

**Systematic approach to country support - Innovate REDD+ approaches at country level by better understanding their needs**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

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| I. Summary | |
| Objective | To obtain better knowledge of country needs, and help them to allocate our support and support from other sources based on an assessment of their needs |
| Expected results | The assessments of the country needs will lead to:  Enhanced leadership by the countries towards more integrated and better coordinated programmes and readiness activities., including;   * Wider use of UN REDD Programme knowledge and lessons learnt to enable more effective support at the country level; and * Better sequencing for the activities to be supported, based upon existing capacities and looking for strengthening these capacities progressively. |
| Level of intervention | National level |
| Related work area, as defined in the [UN-REDD Programme Strategy](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4598&Itemid=53)[[1]](#footnote-1) | All  The assessments relate to needs across the Outcomes 1-6 of the Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA). The concept is overall organised under the SNA Outcome 8[[2]](#footnote-2). |
| Total concept duration | 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2015 (24 months) |
| Total concept amount | US$ 2,675,000[[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Total amount requested | US$ 1,284,000[[4]](#footnote-4) until 31 December 2014 |

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| II. Background |
| Based on lessons learned from the development and implementation of the UN REDD National Programmes, the joint FCPF and UN REDD Programme Country Needs Assessment[[5]](#footnote-5) , and the complex REDD+ readiness landscape of multiple initiatives and demonstration projects occurring in parallel in many countries, there is a call for more tailored and coordinated country support.  The UN-REDD Programme has been working with direct support to countries through the National Programmes and through targeted support[[6]](#footnote-6). There is a growing perception that a new form of support is required that is tailor made and demand driven. This will allow countries to better identify their particular needs, and the UN-REDD Programme to provide stronger backstopping based on lessons learnt.  Providing an even more comprehensive approach than the current targeted support and other backstopping, the proposed approach looks for innovative ways to better identify and address the country needs at the different stages of the countries’ readiness process. This is expected to result in effective and timely delivered support provided by the UN-REDD Programme, complementing the current National Programmes. The lessons learned from targeted support activities since March 2012 will also be useful when further developing a systematic approach to country support and innovative REDD+ approaches. The methodology and the components used for articulating needs in the Country Needs Assessment will be the basis for the methodology of the proposed needs assessments.  To be able to assist countries to progress effectively through their readiness phase, it is essential to focus on strengthening country capacities through addressing the emerging country needs, such as coordination, legal frameworks, cross-sectoral linkages to address drivers of deforestation (especially other sectors like agriculture), and financial support to REDD+ actions in the different phases. Taken that the assessments will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders involved, the assessments will allow for more in-depth understanding of the specificities of individual countries in order to provide more effective support by the UN-REDD Programme. One important lesson learned from the past activities is that the needs assessment and the planning process should seek to strengthen country leadership and collaboration between the country counterparts and the UN-REDD Programme Participating UN agencies of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. In a recent REDD+ Partnership meeting held in Palangka Raya, Indonesia in October 2013, Partner countries discussed whether country needs assessments should be undertaken. After considering the approach and method used by the UN-REDD and FCPF Global Assessments, Partner countries agreed that this would be an important activity for some countries, and discussed the objectives, requirements and challenges that would need to be addressed in conducting CNAs. Countries, especially those in the formative stages of readiness, agreed that there was a need for CNAs, driven by national REDD+ actors, to provide a clear idea of how capacity building and support to policy and action could unfold. Depending on what the stage, scope and focus, countries can conduct CNAs for technical and financial requirements and to set priorities in a participatory manner. Partners also noted how CNAs could be used to monitor progress for countries that were now bridging onto Phase 2 or could be targeted to specific themes within the readiness process.  It will be important to support countries to connect to knowledge networks to access and share experience and knowledge, particularly with other countries, but also across regions, globally and with other organizations active in the REDD+ field who may have relevant knowledge and experience to meet their needs. |

