MONITORING, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION IN REDD+

CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE FROM ZAMBIA

BY

STEVEN B. NYIRENDA
stevenzrdf@gmail.com
FLOW OF PRESENTATION

1. About ZCCN
2. Context of Climate Change in Zambia
3. ZCCN Engagement In REDD+ Programmes MRV
4. Conclusion
Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) is a non Governmental Organisation (NGO) with a wide membership that includes faith based, farmers, natural resource management and community based organisations.

The Organisation was established in 2008 to champion advocacy and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Vision is to have a Zambia resilient to the Adverse impacts of Climate Change within a just world.

The Mission is to be a Lead Network of Civil Society Organizations Coordinating Stakeholder engagement in Climate Change issues through facilitating Capacity Building, Information sharing, Lobbying and Advocacy for the benefit of Zambia and the global community.
Context of Climate Change in Zambia

- Zambia has an estimated population of 15 million people with a land size of 752,618 km².
- Forests cover about 49.9 million ha (66% of land cover).
- Plantations cover about 61,000 ha out of which 7,000 ha by the Forestry Department and 50,000 ha under ZAFFICO, the rest by communities, farmers and schools.
- More than 60% of the population depend on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for their livelihoods.
- The country is losing between 250,000 to 300,000 hectares of forest per year.
- Agriculture is rain dependent making it vulnerable to climate change despite the country boasting of having about 40% of the fresh water resource in Southern Africa.
- Agriculture is one of the major causes of deforestation in Zambia apart from mining with population growth and energy (Charcoal) demand being key drivers.
Green House Gas Contributions Per Sector in the Context of Climate Change in Zambia
Understanding that REDD+ is an international mechanism that tries to compensate tropical countries for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in their territories.

Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) and its members have engaged and participated in the:

- Design and implementation of Projects such as the preparation phases that include the development of the REDD+ National Strategy and now the Investment plan.
- Contribution in the development of NDCs and lately in the Policy Implementation Plan.
- Support of communities in partnership development realizing that even before the strategy was put in place, private sector and some NGOs had started implementing REDD+ projects.
- Support and contribute to the development of monitoring of safeguards that are about to be finalised.
- Ensuring effective benefit sharing mechanisms as this is important for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification e.g. Transparency International Zambia a member of ZCCN even developed pointers of potential areas for corruption in REDD+ programmes and has been engaged in community.
It must be noted that ZCCN has a cordial working relationship with the Government of Zambia that constantly engages and consults the network as the umbrella body of civil society organisations engaged in Climate Change issues.

While some projects are being undertaken in Zambia, our observations are that benefits so far to communities have been minimal.

We have also observed that some projects have been inappropriate in that they are implemented in game management areas that already are protected and yet private project developers for carbon credits get funds for such areas.

As Zambia goes into the implementation phase of investments on REDD+ programmes, our focus as ZCCN is to ensure that we provide independent Monitoring, Analyse the Reporting and ensure Verification especially the safeguard mechanism.

Our work shall ensure that benefits and other advantages accrued from REDD+ are managed transparently and shared equitably among key stakeholders, especially local forest dwelling communities, and should take into account vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youths, children and disabled people.

The REDD+ process in Zambia is inclusive and guarantees the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, especially CSOs and local communities, including women, youths and other marginalized groups.
It is increasingly clear that Climate Change has become a defining environmental and developmental challenge that demands affirmative response by a cross sector of stakeholders. Its’ risks and impacts have raised the urgency for a comprehensive environmental stewardship Globally, Africa and in Zambia and the effectiveness of the REDD+ and NDC implementation will be ensured through the development and strengthening of existing Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems to track progress of both the mitigation and adaptation programs.
Thank you