# Linking REDD+ with SFM: The REDD+ Readiness Process in Zambia

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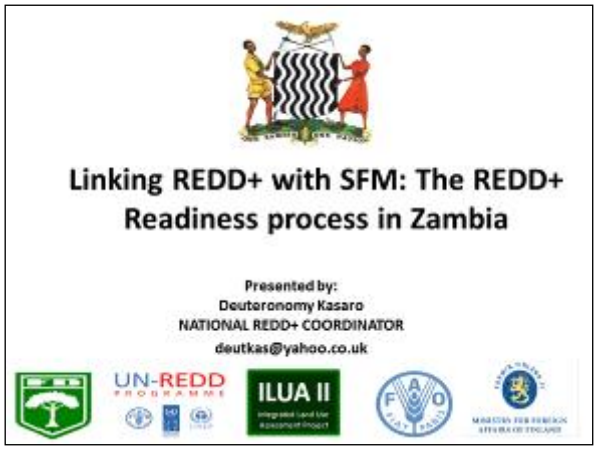
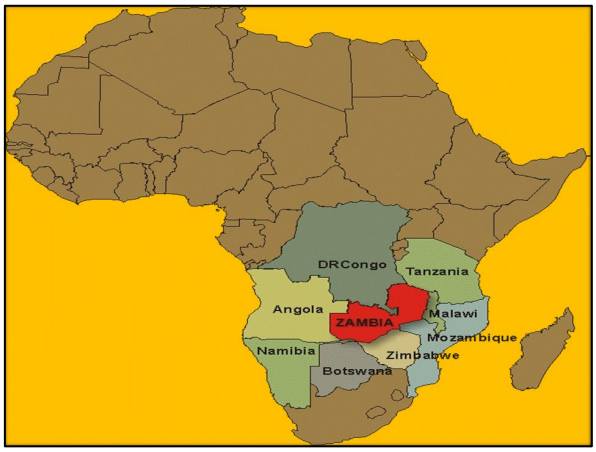
I will give a presentation that gives an overview of the process that we have gone through under REDD+, but linking it to sustainable forest management in recognizing the role of the forest.





Basically, I will look at the forest resources in Zambia, the REDD+ process, the main achievements, the challenges, and the lessons that we have learned in the process.

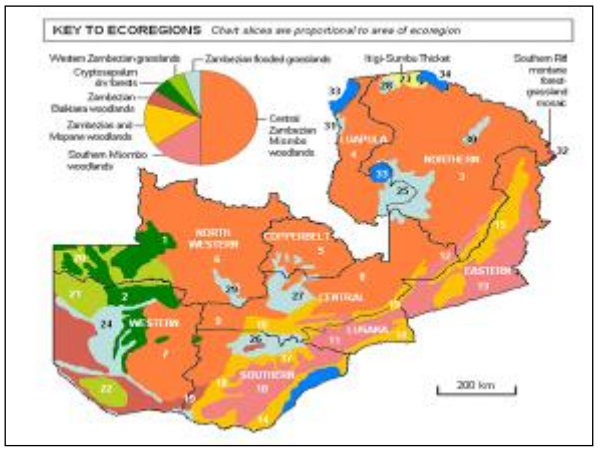



That is just to give an idea where Zambia is. We are actually a landlocked country and we have eight countries surrounding us.

