

Elements of Regional REDD+ Approach

Regionally Harmonized Technical Assistance helps REDD+ countries in Asia-Pacific to initiate a readiness process. It is adapted to national circumstances and based on globally acceptable quality standards, to develop specific REDD+ mechanisms (e.g. MRV and monitoring, benefit distribution systems, FPIC, safeguards, etc.) and technical capacity to implement REDD+.

Thematic Area Support provides regional adaptation and analysis of global guidance on thematic issues (e.g., safeguards, MRV, multiple benefits, gender) to support the UN-REDD Programme partners in effective application of tools and guidance.

Regional Readiness Assessment is regularly conducted through gathering of REDD+ readiness related information to identify capacity gaps and needs in order to deliver targeted support to UN-REDD partner countries in Asia-Pacific.

Knowledge Management ensures that critical knowledge and lessons from REDD+ partner countries are gathered, analyzed and shared through an effective format to progressively enhance REDD+ readiness capacity throughout Asia-Pacific.

Partnership Development through awareness raising, information sharing, thematic meetings and joint missions enables effective coordination and collaboration with development partners to jointly deliver highly coordinated and innovative support services to REDD+ partner countries in Asia-Pacific.

Go-REDD+

Since January 2012, the UN-REDD regional team has been operating Go-REDD+, an e-mail listserver, as part of the UN-REDD Programme's regional support. Go-REDD+ disseminates relevant information and serves as a node for discussing "hot" topics. Messages are disseminated twice a month and old messages are archived on UN-REDD web-site at http://www.un-redd.org/RegionalActivities_GoREDDMessages/tabid/79199/Default.aspx

Lessons Learned Workshops

The UN-REDD regional team periodically organizes lesson-learned workshops, bringing together people working on REDD+ readiness in all UN-REDD partner Countries. The first workshop was held in Bangkok in November 2010, and covered all aspects of REDD+ readiness. To respond to the interest in the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process in REDD+, the second lessons-learned workshop on FPIC was held in Bogor, Indonesia, in April 2012. Future workshops will be organized in response to demand from UN-REDD partner Countries.

Regional-scale REDD+ Readiness Database and Analysis

In order to facilitate the provision of relevant and timely technical assistance to all developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region (not just UN-REDD Partner Countries), the UN-REDD regional team has developed a database, which collects and analyzes a wide range of readiness related information. The database is still undergoing a process of improvement, but results so far have proven to be extremely useful in understanding specific capacity gaps and potential areas of coordination and collaboration with development partners to maximize service effectiveness while avoiding duplication.

Lessons Learned Brochures

Since the initiation of the UN-REDD Programme, partner countries have developed examples of good practice. These lessons can enhance REDD+ readiness activities and implementation in other countries, and are disseminated through a set of "Lessons Learned Brochures" that cover the essential elements of REDD+ readiness. Brochures can be downloaded at http://www.un-redd.org/AsiaPacific_Asia-PacificCommunicationsmaterials/tabid/106610/Default.aspx

For more information, please visit www.UN-REDD.org or contact:

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General Information



UN-REDD Asia-Pacific

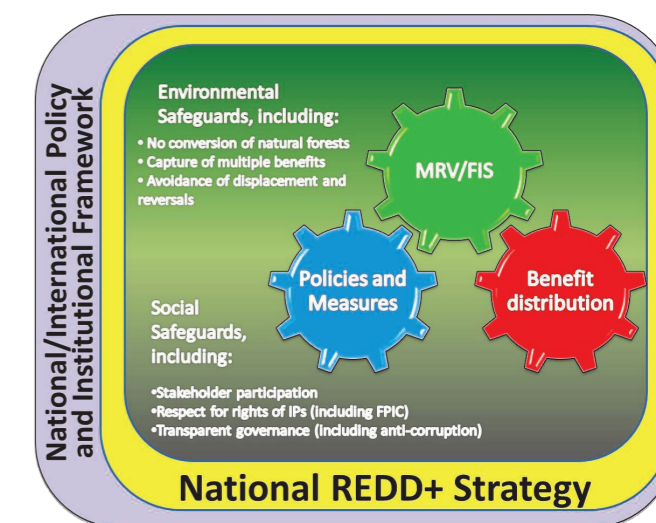
Work on Harmonizing Efforts and Sharing Experience

