

Ministry of Environment and Forest

National REDD+ Secretariat

Minutes of the National REDD+ Strategy Task Force Meeting

Place: Ministry of Environment and Forest

Date: May 29/2014

Time: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Participants present in the meeting were (see Annex 1)

Meeting Agenda

- a) Endorsement of REDD+ Strategy TF previous minutes
- b) Presentations on Ethiopia's REDD+ strategy features, outline and timelines
- c) REDD+ Strategy development Core group constitution
- d) Next Steps

a) Endorsement of REDD+ Strategy TF previous minutes

The Chairman (Dr. Yigremachew Seyoum) welcomed everyone and briefed on the agenda. He then noted that the minutes of the last REDD+ Strategy TF meeting were sent to TF members for comments. He then invited members to forward any comments (if any) otherwise endorse the minutes. After a short deliberation, the members unanimously endorsed the minutes.

b) Presentations on Ethiopia's REDD+ strategy features, timeline and outline

The chairman then gave an overview of the need for compiling the draft REDD+ strategy. He explained that Ethiopia's GTP II is expected to be launched sometime early 2015. As REDD+ is one of the strategic pillars of the CRGE, a REDD+ strategy that aligns with CRGE vision and linked to GTP II targets should be ready before February 2015 so that it will be an input to GTP II. To this end, the Ministry of Environment and Forest initiated a draft REDD+ strategy preparation process sometime in May 2014. Therefore, the chairman noted, the following presentations will give background on main features of Ethiopia's REDD+ Strategy, pillars and timeline of the REDD+ strategy and draft outline of the draft strategy. He then invited Ato Tsegaye Tadesse (GGGI and TF member) to present the main features of Ethiopia's REDD+

strategy and a draft outline of the strategy (see annex 2 for the presentation). Ato Tsegaye's presentation was followed by Dr. Yitebitu's presentation on the pillars of REDD+ strategy, timelines and the constitution of a REDD+ strategy core team (see annex 3 for the presentation).

Following the presentations, participants forwarded the following comments/questions

Comment: In relation to REDD+ strategy preparation, we can draw on the experiences of other countries like Brazil, Indonesia and Tanzania. Moreover, REDD+ strategy should include sectors beyond forestry (e.g. energy and agriculture) and we need to consider their plans. Strategy should also consider gender and nutritional security.

Questions: How does the REDD+ strategy consider wetland ecosystems other than forests?

How does landscape approach addresses trans-boundary issues?

How does the strategy address the CDM and REDD+ linkage?

Question: Can we consider watershed management as one of the strategic pillar as it is one of the crucial interventions in the northern part of Ethiopia.

Question: What do we mean by agricultural intensification? Is it to mean an external input?

Comment: In relation to the outline, cost should be separated from benefit sharing scheme.

Dr Yitebitu and Ato Tsegaye responded to the questions

REDD+ attempts to address deforestation and forest degradation and the issue of reducing emission from other land uses is yet to be resolved (e.g what is discussed under AFOLU)

c) REDD+ Strategy development Core group constitution

In relation to the core team constitution, the chairman explained that MEF found the formation of a core team a practical arrangement to expedite the REDD+ Strategy preparation process and invited the TF members to deliberate on the role of the core team, number of members and its composition.

It was agreed that the Core Team will have a role to draft an initial REDD+ Strategy, prepare a work plan, regularly consult relevant stakeholders and coordinate the whole process draft strategy preparation. It was further noted that the core team will be accountable to the REDD+ Strategy TF and should report on the process and progress of the draft REDD+ Strategy preparation.

