SUMMARY REPORT AND THE POST ASSESSMENT RESULTS

REDD+ Academy for MFF IUCN Staff in Asia Regional
Norad/ Nicfi REDD+ and Mangroves Project Inception Phase
In Partnership with the UN-REDD Programme
Date: 22-26 January 2018
Venue: Compass SkyView Hotel, Sukhumvit 24, Bangkok

As part of the inception phase for the new component of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) Programme to include mangroves and associated coastal ecosystems in the REDD+ agenda in the Asia region, MFF with technical support from the UN-REDD Programme organised a 5-day training course from 22-26 January 2018.

The main purpose of the training was to build a knowledge base for REDD+ readiness and implementation on the ground, with a specific focus on developing capacity to integrate mangrove/coastal forest ecosystems in the REDD+ process.

The training had brought together 22 participants from nine countries of the MFF national/regional staff engaged in coordinating and supporting the work of MFF programme and other IUCN staff members from the Asia region, and 11 experts and facilitator. The participants were from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam; Bangkok-based MFF staff.

The training tailored in 12 modules by engaging with presentations, quizzes, group exercises and country examples related to mangroves, etc.

The overall expectation was to build capacity and knowledge of MFF secretariat and other IUCN staff from the region in general and to provide the strategic guidance and direction for the project inception and implementation phase of the Norad project under MFF.

From the training, it is expected that MMF will explore how and where the content of some of the modules might be adapted to include more of a focus on mangrove forest ecosystems where relevant and to provide resources for external experts if necessary to work with the UN-REDD RTAs to achieve this.
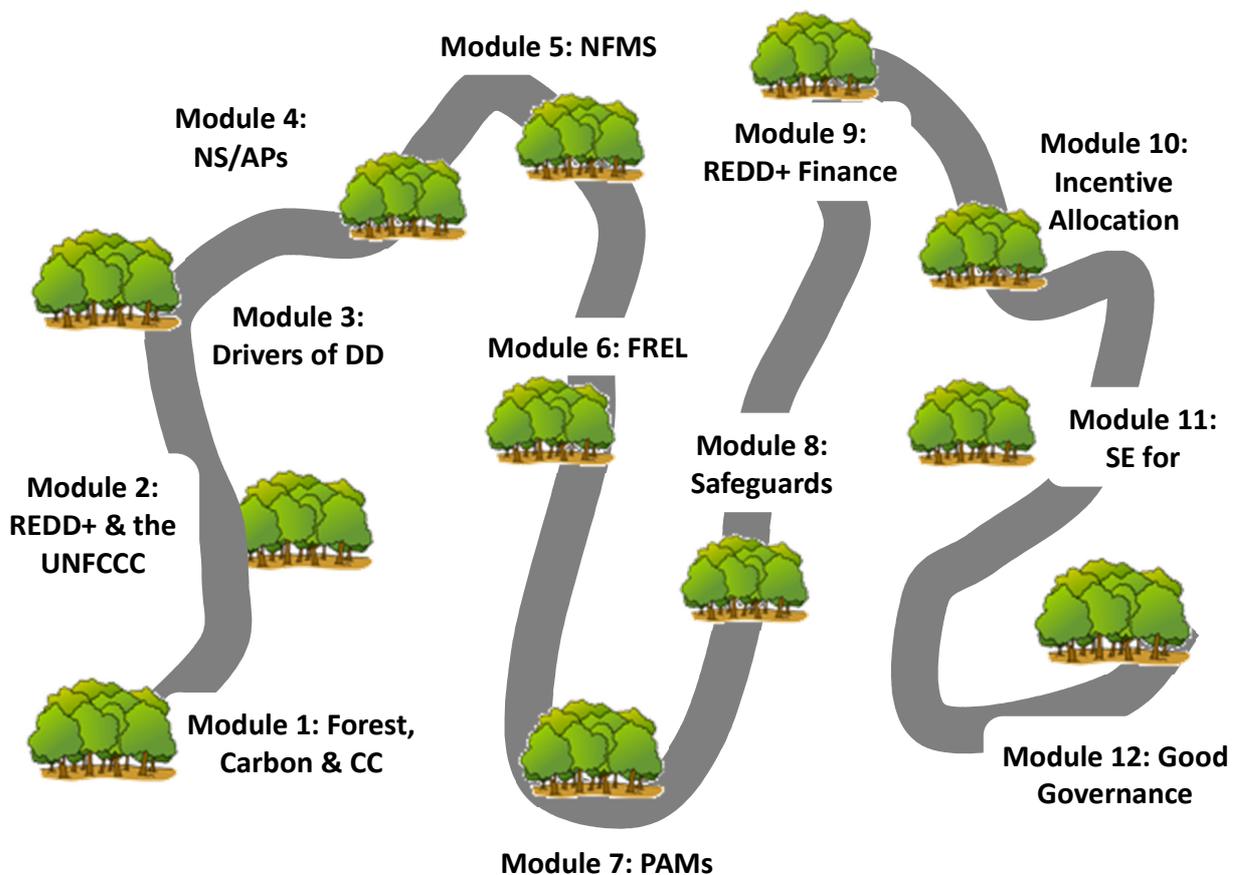
The Online REDD+ Academy can be accessed at click here.

