Record and Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Climate Change Policy Committee (CCPC/CCAC) to consider matters on "Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in Uganda (The National REDD+ Programme)" in support to the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for Uganda

Convened by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment; and held at Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe on 11th March 2016

Agenda

The following was the Agenda

1. Organisational Matters
   a) Prayer
   b) Adoption of the Agenda
   c) Introductions

2. Welcome remarks

3. Communication from the Chair

4. Consider report (recommendations) from December 2015 NTC meeting and recommend:
   a. Presentation of available Activity Data and Emission Factors (NFA)
   b. Uganda's Definition of forests for FREL/RELs
5. Consider report (recommendations) from December 2015 NTC meeting and recommend:
   a. Scale of Uganda's FREL/RELs.
   b. Scope of Uganda's FREL/RELs

6. Closure

Agenda Item 1: Organisational Matters (a) Adoption of the Agenda; (b) Prayer and (c) Introductions

Background to this agenda item:

The 5th Meeting of the NCCAC was opened by the representative of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) Edith Kasajja Kateme on Friday the 11st of March 2016. The Provisional agenda, prepared by the REDD+ Secretariat in consultation with the Chair, was adopted with amendments. Welcoming remarks were made by the National Focal Point/Assistant Commissioner Forestry. After the statements, the Chair called for a prayer and self-introductions.

ACTION TAKEN: The CCPC adopted the agenda as it was tabled.

Agenda Item 2: Communication from the Chair

Background to this agenda item:

The communication was made by the Chair. In her communication, she welcomed all NCCA members to the 5th meeting of NCCA to consider matters on "Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to REDD+.

She expressed appreciation to the REDD+ Secretariat team for the four training days and opted that they have been so enriching through the presentations and discussions have been so enriching days I think this morning really in fairness we got all the presentations.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation of a Report from the December 2015 National Technical Meeting on available activity data and emission factors and Uganda's Definition of Forests for FRELS/FRLs for the National REDD+ Programme

Background

This agenda item was introduced by the Chair. In her introduction, the Chair informed the NCCAC that the meeting of the National Technical Meeting (NTC) held on 1st and 2nd December 2015, recommended a report from the MRV team (which comprises of the MRV Taskforce and the MRV FAO and NFA teams) on Uganda's Definition of forests for FREL/FRLs and available Activity Data and Emission Factors (NFA).

Available Activity Data and Emission Factors

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through a set of decisions has defined a framework through which both developed and developing countries can voluntarily participate in the stabilization of anthropogenic Green House Gases (GHG) that are responsible for Global warming. Unlike the first commitment period (2008–2012) during which compensation was only available for increased carbon stocks resulting from afforestation and reforestation, the post-

Kyoto REDD approach is intended to provide compensation for the protection of forest carbon stocks.

As a REDD+ participating country, Uganda is encouraged to establish a benchmark or a reference level as a basis of assessing performance in implementing REDD+ activities (emission reductions and other benefits). This reference level is one of the 4 key elements that countries are requested to have in place if they intend to participate in REDD+. Other three elements include a National Action plan (the REDD+ strategy), the National Forest Monitoring System and the Safeguard Information System.

Data comprises of two parts, activity data and emission factors. Activity data is the geographical extent of activities while emission factors are the emissions or removals per activity. Emission factors help to turn the activity data into emission estimates by quantifying emissions or removals per unit activity. An example of activity data can be that "a million ha of forest was lost from 2000 to 2010; and an emission factor is that "for every ha that is lost, 150 tons of carbon dioxide were emitted" and the product of the two gives an emission estimate.

Activity data (AD) is acquired through Remote sensing imagery. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is responsible for making available the AD. The IPCC is a body mandated by the UNFCCC to come up with a methodology to help countries estimate their emissions. The IPCC decided on three different approaches, also referred to as the different levels of data: (1) A country knows how much forest it has lost (e.g., 100ha) but does not know when it happened (2) certain amounts of land have converted to other land uses (e.g., 100ha of forest have turned into 50ha of grassland and 50ha of agriculture but the country does not know when this happened and (3) This is the highest level of data when a country knows exactly how much forest loss occurred and when it actually occurred (e.g., 1 ha lost and it happened in a particular location).

