

Linking REDD+, the *Paris Agreement*, NDCs and the SDGs

Context

Land use and forests emerge as a key component of the Paris Agreement. The role of forests to mitigate climate change is strongly recognized explicitly in the Paris Outcome, mainly through Article 5 of the agreement as also the importance of Results-Based Payments (RBPs) for REDD+ in para. 55 of the supporting, operational decision of the Outcome.

Additionally, the majority of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the backbone of the Agreement, include some type of commitment in the land-use sector, including forests. 54% of countries included Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) as part of an economy-wide target, while LULUCF is at least referenced in many more – 77% of all countries' INDCs. Indeed, the LULUCF sector represents 25% of committed emission reductions in NDCs. This makes the role of LULUCF in the NDCs second only to the energy sector.

Specifically, a number of REDD+ countries highlight the key contribution to be made from LULUCF, with a clear focus on forest-related activities to meeting their NDC goals. Approaches range from inclusion of LULUCF in a multi-sectoral or economy-wide target, specific LULUCF targets, and/or specific indication of activities to be implemented as part of the NDC, such as REDD+, zero-deforestation agriculture, agroforestry or improved cook stoves.

Despite this strong foundation, lack of clarity remains regarding the linkages/synergies between Article 5 and REDD+ and the other key articles of the Paris Agreement. For example, how REDD+ reference levels would relate to NDC baselines and how LULUCF activities or REDD+ fit into a country's conditional versus unconditional components of the NDC. In the case of Article 6, covering cooperative approaches and Internationally Transferred Mitigation Options (ITMOs), there is further confusion about how future REDD+ transactions might fit within the context of the cooperative approaches and Sustainable Development Mechanism established under Article 6. Questions arise regarding issues such as the relation Art. 6 PA with the Warsaw Framework on REDD+. There are open questions regarding what might be needed specifically, in terms of any internationally agreed rules or negotiated principles for ITMOs involving forest-related emission reductions. This requires technical analysis coupled with knowledge from past, related experiences, in order to better guide countries and avoid having the lack of clarity impede action.

Finally, in regard to the SDGs and REDD+, there are clear synergies. While REDD+ can contribute to delivering on a number of the SDGs, two SDGs, in particular, relate to REDD+ most directly. These are SDG 13 on Climate Change and SDG 15 on Life on Land, which covers the following: *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.* There is already work on the identification of synergies already ongoing through collaboration between FAO, ICRAF, and other organizations which can serve as an input to the UN-REDD 2018-2020 work, enhancing the likelihood of success in meeting objectives associated with both REDD+ and the broad suite of SDGs.

Rationale and approach

In view of the above, the UN-REDD Programme will produce technical analysis and practical knowledge for countries on how to better mainstream and align their REDD+ efforts to the provisions of the Paris Agreements, to the submission and review of their NDCs and to the advancement of SDGs. The goal of this work stream is twofold: first to provide high-impact, easily digestible information on the linkages/synergies between Article 5 and REDD+ and the other key articles of the Paris Agreement; and second, to create opportunities (either in-person or virtual)

for countries to exchange information and thoughts about how these linkages/synergies could work and be used as a foundation to improve future submissions of NDC-related information. This type of country-led community of practice could proactively and constructively contribute to the relevant discussions under the UNFCCC negotiations and help to ensure that transparency is enhanced and best practices for forests and land use are reflected in the re-submission or updating of 2030 targets contained in the NDCs of those countries supported through this workstream.

Three key outputs have been identified, with example activities listed beneath each. In order to develop these outputs and activities, several key considerations were made:

- The outputs and activities here are expected to feed into/link to those in the cross-cutting knowledge management global workstream. In particular, this includes the proposed South-South exchange and integration of proposed webinars with the REDD+ Academy.
- The importance of leveraging and linking this knowledge stream to other thematic UN-REDD work areas, as well as other programmes and partnerships. Within UN-REDD, this includes, for example, close coordination with the tenure and good governance work area, in the case of the SDG component contained in this workstream.
 - These include several specifically related to NDCs and transparency (e.g., NDC Partnership, Capacity-Building Initiative on Transparency, The Initiative on Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the LEDS-GP GGGI and AFOLU Working Group). For a number of these, UNDP plays a leading or substantial contributing role, and so can leverage these partnerships to provide a conduit for contributing to capacity building for countries with a focus on the relationship between REDD+, NDCs and transparency.
- The need to build on and not duplicate analyses, knowledge products, etc. that have already been conducted/are soon to be released (e.g., the Meridian Institute project on REDD+ transactions in the context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement).

A description of the main activities and intended deliverables follows:

Output 1: Country capacities to mainstream consideration of the relevant articles and provisions of the Paris Agreement into REDD+ readiness and implementation are developed.

- Webinar series on Paris Agreement and REDD+: (a) overview; (b) dedicated sessions on NDCs, Article 6 and ITMOs, Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) – targets: 2 regions in 2018, 1 in 2019. Implementation: UNDP led, in collaboration with FAO.
- Deliver knowledge in the form of products and events (i.e., technical workshop sessions focused on LULUCF within context of NDCs, transparency, at various global and/or regional events (3-4 per year), in collaboration with strategic partners (e.g., NDC Partnership, LEDS GP).
- Facilitate south-south exchange of experiences on integration of REDD+ and NDC implementation: (i) Regional LAC workshop (2019); and (ii) Cross-country exchange visits across regions to gain experience from those countries advancing NDC programmatic frameworks including role for LULUCF (e.g., Brazil, Myanmar).
- Knowledge events at COP and intersessional meetings on advances in the REDD+/NDC interface, with panels from selected REDD+ countries (at least 1 per year).
- Organize informal roundtable discussion series on Article 6 and REDD+ for countries (held annually at UNFCCC COP).
- NDC Help Desk support function provided for UNDP Country Offices and REDD+ focal points in governments in priority REDD+ countries, linked to broader NDC Help Desk

Programme, in context of strategic partnerships (NDC Partnership and IKI NDC Support Cluster) – will be based on demand but potential requests could be anticipated from the following REDD+ countries which are being supported through the UNDP NDC Support Programme: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia.

