

## The 16<sup>th</sup> workshop of the facilitative sharing of views

### I. Questions posed to Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### **Question from Malaysia:**

“I noticed that you had reduced your emissions from the Agriculture sector about 58 million tonnes to about 3 million in 2018. Could you explain how did you achieve that? And what mitigation actions were taken?”

#### **Response:**

Emissions in the agricultural sector amounted to 4608 Gg in the base year 1990, and in 2018 they amounted to 1890 Gg. In 2018, emissions decreased by 3.1% compared to 2017, and by 58.9% compared to the 1990 base year. The amount of emissions reduced is expressed in percentages, not in millions of tons.

The main reason for this reduction is the reduction of methane emissions between 1992 and 1996 due to the war which significantly affected the animal population (significant decrease compared to 1990), crop production, consumption of mineral fertilizers and agricultural practice in general. Since 2006, methane emissions have not significantly changed.

The 2006 IPCC methodology was used by BiH in the last report, which, unlike the previous methodology, takes into account certain animal categories.

#### **Question from Sweden:**

“In your report you highlight that you have signed a declaration for the Western Balkans committing to the region to implement actions in the field of climate change. I was wondering if you could please share your experience of the main benefits of collaborating with neighboring countries, especially in the energy sector?”

#### **Response:**

The Action Plan for implementation of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans 2021-2030 (GAWB), and the Roadmap for implementation of Sofia Declaration on Green Agenda in BiH as a key guidance documents for implementation of the Sofia Declaration in the country, have set up certain framework for regional cooperation in the Western Balkan Region. Having into consideration that energy sector is highly challenged with the new increased de-carbonization ambitions and requirements for a profound transformation of the sector, the most important benefits of collaborating with neighboring countries include: improved exchange of information and capacity building activities, and expanded topics for regional cooperation. One of the most significant outcome of the last RWG GAWB

meeting held in Podgorica, on May 14-15 2024, was an agreement to deliver the WB Climate Adaptation Roadmap. Initial step for in developing of this Roadmap document is initial Assessment for the WB Climate Adaptation Roadmap that will be followed by recommendations to be accepted at the ministry level.

**Question from New Zealand:**

“New Zealand would like to hear more about the CBIT project on integrated reporting and transparency. What are the main focus areas of this project and what have been the benefits to date?”

**Response:**

The overall objective of the CBIT project was to support Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in building institutional and technical capacities to meet enhanced transparency requirements under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as defined in the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (PA) and to contribute to the establishment of a domestic climate change Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to enhance the preparation of the country’s GHG Inventory and to track the progress in implementing BiH’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the PA.

The project has developed a comprehensive monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework, including the formalization of institutional and legal arrangements and the operationalization of the Environmental Information System (EIS), which will serve as an on-line MRV platform to collect and disseminate environmental and climate change data and information in line with the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. To enhance institutional capacities on transparency-related capacities, the project has carried out a wide-range of capacity-building activities including the delivery of trainings and workshops targeting government agencies, NGOs, the academia and the private sector.

The project also supported the establishment of legislative frameworks for GHG Inventory preparation to formalize mandates in the data collection and exchange process and to harmonize legislation across different government entities in BiH.

Substantial contribution to the quality enhancement of country’s GHG Inventory (GHGI) has been provided via various trainings focusing on EU and UNFCCC reporting requirements.

**Question from EU:**

“During your presentation and also in your report, you highlighted how our thermal power plants and heating plants were among the most carbon intensive installations in your country. Could you tell us about any Plan or policy measures and actions to introduce more green and renewable energy?”

**Response:**

In National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) (draft is sent to Secretariat of Energy Community at the end of 2023, comments have been received and experts work on responding) de-carbonization plan has been developed. According to that plan there is no new coal power plant and timing of gradual closing of

existing coal power plants is defined. Until 2030, scenario predicts construction of around 1,500 MW (mostly as prosumers) of PV and around 850 MW of wind. In parallel, capacity of hydro plants should be increased by 200 MW until 2030. Improvement of energy efficiency is also predicted. There is on-going project to switch from coal to biomass in one unit of coal power plant Tuzla until 2027.

In BUR, in power generation sector measures and causes for emission reduction are noted. The main measure is introduction of ETS and reduction of operation hours of coal fired thermal power plants according to NERP. Also, as it is described installation of renewable energy sources will reduce operation of thermal power plants due to market conditions. In any case, detailed policy measures are elaborated in National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) BiH which is in public discussion.

