

ZAMBIA

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



INFO BRIEF

STRATEGY IN THE MAKING:

How Zambia Approached REDD+ Strategy Development Lessons, Experiences and Strategic Directions

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KEY MESSAGES

- a. Government ownership and leadership of the Strategy development process with stakeholder participation is key in delivering a performance based REDD+;
- b. Unity of purpose in the development of strategic options that are practical is needed to facilitate government and stakeholder commitment to the ideals of REDD+;
- c. REDD+ national options should be based on analytical work and consultative processes that will enhance commitment among stakeholders;
- d. There is need to manage high an expectation on the benefits of REDD+ but focus on practical solutions that it brings through integrated and participatory approaches;
- e. Build on existing institutions, policies and laws in order to respond to the needs of REDD+ and develop actions that are performance based;
- f. Build on strategic partnerships at all levels in order to optimize and aggregate the full potential of opportunities for REDD+;
- g. REDD+ should not be seen as a solution to all the problems, hence, there is need to clearly define the scope of issues that REDD+ can address ;
- h. REDD+ Strategy must be core and prioritized as part of REDD+ Readiness;
- i. Mainstreaming of REDD+ into key national policy and legal processes is important due to the cross-sectoral nature of REDD+.

Introduction

Zambia is located in Southern Africa and endowed with vast and immense land, water, forest, plants and animal resources. The country covers an area of 752,614 km² with an estimated 50 million hectares of forests. The forest vegetation type is mainly miombo (semi-evergreen forests dominated by *Brachystegia* woodland); *baikiaea*,

munga, *mopane*, Kalahari woodlands (deciduous forests), riparian, *swap*, *parinari*, *itigi*, lake basin *chipya* (Evergreen forests), tertiary associated bushes (shrub thickets), grasslands, wooded grasslands. Inarguably, therefore, the country has a very high potential to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and broader national development strategies and policies, including Zambia's vision 2030. In addition, the forestry sector plays a key role in achieving

national, regional and global development goals.

At the national level, forests contribute immensely to economic growth, employment, wealth creation, export revenues and are a livelihood source for many communities. Forest resources contribute significantly to livelihoods through non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as mushrooms, honey, fruits and vegetables. They contribute to the livelihoods of many people -- most notably rural communities due to the high level of domestic dependency on forest products for day-to-day subsistence, including wood fuel, shelter, food, pasture and fodder, medicines and household utility items. For example, the forestry sector employs approximately 1.1 million people and the informal NTFPs sub-sector is Zambia's largest employer accounting for 84 per cent of total employment⁴.

Forests also provide safety-nets in times when households are faced with stress and shocks. As such, the potential is great for this sector to play a very important role in the country achieving its national goals and Vision 2013 goals.

At the regional level, Zambia's strategic location makes it an important country within the sub-region in relation to REDD+ and associated trans-boundary ecosystems. The country borders eight countries and shares unique ecosystems with Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

These ecosystems become even more important as Zambia holds about 30-40 per cent of the water resources in Southern Africa and shares trans-boundary water resources with Angola, Botswana, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Major perennial rivers such as the Zambezi, Kafue, Luangwa, Kabompo, Luapula and Chambeshi rivers originate in forested watersheds, which make forestry very important in managing water quality and quantity for livelihoods at a sub-regional level.

At the international level, Zambia has great potential to promote key international development goals, such as reducing carbon emission, through the implementation of targets that will be outlined in its National REDD+ Strategy.

The challenge

Notwithstanding the great potential Zambia holds in the area of sustainable forest management and the overall contribution of this to national, regional and global development priorities, forests are under increased pressure. Between 250,000 and 300,000 hectares of forest are lost every year. In addition, studies by the United Nations Collaborative Programme to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme) have pointed out that the main drivers of

deforestation and forest degradation in Zambia include agriculture expansion, infrastructure development, charcoal production and late forest fires. These have impacts on the economy and overall livelihoods in terms of food, water and energy security.

