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AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND  
CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON  
REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION  
AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES (REDD+), INCLUDING ON  
RELEVANT BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS  
Cape Town, South Africa, 20 – 23 September 2011

### OUTCOMES OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (REDD+), INCLUDING ON RELEVANT BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS

#### I. CO-CHAIRS SUMMARY

##### A. *Introduction*

1. This workshop was the fourth in a series of expert workshops to consult effectively with Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on biodiversity aspects of REDD+,<sup>1</sup> based on relevant decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), notably decisions IX/5 and X/33 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and decision 4/CP.15 and 1/CP.16 of UNFCCC.
2. The workshop results are intended to support primarily discussions under the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC relevant biodiversity and social safeguards for REDD+, as well as discussions under the Convention on Biological Diversity on monitoring of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision X/2).
3. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets most relevant in the context of REDD+ are, by 2020: to at least halve deforestation, and where feasible bring it close to zero (target 5); to manage all areas under forestry sustainably (target 7); to conserve at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas (target 11); and to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification (target 15).<sup>2</sup>
4. The tasks for the workshop were to: (i) discuss aspects of the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity in the context of REDD+, and (ii) to identify possible indicators to assess the contribution

<sup>1</sup> With reference to decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD+ comprises reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

<sup>2</sup> Other targets of the Strategic Plan are also relevant for forests and in the context of REDD+, for example target 3: "By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied (...)."

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of REDD+ to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity.

5. Presentations from Parties, indigenous and local communities, and relevant organizations provided an excellent basis for discussions. The workshop also built on the results of the Global Expert Workshop on biodiversity benefits of REDD-plus, Nairobi, 20-23 September 2010 (UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/3); the regional consultation and capacity-building workshop for Asia-Pacific, Singapore, 15-18 March 2011; the regional consultation and capacity-building workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, Quito, 5-8 July 2011; as well as discussions held in 2010 in Nagoya (tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP 10) and Cancun (sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, COP 16).

6. While this report focuses on REDD+ risks and safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities, it is important to harness the full potential of REDD+ to deliver significant benefits for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities.

### ***B. General observations***

7. It would be beneficial and thus it is important that countries address safeguards as early as possible when undertaking REDD+ readiness activities including developing their REDD+ National Strategies. Financial support is required to support countries to meet the requirements for implementing safeguards.

8. Countries are in different stages of preparations for REDD+, and the approach to safeguards needs to take this into account. There is a need to further enhance capacity across the African region to integrate safeguards into the planning and implementation of REDD+.

9. While addressing safeguards, countries will need to take into account international obligations and build on existing relevant policies and legislation, keeping in mind that these may need to be further developed.

10. Intersectoral coordination between and within Ministries is of utmost importance to ensure timely and effective application of safeguards. There is a need for synergies among the various relevant Ministries.

11. Clarifying tenure issues remains an urgent challenge for many aspects of REDD+, including for applying safeguards related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This will require nationally specific solutions.

12. Effective land zoning and land-use planning at the national level would facilitate and ensure that risks to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities are addressed in a way consistent with development priorities.

13. Participants appreciated the close collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC secretariats in the organization of the workshop.

### ***C. Process***

14. The workshop identified key aspects of applying safeguards at the national level and also developed a flowchart (see figure 1) with possible core elements of a risk identification process, aiming for effective national level safeguards. Minimizing risks to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities through effective safeguards should go hand in hand with aiming to enhance multiple benefits from REDD-plus for biodiversity and local livelihoods.

15. The process of developing and implementing REDD+ safeguards can benefit from existing knowledge and experience, including from access and benefit-sharing (ABS), payments for ecosystem services (PES), community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), and other relevant discussions under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other processes. To this end, platforms at

the regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national level for exchange of lessons learned and experiences should be identified or created and supported.

16. There is a need for cross-referencing the safeguard frameworks with processes and guidelines that have already been established.

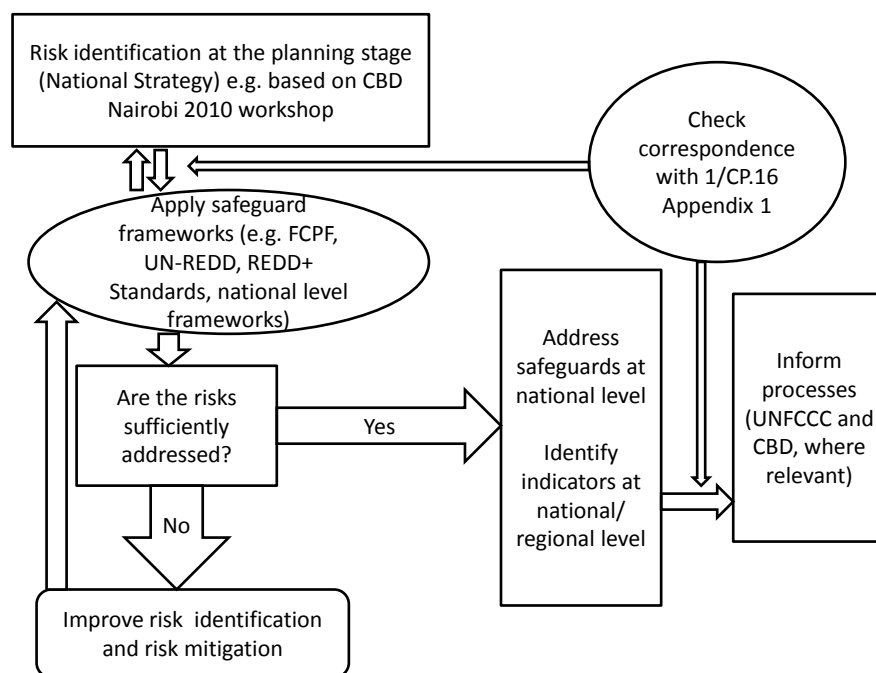


Figure 1. Suggested core elements of a risk identification process

17. Effective communication with all relevant stakeholders is crucial for the development and implementation of safeguards.

18. For risks to biodiversity to be minimized, there is a need for appropriate incentives for livelihoods and biodiversity conservation to be in place in the interim phase (while REDD+ progresses from readiness to full implementation). For example, Nigeria identified important bushmeat and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and supported indigenous peoples and local communities to improve local trade of these in a sustainable manner.

#### D. Safeguards frameworks

19. Three existing frameworks for relevant safeguards were reviewed in detail: The draft *UN-REDD Programme Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria*;<sup>3</sup> the *Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Fund Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners*;<sup>4,5</sup> and the *REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards*.<sup>6</sup> These three frameworks were

<sup>3</sup>Version 3 (September 2011) is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscbredd-afr-01/other/wscbredd-afr-01-lac-principles-criteria-en.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup>FCPF 9 June 2011 final version, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscbredd-afr-01/other/wscbredd-afr-01-fcpf-en.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> And its underlying World Bank safeguard policies on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04), Forests (OP/BP 4.36), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12), and Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10).

<sup>6</sup> The REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards were developed by the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and Care International. See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscbredd-afr-01/other/wscbredd-afr-01-soc-env-en.pdf>.

found to be a good basis for covering all main risks<sup>7</sup> to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities in principle, and for addressing the “Cancun safeguards” (UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16).<sup>8</sup> However, not all risks are covered equally or in sufficient detail in all frameworks. Key gaps include:

(a) There are no specific safeguards that address the risk of afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value. The guidance on afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration provided by the Convention on Biological Diversity in paragraph 8 (p) of decision X/33<sup>9</sup> could fill this gap, to cover the possibility that such activities are considered as part of “enhancement of forest carbon stocks” under REDD+;

(b) The risks of the displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value are not adequately covered under the frameworks. It would be helpful to consider the ecosystem approach in this context;

(c) The potential loss of traditional ecological knowledge is not adequately covered under the frameworks.

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<sup>7</sup> Main risks to biodiversity and to indigenous peoples and local communities as identified by the Convention on Biological Diversity’s global expert workshop on REDD+ and biodiversity, 20-23 September 2010, Nairobi (UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/3).

<sup>8</sup> FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscbredd-afr-01/other/wscbredd-afr-01-unfccc-en.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Paragraph 8 (p) of decision X/33

*Invites* Parties and other Governments, according to national circumstances and priorities, as well as relevant organizations and processes, to consider the guidance below on ways to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation:

(...)

(p) When designing, implementing and monitoring afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration activities for climate change mitigation consider conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services through, for example:

- (i) Converting only land of low biodiversity value or ecosystems largely composed of non-native species, and preferably degraded ones;
- (ii) Prioritizing, whenever feasible, local and acclimated native tree species when selecting species for planting;
- (iii) Avoiding invasive alien species;
- (iv) Preventing net reduction of carbon stocks in all organic carbon pools;
- (v) Strategically locating afforestation activities within the landscape to enhance connectivity and increase the provision of ecosystem services within forest areas.

## II. RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUPS<sup>10</sup>

### Working Group 1

Facilitator: Ms. Neeta Hooda (World Bank)

Rapporteur: Mr. Yaw Kwarkye (Ghana)

#### General observations

- The capacity to integrate safeguards in the planning and implementation phases of REDD+ needs to be enhanced.
- For the safeguards to be effectively applied there is a need for the right incentives for livelihoods and biodiversity conservation to be in place in the interim phase (while REDD+ progresses from readiness to full implementation). For example, Nigeria identified important bushmeat and NTFPs and supported indigenous and local communities to improve local trade of these in a sustainable manner. This was done in the interim phase, while waiting for carbon credits to arrive. Meanwhile, Tanzania gives an award to communities and households that conserve biodiversity in the interim phase as an incentive.
- Stakeholder engagement during the decision-making process on strategic options/actions for REDD+ is crucial for the success of REDD+. This would ensure ownership of relevant stakeholders in the implementation of these agreed-upon actions, as well as in the application of safeguards.

#### Challenges of integrating safeguards at the planning level

- The design process for REDD+ programmes should take into account the safeguards with a view to mitigating some of the potential risks associated with REDD+. Additionally the planning for REDD+ needs to be incorporated into the long-term national development plans.
- Intersectoral cooperation between ministries is of utmost importance if we want to ensure timely and effective application of safeguards. There is a need for synergies among the various ministries involved (e.g., MoE, MoF, MoA, MoFi).

#### Challenges of integrating safeguards at the implementation level

- There may be contradictions in existing national legislation and policies. There is a need to harmonize these.
- Enforcement of national legislation and policies is recognized as one of the key challenges. There is a need to strengthen enforcement capacities including with respect to awareness and application of safeguards.
- There is a need to strengthen forest governance institutions. REDD+ programmes need to be seen in a long-term perspective. REDD+ must not be completely donor-dependent. For long-term sustainability it is necessary that actions for addressing deforestation and degradation be designed bottom up.

#### Comparison of safeguard frameworks (FCPF Common Approach, UN-REDD Draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards)

- It is important that safeguard frameworks are implemented correctly.
- The existing safeguards frameworks provided a basis for countries to make the transition towards effective implementation in the national context.
- All frameworks have provisions to ensure that conversion of natural forests is discouraged. However, countries need to carry out land zoning exercises to make sure the safeguards meant to avoid the

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<sup>10</sup> Guidance note: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscbredd-afr-01/other/wscbredd-afr-01-wg-guidance-en.pdf>.

conversion of natural forests are implemented. There are existing models of co-management that foster the safeguards identified in these safeguard frameworks.

