PNG REDD+ STRATEGY, PROGRESS & CHALLENGES

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Gewa Gamoga
Papua New Guinea (PNG)
PNG Forest Authority

OUTLINE

- PNG Location
- Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation
- Forest Resources
- National Development Strategy
- PNG REDD+Strategy & progress
- Challenges
Forests account for about 20% of global CO2 output (UNFCCC),

PNG contributed between 2 – 7% of global emissions in 2001 from deforestation and forest degradation (Sherman and Brian, 2010)

PNG has identified important drivers of emissions and concrete action to reduce them. These are:

- Timber harvesting,
- Subsistence agriculture
- Agriculture leases
- Commercial agriculture
- Mining, infrastructure and urban expansion,
- Others (e.g., fuel for transportation)
Forest Resources

- Total Landmass: 46 million ha
- Total Forest: 39.4 million ha
- Primary Forest: 25.2 million ha
- Acquired forest: 12 million ha
- Not acquired: 3 million ha
- Forest Plantations: 64,000 ha
- 97% of total land customary owned
- 85% people live in rural areas

Source: FRA 2005

National Development Strategy

- PNG is developing its National Development Strategy
- The national strategy and plan on climate compatible development will be adopted and incorporated into other national strategies and plans including the Vision 2050 and the Medium Term Development Plan.
- The Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD) has been established to coordinate all sectors towards Climate Change Mitigation (REDD+), Adaptation and Low-carbon Growth
Climate Compatible Development Plan (CCDP)

- The Copenhagen Accord recognizes that mitigation & adaptation to climate change are inseparable from economic development.
- PNG welcomes this and is taking steps to ensure compatible development for its entire people.
- PNG is now developing a robust institutional framework to discuss, debate, and enact action on REDD+-mechanisms that will match the unique characteristics of PNG.
- In the coming months and years, the government of PNG will move to implement climate compatible development, starting with the following priority actions:
  - Climate Change Mitigation (REDD+), Adaptation and Low-carbon Growth need to be incorporated into National Development Planning.
  - The Prime Minister has announced a new institution, the Office of Climate Change and Development (OCCD) to replace the former Office of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (OCCES).
  - A high priority for the OCCD is to:
    - Develop a Measurement, Reporting and Verification system (MRV)
    - Fund Distribution Mechanism
    - Benefit Sharing Models that ensure benefits accrue equitably to resource owners

PNG’s National REDD+ Strategy

**Stakeholders involved**
- Government departments, Academics/research institutes, NGOs & private sectors & Development partners

**Current Activities**

1. **Forestry Sub-Working Group**
   - Conduct stock take of existing REDD+ initiatives in PNG
   - Conduct project to identify project specific benefit sharing system
   - Develop REDD+ project criteria

2. **Agriculture Sub-Working Group**
   - Analyze pipeline of existing agriculture leases
   - Conduct project to verify leases, identify alternative land-use options and refine approval process

3. **MRV Sub-Working Group**
   - Conduct stock take of existing MRV capacity in PNG
   - Define national MRV requirements

Source: REDD+ TWG
PNG’s National REDD+ Strategy cont...

REDD+Initiatives - Forestry Sector

- **Objective**
  - Reduce Impact Logging: Reduce collateral damage & forest degradation
  - Secondary Forest Management: Enhance re-growth rate of secondary forests
  - Afforestation/Reforestation: Enhance carbon stock
  - Forest Conservation: Protect forests to maintain biodiversity and provide Environment services
  - Community REDD+ Schemes: Test REDD+ concepts with communities (ie, benefit sharing mechanism)

Source: Forestry sub-working group

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PNG’s REDD+ Strategy cont...

- **REDD+Initiatives - Agriculture Sector**

  - **Objective**
    - Land Use Planning: Design integrated land use plan in LLG level (forestry & agriculture)
    - Agriculture Extension Programs: Increase productivity of subsistence/small holder farmers
    - Commercial Plantations on non forest land: Identify possibility of establishing commercial Plantations in non forest land
    - Agriculture lease review: Review the deforestation of potential of agriculture Leases and improve approval process for Commercial agriculture

Source: Agriculture sub-working group
PNG’s REDD+ Strategy cont…

■ REDD+ Initiatives - MRV

**Objective**

- **Existing MRV capacity stock take**
  
  To develop a most suitable and robust PNG REDD+ MRV system, based on the national and international experiences.

- **Define national MRV requirements**
  
  To establish a transparent MRV system that can attract international investment in PNG REDD+ projects.

  To reliably measure individual projects performance on the ground in a more transparent manner.

  Comply with IPCC guidelines (1. forest area monitoring, 2. Carbon stock inventory, GHG inventory).

  To ensure that data are readily available for PNG.

  Source: MRV SWG

PNG’s REDD+ Strategy cont…

■ Sectoral Approach (eg PNGFA)

- Sectors are now beginning to address climate change and REDD+.

- NGOs developing community REDD+ initiatives
  
  Developed concepts that involved the use of REDD+ funds to promote sustainable lively hoods and forest conservation.

- PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) responsible for managing PNG’s forests has taken innovative steps to address REDD+.
PNG’s REDD+ Strategy – Sectoral Approach cont..

PNG Forest Authority

- is a sector mandated to manage forest resources. It’s operations are governed by the:
  - National Forest Development Guidelines
  - 1991 Forest Policy
  - Forestry Act 1991 (as amended)
  - Forest Regulations
  - Forest Plans
  - PNG LCOP and
  - 24 Key Standards

- Forest area Acquired: 12 million ha
- Yet to be acquired: 3 million ha

PNG’s REDD+ Strategy – Sectoral Approach cont...

Innovative Approach by PNGFA to Address REDD+

- PNGFA Restructure
  - Created Sections/positions to address REDD+ & climate change

- Policy Initiatives
  - Revised the National Forest Development Guidelines and now incorporated REDD+
  - Developed the Forestry & Climate Change Framework for Action 2009 – 2015

- REDD+ Pilots
  - Will now do REDD+ pilots in 4 regions of the country.
  - Activities includes logged over forest management, Reduce impact logging, reforestation/afforestation and conservation.
Challenges Faced in Implementing REDD+

- National Climate Change Policy and Legislation yet to be developed and implemented (currently working on the CCDS).
- High population growth 2.0 – 2.3% per annum (Global warming due to Global swarming).
- Land Tenure System
- Lack of a National Land-use Plan
- Lack of secured and long term permanent forest estates
- Insufficient resources (finance and manpower) to adequately implement REDD+
- Minimal awareness on REDD+ to relevant stakeholders

End