

Building capacities for National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+ and National GHG Inventory Systems: Sharing Experiences through Joint UN-REDD/LECB Workshop
Dates: 25 – 28 February 2014, Zambia.

JOINT WORKSHOP CONCEPT NOTE

Background/Rationale:

A national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is a cornerstone of a country's reporting obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), capturing both sources and sinks. In addition to helping better understand national GHG emissions, removals, and trends, a GHG inventory can, among others, assist a country to: identify cost-effective policies and programs to reduce emissions; inform Low Emission Development Strategies and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions; and enhance management of natural resources, such as forest stocks and food production.

However, the necessary expertise and data for the development of national GHG inventory reports as part of the National Communications and now, moving forward, the biennial update reports (or BURs) are often fragmented and held in many different agencies. Effective institutional arrangements among these actors are required to produce robust GHG inventories in a transparent and sustainable manner. Enhancing both the quality of information obtained and the flow of this information will lead to more accurate GHG inventories that will enable decision makers to make more informed policy choices, with greater confidence in the context of climate change actions. This is particularly important for the agriculture, forestry and land-use (AFOLU) sectors in Africa, which are typically the dominant sources (and sinks) of GHG emissions.

REDD+ decisions under the UNFCCC request developing countries aiming to implement REDD + actions to develop a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) that will allow the country to collect the necessary forest information to be able to provide measurable, reportable and verifiable GHG emissions and carbon sink estimates for the sector that are as well as other relevant information. REDD+ emission/sink estimates generated in the context of the NFMS have to be measurable and reported in the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory (where all sectors estimates are compiled).

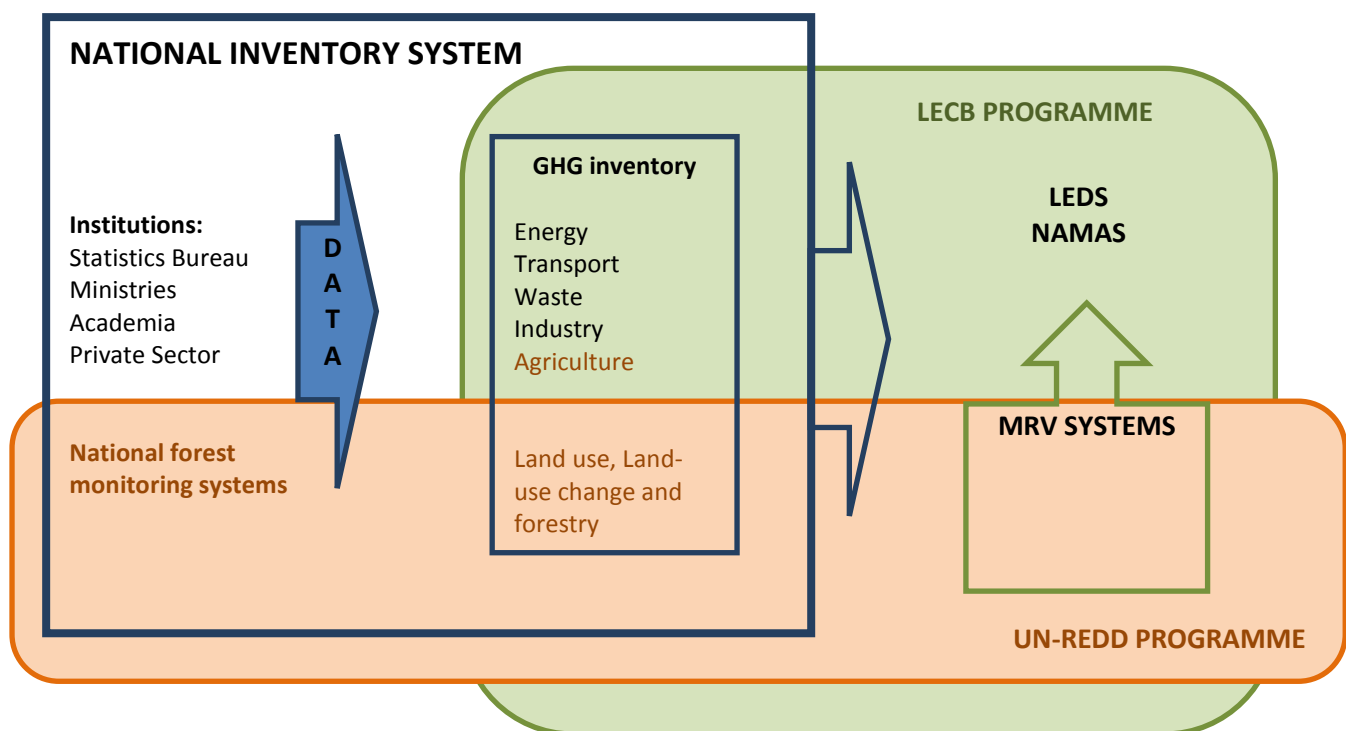
In this context, two specific global support programmes – the UN-REDD Programme and the UNDP Low Emission Capacity-Building (LECB) Programme are jointly hosting parallel capacity building workshops that will provide space for sharing experiences on development of NFMS for REDD+ and national GHG inventory systems. Though each programme's workshop will have distinct objectives and scopes, the issues are closely linked that a parallel hosting, with opportunities for joint sessions and engagement between participants in each workshop, was considered a valuable opportunity for collaboration. In particular, **linking the two workshops** is expected to provide the following benefits:

