

## Shaping and implementing REDD Partners for SADC

The issue of reducing emissions from deforestation, once a reject on the path to the Marrakech Accords, has returned with a vengeance. By now, myriads of public and private organizations and prominent individuals have become engaged to support negotiations for a viable international agreement and, eventually, REDD implementation. Some significant actors are sketched in the following.

### ***International Actors***

The following organizations have been selected for being highly suitable for shaping REDD conceptually or implementing REDD pilots form in the field.

### **The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**

FCPF dates back to a June 2007 mandate from the Heiligendamm G8 meeting<sup>1</sup>. The partnership, operational since June, 2008, consists of REDD countries, currently (May 2009) thirty-seven, eleven Annex -I donor countries and the Carbon Fund. The latter unites public and private investors that may eventually purchase carbon credits.

The Readiness Fund, created to build capacity for REDD countries to eventually participate in the carbon market, targets funds of approximately \$ 170 Mio, the Carbon Fund double that amount. With current pledges of only circa \$110 Mio, a funding gap exists. The twelve most recent applicant countries did not receive assurances of financial support and must seek outside funding to prepare for REDD.

Tropical and sub-tropical countries between 35<sup>0</sup> North and South, preferentially with large forest areas and high carbon densities, obtain grants for developing national REDD strategies, establishing an emission reference level and /or develop a system for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV). REDD countries submit project idea notes, so-called R(eadiness)-PINs, and after acceptance, complement these with full R-Plans. After the countries have implemented the readiness plan and are judged mature for REDD, a fraction of them will conclude Emission Reduction Purchase Agreements with the Carbon Fund.

Significantly, the Carbon Fund is not formulated to finance the full costs of designing and implementing the Emission Reductions Programme (ER)<sup>2</sup>. Additional funding must come from the governments own funds, community contributions, bilateral and multilateral assistance, and the private sector. In essence, carbon offset buyers will receive ER at subsidized costs. The FCPF supports not only entire countries, but also sub-national projects. With the international regime still emerging, conflicts may arise if projects produce emission reductions, but the host countries do not meet obligations.

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<sup>1</sup> “We therefore encourage the World Bank, in close cooperation with the G8, developing countries, the private sector, NGO’s and other partners, to develop and implement such a forest carbon partnership as soon as possible.”

<sup>2</sup> An ER Programme is defined as the rights, titles and interests attached to a ton of emission reductions from a REDD activity

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The FCPF envisages a 5-10 year time horizon for both funds. It co-ordinates and cooperates with UN-REDD. Currently, the SADC countries DRC and Madagascar are partners in FCPF.

**The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)**

The joint FAO, UNDP and UNEP programme originated in 2008 at the request of the UN Secretary General<sup>3</sup>. Currently only funded by Norway’s International Climate Change and Forest Initiative with US \$ 53 Mio, UN-REDD supports nine pilot countries with US \$ 3-5 Mio each. The SADC countries DRC, Tanzania and Zambia participate in the “quick start phase”. UN-REDD prioritizes civil society and indigenous people dialogue, monitoring, assessment, reporting and verification (MARV), developing a REDD strategy and institutional capacity building. The programme assigns responsibilities for projects within specific countries so that they match the specific agency competencies<sup>4</sup>.

The agencies jointly deliver an “International Support Function”, by convening, technical and scientific support, and knowledge management. A first product of this function, a technical paper on MARV, envisages monitoring of forests, wood and non-wood forest products and SFM, but, importantly, also of the drivers of deforestation, livelihoods, biodiversity, water and soil conservation, and socio-economic parameters.

UN-REDD carefully avoids detrimental impacts on forest dependent and indigenous people and their livelihoods. To that end, it receives advice from a specifically created Civil Society Advisory Group on Forestry, Livelihoods and Climate Change. .

**The National Forest Programme Facility (NFPF)**

Hosted by, but not formally part of FAO, the NFP-Facility supports active stakeholder participation in designing and implementing National Forest Programmes in developing countries since 2002. Eleven European countries, the EU and USA fund activities that help integrate SFM into poverty reduction strategies, develop consensus on how to address forestry issues at the national level, and translate commitments made at the international level into national forest policy and planning. In a competitive process, grants may go directly to stakeholder groups.

Annual funds amount to US \$ 48 Mio. With the exception of Botswana, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and the islands, all SADC countries are NFP Members and might avail themselves of NFP process, which appears tailor-made for phases 1 and 2 of REDD.

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<sup>3</sup> He declared that the fight against “climate change cannot be won without the world’s forests. This, however, will be a complex and challenging feat. Nonetheless, it is one of the best large-scale investments we can make against climate change that could result in an equally large-scale dividend.”

<sup>4</sup> In Tanzania, for example, FAO supports MARV, UNDP a national governance framework, local capacity to manage REDD and stakeholder support; UNEP co-operates on stakeholder support building.

