Total forest cover (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% cover as proportion of state land	Forest cover loss (Km <sup>2</sup> )	% of Forest cover loss	Method / Quality of data	Assessor	Prepared for source
2000	7,409	34.8%			Map produced from LandSAT ETM 32m	Bisong F. E	NSIF-SLM
2008	6,102	28.68%	-1307	-17.64%	LandSAT 10m ETM orthorectified &		

Source: Bisong 2010 (NSIF-SLM)

Table above shows that the total forest cover CRS in 2000 was 7,409 Km<sup>2</sup>, and accounted for 34.8% of the state land area. By 2008 however, the total forest cover declined to 6,102 Km<sup>2</sup> leading to a further decline in coverage of the state to 28.68%. 1,307 Km<sup>2</sup> of forest was lost between 2000 and 2008 resulting in a 17.64% decline in forest cover for the period. Forest cover data between 2000 and 2008 showed an annual loss of 163.42 Km<sup>2</sup> at a rate of 2.2% yearly.

For individual Forest reserves, deforestation rates have ranged from 17% (1991 to 2001) for Ikom to 100% deforestation:

#### Deforestation in Cross River state forest reserves (1991 – 2001)

S/No	Name	Location	Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Area	Perimeter Km	THF Area Km <sup>2</sup>	Deforested Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Deforested
1	Afi FR	Boki	402.87	14.5	175.14	301.51	101.36	25.1
2	Agoi FR	Akamkpa/ Biase/Yakurr	44.38	1.6	26.91	16.99	27.39	61.7
3	Cross River North FR	Etung	146.05	5.3	57.51	56.41	89.64	61.3
4	Cross River South FR	Etung/Ikom	526.3	19.0	156.17	504.32	21.98	4.2
5	Ekinta FR	Akamkpa/ Akpabuyo	117.12	4.2	53.23	9.31	107.81	92.1
6	Gabu FR	Yala	4.75	0.2	9.68	0	4.75	100
7	Ikom Fuel Wood FR	Ikom	1.75	0.1	5.83	0	1.75	100

S/No	Name	Location	Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Area	Perimeter Km	THF Area Km <sup>2</sup>	Deforested Area Km <sup>2</sup>	% Deforested
8	Ikrigon FR	Ikom	5.77	0.2	10.18	4.75	1.02	17.6
9	Lower Eyong FR	Odukpani	20.89	0.8	19.89	0	20.89	100
10	Oban Block FR	Akamkpa/Odukpani	736.63	26.6	230.58	369.98	366.65	49.8
11	Ukpon FR	Obubra/Yakurr	315.72	11.4	153.51	199.01	116.71	36.9
12	Umon Ndealichi FR	Biase/ Odukpani	112.01	4.0	92.84	29.16	82.85	73.9
13	Uwet Odot FR	Akamkpa/ Biase/Odukpa	302.8	10.9	120.96	92.58	210.22	69.4
14	Yache FR	Yala	36.79	1.3	50.99	0	36.79	100
Total			2773.83	100	1163.42	1584.02	1189.81	42.9

Source: Adapted from CRSFC, 2001

#### 1.4 Characterization of deforestation dynamics (direct and underlying causes and drivers of deforestation):

The main (direct) drivers of deforestation include:

- Unsustainable agricultural practices
- Commercial logging,
- Forest fires
- Cattle grazing
- Inefficient use of forest resources
- Poor enforcement of forest laws, policies and regulations.

Even though all the above mentioned drivers of deforestation have a significant impact on forests, unsustainable agricultural intensification and commercial logging respectively practices dominate the list of deforestation drivers. Urbanization and domestic energy uses follow. Poor conservation and poor enforcement of forest laws, policies and regulations exacerbate deforestation drivers.

Indirect causes of deforestation in Nigeria.

The underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation can be grouped under macro economic factors, governance factors and other factors (including demographic technological and cultural factors).

