

## **UN-REDD Knowledge Management 2015 Action Plan for Asia/Pacific**

### **Introduction**

This document develops and proposes a UN-REDD KM Action Plan for Asia/Pacific. This is based on a summary of past and current knowledge management (KM) activities undertaken by UN-REDD in the Asia/Pacific (A/P) region, and an analysis of data collected on knowledge needs among UN-REDD Partner Countries, and builds on the UN-REDD KM Strategy to identify priority activities.

### **Section 1: History**

There is a long history of UN-REDD KM activities in the A/P region, beginning in 2009, with the preparation of lessons learned brochures from the Viet Nam NP (at that time, the only active NP) for COP-15 in Copenhagen, followed by further brochures for the Oslo Forests & Climate Conference in May, 2010.

KM activities increased with the recruitment of a national consultant in November, 2011, following which a twice-monthly listserv, Go-REDD+ was launched. This ran for two years, throughout 2012 and 2013, until it was no longer possible to continue contracting the national consultant.

The KM products and events organized during the period 2009-2013 include:

#### ***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. A total of 11 brochures have been produced to date, and can be downloaded at: [here](#) and [here](#)

#### ***Lesson learned Booklet***

In preparation for COP-17 in 2011, a lessons learned booklet was produced. The original plan was for three booklets, capturing lessons from the three regions, but only the A/P region completed their booklet in time for the COP. The booklet can be downloaded at: [here](#) and [here](#)

#### ***Go-REDD+***

Go-REDD+ disseminated relevant information and served as a node for discussing "hot" topics. Messages were disseminated twice a month during 2012 and 2013, with a total of 38 messages been circulated. The old messages are archived on UN-REDD web-site at: [here](#) and [here](#)

#### ***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. Since then, four more workshops have been organized in response to demand from UN-REDD Partner Countries.

The workshops held to date are:

1. Nov. 2010: Introduction to REDD+ and REDD+ Readiness
2. April 2012: FPIC
3. March 2013: Safeguards
4. Nov. 2013: NFMS and REL
5. Nov. 2014: NFMS and REL

### ***Regional-scale REDD+ Readiness Database and Analysis***

In order to facilitate the provision of relevant and timely technical assistance to all REDD+ eligible 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 results are extremely useful in understanding specific capacity gaps and potential areas of coordination and collaboration with development partners to maximize service effectiveness while avoiding unnecessary duplication. Results can be viewed at [here](#).

### ***FPIC Repository***

In response to independent requests from Cambodian NGOs and AIPP in 2012, the UN-REDD regional team compiled a repository of materials related to FPIC, including posters, brochures, guidelines, training manuals, and so on. The rationale for the repository was that many organizations wanted to produce educational materials on FPIC, and it is to the benefit of all if “re-inventing the wheel” can be avoided to the extent possible.

The FPIC repository is found on the UN-REDD web-site at [here](#), but has not been utilized to its full potential because of its inaccessibility within the complexity of the website’s structure.

In addition to these regional products, national UN-REDD programmes have produced their own knowledge products. These are summarized in Annex 1.

## **Section 2: Current Needs**

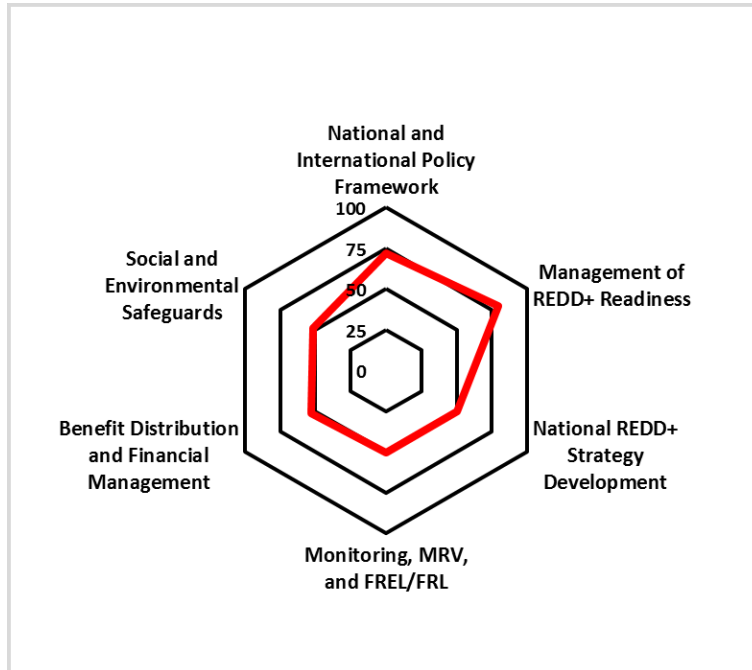
The UN-REDD regional team, based in Bangkok, is continually interacting with national REDD+ focal points and other stakeholders in-country. This allows UN-REDD staff members to build a picture of knowledge gaps and knowledge needs. However, inevitably such a picture will be subject to biases, caused by interaction with some countries being more frequent than others, and to the personal interests of individual staff members. Therefore, to complement opinions derived from day-to-day interactions, the regional team has conducted two types of more objective assessments.

