

A Stakeholder Discussion Forum on Forest Definition within the context of REDD+ in The Republic of Sudan

14-15 March 2017

Sudan is committed to implementing REDD+ in the context of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and will need to assess its historical emissions from forests in order to set a forest reference (emissions) level or “benchmark” for future forest emissions monitoring and reporting on the degree of effectiveness of REDD+ implementation. One of the key technical elements to consider during establishment of a FRELs is for the country to define and agree on a functional forest definition in the context of REDD+. This should be done in concertation of all relevant stakeholders in the country.

During the period 14- 15 March 2017 a consultative discussion forum at Forest National Corporation (**FNC**) was convened to provide an input to craft a Draft Functional Forest Definition for Sudan within the context of REDD+.

This consultative (discussion) forum was facilitated by Mr. John Fonweban an FAO expert and brought together 35 participants (*See attached list*) including relevant stakeholders, Researchers, Academicians and technicians to discuss and adopt a functional forest definition, and related terms, including deforestation, afforestation, forest degradation, within the framework of REDD+ implementation in Sudan.

The discussion and deliberation was made on the following issues: -

- Forest Definition
- Overview of global forest definition
- Legislative perspective of forest definition
- Overview of land cover/land use classification/Ecological zones of The Republic of Sudan Discussions.
- Issues of planted forest/plantation forests within the framework of REDD+ (Safeguards
- Discussions: Towards a Forest Definition for the Republic of Sudan.
- Forest Definitions used by countries in Africa, Asia and Latin & South America

At the end of the forum session a committee of 5 members from Researchers, Academicians and technicians was formed and came up with following Drafting of Forest Definition for the Republic of Sudan

Draft Functional Forest Definition for Sudan within the context of REDD+

Forest means land bearing a vegetative association and spanning more than 0.5 ha (or **0.42 ha =** an equivalent of a Sudanese *feddan* with trees at least **2 m high** and a **minimum tree canopy cover of 10%**; or young forests stands that have not yet reach, but are expected to attain these

thresholds *in situ*. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural and/or agro-forestry production systems or urban land use.

Also, included/considered as forests are the following:

- i. Federal, state, community, communal and institutional forests, as defined in the *Forest Act 1989* and *The Forests & Renewable Natural Resources Act of 2002*;
- ii. Temporarily unstock and/or bare land areas within “Reserved Areas” resulting from human interventions or natural causes, but which are expected to revert to forests (in the near future??);
- iii. Shelterbelts and windbreaks preserved or established around large agricultural investment schemes (irrigated agricultural and mechanized rain-fed agricultural schemes), with an area of 0.5 ha [or a *feddan*] and a band width of at least 20 m;
- iv. Savanna woodlands of *Acacia senegal* and *Acacia seyal* in central and western parts of Sudan as gum Arabica lands;
- v. Intertidal coastal mangrove vegetation of *Avicennia marina* along the Red Sea coastlines
- vi. Riverine and gallery forests
 - i. Existing forest plantations are considered forest, however, any further plantations resulting from the conversion of natural forest stands to monocultures, is considered deforestation and is not acceptable.

The list of Participants

No	Name	Destination/Position
1	Uz. Osman Omar	Head of technical Sector/FNC
2	Prof. Elnour Ali	IGAD / Ex. Lecturer Faculty of Forestry/U of K
3	Prof. Talaat Dafa Allah	Chief Editor-College of Natural Resources / U of Bahri
4	Dr. Abdalla Murjhani	Dean Faculty of Forestry/U of K
5	Dr. Mohamed Elgamri	SUST
6	Mohammed osman M.Elhassan	Remote Sensing Specialist
7	Dr. Hana Hamdnallah	Head of Environment Admin. / HCENR
8	Dr. Sayeda Khalil	REDD+ Project Coordinator
9	Dr.Eiman Elrasheed	Reacher /National Centre for Research
10	Gefee ropert	FAO
11	John Fonweban	FAO
12	Elwathig mukhtar	FAO
13	Burae Balla	REDD+ Technical Advisor
14	Salah Yousif	FNC/ National Forest Inventory Coordinator
15	Samia Bkheet	FNC
16	Sawsan Abd Alla	FNC
17	Rehab Ahmed	HCENR
18	Bakri mohammed	Carbon project manager
19	Rasha abdalla	FNC
20	Handy ibrahim	FNC
21	Thuraya Ali	Ministry of live Stock
22	Sirag Eldin M. Sharif	REDD+
23	Elham jameel Allah	REDD+
24	Omeima Mohamed	Ministry of Range & Pasture
25	Waleed Ahmed	Ministry of Range & Pasture
26	Salah Ahmed	FNC - TS
27	Safa ahmed	FNC
28	Ameer Mohammed	FNC
29	Amani Ibrahim	FNC
30	Elham elsadig ahmed	MAOF
31	Hiba ahmed elnour	FNC
32	Magda mohammed ali	FNC
33	Nagla mahagop	FNC
34	Mutasim fadlelsid	FNC
35	Khalda abass hassan	FNC