RECORD, REPORT AND MINUTES OF A TWO-DAY MEETING (26 & 27 July 2016) FOR THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR REFERENCE EMISSION SCENARIO FOR UGANDA'S REDUCED EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) PROGRAMME, HELD AT GOLF COURSE HOTEL, ENTEBBE

Convened by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE)

with support from Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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List of Acronyms

ADC	Austria Development Cooperation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FREL/RL	Forest Reference Emissions Levels/ Reference Levels
FSSD	Forestry Sector Support Department
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NFA	National Forest Authority
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NS/AP	National Strategy/ Action Plan
PAMs	Policies and Measures
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks, Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
NTC	National Technical Committee
NCCAC	National Climate Change Advisory Committee

Agenda / Programme Items (arranged in a retreat workshop format)

Time	Event title	Presenter	Background
Day 1 Programme Item 1			
0900-1000	Ugandan context – why construct a FREL and its linkages to national policies	Xavier/Margaret	Provide context behind why Uganda wishes to construct a FREL & the linkage to larger climate change policies – will help frame FREL discussion and drive options regarding the FREL construction
1000-1030	Open discussion		
Day 1 Programme Item 2; 30 minutes coffee break			
1100 -1200	Overview of FREL/FRL and its components	Sergio Innocente	Refresh participants about overall FREL/FRL debate/technical issues and other countries approaches
1200-1230	Open discussion		
Day 1 Programme Item 3; 90 minutes lunch break			
1400-1500	Overview of Uganda FREL/FRL status (including data)	NFA experts	Presentation of DATA (as per above details) to the stakeholders
1500-1530	Open discussion		
Day 1 Programme Item 4; 30 minutes coffee break			
1600-1700	Presentation of suitable FREL/FRL options	John Begumana	Presentation of suitable options for FREL/FRL construction in Uganda.
1700-1800	Open discussion		
Day 2 Programme Item 5; 30 minutes coffee break			
0900-1130	Open discussion on FREL/FRL options	Facilitated by John Begumana and Sergio Innocente	This session aims at the identification of the most suitable option for Uganda
Day 2 Programme Item 6; 30 minutes coffee break			
1200-1300	Drafting of the recommendation for submission to NCCAC	NTC members	

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Abstract/Summary

This report highlights the record of a two-day National Technical Committee meeting that took from Wednesday, July 27 to Thursday July 28, 2016 at Imperial Gold Course Hotel in Entebbe.

Presentations and discussions centered on the construction of Forest Reference Levels ensuring that the UNFCC guidelines are applied in the local context so as to cater for National Circumstances. Sharing experiences of from other countries that have already developed and submitted their FRELs/FRLs including considerations and justifications for the approaches they chose was one of the tools used to speed up the process of internalizing the FRELs/FRLs concept. The meeting also brought in the aspect of how FRELs/FRLs link to larger climate change policies in Uganda that go beyond mitigation aspects.

A SWOT analysis on the most plausible methodological approaches was presented and discussed and a consensus built on key issues and these are; scope of activities to be considered in the (initial) submission of FRELs/FRLs, merits and demerits of a long term reference period (e.g over 20years) versus short term reference period (e.g.10 years or less), merits and demerits of using a historical average as opposed to using historical trend as a predictor of the future emissions. Consensus was also build on the most informative approach (for FRELs/FRLs and other benefits of REDD+) of representing activity data. Among the options were presenting forests as one unit (stratum) or disaggregating forests by management or ownership for example comparing rate of deforestation of forests on private land with those on public land (e.g., under NFA, UWA and Local government). Forests and rate of deforestation could be further be disaggregated by type e.g., Tropical High Forests, Woodlands and Forest Plantations.

NTC Recommendation;

The NTC members agreed to have two reference emission periods, the 15 year period for reporting to the UNFCCC and the 25 year period for internal communication as country. It was also agreed that internal communication will be in terms of acreage as opposed to UNFCCC which is in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

1 Introduction and Background

Uganda both technical support and financial support (about US $ 7 million) to get ready for REDD+. Financial has been received from Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), Austria Development Cooperation (ADC), UNREDD and Government of Uganda. With this support, Uganda is implementing the Readiness Phase of its National REDD+[1] Programme which is intended to deliver (a) A National REDD+ strategy and Action Plan; (b) A National Forest Baseline Scenario (Forest 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.

