



MONITORING REDD+ AND LINKAGES WITH LEGALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMPLIANCE

AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDEPENDENT FOREST
MONITORING

Date: Wednesday 10th May, 2017

Venue: Mensvic Hotel, Accra



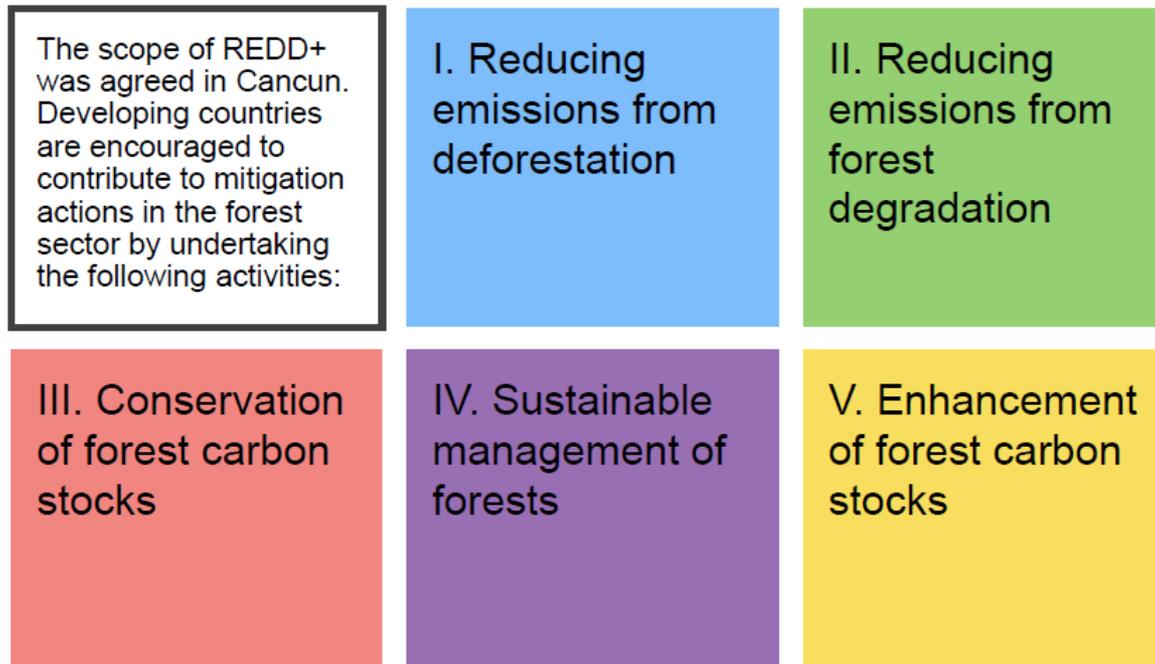
OUTLINE

- ❖ Overview and key elements of REDD+;
- ❖ Monitoring REDD+
- ❖ Ghana's National Forest Monitoring System
- ❖ Monitoring of Safeguards related issues
- ❖ Linkages with legality compliance
- ❖ Linkages with sustainability compliance
- ❖ Concluding Remarks

