

# UN-REDD Programme Webinar

## “Forest Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels for REDD+ under the UNFCCC”

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

9:00-11:00 CET

### Introduction

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) works to support the development and implementation of REDD+ activities by countries. Consistency with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the guiding principles of the UN-REDD Programme. FAO as part of the UN-REDD Programme is organizing a webinar to support countries in their preparation of Forest Reference (Emission) Levels for submission to the UNFCCC. Countries participating in the online event are invited to view the introductory presentation online before the webinar takes place and **send specific questions related to FREL/FRL construction under the UNFCCC beforehand to [Marieke.Sandker@fao.org](mailto:Marieke.Sandker@fao.org)**. Additional questions may be asked during the webinar in response to the presentations given.

To participate in the webinar please **register by filling in this short online form**: <http://goo.gl/qX2MFb>

### Objectives

Provide practical guidance and illustrative examples to UN-REDD countries and practitioners in the preparation of Forest Reference (Emission) Levels for submission to the UNFCCC.

Countries will be able to ask targeted questions on issues they encounter when preparing their Forest Reference (Emission) Levels to a panel of experts who will address them and provide a range of practical solutions, if appropriate.

### Target audience

Countries interested in preparing FREL/FRLs for submission to the UNFCCC. A maximum of 3-4 people per country will be able to connect live to the webinar, depending on the number of countries that wish to participate.

Please note that the webinar will be organized in Spanish and French in the months following the English webinar. The expected dates for the subsequent webinars are: **Spanish, 19 June (tbc) and French, 28 August(tbc)**.

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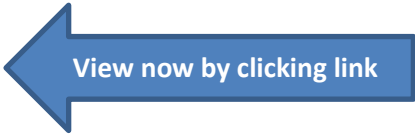


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## Agenda

Before the webinar starts (to be viewed online with YouTube):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bllDjfe\\_DUK&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bllDjfe_DUK&feature=youtu.be)



Summary of introductory presentation available through YouTube:

Duration	Title presentation	Presenter
23 min	Introduction to Forest Reference (Emission) Levels under the UNFCCC; summary of UNREDD publication	Donna Lee (on behalf of UN-REDD)
<b>Summary presentation</b>		
<p>A Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRLs) is one of the four elements a country needs to develop to participate in REDD+ under the UNFCCC. The UNFCCC has defined FREL/FRLs as benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD+ activities. Countries may propose a FREL/FRL for several reasons, including to contribute to international efforts on climate change mitigation or to access results-based payments. The UNFCCC has provided guidance on FREL/FRLs through three decisions, which indicate the need for the following elements for FREL/FRL development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Forest definition:</i> The forest definition used for the FREL/FRLs construction;</li><li>• <i>Scope:</i> REDD+ activities, pools and gases included in the FREL/FRL;</li><li>• <i>Data analysis:</i> How historical data have been taken into account;</li><li>• <i>FREL/FRL construction approach:</i> Parties are invited to submit information and rationale on the development of their FREL/FRLs. This includes details on national circumstances and how these are considered if adjustments are made;</li><li>• <i>Scale:</i> The area covered by the FREL/FRL, keeping in mind that countries may develop sub-national FREL/FRLs as an interim measure.</li></ul> <p>The FREL/FRLs should be consistent with the emissions and removals reported in a country's GHG inventory, and build upon data from the Measuring, Reporting and Verifying function of a country's National Forest Monitoring System. This presentation explains the UNFCCC guidance on FREL/FRL construction, information submission and the scope of the technical assessment of FREL/FRLs.</p>		

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Webinar, Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 CET:

Time	Activity	Presenter
9:00-9:15	Introduction of participants through online poll	Facilitator
9:15-9:30	<b>Forest Reference (Emission) Levels in a nutshell: construction and submission</b> Linkages between National Forest Monitoring Systems, GHG inventories and FREL/FRLs	Maria Sanz Sanchez
9:30-10:15	<b>Questions on Forest Reference Level construction under the UNFCCC</b> (questions can be posed at the online forum but we encourage sending in questions before the webinar starts in the online registration form or to <a href="mailto:Marieke.Sandker@fao.org">Marieke.Sandker@fao.org</a> )	Expert panel
10:15-10:30	<b>Technical assessment of Forest Reference (Emission) Levels</b> Lessons learned from Brazil	Marieke Sandker Thelma Krug
10:30-11:00	<b>Questions on the Technical Assessment of Forest Reference (Emission) Levels</b>	Expert panel

## Panel of experts

Name	Affiliation	Description
<b>Philippe Crête</b>	Coordinator Africa and FRL, UNREDD-FAO	Philippe is the Africa regional advisor of the UN-REDD programme in FAO and theme leader of Forest Reference Levels at the UN-REDD Programme.
<b>Donna Lee*</b>	Independent consultant - expert in international climate policy	Donna is an expert on Forest Reference Levels providing support to countries under the UN-REDD Programme at. She formerly worked at the U.S. Department of State serving as the lead negotiator on REDD+ and coordinated the U.S. government's international policy on climate change and forests/land-use.
<b>Erik Lindquist</b>	RS/GIS expert, FAO	Erik is a remote sensing expert providing support to countries in satellite imagery processing, land cover map creation and providing accurate forest area change