### ***Regional Assessment***

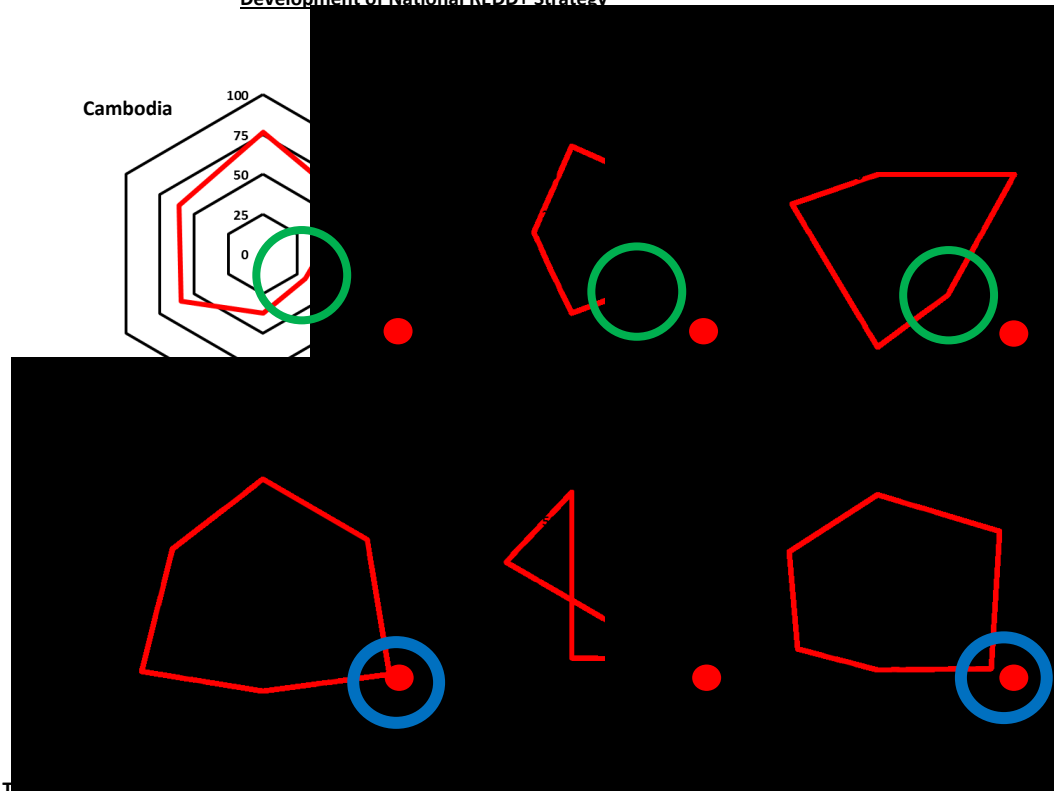
In late 2013, a regional assessment was conducted among 24 countries in Asia/Pacific – i.e., not only UN-REDD Partner countries. Three sources of data were used for the assessment:

- Internet research
- A factual survey completed by national REDD+ focal points
- A perceptual survey of stakeholders in each country