Take away messages from the 12 Modules:

Forests, Carbon Sequestration, and Climate Change:
-   The Earth's climate is changing as a result of increasing concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere
-   Vegetation plays an important role in controlling GHG concentrations in the atmosphere

- Forests contain substantial stores of carbon: their degradation and clearance releases carbon stored within them; their restoration can act as a sink for atmospheric carbon

REDD+ and UNFCCC:
- REDD+ has been designed to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from the land use change and forestry sector
- REDD+ under the UNFCCC comprises five activities (scope)
- There are four design elements for REDD+
- REDD+ should be implemented at the national scale, though countries can start at the subnational scale
- A step-wise approach is encouraged to REDD+ implementation

Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation:
- Understanding drivers and barriers is necessary to design effective REDD+ actions
- Indirect drivers very often influence the direct drivers
- Important to assess who is involved in drivers / barriers (the 'agents')
- Future drivers and barriers may be different from past and present ones
- Understanding drivers / barriers from outside the forest sector is important

NS/AP:
- NS/APs describe how to implement REDD+
- Are one of the four REDD+ design elements
- NS/AP design process is an opportunity to:
    ➢ Build trust and support among stakeholders
    ➢ Build confidence in a country's capacity to implement REDD+
    ➢ Increase chances of attracting financial support for NS/AP implementation
- The REDD+ design elements are closely linked and decisions on each one will affect others
    ➢ Scope, scale, REDD+ activities
- NS/AP development is a step-wise process

NFMS:
- National Forest Monitoring Systems have two functions
    ➢ MRV
    ➢ Monitoring for REDD+
- MRV is a process to estimate GHG emissions and removals
- Activity Data (AD) and Emission Factors (EFs) are key data for MRV
- Forest monitoring for REDD+ can help assess whether interventions are working

FRL:
- A FRL is a benchmark for assessing emissions/removals
- Need to use same method to develop FRL as to measure results
- Scope and scale are key considerations
- Many different approaches emerging that countries are testing/adopting
- Historical data and national circumstances should be considered

Safeguards:
- There are 3 key REDD+ safeguard requirements under the UNFCCC:
    i. Address and respect
    ii. Safeguard information system
    iii. Summaries of information
- Safeguards need to 'talk to' the policies and measures
    ➢ Achieved through an environmental and social benefit/risk assessment

REDD+ Finance:
- REDD+ finance needs to take into consideration different types of costs associated with REDD+
- REDD+ financing comes from a variety of sources
- Planning for REDD+ financing must be integrated with the implementation of other aspects of REDD+ activities
- "Blue carbon" finance could be within the context of a REDD+ programme, or supplemental
- For mangroves, consider also non-carbon finance

Approaches for Allocation of Incentives:
- Systems for allocation of incentives are also sometimes known as benefit sharing systems
- 'Incentives' suggests systems which both encourage future actions and reward past actions
- Incentives/benefits may not be only monetary
- Effective systems deliver the optimal amount in the optimal form at the optimal time
- Efficient systems deliver the optimal level of reward in the easiest way
- Equitable systems reward all relevant actors fairly, based on rights, costs or results
- Seven key issues/questions need to be considered when designing an incentive allocation system

Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+:
- What? Proactive and reactive measures to create and support enabling conditions for full and effective participation
- Why? Ensure relevance, ownership, accountability and strengthen relationships for REDD+ processes
- Link to FPIC? Key elements of "enabling conditions" are the basic building blocks/foundation to free, prior and informed
- If and when consent is required, then steps need to be taken for a *collective decision* to be made (Yes or No)

Good Governance for REDD+:
- Governance is the interaction between laws and norms; institutions and processes through which a society makes and implements decisions

- There are many governance factors underlying the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (and acting as barriers to "+" activities)
- Principles of good governance should also be applied throughout the REDD+ readiness and implementation processes

