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Advancing REDD+ Implementation in Ghana and Cameroon

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Presentation Outline

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Background and Objectives

- ❑ The government of Cameroon and Ghana have both introduced a series of forest policy reforms to promote a more sustainable and equitable management of its forests
- ❑ In Cameroon Law N0. 94/01 of 20th January 1994 was formulated with the view of making forestry more participatory and transparent
- ❑ In Ghana, the Community Forest Resource Management Programme (CFRM) was piloted in 2002 and subsequently launched and expanded to cover twenty-six districts in the country

❑ Despite all the aforementioned initiatives, the rate of deforestation in Cameroon and Ghana remains high

❑ Cameroon has the highest rate of deforestation in the Congo Basin. According to the FAO, between 2000 and 2010, the annual rate of deforestation of Cameroon's forests was estimated to be 1.04%

❑ According to the FAO, Ghana has one of the highest deforestation rates in Africa and the world which is estimated at 2% per annum. Between 1990 and 2000, Ghana lost an average of 135,000 hectares of forest per annum; amounting to an average annual deforestation rate of 2%

□ As a corrective measure, Cameroon and Ghana have taken interest in REDD+

□ REDD+ is a mechanism to support the voluntary efforts of developing countries to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, promoting conservation and the sustainable management of their forests, and enhancing forest carbon stocks

□ A series of studies relevant for the REDD+ mechanism have been conducted in Cameroon and Ghana. To date, however, there remains a paucity of literature that examines REDD+ implementation in Ghana and Cameroon and prescribes policy recommendations for improvement

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- ❑ **Assess initiatives that have been undertaken by the government of Cameroon and Ghana to advance REDD+ implementation;**
- ❑ **Evaluate the performance of REDD+ pilot projects formulated by REDD+ actors in Ghana and Cameroon;**
- ❑ **Use data collected from all the parties – the government, NGOs, forest-dependent communities, and other REDD+ actors- to suggest policy recommendations for advancing REDD+ implementation in Cameroon and Ghana;**
- ❑ **Transfer lessons learnt in Cameroon and Ghana to REDD+ implementation initiatives in other countries in Central and West Africa like the Central African Republic, Liberia, and Nigeria.**

Presentation of Paper 1

An Analysis of the Institutional Framework for REDD+ Implementation in Cameroon

1. Methodology

- Desk Review of relevant literature like legislation, policies, plans, and programs related to REDD+, reports and working papers on REDD+, and peer reviewed literature
- Semi-structured interviews with 31 individuals representing all REDD+ actors in Cameroon including the government, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions, the private sector, forest-dependent community association, and development partners

- **What role does your institution play with regards to REDD+ implementation?**
- **What are the strengths association with your institutions in as much as REDD+ implementation is concerned?**
- **What are the prevailing weaknesses associated with your institutions in as much as REDD+ implementing is concerned?**
- **What are the opportunities for your institution as a result of REDD+ implementation?**
- **What are the threats your institution is facing regarding REDD+ implementation?**
- **What are the different strategies that could be used to overcome the weaknesses and threats faced by your institutions with regards to REDD+ implementation?**

2. Results

Strengths

- ***Robust civil society contributions:*** The civil society at the national and local level especially Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have greatly influenced the REDD+ arena at all levels in Cameroon. These organisations have actively participated in the REDD+ readiness process in Cameroon. A number of these organisations contributed to the country's REDD+ readiness preparation proposal (R-PP) and the REDD+ Strategy document
- ***Strong contributions from the government, research institutions and international NGOs:*** Relevant government ministries in Cameroon like MINEPED and MINFOF, research institutions and international NGOs in the country like ICRAF, CIFOR, FAO, WWF, and IUCN etc. have developed and implemented REDD+ pilot projects in Cameroon

Weaknesses

- ***Inadequate technical experts:*** At the national and local level, well trained technical and management staff tend to be inadequate for REDD+ implementation in Cameroon. For instance, MINEPDED and MINFOF are not equipped with adequate technical and human personnel that are specialized in REDD+

- ***Right issues:*** Carbon rights and tenure rights within the context of REDD+ implementation have not been clarified in Cameroon. While Cameroon's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and Cameroon's National REDD+ Strategy suggest that tenure rights arrangements will be elucidated, provisions for tenure rights arrangements in the country still remain unclear.

- ***Inadequate institutional coordination:*** A fundamental problem is that there is inadequate information sharing at the national policy making level. Within the government, MINEPDED and MINFOF are the main institutions responsible for most policy-making processes pertaining to REDD+ implementation. However, the absence of adequate coordination among these regulating bodies is an important obstacle that seems to be affecting the REDD+ process in the country
- ***Poor governance:*** Cameroon's porous borders, institutional inertia, corruption, mismanagement, and weak enforcement of regulations especially in its forestry sector have led to poor resource governance. For most people, working in an environment where there is corruption, mismanagement, and regulations are not adequately enforced has proved crippling. In addition, such a situation promotes unproductive investments which leads to the overall decline in the quality of services in the REDD+ arena of the country

Opportunities

- ***Data availability:*** Minang *et al.* (2008) posit that, satellite imagery on forest cover and other land use can be accessed free of charge on the internet from databases. They note that “relevant example includes online access to Multi-Spectral Scanner (MSS), Landsat Thematic Mapper (TM) and Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM) satellite imagery and digital elevation models, at the Global Observation of Forest Cover (GOFC) Project website”. These sites provide most of the relevant information for establishing carbon baselines and MRV which is fundamental for REDD+ implementation
- ***Provision of other non-carbon benefits:*** Implementing REDD+ at the institutional level results not only in carbon sequestration alone but in the provision of other non-carbon benefits. These benefits include biodiversity conservation, protection of services that forest ecosystems provides to humanity like water and erosion control, income generation by forest dependent communities, preservation of forest for cultural and spiritual benefits, participation of relevant actors in forest management decision making process etc.

