



REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD): THE GAP BETWEEN THE REDD DREAMS AND THE REAL LIFE THE UGANDA CASE

Presented by:

Kamese Geoffrey

National Association of Professional
Environmentalists (NAPE)

P.O. Box 29909

Kampala – Uganda

E-mail: kamese@nape.or.ug

INTRODUCTION

The deforestation/degradation trend

- The forest cover in Uganda is estimated at about 21 % of the country's total land area
- Of this cover, about 70% is privately owned while only about 30% is under the control of the government



- Uganda's forest cover has been experiencing persistent change for example;
 - Between 1990 and 2000, Uganda lost an average of 86,500 hectares of forest per year
 - Between the period from 1970 to 1990 alone, the forest cover was reduced by 50 % (FAO, 1995).
 - The average annual deforestation is 1.76%
 - It is estimated that with the current trend of forest loss, in the next 20 years there will be no forests in Uganda. (State of Environment for Uganda 2009)

Policies and programmes of Gov't relating to REDD

- Uganda is currently developing a climate change policy that is also expected to incorporate some aspects of REDD
- A REDD readiness plan is being proposed and is expected to contribute to development of a national programme on REDD
- A Land use policy is being developed to enhance organized use of land and land resources

Existing forest policies and legislation

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995)
- The Forest Policy for Uganda (2001)
- The National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003):
- The Uganda Wildlife Policy (1996):
- The Wildlife Act, Cap 200, (1996)
- The National Environment Act (Cap 153, 1995)
- The Land Act Cap 227



Country Efforts aimed at introducing REDD and climate change In Uganda

A national Focal point for REDD and the REDD Strategy have been put in place – plans under way to develop a REDD readiness plan to facilitate the successful implementation of REDD in Uganda

The REDD Readiness Plan will lay down steps needed to achieve “Readiness” to undertake REDD activities - ultimate result will be the development of a REDD plan or strategy



THE DILEMMAS OF REDD IMPLEMENTATION IN UGANDA

- While REDD related initiatives have been ongoing in Uganda for some time, there has not been enough opportunity of involving all stakeholders
- A project carried out by NFA together with FACE (a Dutch organization) displaced indigenous communities - the Benet people from Mt Elgon in favor of planting exotic tree species for carbon absorption
- Under the constitution all Ugandans are indigenous and therefore no special status is given to forest dependant minority groups – REDD is likely not to respect indigenous peoples rights – participation of indigenous people's organizations (IPO's) in planning is not yet visible