## Suggested Key Entry Points in integrating Mangroves with REDD+:

- Mangroves were already included in REDD+ under the UNFCCC, therefore the key entry point is to advocate the government at national level to acknowledge the importance of mangroves in REDD+.
- A separate new design of mangrove strategy and/or policies and measures may not feasible or applicable.
- Various possible **complementary entry points** for more Mangroves-responsive NS/APs:
  - **Drivers-based:**
    - Support consideration of drivers particularly relevant to mangroves (e.g. shrimp farming or charcoal production)
    - Support national government in defining the comprehensive packages of PAMs relevant to mangroves
  - **Location-based:**
    - Support prioritization of jurisdictions with mangroves for REDD+ implementation
    - Build the case through REDD+ potential, multiple benefits/safeguards (incl. adaptation), opportunities of synergies with other programmes, etc.
  - **At different possible stages** (earlier better): Drivers analysis, Strategy/Action Plan (&/or Investment Plan) formulation at national &/or subnational levels
    - Driver analysis to formulate PAMs that are relevant for mangroves should be completed.
- Research, assessment, study on impacts and benefits of mangroves of selected countries should be carried out so that results could be presented and/or submitted to relevant line ministries partners and initiatives so to build in existing/new strategy, policies and regulations, etc.
- Technical research: development of specific emission factors and allometric equations for mangroves, and the sharing of such research and EFs between countries. This will allow for much more accurate estimations of the potential and actual contribution of mangrove-based PAMs to REDD+ strategy objectives.
- National staff should work closely with the national REDD+ programme; it's an opportunity to advocate and mainstream the mangroves with REDD+.
- The programme should promote and apply the Blue Carbon's concept as a tool for sustainable ecosystem management (broader development agenda and revenue streams), e.g. Shrimp farm certification to reduce pressure on Sundarbans, awareness raising of importance of mangroves, and training to targeted households on mangrove restoration and protection, etc.

Results of the Post Assessment:
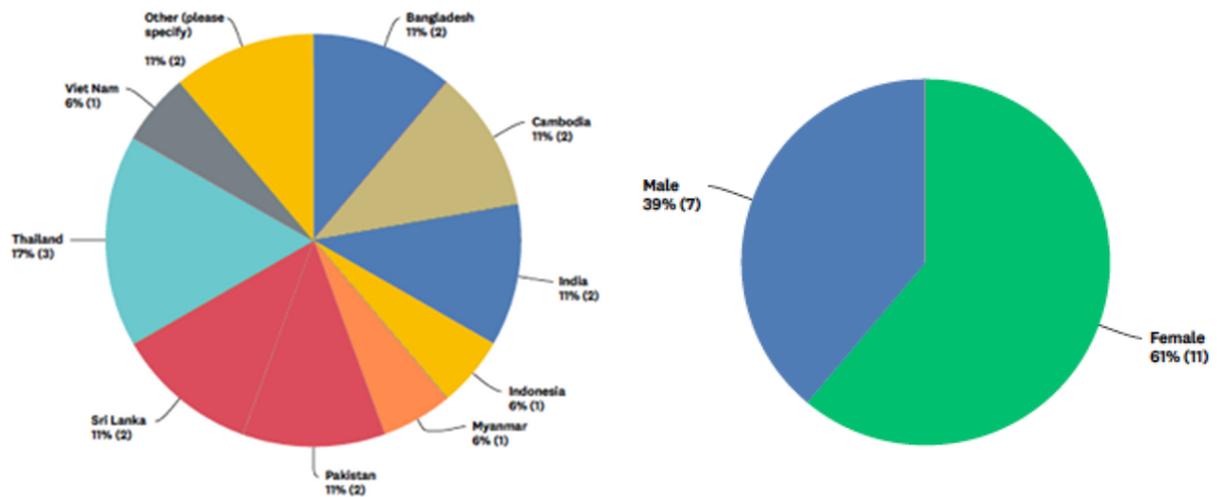
18 participants are from Asia/Pacific countries. Countries of the participants belong to are both from national countries and regional programme.
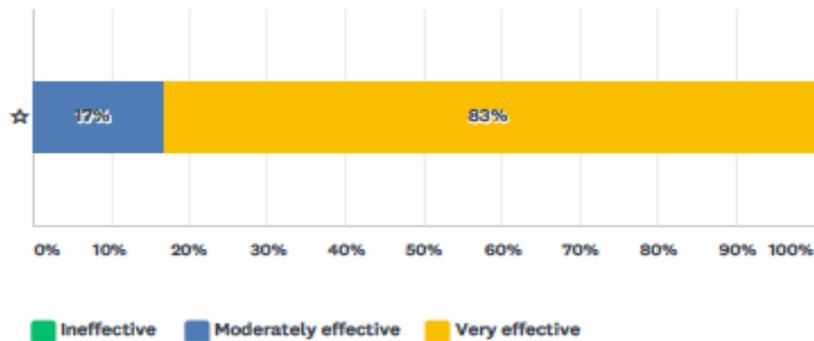
### To what extent are you engaged in the REDD+ process?
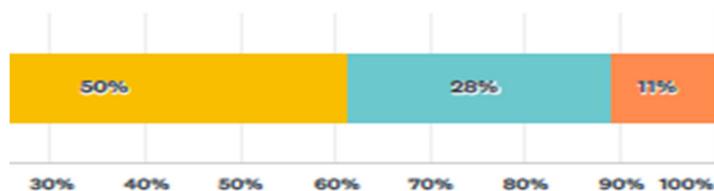
One respondent is engaging in REDD+ and mangroves, and while the other two answered that they are involved in developing REDD+ relevant project in the region.

How effective was the Academy in increasing your knowledge for the advancement of REDD+ in your country?

Ineffective Moderately effective Very effective

In your opinion, how did your knowledge of the following REDD+ areas improve as a result of the Academy?