- There is a need to cross-reference the safeguard frameworks with processes and guidelines that have already been established, e.g., at the global level the Convention on Biological Diversity's Akwé: Kon Guidelines, which address the risk of loss of traditional knowledge, and at the national level the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).
- Each of the frameworks has principles that are fundamental (e.g., democratic institutions, good governance, stakeholder rights etc.) for the effective and successful application of safeguards. These fundamental principles need to be addressed together, or else efforts to implement safeguards may not achieve the desired outcomes.
- Frameworks can be effective only if they are backed up by effective accountability/recourse mechanisms. These mechanisms are needed at the level of the implementation agencies (delivery partners). They are also needed at the level of national-level governments.
- There is a need to make sure that these safeguard frameworks are linked to other national development processes.
- REDD+ programme developers need to be made aware of the need to integrate safeguards into the programme design.
- The working group recommends providing platforms at the regional, national and sub-national levels for exchange of lessons learned and experiences in implementing REDD+ safeguards and from other experiences (e.g., community-based natural resource management, access and benefit-sharing, bio-trade and payments for ecosystem services).
- The working group agrees with the observation and reinforces the recommendation in paragraph 10 (i) of part I of the Quito workshop report (UNEP/CBD/WS/CB/REDD/LAC/1/2).

*Working group 1 compilation on REDD+ risks and safeguards*

Risks	World Bank Safeguard Policies	UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria v2	REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards
<b>1. Risks to biodiversity</b>			
(a) Conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of bio-fuel crops	OP 4.04 on natural habitats, paragraphs 1, 4, 5 & 9 and Annex A, paragraph 1(b), (c) & (d); OP 4.36 on forests, paragraphs 1, 5 & 7.	Principles 5 & 1	Principle 5 and 1 & 8 as supporting principles
(b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value	OP 4.01 on environmental assessment, paragraphs 2 & 3 and Annex A, paragraphs 7 and 9 (assessment in design phase and environmental screening, which is supposed to take into account "transboundary" and "potential cumulative" impacts)	Principles 5 and 6	Principle 5 and 1 & 8 as supporting principles
(c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value	OP 4.01 on environmental assessment, paragraphs 2 & 3 and Annex A, paragraphs 7 and 9 (assessment in design phase and environmental screening, which is supposed to take into account "transboundary" and "potential cumulative" impacts); OP 4.04 on natural habitats, Annex A, paragraph 1(a) (provides wide-ranging definition of natural habitats)	Principle 7	Principle 5 and 1 & 8 as supporting principles
(d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value	OP 4.04 on natural habitats, paragraph 4 and Annex A, paragraph 1(b)(ii) and 1(c); OP 4.36 on forests, paragraphs 1, 5 & 7	Principles 6 and 7	

*Working group 1 compilation on REDD+ risks and safeguards*

Risks	World Bank Safeguard Policies	UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria v2	REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards
<b>2. Risks to indigenous and local communities</b>			
(a) Loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights	OP 4.10 on indigenous peoples, paragraphs 2, 16, 17, 18 & 21	Principle 2	Principle 1
(b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit-sharing	OP 4.10 on indigenous peoples, paragraphs 1, 10(b), 12, 18, 19 & 21	Principle 3	Principle 2
(c) Exclusion from design and implementation of policies and measures	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process; stakeholder engagement guidance note for upstream engagement; consultation and participation provisions included in each of the World Bank safeguard policies relevant for REDD+	Principles 1, 4 and 2	Principle 6
(d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge	OP 4.10 on indigenous peoples, paragraphs 2 (loss of "identity" and "culture" generally), 19 & 22(h) (loss of traditional knowledge via misappropriation)	Principle 2, Criterion 11	Principle 5

Note: The group noted that the principles focusing on governance and stakeholder engagement in all safeguards are overarching principles for effective implementation of safeguards.



## **Working Group 2**

Facilitator: Mr. Barney Dickson (UNEP-WCMC)<sup>11</sup>

Rapporteur: Mr. Xavier Nyindo Mugumya (Uganda)

### **General issues/comments**

- Support available to countries is a challenge to applying the safeguards.
- Safeguards should be consistent with countries existing processes and modalities.
- Financial support should be provided to countries to meet the requirements for implementing safeguards.
- Mechanisms for equitable benefit distribution will have to be developed in national and local contexts.
- It is important to make use of existing knowledge and experience, including from access and benefit-sharing with respect to traditional knowledge, and community-based natural resource management.
- In order to apply safeguards, countries will need to undertake a review of relevant policies and laws.
- There is a need for technical capacity on safeguards in the African region.

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<sup>11</sup> United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre

*Working group 2 compilation on REDD+ risks and safeguards*

Risks	Relevant safeguard that mitigates the risk	Comments
<b>1. Risks to biodiversity</b>		
(a) The conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of biofuel crops	UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(e) <sup>12</sup>  UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria), Principle 5  REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (SES), Principle 5.1.4, [5.1.2]  FCPF safeguard (b) <sup>13</sup> – by implication but also directly addresses the importance of rehabilitation	We are focusing on risks, but it is important that REDD+ deliver benefits, particularly to local communities, and safeguards should address these benefits and not just risks  It is very important that the safeguards be considered in the readiness phase and in the implementation of REDD+
(b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value	UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(g)  UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 5  REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 5.1.4, 5.2 & 5.3 - address the risk in a general way  FCPF, safeguard (b) – addresses it in a general way	To avoid displacement is a difficult challenge, given increasing demands for land in light of increasing demands for agricultural production  It needs to be addressed through a land-use planning approach that takes a national approach  Cancun paragraph 1(e) and paragraph 1(f) and (g) i.e. national development priorities  Conservation priorities need to be considered in national land-use planning approach
(c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value	UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(g), 1(d), 2(e) – “consistent with the conservation of...biological diversity”  UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 7  REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 5.1.4 and 5.2 & 5.3 - addresses the risk in a general way but don’t distinguish non-forest ecosystems  FCPF, safeguard (b) – addresses it in a general way but does not explicitly discuss non-forest ecosystems	Risks 1 (b) and 1 (c) are similar, although we recognize that 1 (b) is forest ecosystems and 1 (c) is non-forest ecosystems
(d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value	UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 1(d) – does not explicitly mention afforestation; 2(a), 2(e) – “consistent with the conservation of...biological diversity”  UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 7- in a general way  REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 5.2 & 5.3, 5.1.4  FCPF, safeguard (b) – “protecting natural habitats”	

<sup>12</sup> “Cancun” listings refer to sub-paragraphs in Appendix I to UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16.

<sup>13</sup> FCPF safeguards refer to sub-paragraphs in section III of FCPF’s 9 June 2011 version (“a” concerns environmental assessment, “b” natural habitats, “c” forests, “d” involuntary resettlement, “e” indigenous peoples, “f” physical and cultural resources).

*Working group 2 compilation on REDD+ risks and safeguards*

Risks	Relevant safeguard that mitigates the risk	Comments
<b>2. Risks to indigenous and local communities</b>		
(a) The loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights	<p>UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(c)</p> <p>UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 2</p> <p>REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 1, 6.1</p> <p>FCPF, safeguard (e), (f)</p>	<p>Risk is not limited to loss of territory but is also about the cultural and spiritual value of forests [FCPF safeguards (e) and (f) do address this]</p> <p>It is important that customary rights be recognized and enforced</p> <p>Capacity-building and awareness-raising on rights and responsibilities are needed</p> <p>There is a need to actively prevent abuse (by any actor) of these rights (UN-REDD 1.2 and 1.6; REDD+ SES 1.4)</p> <p>Challenges to land use and land tenure will require nationally-specific solutions</p>
(b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit-sharing	<p>UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(e), used as incentives for the protection and conservation of natural forests, 1(g)</p> <p>UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 3</p> <p>REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 2 and 3 most fully elaborated for this risk</p> <p>FCPF, safeguard (c), (e.i.)</p>	<p>Addressing risk 2 (a) is often necessary for addressing risk 2 (b); if people's rights are not protected, they probably will not receive equitable benefits</p>
(c) Exclusion from designing and implementation of policies and measures	<p>UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(d) – directly addresses this.</p> <p>UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 1, criterion 4; Principle 2, criterion 9</p> <p>REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, Principle 6 and 7</p> <p>FCPF, safeguard (e), (a)</p>	
(d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge	<p>UNFCCC Cancun safeguard 2(c)</p> <p>UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, Principle 2, Criterion 11</p> <p>REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards, 3.2, 5.2.1, and Principle 8– indirectly addresses this and 6.5 (most direct)</p> <p>FCPF safeguard (e), (f)</p>	

### **Working Group 3**

Facilitator: Mr. Elie Hakizumwami (Forest Stewardship Council)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mensah Bienvenu Celestin Bossou (Benin)

Group 3 analysed and made observations focusing on the social and environmental safeguard activities (themes) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) regarding:

1. The specific risks to biodiversity;
2. The specific risks of REDD+ to indigenous peoples and local communities, as compiled by international experts during a workshop on the benefits for biodiversity of reducing the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

### **Methodology**

To accurately understand the context of their work, group members first read the annex of the *Working group guidance note* (wscbredd-afr-01-wg-guidance-en.doc) on the main risks of REDD+ to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the appendix to UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1), entitled *Guidance and safeguards for policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries*, e.g., paragraph 2 points c, d and e. Experts noted the perfect coherence of the content. To reach the objectives set out as part of its mandate, the group then proceeded with:

- A detailed review of the different risks;
- An assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of the social and environmental safeguard activities (themes) and social and environmental standards for REDD-plus to minimize each risk;
- Comments on each gap and the compilation of indicators of a suitable level to enhance risk mitigation.

### **Results**

The outcomes of the consultations are presented in the tables below.

*Working group 3 compilation on REDD+ risks and environmental and social safeguards in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Fund*

Risks	FCPF linkage with the risk	Comments
<b>1. Risks to biodiversity</b>		
(a) The conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of biofuel crops	b, c	Emphasis needs to be put on land planning. REDD+ can appear as an opportunity to move ahead with land-use planning. The challenge after this will be to respect what is in this land planning so that biodiversity is not at risk when REDD+ activities are planned and implemented.
(b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value	b, c, d	The risk associated with the displacement of degradation and deforestation seems not to be properly covered by the current safeguards of FCPF.  One of the main actions appears to be the identification of important biodiversity habitat so that they are properly protected.  Make sure that activities by smallholders and/or agro-industries do not shifted from lands that are rich in carbon stock to land that are poor in carbon stock but with high biodiversity value.  Emphasis needs to be put on land, the enforcement of land planning and respect for biodiversity habitats defined in this land planning.
(c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value	b, c, d	What is mentioned in the row above, on displacement of deforestation and degradation, can apply here as well, but the pressures can be beyond deforestation and degradation.
(d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value	a, b	There is a need to have good maps of biodiversity habitat. These maps need to clearly mention areas that needed to be protected.  (The group discussed the issue of raising the value of biodiversity through payments for ecosystem services. The agreement was that emphasis need to be putting on the non-monetary value of biodiversity.)  Sensitization of civil society and the population on the importance of the non-monetary value of biodiversity needs to be given a high priority.

*Working group 3 compilation on REDD+ risks and environmental and social safeguards in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Fund*

Risks	FCPF linkage with the risk	Comments
<b>2. Risks to indigenous peoples and local communities</b>		
(a) The loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights	a, b, d, e, f	<p>Safeguard (a) can be applied but needs more clarification. There is a need to have maps of cultural sites. These maps need to mention the sites that need protection.</p> <p>During impact evaluation, there is a need to make sure that the traditional territories are clearly identified and respected.</p> <p>Where there is a loss of land and access to resources, compensation needs to be just.</p>
(b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit-sharing	e	<p>Involvement of communities during land-use planning. The group mentioned the fact that mobility of some indigenous groups can be a difficulty, but this needs to be addressed in one way or other.</p> <p>Address and clarify issue related to the uses of products and services provide by different type of land use, and encourage sustainable use of these products and services.</p> <p>Define a good framework for the distribution of benefits related to REDD+. Make sure that the indigenous people have access to resources from REDD+. Make sure that the distribution of the income is just.</p>
(c) Exclusion from designing and implementation of policies and measures	a, e	<p>Build the capacity of local and indigenous populations. Make sure that their participation in the processes are effective.</p>
(d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge	a, e, f	<p>During impact evaluation, make sure that traditional ecological knowledge is properly take into consideration, by using indigenous and local communities.</p> <p>This traditional knowledge needs to be identified, protected, and promoted.</p>

*Working group 3 compilation on REDD+ risks and REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards*

<b>Risks</b>	<b>REDD+ Social &amp; Environmental Standards linkage with the risk</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1. Risks for biodiversity</b>		
(a) The conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of biofuel crops	5.1	5.1.4. is most relevant.
(b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value	5.1	Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation needs to be specifically addressed. Transboundary aspects also need to be addressed.
(c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value	5.1; 5.2	5.3.1 needs to be focused on biodiversity. It seems to broad at the moment (environment vs. biodiversity).
(d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value	5.2 (5.2.1); 5.3	5.3 could be more useful if more specific than it is at the moment.
<b>2. Risks of REDD+ for indigenous peoples and local communities</b>		
(a) The loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4; 4.5.1	
(b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit-sharing	1.3.5, 1.3.6; 1.4.1, 1.4.3; 1.5.1; 2.1.1; 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6; 2.3.1, 2.3.2; 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.5; 3.2.1, 3.2.2; 4.1.1, 4.1.3	
(c) Exclusion from designing and implementation of policies and measures	1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4; 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3; 4.5	
(d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge		Not properly addressed. 3.3.2, 3.3.3 and 5.2.1 contain some information that could be useful for addressing this risk, but are not very specific.

