



UN-REDD Programme 2016 – 2020 Strategy Consultation: Online Consultation Overview

Introduction

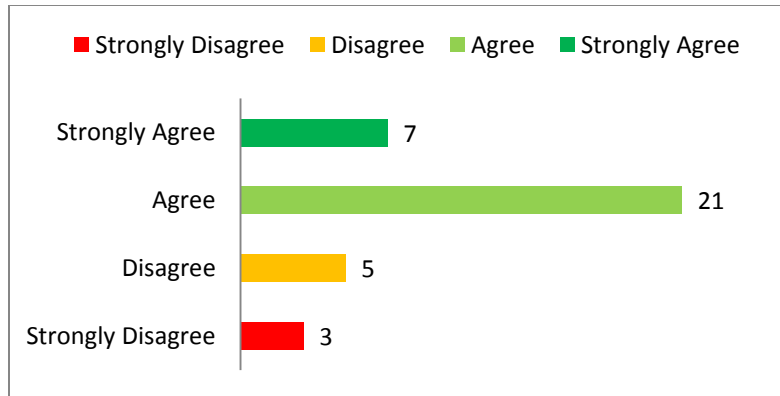
In keeping with the strategy development “road map” approved at PB12 in Lima, the UN-REDD Programme has engaged in a robust stakeholder consultation process to solicit input on the development of the 2016 – 2020 Programme strategy. This strategy development process has included structured Policy Board member interviews, a donor consultation, three regional workshops and other avenues by which stakeholders were able to provide feedback to the Programme. In particular, as an integral part of the ongoing consultation process and in support of the Programme Secretariat, Meridian Institute designed an online consultation process to provide yet another avenue by which Programme stakeholders were able to provide strategic input to the Programme. The confidential online consultation was open from 19 September – 17 October and substantive responses were received from 38 Programme stakeholders¹ and provided a portal through which an even larger number of stakeholders were able to access the discussion paper that served as the basis for the consultation and as an initial declaration of the emerging strategy for the 2016 – 2020 period. The following overview provides a brief indication of the feedback received through the online consultation process.

Summary of Responses

- 1. Do you agree with this statement: The vision for the Programme that was articulated in the 2011-2015 Strategy is equally valid for the Programme for the period of 2016-2020.**

2011-2015 Vision Statement: Developing countries have significantly reduced their forest and land-based emissions, as a result of incentives from a performance-based REDD+ mechanism, while achieving national developmental goals in a sustainable and equitable manner.

¹ A full list survey respondents – in alphabetical order – can be found in Annex 1 at the end of this document.



If you disagree or strongly disagree, how would you articulate an appropriate vision for the Programme for the period of 2016-2020?

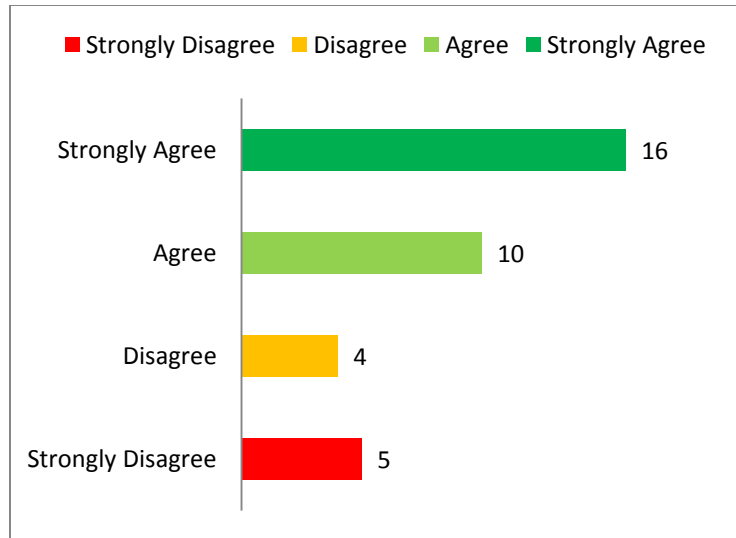
There was clear and substantial support from respondents for the ongoing vision of the Programme. However, some responses asked for clarity as it relates to terminology (e.g. “land-based emissions” and “performance-based REDD+ mechanism”) and the Programme should be more explicit about its role in supporting the achievement of emissions reductions.