Zambia's response

As part of efforts to address the deforestation challenge and recognizing the potential of REDD+, Zambia became a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme. The National Joint Programme document was developed through a consultative process that lasted for a year. Decisions on the approach and coordination were made by stakeholders based on the government's approach to developing national documents. The programme was approved by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board for implementation in 2010 with a total budget of US\$ 4.49 million for an initial period of three years (2010 -2013), which has now been extended to 2014. The programme is implemented by the government with technical support from the three UN-REDD Programme collaborating UN agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP). The goal of the programme is to prepare Zambian stakeholders and institutions for effective future nationwide implementation of REDD+.

The government places importance on REDD+ implementation in the country due to its potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, bring transformational and systemic change in the way Zambia manages and protects its forests, and support overall national, regional and global development goals. As a result, the government has been supportive to the UN-REDD Programme.

The implementation of the readiness phase of the UN-REDD Programme is ongoing but near completion. This information brief seeks to share Zambia's experiences and lessons learned in the development of its National REDD+ Strategy. It draws from the four years of programme implementation.

Zambia's approach to REDD+ strategy development

Zambia is on course to develop an ambitious REDD+ Strategy with a clear strategic direction for REDD+ and with technical underpinning from robust analytical work; measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), national forest monitoring systems, and reference emission levels (RELs). This will allow Zambia to measure and report GHG reductions from strategic interventions.

The rigorous approach, methodological tools and stakeholder engagement processes will hopefully provide learning for the rest of the African sub-region and beyond. Below are key highlights of how Zambia

went about its strategy development. While this is not a blue print for REDD+ Strategy development across the board, it offers key messages and provides elements for other countries to draw from.

Figure 1 presents an illustration of Zambia's pathway towards REDD+ strategy development. It entails nine key elements, which are described in more details below.

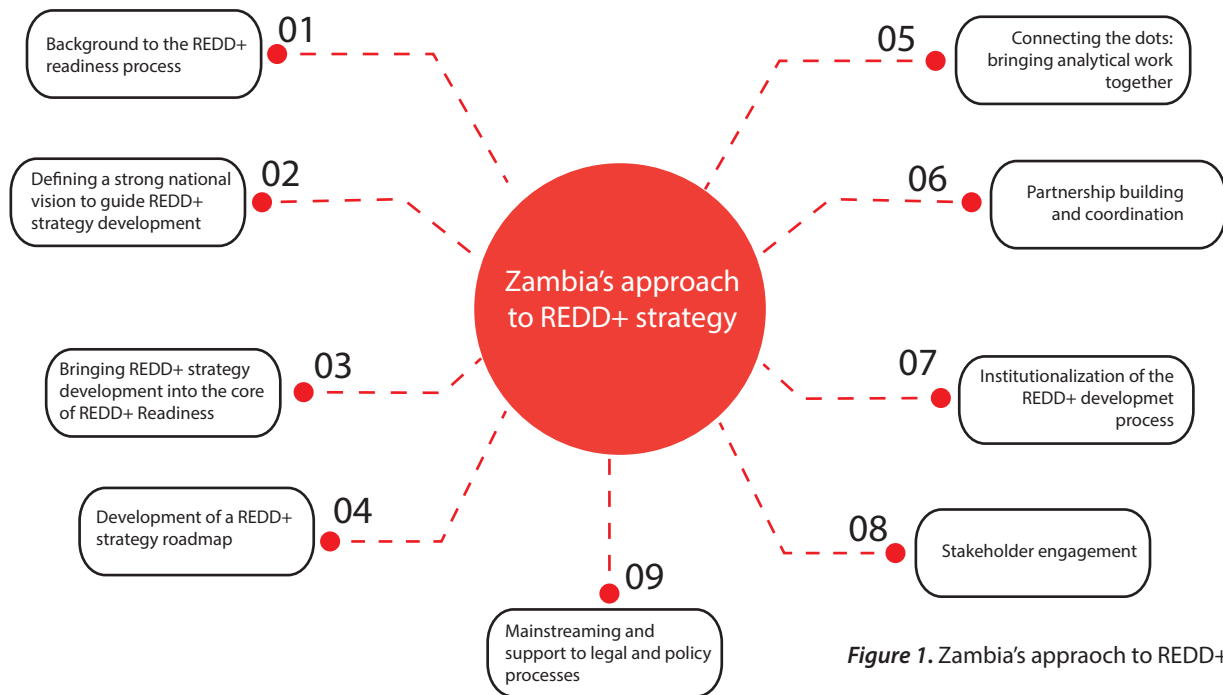


Figure 1. Zambia's approach to REDD+ strategy

01

Background to the REDD+ readiness process

The government supported and recognized that the REDD+ readiness process was a multi-sectoral process, which requires various stakeholders and views to be accommodated. As a result, with support from the UN-REDD Programme and through a stakeholder consultation process, the strategy's development was initiated based on the following principles:

- a. The need for a country-led initiative;
- b. The need to use and build on existing structures and operate within national development goals;
- c. The need for consultative processes that enhance consensus building on various issues related to REDD+;
- d. Having a single institution, such as the National REDDCoordination Unit of the Forestry Department, to lead the process and to promote a well-coordinated and harmonized approach;
- e. Basing the strategy on analytical work as a background to the identification of the REDD+ options;
- f. Implementing REDD+ readiness based on the overall government approach to dealing with climate change.

The above principles helped to design the approach for the development of a national REDD+ strategy. Through a consultative process, stakeholders agreed to the following:

- a. Set the national vision that would clearly define the overall purpose of REDD+ and how it should be achieved;
- b. Ensure unity of purpose and vision by entrusting a single institution to facilitate the process of undertaking analytical work and implementing various tasks to ensure an effective REDD+ readiness process;
- c. Develop the national REDD+ strategy and investment plan which will be the basis for REDD+ implementation;
- d. Underpin development of the national REDD+ strategy with analytical work (in-depth studies) to ensure it is evidence-based and ground-truthed;
- e. Based on the analytical work conducted through a consultative process, identify the options available for REDD+ in Zambia including capacity development needs and Institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation;
- f. Define the roles of various stakeholders and investment options for REDD+ to achieve the intended goals.

02

Defining a strong national vision to guide REDD+ strategy development

Zambia has tried to avoid the pitfall of having too many REDD+ activities by different actors without aligning it to a broader national vision. While acknowledging the contributions of various REDD+ programmes, Zambia has pushed for stronger alignment to the broader national process. For example, complementary programmes to the National Joint Programme such as the Global UN-REDD Programme support have been fully aligned to the national REDD+ strategy development process. This has avoided a situation in which different work streams proceed in the country in a non-integrated and uncoordinated manner.

At the national level, the government has also encouraged the use of existing institutional arrangements to facilitate the REDD+ processes. This includes the Inter-ministerial Climate Change Secretariat (ICCS), which aims to provide a coordination role to ensure a harmonized approach to addressing climate change. The setting up of the ICCS has been a major achievement in the country, in terms of ensuring cross-sectoral collaboration and harmonization of policies on climate change. It equally provides a framework for integrating REDD+ issues across various sectors. In that sense, Zambia's REDD+ National Coordinator was institutionally relocated to the ICCS to foster linkages between the REDD+ process and the overall climate change agenda. The technical discussions on the national REDD+ strategy and high-level dialogue on the strategy are being facilitated through the ICCS institutional framework. Additionally, the national REDD+ strategy will be part of the biodiversity financing framework which is part of the broad framework of climate change financing being developed and led by the ICCS.

In addition to the UN-REDD Programme, other REDD+ related programmes in the country have also been aligned with the national REDD+ readiness process to ensure that there is a harmonized approach that responds to and is aligned with the strategy process. The examples below show how the national REDD+ readiness process is trying to harmonize approaches in order to meet government goals:

- a. To ensure that programmes being developed by development partners align with national forest inventory (NFI) methodological approaches, various projects and programmes are adapting to the methodological requirements of the national REDD+ readiness process. Zambia is conducting the Integrated Land Use Assessment phase II (ILUA II)

which is a large-scale NFI at over 4,000 locations across Zambia's land mass, inclusive of forest carbon pool measurement and robust analytical work on land cover maps and related MRV processes with financial support from Finland and technical support from FAO. The ILUA II provides a good baseline for guidance and consistency on field sampling data and methodological approaches, ensuring consistency among sub-national NFI.