- Improved coordination and connection between the projects, agencies and individuals responsible to support countries building their NFMS and providing forest-related estimates as part of their GHG inventories. Because of complexities of the LULUCF sector and its contribution to the GHG inventory of countries in the region, it is critical to ensure that these actors are engaging across their institutions in an effective way.
- Use of more cost-effective approaches for forest-related GHG data analysis and reporting.
- Minimizing duplication of efforts by the different programmes and promoting complementarity and synergy at the country-level. This will enhance delivery of UN support to countries by delivering such support in a more integrated, coherent way.

The relevance of these topics for the support programmes are further described in the text and figure below:

The UN-REDD programme. Created to support countries in their efforts to develop and implement REDD+ actions, in particular for the so called “readiness” phase for REDD+. The UN-REDD document “[National Forest Monitoring Systems: Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification \(M & MRV\) in the context of REDD+ Activities,](#)” provides a description of the elements in a NFMS as they relate to REDD+ under the UNFCCC. It provides a description of the UN-REDD Programme approach to Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (M & MRV) requirements, as well as the usefulness of such systems domestically. Many countries have made significant progress in developing NFMS including forest inventory, mapping and monitoring techniques. However, the range of methods and advantages or disadvantages of various approaches are not always well known or shared among countries. Thus there are opportunities for improvements through sharing information and experiences to assist countries develop effective and efficient forest monitoring and overall GHG inventory reporting systems.

The LECB Programme. This collaborative programme aims to strengthen technical and institutional capacities at the country level, while at the same time facilitating inclusion and coordination of the public and private sector in national initiatives addressing climate change mitigation. Putting into place robust national GHG inventory systems is one key work area under the LECB Programme, and more than half the 25 participating countries have included this component. In the context of the overall LECB Programme, a high-quality GHG inventory provides the underlying basis for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Low Emission Development Strategies, and sets the foundation for the Measuring, Reporting & Verification (MRV) requirements associated with these mitigation actions.



Workshop objectives

Joint Objective:

Provide a forum to improve coordination and connection between the programmes, agencies and individuals responsible for NFMS and GHG inventory development in those REDD+ countries that are also partner countries in the LECB Programme.

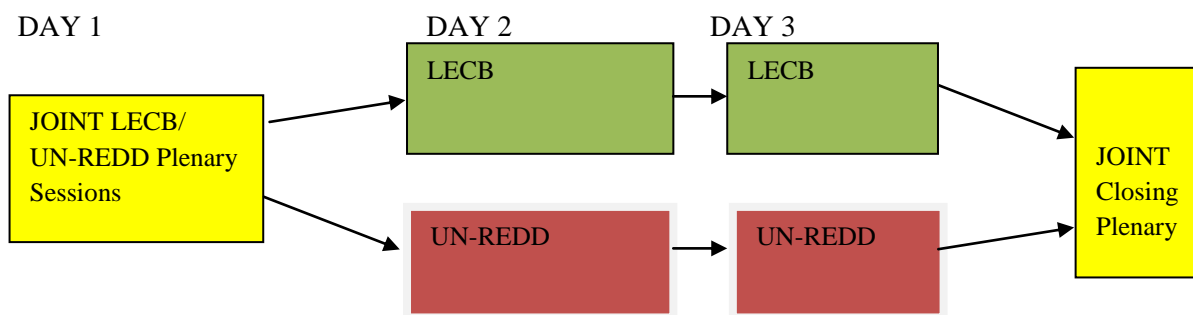
UN-REDD workshop objectives:

1. Inform countries about the UN-REDD approach to national forest monitoring system for REDD+ activities.
2. Provide a space to participating countries to share experiences and lessons learned from implementing National Forest Monitoring Systems in the context of REDD+

LECB workshop objectives:

1. Create a common understanding of the key elements of national GHG inventory system
2. Share experiences and lessons learned on GHG inventory development, with an emphasis on improving institutional and management arrangements for development of NFMS for REDD+ and GHG inventories

Workshop structure:



Prerequisites for participants:

UN-REDD-funded countries are asked to prepare short written statements on the status and plans for their **NFMS** before the meeting to save time by not going through a long set of country presentations. A template / questionnaire will be circulated prior to the meeting.

LECB workshop countries will be asked to respond to a questionnaire regarding the current status of their GHG inventory system, and, in particular, the main data challenges for their country’s GHG inventory.

Countries:

Invitations are being sent to all countries in Africa that participate in either UN-REDD, LECB, or both programmes. Other countries could be considered if the space and funding is found from other sources.

The workshop will be mainly in English and translation to/from French will be provided.

Proposed workshop location in Zambia

The workshop hotel has not been confirmed but will be held in Zambia. FAO and UNDP will arrange travel and provide allowances for approved sponsored participants who will be notified after nominations are reviewed.

Please let adam.gerrand@fao.org and rebecca.carman@undp.org know if there are any other meetings or other major conflicts during the proposed dates in order to avoid overlaps **before Friday 10th January 2014.**

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