

Ministry of Environment and Forest

National REDD+ Secretariat

Minutes for 2nd MRV Task Force Meeting

Date: 17 December 2014

Venue: Ministry of Environment and Forest (11th floor meeting room)

Facilitator: Dr. Julian Gonzalo

The Government, and particularly, the Ministry of Environment and Forest, working with its development partners including FAO and the International Development Association ("IDA") or International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("IBRD"), designed and is developing a project to IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING AND MRV SYSTEM FOR REDD+ READINESS IN ETHIOPIA. FAO agreed to provide this Technical Assistance on behalf of the Government, and held with MEF, Stakeholders and MRV Task Force Members, the Project Launching Meeting in September, 23rd - 24th, 2014, in Adama.

After this important meeting, the Technical Assistance is being developed and the time has come in the second quarter of project implementation to report on activities, achieve consensus on key aspects of their development and plan new joint actions.

Based on these facts the REDD+ Secretariat has conducted the second quarter MRV Task Force meeting with the following specific objectives and the proposed agenda:

- ✓ Report on the state of the art of the TA implementation: in particular on the NFI and LULC map tasks;
- ✓ Reach consensus on LULC classification for NFI and its reduced version for LULC Map;
- ✓ Agree on a technical and scientific National Forest definition;
- ✓ Define a specific task on compiling a complete taxonomical list of plant species (Latin and local names) and pictures for easy identification;
- ✓ Analyze the results of the surveys on training needs, training capacities and available resources on GIS, Remote Sensing and M&MRV;
- ✓ Agree on a ToR for launching a call for proposals for research projects on methods to improve biomass estimates and on methods to detect forest degradation;
- ✓ Interest in including courses related to REDD + and MRV in university curricula;
- ✓ Formalization of the MRV Task Force.

No	Activities	Responsible	Time
1	Welcome	Dr. Yitebitu Moges National REDD+ Coordinator	9:00 – 9:15
2	Agenda briefing	MRV TF Chair Pr. Zerihun Woldu	9:15 - 9:30
3	Short presentation on REDD+ M&MRV project	MRV Specialist Dr. Julian Gonzalo	9: 30 – 9:45
4	Presentation of new joint tasks and discussion on the FAO TA Implementation Output 1. Institutional arrangements and data management systems to support the national MRV system are in place and fully operational.	MRV Specialist & MRV TF Chair	9:45 – 10:00
5	Coffee break		10:00 – 10:30
6	Presentation of new joint tasks and discussion on the FAO TA Implementation Output 2. A historical forest cover change assessment is produced and national MRV institutions have the capacities and systems to monitor REDD+ activity data.	MRV Specialist & MRV TF Chair	10:15 - 13:00
	Lunch		13:00 – 14:00
7	Presentation of new joint tasks and discussion on the FAO TA Implementation Output 3. Capacities to carry out NFI in the context of REDD+ are enhanced and new information is produced to improve carbon measurements and other relevant information on forest use and forest cover. Output 4. Capacities of governmental, research and civil society actors on MRV are enhanced at national and decentralized levels. Output 5. National RL(s)/REL(s) and relevant policies are endorsed and linked to the national GHG inventory process and policy framework Web/Blog REDD+ University Curricula	MRV Specialist & MRV TF Chair	14:00 – 15:45
8	Conclusions, agreements, and overview	MRV TF Chair	15:45 – 16:00

- The presentation on the *State of the art of NFI and LULC mapping activities* by FAO was delivered but due to scheduling problems it was decided to distribute in pdf format to all MRV TF members.

SHORT SUMMARY OF THE ISSUES RAISED, DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS MADE UNDER AGENDA

The 2nd MRV TF Meeting started with the Welcome Address by the National REDD+ Coordinator, Dr. Yitebitu Moges, followed the Agenda briefing by the MRV TF Chair, Prof. Zerihun Woldu, and the short presentation on REDD+ M&MRV project by the MRV Specialist at REDD+ Secretariat, Dr. Julian Gonzalo.

Then, the Presentation of new joint tasks and the discussion with all MRV TF members on the FAO TA Implementation was structured according to outputs and activities. Below the main discussions held and the agreements reached are summarized.

Output 1. Institutional arrangements and data management systems to support the national MRV system are in place and fully operational.

1. MRV Task Force formalization:

MRV TF members discussed on the institutional formalization of the Task Force. It was agreed to complete, sign and send the formalization sheet by December 19th, 2014 to Dr Julian Gonzalo.

The TF members requested official letter from MEF to their institutions about the official establishment of the TF and their membership. This was to formalize and institutionalize their participation in the following quarterly meetings.