Historical period and the number of land cover assessments are two key issues to consider when dealing with activity data. Historical period depends on data availability (e.g., timber records and or firewood collection data e.g. started data collecting in 2005) and the relevance of the data in predicting the future. For example, it is highly unlikely that data from the 1970's will predict the future if there are economic changes; how far back to go is therefore very relevant in predicting the future (2) the number of land cover assessments that have been done should be good enough to project forward, but this also depends on how much data that has been collected as well. In some countries, land cover assessments are done annually (Brazil); other countries may undertake assessments every five years because of limited resources. The type of reference level that a country decides to construct determines the number of land cover assessments to be done. For a more complex reference level such as for projecting a BAU forward looking from a historical perspective, then there is need to do more land cover assessment.

Uganda's Definition of forests for FREL/FRLs

After consideration of all the available options, the Methodological task force (also known as the MRV1 task force) proposed a forest definition and presented it to the National Technical Committee (NTC) on REDD+. Reasons of choice of a forest definition were discussed and for purposes of REDD+ (and reporting to UNFCCC) a forest defined by the following minimum threshold values was adopted:

"A minimum tree crown of cover >=30%, a minimum area of 1 hectare with trees able to attain a minimum height 4 metres."

In addition to the above threshold values the following qualifiers were adopted:

- Forests smaller than 1 ha may be aggregated to meet the minimum forest area requirement. Since a land based satellite monitoring system may not be suitable for such small units, the small aggregated forests may be reported on and monitored using a registry system.
- Tree refer to perennial plant and excludes woody forms that may last for a few seasons such as the solanum species, acanthus etc
- Bamboo is considered a special tree in context of Uganda's REDD+ and other national interests
- Carbon stock changes in Orchards, Oil palms etc are accounted for under cropland in National Communications on GHG and are not included in REDD+ forest definition
- The National Forestry and tree planting act 2003 definition is recognized and apply under national circumstances

ACTION TAKEN: The NCCAC took note of the presentations of the activity data and emission factors progress as well as the forest definition and associated parameters and endorsed the recommendations as approved by the NTC

Agenda Item 4: Presentation of a Report from the December 2015 National Technical Meeting on Scale and Scope of Uganda's FREL/RELs Scope of Uganda's FREL/FRELs for the National REDD+ Programme

Background

This agenda item was introduced by the Chair. In her introduction, the Chair informed the NCCAC that the meeting of the National Technical Meeting (NTC) held on 1st and 2nd December 2015, recommended a report from the MRV team (which comprises of the MRV Taskforce and the MRV FAO and NFA teams) on Scale and Scope of Uganda's FREL/RELs Scope of Uganda's FREL/FRELs.

Scope considers the type of activities, pools and gases in determining reference levels.

Type of activities

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[1] MRV stands for Measurement Reporting and Verification

According to the UNFCCC, there are **five activities** for REDD+ and these include **deforestation, forest degradation** which occurs, for example, during timber harvesting and fuel wood collection or when fires occur. **Sustainable management of forests that leads to** reduced emissions or increased removals after proper management of forest such as reduced impact logging or increased rotation periods. **Enhancement of forest carbon stocks** through tree planting, reforestation and regeneration of forest. **Conservation of forest carbon stocks.**

Scale can be at national, sub-national and/or nested levels.)

The Uganda MRV expert, Mr. John Begumana shared what Uganda has been able to report on during its second National Communication (NC). He noted that the NC will guide on what data the country has and where improvements are needed and see how it can be applicable to REDD+.

Carbon dioxide emission and removals and how they were calculated was reported on in the second Uganda NC. These were based on annual changes of carbon in the living biomass including both AGB and BGB. Annual changes or stock biomass in dead organic matter and litter were not included in emission factors for developing countries. An estimate was used to determine annual changes in soil especially where there was deforestation and where forests were converted into cropland. An estimate for fire was also done based on data from MODIS. Mr. Begumana said that information on fires from 2000 is now available on MODIS; but prior to MODIS, information was generated by LULUCF guided by the 1996 IPCC guidelines. He noted that LULUCF is not a flexible methodology especially when using own national forest definitions, and in this case, guidance was sought from the IPCC good practices and guidelines of 2003 and 2006.

