

Minutes of the Kick-off workshop

on

'Study of the Causes of Deforestation and forest Degradation in Ethiopia and the Identification and prioritization of strategic options to address those'

Date: January 16, 2015

Place: Dessalegn Hotel (Opposite European Union), Addis Ababa

Time: 9:00 AM- 5:30 PM

Participants: See the list attached

Agenda: Validation and commenting of the Inception report of "Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia and the identification and prioritization of strategic options to address those."

Programme: See the attachment

Background: Ethiopia officially launched the implementation of the R-PP Assessment Note implementation in January 15, 2013. The preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy is one of the priority building blocks of the Readiness process. Hence, the National REDD+ Secretariat has requested consultants' services to fulfill the present assignment, which should serve as the base for the REDD+ Strategy preparation. The contract between the consultant consortium and the National REDD+ Secretariat was signed 18.12.2014 and the Inception report was submitted to the National REDD+ Secretariat 5.1.2015. Purpose of this meeting was to Kick-off the project, introduce the project team to various stakeholders and to validate and gather comments on the Inception report of the Study.

The meeting began at 09:00 am by a welcoming remark by Dr. Tefera Mengistu (advisor to the State Minister of the Forest Sector, MEF) on behalf of the State Minister to the Forest Sector, Ministry of Environment & Forest.

National REDD+ Secretariat Coordinator, Dr. Yitebitu Moges gave presentation on Ethiopia's REDD+ Readiness, followed by Dr. Julian Gonzalo, MRV Specialist of the National REDD+ Secretariat on FAO FRL/FREL-MRV project and the possible links to the Study (see attachment).

Team leader of the consulting firm (Arbonaut) responsible for the national study, Mr. Petteri Vuorinen, gave an introductory presentation of the Study including team composition, timelines,

outcomes and activities to be accomplished. His presentation was followed by presentations of the key team members on specific components of the Study including methodologies (see attached):

- Dr. Mesele Negash - Assessment of magnitude and impact of identified underlying causes and drivers of deforestation
- Mrs. Gertrude – Land cover analysis of DD hotspot areas (map) and direct causes of DD
- Dr. Laxen – The underlying causes of DD & Future scenarios and strategic options
- Dr. Melaku Bekele – REDD+ Environment & Roadmap

These presentations were followed by general discussion during which the following main comments and questions by the participants:

- What are the regions the study will cover?
- Study should be based on forest types, not based on agro-ecological zones.
- Stakeholder/advisory group should be established.
- Historical drivers vs. current drivers. Reasons for the change should be studied.
- Forest definition?
- Model for deforestation to be developed together with FAO project?
- Quality control of the land cover map work of Ethiopian mapping agency?
- How to include protected areas?
- To study demographic issues, more institutions to be consulted.
- Additional info needed on dry forests degradation in Oromia?
- Use of land cover maps?
- Criteria for strategic options (carbon, demographic, financing, industry etc)?
- Trainings together with FAO FRL/FREL-MRV programme?
- Universities and research institutes to be included into stakeholder list.
- Is there a link between socio-economic study and the spatial analysis work?

The consultant team responded to these questions and comments and agreed to reflect them in the updated version of the Inception report.

The afternoon was initiated by group exercise. Participants were divided into three groups to discuss following topics:

Group 1. Forest stratification system and Forest Definition:

How do we stratify sample sites: Agro-ecology vs. forest types?
Which forest definition are we going to use?

Group 2. Drivers of Deforestation & strategic options and Methodological Approach (for all forest types)

Group 3. Drivers & Strategic options of forest degradation and Methodological Issues

Following a one-hour group discussions, group representatives presented their reflections (see attachment) which was followed by a general discussion.

Group 1.

Question on the forest definition was discussed in length, but in the end it was decided to be left for Ministry of Environment and Forestry to come back with an official definition. Sample site stratification was also debated and it was decided to use the following forest classification for the study purposes: moist montane forest, dry evergreen forest, dry deciduous broadleaved forest, dry deciduous narrow leaved forest and woodland. Complimentary of sample sites can be considered when sites in different regions have similar forest types and/or similar drivers.