**Question from India:**

“It has been mentioned that sink has been increased. So we would like to ask what are the environmental policies that has been put in place or change in environmental policies for the increase in the sink?”

**Response:**

Data on CO<sub>2</sub>sinks for forest areas (Forest land remaining forest land) and wood products (HWP) show that the final annual sink of carbon dioxide by forest ecosystems in BiH for the year 2017.was -5.844,09 Gg CH<sub>4</sub>, and for the year 2018 was -5.831,9 Gg CH<sub>4</sub>.

The above data indicate a decrease of-0.63% in 2017, i.e. by 0.84% in 2018 compared to 2016. Compared to 1990 there was a decrease in sinks of -21.28% in 2017 i.e. of -21.44% in 2018.

**Question from Saudia Arabia:**

“From the reports we see that there is a mix of electricity generation sources such as hydropower, thermal power and industrial power. And we want to ask how this has impacted the overall GHG emissions of the country? And also what systems are in place for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of environmental policies and climate action?”

**Response:**

Impacts of the energy sector are shown as a current level of GHG emissions.

Substantive policy or a legally binding monitoring and evaluation framework for evaluating environmental policies and climate action hasn't been established yet. The Energy Community currently does not have binding requirements (as stated, it is done through recommendations) related to the process of monitoring GHG emissions and other information on climate change, although there are positive developments in this direction with the adoption of the Recommendation on the Implementation of the Regulation on the Monitoring Mechanism – MMR in 2016. In accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation, the contracting parties from the Energy Community should prepare the legal and institutional preconditions for the implementation of the basic elements of the MMR Regulation in their jurisdictions. The MMR Regulation includes provisions for the monitoring and national reporting of

greenhouse gas emissions, as well as for the reporting of other information for the country relevant to climate change.

**Question from UK:**

“In your report you mentioned the district heating from geothermal sources project being implemented in Visegrad, can you please share your experience of working with UN Development Program on this project and how it has progressed so far?”

**Response:**

The Study of the renewable energy sources with focus on biomass, geothermal energy and solar energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina” developed by UNDP, within the Project “Improving Air Quality in Bosnia and Herzegovina through Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources and Improvements in District Heating”, has shown that the level of use of the geothermal energy is limited by the location of the source which is often quite distant from the urban areas, therefore their use is not cost-effective. The total costs breakdown from introducing the renewable sources show that the biggest part of the investment relates to the biomass boilers, around 67%. Even though the total investment of around 285 million KM is quite high, given the fact that it takes about 10 years to implement the recommended draft systems, the derived data is that the investment of around 28 million KM per year is needed, which is roughly like an investment in two average district heating systems in BiH. On the other hand, benefits for environment, human health and living standard of citizens are quite significant.

**Question from Canada:**

“In the presentation you noted that you've made a number of commitments as part of the 2020 Sofia Declaration on carbon pricing Market-based renewable support and phasing out coal subsidies. Can you elaborate on how those commitments are progressing and any lessons learned so far?”

**Response:**

In scenarios analysis for electricity sectors, link with NERP (National Emission Reduction Plan) is clearly noted. Regarding Framework Energy Strategy until 2035, explanation that this strategy is not applicable any more after BiH signed Sofia Declaration, therefore, scenarios do not rely on the strategy. Link with Sofia Declaration and climate neutrality target are noted in discussion of the scenario (requirement for coal phase out).

In parallel to BUR development, BiH has started to develop National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP). However, this strategic document is not adopted yet. Therefore, we did not mention NECP (since it is not adopted) but ambitious and decarbonisation scenarios are scenarios aligned with scenarios in NECP draft.

NECP is taken into account for all renewable energy sources.

Strategic goal for district heating is noted, taken from the GIZ study (later incorporated in NECP draft).

For renovation of buildings, as it is noted the strategy is not adopted yet, therefore we could not note the link.

For the waste sector, link of scenarios and relevant strategy is given (see moderate mitigation scenario). Mitigation scenario is more ambitious than the strategic documents.

For other sectors there are no strategies relevant for climate mitigation.

**Response:**

**Question from Germany:**

“In your BUR it's highlighted that in 2020 solar plants generated almost a third more compared to the previous year, and that there's great interest in investing in solar panels from investors and a noticeable upward trend in home installations. Could you please share some examples of policies and measures or incentives that have contributed to this positive trend?”

