

# NIGERIA

## Getting REDD+ ready

*-- vision, approach and UN-REDD engagement --*



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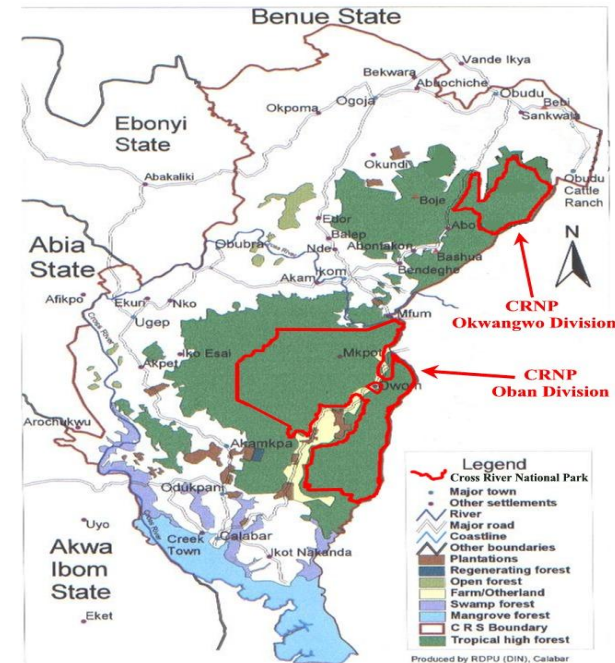
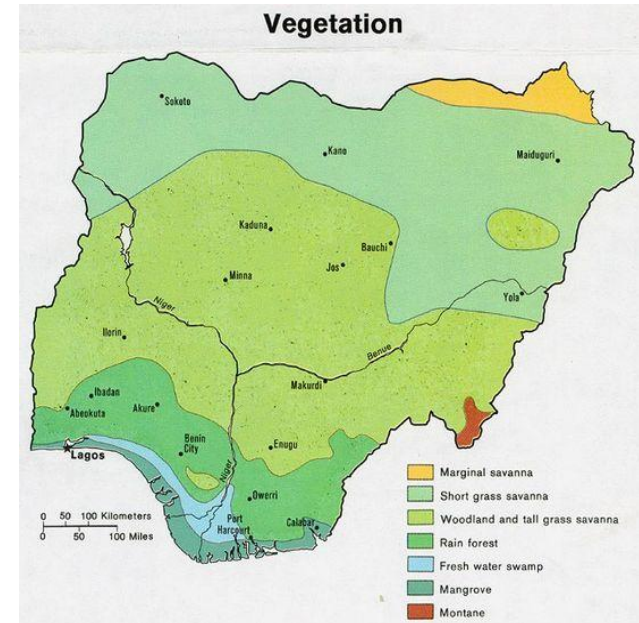
National REDD+ Coordinator

Secretary to the National Technical REDD Committee

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# Overview of forests in Nigeria

- Forest & woodland surface: **96,043 km<sup>2</sup>** (10% of total land area).
- Forest diversity: lowland rainforests (“high forest”), fresh water & mangrove forests, savannah forests.
- **Cross River State:**
  - about 50% of Nigeria’s rainforest
  - high & unique biodiversity (endemism)
  - part of the Guinea forest ecosystem



# Our forests are critical socio-economically !!

- Forest resources – 2.5% of national GDP
- Millions of Nigeria's rural poor rely on NTFPs, for both self consumption, income and local commerce.
  - Some forest communities in Cross River State derive as much as 70% of household income from NTFPs
  - 80% of households in Ekiti State rely on firewood for cooking
- High potential for eco-tourism





# High rate of deforestation

- Forests, biodiversity and NTFPs are threatened.
- In 1978-1995, the forest/woodland cover declined from 23 to 15 million ha – *agricultural land increased by roughly the same amount.*
- Deforestation rate is 3.5% annually – *unfortunately one of the highest in the world.*

1978 LUV Map



1995 LUV Map



# Drivers of deforestation

- The drivers of deforestation are known.
- There are direct and indirect causes, some related to field activities (e.g. farming, logging, fuel wood, poverty) and others to weak policy and institutional capacities.

**REDD is perceived as a political and financial vector to address the drivers of deforestation successfully.**



# **Nigeria is already working on REDD+**

- Political commitment to REDD+
- Awareness on the extent and drivers of deforestation
- Forest policy reforms ongoing
- A two-track approach to REDD+ readiness
- Institutional basis for REDD+ established
- Various REDD-related activities ongoing
- A UN-REDD scoping mission successfully conducted

# Political commitment to REDD+ in Nigeria

- Nigeria is a partner country of the **UN-REDD Programme** since 2009 and member of its **Policy Board**.
- **Cross River State** has been a champion state in forest conservation:
  - 20 years of forest conservation initiatives
  - a Governor's logging ban
  - a commitment to explore PES and REDD schemes
- Nigeria participated in the **Oslo high-level Conference on Climate & forests** (May 2010).
- Nigeria wishes to lead **ECOWAS** and its member countries into REDD+ negotiations and readiness (*Nigeria is the only UN-REDD country in West Africa*).

