REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

**Working Group 1 (WG1): National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Levels/Reference Levels (RELs/RLs)**

**Terms of Reference**

# Background

The REDD+ Readiness Roadmap will be drafted on the basis of input of several WGs, including this one, between now and the end of May 2013. The Roadmap will describe the current situation in Pakistan with respect to activities, governance and capacity in the forest and land use sectors, but not make recommendations on activities, governance and capacity in the forest and land use sectors. Rather it will **identify the issues** that need to be reviewed and possibly enhanced thereafter in the Roadmap implementation phase, to optimize Pakistan’s opportunity to access positive incentives under the future REDD+ mechanism that is currently being negotiated under the UNFCCC. For more background on the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap see Annex 1.

The UN-REDD Roadmap Process has been or is being undertaken is various countries and albeit that a particular structure of the Roadmap is not prescribed, experience has demonstrated that particular subjects do emerge in each of the cases to date. Therefore, Annex 2 contains a possible Table of Content for the Roadmap.

# Objectives

The objectives for this WG are related to two areas: the National Forest Monitoring System and Measurement, Reporting and Verification Functions (NFMS/MRV) and the construction of a Reference Emission Level / Reference Level (REL/RL).[[1]](#footnote-1)

***Principle objectives*** *are: 1) to assess baseline national technical capacities and institutional arrangements related to the forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (M&MRV) functions of the national forest monitoring system (NFMS) for REDD+ activities; and, 2) to identify potential strategies for the development of forest RELs/RLs.*

# Issues to be Addressed by the Working Group

**NFMS/MRV:**

1. Provide material that describes the Forest and Land Use sectors in Pakistan
2. Describe and assess current techniques and approaches deployed in Pakistan for:
   1. Foresty inventory work (on paper and in the field);
   2. MRV and monitoring functions
   3. Remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems
3. Describe and assess current capabilities and capacities for:
   1. Foresty inventory work;
   2. MRV and monitoring functions
   3. Remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems
4. Identify possible gaps in capabilities and capacities that need to be remedied
5. Describe and assess current institutional arrangements for the implementation of the NFMS/MRV and monitoring activities
6. Identify issues related to the institutional arrangements that need to be reviewed and possibly revised in the Roadmap Implementation Phase.

**REL/RL:**

1. Provide data and information that is available to describe and quantify:
2. Forest types:
   * Natural forests
   * Plantations
   * Mangroves, etc.
3. Carbon pools, Greenhouse Gases, Force Majeure[[2]](#footnote-2)
4. Historic trends in emissions and deforestation
5. Identify possible REDD+ activities that can be undertaken
6. Data and information relevant to make projections:
   * Approaches, methods, and models that are or can be used
   * Harvesting rates, wood products
   * Age class structure of plantations
7. Identify gaps in data, information and capacity, or, if that is not possible, develop a workplan to assess the available data and information
8. Identify potential strategies for the development of forest RELs/RLs that addresses the above issues, or, if that is not possible, develop a workplan to identify the strategies.
9. Identify potential strategies to remedy the capacity gaps to address the above issues, or, if that is not possible, develop a workplan to do so.

**NFMS/MRV and REL/RL:**

Identify issues related to:

1. the human, technical and financial resources required
2. Access and security
3. Land tenure
4. Determining national circumstances.

# Outputs

Preliminary gap analyses of, and identification of critical issues related to:

1. remote sensing, forest inventory and GHG inventory capacities (identifying key gaps between national capacities and international guidance/best practice), including a workplan to design an agreed blueprint for a draft national NFMS/MRV framework, and action plan remedy the gaps; and,
2. modeling of national circumstances; and,
3. institutional arrangements, capacities, available resources and information, leading to a workplan to make suggestions for institutional reforms, if appropriate.

# Methods of Working

WG1 will meet for the first time in the week of 18 March 2013, and thereafter, on a ‘need to meet’ basis. The minimum number of meetings is 3 between 18 March and the end of May 2013. Deliverables are due by the latest on 17 May. The WG will devise its own method of working.

