



REPORT OF THE HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ON REDUCING  
EMISSIONS FROM FOREST DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION  
(REDD+), TARGETING DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS.

NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2010

**In Attendance**

1. Helle Biseth, Norwegian Embassy
2. Kennedy Igbokwe, Food and Agriculture Organisation
3. Lesya Verheijen, The World Bank
4. Geir O. ICEIDA
5. Sanne Frost Helt, DANIDA
6. Elli Borge, Norwegian Embassy
7. Peter N. Oumo, Embassy of Ireland
8. Solomon Asea, World Food Programme
9. Eva Kyobe, JICA
10. Martin Fodor, The World Bank
11. Hudson Andrua, National Forestry Authority
12. Ali Kaka, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
13. Paul Buyerah, National Forestry Authority

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## **1. Acknowledgements**

IUCN acknowledges the working relationship with key government agencies and development partners in ensuring that the REDD consultations for the donors are successfully conducted. Special gratitude goes to the National Forestry Authority for entrusting IUCN and engaging the institution to conduct the awareness and consultations for the national policy level actors and the Norwegian embassy for supporting the coordination of the meeting. Gratitude is also extended to the entire ENR Donor sub group for participating in the meeting and taking interest to continuously support the process and interest other stakeholders too. IUCN pledges to continue providing technical support to the process and the ENR sector in general.

## **2. Introduction**

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) is expected to play a key role in the new global climate change treaty to take effect from 2012 to replace Kyoto protocol. Funds are becoming increasingly available for carbon projects in Africa. Countries however need to prepare national frameworks that will guide how they will benefit from these funds.

Uganda, through the National Forestry Authority (NFA) was selected as a REDD+ participant under the FCPF and since 2009 with support from a REDD+ working group has been undertaking a process to prepare the readiness plan proposal (R-PP). The R-PP seeks to provide a road map for taking stock of the current situation with regards to Uganda's deforestation and forest degradation, and provide an overview of the intents to reduce the trend and address the situation.

In May 2010, R-PP Secretariat spearheaded consultations covering all the regions in Uganda, including a workshop for special interest groups. However, it was determined that more consultations among other stakeholders were still required to inform the R-PP process. Consequently, National Forestry Authority received funding from the Norwegian Government to support an expanded programme for REDD+ consultations in the context of the Readiness Preparation Proposal. The main objective of the programme was to involve more stakeholders in the consultations including forest dependent communities and policy level actors.

The National Forestry Authority partnered with IUCN Uganda to undertake consultations among the national level policy actors. The main targets included the executive, Members of Parliament, Judiciary, development partners and International NGOs. The main objectives of the exercise were as follows:

- a. To enhance understanding about REDD+ and hence its opportunities to Uganda
- b. To facilitate consultations among the decision makers to guide the REDD+ preparedness process

This report synthesizes the key issues discussed during the consultations among development partners which took place on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.

### **3. Methodology**

The consultations for the donor group were conducted through a workshop where presentations were made to raise awareness about REDD+ and engage in discussions to generate the key areas of concern that donors feel should be considered in the REDD+ process for Uganda. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Barbara Nakangu, the IUCN Head of Uganda office and Consuelo Espinosa, the IUCN Senior Forest and Climate Change Officer. The workshop was organized in partnership with the National Forestry Authority and the Norwegian Embassy which hosts the ENR Donor Sub group. In total, the consultations involved a total number of ten donor institutions represented. The consultations generated common positions on the policy linked drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, impacts of deforestation and forest degradation on policy implementation, ongoing policy efforts to address the effects, and the likely future policy requirements and implications of REDD++ Strategy and carbon markets in Uganda.

### **4. Structure of the workshop**

The workshop was organized in three sessions: The first was an introductory session which was aimed at understanding the objectives of the workshop, the justification behind it and setting the pace on how partners should get involved in the RPP process. The second was an awareness session aimed at giving the science background on climate change, the scale of the Climate change problem and the role of forests. The awareness session also introduced the concept of REDD+, describing the scope and giving an update on the international scenario of REDD+. The third was the consultation session which discussed the policy linked drivers of forest deforestation and degradation, the impacts of deforestation, strategies to address deforestation and benefit from REDD+, the actions that can be deployed for future policy work and the implications for proposed future Policy for REDD+ strategy and Carbon Markets.

### **5. Introductory session**

Welcome remarks were given by Helle Biseth who re-affirmed the Norwegian Government's commitment to support the REDD+ process in Uganda. She emphasized the need for the country to have a clear plan for REDD+ which gives direction and involves the vast majority of actors. She also indicated that much as the embassy is keen on supporting the REDD+ process, there is need to have a key partner in the country to work with.

