

Enabling Albertine Rift Communities and Institutions Understand and Benefit from Uganda's REDD Process

Strategy for Engagement with Government Led REDD+ Process, the Case of Buliisa District



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This strategy to guide engagement of rural- particularly Buliisa Communities and Institutions in Uganda's REDD processes has been prepared with the financial assistance of IUCN NL, Wetlands International and Both ENDS, partners in the Ecosystem Alliance. The views expressed, the information and material presented and the geographical and geopolitical designations used in this product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN NL, Wetlands International or Both ENDS or the institutions and organisations providing these three organisations with funds.

SUMMARY

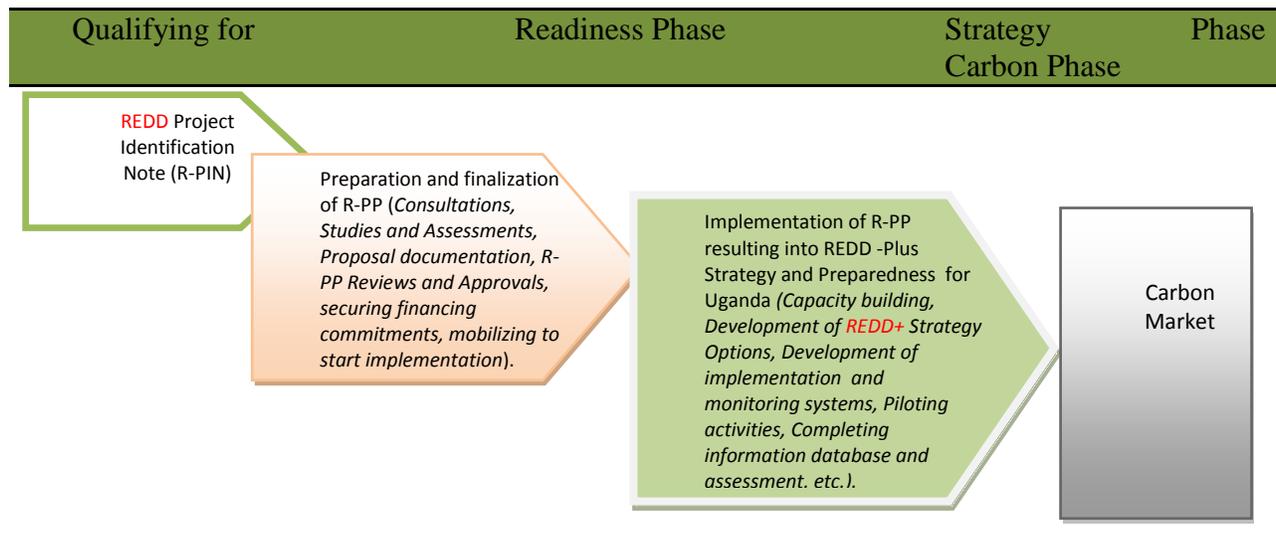
This strategy prepared to guide Albertine Rift and in particular Buliisa Communities and Institutions engagement in the Uganda National REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Process was developed after wide consultation with and analysis of the capacity and needs of local communities (through their representatives) and institutions in Buliisa District. The capacity assessment and need assessment was conducted during two day workshop Uganda Wildlife Society and Buliisa District Local Government held with the stated stakeholders in the district. The strategy is in particular applicable to the Buliisa District Communities (including five civil society organizations, 25 individuals representing the fisher folk, pastoralists, crop farmers, wildlife resource dependent and oil affected or dependent households) and natural resource management institutions officials (Fisheries, forestry, wildlife, agriculture, livestock, water and minerals) representatives. The Authors envisage this strategy will guide the Uganda National REDD Focal persons and institutions know how to and engage the Buliisa District Rural Communities and relevant institutions in the country's on-going and future REDD processes, including, awareness, policy formulations, benefits and participation components.

Introduction

Developed by Uganda Wildlife Society and Buliisa District Local Government after needs and capacity assessment of relevant stakeholders in a two days' workshop, this strategy is a description of actions and modalities that were identified as would be strategic choices and actions that would help guide Buliisa communities and institutions' engagement in the National REDD+ processes effectively. This strategy need to be applied alongside the REDD+ Training technical manual-Uganda Wildlife Society and Buliisa District Local Government Technical Series Number 2, 2013 (Muhweezi *et al.*, 2013). Before proposed choices and actions suggestion, the Uganda National REDD processes are highlighted here below.