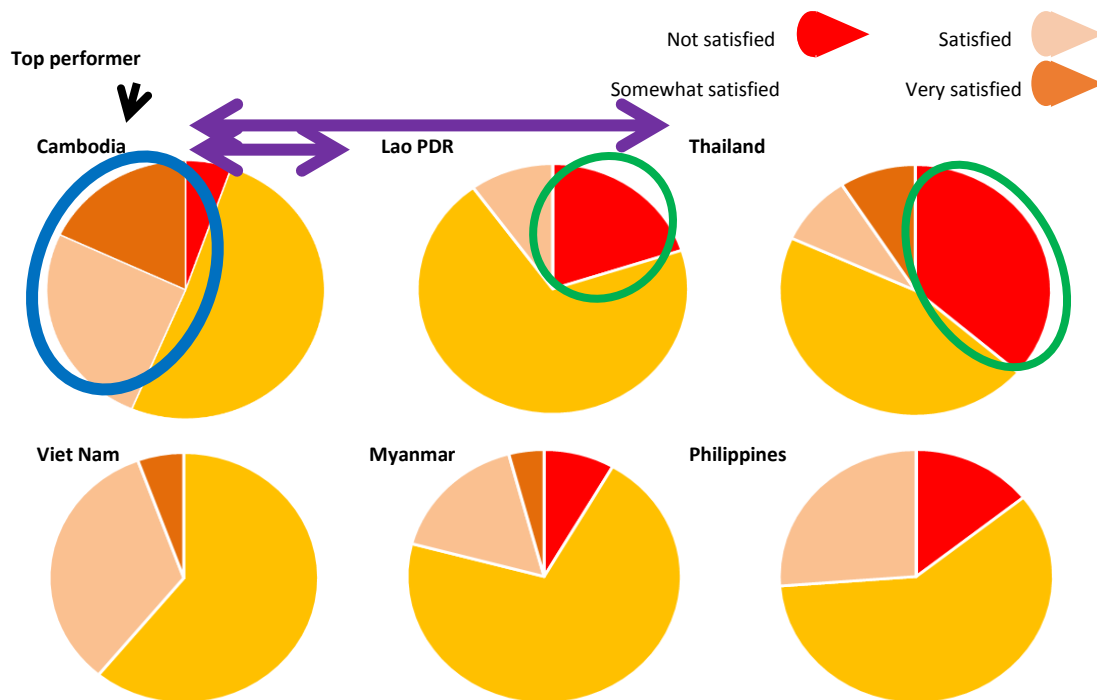
Through careful analysis of the data compiled from these three sources, an objective assessment of REDD+ readiness was generated for each country. The results are publicly available at [here](#). The data are extremely rich, allowing a wide range of issues to be assessed, but some of the key results are shown below.



**Development of National REDD+ Strategy**



### Level of Satisfaction for Stakeholder Engagement



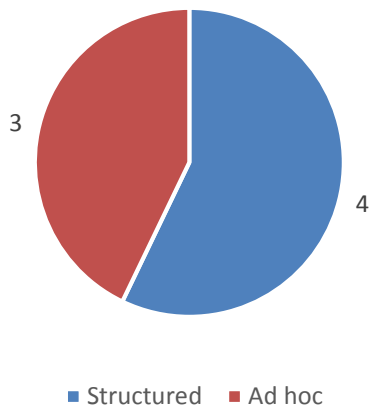
These data clarify that, in Asia/Pacific, most countries are strong in the area of alignment of national and international policy, and in the area of management of REDD+ readiness. However, many countries are notably weaker on some the technical aspects of REDD+ readiness, such as NFMS/MRV, and Safeguards.

#### ***Interview of REDD+ Focal Points***

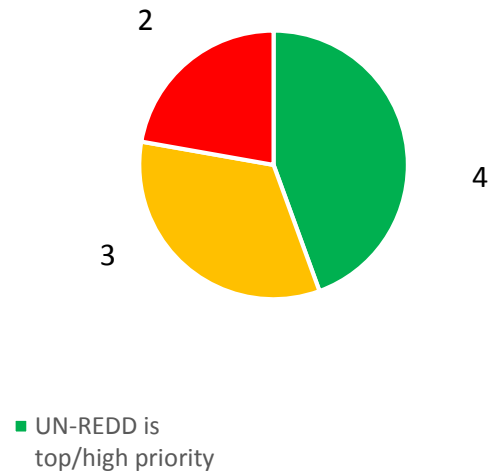
To supplement these results, and in particular to cast more light on the process by which knowledge needs are identified in-country, a semi-structured interview was designed, and national REDD+ focal points (or senior advisors) from nine of the 15 UN-REDD Partner Countries were interviewed in September-October, 2014. Countries for which REDD+ Focal Points were not interviewed were mostly those where REDD+ readiness activities are limited, or where the focal point is so new that he/she was unlikely to have a clear picture of how knowledge needs are identified.