The aforementioned thematic areas (a up to d) of the readiness programme are handled by specialised individuals in government agencies, International agencies, academia and the private sector. Outputs from these specialised individuals is reviewed by thematic team of experts known as known as a Task Force. The REDD+ readiness programme has three taskforces on policy issues, one on FREL/FRL, NFMS and methodology and one on assessment of social and environmental issues.

The bulk of the work towards the construction of FREL/FRLs and NFMS is carried out by the Methodological Task Force also known at the Measurement Reporting and Verification or the **MRV** task Force. Where and as to when deemed necessary, the MRV taskforce co-opts specialised groups and or individuals from other institutions that are collectively referred to as the MRV platform.

The MRV taskforce reports to the National Technical Committee (NTC) for technical guidance[2]. Recommendations from the NTC are forwarded to the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC)[3] which provides policy level guidance and coordination of REDD+ process for Uganda as part of its climate change policy oversight responsibility. Four elements of forest definition, data, scale, and the scope that are needed for the construction of FREL/FRL have gone through the aforementioned process, have been discussed and have got endorsement by the NCCAC (reference is made to the Entebbe on 10th March 2016). The purpose of the July NTC meeting was to discuss the fifth element which is the most plausible methodological approach for Uganda's of FRELs/FRLs.

[1] REDD+ is an acronym for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, Degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
[2] The National Technical Committee (NTC) and taskforces are comprised of technical officials from various institutions
[3] The Climate Change Advisory Committee is the highest level (CCAC)

2 Rationale and Objectives of the NTC meeting

The 26 to 27 July 2016 NTC meeting was intend to concretize issues discussed at Mabira Eco Lodge (5th to 8th June 2016) where the MRV platform deliberated on possible options for Uganda's FREL / FRL putting into consideration the available Activity data (both in terms of land cover maps and emission factors) and resources (manpower and finance) with an ambition to submit an initial FRELs/FRLs by end of 2016. The Mabira meeting was guided by an international consultant who provided key information about countries that have already developed their FRELs/FRLs including considerations and justifications for the approaches chosen. New developments at the international level and especially UNFCCC / IPCC technical assessment team reviews and recommendations which Uganda could learn from were highlighted. This meeting helped key stakeholders internalize issues surrounding the five key elements of FREL/ FRL but did not come out with any concrete recommendations on how Uganda is to present its initial FREL/FRL.

After the Mabira meeting, the MRV Taskforce carried out a SWOT analysis of plausible methodological approaches for the construction of Uganda's FREL/FRL and the purpose of the July meeting was therefore to present these options to the NTC with the following main objectives:

- Presentation and discussion of the context and reasons for Uganda's construction of the Forest Reference Scenario and the linkage to larger climate change policies.
- Presentation and discussion of Uganda's Forest Definition and activity data (statistics forest area and Emission Factors by strata) as a key element for FREL/FRL Uganda's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).
- Presentation and discussion of options for Uganda's FREL/FRL in terms of Scale (National or Sub National) and Scope (which includes Gases, Carbon Pools and Activities that will be monitored during REDD+ implementation and thus require establishment of baseline). These activities may be one or all of the following; deforestation, degradation, conservation, sustainable management and forest carbon enhancement.
- Presentation of experiences of other countries that have already developed and submitted their FRELs/FRLs including considerations and justifications for the approaches they chose.
- SWOT analysis of methodological approach options for FREL/FRL for discussion and building consensus at NTC before presentation for endorsement to the NCCAC.

The above objectives were to be discussed in the context that Uganda with the aim to submit an initial FREL/FRLs by the end of 2016 and so that it can be discussed, reviewed and possibly accepted by the UNFCCC by the end of 2017.