OVERVIEW OF REDD+

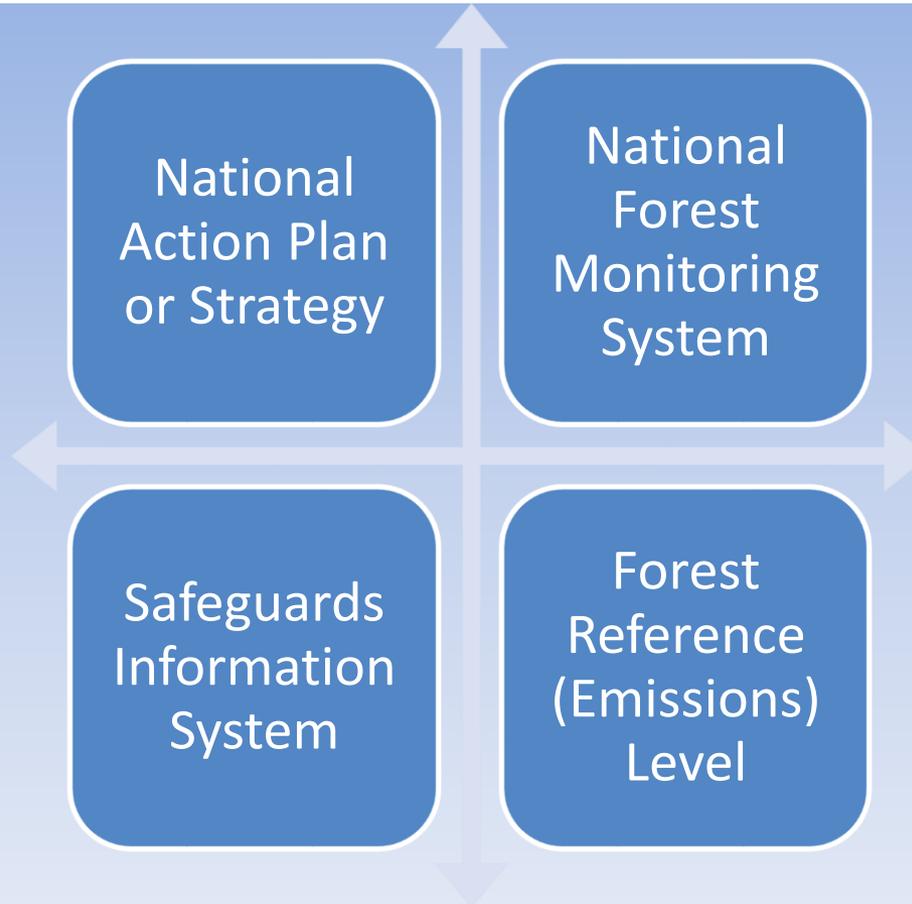
- REDD+ has emerged in international climate change dialogue/ decisions as an efficient and effective pathway for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the forestry sector.
- As a performance-based mechanism, REDD+ seeks to incentivise substantial emission reductions from the forestry sector in developing countries whilst delivering several co-benefits including biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation and improved governance and management of forest resources.

SCOPE OF REDD+ (ACTIVITIES)



OVERVIEW OF REDD+

- The Cancun Agreement (COP 16) and the Warsaw Framework (COP 19) sets out the 4 key elements of REDD+



OVERVIEW OF REDD+

- REDD+ is also a key component of the current global climate change Agreement (the Paris Agreement, developed in COP 21, which entered into force prior to COP 22 in November, 2016).

Article 5

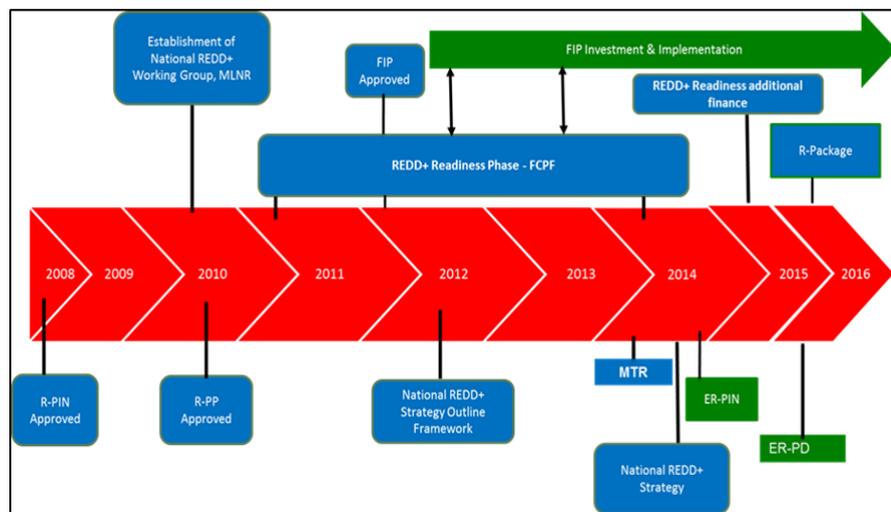
1. Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, including forests.

2. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.

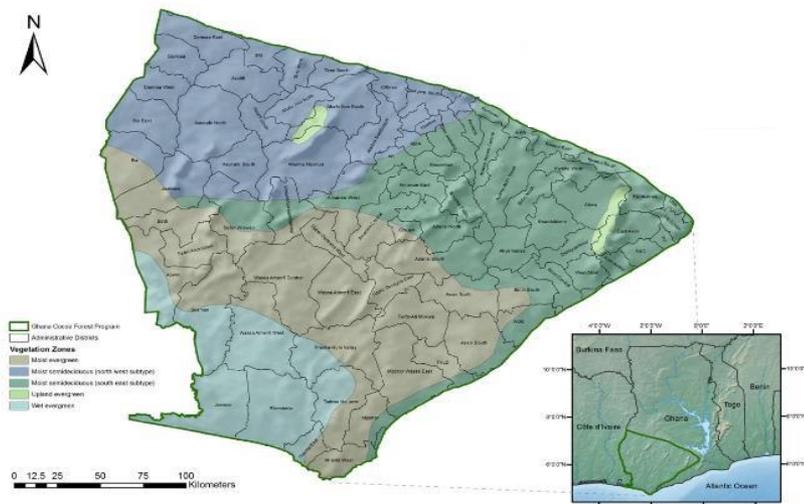
Article 5 of the Paris Climate Change Agreement

OVERVIEW OF REDD+ - PROGRESS MADE IN GHANA

- **REDD+ activities commenced in 2008 when Ghana became an FCPF REDD+ Country, Ghana is currently at the stage where:**
 - ❖ readiness phase is well advanced,
 - ❖ targeted investments are being undertaken (under FIP);
 - ❖ an ambitious and pragmatic 20 year National REDD+ strategy has been formulated;
 - ❖ a performance-based Ghana Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is being developed as a first major step for REDD+ implementation/ work is ongoing towards the development of another ERP for the Savanna Zone;



Progress made



GCFRP Programme Area

MONITORING REDD+



What is monitored under REDD+?