No improvement Moderate improvement High improvement N/A
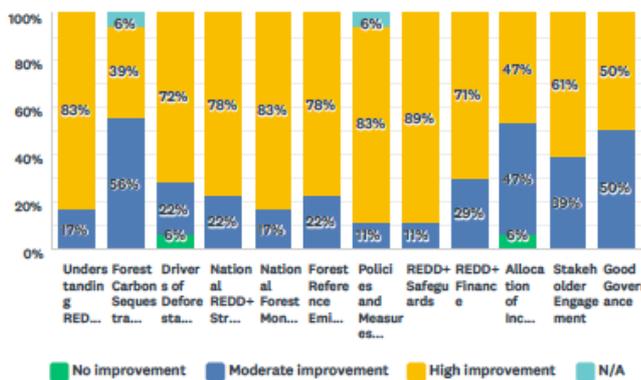
	NO IMPROVEMENT	MODERATE IMPROVEMENT	HIGH IMPROVEMENT	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC	0% 0	17% 3	83% 15	0% 0	18	2.83
Forest Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change	0% 0	56% 10	39% 7	6% 1	18	2.41
Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation	6% 1	22% 4	72% 13	0% 0	18	2.67
National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans	0% 0	22% 4	78% 14	0% 0	18	2.78
National Forest Monitoring Systems	0% 0	17% 3	83% 15	0% 0	18	2.83
Forest Reference Emission Levels	0% 0	22% 4	78% 14	0% 0	18	2.78
Policies and Measures (PAMs) for REDD+ Implementation	0% 0	11% 2	83% 15	6% 1	18	2.88
REDD+ Safeguards	0% 0	11% 2	89% 16	0% 0	18	2.89
REDD+ Finance	0% 0	29% 5	71% 12	0% 0	17	2.71
Allocation of Incentives / Benefit sharing	6% 1	47% 8	47% 8	0% 0	17	2.41
Stakeholder Engagement	0% 0	39% 7	61% 11	0% 0	18	2.61
Good Governance	0% 0	50% 9	50% 9	0% 0	18	2.50

Comments on contents/lecturing style:
- Contents of the lecture materials is good and brief. The group exercises help a lot to understand the topics.
- Very good and participatory. Exercise, review and quiz were very helpful.
- Interesting presentations with good country examples and communicated in clear simple manner to us.
- It was extremely professional and beneficial in all aspects.
- Some lectures were very fast in delivering speech, which is sometime difficult to understand the fact of the specific topics for non-native English speakers. So, they need to improve their skill to handle this difficulty.
- It is difficult to understand the calculation of the FR(E)L for me but the rest are good. It takes time to study and to understand more about these aspects. In principle all are fine.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The content of the REDD+ Academy is relevant to facilitate my role in the REDD+ readiness and/or implementation process in my country.	0% 0	0% 0	100% 18	18	3.00
I will be able to use the knowledge and skills acquired during the REDD+ Academy training for capacity building processes in my country	0% 0	6% 1	94% 17	18	2.94
The consolidated learning journal of the REDD+ Academy presents complete information on the various REDD+ themes	0% 0	22% 4	78% 14	18	2.78
The knowledge I gained will be useful to share with colleagues in my organization.	0% 0	0% 0	100% 18	18	3.00
I would participate again in similar knowledge exchange events	0% 0	0% 0	100% 18	18	3.00
I would recommend colleagues or partners in the country to attend a REDD+ Academy	0% 0	0% 0	100% 17	17	3.00

