Contribution of land use change models to REDD Process in the Congo Basin

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Background

- Congo Basin: 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest tropical rainforest, low deforestation rate
- Strong interest for REDD+ expressed by COMIFAC countries
- Different stages of the development of REDD in the region
Current situation on REDD

- Phase 1: Readiness
- Phase 2: Demonstration activities
- Phase 3: Positive incentives for verified performance

- Country: Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Burundi, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe
- Country: Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo
One of the current challenges of REDD+ focus on the abilities of countries to define the reference level and establish a consensual and sustainable MRV system.

The adoption of a specific methodology to estimate the Reference level involves important technical ramifications.

Launch a study on modeling impact of development trajectories by 2030.
Interest of the study

Forest transition curve

Congo Basin countries may be entering the second stage, with accelerated forest losses.

Stage 1: undisturbed/little disturbed forests
Stage 2: forest frontiers (high deforestation)
Stage 3: forest mosaic with stabilized cover (low deforestation)
Stage 4: increasing forest cover through afforestation and reforestation

Annual deforestation/forest degradation rates 1990-2000 and 2000-2005

Source: Authors, derived from de Wasseige et al., 2012
Development of Congobiom model and its application

Congobiom is an economic model for the Congo Basin, derived from GLOBIOM developed by IIASA.

This modelling tool can strengthen the better understanding of the potential future trends of deforestation in the Congo Basin by

- Providing a depth analysis of the major drivers of deforestation for the next decades in the countries of the Congo Basin by analyzing internal pressures (population growth, development needs, etc...) but also external pressures (commodity prices for example)
Development of Congobiom model and its applications (cont.)

- providing the countries and their decision makers with scientifically sound analytical tools that can help them better understand how the development of economic sectors can affect the forest cover and how the impact of policy choices made by governments can affect forest cover and income that could be generated through REDD +

- Modelling could be a support planning decision tool
Current phase of the Project and next steps in the Congo Basin

- Congobiom is now extended to all 10 countries of COMIFAC and should then be refined

- Training of national experts from the pilot countries for REDD-PAC project is ongoing

- The development of a national model in each pilot countries by the end of December is one of the resolution set at the regional workshop for the REDD-PAC project in October.
Thank You

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