Mr. Ali Kaka, the IUCN Regional Director also welcomed donors to the meeting and pledged IUCN's commitment to supporting the REDD+ process through providing technical support at levels. He expressed his gratitude to government of Uganda for engaging IUCN to enhance awareness on REDD+ and expand consultations to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the process. He informed the donors that IUCN has a pool of experts on REDD+ both within the region and at the international level where IUCN sits in most of the negotiations, hence giving the organization leverage to influence decisions that are made and ensure that the negotiations consider issues that affect the poor people.

Mr. Andura Hudson, the Executive Director of National Forestry Authority informed donors about Uganda Governments' dedication towards promoting REDD+ implementation for improved livelihoods and conservation at the same time. He indicated that Uganda subscribes to a number of processes at the international level, REDD+ being one of them. He emphasized the importance of REDD+ in reducing emissions and hence forests being a key player. National Forestry Authority is coordinating the REDD+ process and is working with partners to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged in the process. He informed the meeting that the REDD+ working group and the REDD+ Steering Committee have been constituted and will continue engaging various actors with a wealth of knowledge and experiences like IUCN to define the direction of the REDD+ process for the country.

#### **6. Awareness session: Enhancing awareness about REDD+ among the development partners**

The session aimed at increasing awareness about REDD+, the history and status of negotiations and providing an opportunity to discuss practical issues which donors feel should be addressed during the RPP process for Uganda. REDD+ was defined as a global program that aims to avail funding from developed industrialized countries to pay for protecting and better management of forests in developing countries like Uganda so that they continue to sink the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This is intended to support reduction to climate change impacts while at the same time leading to improved livelihoods.

Members were informed that REDD+ has evolved from just Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries to include the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD plus). The presentation emphasized the importance of forests in absorbing the carbon emitted from industries and cars among others which mainly emanate from developed countries and is responsible for causing changes in the climate such as increased temperatures that had been experienced all over the world.

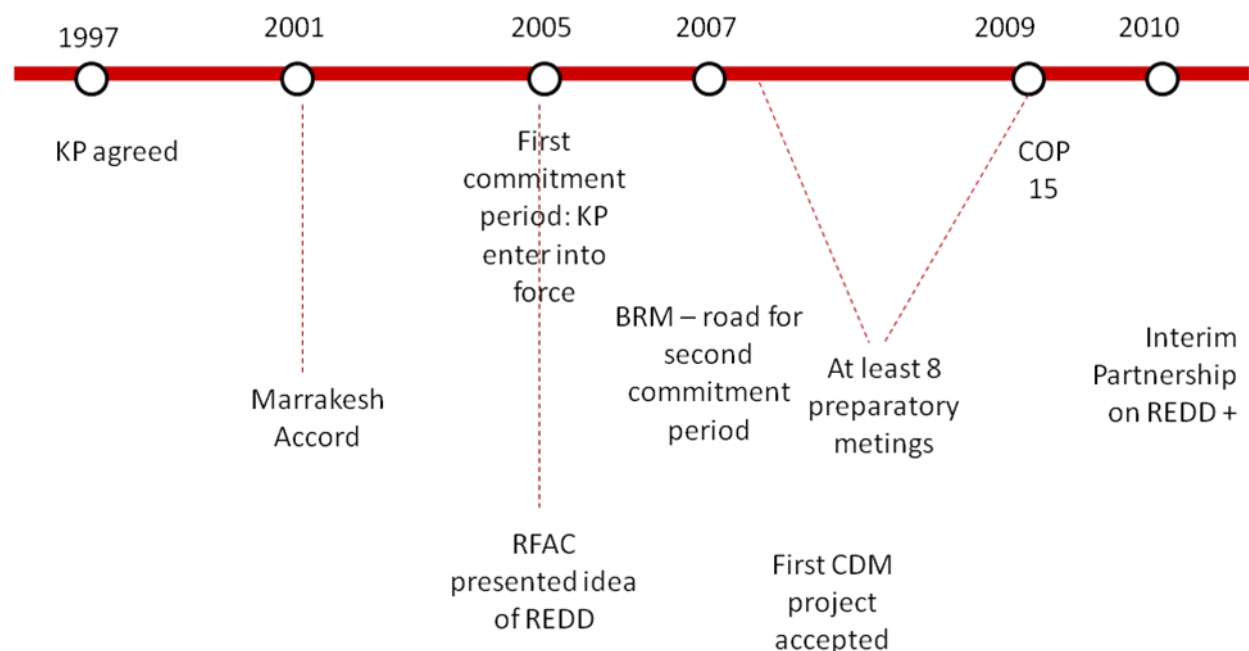
In addition, the cutting down of trees does not only reduce the carbon sink but also releases all the carbon that would have been stored. Thus despite the fact that Uganda as a country may not have big industries which emit huge amounts of greenhouse gases, destruction of forests and failure to conserve will significantly contribute to green house gases.

