



**RECORD AND MINUTES OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL CLIMATE  
CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER MATTERS  
RELATED TO REDD+**

**Convened by the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) with  
support from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
(FAO) 24 – 25 NOVEMBER 2016, Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel,  
Entebbe Uganda**

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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
NCCAC	National Climate Change Advisory Committee
NFA	National Forest Authority
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NS/AP	National Strategy/ Action Plan
NTC	National Technical Committee
PAMs	Policies and Measures
PC	Participants Committee (of FCPF)
R-PP	REDD Readiness Preparation Proposals
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks, Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
UWA	Uganda Wildlife Authority

## **1 SUMMARY**

This report highlights the record of a two-day National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) meeting that took place from 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel in Entebbe to consider matters related to REDD+. The second day of the meeting was co-chaired by the Director, Environmental Affairs representing the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water (MWE) and Environment of the government of Uganda and the UNDP UN-REDD Regional Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, representing the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda. The meeting was attended by 17 NCCAC members (Annex 1) as well as the REDD+ Secretariat and UN-REDD Support Staff.

### **1.1 Summary of Decisions taken**

1. The NCCAC approved the Methodological Approach for Uganda's Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) proposals.
2. The NCCAC approved the National REDD+ Secretariat Annual Report for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and work plan for the year 2016/2017 and encouraged the Secretariat to expedite the operationalisation of the additional US\$ 3.75 million that was allocated in May 2016, by the twenty-first meeting (PC21) of the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to continue with Uganda's preparation for REDD+ Readiness.
3. The NCCAC took note of the Mid-Term Progress made by UN-REDD National Programme and encouraged the National REDD+ Secretariat with the support of the Agencies to expedite the implementation of the National Programme.
4. The NCCAC approved the UN-REDD Work Plan for the year 2017.
5. The NCCAC Approved the formal or informal request for the no-cost extension for the UN-REDD National Programme for period ending 2017 to enable completion of the programme components

## **2 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Uganda is currently implementing the National REDD+ Readiness Phase intended to deliver the following elements: (a) A National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan; (b) A National Forest Baseline Scenario (Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level) (FREL/FRLs); (c) a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); and (d) a Safeguards Information System (SIS) for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities.

The National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) appointed by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in 2015 serves as an official platform for policy level stakeholder participation. The NCCAC provides policy level guidance and coordination of REDD+ process for Uganda for Uganda's climate change policy implementation of which REDD+ is an integral part. Membership to the NCCAC is comprised of representatives of key government and non-government institutions with significant mandate over Climate change issues or significant interest in issues of Climate Change and REDD+. The NCCAC reports to the Permanent Secretary, MWE. The National REDD+ programme enjoys high government political support.

## **3 PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST DAY**

### **3.1 Agenda Item 1: Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda**

Welcoming remarks were made by Mr. Xavier Nyindo Mugumya, the Alternate National Focal Point on behalf of the MWE, who welcomed all the participants. The Alternate National Focal Point introduced the agenda for the two days' meeting and informed the meeting that the Permanent Secretary, MWE and the representative of the UN Resident Coordinator would be personally present during the second day. The Participants then reviewed and approved the agenda with modifications (Annex 2) for the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee to consider issues related to REDD+.

### **3.2 Agenda Item 2: International and Ugandan context – why construct a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) and its linkages to national policies**

This agenda item was introduced by Xavier Nyindo Mugumya, the Alternate National Focal Point (full presentation is attached as Appendix 1). In his presentation, he informed the meeting that REDD+ is the forestry sectors response to mitigation of climate change in an effort to stabilize global Green House Gas Emissions (GHG). As agreed in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC – 2010), it is about policy approaches and positive

incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Countries aiming to do REDD+ are expected to develop:

1. A national strategy or action plan
2. A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level which was the major focus of the discussions in the two-day meeting.
3. A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system
4. A system for providing information safeguards (including how they will be addressed and respected)

REDD is implemented in phases, beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building. This is followed by the implementation of national policies, measures and national strategies or action plans coupled with further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified.

He further informed the meeting that this session of the first day of the NCAAC would focus on the delivery of the country's proposed national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) to the UNFCCC. He informed the meeting that the term, "**Forest Reference Levels** (FRL)" are considered as "benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD+ activities and assesses gross emissions from deforestation and degradation" while **Forest Reference Emission Levels** (FREL) assesses both net emissions and removals from REDD+.

He elaborated on the following additional contexts:

1. Need for FREL construction

- a. Countries may wish to express their contribution to international mitigation through REDD+ actions under the UNFCCC;
- b. Countries may wish to assess progress on the outcomes of policies and measures taken to mitigate climate change in the forestry sector for domestic reasons; and,
- c. Countries may wish to access results-based payments (RBP). According to UNFCCC decisions, eligibility for results-based payments requires an assessed Forest Reference Level.

