



## **MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **RECORD AND REPORT OF THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE; PRESENTATION OF THE REFERENCE EMISSION LEVEL AND/OR FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL (FREL/FRLs) AND A NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM FOR UGANDA'S REDD+ PROGRAM**

**Convened by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment at Airport View  
Hotel Entebbe, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**

## **Workshop program**

### **Day One**

1. Registration of participants
2. Prayer, Introductions and Opening remarks

### **Session A**

#### **REDD+ Strategy preparation oversight; Technical aspects/outputs of consultants, partner/technical institutions and National REDD+ Focal Point.**

3. Background and Overview to the National REDD+ Programme
4. Deepening the NTC understanding of Uganda's National REDD+ programme including updates on FIP
5. General Feedback and discussion
6. Presentation REDD+ steering and coordination mechanisms the structures, functions and relationships between steering committee, NTC and taskforces
7. General Feedback and discussion

### **Session B**

#### **Ensure compliance of REDD+ process with the REDD+ principles and standards**

8. Introduction to reference levels (FRELS/FRLs) part A
9. Introduction to reference levels (FRELS/FRLs) part B and C

### **Day Two**

1. Registration of participants
2. Recap and outline of Day 2

### **Session C**

#### **Provide technical inputs into the design of REDD+ Strategy options, SESA, MRV Reference Scenarios and other REDD+ tools and methodologies**

3. Submission of forest definition for FREL/FRL REDD+ as agreed by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of Methodology Taskforce
4. Discussion and recommendation for CCPC
5. Morning wrap –up
6. Submission of scale for FREL/FRL REDD+ as agreed by the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of methodological taskforce
7. Discussion and recommendation for CCPC

**Number of persons attending** - 20

**Workshop Chairperson**

1. Mr. Arineitwe Valence - Senior Forest Officer

**Workshop Facilitator**

1. Mr. Kadilo Gilbert -
2. Mr. Bob Kazungu - Senior Forest Officer

**Workshop Presenters**

1. Mr. Arineitwe Valence - Senior Forest Officer
2. Mr. Alex Muhweezi - Technical Advisor, REDD+ Secretariat
3. Mr. John Begumana - MRV Expert, REDD+ Secretariat

**Workshop Rapporteurs**

1. Ms. Evelyn Atuhaire - Economist

**Workshop Registration and Secretarial Services**

1. Ms. Darleen Lutalo - Administration Assistant, REDD+ Secretariat

## Background

As part of Uganda's Readiness toward implementation of actions that contribute to the mitigation of climate change in the forest sector, a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) was prepared as Uganda's roadmap to developing the following elements: (a) A National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan; (b) A National Forest Baseline Scenario (Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level) (FREL/FRLs); (c) a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); and (d) a System for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities.

Implementation of Uganda's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal is supported by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Austrian Development Agency (ADC/ADA), the UN-REDD Programme (UN-REDD Programme is a collaboration between FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and Government of Uganda.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) coordinates the REDD+ Process for Uganda through its Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD). The MWE is supported by a National Technical Committee (NTC) which serves as an official technical platform for the REDD+ Programme. The NTC is appointed by the Permanent Secretary on recommendation of the Steering Committee (Climate Change Policy Committee (CCPC)). Membership to the NTC is drawn from REDD+ stakeholders at managerial/senior level with the diverse technical specializations and interests that are relevant to the REDD+ Programme and Climate Change. The NTC ensures that the technical aspects of the various components of R-PP implementation and the over-all REDD+ process are effectively addressed, including adherence to REDD+ principles, national policy and legal frameworks, World Bank safeguards, among other standards. The NTC establishes and assigns work to Taskforces. One of the Taskforces that was identified is the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) taskforce also referred to as the Methodological Taskforce. The MRV Taskforce members have competences in Land use planning/ monitoring/modeling; Forest/Biomass Inventory/Resource Assessment/Vegetation mapping; GHG Inventory; and Information Management Systems/GIS/Remote sensing which are required for NFMS development and for ensuring sustained continuity, robustness and functionality of the system.

In April 2015, the REDD+ Programme Secretariat convened a meeting of an interim National Technical Committee which considered the development of (a) a national forest baseline scenario (reference emission level and/or forest reference level) (FREL/FRLs); and (c) a national forest monitoring system (NFMS). This was followed by four meetings of the Methodological Taskforce which has discussed in details four of the five building blocks of reference levels: Forest definition, Data, Scale and Scope.

In July 2015, the Ministry of Water and Environment initiated the process of constituting a substantive NTC, which was subsequently established in August 2015. The substantive NTC will take on its roles and responsibilities that will ensure that the National REDD+ processes, outputs and deliverables remain of high quality.

Against this background, the MWE's REDD+ Secretariat organized a two-day meeting during which it would launch the substantive National Technical Committee; present the work on the National Forest Baseline Reference Scenario; and the NFMS that has been ongoing including the conclusions and

recommendations of the Methodological Taskforce in regard to the Forest definition, Data, Scale and Scope building blocks of reference levels.

**The main objectives of the meeting were:**

- To officially launch the National Technical Committee,
- To present and discuss of the proposed Forest Definition for the Uganda's reference level
- To present and discuss of scale for the Uganda's reference level
- To present and discuss of scope for Uganda's reference level
- To present the work in progress on data for Uganda's reference level

**Introduction Remarks by Gilbert Kadilo**

The facilitator began by welcoming the members present to the two-day meeting of the launch of the National Technical Committee and presentation of the reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRLs) and a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for Uganda's REDD+ programme.