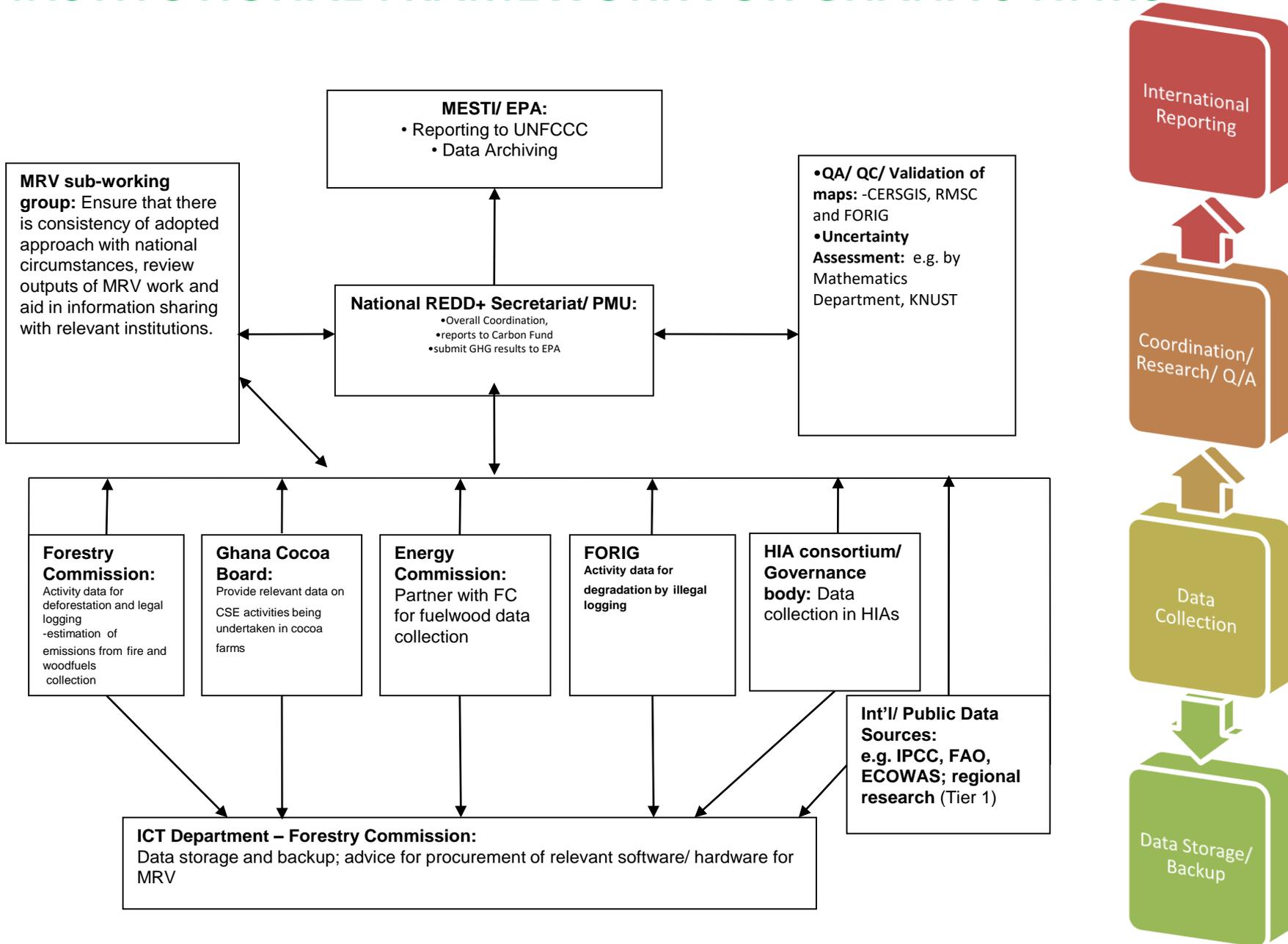
- The NFMS monitors the effectiveness of the implementation of the National Action Plan or Strategy;
- The NFMS also has an MRV function for monitoring carbon stock changes (or emission fluxes) associated with the implementation of REDD+ activities.
- Monitoring of how safeguards indicators are being addressed and respected.

GHANA'S NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM FOR REDD+

An institutional framework has been designed for Ghana's NFMS (carbon related issues) for the following reasons:

- To ensure timely collection of data needed to estimate emission reductions;
- To ensure that key actors work together towards operationalisation of the national forest monitoring system in a transparent effective and efficient manner;
- Long term sustainability of REDD+ MRV processes;
- To enhance coordination amongst key national and sub-national agencies
- Creation of institutional memory of REDD+ MRV processes

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR GHANA'S NFMS



GHANA'S NFMS: APPROACHES/ STANDARDS

- Twelve (12) Standard Operating Procedures have been developed to provide consistent guidance for Ghana's biennial REDD+ MRV processes;
- They are living documents and consequently being updated, as and when deemed necessary:

No	NAME
001	Estimating Annual Forest Emissions and Removals
002	Key Category Analysis
003	Acquisition of Remote Sensing Data and Generation of Activity Data
004	Stratification of Lands
005	Field Inventory Protocol
006	Estimation of Above- and Belowground Biomass and Deadwood
007	Estimating Emissions from Soil Organic Carbon
008	Estimation of Emissions and Removals from Timber Harvests
009	Estimation of Emissions from Extraction of Wood for Fuel
010	Emissions From Fire
011	Estimating National and Sub-National Forest Reference Emission Level
012	Combining Uncertainty