Some of the key results from the interviews are:

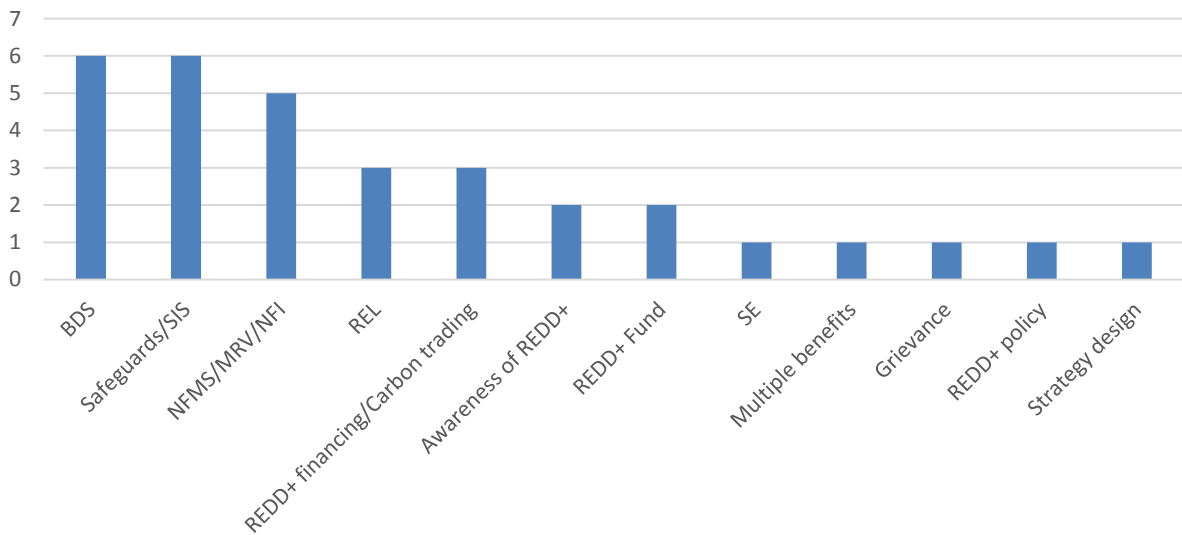
Number of countries with structured vs ad hoc knowledge needs processes



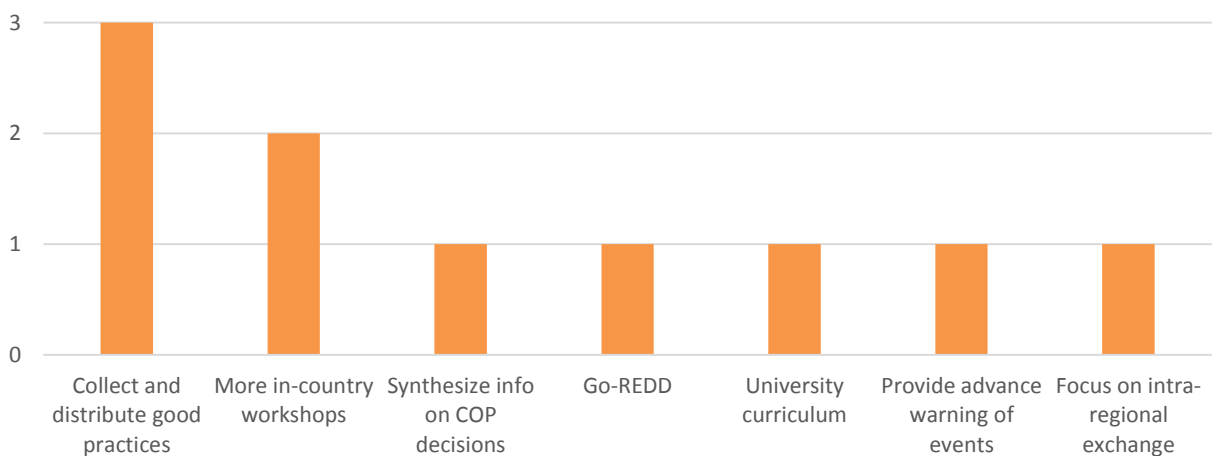
UN-REDD as a source of knowledge



Priority KM topics (number of countries requesting)