Macro economic factors:

The higher profitability of agriculture is the main economic factor underlying the conversion of forests to other uses. Other macro economic factors include external debt; foreign exchange rate policy and trade policies governing the sector. For example, the ban on log and sawn timber export has contributed significantly to this inefficiency by keeping prices lower than their true competitive levels. This has continued to protect the inefficiency of the wood industry. According to a World Bank study's analysis, four states (for which complete data are available) subsidized the forest industry to the tune of US \$6.5 million in

2003 through a failure to adjust their fees to their real levels and a failure to capture revenues lost through illegal logging. This study estimated that between 2001 and 2003, the four states lost US \$ 18.7 million from these sources.

Governance factors:

Deforestation and degradation can result from the combined impact of poor forest tenure arrangements and weak forestry institutions, which in turn determine the set of incentives that leads to overexploitation.

Outdated forest laws: The legislative structure for forest management in Nigeria has remained largely unchanged since colonial times. Forest resources fall under three main categories: Forest Reserves, State and private tree plantations, and 'free areas'. The colonial legislation set a number of precedents that are still evident today, including a policy thrust based upon the expansion of reserved areas and plantations, in which communities have very limited rights. The current National Forest Policy (1988)<sup>11</sup> continues this trend by focusing on achieving national self-sufficiency in wood production and a doubling of the reserved forest area. However, the status quo appears to have continued largely unchanged by this policy environment. The role of rural communities in forest management and the importance of forest resources to the rural poor have not been recognized so far.

No integration with other ministries: Government agricultural programmes, and the potential expansion of the solid minerals sector, have a significant impact on forestry in Nigeria, with this largely being overlooked in national planning processes. Forestry (and environment in general), is not effectively integrated across national planning, despite the presence of mainstreaming mechanisms (such as the inactive biodiversity inter-ministerial committee).

Land tenure: Land tenure laws fail to formally recognise community tenure of land removing an incentive for villages to manage their land resources more effectively. The rights of communities over the forest sector worsened following the Land Use Decree of 1978.

Weak capacity at Federal level: The management of forest resources and the right to generate revenue from the forest estate are both vested in the State Governments at present. The 1978 Land Use Decree, which vests all land in the hands of the State Governors, strengthened this mandate. The role of the Federal Government appears somewhat limited, although the Federal Department of Forestry (FDF) holds the remit to advance national forest policy. The FDF is in a weak position, having suffered from a lack of capacity development over last fifteen years. The National Forest Development Committee (NFDC) is the forum that brings together all the State Forestry Directors and is chaired by the Director of the FDF. It provides an important institutional link between the Federal authority and the States. In recent times it has been involved in guiding forest policy and legislation development.

Weak capacity at state level: This lack of capacity and funding situation is reflected at the state level, where the State Forestry Departments lack capacity to manage forests effectively. On the other hand, forestry plays a pivotal role in State finances for example, in Ekiti State, with 40 % of Internally Generated Revenue being raised from timber royalties and license fees in 2002. Nevertheless, the funding of government agencies remains weak and there is very limited civil society capacity to compensate for this deficiency.

Absence of forest management planning: An important cause for deforestation within the forest reserves can be linked to state forestry departments who have abandoned any form of forest management for natural forest since the 1970s. As a result, reserve forests are being treated as an infinite resource with no effective policies in place to regulate their harvesting. An example of this is the practice of allocating short-term concession of 1 to 3

years that encourage annual re-entries thereby totally degrading the forests. In many reserves management amounts to salvage logging for the last remaining trees.

High revenue targets and low timber fees: The forest revenue system of the states has also contributed to the forests' demise. The allocation of concessions is by discretion and annual timber removal is driven by the states' revenue targets. These are set administratively without regard to what actually exists in the forest or what can be sustainably harvested. A World Bank Forestry Economic Study for Nigeria in year 2005 showed that low timber fees have had a direct impact on the efficiency of forest industry, costing the state significant losses in revenue as well as causing wastage of valuable timber resources. Other reasons for degradation in the forest reserves include inefficient wood-utilization by industry and, therefore, a higher demand for industrial grade timber, and illegal logging.

De-reservation by state governments: In addition, forest estates are being de-reserved by some state Governments and the State Forest Departments who have been resist the spate of requests from corporate and influential individuals for excisions from the forest estate for the establishment of agricultural cropland. The unfortunate impression has thus been created that the forest estate exists as a land bank as the demands for de-reservation continue nationwide.