Threats

- ***Conflicts:*** Arm conflicts remain a threat to the effective and efficient functioning of institutions at the national and sub-national level in Cameroon. As Collier (2007) opine, arm conflicts are a threat to the socioeconomic and ecological development of a country especially those in the least developed world. For low-income countries like Cameroon, these conflicts end up becoming a trap that impede growth in all forms. The arm conflict in North West and Southwest Region of the country has affected the development and implementation of REDD+ initiatives like the development of REDD+ pilot projects by institutions in this part of the country
- ***Threats from the logging companies:*** While forests of the Congo Basin in Cameroon are vast and high value tropical trees are in abundance, many logging interests or companies in the country are currently operating unsustainably and this constitute a threat to REDD+ implementation

3. Recommendations

- ***Capacity building in MRV:*** Capacity building especially of relevant personnel in MRV is insufficient in Cameroon. Indeed, engaging in project level capacity building in MRV is urgent if successful REDD+ implementation is to be achieved in Cameroon;
- ***Clarification of rights issues:*** : In the current forestry law reform, it is extremely important that the government reformulates its national forest policy with an explicit emphasis on the clarification of tenure rights within the context of REDD+ implementation in Cameroon;
- ***Proper institutional coordination:*** It is imperative that relevant government institutions work in a collaborative manner to advance and enhance REDD+ implementation in the country. The importance of collaborative management cannot be overemphasized. As Blumenthal and Jannink (2000) put it “collaboration among multiple stakeholders can be crucial to the success of natural and forest resource management including REDD+;

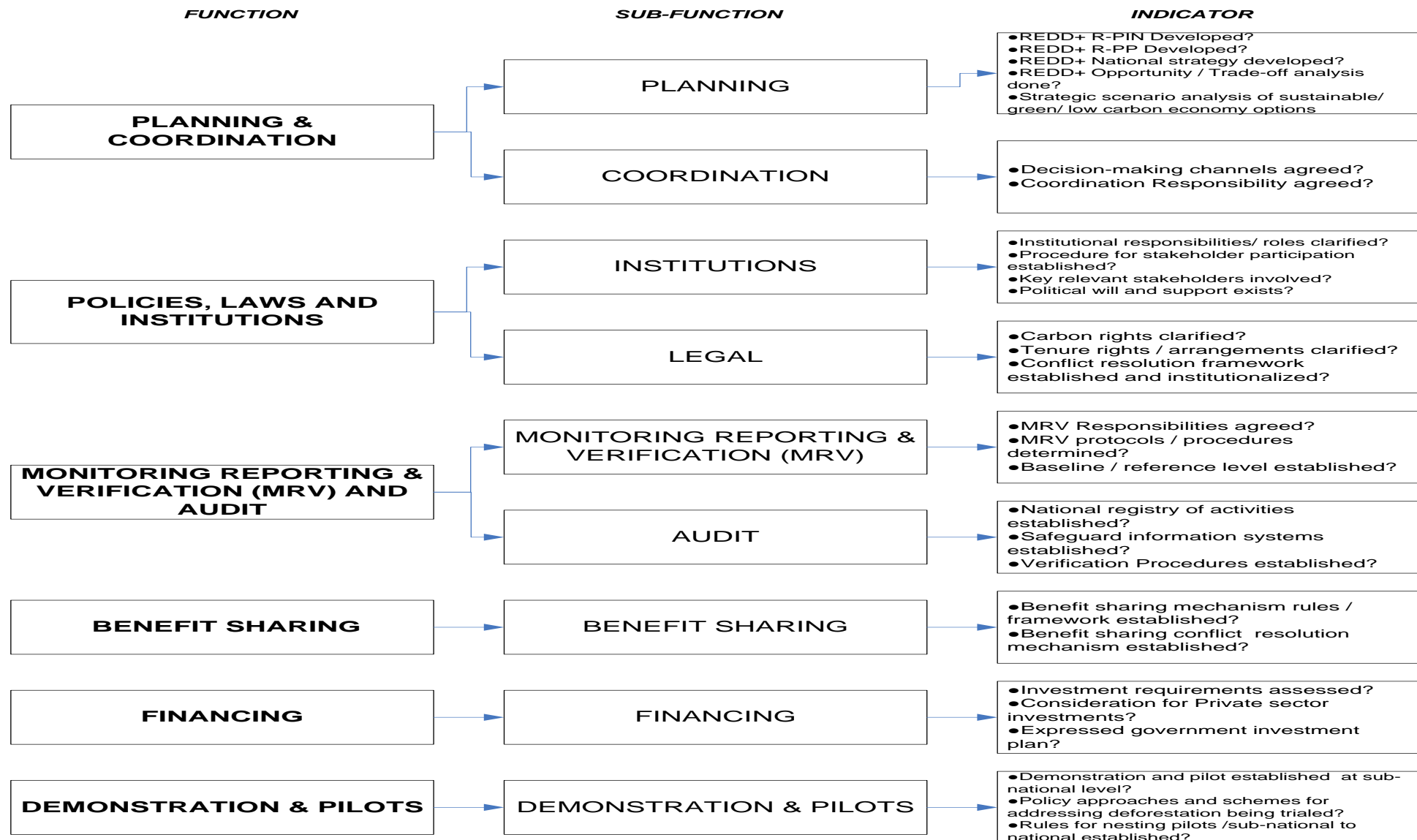
- ***Promotion of good governance in forest resource management:*** We strongly encourage the application of rigor and representative democracy in managing forest and other natural resources. As Oyono (2004) explains, thanks to protests by local resident in Ebolowa and Mbang located in the South and East Regions of Cameroon respectively, corrupt members of committees responsible for managing forest resources were dismissed;
- ***.Peace building:*** Building the path to peace in the North West and South West Region of Cameroon is crucial. Indeed, it is vital that all the different actors are brought together to look for a lasting solution to the arm conflict in this part of the country. Furthermore, this paper presses the need for a deeper understanding of the root cause of the arm conflict and looking for a lasting solution including building peace is essential for sustainable natural resource management including REDD+ implementation in Cameroon.

