

Annex 2b. REDD STRATEGY OPTIONS

The REDD+ strategy options are described under the following Objectives:

- a) **Objective #1: To develop and elaborate on actions for reducing rates of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda.** *This objective seeks to define the roadmap (actions), budget and schedule for tackling deforestation and forest degradation.*
- b) **Objective #2: To dedescribed under the following objectivesvelop practices for sustainable forest management and conservation.** *This objective seeks to define and present specific best practices to be applied during the implementation phase of management of forest estate.*
- c) *. This objective seeks to assess the likely benefits and impacts of successful implementation of REDD –Plus Strategy on the vulnerable groups/forest dependent people in Uganda and develop or recommend policy measures necessary to optimise the benefits whilst minimizing any negative impacts that may arise.*
- d) **Objective #3: To define and pilot test processes for stakeholder engagement in implementing Uganda’s REDD-Plus Strategy.** *This objective seeks to put in place mechanisms and procedures for ensuring effective stakeholder engagement in addressing deforestation and forest degradation, for participating in decisions making and coordinating REDD –Plus Strategy implementation and for participation in Carbon market.*
- e) **Objective #4: To facilitate the development of tools and methodologies for assessing and monitoring the contribution of REDD-Plus activities to sustainable forest management in Uganda.** *This objective seeks to put in place monitoring, verification and reporting protocols on benefits and impacts of REDD-Plus activities on sustainable forest management in Uganda, including, performance of carbon market in Uganda. It also seeks to build capacity for implementing the protocols at national, institutional and individual farmer level.*
- f) **Objective #5: To strengthen national and institutional capacities for participation in REDD-Plus.** *This objective seeks to define and establish national (institutional, policy and legal) and farmer level capacities for REDD-Plus Strategy implementation and for participating in Carbon market.*

The following section describes the strategies and actions that will be implemented during 2011-2013 in order to achieve the above stated objectives.

1.1.1 3.3.1 Objective #1: To develop and elaborate on measures for reducing rates of deforestation and forest degradation.

This objective concerns the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda. The Strategic options and actions are derived from the assessment of land use, forest policy and governance (Component 2(a) (Appendix 2)), likely impacts of REDD – Plus Strategies on Social and Environmental sectors in Uganda (Appendix 3), responses from the stakeholders consultations (Appendix 6(a) – 6(d)) and RWG deliberations on technical and policy issues of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. These strategies and actions are presented under respective objectives.

3.3.1.1 Strategic Option #1: Strategies for addressing deforestation and forest degradation caused agricultural encroachment

Uganda is an agricultural country with more than 80% of her population directly engaged in agriculture for employment and livelihoods. As Uganda's economy continues, at least in the foreseeable future, it will continue to heavily rely on Agriculture (21% of GDP in 2007/8), employing more than 70% of the population. However, the agricultural system remains dominantly extensively rain fed and of low productivity (UNDP, 2005). Coupled with increase in population size (at average rate of 3.6% per annum), declining soil productivity and unpredictable climate/weather, farmers continue to open up virgin land for expanding land under agriculture. The Country has also witnessed an increase in commercial agriculture and pressures to convert protected forests into large scale commercial farmlands.

The assessment for drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda places agricultural expansion among top drivers. The R-PP implementation will contribute toward addressing this by:

a) Strengthening partnerships with Communities as neighbours to protected forest areas

Expansion of small-scale agriculture can be potentially addressed through REDD-Plus especially in areas of low population pressure. For protected areas, it is important to determine what is needed to achieve more straightforward actions such as demarcation of forest boundaries, development of partnerships with adjacent communities and increased patrolling. The following activities will be implemented:

- i. Undertake an assessment of social and political requirements and implications for evicting people from protected forest areas and formulate recommendations for handling future evictions.
- ii. Refining approaches such as CFM and CRM that aim at providing incentives for achieving partnerships with communities (e.g., through CFM and CRM initiatives, and forest-based

enterprises).

b) Clarification of property rights to forest and trees

This strategy will focus on community, private forests or trees on private land. The essence of this strategy is to take into account the need to evaluate opportunity costs of foregoing large income earners such as rice, sugarcane and maize by resisting conversion of such forested lands into other forms of land use. The R-PP will contribute to addressing this phenomenon through the following activities:

- i. Undertake assessment of various land use options and generate messages for informing land owners of land use choices that address REDD –Plus Strategies including Carbon financing.
- ii. Interpret and disseminate messages about land and tree rights in relation to REDD-Plus Strategies of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

c) Agricultural Intensification

According to the IFPRI findings areas in Uganda where agricultural expansion highly threatens forests (south and western Uganda and around Lake Victoria), agricultural intensification can be achieved profitably. However, the land owners do not seem to be able to undertake decisions that balance the need for food security, increase incomes and environmental management. Therefore, R-PP shall facilitate decision making in this regards by:

- i. Designing strategies for facilitating joint programmes between the forestry and agricultural (NAADS) sectors thereby ensuring food security and household income generation through agricultural intensification.
- ii. Carrying out cost – benefit analysis of land use for REDD –Plus Strategies in relation to agricultural intensification in priority areas.
- iii. Initiating/piloting community based governance systems for promoting integrated land use and land management.

d) Increasing land productivity

The feasibility of options to mitigate the potential risk that REDD-Plus may reduce the farmers' cheapest option of controlling *crop-raiding animals* should be evaluated. An assessment should be made on the extent of mobility of agricultural activities given land tenure constraints. Leakage control measures such as zoning of potential arable land, imposing regulatory measures on clearing forestland for agriculture need to be analysed taking into consideration genuine need for land and access to services and markets.

The following activities shall be implemented

- i. Developing and advocating for measures to compensate losses from vermin.

- ii. Assessing the extent of mobility of agricultural activities within the context of various forms of land tenure.
- iii. Developing and testing measures for leakage control.
- iv. Strategies for addressing linkages between population growth and deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda.

3.3.1.2 Strategic Option #2: Addressing unsustainable charcoal production and utilization.

As indicated in Component 2(a) Uganda forest and tree biomass are extensively used to produce charcoal to meet increasing local and external energy demand. Conversion of wood biomass into charcoal affect non - protected forest/tree resources more than protected forests. Besides, the technologies used in charcoal production and the entire market chain are not cost effective and result into wastage and losses and ultimately increased deforestation. The use of charcoal for energy is likely to continue in the foreseeable future as affordable alternative sources of energy grow.

To cope up with this scenario, the following strategies will be developed and tested during the R-PP implementation.

a) Regulating Charcoal production and Trade

The aim of this strategy is ensure cost effective charcoal production and regulated charcoal trade. In this regards, the following actions shall be implemented:

- i. Facilitating formation and functioning of charcoal producers groups in key districts (Nakasongora, Masindi, Kiboga, Hoima, etc, including development and enforcement of Voluntary Standards and Codes of Conduct for self regulations among the targeted groups.
- ii. Pilot testing and promoting efficient charcoal production technologies.
- iii. Developing enforcement and compliance measures for charcoal production licences issued to commercial charcoal producers.
- iv. Conducting studies to assess the relationships between charcoal production and tree/forest tenure, employment and livelihoods within the key charcoal producing areas and generate recommendations for utilizing this relationship to regulate charcoal production.

b) Clarification on land and tree tenure rights in non-protected areas

Most of the charcoal comes from private forestry mainly as a bi-product of clearing land for agriculture and timber harvesting or direct conversion of trees into charcoal. Forms of land tenure in Uganda contribute greatly to the witnessed levels of charcoal production in non protected areas especially on land under customary tenure and mailo tenure. To address this, the following activities shall be implemented:

- i. Conduct studies to establish the relationship between deforestation and forest degradation due to charcoal production and land/tree tenure and make recommendations for sustainable forest management on various categories of land tenure regimes.