Ban on wood export: In addition, the ban on log and sawn timber export has contributed significantly to this inefficiency by keeping prices lower than their true competitive levels. This has continued to protect the inefficiency of the wood industry. According to this World Bank study's analysis, four states (for which complete data are available) subsidized the forest industry to the tune of US \$6.5 million in 2003 through a failure to adjust their fees to their real levels and a failure to capture revenues lost through illegal logging. This study estimated that between 2001 and 2003, the four states lost US \$ 18.7 million from these sources.

Demographic factors:

A growing rural population and migration to the agricultural frontier increases the pressure on forests. An increasing population in urban and rural areas also raises the demand for food and other land-based commodities, thus, requiring more land to produce them.

Technological factors:

Technological improvements can affect deforestation rates. The adoption of land extensive technologies inevitably results in the expansion of agriculture at the expense of forests.

Cultural factors:

Sacred groves and forest areas are often protected from land conversion and degradation. However, other cultural factors exert pressure on forests. The majority of forest communities with a few exceptions are unaware of any alternatives to unsustainable exploitation and are often divided amongst themselves as to how to best exploit the forests for their development. In a typical village individuals supported by logging interests are often pitted against hunters and NTFP collectors. Chiefs are often compromised by loggers and are unable to protect the forests for the good of the majority in the village who may depend on NTFPs and bushmeat and other forest products to supplement farming income. Divided communities are often far more vulnerable to predatory logging interests and so within a few generations, their forests is cleared while the villages remain poor.

Table below shows the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria.

***Some of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria***

Drivers	Deforestation	Forest Degradation
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Drivers	Deforestation	Forest Degradation
Shifting cultivation	√	
Commercial farming for biofuels	√	
Forest fires	√	√
Over exploitation of forests	√	√
Over grazing	√	√
Mining	√	√
Infrastructure development e.g. road, power lines	√	
Energy for domestic use	√	√
Weak law enforcement and weak forest management capacity	√	√
Obsolete forest laws in the states	√	√

- **Forest conversion for permanent agriculture (Gmelina for pulpwood cocoa, Rubber, palm oil plantations, soybean fields etc)**
- **Large-scale shifting cultivation (i.e. slash-and-burn) where forest is not permitted to regenerate due to subsequent clearing**
- **Roads and infrastructure projects**
- **Urban expansion**

1.5 Monitoring methodologies and accuracy: data gathering by monitoring units of various forest charge offices

Monitoring of forest and deforestation in Cross River State has occurred over the past few decades. A series of governments and donors have contributed to various CRS monitoring efforts and broader forest management and governance programs. There is currently no systematic institutional system for forest monitoring, however it has been carried out professionally, on an ad hoc basis, since the 1990s.

In 1999, the Department for International Development (DFID), formerly the ODA, of the UK Government began funding of a 3 – year Cross River State Community Forestry Project (CRSCFP). It was conceived essentially to support the need for increased productivity of the states remaining forests outside the national park (i.e. in the forest reserves and community forests) following the creation of the Cross River National Park projects. The major objectives of the programme were:

- To build the capacity of communities to manage their forests and derive livelihood benefits,
- To build the capacity of the Cross River State Forestry Commission to support communities

Over 33 communities interested in forest management were identified out of an estimated 75 forest – owning villages in Cross River State. The project facilitated formation and registration of 33 Forest Management Committees (FMCs). The three year programme carried out numerous studies, including a rapid inventory of the state’s forest resources.

In August of 2002, Flasse Consulting also was hired to perform a rapid assessment of the tropical high Forest cover and timber volume for Cross River State and a rapid appraisal of Forest quality using remote sensing.

In addition to remote sensing efforts, 51 forest plots from a 1994 survey were revisited in 2001. This work showed a rate of exploitation in the plots of between 17% and 57%, varying between location and forest type (either a Forest reserve or a community forest).

