

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE ARTICLE "NEW APPROACH CRUCIAL TO CHECK EMISSIONS"

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of which Tanzania is a party, recognizes various mitigation and adaptation options including forestry activities. The 13th Session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in Bali, December 2007 made a decision to, among others, request:

- a) Developed countries to further strengthen support on capacity-building, facilitate the transfer of technology to improve, inter alia, data collection, estimation of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, monitoring and reporting, and address the institutional needs of developing countries to estimate and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- b) Parties to explore a range of actions; identify options and undertake efforts, including demonstration activities, to address the drivers of deforestation relevant to their national circumstances, with a view to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and thus enhancing forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests.
- c) Developed countries to mobilize resources to support efforts in relation to the actions to be implemented. This being in line with the commitments of developed countries under the Convention and, of course their historical responsibility to the climate change problem globally.

Accordingly, the Government of Tanzania embarked into the REDD readiness Phase. To start with, a National REDD Task force was formed and mandated to oversee the National REDD Strategy Development Process as well as coordinating the REDD Readiness phase in the country.

For the last two years, under the Tanzania-Norway Climate Change Partnership, the National REDD Task Force has been conducting an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process that would lead to the production of Tanzania's 1st Draft National REDD+ Strategy. Various activities have been done since then including development of National REDD Framework through multi stakeholder consultations; commissioning ten CSOs at a level of US\$ 18 million (over 20 billion Tanzanian shillings) to implement REDD demonstration projects whose lessons are already contributing to the Strategy development process; showcasing lessons from the process at national and international level; zonal workshops to identify key issues for inclusion into the strategy; establishing a REDD website (www.reddtz.org) to ensure wider coverage of REDD issues and that the REDD strategy development process is shared widely; and establishing a REDD newsletter which is published quarterly for the same purpose of sharing with the public, including CSOs, the strategy development process. The process is still on-going and the Draft National REDD+ Strategy will soon be released and public comments, through various ways, will be sought and accommodated accordingly.

This is to inform the public that the Government is not denying public access to the Strategy development process contrary to what was reported in the Article "New approach crucial to check emissions" which appeared in the Citizen of Tuesday, 07 December 2010. This article is misleading and not based on actual facts. Instead, the public has been getting opportunity to participate and provide comments to the entire process. CSOs have had very good opportunity because they enjoy the support of more than 20 billion Tanzanian shillings to implement demonstration projects for the aim of contributing lessons to the process.

It is therefore the very intention of the government to share the document with the public as soon as it is ready. This will be done as part of the planned consultations to further obtain inputs from the wider audience. It should also be noted that there has been a series of active consultations right from the on-set of this initiative in Tanzania. Relevant stakeholders at different levels have been consulted; the consultations has involved government officials, NGOs and local communities to ensure that all key and pertinent issues to setting the scene for REDD are considerably addressed.

The Outreach plan for the REDD initiative activities was accordingly uploaded in the national website to ensure that a wider audience within and outside the country are informed. All the key REDD documents can also be accessed through this website. Regular REDD Newsletters and Leaflets are being produced and disseminated to the public to help raise awareness on REDD issues in the country.

The Government of Tanzania and the Royal Norwegian Embassy identified the need to undertake in-depth studies and pilot projects in different aspects of REDD. Five thematic research areas were developed and commissioned to public and private institutions for carrying out in-depth studies. Various researchers and NGOs have been taken on board in this process. It is envisaged that the lessons learnt will inform the REDD Strategy development process.

Regarding showcasing of REDD activities during the COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark and COP16 in Cancun, Mexico; efforts were made to involve various stakeholders (including NGOs piloting REDD activities in Tanzania) in preparation of showcasing materials to provide their views. A summary of Progress with regard to development of the National REDD Strategy and inputs from REDD Pilot projects was also prepared and shared during showcasing.

Meanwhile, the preparation of the Draft Strategy is underway; and soon the document will be released. The public will receive a notification in form of Press Release to request for their comments on the Zero Draft Strategy document. The strategy document will also be uploaded on the website and a special edition of the newsletter will be published for the same purpose of sharing with the public, this very important draft strategy document.

More Information Contact Prof. Pius Z. Yanda

Coordinator - National REDD Secretariat for the National REDD Task Force at;

P.O. Box 35097, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel: +255-22-2410144

Fax: +255-22-2410393 E-mail: ira@ira.udsm.ac.tz