**Response:**

Regarding policies, BiH works on energy market development, both entities introduced prosumers and guarantees of origin of electricity etc. Eco labelling is going to be adopted by entities. Investments in the grid is planned to integrate renewable energy sources. EU funded project works on establishment of ETS in Bosnia and Herzegovina

## **II. Questions posed to Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Question from UK:**

“In your presentation. You mentioned the promotion of new reforestation techniques to preserve your forests. Can you please share your most successful techniques and some challenges you've faced?”

**Response:**

DRC has three main new reforestation techniques: Agroforestry, Assisted Natural Regeneration And Agro Sylvo Pastoral.

Agroforestry, a technique involving association of perennial crops with food crops, such as peanuts, has gained some momentum and has some successes. Unfortunately, this practice is confronted both by the inappropriateness of certain exogenous crops which do not respond to local ecological conditions, leading to a fragmentation of the strata (case of Bongandanga, Mongala Province) and by choice of crops which do not respond to the agricultural calendar in the sites where the projects are implemented.

Assisted Natural Regeneration, which consists of using endogenous species (Wenge: *Millettia laurentii*) in order to restore the initial ecosystem, is confronted with the choice of crops which do not respond to the agricultural calendar in the sites where the projects are implemented.

Finally, Argo Sylvo Pastorale, practiced in Kongo Central, consists of associating perennial crops such as banana trees (*Musa acuminata*) with limba (*Terminalia superba*).

Globally, lack of mastery of these techniques, insufficient capacity building of local communities in the accountability of nursery management until planting by the establishment of Local Development

Committee (CLD) cells, as well as inaccessibility of reforestation sites due to impractical access, non-sustainability of project activities (generally projects stop with the departure of promoters), lack of communities awareness, insecurity, as well as the failure to take into account pre-feasibility studies and the community needs associated with land conflicts between communities are common challenges.

**Question from EU:**

“On the policies that you've implemented on deforestation and to avoid forest destruction. Could you elaborate with us the challenges that you have faced in implementing these policies?”

**Response:**

The implementation of Integrated REDD+ Program initiatives, the Promotion of the implementation of Management Plans, the Promotion of Conservation Forests, the implementation of monitoring tools through alerts and Patrols of Control Services as well as the Forest Code, the Ministerial Decree N° 102, the Ministerial Decree N° 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 as well as the COMIFAC Convergence Plan 2015-2020 are the main policies that the DRC has implemented to combat deforestation and prevent the destruction of its forests.

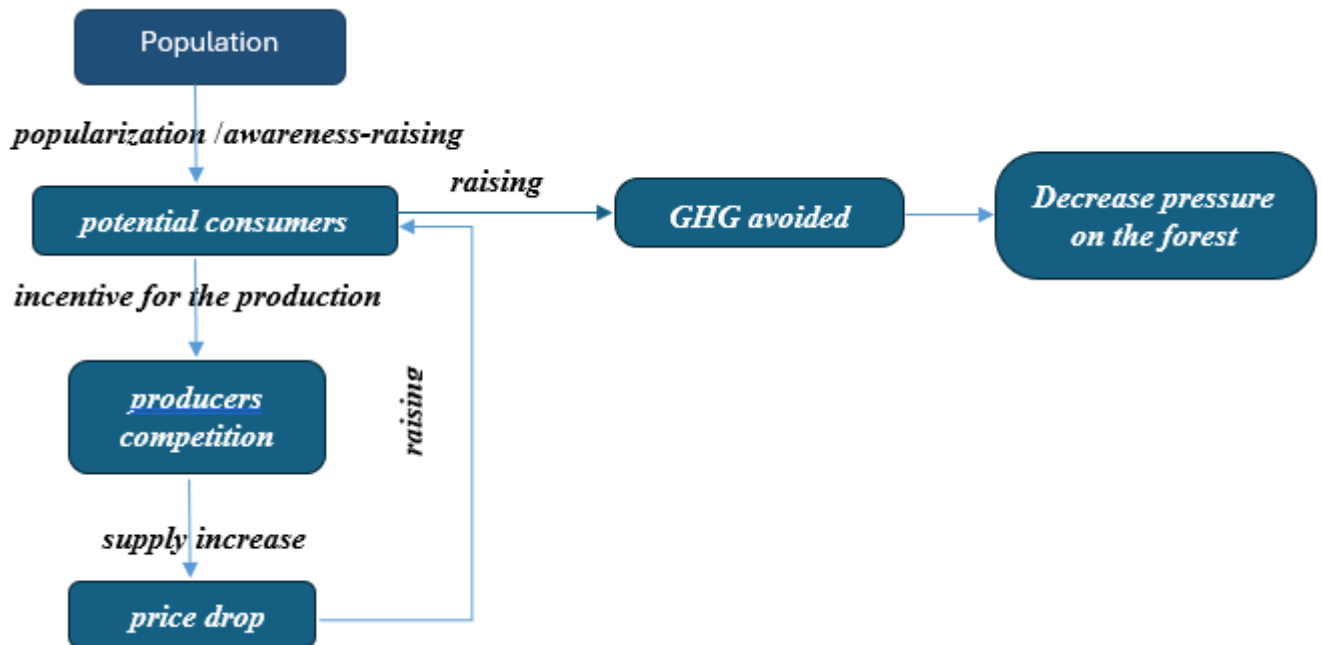
The implementation of these policies has and is encountering multifaceted challenges, including the difficulty of duplicating proven experiences throughout the country, the lack of a national strategy for forest controls likely to stop illegal cross-border trafficking of forest resources. Added to this are, on the one hand, the resistance of certain political and administrative authorities complicit in the illegal cross-border trafficking of forest resources, to the capacity building of agents assigned to this task, through the insufficient level of education of certain agents and executives of the administration able to properly assimilate the new concepts, methods, techniques provided for in the framework of capacity building and on the other hand, the lack of means of exhaustive control of the forest cover given the vastness of the country. In addition, the lack of operating funds, the lack of updates of tools likely to obtain high-resolution images for monitoring forests, the non-applicability of results-based payment on the attributable to the FREL (Forest Reference Emission Level), the unfelt benefits of the established and implemented projects by populations and the selective cutting of species thus escaping the constraints of the operational guide are also challenges that DRC is facing to fight against deforestation and avoid the destruction of forests.