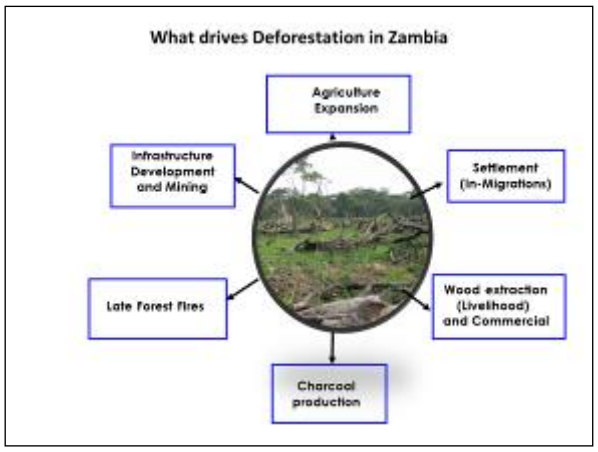
**Forest Resources in Zambia**

- Zambia surface land area is **752,614Km²**
- Forests cover about **49.9 million ha** (66% of land cover),
- The forest vegetation type is mainly Miombo (**Semi-evergreen forests**); Baikiaea, Munga, Mopane, Kalahari woodlands (**Deciduous Forests**), Ripian, Swap, Parinari, Itigi, Lake basin Chipya (**Evergreen forests**), Termitary associated bushes (**Shrub thickets**), **grasslands, wooded grasslands.**
- Plantations cover about **61,000 ha** ( 7,000 ha by the Forestry Department and **50,000 ha** under ZAFFICO, the rest by communities, farmers, schools etc.)
- **2.9 billion m³** of growing stock

In terms of Forest Resources, 66% of Zambia is covered by forests, and the area is 752,000 square kilometers with a population of only about 13 million. That gives a population density of around 17 people per square kilometer. I was just comparing it to India. I think there is quite some difference. In terms of forests, basically we have the Miombo woodlands, and we have a bit of plantations as well, as you can see.




In terms of the distribution of the forest types in general, as you can see, most of it is basically Miombo. We have the other type of forests on the western side, in the valleys we have the Mopane.




In terms of what drives deforestation, there are a number of factors, but the main ones are basically agriculture, infrastructure development, and charcoal production. Charcoal production in most areas is considered to be probably a source for forest degradation, but in the Zambian context it has changed a bit. People will claim they want land for agriculture, but once they are given the land, maybe two hectares, three hectares, they will clear the whole area, manufacture the charcoal and then leave the land and look for more land somewhere else. It is a big business back home.

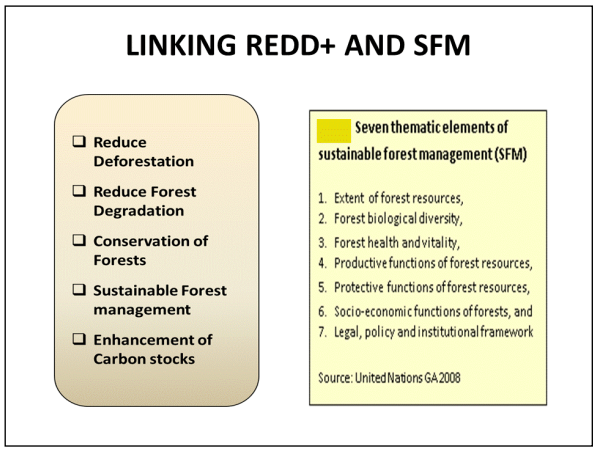

From this land-cover map for 2010, you can see that, in terms of agriculture activities, if you look at trend, it is basically linear from the south going to the north. That is where the railway line pass and that corridor is referred to as the 'Line of Rail'. That is where the big towns are. That is where the main industrial area is and that is where the population is high. You find that agriculture is basically located more like in the center, moving from the south up to the north, and part of eastern province where also the population is high.

This, of course, we may say agriculture, but it is a combination also with charcoal, because for Zambia, only about 22% of the Zambian population has access to hydropower, the main source of energy. Rest use either firewood or charcoal, especially in the towns.

