

Concept Note

Regional knowledge exchange:

“Operationalizing and financing National REDD+ Strategies: from programming and financing implementation to Results-based payments”

10-12th October 2017

Double Tree Hotel by Hilton, Bangkok Thailand

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Background

As agreed in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, a National REDD+ Strategy and/or Action Plan is one of the elements that countries are requested to have in place to be able to access results-based payments (RBPs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Such a document is expected to describe how greenhouse gas emissions from forests will be reduced and/or how forest carbon stocks will be enhanced, conserved and/or sustainably managed.

By nature, these strategies present an overall vision over the medium to long-term, setting aspirational goals and outlining a general approach to achieving them. However, they usually lack the operational elements required to fully frame REDD+ implementation. Elements missing may at times include an explicit theory of change with clear priorities for implementation, and often a budget coupled with a financing plan and funding mechanism, as well as a REDD+ results framework with associated M&E system.

As REDD+ countries increasingly transition from REDD+ readiness (phase 1) into implementation (phase 2) and RBPs (phase 3), various countries around the world and in the region have therefore opted to pursue their REDD+ planning process through a more detailed document. Generally focusing on the first few years of implementation, it may be called “Implementation Plan” (e.g. Costa Rica, Vietnam), “Investment Plan” (e.g. DRC, Myanmar, PNG), “Investment Framework” (Cote d’Ivoire) or Strategic Plan (Indonesia). As the Green Climate Fund (GCF) progresses towards the operationalization of REDD+ results-based payments under the UNFCCC, countries pay an increasing attention to resource mobilization from multiple sources (domestic and international, public and private). These may combine ex-ante investments to achieve REDD+ results as well as RBPs+ from the GCF and other sources to sustain and amplify them.

For this reason, REDD+ countries in the Asia/Pacific region prioritized “Investment Planning and RBPs” as the preferred topic for a regional knowledge exchange, that will be held in Bangkok on 10-12th 2017. This event builds on several regional UN-REDD events, including one on “National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans” in July 2015 and one on “REDD+ Financing” in July 2016.

This two-and-a-half-day event is structured around 3 sessions:

- Day 1: Investment planning for implementation (REDD+ phase 1)
- Day 2: Mobilizing finance for REDD+ implementation (REDD+ phase 2)
- Day 3: REDD+ Results-based payments (REDD+ phase 3)

Objectives

The objective of this event is to provide participating countries with:

- Cutting-edge information from the region and around the world on the requirements and best practices in REDD+ investment planning and associated resource mobilization;
- Explanations and recommendations regarding accessing RBPs through the Green Climate Fund;
- A space to exchange information on opportunities and challenges associated with operationalizing and implementing REDD+ in the region;
- An opportunity to express country needs and identify opportunities for future South-South collaboration in the region, including through the UN-REDD Global Programme in 2018-2020.

Participating Countries

Taking account of countries requesting support, countries with current UN-REDD national programmes, and resources available, the priority countries invited to participate include Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. Other countries will be participating on a self-sponsored basis, including Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand. Country-to-country exchanges will be promoted, including through presentations and discussion groups.

Supported by resource persons from the lead REDD+ agency and other countries, the target audience is staff from national institutions, including those beyond the forestry sector, which have a key role to play in national REDD+ development and implementation, as well as civil society and indigenous peoples organisations and national development banks.