Recommendations to UN-REDD



These data confirm that while some countries have a structured process to identify knowledge needs, many do not, but that, in any case, UN-REDD is the favoured, or at least a favoured source for filling knowledge needs in a large majority of countries.

They also show that most of the required elements for RBPs under Cancun/WFR are high priorities for countries, the exception being the National Strategy preparation process. However, feedback from regional UN-REDD staff confirm that demand for assistance on National REDD+ Strategies is probably higher than as reported through the interview process.

Regarding the approach to KM, whilst some of the responses were obvious (e.g., “collect and distribute good practices”) there was also some clear guidance on organizing more in-country (including national REDD+ Academies), and fewer regional events. The choice of regional versus in-country events may be influenced by the topic and national circumstances.

Subsequently to these assessments, a small number of Asia/Pacific countries submitted completed questionnaires as part of a review of the status of national strategies in UN-REDD Partner countries, conducted by the African regional team. Priorities identified in the questionnaire were restricted and limited to issues related to National Strategies. However, of the five countries which identified priorities, all of them identified design of a financial mechanism, engagement with donors, and engagement with the private sector as priorities. Four out of the five countries also requested assistance in developing investment plans for REDD+ implementation.

### **Section 3: KM Action Plan for A/P**

An action plan to address the needs identified in Section 2 needs to be aligned with the overall UN-REDD KM Strategy, but tailored to meet the specific needs of Asia/Pacific.

#### ***The UN-REDD KM Strategy***

The Knowledge Management Vision for the UN-REDD Programme is:

*The UN-REDD Programme is the go-to knowledge broker to support countries for REDD+ readiness and implementation.*

To achieve this vision, there are three focus areas for how the UN-REDD Programme will carry out knowledge management for 2014-15. These focus areas are:

- Develop useful REDD+ knowledge products
- Strengthen REDD+ knowledge networks
- Coordinate comprehensive, targeted capacity development

The activities envisaged under the first focus area are:

1. Develop a taxonomy of knowledge topics for REDD+ readiness and implementation
2. Revise the approach to UN-REDD Programme knowledge product development
3. Enhance the UN-REDD Programme resources libraries
4. Enhance UN-REDD Programme communication and social media outreach capacity
5. Enhance development and support tools for National Programmes

The majority, if not all of these activities are applicable at Secretariat and Agency HQ levels, so there are relatively few activities envisaged at the regional level.

In contrast, activities envisaged for the second focus area are:

1. Systematically capture, share and apply lessons learned from experience
2. Establish Communities of Practice for REDD+ thematic and geographic areas
3. Implement peer assists, country connections and knowledge exchange events
4. Strengthen strategic partnerships with REDD+ community
5. Improve collaborative technology and information management tools

These are the activities that have greatest relevance at the regional level.

Of the activities envisaged for the third focus area (below), some are relevant to the Secretariat and Agencies (e.g., 1 and 3), some are applicable to all UN-REDD staff (e.g., 2), while some are relevant to regional KM staff.

1. Design, develop and deliver a REDD+ Academy with associated resources and tools for REDD+ capacity development
2. Integrate knowledge management practices into Targeted Support to respond to country needs
3. Develop knowledge management capacity
4. Develop national knowledge management and capacity development plans
5. Develop repository of REDD+ capacity development resources

### ***An action plan for KM for Asia/Pacific***

An action plan for KM for Asia/Pacific needs to respond to KM priorities and guidance identified in section 2 and be consistent with the UN-REDD KM Strategy, described above.

