

THE ROLE OF REDD+ IN ACHIEVING NDC GOALS AND DELIVERING SDG'S LESSONS FROM MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THREE-COUNTRY FACT SHEET
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KEY MESSAGES

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC's) reflect the ambition of each country in reducing GHG emissions, and frequently how they intend to adapt to the impacts of climate change. In developing countries, forests will play a dominant role in reducing emissions but also in climate change adaptation.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect a collective international ambition to address the manifold, inter-connected challenges facing the modern world. Forests are important in achieving many of the SDG's, especially in developing countries.
- Because policy formulation in many countries often lacks adequate inter-sectoral analysis, there is a risk that a narrow focus on climate change may undermine the multiple benefits of forests. Highlighting the links between NDC's and SDG's can help to ensure a holistic approach to addressing climate change.
- This is most easily seen in the case of forests, both because of their significance in addressing climate change and the broad range of services provided by forests.
- It is important to coordinate national REDD+ strategies with the national response to the SDGs. This will help avoid duplication of efforts, dilution of resources and policy conflicts. The process of REDD+ strategy formulation therefore needs to encompass all of the sectors that have a role in achieving SDG's.

REDD+ AS A MECHANISM TO DELIVER NDC GOALS

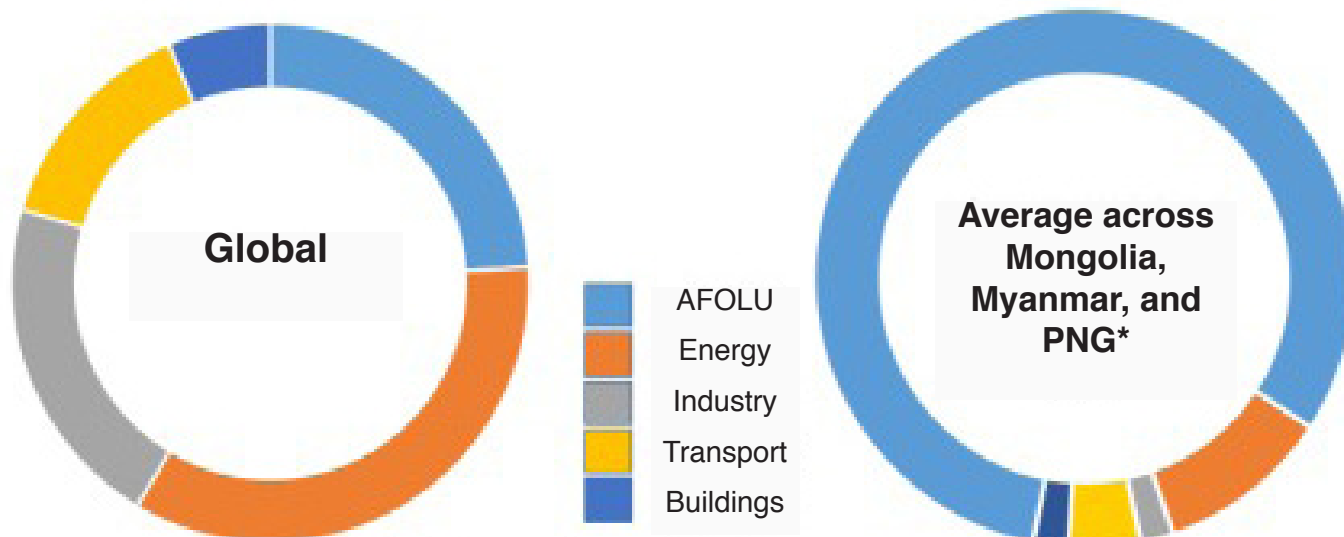
NDCs reflect each country's ambition for reducing emissions, taking into account its domestic circumstances and capabilities and, in many case, also outline how the country plans to adapt to the impacts of climate change. For developing countries, they also outline the support they will need to adopt low-carbon pathways and to build climate resilience.