Furthermore, the processes to reach these goals should be inclusive of local communities.

Lastly, realizing this vision will require the Programme to ensure that the proper incentives are in place to catalyze action at the country level.

Sample of the Range of Views Expressed: 1) “Period up to 2020 is too short to really produce significant reduction by the performance-based REDD+ mechanism. The vision should be more focus on the readiness of the developing countries in need and haven’t managed access to this kind of assistance yet to reduce the emission utilizing the mechanism.” 2) “There is not the evidence to support this. ‘Significantly’ would have to mean a demonstrable reduction in forest based emissions entering the atmosphere (this is different from claims regarding ‘saved’ emissions via calculations related to country baselines). Pilot projects have been just that - pilots, with varying methodologies, and small-scale. Incentives have either not reached the intended communities, or been allocated to social safeguards rather than actual reductions, and environmental projects. The linkage between national development goals and REDD+ activities is moot (in the case of Indonesia, forests are still being cleared for plantations), as is the notion that projects actually are sustainable (some REDD+ projects, given their emphasis on reducing forest degradation, rather than eliminating it, are simply slowing the process).”

2. The proposed mission of the Programme for 2016-2020 is founded on the basis that the UN-REDD Programme should support developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation through implementation of REDD+ activities as agreed in the UNFCCC. Do you agree with the basic aim of this proposed mission statement?



a. If you agree or strongly agree, can you recommend any refinements?

The majority of respondents agreed with the mission stated above and thought that the formulation was clear and concise. However, there were those who would make relatively substantial revisions. Some respondents felt as though the new mission was weaker than the stated mission for the 2011 – 2015 period. In addition, several respondents wanted to ensure that Programme support was embedded in the broader country context, including country development agendas, and involved civil society and indigenous peoples as stakeholders in an inclusive process.

Sample of Range of Views Expressed: 1) “It is indispensable that transformation and use of the land is given the same recognition, since it was assigned an inferior status in the first stage. Greater emphasis must be made to countries’ ownership when devising and implementing strategies, because it seems more like a United Nations’/Donors’ programme than that of the countries themselves. Maybe the mission could make a nod to the collaboration that must occur between the numerous actors so as to achieve common objectives.” 2) “I would recommend that the UN-REDD should broaden its scope of support to include more countries (particularly smaller developing countries and SIDS) particularly in the area of technical support and pilot programmes in the first two phases of REDD+.”

b. If you disagree or strongly disagree, how would you formulate the mission of the UN-REDD Programme for 2016-2020?

Nearly all participants agreed with the mission of the Programme. However, there were several participants who wanted the Programme to ensure that its work would be integrated into the broader country context and include a focus on all aspects of REDD+ and support national and human development.

Sample of Range of Views Expressed: 1) "In my view, one of the attractive aspects of this programme compared to other initiatives is its "additionality". The fact that the mission of the Strategy 2011-2015 included the contribution to human well-being and adaptation was one of the aspects that made this Programme more adequate for donors that don't look only to greenhouse gas emissions.

I think that changing the mission to what is included in the discussion paper for 2016-2020, focusing only on mitigation, would reduce the added value of this programme." 2) "To support developing countries' efforts to transform their forest sectors so as to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable development, in collaboration with stakeholders."