Presentation of Paper 2

An Examination of REDD+ Readiness and Implementation in Ghana

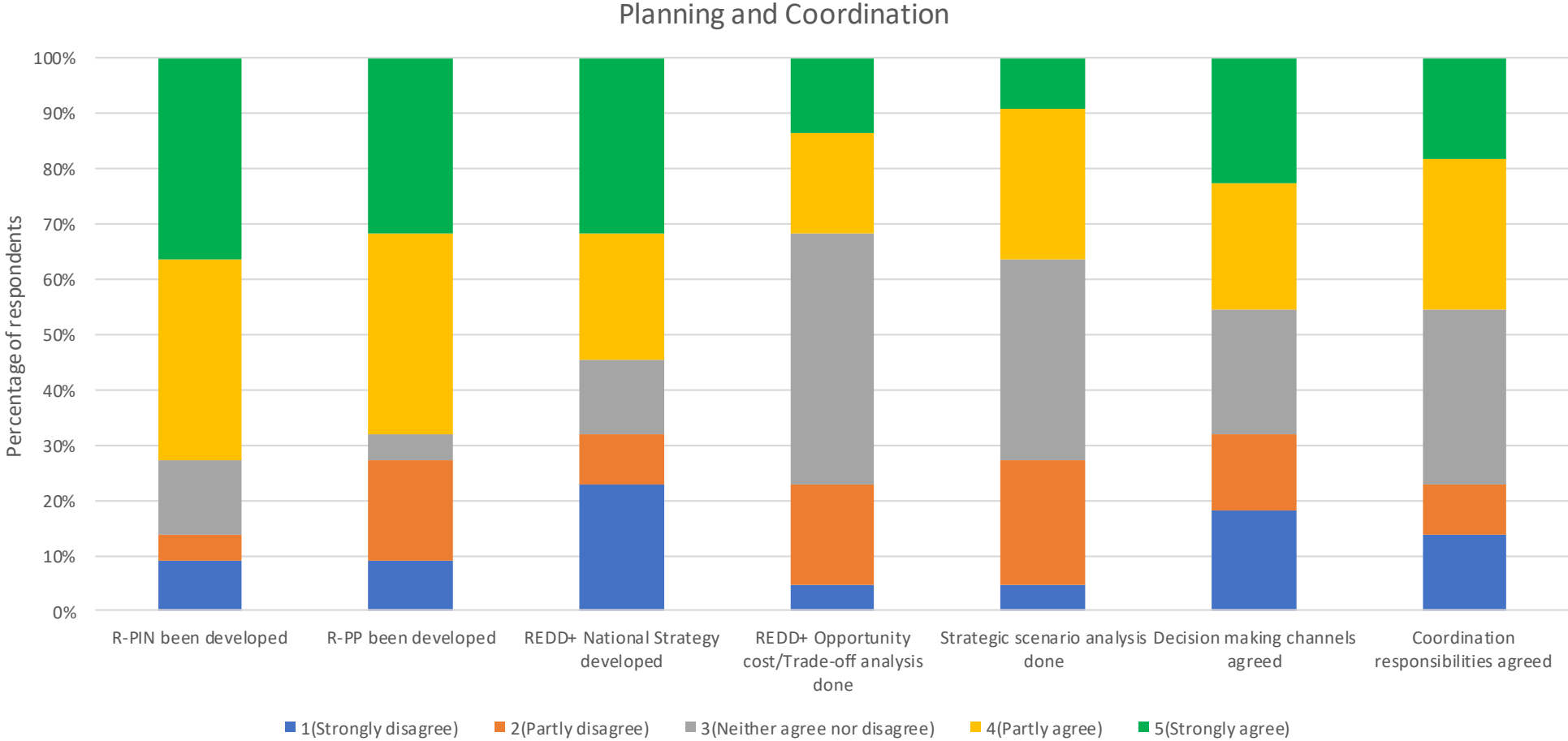
1. Methodology

- In study, a comprehensive review and analysis of secondary literature was conducted and included relevant government reports, policies and regulations; reports from civil society; and relevant peer-reviewed literature
- We also adopted the REDD+ readiness conceptual framework reported in Alemagi *et al.* 2014 and Minang *et al.* 2014 to evaluate the REDD+ readiness and implementation in Ghana. We designed a questionnaire containing 31 questions derived from the six key functions in the conceptual framework and used it to conduct structured interviews with 22 key resource persons in Ghana

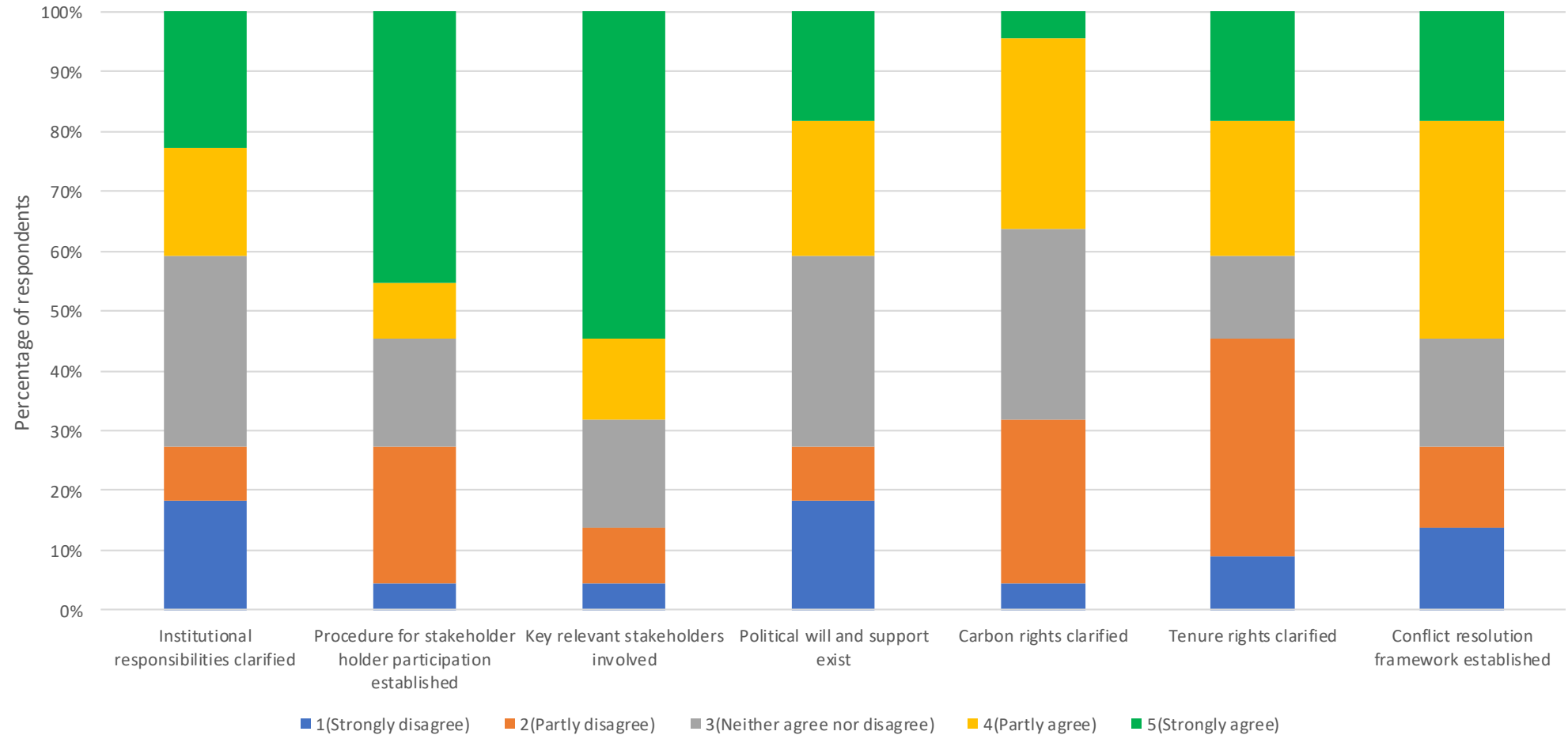


Conceptual framework for assessing REDD+ readiness in Ghana. (Source: Alemagi et al. 2014 and Minang et al. 2014)

