



SADC's cooperation structure for REDD+

Background

Countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, droughts and desertification. Green House Gas emissions accelerate climate change and in the SADC region a large amount of these emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation.

Thus, there is a high potential for SADC countries to participate in a global financing mechanism that rewards developing countries for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

However, countries that want to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism must fulfil a number of requirements that have been defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This includes the development of monitoring systems – so called MRV systems – to measure, report and verify changes in forest cover and related carbon emissions. Currently, most of the SADC countries have only limited resources for developing and maintaining such a system.

Against this background the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with supporting the implementation of SADC's REDD support programme. From 2011 to 2015 GIZ worked together with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (FANR) on a project to develop REDD+ MRV systems. The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

It consists of two components: 1) testing and implementing MRV systems in a limited number of pilot countries and 2) based on the test results, developing standards for the entire region.

The regional approach of the project is based on the consideration that forest ecosystems are transboundary and that drivers of deforestation do not stop at national borders.

Output

Due to its regional scale, the project had to embrace all SADC countries. Therefore the project developed a cooperation structure that includes testing MRV systems in five pilot countries as well as capacity development and involvement of all Member States in the development of standards.

Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique and Namibia are the pilot countries. They were selected according to different criteria, such as the presence of a forest ecosystem typical for the region.

The cooperation structure involved facilitating regular meetings and workshops in form of a Regional Forum, National Dialogue meetings and training courses.

Furthermore, the project established thematic Working Groups (WGs) that worked on the following topics:

- Share of experiences and knowledge between pilot countries
- Development of regional MRV standards

Once a year representatives of all SADC countries met at the Regional Forum to discuss results from

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the pilot countries and the WGs and to consult about upcoming project activities.

.A large variety of stakeholders of all Member States were involved in the WGs and in the Regional Forum to build acceptance for MRV and to incorporate expertise from different areas. Stakeholders came from the forestry sector, the Climate Change Focal Points, academia, civil society and the private sector. In addition, a web-based REDD+ forum was created to encourage actors to share their experience and to promote the development of regional standards.

Achievements

The standards developed by the project will be submitted to the SADC Technical Committee of Directors of Forestry (TCF) for adoption.

The TCF operates independently of the project, but the project has been able to sponsor one TCF meeting.

Since the signing of the SADC Forestry Protocol in 2009 all Member States commit themselves to fulfil the protocol, which promotes the protection of forests and sustainable forest management. Member States are expected to cooperate in good faith.

The project favoured the implementation of the protocol through fostering continuous exchange among the countries.

Outlook into the future

The networks resulting from the project are available for further communications on REDD+ topics. They can also favour agreement on a common SADC position in the international climate negotiations.

As part of the project guidelines for regional cooperation were formulated. They are based on the established cooperation structure and shall guide the region in preparing for REDD+ participation.

The guidelines propose to establish regional hubs that can provide advice in the areas of Remote Sensing and Forest Inventory, the two basic methods to monitor forest cover changes and related emissions.

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.



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