**Question from Netherlands:**

“In your BUR you reported on your policies and measures to reduce the demand for wood energy and facilitate access to electricity? Could you tell us about the progress of this policy and how does it help to reduce your emissions?”

**Response:**

The use of improved stoves (energy efficiency) practiced mainly in urban centers, as well as the gradual introduction of the prepaid system for electricity by smart cards, are still embryonic (given the size country). The other policy initiated, consisting of the use of modern carbonization ovens, is still at the experimental stage in Mampu site (Bateke plateaus), awaiting convincing results before its dissemination and duplication in the large public.



In order to reduce demand on wood energy and to make rational use of electricity, **awareness-raising**, which aims to change people's outlooks, mentalities and behavior with regard to climate change, combined with **popularization**, which in turn reaches out to a wide audience to disseminate new knowledge and new ideas, could increase users number (**potential consumers**) of improved stoves, gas stoves (LPG) and access efficient to electricity. This would provide an **incentive for the production** of these technologies, leading in turn to **producers competition**, which in turn would drive **prices down** as a result of the law of supply and demand. A large number of consumers, in turn, would increase the quantity of **greenhouse gases avoided**. This would allow to **avoid pressure on the forest**.

**Question from Sudan:**

“I just wondered whether you have attached the technical Annex of your activities on the REDD Plus because I see that you had mentioned your report on REDD Plus activities in your country.”

**Response:**

REDD+ Technical Annex is available on the UNFCCC website

**Question from Saudi Arabia:**

“In your presentation it was mentioned that there were insufficient current levels of funding for the preparation of the national Communication and the BUR, could you elaborate on what gaps exist in the funding provided by Gef and how these gaps impacted the preparation of National Communications and BUR and what risks do these insufficient fundings have on your emission reduction ambitions and goals?”

**Response:**

DRC wished, from its 3rd National Communication, to raise its ambitions by migrating from default level 1 methodologies to level 2 or 3 methodologies. Unfortunately, all countries have almost access to the same funding to prepare their National Communications as well as their BURs. To do this, DRC, therefore initiated this approach specifically in the AFAT sector, by integrating issues relating to forest degradation which, until then, was limited only to deforestation. This choice presented a need to produce new data for the stratification of its forest, to properly target intervention areas in order to implement materially executable projects as well as the generation of new emission factors by adding an attributable negative impact due to the lack of dedicated expertise.

The combination of all these parameters, associated with the size of the country, created the need for significant additional resources, the national budget not being a contributor, resulting specifically in the submission of reports delayed from real time.

**Question from Brazil:**

“For the delivery of the technical Annex on REDD Plus, we would like to know how the process of elaborating the technical Annex of REDD Plus has contributed to the monitoring process of forests?”