### **III. REPORT OF THE MEETING**

1. The Africa regional consultation and capacity-building workshop on REDD+, including relevant biodiversity safeguards, was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 20 to 23 September 2011. It was co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), with the generous financial support of the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the UN-REDD Programme.<sup>14</sup> The organizers gratefully acknowledge that several of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) contributed to the workshop by providing information about their work on REDD+.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 3 (b) of decision IX/5, the workshop aimed to support Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Africa which are in the process of planning or implementing activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

3. The objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To develop advice, including on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity, so that REDD+ actions “are consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and avoid negative impacts on and enhance benefits for biodiversity” (see paragraph 9 (g) of decision X/33);

(b) To identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD+ “to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity from these and other ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation measures” (see paragraph 9 (h) of decision X/33);

(c) To contribute to capacity-building on REDD+ in Africa, including with a view to “enhancing the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem-based carbon sequestration and the conservation of forest carbon stocks” (see paragraph 9 (f) of decision X/33).

4. A list of participants in the workshop is attached as an annex below.

#### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

5. The workshop was opened at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 September 2011 by Ms. Moshibudi Rampedi, Deputy Director General of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa. She welcomed everyone to South Africa and stated that it was a pleasure to host the workshop. She highlighted the need for discussion on biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ at the dawn of South Africa hosting the seventeenth Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 17) in Durban later this year. She highlighted that Africa was the continent most vulnerable to the effects of emissions from various sources, including deforestation and forest degradation. She noted that conserving biodiversity and maintaining good ecosystem services not only played a vital role in addressing climate change adaptation response, but contributed to addressing rural poverty and the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals. Ms. Rampedi highlighted the opportunities in the context of the International Year of Forests to recognize links between forests, biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being. She encouraged participants to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. She pointed out that as countries sought ways to adapt and mitigate against climate change impacts, the REDD+ initiative provided possible ways of adaptation using biodiversity and the ecosystem-based approach as a tool and a source of life. She stated that the potential for REDD+ in Africa was enormous and well-documented. However, she noted that on-the-ground observations showed that throughout the continent, REDD+ was rapidly developing into a series of loosely coordinated multi-level, multi-purpose, multi-actor projects and initiatives that appeared to be running ahead of policy processes and state-driven decisions. All of these activities could distinctively affect different regions, locations, ecosystems and livelihoods. She said it was therefore important for

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<sup>14</sup> United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries



national governments to play a leading role in coordinating and designing regulatory frameworks that ensure successful implementation of the REDD+ mechanism. Countries should promote synergies at the national and local level, establishing national committees consisting of focal points, and pools of experts to address biodiversity and climate change. This should then yield good outcomes whereby climate change and biodiversity elements were integrated within national biodiversity strategy and action plans and national adaptation plans and programmes. She said that the importance of addressing biodiversity safeguards could not be overemphasized, as this formed the core of an efficient REDD+ mechanism. Ms. Rampedi mentioned two important issues in the context of REDD+ in this regard: (i) adequate support for implementation of these safeguards is a critical pre-requisite for the success of this work; and (ii) proper elaboration of the biodiversity safeguards that take into account national circumstances will help ensure their consistent treatment in different parts of the region. She concluded by reminding participants of the challenge of working together to conserve the environment, reduce poverty, create jobs and empower communities to be able to actively participate and make informed decisions that will improve their standard of living.

6. Mr. Tim Christophersen, Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, welcomed the participants and conveyed a statement on behalf of Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Mr. Djoghla conveyed his appreciation to the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their support. He also thanked the UN-REDD Programme for their collaboration and funding support. He highlighted relevant targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which was adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10), namely target 5 (to halve, and where feasible bring close to zero, the rate of deforestation, and to significantly reduce degradation and fragmentation), target 7 (to manage all areas under forestry sustainably), target 11 (to conserve at least 17 per cent of all terrestrial ecosystems), and target 15 (to restore at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification). He further highlighted the relevant paragraphs of decision X/33 related to REDD+, which called for the Executive Secretary to collaborate with various partners to develop advice on relevant biodiversity safeguards of REDD+.

7. Mr. Barney Dickson, of the UN-REDD Programme, thanked the South African government for hosting the workshop, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for organizing the event and the United Kingdom and Norwegian governments for supporting it. He said that the UN-REDD Programme was pleased to support the workshop and that he looked forward to playing an active role in the event. He pointed out that within Africa the UN-REDD Programme was currently providing direct support to three countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia) and that there were nine other partner countries in Africa (Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan). He noted that the biodiversity benefits from REDD+ are important for several reasons. He said that not only did they have value in their own right, including the ecosystem services they helped to deliver, but they could also contribute to the long-term viability of REDD+. He said that there was increasing evidence that biodiversity-rich forests were more resilient to climate change and other pressures. In addition, these benefits might increase investments in REDD+ from investors who valued the contribution of REDD+ to conservation. He noted that REDD+ also posed some risks to biodiversity, and that the UN-REDD Programme was working to support countries in avoiding the most serious risks and to help deliver an optimal package of benefits. One important means of doing this was through safeguards. This had been recognized by the Parties to the UNFCCC. Within the UN-REDD Programme, a set of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria was being developed to assist countries.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of officers***

8. After participants introduced themselves, they elected Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi of South Africa and Mr. Martin Brasher of the United Kingdom as co-chairs of the workshop.

## **2.2. Adoption of the agenda**

9. Participants adopted the agenda as proposed by the Executive Secretary in document UNEP/CBD/WS/CB/REDD/AFR/1/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1 Election of officers;
  - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. REDD+ update.
4. REDD+ safeguards and assessment/monitoring of impacts.
5. Other matters.
6. Closure of the meeting.

## **2.3. Organization of work**

10. The proposed organization of work was adopted as contained in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS/CB/REDD/AFR/1/1/Add.1).

## **ITEM 3. REDD+ UPDATE**

### ***Presentations by international organizations***

11. Mr. Tim Christophersen of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity reiterated the objectives of the workshop and provided an overview of the Convention's programme of work on forest biodiversity which focused on (i) conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing; (ii) institutional, socio-economic enabling environment; and (iii) knowledge, assessment and monitoring (decisions VI/22 and IX/5). He highlighted the decisions related to REDD+ that had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties. In decision IX/5, Parties, other Governments and relevant international and other organizations were invited to ensure that possible actions for REDD did not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and the implementation of the programme of work (PoW) on forest biological diversity, but supported the PoW and provided benefits for forest biodiversity and indigenous and local communities (ILCs). He also noted paragraphs 9 (g) and 9 (h) of decision X/33. He highlighted the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which included halving deforestation, and where feasible, bringing it close to zero by 2020 (target 5); managing all areas under forestry sustainably by 2020 (target 7); conserving at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2020 (target 11); and restoring at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2020, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification (target 15). Mr. Christophersen also drew attention to some of the relevant publications produced by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, like the REDD+ & biodiversity newsletter and a CBD Technical Series publication (No. 59, <http://www.cbd.int/ts>) on "REDD-plus and Biodiversity". He highlighted some of the issues on REDD+ safeguards that were discussed at the global expert workshop on biodiversity benefits of REDD held in Nairobi in September 2010. These included biodiversity risks and risks to indigenous and local communities; the need for harmonization of the many existing/emerging guidance for minimizing biodiversity risks (such as the UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment framework, etc.). He noted that there was currently a greater focus on avoiding risks than on enhancing biodiversity benefits of REDD+, while more detail on operationalization of both at the national and local levels was needed. Finally, he outlined key knowledge gaps. These included the monitoring of biodiversity benefits of sustainable forest management/REDD+, in particular the development of simple yet robust criteria and indicators; biodiversity and ecosystem services data and models; refining and/or

operationalizing the definitions of certain terms such as forest degradation and classification of forest types; and REDD+ benefits and assessment of impacts. He also noted a recent publication on “Biodiversity and Livelihoods: REDD-plus Benefits” ([www.cbd.int/forest/publications.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/forest/publications.shtml)) which summarized key benefits of REDD+ for biodiversity and livelihoods, as well as mitigation/adaptation synergies.

12. Ms. María José Sanz-Sánchez of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) assessed the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 16) and the road ahead. At COP 16, a decision on REDD+ was adopted as part of a package of decisions that form the Cancun Agreements (decision 1/CP.16). The REDD+ decision from Cancun also launched a process for further work to be undertaken by the UNFCCC’s Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) and for these bodies to report on the outcomes of their work to the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 17). The AWG-LCA at its fourteenth session (Bonn, June 2011) started to explore financing options for full implementation of the results-based actions relating to REDD+. The Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC also requested the SBSTA, starting at its thirty-fourth session, to initiate a work programme relating to technical modalities and guidance on addressing safeguards. At its thirty-fourth session (June 2011), the SBSTA progressed on a programme of work (appendix II to decision 1/CP.16) relating to (i) development of modalities for establishing forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level and national forest monitoring systems; (ii) development of guidance relating to the provision of information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected; and (iii) development of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying forest-related emissions and removals, forest carbon stocks, forest carbon stock and forest area changes resulting from activities relating to REDD+. The SBSTA was expected to report back to the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC at its seventeenth session (Durban) on progress made on these issues. SBSTA was also requested to explore other LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) activities. Guidance relating to the provision of information on how safeguards were being addressed and respected was one of the issues being addressed during the thirty-fourth session of SBSTA 34 in June 2011. Submissions of the issues identified for the work programme of SBSTA were requested from Parties and international organizations as a basis for the further deliberations on the issue in Durban. The Secretariat of the UNFCCC had also been requested to organize at least one expert meeting; this was to be held in Panama (9-10 October 2011) on the safeguards information systems.

13. Ms. Julie Greenwalt of the UN-REDD Programme highlighted that REDD+ had the potential to deliver substantial benefits beyond carbon. However, there was also a possibility that risks would be incurred in the implementation of REDD+. Accordingly, the UN-REDD Programme was working with partners and REDD+ countries to develop tools and guidance to enhance the multiple benefits of, and reduce risks from REDD+. As part of this work, a set of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria were being developed, which consisted of broad principles, within which more detailed criteria described important issues to be considered in developing REDD+ programmes. The presentation went through the Principles and Criteria, which would provide the UN-REDD Programme with a framework to ensure that its activities promoted social and environmental benefits and reduced risks from REDD+. In particular, the Principles and Criteria would be used by the UN-REDD Programme (i) as an aid in formulating national REDD+ programmes and initiatives that sought UN-REDD funding; (ii) in the review of national programmes prior to submission for UN-REDD funding; and (iii) to assess national programme delivery. The Principles and Criteria, which were consistent with UNFCCC agreements on safeguards for REDD+, could also, in combination with other tools and approaches, help countries to develop national approaches for: promoting, supporting and building on the Cancun safeguards, providing information on how the Cancun safeguards were being addressed and respected, and demonstrating their achievements beyond carbon (e.g., with respect to poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation).