Land category and land changes Naming Convention

a) Land remaining the same land	b) Land converted from other land categories
1. FF = forest land remaining forest land	1. LF = lands converted to forest land
2. GG = grassland remaining grassland	2. LG = lands converted to grassland
3. CC = cropland remaining cropland	3. LC = lands converted to cropland
4. WW = wetlands remaining wetlands	4. LW = lands converted to wetlands
5. SS = settlements remaining settlements	5. LS = lands converted to settlements
6. OO = other land remaining other land	6. LO = lands converted to other land

Land category and Land naming convention

Under LULUCF and currently under AFORU where agriculture is combined with forestry, six main landuse categories are recognized: Forest land, Cropland, Grassland, Wetlands, Settlements and Other land such as bare soil, rock, icecaps, and all unmanaged land areas. In all these GHG measurement systems, LULUCF is a complex methodology. One has to consider what land remained the same land and land that remain forestry in the year of inventory e.g., if comparing two years 1990 and 1995, you must also consider all other land that was converted from agriculture, from grassland to forestland

In the column, for the category "land remaining the same land" there is another equivalent; e.g., for each of land that remained cropland, must consider what other land types were converted into cropland which appears complex.

Data availability and data quality are key in choosing a methodology. Biomass assessments are very costly and time consuming, challenges such as data availability where we don't have historical data; and cloud cover and haze that also contribute to the quality of data. The default methodology for land use even what is provided in the 2006 software is called gain loss approach. Uganda however does not have data to base on to use the stock mass approach. Currently, as a country, Uganda relies on IPCC default values to determine deforestation rates. The IPPCC default values for a tropical high forest or mountain forest indicate regional averages from some studies to estimate the possible carbon loss from the soil due to deforestation.
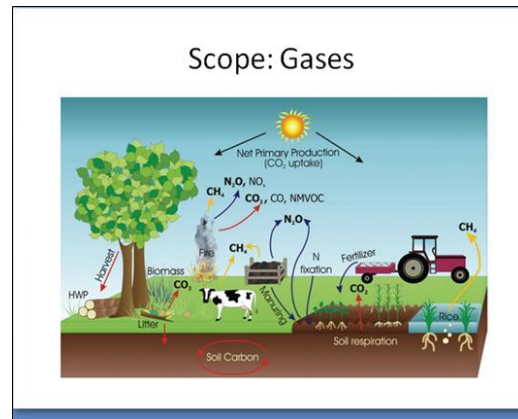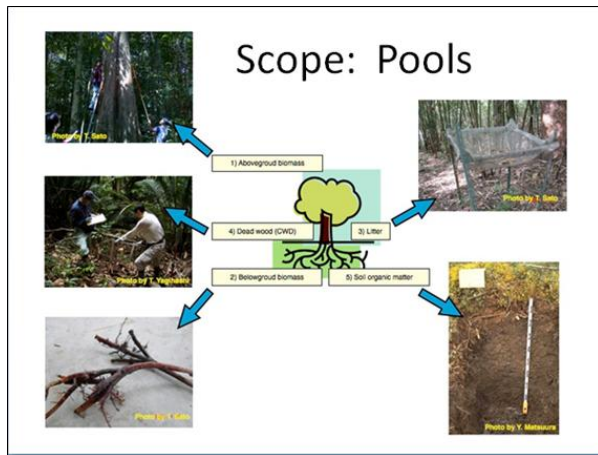
He noted that the advantage of using IPCC default values is that the country does not have to attach uncertainty estimates and that is agreeable to UNFCCC. However should Uganda choose to use country specific values on emissions; the error associated with accuracy levels of the estimates has to be stated which Uganda cannot do at the moment and therefore the reason to keep using the IPCC default values.

The current approaches Uganda is using are:
- Present country land unit categories (NFA) into IPPC land categories- Forest / non Forest
- Land Cover / Land Use Change matrix
- Biomass stock (carbon) changes

The data that was used was derived from national biomass study where they had measured plots in different vegetation types and this was the most appropriate available to use. The results indicated an increment in biomass in built up areas which can be explained by the abundance of ornamentals in towns which are rarely cut. Biomass on subsistence farmland was found to increase or decrease based on the region. There are some regions where subsistence farmland had stabilized e.g., coffee being grown under shade trees as well as bananas. Overall, the biomass in subsistence farmland and grassland was stable at national level. In regard to fires, MODIS reveals the situation at particular times in the years with differences being seen in the dry seasons especially in the December to January season. The calculations are based on area being burnt (ha), biomass available, combustion efficiency and emission factor. From the national biomass study, an estimate of the biomass can be derived but what is difficult to determine is the combustion efficiency in those areas and so default values provided by IPCC and how they relate to the Uganda situation are used.