**Response:**

The DRC is making considerable efforts to improve its REDD+ Technical Annex. Indeed, in addition to the establishment nowadays of an operational Technical Consultation Platform (PTC) on the forest, involving all stakeholders and institutions relating to the forest, it has already, as part of the implementation of its National MRV System, operationalized its National Forest Monitoring System (SNSF) allowing to the monitoring activities REDD+ process, composed of its Satellite Land Monitoring System (SSTS), its National Forest Inventory (IFN) and its National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (IGES) thus constituting its MRV-Forest sub-component which will be operationalized gradually, alongside the MRV-Energy, MRV-Industrial Processes and Product Use and MRV-Waste sub-components.

**III. Questions posed to Gabon**

**Question from Germany:**

“You show that with mitigation measures, the emissions from the energy sector could be significantly reduced. What are the most relevant actions to achieve this reduction?”



## Response:

To significantly reduce GHG emissions from the energy sector in Gabon by 2050, several mitigation measures are planned, here are some of them:

### Biomass energy

- Electricity production from biomass and bagasse residues.

### Household electrical energy

- Efficient residential air conditioning.
- Compact fluorescent and LED bulbs.
- Efficient refrigerators.

### Industrial electrical energy

- Efficient electric motors.
- Improving energy efficiency in industry.

### Electric energy for services

- Efficient electric motors.
- Efficient office lighting with compact fluorescent and LED bulbs.
- Efficient public lighting.
- Efficient hotel refrigerators.
- Improved energy efficiency in services.
- New office buildings with central cooling.

### Energy efficiency of the offer (EE Offer)

- New natural gas power plant.
- Switching from heavy fuel oil to natural gas.

### Power distribution

- Efficient electricity networks.
- Connection of isolated networks to the central network.
- Increased power factor.

### Fugitive emissions

- Reduction of flaring in oil fields and oil refineries.
- Charcoal production.

### Hydroelectricity

- Hydroelectricity connected to the main network.
- Connected and off-grid mini-hydropower.

### Solar energy

- Large solar water heater.
- Photovoltaic solar panels for homes.
- Solar/diesel mini-grid.

- LED solar lights.
- Solar street lights.

#### Transportation

- Express Bus Service.
- More efficient gasoline and diesel cars.
- Natural gas cars.
- Electric cars.
- Transfer of passengers from the car to the rail.
- Transfer of freight transport from road to rail

#### **Question from EU:**

“You mentioned about the big capacity of greenhouse gasses sequestration. Could you elaborate on the measures that you've implemented to strengthen and protect Gabon's carbon fund capacity?”

#### **Response:**

Gabon has implemented various measures to strengthen and protect its carbon sinks, mainly focused on sustainable forest management and reducing emissions linked to logging. Here is a summary of key initiatives:

**Forest Policy and Forest Code:** In 1996, Gabon adopted its first forest policy to increase the contribution of the forest sector to economic and social development. In 2001, a new forest code was promulgated, requiring sustainable management practices, low-impact logging techniques, extended harvest rotations, and 30-year management plans for forest concessions.

**Wood Processing:** To increase value added and local jobs, Gabon banned the export of raw logs in 2010, requiring that 100% of wood be processed domestically. This measure led to a significant drop in total wood production and contributed to the reduction of emissions.

**FSC certification:** In 2018, the President of the Republic announced that all forest concessions should be certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) by 2022, thus strengthening sustainable forest management practices.

**Protected Areas Network:** Gabon created 13 national parks covering 3 million hectares in 2002, and has since expanded this network to cover 22% of the country's land surface, also including marine protected areas.

**Ban on the Export of Raw Logs:** To encourage local processing and professionalize the sector, Gabon banned the export of raw logs in 2009. This policy led to a decline in wood production, thereby reducing emissions.

**Emerging Gabon Strategy:** Adopted in 2009, this strategy aims to diversify the economy and promote sustainable management of natural resources, including the implementation of a National Land Use Plan (PNAT) and a National System for Observation of Natural and Forest Resources (SNORNF).

**Decline in Deforestation:** Thanks to a combination of low impact agricultural policies, the creation of national parks and land use planning, Gabon's deforestation rates remain historically low.

These initiatives show Gabon's commitment to protecting its forests and strengthening its carbon sinks, while integrating sustainable economic development objectives.

**Question from Saudi Arabia:**

“It has been mentioned through your presentation that the capacity of carbon sinks will increase by 2050 to 12% compared to 2005, noting that 88% of your land in 2020 is Forest. Wouldn't that increase be higher?”