For example, the nationally accepted NFI approach of ILUA II has been collaboratively modified and intensified for application at the project level by the GIZ supported SADC MRV forest inventory in Eastern Province, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Nyimba project, and the Finnish-supported Decentralised Forest and Other Natural Resources Management Programme. This approach has ensured that forest inventory data is scalable and consistent at different resolutions, and can serve as a model for application to future jurisdictional programmes. This is to ensure these programmes feed into the national process for future MRV reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- b. In order to ensure stronger alignment to the national vision, the government has established a partner's forum where various actors who are implementing REDD+ and REDD+-related programmes are able to dialogue on issues of common interest. This is to also ensure that key REDD+ players are brought together to facilitate REDD+ information exchange and knowledge management. This includes key partners working on REDD+ including Biocarbon Partners, CIFOR, Finland, Norway, USAID, UN agencies, and the World Bank among others. The in-depth work of these partners will be linked to and feed into the strategy options.

03

Bringing REDD+ strategy development into the core of REDD+ Readiness

Zambia prioritized its REDD+ strategy and brought it to the core of the REDD+ readiness processes.

In line with the above-mentioned, stakeholder engagement processes, the communication strategy, the work on RELs, MRVs and analytical studies such as the Economic Valuation of Forests and Ecosystems services will feed into the REDD+ Strategy. The country is on course to complete its REDD+ Readiness process with the finalization of the REDD+ Strategy.

04

Development of a REDD+ strategy roadmap

Zambia developed an action plan and a roadmap for the development of its national REDD+. This was based on the initially agreed upon approach and principles, resulting in clear milestones. This was then prepared and endorsed by the government, strategic partners (UN agencies and others), and a broad range of key stakeholders including representatives of the private sector, civil society and research institutions. The roadmap:

- Outlines major tasks and milestones to be achieved that will ultimately converge in the design of the REDD+ strategy;
- Builds on and promotes strong synergies among various thematic areas;
- Consolidates the gains and achievements of the past years, builds on these and promotes key principles of value addition, complementarity and inclusiveness;
- Enhances capacity for programme implementation by drawing on institutional and strategic partnerships and contributions of key stakeholders.

The roadmap is not a necessarily sequential, but rather a mutually re-enforcing set of activities that may take place simultaneously, and ultimately converging in the design of the REDD+ strategy. The flow of the process has been set as follows:

- a. Preparing a comprehensive “issues and options” report (I&O report), which will serve as a consultation tool for identifying key strategic options and inform the development of a national vision for REDD+ as well as the eventual development of the national REDD+ strategy. This report will be validated by stakeholders;
- b. Setting up of thematic working groups based on key elements of the issues and options report (e.g. MRV, safeguards, financing, incentives and benefit sharing, landscape approaches) and holding consultations with key stakeholders on the various thematic areas to further build consensus on specific identified options;
- c. Utilizing the ICCS Technical Committee to provide technical guidance for the development of the national REDD+ strategy;

Drafting a policy note that will act as a summary of options based on the identified problems, actions and potential policy reforms on the strategy for consultation at various levels;

- d. Conducting stakeholder consultation meetings to discuss available options for REDD+ and agree on appropriate actions/options;

Hold high-level consultative meeting on the identified options to seek approval and high-level support;

- f. Drafting, finalizing and validating a national REDD+ strategy;

Facilitating actions for the endorsement of the strategy.

The consultative process indicated above is a three level process:

- **Political Level:** This involves high-level consultations with different sectors as well as with the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), ministers, parliamentarians and members of the National House of Chiefs among others.

- **Technical Level:** This involves working with the ICCS Technical Committee and well as working groups within the ICCS.

- **Stakeholder Level:** This involves engagement with a broad range of stakeholders in the form of a forum or assembly at different levels to discuss the strategy.

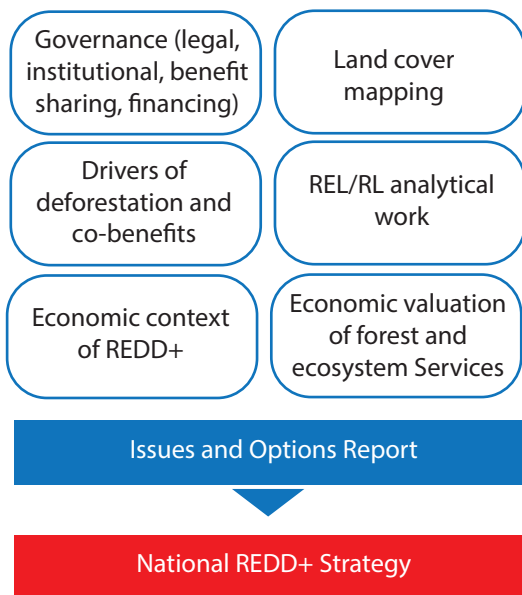
It is worth mentioning that, the roadmap has generated a great deal of interest and has galvanized the needed support for the national REDD+ strategy at technical, strategic and political levels. It has been presented to stakeholders at the national level as well as in eight out of the ten Zambian provinces. Separate provincial meetings were not conducted for the roadmap solely but integrated into the agenda of provincial awareness building and sensitization meetings as well as consensus building on the approach.