- Country-specific support provided to selected countries on interface between REDD+ and NDCs (including Article 6 considerations).
- Country-specific support on the Transparency Framework complementing REDD + MRV support provided by UN-REDD and leveraging country technical support on MRV fast tracking proposal.

Output 2: Knowledge/communication products on the Paris Agreement and REDD+ implementation disseminated:

- Knowledge product on moving from REDD+ MRV to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement.
- Two publications compiling and analysing lessons from countries advancing REDD+ through NDC implementation over 3 year period (e.g., briefs, case studies).
- One publication of UN-REDD country case studies demonstrating best practices in the transition to ETF.
- A series of in-depth blog photo stories, showcasing country or regional progress on advancing REDD+ through NDC implementation (at least 3 per year, and at least 10 over the period).
- Video / film story on advancing REDD+ through NDC implementation.
- Knowledge product series summarizing roundtable discussions on Article 6 REDD+.

Output 3: Countries supported to enhance synergies between national REDD+ agenda in the context of the Paris Agreement with other international policy commitments (SDGs, New York Declaration on Forests, etc.)

- Guidance on linking REDD+, NDCs to SDGs – technical guidance/knowledge product. Implementation: UNDP led, in collaboration with FAO.
- Direct technical/expertise support provided to UN-REDD countries, applying guidance on linking REDD+, NDCs to SDGs.
- Integration of REDD+ technical support into UNDP Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) support.
- Case studies on ways countries have/can strengthen REDD+, NDCs, SDG linkages in order to boost their interrelated implementation

This workstream will be led by UNDP and implemented in collaboration with FAO.

In terms of volume of technical assistance, UNDP will provide an estimated 400 staff-equivalent days of labour, including some 30 missions, for the period 2018-2020.

A results framework and a risk assessment are provided in two tables below.

Results Framework / Linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs

TA Outputs	Agency	Indicators	Baseline	Means of verification
<p>Output 1. Country capacities to mainstream consideration of the relevant articles and provisions of the Paris Agreement into REDD+ readiness and implementation are developed.</p> <p>(Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.2: REDD+ PAMs have a Technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives)</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>(some activities in collaboration with FAO)</p>	<p><u>2018</u>: At least 2 technical workshop sessions delivered at global/regional workshops</p> <p><u>2019</u>: At least 2 technical workshop sessions delivered at global/regional workshops</p> <p><u>By 2020</u>: A complete webinar series on REDD+ and Paris delivered in each region</p>	<p>There is a very limited exposure for REDD+ countries to capacity building focused on REDD+ in relation to other aspects of the Paris Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN-REDD country submissions of views to the UNFCCC ▪ Evaluations of UN- REDD global support ▪ UN-REDD mission reports
<p>Output 2. Knowledge/communication products on the Paris Agreement and REDD+ implementation disseminated.</p> <p>(Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.2: REDD+ PAMs have a Technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives)</p>	<p>UNDP</p>	<p>2018: At least 4 knowledge products released and utilised.</p> <p>2019: At least 4 knowledge products released and utilised</p> <p>By 2020: A total of 15 knowledge products of various forms broadly disseminated and used by UN-REDD countries</p>	<p>Limited knowledge products available to REDD+ countries on the synergies between REDD+ and other articles of the Paris Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of downloads of KPs from UN-REDD website ▪ Evaluations of UN- REDD global support ▪ Websites of strategic partners (e.g., NDC Partnership) ▪ Attendee reports from webinars
<p>Output 3. Countries supported to enhance synergies between national REDD+ agenda in the context of the Paris Agreement with other international policy commitments (SDGs, New York Declaration on Forests, etc.)</p> <p>(Linked to UN-REDD strategic framework Output 3.2: REDD+ PAMs have a Technical assistance provided for the robust institutional anchoring, with a wide range of economic sectors engaged in REDD+ objectives)</p>	<p>UNDP</p> <p>(some activities in collaboration with FAO)</p>	<p>Number of UN-REDD partner countries utilizing knowledge products to harmonize their REDD+, NDC and SDG agendas.:</p> <p><u>2018</u>: at least 3 countries</p> <p><u>2019</u>: at least 4 additional countries</p> <p><u>2020</u>: a total of at least 10-15 countries demonstrating that these processes have been harmonized.</p>	<p>Only few countries reference REDD+ in their INDCs/NDCs. No countries explicitly reporting on REDD+ in context of SDGs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country reporting on SDGs ▪ BURs submitted to UNFCCC ▪ Revised NDCs submitted to UNFCCC

Risk analysis

Risk Description [narrative description]	Impact [effect on project if risk were to occur]	Likelihood [estimate of likelihood]	Mitigating action(s) [what actions will be taken/have been taken to counter this risk]
Lack of demand for knowledge on REDDD+ in context of broader Paris Agreement	High	Low	Given signals already provided by countries, this is low risk. If demand is on the lower side at the start of the 2018-2020 period, then the knowledge to be delivered will lead to enhanced awareness of the importance of these implications and increase demand to address these.
Relevant negotiations on other <i>Paris Agreement's</i> articles move more slowly than expected	Medium	Medium	The pace of negotiations on NDCS, Article 6 mechanisms, etc. may move slowly which would limit the depth and breadth of knowledge and analytic products that can be disseminated. The workplan can be adapted to the pace, focusing earlier on the negotiation tracks moving faster and then later on those issue areas slower to evolve under the UNFCCC.