3 Details of the Discussion

3.1 FRELs/FRLs and linkages to the National Policies (Agenda/Programme Item 1)

This discussion was led by the alternate Focal Point for REDD+, Mr. Xavier Mugumya Nyindo, who gave the background of the global initiatives to the stabilization of Green House Gases (GHG) starting from the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit on Climate Change and subsequent meetings or conference of Parties (COP) with the reference to the Kyoto protocol of 1997 where developed countries committed to reduce emissions by 5% of their baselines of 1990. Other initiatives like the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS), Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) now NDC and the REDD+ have been designed to address weaknesses (gaps) that are were not well addressed by the Kyoto Protocol.

One of the weaknesses of the Kyoto protocol was that emissions from deforestation and forest degradation were not considered. Gradually, backed with empirical scientific data, the importance of natural forest was recognized and this gave birth to what is known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). It was agreed that developing countries may voluntarily participate REDD+ however this should not impend or slow down their development.

The meeting was informed that REDD+ implementation is largely hinged on National Strategies and Action Plans (NS/AP) that describe how emissions will be reduced and how carbon stocks will be enhanced in the implementation of REDD+. It is thus very critical and the these strategies and action plans are aligned to existing policies and regulations. Where there is conflict they need to be harmonized. The link between FRELs/FRLs and national policies is that FRELs/FRLs and NFMS inform policy formulation while policies and NS/AP identify and document mechanisms of reducing emissions.

To emphasize further that REDD+ is a policy driven process, the meeting was informed that countries willing participate in REDD+ are requested to prepare ideas on how to measure these emissions. In 2007 an agenda item “policy approaches and incentives” was adopted and countries were to prepare for REDD+ in a phased approach by preparing the following;

1. An action plan
2. A baseline (FREL/FRL)

3. A robust and transparent monitoring system (NFMS)
4. A system for providing information on safeguards

Key issues arising out of the presentation on how FREL/ FRL are linked to policy and the and the response to issues raised are provided in Annex 1 a.

3.2 FREL/FRL - in the international Context (Agenda/Programme Item 2)

This session was led by Sergio Innocente, FAO Technical Advisor. He gave the definition of FRELs/FRLs as benchmarks for assessing a country's performance in implementation of REDD+ activities. He differentiated between FREL and FRL in that FREL is concerned with activities related to gross emissions from deforestation and degradation while FRL considers activities that are related to sinks in addition to those that are related to emissions.

The meeting was informed that the UNFCCC expects countries to construct Reference Levels (RL) both as mechanism to report historical emissions and as benchmark to measure implementation of REDD+. Key elements of RL were presented as the forest definition, data (both Activity data and Emission Factor), scope, scale and methodological approach.

Examples of how different countries have constructed RLs were provided. Fifteen (15) countries were reported to have submitted their FRELs/FRLs to UNFCCC. Several approaches have been used with majority using historical average of 10 years. A few countries have used adjusted historical average and or trends.

The meeting was also informed that though UNFCCC expects countries to report on uncertainty of Activity Data and Emission Factors. This requirement has however not been strictly adhered too. Some countries have provided information on accuracy assessment information on Activity and or Emission factors but no country has yet provided information overall uncertainty (AD and EF combined). In Annex 1 b is the list of key issues raised and responses regarding the presentation on FREL/FL in the international context.

3.3 Overview Data for FREL (Agenda/Programme Item 3)

This session was lead by the NFA mapping and inventory team. The team described the process of generating data and progress so far. The meeting was informed that areas mapped as forests are based

forest definition as endorsed by the NCCA. Activity Data or land use land cover maps and statistics are available for the following years; 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015. This time series data are used generate change maps. Uganda has been carrying out several Forest Inventories since the 1930s but the most relevant for REDD+ are biomass surveys, Exploratory Inventory (EI) and use of Permanent Sample Plots (PSP). Given that very old data may accurately represent the current situation it was a cut off point 2006 and above has been used for estimating Emission Factors (EF).