Taking this into account, the Goal of the Action Plan for 2015 is:

***“to provide appropriate fora for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to exchange knowledge on a number of priority issues emerging from recent UNFCCC CoP Decisions, in particular, the WFR.”***

An indicator of impact for this goal is:

*At the end of 2015, a survey of national focal points reveals that at least 70% of them consider that knowledge events organized by UN-REDD have contributed “significantly” to progress in entering the WFR.*

Based on the results of the regional assessment and interviews conducted with national focal points, the priority topics for KM for the UN-REDD Asia/Pacific team should be:

- The four elements of the WFR
- REDD+ financing and financial mechanisms
- Developing systems for allocation of incentives (benefit distribution system)
- Engagement with the private sector

Considering the activities from the KM Strategy that are most relevant to regional teams, the A/P KM Action Plan needs to:

- Systematically capture, share and apply lessons learned from experience
- Establish Communities of Practice for REDD+ thematic and geographic areas
- Implement peer assists, country connections and knowledge exchange events
- Develop national knowledge management and capacity development plans
- Develop repository of REDD+ capacity development resources

Taking these activities as a guide, the means of delivery for South-South knowledge exchange in A/P should include:

- a) Regional events – in most cases, not necessarily engaging all UN-REDD Partner Countries, but ensuring participants are matched to needs and availability of knowledge
- b) In-country events, including REDD+ Academy-like events, involving experts from countries in the region
- c) Go-REDD+
- d) On-line resources, including e-learning modules and knowledge repositories
- e) Where feasible, study tours, or other exchanges of personnel

An indicative work programme for each of these mechanisms is outlined below:

**a) Regional events**

Regional events will normally be organized and held in Bangkok, both due to considerations of cost and organizational practicality. The target is to organize at least two such events during the year. Topics will be selected from:

- Results-based actions;
- Safeguards and SIS;
- REDD+ financing; and
- REDD+ Strategies

Participating countries in the workshops may be as follows:

Topic	Contributing countries	Receiving countries
Results-based actions	Viet Nam, Malaysia	Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar
Safeguards and SIS	Cambodia, PNG	Myanmar, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia
REDD+ financing	Nepal, Indonesia, Viet Nam	Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
REDD+ strategy development	Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines	Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mongolia

In all cases, there will need to be a strong investment by personnel of all three UN Agencies to ensure that the most appropriate participants (governmental and non-governmental) from all receiving countries attend.

**b) In-country events**

In-country events differ from regional events in that there is only a single receiving country, although there may be one or more contributing countries. In-country events can therefore be tailored much more closely to individual countries' needs, and access a much larger number of participants. Because some or all of the each event is conducted in the national language, comprehension is also increased.



For some topics, it may be necessary to engage external consultants, so to the extent possible, in-country events will be organized consecutively – i.e., the same or similar event offered in a number of countries over a short time period.

Adapting the REDD+ Academy concept to in-country events, it may be possible to organize short (3-4 day) academy-like events during which some 20-30 stakeholders are engaged on a number of priority topics. Therefore the A/P KM Specialist will develop a “menu” of topics which can be delivered through in-country events, including academy-like events. Each topic in the menu will be supported by an e-learning module.

For 2015, the target is to organize at least seven such in-country events (three national REDD+ Academies plus four smaller events) for individual countries or for small groups of countries (e.g., Bhutan-Nepal; or PNG-Solomon Islands). Vietnam is possibly the first country to benefit from such an event.

### ***c) Go-REDD+***

Although Go-REDD+ was originally conceived as a knowledge exchange mechanism that the UN-REDD Programme would adopt at the global level, and/or that would be adopted by other regions, this has not occurred. Nevertheless, an evaluation of Go-REDD+ was highly positive, and there is demand from countries for re-establishment of Go-REDD+. Therefore the A/P team will re-launch Go-REDD+.

The frequency of messages will again be two per month, but there will be a number of modifications for the renewed Go-REDD+. Firstly, the topics will be heavily weighted towards those priority topics identified through the assessments described in section 2, namely the four elements of the WFR; REDD+ financing and financial mechanisms; developing systems for allocation of incentives; and engagement with the private sector.

Secondly, instead of relying only on an email listserv, more social media mechanisms will be utilized, including Facebook or similar platforms that allow two-way exchanges, and Twitter.

### ***d) On-line resources, including e-learning modules***

The A/P team has already developed an on-line FPIC repository. The materials all reside in the Workspace, and the repository is accessed through the web-site. Unfortunately, it is virtually impossible to navigate through the user-unfriendly web-site in order to locate the repository.

