

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

**Summary report of the
regional consultation
workshops on the UN-REDD
Programme strategic
framework, 2016-2020**
(Prepared by Meridian Institute)

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Panama City, Bangkok, Nairobi
(8-17 October 2014)

Overview

In October 2014 the UN-REDD Programme secretariat, with support from the Meridian Institute, conducted three regional consultation workshops to solicit input on the future strategic direction of the Programme. The regional workshops were an integral part of the strategy development and stakeholder engagement “road map” process approved by the Policy Board in Lima (July 2014), which also included interviews with Policy Board members, donor consultations, and an online survey. The regional workshops were an opportunity for country representatives, civil society and indigenous peoples’ organizations, and invited experts to provide input and insights, based on their experience with the Programme to-date, regarding the Programme’s draft strategic framework (2016-2020). The main elements of the discussion were based on two documents: the *Discussion Paper - Developing the UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategy (September 2014)*, which was prepared by the three Participating UN Organizations; and the recent external evaluation of the Programme released earlier in 2014. These two key documents provided an opportunity for stakeholders in attendance to discuss the future of the Programme and, in particular, spend the first day of each two-day workshop discussing *what* the UN-REDD Programme should do over the next five year period and using the second day to focus on *how* the UN-REDD Programme should support the objectives discussed on day one.

The workshops provided an excellent opportunity for the Participating UN Organizations and the secretariat to listen to and interact face-to-face with important stakeholders to the Programme, as well as REDD+ more broadly. A total of 42 out of the total 56 partner countries were represented, as well as 16 national and international organizations (see Annex 1 for full list of participants by region). The two-day workshop and the ensuing discussions were based on presentations and structured questions related to the draft strategic framework (2016-2020), as well as an introduction to and presentation of some of the key recommendations of the external evaluation of the Programme. The participants in all sessions demonstrated a high level of interest in, and understanding of REDD+, the ongoing work of the Programme, as well as the challenges and opportunities for the Programme to meet the needs of partner countries in the 2016 – 2020 period. Participants were encouraged to bring their experience with the UN-REDD Programme to the discussion, in addition to the challenges they face in implementing REDD+ at the country level (see Annex 2 for country reports submitted).

The outcomes of the workshops provided valuable feedback that has been incorporated into the current draft strategic framework, 2016-2020 that will be tabled for consideration by the Policy Board in November 2014 and further refined thereafter.

Overview of Workshop and Key Emerging Themes: Panama City

The first of three regional workshops was hosted in Panama City, Panama on the 8th and 9th of October and included participation from 9 partner countries within the Latin America and the Caribbean region, and representatives from civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations.

Highlights of the discussions included, but were not limited to:

- Participants strongly supported the role of the UN-REDD Programme to accompany countries through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and to support countries as they take results-based actions in pursuit of results-based payments.
- Country needs assessments are important and must include an analysis of REDD+ stakeholders within the country – as well as the drivers of deforestation – to identify the potential role of each in future REDD+ action at the country level and also to hone in on the unique capacity or support needs of each group.
- The Programme should not just be a service provider for technical and advisory support. Not only should this broader role be applied in the readiness phase but also in the implementation phase.
- Programme support should aim to better integrate the REDD+ agenda into broader sustainable development agendas, national environmental and forest management initiatives, landscape restoration, poverty eradication, and resilience and adaptation to climate change. This is a fundamental element and starting point for building a strong national mechanism for achieving the REDD+ objectives of the UNFCCC. The Programme should understand that taking the countries through the UNFCCC process does not necessarily guarantee results and that support beyond the basics of the UNFCCC decisions will be needed to demonstrate results at the country level.
- Understanding that each country has unique circumstances and unique challenges, overall REDD+ capacity and institution building at the country level should be a core element of the future Programme.
- Safeguards support should be better integrated within the overall workflow of the future Programme.
- South-South exchange and cooperation, including specific training modules and support for knowledge management, should be a key tenet of the future Programme.
- Linkages, cooperation, and complementarity with other REDD+ mechanisms should be pursued where appropriate (The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Germany's REDD Early Movers (REM) programme)
- Governance of the Programme needs to be discussed and needs to be clear. The Programme must find ways to simplify its administrative and institutional processes, to reduce the burden for the countries. The effort of having a joint programme makes sense, but when it comes to implementation, countries are facing three parallel processes.
- The Programme – as an example of "Delivery as One" UN – has a role to play in inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial government coordination (in the ministries of finance, agriculture, planning, etc.) and capacity building and to offer facilitation support to allow countries to have a conversation on REDD+ based on country needs, country circumstance, and country demand.
- Country representatives discussed the roles of each of the Participating UN Organizations and the need to clarify roles, responsibilities, and division of labor within each. The

participants discussed the possibility of designating one of the Participating UN Organizations as the lead in each country.