Deforestation and forest degradation contribute around 17% of global greenhouse gas emissions, of which Asia-Pacific is a major contributor. Not only do deforestation and degradation contribute to climate change, they also affect the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and lead to a reduction in global food security. Additionally, deforestation threatens the availability of other ecosystem services and decreases biodiversity. The drivers of deforestation and degradation include logging, mining, infrastructure development and agricultural expansion, especially for industrial plantation crops.

In contribution to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the UN-REDD Programme in Asia-Pacific supports countries in preparing for the implementation of REDD+, a new mechanism developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). UN-REDD seeks to foster region-wide REDD+ readiness in a cost-effective, efficient, and timely manner. Support focuses on the development of national REDD+ strategies, building transparent and inclusive governance structures, designing Measuring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) and Benefit Distribution (BDS) systems, and facilitating knowledge sharing among development partners and recipient countries. UN-REDD support aims to ensure fair, inclusive, transparent and effective REDD+ systems and to aid implementation of measures that reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from the forest sector.

WHAT DOES A REDD+ SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?

A national REDD+ system consists of three elements, depicted below as inter-locking cogs. The first cog, namely "Policies and Measures", are the types of actions taken to reduce emissions. These may include new and existing laws or policies, strengthening forest law enforcement, supporting diversified livelihoods, applying reduced-impact logging, and many more. The impacts of policies and measures are assessed through the MRV and Monitoring system, the second cog, which measures and reports on performance and which generate benefits in the form of REDD+ revenues. These revenues are distributed through the Benefit Distribution System (BDS), the third cog. Underlying the three-cog system are the environmental and social safeguards, as defined in Annex 1 of the Cancun Agreement. All of this is captured by the National REDD+ Strategy, which needs to be embedded in national and international policy and institutional frameworks and obligations.



THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). It builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Programme supports developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies.

THE APPROACHES IN FIFTEEN PARTNER COUNTRIES OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME IN ASIA-PACIFIC



BHUTAN

Bhutan joined the UN-REDD Programme in 2010. UN-REDD activities initially involved an analysis of opportunities for UN-REDD Targeted Support. In April 2012, a UN-REDD team participated in a National Workshop on REDD+ Strategy Development to identify specific activities that UN-REDD could support. Starting in the second half of 2012, UN-REDD Targeted Support funds were used to support activities contributing to the development of Bhutan's REDD+ Strategy including development of a national forest inventory database, an analysis of REDD+ corruption risks, a national forest monitoring systems training workshop, a proposal for a REDD+ benefit distribution system, and capacity development on environmental safeguards.



NEPAL

Nepal is a member of both the UN-REDD Programme (since 2010) and FCPF. While FCPF supports the country's overall REDD+ Readiness capacity development process, UN-REDD, based on a request by the Government of Nepal, has been providing targeted support in identifying options for the design of an effective, efficient and equitable fund management system for REDD+ finance, and in assessing key policies and measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and linkages to the overall national REDD Readiness process.



PAKISTAN

Pakistan joined the UN-REDD Programme in 2011. In December 2012, the country received Targeted Support funds to develop a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, to complement work being done by the Office of the Inspector General of Forests with the assistance of ICIMOD and WWF. Targeted Support will continue through to 2014, to include full national consultations on the Roadmap, and capacity building for development of a National Forest Monitoring System.



BANGLADESH

After joining the UN-REDD Programme in 2010, the Government of Bangladesh established a national REDD+ Steering Committee and a REDD Cell. Between August 2011 and March 2012, the UN-REDD Programme supported these bodies in the development of a national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, including extensive national and sub-national consultations. The REDD+ Steering Committee endorsed the Roadmap in December 2012. With Targeted Support funds, UN-REDD is now supporting the implementation of some elements of the Roadmap, which are the development of an MRV Action Plan, capacity building for forest monitoring, an assessment of REDD+ corruption risks, and development of nationally-appropriate social safeguards.