Emissions per forest strata is generate as a factor EF and annual change in forest area. Emissions of various forest strata are combined to estimate total emissions in a year or reference period. The historical emissions are then used to inform the likely future emissions based a number of factors and assumptions.

NFA also informed the meeting that the Web Portal is being developed so as to enhance information sharing and transparency as required of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). The NFMS is to have a monitoring aspect and Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV aspect). Participants were also shown maps that depict trends in deforestation since 1990.

Key issues arising out of the presentation on data plus responses to issues raised are provided in Annex 1 c.

3.4 Options for FREL/FRL (Agenda/Programme Item 4)

This agenda/programme was led by Mr. John Begumana. He quickly gave an overview of the first four elements of the FRELs/FRLs in Uganda's context. The meeting was reminded of the subsequent decisions at both NTC and NCCAC on Forest Definition, Scale, Data, Scope. Since forest definition and data had already been discussed by the NFA team, he recapitulated on scale and scope.

Uganda is using a national scale and the data analysis related emissions are estimated at a national scale. Due to highly divers ecological systems emissions factors are being developed for five forest strata of Tropical High Forests (medium attitude), Montane forests, Woodlands (medium altitude) and Forest Plantations. A special category of degraded Tropical High Forest has also been considered.

Initially, the scope for Uganda's FRELs/FRLs will focus on deforestation and Conservation due to availability of data (baseline information), ability to monitor, and having the appropriate skills and technology. Degradation was identified as a big source of emissions during Uganda's second national communication and thus all efforts are being made to have an estimated even though it might have a high level of uncertainty. The carbon pools to be considered are Above Ground Biomass (AGB) which

information is provided by the National Forest Inventories (NFI), Below Ground Biomass (BGB) which is estimated by use of IPCC default values. The NFI is collecting data on Dead wood and will thus be included. Carbon pools from soils and litter will not be considered in the initial submission.

The initial submission of FRELs/FRLs will only consider carbon dioxide CO_2. Other gases i.e. Methane (CH_4)and Nitrous oxide (N_2O) will considered on subsequent submissions.

The meeting was presented different options that Uganda may use to present FRELs/FRLs. The options include using one forest strata or differentiating forests into several strata like those provided by the Activity Data. Forest may further be disaggregated by management systems for example forest under the management of Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA), Forests under the management of NFA, Forests under the management of Local Government (or district forest services) and forests on private land.

The problem with aggregating all forests is that it gives the impression that all the forest estate in Uganda would be depleted by the year 2030- which is unrealistic (figure 1).