Owing to the fact that the senior managers of the programme that is the National Focal point, the Alternate Focal point, Director Environmental Affairs and the Permanent secretary has all travelled to France for the UNFCCC COP 21, the secretariat thought it wise to defer the launch of the NTC to a later date that will be communicated.

The other purpose for the meeting is to enable the NTC to reflect on the reports of the FREL/FRLs that were developed by the MRV taskforce.

He then invited Mr. Arineitwe Valence to make the opening remarks for the meeting.

**Opening Remarks by Valence Arineitwe**

On behalf of Ministry of Water and Environment, Mr. Valence Arineitwe (representing the REDD+ National Focal Point) welcomed the members to the NTC meeting. He noted that the scheduling of the meeting was at a busy time of the year when the world is convened to discuss issues pertaining to Climate Change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

He thanked the development partners; the World Bank (FCPF), Austrian Development Co-operation and UN-REDD (FAO, UNEP, UNDP) for the continued support to the country as it prepares for the National REDD+ programme.

He emphasized that the Government of Uganda is committed to address the issues pertaining to climate change as reflected in the growing resource allocations and commitments to REDD+ and other Climate Change programmes over the years.

He concluded by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations and declared the meeting open.

## Background and overview of the National REDD+ Programme by Valence Arineitwe

Mr. Arineitwe began by defining what the acronym REDD+ stands for that is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of sustainable management of forests, conservation of forest carbon stocks and enhancement of carbon stocks. REDD+ is a mechanism negotiated under the UNFCCC whose aim is to create financial value for carbon stored in forests. It aims at giving incentive to developing countries to conserve their forest resource. The incentives are acquired from developed countries that are the biggest emitters. The key idea here is the results based payments.

Climate change has been a great challenge recently this can be witnessed in the increased incidences of flooding, lightening, landslides, draught etc.

The linkaged between CC and forest is through the carbon cycle by the process of photosynthesis, trees store carbon and when they are cut down, this Carbondioxide is released into the atmosphere. REDD+ therefore is about saving forests to keep the Climate safe.

Research shows that deforestation contributes about 17% of the Carbondioxide emissions into the atmosphere, hence REDD+ steps in as an intervention to tackle this percentage of emissions. It must be noted that the drivers of deforestation cut across different sectors.

The activities involved in REDD+ include:-

- Reducing emissions from deforestation
- Reducing emissions from degradation
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks
- Sustainable management of forests
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

### **REDD+ process in Uganda**

Uganda became and FCPF participant in 2008, and received a grant of USD 200,000 from FCPF (WB) and USD 180,000 from NORAD this was aimed at preparing the REDD+ Readiness preparation proposal (R-PP). The preparation of the R-PP started in 2010 and was approved in 2011. A grant agreement of USD 3.6M from FCPF and commitments from other development partners these include the ADC, UNREDD and the Government of Uganda in kind contribution.

On the whole the total commitment is about USD 7.28million which is about 70% of what is required to implement the R-PP.

REDD+ has three phases so to access the funding, and the REDD Readiness phase that the country is currently undertaking requires that:-

- A REDD strategic plan of action
- A National Forest Monitoring System and this includes

- Forest Reference Emissions Level
- MRVs
- Forestry Inventory
- A system of Safe guards that includes;- SESA, FGRM, Benefit sharing, Guidelines, standards and modalities, participatory and consultation structures, a gender mainstreaming strategy to mainstream REDD+

## Deepening the NTC's understanding of Uganda's National REDD+ programme including updates on Forest Investment Programme by Alex Muhweezi

The presentation was aimed at deepening the understanding of the NTC members in their understanding of Uganda's National REDD+ programme. Some of the NTC members are newly appointed hence the need to bring everyone abreast of the REDD+ process.

Alex briefed the meeting about the REDD+ process at the National context and the implementation status in regards to what has been achieved so far.

### **Uganda's National REDD+ Programme**

At national level MWE is the lead ministry in the REDD+ programme on behalf of the government of Uganda. A national focal point was designated as the Forestry Sector Support department. A management team was appointed to run the day to day activities of the programme that is the REDD+ secretariat.

He explained that one of the major requirements for any country embarking on the REDD+ process is that it should be as participatory as possible hence should engage as many stakeholders as possible. REDD+ programme has a steering committee which is held by the Climate Change policy committee which has a policy mandate as it is formally recognized and constituted and has the mandate to steer the REDD process well. This is also convenient as the committee handles most policy issues pertaining to climate change and REDD+ being a mitigation action of the effects of climate change hence this programme falls under their mandate.

The national technical committee and the task forces provide technical oversight and guidance to the REDD+ process. The members belonging to these committees have been chosen owing to their possession of technical expertise.

