# Technical support to MRV activities in Kenya

## Support to enhance coordination and compliance of MRV activities with international standards

**Summary**

Despite strong efforts and existing national capacities for the development of MRV activities (ie. such as the development of land cover maps), Kenya has identified the need for better coordination amongst stakeholders and governmental bodies working on MRV, as well as the need to assess the accuracy and control the quality of ongoing MRV activities. Given the support it receives from various donors on specific MRV activities, Kenya has requested the UN-REDD team of FAO to: (i) support the Kenya Forest Service to enhance coordination, planning and budgeting of MRV activities; (ii) assess and improve the accuracy of existing land cover maps and (iii) provide technical inputs on various MRV aspects, notably on the development of the NFI methodology and manual and support information analysis and training on emission factors (EF) and allometric equations.

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### Objectives and outcomes

This proposal has two main objectives. It will:

1. Improve MRV activities coordination and planning, as well as institutional arrangements
2. Support the quality improvement of activity data and emission factors

The outcomes of the project will be:

1. MRV gap analysis and capacity needs assessment report
2. Updated and detailed MRV roadmap, with planning and budget
3. Accuracy assessment of land cover maps and change for years 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010 completed, using technical backstopping, capacity building training and other relevant accuracy assessment methods,
4. Method to improve accuracy of future land cover change assessments developed;
5. NFI methodology and manual compliant with international REDD+ requirements;
6. Enhanced capacities on EF and allometric equations

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Context and justification

Kenya is currently in the process of implementing its R-PP with the support of the World Bank - FCPF, following its approval in 2010. Kenya is also partner member of UN-REDD since 2010 and has received a first targeted support, jointly by the three UN-REDD agencies in 2012. In addition, there are several REDD+ initiatives in Kenya that are supported by development partners such as Japan, Finland and the Clinton Climate Initiative.

In Kenya, REDD+ is implemented by the national REDD+ coordination office within the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, and led by the National Coordinator for REDD+. At policy level, a Steering Committee has been established, under which a National REDD+ Technical Committee has been also established to provide an advisory role. Six thematic working groups have also been established to drive the REDD+ readiness and implementation process. Despite this well-structured organization, gaps or overlaps amongst institutions need to be addressed for MRV activities development and implementation.

Throughout 2012, the country developed a roadmap for the design and implementation of MRV activities and NFMS. The consultative process was supported by the Miti Mingi Maisha Bora project, with funding from the Government of Finland. With the recent MRV activities developed in the country, this document needs to be reviewed and detailed with timelines, costs and implementation details.

The MRV roadmap has led various donors and partners to support the implementation of various relevant MRV activities, such as the development of four land cover maps, the planning of a National Forest Inventory, as well as an integrated programme to estimate and project GHG emissions and land use change from the forestry and agriculture sectors.

Despite the strong support received the last years from different partners, Kenya has recently expressed the need for better coordination in the MRV sector and specific technical support focusing on improving the quality of activity data and emission factors. Within the UN-REDD Programme, this type of support is usually provided by the UN-REDD FAO team.

Following previous discussions on a potential FAO support to MRV activities in the country at the 11th Policy Board of the UN-REDD programme, a FAO HQ mission took place in Nairobi in February 2014 with the following objectives:

1. Assess state of MRV and NFMS activities for REDD+ in Kenya;
2. Meet with other UN-REDD implementing agencies and development partners to appraise existing support to Kenya and ensure coordination;
3. Identify potential MRV gaps and needs, and discuss potential available funding to support Kenya through the UN-REDD Targeted Support modality.

During the FAO UN-REDD mission to Kenya, the government clearly expressed its desire to receive UN-REDD support to fill key gaps in the country’s MRV process. The FAO team identified clear gaps that could be filled by FAO’s and agreed to support government in framing a coherent and realistic Targeted Support request.

This Targeted Support will therefore support the Kenya Forestry Services to fill key gaps identified during the mission by (i) supporting the Kenya Forest Service to enhance coordination, planning and budgeting of MRV activities; (ii) assessing and improving the accuracy of existing land cover maps and (iii) providing technical inputs on various MRV aspects, notably on the development of the NFI methodology and manual and support information analysis and training on emission factors (EF) and allometric equations.

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Activities and outputs

The proposed Targeted Support will undertake the following activities:

Activity 1: Enhancement of the general coordination and planning of MRV activities

* 1. Recruitment of an international MRV consultant for the overall TS activities management

An international MRV expert with strong knowledge of the Kenyan REDD+ context will be hired on a part-time basis for a 11 months contract (the overall duration of the TS). He/she will be responsible for the overall TS activities management in collaboration with the National Coordinator for REDD+. Specific TORs for this expert will be draft by the UN-REDD FAO team and KFS as soon as the UN-REDD Secretariat approves the TS request. Specifically, he/she will be in charge of the following activities.

