Uganda FRELs: Lessons learned from national UNFCCC submission and considerations on subnational reference levels

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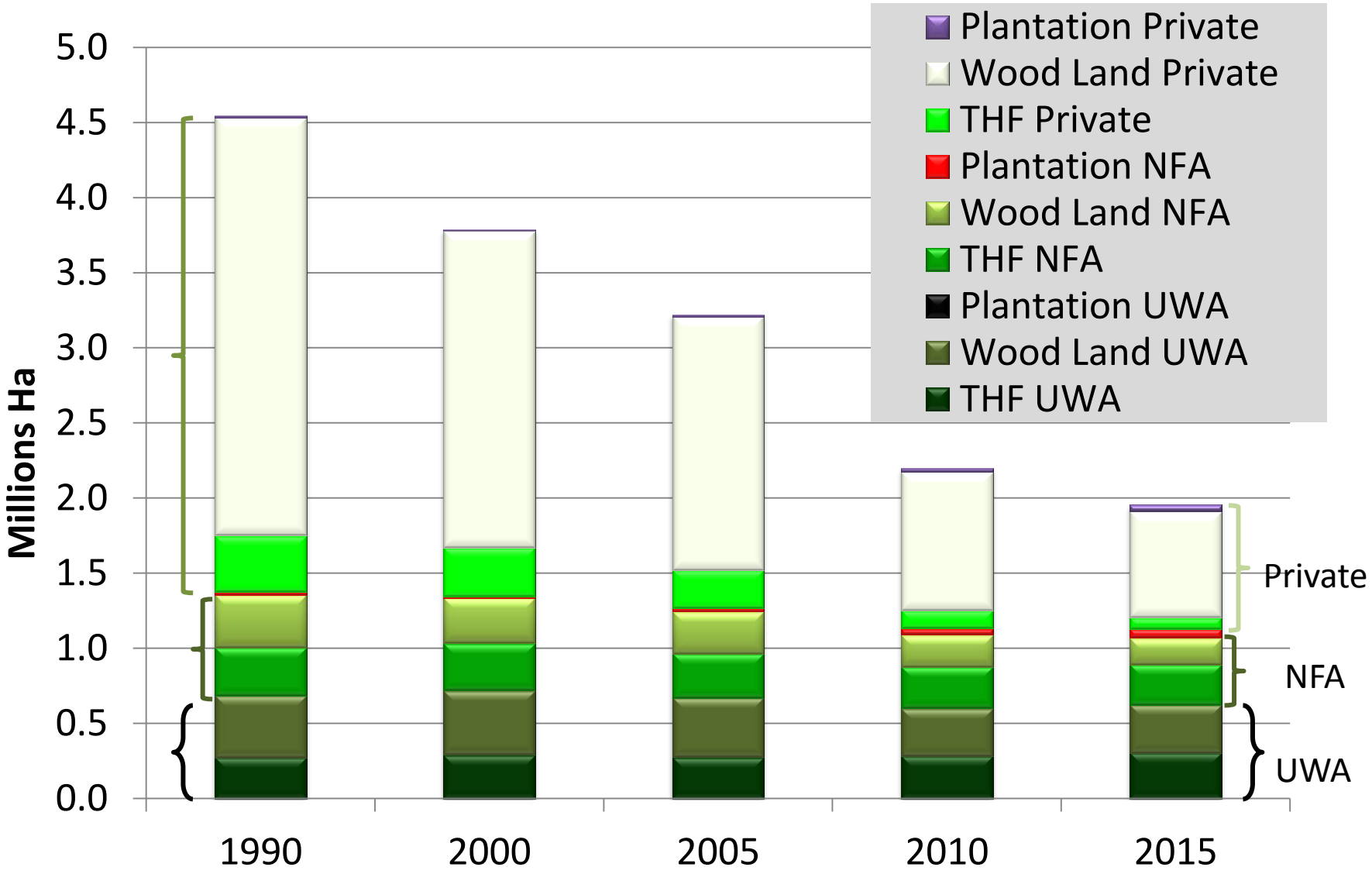
Uganda

Uganda's approach to FREL Elements / Building Blocks

FREL Building Block	FREL Notes
Forest Definition	A minimum area of 1 Ha, minimum crown cover of 30% of trees able to attain a height of 4 meters and above
Scale	National scale
Scope	
Activity	Only - Deforestation accounted for in 2017 FREL
Pools	Above and Below ground carbon stocks in living biomass used in the estimation of carbon
Gases	CO_2 estimated in the FREL
Data 1: Activity Data	Mapping cycle to be reduced from 5 to 2 years
Data 2: Emission Factors	Historical data (2000 to 2016) used to estimate above ground biomass carbon stocks used in the FREL.
Construction Methodology	Historical average based on 15-year reference period (2000-2015)

Historical Forest Change by Tenure, Management and Forest Strata



Proposed FREL

REDD+ activity	tCO_2/year
Deforestation	8,254,691

Main lessons learned from the technical assessment

What were the key points raised by the Technical Assessment Team of the UNFCCC?