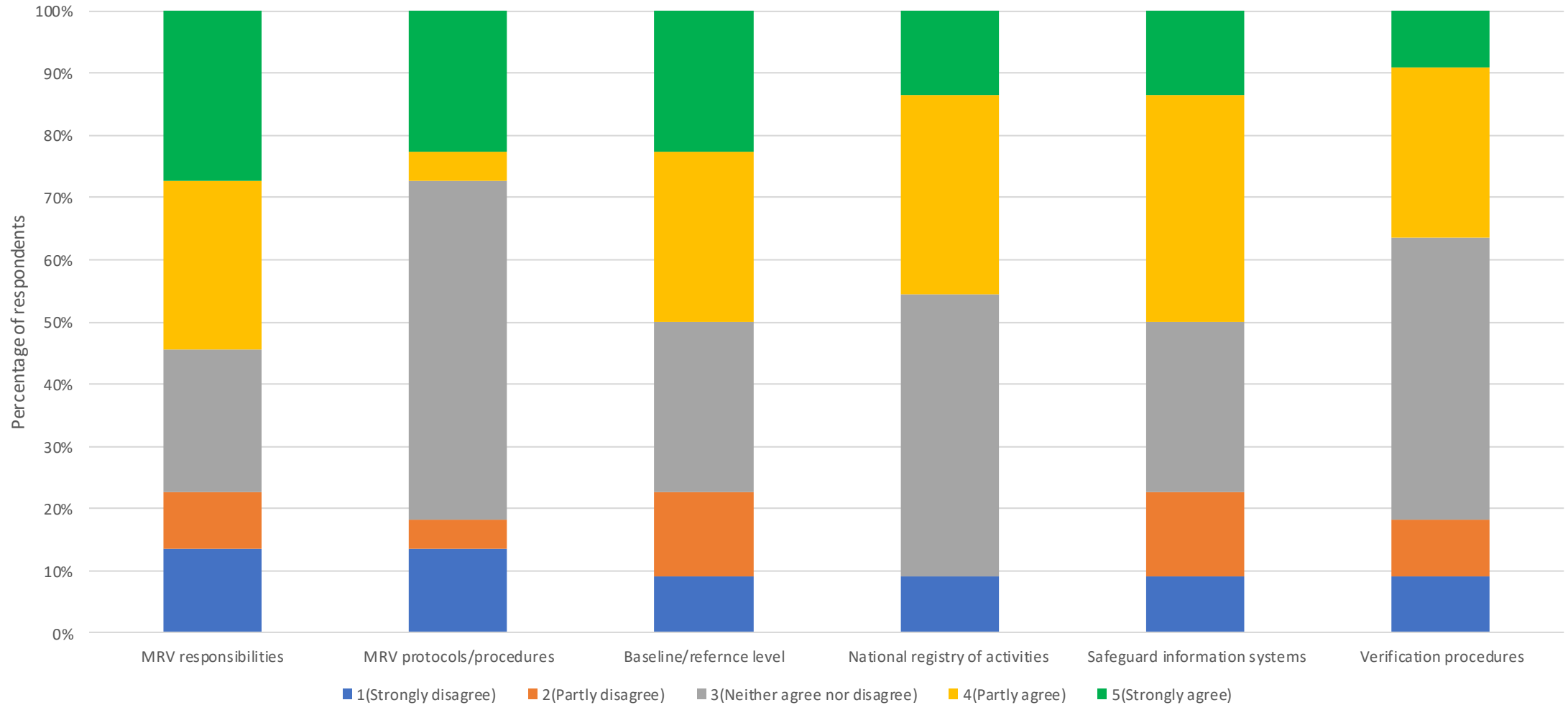
2. Results



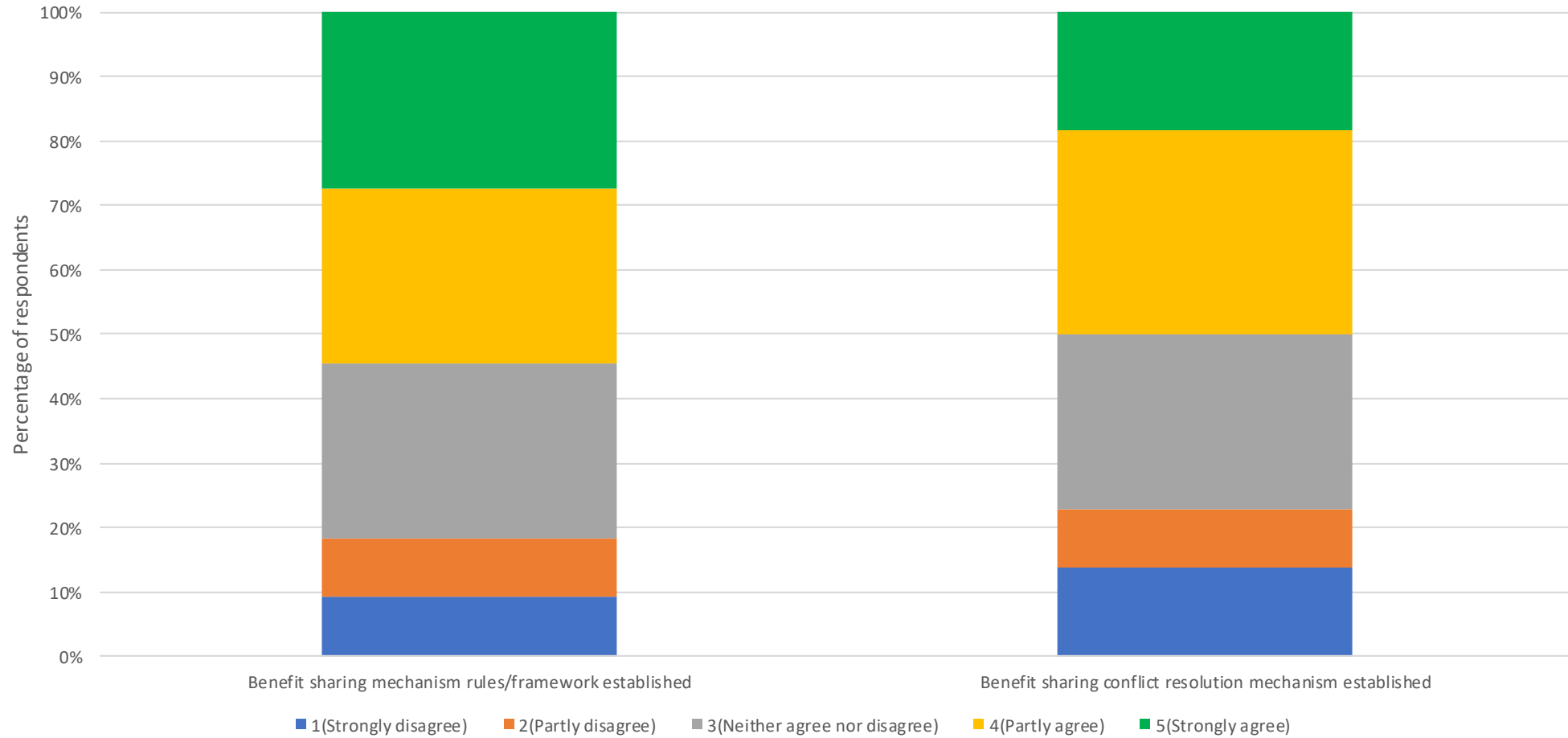
