

OUTLINE
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
ASSESSMENTS OF NEEDS FOR SUPPORT AT COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVELS
UN-REDD PROGRAMME

April 2014

1. Introduction

With a view to maximize impact and improve the efficiency and focus of support to national REDD+ readiness and ensure country leadership and ownership of and capacities to implement national REDD+ strategies, the UN-REDD Programme will support countries to conduct country needs assessments. (CNA) The CNA will be supported as part of the *Support to National REDD+ Action -Global Programme Framework 2011-2015* (SNA) and will be focused on identifying country or regional needs, capacities and opportunities to complete readiness as well as on enhancing coordination of support from different sources.

The country needs assessments are primarily intended to be undertaken by the UN-REDD Programme partner countries which have not been supported through National Programmes, In this context, the country needs assessments will be a tool for assessing the different stages of readiness among UN-REDD partner countries and financial/technical/administrative gaps, and will provide for a more tailored support through the Programme's different delivery modalities.

Regional country needs assessments are also envisaged as an efficient tool to maximize synergies among countries' readiness processes and enhance south-south cooperation. The regional assessments can provide for a better understanding of existing capacities in the region as well as enhance regional collaboration with a view to leverage REDD+ readiness at regional level at a cost-effective and country-driven fashion.

This outline provides further background on the country needs assessments as and lays down the process for countries to be supported through CNAs.

2. Expected result

Enhanced leadership by countries in developing and implementing national REDD+ strategies, through improved understanding of national and/or regional REDD+ capacities and needs, contributing for more integrated and better coordinated and readiness activities .

3. Objectives

The primary objectives are to:

- Identify country needs and opportunities to engage in or complete REDD+ readiness and assess the different stages of readiness with a view to tailor support according to different circumstances.
- Through the assessments assist countries to define needed support from different source, including the UN-REDD Programme, for reaching readiness. As countries have different national circumstances and different stages of readiness, this information on prioritized needs and gaps will lead to improved coordination and tailoring of support. The results will also allow for sequencing of the activities to be supported based upon existing capacities, aiming at strengthening these capacities

progressively. Programme knowledge and lessons learnt will be used, connecting to knowledge networks, particularly with other countries working on REDD+ readiness and implementation.

4. Scope

The scope of the assessment should be linked as far as possible to the key REDD+ components in consistency with the UNFCCC decisions, especially the Cancun Agreements and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

- Assessments can be scoped for readiness in general or for a particular area of readiness, defined by UNFCCC decisions, and can include the following areas:
 - National REDD + Strategies
 - National forest monitoring systems
 - Forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels
 - Safeguards and safeguards information systemsWith additions of:
 - Forest governance
 - Land tenure
 - Gender
 - Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
 - Institutional and fiduciary arrangements to support national REDD+ strategies (the The broader policy and legislative “enabling environment”¹)
 - Effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous peoples and local communities.
 - Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination
 - Information sharing mechanisms and knowledge management
- The assessments can focus on the overall needs for completing a national REDD+ strategy or on particular areas of work, according to the key REDD+ requirements. The comprehensiveness of the assessment should be defined according to clear objectives for the post-assessment phase and to the foreseen integration of the results in the national REDD+ process.
- Depending on the request made by country(ies), the assessments can apply to national or regional scale. If synergies are identified between countries with regional cooperation and joint REDD+ efforts who wish to further strengthen such regional cooperation, a regional assessment can be undertaken instead of individual country assessments.
- Sub-national structures at both provincial or district levels can be considered.
- When potential is identified, South-South collaboration is encouraged.

5. Criteria

To be eligible for a country assessment, the country needs to be a UN-REDD Partner country without a National Programme and be willing to engage further on REDD+ under the UN-REDD Programme either through targeted support or National Programmes.

6. Linkages to other support streams and needs assessments

The assessments should refer to country efforts towards national REDD+ strategies with a view to identify opportunities and gaps for future capacity development and for support by the UN-REDD Programme or other initiatives. Any similar assessments undertaken or planned in the country or region should also be described and how the requested assessment will be complementary. The outputs from already undertaken assessments should be taken into consideration.