## REDD+ and SFM

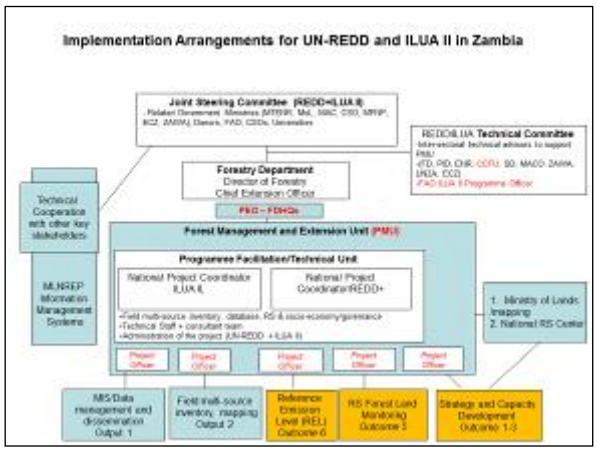
- **REDD+: Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries**

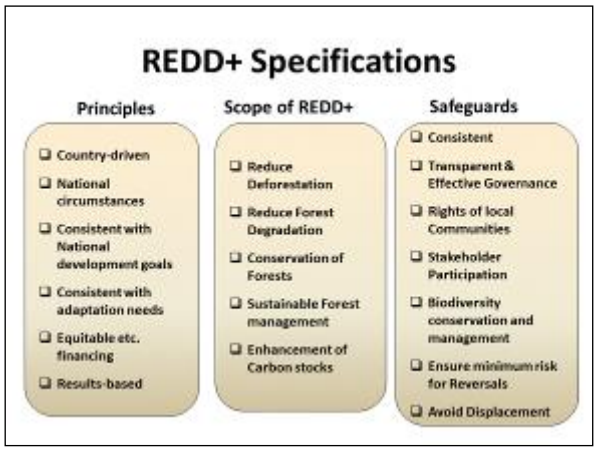
- SFM (Sustainable forest management): as a dynamic and evolving concept, is intended to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations. (United Nations GA 2008)



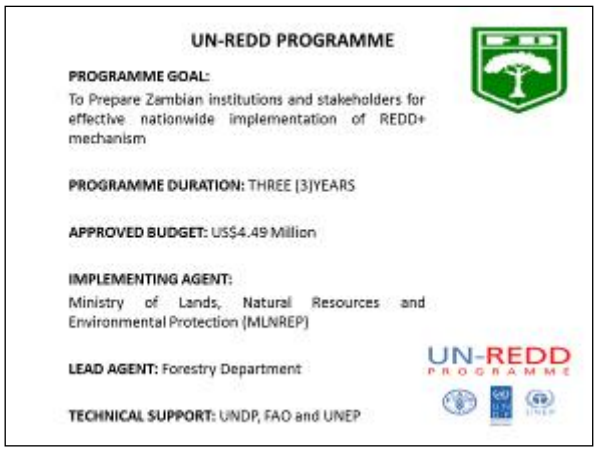

Now comparing it to REDD+ and sustainable forest management, the definitions are there. I think over the years we have been looking at these two issues. In addressing these, which basically are defined by those two aspects, I think we have seen these in the other presentations, so I do not have to explain it.

But the approach we have taken in Zambia is that both are coordinated from the forestry department. In terms of the REDD process, the Forestry Department is leading the process. Then we have also another program that is running at the same time with the REDD readiness process, which is the forest inventory basically for the whole country. These two programs are coordinated from the forest department. It is helping to try and provide more information on what is needed for us to manage the forests sustainably.