- ii. Facilitate pilot testing of formation or operationalizing policy provisions for “Community forestry”.
- iii. Review of forestry related policies to entrench provisions for securing tree and carbon rights.
- iv. Conduct studies on cost-benefit analysis of maintaining trees for carbon payments versus conversion to charcoal and making recommendations for strengthening benefits from trees for carbon payments.

c) Improving charcoal use efficiency

It is estimated that over 17,000 tonnes of charcoal can be saved in Uganda if only 15% of urban households use improved, well-made, energy-efficient charcoal stoves with end use efficiencies of 30% (Knopfle 2004). This implies that efficient use will lessen amounts used and this has potential to translate into less demand and less charcoal production. The following activities shall be implemented:

- i. Designing and testing strategies for promoting energy saving cook-stoves at household levels in selected urban areas.
- ii. Conducting studies to assess relationship between energy efficiency and rates of deforestation and forest degradation.

d) Strengthening enforcement and compliance

According to Forest Act, commercial charcoal production and marketing is regulated. However, compliance to these regulations has been poor and is attributed to various factors including weak enforcement capacity, weak punitive measures for offenders and inadequate incentives for achieving compliance. In Uganda’s past, increased charcoal production and trade regulation tended to degenerate into more avenues for corruption and is deemed not to have necessarily resulted into net impact on the forests. In addition, this approach led to increased costs of enforcement.

The following activities shall be implemented:

- i. Establishment and nurturing relationships between charcoal producers and dealers with community/private land and tree owners aiming at self regulation during charcoal production.
- ii. Strengthening relationships with various association (e.g., for Charcoal producers, Charcoal traders, Charcoal transporters, etc.) to create incentive for compliance to regulations and licence conditions.
- iii. Developing and applying incentives for compliance to licences requirements and conditions.

3.3.1.3 Strategic Option #3: Addressing unsustainable firewood harvesting and utilization

As indicated in Component 2(a), Uganda’s forest and tree biomass are extensively used to produce firewood to meet increasing household, urban and industrial energy demand. The use of wood as sources of energy at household level, government /public institutions (such as schools, hospitals, and military and prison installations) and in industry (brick industry, tobacco, and tea) is partly a response to un available energy alternatives or purely for reason of unaffordable alternatives. Conversion of wood biomass into firewood other than household mainly affects non - protected forest/tree resources more than protected forests. Besides, the firewood energy use technologies are not effective in energy utilization resulting into wastage. The use of firewood is likely to continue in the foreseeable future as affordable alternative sources of energy grow.

To cope up with this scenario, the following strategies will be developed and implemented during the R-PP implementation.

a) *Increase biomass on farmland*

There is potential in promoting agroforestry and woodlot establishment on farmlands e.g., by increasing access to tree seedlings and tree farming technologies and advice. This requires strong participation of the District Forest Service (DFS), NGOs/CSOs and Private sector. The following activities shall be implemented:

- i. Development of guidelines and Strategies for operationalizing the provisions in the Forest Policy and Act for National Tree Planting effort.
- ii. Promoting usage of hitherto undesired trees e.g., invasive species such as paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*) for firewood

b) *Alternative and affordable clean energy sources*

According to Uganda's Energy Master Plan (2005), Uganda is endowed with various forms of energy including hydropower, wind, solar, biogas, geothermal, petroleum, among others. However, these alternatives are under developed or inadequately distributed or unaffordable to majority of firewood users. Whilst development of these energy options is long term national development strategy, the R-PP implementation shall compliment ongoing efforts under the Ministry responsible for energy to "energize" the country by implementing the following actions:

- i. Developing strategies for enhancing access to alternatives sources of energy.

3.3.1.4 Strategic Option #4: Strategies for addressing unsustainable timber harvesting

The Assessment study on trends on deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda (Appendix 2) ranks unsustainable timber production/harvesting among top drivers for deforestation and forest degradation. This happens due to a number of factors including increased demand for timber, weak regulation of timber industry (harvesting, trade/movement of timber, pricing), poor utilization technologies and, weaknesses in management of protected forest resources, among others.

The R-PP shall make contribution in addressing this phenomenon through the following actions:

a) *Management planning*

According to Article 13 of National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, all forest reserves are required to be managed under an approved Forest Management Plans. The law also empowers districts to facilitate development of management plans for local forest reserves, private forest and community forests and for ensuring that these forest resources are management in accordance with these plans. However, management planning for private forests is likely to be more complicated and costly given the large number of stakeholders managing small forest patches. Management plans may need to address carbon leakage in those forests patched with timber stocks. In this regards, the R-PP shall focus on:

- i. Developing planning tools, templates and procedures for forest on private land and community forests.
- ii. Assessing the feasibility of developing subsidiary district-level or range¹- level forest plans

b) Tracking timber movements and trade

National Forestry and Tree Planting Act provides for regulating timber trade and movements by NFA in collaboration with Districts and Law Enforcement agencies such as the Police. However, the regulation has not been effective and confiscations of illegal timber or presence of illegal timber on market and export consignments continues to take place.