The REDD+ process has a number of components working together to achieve the same goal of preparing Uganda to be ready for REDD. These include the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF), UN-REDD and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

The FCPF supports all the components of the REDD process these include:-

1. Component 1: Coordination and Monitoring of REDD+ Readiness Process (*Secretariat+ Steering and Coordination + Capacity building+ Monitoring and Evaluations*)

2. Component 2: Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback in Readiness Process (*Strengthening Participatory Structures+ Awareness + national feedback and grievance redress mechanisms*). To prepare platforms on engaging the stakeholders and addressing grievances as and when they arise.
3. Component 3: REDD+ Strategy and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA and ESMF). This designed in the occasion that the REDD+ programme would have some negative social and environmental implications hence the component supports the assessment of any such negative implication and it is intended to feed those into the final design of the strategies. In the event that some of the identified issues cannot be addressed now, then the component puts in place a framework for managing them over time.
4. Component 4: REDD+ Implementation Framework (*benefit sharing arrangements+ Standards+ review of on-going REDD+ efforts* ). Here three main components are targeted
  - Benefit sharing arrangements
  - Supporting of Nationally accepted standards for REDD+ activities.
  - To review on-going REDD+ efforts
5. Component 5: National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources

### **Austrian Development Cooperation**

The Austrian Development Co-operation put in about USD 800,000 through the ministry. This grant is mainly targeting the development of:-

- A national and subnational robust forest monitoring system
- Information and data through a combination of expanded remote sensing and inventory.
- A national and subnational system of monitoring and providing information on how multiple benefits, other impacts, governance, and actual safeguards
- Spatially based biodiversity and ecosystem-based multiple benefits of REDD+; including land-use and pressures on natural resources, identified and mapped.

### **UN-REDD**

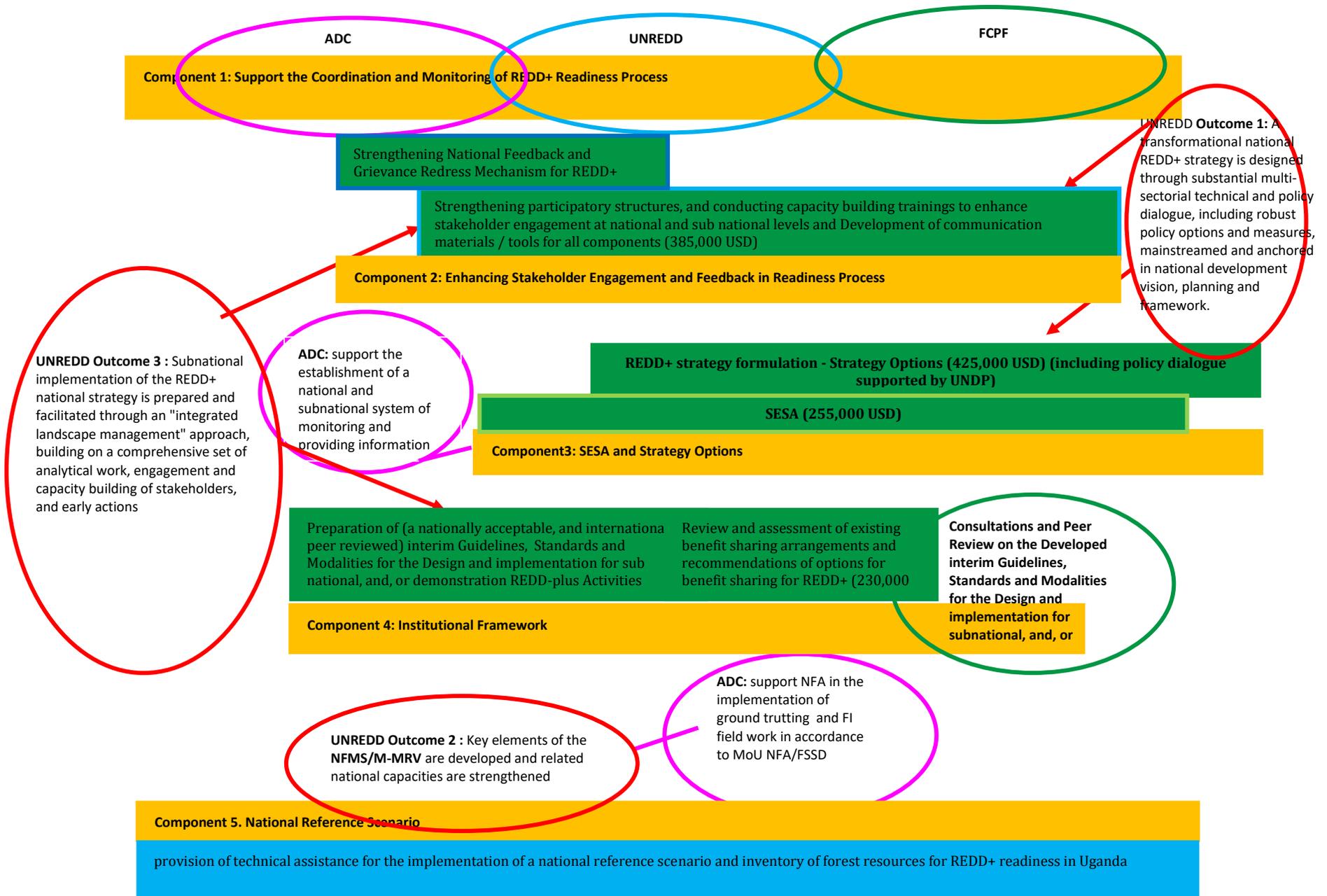
The programme supports countries in developing their REDD programmes. In the case of Uganda it is referred to as the UNREDD National Programme. It is a consortium of three United Nations agencies UNEP, UNDP and FAO.

**UNDP:** A transformational national REDD+ strategy is designed through substantial multi-sectorial technical and policy dialogue, including robust policy options and measures, mainstreamed and anchored in national development vision, planning and framework.