2. Linkage to National policies

- a. Uganda's Vision 2040 aims at restoration of forest cover from the current 10% to 24% of the baseline of the total land area.
- b. The National Development Plan II (NDP 2). The government of Uganda identifies forestry as a primary growth sector in the National Development Plan because of its importance in economic development, livelihoods and in provision of environmental services.
- c. Uganda's Nationally determined contributions (NDC) which aims among other things at promoting intensified and sustained forest restoration, developing enabling

- environment for forestry management and reverse deforestation trend to increase forest cover to 21% in 2030.
- d. Greening Uganda's economy through tree planting which focuses on planting of 200 million trees by the year 2020.
  - e. The Bonn Challenge (2014) in which Uganda committed to planting 2.5 million hectares by 2030.

### **Feedback from the NCCAC**

The participants of the NCCAC expressed gratitude for the presentation on the importance of the national baseline scenario and how it is closely linked to the national development agenda because it provides the benchmarks that the country also requires. The following are key issues raised and responses<sup>1</sup> provided.

**Question / Issue:** There is a lot of variation in numbers of Uganda's commitments such as the Bonn Challenge, NDP 2, Vision 2040 and the Greening economy programme. How achievable are these commitments, for example, greening the economy through tree planting programme which seeks to plant 200 million trees by the year 2020 given that we are a few years from there?

**Response:** *There are policy level commitment by MWE to plant trees across the administrative borders, within road reserves and encourage tree planting to commemorate special events like anniversaries and birthdays.*

### **3.3 Agenda Item 3: Overview of national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) and its components and why Uganda wishes to construct a FREL/FRL**

This agenda item was led by Mr. Sergio Innocente, FAO International Technical Advisor – FAO-ITA (full record of the presentation is attached as Appendix 2). In his presentation, FAO-ITA explained that national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) are benchmarks for assessing a country's performance in implementation of REDD+ activities. In his presentation, he emphasized the reasons why countries construct FREL/FRL as pointed out earlier (under Agenda #2). The meeting was informed that the FREL/FRL construction is based on five building blocks of forest definition, historical data, scope, scale and method of construction.

Meeting was further informed that the submission of the FREL/FRL is subjected to scrutiny by an assessment team from the (UNFCCC) which engages with the different countries and may propose adjustments for improvement depending on how realistic the submissions were. He

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<sup>1</sup> Clarification was made by the Alternate National Focal Point, FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat and FAO staff.



clarified that most countries have: i) presented FREL/FRL at national scale; ii) deforestation has been considered by a number of countries with few of them including degradation, conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; iii) been required to provide justification for the decisions they take based on their national circumstances; iv) used a 10-15-year reference period with fewer countries using a historical average, and still others utilized a simulation method. He further informed meeting that so far, Fifteen (15) countries have submitted their FREL/FRL to UNFCCC. The meeting was informed that Uganda is considering using a historical data of 15 years.

**3.4 Agenda items 4: Overview Data for national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) (activity data (AD) and emission factors (EF)); Agenda items 5: Presentation of suitable national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) options; and Agenda items 6: Decision on submitting Uganda's national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) proposals**

Presentation on Agenda Item 4, 5 and 6 was delivered by the FAO MRV Expert (John Begumana) in collaboration with the National Forestry Authority Team (John, Edward, Joseph and Basemera) (full record presentation is attached as Appendix 3). In their collaborative presentation, the team informed the NCAAC meeting that construction or development of a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) for Uganda involved a lot of field activity and tremendous progress has been made towards development of a Forest Reference Level for Uganda.

The presentation elaborated on the five building blocks in the FREL/FRL construction as follows:

**1. Forest definition<sup>2</sup>**

Meeting was informed that Uganda's forest definition is based on activity data which looks at the time series data sets of the years 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015 and historical data available for emission factors. The scope<sup>3</sup> will focus on deforestation, conservation and Afforestation/Re-Afforestation with the hope in the future to include degradation, soils, fires, all gases and all pools with availability of data and advancement in technology. The meeting was requested to agree on the approach used to define Uganda's Forest Definition, Scope and scale.

**2. The Proposed Scope Uganda's Reference Level**

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<sup>2</sup> The forest definition presented at the NCCAC meeting had been discussed by the MRV taskforce, endorsed by the NTC and later adopted by the NCCAC.

<sup>3</sup> The National scale was also discussed by the MRV taskforce, endorsed by the NTC and later the NCCAC

Meeting was informed that the guiding principal is that national Reference Level (or levels) can be developed in a stepwise manner, e.g., start only with a certain activity. By applying the stepwise approach, meeting was informed that Uganda's initial submission of a reference level will consider activities for which data is available and the country has capacity to immediately start monitoring them.

### **3. Activities that have been considered**

Meeting was informed that Uganda's initial national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) will have the following three activities:

- a. Reducing emissions from deforestation - mainly measured and monitored in terms of forest area loss.
- b. Conservation of forest carbon stocks - mainly measured and monitored in terms of protected forests under jurisdiction of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). This may include some elements of forest restoration or enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- c. Sustainable management of forests that will initially monitor afforestation / reforestation but will eventually include controlled extraction of forest products (e.g., timber) mainly in tropical high forests under National Forestry Authority (NFA).