05

Connecting the dots: bringing analytical work together

Zambia’s vision is to develop a national REDD+ strategy that is based on sound analytics. Therefore, key analyses for the national REDD+ strategy have been conducted as part of strategy development, including: drivers of deforestation, legal preparedness for REDD+ in Zambia, identification of threatened forests, REDD+ co-benefits, opportunity cost and economics of REDD+, economic valuation on the role of forests and related ecosystem services in Zambian economy, mapping of ongoing REDD+ initiatives and forest management practices, financing and benefit sharing issues and options, institutional capacities and capacity needs for REDD+, role of the private sector in REDD+, and a UNFCCC/IPCC

compliant GHG reporting system to Zambia. The assessment of the role of safeguards, enforcement and governance in REDD+ is being undertaken. Some of the major analytical work feeding into the national REDD+ strategy are as follows:



The analytical work will feed into the I&O report, which provides the foundation for the national strategy as well as the framework to facilitate stakeholder consultations and supports building consensus on how to address drivers of deforestation based on the outcomes of the studies conducted and related stakeholder consultations. This is particularly important as the government recognizes the importance of mainstreaming climate change into its programmes, optimizing the comparative advantage of existing institutions as well as finding innovative ways to address climate change. This is expected to enhance an integrated approach to addressing issues of deforestation and forest degradation and related options for Zambia.

The I&O report will identify real causes of deforestation, propose actions, policy reforms required and the type and form of investments needed, taking into account the environmental and social safeguards required. It also takes into account sectors that have an impact on forest resources as well as on the livelihoods of people – for example, agriculture, energy and mining in an integrated manner. The report will also show the interrelationship between drivers and causes of deforestation and forest degradation through a cause-effect analysis or other related analytical tool. The report will eventually segue into the national REDD+ strategy.

06

Partnership building and coordination

Partnerships are the centrepiece of the UN-REDD Programme in Zambia. Over the past years, the UN-REDD Programme has made considerable progress in developing internal partnerships while concurrently exploring external partnerships to support overall REDD+ implementation in Zambia. These partnerships are supporting the REDD+ readiness process and providing opportunities for the REDD+ strategy. Notable examples of partnership building initiatives and opportunities are outlined below:

The Chaminuka Protocol

A Chaminuka Protocol, which sets out modalities for engagement among the members of Zambia’s UN-REDD Programme team, was prepared and agreed upon during a UN-REDD Programme team retreat. The government has promoted the integrated approach to implementation of the REDD+ readiness process and as a result, Zambia’s UN-REDD Programme team has emphasized team and relationship building as a way of getting to understand and appreciate team roles and responsibilities. As the UNDP Country Director, Ms. Viola Morgan, said “the Chaminuka Protocol is a unique undertaking by the UN-REDD team and provides an opportunity for strengthening team work and delivering excellent programme objectives”.

Strengthening inter-agency partnerships

It is worth mentioning that, the UN-REDD programme in Zambia encourages very strong synergies and coordination among participating UN agencies, and therefore, the Programme leverages the capacities of these agencies to support the government. Thus, the three UN agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) have been working jointly on various components of the Programme to promote synergies and programmatic linkages, and enhance team work. In addition, activities supported by the UN-REDD Programme’s Global Programme modality of support have also been aligned with Zambia’s national REDD+ strategy process. Examples of working together are as follows:

- a. FAO and UNDP have worked together in the development of a national forest monitoring system (NFMS) web portal and REDD+ database. These systems will also serve as innovative tools for enhancing effective stakeholder engagement on REDD+ including information on governance, REDD+ activities and overall social and environmental safeguards. This system will soon be launched by government.
- b. UNEP and UNDP have worked together to support an economic valuation study and the development of a

communication strategy. The latter, which is technically supported by UNEP, is aligned with UNDP-supported stakeholder engagement work, as it was determined by the team that stakeholder engagement work has to be tied to effective communication.

c. UNEP and FAO have worked together in supporting joint studies including those on the drivers of deforestation and threatened forests in Zambia. The three UN-REDD Programme collaborating agencies have also jointly held a number of inception and validation workshops.