14. Ms. Neeta Hooda of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) gave an overview of the FCPF and presented the FCPF’s Common Approach. She noted that the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility required safeguards to be applied in the “readiness” and “carbon fund” phases of REDD+.

Section 3.1 (d) of the FCPF Charter provided for compliance with the World Bank's Operational Policies and Procedures. The World Bank's safeguard policies were designed to avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse environmental and social impacts of projects supported by the Bank. In June 2011 the Participants Committee of the FCPF approved the Common Approach to Social and Environmental Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners. The Common Approach provided a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ readiness preparation process, using the safeguard policies of the World Bank as a minimum acceptable standard. The Common Approach was the product of a Task Force on Environmental and Social Standards for the FCPF Readiness Fund. For REDD+, the most relevant World Bank policies were likely to be the policies on Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04), Forests (OP/BP 4.36), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12), and Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10) and Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11). The Common Approach could be found online at [www.forestcarbonpartnership.org](http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org), and the World Bank safeguard policies could be found at <http://go.worldbank.org/WTAIODE7T0>. The core elements of the Common Approach included the application of safeguards for the "readiness" phase for REDD+ through the use of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). SESA allowed for the incorporation of environmental and social concerns into national REDD+ strategy processes and ensured that the FCPF readiness activities complied with World Bank Policies during the strategic planning phase, considering that these strategic activities could have potentially far-reaching impacts. A specific output of the SESA was the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Ms. Hood explained that the ESMF was a framework to avoid and/or mitigate and manage potential risks of the REDD+ strategy options related to the adoption of future REDD+ projects, activities, and policies. For the ESMF to ensure compliance with Bank's safeguard policies, it had to be consistent with the applicable World Bank Safeguard policies, including the policy on Environmental Assessment, and it was expected to contain sections addressing the requirements of other applicable policies.

15. Mr. Denis Sonwa of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) gave a presentation on climate change mitigation and implications for biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin. Mr. Sonwa highlighted that efforts to implement the UNFCCC in the Congo Basin had been mainly concentrated on REDD+. This mitigation effort was seen as able to contribute also to the achievement of some of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to forests. Protected area delineation and others practices had been promoted with a view to achieving sustainable management of forest resources in Congo Basin. Nevertheless, logging and slash-and-burn agriculture were still contributing to deforestation and degradation, with implications for carbon stocks as well as biodiversity. Some challenges associated with the livelihood of the forest community needed to be addressed to achieve proper maintenance of carbon stocks as well as forest biodiversity. Although adaptation was still at an early stage, it deserved proper attention as it could contribute to alleviating the pressure on forest communities. Without addressing livelihood vulnerability related to several stress, such as climate change/variability, it would be difficult to protect carbon pools and biodiversity in the Congo Basin.

16. Mr. Wale Adeleke of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) presented the IUCN's pro-poor REDD+ approach. He said that pro-poor REDD+ was built on the idea that the implementation of REDD+ should not create additional burdens for local communities and the rural poor. A pro-poor approach instead aimed to bolster livelihoods, protect people's rights and assure that the ecological and social functions of forests were strengthened. Meaningful participation of actors at the grassroots could ensure that their interests were taken into account. Indigenous peoples and local forest communities had a right to be informed and consulted. Their participation in decision-making processes could build the ownership needed for the implementation of REDD+. Strategies that made use of traditional knowledge systems and customary forest management practices could help create more effective REDD+ interventions because they built on the intricate interrelationships between forests and forest-reliant communities. The pro-poor approach provided a framework within which many of the safeguards could be planned for and implemented. The IUCN pro-poor REDD+ approach was an ongoing process and consisted of the following elements: understanding the nature and scope of forest dependency; identifying and ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups; clarifying rights, benefits

and responsibilities of vulnerable groups; supporting equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities as defined by an appropriate process; investing in resilience of vulnerable livelihoods (links to adaptation); setting safeguards for biodiversity and livelihoods; linking local and national processes to address needs of the poor; recognizing customary norms and values (building on existing local institutions); and ensuring transparency. He said there was a need to agree on the indicators for safeguards and standards for a successful REDD+ implementation at both the national and international levels at the start, since there existed the risk of not achieving the objectives of REDD+ if the pro-poor principles and approaches such as participation of forest communities and the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge were not taken on board from the beginning.

17. Mr. Polycarpe Masupa-Kambale of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) presented the activities of ITTO in relation to REDD+ and related safeguards. He noted that the mandate of the ITTO, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary during the International Year of Forests 2011, was to promote sustainable development through trade, conservation and best practice forest management. He said that sustainable forest management (SFM), which was promoted by ITTO in its producing member countries through putting tropical forest-related policies into practice, meant taking care of all forests values, including biodiversity conservation and tropical forest environmental services. Regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in production tropical forests, guidelines were approved by ITTO members in 1993 and revised/updated in 2009. There were 11 principles, and 46 guidelines and related priority actions, which could be considered as a good basis for biodiversity safeguards in production tropical forests. ITTO members were implementing, on a pilot basis, the programme called REDDES (Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in tropical forests), with government institutions, civil society and/or private sector companies. The aim was to draw lessons from the implementation of different processes related to REDD+ and share them among ITTO members.

#### *Presentations by country representatives*

18. Participants were invited to present an overview of their national experiences with REDD+ (i) with a view to safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities and (ii) with regards to assessment and monitoring of impacts of REDD+.

19. Mr. Mensah Bienvenu Celestin Bossou of Benin stated that compliance with the REDD+ mechanism would soon begin in his country. Reporting to the Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Habitat et de l'Urbanisme, the Direction Générale des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles would ensure REDD+ planning in Benin, which he said must involve sustainable forest management stakeholders, national biodiversity experts and individuals who possessed endogenous knowledge. Since the closing of the Rio Summit on the environment and sustainable development, efforts had been made to preserve certain forests in their entirety. In addition, sustainable and participatory forest management practices had come into force, and riparian forest populations, local communities and municipal authorities had become very involved. Benin had consistently drafted its national communications on climate change along with greenhouse gas assessments, thus creating a framework for REDD+ option selection. Since Benin had signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related accords and conventions, reforms had led to two significant and innovative laws: (i) *Loi 93-009* (2 July 1993), on forest management in Benin for natural resource development based on a participatory and decentralized management plan and an environmental compliance certificate for integrated and sustainable management, benefits-sharing and socio-economic support; and (ii) *Loi cadre sur l'environnement*, to ensure that biodiversity and the environment were accounted for in poverty-reduction policies, programmes and projects (*Verdissement des Stratégies de Croissance pour la Réduction de la Pauvreté*, SCRP) through strategic environmental assessments (*Évaluations Environnementales Stratégiques*, EES). Despite the efforts invested thus far, the fourth national report on biodiversity had affirmed that Benin's biodiversity was eroding. The main obstacles to the development of safeguard strategies included the persistent poverty of local populations (often brought about by exogenous factors), the negative impacts of climate change, limited financial resources and especially the lack of sustainable funding for natural

resource management and forest resource management in particular. The presenter stated that in light of the situation and of the need to build upon biodiversity preservation capacities at the state, civil and community levels, priority focuses should be (i) an assessment of the state of the resources to plan rational and sustainable management; (ii) the revision of current strategies and legislation; (iii) the implementation of the strategy to build on stakeholder capacities; (iv) the increased involvement of the private sector in forest resource management; (v) an institutional reform driven by genuine priorities; (vi) the creation and implementation of a functional synergy among all stakeholders; and (vii) a medium- or long-term analysis and projection of forests sector management so as to determine a strategy that will build on positive trends and curb the effects of negative ones. He said that no REDD+ working documents (framework, national strategy, etc.) had yet been drafted in Benin. However, particular attention had been granted to the impacts of projects focused on biodiversity and the means of subsistence of local and indigenous peoples. Benin had not completed the national Convention on Biological Diversity ecological gap assessment, though the start of the process to review the NBSAP and comply with the REDD mechanism should support this undertaking. Beneficial national-level tools (e.g., biodiversity mapping) were developed for various national forest inventories. Although there were no formal REDD+ collaborations at the regional level, joint efforts with experienced countries, such as those involved in COMIFAC or SADC, were sought. However, the most pressing need remained the implementation of a sub-regional technical framework for joint action and discussion in West Africa on biodiversity-related issues. Benin had not yet received UN-REDD/FCPF/ITTO support, although measures would be taken to do so if it is still possible.

20. Mr. Bob Felicien Konzi-Sarambo of the Central African Republic said that in the Central African Republic the REDD+ management structure was currently overseen by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Ecologie. The institutional framework that had been set out included three components: a national REDD+ committee, three inter-prefectural committees and a REDD+ technical coordination group. Biodiversity experts, including the individuals who possess traditional knowledge in local and indigenous communities, were involved in REDD+ through the national stakeholder discussion, consultation and participation processes at a more individual level via their local representatives and organizations and at a more central level via designated representatives. Mr. Konzi-Sarambo said that national biodiversity groundwork and social protection measures were currently being implemented nationwide through the 2011-2020 Aichi-Nagoya Strategic Plan and the Nagoya Protocol to fight poverty. He said that obstacles to the development and application of biodiversity guarantees included uncoordinated policies, weak institutions and the lack of adequate funding measures, as well as a weak economy based on natural resource development. He stated that concretely, capacity-building must focus chiefly on enhancement of the current legislative framework and support for biodiversity governance at all levels (government, civil society, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities). As they got under way, REDD+ activities called for a strategic social and environmental assessment. The reference level requires an evaluation of past greenhouse gas emissions and disaggregated statistical data on key pressures. Through COMIFAC, the Central African Republic was collaborating with Congo Basin countries to implement forest and environmental policies. Most of the budget had been voluntarily allocated to the implementation of pilot projects. Mr. Konzi-said noted to carry out the REDD+ funding plan, useful contacts must be made with UN-REDD, the Agence Française de Développement and other agencies.

21. Mr. Habib Gademi provided an overview of the progress on REDD+ and relevant biodiversity safeguards in Chad. The Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. During the Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was submitted to governments and parties for signature. Chad signed the Convention on Biological Diversity in June 1992 and ratified it in June 1994. Mr. Gademi noted that Chad had taken part in the three Rio Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNCCC). He said that as part of the implementation of these conventions, initiatives related to the environment or specific convention targets had been undertaken. He mentioned that Chad had already drafted four national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in addition to a national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP). With regards to climate change,

Chad had released two national communications. Mr. Gademi said that Chad had played an active role in the ministerial component of the REDD+ workshop during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. In keeping with recommendations from that meeting, Chad had also undertaken to take part in the current African workshop on capacity-building (Cape Town, 20-23 September 2011). Mr. Gademi said that this workshop provided the opportunity for Chad to establish the foundations for the effective implementation of REDD+ initiatives and to re-establish a synergetic dynamic between the biodiversity and climate change conventions. He also believed that the workshop would enable Chad to set out a transversal roadmap for both conventions in an effort to build on Chad's capacities.

22. Mr. Marcel Yao of Côte d'Ivoire announced that the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable of Côte d'Ivoire was gradually committing itself to the international REDD+ process. He said that in June 2011, the country was admitted to the UN-REDD Programme as a partner country. He explained that the objective of the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable was to translate all Ivorian forest preservation efforts (national parks, reserves, reserved forests, rural reforestation areas, etc.) into REDD+ projects through the implementation of a national REDD+ strategy in close collaboration with local communities, especially those that depended on the forests and live in protected areas. A special emphasis would be placed on biodiversity. To bring about nation-wide awareness, it would also be important to build upon capacities at all levels of society. Mr. Yao said that at the moment, there was little regional REDD+ collaboration between members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, he said, Côte d'Ivoire backed these efforts, and, with the support of partners, aimed to organize a REDD+ sub-regional workshop for ECOWAS members in Abidjan in the first quarter of 2012. He noted that Côte d'Ivoire had completed the national assessment of its Convention on Biological Diversity ecological gaps to determine whether the protected area programme ensured the preservation of a maximum number of species. It had therefore been decided to extend the protected area network by, for example, authorizing the creation of voluntary nature reserves. He noted that Côte d'Ivoire had just initiated its REDD+ process. Environmental impact assessment studies were therefore required to determine the state of the forests and biodiversity following the decade of political unrest from which the nation was emerging. These evaluations would make it possible to monitor and measure the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and local communities.