### **4. Carbon Pools that have been considered**

Meeting was informed that Uganda is considering both above ground and below ground biomass in its initial submission of FREL/FRL and that the decision is based on resources, data and technical capacity that Uganda has at time of submitting its initial FREL/FRL. Further that Uganda has intention to include other carbon pools and there are ongoing efforts to mobilize resources and building capacity undertake this additional scope of work.

### **5. Gases for Uganda's FRL**

Meeting was informed that Uganda's initial submission of FRL will only consider CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **6. Historical Reference Period**

Meeting was informed that; i) construction of a reference level among other things includes choice of a *historical reference period*; ii) reference period is the span of time during which emissions taking place in the past will be estimated; iii) such time period is based on a combination of factors including data availability and the relevance of the past as a predictor of the future. Meeting was further informed that on this basis, a 15 year rolling reference period is considered an appropriate representation of the dynamics and a good predictor of the future.

### **Decision requested**

The team requested that the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) to take decision on the Methodological Approach used to complete the preparation and submission Uganda's forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) proposals.

### **Feedback from the NCCAC on Agenda Item 4, 5 and 6.**

The meeting expressed gratitude for the presentation on the technical elements of the national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL), recalling the previous presentations on some of the building blocks from the national technical committee's recommendations which have enhanced understanding of this task.

The following clarifications<sup>4</sup> requests were made and responses provided as follows:

- a. **Question / Issue:** The commitments by the country are achievable if we as policy makers can remain committed and discourage the de-gazetting of Urban forests.  
**Response:** *It is a requirement by the UNFCCC to have the FREL/FRL submitted in tonnes of Carbon dioxide.*
- b. **Question / Issue:** The government is implementing a community development policy but there are no messages to be passed to the communities with regard to environment.  
**Response:** *Maps showing deforestation trends in the country were displayed and explanation for the need for action to reverse the rate of deforestation was discussed.*
- c. **Question / Issue:** Isn't there sequestration happening on NFA land and private land?  
**Response:** *The afforestation efforts are quite negligible given the high rate of deforestation that has been happening in the country.*
- d. **Question / Issue:** The graph presented show that the emissions are lower from 2010-2015 yet deforestation was still taking place?  
**Response:** *The highest rate of deforestation takes place on private land. Between the years 2010-2015 there was little forest area remaining for deforestation.*
- e. **Question / Issues:** There are conflicting land use types in the country. Are the guidelines for planning of land use?

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<sup>4</sup> Clarification was made by the Alternate Focal Point assisted by other Secretariat and FAO staff.

**Response:** *The guidelines are in place. The challenge is that of awareness and enforcement.*

**Decision taken:**

The meeting endorsed the Methodological Approach for Uganda's forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) proposals and recorded it as:

***The 6<sup>th</sup> National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) sitting at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel Entebbe from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 deliberated, agreed and endorsed the Methodological Approach of a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) for Uganda's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) programme as per recommendation of the National Technical Committee (NTC) meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Specifically, the NCCAC endorsed:***

- a. Use of a historical rolling average being informed by the available data on historical forest change.***
- b. Use of a 15 years Reference period for the current period (2000 to 2015).***
- c. Activities to be monitored both on private land and protected areas will include - Deforestation, Conservation and Sustainable forest management of forests.***

*Note: Details are provided in the minutes of this meeting and the technical paper "Uganda's Forest Reference Level" dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016.*

## **4 PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND DAY**

### **4.1 Agenda item 7: Opening of the second day of the 6<sup>th</sup> NCAAC meeting**

The second day of the 6<sup>th</sup> NCAAC meeting was co-chaired by the Mr. Paul Mafabi, the Director, Environmental Affairs representing the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Ms. Anne Martinussen, the Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, UN-REDD Africa, representing the UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda.

#### **Opening Remarks by the Chair (MWE)**

On behalf of the MWE, the Director of Environment Affairs welcomed all the members to the meeting and recognized the contribution of UNDP to the REDD Process spearheaded by the Ministry of Water and Environment. He thanked the FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat and other partners for the progress that has been made so far in implementing the National REDD+

Readiness Phase intended to deliver the following elements: (a) A National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan; (b) A National Forest Baseline Scenario (Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level) (FREL/FRLs); (c) a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); and (d) a Safeguards Information System (SIS) for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities. The Director applauded the progress on finalisation of initial Forest Baseline Scenario (Reference Level) for the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme in Uganda. He noted that it takes up to 11 months of reviews and technical assessment before final acceptance and Uganda aims at submitting its initial Forest Baseline Scenario (FRELs/FRLs) by late 2016 or early 2017 to the UNFCCC with anticipated acceptance by the end of 2017 which is a great achievement. He wished all the members fruitful deliberations.

