



# Benefits & Risks of REDD+ and approaches for assessing them

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# 1. What are REDD+ benefits and risks?

- These refer to the potential social, environmental and other benefits and risks ***arising from REDD+ implementation***
  - e.g. from a REDD+ policy/measure (PAM) like reforestation
- Different to the ***purpose*** of a REDD+ PAM
  - e.g. to increase forest cover
- Also different to ***operational or implementation risks***
  - e.g. that the PAM may fail due to lack of human resources

## Multiple benefits:

While the main purpose of REDD+ is to contribute to climate change mitigation, it can also deliver other social and environmental benefits.

Altogether, these benefits, carbon and non-carbon – **for mitigation, society and the environment** – are together known as ‘multiple benefits’.

# Examples of benefits

Well-planned and implemented REDD+ actions could lead to benefits such as:

- Retained or enhanced ecosystem services provision (e.g. control of soil erosion, water quality, pollination, recreation & tourism, NTFPs...)
- Improved biodiversity conservation
- Synergies with ecosystem-based adaptation
- Improved livelihoods for communities
- Clarified tenure and improved governance of natural resources



# Potential risks of REDD+

REDD+ also carries potential risks of negative impacts (depending on how and where it is implemented):

- **Environmental risks** could include:
  - Conversion of degraded natural forest or other ecosystems to plantations
  - Displacement of pressures on forests to other areas
  - Increased use of pesticides/fertilisers
- **Social risks** could include:
  - Reduced access to resources for forest users
  - Conflicts over land
  - Marginalisation of vulnerable groups of people

## Example of potential benefits and risks arising from a PAM

### PAM:

Encouraging intensive farming practices and soil fertility management to enable farmers to produce more on existing farmland

### Potential benefits

- Higher yields and higher incomes for farmers
- Diversification of crops
- Climate resilience of agriculture systems improved
- Benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem services

### Benefit enhancing measures

- Increase the market access for agricultural commodities
- Assessment of local farming practice to tailor intensification solutions
- Establish credit systems and capacity building trainings

### Potential risks

- Incentivize expansion of agricultural land
- Lower prices for commodities
- Depletion of soils
- Cost for the farmers is too high
- Promotion of monoculture
- Intensive cattle raising – methane emissions

### Risk mitigating measures

- Maintain balance between soil fertility and intensification
- Develop local land management and zoning plans
- Increase enforcement of protection of non-agricultural areas

## 2. Why assess potential benefits & risks of REDD+?

- To identify the most likely/important potential benefits and risks of REDD+ in the country context
- To consider benefits and risks in the design of REDD+ ‘policies and measures’, and identify ways to reduce risks / enhance benefits
- To inform development of the country approach to safeguards; e.g. clarifying safeguards in country context

# 3. Approaches for benefits & risks assessment

- Identifying and planning for enhancing benefits and reducing risks is an iterative process.
- An initial list of desired benefits and potential risks identified at an early stage can help to set the goals of the REDD+ process in the country.

**For eg, Mongolia's National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap prioritises:**

- **Biodiversity conservation (linked to CBD commitment)**
  - **Improved watershed functions**
  - **Improved rural livelihoods**
  - **Improved forest governance**
- Consultation plays an important part in identifying REDD+ benefits and risks.



# Approaches, cont.

- Participatory process to identify and assess potential benefits and risks with key stakeholders and experts from different sectors

**For e.g. – this workshop**



## Regulation of NTFPs within community and protected forests

Description of PAM (content and how it will be implemented)	<i>Regulation on collection of NTFPs in community and protected forests that has effect on carbon stock and social benefits. The forest tariff is where NTFPs in forests are listed, with tariff on specific amount collected. Most eligible will be Gnetum Africanum (Salad), Capolobia (Fulani cattle rod), Randia species (chewing sticks).</i>
Expected REDD+ impact	<i>If well implemented will guard against forest degradation, promote sustainable forest management.</i>
Status of PAM (e.g. existing, planned, future)	<i>Inactive due to the ban on logging</i>
Driver/barriers the PaM intends to address	<i>Drivers: 1. unsustainable exploitation of forest resources. Barriers: 1. strict legislation in protected areas that allows no form of exploitation e.g. the wildlife sanctuary permits no form of forest resource exploitation. 2.conflicting regulations from government and communities that owns forest.</i>

Potential benefits	How to promote benefits?	Related Safeguards	Comments
More equitable access to NTFPs, and better regulation of prices/return to local people from NTFPs sale	1) Enforcement of regulation 2) Management plans that allow equitable access	C, E	National forest inventory included some NTFP species data collection (?)
Improved value chain for NTFPs	1) Build capacity of the local exploiters. 2) Access to/promotion of processing and value-added techniques.	E	
Potential risks	How to mitigate risks?	Related safeguards?	Comments
Potential to generate conflicts between enforcement institutions	1) Clarify regulation and roles of different actors	C, D, E	
Poor monitoring/enforcement, and difficulties in regulating amount harvested	1) Provide resources/framework for monitoring of NTFPs/sustainable use, including stocktaking/inventory. 2) Enforcement to deforestation	B	

**Example - Using a MATRIX to assess benefits & risks of a PAM (Africa)**