Uganda Government led REDD+ process

The Government led REDD+ process in Uganda is designed to be achieved through four phases as shown below:



Adapted from: Uganda's R-PP (May 2012)

By May 2013, the national REDD+ process was preparing to embark on the third phase (Strategy Phase) of the REDD+ process. During this phase, the country will prepare a national REDD+ Readiness Strategy, through carrying out the following activities; among others.

- a. Assessing potential strategic options proposed in the Readiness Phase and identifying needs for additional information required to inform the design of the REDD+ Readiness

strategy, including proposals for early implementation of pilot or demonstration activities, where applicable.

- b. Research on the identified information gaps that may include the following among others: updating the inventory data on status of forests and forestry resources (biomass inventory and biodiversity values), reviewing ongoing community approaches and analyzing their suitability for fund channeling arrangements for REDD+, reviewing Collaborative Resources Management (CRM)/Collaborative Forestry Management (CFM) approaches to improve effectiveness, efficiency and community empowerment and, reviewing policy, legal and institutional arrangements in relation to REDD+ issues and needs.
- c. Facilitating early implementation of pilot strategies such as: selecting strategies and activities for piloting and testing, identifying Social and Environmental issues pertaining to the Pilot activities and recommending them for SESA, developing mechanisms for coordinating and managing the proposed activities to ensure appropriate accounting, oversight, and transparency in the implementation of these activities.
- d. Evaluating and monitoring outcomes of early implementation activities.
- e. Evaluating the outcomes and lessons learned.
- f. Carrying out socio-economic analysis of the proposed REDD+ strategies to determine cost, effectiveness and relevance on a national scale.
- g. Undertaking a “Risk Assessment and Management process” and developing mitigation measures as appropriate.
- h. Developing and finalizing the National REDD+ Strategy, based on those strategies that are deemed suitable for inclusion in the national strategy.

Providing synergy to the Government Led REDD Process

Uganda Wildlife Society and Buliisa District Local Government work on REDD at the district aimed at the following: Ensuring five Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who will later work as change agents among Communities in Buliisa district become knowledgeable about REDD+ and able to actively promote REDD+ among communities (farmers, wildlife resource dependent households, forest resource dependent households, fisheries resource dependent households and pastoralists) in the District. To generate and disseminate information on potential opportunities, risks and benefits of implementing Uganda's REDD+ strategies by communities and institutions

in Buliisa District. The Society and District held the required training for the stakeholder and moved ahead to evaluate their needs and capacity for engagement in the National REDD process. Based on findings of the needs/capacity assessments, the society and district developed this strategy to enable and guide participation of Buliisa district communities and institutions in the National REDD process.

Objectives of the Strategy Engagement Strategy for Buliisa Communities and Institutions

Objectives of this REDD process Engagement Strategy is four fold:

- a) To link Buliisa based REDD+ interventions to the national REDD+ process.
- b) To guide participation of Buliisa communities and institutions and, UWS in the national REDD+ process.
- c) For UWS to learn and share REDD+ lessons and experience in Buliisa with other REDD+ players at national levels and within other parts of the country.
- d) To position UWS as an active national level partner on REDD+ process in the country.

To realize these objectives, the UWS and Buliisa District conducted needs and capacity assessments of the targeted stakeholders, in order to identify strategies for their engagement in the National REDD Processes. The table below gives issues for which assessments were done.

Table: Needs and Capacity for Engagement in the National REDD Process by Buliisa Communities and Institutions

Intervention areas	Output	Activities	Lead/partner
Field level			
Assessing potential strategic options ... <i>for addressing Deforestation and forest degradation in Buliisa.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Buliisa. ✓ Strategies for addressing deforestation and forest degradation in Buliisa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop TORs for the assessment. ✓ Undertake rapid field assessment of key drivers ✓ Consult with stakeholders and define drivers. ✓ Consult stakeholders on potential strategies for addressing the drivers. 	UWS Consultants?
Inventory data on status of forests and forestry resources (biomass inventory and biodiversity values) <i>in Buliisa.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information on status of forestry resources and forestry biodiversity in Buliisa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop TORs for the inventory and mapping. ✓ Commission forest inventory and mapping ✓ Commission rapid ecological and social -economic survey about forest resources in Buliisa. 	UWS NFA (Biomass Unit) Consultants?
Reviewing Collaborative Resources Management (CRM)/Collaborative Forestry Management (CFM) approaches to improve effectiveness, efficiency and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information on ongoing community approaches e.g., CFM around Budongo Forest, CRM around Wildlife Reserves, BMU (Fisheries)...<i>focusing on</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Develop TORs for the assessment. ✓ Commission the assessment. ✓ Convene stakeholder meeting to validate findings of the assessment. 	UWS Consultants