23. Mr. Adrien Kakula Diasotuka of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) presented the REDD+ process in that country. He said that in DRC, REDD+ was spearheaded by national and interdepartmental committees, which must each make decisions and provide directives, as well as by the Coordination Nationale, a technical organization that oversaw the process on a day-to-day basis and planned initiatives. The biodiversity experts were involved through thematic coordination groups (Groupes de Coordination Thématiques), and indigenous peoples and local communities were very involved in the process through the REPALF. Biodiversity preservation measures included legislation on the general principles of environmental protection as part of the REDD+ process. Mr. Diasotuka stated that though no issue hindered the REDD+ process in the development and application of biodiversity preservation measures, laws must be amended and proposed as part of the REDD+ programme, especially pertaining to the need to build on environmental service valorization capacities, the links between biodiversity, climate change and REDD+, and the assessment and follow-up of the impacts of REDD+. He reported that the DRC was currently setting out national social and environmental REDD+ standards. He said that in October 2011, the strategic environment and social assessment (EES) would get underway as part of REDD+, and studies on income sharing and joint ecosystem benefits would also be carried out. He noted that although the assessment of the national ecological gap had yet to be completed, in 2008 the DRC undertook a nation-wide strategic evaluation of its biodiversity that took REDD+ planning into account. A carbon map was also being drawn up.

24. Mr. Deogracias Ikaka Nzamio provided a presentation (see meeting website) on behalf of Equatorial Guinea.

25. On behalf of Ghana, Mr. Yaw Kwarkye updated participants on progress towards REDD+ in his country. He reported that Ghana's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) had already been completed, had received the approval of the FCPF since March 2010 and was being implemented. He said that consultations leading to the finalization of the R-PP were effective, in spite of initial challenges. Multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder teams were constituted to provide the necessary input, including representatives of forest communities and stool land owners. A multi-stakeholder National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) was responsible for the development and implementation of the R-PP, with its activities coordinated by the national REDD+ Secretariat hosted by the Forestry Commission. Mr. Kwarkye explained that membership of the NRWG included biodiversity experts including custodians of indigenous traditional knowledge, technocrats, researchers and academia. Indigenous and local communities were represented on the National REDD+ Working Group through the representative of the NFF as well as the traditional leadership and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Task Team of the National REDD+ Working Group responsible for Social and Environmental Safeguards Assessment (SESA) was working on refining the biodiversity impact indicators as well as the survey instruments needed for impact assessments. These would be tested during the REDD+ demonstration phase. The process was being led by the EPA which had extensive experience in this area. The National Biodiversity Committee, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, had yet to complete the National Ecological Gap Analysis. However, ecological sustainability challenges in areas outside the protected areas and forest reserves were being addressed through initiatives such as the community resource management area (CREMA) concept and other off-reserve forest management interventions. Mr. Kwarkye reported that UNEP-WCMC had conducted preliminary analyses based on regional and global data which provided the basis for exploring the potential for co-benefits of carbon management for climate change mitigation under REDD+ in Ghana. This had served as useful background information during the preparation of Ghana's R-PP. Further to this, a carbon map for Ghana had just been produced, based on best available national data. In January 2009, Ghana hosted a regional workshop to review the draft report on Dialogue on Forests in West Africa which among other things addressed trans-border issues, the improvement of competency in forest governance, and how best to coordinate forest policies. The document was adopted on 8 June 2010 in Cotonou by the sector Ministers in the ECOWAS region. However, information on this process had been limited among key stakeholders, and there had been a clear lack of action to provide opportunities for mutual reinforcement of capacity and sharing of lessons and experiences.

26. Mr. Parkinson Ndonge provided an overview of the situation in Kenya. He said that Kenya had a total of about 582,650 square kilometres and a population of approximately 40 million people. He noted that the majority of the people depended on agriculture for their livelihood, and that fuelwood was the main source of household energy. He said that Kenya was estimated to emit 14.4 million tons of carbon per year due to deforestation and forest degradation. This might be attributed to several causes, including increasing demand for land for agricultural expansion, rapid population growth resulting in increasing settlements, infrastructural development, unsustainable logging and weak capacity to monitor illegal activities and enforce the law. He stated that the government of Kenya was committed to combating the challenges of deforestation and degradation. Several interventions were being supported by the government and other stakeholders. These included promoting energy conservation technologies to reduce fuelwood consumption, reclaiming degraded forest and stopping further conversion of forest lands to other uses, and enhancement and empowering of forest management institutions for sustainable forest management. Mr. Ndonge reported that Kenya had established a national REDD+ planning and coordination structure that included a National Steering Committee drawn from key stakeholders and a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group (TWG). A Secretariat had also been established and was operational. Mr. Ndonge said that Kenya was in the early stages of planning and implementing a national strategy with fully integrated biodiversity and social safeguards. Planning tools to assess/monitor the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and indigenous and local livelihoods would be integrated into the national strategy. Efforts were being made to strengthen regional collaboration on REDD+ through the East African Community through development of regional policies and strategies.



27. Mr. James Tabolokulo Kpadehyea introduced the progress made in Liberia with regards to REDD+ and biodiversity safeguards. He reported that Liberia had a population of 3.5 million people, a land area of 9.58 million hectares (about 24 million acres), and 4.5 million hectares of remaining fragmented forests. He explained that the agro-industrial zone of the country separated two blocks of forests. He said that the south-eastern block which hosts the Sapo National Forest was wet almost year round. The north-western block was a semi dried forest and was continued in Guinea referred to as the Zeama Forest. He noted that these forest blocks were rich biodiversity areas and therefore priority for global interest. He reported that in 2007, Liberia, upon invitation to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 13) in Bali, showcased her remaining forest cover, which was above 40 per cent of the Upper Guinea Tropical Rain Forest. He said that Liberia submitted the Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) one year later, following Bali 2008, and received a \$200,000 grant in 2009 for the development of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). It took Liberia two years to present same in 2011. Mr. Kpadehyea reported that Liberia had a Climate Change Policy Framework headed by the President. There was also a National Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC) that reported directly to the President. This group was comprised of Government Ministries and Agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs); INGOs/NGOS and community-based organizations (CBOs), and also served as the Technical Working Group. Apart from the NCCSC there was a National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS) housed by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA). Mr. Kpadehyea explained that there were several working groups under the NCCSC, including REDD+, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and others. He said that all other interest groups, beginning with village level, fell under the National Forest Forum, which was also part of the NCCSC. He noted that the Board of Directors of the Forestry Development Authority was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, who reported directly to the President of Liberia on forestry and related matters. He said that Liberia was a recipient of funding to do Gap Analysis on Sapo National Park (SNP), the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) and Lake Piso Multiple Use (LPM). The conduct had a specific approach for each area due to the severity of the threat posed by forest community dwellers to biodiversity and the like. In the case of Sapo, the survey showed that the community people were heavily engaged in mining and wildlife hunting activities for livelihood support, which was contributing to forest degradation. East Nimba communities were involved in slash-and-burn farming systems for livelihood support, which was contributing to deforestation. Liberia had resumed logging activities, and had a chain-of-custody (COC) system supported by SGS to help monitor logging. Other institutions were also helping to monitor forest resource use, such as a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). With reference to biodiversity safeguards, Liberia had submitted a proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for revision of its NBSAP, and had requested that funding pass through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Mr. Kpadehyea noted that although Liberia might be trying, there were many problems with the understanding of the implementation of the REDD+ programme in Liberia. One key issue was that not many people actually understood biodiversity issues. He said they were finding it difficult for the common man to believe/understand that conservation was development. He noted that Liberia's statutory laws were overlapping and needed to be harmonized. There was a need to create more and vigorous awareness on REDD+ as a major tool for conservation with benefits for all. Liberia had yet to have a formal regional collaboration on the REDD+ programme. It was their hope to work with all their neighbours for a successful regional approach for REDD+.

28. Mr. Andriamanjato Mamitiana presented an overview of the situation in Madagascar. He said that conscious of its great biodiversity potential, through the Ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts, the Malagasy government had worked to triple the acreage of protected areas in the country according to criteria pertaining to potential and threat. Some 6.9 million hectares of protected areas had therefore been created, leading to significant impacts on biodiversity protection and preservation at the national level. The process advocated the systematic implementation of social and environmental safeguard measures in the new protected areas. Local communities had been very involved in the consultation process and now took part in natural resource management, ecological monitoring and village patrols. He said that in addition, having already implemented pilot REDD projects in the past decade, Madagascar had recently

drafted the RPP document, which as part of REDD+ preparations for the 2012 post-Kyoto period would serve as a tool to plan initiatives that would lead to the development of a national REDD+ strategy. He noted that a study to assess and monitor the impacts of REDD+ activities on biodiversity at the national level would be carried out as part of the strategic environmental and social assessment of the optimal strategic options. He said that implementation of a legislative and institutional framework, better forest management, integration of environmental and biological factors at all levels, involvement of local communities in resource management and environmental follow-up, and development of tools to assess and follow up on the impacts of REDD+ initiatives on biodiversity were undoubtedly among the factors that would lead to the successful nationwide implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.

29. Mr. Jonathan Mutau Kamwi introduced the beginning of REDD+ efforts in Namibia. He reported that Namibia had started drafting the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal, which he said would serve as a planning tool and as a guide for preparations to become ready for REDD+ in 2010. It would provide a framework for guiding long-term investments to address Namibia's footprint on climate change through emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Furthermore, it would set a roadmap, budget and schedule to achieve REDD readiness in Namibia and to mobilize financial resources from the FCPF and other sources for the implementation of REDD+ readiness activities. He noted that the multisectoral working group on REDD+ would work closely with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism through its Directorate of Environmental Affairs, which worked closely with other biodiversity agencies and stakeholders. A consultation and participation plan would be developed and regional consultation workshop would be held involving indigenous communities. Mr. Kamwi reported that two adjacent community forest areas in northeast Namibia, covering a total area of over 100,000 hectares, had been identified for piloting. These areas were also conservancies under formal community management. He said that it was envisaged that other community forest areas would also be considered for REDD+ readiness activities in order to enable communities to participate in the global carbon trade. He noted that alternative ways to accommodate human needs, in order to decrease the pressure from rural communities living adjacent to protected areas, should be investigated. Furthermore, inadequate coordination and policy harmonization with other sectors that have impacts on forests might hinder biodiversity safeguards.

30. A presentation by Mr. Salisu M. Dahiru gave an overview of Nigeria's experience with REDD+. Mr. Dahiru reported that Nigeria engaged with UN-REDD in 2009 and that its draft national REDD+ readiness programme document, which was presented at the sixth UN-REDD Policy Board meeting, would be considered for approval at the forthcoming seventh Policy Board meeting in October 2011. He said that an exploratory study on the linkages between carbon, biodiversity and ecosystem services was a key component of Nigeria's REDD+ readiness process. He reported that biodiversity experts, indigenous/local communities and civil society were actively involved in REDD+ planning through their membership of the National Technical Committee and the Federal REDD+ Stakeholders' Forum, which were the main organs for REDD+ planning. Currently, Nigeria was piloting the UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles & Criteria and Participatory Governance Assessment as planning tools to assess and monitor impacts of REDD+. Mr. Dahiru stated that major obstacles for developing and applying biodiversity safeguards included lack of awareness, poor capacity, conflicting stakeholder interests, and inadequate monitoring. Capacity-building was needed at national, state, local community and civil society organization/community-based organization levels, mainly in the areas of understanding biodiversity safeguards, establishment of biodiversity reference condition and database at national level, community-based biodiversity monitoring, and integrated land-use planning. He said that preparation for Nigeria's National Ecological Gap Analysis under the Convention on Biological Diversity had been initiated; inputs from it would be integrated into REDD+ planning and implementation. Mr. Dahiru reported that Nigeria had completed a preliminary study on mapping of biodiversity, carbon and co-benefits overlays with UNEP-WCMC. He noted that progress with REDD+ so far had been achieved mainly with support from UN-REDD; critical additional/complementary regional and international support was necessary to enable Nigeria attain its full potential in REDD+.