#### **Opening Remarks by the Co-Chair (UNDP)**

On behalf of United Nations Country Representative of UNDP, Ms. Anne Martinussen noted that the UN-REDD was launched in 2008 by FAO, UNDP and UNEP and that currently 64 partner countries of which 24 are in Africa are active in the UN-REDD Programme. She informed the meeting that Uganda's UN-REDD National Programme Document was approved by the UN-REDD policy board in 2014 and was subsequently signed by the implementing partners (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) in September 2015. This landmark was followed by an inception workshop held in Kampala in October 2015. Meeting was informed that the UN-REDD programme funding is USD 1,798,670 for a period of two years expected to end in July 2017.

She emphasized that the UN-REDD National Programme Goal for REDD is to enable Uganda to be ready for REDD+ implementation, including development of necessary institutions, policies, instruments and capacities, in a collaborative and leveraging way with other REDD+ readiness partners. She informed the meeting that UN-REDD National Programme will complement the REDD+ activities of the other development partners i.e. the World Bank (FCPF) and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and deliver the following outcomes:

- a. A transformational national REDD+ strategy is designed through substantial multi-sectorial technical and policy dialogue, including robust policy options and measures, mainstreamed and anchored in national development vision, planning and framework (UNDP).
- b. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is designed and set up, with appropriate Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions (FAO).

- c. Subnational implementation of the REDD+ national strategy is prepared and facilitated through an “integrated landscape management” approach, building on a comprehensive set of analytical work, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders, and early actions (UNEP).

In her concluding remark, she thanked the Government of Uganda for the progress so far and the excellent collaboration with the UN-REDD Partners during the implementation of the UN-REDD National Programme.

**4.2 Agenda item 8: Presentation and consideration of REDD+ Secretariat’s Annual Report for the financial year 2015-2016 (FY2015/2016) and a report on action points of the 5<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting**

**Progress Report:** The Uganda REDD+ Secretariat Annual Report and report on progress of implementation of actions point from the 5<sup>th</sup> NCCAC was presented by Mr. Valence Arineitwe, Senior Forest Officer, on behalf of the National REDD+ Focal Point. In his presentation (full record of the presentation is attached as Appendix 4), NCCAC participants were informed that the National REDD+ Programme is supported by three development partners namely, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank’s, the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), UN-REDD Collaborative Programme, and the government of Uganda (GoU). He informed the meeting about the status of the implementation of the R-PP components and requested the 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting to note the following progress implementation progress as of 30.09.2016 (Table 1).

**Table 1: Status of implementation of the REDD+ Components**

R-PP Components	R-PP Sub-components	Status of implementation (September 30, 2016)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Significant Progress
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Progressing well, Participatory Structures ongoing
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Ongoing (as its elements are embedded in sub-components 2b. and 2c, and Component 3).
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Ongoing; Synthesis report completed and draft Options report prepared
	2c. Implementation Framework	On-going
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Procurement of the Consultant ongoing
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		Significant Progress. Task nearly complete. Preliminary FERLs/FELs

R-PP Components	R-PP Sub-components	Status of implementation (September 30, 2016)
		produced...scheduled for endorsement by NCCAC
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	Progressing well, as part of Component 3 above
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Progressing well, as part of Component 3 above

The meeting was informed that by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, approximately 70% of the R-PP budget had been mobilized (approximately USD 7.59m), while USD 3.75m was approved by FCPF Participants Committee as additional support. By 30<sup>th</sup> September, approximately 80% of the budget was committed and approximately 50% disbursed or spent.

Implementation of Action Points: The Senior Forest Officer presented the (1) Actionable Points of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Climate Change Policy Committee (CCPC) on matters related to the National REDD+ Programme; and (2) Actionable Points of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) on matters related to the National REDD+ Programme (Full record of the presentation on the actionable points are attached as Appendix 4).

#### 4.3 **Agenda Item 9: Presentation and consideration of Mid-Term Review findings and request for No-Cost Extension for UN-REDD National Programme**

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the internal Mid-Term Review of the UN-REDD National Programme was presented by Team Leader of the Mid-Term Review exercise (Ms. Anne Martinussen (Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, UN-REDD Africa), on behalf of the UN-REDD National Programme partners. The following are key highlights of the interim report that were presented.

##### **1. National Programme Goal**

The Goal of the UN-REDD National Programme in Uganda is to Enable Uganda to be ready for REDD+ implementation, including development of necessary institutions, policies, instruments and capacities, in a collaborative and leveraging way with other REDD+ readiness partners.

##### **2. National Programme Outcomes**

- a. A transformational national REDD+ strategy is designed through substantial multi-sectorial technical and policy dialogue, including robust policy options and measures, mainstreamed and anchored in national development vision, planning and framework.

- b. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is designed and set up, with appropriate Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) functions.
- c. Subnational implementation of the REDD+ national strategy is prepared and facilitated through an “integrated landscape management” approach, building on a comprehensive set of analytical work, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders, and early actions.