**1.6 Needs identified for deforestation monitoring?** CRS needs substantial capacity building.

## **2. Forest degradation dynamics monitoring**

2.1 Degradation is known? Yes, although consistent and reliable data on degradation are not available. The Flasses 2002 assessment re-visited several 1994 forest plots and found high levels of degradation.

2.2 Degradation level (km<sup>2</sup>; categories of degradation) 54,300 hectare (1972-1991)

2.3 Characterization of degradation dynamics (direct and underlying causes and drivers of forest degradation). Many of the drivers of degradation are the same drivers of deforestation (see above, section 1.4). Substantial forest degradation is driven by continued agricultural expansion and increasingly, to bush fires that follow partial forest clearing.

2.4 Monitoring methodologies used and accuracy. The main way of assessing forest degradation has been the revisiting of 1994 forest plots. In addition, on-going efforts by Yadvinder Malhi and Winston Asanta (Oxford University) may help monitor deforestation.

**2.5 Needs identified for degradation monitoring?** Needs for degradation would be part of an overall forest monitoring program.

## **3. Forest Carbon Stocks quantification**

3.1 Carbon stocks are known? Yes, efforts to measure CRS forest biomass and carbon have begun. An initial and unpublished study of only four (4) adjacent plots at the Afi Mountain Reserve (next to the Pandrillus Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center) by the Tropical Forest Group in 2008 estimated an average above ground carbon density of 193 tons of carbon/hectare (tC/ha) with very high uncertainty (+/- 50%). Subsequent work by Oxford University and other institutions on-going; more detailed results are not yet available.

3.2 Carbon stocks in forests:

- Aboveground: 193 tC/ha
- Underground: not known.

3.3 Method used and accuracy: Only 4 small (20m X 20 m) plots were measured. This was not a rigorous academic exercise, but rather a “quick look” into possible above ground carbon and also to understand variance of plots in a single forest try. The diameter of breast height of all trees (greater than 10 cm DBH) were recorded. General (Chave) allometric equations were applied and expansion factors used to estimate 193 t C/ha in that forest area.

### **3.4 Needs identified for forest carbon quantification?**

Cross River State, as part of its overall REDD program and REDD monitoring programs, will need to carry out robust forest carbon density measurements in discrete forest classes in a manner consistent with applications of remote sensing.

**4. Baseline definition and emissions reduction targets**

4.1 Baseline references used in REDD Program, methods used (historic, projected, and number). Cross River State has not committed to any specific baseline definition or methodology.

4.2 CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Goals for the state and for REDD program, calculation method (reduction target, calculation, carbon stocks/ha used, ...) . Cross River State has on its own, instituted a two-year illegal logging moratorium, which will expire at the end of 2010.

4.3 Estimated CO<sub>2</sub> savings per period. Not known.

**4.4 Needs identified to improve baseline definition?**

Cross River State looks forward to working with other GCF members to improve definitions and estimates of baselines.

#### IV. Component 2 : Implementation mechanisms for REDD

##### 5. Structural policies in place for reduction of deforestation

List and characterization of policies that enable deforestation reduction and promote the value of forests, describing:

Policy	Objective	Target public	Expected Results	Proponent	Relation with REDD action
New Forest Management Law	To update CRS laws to encourage conservation and allow for REDD programs and projects.	Statewide	Varied and broad.	CRS government (legislative and executive)	
Illegal Logging Moratorium	To stop illegal logging for a limited time to assess all forest options.	Illegal loggers	Substantial decrease in logging and deforestation.	CRS government, as recommended by CRS stakeholders	
Anti-Logging Task Force	To stop illegal logging	Illegal loggers	Substantial decrease in logging and deforestation	CRS government and NGOs	

##### 6. REDD strategy concept

6.1 GCF Member has a REDD Program now? There is no official CRS REDD program per se. However, many parts of a statewide REDD program have been developed. CRS has significantly advanced many components that will be required for a functional statewide REDD program.

6.2 GCF Member has been planning a REDD Program? Yes. It may or may not be officially title the Cross River State REDD program, but the key parts are coming into place for a comprehensive program. CRS has engaged UN REDD, the World Bank FCPF, and the US Forest Service to discuss funding the full development of a statewide REDD programs. The state and its partners have developed a preliminary grant proposal that would cover many of the initial steps of a statewide REDD program. This grant proposal has not yet been approved by the CRS government and it the work outlined has not been funded.