* 1. Undertake MRV gap analysis and capacity needs assessment
  2. Review MRV roadmap and detail it with a timeline, costs and implementation details;
  3. Support meetings of the MRV/NFMS technical working group;
  4. Institutional mapping for MRV and NFMS, including the identification of gaps and overlaps amongst institutions (report);
  5. Provide overall technical guidance on MRV issues, as needed.

An inception workshop will be held at the beginning of the project (50 institutional representatives most of whom are based in Nairobi).

A report presenting the gap analysis and the capacity needs assessment will be prepared as well as an updated roadmap (based on the 2012 version). A national workshop will be held to present and validate the result of these studies.

The international MRV expert is also expected to support the capacity development of the MRV/NFMS working group by co-organizing and attending/facilitating meetings and by producing related workplans and reports. He/she will be also responsible (with the National Coordinator for REDD+) for organizing field visits if necessary.

In parallel, he/she will be in charge of the definition of MRV roles and their repartition amongst national institutions and the civil society based on their capacities and responsibility levels. Through a consultative process (visits to the different institutions, meetings, consultation workshops, etc.), a report presenting the institutional mapping for MRV and NFMS will be drafted (based on the Legal Report prepared with the support of the previous UN-REDD FAO TS).

* 1. General support to TS implementation

This activity covers two support missions from FAO HQ staff to ensure the smooth implementation of the activities and/or to participate in national workshops.

Activity 2: Assessment of the accuracy and enhancement of the quality of existing land cover maps

* 1. FAO HQ backstopping / land cover maps 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010
  2. Support training of multiple stakeholders and accuracy assessment work through RCMRD

A FAO Headquarter-based Remote Sensing expert will be assigned to support Kenya on a part-time basis, and will provide backstopping in the country to support the implementation of this activity. He/she will be responsible to support the accuracy assessment of the country’s four land cover maps (Landsat 1990, Landsat 2000, Landsat 2005 and Lansdat 2010) developed by the Forest Information System team, including the change analysis, and support their improvement, as necessary.

Different methods are envisaged, among which collect earth software together with field verification visits, comparison with Global Forest Watch results or other maps and statistical analysis of land use change. The most appropriate method in the Kenyan context will be discussed during the MRV roadmap update and/or the first mission of the GIS expert in the country and a methodology proposal will be developed .

A specific training will then be developed according to the above decision and will take place directly in the country. Similarly, the place and number of field verification visits will be determined as soon as the first software-based accuracy checking will be done.

The organisation of this training will be managed by the Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) and a Letter of Agreement will be signed with the following goals:

* Use the RCMRD facilities to conduct training activities for selected stakeholders (KFS, KEMFRI, KEFRI, DRSRS, academic institutions, etc)
* Enhance the capacities of RCMRD to support the accuracy assessment and enhancement of the maps;

Activity 3: Provide technical inputs to the NFI methodology and field manuals development and support information analysis and training on emission factors (EF) and allometric equations

3.1. Review of methodology and field manual (final documents)

3.2. Support the analysis of existing data on EF and allometric equations and provide training, as relevant

In order to ensure that the NFI methodology and field manuals meet international REDD+ requirements and capture key REDD+ information needs, a FAO HQ NFI expert will be affected for 15 days to the review of these documents in close collaboration with METLA (Finnish Forest Research Institute) through the ICFRA project - improving forest inventory through capacity building. This expert will also attend the stakeholder consultation meeting (on the NFI methodology and field manuals) scheduled for November 2014.

In addition, work will be supported by FAO experts to assess existing information on emission factors and allometric equations relevant to REDD+. Based needs and depending on what other ongoing MRV initiatives are planning, FAO could support the development of preliminary emission factors, support the development of new allometric equations and/or provide trainings on these topics, as relevant.

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Assumptions and risks

The main assumptions of this project are that data and maps will be available on time for achieving the desired purpose and that technical partners will be interested in collaborating. Many activities of the proposed targeted support will be implemented through direct contract with development partners who need to be involve at an early stage in the process.

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Collaborators

This work will involve close cooperation between the FAO UN-REDD team, the Kenya Forest Services (especially the Forest Information System team) and other development partners (Regional Center for Mapping of Resources for Development - training; ICFRA project - NFI; Research Center/University - NFI). Also, FAO will ensure close coordination with other ongoing initiatives, such as SLEEK.

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Contacts

The focal points at FAO UN-REDD are:

Philippe Crête

Tel: + 39 06570 53302

Email: [philippe.crete@fao.org](mailto:philippe.crete@fao.org)

Alexis Corblin

Tel: +855 (0)77 570 471

Email: [alexis.corblin@fao.org](mailto:alexis.corblin@fao.org)

Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla,

Rome, 00153

Workplan and Budget

The total cost of the project is estimated at US$ 270.000

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