### **3. Objectives of the internal mid-term review**

- a. Assess progress towards the achievement of objectives of the UN-REDD National Programme on the three outcomes led by UNDP, FAO and UNEP as compared to the original timeframe;
- b. Review the UN-REDD National Programme’s original work plan to assess its relevance in the current context and assess the need for revision of project components, project outputs, scope and/or tasks;
- c. Assess and note internal and external reasons for delays; and
- d. Assess relevant risks and assumptions linked to project implementation

### **4. General Progress**

The Interim report highlights the following progress.

- a. FAO had funds available, started work March 2015
- b. Funds in UNDP & UNEP’s accounts in Sept 2015
- c. Recruitments and contracting completed
- d. Work stations and procurement of equipment completed
- e. Inception workshop: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with 80 participants from 15 districts & Minister of MWE
- f. Work plans and budgets revised and approved accordingly
- g. Last staff member reported to work in October 2016
- h. The UN-REDD Programme is helping expedite the implementation of the R-PP by enhancing the capacity of the secretariat through the invaluable competence and expertise of the recruited staff.
- i. The Programme compliments activities by the other development partners such as policy dialogues and capacity building.
- j. There are joint planning and coordination missions for the different implementing and development partners.
- k. The joint internal Mid-Term Review (MTR) also noted that the implementation of the programme is in line with the National Programme Document (NPD)’s international standards; and that there is high political support and high expectation from stakeholders.



- l. The Programme seeks to integrate REDD+ issue into national planning and budgeting systems and strengthen participatory structures at sub-national level for ownership in order to ensure sustainability.

## **5. Key conclusions and recommendations**

### **5.1 Conclusions**

- a. MTR ranked overall progress at outcomes level as satisfactory despite some delays.
- b. Variation of level of achievement between agencies was noted (FAO being on track with kick-start funds). The percentage budget expenditure varies across agencies, but is lower than anticipated due to delays.
- c. Coordination between UN-REDD, FCPF and ADC was found to be highly satisfactory and these efforts should be maintained, especially at national level.
- d. The MTR notes that stakeholder engagement is on-going and as this element is critical there is need to ensure that planned work on consultations and engagement take place.
- e. No national REDD+ web portal or platform to access and share general information on REDD+ with stakeholders exists. The MTR recommends to the national REDD+ Secretariat that a concerted effort is made to decide on type and design of web tool so as to improve public access to information.

### **5.2 Recommendation by MTR**

- a. In regards to the UNEP component of the NP, the MTR recommends a shift of focus from developing a sub-national REDD+ strategy to developing a roadmap for sub-national implementation.
- b. The MTR recommends that the initial study on economic valuation of Uganda forests and its contribution to the national economy be reviewed by all relevant stakeholders to focus on producing a National Forest Account, which may facilitate uptake by national policy and decision makers.
- c. The MTR recommends continuing efforts to mobilize resources for the implementation phase, building on the political momentum the process has generated so far and leveraging on on-going support from national and international development partners to ensure long-term sustainability and to minimize the gap between the readiness and the implementation phases.
- d. The MTR recommends that mechanisms for implementation of the IUCN-developed national Gender Road map for REDD+ be put in place and that the UN-REDD Gender expert supports the national team in this aspect.
- e. The MTR recommends the Programme equip policy and decision makers with practical tools & communication packages that can be used to influence the different constituencies and other government structures anticipated to play a significant part in the implementation of REDD+.

Over-all, the joint internal mid-term review notes that given the delays experienced in starting the UN-REDD National Programme in Uganda and the level of progress achieved to date, the National Programme needs more time to complete the planned activities. In this regards, the IMTR recommends a no-cost extension to the Programme of six to eleven (6-11) months, depending on the opportunities for extension and also of the progress taking place early 2017. This will take the completion date from July 2017 to December 2017 or up to June 2018, and coincide with Government planning and financial cycle. Detailed presentation on the IMTR Findings is provided in Appendix 5.

In her conclusion, the Team Leader of the Joint IMTR requested the 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting to:

- a. Take note of the Internal Mid Term Review findings, conclusion and recommendations
- b. Endorse the recommendation for the no-cost extension for the UN-REDD programme for period ending 2017 to enable completion of the RPP components.

4.4 **Agenda Item 10: Presentation and Consideration and approval of the FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat's Work plans and budgets for the FY2016/17) for (a) FCPF (b) ADC (c) GoU (d) UN-REDD National Programme 2017 WP**

This agenda item was jointly presented by Lead Technical Adviser (Mr. Alex Muhweezi) on behalf of the National REDD Focal Point covering the components funded by World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Government of Uganda (GoU) funding streams; and by the UNDP's International Technical Specialist (Dr. Tasila Banda) on UN-REDD National Programme component work plan and budget respectively.

**Presentation on for consideration and approval of Work Plans and Budgets for the FY2016/17 (a) FCPF (b) ADC (c) GoU:**

In his presentation Mr. Alex Muhweezi (LTA) shared that the government of Uganda has received funding from the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF), the Austrian Development Cooperation, the UN-REDD Programme and it continues to receive funding from the government of Uganda as well. Furthermore, in May 2016, the twenty-first meeting (PC21) of the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) considered Uganda Mid-term Report and Request for Additional funding – and decided to allocate additional US\$ 3.75 million to continue with its preparation for REDD+ Readiness. Tables 2 and 3 below outlines the R-PP outputs and deliverables for the period 2016/2017 as well as the budgets for the R-PP components.