The A/P team has also developed a full set of REDD+ Academy modules, and also has a set of 2-page brochures. The brochures will be re-designed to align with the Academy modules, with each module supported by a 2-page brochure and the regional RTAs and other experts will be the main targeted contributors, so as to offer users the option of a quick, low-level introduction to the topics, or much more detailed high-level training.

The UN-REDD web-site will be re-designed to make navigability to on-line resources simpler, or alternatively the A/P team will work together with Global Communications Team to improve and/or establish the A/P regional page. Through this re-designed/development, users will be able to access the on-line learning modules, the FPIC repository, and other repositories that may be developed.

### ***e) Study tours or other exchanges of personnel***

Although there are many challenges in organization of effective study tours, they are a potentially valuable activity if carefully designed. This is true particularly where a limited number of personnel can benefit directly from a detailed engagement in another country. Therefore, although such events cannot be planned a long

time in advance, the A/P KM Specialist will continually record countries' needs and opportunities for learning, so as to organize study tours as and when justified.

### Timeline

Responding to comments and recommendations from Partner Countries,

Action	12/14	1/15	2/15	3/15	4/15	5/15	6/15	7/15	8/15	9/15	10/15
Regional event 1 (Safeguards and SIS)											
Regional event 2 (tbd)											
In-country event 1-2											
In-country event 3-4											
In-country event 5-7											
Go-REDD+											
On-line resources											
Study tours											

### Budget Breakdown

No	Description	Unit	#Unit/Day	#Pers/Item	Cost	Total (\$)
<b>Activity 1: Regional Workshops (2 Two-day Workshops in Bangkok)</b>						
1	Travel cost of participants	Person	1	35	\$800.00	\$28,000.00
2	DSA for participants (minus lunch 12%)	Person	3	35	\$195.36	\$20,512.80
3	Travel resource persons <sup>i</sup>	Day	2	2		\$0.00
4	Fee for resource persons	Day	5	2		\$0.00
5	Full day meeting package	Day	2	45	\$32.00	\$2,880.00
6	Meeting materials	Set	1	45	\$5.00	\$225.00
7	Banner/Backdrop	Banner	1	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
8	Miscellaneous	Other	1	1	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	SUB-TOTAL					<b>\$52,767.80</b>
	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	Workshop	2		\$52,767.80	<b>\$105,535.60</b>
<b>Activity 2: In-country Events/Training</b>						
1	Fee for designing extension materials	Set	1	30	\$10.00	\$300.00
2	Fee for resource persons	Person	7	1	\$500.00	\$3,500.00
3	Travel costs for resource persons	Person	1	3	\$800.00	\$2,400.00
4	DSA for resource person	Person	4	2	\$200.00	\$1,600.00
5	Translation Cost	Person	3	1	\$200.00	\$600.00
6	UN-REDD Travel Cost	Person	1	3	\$800.00	\$2,400.00
7	UN-REDD DSA	Person	4	3	\$200.00	\$2,400.00
8	Miscellaneous	Other	1	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00

						<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,700.00</b>
						<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$102,900.00</b>
		Training	7			\$14,700.00	
<b>Activity 3: E-learning Establishment</b>							
1	Design cost	Designer	30	1	\$200.00	\$6,000.00	
2	Fee for Resource Person on development of the contents	Person	20	1	\$500.00	\$10,000.00	
						<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>
<b>Activity 4: Study Tour</b>							
1	Travel cost	Person	1	15	\$800.00	\$12,000.00	
2	DSA for participants	Person	3	15	\$200.00	\$9,000.00	
3	Miscellaneous	Other	1	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
						<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,500.00</b>
						<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,000.00</b>
		Study Tour	2			\$38,500.00	
						<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$301,435.60</b>

Note that the total available budget for KM events in A/P in 2015 is only \$163,350 (made up of \$133,350 approved for 2104 plus \$30,000 supplemental funds). Thus there is an extremely large **shortfall of \$137,900**. Therefore, without seeking additional sources of funding, some activities, particularly the in-country activities and study tours cannot be delivered.

<sup>i</sup> Cost of such resource persons will be born from their own programme's fund.