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| III. Results framework and theory of change |
| Among the lessons learnt during the last years REDD Readiness implementation in the ground, the need for tailored country approaches given the very different national circumstances and starting points when decided to engage in REDD readiness is being is being widely acknowledged by all actors, in particular by the UN REDD Programme.  It is also being a challenge to initiate National Programmes or activities in the countries, although R-PP processes is being useful for developing the National Programmes, more realistically plan activities in time in the countries in many cases due to lack of enough understanding of country needs. Helping countries to assess their needs while engaging in REDD+ activities in addition to the R-PP process if they want to get support though National Programmes, or offering the possibility of requesting more adequate to their need Target Support can be address by offering the possibility for requesting the Programme to help them.  The SNA Outcomes are:   1. REDD+ countries have systems and capacities to develop and implement MRV and monitoring 2. Credible, inclusive national governance systems are developed for REDD+ implementation 3. Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate effectively in national and international REDD+ decision making, strategy development and implementation 4. Safeguards are addressed and respected and multiple benefits of REDD+ are realized. 5. Green economy transformation and REDD+ strategies and investments are mutually reinforcing.   This concept therefore relates to all SNA Outcomes[[7]](#footnote-7), and can be considered as a cross cutting activity that will contribute to:  Expected Result 1:Enhanced leadership by the countries towards more integrated and better coordinated programmes and readiness activities and results  This result would enable wider use of UN REDD Programme knowledge and lessons learnt to enable more effective support at the country level, including better use of the knowledge products and services, and to connect in to knowledge networks, particularly with other countries working on REDD+ readiness and implementation, and better sequencing for the activities to be supported, based upon existing capacities and aiming at strengthening these capacities progressively.  Indicative Activities   * Country needs assessment covering the areas of work under SNA Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 for 12 countries. * Country needs assessment covering the areas of work under SNA Outcome 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 for 13 countries |

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| IV. Management arrangements and partnerships |
| The country support through the proposed systematic approach could allow for grants of a maximum value of US$ 100,000 per needs assessment prior to provision of either a UN REDD Programme National Programme or targeted support if National Programmes are not in place) or in any other independent form as an associated activity to the SNA Programme. This should be a joint interagency activity with an overall pool of US$ 2.5 million for up to 25 grants. A UN-REDD Programme interagency committee will be established with the support of the regional teams of each agency. The management will in the context of the overall management arrangements of the SNA Programme. |

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| V. Monitoring and Evaluation |
| The systematic approach to country support will incorporate qualitative and quantitative monitoring, as well as assessments of current practices in the UN-REDD Programme to provide a benchmark to compare in time. The short duration of the proposed intervention of country needs assessments and the entirely country-specific nature of work poses a challenge to monitor results. Hence, monitoring and evaluation frameworks will be defined for each supported country, in line with national circumstances. An important concept in the monitoring and evaluation approach will be to monitor the evolution in national capacity and understanding of REDD+ issues.  As per UNDG guidelines for joint programming on resources for monitoring, 5% of the implementation budget has been allocated for monitoring and evaluation costs and is included in the budget of the concept note on “Results Based Management – Managing for Results.” |

**VI. Indicative Results Framework[[8]](#footnote-8)**

| **Outcome[[9]](#footnote-9)** | **Output** | **Agency** | **Indicative Activity** | **Indicative Timeline** | | | | | | | | **Indicative budget (Q1 -Q4 2014)**  **(US$)** | **Indicative budget (Q1 -Q4 2015)**  **(US$)** | **Indicative budget (Q1 2014 -Q4 2015) (US$)** |
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| **2014** | | | | **2015** | | | |
| **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** | **Q1** | **Q2** | **Q3** | **Q4** |
| Expected Result 1: Enhanced leadership by the countries towards more integrated and better coordinated programmes and readiness activities. | Facilitate the preparation of National Programmes and better definition of targeted support requests | All | Country needs assessment covering the areas of work under SNA Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 for 12 countries in 2014. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,200,000 |  | 1,200,000 |
| Country needs assessment covering the areas of work under SNA Outcome 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 for 13 countries in 2015 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1,300,000 | 1,300,000 |
| **Subtotal, Result 1** | | | | | | | | | | | | **1,200,000[[10]](#footnote-10)** | **1,300,000** | **2,500,000** |
| **Indirect support costs (7%)** | | | | | | | | | | | | **84,000** | **91,000** | **175,000** |
| **TOTAL** | | | | | | | | | | | | **1,284,000** | **1,391,000** | **2,675,000** |

1. The work areas are: Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV); Governance; Stakeholder Engagement; Multiple Benefits and Safeguards; Transparency and Accountability; and, Green Economy. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Timely and effective UN-REDD Programme Secretariat services provided to the UN-REDD partner countries, Policy Board and the UN agencies. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. US$ 100,000 multiplied by 25 UN REDD Programme partner countries plus indirect support costs. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. US$ 100,000 multiplied by 12 UN REDD Programme partner countries plus indirect support costs. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The [Country Needs Assessment](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=8349&Itemid=53) was jointly undertaken by FCPF/World bank and the UN-REDD Programme in 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Targeted support is a support mechanism under the Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015 (SNA). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Apart from Secretariat services and knowledge management & communications (SNA Outcomes 7 and 8). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. The draft Framework will be embedded in the overall SNA Monitoring Framework 2013-2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Referring to SNA Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 5% of this amount for monitoring and evaluation costs is included in the separate concept notes on “Results Based Management – Managing for Results” (SNA Outcome 8). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)