This therefore calls for action to be taken at all levels including putting in place the right policies and ensuring that they are implemented, raising awareness among the various stakeholders and ensuring that they are given an opportunity to appreciate and engage in the REDD+ process, especially the forest communities that are directly affected.

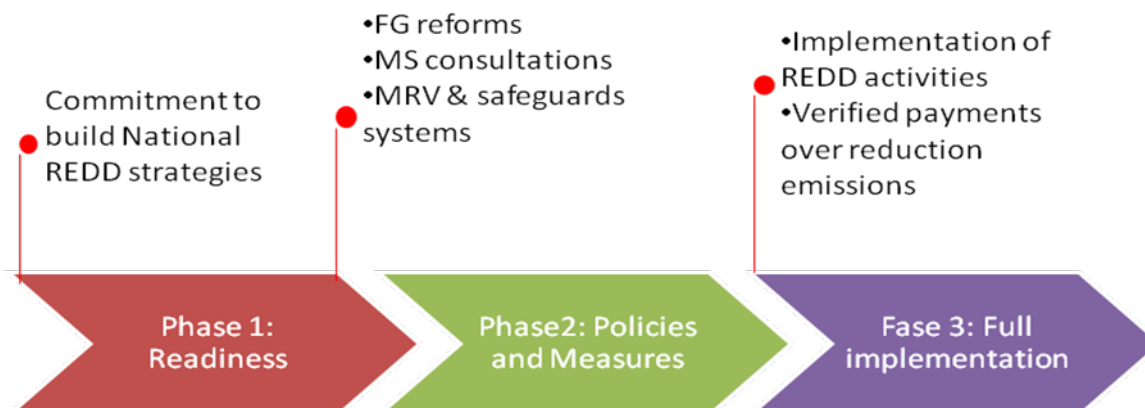
#### **Scope of REDD+**

1. **Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation**
  - Protecting existing forests from immediate and/or medium term threats
2. **Conservation:**
  - Protecting existing forests, especially primary forests, including those that face no immediate threat from deforestation and degradation but could in future
3. **Sustainable management of forests**
  - Safeguarding, and as appropriate expanding, existing carbon stocks in both community and industrial working forests against long-term decline
4. **Enhancement of forest carbon stocks:**
  - Not only afforestation and reforestation but broader restoration of forests

Participants were also made to understand that inclusion of Forests in Climate change negotiations started from way back in 1997 when the Kyoto protocol was accepted as a mechanism to mitigate climate change under the UNFCCC. CDM was the framework of action aimed at stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with climate systems, allowing ecosystems to adapt, ensure food production and enable economic development in a sustainable manner. Figure 1 below gives illustrates the process and trend of how forests got incorporated in the UNFCCC



Members were informed that Uganda is one of the countries which expressed willingness to be associated with the Copenhagen Accord 2009 and hence a number of processes have been undertaken to prepare the country to be ready for REDD+, including setting up structures and conducting consultations to ensure that a readiness proposal is prepared incorporating views from all stakeholders. Partners were informed that Uganda is still at the very first phase of REDD+ which involves getting committed and putting in place structures to build national REDD+ strategies as indicated in the figure below.



## 7. Consultative session: Synthesis of the key issues discussed and practical ideas recommended for consideration in the REDD+ process

Given the information provided to the donors, they appreciated better understanding of the REDD+ process and the need for a country like Uganda to be supported in getting ready and implementing REDD+. This was evaluated based on the discussions that went on as donors felt the need to understand the process better so as to make an effective contribution. Some of the issues raised are summarized below:

- Donors sought clarification of whether REDD+ is 100% combination of adaptation and mitigation. The response to this was that REDD+ plus aims to bring in a holistic approach, though in the negotiation, REDD+ plus is discussed as a mitigation measure. It has aspects of safeguards which help people to adapt
- Partners were also keen to understand whether the REDD+ document will indicate a mapping of the areas that are more appropriate for REDD+ interventions. Members understood that it is because of this requirement that each country has to come up with their strategy, indicating a clear mapping of priorities as well. Some countries may decide to implement the entire REDD+ scope or just some elements. Partners inquired about the status of the country in terms of REDD+ preparedness. They were updated that REDD+ Readiness proposal was being worked on, it is clear that government is getting ready to start negotiations and convince donors for their support. It is for this reason that consultations were being conducted so that stakeholders could feed into the REDD+ process and ensure that it is pro-poor.
- Related to the issue above, some donors were keen to understand at what stage an institution can be supported to implement REDD+ in Uganda since Uganda seems to still be at the very initial stages. In response to this, members were informed that REDD+ requires pilots to inform the readiness processes so most of the ongoing processes are meant to be pilots to inform the national processes. There are 2 ongoing REDD+ projects: carbon bureau in Mgahinga and Wildlife Conservation Society focusing on Albertine Graben area supported by GEF. There are also a number of projects in Ethiopia