Disagree   Neutral   Agree
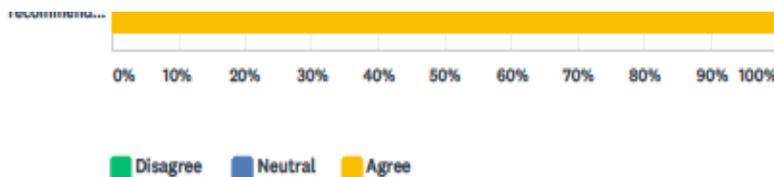
Comments:
- This training event greatly helps to clarify my thought about the activities of REDD+. However, I still feel that the contents of lectures were very basic. There are much more to understand to put significant impact of REDD+ work back in my country. Further learning about REDD+ is very essential.
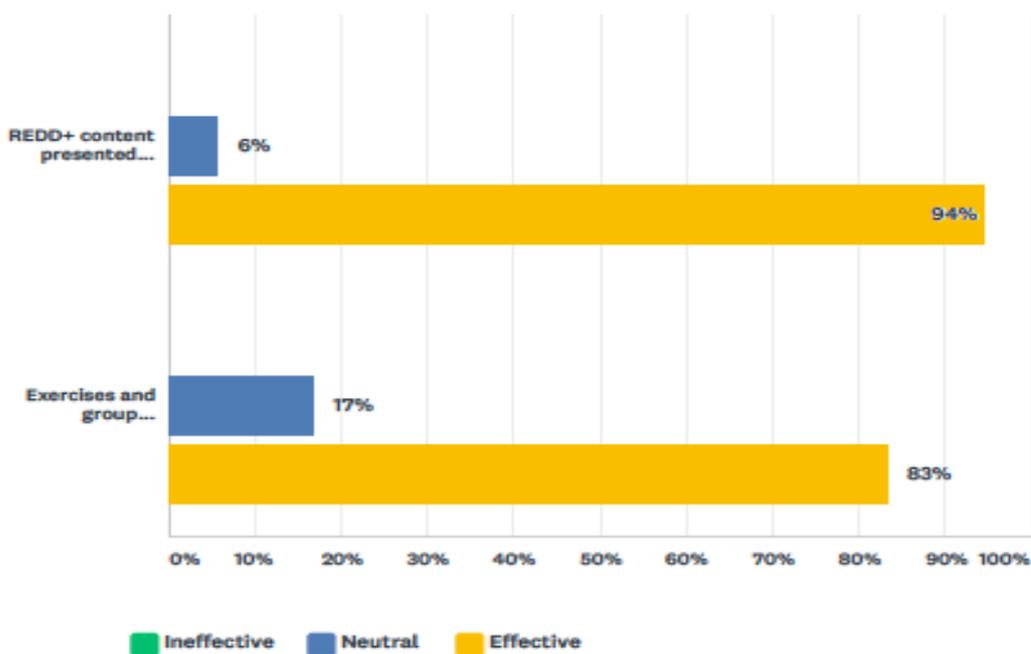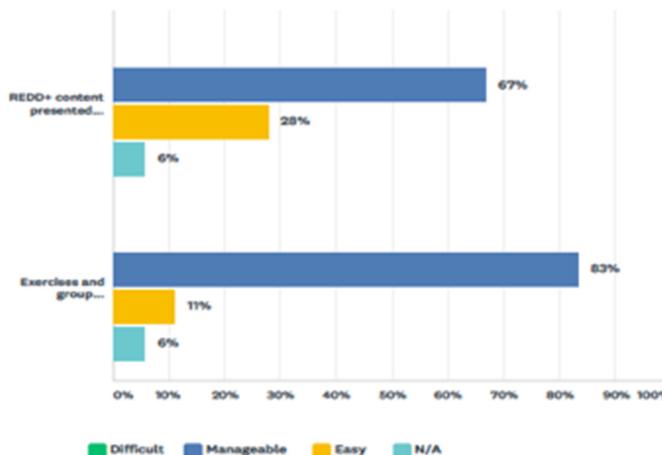- The organiser should invite government staff to attend as well because they are the main focus point person in decision making at national level.
- I would be interested to attend in more intense and technical training on REDD+.

The difficulty of the following Academy elements:

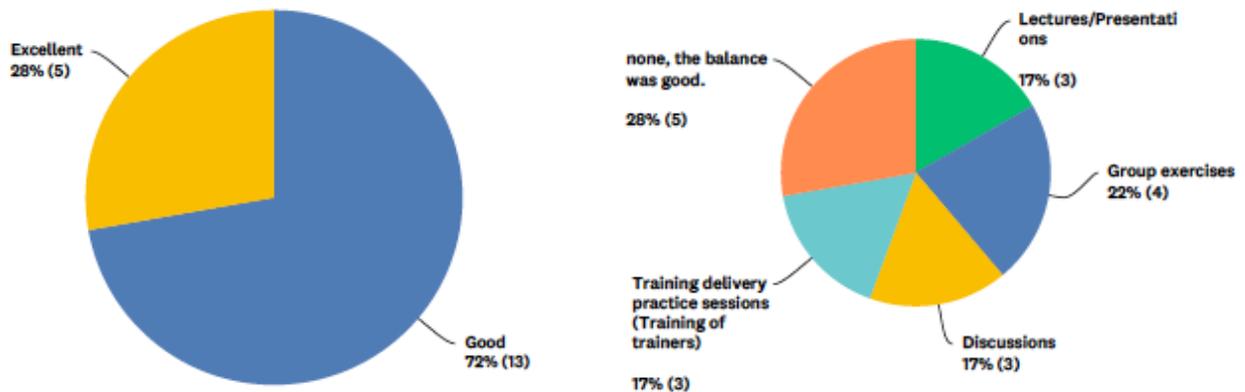**Overall level of satisfaction with the Academy:**

Moderate satisfied 6% (1)

Very satisfied 94% (17)
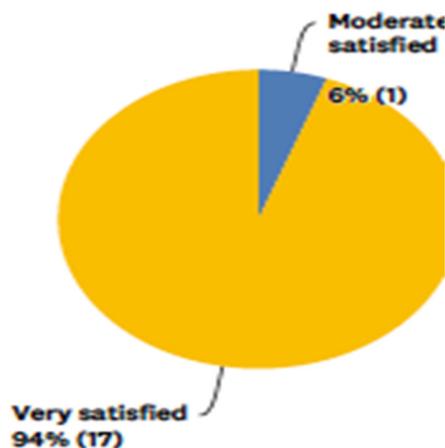
Please rate the effectiveness of the methodologies used during the Academy in increasing your REDD+ knowledge and capacities:

REDD+ content presented... : 67% / 28% / 6%

Exercises and group... : 83% / 11% / 6%

Legend: Difficult | Manageable | Easy | N/A

REDD+ content presented... : 6% / 94%

Exercises and group... : 17% / 83%

Legend: Ineffective | Neutral | Effective

The balance of the timing between presentations, discussions and group exercises:

If you could restructure the Academy, which of the following elements would you give more priority?