During the R-PP implementation, the following actions shall be implemented:

- i. Develop and apply a timber tracking system for use by NFA and Law enforcement agencies.
- ii. Strengthen NFA capacity to regulate timber trade, including strengthening systems and procedures for apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

c) Improvements in forest utilization

The governance system for regulating logging and timber processing is weak. There is need to promote and ensure use of utilization technologies that reduce waste. The ban against the use of chain saws should continue. Expanding the use of band saws, which give more recovery than pit-sawing needs to be assessed against the risk of excluding the rural based pit sawyers? The following activities shall be implemented:

- i. Facilitate a review of policy and guidelines and make recommendations for strengthening regulation logging and timber processing and for provision of advisory support and promoting technologies that reduce waste.
- ii. Facilitate strengthening of enforcement and compliance to the ban on use of chain saws.
- iii. Provide incentives for increasing access to appropriate technologies that minimize waste.

d) Stocking timber trees

To meet timber demands, an average of 13,000 ha of tree plantations is targeted annually, building up to about 200,000 ha by 2016. The World Resources Institute has developed a map showing locations where Uganda afforestation programs can potentially be developed successfully and contributes to poverty reduction. There are strong indications of achieving cost-effectiveness and private sector buy-in. The success of the Saw log Production Grant Scheme which targets medium to large scale investment needs to be supplemented with options to include smallholders.

During the R-PP implementation, the following activity shall be implemented:

- i. Strengthening partnership with ongoing Carbon trees development initiatives and expand

¹ A range demarcation by NFA includes a number of contiguous forest blocks existing within a group of districts.

programmes to reach out to many small land holders country wide.

e) Increasing forestry resources competitiveness

In many parts of Uganda, agricultural expansion highly threatens forests because agricultural intensification can be achieved profitably on short term basis. There is need to ensure that increased agricultural profitability does not result into increase in appetite for expansion of agricultural area, including protected areas or fragile ecosystems. Governance systems should be identified for achieving collective self-regulation among small land holders to ensure that forest resources are in turn protected and managed sustainably. Likewise, there is need to develop forestry resources management into a competitive and profitable form of land use.

The following actions will be implemented during 2011-2013.

- i. Develop a National Tree Planting Strategy.
- ii. Develop incentives for increasing access to tree farming technologies.
- iii. Advocate for models of agricultural intensification for increased food security.

3.3.1.5 Strategic Option #5: Strategies for addressing livestock and grazing

The strategies for addressing livestock grazing are not presented in this proposal because of insufficient data on the impact of livestock grazing on forests. Currently, the cattle corridor districts contain low forest cover, but it is not clear if this is caused by cattle grazing. An analysis of the impact of grazing on deforestation/forest degradation is needed to inform REDD strategy development.

The following action will be implemented:

- i. Study to assess and analyze the impact of livestock grazing on deforestation/forest degradation in cattle corridor.
 - ii. Develop strategies for managing woodlands to avoid/minimize degradation from livestock use.
- 1.1.2 3.3.2. Objective #2: To elaborate on policy measures for enhancing benefits from REDD+ to vulnerable groups/forest dependent.**

The R-PP shall assess the likely risks and impacts of deforestation and forest deforestation on vulnerable people and feed this information into the development of the Social and Environmental Management framework (Section 3.5). This action will lead to integration of social and environmental considerations into the REDD-Plus Strategy and its implementation. The process of identifying negative impacts and suggesting mitigation measures will take into account World Bank Safeguards which are designed to avoid, limit and/or mitigate harm to people and the environment, and strive to achieve benefits instead.

1.1.3 3.3.3 Objective #3: To define and pilot test processes for stakeholder engagement in implementing REDD -Plus Strategies.