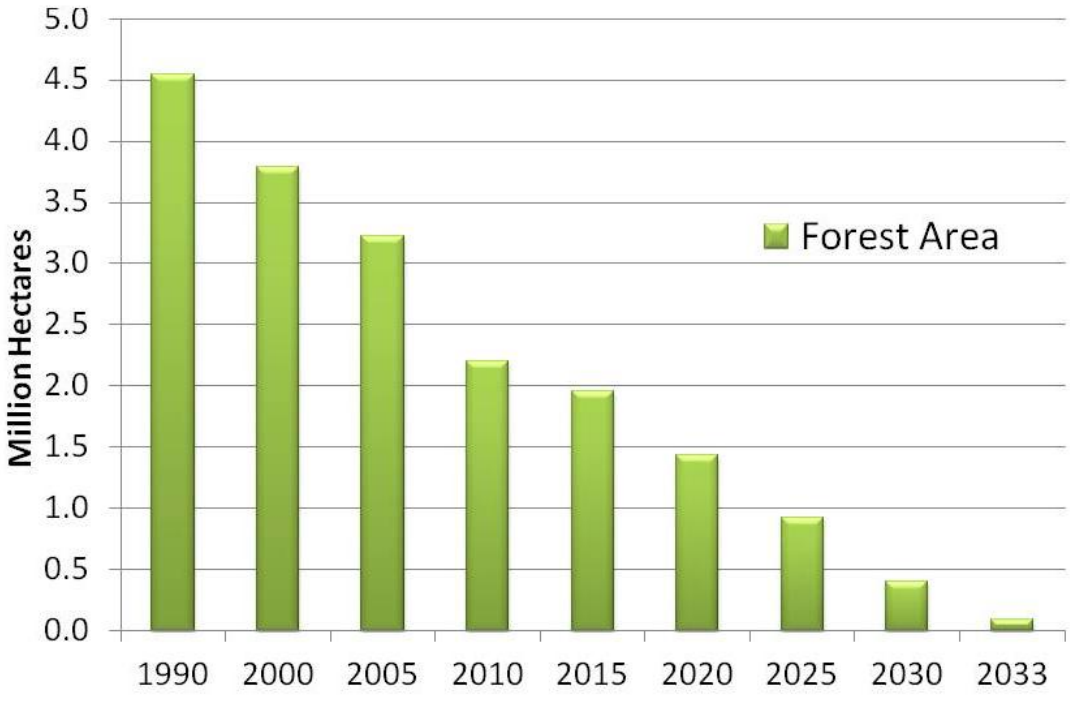

Figure 1. Lamping all forests together gives an impression forests will be depleted by early 2030

When forests are stratified by different management systems and forest strata the differences in rate of deforestation and re/ afforestation become clear and can be used to inform policy decisions and action

plans. For example it becomes clear the forests under UWA are stable while those on private land are depleting very fast (figure 2). Those under NFA are depleting but not at as fast as those on private land. In terms of forest strata woodlands are depleting at a very high rate compared to Tropical High Forests. It is also important to appreciate that rate of re/afforestation (forest plantation) is just a minute fraction compared to the rate at which natural forests are being depleted (figure 2).

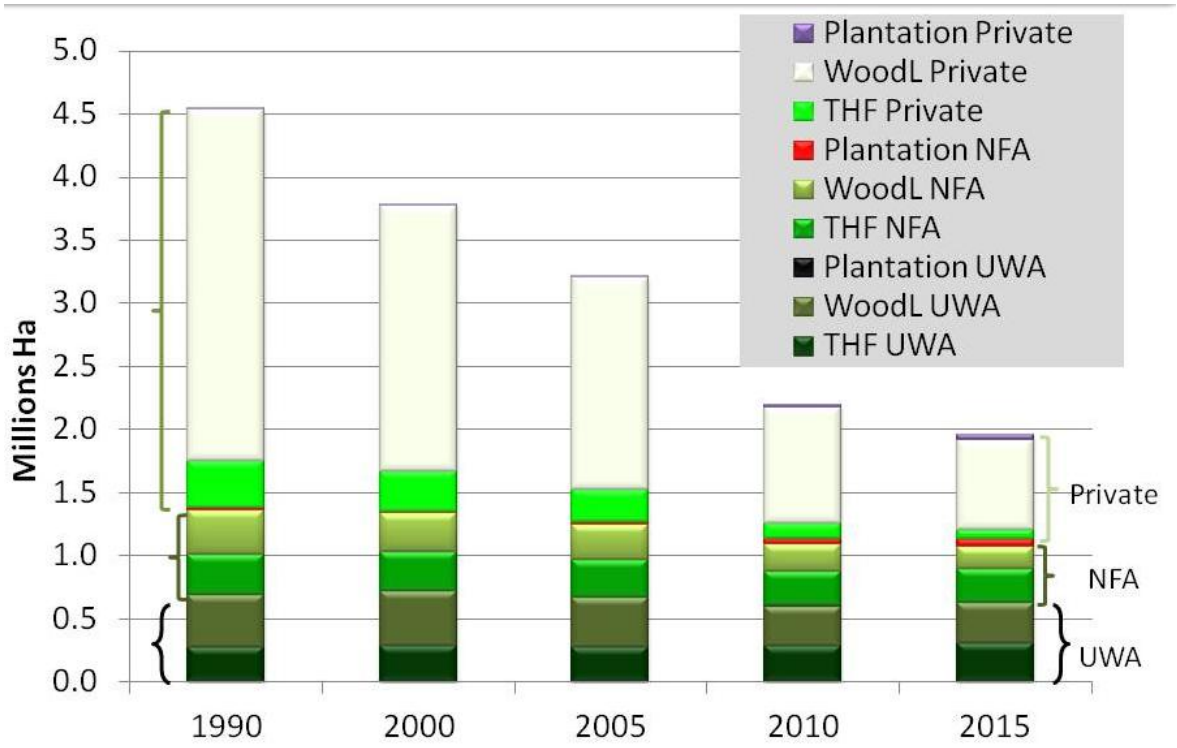

Figure 2. Detailed Stratification shows forests under UWA are stable while those on Private land are depleting very fast