**Response:**

Despite a high forest cover rate, Gabon's capacity to increase its carbon sinks is limited by the biological characteristics of its forests. Gabonese forests, mainly composed of mature forests, already store large amounts of carbon but have limited capacity to absorb additional CO<sub>2</sub> compared to young, rapidly growing forests. Gabon focuses on sustainable forestry using reduced impact practices (RIL-C), but these imply a low harvesting rate (1 to 3 trees per hectare), which limits the rapid increase in carbon sequestration capacity.

Another major challenge is to reconcile environmental protection with sustainable economic development. The transition to an economy focused on local wood processing and reducing dependence on oil is crucial for Gabon. However, this transformation requires time and does not allow a rapid increase in carbon sequestration capacity.

Additionally, the conversion of some forest lands for agricultural purposes and urbanization is necessary for the socio-economic development of the country. While promoting these transformations, Gabon is committed to preserving protected areas and adopting sustainable forest management practices to balance development and conservation objectives.

**Question from Netherlands:**

“Gabon noted it encountered some difficulties in getting activity data for certain sectors, as well as other challenges in Data Management. Could you briefly elaborate on the types of challenges you face regarding data management and how you handled it for this first BUR?”

**Response:**

Climate data management in Gabon presents several significant gaps, particularly in the production, sharing, archiving of data, as well as in the protocols and procedures surrounding this management.

1. Collection of data :

- Absence of protocol linking the National Climate Committee (CNC) to the entities producing the data.
- Multiplication of structures with similar missions, leading to duplication in data production.
- Problems with the quality and validation of the data produced.

2. Saving and managing climate information:

- Lack of a centralized system for saving and managing climate information.

- Need for an inclusive system to gather and make climate information accessible to all stakeholders.
3. Procedures:
    - Climate reports are based on the IPCC guidelines, which are little known to those responsible for producing the data.
    - Lack of procedures, in particular the absence of monitoring sheets and control of procedures for the development of climate inventories and reports.
  4. Institutional capacities and arrangements:
    - Lack of institutional arrangements and production methods, systems for collecting, sharing and verifying the quality of climate information.
    - Gaps in national capacities and procedures needed for better management of climate data.

The establishment of a MRV system is crucial to fill these gaps and have reliable systems and quality data, necessary for information management in the fight against climate change in Gabon.

### **Response:**

Gabon's successes in implementing national parks are:

1. Extended Network of Protected Areas:
  - Gabon has 13 national parks, thus prohibiting logging on 11% of the national territory.
  - In addition, the country has a presidential reserve, a wildlife reserve, 4 hunting areas, 2 arboretums, 9 RAMSAR sites, 1 world heritage site, several cultural sites, and 20 marine protected areas.
  - Together, these protected areas cover almost a quarter of the national territory (land and ocean).
2. Reduction of CO2 Emissions:
  - Between 2007 and 2012, gross emissions fell by 40% and remained stable and low for most of the 2010s.
  - This reduction is due to political decisions such as the creation of national parks and the ban on exporting raw timber, which have contributed to a decline in timber production.

The challenges encountered in the implementation of national parks and the promotion of reforestation and the protection of biodiversity:

1. Cancelled Concessions:
  - More than one million hectares (1.03 Mha) of forest concessions were cancelled and replaced by national parks between 2004 and 2006.
  - This has posed management and land reallocation challenges, as well as compensation issues for forest operators.

2. Illegal Exploitation:

- Illegal logging, mining and commercial hunting activities continue to threaten Gabon's biodiversity, despite the existence of a robust legislative framework for the protection of natural resources.

**Question from UK:**

“We wanted to understand some of your successes and challenges in implementing some new national parks to help promote reforestation and protect biodiversity?”

**Response:**

The mitigation measures that Gabon has or intends to use to strengthen the capacity of carbon sinks are:

1. Sustainable forest management: Implement sustainable forest management practices to increase carbon storage and reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
2. Reforestation and afforestation: Planting trees in degraded areas to increase forest area and improve carbon sequestration capacity.
3. Bushfire Reduction: Implement bushfire prevention and management strategies to avoid the release of large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.
4. Agroforestry: Encourage agroforestry practices that combine agriculture and tree planting, which helps increase carbon storage in soils and biomass.
5. Restoration of degraded ecosystems: Restore wetlands, mangroves and other degraded ecosystems to improve their capacity to store carbon.
6. Promotion of renewable energy: Reduce dependence on fossil fuels by promoting the use of renewable energy, which indirectly contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting natural carbon sinks.
7. Improving agricultural practices: Adopting sustainable agricultural techniques that increase organic matter in soils, which improves their ability to store carbon.