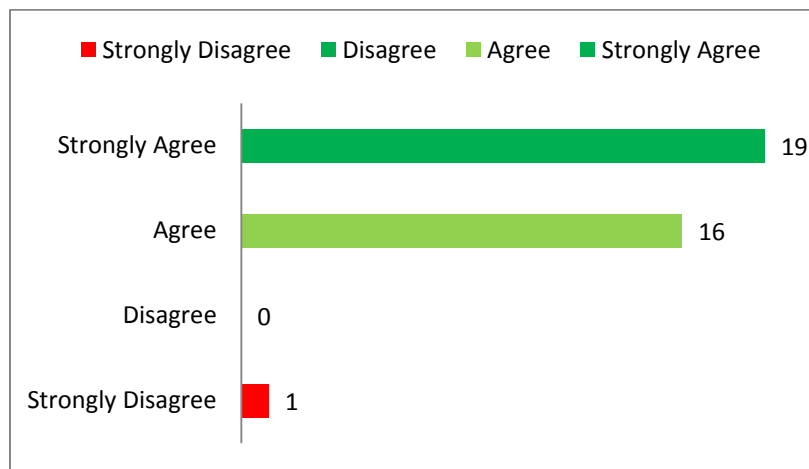
3. At the close of the 2016-2020 period, how do you think the Programme should define and evaluate "success"?

A wide range of responses were received for this question. The one common theme was that the majority of respondents understood that "success" may be hard to capture quantitatively and that the Programme should clearly define the support that is intended to be provided and deliberately evaluate its programming against these criteria. The views ranged from defining success as progress towards integrating REDD+ into national development strategies to measuring country progress towards readiness indicators and submission of information towards receiving RBPs to describing the amount and types of policies and measures that were supported based on country circumstance that created the enabling environment for the integration of REDD+ into national priorities. In short, the majority of participants suggested that success or progress could be measured as it relates to the elements of the UNFCCC process – readiness or implementation of policies and measures – but that success should include other indicators that do not necessarily lend themselves to numerical assessment.

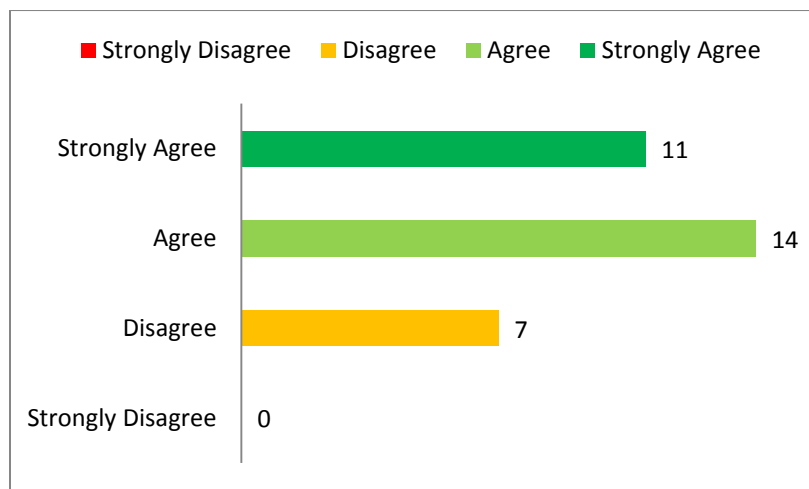
Sample of Range of Views Expressed: 1) "The Programme should define success by taking into account the references provided from the evaluation/results or achievements of year 2011-2015 (today's base-line) compare it against the closing period's global performance as targeted for the 2016-2020. This will be augmented by the Individual country's performance or contribution as should be stated on the country's need assessment, with clear indicators of targets to reach by the closing of period." 2) "Success should be defined and evaluated based on the number of countries, particularly new (additional) countries which have been supported by UN-REDD towards implementation of REDD+ activities in their respective countries."

4. The proposed objective suggests a shift in the Programme to be a provider of advisory and technical support services that are tailored to a variety of circumstances and needs of developing countries. These services would be aimed at: a) enabling as many countries as possible to participate effectively in the UNFCCC process by enhancing their readiness for REDD+; and b) to scale up efforts in those countries that have advanced in the readiness phase to help them design and implement results-based actions that are recognized by the UNFCCC and are therefore eligible for results-based payments.

