



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



Seychelles

*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity
building workshop on REDD-plus,
Cape Town, South Africa
20-23 September 2011*



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National experience with REDD-plus

We are aware of the crucial role of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emissions by forests from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration, but, REDD+ as a mechanism is not yet officially in place as we consider our size too small to benefit from such. Although the country now has 50% of its land territory designated as Pas and many efforts to keep emissions at the lowest level

50% of the country's land territory declared as protected areas, plan, direct and coordinate financing to biodiversity programmes, organise planting sessions with stakeholders inc. community, support external projects, lead committees addressing biodiversity and cc concerns, legislations, EIA (and review of procedures), education and awareness for engaging community participation, development of policy and actions



Indigenous and local communities involvement

Seychelles is seen as too small and recent nation which do not necessarily have indigenous groups.

Local peoples' traditional knowledge and practices, which are relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are researched and documented

Encourage and support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at the community levels by local groups (For e.g, Govt is taking more of a facilitating role...)

Some national programmes are helping set up community – based initiatives / organisations for participatory decision-making and local actions (UNDP, GEF SGP, MFF, Govt, other NGOs)





National experience with biodiversity safeguards

State of preparations for national biodiversity and social safeguards

- Development, strengthening and adapting national strategies and plans for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Adoption of measures to implement these
- Mainstreaming biodiversity into main production sectors (tourism, fisheries... - opening dialogue and co-management as an option)
- More PAs declared
- Programmes to tackle IAS
- Restoration of degraded habitats
- NGO, Community & PS participation in conservation
- Measures to address threats, such as translocations
- A priority in EMPS - NBSAP in place
- Increase in donor funds and initiatives for technical biodiversity assessment and other programmes
- More research and follow up
- Sharing mechanism being set up via metadatabase ...





Obstacles /challenges for developing/applying biodiversity safeguards

- Low capacity (human, technical and financial, inc.absorption capacity)
- Poor policy enforcement and monitoring
- Lack of baseline data
- Lack of awareness by general public of the real value of forest ecosystem, biodiversity concerns and generally no idea of the REDD/+ mechanism
- Lack of coordination and consistency (govt. control)
- Loss of agricultural land
- Habitat loss, over-exploitation (marine resources), climate change, invasive species, pollution, fire...





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Capacity building needs and at all level

- Strengthening institutional mechanisms and capacity within the Government organisations, NGO and private sectors for the conservation in sustainable use of biodiversity
- Increasing awareness of local communities on ecosystem and community approaches to conservation
- Incapacitating local community to manage their own ecosystem thru' community- based / ecosystem-based approaches
- Expanding the scope (and understanding) of REDD/+ on small island system (if relevant)
- Economic valuation of ecosystem and related biodiversity - technicians





National experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus

Although not directly relevant to the Seychelles, we do understand that REDD plus is an initiative that also supports biodiversity management for general benefits

National Ecological Gap analysis under the CBD

No, but a recent national report to the CBD was submitted highlighting many of the challenges to implementation

Application or development of multiple benefit tools at national level, e.g. mapping of biodiversity...

We do have distinct programmes assessing and mapping biodiversity areas;

1. to guide development (NGOs) 2. for land use planning (Govt), others for mainstreaming BD in production sectors



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Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

Level of regional collaboration on REDD-plus e.g. through regional organizations such as COMIFAC or SADC?

Seychelles as a SADC member supports the SADC / Africa position on REDD+ in lowering emissions by all means (mitigation, adaptation...), enhancing conservation, restoration and management of forest ecosystems, but we still find that we are not yet able to contribute or benefit from the mechanism

We are concerned of the status of the island system being among the most vulnerable in the region and taking into account the threat by climate change to **water** and food security and its associated impacts on coastal communities e.g sea level rise, pests and diseases, losses in biological diversity and increase in the recurrence of extreme weather events



Useful regional and international support (in addition to support provided by UN-REDD/FCPF/ITTO, etc.)

- Enhanced technology transfer (technical know-how)
- Financial (simplified procedures for accessing cc-related funds) for thorough implementation of strategies and action plans)
- Technical support in furthering our efforts in reducing emissions
- Capacity building to support knowledge sharing
- Enabling the country to address drivers or root causes of biodiversity loss or even deforestation / subsequent consequences
- Support for community participation in sustainable ecosystem management for increased resilience to cc impacts









Thank you!
Merci!
Mersi

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