

Results of Regional Needs Assessment UN-REDD Knowledge Management For Asia/Pacific 2015 Action Plan

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 for 2015

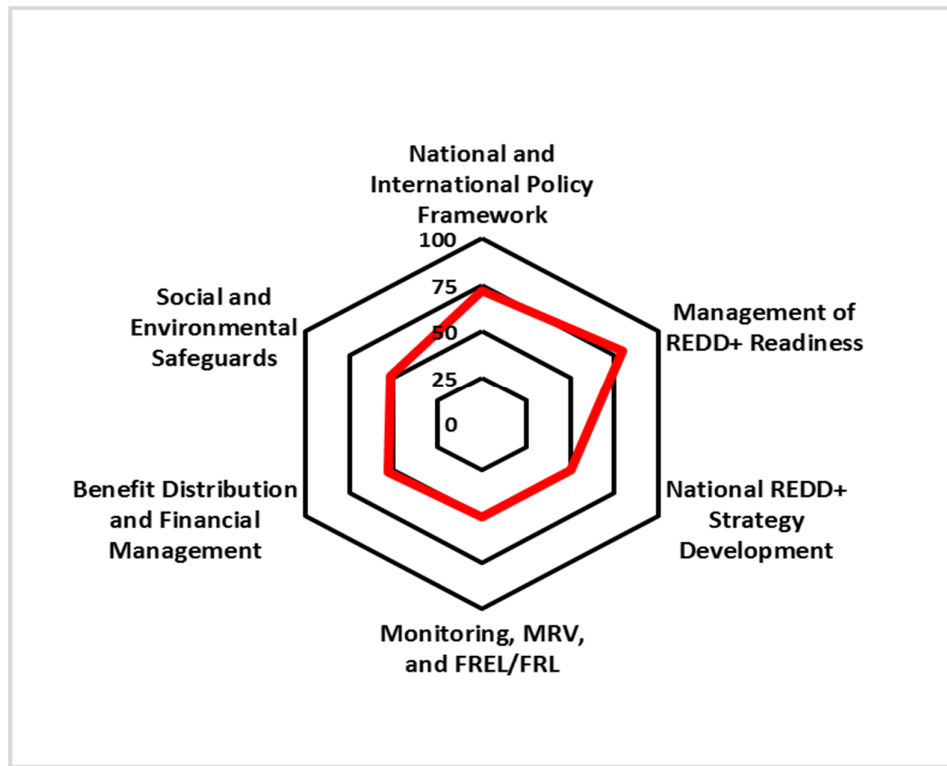
The UN-REDD regional team, based in Bangkok, is continually interacting with national REDD+ focal points and other stakeholders in-country. This allows UN-REDD staff members to build a picture of knowledge gaps and knowledge needs. However, inevitably such a picture will be subject to biases, caused 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

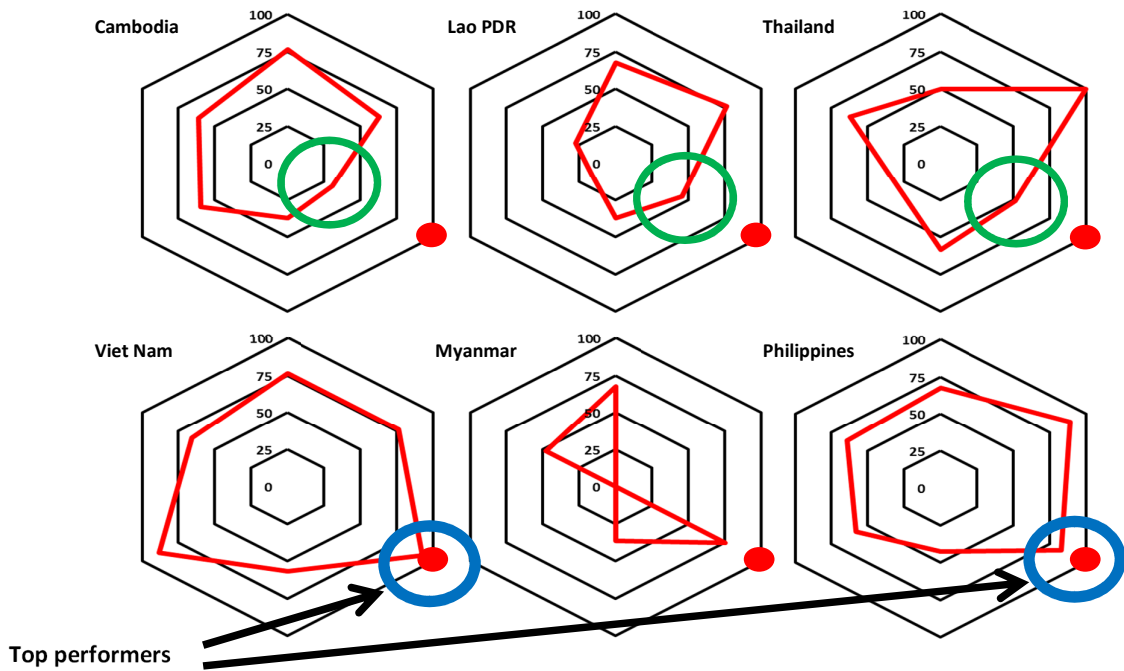
In late 2013, a regional assessment was conducted among 24 countries in Asia/Pacific – i.e., not only UN-REDD Partner countries. Three sources of data were used for the assessment:

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

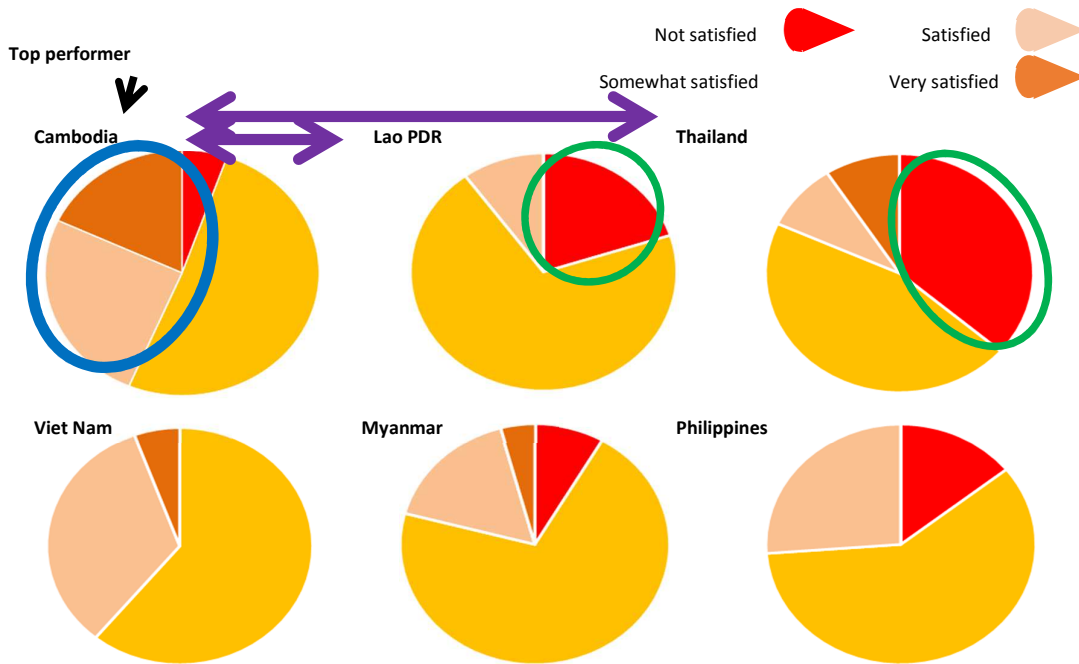
Through careful analysis of the data compiled from these three sources, an objective assessment of REDD+ readiness was generated for each country. The results are publicly available at [\[link\]](#). The data are extremely rich, allowing a wide range of issues to be assessed, but some of the key results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



Development of National REDD+ Strategy



Level of Satisfaction for Stakeholder Engagement

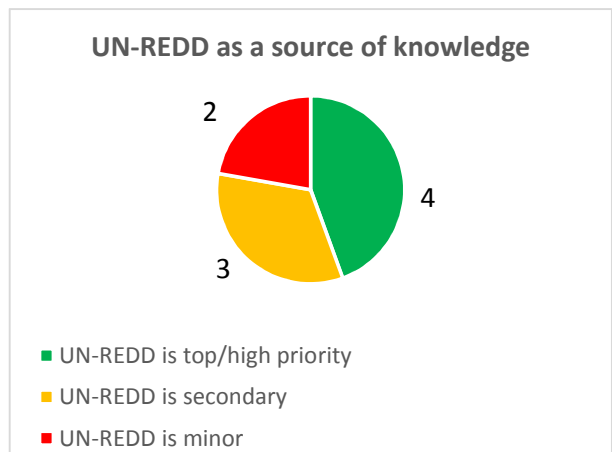
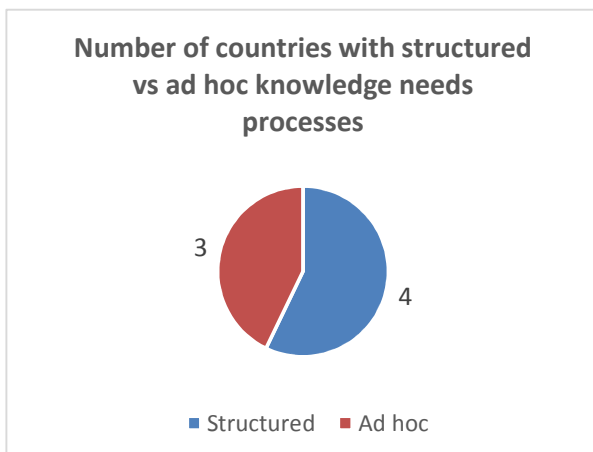


