

UNFCCC COP23 Side Event

Mangroves in the Tropics: Realizing their Potential for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Room 4, Bonn Zone

13 November 2017



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Milestones in REDD+ under the UNFCCC

- Since COP 11 (Montreal, 2005) when the proposal by governments of PNG and Costa Rica on possible approaches for addressing emissions from deforestation was taken onto the UNFCCC agenda, many milestones achieved
- Important milestones for REDD-plus in Bali (**COP 13**, decision 2/CP.13) and Cancun (**COP 16**, decision 1/CP.16). Emergence of a work programme and framework for REDD-plus
- At COP 19, **7 decisions** adopted as the **Warsaw Framework for REDD-plus** – providing the methodological guidance and financing framework
- **COP 21** (Paris) adopted **3 decisions** – completing the work on methodological guidance
- The policy work is now complete -providing the framework and guidance for implementation on the ground and for financing entities to provide adequate support to countries implementing REDD-plus. Many developing countries are already demonstrating their REDD-plus actions and meeting their commitments



Role of forests in climate change mitigation under the Convention

- ❑ Even before REDD-plus, forests was recognized by the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol
- ❑ Role of terrestrial ecosystems, including forests under Convention:
 - **Article 4.1(d):** All Parties shall ... promote sustainable management, promote and cooperate in conservation and enhancement ... of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases (GHGs) ... including biomass, forests ...
- ❑ Role of forests as part of mitigation actions under the Kyoto Protocol by both developed countries (Art. 3.3 and 3.4) and developing countries (Art. 12, CDM afforestation/reforestation)
- ❑ The UNFCCC process through the COP in various decisions has:
 - Acknowledged the contribution of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to global anthropogenic GHG emissions;
 - Recognized the complexity of the problem with multiple drivers;
 - Affirmed the urgent need to take further meaningful actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in developing countries.



Forests in the Paris Agreement

❑ A stand alone Article: Recognition of the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation (**Article 5**)

❑ **Scope**

- A reference to global forests as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases (referring to Article 4.1(d) of the Convention)
 - Encouraging Parties to take action and support efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, i.e. continue with the implementation of REDD+, or consider alternative policy approaches such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches, and promote associated non-carbon benefits.
- ❑ Sends a **strong political signal** on the importance of ecosystems, in particular forests, for the implementation of the new Agreement
- ❑ Reaffirms and recognizes the **ongoing mitigation efforts** by Parties and/or other stakeholders in the forest sector. Limited operational implications



Role of Mangroves in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- ❑ Developing countries demonstrating their REDD-plus implementation through submissions of reference levels and results to the process.
- ❑ To date, 26 submissions of reference levels (covering African, Asian and Latin American countries). 4 countries have submitted the results of their REDD-plus actions. All submissions under go technical assessments by LULUCF experts.
- ❑ In their submissions, countries provide their forest definition. A number of countries have included mangroves as part of definition on forests. Mangroves are recognized as a forest type by these countries and are included in the activity and emission data used in establishing their reference levels and reporting on results. These countries are planning and implementing actions to reduce deforestation in and promote conservation of mangrove forests
- ❑ REDD-plus also requires the implementation of other elements that could promote the conservation and sustainable management of mangroves:
 - Addressing the safeguards – e.g. transparent governance, conserving natural forests and biodiversity, stakeholder participation and involvement;
 - Establish a national forest monitoring system that monitors all types of forests (including mangroves);
 - Addressing drivers of deforestation in the national strategy
 - Promoting co-benefits and non-carbon benefits (mangroves generate many of such benefits for both ecosystem and communities)
 - Principles of REDD-plus also recognizes the importance of taking into account adaptation needs as part of implementation
- ❑ Importance of adequate support – finance, capacity building, technology, enabling institutions and policy



Thank you for your attention!

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