

INFO BRIEF

UGANDA REDD+ STRATEGY



Key Messages

Preparation of Uganda's REDD+ Strategy is guided by the Country's Development Goals and aspirations and International Climate Change Agenda:

- Vision 2040 for Uganda: A transformational Ugandan Society from peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years.
- National Development Plan II: is designed to propel Uganda towards middle income status by 2020 in line with aspirations of Vision 2014.
- Sector Development Plans and Policies, e.g. National Forest Plan, Water and Environment Sector Investment Plan (under preparation), Energy, Agriculture and lands, Uganda's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (NEMA 2017).
- International Commitments: Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC), Bonn Challenge (2.5 million ha restored) and AFR100 commitments.

INTRODUCTION

Uganda has seen a rapid decline in its forest cover. To address this, Uganda embarked on a REDD+ readiness process in 2008 with substantive financial support from Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which was complemented by financing from the Norwegian Government, the Austrian Development Corporation (ADC) and the UN-REDD Programme.

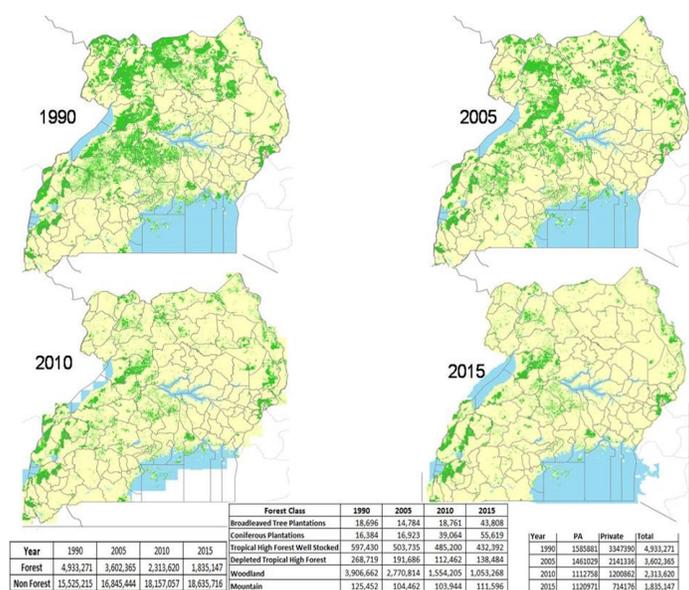
By September 2017, Uganda has completed consultations on various analytical studies that contributed towards the development of 4 elements in accordance with the Warsaw framework. These include: i) adopting a National REDD+

Strategy and Action Plan; and, ii) developing a Forest Reference Level which was submitted to UNFCCC in January 2017. Uganda has also made good progress towards: i) the design of a robust and transparent National Forest Monitoring System with Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) functionality; and, ii) setting up REDD+ national management arrangements, including proper environmental and social safeguards in a System for Monitoring and Reporting Safeguards (Safeguards Information System).

THE CHALLENGE

Uganda has the second highest deforestation rates globally. Between 1990 and 2015, natural forest cover reduced from 30% to 10% of total land area. Rate of deforestation reached the peak of about 200,000ha per year in 2005 – 2010.

The highest rate of deforestation was outside Protected Areas (PA). In addition, approximately 80% Natural Forests on privately owned land and 30% in forest and wildlife reserves was lost. Figure 1. Maps showing the trends in forest cover loss between 1990-2015



impact of forest loss in Uganda is immense. With the high deforestation rates, Uganda is losing its very high biodiversity value. For example, Uganda's forests have about 1,592 species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles, of which 1.1% are endemic in Uganda; and home to 4,900 species of vascular plants. It is also expected that deforestation will impact on tourism as about 61% of Uganda's tourism income is generated by forest based national parks.

UGANDA'S RESPONSE

To address the above-mentioned challenges, Uganda has designed a socially and environmentally viable national strategy for REDD+ in accordance with the Warsaw framework. Going forward, the Government of Uganda has received additional FCPF funds to address gaps in REDD+ Readiness as well as to prepare elements required to meet the eligibility criteria for REDD+ results-based payments.

