REDD+ READINESS ACTIVITIES

Terms of Reference

Detailed analysis of Drivers and underlying causes of forest cover change in the various Forest Types of Kenya

22nd August 2012

1. Background and rationale

REDD+ is evolving within the country as an attractive means to reduce forest sector carbon emissions through appropriate forest management practices and enhanced forest governance. As the policy frameworks and positive incentives to support its implementation evolve at the international level, a number of initiatives have come up to support developing country efforts to develop and apply strategies and programs to reduce current forest sector emissions and enhance carbon sink capacities of forested ecosystems. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Process is one of these efforts supporting developing countries and which Kenya has joined as well as UN-REDD. Kenyaactually submitted its R-PP which was approved for funding by the Participants Committee of FCPF in 2011 and is in the process of fulfilling its commitment to achieve REDD+ readiness.

The quick assessment of land use, forest policy and governance carried out during the preparation of its RPP identified four major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Kenya. Given the size of the country, a variety of its socio-economic profiles and activities and the diversity of ecosystems within the country, the severity, extent and rate at which the different drivers manifest themselves in the various regions and forest types are expected to be different, even though there is no substantiated data in that regard. There is need of a clear understanding

on different drivers of change in different regions to support development of comprehensive future national REDD strategic framework.

The R-PP identified unsustainable utilization of forest products, demand for land for agriculture, settlement and other developments, weak governance and forest fires as critical drivers of land use change at the national level. There is need however to provide more clarity in terms of where within the country these drivers operate to provide an opportunity to prescribe specific interventions to address them. These will also support development of sub-national approaches to REDD+ implementation in the country in line with the devolved system of government as informed by the Constitution.

2.0. Objectives

The objective of the study is to identify the nature and extent of major drivers and underlying causes of deforestation, forest degradation and forest cover change in the various eco-regions of the country. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the critical drivers (both direct and underlying) of deforestation and forest degradation and assess their significance with reference to major forest types in the country; These forest types are:
    1. The high volcanic mountains and high ranges: Elgon, Kenya, Aberdares, Cherangani and Mau
    2. Western plateau: Kabarnet, Kakamega, Nandi, Trans – Mara
    3. Northern mountains: Ndotos, Mathews, Leroghi, Kulal, Marsabit
    4. Coastal forests: Arabuko – Sokoke, Tana, Kayas, coral rag and mangrove forests
    5. Southern hills: Taita Hills, Kasigau, Shimba Hills, Chyulu Hills, Nguruman
    6. Riverine forests: Tana and tributaries, Ewaso – Ngiro, Kerio, Turkwell, Galana
    7. Lowland plains of Northern and North Eastern Kenya
1. Provide strategic options and develop a set of indicators that can be used to monitor progress to address the identified drivers of deforestation and degradation.

3.0. Specific tasks:

3.1 Assessment of Land use, Forest Policy and Governance

- Describe the current status of forests in each of the forest types;
- Describe the drivers and underlying causes of forest cover changes in each of the regions and provide an analysis of measures to address them;
- Analyze enabling/limiting elements of the environment, including but not limited to tenurial arrangements, for sustainable conservation and forest management under different forest ownership and management regimes;
- Provide a description of land use dynamics in each of the regions, including major processes of forest product utilization, both timber and NTFPs;
- Provide an analysis of household dependency on forest and forest products, categorized into direct livelihood support (e.g. fruit, honey, bush meat), livestock sustenance (fodder and grazing), household energy (wood fuel, charcoaling), construction materials (timber, bamboo and thatch) or other relevant categories;
- Provide an analysis of the use of forest products by Small & Medium Enterprises (e.g. charcoal for brick kilns, furniture making, construction, others) and an analysis of spatial market dynamics (e.g. Where do SMEs source their raw materials from? How does distance from the resource impact the economic rationale for using forest products?).
- Analysis of renewable and non-renewable alternatives to the use of forest resources by households and SME. In doing this, review the aspects of sustainable energy policies and generation in Kenya and their possible future effects on natural resource use and REDD+ in Kenya.
- Identify gaps necessary for creating an enabling environment for effective conservation and sustainable management of Forests;
- Map the stakeholders involved in conservation and forest management in each regimes;

3.2 Identify the capacity gaps in improving existing practices

Identify capacities required by various stakeholders to improve the existing conservation and management practices; at individual, community, organization and policy level.

3.3 The way forward for national REDD+ Strategy

- Provide an analysis of the gaps and barriers in addressing the major drivers of deforestation and degradation of forests in the various eco-systems;
- Provide an analysis of the major Sector Development Plans (cf. Agriculture, Water, Transport, Energy...) and Water catchment management plans with a view to establishing linkages and complementarity with the REDD+ strategy. In particular, provide an analysis of how the Kenya Agriculture Productivity Project that is supporting the development of a multi-sector investment plans for land management could complement the REDD+ Strategy.
- Identify appropriate institutions and their roles in reducing deforestation and;
- Propose an indicative framework for policy and institutional reform required to improve existing practices for conservation and sustainable management of forests in the various regions;

4.0. Expected Output

A well referenced and comprehensive report covering all the issues. This report will inform the development of a national REDD strategy as well as the formulation of the long-term forestry sector plan by the Government.

5.0. Study Approach

The study will be based on desk review, direct interviews of key stakeholders, expert opinions and consultative meetings in the key forest areas of Kenya. For the collection of primary information, the team is expected to spend sufficient time on field visits. Participatory appraisal techniques can be adopted to obtain quantitative and qualitative factual information. The process requires information from a variety of sources that include:

1. Kenya Forest Service,
2. local government authorities,

3. Wood and non-wood merchants,
4. wood and non-wood based industries,
5. local communities,
6. local NGOs working in the forestry sector;

6.0. Qualification/experiences and competency of the consulting firm or consortium of consulting firms

The consulting firm or consortium of consulting firms to be involved in this assignment should demonstrate the ability to carry out this study with sufficient experience in leading multidisciplinary teams. The firm has to have the proven capability of studying and producing consistent high quality reports. The consulting firm or consortium of consulting firms has to demonstrate proven expertise in the following areas (possibly one member can cover more than one field of expertise):

1. Forest resource management/ Planning (preferably PhD or M.Sc. with at least 10 years working experiences in related field);
2. Land-use planning;
3. Economic analysis and modeling of economic and NRM scenarios;
4. Institution building and organizational development;

7.0. Duration of work:

This assignment will be completed within a period of four months.

8.0 Deliverables:

- A concise inception report on the technical approach including a background literature review validating the chosen approach, including the suggested methods of analysis. An annotated outline should be annexed to it.
- A draft report on drivers and underlying causes of forest cover change for consideration by stakeholders;

- A comprehensive and fully referenced report including detailed recommendations must be submitted at the end of the assignment. The report must contain an in-depth analysis of the issues described in the objectives and should propose clear, implementable recommendations.