# REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION

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# Introduction

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) includes the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and also enhancement of forest carbon stock.**
- **REDD+ has been proposed to curb emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in order to slow climate change impact.**
- **It is a climate change mitigation solution that many initiatives including the UN- REDD programme, are currently developing and supporting.**
- **REDD+ readiness relates to the efforts a country is undertaking, with the support of multilateral initiatives, to build its capacity to be ready for REDD+ mechanism.**

# Intro. Cont.

- **As Deforestation and forest degradation, through agricultural expansion, conversion to pasturelands, infrastructural development, destructive logging, fire etc. accounts for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than the entire global transport sector and second to only energy sector.**
- **To constrain the impacts on climate change within limits that society will reasonably be able to tolerate, the global average temperatures must be stabilized within two degrees Celsius. The above can be only be achieve if we put efforts to reduce emissions from forest sector, in addition to other mitigation actions.**
- **Other multilateral REDD+ initiatives includes the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Programme (FIP), hosted by the World Bank.**

# Intro. Cont.

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) can also be referred to as an effort to:**
- **Create a financial value for the carbon stored in the forests,**
- **Offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands,**
- **Investing in low-carbon paths to sustainable development**
- **REDD+ goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation; It also includes:**
- **The role of conservation,**
- **Sustainable management of forests**
- **Enhancement of forest carbon stock**

# Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

- **Within REDD+, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are direct and indirect factors that result in forest loss. Globally, agriculture has been estimated to drive 80% of deforestation.**
- **The main drivers vary across the continents, with logging and charcoal production important to Africa.**
- **As the causes for drivers vary, to address them need a lot of analysis and approach.**

# Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

- **The final COP19 report underline that the decision to address drivers should not be interpreted to imply that the traditional livelihood of communities, based on natural resources, are drivers of deforestation, and their livelihoods should not be negatively affected when the drivers are addressed.**
- **A further criticism of decision on drivers is that it fails to acknowledge that the key drivers of deforestation, namely international commodity chains, for example in soy, beef, palm oil, biofuels and timber.**
- **The issues are not sufficiently addressed in REDD+ and neither is reducing demand for these goods.**

# KEY ISSUES

- **REDD+ is a new and complex mechanism and there are several key concepts which need to be understood in order to fully comprehend the implications of REDD+:**
  - **The phases of REDD+**
  - **Reference levels**
  - **Monitoring**
  - **Finances and benefit sharing**
  - **The most pressing community concerns**
  - **Discussing the safeguards that have been proposed to address the above concerns**

# KEY ISSUES Cont.

- **Proposed phases of REDD+**
- **During the conference of parties (COP16), the following phases were recommended:**

**Phase 1: Readiness:**

**A. Countries should prepare national strategies or action plan;**

**B. Build capacity and ensure stakeholder participation.**

**Phase 2: Policy reforms and measures supportive of REDD+:**

**A. National forest monitoring systems developed**

**B. REDD+ Demonstration projects.**

**Phase 3: Implementation**

**A. Full UNFCCC compliance required to be established for performance- based payment**

# KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMS

- **REDD+**
  - **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)**
  - **REDD+ includes the role of conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stock.**
- **UNFCCC**
  - **A proposed mitigation action under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)to provide financial incentives for developing countries to reduce carbon emissions within their borders and promote low- carbon development.**

# KEY CONCEPTS AND TERMS CONT.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Intensify changes in weather patterns around the world driven by the increased average temperature of the Earth's surface.**

## GREENHOUSE EFFECT

- **The greenhouse effect is a layer of persistent gases (such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and ozone) in the Earth's atmosphere that traps heat from the sun. As the concentration of the gases increase in the atmosphere, more heat is trapped, increasing global temperatures and driving climate change.**

- **CARBON EMISSIONS**

- **Levels of carbon released into the Earth's atmosphere primarily through human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests and peat lands.**
- **Other major source of carbon includes the thawing of permafrost.**

# REASONS FOR MUCH INTEREST IN FORESTRY, DEFORESTATION AND CARBON AT PRESENT

- **REDD+ is one of the most cost-effective ways of stabilizing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to avoid a temperature rise of two degree celsius (2°C).**
- **Standing forests also conserve carbon while supporting the livelihoods of a large number of people and forest dependent communities.**
- **It also provides essential ecosystem services such as habitat for biodiversity and provisioning clean water supplies.**
- **Further, it helps making private sector part of the solution by providing the kinds of market signals, mechanisms and incentives to encourage investments that manage and conserve the world's (West Africa's) nature-based resources rather than mining them.**

# REASONS FOR MUCH INTEREST IN FORESTRY, DEFORESTATION AND CARBON AT PRESENT

- **It is about making money and conserving the planet too.**
- **If we can structure REDD+ right, we can make money as developing countries and our communities for providing the forest- based carbon storage services.**
- **It is predicted that financial flows from north to south for GHG reductions from REDD+ could reach up to US$30million a year. These funds can be invested in renewable energy projects to assist the two billion people with access to electricity or hospital or new schools.**

# CHALLENGES

- **Carbon markets allow developed countries to avoid cutting their own emissions at source because they can merely buy carbon credits from developing countries; this is referred to as offsetting.**
- **This means that despite the large amounts of money to prevent deforestation, there could be limited actual reductions in emissions because the market will allow developed countries to continue to emit carbon dioxide.**
- **Furthermore, offsets detract from the essential actions required to reduce emissions at source in developed countries.**

# CHALLENGES Cont.

- **The environmental integrity of utilizing REDD+ for carbon offsets has been criticized, as the carbon released from fossil fuels and carbon stored in trees is not interchangeable.**
- **Furthermore, it has been shown that although reducing carbon loss from forests and land use can contribute towards reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, considering carbon storage on land as a means to offset carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuel is scientifically flawed.**

**THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION**

**AL- BARAKA**

**MERCI**