# Forest policy reforms ongoing

- New **National Forest Policy** – it endorses stakeholder participation and community forest management.
- A **Presidential Initiative on Afforestation for Economic & Environmental Sustainability** – already ongoing, with a focus on promoting indigenous forest species, and a target of expanding the national forest cover by 25% in 10 years.
- Cross River State:
  - a Governor's **timber moratorium**
  - radical reform of its **Forestry Commission**
  - new state law supports community forestry & Carbon finance

***All these (and other) reforms occur at a perfect time to nurture REDD+***



# Nigeria envisages a two-track approach to REDD+ readiness

- a national REDD+ process that addresses the core REDD+ readiness elements;
- a more intensive REDD+ process in **Cross River State**, to experiment and advance REDD+ readiness, inform the national process and provide best readiness practice for other interested states



# Nigeria is organised for REDD+

## National level

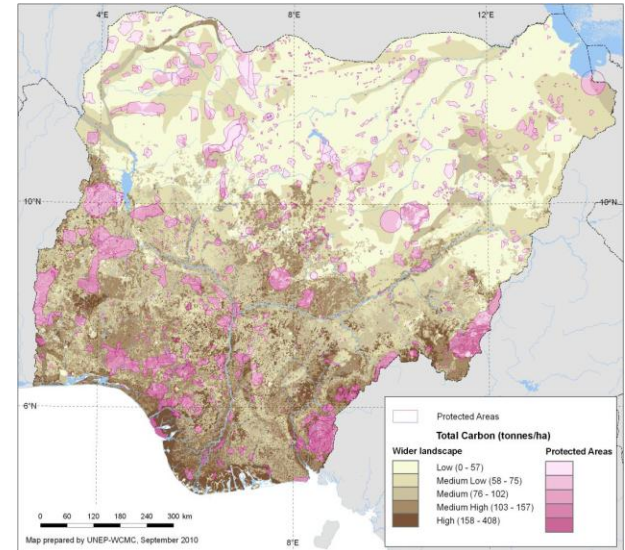
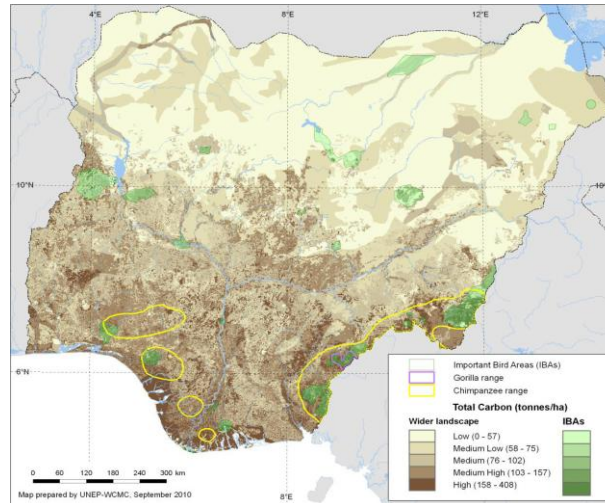
- **National Advisory Council on REDD+**, headed by the Federal Minister of Environment.
- **National Technical Committee on REDD+**, with members drawn from government, civil society, research institutions, forest-dependent communities and the media, among others.
- A **REDD+ Secretariat**, to provide leadership and coordination in REDD+ readiness, including oversight of the two-track approach.

## Cross River State

- The State's **Forestry Commission** is a recognized champion of forest protection and REDD+.
- State's **REDD+ Technical Committee** established, including 3 subcommittees for legal, stakeholder and technical matters.

# REDD-related activities at National level

- Ongoing mapping exercise: ***“Carbon, Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services: Exploring Co-benefits”*** (with UNEP-WCMC support, launched in Nagoya’s CBD COP-10).



- **“Preliminary Assessment of the REDD+ Context in Nigeria”**, commissioned by Ministry of Environment (>150 pages).
- Active and increasing engagement in **REDD+ negotiations** – Nigeria intends to become a leading REDD+ advocate in Africa & worldwide.

# REDD-related activities in Cross River State

- 20 years of community-based forest conservation experiences.
- Linkages with regional & international NGOs (*e.g.* WCS, Katoomba group, NCRC/Ghana, ERM/London).
- Member of the international Governors' Forum on Climate & Forests
- REDD+ pilot sites identified, proposals are under development.
- Recent experience in community-based Carbon assessments.
- New state law recognises community forestry & Forest Management Committees (FMCs)





# UN-REDD scoping mission

(October 2010)

- A UN-REDD team visited Nigeria and CRS, conducted field visits, met with governmental & non-governmental stakeholders, held participative workshops, and debriefed with the Federal Minister for Environment and the Governor of Cross River State.
- The mission noted **a high degree of political and stakeholder commitment for REDD+, across different levels.**
- The mission observed that **the basis to launch a robust REDD+ readiness process** are present.



# UN-REDD scoping mission

## (continuation)

- A **6-month REDD+ roadmap** will be implemented as interim arrangement, with UNDP financing, with a focus on:
  - capacity-building
  - stakeholder engagement
  - drafting a *REDD+ Readiness Plan*.
- The **REDD+ Readiness Plan** will be submitted to the next **UN-REDD Policy Board** to mobilise funds – *some US\$ 4 million would be ideal to back a 2-year readiness process*  
(NOTE: Nigeria has no FCPF or other international support for REDD+).
- Nigeria wishes to express full confidence in the UN-REDD Programme and its team as a great partner for REDD+ readiness, with technical, financial and policy support roles alike.

# a request & an invitation

- **Nigeria wishes to request the UN-REDD Policy Board's endorsement in preparing a national REDD+ readiness proposal for submission to the next Policy Board for budget allocation.**
- We invite all of you who will be in Cancun to a side event on REDD+ in Nigeria, and would like to show then that UN-REDD Policy Board is supportive to a REDD+ process in Nigeria.





**THANK YOU**