**FAO:** A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is designed and set up, with appropriate Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions

**UNEP:** Sub-national implementation of the REDD+ national strategy is prepared and facilitated through an “integrated landscape management” approach, building on a comprehensive set of analytical work, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders, and early actions.

He summarized the components and funds synergies with the diagram below



What is REDD+ in the Ugandan context.

- Preparation of Uganda REDD Readiness started 2010 and 2013.
- R-PP has five components:
  - a. Organize and Consult (coordination, awareness, outreach, participation, grievances mechanism)
  - b. Preparing REDD Strategy
  - c. Establishing Carbon Emissions Reference scenario
  - d. Establishing System for Measurement, Verification and Reporting (MRV)
  - e. Monitoring and evaluation framework for R-PP implementation

At the successful completion of phase 2, Uganda will have:-

**A Nationally agreed Strategies and Actions** for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management, enhancing the role of conservation of biodiversity and, enhancing carbon stocks. These strategies will be packaged into Uganda's REDD Strategy and Action Plan document.

**Baselines and measures** a country must demonstrate and own the following mechanisms and systems:-

- a) National Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level
- b) National Forest Monitoring System
- c) Benefit Sharing Arrangements
- d) Environmental and Social Management Framework
- e) Forest Grievances and Redress Mechanism
- f) Standards for REDD+ Field activities in Uganda
- g) Uganda's capacity to implement the National REDD Strategy at various scales and across various sector and players.

**Current on-going activities in Uganda's REDD Readiness programme to-date November 2015**

- a. Strengthening coordination and management of the REDD+ Process at National Level including capacity building of key institutions and players, functioning of national level REDD+ Secretariat, REDD+ Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Taskforces, Evaluation and reporting mechanisms.
- b. Undertaking and facilitating stakeholders to engage and provide inputs and feedback into the design of REDD+ Strategies and Action in the Readiness Preparation process.
- c. Designing nationally agreed REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan.
- d. Conducting Strategic Environmental and Social and Assessment of the REDD+ Strategy options.

- e. Designing REDD+ Implementation Frameworks including those that provide for Benefit sharing arrangements, Standards for REDD Activities, Managing Grievances and conflicts likely to arise during phase 2 and phase 3 of REDD+ processes.
- f. Developing Uganda's National Reference Scenario and National Forest Monitoring and Information System.
- g. Capacity building

**Restoration of degraded and protection of ecosystem:**

- Site selection - Mt. Elgon Ecosystem - site for demonstration of Landscape Restoration - Mbale Region & Kapchorwa Region
- Planted 131,000 tree seedlings of various species – offset carbon footprints

Functioning REDD+ Secretariat

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- a. Completed M&E Framework
- b. Mid Term Review
- c. Joint Missions (3)
- d. Reporting (Annual Report to FCPF) + GOU

**Ongoing work:**

- e. Establishing the Baselines (Reference levels)
- f. Establishing Forest Monitoring System
- g. Capacity building (4 REDD+ Meetings (Regional and international including COP 20 and COP 21) + One meeting for the Expanded Climate Change Policy Committee carried – inauguration, validated and endorsed Uganda's National Program – UN-REDD + Joint sensitization sessions carried out with the CCD

**Procurement of Packages for:**

- A. Development of Standards and modalities for preparation & implementation of REDD+ demonstration activities
- B. Strengthening Participatory Structures and Communication tools

C. Developing REDD Strategies

D. Undertaking Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (and eventually, ESMF)

E. Developing Benefit Sharing mechanisms

B. Steering and Coordination mechanisms:

a) There have been four REDD steering committee meetings so far REDD Steering Committee

b) The REDD National Technical Committee has had three meetings.

c) There have been established task Forces of the Monitoring Verifying and Reporting (MVR); SESA and Policy/Strategies.

C. The country has received a grant of USD 250,000 to prepare the Forest Investment Plan which will aid in the preparing of the implementation of the REDD strategies.

#### **Capacity building and technical backstopping:**

- 4 REDD+ Meetings (Regional and international including COP 20),
- One meeting for the Expanded Climate Change Policy Committee carried – inauguration, validated and endorsed Uganda’s National Program – UN-REDD
- Joint sensitization sessions carried out with the CCD

#### **Presentation on the Forest Investment Plan**

The FIP is a global initiative aiming to channel climate investment funds (CIF) into sectors that aim at mitigation or adaptation of Climate change. REDD+ is therefore is party owing to the fact that it is a mitigation action.

The CIF has three windows for channeling funds. These include

- The clean technology fund
- The Scaling up of renewable energy fund
- The Forest Investment Program
- Funds for supporting building of Climate resilience projects

All these are collectively referred to as the Climate Investment Fund. Uganda has a priviledge of being active in these three windows. The fund can only be accessed through Multi National Development Banks and these include the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank e.t.c.

The global objective of the funds is such that whatever strategies are suggested to be done fit in the global priorities of the funds.

The objective of the FIP is to promote forest mitigation effort in the context of reducing emissions as well as the protection of Forest eco-system services.

The other is to promote the support to private sector so as to reduce the pressure placed on the forestry resource.

The fund also aims at strengthening of institutional performance of forestry governance and org

The fund also supports the mainstreaming of climate resilience consideration in biodiversity conservation

In the Ugandan context, the FIP is aiming at addressing all the four objectives. It may be viewed as an arrangement that feeds into the implementation of the REDD strategy. The application for the FIP was submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and was approved on 21<sup>st</sup> May and a scoping mission on the process of utilizing the grant took place in October 2015. Uganda designated a focal point for the FIP who is the Commission policy and planning so as to cater for all the interests of all the stakeholders in the sector. The funds will be channeled through the World Bank.