MYANMAR

Myanmar joined the UN-REDD Programme in November 2011. Discussions on how the UN-REDD Programme could support Myanmar had already begun in 2010, and Myanmar had attended several UN-REDD regional meetings. In collaboration with RECOFTC, UN-REDD is developing a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and will be seeking to mobilize resources for its implementation. In a country undergoing rapid political change, the challenges of preparing for REDD+ are significant, but there are also unique opportunities to ensure that REDD+ is fully integrated into new planning and governance systems.



SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka became a UN-REDD Programme partner in 2009. Sri Lanka's UN-REDD National Programme was approved for funding at the 8th meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, with a request for some minor modifications. The document was resubmitted in September 2012. The National Programme is expected to start in early 2013.



MONGOLIA

Mongolia joined the UN-REDD Programme in June 2011. Guided by a multi-stakeholder taskforce, the national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap is now nearly completed. Some final adjustments are currently being made to ensure that the Roadmap is fully aligned with the country's latest green development agenda. UN-REDD has meanwhile begun its support in designing a framework for strengthening both functional and technical capacities of relevant national institutions to establish a strong foundation for the implementation of the Roadmap.



VIET NAM

Viet Nam was one of the original UN-REDD "pilot" countries. The UN-REDD Programme has assisted the Government of Viet Nam in establishing a national REDD+ Network, where various stakeholders come together to coordinate REDD+ related issues. Phase 1 of the Programme was completed in October 2012, and a funding agreement for Phase 2 was signed with Norway in December 2012. Phase 2 will reduce emissions in six provinces, working with provincial, district and commune authorities, local communities, and the private sector.



Lao PDR

Lao PDR joined the UN-REDD Programme in October 2012, and will benefit from regional trainings and workshops, and participation in the UN-REDD Programme Community of Practice. In 2012 an initial gaps and opportunities analysis was conducted. Results identified as priorities for UN-REDD support: mechanisms to ensure the full and effective participation of all stakeholders, and approaches to address multiple benefits, especially combining carbon and biodiversity.



CAMBODIA

Cambodia received funding for a full UN-REDD Country Programme in 2011. Prior to this, the country had already prepared a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. The Country Programme focuses on effective management of the REDD+ Readiness process and stakeholder engagement, development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation framework, improved capacity to manage REDD+ at sub-national levels, and design of a monitoring system.



THE PHILIPPINES

The UN-REDD Philippines Initial National Programme started in the middle of October 2011. The Philippines National REDD+ Strategy was approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Executive Committee in August 2010. Throughout 2012, the UN-REDD Programme focused on strengthening participatory processes, social and environmental safeguards, a harmonized methodology for reference baselines and the establishment of a national MRV approach.