empowerment in Buliisa.	<i>their experiences and lessons as community platforms for participation in NRM</i>		
Reviewing policy, legal and institutional arrangements in relation to REDD+ issues and implementation needs in Buliisa.	✓ Information of policy, legal and institutional frame works and arrangements for REDD+ implementation in Buliisa.	✓ Develop TORs for the assessment. ✓ Commission the assessment. ✓ Convene stakeholder meeting to validate findings of the assessment.	UWS Consultants
Pilot REDD+ activities in Buliisa.	✓ REDD+ field demonstration activities.	✓ Identify/assess, select and describe sites. ✓ Process authorization from National REDD+ Focal Point. ✓ Facilitate establishment of field demonstration activities ✓ Facilitate learning (exchange visit).	UWS REDD+ National Focal Point
Develop tools for facilitating stakeholder engagement in REDD+	✓ Tools for facilitating stakeholders	✓ Develop: i. Stakeholder Consultations and Participation strategy ii. Communications and outreach Strategy iii. Grievances and conflicts management strategy. iv. Strategy for assessing likely social and environmental impacts of REDD+. ✓ Convene Stakeholder meetings to review and validate the Strategies.	UWS Consultants
National Level			
Participate in national level REDD+ processes	✓ UWS inputs into technical aspects. ✓	✓ Lobby National REDD+ Focal Point for UWS recognition and participation in REDD+ process. ✓ Participation in forums convened by national REDD+ Focal Point. ✓ Provide input into technical aspects (studies, assessments, strategy development, etc.).	UWS Secretariat
	✓ Lesson and experiences from REDD+ in Buliisa feeding into national processes	✓ Lobby National Focal Point for ‘space’ for Buliisa CSO participation. ✓ Facilitate CSO participation. ✓ Document and share experiences and lessons from Buliisa REDD+ activities with National REDD+ processes.	UWS Secretariat CSO in Buliisa

Strategy implementation arrangements

Uganda Wildlife Society

The UWS Secretariat will assume leadership on all aspects of implementing this Strategy. Relevant technical and coordination responsibilities will be delegated to the UWS Field Office in Buliisa. The Main responsibilities for UWS Secretariat will be:

- a. Mobilize financial and technical resources to implement the Strategy.

- b. Mobilize policy level recognition (National REDD+ Focal Point) of UWS participation and contribution at national and field level (Buliisa).
- c. Participate in national level REDD+ processes.
- d. Establish and foster partnerships with other REDD+ players at national and other levels.
- e. Document and share REDD+ lessons and experiences.
- f. Facilitate training and capacity building for Buliisa based CSOs and other players in REDD+.
- g. Commission REDD+ assessments, reviews of drivers, forest resources (Inventories and mapping).
- h. Facilitate development of tools for stakeholder engagement in REDD+ in Buliisa.
- i. Convene and facilitate Stakeholders platforms on REDD+ in Buliisa.
- j. Facilitate establishment of REDD+ demonstration activities.

Change Agents

Uganda Wildlife Society has conducted initial training and will continue to train REDD+ Change Agents and other players in Buliisa. Change agents will be tasked to:

- a. Communicate and raise awareness on REDD+ among their communities.
- b. Participate in REDD+ forums at local, district and national levels, as appropriate.
- c. Participate in undertaking reviews and assessment on REDD+ issues in the district.
- d. Participate and provide information in lessons learning and documentation processes.

Mandated institutions

The following are mandated institutions in the environment and natural resources sector: NFA, District Forest Support Department, District Environment Office, District Fisheries Office, UWA Field Offices, etc. Uganda Wildlife Society will spearhead mobilization of the mandated institutions in Buliisa at the National level, to participate in and provide technical support to the REDD+ process activities in Buliisa and for Buliisa communities and institutions at the national level processes.

Strategy implementation requirements

Table: Resources required for the implementation of the REDD strategy

UWS Secretariat	Change Agents
a. Financial and technical resources.	a. Capacity/Skills
b. Manpower.	b. Tools for implementing REDD+
c. Information about REDD+	c. Communication and awareness messages and materials
d. Information about Forestry issues in Buliisa	