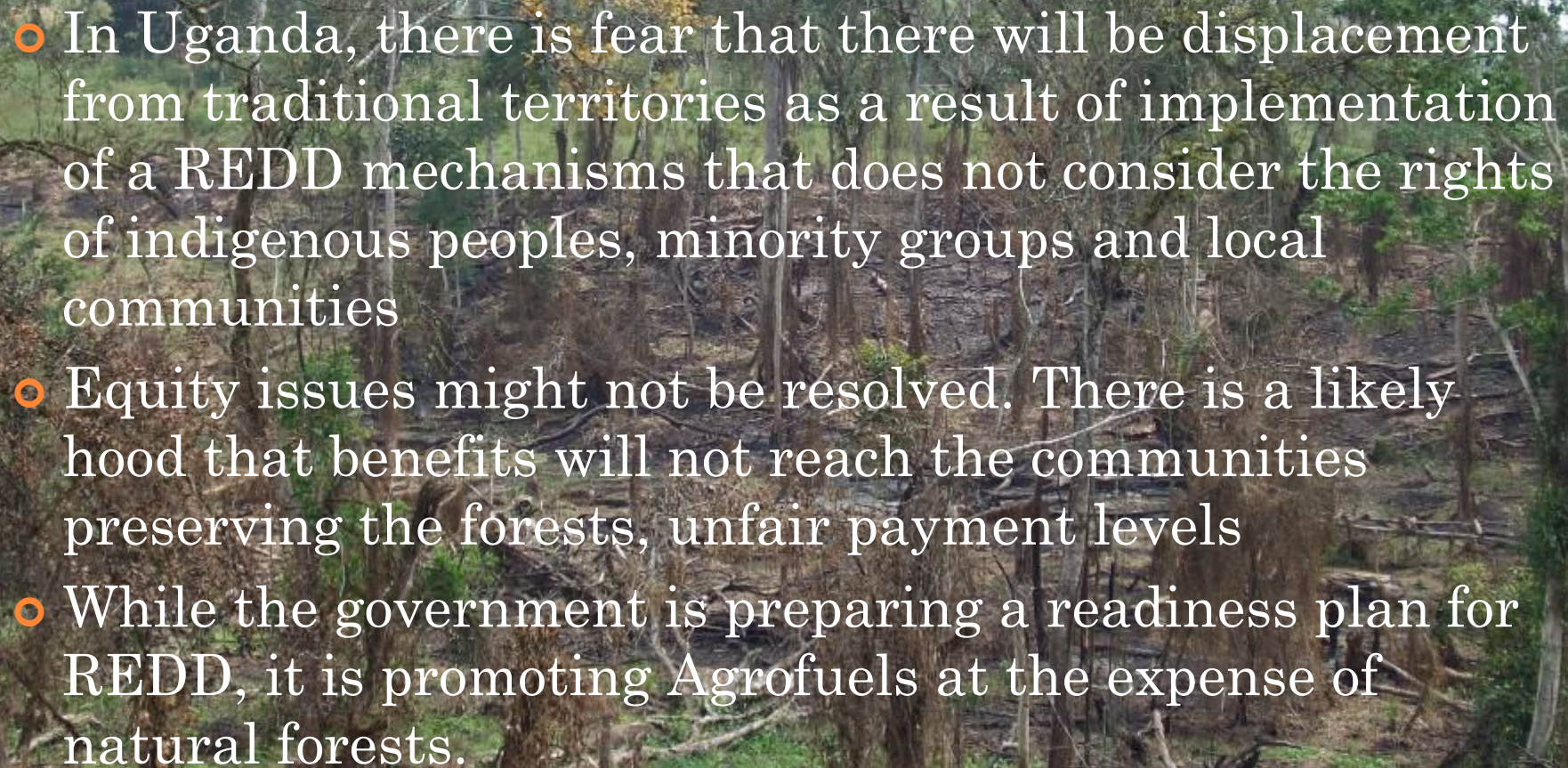
- Existing laws, policies and acts need to be reviewed to reflect fully issues of REDD; in case a separate policy on REDD is not developed.
- The policies, laws and Acts need to clearly come out to address concerns, fears and expectations of the people that are often marginalized and left out of development processes
- The new land bill (now law) in Uganda has generated a lot of suspicion among many land owners and it is feared that a poor land tenure system will not favor successful implementation of REDD in Uganda.



POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF REDD ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Indigenous people and minority groups are likely to be denied access to the forests for firewood and herbs
lessee will be the ones to harvest the trees
- Carbon traders may require land titles, to the carbon in the forest or to the land
- Profits for loggers, deforesters and polluters will open away for lessee to make profitable logging in the name of sustainable harvesting
- REDD is most likely going to reduce forests to mere carbon sequestration.
- The primacy of an economic focus when implementing REDD activities might take precedence over cultural, social, spiritual and environmental issues



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- In Uganda, there is fear that there will be displacement from traditional territories as a result of implementation of a REDD mechanisms that does not consider the rights of indigenous peoples, minority groups and local communities
 - Equity issues might not be resolved. There is a likelihood that benefits will not reach the communities preserving the forests, unfair payment levels
 - While the government is preparing a readiness plan for REDD, it is promoting Agrofuels at the expense of natural forests.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION

ASANTE SANA KWA KUSIKILIZA