NFMS: UNFCCC PRINCIPLES

- Inventories and emissions estimates undertaken through the NFMS are required to strictly adhere to the UNFCCC TACCC principles:
 - **Transparency**
 - Accuracy
 - Completeness
 - Comparability
 - Consistency

MONITORING OF SAFEGUARDS RELATED ISSUES

- The UNFCCC defines REDD+ Safeguards as a list of recommended principles and actions to be promoted and supported during REDD+ implementation.
- The goal of REDD+ Safeguards is to avoid negative social and environmental impacts whilst promoting the positive impacts during the implementation of REDD+
- REDD+ safeguards are intended to limit the risks associated with REDD+ implementation (e.g. Marginalisation, elite capture, lack of effective participation of key stakeholders, poor governance arrangements, conflicts etc.) whilst enhancing benefits from REDD+ (e.g. Watershed management, improved forest management, community development and enhanced livelihoods etc.).

STATUS OF GHANA'S REDD+ SAFEGUARDS

- SESA, ESMF AND RPF were originally developed in 2014 and updated in 2016 through a multi-stakeholder process.
- These documents identifies the risks and opportunities associated with Ghana's REDD+ Strategy options and present guidelines to mitigate the identified negative impacts.
- Development of a Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism as the framework for the receipt, evaluation and to address grievances which arises during implementation of REDD+.
- The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) has also partnered with IUCN Ghana to develop a roadmap for gender mainstreaming in REDD+ in Ghana. Work is currently underway towards operationalising this roadmap.
- SNV is also partnering with the NRS to develop Ghana's Country Approach to Safeguards.

STATUS OF GHANA'S REDD+ SAFEGUARDS

- Work is underway towards the development and operationalisation of a Safeguards Information System (SIS).
- The SIS is a web-enabled platform which serves as a transparent and accountable domestic repository of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) to monitor how safeguards are addressed and respected.
- Steps have also been initiated for the selection of regional and district focal persons and constitution of multi-stakeholder groups for participatory monitoring and third-party verification of safeguards related issues.

LINKAGES WITH LEGALITY COMPLIANCE

- An assessment of Ghana's historical emissions from the forestry sector indicates that forest degradation associated with illegal logging accounts for about 22 per cent of historical emissions whereas degradation from legal logging accounts for a little less than 6 per cent of emissions.
- Ghana therefore needs to demonstrate substantial decline in illegalities, if it intends to generate performance-based 'carbon credits'
- The Monitoring regime for REDD+ will therefore serve as an important basis for assessing national efforts towards reducing the high emissions associated with illegal logging;
- The Legality Assurance System therefore represents a robust framework which can support national efforts towards reducing emissions from the forestry sector

LINKAGES WITH SUSTAINABILITY COMPLIANCE

- The core aim of REDD+ as a pathway for climate action and as a means to enhance the ecological integrity of forests makes it an endeavour which fits within global sustainability goals.
- The Safeguards Principles, Criteria and indicators are intended to ensure that Sustainable Development Objectives are fully integrated in REDD+ implementation.
- Consequently by monitoring safeguards related issues, Ghana hopes to ensure that compliance with sustainability principles are fully ingrained in Ghana's REDD+ process.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- REDD+ Monitoring has clear linkages with legality and sustainability compliance;
- In order to ensure that this linkage is further strengthened, the role of civil society and other local level stakeholders in independent forest monitoring is critical;
- There has been high level participation of key civil sector actors and local level stakeholders in REDD+ safeguards related issues
- Capacity building and effective communication of monitoring of carbon related issues is important towards enhancing participation of key local level stakeholders in this area



THANK YOU