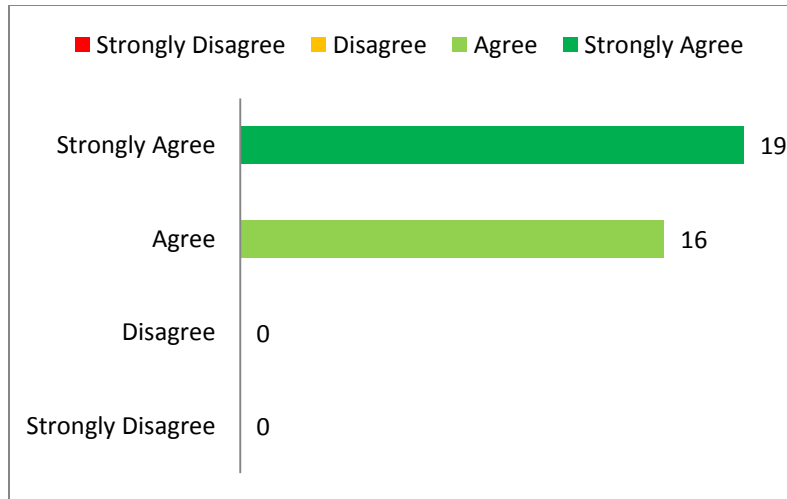
a. Do you agree or disagree that the UN-REDD Programme can serve an important role in supporting REDD+ countries?



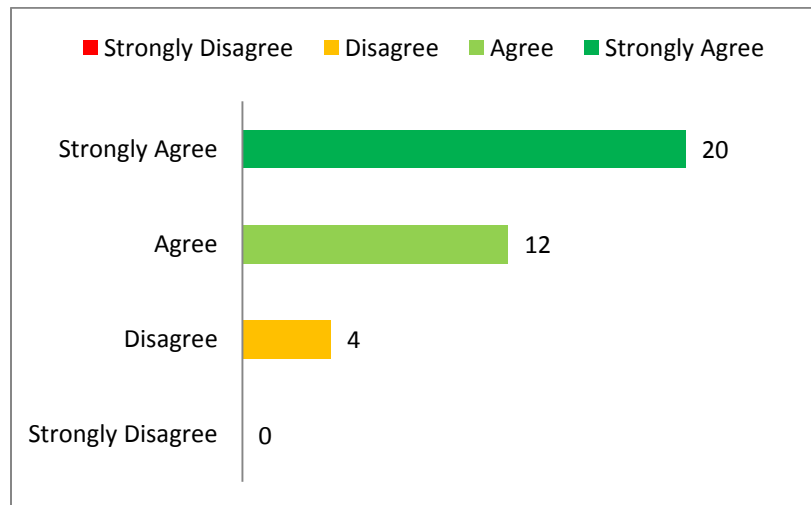
b. Do you agree or disagree that the UN-REDD Programme should evolve into even more of a service provider oriented operation?



c. Do you agree or disagree that the UN-REDD Programme should continue to provide support to countries for their REDD+ readiness activities?



- d. Do you agree or disagree that the UN-REDD Programme should assist developing countries that have advanced in the REDD+ readiness phase to help them scale up their efforts and design and implement results-based actions that are recognized by the UNFCCC and are therefore eligible for results-based payments?



- e. What should be the relative balance between support to REDD+ readiness and support to REDD+ implementation? Please elaborate on your responses to these questions to explain your rationale.

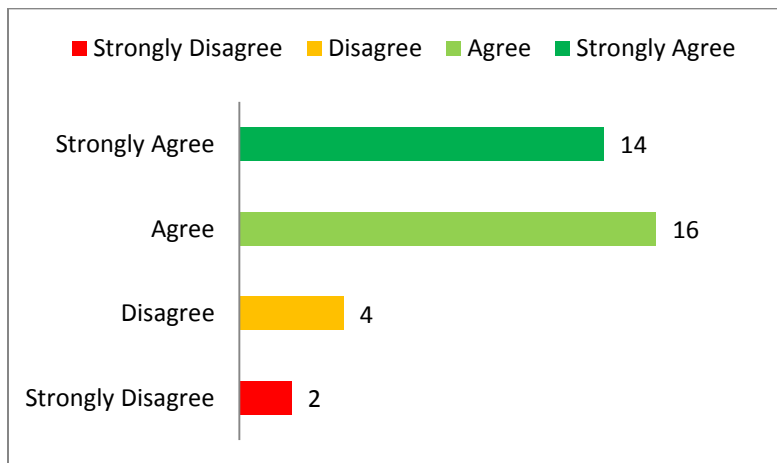
A solid majority of respondents suggested that the Programme should focus on readiness support. However, a more nuanced look at these perspectives shows that the Programme should look to support countries based on their national circumstances and specific needs rather than pre-determining the levels of support. The responses included several that stated that now is the time to pilot support for RBA to ensure that there are “success stories” to build