The FIP should address among others the contribution of forestry as a CC mitigation action thereby buying into the REDD Strategies.

Enhancing the benefits of forestry resources and co-benefits

Enhancing of the biodiversity and eco-system services.

Enhancing the operationalizing of forestry policies and regulations

The fund should open up opportunities of private sector opportunities that is also capitalizing on the success of projects like the Sawlog production grant scheme.

**The success of the FIP will bring the following:-**

- The fund will help in the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation rates
- It will help enhance the role of forestry as a climate change mitigation action
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**General Feedback and discussion**

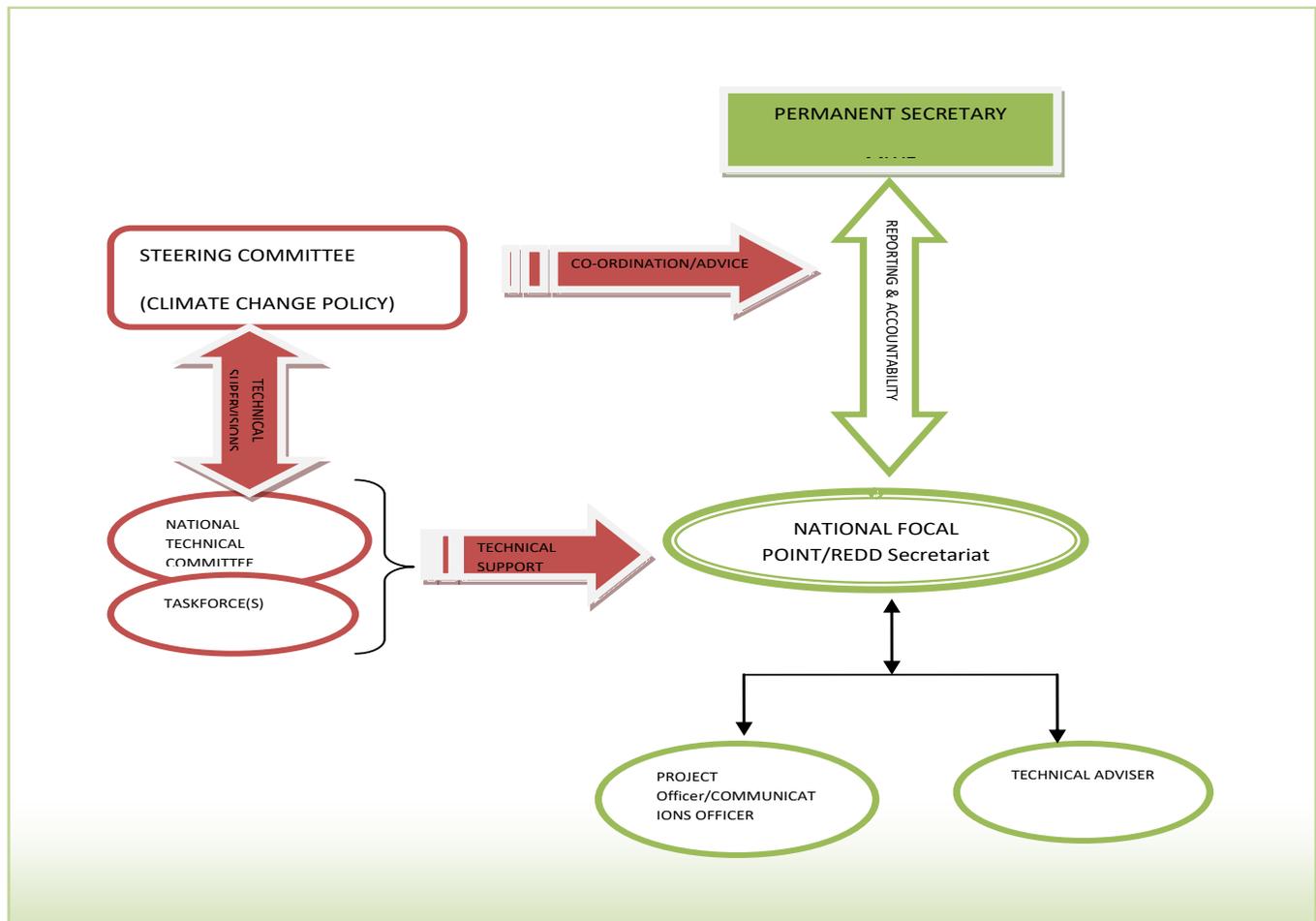
Reactions/Comments/Questions	Response/Explanation/Clarification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A member informed the meeting that there are certain actions being undertaken with the NAMA programme that are quite similar to the REDD+ process. Is it possible for the secretariat to liaise with the stakeholders carrying out the NAMA programme?</li></ul>	The secretariat is making efforts to reach out to such programmes through engaging the stakeholders involved in their implementation to encourage information sharing and avoid duplication of work.

- Was there a baseline situation handled before the restoration exercise of the Mt. Elgon eco-system? This is important so as to measure the impacts of the interventions carried out by the REDD+ programme	There was baseline information considered while selecting this site. Some of the information used to bench mark was the work that was carried out by the East African Community in restoring the eco-system of this area.
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**Presentation REDD+ steering and coordination mechanisms the structures, functions and relationships between steering committee, NTC and taskforces by Alex Muhweezi**

The presentations were aimed at informing the NTC of the roles of the different steering and co-ordination mechanisms under the REDD+ Programme and emphasize the position of the NTC there in.