These measures aim to strengthen the capacity of carbon sinks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the sector.

**Question from Belize:**

“What are the mitigation actions that will strengthen the carbon sink capacity? Specifically, when they mentioned in the presentation that Logging is the main source of emission.”

**Question from India:**

“It has been mentioned that the 88% of Gabon is covered with the forest, and logging is a major source of GHG emissions. So, we would like Gabon to elaborate. What are the policy measures that is being implemented for control of problem of logging?”

And the second question is what the policy implementation for the agriculture sectors are as they aim to reduce about 568, giga grams of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in agriculture sector?"

**Response:**

Question 1: The political measures implemented to control the problem of logging in the Gabonese Republic are as follows:

1. International commitments :
  - In 2015, Gabon committed to reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2025 compared to the 2005 base year.
2. Forest policy and legislation :
  - In 1996, adoption of the first forestry policy to increase the contribution of the forestry sector to economic and social development.
  - In 2001, promulgation of a new Forest Code requiring logging companies to undertake sustainable management of concessions, to use low-impact logging techniques, to extend the harvest rotation from 15 to 25 years, and to submit 30-year management plans.
3. Creation of national parks and reserves :
  - In 2007, creation of a network of 13 national parks prohibiting logging on 11% of the territory, supplemented by two hunting reserves and two wildlife reserves occupying 1.9% of the territory. Between 2004 and 2007, 1.03 million hectares of forest concessions were cancelled.
4. Local processing of logs :
  - In 2009, obligation to transform 100% of logs produced in Gabon, generating more added value on the national territory.
5. FCPF preparation proposal :
  - In 2017, submitted the Readiness Proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) and developed technical protocols to help mitigate unnecessary forest emissions.
6. FSC certification :
  - In 2018, obligation for all forestry companies operating in Gabon to obtain FSC certification to ensure sustainable forest management and respect commitments to reduce emissions from the forestry sector.

These measures aim to reduce GHG emissions linked to forestry, promote sustainable forest management, and strengthen the contribution of the forestry sector to economic development while conserving biodiversity.

Question 2: The policy measures for the agricultural sector taken from the "PRBA Gabon" document include the following actions:

1. Strengthening the resilience of production systems :
  - Promote the use of varieties resilient to climate change.
  - Encourage the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.
2. Sustainable management of water resources :
  - Optimize water use for irrigation.
  - Improve the management of watersheds and irrigation infrastructure.
3. Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions :
  - Promote low-emission agricultural practices.
  - Encourage the use of organic fertilizers and improved soil management.
4. Capacity building of agricultural stakeholders :
  - Train farmers and extension agents on resilient agricultural techniques.
  - Develop awareness and education programs on climate issues.
5. Promotion of agroforestry :
  - Integrate trees into agricultural systems to improve the resilience and productivity of agricultural land.
  - Encourage reforestation and sustainable management of community forests.

These measures aim to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector to climate change while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the management of natural resources.

#### **Question from Malawi:**

“In 2021 they had a climate change law, which is a very significant development. But at the same time, we have learnt also that you still have challenges to collect activity data. So I wanted to understand how you are using this law to strengthen your institutional arrangements, to support you to collect the data so that key institutional data providers are able to abide by to support you in this process of reporting, taking into account that with the ETF, I think binding or strong instruments will be key for us to help so that we have the required data and on time.”

#### **Response:**

Gabon's Climate Change Law of 2021 plays a crucial role in improving activity data collection, ensuring that the country can meet international requirements and strengthen its efforts to combat climate change, however. The application of this law requires raising awareness among parties holding data who are either not informed of their obligation to share data or are reluctant to do so.

## **IV. Questions posed to Somalia**

#### **Question from Sweden**

In your report, you highlight the importance of developing renewable energy electricity through solar and wind. I was wondering if you could share some details about current projects and experiences Somalia has in this area and, if available, what successes and challenges have you encountered in the implementation of these projects?"

**Response:**

Somalia is actively working on several renewable energy projects focusing on solar and wind energy. These projects aim to enhance energy access, particularly in rural and off-grid areas, thereby improving livelihoods and supporting sustainable development. One notable success is the Solar Energy for Peacebuilding project, which has provided reliable electricity to numerous communities, facilitating educational and health services. However, the implementation of these projects has faced challenges, including limited financial resources, security concerns, and technical capacity constraints. Despite these challenges, the projects have demonstrated the potential for renewable energy to contribute significantly to Somalia's energy needs and sustainable development goals.

