

Bangladesh REDD+ Readiness Roadmap Process
Press Release

Dhaka, 23rd October 2011

Bangladesh on the Road to REDD+:
The Role of Forests in addressing Climate Change

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), with the support of UNDP and FAO, will take an important step towards making forests a major part of Bangladesh's strategy to combat climate change. Over 50 forestry experts and stakeholders will meet to initiate a "Roadmap" for improving forest protection and management.

Bangladesh has long been at the forefront of the international discussions on climate change, due to the particular vulnerability of the country to changes in sea level, natural disasters and seasonal weather patterns. However, the importance of the forest sector has not yet figured prominently in national strategies to address these problems.

This is about to change. A mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (known internationally as REDD+) is now one of the key elements of climate change negotiations. REDD+ is a new way of financing forestry development. Industrialized nations will financially compensate developing countries for their efforts to reduce the rate at which forests are lost or damaged and to increase forest cover and quality using accurate assessment of the level of carbon in forests as an indicator of success.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has already taken steps to introduce REDD+ to Bangladesh. A national REDD+ Steering Committee and Technical Working Group have been formed, and some pilot REDD projects have been initiated, with the support of donors such as USAID and GIZ. UN agencies, including UNDP and FAO, are leading international efforts to develop strategies for REDD+.