John informed that meeting that different countries have used different reference periods in the development of their FRELs but most countries have used reference periods of 12 years and below. It is therefore up to Uganda to decide on the reference period to use.

Key issues arising out of the presentation on FRELs/FRLs options for Uganda plus responses are provided in Annex 1 d.

3.5 Conclusions on Options for FREL/FRL (Agenda/Programme Item 5)

This agenda/programme item was led by Mr. John Begumana and Sergio Innocente. Following discussions by the members of the NTC about the pros and cons of the different scenarios a decision was reached.

Data Presentation

The NTC unanimously decided to settle for a scenario that differentiates the forests by management systems and these are; Forests on private land and forests on public land managed by NFA known as Central Forest Reserves (CFR), those under Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and those under Local governments managed by the district Forest Services known as Local forest Reserves (LFR). Members also proposed for the inclusion of forest under agroforestry systems and those under agro pastoral systems once technology allows.

Reference period

The meeting was taken through the implication of having the different reference periods and implications on the emission level to be submitted to the UNFCCC. For Example, choosing 25 years as reference would give an average of about 12 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. On the other, a reference period of 15 years gives an average of 16 million tons of carbon dioxide per year while a reference period of 10 years gives an average of 15.6 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.

The NTC had a rather lengthy discussion on the choice of the reference period with some proposing a shorter period because it reflects what is happening in the country at the moment, while others suggested a longer period which would help tell the whole story and make policy makers appreciate the impact of the different policies and possibly draw lessons. Other felt that the 15 year period would be a more realistic representation for Uganda since it caters both for the past and present. It in addition gives the highest reference emission level.

Participants were reminded that the reduction of emissions during REDD+ compared to the submitted reference level is the basis to results based payment system and should be put into consideration when deciding the reference emission level to be submitted.

3.6 NTC Recommendations (Agenda / Programme Item 6)

3.6.1 Summary

Uganda will have two reference emission periods, 1) 15 years period for reporting to the UNFCCC and 2) 25 year period for internal communication as country. Uganda will provide and emission level (CO_2 Equivalent) to UNFCCC and will internally communicate using rate of deforestation ad rate of degradation.

3.6.2 Conclusion

By consensus, the National Technical Committee (NTC) recommended that for the purposes of reporting and communicating on REDD+ (and related international entities), Uganda will use a 15 year moving historical average for its FRELs/FRLs. As standard procedure, emissions will be reported in tons of CO_2 equivalents per annum.

It was also agreed that presenting baseline information in terms of annual forest loss and rate of degradation (with an estimation of emissions related to these changes) would be easily be understood by a wider audience and possibly influence policy than it just presenting emissions in CO_2 equivalents. By consensus, the NTC recommended that in addition to reporting UNFCCC, Uganda will internally present its baseline information in a format that easily understood and that will influence policy and actions for REDD+. In addition, presentation forest changes will cover a 25 year horizon.