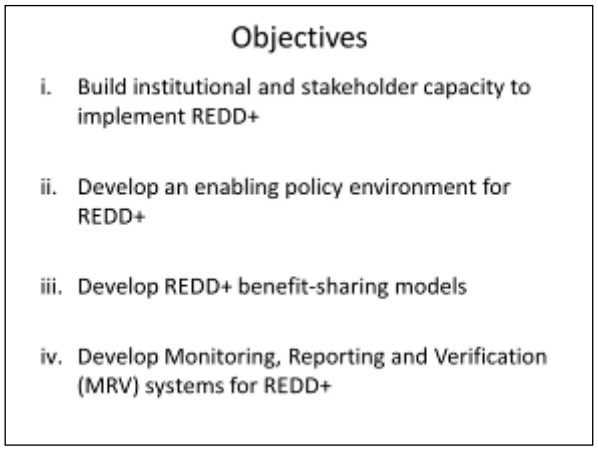


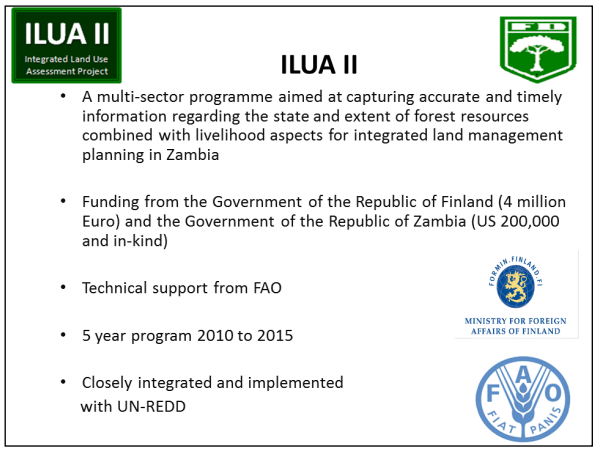



I am sure these issues have been discussed in the area presentations on the principles, scope of REDD, and the Safeguards.



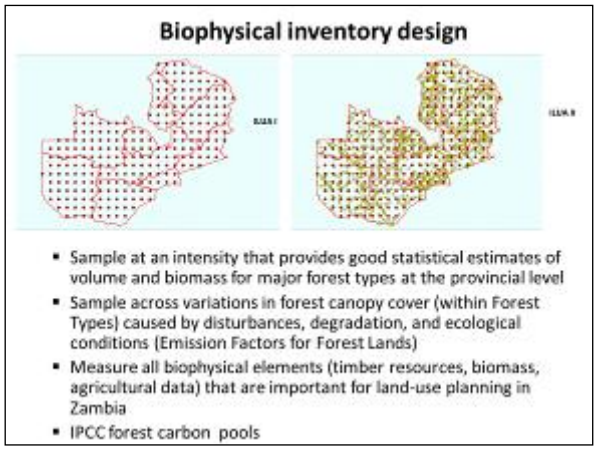

The UN-REDD Program is a three-year program. It is ending this year, and this within the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources, and Environment Protection.





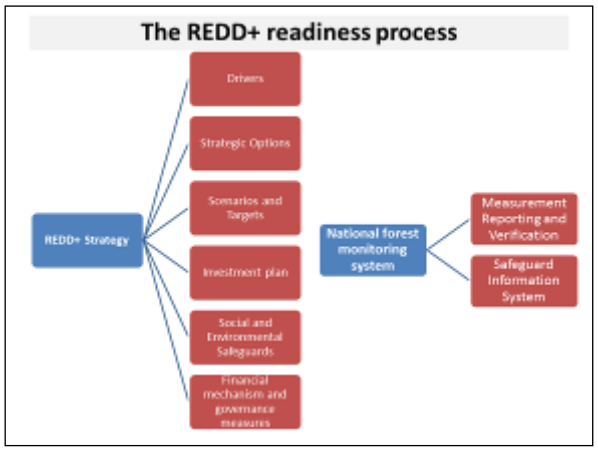

The objectives of the program are to build capacity; to develop enabling a policy environment; then develop benefit-sharing models; and then, of course, MRV development.

Then we have ILUA[1], which is Integrated Land Use Assessment. This program is supported by the Government of Finland through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It is generating data for the whole country. We are using these two programs to make decisions on how best to manage the forests in the country.