The TF then discussed on the number of individuals and composition of the core team and decided that the core team should be a small group and composed of the following individuals/institutions: Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of water Irrigation and Energy; MEF; Research Institution and other experts. The Chairman urged that the REDD+ Secretariat should write an official letter to the Ministries/institutions to assign relevant experts (core team members) who can be involved in facilitating/coordinating the draft REDD+ strategy preparation. He further noted that the core team should prepare a draft REDD+ strategy outline and work plan and communicate it with the taskforce. Accordingly, the progress of the strategy document preparation will be occasionally discussed in a meeting convened by the Core team.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Annex 1

Participants list

Organization

Dr. Habtemariam Kassa	CIFOR
Dr. Tadesse Woldemariam	ECFF
Dr. Bedru Muzein	Rapid Eye
Dr. Yigremachew Seyoum	MoEF
Ato Addisu Negash	AILAA (MoA)
Ato Taye Dhugassa	Oromia REDD+ Coordination Unit
Ato Tesfaye Gonfa	„
Ato Shewaye deribe	EWNRA
Ato Shimelis Sima	World Bank
Ato Alemayehu Belay	Climate Focus (Consulting firm)
Mrs Franziska Haupt	Climate Focus (Consulting firm)
Ato Mellese Damtie	Climate Focus (Consulting firm)
Ato Eyob Tenkir	REDD+ Secretariat
Ato Tsegaye Tadesse	Global green growth Institute (GGGI)
Dr. Yeshanew Ashagrie	ORDA
Ato Motuma Didita	Institute of Biodiversity
Dr. Solomon Zewdie	REDD+ Secretariat
Dr. Yitebitu Moges	„
Ato Tsegaye Tadesse	GGGI

Annex 2

Some main features of Ethiopia's REDD+ Strategy (draft for discussion) (**Ato Tsegaye Tadesse**)

Main features

- As protecting and re-establishing forests for their economic and ecosystem services, including as carbon stocks is one of the four pillars of the green economy plan, the REDD+ strategy will be aligned with the CRGE vision
- REDD+ strategy will prioritize strategic options to reduce D and D and increase forest cover across all land use sectors
- A nested, scaling-up approach will be considered. The plan is to develop sub-national REDD+ initiatives that can be scaled-up within 5 to 10 years.
- Lead to significant impacts in the areas of reducing emissions + poverty alleviation, economic development, watershed protection and biodiversity conservation
- Best practice options will be used to deliver REDD+ in forested as well as non forested areas
- REDD+ will serve as a catalyst for necessary reforms in the sectors involved
- National level REDD+ oversight and management and the decentralization of natural resource management at appropriate levels will be put in place
- Consider the need for strong community engagement to ensure REDD+ implementation
- Strengthen and align existing structures as much as possible with keeping at minimum the introduction of new structures
- REDD+ will follow participatory planning, multi-stakeholder and multi-level approaches as its main method for planning and implementation
- Focus will be on landscape-level approaches to REDD+ development in order to ensure multiple benefits
- National and sub-national emissions RLs and a robust national MRV system for carbon accounting is considered
- Priority will be given to research, knowledge building and strengthening institutional structures
- The forestry SDP will be same as the forest related strategy options of the REDD+ strategy
- The strategy preparation should consider the timing of the GTP 2 (Feb 2015?) and linkages with GTP targets
- An inter-sectoral approach to REDD+ implementation through increased coordination among agencies and sectors with links to D and D will be used (eg. Agri., Forestry, Energy)