The relationship between the various steering and co-ordination mechanisms is summarized in the diagram below:-



The World Bank component for the REDD programme proposes the above structure for management and co-ordination.

The REDD Secretariat is supported by the national technical committee and the taskforces which give direct support to work processed by the REDD secretariat.

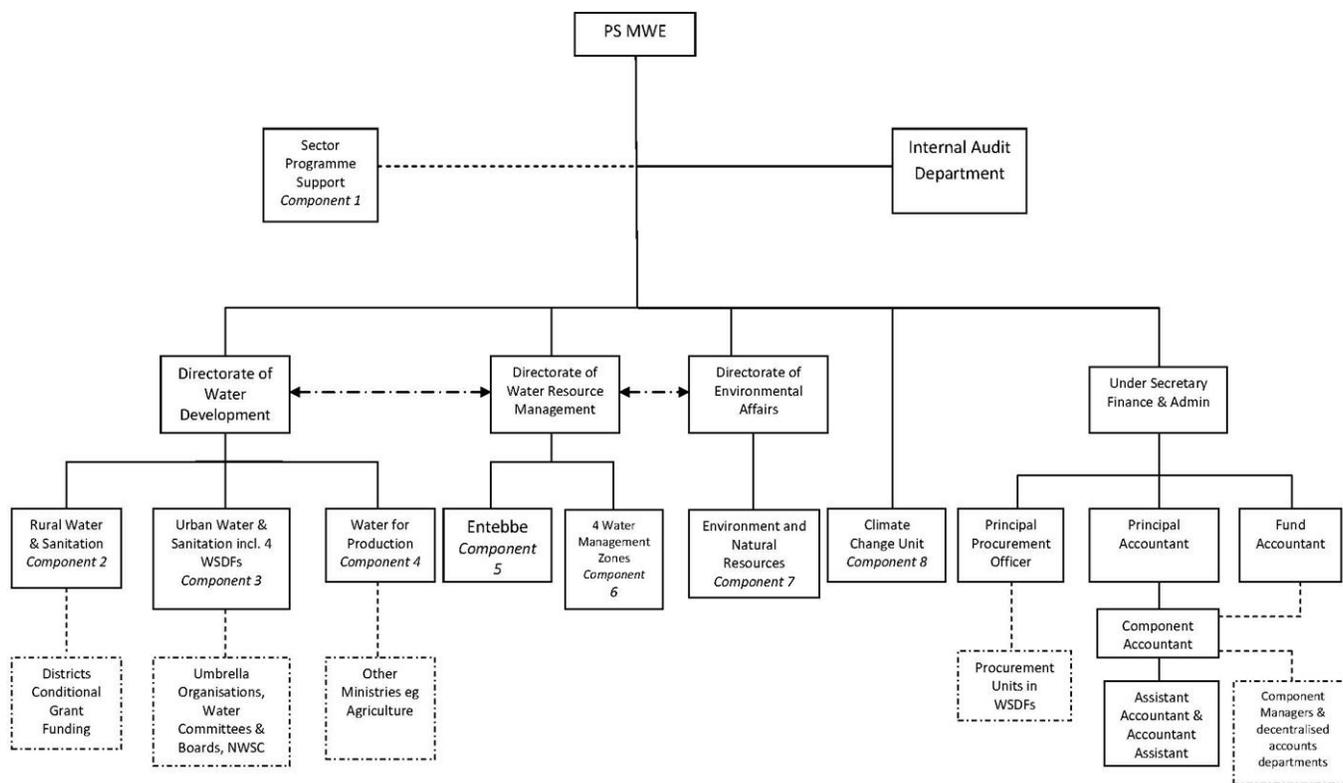
The NTC receives instruction from the steering committee. The steering committee interacts directly with the permanent secretary on matters of policy and co-ordination.

The emphasis of all these committees is to ensure participation.

The Austrian development Co-operation on the other hand has a management structure that is typical government natural resources sector co-ordination process. It goes through the joint water and environment sector working group, through top policy and then to the permanent secretary.

