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1. Practice area : UN-REDD	
2. Mission period (incl. of travel days) From : 5 th to 9 th October	
3. Type of mission : South-south Exchange Kenya-Ghana	4. Clients REDD+ Secretariat Ghana, Kenya authorities
5. Purpose of mission Supporting South-south Exchange Kenya-Ghana	6. Documents, materials, resources Agenda, concept note
7. Mission members Elsie Attafuah, Regional Technical Advisor Ela Ionescu, Regional KM Specialist	8. Costs

9. Brief summary of the mission

Ghana has developed a national REDD+ strategy, identified the drivers of deforestation linked to ecological barriers (eco-zones) and made significant advances on REDD+ readiness as well as on its reflections on implementation. In addition, Ghana has linked concrete actions and efforts to the very drivers of deforestation in Ghana, such as cocoa. Kenya, on the other hand, in the process of developing a NS is exploring a wide range of options, including policy reforms and investments, to protect the existing forests and to substantially recover the forest ecosystems. In view of this context, the government of Kenya has requested the UN-REDD Programme to facilitate a South-South knowledge exchange with Ghana. While Kenya is UN-REDD Programme partner country since February 2010, and it's also a country participant of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) it still in the process of developing its REDD+ strategy and thus a South-South Exchange with Ghana was organized in view that the exchange would bring about new levels of understanding on NS development, ecological boundaries and REDD+ financing. It was therefore proposed that five technical experts (accompanied by UN-REDD Regional Technical Advisor and Regional KM Specialist) travel from Kenya travel to Ghana to gain knowledge on the Ghanaian experience and exchange with the counterparts on their respective REDD+ visions and their linkages to REDD+ financing and addressing drivers of deforestation according to ecological boundaries.

9.a Findings

The objective of the learning exchange with Ghana was to build national and regional capacities, at technical and political levels, so to strengthen the technical capacities of Kenya delegation in the field of strategy and registry development, private sector and REDD+ financing, and identify opportunities, practical ideas and institutional arrangements to position REDD+ as a key lever for climate resilience and green economy in Kenya.

Overall the initial learning aims have been achieved:

- Five key leaders or practitioners related to the national REDD+ process in Kenya have acquired a thorough understanding of the REDD+ process in Ghana, the potential transformational dimension of the forest sector and REDD+, and more light was shed on the possible arrangements and pathways to success for Ghana in the selected areas for knowledge sharing.
- There were ample discussions on national strategy development looking at the process and the road for Ghana to move towards developing its national strategy. The national strategy in Ghana is focusing on the

implementation of large scale, sub-national programs, which follow ecological boundaries or eco-zones and are defined by major commodities and drivers of deforestation and degradation, within a set of over-arching, national activities and the encompassing national REDD+ framework. Kenya had numerous questions related to the process of steps undertaken to reach the final stage of a national strategy and how have the ecological boundaries and eco-zones have been identified for the implementation of the large scale, national programs.

- Another important discussion point was on how did Ghana managed to get the REDD+ agenda beyond forest sector, what were the key challenges, what else did they leverage on to reach this to the cocoa sector. Kenya has learned that Ghana's Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is the first REDD+ program in the world to focus on an ecological landscape. To learn more on this there was a field trip at the Cocoa Board as well as visiting a cocoa farm. It was interesting for Kenya to learn how the Cocoa Board along with the Forestry Commission are the main government institutions responsible for managing and implementing Ghana's "Cocoa Forest REDD Program" along with relevant private sector stakeholders. However, it was made clear that the Cocoa Board has a mandate outside the implementation of REDD+. A cocoa sector development strategy is in process that responds to the REDD+ reality looking at ways to integrate new technologies like, agro-forestry and climate smart strategies, as well as other elements pertaining to the sustainability into sector planning.
- Kenya was also keenly interested in Ghana's REDD+ Finance strategy which has what is called a "bird in hand" approach, focused on maximizing existing sources of finance. For instance, Ghana has implementation funds through Ghana's Forest Investment Program (FIP), which will invest US\$ 50 million into forestry, climate-smart agriculture, however for Ghana the goal is to leverage this financing to help achieve Ghana's REDD+ goals, which is something that Kenya had much to learn from. However, what was commendable in particular was the diverse variety of funding mobilized coming from: MFIs, e.g. Multilateral Development Banks, European Union, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), European Union; bilateral finance from donor governments, Rockefeller Foundation, and IUCN. Although much funding has been channeled in, it was clear that there is only one REDD+ initiative in Ghana receiving international REDD+ finance that is focused on implementing activities to address drivers of deforestation and degradation and/or produce carbon benefits, either through emission reductions or carbon stock enhancement and that is FIP.
- Another major issue that emerged from discussions was the level of advancement in terms of mainstreaming gender in REDD+ implementation in particular, within the implementation of the Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (SESA) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework. Discussions revealed that gender experts were being consulted and efforts were made to mainstream gender into REDD+ processes. These efforts were part of a road map to integrate gender and women's issues into REDD+ which was drafted in collaboration with IUCN, women's organisations, gender experts, national level policy makers and other key stakeholders. Kenya took well into account these suggestions on how to better reflect gender considerations into REDD+ processes.
- On the other hand Ghana has also learned from Kenya. For instance it has learned that FPIC has been a key element in national and sub-national REDD+ processes in Kenya and that a proper FPIC framework has been developed for REDD+ in Kenya. They have also shared few key lessons from the process: mainly that prior and informed consent is critical if indigenous peoples are to achieve the right to self-determination in controlling and managing their lands and resources; also that FPIC ensures their consultation and participation in decision-making and can no longer be ignored in conservation programs. However, there is a huge lack of information about how FPIC processes should function at the community level, especially vis a vis other decision-making processes.

1. [Key counterparts:](#)

Kenya : KFS

Ghana: Forestry Commission

11. [Follow up action matrix](#)

Action to be taken	By whom	Expected completion date
A mission report to broadly share learning and analysis from the south south exchange	KM Specialist/Technical Specialist Kenya REDD	10 January 2016
Lessons learnt report (2-4 pages) on key learnings	KM Specialist/Technical Specialist Kenya REDD	22 January 2015
Launching the online community of practice	KM Specialist/KM officer Kenya REDD	29 January 2015
<p>12. Distribution list: Nairobi: UNREDD team Africa Kenya: KFS Ghana: Forestry Commission</p>		