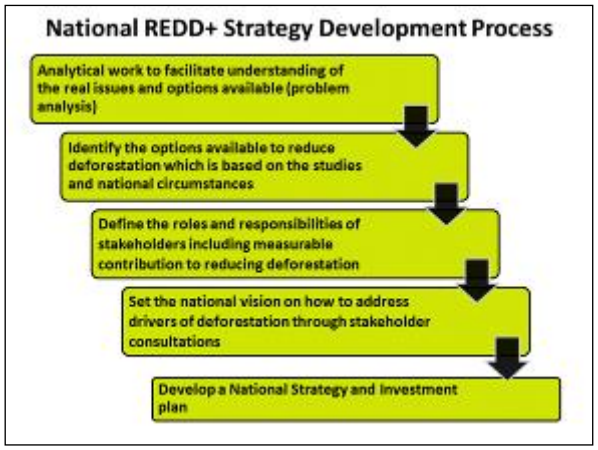



Basically, there was a forest inventory that was undertaken in 2005 to 2008, which was called ILUA I. Then we have now ILUA II, which started last year and it is ending in 2015. The design, as you may see, is different. The initial one was basically uniform and we got the data and analyzed it. This time we tried to stratify the forest types considering other things as well to try and generate data that will be very helpful for the process of planning and managing the forests, as well as responding to the needs of REDD.

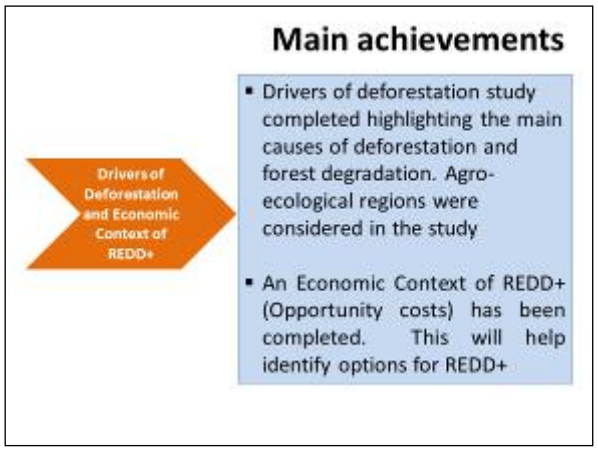
[1] Integrated Land Use Assessment

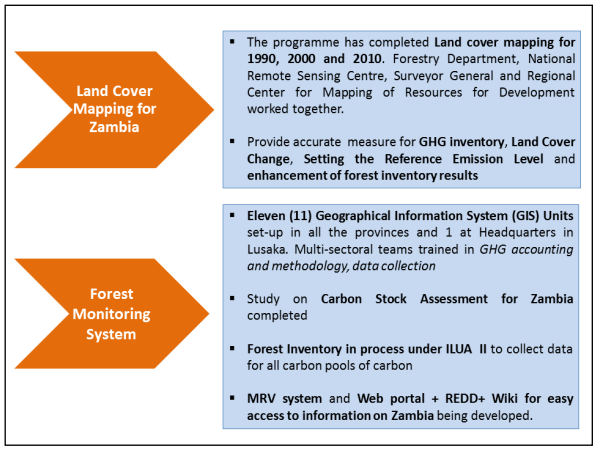



In terms of the REDD process, we have a strategy that we are developing, which we are aiming to conclude by June this year. The strategy is based on the analytical work that has already been completed, and would deal with drivers, the strategic options, scenarios and targets, investment plans, social and environmental safeguards, then financing mechanism, and governance measures. These are issues that we will try to address in the document as well as the national forest monitoring system as one to put together something that we will able to monitor later on.




The process that we have used in moving with the REDD process is that we started with analytical work, and from this analytical work now we are going into identifying the issues and options that can help us deal with the scope of REDD. Then we defined the roles of the different institutions, we set the national vision, and of course we have the document itself. It has been a participatory approach, quite interactive with the different sectors in Zambia.




So far what we have we achieved? In terms of drivers of deforestation, we have done a study that is detailed in terms of what drives deforestation in Zambia, and then we have also done an economic evaluation of that. That is the background information for this strategy.