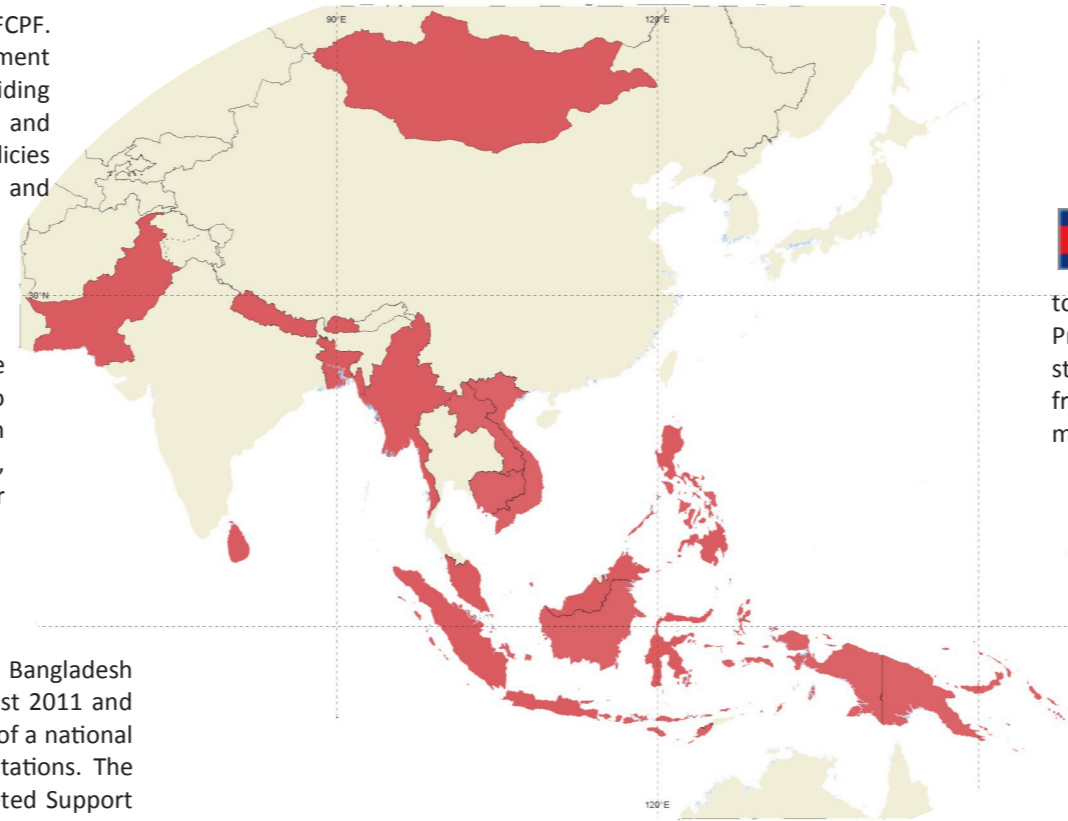
PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

PNG has been a leading proponent of REDD+ at the international level, and was one of the original UN-REDD "pilot" countries. UN-REDD activities to date have focused on supporting effective stakeholder engagement through the development of guidelines for the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and on developing technical elements of the country's national forest monitoring system. In 2013, UN-REDD will provide technical input to the methodological design of the country's first national forest inventory, in collaboration with PNG Forest Authority as well as support the operationalization of PNG's satellite forest monitoring system, and the development of a nationally appropriate safeguards system, with the Office for Climate Change and Development.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands joined the UN-REDD Programme in February 2010. The UN-REDD Initial National Programme (INP) is currently under implementation. A national REDD+ taskforce, comprised of representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, is currently guiding the preparation of the national REDD+ Roadmap and technical guidelines on stakeholder engagement, safeguards, MRV and forest information monitoring. The INP is also conducting awareness-raising activities at the national and sub-national levels.



MALAYSIA

Malaysia joined the UN-REDD Programme in June, 2012, and has so far been engaged in regional events such as the FPIC Lessons Learned Workshop held in Bogor, Indonesia. Through a UNDP project, UN-REDD is improving data management of greenhouse gas emissions, building capacity of stakeholders to engage effectively, developing a national institutional framework for REDD+, supported by a national policy and legal framework for ecosystem services, and designing a finance mechanism for REDD+ implementation.



INDONESIA

The operational phase 1 of Indonesia UN-REDD Programme was closed in October 2012. Since its inception in October 2009, the Programme has worked with relevant government agencies, NGOs/ CSOs, academics and the private sector at the national level and in its "pilot" province, Central Sulawesi, where a multi-stakeholder REDD+ Working Group is very active. The Programme has been instrumental in the development of several decrees. A methodology for Reference Emission Level was developed and a National Forest Inventory database has been set up. Before its completion the Programme will also prepare a REDD+ implementation plan for Central Sulawesi. UNEP has been assisting Central Kalimantan with the development of a roadmap for green growth focusing on forest and natural resources.