Other examples of collaboration among the three UN-REDD Programme agencies include joint planning and programming as well as regular consultative meetings to improve internal UN coordination. This has in turn provided synergies in programming, enhanced sequencing of activities and reduced transactions costs. The good working relations among UN agencies is commended by Mr. George Okech, FAO Representative in Zambia who said “the UN Partner agencies supporting the national UN-REDD programme are clearly implementing and demonstrating Delivering as One (DaO) agenda”.

Building strategic partnerships

In addition, the government with support from the UN-REDD Programme has brokered and developed REDD+ partnerships opportunities with the BioCarbon Partners, CIFOR, Global Canopy Programme (GCP), Global Environmental Facility (GEF), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), UNDP Low Emissions Capacity Building Programme (LECB), USAID, and the World Bank. These partnerships are yielding positive results, as illustrated by these examples:

1. UN-REDD Programme and BioCarbon Partners: The UN-REDD Programme has been engaging with BioCarbon Partner (BCP) in the implementation of a 5-year programme to establish landscape level verified REDD+ projects in the Luangwa Ecosystem. The BCP programme is funded by USAID/Zambia with a \$14 million grant. The objective of this program is to protect a minimum of 700,000 ha of intact forest in the Luangwa Valley through a verified jurisdictional REDD+ project. Discussions between the UN-REDD Programme and BCP have focused on MRVs, RELs, Safeguards and joint stakeholder consultative meetings in the Eastern Province of Zambia.

2. UN-REDD Programme and CIFOR: The UN-REDD Programme is contributing and participating in CIFOR seminars and working together to identify areas where partners can collaborate, including on MRVs.

3. UN-REDD Programme and GCP: The UN-REDD Programme team contributed to the GCP’s country

report on REDD+ readiness on Zambia which is now posted to the REDD Desk:

<http://www.theredddesk.org/countries/zambia>

4. UN-REDD Programme and GEF: The current GEF fifth-cycle programme on “Strengthening Management Effectiveness in Generating Multiple Environmental Benefits within and around the Greater Kafue and the West Lunga National Park” has components that bear on REDD+ activities. Designed as a multi-focal area programme that also benefitted from the GEF REDD+/Sustainable Forest Management Incentive Mechanism, the GEF programme will build on and support national REDD+ strategy implementation.

5. UN-REDD Programme and IDLO: The UN-REDD Programme supported and participated in the IDLO-CIFOR Roundtable on Legal Frameworks for Low Carbon Investment in Sustainable Land Use. Following this, the UN-REDD Programme has discussed partnership opportunities with IDLO including potential future work on safeguards and building on earlier work on legal preparedness for REDD+ in Zambia.

6. UN-REDD-ILUA II: The development of the MRV system in Zambia is closely aligned with the Zambian Integrated Land Use Assessment phase II (ILUA II). With over 4,000 sampling sites across Zambia, ILUA II will assess forests and integrated land-use practices to provide new qualitative and quantitative information on the state, use, management and trends of natural resources. It will provide technically sound information on the physical characteristics of forests and the socio-economic condition of communities living in and around these forests. With technical support from FAO, the information collected will satisfy local, national, regional and international reporting requirements, and will facilitate improved decision making at all levels. ILUA II will provide important inputs into monitoring and MRV reporting requirements for REDD+.

7. UN-REDD Programme- UNDP-LECB: The UN-REDD Programme and the UNDP Low Emissions Capacity Building (LECB) teams have been working together to enhance synergies and complementarities, especially in the design of a GHG national inventory system for Zambia. It is also worth mentioning that Zambia hosted the Regional African Workshop on REDD+ National Forest Monitoring Systems and Green House Gas (GHG) National Inventory Systems which was co—organized and co-financed by the UN-REDD Programme and UNDP-LECB global programmes. The workshop brought together representatives from over 20 African countries and was hosted in February, 2014 in the town of Livingstone.