6.3 REDD strategies conceived or in process of conception to reverse deforestation and degradation (*short description of the main concepts adopted by the REDD program, please include details related to **territorial approach of REDD Program** (Territory-wide and/or Regions within territory (how many and area size; method for selection) and/or Project-base)*)

- Capacity Building
- Improved forest law, tenure, governance, etc
- Pilot projects
- Forest monitoring and field studies
- Civil engagement and outreach
- Fund-raising

##### 7. Target population and rights recognition

7.1 Social groups reached by the REDD Program and number of people directly benefited. This is still being developed, but the goal would be to reach the whole state by improving the economy and the environment through a comprehensive REDD program.

7.2 Procedures taken by proponent and evidence that REDD Program acknowledges the rights and role of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The recent forest law does the following:

The new law provides for the creation of the position of the 'Conservator General' as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the state forestry commission. This will make forest conservation and protection the main focus of the Forestry Commission's mandate. The law also gives formal recognition to community forestry and the community based Forest Management Committees.

According to the new forest law, the structure and organogramme of the new forestry commission will include divisions for:

- Protection and compliance
- Wildlife and ecotourism
- Community Forestry
- Business Development
- Afforestation, NTFP/Medicinal Plants

Presently, a REDD (+) committee to coordinate and drive the REDD (+) process is being established in the commission. A desk officer on climate change is proposed to facilitate the activities of the REDD Committee.

The new law also allows the Forestry Commission to award "carbon concessions" in the state forest reserves. In addition, it recognises water protection, eco-tourism, watershed protection and biodiversity offset concessions. This is the only state in Nigeria that has such a provision in its forest laws. The old forestry law of the state only recognised timber concessions.

### **7.3 Needs identified for rights recognition improvement?**

#### **8. Participation and Transparency mechanisms**

8.1 What actions have been taken to guarantee free, prior and informed consent?

While engagement on REDD across the country has been limited to date, there has been extensive engagement with forest communities on conservation and sustainable forest management over the last 20 years in Cross River State. This started with the WWF programme for Cross River National Park and the DFID Community Forestry Programme with the CRSFC that saw the creation of 45 Forest Management Committees (FMCS) in forest communities. Various environmental NGOs such as CERCOPAN, Pandrillus and others have worked intensively with their "host" communities on conservation programmes over the last 15 years and awareness on conservation issues is high in many villages. A recent UN-REDD mission carried out two stakeholder workshops on REDD (one in Calabar and one in Abuja) too which a wide range of stakeholders were invited from government, NGOs as well as forest dependent community representatives.

8.2 Briefly describes **mechanisms** for consultation and continuous participation addressed or planned by REDD Program in the development and implementation phases, include

**target groups** assessed or planned to be, **methods used** (particularities to deal with capacity, timing and understanding of indigenous peoples and local communities)

The UN-REDD programme about to be launched in Nigeria will develop a stakeholder engagement plan on REDD for CRS and the country more widely.

8.3 Information on transparency of REDD program:

- Available information
- Medias used
- Public access

**8.4 Needs identified for improvement in participation and transparency?**

Yes, there will be a need for assistance with developing and rolling out the countrywide REDD stakeholder engagement plan.

**9. Benefit sharing mechanisms**

9.1 Describe the **broad picture** of how REDD program addresses social and economic well-being of forest dependent communities, including poverty reduction, equitable benefit sharing.

There will be wide range of co-benefits from REDD including sustained income from Non-Timber Forest Products upon which the forest communities depend for a large proportion of household incomes.

9.2 Description of the PES or benefit sharing mechanisms currently in place or planned (**concrete elements**)

To be developed.

9.3 Describe evidences for participation of stakeholders in the development of the mechanisms

To be developed.

