

The National REDD+ Readiness Preparation Programme in Uganda

REDD+ is an acronym for Reducing of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation. The plus sign (+) stands for the role of Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management and Enhancement of Carbon Stocks (REDD+). The (+) enhances the land's capacity for carbon storage through activities that improve forest health. In addition to carbon stocks being protected by avoiding forest damage and or clearing of entire forests, measures such as better forest management, conservation, restoration, and afforestation also increase carbon stocks.

REDD+ is one of the international efforts aimed at combating climate change by promoting policies and positive incentives to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and forest carbon loss in developing countries, particularly in the tropics. The Global REDD+ programme was developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is aimed at incentivizing developing countries with tropical forests to reduce emissions from deforestation and *forest degradation*, conserve *forest carbon stocks*, sustainably manage forests and enhance *forest carbon stocks*.

Uganda's REDD+ Programme which is implemented as a National REDD+ Process is a national effort to contribute to the mitigation of climate change, and improve on the livelihoods of local, indigenous as well as forest dependent communities. Uganda's REDD+ Readiness process aims *to design a socially and environmentally viable national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and a national reference scenario of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation that takes into account the national circumstances and the emerging guidance from the global climate change convention.*

The REDD+ Programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Water and Environment through the Forest Sector Support Department (serving as REDD+ National Focal Point and REDD+ National Secretariat). The Ministry is assisted in coordinating policy level issues pertaining to REDD+ by the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (which serves as a Steering Committee for the REDD+ Programme) and by a National Technical Committee which serves as a technical platform for stakeholder's engagement in the REDD+ process. In addition, specialist inputs are provided by three (3) Taskforces namely SESA/Safeguards Taskforce, Policy/Strategy Taskforce (Policy, Legislation, Regulations) and Methodological Taskforce (Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)Taskforce.

Uganda's REDD+ Readiness process has been ongoing since 2008 with active participation of stakeholders within and outside government including NGOs, Private Sector, Academia, Development Partners, Forest Dependent Peoples and Local community. The National REDD+ Focal Point (and National REDD+ Secretariat) is responsible for the day-to-day implementation and coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process. Uganda's REDD+ process has received financial and technical support from Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) through the World Bank (US\$ 3. 634 million); Austrian Development Agency (Euros 650,000) and; UN-REDD Programme (Targeted Support (US\$ 0.75 million); National UN-REDD Programme (US\$ 1.798 million), (UN-REDD Programme is a collaboration between FAO, UNDP and UNEP). Government of Uganda contribution US\$ 0.25 million annually since 2013/14 financial year. In addition, Uganda received additional funding from FCPF (through World Bank) amounting to US\$ 3.75 million) to support the completion of REDD+ Readiness process between July 2017-December 2019.

Uganda has made great strides in preparing her REDD+ Readiness. By the end of the FY2016/2017 (i.e. 30th June 2017), the following achievements have been realized:

- A. Draft National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Plan
- B. Establishment of National Forest Reference Emission Level.
- C. Draft National Forest Monitoring System & Safeguards Information System
- D. Draft REDD+ implementation frameworks:

- i. Benefit Sharing Arrangements for REDD+ Programme.
 - ii. Strategic Environmental and Social Management Framework.
 - iii. Feedback and Grievances Redress Mechanisms for implementation of REDD+ Strategy.
 - iv. Stakeholder's Participatory structures at national and sub-national levels.
- E. National capacity for REDD+ Process design and REDD+ Strategy implementation.

Additionally, Uganda designed a Forest Investment Programme (FIP) that was endorsed by the Forest Investment Programme Sub-Committee of Climate Change Investment Fund in June 2017. The FIP design that was spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment and coordinated by National Climate Change Advisory Committee was supported by a grant of US\$ 0.25 million from Global Forest Investment Programme (of the Climate Investment Fund) of through the World Bank and African Development Bank. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) supported the process as a technical partner. The FIP design process was informed by analytical information generated by the National REDD+ process, FIP studies as well as views from stakeholders at national and district levels and across sectors including government ministries and agencies within and outside the forest sector, civil society, private sector, local communities, forest dependent people, and development partners in Uganda.

Uganda's FIP will be implemented through 3 investment projects at national level (policy level interventions that aim to strengthen forestry policy performance and forestry governance as well as land scape levels through two (2) Investment Projects which will be jointly implemented with the Strategic Programme on Climate Resilience. The Investments Projects (IP) are: IP1) Climate Resilient Landscapes, Integrated Catchment Management and Nature-Based Tourism in Uganda's Albertine Rift in the Albertine Water Management Zone; IP2: Climate Resilient Landscapes, Integrated Catchment Management and Nature Based Tourism in Uganda's Lake Kyoga and Upper Nile Water Management Zones. The total FIP cost, including co-financing and leveraged funding, is estimated at US\$ 234 M over 10 years.

Further information about REDD+ and FIP can be obtained from the Permanent Secretary, MWE (Email: alfred.okidi@mwe.go.ug) or Commissioner, Forest Sector Support Department (Email: adatamargaret@yahoo.com) or National REDD+ Focal Point (Email: margathieno@gmail.com) or National FIP Focal Point (Email: samotuba@gmail.com).