**Question from the UK**

We wanted to understand, as you mentioned in your action plan to promote the restoration of mangroves. Can you please share your lessons learned on the implementation of this plan and any successes and challenges that you might have had?"

**Response:**

Somalia participated in the Mangrove Restoration and Coastal Community Livelihood Diversification Project (MR-CCLD) under the Nairobi Convention. The project faced several challenges, such as a constrained timeline that limited the scope of activities and bureaucratic obstacles at the Federal Member State (FMS) level, which slowed down implementation. However, there were also notable successes, including the positive results from small-scale mangrove restoration projects. Key best practices identified include conducting plantation sessions as pilots for future large-scale efforts and developing detailed restoration plans that encompass species selection and maintenance protocols. The major challenges remain the lack of financial support and security issues.

**Question from the EU**

In the report, you reported on the challenges you face when estimating your inventory data. So, I would like to know what progress you have made in improving your GHG data for future inventories?"

**Response**

Somalia has made significant progress in improving GHG data collection and management. The Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has established a dedicated GHG unit and nominated a lead coordinator for this unit. Additionally, efforts are underway to set up GHG units in all emitting agencies and to establish a national MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) system and GHG data center. These steps are expected to enhance the accuracy and comprehensiveness of future GHG inventories.

**Question from South Africa**

We would like to understand more from Somalia on their best experience undergoing the technical analysis of their first BUR and also how they found the exercise of identifying capacity building needs together with the TTE, especially now that we are transitioning to the enhanced transparency framework?"



## **Response**

Somalia found the technical analysis of its first BUR (Biennial Update Report) with the Technical Team of Experts (TTE) to be very constructive. The feedback received was relevant to improving future reporting systems, particularly concerning the GHG inventory system, data quality, and analysis. Overall, Somalia views the technical analysis positively, as it provided valuable insights that will help in the transition to the enhanced transparency framework.

## **Question from Malawi**

I wanted to ask Somalia to explain more about the integrated MRV framework which you presented. I'm interested to understand if the framework is supported with a system and how are you able to manage that system and its functionality if that framework you presented is supported with the reporting system?"

## **Response**

The Initial National Communication (INC) MRV framework outlined the context in Somalia and the necessary enabling environment to establish the system. The Second National Communication (SNC) is expected to set up the system, despite challenges due to Somalia's rudimentary governance and implementation structures. With the right technical and financial resources, Somalia predicts significant progress, from an estimated 30% in the INC to 60% in the Third National Communication (TNC). The framework aims to enhance the collation of data from district to federal levels and improve the overall reporting and monitoring of GHG emissions and adaptation indicators.

## **Question from Australia**

In your BUR you identify an initiative to deliver energy-efficient cookstoves to 30% of commercial and household residences by 2030. Are you able to provide an update on your progress implementing this initiative?"

## **Response**

The government of Somalia launched the Program for Sustainable Charcoal Reduction and Alternative Livelihoods (PROSCAL) in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, and FAO, funded by the European Union and the governments of Sweden and Italy. This national program aims to distribute LPG cooking stoves, promote reforestation, and establish community nursery centers for agroforestry uses. The initiative is part of broader efforts to reduce reliance on wood-based energy, which currently accounts for 98% of household energy use. Progress has been made, but challenges such as limited financial resources and security concerns remain.

## **Question from Saudi Arabia**

What kind of support does Somalia need to effectively implement their climate strategies and/or goals?"

## **Response**

Somalia requires various types of support to effectively implement its climate strategies and goals, including technical assistance, capacity building, financial resources, and enhanced security measures. International cooperation and partnerships will be crucial in providing the necessary support to overcome existing challenges and achieve sustainable development objectives.

## **Question from Germany**

In your BUR it is mentioned that the agricultural sector has the most potential for cutting emissions, aiming for a combined reduction of six megatons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent compared to the baseline. Could you provide some examples and information on the most relevant policies and measures to achieve these emissions reductions?"

## **Response**

Somalia has implemented several policies and measures to achieve emissions reductions in the agricultural sector, which accounts for 96% of the country's GHG emissions. Key actions include the Environmental Act, which incorporates climate change considerations; the National Climate Change Policy and Institutional Arrangements; and food security policies that promote agroforestry systems. Additionally, the Presidential Initiative, the Green Somalia Initiative, emphasizes public awareness campaigns and ecosystem restoration efforts, focusing on reforestation and afforestation. These initiatives aim to enhance carbon sequestration, improve biodiversity, and reduce emissions from the agricultural sector.

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