

Criteria for Prioritizing New National Programmes

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



Background

The UN-REDD Programme under its first phase is providing support through National Programmes in twelve countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin-America and the Caribbean regions. As per the UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015, endorsed by the Policy Board, the Programme aims to support 20 additional initial readiness National Programmes that are envisaged as funds become available.

At the fifth meeting, the Board recognized the need to have a set of selection criteria for prioritizing countries to submit new National Programmes noting that while there was increasing demand for support, funding constraints were also to be expected. These criteria are to be applied to select countries to present proposals for initial REDD+ readiness support (National Programmes), as described in the UN-REDD Programme Strategy¹, noting that countries can benefit from the Programme through other channels namely targeted support and tier 2².

The Board established a small working group that was tasked with proposing selection criteria for prioritization of countries to be invited to submit proposals and pilot the application of the criteria for consideration inter-sessionally. The working group was composed of self-selected representatives of each member group of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, as follows: UN-REDD Programme Countries – Colombia and Zambia; Donor Countries – Denmark; Civil Society – Global Witness (CSO-Developed Countries); Indigenous Peoples – Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) (IP-Africa); UN Agencies - UNDP.

At its sixth meeting the Policy Board took the following decisions:

- 1. The Board commended the work of the working group and provided comments to improve and strengthen the criteria proposed by them. Written comments can be submitted by 15 April 2011.*
- 2. In order to ensure continued national programming, the Board agreed that the working group should apply the revised criteria to prioritize countries for new National Programmes, based on available funds. The revised criteria and the proposed priority country(s) will be circulated to the Policy Board for inter-sessional approval in May 2011.*

In accordance, the working group held a meeting on May 19 to complete the tasks requested by the Policy Board. At the meeting, the working group revised the draft criteria presented at PB6, incorporating the comments received at the Policy Board meeting and piloted the criteria.

During the revision process it was clarified that some of the draft criteria presented at the sixth Policy Board meeting were applicable to the revision of a National Programme and not to the selection process per se. In addition, it was identified that the following criteria are pre-conditions and should be considered as such:

- To be eligible to submit proposals, a country should first be accepted as partner country of UN-REDD Programme.*
- The Programme will seek to have comparable investments (meaning similar comparative amounts invested) in the following three regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.*

¹ The UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015(www.un-redd.org)

² As defined in the Strategy and further clarified in the Global Programme Framework Document

In addition, the following draft criteria was redefined as a post-condition, acknowledging the importance of its consideration (as reflected in the Board's comments) but the difficulty on applying it on a ranking exercise:

Commitment to applying the principles of the UN-REDD Programme³, including:

- a. Demonstrated commitment to the human-rights based approach to development*
- b. UN-REDD operational guidance, such as for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities*
- c. UN-REDD social and environmental principles and criteria, including the risk identification and mitigation tool*
- d. Consistency with the overall REDD+ framework emerging from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the REDD+ safeguards in Annex I of UNFCCC COP16 [Decision 1/CP.16](#) and CBD COP10 [Decision X/33](#).*

The working group recommended that a written communication documenting this commitment should be required to countries invited to present proposals for new National Programmes.

Finally, it is important to note that once countries are invited to submit a proposal, the regular review, consultation, and approval process as per the Programme's Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance should be followed, and as such the Policy Board would make the final decision on fund allocations.

Objective

Define criteria to prioritize countries to be invited to submit proposals for **new National Programmes countries** to the UN-REDD Programme.

Draft criteria

Considering the need to have a simplified- and as objective as possible system- for country selection the following draft criteria will constitute the basis to prioritizing.

1. Contribution of UN-REDD to the national readiness process: The UN-REDD Programme seeks to maximize the impact of its interventions by fulfilling country REDD+ readiness needs emphasizing countries that either have not yet received support for REDD+ readiness or those where there are opportunities to add value and maximize coordination with other REDD+ bilateral and multilateral initiatives (as reported on the Interim REDD+ Partnership database or subsequently to the UNFCCC);
2. Effective engagement of UN agencies at a country level: In order to quickly respond to country needs, the capacity of FAO, UNDP and UNEP to effectively engage and support the implementation of national programmes needs to be taken into account. The participating UN agencies will conduct an assessment of relevant factors, including:
 - Existing engagement in the national readiness process, forestry sector, climate change and/or other relevant initiatives

³ To be assessed through a rapid application of the UN-REDD Programme's "Risk Assessment Tool for Social Principles", see the [UN-REDD Strategy 2011-2015](#) for more details

- UNDAF and Country Programme priorities, contribution of core funding and capacity of local offices
 - Past experience of local offices in managing similar initiatives, pipeline of related projects, and opportunities to co-finance through the Global Programme
3. REDD+ potential: The UN-REDD Programme is committed to make a contribution to global climate change mitigation through REDD+. The REDD+ potential⁴ of countries is therefore an important consideration and will be assessed using data on forest percentage of land area, annual change rate, and potential importance of forests to the poor.