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		estimates. He does cutting-edge research on time-series analysis for degradation and contributed on this topic to the GFOI MGD (see background documentation).
<b>Sandro Federici</b>	Independent consultant – expert in the fields of forestry, climate change mitigation, GHG Inventories	Sandro has around 15 years of expertise as consultant/technical expert in reporting and accounting for GHG emissions and removals in the land sector (including forestry and REDD+) with several International organizations (including FAO, IPCC and UNFCCC). He has extensive experience as consultant on negotiations under the UNFCCC, with delegations of Italy, European Community, Papua New Guinea and Panama.
<b>Thelma Krug*</b>	National Institute for Space Research, INPE, Brazil	Thelma is a researcher at INPE and took a lead role in preparing Brazil's UNFCCC submission of a Forest Reference Emission Level. She is an IPCC co-author and has actively contributed to climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC representing her country.
<b>Maria José Sanz Sánchez</b>	Programme coordinator, UN-REDD Programme at FAO	Maria is the programme coordinator of the UN-REDD Programme at FAO which provides support to countries on National Forest Monitoring Systems and their participation in REDD+. Maria formerly served as Senior Officer at the UNFCCC Secretariat, leading the support for negotiations on LULUCF, Agriculture and REDD+.
<b>Lucio Santos</b>	Regional advisor NFMS & FRL, UN-REDD Programme at -FAO	Lucio provides technical support on NFMS and FREL/FRL in Latin America for the UN-REDD Programme at FAO. He is an experienced professional on issues related to forest monitoring, REDD+, climate change and programme/project management.
<b>Marieke Sandker</b>	FRL expert, UN-REDD Programme at FAO	Marieke is an expert on Forest Reference Levels for REDD+ under the UNFCCC providing support to countries under the UN-REDD Programme at FAO. She is the lead author of two key publications on Forest Reference Levels published by FAO in 2014 and 2015 (see background documentation).

*\* Due to time difference these panelists will not be online during the webinar but may provide input on questions sent to them beforehand*

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## Background documentation

**FAO, 2014.** [Emerging Approaches to Forest Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels for REDD+](#). UN-REDD publication

*The purpose of this document is to inform countries seeking to develop FREL/FRLs for REDD+ with an overview of different approaches to FREL/FRLs and an analysis showing some emerging trends. The approaches presented are in most cases in a preliminary design phase and were developed and proposed by countries in the context of demonstration activities. FREL/FRL examples described in this document pertain to the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guyana, Mexico, Nepal, the Republic of Congo and Vietnam. This document relies on publicly available information (in many cases from Emission Reductions Program Idea Notes, or ER-PINs, from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's website) and in some instances, complemented with information provided by country representatives. When available, the Annex will also include UNFCCC submissions. In some cases, as in Brazil, it may illustrate how FREL/FRL approaches can evolve in a country. Preliminary findings from summarizing different FREL/FRL approaches indicate that most countries opt for a stepwise approach, as suggested in Decision 12/CP.17, initially including a limited number of REDD+ activities and carbon pools, although many countries express their intention to expand the scope of their FREL/FRL as more complete and better quality data becomes available. Furthermore, it appears that most countries have chosen to initially elaborate a subnational FREL/FRL, as an interim measure and as allowed by Decision 12/CP.17.*

*This publication will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure broad dissemination of new country examples and emerging trends and information on lessons learned.*

**FAO, 2015.** Technical considerations to Forest Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels for REDD+ under the UNFCCC. UN-REDD publication [to be published in April 2015]

*The aim of this document is to help countries seeking to develop a REDD+ Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) under the UNFCCC. The document provides a structural overview of UNFCCC requirements for FREL/FRL construction, summarizing UNFCCC guidance and translating it into elements needed for FREL/FRL construction. A description of possible advantages and risks associated with different options for each of these elements is added to provide some practical considerations to FREL/FRL construction. The first section of the document puts Forest Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs) in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and describes the different purposes of FREL/FRLs. It then sets out a summary of UNFCCC decisions relevant to the construction, submission and technical assessment of*

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*FREL/FRLs, recalling at the same time relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and guidelines. The document then provides an overview of technical issues regularly faced by countries when developing and submitting their FREL/FRLs, using examples to illustrate how different technical issues can be tackled at the country level. It includes technical considerations for country choices concerning forest definition, scale, scope, data selection and analysis, national circumstances and adjustments, as well as FREL/FRL construction approaches. The document concludes by proposing a possible logical flow which combines all these elements into a FREL/FRL.*

**GFOI, 2014.** [Integrating remote-sensing and ground-based observations for estimation of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases in forests: Methods and Guidance from the Global Forest Observations Initiative.](#) Group on Earth Observations, Geneva, Switzerland, 2014.

*The Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) was established by the Group on Earth Observations in 2011, to assist countries to produce reliable, consistent and comparable reports on change in forest cover and forest use and associated anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions or removals. The purpose of the Methods and Guidance Document is to provide methodological advice on the use of remotely sensed data together with ground-based observations to estimate and report greenhouse gas emissions and removals associated with forests in a manner consistent with the greenhouse gas inventory guidance from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This is required by decisions by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for voluntary implementation of REDD+ activities.*

*The Methods and Guidance Document aims to complement the guidance from the IPCC, the approach taken by the UN-REDD Programme and the GOFI-GOLD Sourcebook, and has been produced in cooperation with these initiatives.*

**UNFCCC relevant decisions** for Forest Reference (Emission) Levels:

UNFCCC, decision 4/CP. 15, available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/11a01.pdf#page=11>

UNFCCC, decision 1/CP.16, available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=12>

UNFCCC, decision 12/CP.17, available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a02.pdf#page=17>

UNFCCC, decision 13/CP.19, available at:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/10a01.pdf#page=34>

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