Group 2:

The group came up with a list of recommendations on Methodological approach:

- Identify all forest types in each region.
- Identify the LU change in each forest type.
- Magnitude, hot spot identification?
- Identification of drivers: direct drivers, underlying drivers, agent and their links.
- Specify methodologies to measure and monitor the drivers and agents.
- Temporal change of drivers (past, present, and emerging drivers)
- Behavioral change of communities overtime towards energy use, agricultural practices, cooking habits
- Similar forest types across regions have different drivers because of culture, economic activities.
- Negotiate on sample size given time and budget (especially on field work)
- Instruments to be used by the consultants needs to be cleared by the secretariat beforehand
- Potential to carbon sequestration of visited sites
- Consideration of language issues and data quality (central tracking)
- Learn from the experience of Oromia regarding sampling size used, approaches and instruments, challenges

Due to time constrains there was not much time for discussion, but the consultant team noted down the recommendations and promised to include them into the updated report.

Group 3

Group gave valuable in depth recommendations for the consultant team, as can be seen in the attachment. The consultant team noted all these recommendations and agreed to incorporate them into the updated report, as far as possible. Some of the recommendations specially related to preparing list of strategic options and filtering criteria for them, will be completed in the later stage of the Study.

The one-day inception workshop was concluded by a closing remarks from Prof. Ensermu Kelebesa (professor of Addis Ababa University & Member of the REDD+ MRV Task Force). He recommended consultant team to study recently completed Woody biomass study report and should avoid repeating their mistakes. Further he highlighted some drivers of deforestation including taping for incense and gum, debarking of trees and grazing, where type of live stock plays the key role. Further, he addressed the importance of the repeatability of the study results.

The meeting was adjourned at 17.30

List of participants:

Programme:

Venue: Dessalegn Hotel (Opposite European Union), Addis Ababa

No	Activity	Time	Responsible	Facilitator
1	Registration	8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Participants	REDD+ Secretariat
2	Opening Speech	9:00 - 9:20 a.m.	H.E. Ato Belete Tafere	Dr. Yitebitu M.
3	Presentation I(Ethiopia's REDD+ Readiness)	9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Dr. Yitebitu M.	Dr. Solomon Z.
4	Presentation II (FRL/FREL-MRV study and linkage with Drivers study)	10:00- 10:15 a.m.	Dr. Julian G.	„
5	Coffee Break	10:15 - 10:40 a.m.		
6	Inception Report (Presentation III)	10:40 - 10:55a.m.	Consulting Firm	Dr. Solomon Z.
7	Inception Report (Presentation IV)	11:00 - 11:15a.m.	„	„
8	Inception Report (Presentation V)	11:20 - 11:35a.m.	„	„
9	Inception Report (Presentation VI)	11:40 - 11:55a.m.	„	„
10	General Discussion and identification of issues for group discussion	12:00 - 12:30a.m.	Participants	Dr. Yitebitu M
11	Lunch	12:30 - 13:45 p.m.		
12	Assigning participants into groups	13:55 - 14:10 p.m.		Dr. Yitebitu M.
13	Group discussions (3-4 groups)	14:20 - 15:30 p.m.		Walelign, Solomon, Yitebitu, Solomon
14	Coffee Break	15:30 - 15:50 p.m.		
15	Presentation of group discussions	16:00 - 16:40 p.m.	Group representatives	
16	Summarizing comments to be incorporated in the technical proposal	16:50 - 17:10 p.m.	Consulting Firm	
17	Closing remark	17:15 - 17:30p.m.	Dr. Yitebitu & Consulting Firm	
18	Workshop Closed	17:30 p.m.		

Presentation of Dr. Yitibitu

Presentation of Dr. Gonzalo

Presentation of Mr. Vuorinen

Presentation of Dr. Mesele

Presentation of Mrs. Gertrude

Presentation of Dr. Laxen

Presentation of Dr. Bekele

Presentation of the group 2



GROUP 2.docx

Presentation of the group 3






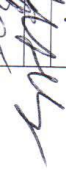
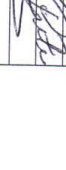
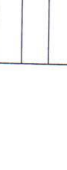
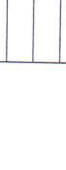



GROUP 3.docx

Ministry of Environment and Forest
National REDD+ Secretariat
Inception Workshop on

"Study of causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia and the identification and prioritization of strategic options to address those"

January 16/2014, Addis Ababa

Participant Attendance

















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