This is summarized in the diagram below:-

**JPF Administrative Setup for JWESSP**

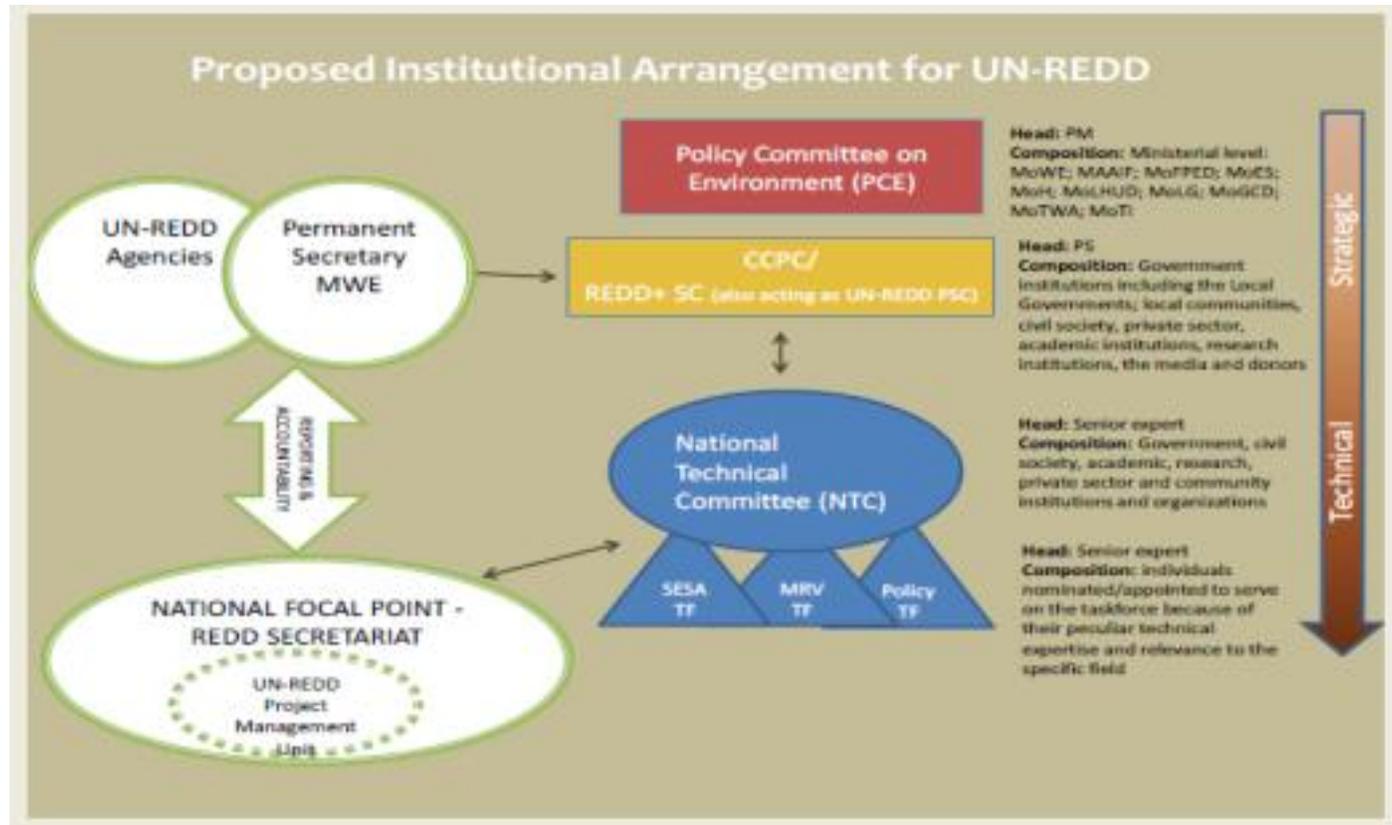


The interventions of the NTC will feed into this structure.

The UNREDD programme

The management structure is very much similar to that of the World Bank. However whereas under the World Bank component, the steering committee is chaired by the PS, under UNREDD it is co- chaired by the PS and the UN resident co-coordinator. The programme has a management unit with a dedicated team of management at the secretariat.

This management structure is as shown below:-



The UNREDD also involves the Policy Committee on Environment (PCE) which is a statutory committee that is chaired by the office of the Prime Minister that brings together the line ministries with a stake in environment. The CCPC also reports to the PCE. This committee is important for policy and political leverage at this stage.

### The functions of the steering committee

Reporting to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water and Environment, the Climate Change Policy Committee (CCPC) serves as a:

- Steering Committee for the REDD Process and an official platform for policy level stakeholder participation.
- Source of policy level guidance to REDD+ process.

- Promote linkages and communication to ministries, lead agencies, implementing institutions, districts and non-government actors (NGOs, Private Sector, Cultural institutions, Indigenous people, etc.) regarding development of REDD+ Strategy Options.
- Endorse REDD+ Focal Point/Secretariat work plans/activity plans and budgets.
- Recommend establishment of and supervise National Technical Committee.
- Assign tasks and responsibilities to National Technical Committee and partner institutions.
- Approve terms of reference and budget for the Consultants and partners institutions.
- Harmonizes institutional mandates and policies relating to REDD+ Strategy development.
- Endorse fundraising and resources mobilization proposals and commitments for example the FIP proposal.
- Recommend the National REDD+ Strategy to government for approval.

### **The function of the National Technical Committee (NTC)**

Reporting to the Steering Committee, the over-all responsibility of the NTC is to ensure technical quality and adequacy of the REDD+ process, outputs and deliverables.

Specifically, the NTC undertakes to:

1. Oversee the technical aspects of preparation of the REDD+ Strategy for Uganda, including supervising technical aspects/outputs of consultants, partner/technical institutions and National REDD+ Focal Point.
2. Ensure compliance of REDD+ process with the REDD + principles and standards.
3. Provide technical inputs into the design of REDD+ Strategy options, SESA, MRV, Reference Scenarios and other REDD+ tools and methodologies.
4. Recommend to the REDD+ Steering Committee Terms of Reference for the Consultants and partners to be engaged the technical tasks.
5. Recommend to the REDD+ Steering Committee the draft REDD+ Strategy for Uganda.