**Table 2: R-PP outputs and deliverables for 2016/17**

Component	RPP output	Deliverable 2016/17
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Component	RPP output	Deliverable 2016/17
<b>Coordination and monitoring of REDD+ Readiness Process</b>	National Readiness arrangement management activities effectively implemented	Well coordinate RPP implementation Human capacity enhancement in ministries, lead agencies, CSOs and private sector in various REDD+ activities Participation in priority in-country, regional and international meetings REDD+ steering and coordination process (3 REDD+ steering committee meetings, 4 National Technical Committee meetings)
	System for monitoring evaluating REDD+ implementation and over-all REDD+ Process	Effective M&E system for the R-PP implementation. 1 annual Implementation progress and financial reports 2 Semi-annual Implementation progress and financial Reports Quarter Implementation progress and financial Reports 3 Supervisory Missions by WB End of RSP Evaluation
<b>Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback in Readiness Process</b>	Stakeholder engagement structures and processes providing platform for engaging in REDD+ Process.	Defined /established stakeholder engagement structures and processes. Stakeholder participation in the REDD+ process and inputs into the various components of R-PP and in REDD+ Options development.
	Stakeholders informed about REDD+ process and REDD+ options.	REDD+ awareness messages. REDD+ communication and awareness materials (produced and disseminated).
	Mechanism for addressing Grievances and Conflict associated with REDD+ Option	Information on potential Grievances and conflicts associated with REDD+ options. Capacities for managing REDD+ associated Grievances and conflicts Approved tool for managing EDD+ associated Grievances and conflicts (FGRM)
<b>REDD+ Readiness Strategy and SESA</b>	REDD+ Options for Uganda	Validated REDD+ Options for Uganda Agreed institutional set up for REDD+ Strategy implementation
	Framework for managing Social and Environment issues of REDD+ Options	Information on likely Social and Environmental impact of REDD Strategy options implementation documented and integrated in the REDD Strategies. Stakeholder input into the Assessment. Environmental and Social Management Framework for REDD+ Strategy
<b>REDD+ Implementation framework</b>	Benefit sharing arrangements for Uganda	Validated Benefit sharing arrangements for Uganda Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts and governance and safeguards
	National guidelines and standards (including, eligibility criteria) for	Validated National Guidelines, Standards and Modalities for designing and implementing sub-

Component	RPP output	Deliverable 2016/17
	design and implementation of REDD+ demonstration activities or pilots	national or field demonstration REDD+ activities. Monitoring framework for future demonstration activities. Documentation of existing REDD+ demonstration activities Agreed/approved mechanism channeling Carbon funds
	Information on-going REDD+ efforts and demonstration activities or pilots.	Database on ongoing REDD+ programmes/projects in Uganda.
<b>National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources</b>	Reference scenario for Uganda	Capacity for developing National Reference Scenario among technical staff. Tools and capacity for use of tools for linking and harmonizing various national databases. Baseline information on deforestation and degradation rates and trends. Uganda's National Reference scenarios.
	Emission levels for Uganda	Capacities for monitoring forest Carbon at local and national levels Baseline information on biomass and carbon stocks in Uganda Agreed National Emissions levels. Agreed historical data.
<b>National Reference Scenario and Inventory of Forest Resources</b>	Uganda's Forest Inventory	Remote Sensing data and Equipment for processing, storing and archiving remote sensing data. Forest Inventory /maps for Uganda. Tools and equipment for field inventory work.

**Table 3: The secretariat budget for the four components of the RPP for the financial year 2016/17 is summarised in the table below**

Component	Output	Annual budget (USD)
<b>Readiness Organisation and consultation</b>	<b>1a.</b> National REDD+ management arrangements	166,958
	<b>1b.</b> Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	694,767
<b>REDD+ strategy preparation</b>	<b>2a.</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance.	959,839
	<b>2b.</b> REDD+ Strategy Options	
	<b>2c.</b> Implementation Framework	
	<b>2d.</b> Social and Environmental	
<b>Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels</b>		N/A

<b>Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards</b>	<b>4a.</b> National Forest Monitoring System. <b>4b.</b> Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	N/A
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**Presentation on for consideration and approval of Work Plan and Budget for the FY2016/17 for UN-REDD:**

The presentation for consideration and approval of the work plan and budget for the period 2016/17 for the UN-REDD National Programme was presented by Dr. Tasila Banda. She shared with the Committee that during the MTR, a few amendments were made in the UNEP activities without necessarily adjusting the original Outputs and actual budgets. She also presented that given the delays and the updated work plan, there is need for a no-cost extension for the UN-REDD national program. Table 4 outlines summary of the Work Plan and Budget for the UN-REDD Programme while the detailed presentation on the UN-REDD 2016/17 Work Plan is provided in Appendix 6 below.