31. Ms. Lyndy Bastienne from the Seychelles reported on the Seychelles' biodiversity, habitat and climate change concerns. She said that the country was recognized as a biodiversity "hot spot" in the

world, and its natural beauty represented an asset for the small population of Seychelles. The Government, recognizing biodiversity as the basis for socio-economic development, had declared 50 per cent of the land mass as protected areas, aiming to protect the threatened biodiversity from risks challenging the successful implementation of important management plans, while balancing biodiversity conservation and development. Extensive monitoring was expected via the national environment management plan and the development of a national metadatabase, and through other external programme strategies. Ms. Bastienne stated that although aware of the crucial role of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), Seychelles had not yet instituted the REDD mechanism as an instrument supporting biodiversity management, complementing national efforts in emissions cuts. She said that now with existing management plans, the government was taking more of a facilitating role, leaving ground implementation to NGOs and community-based initiatives and adapting other measures to mainstream biodiversity conservation in the main production sectors, while engaging with the private sector (co-management). Challenges remained in local capacity for technical inputs, law enforcement and monitoring, establishing baselines, valuing ecosystems, coordination and consistency, natural disasters, development pressures, and addressing root causes. Seychelles was, however, benefiting from donor support and NGOs in developing national land-use plans and mapping out important biodiversity hotspots, guiding development in sensitive areas and improving environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures. Ms. Bastienne noted that as a SADC member, Seychelles had contributed to drafting the position on REDD+ in lowering emissions, enhancing conservation, restoration and management of forest ecosystems, being concerned about the country's vulnerability to impacts of climate change. Further international support could be used in sharing technical know-how, simplifying access to financial mechanisms for thorough implementation of strategies and action plans with increased community participation for improved resilience to climate change impacts while also expanding the scope and understanding (if relevant) of REDD+ in small island systems.

32. Mr. Itchell Guiney of South Africa gave a presentation jointly developed by the relevant South Africa government institutions that are engaged in REDD+, i.e., the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). He said that in terms of REDD+, South Africa had no formal national policies/strategies yet. There was a policy structure that was evolving but it was pending the REDD+ outcome from the negotiations to be held at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (COP 17). Mr. Guiney reported that there had, however, been a number of initiatives leading up to and aiding in the policy/strategy development process. National policies were in place to address the role of communities in the arena of community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), participatory forest management (PFM) and sustainable livelihood programmes (SLPs) for addressing biodiversity, sustainable land management (SLM) and sustainable forest management (SFM) issues. There was a growing recognition that the relationships between these Programmes could be enhanced. There was also a growing realization of the important concept of biodiversity safeguards, on which negotiations were still at an early stage. Policies for the implementation of the biodiversity safeguards would be guided by the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), the National Forests Act (NFA), the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (NVFFA), the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (NEMPAA) and other national policies. The review of the country's national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) would take these issues into account. A number of challenges and obstacles had been identified with regards to developing and applying biodiversity safeguards for the country. These included lack of national capacity, land-use changes, human pressure on forest resources and natural ecosystems, lack of public awareness on the importance of biodiversity for all our well-being, and the ever-increasing need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources across all sectors of the national economy. Mr. Guiney noted that capacity-building regarding biodiversity safeguards needs were necessary at government (resource economics and biodiversity planners), civil society (public awareness and resource use) and at community level for practical implementation. A number of national monitoring programmes could be used to assess and monitor the impacts of REDD+ once it had been implemented in

the country. These included: (i) the South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA), (ii) the South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), (iii) the National Biodiversity Assessment (NBA), (iv) the Forest Growth Plot Research Project (23 years), and (v) the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES). The first national assessment across terrestrial, river, estuarine and marine environments (the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment – NSBA) was conducted in 2004. This assessment introduced two new headline indicators, namely: (i) ecosystem threat status and (ii) ecosystem protection levels. South Africa was currently working on its NBA for 2011, which sought to incorporate some components of the 2004 NSBA, but with the inclusion of non-spatial elements such as the occurrence of invasive species. This assessment would enable the production of a single summary report on the state of the country's biodiversity, placing greater emphasis on aquatic environments (freshwater, estuarine and marine). Importantly, the assessment also included a climate change component. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) was also currently undertaking a National Forest Resources Assessment, which should among other aspects also consider carbon stock and flow values. Regarding considerations for national gap analysis in REDD+ planning, South Africa had not yet incorporated these. Mr. Guiney said it was worth mentioning, however, that the application or development of multiple benefit tools at a national level, in line with assessing or monitoring REDD+ impacts, was still at an early stage. On the other hand, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) was also conducting a vulnerability assessment study using the biome approach. The main objective was to address ecosystem services, function and goods, which were needed for climate change adaptation and mitigation plans. This initiative would address both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and their response measures. Both initiatives would have a direct input on REDD+ programmes by restoring, conserving and encouraging fewer emissions from carbon-sink ecosystems. Mr. Guiney noted that South Africa's efforts at regional collaboration on safeguards and impact assessment had seen its involvement as part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) REDD+ initiative, which was adopted by SADC Ministers responsible for Environment and Natural Resources Management on 26 May 2011. He said that SADC was among the first regional organizations in Africa to agree to support Member States to this effect. The four-year programme was, among other things, aimed at achieving the following: (i) strengthening capacities in the Member States to design REDD+ policies and programmes while at the same time providing a framework for cooperation, (ii) supporting REDD+ preparations and to promote cooperation on shared ecosystems, and (iii) addressing regional issues arising from implementation of REDD+.

33. Mr. Xavier Mugumya reported that Uganda's protected area system covered about 13 per cent of the country. Forest cover was about 15 per cent, including some currently degraded land suitable for restoration. Rate of deforestation was 2.7 per cent (loss of about 100,000 hectares annually). National experience with REDD started in 2008, and until 2011 a national R-PIN was established. The structure would change for the readiness phase; the Ministry of Forestry would be the lead institution to implement necessary reforms and changes, under the overall national policy committee chaired by the Ministry of Environment. Experience with safeguards included that biodiversity experts were involved in the planning, e.g., through the relevant Ministries, through experts from NGOs and civil society organizations, and through local communities with biodiversity (TK) knowledge.

34. Mr. Martin Brasher of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented the United Kingdom perspective on biodiversity-related aspects of REDD+. He stated that the United Kingdom attached high priority to improved cooperation in international efforts to tackle climate change and protect biodiversity. On REDD+, there was considerable potential to achieve multiple benefits from resources invested, though also a need for sound management to prevent negative environmental or social impacts. The United Kingdom had therefore been participating actively in discussions about the agreed-upon REDD+ safeguards under the UNFCCC, as well as in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity to implement Nagoya decision X/33. In particular, the United Kingdom had commissioned work by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on operational guidelines for safeguards and, most important, had supported this series of Convention on Biological Diversity regional expert workshops to help develop advice on the application of REDD+ biodiversity safeguards and identify

potential indicators. He said that developing countries' ownership is essential to delivering REDD+ – and these workshops had been very fruitful. The emerging conclusions suggested practical ways in which forest nations, developed countries and other stakeholders could achieve multiple benefits and operational efficiencies, including through improved coordination of national REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs, targeted protection of natural forests that were both carbon- and biodiversity-rich, investment in sustainable land-use planning, development of robust indicators with more integrated monitoring and reporting, including the use of satellite data, and further rationalization of the various detailed standards, criteria and safeguards that complemented the high-level ones agreed upon by UNFCCC. He stated that the United Kingdom was committed to helping ensure that such lessons influenced global discussions including Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNFCCC, and to ensuring that its own bilateral REDD+ programme helped deliver multiple benefits on climate change, poverty and biodiversity.

35. Mr. George Revocatus Kafumu reported that Tanzania and Norway signed a letter of intent in 2008 for the establishment of a partnership to meet climate change challenges. He stated that Tanzania had a high potential for REDD+, due to the fact that it was endowed with substantial forest resources, with a deforestation rate of about 400,000 hectares per year. He said that participatory forest management (JFM and CBFM) was being implemented in Tanzania. In accordance with sections 15 and 75 of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2004, all environmental management issues, including climate change, were coordinated by the Vice President's Office, Division of Environment. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation was one of the mitigation options that addressed emission of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide. Mr. Kafumu said that the 2004 EMA provided for legal and institutional framework for sustainable management of biodiversity. It also addressed the following: environmental protection planning and ecosystem management planning; conservation and protection of economically sensitive areas; prohibition of human activities in certain areas; management of forest resources; and conservation of biological diversity (in situ and ex situ). He said that biodiversity issues were being mainstreamed into various national policies, strategies and plans. Tanzania was aiming to comply with both social and environmental safeguards, and therefore monitor carbon and social issues. A national REDD+ framework had been prepared and later a REDD+ strategy for Tanzania. A second phase focused on public institutional, private sector, PPP and biodiversity issues as related to REDD+. Measures to ensure that REDD+ benefits poor, forest-dependent local communities and vulnerable households, and caused minimum negative impacts. REDD+ provided for opportunities by providing incentives, but also faced the challenge of opportunity costs.

36. Zambia noted that Zambia had approximately 50 million hectares of forest, with an estimated deforestation rate of between 250,000 to 300,000 hectares per year. The primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation varied across regions within Zambia; they included charcoal and wood fuel use, timber production, and unsustainable agricultural methods. These drivers were a result of the overwhelming reliance of the largely poor rural population on natural resources for day-to-day survival, and the lack of alternative energy sources in urban areas where much of the population also used charcoal and firewood for fuel. It was estimated that about 75 per cent of the country's energy supply was from charcoal and firewood and only 25 per cent of the population had access to electricity. Currently, 49.3 per cent of the urban population and 3.2 per cent of the rural population had access to electricity. Zambia was in the REDD readiness phase, currently developing a national strategy to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resource through the Forestry Department were coordinating the readiness phase. A multisectoral technical committee supported the coordination unit where various experts from different sectors provided technical advice. Studies had been commissioned to help assess the needs of Zambia. These included: stakeholder analysis; drivers of deforestation; best forest practices; and awareness-raising. The Zambian REDD readiness phase aimed at developing a national strategy based on experience. Capacity was required in terms of knowledge, skills and tools (equipment) in various issues concerning REDD and biodiversity conservation and management, including ecosystem management and valuation, and assessment and monitoring.

***Presentations by indigenous and local communities***

37. Mr. Elifuraha Laltaika of the Association for Law and Advocacy for Pastoralists gave a presentation on behalf of the indigenous and local community organizations present. He highlighted that with regards to indigenous peoples, African governments voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) when it was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. He said that the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), an organ of the African Union mandated to promote and protect human rights in the continent, also accepted that there were indigenous peoples in Africa pursuant to international human rights law. This was indicated in a report of the Working Group of Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Populations. He said that this report had been adopted by the African Commission and therefore was a document of the African Union. He said that in the report in question, the issue of aboriginality, which entailed "who was the first to be in a given territory", did not apply in the same way in Africa as in Latin America since all communities were indigenous to Africa in that respect. He said that the main issues in the African context were marginalization and exclusion, as well as dispossession of ancestral land, and that there were therefore four important characteristics for identifying indigenous peoples in Africa as proposed by the above-mentioned Working Group. These were (i) occupation and use of a specific territory; (ii) voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness, which might include aspects of language, social organization, religion and spiritual values, modes of production, laws and institutions; (iii) self-identification, as well as identification by other groups, as a distinct collectivity; and (iv) an experience of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion or discrimination. If REDD+ was not designed and implemented in accordance with the principles of human rights, indigenous peoples would suffer disproportionately. Mr. Laltaika said that at the REDD+ preparatory stage, indigenous peoples were consulted but in most cases at the end of the process. He said that other risks included limited knowledge on REDD+ and biodiversity as a whole, suspicion on land/community forest dispossession given past experiences in many countries, and hesitation on the part of some African governments to recognize indigenous peoples as custodians and co-managers of forests and their biodiversity. He stated that there was, however, light at the end of the tunnel, especially taking into account the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN-REDD Guidance on stakeholder engagement, and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. These three initiatives all insisted that indigenous peoples should be involved meaningfully at the national level. Mr. Laltaika said that specific funding needs included enhancing the understanding of policy makers in Africa on the concept of indigenous peoples in the African context, as well as building the capacities of indigenous peoples' organizations and their representatives to effectively keep an eye on and follow REDD+ initiatives as they related to biodiversity issues.

