

# Planning for REDD+ benefits beyond carbon

The main goal of REDD+<sup>1</sup> is to combat climate change, but it can also contribute to securing additional environmental and social benefits, such as:

- soil erosion control
- biodiversity conservation
- the provision of food, fuel and fibre
- contributions to local livelihoods

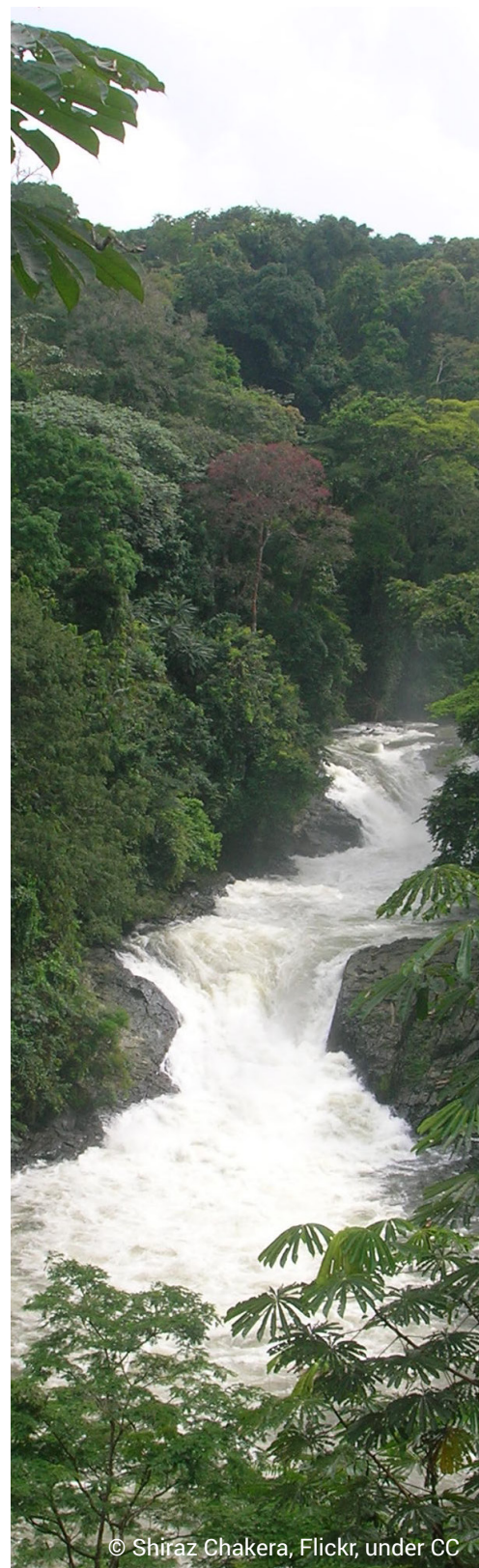
Incorporating these benefits into REDD+ planning can provide the opportunity to simultaneously meet several Sustainable Development Goals, from climate change to food security. When countries plan for REDD+, it is important to consider potential social and environmental benefits and risks, as well as how these vary across the landscape. The UN-REDD Programme<sup>2</sup>, in work led by UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, has worked with over 20 developing countries to build capacity and conduct analyses using spatial data to help identify areas where REDD+ actions could deliver non-carbon benefits<sup>3</sup>.

## Building capacity on mapping

GIS training materials and tools have been developed for use by technical staff to support the planning of REDD+ actions that deliver multiple benefits. Training materials are in English, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and Mongolian are available here: [bit.ly/gistools-redd](http://bit.ly/gistools-redd)

## Informing REDD+ strategies in Nigeria

In Nigeria national and state-level REDD+ strategies take into account the potential benefits and risks of REDD+ actions. In the case of Cross River State, its forests, as well as being home to biodiversity of national and international importance, provide essential goods and services, from forest foods to ecotourism, to people within the state and beyond. Spatial analysis has helped to visualise the distribution of these goods and services across the State's landscape. This can help to identify areas where there is higher potential to secure multiple benefits from REDD+ actions, and combined with other data, can help show where forests and their services have been affected or may be threatened in the future by deforestation and degradation.



