

Nigeria's REDD+ Readiness Programme

The Journey so Far

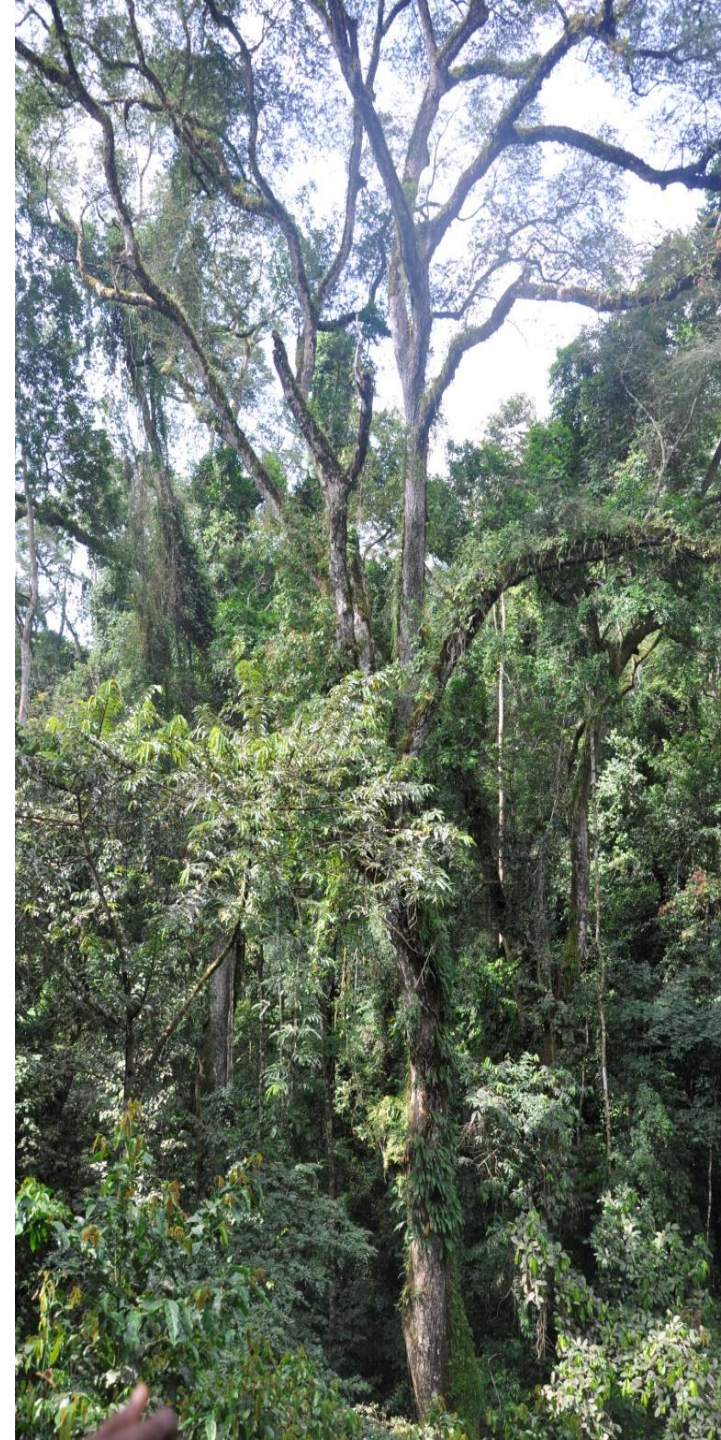
Odigha Odigha

Chairman, Forestry Commission
Cross River State, Nigeria

Afi Mountains, Cross River State, Nigeria

Policy context

- Deforestation rate at 3.7% , one of the highest in Africa and in the world – need to react promptly.
- Cross River State (CRS) hosts over 50% of remaining tropical high forests in Nigeria.
- Initial, bold actions taken:
 - Ambitious nationwide reforestation programme with indigenous trees
 - Moratorium on timber extraction in Cross River State
 - Engagement in REDD+ since 2009
- Political awareness that curbing deforestation depends on community engagement and enhancing local livelihoods.