**Table 4: UN-REDD National Programme Work Plan and Budget**

Outcome	Output	Annual budget (USD)
1. A transformational national REDD+ strategy is designed through substantial multi-sectorial technical and policy dialogue, including robust policy options and measures, mainstreamed and anchored in national development vision, planning and framework	<b>1.1</b> The strategy design process is run in a timely manner, respectful to REDD+ readiness principles, with robust technical backstopping and in smooth coordination with all other components of REDD+ readiness	155,045
	<b>1.2</b> The analytical inputs to the national strategy are robust and comprehensive	45,000
	<b>1.3</b> The policy dimension of the strategy is strengthened through policy-level and cross-sectorial dialogue and assessment of options	43,200
	<b>1.4</b> The national REDD+ strategy is fully embedded in, and directly contributes to the national development planning and budgeting processes	20,000
	<b>1.5</b> The national REDD+ strategy enjoys strong international recognition and mobilizes support for the investment phase	80,000
2. Key elements of the NFMS are developed and related national	<b>2.1</b> Field data and relevant supplementary information for the development of emission factors are collected	62,500

capacities are strengthened	and analysed.	
	2.2NFA capacities to systematically monitor forest and land cover/use change (REDD+ activity data) are strengthened	165,000
	2.3NFA has the capacities and tools to store, update and disseminate REDD+ information	60,000
	2.4Government of Uganda has the capacities to report on its GHG emissions from the forestry sector and a draft GHG-I report	35,000
3. Subnational implementation of the REDD+ national strategy is prepared and facilitated through an "integrated landscape management" approach, building on a comprehensive set of analytical work, engagement and capacity building of stakeholders, and early actions	3.1Understanding of land use systems, rightful access to and spatial-temporal resource use patterns at subnational level enhanced through analytical work at selected representative landscapes	120,000
	3.2 Subnational stakeholders effectively engaged through consultations and capacity building for the sustainable implementation of the REDD+ national strategy	135,000
	3.3 Subnational REDD+ implementation strategy/roadmap prepared and fed into the REDD+ national strategy development process	100,000

The joint presentations concluded by requesting the 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC to:

- Take note of the proposed activities and deliverables
- Approve the REDD Secretariat Annual Report for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and all work plans for the year 2016/2017.
- Endorse the work plan and budget for UN-REDD National Programme for 2017.

### **Feedback from the NCCAC**

The participants of the NCCAC expressed gratitude for the presentation of the Mid-term Review Report for the UN-REDD National Programme (NP) and request for No-Cost Extension for UN-REDD National Programme; for joint presentation of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the government of Uganda (GoU) funding streams' work plans and budgets; and the UN-REDD NP work plan and budget, and took note of the detailed insights they provided.

The following issues were raised and responses and clarifications provided:

- Question / Issues:** Studies on SESA take a bit of time but as seen in the presentation is still at procurement stage. Is there a timeline within which this report will be out?  
**Response:** *The first iteration will hopefully be produced by March and by June will be into the REDD strategy.*

- b. **Question / Issues:** What are the deliverables in the 6 months no extension period for the UN-REDD Programme?

***Response:** The UN-REDD Programme is supplementing the FCPF work, with delays in the completion of the FCPF, the point of entry for the UN-REDD outcomes are also delayed. This extension will allow the consultants to complete their work.*

- c. **Question / Issues:** The gender strategy for REDD+ should be reviewed by the ministry of Gender and they should take lead on gender issues.

***Response:** The MWE will forward the REDD Gender Strategy with request for implementations support by the Lead ministry.*

- d. **Question / Issues:** The secretariat received funding in May and has never utilised it to date. This will raise queries among policy makers about its capacity to absorb funds!

***Response:** The World Bank will be engaged to fast track availing of the resources and feedback given to the NCCAC.*


#### **Decisions taken**

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting approved the REDD+ Secretariat Annual Report for the Financial Year 2015/2016 and work plan for the year 2016/2017 and encouraged the Secretariat to expedite the operationalisation of the additional US\$ 3.75 million that was allocated in May 2016, by the twenty-first meeting (PC21) of the Participants Committee (PC) of the FCPF to continue with Uganda's preparation for REDD+ Readiness.
2. The 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting took note of the Mid-Term Review findings made in the assessment of the UN-REDD National Programme and encouraged the Secretariat with the support of the UN Agencies to expedite the implementation of the National Programme;
3. The 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting endorsed the request for a formal or informal no-cost extension request for the UN-REDD National Programme for Uganda for period ending 2017 to enable completion of the Programme's components.
4. The 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting endorsed the UN-REDD National Programme work plan and budget for 2017.

## 5 CLOSING REMARKS


On behalf of the MWE, Mr. Paul Mafabi (Chairperson of the 6<sup>th</sup> NCCAC meeting) thanked all the NCCAC members for their active participation in the two-day meeting and for all the valuable ideas and suggestions to improve implementation/delivery and the overall performance of the Uganda REDD+ National Programme.