1 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation; "+" conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

2 UN-REDD website: [www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org); UN-REDD workspace: [www.unredd.net](http://www.unredd.net)

3 Country resources on multiple benefits available here: [bit.ly/mbs-redd](http://bit.ly/mbs-redd)

# Participatory approaches to planning for REDD+ in Viet Nam

Viet Nam is using an integrated land-use planning approach to develop provincial REDD+ action plans (PRAPs), including in six pilot provinces supported by the Viet Nam UN-REDD Phase 2 Programme. This has involved multi-stakeholder processes, spatial analysis and participatory mapping approaches, using maps to facilitate discussions. Viet Nam's recently updated national REDD+ strategy - known as its National REDD+ Programme - includes integrated land-use planning activities to help meet a national target of 16.24 million hectares of land designated for forest by 2020. Viet Nam's ongoing experience illustrates how participatory processes for subnational scale planning can increase the transparency, local ownership and social and environmental sustainability of REDD+.



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## Integrated approaches for REDD+ safeguards

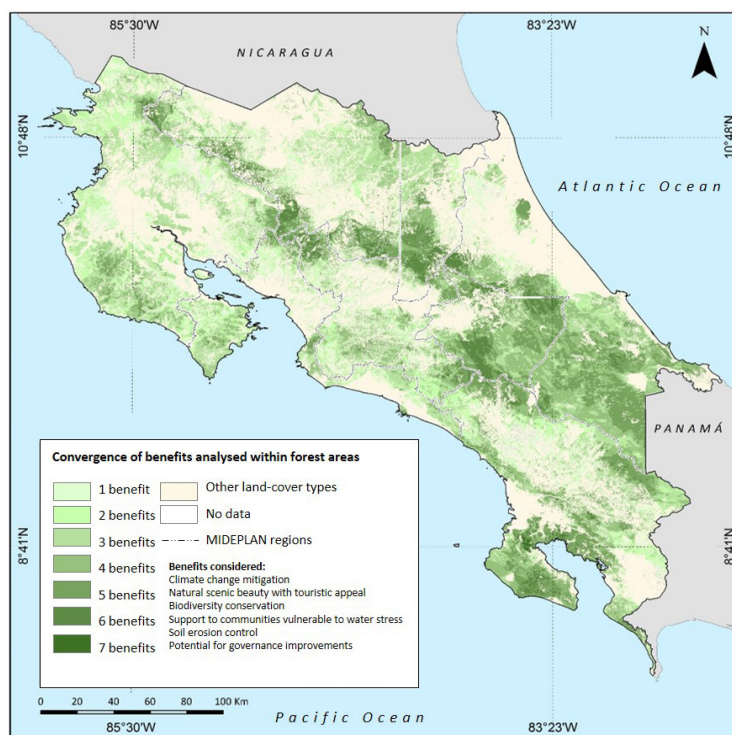
To reduce potential risks and enhance the benefits of REDD+, the UNFCCC requests countries to promote and support the Cancun Safeguards and to provide information on how they are being addressed and respected throughout implementation of REDD+ activities. Spatial planning contributes to achieving this, and the information developed on distribution of non-carbon benefits could be a relevant input for a country's Safeguard Information System (SIS). Country resources available here: [bit.ly/sgdshub](http://bit.ly/sgdshub)

# Policy impact in Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, spatial analyses were carried out to identify areas where the implementation of specific REDD+ policies and measures could help securing environmental and social benefits. These analyses, along with information on the cost of such actions, have informed the National REDD+ Implementation Plan. Provision of multiple benefits could be strengthened by:

- promoting low-emission productive systems, such as agroforestry
- reinforcing programmes for the prevention and control of forest fires
- introducing incentives for conservation and sustainable management of forest
- restoring landscapes and forest ecosystems

In addition to feeding into REDD+ policy-making, this work also emphasises potential synergies between the National REDD+ Strategy and other objectives and commitments of Costa Rica, such as those focused on national development, restoration and biodiversity conservation.



For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/costaricabeneficiosmultiples>