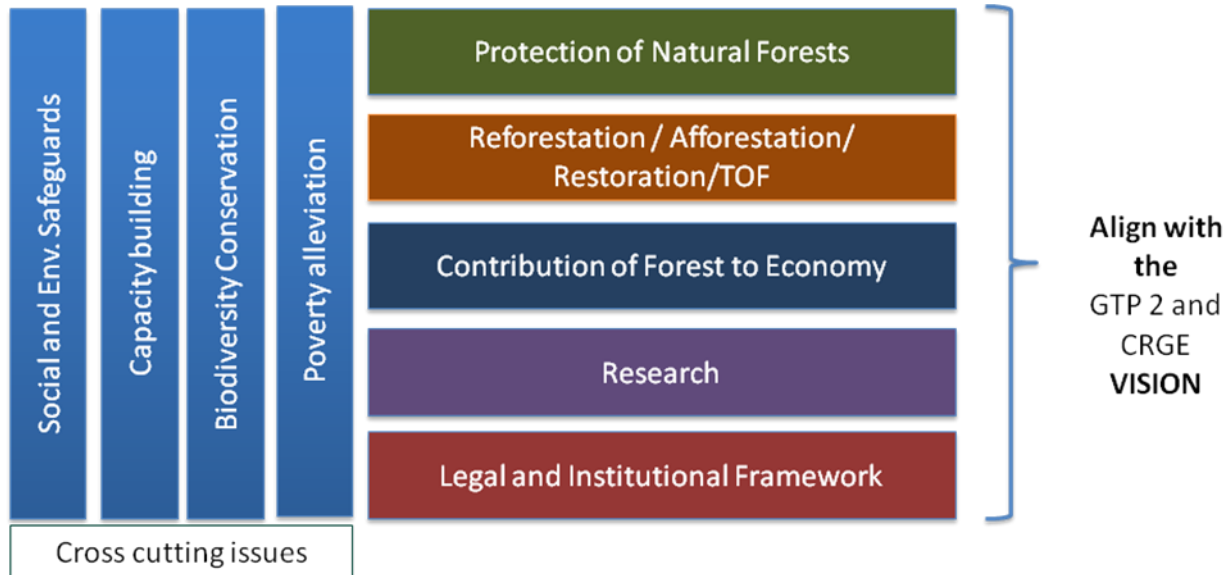
Draft Outline REDD+ Strategy (incomplete!)

- **Introduction**
- **Strategic Direction:** Vision, Mission, Objectives, Values and Principles
- **Forestry sector situation in Ethiopia** (direct and indirect drivers)
- **Legal and regulatory frameworks:** Investigation of existing legislative experiences and shortcomings in relation to climate change, safeguards, benefit sharing, forest law enforcement, etc.
- **REDD+ governance/ institutions:** define responsibilities and capacities to perform all major functions of a REDD+ system: management, financial, technical, implementation, registry and certification, and safeguards and accountability
- **REDD+ social and environmental safeguards:** designed to avoid, mitigate or minimize adverse environmental and social impacts of projects and strategies and to implement those that produce positive outcomes for people and the environment
- **National forest monitoring and MRV:** The purpose is to track changes in forest areas in a way that is consistent, complete and transparent. MRV can also help track a range of other indicators (e.g. biodiversity, hydrology, cultural values)
- **Stakeholder participation and coordination:** Increasing stakeholders' role in planning and problem solving, through the development of various and appropriate levels of partnership
- **Reference Level:** Boundaries: geographic and temporal; Classifications: how land and forest types are classified; Activity data: rates of loss per land-use type; Emissions factors: net CO₂e losses per hectare of forest types
- **Intervention strategies to address D and D:** by drivers, geographic scale, supply/ demand side, incentives/ disincentives
- **Cost/ benefit sharing:** effectiveness, efficiency, equity

Annex 3

Pillars of the REDD+ Strategy, time lines and Core team constitution (Dr. Yitebitu M.)

Pillars of the REDD+ Strategy



Some questions that need to be answered in the REDD+ Strategy (to be refined)