ACTIONS:

- i) All the Task Force Member Institutions should send by email to Dr. Julian Gonzalo (jgonzalo.jg@gmail.com) the last sheet, **4.MRV Task Force Formalization**, from the pdf document **ToR for MRV Task Force.pdf**, signed (with official stamp) and scanned by Friday 19th December,
- ii) MEF will send a official letter of establishment of the MRV Task Force to the Institutions. Dr. Julian Gonzalo will prepare the letter and will send it (signed by Ato. Kebede Yimam) to the Institutions once he has compiled the above documents.

2. Capacity and needs assessment for training and capacity building issue:

In regard to the TA Activity 1.2.a on training needs, training capacities and available resources on GIS, Remote Sensing and M&MRV, TF members agreed that Dr. Julian Gonzalo, visits again each institution and gather information on capacity and demands for training from responsible of respective institutions to complete the designed and delivered forms. It is expected to be completed by January 2015.

ACTIONS:

- i) TF members should gather the requested information in the forms (excel file) to complete it with Dr. Julian Gonzalo during the visits in January. FAO will analyze the information collected and will propose an action plan including a full training program (a.2.2.) (presentation of results at next FAO-mission, TA Activity 1.2.b)

3. MRV Unit procurement plan:

Dr. Julian Gonzalo reported MRV TF members on the drafting of procurement plan for purchasing hardware, software and infrastructure to equip the MRV Unit. This document will be shared in December with FAO and other MRV TF member institutions for comments. FAO was urged to draft the ToR for hiring a National IT Expert responsible, among other things, to inspect the procurement plan for the MRV Unit. FAO will hire the National IT expert (a.1.3) for providing their services throughout the project (a1.5.b).

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julián Gonzalo will finish the draft procurement plan for the MRV Unit and will share the document with MRV TF for feedbacks in December, 2014. FAO will finish the ToR for hiring a National IT Expert and will send the draft to Dr. Julian Gonzalo for comments in December 2014.

4. Develop a data sharing policy for internal and external usage:

TF members intensely discussed on the importance of a national data sharing mechanism. It was considered to work on two levels; one under an agreement to share produced data during project implementation and other about the national policy regarding data sharing. Information Network Security Agency (INSA) is intensely working in a newly drafted policy on national spatial information and technology, so it was considered of great interest to establish contact with this institution.

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julian Gonzalo will compile information about the needs / availability of data from the various institutions (activity 1.2.a) in January to prepare a draft (for internal sharing), while other approaches to institutions are necessary; the contact with INSA will be established from MEF during first quarter (2015).

Output 2. A historical forest cover change assessment is produced and national MRV institutions have the capacities and systems to monitor REDD+ activity data.

4. Develop a national forest definition.

The task force members recommended that Dr. Julian Gonzalo pushes the ministry to finalize the forest definition started some time ago, since it is crucial for several MRV activities. Dr. Julian Gonzalo reported to the team that he was completing an exercise on the consequences of selecting a particular forest definition using the information from the two current LULC maps from EMA and FAO-MEF and Rapid Eye Imagery in a particular Landsat Scene (169_055).

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julian Gonzalo will report on the results of this analysis on January 2015, (for this purpose the information requested to FAO and EMA will be sent asap to Dr. Julian Gonzalo) and pushes the ministry to finalize the forest definition.

5. LULC classification.

After a detailed explanation by Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa about his proposal of amendments to the LULC classification used by FAO/MEF in the NFI, it was agreed that Prof. Ensermu will send to the MRV TF the modified classification for comments and feedback. The refined classification will be urgently debated for incorporating in the NFI manual. Furthermore it was proposed to use the same classification for LULC mapping activities, considering of course the limitations of Landsat imagery in detecting particular classes. However it was proposed to use the new agreed classification and the expertise of AAU (Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa) to select the appropriate training areas for these classes.

ACTIONS:

- i) Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa will send his proposal of amendments to the LULC classification by email to the MRV TF asap in December 2015. Once the classification is discussed and agreed the permanent contact between AAU (Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa) and FAO should be established to help FAO to locate and select training areas for particular classes.

6. Perform land cover change assessment

It was requested EMA the methodology and QA results for its products; LULC maps (2003, 2008, and 2013). Jemal Abdlesemed from EMA undertook to address the issue at his institution. This evaluation is critical to design one complete proposal of LC changes assesment: wall to wall analysis vs. sampling design using Collect Earth tool.

ACTIONS:

- i) Jemal Abdlesemed will talk with the responsible persons at his institution about the possibility of sharing the QA procedures and results about the three LULC maps and report about it to Dr. Julian Gonzalo in December, 2014.

