

ABOUT REDD+

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Photo: Riccardo Gangle / UN-REDD Programme

What is REDD+?

Deforestation and forest degradation account for 11 per cent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector.

In response, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have developed a climate change mitigation approach designed to incentivize developing countries to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

This mitigation approach is known as REDD+ and is defined as “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks”.

REDD+ aims to incentivize developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation actions in the

forest sector by:

- reducing carbon emissions from deforestation;
- reducing carbon emissions from forest degradation;
- conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- sustainable management of forests; and
- enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Elements of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+



Forest Reference
Emission Levels /
Forest Reference
Levels
(FREL/FRL)



National Forest
Monitoring
Systems
(NFMS)



National
Strategies /
Action Plans
(NS/AP)



Safeguards /
Safeguards
Information
Systems (SIS)

How does REDD+ benefit developing countries?

Developing countries that meet UNFCCC REDD+ requirements (see box “Elements of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+”) will receive results-based payments for verified emissions reductions. As such, REDD+ creates an incentive for these countries to reduce emissions from forests, and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.

By implementing REDD+ actions, countries will contribute to conserving their national biodiversity and to the global fight against climate change. In addition to the environmental benefits, REDD+ also offers social and economic benefits. Most recently, it is being integrated into green economy strategies.

REDD+ is also a tool to realize achievement of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September 2015. The new agenda calls on countries to begin efforts to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals over the next 15 years. While REDD+ is directly linked to Climate Action (goal 13), it can also play an important role towards Responsible Consumption and Production (goal 12), Gender Equality (goal 5), Life on Land (goal 15), and Decent Work and Economic Growth (goal 8) among others.

Why is REDD+ important?

Deforestation and forest degradation have long been recognized as significant sources of carbon emissions, as trees store carbon and when they are destroyed this carbon is released into the atmosphere contributing to greenhouse gases that cause climate change.

As up to 11 per cent of carbon emissions are caused by deforestation and forest degradation, it is important that the reduction of these emissions is part of the global plan to fight climate change. REDD+ is the identified mechanism to do so.

In addition to their carbon storage role, forests are valuable in many other ways. This includes water regulation, soil protection, non-timber forest products including food and fibre, climate regulation and biodiversity. In fact, it is estimated that 1.6 billion people depend on forests. As such, by conserving forests, REDD+ offers a broad range of social, environmental and economic benefits to developing countries and forest communities.



What is the difference between REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme?

REDD+ is a voluntary climate change mitigation approach that has been developed by Parties to the UNFCCC. It aims to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forest carbon stocks, sustainably manage forests and enhance forest carbon stocks.

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries – or UN-REDD Programme – is a multilateral body. It partners with developing countries to support them in establishing the technical capacities needed to implement REDD+ and meet UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ result-based payments. It does so through a country-based approach that provides advisory and technical support services tailored to national circumstances and needs. The UN-REDD Programme is a collaborative initiative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and harnesses the technical expertise of these UN agencies. Other examples of REDD+ multilaterals include the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Program, hosted by The World Bank.

What is REDD+ “readiness”?

REDD+ readiness refers to the efforts a country undertakes to develop the capacities needed to demonstrate and implement REDD+, and meet UNFCCC REDD+ requirements. REDD+ readiness support is provided to developing countries through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, including the UN-REDD Programme. This includes both financial and technical support on REDD+ related areas of work including governance, stakeholder engagement, developing a REDD+ national strategy/action plan, designing a safeguards information system, and developing a forest emission reference level and a national forest monitoring system.



What are the phases of REDD+?

The UNFCCC defines the three phases of REDD+ as:

Phase 1: Readiness:

Countries design national strategies and action plans with relevant stakeholders, build the capacity to implement REDD+, work on REDD+ related policies and measures, and design demonstration activities.

Phase 2: Demonstration:

National strategies, policies and action plans proposed in Phase I are demonstrated and tested. This may include results-based demonstration activities and may require additional capacity building, technology development and transfer.

Phase 3: Implementation:

Results-based actions are implemented at the national level and results are fully measured, reported and verified. Countries can access results-based payments when they have completed the reporting, assessment and analysis processes under the UNFCCC.

Why is stakeholder engagement important for REDD+?

Full and effective stakeholder engagement is indispensable to REDD+ for a number of reasons. Firstly, UNFCCC decisions have consistently called for Parties to ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of REDD+ national strategies/action plans.

Secondly, there has been a strong demand for meaningful stakeholder engagement from donors, indigenous peoples, civil society and REDD+ countries since the early days of REDD+.

Thirdly, because of the transformational reforms REDD+ can necessitate, success depends on partnerships and buy-in across a large swath of government, society, business and institutions. Stakeholder engagement is not merely a matter of integrating the views of the different actors that are concerned by REDD+, but can also craft partnerships, consensus and inclusive and gender-sensitive policies that will make REDD+ transformational, attainable and enduring.

Particular attention should be made to engagement with forest-dependent communities, including indigenous peoples, which play a key role in the conservation and sustainable management of forests and possess knowledge and institutions that can contribute to REDD+ objectives.



Additional Resources

UN-REDD Programme Collaborative Online Workspace: www.unredd.net

UNFCCC REDD+ page: bit.ly/UNFCCC-REDDpage

UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform: redd.unfccc.int

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: sustainabledevelopment.un.org

UNFCCC COP21 Paris Agreement: unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09.pdf

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org

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Social media links: bit.ly/UN-REDD-links