upon and learn from as examples for other countries as they move through the UNFCCC process. Regardless of whether respondents thought that more resources should be directed at readiness support or support for implementation, there was general agreement that the criteria by which priorities are set and the level of support should be made clear by the Programme.

Sample of Range of Views Expressed: 1) “As a UN initiative with a strong body of technical expertise and given the strong interest from developing countries to initiate REDD+ programmes, most of the support, in the proposed program period, should be directed towards readiness activities and bringing on board as many countries as possible. This of course should also be informed by REDD+ mitigation capacities in those countries and willingness of countries to engage in the process.” 2) “The balance between these two features will depend on the country’s national circumstances. The Country Needs Assessment can be an important tool to determine the right balance between these two features for different countries.”

5. The proposed focus of the Programme for 2016-2020 is heavily oriented towards the UNFCCC REDD+ process, including focusing on all four of the key elements of REDD+ as defined by the UNFCCC. It is also proposed to assist developing countries to advance their capacity to prepare submissions to the UNFCCC related to the four elements of REDD+; prepare for other UNFCCC decisions related to recognition of results-based actions; and implement results-based actions to obtain results-based payments and other benefits according to national circumstances.

a. Do you agree with the proposed substantive focus of the Programme?



b. If you agree or strongly agree, can you recommend any refinements regarding the substantive focus of the Programme for 2016-2020?

The overwhelming majority of respondents were in agreement with the formulation of Programme support, although many made clarifying statements or asked clarifying questions to ensure that the Programme is utilizing the correct terminology as it relates to the UNFCCC process and associated decisions. However, the varied responses brought forward the idea that the Programme should not neglect other elements of support as it focuses on the UNFCCC process. In particular, a few respondents suggested that the Programme should make piloting funds available as an integral part of the new strategy in addition to supporting countries to address benefit sharing. Furthermore, governance and anti-corruption should remain key elements of the Programme to ensure that the country level environment is conducive to success. Lastly, the new strategy should not only look to address emissions reductions but also other ecosystem services and additional benefits.

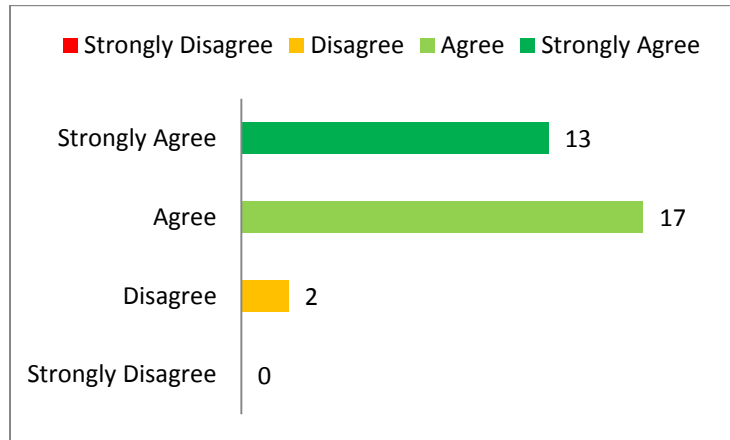
Sample View: "In the 2016-2020 design approach, consider that the pilot stage will be very important for some countries and there is currently no funding for piloting except for the FCPF Carbon Fund, which is not related to the UNFCCC. The UN-REDD Programme could give results-based piloting action funding options."

c. If you disagree or strongly disagree, what would you propose as the substantive focus of the Programme for 2016-2020?

The vast majority of respondents agreed with the Programme's proposed focus on supporting countries through the UNFCCC process. However, those that did not agree raised a couple of key points, including to suggest that the language related to this aspect of country support should be clarified to avoid confusion related to terminology and elements of support. There was also concern that REDD continues to be a top-down process and that many of the issues encountered could be alleviated by allowing stakeholders at the country and local levels to develop their own projects.