Overview of Workshop and Key Emerging Themes: Bangkok

The second of three regional workshops was hosted in Bangkok, Thailand on the 13th and 14th of October and included participation from 14 partner countries from the Asia and the Pacific region, in addition to representatives from civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations.

Highlights of the discussions included, but were not limited to:

- Programme should focus on accompanying countries through the UNFCCC process; however, the strategy should specifically mention UNFCCC decisions before Warsaw, including those decisions taken at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC and subsequently at 19th session of the COP to the UNFCCC. It is important for the Programme to provide thorough education on what is contained in these UNFCCC decisions and what they mean at the country level.
- A tailored, country-specific, demand-driven Programme is the right direction for the 2016 – 2020 period. The foundation of this would be a comprehensive country needs assessment – an assessment that would not only support countries to identify their needs but also the stakeholder landscape within the country and the potential role for each in the future of REDD+ in the country, from the national level and down to the provincial or local levels.
- South-South exchange and knowledge management support is an important element for the future of the Programme. Knowledge management support should encompass both in-person trainings as well as printed or online training resources (in more than just the three UN-REDD Programme languages – English, French and Spanish), including communications training on how to educate policy makers and communities on REDD+. The REDD+ Academy was discussed as a potential answer to this challenge; however, the specifics were not developed in full.
- The extent to which REDD+ is already integrated into national development and climate change strategies varied amongst participants; however, forest country representatives were in agreement that supporting the integration of REDD+ into these broader strategies should be one of the goals of the future Programme. To accomplish this, the Programme needs to help REDD+-related officials in each country bridge the gap of understanding with their fellow decision-makers.
- The Programme should work to support countries on the full range of REDD+ activities, including: adaptation, law enforcement, drivers of deforestation, restoration, etc. Forest country representatives also spent time discussing the role of the Programme in supporting countries to realize non-carbon benefits (conservation, biodiversity, poverty reduction and livelihoods, etc.)
- The Discussion Paper did not explicitly or adequately address the role of civil society and indigenous communities in the future of the Programme.
- The Programme should use its trusted status to play a convening and facilitation role at the country level to ensure that the necessary inter-ministerial (particularly finance, agriculture, natural resources, planning, etc.) conversations that can serve as a catalyst to turn country-specific REDD+ planning into policy action. This point stemmed from an understanding amongst participants that forestry ministries are often not the ultimate decision-makers on broader development policy that impacts forests and the drivers of deforestation.

- The three Participating UN Organizations need to be more explicit about the roles, responsibilities, and competencies of each agency. The UN Organizations need to coordinate more effectively (examples: management, procurement) to reduce confusion and ease the coordination burden on forest countries. Participants discussed the idea of having one lead UN Organization in each country but did not come to a consensus on this issue.
- The Programme should clarify its role vis-à-vis other REDD+ mechanisms (i.e. The World Bank's FCPF Readiness and Carbon Funds, GCF, GEF, voluntary carbon markets, etc.) and seek to work with each to deliver support at the country level.
- The relative flexibility of Programme support and funding should be maintained to allow for innovation and piloting based on country circumstance.

Overview of Workshop and Key Emerging Themes: Nairobi

The third of three regional workshops was hosted in Nairobi, Kenya on the 16th and 17th of October and included participation from over 20 partner countries from the African region, in addition to representatives from donors, civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations. Workshop participants were also in attendance for the UNDP-led UN-REDD two-day (14-15 October) workshop on REDD+ national strategies planned back-to-back with the global strategy workshop.