The REDD –Plus strategy will need to address the poor coordination and collaboration across sectors, themes, stakeholders and partners. With regards to implementation of REDD-Plus Strategies in Forest Reserves and National Parks, community collaboration has significant potential to reduce levels of deforestation/degradation via community social pressure. There are ongoing initiatives under NFA and UWA that serve as building blocks for this approach. However, the cost-effectiveness of scaling up the CFM/CRM needs to be investigated especially to address the benefit sharing issues, mapping out potential CFM/CRM areas and identifying ways of bringing down the cost of the negotiation process. In addition, options need to be determined for widening the private sector engagement e.g., in forest management, aggregating REDD carbon, brokering, or buying the REDD projects.

Stakeholder engagement requires mobilizing Communities and developing and implementing REDD activities at the local level. The possibility of Local governments to aggregate and transact in REDD credits generated within their boundaries should be explored. Likewise, civil society organizations have significant potential in ensuring equitable and transparent implementation of REDD while, socio-economic monitoring of REDD activities should be done in partnership with participation of Universities, Research Organizations and Uganda Bureau of Statistics.

Project level demonstration by government or through partnerships with civil society organisations are important avenues to generate lessons for broader country level processes. Therefore, linkages with ongoing pilot projects e.g., by Jane Goodall Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society, Nature Harness Initiative, ECOTRUST should be explored and utilized.

R-PP implementation emphasizes stakeholder participation, contribution and benefits from REDD -Plus. Presently, the NFA and UWA are piloting several initiatives with a variety of Stakeholders. However, as noted in Component 2(a) these initiatives require be strengthening and scaling up in order to benefit more people and have impact on forestry management and peoples livelihoods.

During the R-PP, the following studies or undertakings shall be implemented:

- a) Assessment of the CFM/CRM initiatives and policy guidelines with the view to strengthen benefit sharing issues, mapping out of potential CFM/CRM areas and identifying ways of ensuring a cost-effective negotiation process.
- b) Assessment of options for widening the private sector engagement e.g., in forest management, aggregating REDD carbon, brokering, or buying the REDD projects.
- c) Develop procedures and capacities for ensuring equitable and transparent implementation of REDD-Plus in partnership with CSOs.
- d) Develop procedures for socio-economic monitoring of REDD activities in partnership with universities and UBOS.
- e) Learn and share experiences of NGO Carbon initiatives and projects in order to identify success stories to inform REDD-Plus.
- f) Develop criteria and procedures for establishing REDD Demonstration sites country wide.
- g) Pilot field-based monitoring mechanisms measuring forest cover change and land use changes.

1.1.4 3.3.4 Objective #4: To facilitate the development of tools and methodologies for assessing and monitoring contribution of REDD - Plus activities to sustainable forest management in Uganda.

Objective #4 addresses tools and methodologies for assessing and monitoring REDD-Plus contribution towards forestry management in Uganda.

3.3.4.1 Strategic Option #1: Strategies for building capacity for assessing and monitoring REDD-Plus activities contribution.

REDD-Plus is a new forestry management tool and as such comes along with need for new technical skills, information and approaches for engaging stakeholders and communities in marketing, contract structuring, accounting, fund channelling, monitoring and carbon business planning. Uganda needs to develop capacity to apply the REDD-Plus tools and approaches.

In order to address this need, the following actions will be implemented:

- a) Carry out information management gap analysis and utilize the information to design and implemented research and information management capacity building effort for REDD+.
- b) Undertake building effort for the lead agency (FSSD).

3.3.4.2 Strategic Option #2: Strategies for integrating monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ activities into existing M&E systems and practices

Community forestry in Uganda is faced with weak governance and accordingly community based monitoring capacity is still relatively weak. Experiences from other countries e.g. Nepal show that communities with support from dedicated local NGO's can manage high quality REDD-Plus monitoring systems (Skutsch 2010). In Uganda various national, international and local NGO's as well as the Uganda Wildlife Authority work closely with communities in monitoring tree carbons, but have limited experience in REDD - Plus monitoring. Therefore, it is intended to establish community monitoring systems in the framework of small community based pilot REDD - Plus projects to increase capacity and confidence in respective governance and monitoring systems. Related monitoring systems will be over time fully integrated into the national REDD-Plus monitoring system.