Policies, Laws & Institutions



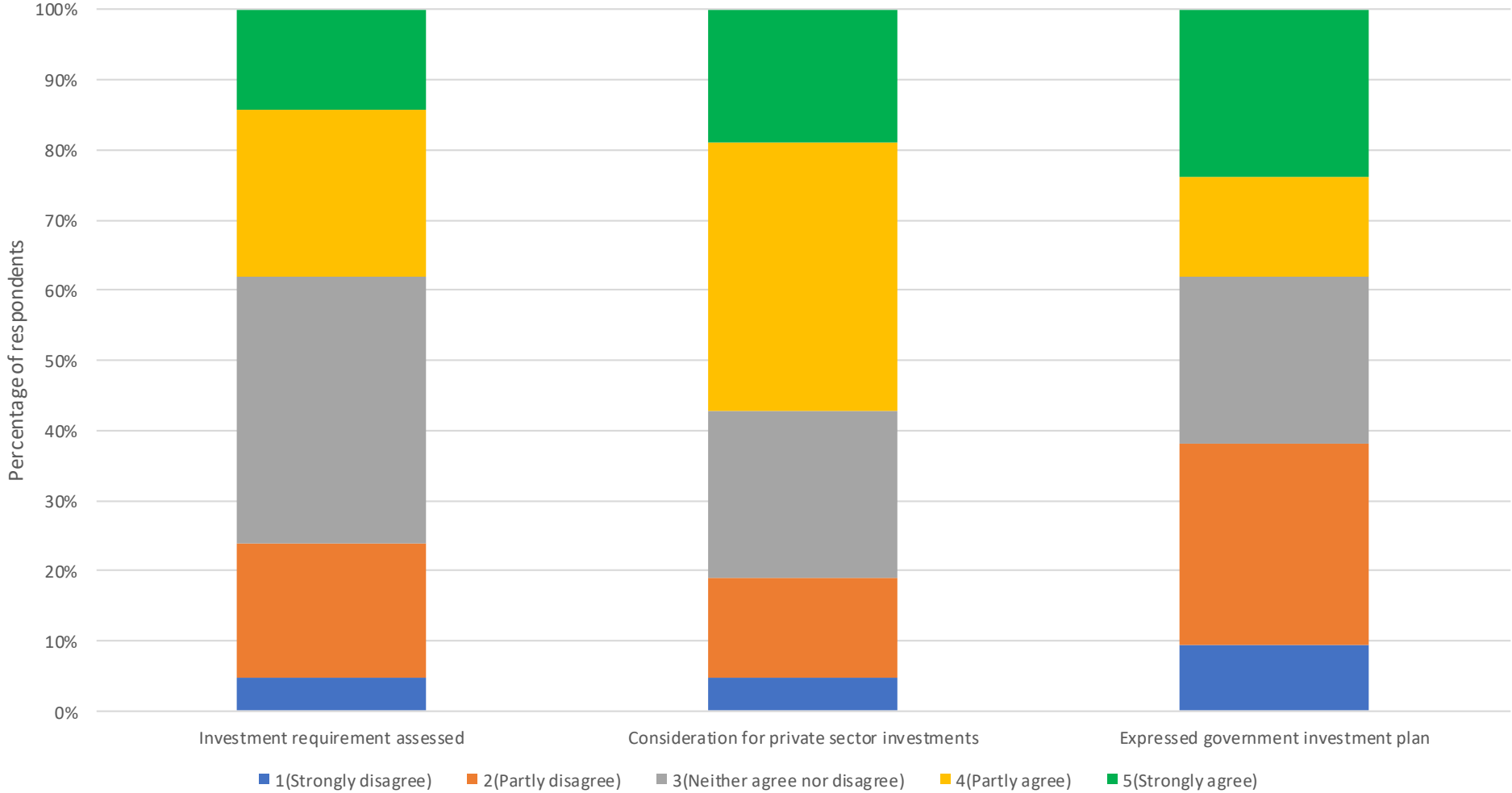
Monitoring, Reporting & Verification(MRV) & Audit