7. Participation

The results of the assessments need to reflect a multi-stakeholder perspective. Transparency and inclusion of all stakeholders should be ensured, thus the assessment should include a validation workshop at country level (or regional level).

8. Coordination

The request should indicate the lead principal implementing institutions and partner institutions, as well as lead for executing the assessment.

The participating UN agencies of the UN-REDD Programme, FAO, UNDP and UNEP, will coordinate and support facilitation of the assessment with the country or region with the support from the UN-REDD Secretariat. The country request shall specify the agency/ies to be involved.

9. Workplan, time period and budget

The request should include a summarized workplan with an estimate of the overall budget and timeline, describing the planned outputs and activities including the stakeholder process of the facilitated assessments.

10. Methodology

- The country will own and drive the process and the methodology will be designed by the country with support from the agency(ies) and be based on the specific circumstances, capacity needs and REDD+ phase of the country.
- The mentioned [Country Needs Assessment, undertaken jointly by FCPF-UN-REDD](#), includes an overall methodological framework which can assist in the individual methodology preparation. This can be complemented with guidance available on designing a participatory capacity needs assessment process that includes practical tools to assess the situation, stakeholders and comprehensive capacities.¹
- It should, however, be noted that it has been strongly recommended that *methodologies should reflect the specific circumstances* in the individual countries and that there is not one methodology applicable to all countries².
- The presentation of results should describe, among others, whether needs for support exist and under which area, urgency of the needs expressed, type of needs, preferred mechanisms of delivery of support, beneficiaries of support and estimated costs of required support.

¹ See "FAO's Approaches to Capacity Development in Programming: Processes and Tools"
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/capacity_building/FAO_CD_LM2.pdf

² Recommendation from the REDD+ Partnership Workshop, 8-10 October, 2013, Palangka Raya, Indonesia.

11. Use of results, follow up action and support

The foreseen post-assessment steps should be described in the request – how the results will be used in the country's REDD+ national strategy or in regional REDD+ efforts, follow-up actions foreseen and whether the country /region foresees need of support from the UN-REDD Programme or similar initiatives after the assessment has been undertaken. (Needed capacity development and support can be of technical or functional (i.e. financial and administrative nature).

12. Sharing of results and lessons

The initial results from the assessments and lessons learned will be presented at the 13th Policy Board meeting of the UN-REDD Programme,.

13. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The assessments will incorporate qualitative and quantitative monitoring indicators which should provide for assessing the progress in national capacity and understanding of REDD+ issues.

14. UN-REDD Programme Secretariat³

The Secretariat will coordinate the process for reviewing draft proposals, develop and maintain a registry of country/regional needs assessments.

15. Submission of request

The request for a country or regional assessment should be presented by the country UN-REDD focal point in coordination with the teams of the UN-REDD Programme. In case of a regional request, one country should be appointed coordinator and be responsible for submitting the request which should contain information of agreement by the other regional participants.

Annex 1 lists the minimum information the request should include.

The request should be sent to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat (E-mail: un-redd@un-redd.org). Requests should be sent to the UN-REDD Secretariat by 25 June 2014.

16. Overall timeline, 2014

25 June - deadline for submission

May - 30 June - – information to countries of approved requests

July - December - assessments being undertaken

PB13- preliminary results/progress update presented

PB14 – presentation of final results and lessons learned

³ SNA Workplan and budget 2014, Output 8.7 “*Secretariat effectively provides for country leadership towards more integrated and better coordinated programmes and readiness activities*”.

Annex 1 Key content of assessment request

1. Country/ies requesting the assessment for itself of a region
2. UN-REDD focal point for the country or region (government officer if country; UN agency if regional)
3. Country/regional technical focal point to the CNA
4. Coordinating UN Participating Agency/ies (FAO/UNDP/UNEP)
5. Objectives of the REDD+ readiness efforts or strategy
6. Country/regional vision for REDD+
7. Overview of the country/regional readiness process Objective of the needs assessment
8. Scope of the needs assessment (if regional, address also regional synergies and opportunities and indicate how many countries will be engaged)
9. Work plan and budget
10. Qualitative and quantitative monitoring indicators