6. The proposed new approach emphasizes the need to tailor the advisory and technical support services provided by the UN-REDD Programme to the unique needs of each partner country -- identified through a country needs assessment conducted jointly with countries, and supported with interdisciplinary and interagency teams that will accompany countries through the steps they decide to take through the UNFCCC process.

a. Do you agree with this proposed approach?



b. If you agree or strongly agree, can you recommend any refinements regarding tailoring of support through the Programme for 2016-2020?

Nearly all respondents agreed with this approach; however, numerous respondents wanted to ensure that this support was country driven and inclusive (IP and CSOs) with the goal of helping countries to prioritize their REDD-related initiatives and the Programme is able to prioritize support as well. If CNA's are to be conducted, a few respondents suggested that the Programme should create a roster of qualified and approved experts and consultants to build a critical mass of experts that are able to support countries and transfer lessons-learned in the assessment process. Furthermore, although there was agreement that a country needs an assessment, the Programme needs to clarify how this support is different from what the Programme currently does and should seek to avoid duplication of assessments that countries may already have undertaken or may have been done by other institutions.

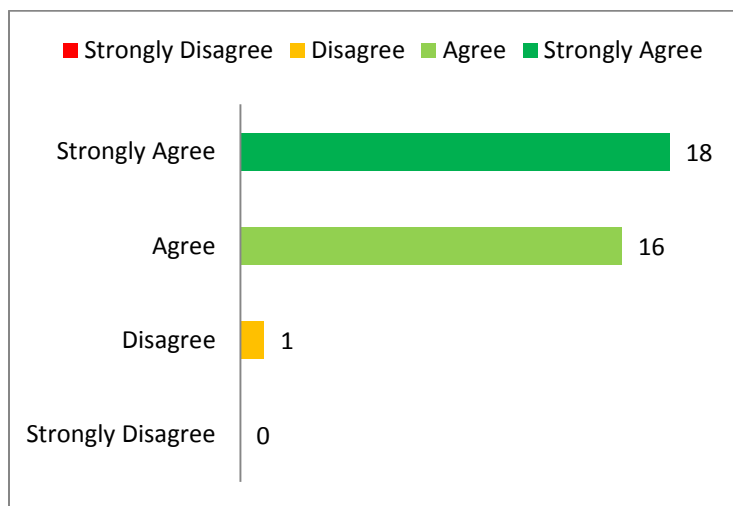
Sample View: "Assessing and addressing the needs of countries is a crucial element for achieving sustainability. At best, UN-REDD interventions are aligned to the specific priorities (indicators, policies, allocated budgets, etc.) in the partner countries' implementing agencies. Needs assessments need to be conducted in a collaborative manner, involving multiple stakeholders from government, CSO, academe, IPs, other bilateral or multilateral agencies."

c. If you disagree or strongly disagree, what would you propose for concerning the tailoring of support through the Programme for 2016-2020?

Although nearly all respondents were in agreement, it should be mentioned that there were a couple of respondents that provided other feedback. In particular, the assessment and support should be inclusive of civil society and IP communities and the Programme needs to ensure that existing governance issues do not hamper delivery of support.

7. In addition to the country-tailored support, the proposed new approach also emphasizes the need to provide capacity development activities and an open and easily accessible knowledge management system designed to assist developing countries to share methods and lessons learned to progressively improve their REDD+ actions and capacities.

a. Do you agree with these features of the proposed approach?



b. If you agree or strongly agree, can you recommend any refinements regarding the capacity development and knowledge management approaches to be adopted by the Programme for 2016-2020?

The overwhelming majority of respondents believe that capacity development and knowledge management support are important features of the Programme. However, this support should be tailored to country needs and should be brought to the regional and country level, including: building capacity through in-country courses or workshops to support national government officials as well as CSOs and IP representatives at the local level and South-South cooperation. The knowledge gained through these capacity development and knowledge sharing initiatives should be integrated into existing REDD+ knowledge platforms and must document success stories and best practices. The Programme should take advantage of existing platforms and events (e.g. REDD+ Academy and COPs) to collect and disseminate emerging knowledge.