Highlights of the discussions included, but were not limited to:

- UNFCCC decisions should be at the core of the Programme's strategy. However, not only does REDD+ go beyond the Convention decisions, country needs go beyond what is covered by the UNFCCC as well. One of the benefits of having the three Participating UN Organizations work together is for countries to have access to the full suite of support and services that the complete UN can provide. Countries should not be denied support that goes beyond the mandate of the UNFCCC process – this includes work on the global imperatives of the UN (poverty reduction, gender, land rights, food security, etc.)
- A key element to meeting the demands of each country will be a comprehensive country needs assessment. However, countries should not be denied support prior to conducting such an assessment and the Programme should work with countries to understand and meet their demand for support based on country-level considerations. The Programme should be tailored, demand driven and be based on country needs and circumstances.
- The UN has the ability to convene high-level decision-makers at the country level, in partnership with other development partners, and to lobby within the country at the appropriate cross-ministerial levels to catalyze and integrate REDD+ into national development and climate change agendas. In particular, the Programme, along with the World Bank and other partners, should marshal their collective resources to bring the key policymakers to the table (ministries of finance, agriculture, planning, etc.). This type of engagement requires buy-in and support from the highest levels within each of the Participating UN Organizations.
- One of the main tenets of the UN-REDD Programme should be to demonstrate consistent capacity building support and funding for countries. The Programme should support countries to institutionalize REDD+ at the country level to engender national ownership and action. Knowledge management and South-South cooperation are key supporting elements that are intimately related to capacity building at the country level. Capacity building and knowledge management should be considered to go beyond institutional capacity to encompass stakeholder and individual capacity and understanding as well –

with the explicit goal of creating a community of capacity and knowledge within and between countries.

- The Programme should look to work more closely with the World Bank and seek to harmonize methodologies and approaches to challenging technical issues (e.g. safeguards). However, the Programme and the World Bank have different comparative advantages – technical and advisory support vs. finance for project implementation – and these individual advantages should not be blurred as closer coordination is pursued. These should be complementary work streams where UN-REDD supports the countries to enable REDD+ environment and the World Bank provides the finance for the countries to implement their REDD+ strategies. All inter-institutional rivalries should be eliminated and the institutions should strive toward joint planning of country level support.
- Although there was no explicit consensus on the specific balance that the Programme should strike between “readiness for all” and “scaling up”, the preponderance of participants acknowledged that there are many countries that still require readiness support and they should not be turned away and the Programme should seek to support countries in readiness first. One of the drivers of the creation of the Programme was to avoid leakage and having as many countries as possible participating in the REDD+ landscape serves to meet that goal. If funding is not available to support “scaling up”, the Programme can coordinate with other REDD+ institutions to find funding for these more advanced activities.

ANNEX 1 - LISTS OF PARTICIPANTS PER REGIONAL WORKSHOP**Panama City Workshop Participants (8-9 October 2014)**

Name	Country/Organization
Leandro Carlos Fernandez	Argentina, Secretaría Ambiente y desarrollo sustentable
Víctor A. López Illescas	Asociación de Forestería Comunitaria de Guatemala Ut'z Che'
Miguel Cifuentes Jara	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)
Osvaldo Francisco Quintanilla Loayza	Chile, Corporacion national forestal (CONAF)
Rubén Darío Guerrero Useda	Colombia, Ministerio de Ambiente
Iván Darío Valencia	Colombia, Ministerio de Ambiente
Ricardo Ullate	Conservation International
Maria Elena Herrera Ugalde	Costa Rica, Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal (FONAFIFO)
Alexandra Sáenz Faerron	FONAFIFO
María del Carmen García	Ecuador, Ministerio de Ambiente
Miguel Pellerano	Independent Facilitator
Serena Fortuna	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Nelson Saul Ulloa	Honduras, Secretaria de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (SERNA)
Gary Decker	Meridian Institute
Fabiola Hernández	Mexico, Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)
Lucia Damiana Mann	Paraguay, Secretaria de Ambiente
Gisela Ulloa	Servicios Ambientales S.A.
Pierre-Yves Guedez	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Marco Chiu	UNDP
Gabriel Labbate	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Ximena San Cristobal	UNEP
Thais Linhares-Juvenal	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Mike Speirs	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Reem Ismail	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