**9.4 Needs identified? Yes assistance will be required in the development of benefit sharing mechanisms.**

**10. Institutional framework and arrangement for REDD program and Government's capacity to implement REDD**

10.1 Describe characteristics (in the table below) for existing Agencies related to:

- Forest Management
- Agricultural Sector
- Control of fires
- Management of Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories
- Forest / Deforestation Monitoring
- Law enforcement
- Climate Change

Name	Responsibilities	Relation with REDD Program

National institutions (selection)

- Federal Ministry of Environment/Special Climate Change Unit
- National Technical Committee on REDD
- National House of Representatives and Senate
- National Forestry Development Committee
- National Council on Environment

- Forestry Research Institute
- National Parks Service
- Federal Ministry of Finance
- Federal Ministry of Justice
- Private sector
- NGOs: Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Pro-Natura International (PNI), International Centre Environment and development (ICEED), Friends of the Earth Nigeria (FOEN)

CRS institutions (selection)

- Governor's office
- Ministry of Environment
- Cross River State Forestry Commission
- Cross River National Park
- House of Reps
- Universities
- International NGOs: WCS, FFI, NCRC/Katoomba incubator
- Nigerian NGOs: Pandrillus, CERCOPAN, Development In Nigeria (DIN), NGO Coalition for the Environment (NGOCE), AGBREMO, Rainforest Development Coalition (RRDC)
- Community Groups: Forest Management Committees, Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (CAMM), Ekuri Initiative

10.2 For the REDD Program, was an institutional capacity needs assessment made? Y/N. No, a comprehensive needs assessment has not been not done for REDD. Previous studies have looked at the issue but not in a systematic manner.

10.3 Functioning and institutional framework (existing and to be created) related to the governance of REDD program, (include organizations responsible for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)):

Name	Responsibilities	Status (created, implemented, fully functional)
Cross River State (governor's office)	Implementation of new forest management law, enforcement of moratorium, engage stakeholders	Fully functional.
CRS Forestry Commission		CRS FC exists, but REDD capacity limited.
• The Cross River State ministry of Environment		REDD capacity limited.
• The Cross River State Ministry of Finance		REDD capacity limited.
• Cross River State Ministry of Justice		REDD capacity limited.
• Cross River State Department of International Donor Support (IDS)		REDD capacity limited.

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**10.4 Needs identified for improving capacities of REDD Program organizations?** Yes support will be required for this.

**11. Land/forest tenure administration and relation with REDD**

- 11.1 Legal support and protection of forest tenure – yet to be defined in relation to Cross River State REDD programme.
- 11.2 Clear responsibilities, capacity and authority for forest tenure administration – yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.3 Actions planned or developed by governments to solve issues related to land tenure uncertainties within REDD priority areas– yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.4 Relation of forest tenure solving and REDD objectives/actions– yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.5 Recognition of communities and indigenous peoples’ rights– yet to be clearly defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.6 Participation of communities and indigenous peoples in forest tenure definition – yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.7 Definition of legal aspects related to property and rights to forest carbon in REDD project areas– yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.
- 11.8 Conflict resolution measures in place– yet to be defined in relation to REDD programme.

**11.8 Needs identified?** Yes support will be required for this activity area.

**12. REDD MRV systems**

- 12.1 Does the State/Province have a GHG emissions inventory? Not a formal process, but as noted above it has occurred.
- 12.2 If yes, is the inventory performed or validated by an independent party? No.
- 12.3 Strategies thought by the State/Province for monitoring, reporting and verification. None.
- 12.4 Protocols being used to validate and certify state-wide REDD programs. None.

**12.5 Needs identified in order to MRV systems in REDD Program?**

These are substantial and will require assistance.

**13. REDD Projects within State/Province**

This section is dedicated to assess the **REDD projects** in process of development or implementation within the State/Province that are proposed by private sector, NGO and/or communities:

Three REDD pilots are being considered from Cross River State:

1. Ekuri – Iko Esai - Okokori - Etara-Eyeyeng – Owai - Ukpon River Forest Reserve REDD+ Project (94,000 ha): The Ekuri – Iko Esai - Okokori - Etara-Eyeyeng – Owai - Ukpon River forests are located in the Akamkpa and Obubra and Etung Local Government Areas of Cross River State. The area is bounded to the east and south by the Cross River National Park boundary, to the west by the Iko Esai lands and to the north by community farmlands. Old and New Ekuri jointly established the Ekuri Initiative as an NGO to conserve and manage their 33,600ha community forest sustainably for purpose of community development.

