

Developing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, (FGRM) for Sudan's REDD+ Program

Validation Workshop

Workshop Report



27 September 2018

1. The Workshop

This workshop was intended as a validation workshop for the study of "**Developing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, (FGRM)** for Sudan's REDD+ Programme" undertaken under the REDD+ Sudan. The specific objectives of the workshop were as follows:

1. Sharing the study and its results with the project stakeholders;
2. Validation of the study
3. Providing a platform for the discussion of developing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism for Sudan's REDD+ programme issues.
4. Soliciting and generating recommendations that are likely to help the REDD + and other actors in natural resources management including Government of Sudan and its international partners and civil society organizations SCOs.

2. Participants

The Workshop was attended by **45** persons (Annex) out of whom **64.4%** were males and **35.6%** were females. The participants involved a wide spectrum of representation including staff of Forests National Corporation (FNC); Research Institutions; Educational Institutions; Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources; Private sector; Related Ministries (Ministries of Agriculture and Forests, Minerals, Oil and Gas, Animal Resources; Department of Wildlife); Sudanese Agricultural Council; CSOs; and interested researchers and environmental activists.







3. Workshop approach and methodology

The workshop was based on external facilitation and the effective participation of the participants through open discussion. To that end power point presentation of the study was prepared and presented in English. Two successive sessions were conducted (without a break)

3.1. The First Session:

This session was addressed by the Coordinator of the Programme, Dr. Sayeda Khalil, who outlined the main features of the project in terms of objectives and main activities while setting the agenda of the workshop. The Coordinator was followed by the Director General of FNC, Dr. Mohammed Ali Elhadi, who stressed the role of the FNC and its sister departments and partner organizations in addressing the importance of Developing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism. The role of forests and trees to the local communities in the livelihoods of rural communities were outlined by the FNC Director General. He stated that the issue of **Grievance** was always present and practiced since long ago. He also informed the participants that Sudan is now in the stage of preparing the national strategy to reduce emissions resulting from deforestation and forests degradation. He addressed the everlasting problem of land tenure which always led to the feeling of Grievance among rural communities.

3.2. The Presentation:

The study was presented by the Consultant (Mr. Abul Gasim Seif Aldin) on behalf of **Agro Consult and Services Company-Sudan**, highlighting Developing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, (FGRM) related to tree planting considering ecological, economic, social and legislative perspectives. The major issues and conclusions reached by the study are presented below:

Issues Presented

General Background:

- a. The first slides addressed the main objective and specific objectives of the study, summarizing the methodology to be followed as: i) assessment of existing formal and informal feedback and grievance and redress mechanisms at local, state and national levels, ii) identification of potential grievances and conflicts that may arise as a result of REDD+ implementation, identification of current institutional strengths and capacity gaps for grievance resolution, iv) developing a framework for the feedback and grievance redress mechanism and v) planning for continuously improving and strengthening GRM for the benefits of the stakeholders.
- b. The consultant pointed in the following slides the **main findings of the study**, which included the following: a) concerning the existing and potential conflicts

and the resolution mechanisms the consultant emphasized grievances related to access and use of forest resources for forest adjacent/forest dependent communities. b) The consultant proposed a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) at village and nomadic camp level, locality level, state level and national level. The consultant pointed out the challenges facing the FGRM. Among these are the following: i) The Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) is not playing any role in Climate Change issues, ii) forest and agricultural sectors suffer from insufficient allocation of funds, lack of awareness about the gravity of climate change and lack of coordination and integration, iii) FNC needs to strengthen and upgrade its forest guards and fire patrol services. The consultant mentioned that gaps and weaknesses facing FGRM can be solved through: a) restoration of native courts b) restoration of trade unions, c) facilitation of information flow between sectors and between various levels of government on REDD+ related matters, d) inadequate funding required to handle grievance redress within informal level and poor monitoring and implementation of the grievance redress processes, e) weak or lack of collaboration between REDD+ related sectors, f) lack of landuse plan has resulted in conflicts of jurisdiction between competing sectors within the same land area, g) lack of relevant skills and knowledge required to administer grievance redress and h) lack of understanding and knowledge on REDD+ in the formal grievance redress institutions at all levels. The consultant mentioned 12 **recommendations**, the most important of which are the following: necessity of amendment of current legislations, restoration of native authorities, development of a national landuse plan for the Sudan, clear statement of benefit sharing between government and small land holders, endorsement of the FNC taungya as a measure of implementing the REDD+ programs, establishing environmental councils in the states and localities.

4. Reflection from the workshop participants:

- a) No mention was given concerning the methodology of the study.
- b) It could have been better if the consultant has given some briefing about the different phases of the REDD+ program and what has been achieved so far.
- c) Mentioning some examples of grievances could be useful to highlight the issue. The consultant should have mentioned the different magnitudes of grievances.
- d) Determination of the linkages between the REDD+ program and small holders is important.
- e) The “Agaweed” system may be one of the most effective ways in resolving the grievances related to land tenure and benefit sharing.
- f) It is important to raise the awareness of local communities about the REDD+ program and show clearly the benefits that might be gained by these communities.
- g) Emphasis should be made on planting non-wood producing tree species and allow accessibility of local communities to these trees to feel that they are getting

benefit through collection of these products for their household consumption as well as for cash cropping.

h) Wildlife should be incorporated in the REDD+ programs. Local communities can play an important role in protecting wildlife against permission for hunting according to the wildlife hunting regulations. This indirectly protects the forests as these forests form the natural habitat for all wild animals.

i) Nomads suffer from grievances as they have no specific territories for their animal herds. Although they are permitted to graze and browse in forest lands, but this is more less a privilege rather than a right. Nomads need pathways for their movement. Due to the expansion of the semi-mechanized farming at the expense of the natural resources these pathways (routes) disappeared; causing a lot of conflicts between nomads and farmers. Due to this nomads used to use forests as their alternative pathways, causing damage to newly established seedlings resulting from natural regeneration. This is a type of grievance caused by nomads to the FNC forests.

5. The consultants comments:

The consultant agreed with most of the comments raised by workshop participants and promised to consider them in the final report.

6. Summary of conclusions and recommendations:

a. Inequitable land tenure system breeds conflicts and grievances among small holders against mechanized farming. Recommendation: Revision of landuse map and clear distinction of animal routes

b. Small holders are aggrieved by temporary dependence on FNC for short period of taungya cropping/tree establishment in the absence of alternative cropping land. Recommendation: Adoption of non-traditional forest management, such as participatory forest management involving local communities in the different management activities or adoption of community-based forest management.

c. Native Administration (NA) is aggrieved by being deprived of administrative and judicial powers, so that its decisions in protecting natural resources, particularly in tree cutting, fire damage of range lands and wildlife poaching are ignored. Recommendation: Restoration of (NA) authorities to play a positive role enhancing the REDD+ program.

d. The rural areas are generally deficient of basic essential services, a situation which will have a negative impact on implementation of REDD+ program. Recommendation: Supply essential services to rural communities, such as clean drinking water, health and education services.

Annex: List of Participants in the Workshop

date: 27/09/2018

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