Bangkok Workshop Participants (14-15 October 2014)

Name	Country/Organization
Haradhan Banik	Bangladesh, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
Sigyel Delma	Bhutan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Sam Ang Chea	Cambodia, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Ben Vickers	FAO
Patrick Durst	FAO
Bojan Philip Auhagen	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Savanh Van Chanthakoummane	Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Elizabeth M.P. Philip	Malaysia, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Gary Decker	Meridian Institute
Dorj Isheekhuu	Mongolia, Ministry of Environment and Green Development
Toe Toe Aung	Myanmar, Ministry of Forestry
Pasang Dolma Sherpa	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
Resham Bahadur Dangi	Nepal, Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation
Shahzad Jehangir	Pakistan, Ministry of Environment
William Lakain	Papua New Guinea, Office of Climate Change and Development
Kashif Majeed Salik	Sustainable Development Policy Institute
Terence Titiulu	Solomon Islands, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology
Anura Sathurusinghe	Sri Lanka, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Grace Tauli Balawag	Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba)
Mayumi Quintos Natividad	The Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Timothy Boyle	UNDP
Kin Yii Yong	UNDP
Heang Thy	UNDP
Kaveh Zahedi	UNEP
Thomas Enters	UNEP
Saranya Rojananuangnit	UNEP
Keiko Nomura	UNEP
Giovanni Broussard	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Mike Speirs	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Reem Ismail	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Phu Nguyen Hung	Viet Nam, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Jeannette D. Gurung	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

Nairobi Workshop Participants (16-17 October 2014)

Name	Country/Organization
Fiacre Codjo Ahononga	Benin, Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Habitat et de l'Urbanisme
Igor Tola Kogadou	Central African Republic, Ministère de l'Environnement
Mahamat Hassane Idriss	Chad, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Lekumok Lemeria Kironyi	Community Research and Development (CORD)
Lucien Manan Dja	Cote d'Ivoire, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
Domingo Mbomio Ngomo	Equatorial Guinea, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Yitebitu Moges Abebe	Ethiopia, Ministry of Environment and Forests
Nelson Gapare	Facilitator
Charlotte Jourdain	FAO
Jacques Mouloungou	Gabon, Ministère des Eaux et Forêts
Victor Caperuto	Guiné-Bissau, State Secretariat for Environment and Tourism
Ravi Prabhu	World Agroforestry Centre
John Ngugi	Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Mamitiana	Madagascar, Ministère de l'Environnement et Forêts
Stella Funsani Gama	Malawi, Forestry Department
Yoel Kirschner	Malawi, Forestry Department
Titus Sanza Zulu	Malawi, Forestry Department
Gary Decker	Meridian Institute
Khalid Cherki	Morocco, Ministère des Eaux et Forêts
Joseph Itongwa	Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
Edwin Eyang Usang	NGO Coalition for Environment
Salisu Mohammed Dahiru	Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Environment
Anders Vatn	Norway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Addis Ababa
Hollande Nziendolo	Republic of Congo, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment
Gisèle Loubila	Republic of Congo, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment
Jaden Tongun Emilio Wani	South Sudan, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Fathi Ismail Omer Mohamed	Sudan, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development
Evarist Nderinyanga Nashanda	Tanzania, Ministry of Environment
Edjidomélé Richard Gbadoé	Togo, Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières
Xavier Mugumya	Uganda, Ministry of Water and Environment
Fabien Monteils	UNDP
Anne Martinussen	UNDP
Ela Ionescu	UNDP
Susanne Goss	UNDP
Mwanaisha Hassan	UNEP

Mirey Atallah	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Mike Speirs	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Reem Ismail	UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
Deuteronomy Kasaro	Zambia, Forestry Department
Chemist Gumbie	Zimbabwe, Forestry Commission

ANNEX 2 - COUNTRY EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

CURRENT SITUATION OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME IN PARAGUAY

The United Nations National Joint Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD NJP) is being effectively implemented by the Government of Paraguay since January 2012, through the Ministry of Environment (SEAM) and the National Forestry Institute (INFONA), together with the Federation for the Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples (FAPI).

During the mid-term review of the UN-REDD NJP carried out in June 2014, some recommendations emerged aiming to enhance implementation. Based on these recommendations, some adjustments and agreements have been made, including an 18-month no-cost extension, to conclude by January 2016.