4 Annex I; Key Issues during Open discussion

Annex 1 a; Issues raised and Response on Policies and Measures

Below are key issues raised and responses related to the presentation on Linkages between FREL/FRL and national policies;

- Question / Issue: How is REDD+ prepared to handle risks be it natural or political that may result in forest loss.
- Response:- The NFMS is supposed to monitor and document forest (loss and gain) regardless the cause of loss. It is also important note that safeguards against risk and mechanisms to redress grievances are imbedded in REDD+ system. There is a team working on development of safeguards for REDD+ and these will be discussed in detail when presenting to the NTC.
- Question / Issue: High population growth is key issues in Uganda but it is not mentioned FRELs. There is need to focus on indirect drivers of deforestation as well such as population growth, food insecurity and market forces.
- Response: - Yes, high population growth is one of the underlying causes of deforestation. FREL and NFMS provides information on quantity and sources of emission resulting from deforestation and forest degradation. Thus FREL informs Policy and Measures to manage causes information. There is team that is handling population and this will be documented in the strategic options for REDD+.
- Question / Issue: How is REDD+ going to handle the issue of insufficient budgetary allocation?-
- Response: In the readiness phases countries are not obliged to implement REDD+ and not funds for implementation are provided. However, the REDD+ implementation strategy will document actions and required financial resources. The threat for the implementation of REDD+ may likely to be more with lack of systems and capacity to implement rather than lack of financial resources.
- Question / Issue: Does REDD+ have a component to promote income generating enterprises in order to save forests?

- Response: As mentioned above, this needs to be documented. In the meantime, the Forest Investment Plan (FIP) and the Pilot Project on Climate Resilience (PPCR) are looking at interventions to generate more income for people and alternatives as well.
- Question / Issue:Is the policy for forest restoration from 15% to 24% achievable?
- Response: There to collectively generate ideas of how Uganda can to do this.
- Question / Issue: Are decisions going to consider prevailing national circumstances and political pronouncements such as degazzetment of forest reserves?
- Question / Issue: We need to rank the drivers to know which is affecting deforestation most.
- Response: During previous engagements with stakeholders it was noted that drivers need not to be ranked but treated equally because ranking will limit the benefits.
- Question / Issue: Does government have control of forests on private land?

- Response: Forests on private land are supposed to managed in accordance with the law which requires one to have a Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the forest should be managed according to the plan.

Annex 1 b, Issues and Responses on FRELs/FRLs Overview

Below are key issues raised and responses related to the presentation on Overview of FRELs/FRLs and Experiences from other countries

- Question / Issue: For countries that already have functional systems in place, what are they supposed to do during the REDD+ readiness phase?-
- Response: The countries that have systems like Brazil, China, India and Cost Arica are have moved relatively faster and some have already submitted their FRELs.
- Question / Issues: What value does REDD+ add if country already has a a functional systems in place?
- Response: - It is Important to know that REDD+ builds on existing systems. There is always some improvement to be made. Most important, REDD+ goes beyond data collection. It is critical the monitoring aspect is improved (updating data as to when it is required). The NFMS system needs to have a MRV functionality.
- Question / Issues: Does the uncertainty in quantitative assessment affect access to payments?
- Response: No country's FREL has been rejected because of the level of uncertainty in quantitative assessment but countries will eventually be ranked and this if Uganda carries out these assessments well it could be ranked high.
- Question / Issues: Where is Uganda in the process of construction of FREL?
- Response: - Uganda is prepared to have its FREL ready by the end of 2016.
- Question / Issues: What would be the implication of every country having its own reference period and what will Uganda use?
- Response: - This will be answered after we have had the presentation for the data available for Uganda and this will be decided by all of us.
- Question / Issues: Who are the experts and is there a system for quality assurance for experts' decisions?
- Response: - The experts are a group of individuals selected by the UNFCCC who are dedicated to review the FREL. Countries will be engaged by the assessment team for about forty two weeks to help build the capacity of the country in development of their FREL

Annex 1 c, Issues and Responses on Data for Uganda's FRELs/FRLs

Below are key issues raised and responses related to the presentation on Activity data and Emission Factors for the construction of Uganda's FRELs/FRLs

Question / Issues: The forest definition doesn't seem to consider traditional agroforestry which accounts for a large acreage of Uganda's land cover and ultimately holds substantial amounts of biomass

Response: - Carbon pools of trees on non-forest land are accounted for under the National Green House Gas Inventory and not under REDD+. Whereas we are not required to report and monitor carbons stocks of non- forestland under REDD+, the National Biomass provides valuable data on biomass stocks in Agroforestry systems, and there are plans to have the Database regularly updated- See justification below;