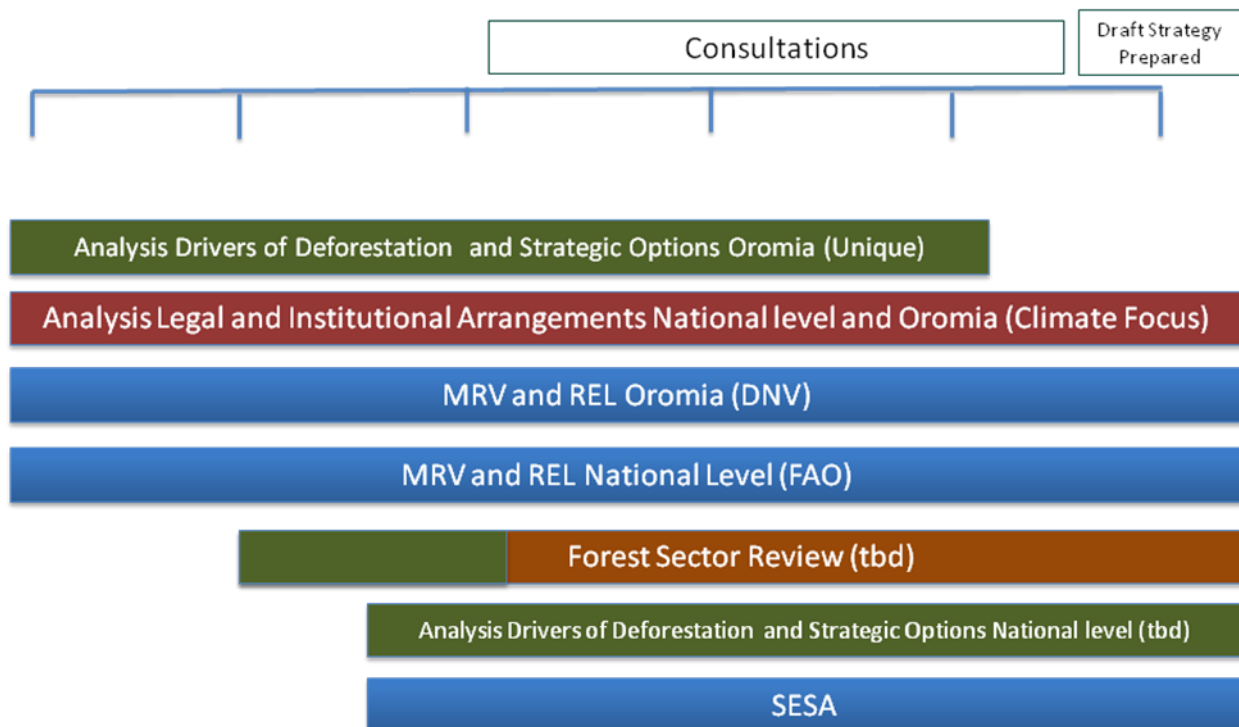
- Protection of Natural Forest: promoting alternative energy sources (cooking stoves), promotion of agriculture intensification (Climate Smart Agriculture), PFM, PES etc. → provide detailed information on the most effective points/ ways of intervention.
- Reforestation/ afforestation/ trees outside the forest : Small holder and large scale forest plantation. → provide detailed information on the barriers and the most effective interventions.
- Contribution of forest to economy: current and future contribution for the economy (supply-demand analysis).
- Research: better varieties of timber/ pulp species.
- Legal and Institutional Framework: Better land-use planning, forests and land certificates. → analysis of the institutional and legal barriers to implement each pillar. Analysis of the institutions that could contribute and lead the interventions.
- Consultation with Stakeholders on the strategy
- Future steps: Business plan for the REDD+ Strategy

- MRV section in the Strategy

Sources of information

- (CIFOR)
- Biomass study
- Forest Resilient Study (GGGI)
- Analysis of drivers of deforestation and strategic options to address those – Oromia (Unique)
- Analysis of drivers of deforestation and strategic options to address those – National level(tbd)
- MRV and REL for Oromia (DNV)
- MRV and REL National level (FAO)
- Analysis Institutional and Legal arrangements for Oromia and National Level (Climate Focus)
- Hawassa report

Timeline



REDD+ Strategy Task force

- On May 27 REDD+ Strategy task force will meet.
- The Task Force will agree on monthly meetings – define dates.
- Also will agree on a core working group composed by MoA representative+ MEF representative+ GGGI representative.

Task Force will oversee the core group

Role of the core group:

Create a agenda of meetings until November;

Create an outline of the REDD Strategy – define the questions that should be answered in the process

Develop the REDD+ Strategy and present the progress to Strategy Task Force.

Create a communication channel with the firms that are developing the technical studies.

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Ministry of Environment & Forest
National REDD+ Secretariat

REDD+ Strategy Development Task force (May 29, 2014)

Meeting Place MEF
Participant Attendance sheet

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