Sample View: "It must be recognized that Capacity Development is broad and the Programme must respect the needs of the countries. Capacity must be looked at in terms of Knowledge and skills, functional institutional systems as well as having appropriate tools and equipment for implementing REDD+."

c. If you disagree or strongly disagree, what would you propose for the approach of the Programme for 2016-2020?

The responses focused to this question were minimal but included the suggestion that the Programme should focus on addressing governance issues. In addition, one respondent stated that expanding knowledge management and information sharing efforts were only beneficial if there was a plan to integrate that information into future Programme support.

8. What are the advantages of having three UN agencies working together to deliver as “One UN”? What are the disadvantages and how can the Programme show improvement regarding this aspect of the UN-REDD Programme?

There was significant convergence amongst respondents on the advantages of delivering as “One UN”. In particular, responses pointed to the specialized experience and capacity that each agency brings to bear. Furthermore, when the Programme is able to deliver in an integrated manner, it provides an opportunity to coordinate and leverage resources. Since REDD+ is a highly integrated objective it requires close coordination and “One UN”, when working well, can help countries deliver on the promise of REDD.

Although respondents were readily able to provide advantages to the “One UN” approach, disadvantages and challenges were identified. In particular, the different funding, reporting, and operating modalities cause undue institutional burdens and transaction costs. Furthermore, although the agencies are a part of the UN-REDD Programme, the roles and responsibilities between agencies are often unclear and this can hamper delivery of Programme support. Lastly, there were a few respondents that stated that the 3 agencies delivering as one can cause compartmentalization and that the specialization in delivery can cause a coordination problem that should be mitigated by ensuring that there is a lead agency to take over a coordinating role. This coordination challenge also manifests when the agencies have different institutional objectives beyond the Programme that can cause obstacles to joint delivery and can cause slower decision-making.

The responses were clear that in order to capitalize on the advantages and minimize the disadvantages the Programme, and each agency, should strive to: create transparency in operations; clarify roles and responsibilities; improve communication between agencies as well as with countries; and, streamline financial and operational modalities and interfaces to reduce the burden on countries.

Sample View: “Each agency has different experience, skills and specialism areas, which could be complemented so as to provide ad hoc support and technical assistance to the countries’ needs. It is important to work actively to reduce the possible risk of lacking communication and coordination between agencies.”

9. How can the Programme be a catalyst for integrating REDD+ into the broader development agenda at the country level?

Respondents took different approaches to answering this question. However, responses covered similar ground by suggesting that Programme should show respect for country ownership and priorities while providing technical as well as financial support in order to develop each country's capacity to integrate REDD into its broader development agenda. In particular, the Programme can play a role by facilitating inter-ministerial dialogue (finance, agriculture, planning, etc.) As a part of this facilitation, the Programme should support decision-makers by providing REDD+ education so that these leaders understand the full value of REDD+ as it pertains to national development. Lastly, a few participants suggested that the Programme should support efforts that do not necessarily directly lead to emissions reductions but create the necessary environment for the country to achieve reductions.

Sample View: "Alignment with national development and climate policies, strategies and priorities. This can be achieved by the Programme through close technical cooperation at the operational levels of the respective agencies, where support for REDD+ implementation can be built more easily. This requires commitment in time and resources."

10. What relationship should the Programme have with other REDD+ related institutions such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Readiness Fund and Carbon Fund or the Green Climate Fund?

Key words that emerged throughout the responses included: "collaboration", "coordination" and "complementary." The main goal arising from comments received was that these institutions should strive to avoid the duplication of work and, in so doing, define clear institutional roles and work toward joint strategic planning and increased knowledge sharing across initiatives. The Programme is able to play a facilitative role as countries interact with these various REDD+ initiatives, whether they are seeking programming support or financing.

Sample View: "Close relationship and work towards joint planning and, where possible, implementation as well as harmonization of standards and approaches in order to lessen confusion and administrative procedures that countries are experiencing and facing (e.g. multiplicity of safeguards approaches in Indonesia)."