Tentative agenda:

Day 1: Investment planning for REDD+ implementation (REDD+ phase 1)	
8:00-8:30am	Registration
Session 1: (8:30-09:30am)	Opening & Introduction - Presentation 1: Overview of investment planning by UN-REDD - Presentation 2: Country case study by Ecuador - Q&As
Session 2a: (09:30am-10:25pm)	Costing/Budgeting of REDD+ investments Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P3: Costing/budgeting of the National REDD+ Strategy by Chile (remotely) • P4: Costing of the REDD+ implementation plan by Viet Nam • Stocktaking + Q&A
10:25-11:00am	Coffee Break
Session 2b: (11:00am-12:00pm)	Costing/Budgeting of REDD+ investments <i>Refresher</i> Interactive session: Cost-Benefits Analysis for REDD+: Using economic and other analyses to inform REDD+ planning
12:00-1:30pm	Lunch
Session 3 (1:30-2:15pm)	<i>Refresher</i> REDD+ Funding mechanisms Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P5: Progress towards setting-up an Environmental Fund including REDD+ by Indonesia • Stocktaking + Q&As
Session 4 (2:15-3:05pm)	M&E system for REDD+ implementation Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P6: Institutionalizing the M&E of mitigation actions (incl. REDD+) by Indonesia (tbc) • P7: Opportunities and challenges in integrating and managing information for M&E (Ecuador) • Stocktaking + Q&As
3:05-3:30pm	Coffee Break
Session 5 (3:30-5:00pm)	Parallel interactive sessions on: REDD+ Funding mechanisms - Discussion panel M&E system of REDD+ implementation - Discussion groups
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Welcome cocktail reception at Double Tree Hotel

Day 2: Mobilizing finance for REDD+ implementation (REDD+ phase 2)	
(8:30-9:00am)	<p>Recap of Day 1</p> <p><i>Starter</i></p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P8: Overview by UN-REDD
<p>Session 6a (9:00-10:00am)</p>	<p>Financing strategy: targeting domestic and international, public and private sources of capital for REDD+ implementation</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P9: Mapping of land-use finance at the subnational level and development of a resource mobilization framework by Mr. Pham Hong Luong, VNFOREST - Vietnam • P10: Developing a financing strategy by Ms. Patricia Serrano, Ministry of Environment - Ecuador • Stocktaking + Q&As
10:00-10:30am	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<p>Session 6b (10:30-11:30pm)</p>	<p><i>Refresher</i></p> <p>Interactive session – Pub-style Quiz</p>
<p>Session 7 (11:30am-1pm)</p>	<p>Aligning domestic and international sources of public finance</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P11: REDD+ Financing: case of India, by Dr. T.P. Singh, Conservator of Forests - India • P12: How public finance affects land use: case of Cote d'Ivoire, by the European Forest Institute – EU-REDD Facility <p>Interactive session - Aligning public finance - Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocktaking + Q&As
1:00-2:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>
<p>Session 8 (2:15–3:25pm)</p>	<p><i>Refresher</i></p> <p>Mobilizing private capital</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P13: Introduction by UN Environment (incl. P4F, AndGreen, TLFF) <p>Towards zero (net) deforestation commodity production: Opportunity and challenges to balance sustainable commodity production with reduced deforestation and improvement of rural livelihoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P14: Engagement of agricultural commodities private sector by Viet Nam • P15: Mobilizing private finance for zero (net) deforestation agriculture in Cote d'Ivoire by Adeline Dontenville - EU-REDD Facility, European Forest Institute • P16: The Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility by Lisa Genasci, CEO of ADM Capital Foundation • Q&As
3:25-3:55pm	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<p>Session 9 (3:55-5:00pm)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive sessions on aligning private finance

Day 3: REDD+ Results-based payments (REDD+ phase 3)	
(8:30-8:50am)	Recap of Day 2 Introduction - P17: Overview by UN-REDD
Session 10 (8:50-10:10am)	REDD+ Results-based payments (RBPs) Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P18: Overview of sources of RBPs and issues associated with dealing with multiple sources/scales of REDD+ finance by UN-REDD • P19: The (draft) REDD+ RBPs Pilot Programme: conditions, issues under consideration, and prospects in Asia-Pacific by the GCF • Clarification questions • P20: Recommendations for countries willing to participate to the call for proposal of RBP by Ecuador • Clarification questions
10:10-10:30 am	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 10 (10:30-11:00am)	Interactive session: Panel discussion
Concluding session (11:00am-12:00pm)	Stock-taking on lessons learned in the exchange and next steps Online satisfaction survey 'Fishbowl' evaluation exercise Official closure
12:00-1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>