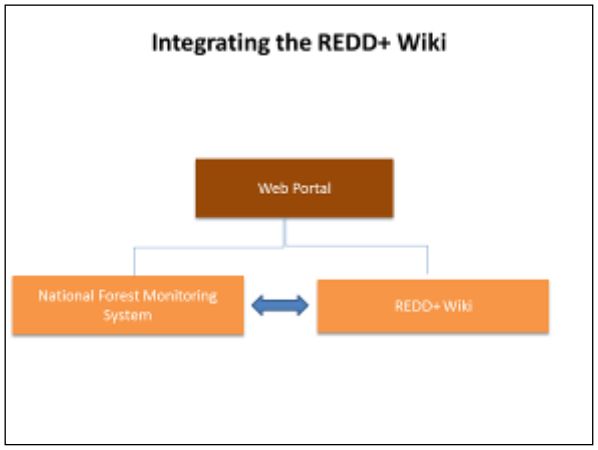
We have also done land cover mapping. We are hoping that, by June this year, all this work can be put together and come up with this strategy that can inform everyone who would want to do any activity.

I heard from the previous presentation about Landsat. We have been using Landsat, and there is now a decision that, for the purpose of just understating what happened last year in 2013, close to the year we are doing the strategy, we can still do 2013 just to see if there could be some changes there.

The forest monitoring system is based on a decentralized system. This decentralized system is that we have 10 provinces and we have put up GIS[2] units in all the 10 provinces, and then one at national level. The idea is that, for people to appreciate a problem, they must be the ones doing the reporting or collecting the data. They will appreciate more than if you just tell them the data you are generating. It is a decentralized system. Apart from that, we have done other studies just to help us

[2] Geographical Information System

inform the forest monitoring system.




We have also developed a web portal with a Wiki; those two things together.


That is how it looks. There is different information that you can get from this website. It is still being developed, but I am very sure by mid of this year we should be able to launch it.

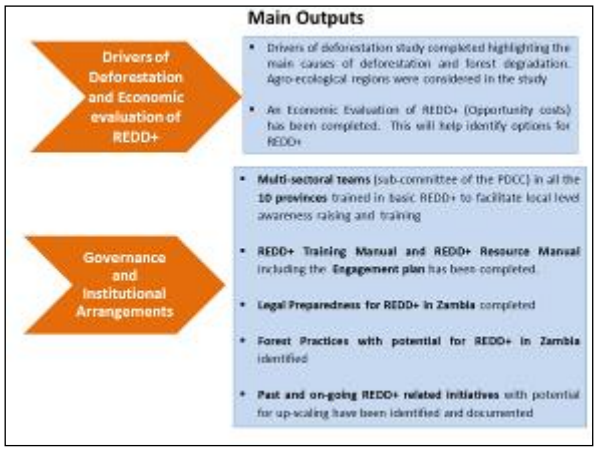

Deforestation
Nemestrinus
National Forest Monitoring System - Zambia

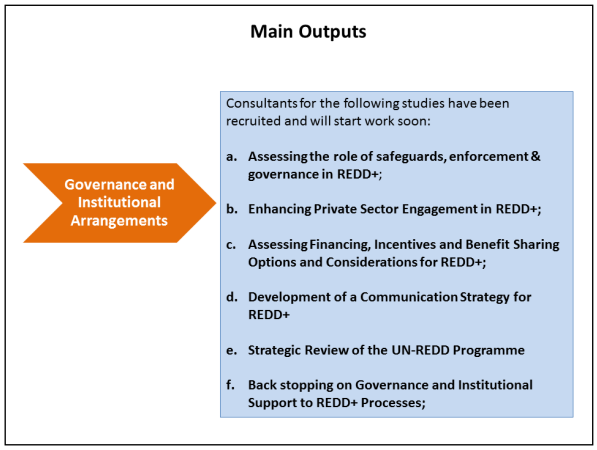

Forest Cover
Nemestrinus
National Forest Monitoring System - Zambia


Vegetation Maps
Nemestrinus
National Forest Monitoring System - Zambia


The aim is that this will be available at every level with those GIS units, and then the districts, they will be able to get into this, get the information, even the trends of deforestation, and be able to print even at district level so that they can participate in the making of decisions.