and Kenya which offer lessons and experiences to the REDD+ processes. The meeting was also informed that the Democratic Republic of Congo offers good lessons because it is among the most advanced REDD+ processes in Africa.

- There was a lot of concern about the difficulty of implementing REDD+ plus given the fact that something needs to be paid for and at this point REDD+ makes it more difficult to measure, account and verify. Members were informed that there are a number of certifying companies that measure carbon and give certificates. Companies have come up with verifying indicators and methodology for the plus element. Examples include Plan vivo which is testing in Uganda though it is voluntary, VCA is developing a methodology and CCBA. There have been studies for a long time and there is need for partners to determine the rate of degradation they would like to be supported to address.

### **7.1. *Policy linked drivers of Forest Deforestation and Degradation and recommendations for action***

Members discussed the policy linked drivers of forest degradation and deforestation to which they made recommendations which are synthesized below:

- Inadequate information which is also linked to the lack of a central depository place the public can easily access information forests especially the above. E.g. There are studies on agricultural degradation but access to these are difficult. There is also need to localize the available information to inform the planning processes
- Lack of a clear appreciation of the available livelihood alternatives for the forest dependant communities. There is need for studies on the opportunity cost of saving a forest so that both the decision makers and the communities can understand and appreciate both the positives and negatives of REDD+. There is also need to find financial incentives to change to sustainable energy technologies especially addressing the charcoal issue – need to study both from the supply and demand side
- It is still not very clear to most stakeholders how policies from other sectors impact on REDD+. There is need for studies on that demonstrate the relationships with other sectors. for more work to analyze
- Policy implementation under the Environment and Natural Resources sector has still remained a challenge. There is need to further assess how policies are influencing real practice on the ground
- There is limited capacity within the Environment and Natural Resources sector. This calls for a clear plan to realign the roles and responsibilities within the sector for better coordination and enforcement. Even at the community level, there is need to build the capacity of the local people to own and demand. This links to the MRVs to ensure that benefits trickle down to the local people.
- There is need for the REDD strategy to have clear guidelines on how REDD+ resources can be channeled to the communities. This will involve having REDD fund in place to ensure that funds flow to the rightful beneficiaries on the ground



In addition to the recommendations made, members proposed a review of certain policy instruments and plans to enable the country build and implement a National REDD+ strategy as indicated below:

- Need to review agriculture plan in relation to REDD+ scope
- Review Collaborative Forest Management
- Need to review consistency of District plans with REDD+
- The need to re-align roles and responsibilities of the various actors
- There is need to take into account the feasibility and possibility to implement REDD+ . Some areas will be more difficult than others.

The donors were very keen to propose priority areas where they feel the National REDD+ Strategy for Uganda should be implemented. They emphasized the need for REDD+ process to consider areas where income from carbon will make a big difference. Foreexample, combining tourism, income from carbon and ecosystems services to realize a big impact. In addition, they made suggestions for priority areas giving justifications as indicated below:

- Kalangala islands – NFA already has reserves there, there are also forests on private land, it's a highly encroached area and the spill over effects from oil extraction. Icelandic has been implementing programs in this area and sees opportunities for REDD+
- Albertine Rift because of the biodiversity value and also given the likely impact of oil exploration which development partners are keen to address
- The entire Mt Elgon ecosystem is important. This is a catchment for Kyoga and Lake Victoria and Norwegians have invested there for long. There is a program that can be scaled up .
- Transboundary Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan because of the existing reserves and the threat brought about by the repatriation process

## 8. Conclusions

The workshop enhanced the donors understanding and appreciation of REDD+, its relevance for Uganda and what roles different actors can play to contribute to a transparent, effective and pro-poor REDD process. The meeting raised a lot of interest and the donors were even able to identify key priority actions which they will consider supporting and entry points through which they can make a contribution to the process in Uganda. They pledged their support to the process and continuous collaboration with the various actors including IUCN and NFA. They encouraged continuous engaged of the ENR Donor subgroup in the REDD process and urged partners to continue raising awareness across the various sectors since REDD is crosscutting.