### **Membership of the NTC**

The individuals nominated/appointed to serve on the committee because of their technical expertise and relevance to the REDD+ Process. Membership to the NTC is drawn from REDD+ stakeholders at managerial or senior level with the aim to bring into the committee diverse technical specializations and interests. A complete list of organization membership on the NTC is shown in the Annex

## The Function of the Taskforces

Reporting to the National Technical Committee, the main responsibility of the Taskforce is to provide specialist technical support and input into designated undertakings. Specifically, the taskforces

- Develop and recommend to the National Technical Committee Terms of Reference for undertaking designated tasks.
- Provide specialist input into the preparation REDD+ Strategy Options, SESA, MRV, Reference Scenario, Grievances and Conflicts Management Strategies, strengthening Participatory Structures, Benefit Sharing arrangements .
- Facilitate technical level coordination and sharing of information with own institutions.

**There are however unique circumstances when some members of the taskforces also serve on the National technical committee. The members belong to both were urged to ensure they separate their different roles for effectiveness.**

## General Feedback and discussion

Reactions/Comments/Questions	Response/Explanation/Clarification
- What plan does the secretariat have in place to bring every member of the NTC onboard, to ensure that they are moving together as a team?	- The secretariat was tasked to examine the factors that motivate members to attend the meetings. Some of the factors considered included the issues of venue, lines of communication and follow up. - Follow up will be made on what mobilizes people to attend the meetings
- A member made an inquiry as to why the representation is low and yet the invitations were sent out in good time?	- The secretariat has a full time communications officer in charge of all matters related to communication and the suggestion made here will be followed up on with immediate effect.
- Does the membership of the NTC have tenure?	- Yes the NTC does have tenure as in the present time the NTC is a requirement in the development of the REDD+ Preparation process. The next phase of the process may or may not require the services of the NTC.
- A member was curious about the choice of the media center on the NTC, as its mandate would not satisfy the communication function required of it. A suggestion was made to develop a communication strategy/ plan in-house and also enlisting the support of Uganda Journalist Association in addressing this	- There is a budget allocated to carry out mass communication to the general public building on the communication and awareness strategy developed in 2012. However these packages have not been fully rolled out owing to delays in the procurement process.

function.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A suggestion of a sub-committee to oversee the communication and awareness function</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The NTC indeed ha a vital role of guiding the process of developing the communication strategy and reviewing whatever messages and materials are developed to ensure effective communication.</li></ul>

## DAY 2

### Submission of the Forest definition for the FREL/FRL REDD+ as agreed by the MRV taskforce by John Begumana

Mr. Begumana apologized to the members for the delays and mishaps in the process of inviting members for the meeting.

The submission was coming from the MRV taskforce that has been looking at the five building blocks. After carefully considering the options the taskforce then makes a submission of their decisions to the NTC.

#### Forest definition

There is guidance from the UNFCCC for countries to consider when determining the definition of a forest for purposes of REDD+. The definition should be consistent with the National greenhouse gas inventory and reporting to other international organizations. There should also be consistency throughout all the years of the previous inventory.

Uganda had already submitted a definition of a minimum crown cover of 30m, minimum area of 1 hectare and trees that are able to attain a height of 5 meters for the CDM projects. This is considered as giving guidance but the taskforce did not restrict itself to that.

Emphasis was placed on what would best suit the Uganda situation for the purposes of the REDD+ program.

An example of Vietnam that has three types of forest definitions depending on the prevailing circumstances, however the programme must consider the transaction costs that will be incurred in considering all these details.

#### MRV Submission on the forest definition

The team decided to have a two tier definition, one which will cater for the national circumstances as well as being in line with the national forestry and tree planting act (NFTPA). The definition of a forest as stated in the act is somewhat vague as it lacks a lot of specific detail but none the less was adopted so as to be later built on/ enhanced.

However for the purposes of reporting to UNFCCC and in particular to the REDD+ process , the task force defined a forest as one having a minimum crown cover of 30%, a minimum area of 1 ha and able to attain tree height of 4 meters.

In selecting the crown cover of 30%, the taskforce considered the biomass study findings over the years, most of the forests qualify to have a crown cover of 30%. This means that any forest whose crown cover is seen to be less than 30%, it is considered to be deforested.

In selecting the minimum of 1 ha of land, owing to the available landsat technology, small woody formations of less than 1ha are not easy to detect and also the data previous collected cover areas of 1 ha and above. Hence for purposes of REDD+ process it was wise to choose the minimum of 1 ha.

The selection of the minimum height of 4 meters, historical data was considered which mainly took into account trees with minimum height of 4 meters. Also considering the tree species that are in the countries forests, most of them acquire the height of 4 meters at most.

The taskforce also gave special recognition of particular species like the Bamboo to be included in the definition of a forest.

### General Feedback and discussion

Reactions/Comments/Questions	Response/Explanation/Clarification
A member inquired on the role of the NTC in endorsing the definition presented in the meeting. Whether they would be discussing the definition, cementing it or endorsing it?	The NTC is not a decision making body but it offers technical guidance to the taskforces before submission of their output to the CCPC
At a certain age, certain trees are no longer capturing carbon, would that be put into consideration for the purposes of REDD+, where do we stand to benefit most?	The concept for REDD+ aims at emissions reductions and not sequestration
A member suggested that the taskforce should back the choice of forest definition with the rational. The rational should not only be about money/ funds because the country tends to stands a whole lot more from the programme than just funds.	The suggestion was noted, and will be put into consideration.
There is also need to investigate and document the potential repercussions for choosing this specific choice of forest definition	The suggestion was noted, and will be put into consideration.
The forest definition must also put into consideration the policies being advocated for that pertain to the registration of forests	The registration of forests will be captured under tier one of the forest definition as this takes into account the national circumstances