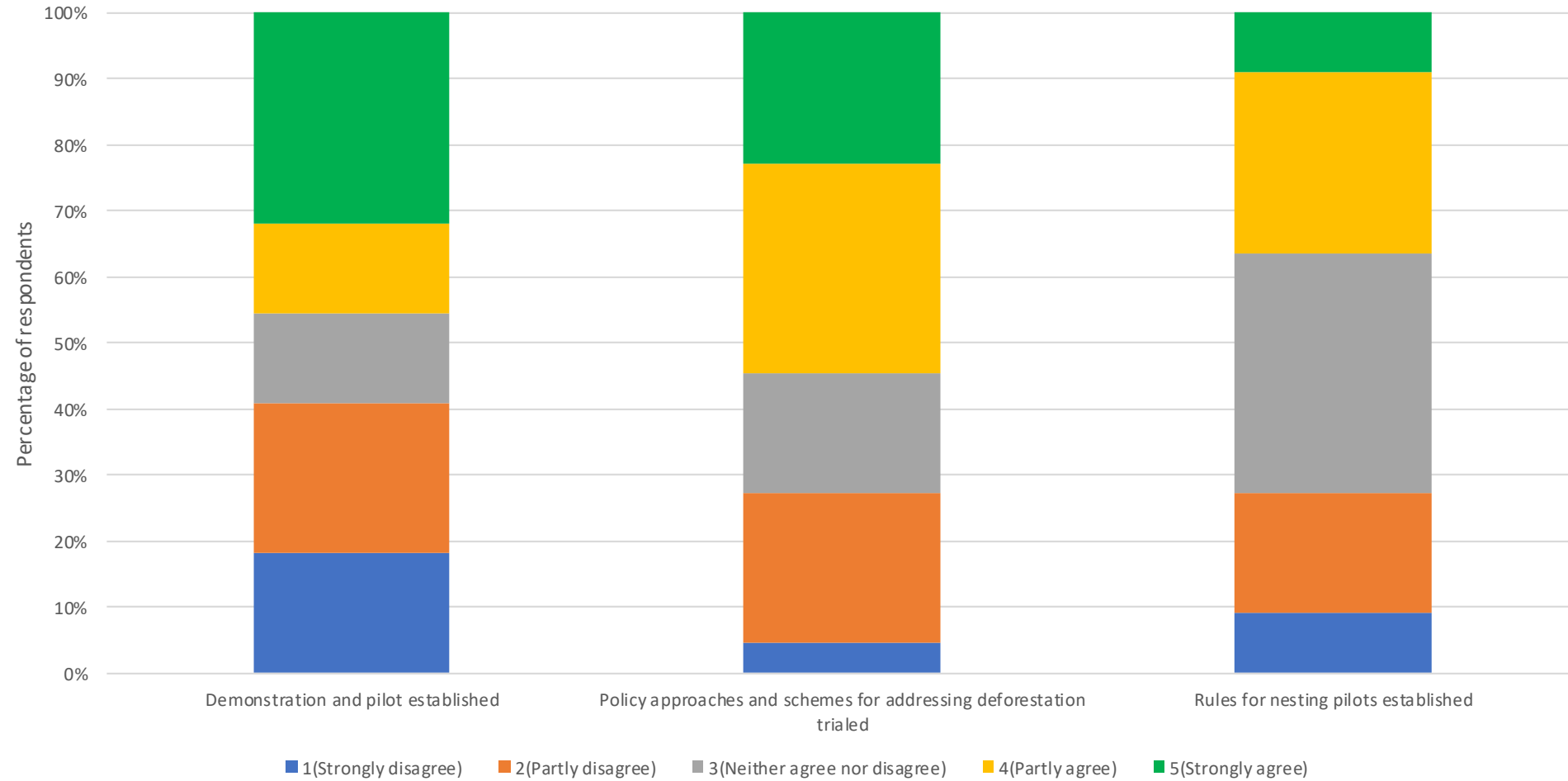
Benefit Sharing



Financing



Demonstration & Pilots



Quantified emission reduction program

- **Majority of the respondents (64%) were aware of the fact that the country had a REDD+ Quantified Emission Reduction Program**
- **It was also confirmed during FGD by all the respondents that the country had an Emission Reduction Program**
- **However, respondents during FGD stated that examples of challenges that affect effective and efficient implementation of this Emission Reduction Program include institutional challenges; lack of institutional synergy; inadequate funding; lack of tenure rights for farmers; lack of timely, reliable, and adequate baseline data; lack of cooperation from some stakeholders (chiefs, political leaders etc.)**

3. Recommendations

- ***Development of strong institutions for REDD+ implementation:*** There is a need for robust institutional arrangement at the national level to promote or advance REDD+ readiness and implementation in Ghana. One possible option would be to empower both the regulatory and enforcement units involved in forest management in Ghana through regular and relevant workshops as well as training courses
- ***Clarification of carbon and tenure rights:*** Formulating a clear regulatory and policy framework or guidelines that addresses carbon and tenure rights arrangement in Ghana is considered vital for REDD+ readiness and implementation in the country. Furthermore, the government of Ghana could re-enact their relevant legislations, policies, plans, guidelines, and programs with a focus on allocation provisions that underpin carbon and tenure rights for the successful REDD+ readiness and implementation in the country

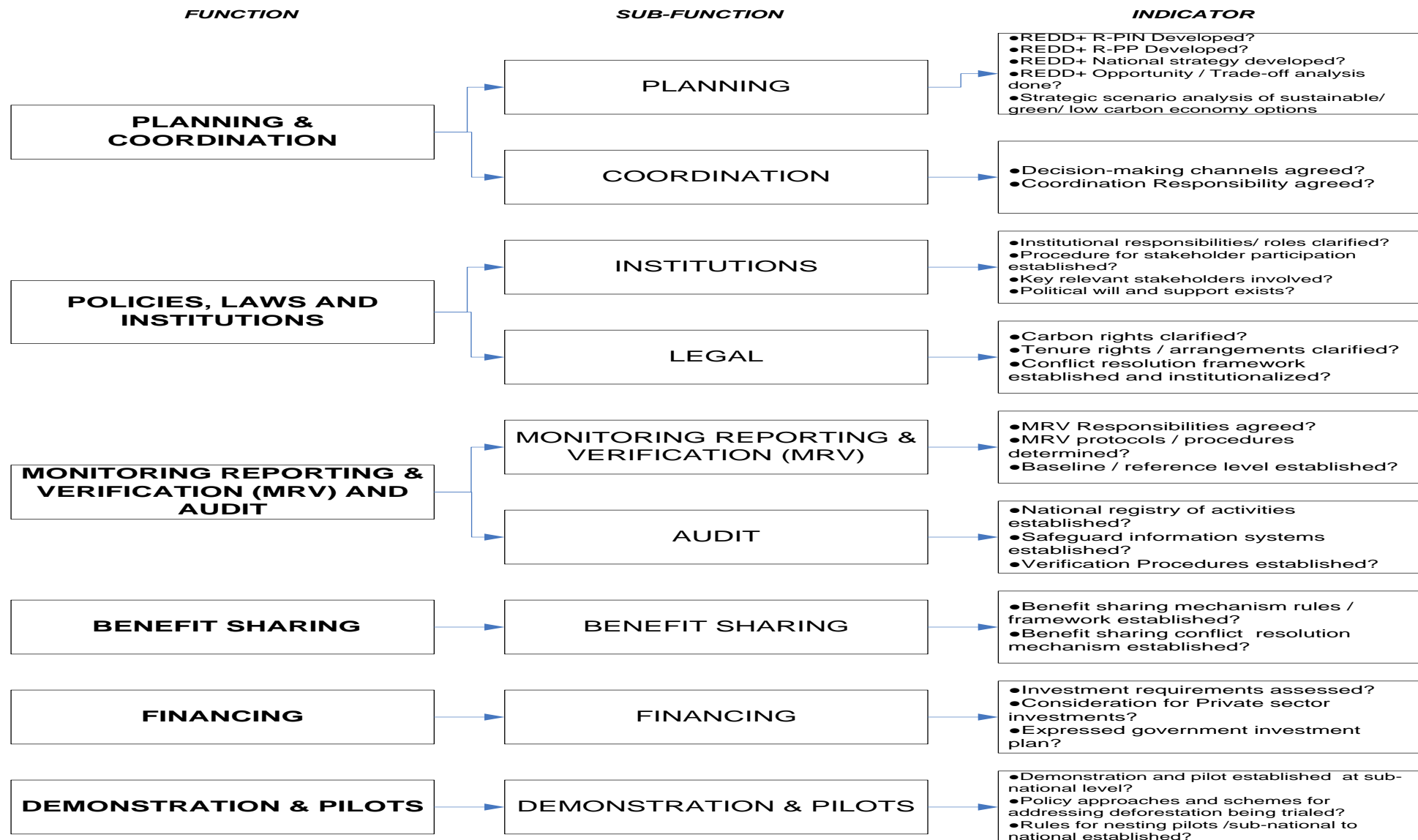
- ***Capacity building for data collection:*** There is a need for capacity building in the domain of data collection (the different types of data to be collected for which capacity building is required include satellite imagery on forest cover and other land use) for advancing REDD+ readiness and implementation in Ghana. One important way of achieving this is to create projects whose fundamental objective will be to develop capacity of relevant forest stakeholders in remote sensing and GIS as a means to promote REDD+ readiness and implementation
- ***Institutional cooperation or collaboration:*** It is our recommendation that government institutions work in a collaborative manner to advance the REDD+ readiness and implementation in the country. The fundamental rationale is that collaboration could result in better, effective and efficient management of natural resources. It is therefore proffered that all the major actors working to advance REDD+ readiness and implementation collaborate from all perspectives to identify pathways towards the promotion of REDD+ in Ghana