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY

Through consultations with various stakeholders at both national and sub-national level, eight (8) options were validated based on their abatement potential as well as the anticipated cost-effectiveness during the investment phase. Initial estimation for the implementation of each of the validated strategic options as well as their abatement potential. The eight options are summarized in following table:

Strategy	Sub-Strategy
Climate smart agriculture	SLM and agroforestry practices; Rainwater harvesting with collection tank and drip irrigation; Greenhouse cultivation of vegetables;
Sustainable fuelwood and (commercial) charcoal use	Small-holder and community bioenergy woodlots; Small-holder and community poles and timber plantations; Improved charcoal kilns linked to bioenergy woodlots;
Large-scale commercial timber plantations;	Commercial eucalyptus transmission pole and timber plantation; Commercial pine pole and saw-log plantation; Improved charcoal kilns linked to plantation sites;
Rehabilitation of natural forests in the landscape	Closures of deforested areas for natural forest regeneration; Restoration of degraded protected natural forest (i.e. national parks and forest reserves and forests on privately owned land); Devolution of forest management through PFM and similar set-ups; Traditional/customary forest management practices;
Energy efficient cooking stoves	For fuelwood; For charcoal; For biogas;
Integrated wildfire management	Integrated wildfire management.
Livestock rearing in the Cattle Corridor	Livestock breeding programme; Establishment of drinking water dams for livestock; Establishment of fodder agroforestry plantations.
Strengthening of policy enforcement in REDD+ implementation	Strengthening of policy enforcement in REDD+ implementation

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

Uganda has identified strategic investment opportunities for REDD+ implementation. This includes Uganda's Forest Investment Plan (FIP), which was endorsed by the Forest Investment Program Sub-Committee of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) in June 2017. Uganda's FIP will promote the sustainable use of forest resources, protection of gazetted forests and creation of incentives for maintaining natural forests on private land and improve forestry policy performance.

Pilot projects will provide proof of concept at landscape level for models that avoid deforestation and forest degradation, both within and outside protected forests, restore forest landscapes and biodiversity corridors, and contribute to socio-economic development. Activities at the landscape level seek to build on approaches that have demonstrated success, for example in tackling land degradation, restoring forest cover and protecting conservation forests. These approaches recognize that local stakeholders are central in finding solutions to forest loss and degradation, and need to be engaged fully in the planning, implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management approaches.

The landscapes selected for inclusion in the FIP are aligned with Uganda's Water Management Zones (WMZs) and will address forest landscape management in three of the four WMZs: Lake Albert, Lake Kyoga and Upper Nile. Specific catchments and sub-catchments will be targeted to explore synergies across the national and landscape levels, as well as across sectors, and to demonstrate how to scale up public, private and other resources and activities to achieve transformational change.

In addition, the country is integrating the strategy into broader national vision, planning and development frameworks (Vision 2040 and NDP II), as well as positioning REDD+ as part of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement.

There is evidence of forest trends in the privately owned and protected areas which provides a great basis for a business case and opportunity for private investment in terms of potential interventions that will help reduce the rate of deforestation and forest degradation.

The Government of Uganda in October 2017 received The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

additional funding from FCPF grant (US\$ 3.750m) to address gaps in REDD+ Readiness as well as to prepare elements required to meet the eligibility criteria for REDD+ results-based payments. Additional activities will include:

- ✚ Development of the National Forest Monitoring Information System and the Safeguards.
- ✚ Improvement of the current Forest Reference Level.
- ✚ Development of the implementation plan for REDD+.
- ✚ Continue engaging stakeholders, especially from the high impact sectors (Agriculture, Lands, Energy, Infrastructure and Water) to ensure an integrated approach to REDD+ and continuous engagement of the Members of Parliament.
- ✚ Organize targeted donor tables meetings including the private sector to discuss potential support for the REDD+ strategy. In addition, develop proposals and concept notes for resource mobilization and investments in REDD+.

Uganda is currently poised to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation and would require support from the international community.



Acknowledgements: UNDP/UN-REDD and REDD+ Uganda



The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries