

Table of SDG's Goals and Contributions from Forest Sector

Relevant SDGs	Contribution from Forest Sector
Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Improved income opportunities from forest enterprises, community livelihoods and sustainable grazing
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Improve livelihood resilience and create new economic opportunities
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Urban forests reduce air pollution and recreation forests has been proven to improve health and quality of life
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Support for capacity building and vocational training centres
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Opportunities for men and women; youth and old
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Protection of water resources in upland areas, river zones and oasis ecosystems in the desert
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Wood based energy sources are important for local people and potential for economic development
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Support to Mongolia's wood processing sector has large potential, creating business opportunities; jobs and training
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Urban landscapes are more sustainable and cleaner
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Help flourish biodiversity through forests management, protection and enhancement
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Forests contribute to both reduction of greenhouse gas emission (climate change mitigation) and building resilience (adaptation) to the effects of climate change
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Mongolia's forest policies are important for supporting protection and sustainable use of the forest ecosystems
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Mongolia reporting and meeting on its commitments through global partnerships on forests, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emission reduction and desertification

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup> MEGDT (2016). Sustainable Development Vision - 2030. Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism. Government of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar.
- <sup>2</sup> MEGDT (2014). Green Development Policy of Mongolia. Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism. Government of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar.
- <sup>3</sup> FRDC (2015). National Forest Assessment - 2015. Forest Research and Development Centre, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Government of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar.

- <sup>4</sup> UNEP (2014) Building Natural Capital: How REDD+ can Support a Green Economy. Report of the International Resource Panel, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.
- <sup>5</sup> UN-REDD (2013). Forest sector financing flows and economic values in Mongolia. UN-REDD Mongolia and Ministry of Environment and Green Development, Mongolia.
- <sup>6</sup> MARCCC (2014). Mongolia's Second Assessment on Climate Change – 2014. Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism, Government of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar.
- <sup>7&8</sup> UN-REDD (2015). Financing Flows in the Mongolia Forests Sector. Ministry of Environment, Mongolia.

2 Factsheet: REDD+ and SDGs

REDD+ Mongolia, 2017

HOW REDD+ CONTRIBUTES TO ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGs IN MONGOLIA

**Key Points**

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect a collective international ambition to conserve forests, setting universal targets including a halt to deforestation by 2020. Given that the land sector represents a quarter of all global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and a much higher proportion in developing countries, this ambition is also highly significant for the UNFCCC. Developed countries are asked to work both domestically and in collaboration with developing countries to decrease deforestation.

Forests are a key component of Mongolia's long term Sustainable Development Vision and Green Development Policy. Mongolia's REDD+ strategy can be a valuable contribution to delivering the SDGs – not just with respect to forests, but also on other related goals such as the promotion of sustainable agriculture, poverty eradication and ecotourism. The SDGs, in turn, provide an additional institutional incentive to pursue effective REDD+ actions.

REDD+ objectives directly relate to SDG 13 (climate change mitigation), however, in order to generate synergies across SDGs, REDD+ implementation needs to be harmonized with, and streamlined into work on SDGs, as forests are multi-sectoral and cross-cutting. Sustainable forest management and REDD+ actions deliver non-carbon benefits and contribute to several other SDGs, including:

- SDG 1: No poverty
- SDG 2: Sustainable food security
- SDG 5: Gender equality
- SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
- SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
- SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
- SDG 15: Life on land
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals



UN-REDD PROGRAMME



**CONTACT US:**  
UN-REDD MONGOLIA NATIONAL PROGRAMME  
Tel: +976 77117750  
Website: www.reddplus.mn  
Email: info@unredd.mn  
Government Building II, United Nations Street - 5/2, Chingeltei district, Ulaanbaatar 15160, Mongolia

**More information can be found from the following factsheets:**  
A national REDD+ strategy or action plan contributes toward tackling climate change action through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the forest sector. More information can be found from the following factsheets:

- Factsheet 1: Forest and Climate Change
- Factsheet 3: REDD+ and Climate Change Adaptation





Photo Credit: Ochirvaani Soronzonbold

## Introduction

Since becoming a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of Mongolia has made significant efforts to formulate policies and measures to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for adaptation to some of the expected impacts of climate change. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) has been identified as a critical mitigation action for Mongolia.

Forests cover approximately 18 million hectares in Mongolia<sup>3</sup>, covering 13.1 million hectares of boreal forest in the north of the country, and approximately 4.6 million hectares of saxual forest, a type of arid scrub vegetation in the arid desert area in the south<sup>3</sup>.

REDD+ aims to mobilize finance to compensate the costs of measures to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, providing an

incentive for improved and sustainable forest management, which could generate substantial adaptation and development co-benefits for the wider economy.

Mongolia is a pioneer in viewing forests not only from the perspective of emission reductions, but as a key component of sustainable and green development. More than half a million people or about a third of the rural population live in and around boreal forests, and almost all aspects of the economy depend in some way on forest goods and services.

A well designed national Forest and Climate Change strategy developed under the REDD+ programme could make a significant contribution to sectoral strategies designed to support the country's green development agenda, including for water, energy, tourism, mining and agricultural sectors.

## Forests and Key Sustainable Development Goals

- Mongolia's government has already incorporated the SDGs into its Sustainable Development Vision for 2030. The goals and aspirations of the SDGs and the SDV have also been translated into the new Government Action Plan.
- REDD+ Mongolia can be a useful means to deliver on the SDG's as the forest sector is related to many of the SDG goals.
- In particular, the National REDD+ Strategy can address the two following SDG goals:

### SDG 15 Life on Land – Sustainability of Terrestrial Ecosystems

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems sustainably managed forests, combat desertification, and reduce land and reduce land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 15 is addressed through the REDD+ strategy will help to devise management strategies for both the saxual forests, which are important for combating desertification, and the boreal forests. It will provide management strategies for maintaining water resources, ecosystem svices and provide timber and non-timber forests products.

REDD+ addresses protection and maintenance of forests ecosystems to:

- Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forests (target 15.1)
- Reduce deforestation and forests degradation (target 15.2)
- Combat desertification in saxual forests and edge of boreal forests (target 15.3)
- Conserve and strengthen the resilience of protected areas (target 15.4; 15.5, 15.7)
- Promote equitable forests based livelihoods and (target 15.6)
- Mobilize finance resources inside and outside Mongolia, initiate ecosystem service payment and for sustainable forest management (15.a, b)



### SDG 13 Climate Change - Take urgent action to tackle climate change and it's impacts

SDG 13 addresses both climate adaptation and mitigation. As well as strengthening people's resilience and reducing their vulnerability to climate-related risks and hazards, it aims to better operationalize actions to mitigate climate change. Efforts to enhance climate change education, awareness, capacity-building and mainstreaming into policy and planning form an integral part of this goal. REDD+ is helping to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to:

- Climate related hazards and natural disasters (target 13.1)
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning (target 13.2)
- Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning (target 13.3)
- Implement UNFCCC commitments to mobilize finance for mitigation in developing countries (target 13.a)
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management (target 13.b)



## Addressing Multiple SDG Goals through REDD+ Interventions and National REDD+ Strategy

The development of a National REDD+ Strategy will help galvanise support for the wider forest sector across different ministries and strategic outcomes, across a landscape approach involving forest groups, private sector, herders and other stakeholders in the landscape. It is expected that this strategy will be innovative, cross-sectoral and provide a stimulus for financial support both within Mongolia and for external donors.





All photos taken by winners of Photos Competition

## Nature Counts: Key Impacts of the REDD+ Strategies on Climate Change and Economic Returns

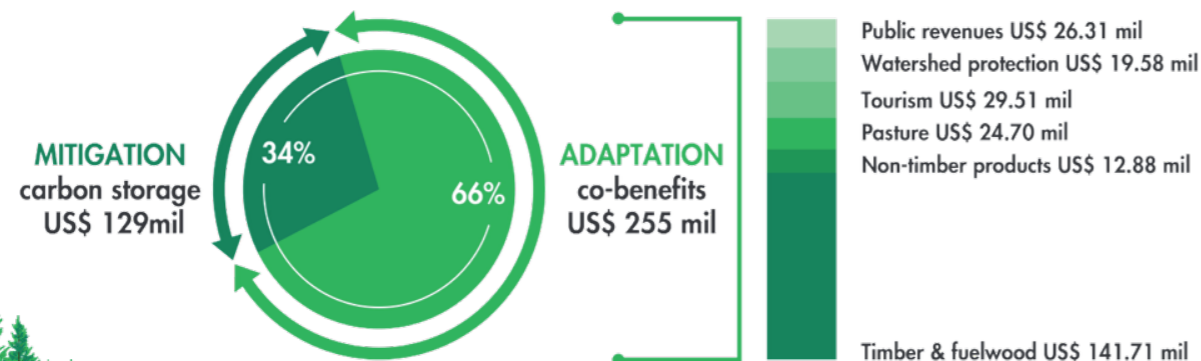
Sustainable forest management approaches in the national REDD+ strategy will help to secure goods and services (e.g. watershed protection, shelter and food) that are key to strengthening local people's adaptive capacity and resilience in the face of climate change, along with the adaptive capacity of local economies. These adaptation benefits in Mongolia were estimated to be worth almost twice as much as mitigation, providing more than \$3,500 per hectare of forest, including local livelihood values that contribute as much as 12.6% of per capita GDP<sup>7</sup>.

REDD+ investments in sustainable forest management, avoided deforestation and forest degradation also yield a wide range of co-benefits to Mongolia's economy in addition to climate mitigation. These are received as products and income for land and resource users as well as contributing to government earnings via fees, taxes and other public revenue streams. Some of the

most important co-benefits associated with REDD+ activities are those relating to rural livelihoods and climate adaptation, which strengthen local people's resilience and adaptive capacity, and reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Economic assessments estimated that forests provide energy, shelter, food, medicine, pasture and watershed protection benefits worth almost \$200 million or MNT276.60 billion a year. The annual net added value of these goods and services can rise as high as \$1,655 or MNT2.3 million per household per year, equivalent to some 12.6% of per capita GDP (IMF 2016 records per capita GDP in Mongolia as \$3,494, translating into a per household GDP of \$13,089).

The total value added from the sustainable management of boreal forests may be in the range of \$384 million or MNT534 billion a year, including timber and fuelwood, non-timber products, pasture and grazing, tourism, watershed protection and carbon storage.

Figure 3:0: Estimated Carbon and Non Carbon Benefits in Mongolia<sup>8</sup>



## Forests are important for meeting sustainable development goals

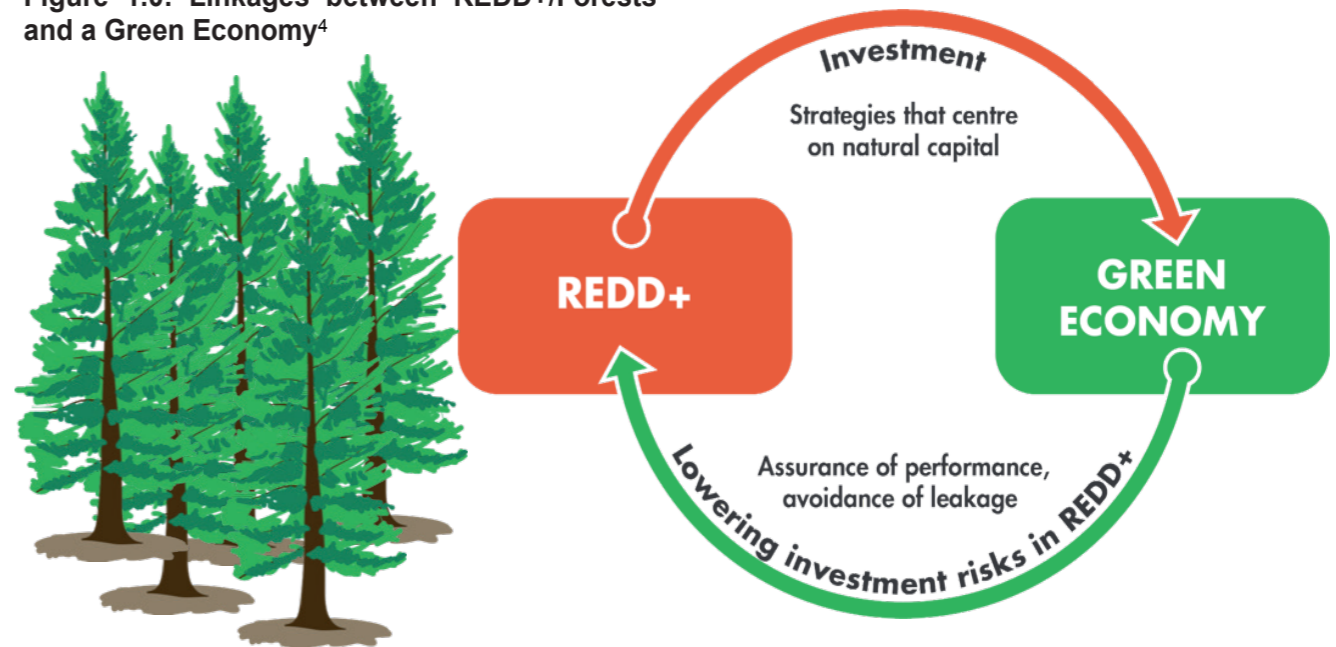
The Government of Mongolia developed an innovative Sustainable Development Vision in 2015<sup>1</sup>, which recognizes the need to maintain and enhance ecosystem services, promote enterprises and take advantage of green jobs. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in the same year, further support the aims of forest protection and sustainable land use in Mongolia.

The SDGs represent the core elements of a new global agenda on environment and development. They renew commitment to sustainable development and, over the coming 15 years, should increase political attention, public pressure, and financing for the 17 goals. Sustainability cuts across the SDGs. Moreover, some SDGs are transformational in nature, such as the calls for promoting sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) and for addressing inequalities within and among countries (SDG 10).

Forests and sustainable land use can contribute to multiple SDGs. Most directly, forests are key for

SDG 13 (combating climate change) and SDG 15 (life on land), which includes the ambitious target of halting deforestation by 2020. Forest conservation can also contribute indirectly to other goals such as SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (sustainable food security); SDG 5: (gender equality); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities); SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production); SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions); and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). Notably, the SDGs make forest conservation a universal goal, not just a goal for the developing world.

Figure 1.0: Linkages between REDD+/Forests and a Green Economy<sup>4</sup>



## REDD+ as a Mechanism to Help Achieve SDGs

REDD+ constitutes a ready-made mechanism for international collaboration on forest conservation and sustainable land use. Since forests generate significant non-carbon benefits, REDD+ actions can help to deliver multiple SDGs.

REDD+ is a mechanism under the UNFCCC whereby developing countries can receive results-

based payments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the forest sector, on the basis of internationally agreed rules for implementation and standardized methodologies for measuring, reporting and verifying those emissions reductions. Therefore, REDD+ provides a useful means of action that can help achieve various SDGs.

REDD+ objectives that are closely related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Recommendations for Building “Forest Synergies” Between the SDGs and REDD+

It is important to coordinate national REDD+ strategies with the national response to the SDGs. This will help avoid duplication of efforts, dilution of resources and policy conflicts. It will also help develop locally suitable policy instruments that can deliver multiple benefits in REDD+ actions and cost-effective fulfilment of the SDGs.

Acknowledge the potential trade-offs and conflicts of interest between the SDGs

There may be trade-offs between SDGs. For example, the promotion of short-term economic growth (SDG 8) could easily come at the expense of climate change mitigation (SDG 13). To achieve all goals, as indicated in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, they need to be approached in a balanced manner.

Coordinate implementation of REDD+ objectives and the SDGs to avoid redundancies

REDD+ implementation already requires developing countries to increase institutional capacities related to forests, such as the creation of National Forest Monitoring Systems and the establishment of reference levels for greenhouse gas emissions. Implementation of the SDGs should be done as fundamental role of Mongolian policies.

Promote non-carbon benefits as a way to make progress on SDGs through REDD+ actions

The promotion of biodiversity conservation, water provision and socioeconomic benefits to local actors, and governance improvements through REDD+ can help meet other SDGs.



Mongolia is very sensitive to climate change due to its geographic location, socioeconomic conditions and fragile ecosystems. More than 80% of the country has been defined as highly vulnerable to climate extremes. The impacts of climate change are already apparent, with an increase in average annual temperature of more than 2°C experienced over the past 70 years, resulting in increased glacier melt, decreased snow cover and reduced precipitation in most regions of the country. Future climate scenarios predict escalating water shortages and reductions in both pasture and arable land, desertification and land degradation, coupled with an increase in the incidence and severity of both droughts and dzuds (extreme snow events). The agricultural sector (both arable and livestock) is considered to be particularly sensitive to climate change and vulnerable to these effects<sup>5&6</sup>. This is of particular concern as the vast majority of Mongolia’s population depends on semi-nomadic pastoralism for their livelihoods.