11. How can the Programme improve upon its existing monitoring and evaluation efforts to more effectively integrate lessons learned and stakeholder input into current initiatives?

Although the responses varied, many respondents provided comparable insight by suggesting that the Programme needs to introduce a rigorous and inclusive results-based monitoring and

evaluation system. In particular, these respondents suggested that the M&E process should combine a global perspective with a country-level and local level approach that recognizes the unique circumstances of each country and engages countries as evaluation partners. The goal of the system should be to not only evaluate current circumstances but to provide easily accessible information as the foundation for further evaluation and decision-making at the country.

Sample View: "...information must firstly be transparent and understandable, so that it can be assimilated by all actors. Better monitoring and reporting mechanisms must therefore be created, which make subsequent programme assessment and evaluation easier. This must be performed by supporting local authorities, creating solid and sustainable national information systems that can provide reliable information on a regular basis. This will also enable correct assessments for future decision making."

Appendix 1

List of Online Consultation Respondents

| | Name | Organization | Country |
|----|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Ahononga Fiacre Codjo | REDD Focal Point | Benin |
| 2 | Alexandra Saenz Faerron | Fonafifo | Costa Rica |
| 3 | Alfred Gichu | Kenya Forest Service | Kenya |
| 4 | Ana Karla Perea | Comisión Nacional Forestal | México |
| 5 | Basanta Gautam | Arbonaut | Finland |
| 6 | Bojan Auhagen | GIZ | Philippines |
| 7 | Victor Luis Caperuto | Secretary of State of Environment | Guinea-Bissau |
| 8 | Chemist Gumbie | Forestry Commission | Zimbabwe |
| 9 | Claire Martin | Transparency International | Germany |
| 10 | Cristina Garcia | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment | Spain |
| 11 | Damiana Mann | Instituto Forestal Nacional | Paraguay |
| 12 | Deuteronomy Kasaro | Forestry Department | Zambia |
| 13 | Domingo Mbomio Ngomo | Ministerio de Pesca y Medio Ambiente | Equatorial Guinea |
| 14 | Dr. Shahzad Jehangir | Climate Change Division | Pakistan |
| 15 | Edwin Usang | NGO Coalition for Environment & Africa CSO Observer | Nigeria |
| 16 | Evarist Nashanda | Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism-Tanzania Forest Services | Tanzania |
| 17 | Gabriel Thoumi | Calvert Investments | USA |
| 18 | Haradhan Banik | Forest Department | Bangladesh |
| 19 | Jaden Tongun Emilio Wani | Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Cooperative and Rural Development RSS/Juba | Republic of South Sudan |
| 20 | Kashif Majeed Salik | Sustainable Development Policy Institute | Pakistan |
| 21 | Keith Anderson | Swiss Federal Office for the Environment | Switzerland |
| 22 | Laura López-Ortum | AECID | España |
| 23 | Leticia Guimarães | Ministry of the Environment | Brazil |
| 24 | Mahamat Ahamat Idriss | Ministere de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement | TCHAD |

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|----|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 25 | Masahiko Hori | Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan | Japan |
| 26 | Minchinton Burton | Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division | Dominica |
| 27 | Jacques Mouloungou | Ministère des Eaux et Forêts | Gabon |
| 28 | Philip, E | Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment | Malaysia |
| 29 | Resham Dangi | Ministry of Forests | Nepal |
| 30 | Shahzad Jehangir | Climate Change Division | Pakistan |
| 31 | Sigyel Delma | Department of Forests and Park Services | Bhutan |
| 32 | Stella Gama | Department of Forestry | Malawi |
| 33 | Tanja Havemann | Clarmondial | Switzerland |
| 34 | Thomas Sembres | EFI | Spain |
| 35 | Tim Cadman | Griffith University | Australia |
| 36 | Titus Sanza Zulu | Forestry Department | Malawi |
| 37 | Toe Aung | Forest Department | Myanmar |
| 38 | Tola Kogadou Igor Gildas | Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Ecologie et du Développement Durable | République Centrafricaine |