Iko Esai’s forests are contiguous with those of Old and New Ekuri. An NGO called the Centre of Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature (CERCOPAN) has worked with Iko Esai for over 7 years to help protect approximately 20,000 hectares of Iko Esai’s community forest. In addition, there are Forest Management

Committees in several of the other villages in the proposed project area including Iko Esai, Etara, Eyeyeng, and Owai. Besides community forest lands, the pilot also includes the Ukpon Forest Reserve which is administered by the Cross River State Forest Commission in partnership with the communities.

2. Afi Mountain/Mbe Mountains REDD+ project (approx 50,000 ha): This forest area contains several contiguous management units. These include:

- o Mbe Mountains – is surrounded by 9 villages and has a population of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla. In 2005 the Conservation Association of the Mbe Mountains (Camm) was established by WCS and another NGO called Development In Nigeria (DIN), however it requires assistance with sustainable funding to manage the new protected area.
- o Afi Wildlife Sanctuary – being managed by the Afi Partnership that includes WCS, Pandrillus, the Nigerian Conservation Foundation & Fauna and Flora International (FFI).
- o Afi Forest Reserves – being managed by the CRSFC
- o Community forests to the south - these belong to the villages of Bashu, Bashua Danare, Bendeghe Afi, Iso Bendeghe and the 9 Abo villages. All these villages have Forest Management Committees (FMCs) and have been supported in the past by the DFID community forestry programme or another community forestry programme run by an NGO called Living Earth.

3. Cross River Mangroves (58,900 ha): This mangrove forest is known to be richer in biodiversity than mangroves elsewhere in West Africa. It is disturbed, but probably less so than most other coastal areas of Nigeria with intensive fishing and the harvesting of crabs and shellfish. The government gazetted the Cross River Mangroves as a new forest reserve two years ago.

**Project Name:** Several REDD projects are in preliminary stages of development, but these project proposals are still evolving and no project has been formally approved by CRS or been submitted for any type of validation.

- Location:
- Year of initiation/proposed year of initiation:
- Status of project (planning or in progress):
- Land area (km<sup>2</sup>) of REDD area:
- Pre-existing special status of land, if applicable (state/national conservation area, indigenous reserve, etc.)
- Number of people living in REDD area:
- Organizations (governmental or non) operating project:
- Source(s) of funding:
- Proposed life of the program (years):
- Estimated avoided emissions through the life of the program (tons CO<sub>2</sub>):
- Baseline method (projected, historical or other)
- MRV protocol:
- Other (any important and relevant details on supporting programs, income-generating activities, transparency and participation, etc.)

#### **14. Relationship with National Government**

What mechanisms and/or forums does the State/Province currently employ to negotiate the integration and/or harmonization of the state REDD strategies with a national one?

The relationship between the state and federal governments on REDD is very strong. Cross River State has three members on the National REDD technical Committee. A UN-REDD programme is developing that plans to work with the national level and also with Cross River State. The work at state level will inform national processes and will also provide learning for other states that wish to follow behind CRS. Mechanisms for a regular exchange of information between both state and federal levels are being developed.

## **V. Component 3 : REDD Financing**

### **15. Current strategies to finance REDD Program Elaboration**

15.1 Costs and financing sources to elaborate a REDD program. An initial grant proposal that would help the state implement many early stage REDD components has been drafted, but not approved, widely circulated or funded. That proposal is for \$3.6 million over three years. Currently, the CRS state government has spent more than \$500,000 on REDD programs, primarily development and passage of a new forest management law and enforcement of the anti-logging moratorium and operation of the illegal logging task force.

### **16. Strategies to finance REDD implementation**

16.1 Costs for the implementation of REDD Program

16.2 Economic viability studies: Y / N. No.

16.3 Description of strategies designed and in place to finance REDD costs

#### **16.4 Needs identified in terms of financing?**

See above. Cross River State is continuing to develop cost estimates for implementing phases of REDD.