Presentation of Paper 3

A Comparative Assessment of REDD+ Readiness and Implementation. The Case of Ghana and Cameroon

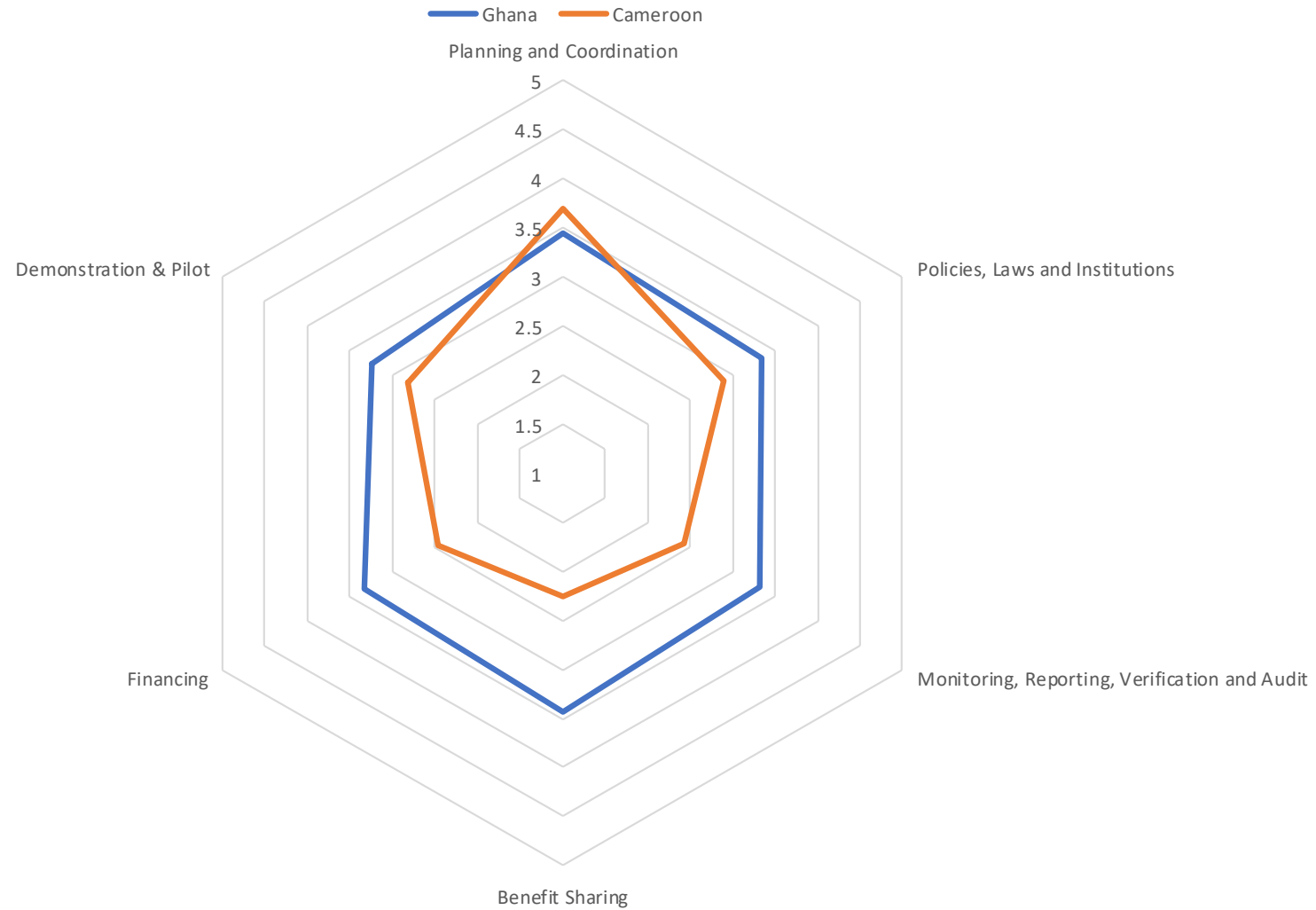
1. Methodology

- *Desk Review*: First, we reviewed data from secondary sources which included relevant governmental legislations, policies, and reports; relevant non-governmental organization (NGO) reports; and relevant reports from the research institutions and the international community, and peer reviewed literature
- *Semi-structured interviews* were conducted with 55 key resource persons from Ghana and Cameroon between October 2019 and February 2020 during workshops, in offices, and also by email



Conceptual framework for assessing REDD+ readiness in Ghana and Cameroon. (Source: Alemagi et al. 2014 and Minang et al. 2014)