Excellent 28% (5)

Good 72% (13)

Lectures/Presentations 17% (3)

none, the balance was good. 28% (5)

Group exercises 22% (4)

Training delivery practice sessions (Training of trainers) 17% (3)

Discussions 17% (3)

Comments: Country specific analyses and case studies should be more.

How did you find the duration of the REDD+ Academy in relation to the amount of information presented in its content?


Too short 11%

Appropriate 89%

Too long
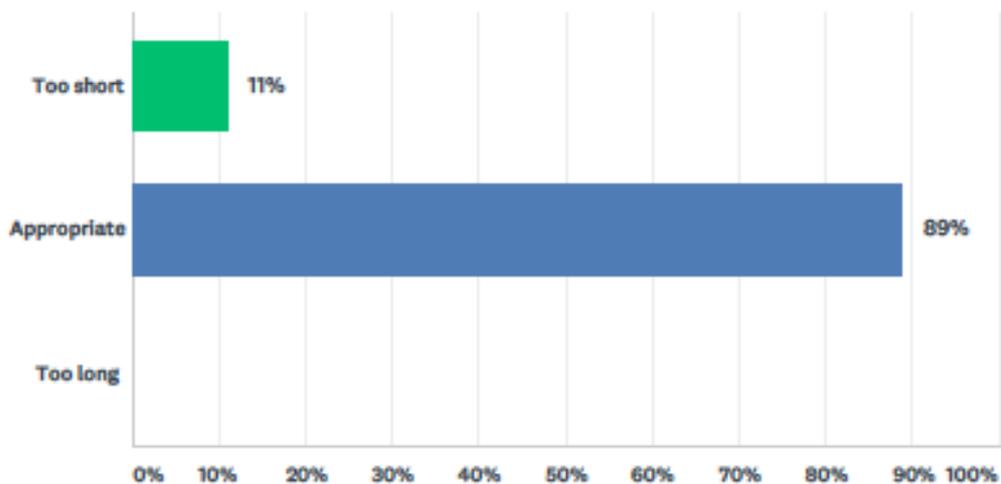
What actions will you undertake when you return to your office to make use of the knowledge secured through this training?
- Integrating mangrove into REDD+ activities within MFF programme scope to contribute to REDD+ agenda in Vietnam
- Disseminate the knowledge to colleagues and peers in my country and use the contents for capacity building of other stakeholders in the REDD+ concepts
- Share knowledge to my colleagues and integrate mangrove in REDD+
- Prepare concept note on mangroves and REDD+ which can be presented to government for funding

- Most of the lessons learnt can be applied in various ongoing projects and there are windows to pilot some mechanisms like C stock calculations
- Will start updating on NFMS on mangroves based data
- Use in REDD+ related work in my country
- Use the knowledge to streamline REDD+ to my organisational work
- Pass the knowledge to my colleagues
- Organise a session for my colleagues on REDD+
- Help MFF in developing NORAD/NICFI programme
- Participate regular basis in national REDD+ events/process
- Share the lessons learnt during the training with my colleagues in a collective manner so that whatever I learnt during the training is shared properly.
- Further review learning journals provided and look into the details of the REDD+ proves to date in a country that is well advanced in the process, and also one just started the readiness process
- More reading on few interesting topics and share with my colleagues
- Support the development of the Norad proposal on REDD+ and mangroves
- Consult UNFCCC REDD+ space, read e-journals, FCPF website and prepare a summary of information
- Inform colleagues about the REDD+ knowledge hub
- Share with colleagues, discuss REDD+ context with relevant practitioners, institution and NGOs
- Prepare REDD+ mangrove initiation activities

With whom will you share the information received during the event?
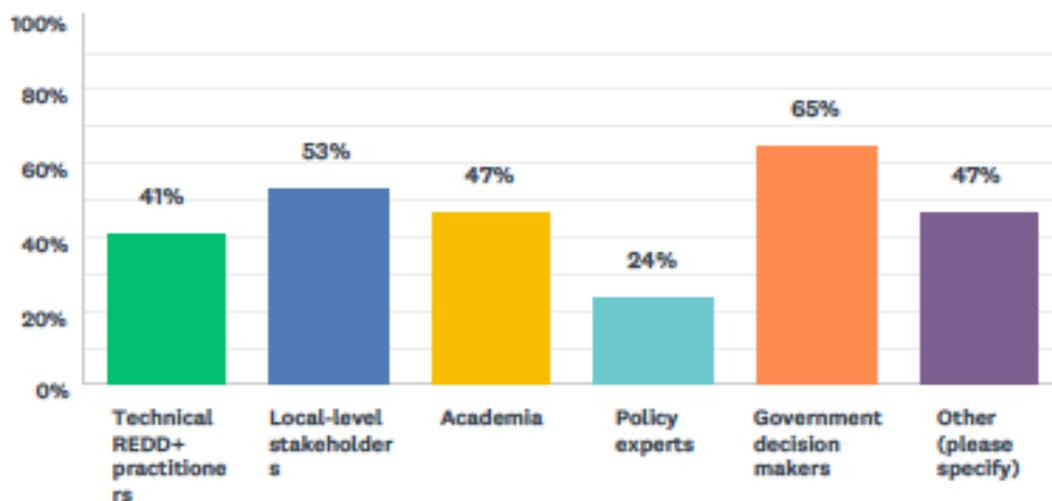
Other comments:
- Colleagues at office working on forestry issues and potentially donors, and others as opportunities arise
- Project partners and stakeholders, IUCN colleagues
- Other NGOs trying to promote REDD+