8. UN-REDD Programme and USAID: The UN-REDD Programme team has made technical and strategic inputs into the USAID-funded Nyimba project and has

participated in a number of stakeholder meetings on the USAID programme in Nyimba. The team will continue to work together with USAID in programme implementation. Importantly, also, the USAID programme will also feed into the REDD+ strategy implementation spearheaded by the government through the UN-REDD Programme.

9. UN-REDD Programme and World Bank: Zambia's work on REDD+ readiness through the UN-REDD Programme is providing a strong basis for scaling up with World Bank support. Under the leadership of the Zambia government, the World Bank, the UN-REDD Programme Zambia team and other key partners have developed a concept note for consideration under the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes. The concept note builds on the work of the UN-REDD Programme and other initiatives, and identifies potential areas of synergies and collaboration.

07 Institutionalization of the REDD+ development process

The Zambian government has taken a strategic approach to building on existing national institutions to incorporate some of the work on REDD+ into their operations. For example, the socio-economic survey instrument of ILUA II, the Forest Livelihood Economic Survey (FLES), is embedded and institutionalized in the Central Statistics Office (CSO). FLES also incorporates the survey needs of REDD+ safeguards information, and by institutionalizing the process, the government would integrate key elements of REDD+ into its own planning and programming processes. This is also a way of reducing costs so that REDD+ surveys are not conducted as "stand alones".

The Zambian UN-REDD Programme has supported the institutionalization of REDD+ reporting with the development of a decentralized NFMS. With support from the UN-REDD Programme, ten provincial forest monitoring laboratories have been established and equipped with tools for forest monitoring, including computers with geographic information system (GIS) software, geographical positioning system (GPS) units for forest monitoring field activities, and printers and plotters for field map production. Each provincial laboratory is staffed by a group of trained cross-sectoral technicians from the forestry, agriculture and planning sectors who provide a decentralized hub of MRV and NFMS expertise.

"The creation of decentralized geographic information system laboratories has not only provided a basis for reliable field data collection on deforestation and forest degradation, but has empowered provincial staff and has greatly improved their ability to practice effective forest

stewardship in the provinces, creating a win-win situation for MRV reporting and improved forest management," said Deuteronomy Kasaro, National REDD+ Coordinator, Ministry of Lands Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Forestry Department of Zambia.

08 Stakeholder engagement

Zambia has increased efforts to implement its stakeholder assessment and engagement plan. Stakeholder participation and awareness of REDD+ processes have been fostered through various dialogues and meetings at national and provincial levels as part of the strategy development process. Significantly, civil society organization (CSO) consultative meetings have been held to provide updates on the national REDD+ strategy development process and to discuss areas of cooperation. Specifically, the CSO consultative meetings have underscored the value of including non-governmental actors in the national REDD+ process to allow for greater transparency and co-operation in organizing specific activities and awareness campaigns.

In addition, Zambia is decentralizing REDD+ by engaging with provincial authorities and District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCC) which provide a vehicle for coordination among government ministries such as agriculture and forestry, local authorities, local communities, CSOs and the private sector. The UN-REDD Programme has implemented Provincial Awareness training which is expected to cover all of Zambia's 10 Provinces and 104 districts. A number of these trainings have also been conducted jointly with CSOs.

Zambia is also engaging with bilateral and multilateral cooperating partners in the agriculture, environment and energy sectors about the national REDD+ strategy and to begin to position REDD+ for future support. This part of the stakeholder engagement process has paved the way for information sharing, consultations, joint decision-making, empowerment and national dialogue.

Chieftaincy represents an important part of Zambia's tradition and institution. Recognising this, the UN-REDD Programme has been engaging with chiefs to take their views on board in the design of the REDD+ Strategy. This is very important as chiefs are custodians of customary lands on behalf of their people.

The process of engaging stakeholders in REDD+ readiness in Zambia has been commended by UN-REDD Programme senior management, who hope that this larger circle around REDD+ also translates now into a sustained engagement in REDD+ activities and influences the course of the results of the Programme.