Milestones

- 2008: Cross River State: policy decision to pursue REDD+
- 2009: Nigeria engages in REDD+ and joins UN-REDD Programme (**Nigeria also formally approaches WB FCPF but told to wait – lack of sufficient funds for FCPF to expand**).
- 2010: Nigeria lays the foundations for REDD+, including:
 - *Preliminary Assessment of the Context for REDD in Nigeria*; plus others.
 - Stakeholder engagement and dialogue, and community training.
 - REDD+ coordinating structures created (Federal & Cross River State)
 - UN-REDD scoping mission in November 2010
- October 2010 – March 2011: Nigerian stakeholders, with UN-REDD support, **prepare, consult & validate a national REDD+ readiness programme.**
- March 2011 : Presentation of draft Nigeria REDD+ programme at UN-REDD (PB-6, Viet Nam)
- October 2011: UN-REDD Policy Board awards \$4 million to Nigeria's REDD+ programme

Further Progress in 2011

Nigeria REDD+ programme document revised and finalised:

- All comments received were addressed, or noted for the implementation e.g.
 - ✓ Decision to **expand REDD+ readiness activities to other states** adopted at National Council on Environment (September 2011);
 - ✓ At least 7 states have expressed interest to engage in REDD+
- Social & environmental safeguards meeting (to domesticate these for Nigeria)
- Nigeria REDD+ University (Calabar) was suspended due to security problems in northern Nigeria

Programme architecture

GOAL: To enable Nigeria to contribute to climate change mitigation through improved forest conservation and enhancing sustainable community livelihoods.

OBJECTIVE: To build the REDD+ mechanism in Nigeria, using Cross River State as a demonstration model

OUTCOMES:

1. Improved institutional & technical capacity at the national level
2. Framework for REDD+ expansion across Nigeria prepared
3. Institutional and technical capacity for REDD+ in Cross River State strengthened
4. REDD+ readiness demonstrated in Cross River State

Programme profile

- Key **readiness components** addressed both at Federal level and in Cross River State.
- **Federal** level: focus on national structures and a strategy for engaging new states.
- **Cross River State**: intense REDD+ readiness, with grassroots engagement, to provide models & best practices for rest of Nigeria.
- A harmonised federal-state structuring for REDD+.
- Budget: **US\$ 4 million**
- Timeline: **2012-2014 (2 ½ years)**
- The Programme covers all REDD+ readiness components (*but requires co-financing*)
- Process for expansion the piloting of REDD+ to other states initiated – a national decision taken recently (*however additional finance will be required*)

Institutional arrangements

(a multi-stakeholder structure)

Federal

- National Advisory Council on REDD+
- National Technical Committee on REDD+
- Federal Ministry for Environment
- Special Climate Change Unit (SCCU)
- Federal Department of Forestry
- REDD+ Secretariat
- Federal stakeholders REDD+ platform

Cross River State (CRS)

- CRS Climate Change Council (chaired by Governor)
- CRS Forestry Commission
- CRS REDD+ Unit
- CRS REDD+ Technical Committee
- CRS Stakeholders Forum on REDD+

Key gaps requiring additional finance

- UN-REDD finance focuses on putting in place federal and state policy framework (“REDD architecture”)
- Additional funds are required for the following:
 - REDD Pilots: to inform the development of the architecture - less than 6% of funds are earmarked for actual activities on the ground – 3 pilots areas already identified
 - Phase II investments: that will address the drivers of deforestation e.g. intensification of agriculture, land use planning, community forestry, community livelihoods support
 - Expansion to other states: funds for dissemination of learning to other interested states and start up funds for others to follow CRS.

Existing Capacity Gaps

- The need for improving capacity of Forestry Commission staff in carbon stock assessment
- Strengthening staff capacity in REDD+ mapping and analysis, using geographical information systems and remote sensing
- The need for building capacity in communicating climate change information with local communities in simple and user-friendly manner
- Improving capacity in addressing livelihoods needs of local communities as means of reducing the pressure on forest resources