Among the main changes is the restructuring of the results framework, which grew from 3 to 5 results to include the following components:

- 1.- Strengthened institutional capacity to implement the REDD+ readiness phase**
- 2.- First version of the REDD+ National Strategy through a joint and participatory process**
- 3.- National Forest Monitoring System designed and operational**
- 4.- Reference levels analyzed and agreed**
- 5.- Social and Environmental Safeguard Information System**

This restructuring of the UN-REDD NJP results and products has also triggered a readjustment of activities and scheduling of concrete efforts to achieve the expected results.

1. Institutional Capacity

Restructuring Programme results made it compulsory to redesign planning within all the involved agencies – especially cooperation agencies – in order to implement all the scheduled activities by the end of 2015. In the context of this restructuring, the creation of a National REDD+ Platform involving all the related initiatives was proposed in order to promote coordinated efforts. The Platform is yet to be analyzed by the Steering Committee.

Likewise, an analysis of the institutional context was implemented, and among its recommendations were a greater involvement of national actors – especially those relating to the main deforestation drivers identified. In this regard, contacts have been established in order to involve stakeholders – especially private banks and the productive sector – aiming to raise awareness on the need for coordinated investments made under a national rural development plan that are adjusted to the current regulations. Besides, closer collaboration with public institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Ministry of Finance (MH), Secretariat of Planning (STP), Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous People (INDI), etc., as well as with the productive sectors and with members of family farming organizations, will be sought.

The UN-REDD communication plan is designed and in process of being approved for implementation. A number of communication activities such as the elaboration, validation and submission of documents and communication materials took place, and NJP activities were disseminated through the media and social networks.

2. National REDD+ Strategy

The Programme is on its way to build a National REDD+ Strategy, which needs some adjustments to the legal framework and implies a specific set of activities involving the National Constitution and the Climate Change Convention, the National Forest Policy and the National Climate Change Policy; in this context, a Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy will also be created.

A National Strategy is being built and is expected to be a system where a number of elements converge, creating sub-levels. Among the elements identified and considered, we can quote the safeguard information system, public policies, a governance system, an environmental information system, financial sustainability, as well as implementation mechanisms. The first version of the Strategy is expected to be launched by mid-2015.

3. Measurement, reporting and verification system

Along the process of designing and proposing the Environmental Information System (SIAM), a diagnose of the current situation of SEAM's information system is underway, together with a proposal to integrate networks, data, processes, user interfaces, institutional and inter-agency integration, as well as the definition of thematic components to implement the system.

On the other hand, in the context of the National Forest Information System (SNIF), the components of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and the National Land Monitoring System (SNMT) have been updated. Under this component, a methodology for the National Forest Inventory (which includes carbon), the assessment of wildlife and socioeconomic aspects has been defined, and measurement activities for the NFI plots have started. Also, the forest cover map of 2011 was drafted, together with a series of thematic maps, a field handbook for the NFI, a field monitoring handbook and other materials that can contribute to the achievement of results.

Regarding a carbon accountability system, training on the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, land use and land use changes was offered in order to implement the Environmental Information System and the Forest Information System.

4. Definition of Reference Levels (RL)

Recently, a workshop involving participants from the UN-REDD National Technical Team was held with the purpose to strengthen technical capacity on reference levels, identify gaps and information needs to elaborate a RL proposal and develop its corresponding work plan. Based on this work plan, some meetings have been held to determine the starting year

for RL, building on the analysis of historical data, as well as the definition of forests and other land uses that will be useful to this activity.

In addition, a study on the national circumstances and its subsequent socialization by means of an analysis and validation workshop is scheduled and should significantly contribute to the future definition of RL.

5. Implementation of the Social and Environmental Safeguard System

Recently, a workshop was held with representatives of various indigenous communities on the socialization and analysis of the draft document describing the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) procedure. A second workshop for the consideration of this document is anticipated sometime this year.

Likewise, efforts for the establishment of grievance and conflict settlement mechanisms are expected. For that matter, the results of the safeguards workshop will be analyzed, as well as the functioning of safeguards and conflict settlement roundtables.

Various advisory activities have been held with the Legal Department of the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous People (INDI), concretely on the legalization of specific indigenous lands, whose rights have been reclaimed – and remained unaddressed – for almost a decade. In the context of these actions, there is a plan for defining, dividing and designating the property rights of such lands.

As part of the NJP activities, more activities to involve other social sectors and productive constituencies in the REDD+ national process will be implemented with the purpose of integrating their perspectives in the design of a National REDD+ Strategy.

6. Challenges

One of the main challenges is to effectively involve other critical stakeholders, as well as the strengthening of national technical capacities through coordination and capacity-building efforts on Programme-relevant issues.

Lately, the fact of consolidating institutional teams under the UN-REDD NJP has allowed structuring and implementing a broader set of actions that contribute to the achievement of goals stated in the Programme's components and guarantee the sustainability of processes. This ongoing harmony tends to be fragile, and its stability and endurance remains a critical success factor for the Programme.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH REDD+ IN CAMBODIA

Introduction

Cambodia initiated efforts to prepare for REDD+ in 2010, with the preparation of a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. Since then, the Roadmap has been implemented with support from the UN-REDD Programme, FCPF, and Government of Japan, and in association with various other Development Partners, including USAID, JICA, the European Union WCS, Pact, and several other NGOs.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to implementing REDD+ effectively in Cambodia, and retains a strong ambition to implement measures leading to results-based payments as soon as possible. It therefore anticipates submitting its initial REL under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in 2015.

In terms of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, the following apply in Cambodia:

Strengths

Cambodia has invested heavily in stakeholder engagement, coordination, and building broad-based support for REDD+. This is reflected in the fact that in a regional assessment of 24 countries in Asia/Pacific undertaken by UN-REDD in 2013, Cambodia scored highest for stakeholder satisfaction. An active NGO sector and extensive network of community managed forests, protected areas, and fisheries means that non-governmental stakeholders are strongly engaged. Cambodia is also among the most active countries in ensuring gender issues are addressed, through the work of a special Gender Group. Improved inter-agency coordination, for example, as seen in the National REDD+ Taskforce, which has seven ministries represented, is helping to integrate REDD+ into the broader climate change and sustainable development agendas.

Weaknesses

There continue to be capacity constraints on technical issues such as monitoring and on establishing a system to provide information on safeguards. The level of awareness and understanding of REDD+ among government officials is improving, but still needs to be broadened. Whilst non-governmental stakeholders are active and committed, there is still a requirement for major awareness raising and capacity building.

Opportunities

Modifications to Cambodia's macro-economic development programmes, particularly those involving Economic Land Concessions mean that deforestation levels are probably already falling, and this can provide a catalyst for increased action to reduce emissions. Compared with many other countries, the forests in Cambodia are relatively compact, and drivers less diverse. This combined with effectively decentralized forest management institutions should allow coordinated action to be implemented relatively easily.

Threats

Besides the threat of weakening government commitment, which applies to every country, a significant threat in Cambodia would arise from delays in receiving results-based payments. In comparison with other countries, Cambodia has more examples of voluntary market projects, but these have not yet resulted in benefits flowing to local communities. Due to effective NGO/CSO networking, the failure of these voluntary market projects is widely known, so if REDD+ similarly fails to deliver benefits in the near-term, disillusionment among local stakeholders will spread quickly.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

STRENGTHS

- Has an approved National REDD+ Strategy (Philippine National REDD+ Plus Strategy) which was approved in 2010
- Active participation/involvement of civil society organization and people's organization in the implementation of REDD+
- Presence of land tenure policy – (e.g. Indigenous People's Rights Act, Policy on Community Based Forest Management Agreement)
- Presence of governance/institutional structure such as the Philippine Climate Change Commission, Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change and the REDD+ Unit of the Forest Management
- Conducted a number of REDD+ readiness activities already like REDD+ orientation and IEC through REDD+ roadshow and REDD+ 101
- Has draft Safeguard Framework and Guidelines
- Has existing demonstration sites