Results show that there are a lot of emissions in areas that remain forest land and it is like a contradiction because the other biomass showed that there was a lot of change in tropical high forests. In tropical high forests, there is a high level of biomass and this combines intact THF and degraded THF, woodland (charcoal sources) and when the data was aggregated within a certain error margin, it showed that there is a very high level of emissions in land that was forest land. The forest land converted to crop land was the second emitter and then there are emissions in areas with fires. It shows that there were fewer emissions in 1994 but there was no data on fires. The rate of emissions from Landuse shows a downward trend and this is logical because as the forests get smaller and smaller, there is less to degrade and so the emissions go down.

Attendance list

No.	Name	Institution /Specialisation
1.	David Okwi	MoFPED
2.	Koma Stephen	M.O.L.G.
3.	Jimmy Ogwang	O.P.M.
4.	Namanya B. Didacus	M.O.H.
5.	Muwaya Stephen	MAAIF
6.	Rachael Rwomushana	MOJCA
7.	James Baanabe	MEMD
8.	Edith Kateme-Kasajja	NPA
9.	Charles Mutemo	MoWT
10.	Teddy Tindamanyire	UNMA
11.	Ochieng Julius	MEMD
12.	Chebet Maikut	CCD/MWE
13.	Sanyu Jane Mpagi	MoGLSD
14.	Dennis Kavuma	UTGA
15.	Margaret Lomonyang	Indigenous groups
16.	Ofwono Opondo	Uganda Media Centre
17.	Japheth Magyembe	NARO
18.	Richard Kapere	UWA
19.	Andrew Masaba	MFPED
20.	Mark Amanya	MFPED
21.	Fred Twesiime	MFPED
22.	Kiziti Simon	MoLG
23.	Vincent Byaindamira	MoLHUD
24.	Jerome Sebaduka Luganira	NEMA
25.	Paul Buyera	NFA
26.	Margaret Adata	FSSD
27.	Onesimus Muhweezi	UNDP
28.	Paul Mafabi	DEA/MWE
29.	George Owoyesigyire	MTWA
30.	Martin Asiimwe	WWF (CSO International)
31.	David Duli	Nature Uganda (CSO Local/National)
32.	Joseph Epitu	MWE/Capacity Building

33.	Sophie Kutegeka	IUCN
34.	Onesimus Mugenyi	ACODE
35.	Margaret A. Mwebesa	FSSD/MWE
36.	Olive Kyampaire	REDD+ Secretariat
37.	Alex Muhweezi	REDD+ Secretariat
38.	Xavier Mugumya	NFA/REDD+ Secretariat
39.	Sergio Innocente	FAO/REDD+ Secretariat
40.	Sheila Kiconco	UNDP/REDD+ Secretariat
41.	John Begumana	FAO/REDD+ Secretariat
42.	Bob Kazungu	FSSD/MWE
43.	Issa Katwesige	FSSD/MWE
44.	Ruth Semakula	CCD
45.	Grace Achana	DEA/MWE
46.	Rebecca Adongo	DEA/MWE
47.	Annet Biingi	REDD+ Secretariat
48.	Edrine Mukwaya	REDD+ Secretariat
49.	Samuel Omulala	FSSD/MWE
52.	Mariam Magezi Honey Abwooli	FSSD/MWE
53.	Valence Arineitwe	FSSD/MWE
54.	Pathias Karekona	UBC
56.	Samuel Mutekanya	
57.	Sam Vuciri	
58.	Fred Ngewa	
59	Joseph Obilakol	
60.	George Oluka	
61.	Byarugaba Stuart -UWA	
62.	Ssonko Robert	
63.	Mujuni Francis	
64.	Muwonge Joseph	
65.	Kagoma Musa	
66.	Ronald Ssekaja	