ANNEX: Structure of the exchange

The exchange is organised in three parts:

Day 1: Investment planning for implementation (REDD+ phase 1)

Rationale: The objective of the first day is to present and discuss the various building blocks that various countries have deemed necessary to put in place to be able to fully transition from REDD+ readiness into implementation: this may include the costing of the national REDD+ strategy, the design of a funding mechanism as well as a results framework and related integrated M&E system.

While these may be achieved partly or fully as part of the REDD+ National Strategy or Action Plan development process, it goes beyond the UNFCCC requirements to receive results-based payments, and is in many cases left to a later stage, once the strategy or action plan is approved, following a step-wise approach.

Participants will discuss these potential needs as well as the various approaches, processes and tool that may be used to close such gap.

Session 1: Setting the scene: investment planning stock-taking

Objective: brief overview of why many countries continue their REDD+ planning following the completion of their REDD+ National Strategy or Action Plan, with an example from Ecuador.

Session 2: Costing/Budgeting of REDD+ investments

Objective: Learn about tools, processes and potential approaches to costing and budgeting of countries' Investment Plans, and discuss associated opportunities and challenges.

Session 3: REDD+ Funding mechanisms

Objective: Understand the importance of working on investment planning and funding mechanism(s) in parallel, ensuring adequate synergies between the specialized teams working on both.

Session 4: M&E system for REDD+ implementation

Objective: Highlight the relevance and discuss the challenges of monitoring the implementation of REDD+ in a more systematized way (rather than just project by project), as well as discuss the linkages with the NFMS and SIS.

Day 2: Mobilizing finance for REDD+ implementation (REDD+ phase 2)

Rationale: Building on the REDD+ National Strategy or Action Plan and complementary elements discussed in day 1, day 2 will focus on the processes to mobilize the financial means necessary to implement REDD+. Such finance, whether labelled "REDD+" or just relevant to REDD+, should come from multiple sources, combining domestic and international, public and private sources of finance, according to their respective relevance to the various interventions and costs identified, and building on opportunities.

Session 6: Financing strategy: targeting domestic and international, public and private sources of capital for REDD+ implementation

Objective: Highlight the importance of working on a robust and comprehensive financing strategy as part of the investment planning process, looking at domestic and international, public and private sources of finance. Discuss the way countries could do that, including through relevant initiatives from other countries.

Session 7: Aligning domestic and international sources of public finance

Objective: While international sources of REDD+ can and should support the implementation of REDD+ strategies (ex-ante/RBPs), governments have a role to play in aligning and catalysing non-

strictly “REDD+” sources of domestic and international finance to support REDD+ objectives (or reduce their negative impacts).

Session 8: Mobilizing private sector finance

Objective: Besides the need to scale up public funding to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, private finance will be critical to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement. Private sector can be incentivized to stimulate sustainable landscape management where the production of agricultural commodities are produced in such a way to minimize the impact on tropical forests (so-called is “zero (net) deforestation” agricultural production)

Day 3: REDD+ Results-based payments (REDD+ phase 3)

Rationale: Some countries have now completed the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and are ready to receive results-based payments under the UNFCCC. While discussions are progressing regarding the pilot REDD+ RBPs programme from the Green Climate Fund, this session intends to have a comprehensive look at the opportunities and challenges associated with the various sources of results-based payments for REDD+

Session 10: REDD+ Results-based payments

Objective: As the GCF progresses in shaping the pilot programme for REDD+ RBPs under the UNFCCC, this session intends to update AP countries on the specific conditions and requirements to access it. With multiple sources of REDD+ RBPs piling up in some countries, issues associated with varying respective methodologies and requirements are increasingly apparent, resulting in added costs and processes