The following action shall be implemented:

- a) Develop and test-pilot community based REDD-Plus monitoring tools and capacities with relevant institutions and selected communities.
- b) Develop and test-pilot procedures for monitoring of co-benefits of REDD+ implementation.

1.1.5 3.3.5 Objective #5: To strengthen national and institutional capacities for participation in REDD-Plus

Objective #5 seeks to address cross-sectoral national and local level capacities for enabling Uganda's participation in REDD – Plus activities and Carbon markets. Capacity is targeted in its broad sense to include policy, legal, institutional and human capacities.

3.3.5.1 Strategic Option #1: Legal, policy and institutional frameworks for REDD-Plus and regulating Carbon market in Uganda in place.

Given that REDD – Plus will entail actions involving a series of stakeholders that will be rewarded after proof of performance, governance systems and quality are critical at all levels. REDD-Plus will involve new activities including monitoring, fund management and channelling that require high levels of transparency and accountability. Laws must be developed to govern monitoring to ensure truthful reporting and attribution of changes to activities and therefore to particular stakeholders.

The following action areas shall be emphasized:

3.3.5.1.1 Law enforcement

Effective legal enforcement is going to be crucial for the success of REDD in Uganda. REDD-Plus will require an increased number of forest officials who have the capacity to enforce forest laws, regulations and standards and are well motivated and facilitated with sufficient operational funds. District staff tends to focus on those issues that the Ministry of Local Governments rewards or penalizes based on regular inspections. Forestry needs to be included in such standards to elevate its importance at district level.

The following actions will be implemented:

- a) Conduct study to identify solutions to the low performance in the enforcement of forestry legal provisions, its underlying causes and potential for pro-poor mechanisms to safeguard against negative impacts on the vulnerable, including gender issues.
- b) Undertake capacity needs assessment for the law enforcement and define capacity building effort.
- c) Develop strategies for collaborative enforcement across different agencies in forest management and also with other sectors especially at the district level.
- d) Undertake study to review existing legislation and recommend framework for governing contractual agreements with the private sector.

3.3.5.1.2 Addressing legal gaps in forest management

A benefit-sharing mechanism should be developed and gazetted based on assessment of its potential to provide sufficient incentive to all stakeholders in an affordable and sustainable way within the existing resource limitations. Addressing the legal gaps highlighted in the on-going review of the NFP is also crucial to the implementation of REDD, particularly, gazettment of the Forestry Regulations, now in draft form, to support policy implementation and enforcement of the NFTP. Also completion of the District Forest Service's Handbook should be prioritized.

The following activities shall be implemented:

- a) Assessing the legal and policy gaps and issues pertaining to REDD - Plus and formulate recommendations for addressing these gaps and issues.
- b) Lobby for the finalization of the gazettment of Forestry Regulations.
- c) Lobby for the finalization of District Forest Service's Handbook.
- d) Develop policy and legal instruments for clarifying "carbon rights" and for facilitating carbon trade.

3.3.5.2 Strategic Option #2: Strategies for building capacity for REDD-Plus Strategy

REDD-Plus is a new forestry management tool and as such comes along with need for new technical skills, information and approaches for engaging stakeholders and communities in implementing REDD+ and Carbon business planning.

The following action shall be implemented:

- a) Carry out a capacity needs assessments of lead agencies and design and implement capacity building effort for REDD+.

3.3.5.3 Strategic Option #3: Knowledge generation about REDD Plus and benefits of its implementation in Uganda.

3.3.5.3.1 Information management and dissemination

Uganda has developed an Awareness and Outreach Strategy (Appendix 9) which shall be implemented during 2011-2013. In addition Uganda shall invest in a REDD –Plus information and Communication Strategy for information generation, analysis and management especially as it relates to deforestation and forest degradation drivers and agents, REDD –Plus activities, carbon accounting, carbon financing mechanisms and REDD –Plus governance socio-cultural, environmental and economic impacts.

The following actions shall be implemented:

- a) Strengthen information management capacity within lead agency.
- b) Develop and disseminate communication messages via mechanism recommended in the awareness strategy.