***Presentations by other relevant organizations***

38. Mr. Chouaibou Nchoutpouen of the Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) highlighted the fact that Congo Basin forests stocked between 24 and 39 gigatons of carbon. He reported that several sub-regional REDD+ initiatives that more or less integrated relevant biodiversity preservation measures were currently being implemented or planned. Projects included: (i) efforts to build on institutional capacities for REDD+ issues for the sustainable management of Congo Basin forests; (ii) the initiative to develop synergies between adaptation and mitigation measures in Congo Basin forests with regards to climate change (*Changement climatique et forêts dans le bassin du Congo: synergies entre l'adaptation et l'atténuation*, COBAM); (iii) the initiative to develop national measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) systems for Congo Basin forests through a sub-regional approach (*Développement de systèmes nationaux MRV par une approche sous-régionale pour les pays du bassin du Congo*); (iv) a prospective assessment of the evolution of Central African forest systems by 2040; and (v) the development of a regional model of future deforestation and associated greenhouse gas emissions trends in the Congo Basin. These initiatives stemmed from a participatory and interactive approach and were driven by the strong participation of indigenous and local communities as well as civil sub-regional organizations (organisations de la société civile, OSC).

39. Mr. Alex Miston Banda of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat presented SADC's Support Programme on REDD. He said the programme was approved in May 2011 by the SADC Ministers responsible for the environment and natural resources. The programme focused on key thematic or programmatic areas under REDD+ that would support Member States and facilitate the enhancement of cooperation among them. These thematic areas included: promotion of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the implementation of national REDD programmes; facilitating monitoring reporting and verification (MRV); leveraging funding mechanisms for REDD; and engagement in international negotiations. He stated that each of these areas was elaborated through specific objectives and the programme activities needed to achieve them. An implementation framework was also proposed. This included national, regional and interdepartmental technical working groups coordinated by the SADC Secretariat, a REDD Project Management Team (REDD-PMT) under the Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR), as well as targeted support to selected academic and research institutions to participate in regional REDD processes and others.

40. Mr. Elie Hakizumwami of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) highlighted how FSC standards related to biodiversity safeguards. He stated that the mission of the FSC was to promote socially beneficial, economically viable and environmentally appropriate forest management. The goal was to help ensure that the harvest of timber and non-timber forest products maintained the forest's biodiversity, productivity and ecological processes. He said that FSC applied multi-stakeholder processes to develop a set of sustainable forest management standards based on robust principles and criteria guaranteeing conservation of biological diversity within forest management units (FMUs) and the interests of local communities. He said that the experts who developed FSC national standards represented different chambers' interests (environmental, economical and social) in a balanced way. This involved a wide consultation of stakeholders to ensure that their concerns were addressed. Mr. Hakizumwami stated that the FSC forest certification system strengthened the conservation of biodiversity in various ways. These included: (i) support for the enforcement of legislation and international conventions and agreements pertaining to forestry, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, by requiring compliance to them; (ii) monitoring the effects of management activities and ensuring that the results were fed back into planning and forest management practices; (iii) identification of areas within the forest management unit that would be protected or whose management was to be improved (high conservation values, HCVs); (iv) protection of threatened and endangered species; (v) prevention of avoidable damage to the ecosystem by implementing reduced-impact logging (RIL) technologies; and (vi) protection of the rights of local communities and indigenous people.

#### **ITEM 4. REDD+ SAFEGUARDS AND ASSESSMENT/MONITORING OF IMPACTS**

41. The participants were divided into three working groups (WG) for in-depth discussions. Each working group addressed two main issues: (i) developing advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity and indigenous and local communities; and (ii) identifying possible indicators and mechanisms to assess the contribution of REDD+ to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

42. The three working groups provided detailed recommendations on these issues. The groups were facilitated by Ms. Neeta Hooda (World Bank), Mr. Barney Dickson (UNEP-WCMC/UN-REDD Programme), and Mr. Elie Hakizumwami (Forest Stewardship Council). Rapporteurs for the working groups were Mr. Yaw Kwakye (working group 1); Mr. Xavier Nyindo Mugumya (working group 2); and Mr. Mensah Bienvenu Celestin Bossou (working group 3).

43. Results of the working groups are detailed in section II above.

#### **ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

44. There were no other matters.

#### **ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

45. Participants adopted the present report of the meeting.

46. The meeting closed at 1 p.m. Friday, 23 September 2011.



*Annex*

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CBD Parties**

**Angola**

1. Ms. Paula Cristina Domingos Francisco Coelho  
National Director for Biodiversity  
National Directorate of Biodiversity  
Ministry of Environment of Angola  
Direction Nationale de Ressources Naturelles  
Ministère de l'Urbanisme et de l'Environnement/30, Ave. 4 de Fevereiro (Edificio Atlantico)  
Luanda  
Angola  
Tel.: 244 923 70 42 46  
E-Mail: paulacamuhoto@hotmail.com,  
paulacamuhoto@yahoo.com.br

**Benin**

2. Mr. Mensah Bienvenu Celestin Bossou  
Directeur Général Adjoint des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles  
Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature  
Cotonou 02 BP 268  
Benin  
Tel.: +229 95-42-50-47  
Fax: +229 21 33 61 89  
E-Mail: cesarenong@yahoo.fr,  
bmmbc1975@gmail.com

**Botswana**

3. Mr. Joshua Jojigam Moloi  
Deputy Director  
Department of Forestry and Range Resources  
Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism  
Private Bag 00424  
Gaborone  
Botswana  
Tel.: +267 395 4050 / 3180334  
Fax: +267 395 4051  
E-Mail: jjmoloi@gov.bw,  
jojigam@hotmail.com

**Central African Republic**

4. Mr. Bob Felicien Konzi-Sarambo  
NFP CBD and SBSTTA  
Chargé de Mission en matière d'Écologie  
Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Écologie  
BP 686  
Bangui  
Central African Republic  
Tel.: +236 75 50 6500  
Fax: +236 21 61 5741  
E-Mail: bkonzi@hotmail.com

**Chad**

5. Mr. Habib Gademi  
Directeur Adjoint des Parcs Nationaux, des Reserves de Faune et de la Chasse  
Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Halieutiques  
BP 447  
N'Djamena  
Chad  
Tel.: +235 22 52 23 05  
Fax: +235 22 52 38 39  
E-Mail: hgademi@hotmail.com

**Côte d'Ivoire**

6. Mr. Marcel Yao  
REDD Focal Point Coordinator  
Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts  
20 B.P. 650  
Abidjan 20  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Tel.: +225 22 44 18 34  
E-Mail: ensamarcel@yahoo.fr

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

7. Mr. Mike Ipanga Mwaku  
Chef de Division Biodiversite et Point  
focal CDB  
Direction du Développement Durable  
Ministère de l'Environnement,  
Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme  
Avenue Papa Ileo No. 15  
B. P. 12348  
Kinshasa/Gombe  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Tel.: +243 84 84 36 789  
E-Mail: mikeipanga@yahoo.fr
8. Mr. Adrien Kakula Diasotuka  
National Project Officer  
CN-REDD National Coordination  
Ministere de l'Environnement,  
Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme  
Avenue Papa Ileo No. 15  
B. P. 12348  
Kinshasa/Gombe  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Tel.: +243 81 39 96 522  
E-Mail: kakulaadrien@gmail.com

**Equatorial Guinea**

9. Mr. Deogracias Ikaka Nzamio  
REDD Coordinator  
Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente  
Malabo  
Equatorial Guinea  
Tel.: +240 222 24 46 36  
Fax: +240 092905  
E-Mail: ikakanzamio@yahoo.fr

**Ghana**

10. Mr. Yaw Kwakye  
Manager  
Climate Change Unit  
The Forestry Commission of Ghana  
P. O. Box MB 434  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel.: +233-24-4769874  
E-Mail:  
beemayaw@yahoo.com,  
ykwakye@hq.fcghana.com

**Kenya**

11. Mr. Parkinson Ndonge  
CBD Desk Officer  
Ministry of Environment and Mineral  
Resources  
P.O. Box 30126-00100  
Nairobi  
Kenya  
Tel.: +254 20 27 30 808  
E-Mail: pndonye@environment.go.ke

**Liberia**

12. Mr. James Tabolokulo Kpadehyea  
Manager  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Division  
Forestry Development Authority  
PO Box 10-3010  
Monrovia 10 , 1000  
Liberia  
Tel.: +231 659 97 15  
E-Mail: kpadehyejames@yahoo.com

**Madagascar**

13. Mr. Andriamanjato Mamitiana  
REDD Coordinator  
Ministère de l'Environnement et des  
Forêts  
BP 243 Nanisana  
Antananarivo  
Madagascar  
Tel.: +261 340 56 21 94  
E-Mail: ngamamitiana1010@gmail.com,  
ngamamitiana1010@yahoo.fr

**Namibia**

14. Mr. Jonathan Mutau Kamwi  
Senior Forester  
Directorate of Forestry  
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and  
Forestry  
Private Bag 13184  
Windhoek  
Namibia  
Tel.: +264 612 08 77 21  
E-Mail: mutauk@yahoo.co.uk,  
kamwijo@mawf.gov.na

**Nigeria**

15. Mr. Salisu M. Dahiru  
Deputy Director of Forestry and  
National REDD+ Coordinator  
Federal Ministry of Environment  
Mabushi  
Abuja  
Nigeria  
Tel.: +234 80 30 57 06 25  
E-Mail: sdahiru85@yahoo.com

**Seychelles**

16. Ms. Lyndy Bastienne  
National Coordinator & Communication  
Focal Point  
Mangroves for the Future - Seychelles  
UNDP Office  
Victoria  
Seychelles  
Tel.: +248 422 59 14  
Fax: +248 422 60 64  
E-Mail:  
lyndy.bastienne@iucn.org,  
lyndy.sesel@gmail.com

**South Africa**

17. Ms. Sebueng Chipeta  
Chief Director  
Forestry regulation and oversight  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environmental Affairs and Rural  
Development  
185 Schoeman Street  
Private Bag X313  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: 012 336 7490  
Fax: 012 336 7264  
E-Mail: cdfro@daff.gov.za

18. Mr. Itchell Guiney  
Assistant Director  
Forestry Research Coordinator  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environmental Affairs and Rural  
Development  
Private Bag x313  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: 012 336 6984  
E-Mail: itchellg@daff.gov.za
19. Mr. Vhalinavo Khavhagali  
Biodiversity Control Officer  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 012 310 3065  
Fax: +27 012 310 7110  
E-Mail:  
vkhavhagali@environment.gov.za
20. Mr. Rennie Madula  
Director  
Forestry Department  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environmental Affairs and Rural  
Development  
185 Schoeman Street  
Private Bag X313  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: 012 336 7383  
Fax: 012 336 3932  
E-Mail: remmym@daff.gov.za
21. Ms. Wadzanayi Mandivenyi  
Director  
Biodiversity Risk Management  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: 27 12 310 3696  
Fax: 27 12 320 7110  
E-Mail:  
wmandivenyi@environment.gov.za,  
wmandivenyi@deat.gov.za