Signed:



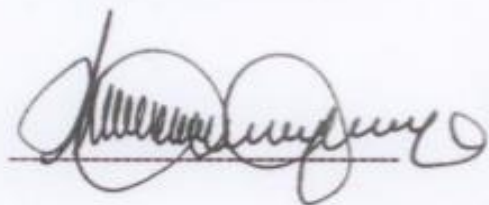
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NCCAC Meeting Chair



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NCCAC Meeting Co-Chair



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NCCAC Meeting Secretary



**Annex 1: NCCAC Members in attendance during the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Climate Change Advisory Committee convened to consider matters on REDD+**

No.	NAME	INSTITUTION
1.	Moses Ssonko	MoFPED
2.	Kizito Simon	M.O.L.G.
3.	Rukundo Vincent	O.P.M
4.	Rwomushana Racheal	MOJCA
5.	Muyanja Hatimu	MEMD
6.	Charles Mutemo	Ministry of Works and Transport
7.	Semakula Ruth	CCD/MWE
8.	Festus Luboyera	National Meteorological Authority
9.	Sanyu Jane Mpagi	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
10.	Dennis Kavuma	Private sector
11.	Margaret Lomonyang	Indigenous groups
12.	Ofwono Opondo	Uganda Media Centre
13.	Adonia Bintora	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
14.	Muyambi Jotham	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
15.	Paul Buyerah Musamali	National Forestry Authority (NFA)
16.	Paul Mafabi	DEA/MWE
17.	Okiror Stephen Fred	Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities

**NCCAC Members absent with apology**

No.	NAME	INSTITUTION
1.	Achilles Byaruhanga	CSO (Local/National)
2.	Ambrose Agona (PhD)	National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)
3.	Chebet Maikut	CCD/MWE
4.	David Duli	CSO (International)
5.	Edith Kateme-Kasajja	National Planning Authority (NPA)
6.	George Owoyesigire	Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities
7.	James Baanabe	MEMD
8.	James Lutalo	Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities
9.	Koma Stephen	M.O.L.G.
10.	Margaret Adata	Forestry Sector Department (FSSD)
11.	Michael Mugisa	National Forestry Authority (NFA)
12.	Muwaya Stephen	MAAIF
13.	Muyanja Hatimu	MEMD
14.	Namanya B. Didacus	M.O.H.
15.	Okiror Stephen Fred	Ministry of Tourism Wildlife and Antiquities
16.	Pamela Komujuni	O.P.M.
17.	Pierre Andriamampianina	ENR / Donor Partners Representatives
18.	Rukundo Vincent	O.P.M
19.	Semakula Ruth	CCD/MWE

20.	Tom Okurut	NEMA
21.	Vincent Byandamira	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
22.	Margaret A. Mwebesa	MWE (FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat)

**Annex 2: Approved Agenda for the 6th NCCAC meeting to consider issues related to REDD+**

Time	Agenda Item	Responsibility
	<b>DAY ONE- 24TH NOVEMBER, 2016</b>	
Morning	1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda	Permanent Secretary MWE
	2. International and Ugandan context – why construct a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) and its linkages to national policies	FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat
	3. Overview of national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) and its components and why Uganda wishes to construct a FREL/FRL	FAO
Afternoon	4. Overview Data for FREL/FRL (AD and EF)	NFA
	5. Presentation of suitable national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) options	FAO
	6. Decision on submitting Uganda's national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) proposals	
	<i>Closure of Day One session</i>	
	<b>DAY TWO- 25TH NOVEMBER 2016</b>	
Morning	7. Opening of the second day of the 6 <sup>th</sup> NCAAC meeting	FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat
	8. Presentation and consideration of the Progress of REDD+ Process and report on action points of the previous meeting	FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat/FAO
	9. Presentation and consideration of Mid-term Review Report for the UN-REDD National Programme (NP) and request for No-Cost Extension for UN-REDD National Programme	UN-REDD Team
Afternoon	10. Presentation and Consideration and approval of Secretariat Work plans and budgets for the FY2016/17) for a) FCPF b) ADC c) GoU d) UN-REDD National Programme 2017 WP	FSSD/National REDD+ Secretariat

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1: Presentation: International and Uganda Context of FREL/FRL**

**Appendix 2: Overview of FREL/FRL development process for Uganda**

**Appendix 3: Overview Data for national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) (activity data (AD) and emission factors (EF)); Presentation of suitable national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) options; Decision on submitting Uganda's national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) proposals**

**Appendix 4: Presentation: REDD+ Secretariat 2015/16 Annual Report and Progress report on Action Points**

**Appendix 5: Presentation: Findings of the Internal Mid-Term Review for the UN-REDD National Programme**

**Appendix 6: Presentation: REDD+ Secretariat 2016/17 Annual Work Plan and Budget**

**Appendix 7: Presentation: UN-REDD National Programme 2017 Work Plan and Budget**