The stakeholder engagement efforts of the past months have yielded a number of notable outcomes, including strengthening the REDD+ readiness process, broadening the scope of stakeholder engagement, promoting partnerships, decentralizing REDD+ stakeholder engagement, and developing information and advocacy tools. All in all, stakeholder engagement has become more imperative as part of efforts towards REDD+ strategy development.

09 Mainstreaming and support to legal and policy processes

The Zambian national UN-REDD Programme has provided support to policy and legal processes such as mainstreaming of REDD+ into the national Forest Bill (currently under revision) and the national agriculture policy. This is premised on the cross-cutting nature of REDD+, the need to create an enabling condition for REDD+ implementation, and the need to address the drivers of deforestation in national policy and planning processes.

In addition, the government, with the support of the UN-REDD Programme, held a national consultative meeting on charcoal as a driver of deforestation. The government is very interested to find solutions that would help improve forest resource management including at the policy level.

Key outcomes and results expected

- a. It is anticipated that Zambia's approach to REDD+ strategy development will lead to the following outcomes:
- b. A result oriented strategy;
- c. A well-defined and coordinated approach to key REDD+ actions which links different sectors and institutions to ensure effective reporting at the national level;
- d. A robust partnership framework with the potential for resource mobilization and multiplier effects through new and emerging programmes such as the BioCarbon Fund, UNDP supported programmes, USAID supported programmes, and Finnish programmes;
- e. A space for innovation, learning, scaling up and replication especially on forest monitoring and MRV work, and stakeholder engagement processes;
- f. Long-term sustainability, given that the UN-REDD Programme has built on existing institutional structures.

Lessons learned

Several lessons learned have already emerged from this work, including the following:

- Avoid overambitious programme design because REDD+ can only solve specific problems based on what drives deforestation and forest degradation.
 - Address conceptual issues at the beginning to avoid over expectations and uncoordinated approach to REDD+ readiness process and distinguish it from REDD+ implementation.
 - Involve key stakeholders from the beginning of the REDD+ readiness process so that they clearly understand their and others roles and responsibilities.
 - It takes time to set up structures. Therefore, it is important to plan the start-up phase of REDD+ readiness programmes including recruiting, seconding or attaching teams to implement such programmes.
 - The government should lead and own the REDD+ readiness process to ensure full support to the process and enhance stakeholder ownership of the process.
 - Promote synergy among different programmes being implemented in order to respond to the national vision and national circumstances, and to avoid duplication and thinly spreading out resources.
 - REDD+ should not be seen as a separate development agenda or a stand-alone initiative but should be considered an important opportunity to mainstream, strengthen and consolidate existing efforts at national, provincial, district and community levels in reducing deforestation through an integrated approach with measurable actions.
 - While the UN-REDD Programme collaborating agencies have distinct areas of programme support to the government, they should work in a synergistic manner in the interest of the national REDD+ programme and not in silos.
- ### Next steps and way forward
1. **Finalization of the strategy:** Zambia has developed its UN-REDD Programme National Programme priorities and roadmap that gears towards the national REDD+ strategy development process. By advancing its REDD+ strategy, the country is demonstrating its global and national commitments to promote REDD+ through strategic options and targets. The national REDD+ strategy is expected to be completed by December 2014.
 2. **Design of a UN-REDD Programme phase II programme:** Given that the national REDD+ strategy is envisaged to be completed by the end of 2014, the strategic issue for

Zambia is mobilizing additional financial support and investments to transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation. As such, the strategy offers a unique opportunity for development partners to complement Zambia's efforts in addressing REDD+ implementation. A phase II programme of the UN-REDD Programme is imperative to ensure that the last four years of hard work are capitalized on with minimal or no gaps.

3. **Mobilization of strategic partnerships:** The government, with the support of UN agencies and other development partners, will be developing proposals and concept notes for engaging with key development partners in support of REDD+ implementation in Zambia.

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Notes

¹ UNDP, UN-REDD Technical Advisor, Zambia.

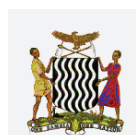
² National REDD+ Coordinator, Forestry Department, Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Zambia.

³ FAO, UN-REDD Technical Advisor, Zambia.

⁴ Mwitwa, 2009 in Preliminary Supply and Demand Assessment in Eastern and Lusaka Provinces, USAID-Zambia.

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