

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The **Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN)** was approved by the FCPF in July, 2008
- A Grant Agreement of US\$ 200,000 for the preparation of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was signed in September, 2009
- The R-PP was approved by the FCPF Participants Committee at its ninth meeting in Oslo, Norway in June, 2011 with a request to the government of Uganda to prepare a Consultation and Participation (C&P) Plan and have it validated at a national-level stakeholder workshop before entering into the Grant Agreement for the US\$ 3.6 million of the FCPF Readiness grant.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- During the R-PP preparation phase, the REDD+ Secretariat was housed under the National Forestry Authority (NFA). The R-PP identified the Forestry Sector Support Department (FSSD) as the National REDD+ Focal institution. In March 2012, the MoWE assigned a FSSD staff as a new National REDD+ Focal Point
- The Policy Committee on Environment under the Office of Prime Minister is responsible for the overall policy coordination on REDD+
- The REDD+ Steering Committee oversaw the overall R-PP formulation process. It will be re-established with new members by MoWE.
- The REDD+ Working Group will be replaced by the National Technical Committee that should comprise individual experts from key areas of expertise within and outside the GoU.
- The sub-component 1a of the R-PP proposed some of the institutions in the provisional list but did not officially define key institutions' roles in the Readiness preparation. The FSSD as the new REDD-plus Secretariat will lead the review the list of the proposed institutions and their mandate and will communicate them through appropriate channels to make consensus on the roles of the institutions for the REDD+ readiness preparation.
- R-PP implementation will be supported by thematic taskforces that will be formed by relevant ministries upon the recommendation from the REDD+ Steering Committee. The potential themes include: i) Policy, Legal and Institutions; ii) Methodological issues (Tools and Procedures for Measuring, Reporting and Verifying REDD-Plus actions; iii) Social and Environmental Safeguards; iv) REDD-Plus Demonstration activities; and v) Participation and Consultation

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Information sharing and early dialogues on REDD-Plus & R-PP process were facilitated by the REDD+ Secretariat & NGOs (such as Environmental Alert (EA), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IUCN Uganda and CARE International (Uganda)) with the FCPF R-PP formulation grant & additional funding from The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Uganda.
- In each region, consultations involved the following categories of stakeholders: farmers, politicians, technical staff of local governments, NGOs, CBOs, Protected Areas agencies, youth representatives, female representatives, special groups (consisting of timber dealers, charcoal producers), forest dependent communities, representatives of forest resource user groups or associations, private sector, academia, and, Community Opinion dealers.
- The Government of Uganda (GoU) requested IUCN Uganda to support the preparation of: the C&P Plan, a REDD+ Awareness and Communication Strategy, and Conflict and Grievance Management Strategy. With funding from DANIDA, IUCN Uganda supported the preparation of the C&P Plan, a REDD+ Awareness and Communication Strategy, and Conflict and Grievance Management Strategy.
- The C&P Plan was discussed at the national-level validation workshop on March 7, 2012.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- The R-PP has identified the following as D&D drivers: i) agricultural encroachment; ii) charcoal production; iii) firewood harvesting; iv) timber harvesting; and v) livestock grazing
- GoU intends to establish a taskforce that will assess and supervise piloting the proposed strategic options in order to develop the REDD+ Strategy.

5. Implementation Framework

- GoU plans to conduct capacity needs assessment in the beginning of the R-PP implementation to develop a capacity building programme that will address capacity gaps
- GoU will appoint a relevant task force to finalize the consideration of REDD-Plus Options and over-all REDD-Plus Strategy. The taskforce will be responsible for designing and publishing the Implementation Framework and associated budget; specifically the taskforce will:
 - Assess potential strategic options proposed in the R-PP and assess needs for additional information required to inform the design of the strategy, including proposals for early implementation of pilot or demonstration activities.
 - Hold first consultative workshop to ensure stakeholder involvement and create the necessary linkages between the Task force, National REDD-Plus Steering Committee and key stakeholder groups
 - Begin early implementation of pilot strategies.
 - Evaluate and monitor outcomes of early implementation activities.
 - Develop and finalize the National REDD-Plus Strategy, based on those strategies that are deemed suitable for inclusion in national strategy after assessment of benefits, costs and risks
 - Publicize the REDD- Plus Strategy through a series of awareness activities to inform the public and stakeholders of the approved REDD-Plus Strategy for Uganda.

6. SESA

- The Uganda's R-PP includes the terms of reference for the development of Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- The GoU intends to establish a taskforce that will be responsible for the coordinating, development, implementation, and monitoring of the ESMF
- The technical committee is expected to test the SESA approach for REDD+ pilot projects in order to distill lessons that will be fed into the overall Readiness process

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- The GoU intends to use the National Biomass Study's activity data set on land use changes. The data set is based on: i) the interpretation of two sets of satellite images (SPOT XS from 1990-1993 and Landsat TM from 2004-2005) using the FAO Land Cover Classification System (LCCS); and ii) a national grid based biomass field inventory with 2 to 4 data points per forested sampling point from the period between 1990-2005.
- The reference level task force will be established by the REDD+ Steering Committee to define the process for developing Uganda's reference level. The taskforce will comprise relevant ministries and government agencies, research institutes, and NGOs.

8. MRV

- Both national and sub-national approach will be employed for developing MRV system
- The monitoring system will be housed in the National Forestry Authority (NFA). The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), which is in charge to approve the environmental and social impact assessment of all REDD-Plus activities, will be given access to the original data set and analyzed and aggregated information, i.e. reports and maps, for additional archiving.
- In cooperation with the District Forestry Service at the local government, the FSSD is expected to contribute to collecting data on law enforcement and other drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Local NGOs and community organizations are expected to join respective data collection and management protocols and incentive mechanisms will be developed.
- The GoU intends to establish community monitoring systems through pilot REDD+ projects to increase capacity and confidence in respective governance and monitoring systems

9. Other

- Uganda will consider the issues identified in the TAP's R-PP assessment as well as those raised by the FCPF PC (the FCPF Participants Committee at its ninth meeting in Oslo, Norway in June, 2011) during readiness preparation;