



Uganda Government's Initiative to Create and/or Strengthen Participatory Structures in Central, Southern and Mid-Eastern Districts of Uganda for the Development and Implementation of National REDD+ Strategy

INTRODUCTION

Environmental Alert (EA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment is implementing a project titled, 'Strengthening Participatory Structures and Conducting Capacity Building Training to Enhance Stakeholder Engagement for Uganda's National REDD+ Program in Central, Mid-Eastern and Southern Uganda,' with financial support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank.

This initiative aims at implementing the Consultation and Participation Plan of Uganda's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in order to achieve an inclusive and informed consultation and meaningful participation in the process of preparing the National REDD+ Strategy by all relevant stakeholders in Central, mid-Eastern and Southern Uganda.

THE PROJECT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A PHASED APPROACH INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

Phase 1 is the inception phase whose output is this inception report. **Phase 2** builds on the findings of phase 1 and will include a stakeholder mapping, a SWOT analysis and gender gap analysis to inform the strategies for strengthening the composition and capacity of the consultation and participatory structures that would be established in Central, mid-Eastern and Southern Uganda. This will be followed by a rapid review of national and other contexts including good practices to inform the identification and establishment of the participatory structures and opportunities for developing their capacity. Activities for strengthening the capacity of the consultation and participatory structures in Central, mid-Eastern and Southern Uganda will be implemented in **Phase 3**. Activities for facilitating the stakeholder inputs into the design, consolidation and validation of the national REDD+ strategy will be implemented in **Phase 4**.

Definition of key selected terms

REDD+ refers to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, whose key components are:

- a** Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- b** Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- c** Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- d** Sustainable management of forests;
- e** Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



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The National REDD+ strategy for Uganda will have key strategic options for implementation to contribute towards addressing deforestation and forest degradation in the Country. Uganda is one of the developing countries experiencing high deforestation rates. The country's 5 million hectares of forest in 1990 dwindled to 3.5 million by 2005. According to Ministry of Water and Environment/National Forest Authority (2016), the Natural forest cover has reduced from 4.9 million hectares (30% of total land area) in 1990 to 1.727 million hectares (approximately 10%) in 2015. This trend shows an average decline of natural forest cover of 1.8% per year or at an average of 120,000 ha per year between 1990 and 2015. Forest cover loss occurs on both protected areas and private land although the rate of loss is more on private land. Within the same period, forest plantation cover has increased from 32,251ha in 1990 to 107,608ha (234% increase) mainly through private sector led tree farming and commercial plantations.

The development of the National REDD+ Strategy for Uganda builds on earlier initiatives described as follows: Uganda became a Participant of FCPF in 2008 and in 2009 received a USD 200,000 grant through the World Bank to prepare a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). Uganda embarked on R-PP preparation phase in March 2010 which was approved during the ninth Participants' Committee meeting in Oslo in June, 2011 with comments. Uganda submitted an acceptable and updated R-PP in May 2012 following which a second grant of USD 3,634,000 was obtained from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Additional support has been received by the GoU from the Austrian Development Agency (USD 870,000), UN-REDD (USD 75,000), UN-REDD National Programme (USD 1,798,670). In addition, the GoU has invested USD 472,000 (in kind) in the implementation the R-PP.

PARTICIPATION & CONSULTATION PLAN

As part of its R-PP process, Uganda designed a robust, inclusive, and elaborated Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan, which includes a communication and awareness plan, and a feedback grievance and redress plan. The overall intention of the C&P Plan is to provide a framework for effective stakeholder participation in order to ensure an all-inclusive and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders in the process of preparing a National REDD+ Strategy.

Therefore, in order to achieve an inclusive and informed consultation and meaningful participation in the process of preparing the National REDD+ Strategy by all relevant stakeholders in Central, mid-Eastern and Southern Uganda. Stakeholders who will be targeted in each region include: community-level representatives, forest dependent Indigenous Peoples, traditional leaders, associations of tree growers, the private sector, firewood and charcoal producers, women's organizations, forest concessionaires, brick makers. Each of these stakeholders will be represented on the CPP structures as appropriate, which will be established in each region.



JUSTIFICATION

Uganda has a liberal National Non-Government Organization Policy 2010 and The Non-Governmental Organizations Act 2016 that create room for participation of civil society and other organized groups (community groups, professional groups, religious groups, and cultural leaders) in policy development and implementation at national and local government levels. There are already numerous civil society organizations and networks operating at national and local level in advocacy for sustainable forestry, mobilizing and raising awareness about sustainable forestry, facilitating community empowerment with technical skills in management of forestry resources. Forestry specialized NGOs are already playing a leading role in mobilizing communities for REDD+ and piloting REDD+ initiatives. They therefore, form an important stakeholder constituent for REDD+ consultations, a channel for dissemination of information about the REDD+ process, as well as a platform for mobilization and participation of marginalized members of society.

At the international level, Uganda is a signatory to the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and the subsequent groundbreaking pledge in Paris (the COP21 climate agreement) to reduce global warming by less than 20C compared to pre-industrial levels. It therefore has an obligation to comply with the UNFCCC requirements for 'full and effective participation' as intended in the UNFCCC Decisions. Further, Uganda as a country participates in the FCPF and therefore observes the World Bank safeguards and other UNREDD/Global REDD processes. Furthermore, Uganda has obligations to comply with Bank's 'Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment' and 'Environmental and Social Management Framework guidelines', the UN-REDD and FCPF Joint Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement with emphasis on the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dependent Communities, and the UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Uganda has already developed its national REDD+ PP and Consultation and Participation Plan following those requirements. Consequently, REDD+ stakeholder structures have already been established at the national level namely, the National REDD+ Steering Committee, the National REDD-plus Working group, the sub-working groups of the RWG (National Consultation and Participation Taskforce) and the REDD-plus National Focal Point/Secretariat.

Key expected outputs of the project

1. Consultation and Participation structures and processes at sub national level covering Central, mid-eastern and southern Uganda will be set up through undertaking;
2. Established and operationalized Consultation and Participation Plan structures and processes for REDD+ in central, mid-eastern and southern Uganda;
3. Enhancing awareness of various stakeholders on REDD+ issues central, mid-eastern and southern Uganda, Working with Tree Talk Plus and other NGOs;
4. Stakeholder input into design, consolidation and validation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

Environmental Alert's assignment

- 1 Set up and operationalize consultation and participation structures and processes for REDD+ in central, mid-eastern and southern Uganda;
- 2 Enhancing awareness of various stakeholders on REDD+ issues in central, mid-eastern and southern Uganda. Working with Tree Talk and other NGOs;
- 3 Facilitate stakeholder input into the design, consolidation and validation of the National REDD+ Strategy.



Key project outcomes

- a) The voices, interests and experiences of stakeholders will be articulated and captured to inform the development and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy;
- b) Stakeholder input into the design, consolidation and validation of the national REDD+ strategy;
- c) Stakeholders will be sensitized and equipped with all the necessary information and knowledge about REDD+ and its processes, and with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in the REDD+ consultations;
- d) Identify the proposed structures, upon which gaps will be identified, discussed and an engagement strategy and capacity building plan set up developed.

Contacts

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