7. Proposal of PMRV using Collect Earth

Dr. Julian Gonzalo reported MRV TF members on the drafting of a Participatory MRV proposal, jointly with CIFOR and the Safeguard specialist from REDD+ Secretariat. A first draft is expected during January, 2015, and it will be shared with the MRV TF.

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julian Gonzalo will send a first draft of the PMRV during January 2015 to MRV TF for consideration and comments.

Output 3. Capacities to carry out NFI in the context of REDD+ are enhanced and new information is produced to improve carbon measurements and other relevant information on forest use and forest cover.

8. Taxonomical list of plant species in Ethiopia.

MRV TF members discussed on the need of compiling a complete taxonomical list of plant species in Ethiopia (latin and local names) and pictures for easy identification, to be used by the NFI crews, to design the Collect Tool Interface (to enter field data) and for many purposes and future tasks. Finally, it was agreed that AAU (Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa and Prof. Zerihun Woldu) will prepare a proposal for completing this task along with their task of forest type's classification (LULC classification revision), and in the mean time FAO will consult the headquarters about this task (budgetary and timeframe issues should be considered).

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julian Gonzalo will officially request this proposal by email to AAU; Prof. Ensermu Kelbessa and Prof. Zerihun Woldu, and they will prepare and send it during December 2014. Then, it will be discussed between FAO and MEF about its potential implementation.

9. Support new research activities and collaborations to improve biomass estimates (research and academic).

Dr. Julian Gonzalo reported to the MRV TF members about the possibility of launching a call for research proposals on methods to improve biomass estimates (Activity 3.10b: Support new research activities and collaborations to improve biomass estimates). It was agreed that Dr. Julian Gonzalo will prepare and send to the TF members a model (draft) of ToR for call project proposals. The ToR for launching a call for proposals is for research projects on methods to improve biomass estimates and could also be considered on methods to detect forest degradation.

ACTIONS:

- i) Dr. Julian Gonzalo will send to the MRV TF a draft of ToR for call for research proposals and during January 2015 will be prepared with the feedback/comments of all TF members.

Dr. Julian Gonzalo noted other relevant activities of the TA (Output 4 and 5) and given the time constraints, invited the audience to revise his presentation.

Finally, Dr. Julian Gonzalo disclosed the new REDD+ blog (reddplusethiopia.wordpress.org) to be accessed by all users and requested to all TF Members for their generous collaboration in it. Also he mentioned the interest and support under some activities of the TA (Output 4) for the preparation of didactic materials related to REDD + and their inclusion in University Curricula. In this sense the meetings scheduled in January would serve to narrow lines of action.

It was agreed to finish the meeting at 16:00 and sent in pdf format both prepared presentations; the one about the *state of the art of the NFI and LULC mapping activities by Melakeneh Gelet* and the other one about the *implementation of the MRV system in Ethiopia by Dr. Julian Gonzalo*.

ANNEX: LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING

Nº	Name	Position	Organization	Telephone number	e-mail
1	Amare Mengiste	FAOET – Project Coordinator	FAO	911202029	amare.mengiste@fao.org
2	Edward Kilawe	FAOSFE	FAO	911512335	edward.kilawe@fao.org
3	Ensermu Kelbessa	Professor -	Department of Plant Biology and Biodiversity Management -AAU	911249379	ensermuk2002@yahoo.co.uk
4	Eyale Bayable	Lecturer	CES-AAU	911075340	ayaltefera@gmail.com
5	Genene Assefa	Lecturer	WGCF&NR	916831549	genene_asefa@yahoo.com
6	Jemal Abdlesemed	RS & GIS Specialist	EMA		jemabdi2008@yahoo.com
7	Julian Gonzalo	Int. MRV Specialist	REDD+ Secretariat - MEF	929049356	jgonzalo.jg@gmail.com
8	Kidane Giday	Lecturer	LaRMEP -Mekelle University	0914 700599	kidanegg@gmail.com
9	Melekeneh Gelet	FAOET - RS & GIS Specialist	FAO	913138044	melakeneh.gelet@gmail.com
10	Motuma Didita	Process Director	EBI - Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute	911728143	motididita@gmail.com
11	Teshoma Soromessa	Chairman	CES-AAU	913245500	teshome.soromessa@aau.edu.et, soromessa@yahoo.com
12	Wubalem Tadesse	Coordinator	Environment & Forestry Research - MEF	912132303	wubalem16@gmail.com
13	Zerihun Woldu	Professor - Department of Plant Biology and Biodiversity Management	Department of Plant Biology and Biodiversity Management -AAU	911407255	zerihun_woldu@yahoo.com, zerihun.woldu@aau.edu.et
14	Zewdu Eshetu	Director	CSC-AAU	911476384	zewdu.eshetu@gmail.com