3.3.5.3.2 Assessment emerging issues relevant to REDD-Plus

This document is based on current baseline information about deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda. It is likely that new issues and trends of deforestation and forest degradation may arise in future during the preparation of the REDD Strategy. For this reason, there remains an intention to continuously assess such situations and identify emerging issues for integration into Uganda's REDD Strategy.

3.3.5.3.3 Information generation

Prioritization of REDD-Plus Strategy actions that will be effective in achieving emission reductions and net benefits for the country requires pragmatic approaches based on the situation prevailing in Uganda. Information on forest management is available, but is patchy and further investigation is needed in order to design realistic strategy actions that conform to Uganda's development aspirations and can be implemented within the available means.

In this regards, the following major thematic studies will be carried out to fill information gaps and improve the current level of knowledge about REDD-Plus and forestry resources in Uganda before REDD-Plus is fully implemented.

- a) **Opportunity costs and barrier analysis:** Understanding opportunity costs, possible risks and barriers for implementation of REDD especially as it relates to the poor is key in designing and selecting studies that will work sustainably without aggravating the hardships faced by forest-dependant households. Hand in hand with this study there shall be potential gains or opportunities for private sector investment.
- b) **Timber movements:** A survey of timber inflow/entry volumes into major urban centres including a record of the sources will inform the design of a national timber strategy. The survey should seek to understand the agents, distances travelled in order to design programs that reach all stakeholders concerned. Issues of pricing should also be incorporated in the study in order to inform mechanisms that overcome under-pricing and ensure that the tree value is fully incorporated.
- c) **Potential impacts of REDD – Plus Strategy options on poverty and livelihoods:** Strategies should be analyzed in terms of their potential to contribute to rural livelihoods and living standards of rural men, women and children.
- d) **Potential domestic leakage:** Leakage studies require understanding of the forest resources accessible by agents of deforestation and forest degradation. This study will build on the mapping of the focal REDD forest blocks to identify those forests outside the REDD focus boundary that are accessible by deforestation and forest degradation agents and are likely to be affected through displacement of deforestation and forest degradation activities.

The study will entail the deforestation and forest degradation agents themselves in terms of age, mobility and resources. The study will also investigate needs to project the extent of impact of the displacement of activities on the accessible forests. The study shall therefore recommend the leakage belt and potential mitigation measures and what institutions should be involved in managing leakage.

- e) **Trans-boundary forest management issues:** The study should understand the impact of trans-boundary activities on forest management in Uganda. It shall look at trans-boundary forest reserves and determine if management arrangements within Uganda are harmonised with counterparts in adjacent countries. The study shall study forest product movement (especially charcoal and timber) and assess the extent which these aggravate deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda. It shall identify hot spots and recommend policies and programs to ensure that REDD Strategy options in Uganda are effective and regionally feasible and sustainable.

- f) **Establishing REDD- Plus Fund:** Analysis of need, relevance and cost-effectiveness for establishing a REDD fund taking into consideration experiences with the existing Environmental funds (e.g., Tree fund, Environmental fund, Wildlife Fund , Climate Change Adaptation fund).
- g) **Feasibility of proposed REDD –Plus Strategy options:** Strategies need to be reviewed further for applicability/feasibility within Uganda’s capacity means. Assessment should be made of the costs and benefits of the candidate activities including their associated opportunity costs, investment costs, transaction costs, feasibility, and sustainability. Forest types and areas where REDD-Plus is feasible should be identified and mapped out.
- h) **Assessing the role of Wetlands** in reducing emissions and serving as Carbon Sink in Uganda.
- i) **Mapping “hot-spots”** of forest degradation and deforestation in Uganda.

1.1.6 3.3.6 Summary of REDD Strategy Options

The summary presented hereunder considers the following (Table 26):

- a) Strategies for developing approaches, tools, methodologies for REDD –Plus implementation
- b) Strategies for assessing scenarios and prompting understanding of REDD- Plus issues and implications on forest management in Uganda
- c) Strategies for equipping the country with institutional, policy and human capacity for REDD – Plus implementation.

These strategies are derived from the drivers for deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda as well as other issues and requirements for enabling Uganda become ready for REDD-Plus.