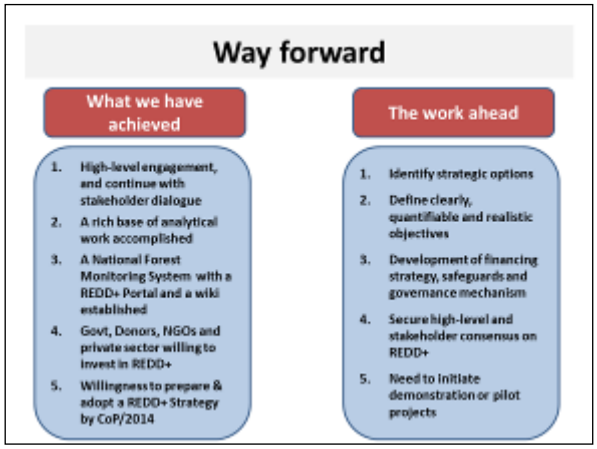
The changes will be done at the district level. They report to the national level. The national level makes the changes after verification, and then we move on like that so that everyone is participating.




And then the other part is the component of governance. We have done the governance to understand the various actors, the rules and practices, as well as accountability, coordination, capacity, transparency, and participation.

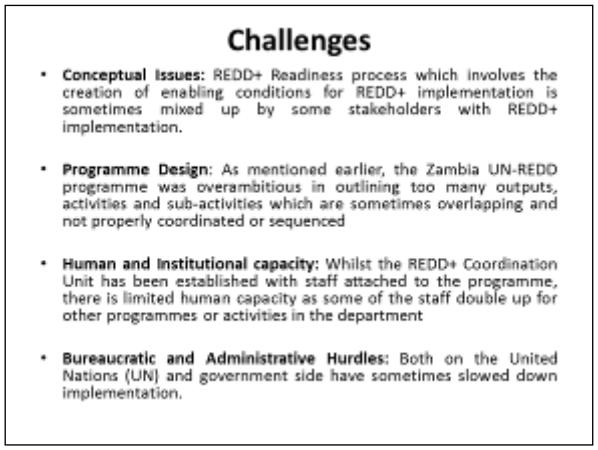
We have completed all of these studies, and now it is just drafting what we will call a strategy.




With what we have done, the work ahead is basically to identify the actual actions we need to

undertake. We have not spread our resources by having different people doing different things. We have tried to work together to see that we can have a national vision.


The roadmap is we are going to have an 'Issues and Options Report' that will explain the decisions that are been taken and why those decisions have been taken. We will use this document now to discuss and engage the different actors in Zambia.




The challenges are there. Conceptual Issues: what is REDD? I think, as we started, now it is like we are trying to come together on what REDD is all about, but it was a big problem initially. There was a mix up of really what REDD was, and this tended to slow down the process. The program designs itself: sometimes there was too much ambition over it, and you ended up putting things that you think you can do, but was difficult. Human and institutional capacity: we are dealing with governments and the UN system. Putting the systems together was quite a challenge, but I think we have moved very well.

Of course, the other point is the staff. I work for government. The coordination unit is in the government, and we are attached to this process. Although it is a government process, some

stakeholders felt that it was supposed to be independent, although the question was, independent from whom? It is just a joint program for all stakeholders.



Lastly, in terms of lessons that we have learned: we should avoid over-ambitious program and that REDD cannot solve all the problems. Let it solve what it can. The forest resource and the related livelihood programs, can it solve those things? Unlike a situation where we think REDD is going to develop a particular country. REDD is an incentive based program. Therefore, we must be very careful on how we explain it to people so that we do not expect over-expectations. We need to devolve the financial and program management to the implementing agencies. This way there will be that stewardship that will be developed. We have to support the mainstreaming of REDD. It is not a program on its own. Everyone can do REDD. I know there are technical issues and other things, but I think it is a responsibility of everyone to do something to enhance forests cover. Then there is a need to enhance the capacity of people. Of course, we have to look at the past for us to view that on the future. It means that the gains that we have done in the past, the lessons we have learned in the past should help build REDD for the future.