22. Mr. Brian Mantlana  
South African National Biodiversity  
Institute  
Private Bag X7  
Claremont 7735  
South Africa  
Tel.: + 27 021 799 8818  
Fax: +27 021 799 6901  
E-Mail: b.mantlana@sanbi.org.za
23. Mr. Guy Midgley  
Chief Director Climate Change and  
BioAdaptation  
Global Change Research Group  
South African National Biodiversity  
Institute  
Kirstenbosch Research Centre  
Private Bag X7, Claremont  
Cape Town 7735  
Tel.: +27 021 799 8707  
Fax: +27 021 799 8705  
E-Mail: g.midgley@sanbi.org.za
24. Mr. Ntando Mkize  
Biodiversity Control Officer  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: +12 310 3899  
Fax: +12 310 7110  
E-Mail: ncmkhize@environment.gov.za
25. Mr. Shonisani Mathews Munzhedzi  
Chief Director: Biodiversity  
Management  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X 447  
Pretoria  
Pretoria 2000 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 12 310 3851/3696  
Fax: +27 12 320 0896  
E-Mail: smunzhedzi@environment.gov.za
26. Ms. Sarisha Ramanand  
Specialist Advisor  
Mitigation Department  
Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: +12 310 3849  
E-Mail: sramanand@environment.gov.za
27. Ms. Moshibudi Priscilla Rampedi  
DDG  
Department of Agriculture,  
Environmental Affairs and Rural  
Development  
Private Bag x973  
Pretoria 0001  
South Africa  
Tel.: 012 319 7886  
Fax: 012 319 7841  
E-Mail: ddgforestry@daff.gov.za
- Uganda**
28. Mr. Xavier Nyindo Mugumya  
Coordinator Climate Change and  
REDD+ Focal Point  
National Forestry Authority  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
Tel.: +256 414 230 265  
Fax: +256 414 230 369  
E-Mail: xavierm@nfa.org.ug,  
xavierm\_1962@gmail.com
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland**
29. Mr. Martin Brasher  
Deputy Director  
Biodiversity Programme  
Department for Environment, Food and  
Rural Affairs  
Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,  
Temple Quay  
Bristol BS1 6 EB  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
Tel.: 0117 372 8277  
Fax: 0117 372 8688  
E-Mail: martin.brasher@defra.gsi.gov.uk

**United Republic of Tanzania**

30. Ms. Zainabu Shabani Bungwa  
Environmental Forest Officer  
Division of Environment  
Vice President's Office  
Luthuli Street  
P.O. Box 5380  
Dar Es Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel.: +255 222 11 39 83  
Fax: +255 222 11 38 56  
E-Mail: shabani\_zainabu@yahoo.com
31. Mr. George Revocatus Kafumu  
Principal Forest Officer  
Environment  
Vice President's Office  
Luthuli Street  
P.O. Box 5380  
Dar Es Salaam  
United Republic of Tanzania  
Tel.: +255 22 211 3983;  
+255 22 11 39 83  
Fax: +255 222 11 38 56  
E-Mail: grkafumu@yahoo.com

**Zambia**

32. Mr. Deuteronomy Kasaro  
National REDD Coordinator  
Forestry Department  
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and  
Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 50042, 2nd floor  
Kwacha House Annex, Cairo Road  
Lusaka  
Zambia  
Tel.: +260 977 654 130  
Fax: +260 211 226 131  
E-Mail: deutkas@yahoo.co.uk,  
dkasaro@mtenr.gov.zm
33. Mr. Ignatius Makumba  
Chief Natural Resources Management  
Officer and CBD NFP  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Management Department  
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and  
Natural Resources  
PO Box 30575  
Lusaka 10101  
Zambia  
Tel.: +260 966 74 68 41;  
+260 955 66 07 07  
Fax: +260 211 22 39 30  
E-Mail:  
inmakumba@yahoo.com,  
imakumba@mtenr.gov.zm

## United Nations and Specialized Agencies

### The World Bank

34. Ms. Neeta Hooda  
Senior Carbon Finance Specialist  
Carbon Finance Unit  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433  
United States of America  
E-Mail: [nhooda@worldbank.org](mailto:nhooda@worldbank.org)  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org>

### United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

35. Mr. Barney Dickson  
Head of Climate Change and  
Biodiversity Programme  
United Nations Environment  
Programme - World Conservation  
Monitoring Centre  
219 Huntingdon Road  
Cambridge CB3 0DL  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland  
Tel.: +44 1223 814636  
Fax: +44 1223 277136  
E-Mail: [barney.dickson@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:barney.dickson@unep-wcmc.org)  
Web: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/>

### United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

36. Ms. Maria Jose Sanz-Sánchez  
Programme Officer  
Mitigation, Data and Analysis  
Programme  
United Nations Framework Convention  
on Climate Change  
Mailing: UNFCCC Secretariat, P.O.  
Box 260 124, D-53153  
Main Office: Haus Carstanjen, Martin-  
Luther-King-Strasse 8, 53175  
Bonn  
Germany  
Tel.: +49 228 815 1404  
E-Mail: [msanz-sanchez@unfccc.int](mailto:msanz-sanchez@unfccc.int)  
Web: <http://unfccc.int>

### UN-REDD Programme

37. Ms. Julie Greenwalt  
Programme Officer  
UN-REDD Programme  
UNEP Headquarters  
Nairobi  
Kenya  
Tel.: + 254 207 625 729  
E-Mail: [julie.greenwalt@unep.org](mailto:julie.greenwalt@unep.org)  
Web: [www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org)

## Inter-Governmental Organizations

### Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

38. Mr. Denis Sonwa  
Scientist  
Forests and Environment  
Center for International Forestry  
Research  
Yaounde  
Cameroon  
Tel.: +237 22 22 74 49  
E-Mail: [d.sonwa@cgiar.org](mailto:d.sonwa@cgiar.org)

### Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC)

39. Mr. Chouaibou Nchoutpouen  
Assistant de programme chargé de  
Biodiversité et Désertification  
Commission des Forêts d'Afrique  
Centrale (COMIFAC)  
BP 20 818  
Yaoundé  
Cameroon  
Tel.: +237 2221 3510  
Fax: +237 2221 3512  
E-Mail:  
[cnchoutpouen@comifac.org](mailto:cnchoutpouen@comifac.org),  
[cnchoutpouen@yahoo.fr](mailto:cnchoutpouen@yahoo.fr)  
Web: <http://www.comifac.org>

**International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)**

40. Mr. Polycarpe Masupa-Kambale  
Projects Manager  
RFM Division  
International Tropical Timber  
Organization  
International Organizations Center - 5th  
Floor  
Pacifico-Yokohama 1-1-1, Minato-  
Mirai, Nishi-ku  
Yokohama 220-0012  
Japan  
Tel.: +81 0 45 223 1110  
Fax: +81 0 45 223 1111  
E-Mail: [masupa@itto.int](mailto:masupa@itto.int)  
Web: <http://www.itto.or.jp>

**IUCN Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa**

41. Ms. Barbara Nakangu  
Head of IUCN Uganda Country Office  
IUCN Regional Office for Eastern and  
Southern Africa  
Kampala  
Uganda  
Tel.: +256 414 233 738  
E-Mail: [barbara.nakangu@iucn.org](mailto:barbara.nakangu@iucn.org)

**IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Africa**

42. Mr. Wale Adeleke  
REDD Forest Governance Thematic  
Coordinator  
West and Central Africa Regional  
Programme (PACO)  
IUCN Regional Office for West and  
Central Africa  
Accra  
Ghana  
Tel.: +233 24 22 96 78  
E-Mail: [adewale.adeleke@iucn.org](mailto:adewale.adeleke@iucn.org)

**Southern African Development Community Secretariat**

43. Mr. Alex Miston Banda  
Senior Programme Officer  
Environment and Sustainable  
Development  
Southern African Development  
Community Secretariat  
P/Bag 0095 Plot 54385  
New CBD  
Millenium Office Park  
Gaborone  
Botswana  
Tel.: +267 3641742 / 3951863 ext 1242  
Fax: 267 3957109 /3924099/3972848  
E-Mail: [abanda@sadc.int](mailto:abanda@sadc.int),  
[alex.banda@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alex.banda@yahoo.co.uk)  
Web: <http://www.sadc.int>

44. Mr. Moses Chakanga  
Forest Advisor (GIZ)  
Sustainable Forest Management and  
Conservation Programme  
Southern African Development  
Community Secretariat  
P/Bag 0095 Plot 54385  
New CBD  
Millenium Office Park  
Gaborone  
Botswana  
Web: <http://www.sadc.int>

## **Non-Governmental Organizations**

### **Forest Stewardship Council**

45. Mr. Elie Hakizumwami  
Africa Regional Director  
Forest Stewardship Council  
Yaounde  
Cameroon  
Tel.: +237 77535214  
Fax: +49 (0)228 367 66-65  
E-Mail: e.hakizumwami@fsc.org  
Web: www.fsc.org

### **Natural Justice (Lawyers for Communities and the Environment)**

46. Mr. Kabir Sanjay Bavikatte  
Co-Director  
Natural Justice (Lawyers for  
Communities and the Environment)  
Mercantile Building  
63 Hout Street  
Cape Town 8000  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 21 426 1633  
Fax: +27 21 426 1633  
E-Mail: kabir@naturaljustice.org.za

## **Indigenous and Local Community Organizations**

### **Association for Law and Advocacy for Pastoralists**

47. Mr. Elifuraha Isaya Laltaika  
Executive Director  
Association for Law and Advocacy for  
Pastoralists  
Arusha  
United Republic of Tanzania  
E-Mail: elilaltaika@yahoo.com,  
alapapastoralists2010@gmail.com

### **Maasai Women for Education and Economic Development (MAWEED)**

49. Mr. Gift Parseen  
Youth representative  
Environmental Issues  
Maasai Women for Education and  
Economic Development  
P.O.BOX 711  
Narok District  
Kenya  
E-Mail: giftparseen@gmail.com

### **Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minoritaires vulnérables**

48. Mr. Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho  
Directeur Executif  
Centre d'accompagnement des  
autochtones pygmées et minoritaires  
vulnérables  
2 Boulevard du Lac Labotte  
Ville de Bukavu  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Tel.: +243 99 77 06 371  
Fax: 00250538334  
E-Mail:  
mukumbapaci@yahoo.ca,  
camvorg@yahoo.fr



## **Business**

### **DOE Tüv Nord - Southern Africa**

50. Mr. Gregor Kochaniewicz  
CDM Regional Product Manager  
DOE Tüv Nord - Southern Africa  
41/43 Erica Road  
Tableview 7443  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 021 521 6818  
E-Mail: g.kochaniewicz@gmx.de,  
gkochaniewicz@tuev-nord.de

### **Resource Africa**

51. Mr. Julian Sturgeon  
Vice-Chairman  
Climate Change Consultant  
Resource Africa  
P.O. Box 12639  
Hatfield  
Pretoria 0028  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 21 761 34 15  
Fax: +27 21 761 34 15  
E-Mail: julian.sturgeon@gmail.com  
Web: [www.resourceafrica.org](http://www.resourceafrica.org)

## **Education/University**

### **University of Cape Town**

52. Ms. Johanna Von Braun  
Associate  
Intellectual Property Law and Policy Research Unit  
University of Cape Town  
Private Bag X3,  
Rondebosch 7701  
South Africa  
Tel.: +27 21 42 616 33  
Fax: +27 21 42 616 33  
E-Mail: jvonbraun@gmail.com, johanna@naturaljustice.org.za

**Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

53. Mr. Tim Christophersen  
Programme Officer - Environmental Affairs / Forest Biodiversity  
Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.  
Suite 800  
Montreal Quebec  
Canada  
Tel.: +1-514-287-7036  
Fax: +1-514-288-6588  
E-Mail: [Tim.Christophersen@cbd.int](mailto:Tim.Christophersen@cbd.int)  
Web: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)
54. Mr. Johannes Stahl  
Junior Professional Officer  
Forest Biodiversity  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
413, Saint-Jacques Street W.  
Suite 800  
Montreal Quebec  
Canada  
Tel.: +514 287 6683  
Fax: +514 288 6588  
E-Mail: [johannes.stahl@cbd.int](mailto:johannes.stahl@cbd.int)  
Web: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

-----