What are required documents and/or information you would need for your programme?
- Updated presentation of lectures and links of country's submissions
- National Forest Monitoring System
- More about Carbon Stock Calculations Study Pack including web links and videos showed during the academy training
- Examples of different REDD+ activities and element of other countries
- Carbon stock assessment for mangroves and FREL
- Advanced training on REDD+, which can help me in working more efficiently
- The study pack of the REDD+ academy is sufficient, and published data is available on websites
- Updates on REDD+ readiness status in countries and access to key documents, e.g. Drivers analysis, NRS, and PAMs, etc.
- Drivers Analyses, NS/AP in our member countries, and latest information on status of REDD+ implementation in our member countries
- REDD+ related UNFCCC Text, methodology for community based monitoring and updated country examples for learning
- REDD+ Introduction and may be short videos and case studies
- Updated information of UN-REDD Programme of respective countries like draft PAMs and background information of UN-REDD

Which two of the follow-up activities do you think would be most useful?
- Sharing information, exchange events
- The process and step on how country gets result-based payments (financing), grievance redress mechanisms
- Self-assessments engage in REDD+ activities
- UN-REDD and IUCN can jointly introduce MFF NC's through official channel in their own respective country's to include them as technical persons at regular basis in national committees, workshops and other REDD+ agenda and also suggest national UN-EDD staff to cooperate with MFF
- Training and practise
- Comprehensive driver and barrier analysis for mangroves
- Feedback from the trainees on how they utilized the knowledge shared with them during the training. Invitation to the willing participants for higher training in REDD+
- Engaged in REDD+ related work self-assessment
- Developing country level entry points for work on REDD+ and mangroves.
- Identifying cross country interests between countries, regional work, etc. related to REDD+ and mangroves as part of our current and new programme work
- Provision of links to key videos, documents, and organisations mentioned during the training sessions
- Meet with some of the trainers for review of most up-to-date information
- Brief proceedings or minutes of the meeting
- Discuss REDD+ in relation to mangroves with practitioner
- To ensure everyone fully understand and will not forget

Please rate the following logistics and venue related elements
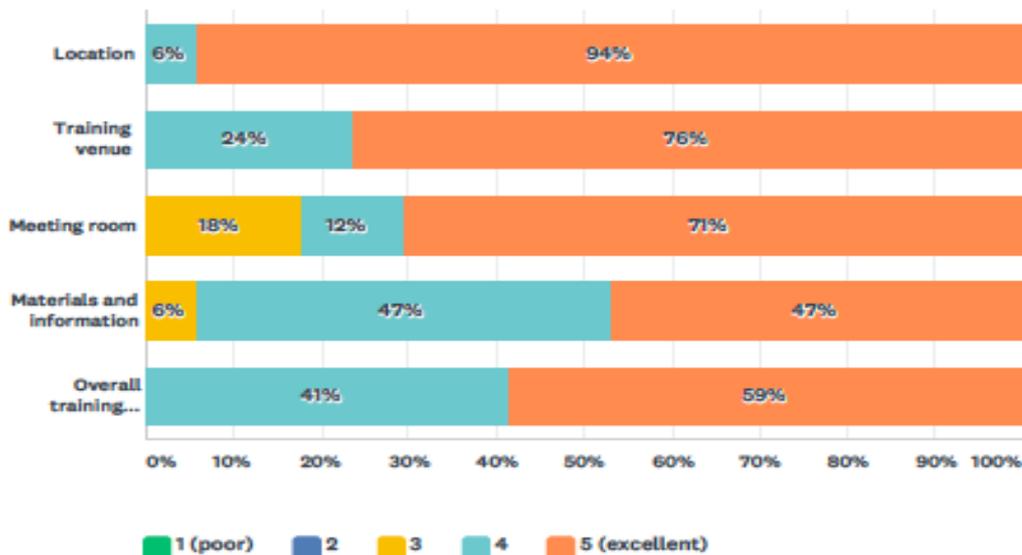
Final

comments, feedback or recommendations:
- Screen projector is too high for participants
- Food choices could have been better
- Next time, a field trip should be arranged to link the theory to the field practical work
- This is highly useful for overall programming of the country to be innovative in planning, designing and implementing
- Giving training on REDD+ is the entry point of capacity building. But UN-REDD should have mechanism to develop resource pool at the regional and national level to include these improved capacity in bringing forwards the REDD+ agenda and in the future involving the trainees in REDD+ programmes
- Arrangement of higher/advanced and more brief training on REDD+ implementation and designing
- Training was very good
- In an ideal world, more time to discuss and analyse country "entry points" for work on REDD+ and mangroves with UN-REDD experts
- Lots of learning and clarity on the concept of REDD+
- Big thank you to all the facilitators and speakers