WEAKNESSES

- Different priorities between and among sectors
- Issues and conflict on tenure instruments
- Proposed National Multistakeholder REDD+ Council which will be the policy-making body on REDD still being created
- Inadequate and in some case, lack of policy that are needed for REDD+ such as the policy on carbon rights, benefit sharing, among others
- Data availability or limited data to be used in determining FREL and RL
- No concrete MRV system yet
- Government to be active in the REDD+ negotiation
- Need to implement the different UNFCCC decisions on REDD+

OPPORTUNITIES

- Presence of development partners to provide technical assistance
- Shift in demand (increasing demand for ecosystem services)
- Increasing AWARENESS to climate change risks and hazards
- Facilitation of the institutionalization of the national GHG inventory and payment for ecosystem services
- Conceptual framework on MRV Data flow completed

THREATS

- Multiple clients/stakeholders
- Continued increasing pressures to the forest ecosystem
- Increasing demand for forest commodities such as fuel wood, timber, water and other ecosystem services due to the rapid increase in population
- Carbon cowboys and capacity to certify forest-derived carbon credits

SWOT ANALYSIS FOR REDD+ PROGRAMME IN BHUTAN

Strengths

1. Enabling Policies, Legislations and Regulations both on environmental conservation, sustainable forest management and engagement of local people in resource management
2. Democratic and participatory planning approach mandatory and adopted e.g. planning of five year development plans start from geog (block level), once discussed and endorsed, it is taken to district level and finally to central level
3. Nature friendly culture and tradition that revere and respect nature and surrounding environment
4. Five Year Development Plans guided by the GNH (Gross National Happiness) philosophy which respect culture, environment, good governance and equitable distribution of natural resources and benefits
5. The Forest coverage of 72.5% of total land area Government's commitment to maintain 60% coverage for all times to come as enshrined in the Constitution

Weaknesses

1. Limited technical expertise
2. Lack of adequate resources
3. Unclear institutional mechanism for equitable distribution of REDD+ benefits
4. Uncertain funding for REDD+ Programmes

Opportunities

1. Potential funding source to support conservation programs
2. Contribute to establish more effective and efficient institutional arrangement for benefit sharing, policies, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of forest resource development programs
3. Technical capacity building and awareness of stakeholders
4. Strengthen coordination and linkages among relevant stakeholders

Threats

1. Perverse incentives
2. Risk of marginalizing poorer communities/poorer members within the communities
3. Restrictions on development activities/opportunities

MALAWI REDD+ PROGRAM: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES (SWOT) ANALYSIS

Key Messages as adapted from the *Draft Malawi REDD+ 5-Year Action Plan (2014-2019)*:

-The Malawi REDD+ Program is deep into Phase I of the national REDD+ process and will soon move partly into Phase II, demonstration activities and the testing and modification of policies and measures. The primary end of the program over the next five years is to put a formal cap on its Phase 1 process by completing a national REDD+ strategy. Given the program's vision and strategic targets, the Malawi REDD+ Program's pace of growth must not only be sustained, but enhanced.

-The continued growth and maturation of the Malawi REDD+ Program and the attainment of its targets will require strong, sustained, and evolving partnerships. The cultivation and maintenance of these partnerships will necessitate exceptional coordination by and among a suite of domestic parties, namely the Malawi REDD+ Secretariat, the Department of Forestry, the National Climate Change Programme, and the Government of Malawi.

-The Department of Forestry and the Government of Malawi must take ownership of the REDD+ process and observe an active approach to securing the necessary support to realize the shared vision, strategy, and targets. A passive approach defined by waiting on support and/or welcoming any and all support will not suffice.

-The alignment of support with the Malawi REDD+ Program's vision, strategy, and attendant, annual workplans are imperative to ensuring coordination, coherence, and consistency over time and efficient movement along the program's trajectory.

-The Department of Forestry must demonstrate improved and continued investment in the Malawi REDD+ Program. Such genuine engagement is critical to the success of the program and will require reforms both within the Department and the forestry and natural resource management sectors. The Department must demonstrate that it is committed to the REDD+ process and capable of serving as a strong and able focal point and the Malawi REDD+ Program must provide the means for the Department to prove as much through clear expectations and indicators.

-The upcoming USAID program, Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Malawi's Forests (PERFORM), will play a central role in Malawi's pursuit of REDD+ readiness over the next five years in terms of implementation. The Malawi REDD+ Program must establish a strong, collaborative relationship with PERFORM from the onset; to the extent that PERFORM is part of the Malawi REDD+ Program itself.