For most developing countries, emissions due to land-use change and, in particular, deforestation and forest degradation, represent the bulk of their GHG emissions. The diagram below contrasts GHG emissions by sector globally with those of Mongolia,

Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea (PNG), combined. Consequently, implementing REDD+ represents the most significant contribution that many developing countries can make to reducing GHG emissions globally.

But forests are also important in helping countries to adapt to climate change. Conserving forests or reforesting bare land offers protection against storm surges in coastal areas, against landslides in mountainous areas, and improves water regulation, among other benefits. REDD+ policies and measures designed to reduce emissions will also generate these climate adaptation benefits.

GHG Emission Sources



*Data from Mongolia SND; Myanmar INC, PNG SNC

REDD+ AS A MECHANISM TO ACHIEVE SDGs

The 17 SDGs, which came into effect in January 2016, build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. They provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at large.

Forests are directly or indirectly linked to many of the SDG's. The diagram below highlights some of the main ways that forests can contribute to the SDG's. Obviously, the most direct linkage is in relation to SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). But, depending on national circumstances, forests also play important roles in SDGs related to economic growth, ending poverty and hunger, reducing inequalities, including gender, promoting justice and strong institutions, and international cooperation.

INTERACTIONS AMONG NDC GOALS AND SDGs IN RELATION TO REDD+

Climate change being one of the greatest challenges facing humankind, it is not surprising that many policy initiatives focus on the topic. NDC's represent one such initiative. However, because policy formulation in many countries often lacks adequate inter-sectoral analysis, there is a risk that a narrow focus on climate change may undermine the multiple benefits of forests. In contrast, the SDG's highlight

the inter-connectedness of the root causes of many of the problems facing countries around the world. Therefore, highlighting the links between NDC's and SDG's can help to ensure a holistic approach to addressing climate change. This is most easily seen in the case of forests, both because of their significance in addressing climate change and the broad range of services provided by forests.

EASY TO SAY – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICE?

Mongolia, Myanmar and PNG differ in many ways (see Table, below), yet each has taken steps to address the challenge of designing REDD+ strategies that will deliver on the country's NDC while embracing the holistic nature of the SDG's.

Lessons from each country are outlined in the accompanying country Fact Sheets, and will be described in a side event in the UNDP Pavilion on 16 November 2017, at UNDP Pavilion, Bonn Zone.

Country	Climate	Forests	Land ownership	GDP growth (2016) ¹
Mongolia	Extreme continental	Boreal	State ownership	+0.04 (rank 167)
Myanmar	Largely monsoonal	Seasonal/humid tropical	State ownership	+8.07 (rank 2)
PNG	Equatorial	Humid tropical	Communal (clan) ownership	+2.54 (rank 102)



¹ <http://statisticstimes.com/economy/countries-by-projected-gdp-growth.php>



PNG Forest Landscape.
Photo Credit: Stephen Alvarez

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING “FOREST SYNERGIES” BETWEEN A COUNTRY’S NDC AND THE SDGs

It is important to coordinate national REDD+ strategies with the national response to the SDGs. This will help avoid duplication of efforts, dilution of resources and policy conflicts. It will also help develop locally suitable policy instruments that can deliver multiple benefits in REDD+ actions and cost-effective fulfilment of the SDGs. The process of REDD+ strategy formulation therefore needs to encompass all sectors that have a role in achieving SDG’s.

Non-carbon benefits are important. Non-carbon benefits must be actively pursued if they are to

materialize. Socioeconomic benefits, too, depend largely on the inclusion of local actors in REDD+ actions.

Acknowledge the potential trade-offs and conflicts of interest among the SDGs and between SDG’s and the NDC. There may be trade-offs between SDGs. For example, the promotion of short-term economic growth (SDG 8) could easily come at the expense of climate change mitigation (SDG 13). Therefore, there needs to be a process to assess such trade-offs in an objective manner.



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