- ***A few general Points:***
  - How the country arrived at the proposed FREL (8,254,691 t CO_2 eq/year) from only one REDD+ activity (instead of five activities)
  - Type and duration of FREL (historical average – 15 years: 2000-2015)
  - Forest definition and relations with the GHG inventory report as in the second national communications
  - Role and extent of fire
  - Future improvements
- ***Several Specific points*** (see Report of the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level of Uganda submitted in 2017)

- **Exchange with the assessment team was seen as genuinely learning and facilitative sessions**

Reflections on national and/or subnational (jurisdictional?) FReL

- **What are the advantages of having a national FRL?**
  - In Uganda there are two main Country Interests in Preparing & Submitting a FREL/FRL
    - International (UNFCCC) requirements for "results-based" payments;
    - National (to provide evidence for sector's performance) and need for further capitalization of the sector
- **What are the advantages and challenges of having a subnational FRL?**
  - The FREL is national; however, implementation is subnational.
    - How then can we distribute the RLs to these subnational jurisdictions?
    - Do we have to make subnational jurisdictions RLs?
    - Do we have to go back to the UNFCCC for additional technical assessment if we make subnational RLs?
    - What is the best guidance to follow?

What are Uganda's planned next steps (in case this can be shared)?

- More than 15 areas of improvement to the FREL in short and long term – identified by the National FRELs
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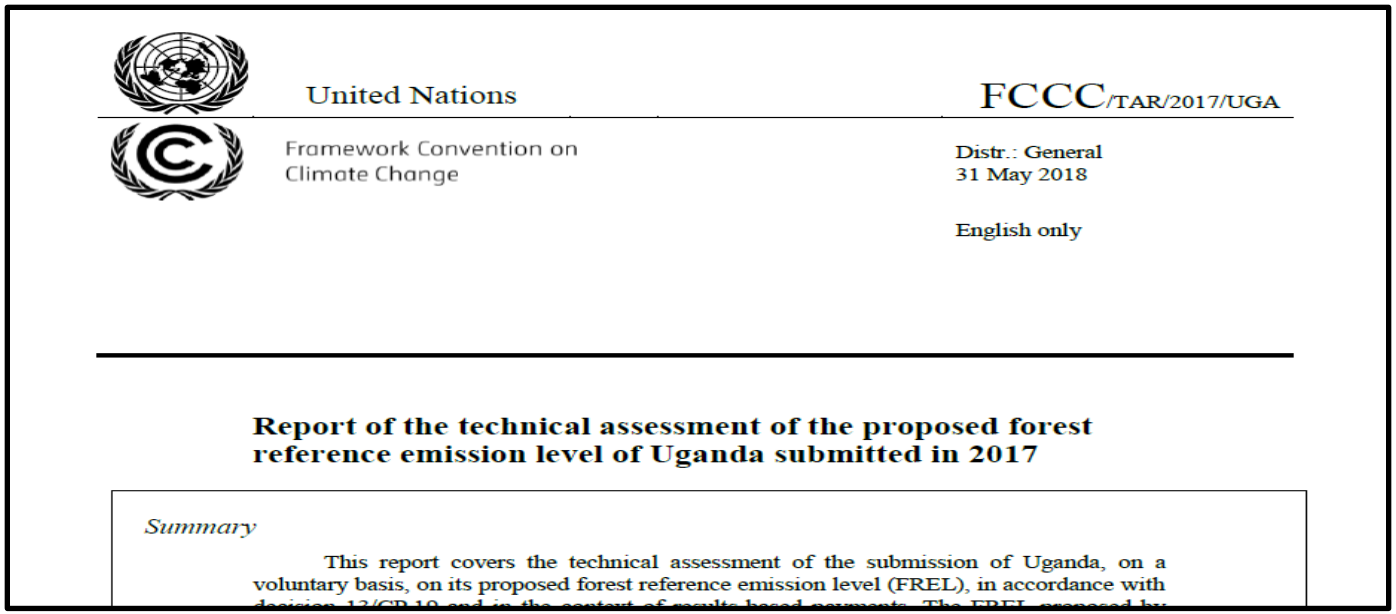
- More than 20 areas for future technical improvement – identified by UNFCCC assessment Team (AT)



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Report of the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level of Uganda submitted in 2017

Summary

This report covers the technical assessment of the submission of Uganda, on a voluntary basis, on its proposed forest reference emission level (FREL), in accordance with

FREL Building Block	Current Status	Approach	Immediate action (1 to 2 years)	Medium to long term action (5 years ++)
Forest Definition	Forest Definition agreed upon and approved by the highest policy decision making body	A minimum area of 1 Ha, minimum crown cover of 30% comprising of trees able to attain a height of 4 metres and above in situ.	Explore use of higher resolution satellite imagery, i.e. Sentinel-2, improve accuracy on forest loss and gain	Revision of minimum area threshold is possible only if capacity to map and monitor woodlots smaller than 1 hectare is developed
Scale	National scale agreed upon and approved by the highest policy decision making body	Pilot REDD+ jurisdictional projects allowed. However reporting to UNFCCC at a national level	None foreseen	None foreseen
Scope 1: Activities				
Activity 1: Deforestation	Deforestation accounted for in 2017 FREL	Map area change approach used in the 2017 FREL. Satellite change detection analysis to be used in the future	Explore use of higher resolution satellite imagery, i.e. Sentinel-2, to improve accuracy on forest loss	Continued exploration of emerging technologies.

- Asante