## 9. Annex 1: Programme

<b>OPENING SESSION:</b>	Introductions and Objectives of the workshop	IUCN

8:30-9:00 a.m	Opening remarks	Ms. Helle Biseth -Chair ENR- Donor Subgroup  Mr. Hudson Andrua- the Ag. NFA –Executive director  Mr. Ali Kaka IUCN Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa
9:00-10:00 a.m	<b>AWARENESS SESSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change ( brief on the science background; scale of the Climate Change problem and Role of Forests)</li> <li>Understanding REDD + Scope</li> <li>Brief on the State of the International negotiations</li> <li>Challenges for Developing REDD strategies at National level.</li> </ul>	Barbara Nakangu  Barbara Nakangu  IUCN Senior Forest Officer – Climate Change Consuelo Espinosa (virtual presentation)  Consuelo Espinosa (virtul presentation)
10:00-10:15 a.m	Plenary Discussion- Comments and Clarifications	
10:30-10:45 a.m	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<b>CONSULTATION SESSION</b>	
10:45-11:45 a.m	Update on the REDD readiness process for Uganda providing an Update	Paul Buyerah- Director Corporate affairs (5-10 minutes)
	Group discussion (3 groups) and plenary presentations on the following	IUCN Discussion (20 minutes)
	<b>Group 1: Policy linked drivers of Forest Deforestation and Degradation</b> <b>Group 2: Scope of the REDD national strategy for Uganda</b> <b>Group 3: Finance mechanisms/Social Safeguards</b>	Plenary discussions (20 minutes )
11:45-11:50 a.m	Wrap up	IUCN, Ms. Sophie Kutegeka
11:50 a.m-12:00 pm	Closing remarks	Ms Helle Biseth

## 10. Annex 2: Group work questions

### Group 1: Policy linked drivers of Forest Deforestation and Degradation

#### Guiding questions

- what are the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda? Are those clear or there is a need of further studies? (15 min)

- what are the key Impacts or effects of Deforestation
- Are there any policy instruments (like incentives) or national plans that will have to be reviewed if the country decides to build and implement a National REDD+ strategy? (15 min)
- Do you feel that they are any particular policies that may need to entire changes? E.g. the Forest Policy? The land Policy? Why?
- Or do you feel that reviewing some key elements in particular policies would suffice? E.g. Forest governance reforms? tenure?
- List the drivers and the policy / instruments. Which of these drivers or policy elements should be tackled first? What is the priority of the country in addressing the possible drivers? (priorization process 20 minutes)
- Draw your country (actually you can give all the groups a map) and identify the geographic areas or regions where you will need to begin implementing REDD+ activities? (10 minutes)

## **Group 2: What should be the scope of the REDD+ national strategy for Uganda**

### **Guiding questions**

- If we only consider avoided deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) from the entire scope of REDD+ PLUS, do you think that for Uganda both activities will be important for REDD+?
- Is deforestation an issue in the country? Or is more about forest degradation? (10 minutes)
- In your map of the country, identify the areas / regions where Uganda should start working in order to stop/reduce deforestation and forest degradation. (10 minutes)
- The PLUS of REDD+ is about: forest conservation, SFM and enhancement of carbon stocks. Discuss why these elements are relevant in Uganda from a REDD+ prespective? (10 minutes)
- Go to your map again and identify the areas / regions where Uganda should prioritize for doing the PLUS. (10 minutes)
- Take a look at the map again and reflect if any contradiction in the plan the group has decided for REDD+ with possible other development or agriculture plans (like oil plantations or hydropower structures, etc). Identify the areas of possible conflict. (10 min)
- After doing this exercise, who do you think should be part the decision about what should be a REDD+ activity for Uganda and where to implement them? (10 min)

## **Group 3: Finance mechanisms/Social Safeguards**

### **Guiding questions**

- When REDD++ is approved under the UNFCCC it's possible that a "compliance carbon market" will be established for REDD+. Such a mechanism will exist if Annex 1 countries have legally binding and targeted emissions reductions. Do you think Uganda REDD+ strategy should consider that option for allowing financial resources for REDD+?
- What are some of the elements the national REDD+ strategy should include in order to ensure equity in the access to the "formal" market and in the distribution of the benefits it will generate?
- Is there any risks for entering in the "voluntary carbon market" on REDD+ for Uganda? Should the REDD+ national strategy include elements to reduce that risk?
- What other policies should accompany the national REDD+ strategy if the country decides to accept REDD+ activities to be funded by the "formal" or "voluntary" carbon market?
- If the country is being offered a fund for paying REDD+ activities, what elements should include the National REDD+ strategy for ensuring a transparent, effective and fair payment of REDD+ activities?