Lessons that participants have learnt through this training:
- REDD+ phases and components, UNFCCC's requirements for resultant-based payment and different REDD+ Finance mechanisms
- How to set FREL and how to relate safeguards for REDD+ activities
- The 4 elements of REDD+, its significance, scope/five activities, FREL/FRL, MRV monitoring, Safeguards/SIS, REDD+ Governance, and use while prepare for implementing and designing the REDD+ strategy
- How to link REDD+ to mangroves through PAMs

- How to use and plan NFMS for implementing REDD+ stakeholder engagement mechanism
- More clarity on REDD+ Programme and its implementation process and requirements, clarifying confusions on REDD+, UN-REDD Programme and VCM, entry points for bringing mangroves onto national REDD+ agenda
- Difference between REDD and REDD+ and also the scope and activities
- Projects developed under VCS are not under the ambit of UNFCCC, basics of FREL and its estimation, analysis of drivers and barriers for REDD+ implementation
- Step-wise approach of REDD+ readiness, importance of the holistic understanding of all the components of REDD+, before getting engaged in the NS/AP to have more practical PAMs, and starting with a scale which is feasible with the existing information and develop in an iterative manner
- Importance of linking C stock calculations and FRLs in most of the developments
- Diversification among different country strategies, and polices on REDD+ activities
- Voluntary Carbon Markets are not part of REDD+ under the UNFCCC
- REDD+ can be done at national and sub-national
- Communities should not be promised monetary gains from REDD+ so proper awareness at all levels is required
- Entry points for MFF in the national REDD+ agenda
- Most important things in REDD+ is ensure stakeholders participation
- REDD+ policy and processes
- Critical importance of PAMs
- How REDD+ supports IUCN's work and how IUCN can support REDD+ objectives/processes
- REDD+ is not a market-based mechanism, REDD+ is far more complicated than some suggest, and inclusion of mangroves specifically in REDD+ will be challenging
- REDD+ elements and how they are interconnected – importance of drivers analysis and how to analyse drivers and barriers, thorough PAMs review/development and link between PAMs and safeguards
- Understand better the overall UNFCCC system and its requirements
- Stakeholder engagement, communication, and PAMs, REDD+ concept, developing national strategy and action plan, financing, and safeguards awareness
- Better understanding of REDD+ in each element,
- Knowledge sharing with other countries of REDD+ implementation

Reflection at the REDD+ Academy Training

Know	Challenge	Change /Action	Feel
Know about the REDD+ concept and work on the future plan, and met more than the expectation	To get some finance for the country, it's not so easy and a lot to do in REDD+	Indonesia: Not new to me but it's a good opportunity to learn and as a follow-up, I will try to bring to the	A lot more work to integrate and do to bring mangroves to REDD+

How to get some finance for the country and why not get finance for the work Learn about programme and project, safeguards, practically opportunity in Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Bangladesh, etc. Sri Lanka, contribution into REDD+ NS in the country and how to improve the process Learn more about REDD+ and VN context, and link into the mangroves, and other programmes and countries Learn more why REDD+ takes longer time Know about REDD+ finance mechanism Learn how to identify gaps from other countries, and some of the components can be combined into other projects and activities There are a lot of things to do under REDD+ and it's beyond the forest sector	and especially in emissions and reduction REDD plus is more far complicated than other projects REDD+ is complex	discussion on the issues back in the country A platform for MFF to look into further planning for the programme Chance to share country situation to other countries Serious drivers and how REDD+ and mangroves will need to carry, government to take action Community based of REDD+ activity into mangroves Delivery a meeting to share knowledge from the meeting Put MFF into the REDD+ plan in Bangladesh Debrief colleagues to IUCN colleagues at office It's the beginning of the process and will look into more key entry points of how work should carried out from the training	Learn a lot from the colleagues in the region and good chance to learn from everyone Get more clarity of how mangroves link to REDD+, level of the countries, what going to undertake Clearer picture of the REDD+, and chance learn from the modules and other people Feel more confident at least to introduce/contribute to the colleagues from what have learned from the training Very useful and informative, REDD+ into private sector, REDD+ is complex

One of the programme work on REDD+, and key entry points Can explain NS/AP and how to integrate mangroves to REDD+, monitoring and how to be done, safeguards Learnt more about REDD+ under the VCS Vs under the UNFCCC		Will share knowledge with colleagues back to office	