## **The Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

The CPF, established by ECOSOC in 2001, consists of 14 organizations with substantial competence for forests, among them the Secretariats of the 3 Rio Conventions, of GEF and UNFF, as well as FAO, CIFOR, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, ICRA, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. CPF supports the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests and sustainable forest management. Revitalized recently by worldwide attention on forests and Climate Change, the CPF has just published a Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change. Its key messages buttress REDD architecture:

- SFM provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Mitigation and adaptation should proceed concurrently
- Intersectoral co-operation, economic incentives and the provision of alternate livelihoods are essential for REDD
- Capacity building and governance reform are urgently needed
- Accurate monitoring and assessments helps informed decision-making but requires greater co-ordination at all levels.
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Many CPF Members have REDD programmes. For more detail visit:

<http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/carbofor>

<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/49377/en/> <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/home/en/>

[http://www.gefweb.org/interior.aspx?id=232&ekmense=c580fa7b\\_48\\_126\\_btnlink](http://www.gefweb.org/interior.aspx?id=232&ekmense=c580fa7b_48_126_btnlink)

[http://www.itto.int/en/workshop\\_detail/id=38450000](http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=38450000)

<http://www.cbd.int/forest/redd/>

[http://unfccc.int/methods\\_science/redd/items/4531.php](http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php)

<http://cms.iucn.org/what/issues/climate/>

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/ENVIRONMENT/EXTCARBONFINANCE/0,,contentMDK:21631703~menuPK:5216269~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:4125853,00.html>

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

## **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)**

Succeeding the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), UNFF substitutes to some extent for a global convention on forests, which, up to the present, has been elusive. However, these bodies have compiled eminent work outlining necessities, components and means for sustainable forest management and conservation within sustainable development.

In 2007, UNFF reached its goal of adoption by the UN General Assembly of the “Non – Legally Binding Instrument for all Types of Forests”, the so-called “forest instrument”. It deals with all forest goods and services, but recognizes, in its preamble, the impact of climate change on forest and SFM, as well as the potential contributions of forests to mitigation.

UNFF recognizes four Global Objectives on Forests, contained in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49:

- Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increased efforts to prevent forest degradation
- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people
- Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forest, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
- Reverse the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

These objectives read like a blueprint for REDD<sup>+</sup>. Remarkably, IPF, IFF and UNFF elaborated all aspects of SFM in excruciating detail, but achieved limited practical progress on the ground for lack of financing<sup>5</sup>. Coming from a different direction, with a much more powerful driver and much more momentum, RED now verges on mobilizing, within barely two years, the finances for sustainable forest management and conservation sought in vain since 1995 by UNFF and its predecessors. Cross-fertilization of both processes is urgently needed to preclude that the REDD initiative, not overly populated by forestry experts, will attempt to reinvent the wheel<sup>6</sup> on how to reduce deforestation. Moreover, there is a risk that the carbon services of forests will dominate REDD at the expense of other components of SFM. The architects of REDD might easily overlook that the carbon benefits of forests will only materialize in the full context of sustainable forest management and conservation and include flanking measures in adjoining sectors. Only in this framework will REDD contribute to sustainable development of African and SADC countries.

## Regional Approaches to REDD in Africa

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<sup>5</sup> See Report of the UN Secretary-General on UNFF 8 at <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/235/99/PDF/N0923599.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>6</sup> The African Forest Forum (AFF) has stated that “the current and proposed mechanisms do not appear to address sufficiently the drivers of deforestation and degradation on the continent. Without significant improvements in crop and livestock agriculture, domestic and industrial energy efficiency, wood and non-wood harvesting and processing, and diversification of livelihood options for the poor, measures to reduce deforestation and degradation hold very limited potential in Africa. For REDD or any other mechanism to be effective in Africa it should take into account activities in the full range of Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Uses (AFOLU)

Regional and sub-regional groupings, such as AOSIS, the Alliance of Small Island States, or the “African Group” have been highly effective in climate negotiations. Besides pooling human resources, sharing information and joining forces at the negotiation table, sub-regional groups of countries have advantages in adapting to and mitigating climate change. Knowledge, data, and information about forests care advantageously acquired and shared sub-regionally.

### **Commission des Forêts d’Afrique Central (COMIFAC)**

Pursuant to the 1999 “Yaounde Declaration” on the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa, and the subsequent treaty in 2005, ten countries of the Congo Basin formed COMIFAC, with a common platform for work, the “Plan de Convergence”. With respect to UNFCCC negotiations, ministers resolved that only “a concerted and co-coordinated sub-regional approach of Central African governments supported by bilateral and multilateral partners can ensure that the interests of the sub-region will be taken into account in the post-Kyoto negotiations on the climate”<sup>7</sup>. The Congo Basin Countries have regularly provided high-quality and often innovative input to the negotiations through their submissions to UNFCCC and participation in UNFCCC workshops. They have already secured funding in the form of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (US\$ 300 Mio) and from the African Development Bank in the Congo Basin Forest Fund (£100 Mio). Their latest submission of February 2009 contains a thorough compilation of work necessary to build capacity for REDD and consists of the main areas

- inventory of deforestation and degradation, including analysis of past policy approaches and emission inventories from deforestation and degradation
- elaboration of reference emission levels
- strategy options for combating deforestation and degradation
- implementation framework for REDD
- measures for MARV
- institutional environment
- support for negotiations

While regional and national circumstances differ strongly from those in SADC, the COMIFAC approach to sub-regional coordination of work on REDD appears exemplary. SADC countries form part of the powerful African Group during UNFCCC negotiations<sup>8</sup>.

### **Common Market for East and South Africa (COMESA)**

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<sup>7</sup> Submission from Congo Basin Countries for SBSTA 30 on the needs for technical and institutional capacity building and cooperation

<sup>8</sup> The African Forest Forum (AFF) offers an informal platform on forests and climate change and REDD under <http://www.afforum.org/index.php/About-AFF/Programmes.html>

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One of several African regional economic communities, COMESA has engaged in Climate Change with a “Climate Change Initiative” with the objectives of fostering a common and informed voice for Africa in the climate change negotiations, building capacities within the COMESA Secretariat and Member States, and eventually establishing an “African BioCarbon Facility” which is envisaged to combine market-based finance, as well as public and private funds. COMESA has participated in promoting an “African Climate Solution” at COP 14, which proposes to include all bio-carbon from the LULUCF-sector.

Several SADC countries, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe are also Members of COMESA.