-A sharp, unwavering focus on sound, rigorous analytics through which the program will anchor its decisions must be emphasized. Relatedly, clarification of the governance that informs the design, production and management of the data cycle must be emphasized.

Strengths: The Malawi REDD+ Program has developed steadily since its inception in 2012, with its first year focused on the building of multi-stakeholder governance bodies and a formalization of the REDD+ secretariat in the Department of Forestry. Stakeholder inclusion in the REDD+ governance structures is notable as a strength, as is partially indicated by a stakeholder quorum required to hold meetings. Inclusivity is emphasized overall. Terms of Reference have been drafted

and approved by the primary REDD+ governance body for its own specialized working groups. Through bilateral support from the U.S. Forest Service, capacity and needs assessments have been completed in the areas of GIS, remote sensing, measurement of above and below-ground carbon pools, and NFI. In addition, proposed national Land Use Land Cover standards have been developed. A drivers of deforestation study is forthcoming this year, which will provide one of the last pieces of vital information necessary for development of a national strategy. Government-owned 5-Year Action Plan (2014-2019) is currently at zero-draft phase.

Weaknesses: Coordination among agencies, ministries, and governance structures in-country is inconsistent and institutional processes within the national climate change committee and its steering committee is ad hoc. Even so, REDD+ activities and proposals need be vetted by the national climate change committees by law, making moving forward difficult. Within the Department of Forestry, a perceived lack of staff and institutional capacity to conduct MRV/NFI/RS and GIS beyond the district level makes planning for a national REDD+ strategy difficult. In addition, LULC and spatial data standards have not been formalized by the Department of Surveys who is jurisdictionally charged with this task. The processes to establish the LULC standards are ad hoc as well. Among stakeholders and communities, a lack of awareness of REDD+ is coupled with sometimes unrealistic expectations from more informed stakeholders. Inadequate awareness of potential safeguards and financial benefits may reduce interest in potential partners, such as the private sector. Lastly, there is a lack of an existing legal framework for REDD+ in current policies; the current Forest Policy only mentions REDD+ peripherally, which may not incur future donor support.

Opportunities: Implementation of Phase II pilot projects underway through PERFORM, a 5-year USAID program launched this month. However, transitioning from bilateral support from USAID into multilateral support through UN REDD will provide insights and consummate expertise into Malawi's REDD Readiness process. Opportunities to display benefits to communities through implementation of REDD concepts will enliven discourse on REDD in Malawi, and strengthen the case for faster progress on next steps as outlined in the 2014-2019 5-year Action Plan.

Threats:

Mixed expectations on the outcomes of REDD+ finance weaken support for the program and threaten to derail the efforts of the Malawi REDD Readiness Program. The long timeline for on-the-ground results of REDD benefits creates fatigue and criticism of the effort as a whole. Uncertain tenure rights (as defined by current law) threaten the effective distribution of benefits, causing mistrust among communities and caution among donors to share too much information about REDD+.

Strengths

- Developed at steady pace since 2012
- Stakeholder inclusion in governance structures, quorum required to hold meetings
- Government-owned 5-Year Action Plan (2014-2019) at zero draft phase
- Terms of Reference established for Malawi REDD+ governance structures and associated working groups
- Technical analysis of GIS/RS/NFI/LULC

Weaknesses

- Weak national-level coordination and established processes amongst climate change institutions and programs
- Lack of staff/capacity to conduct MRV/NFI/RS/GIS
- LULC/spatial data standards not formalized; processes to establish the standards is ad hoc
- Lack of awareness of REDD with mixed expectations stakeholders

Opportunities

- Transitioning from USAID-based bilateral support to multilateral UN REDD support
- Implementation of Phase II pilots underway in form of 5-year USAID program launch
- Opportunities to build local capacity through upcoming projects with international support

Threats

- Mixed expectations on the outcomes of REDD
- Long timeline for on-the-ground implementation of REDD creates fatigue/criticism of effort as a whole
- Uncertain tenure rights threaten effective distribution of benefits
- High rate of deforestation and degradation (from charcoal production) undermines potential to fight leakage
