

Concept Note

High Level Discussion during CCDA - V

REDD+ Non-Carbon Benefit (NCB) in Africa

09:30 – 12:30, 29 October 2015
Victoria Fall, Zimbabwe



Background

To make REDD+ mechanism work in many African countries, REDD+ activities should aim at generating both carbon and non-carbon benefits (NCBs). For many African countries, limiting REDD+ incentives to results measured in carbon alone would not provide sufficient incentives to help reduce emissions, stabilize or enhance forest carbon sinks. Moreover, NCBs - such as improved livelihoods and economics, improved governance and tenure, biodiversity conservation, watershed management, adaptation to climate impacts and gender mainstreaming, obtained by local communities and forest dwellers constitute a more compelling reason for them to sustainably manage forests. The inclusion of non-carbon benefits (NCBs) in this context is therefore seen as a precondition for the long-term sustainability of REDD+ mechanism in Africa. And for the past few years, NCBs have received growing international attention. Negotiators and observers under the UNFCCC have acknowledged the need to support and incentivize REDD+ activities that generate NCBs.

UNFCCC decision from the 38th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) recognized both the importance of taking NCBs into account when implementing REDD+ activities and the need for clarity surrounding methodological issues. Most recently, the draft UNFCCC decision from the 42nd session of SBSTA held in June 2015 took into consideration NCBs and related methodological issues. These decisions are indications that NCBs will remain relevant and will continue to attract serious attention in the implementation of

REDD+ activities and the sustainable management of forests in the medium and long terms. It is within this context that a high level session is organized to:

- Raise the profile of NCBs among Africans by sensitizing different REDD+ and climate change actors, institutions and countries and
- Prepare Africa for a much bigger NCBs event during COP 21 in Paris with the view of finally transforming UNFCCC decisions on NCBs into concrete implementation of NCBs related activities at the national and subnational levels in Africa.

The event brings together, connects and facilitates dialogue among REDD+ stakeholders from different parts of Africa. Experiences on NCBs will be shared by policy makers, private sector representatives, development practitioners, researchers and non-governmental organizations.

Objective

The objective of the high level discussion session is to highlight the importance of NCBs as an integral part of REDD+, and to stimulate preparedness among key stakeholders as well as mobilization of resources for implementation.

Expected Outputs

- Awareness of NCBs as part of REDD+ increased
- Stakeholders mobilized in readiness for implementation