"*According to Uganda's background paper on Forest Definition, Agroforestry systems belong to what is known as Trees outside the Forest Definition. The services and the importance of these trees is highly recognized. Under the biomass survey, Uganda intends to continue assessing the biomass stock balance (demand versus supply) as part of the biomass energy strategy (90% of Uganda's delivered energy is derived from wood).*"

Question / Issues: How come we lost very many hectares of Tropical High Forest (THF) in protected areas (CFR) between 2010 and 2015! Could there have been a mistake in data collection? Are NFA staff (sector or range managers) involved in the collection of this data?

Response: -The data is based on satellite imagery and it is hoped it is not biased. THF exist in protected areas (NFA and UWA) on private land. Deforestation is highest on private land followed by THF under the management of NFA. No deforestation was observed in National parks and wildlife reserves (under UWA). Accuracy assessment and data improvement is on going to cater for possible human errors. Forest inventories both in THF and woodlands will also provide vital assessment for accuracy assessment.

Question / Issues: How does this data influence policy change in other sectors because what is seen is true but how doesn't influence for example the energy sector, population growth?

Response:-We have hope that this data may give a wakeup call to our politicians because until the recent results were released, Uganda was reporting an average loss of 90,000ha/ year which was based on the average loss of 1990-2005 but the situation is much worse than this at least people are aware of what is happening now. Between 2005 -2010 we had an average loss of 250,000ha/year and as of today we are having an average loss of 120,000ha/year.

Question / Issues: What is the working relationship with research institutions?
Response:-. We have brought most of these institutions under one umbrella known as the MRV platform. More collaboration especially in the area of data sharing is needed.

Comment: We need to think about policies and measures that need to be put in place because we continue to lose forests at a high rate when we have policies and laws place - they seem not be working.

Annex 1 d, Issues and Responses related to the construction of FRELs/FRLs in Uganda

Below are key issues raised and responses related to the presentation on the Methodological Approach for the construction of Uganda's FRELs/FRLs

Question / Issues:- What is the ceiling off level for emissions?

Response:-. FRELs/FRLs need to be seen as a tool for report on what is being emitted. They are not a regulatory mechanism for curbing emissions so they can not have ceiling off levels. It is the information that comes from this tool that enables the country to plan on how to reduce on its emissions.

Question / Issues:- Why don't we focus on afforestation to reverse restore the forestry estate from 15%-24%?

Response:-.Afforestation / reforestation is good but it is also important that we reduce the rate of deforestation and forest degradation. In terms of carbon offsets, you attain an instant offset if annual emissions are for example reduced from 20million ton in 2016 to 15 million tons in 2017. On the other hand, while tree planting results in net carbon dioxide sequestration, it takes several years for a 1 hectare of trees to sequester 50 tons of CO_2. Therefore, a country like Uganda needs an approach that reduces the rate of deforestation (and forest degradation) plus afforestation / reforestation. From the cost perspective, it would require between US $ 3000-4,000 to establish a hectare of forest and possibly the same or less to protect one hectare of forest.

Question / Issues:-Do we have an inventory of all actors in climate change?
Response:-REDD+ will work together with the Climate Change Department to ensure that all key players in mitigation and even Interventions to build resilience to climate change are well archived and monitored

Question / Issues:-We need to capture interventions on farm land and other landscapes. The reference scenario should include an agro forestry component as well as agro pastoral component.

Response:-Once Uganda builds capacity to report on and monitor changes in agro forestry and Silvopastoral systems. It is free to recalculate its historical emissions and update its FRELs/FRLs. Whether this number will be significantly different from the number we are calculating now is yet to be known. As of now, Uganda wants to participate in REDD+ programme and it cannot wait until it gets such a high level of sophistication.

Comment:-. Uganda's infrastructure development plan like the standard gauge railway and oil pipeline are going to pass through some of the major forests. These issues needed to be factored in as part of our national circumstances possibly need for an adjustment when presenting constructing Uganda's FRELs/FRLs.