Piloting the criteria

To pilot the criteria and produce a list prioritizing partner countries the working group ranked countries against the criteria assigning the following qualitative ranks: high, medium, and low. The rating was based on an analysis of available data sets related to the criteria and serving the purpose of the exercise, acknowledging that the set of variables is incomplete. Data analyzed and weights considered included:

1. REDD+ financing as reported in the REDD+ Partnership database by donors (data from April 2011) and revision of funding gaps in RPPs, for Criteria 1 (weight 25%)
2. UN agencies self-assessment ranking for Criteria 2 (weight 25%)
3. Forest percentage of land area (FRA, 2010) for Criteria 3 (weight 15%)
4. Forest annual change rate (FRA, 2010) for Criteria 3 (weight 20%)
5. Poverty (% Population below \$ 2.00/day WDR, 2011) for Criteria 3 (weight 15%)

Results of the prioritization

Results of the prioritization exercise are presented in Annex 2. The working group recommends to the Policy Board the approval to invite one country by region in the order of priority outlined in the list, to submit proposals for new National Programmes to be considered at the next Policy Board meeting.

The working group recommends that the Secretariat then engages with the selected countries and assess if preparation of proposals for full National Programmes is feasible, keeping the possibility of considering proposals for initial National Programmes and extending the invitation to one additional country per region based on the same priority list.

Treatment of future new partner countries

Considering that the Programme continues receiving applications to join and potential new requests to receive support for new National Programmes, the working group proposes that the ranking exercise is repeated at each Policy Board meeting, considering accepted new partner countries as part of the pipeline.

⁴ Complete data sets for all elements of REDD+ potential are not available, therefore a selected group of variables with comparable data sets was used in this analysis, acknowledging that the set of variables is incomplete.

Annex 1**Status of the 29 Partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme**

Partner countries receiving National Programme Support		Unfunded partner countries	
Pilot partner countries	Expression of interest		Expression of interest
Bolivia	25 September 2008	Argentina	8 September 2009
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	18 September 2008	Bangladesh	24 March 2010
Indonesia	1 July 2008	Bhutan	9 April 2010
Panama	8 September 2008	Central African Republic	29 April 2010
Papua New Guinea	9 September 2008	Colombia	9 April 2010
Paraguay	11 August 2008	Costa Rica	3 December 2009
Tanzania	22 September 2008	Gabon	9 July 2010
Viet Nam	17 November 2008	Guatemala	12 March 2010
Zambia	5 August 2008	Guyana	6 September 2010
New partner countries receiving NP support		Kenya	12 January 2010
Cambodia	10 August 2009	Mexico	15 December 2009
The Philippines	22 January 2010	Nepal	14 October 2009
Solomon Islands	13 November 2009	Nigeria	3 November 2009
Ecuador	15 June 2009	Republic of Congo	11 February 2009
		Sri Lanka	7 September 2009
		Sudan	23 December 2009

Annex 2

Priority list resulting from application of the Criteria

Criteria	Contribution of UN-REDD to the national REDD+ readiness process	Effective engagement of UN agencies at a country level	REDD+ Potential			Rating	
			Forest % of land area	Annual change rate 2005-2010 %	Poverty (Population below \$2.00 a day)	total	weighted
notes	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
Africa							
Congo, Republic of	2	1.5	3	1	3	10.50	9.88
Kenya	2	2	1	2	2	9.00	9.38
Sudan*	3	1	1	1	3	9.00	8.75
Central African Rep.	2	1	2	1	3	9.00	8.13
Gabon*	1	1	3	1	2	8.00	6.88
Asia-Pacific							
Sri Lanka	3	3	1	3	2	12.00	12.75
Bhutan*	3	2.5	3	1	2	11.50	11.63
Bangladesh	3	3	1	1	3	11.00	11.50
Nepal	1	1	1	1	3	7.00	6.50
Latin-America and the Caribbean							
Guatemala	2	2	2	3	2	11.00	11.00
Argentina	2	2.5	1	3	1	9.50	10.13
Colombia	2	2.5	2	1	2	9.50	9.63
Mexico	1	2.5	2	2	1	8.50	8.63
Guyana	1	2	3	1	2	9.00	8.50
Costa Rica	2	1	2	1	1	7.00	7.00

a: Rated using data reported in the REDD+ Partnership Database, April 2011, and revision of existing RPPs

b: Rated based on self-assessment by UN agencies

c: FRA 2010, where <30% = low (score 1) and >60% = high (score 3)

d: FRA 2010, where <0.2 = low (score 1) and >0.7 = high (score 3)

e: Rated using Poverty data (% population below \$ 2.00 a day), WDR 2011

f: Total score for five criteria with no weights attached, i.e. 20% for each criteria

g: Score where Criteria 1 accounts for 25%, Criteria 2 accounts for 25%, and Criteria 3 for 50% (with the sub elements annual rate change accounting 20%, and percentage forest area +poverty accounting 15% each)

* Poverty data was not available, rated estimated based on HDI or GNI per/capita