

Regional approach for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

SADC - International Climate Initiative

Approximately 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forest cover, the concept of “Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD)+” was initiated under the Bali Action Plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and shall be part of the Post Kyoto Agreement on Climate Protection which is currently being negotiated.

- The envisaged mechanism shall provide incentives for the following:
 - Avoided deforestation,
 - Forest degradation
 - Promotion of sustainable forest management,
 - Conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The region of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is home to almost 375 million hectares of forest and forest-like formations. Most widespread forest ecosystems in the region are Miombo woodlands, followed by Lowland forest, Mopane woodlands and Baikiaea woodlands.

According to FAO, annual net forest loss in the region amounts up to 0.46% per year during the period 2005-2012. Although the extent of forest cover change and the drivers of deforestation vary between different countries, forest cover change is mainly driven by agricultural expansion, energy production and logging activities.

It is estimated that SADC is responsible for half of biomass carbon losses in Africa due to deforestation. In order to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism, the countries and the region have

Project Title	Development of integrated monitoring systems for REDD+ in the SADC region
Client	Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
Countries	SADC Member States
Political Partner	SADC Secretariat
Budget	EUR 3.365 million
Total Term	2011 - 2015

to address and meet a number of requirements. Consequently, a SADC support programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation was developed, addressing amongst others issues, matters of policy harmonisation, international engagement in the climate change negotiations, capacities to manage regional and national REDD programmes.

The development of monitoring systems to measure, report and verify changes in forest cover and related carbon emissions - so-called MRV systems - is among the key preparatory measures. Although the concept of REDD and the distribution of benefits is still a national concept, high potential for synergies exist at the regional level. For example with view to the transboundary nature of the ecosystems, capacity building and the development of regional standards for monitoring were put in place. This underlines the important and innovative role SADC is playing in the international climate negotiations and provides the basis for the support of the German Government to support the implementation for the SADC REDD support programme with the development integrated MRV systems in selected pilot sites.





Programme Objective

Up to now, most SADC countries have only limited technical, institutional and human resource capacities to collect measurable and reliable data on forest areas and its changes as well as to develop a monitoring system. In addition, the development of a regional approach to MRV can be more resource efficient with the view of the preparations to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism. This is particularly relevant for capacity building activities and the development of regional MRV standards. Against this background, the project pursues the following objectives:

- Develop and put into practice integrated monitoring systems in 3 selected sites in 4 pilot countries for the development of forest areas, carbon stocks and emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, with one transboundary pilot site.
- Capacity Development for MRV: Assess the capacity needs to develop and sustainably implement the MRV systems in all SADC Member States and develop a capacity development strategy on the basis of the results.
- Develop a regional knowledge management system for MRV.
- Establish a regional approach on MRV for deforestation and forest degradation.

Approach

The identification of the pilot countries and pilot sites shall be made on the basis of a transparent catalogue of criteria that has been approved by the SADC Technical Forestry Committee. A high accuracy of the calculations shall be achieved by a combina-

tion of high resolution remote sensing data and terrestrial surveys of corresponding emission factors. The implementation of this strategy will focus on the pilot countries, with special emphasis on terrestrial inventory methods and the interpretation of remote sensing results. During the development and implementation phase, exchange of experiences among all SADC countries shall be promoted.

After the finalisation of the calculations for the first pilot site, an independent auditor shall certify compliance with the IPCC guidelines. Special emphasis will be given to the use of open source products to enhance sustainability and to avoid additional costs in the future. The design of the tested MRV system will be formulated as a recommendation for a regional standard (principles, criteria and indicators for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation for the region) and submitted to SADC's technical advisory bodies for consultation and agreement. Subsequent recommendation to the SADC Council of Ministers will also be conducted. Furthermore, recommendations will be elaborated for regional standards for data collection and for evaluation.

The project will be implemented jointly by the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR) of SADC and German International Cooperation (GIZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, as part of the International Climate Initiative. The technical development of the MRV system, its implementation in the pilot countries and several parts of the training measures has been awarded in a tender to a consortium of GAF AG Consultant for Geo Information services, DFS Deutsche Forstservice and Geo-Terra Image South Africa.

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