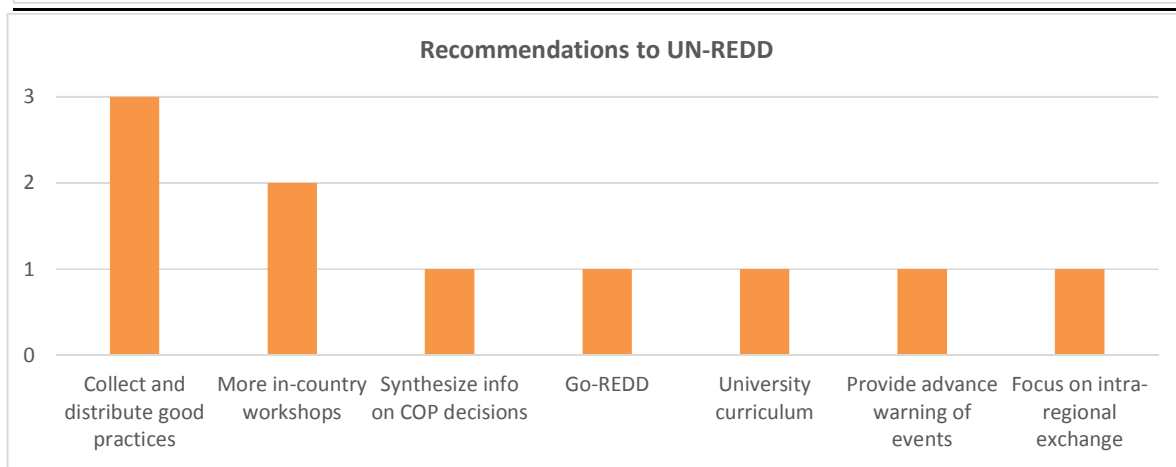
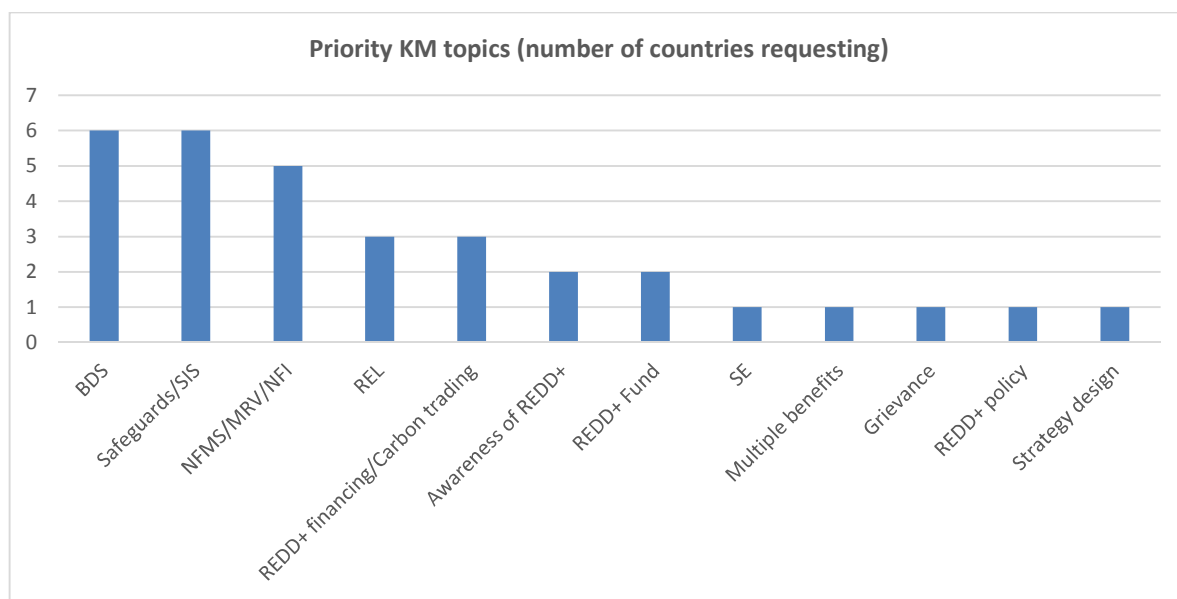
These data clarify that, in Asia/Pacific, most countries are strong in the area of alignment of national and international policy, and in the area of management of REDD+ readiness. However, many countries are notably weaker on some the technical aspects of REDD+ readiness, such as NFMS/MRV, and Safeguards.

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:





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.