2. Results



3. Recommendations

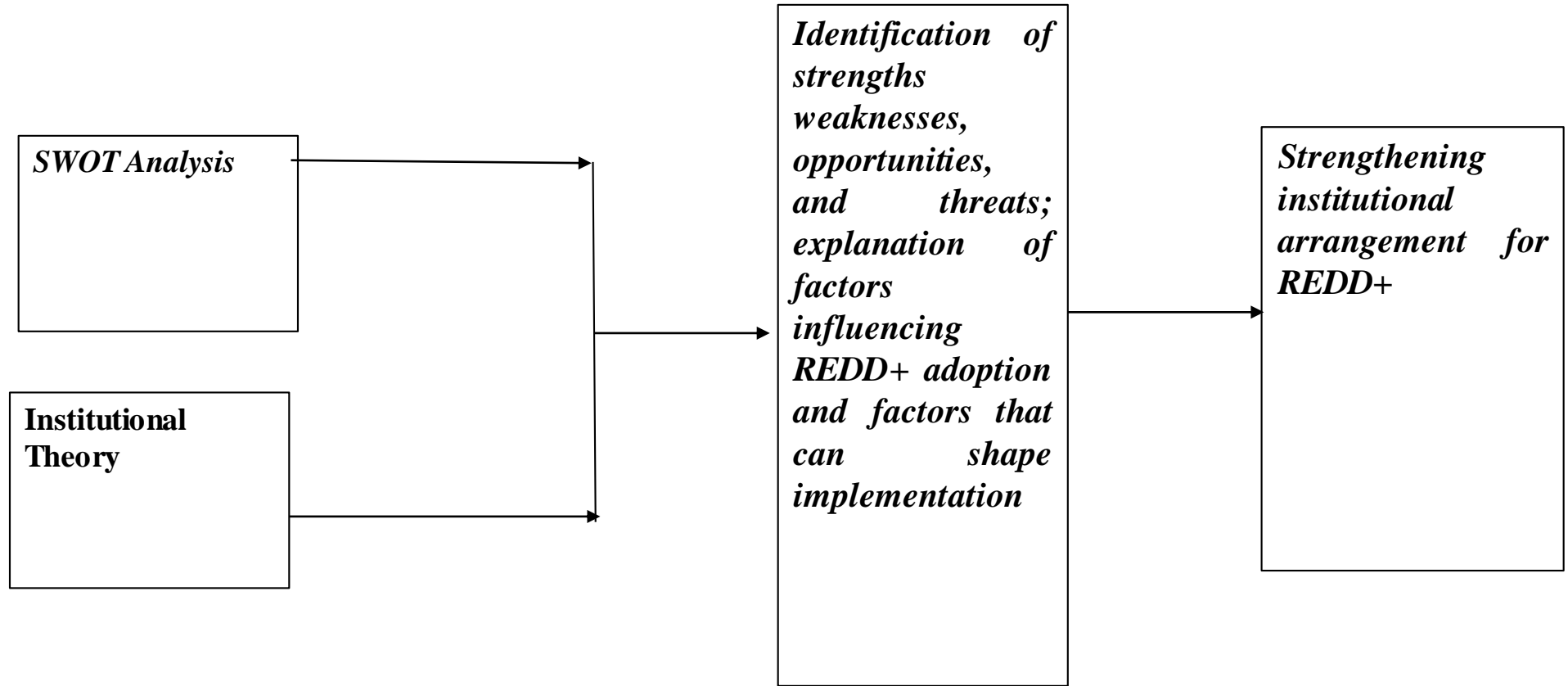
- **Establishments of robust policies, laws and institutions for REDD+ implementation in Cameroon;**
- **Establishments of procedures for MRV and auditing in Cameroon;**
- **Elaboration of guidelines for sharing proceeds emanating from REDD+ implementation;**
- **Investment in REDD+ financing;**
- **Invest in demonstration and pilots in Cameroon;**
- **Implementation of an emission reduction program in Cameroon**

Presentation of Paper 4

A Critical Analysis of the Institutional Setup for REDD+ Implementation in Ghana

1. Methodology

- Desk review of relevant governmental documents, REDD+ related legislations and guidelines and peer-reviewed literature
- Interviews and focus group discussions with 112 actors whose activities directly or indirectly relate to REDD+, including, at the national level, stakeholders such as the Forestry Commission (FC) of Ghana, local and international NGOs involved in forestry activities as well as people from academia.



Conceptual Framework Employed in the Study

2. Results

Strengths

- **The Forestry Commission has an MOU with the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources and has a good working relationship with other stakeholders. This provides a serene and peaceful atmosphere for engagement to implement REDD+ activities**
- **There is also some level of partnership with other agencies for REDD+ implementation. Further, the fact that the institutional framework makes provision for the involvement of other partners is a major booster for representation at the local level to implement REDD+**
- **The Forestry Commission has received funding support for its activities to support REDD+ initiatives and has established a taskforce with other entities to stop illegal lumbering thereby advancing REDD+**

Weaknesses

- **There was inadequate infrastructure and capacity to support REDD+ activities. This therefore results in a wasted opportunity to turn forest resources into a sustainable one**
- **Bureaucracy and delays in releasing funds to support REDD+ activities**
- **Some government actions such as providing permit to contractors to log on reserve areas without compensation contradicts REDD+ rules**
- **REDD+ activities have not been adequately advertised and thus communication has been poor**

Opportunities

- **Employed opportunities have been provided to communities (especially the Forestry Commission) to assist in REDD+ implementation**
- **REDD+ promotes sustainable forest management in view of the fact that it protects the ecological integrity of forest that enable forest to provide other ecosystem benefits like water and protection of soil erosion to humanity**
- **REDD+ promotes the valorisation of Non-timber forest Products that provide enormous income opportunities for forest-dependent communities in Ghana**

Threats

- **REDD+ seemed to be centrally placed with less devolution of authority in the regions and districts**
- **REDD+ institutional structure has weak regional and district level collaborations**
- **Data on REDD+ activities have not been made available to critical stakeholders**
- **Alleged corrupt attitude of officials, inadequate budgetary allocation, political influence peddling, inadequate staff strength, inadequate personnel and logistics and inadequate forest guards to support REDD+ implementation**
- **Inefficient reporting mechanisms were identified as deficiency or threat in the REDD+ arrangement**

3. Recommendations

- **Decentralisation of powers for REDD+ implementation at the local or district level**
- **Capacity building of actors involved in REDD+ implementation**
- **Provision of data relating to REDD+ to all actors**
- **Promotion of good governance in the forestry sector**
- **Regular and efficient reporting and advertising of REDD+ activities and implementation**
- **Encourage replanting after logging by timber companies operating in Ghana**



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