Annex 1: the REDD+ Roadmap Process

A REDD+ Readiness Roadmap is a country-specific, national document that:

1. sets out the current situation in a country with respect to activities, governance and capacity in the forest and land use sectors; and,
2. identifies the issues and activities that need to be addressed and implemented in order to prepare Pakistan for a national-level REDD+ program.

A REDD+ program is a voluntary, national-level strategy designed to access financial incentives through a future international climate change mitigation agreement under the UNFCCC, in return for demonstrated, verified reductions in net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions[[3]](#footnote-3) resulting from the land use and forest sectors. The policies and measures to achieve these net emission reductions must largely be implemented at the local, or grassroots level, and be coordinated at national and sub-national levels of forest administration, according to the prevalent governance systems in the countries concerned.

It will be possible for REDD+ programs to access incentives only when this future international climate change mitigation agreement under the UNFCCC has been finalized. In the meantime however, countries can access support from various sources to get ready to implement a REDD+ program in due course. This is often referred to as the “Readiness phase”, whereby a country prepares itself for the participation in this future REDD+ mechanism.

The Roadmap can serve multiple purposes. The elaboration of the Roadmap itself facilitates a critical review of the land use and forest sectors, its governance, associated legislation, and the current performance. It can also function as the basis for planning REDD+ Readiness activities, allowing the government and other stakeholders to determine what can be done with existing resources, what additional financial and technical support is required, which capacity needs to be build, how collaborations and enforcement can be strengthened, develop manners to engage stakeholders, optimize land use, and coordinate requests for this support to various agencies. Agencies which can provide such support include the UN Collaborative Programme on REDD+ (UN-REDD: a joint venture of FAO, UNDP and UNEP); the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), bilateral and multi-lateral donors, and private sector entities and foundations and charitable organisations.

The UN-REDD Programme has assisted various countries in Asia in the development of REDD+ Readiness Roadmaps, including Cambodia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Based on this experience, UN-REDD and the One UN JPE in Pakistan have prepared a strategy for the Roadmap process and will provide financial support for its implementation. The process is being facilitated by ICIMOD and WWF Pakistan, assisted by Eveline Trines from Scope14+, an international consultant. The REDD+ Roadmap process was launched officially with a national consultative REDD+ Roadmap workshop on 21st February 2013. But in advance of that launch, several consultative and outreach meetings were held in various districts and provinces.

The REDD+ Roadmap will be compiled by Eveline Trines on the basis of information that is to be provided by various stakeholders. To that end 4 Working Groups (WGs) have been launched at the workshop on 21 February 2013. Those WGs will meet several times between now and the end of May 2013 and compile and make available relevant data and information in order to elaborate the REDD+ Roadmap. The completion of the draft REDD+ Roadmap is foreseen for June 2013, after which it will undergo a broad review during a consultative process. Therefore, subsequent steps in the process will be as follows:

* Formation of four multi-stakeholder working groups to collect relevant information and materials for the Roadmap;
* Provincial workshops to identify governance issues and management arrangements for the REDD+ Readiness phase, locally-relevant drivers of deforestation and degradation and identify potential strategies to address them;
* Collation of information and materials into a draft Roadmap document;
* National workshop for presentation and discussion of the draft REDD+ Roadmap (tentatively scheduled for June 2013); and,
* Nationally-coordinated multi-stakeholder consultation process, and incorporation of resulting comments and amendments into a second draft Roadmap.

Annex 2: Possible Table of Content for the REDD+ Roadmap

**Introduction**

Country Profile

Pakistan and Climate Change

Pakistan Forest Sector

Background: International Framework for REDD+ Implementation

Background: Pakistan REDD+ Readiness Roadmap

**Section 1: Management of REDD+ Readiness**

Existing Climate Change policy framework in Pakistan

Key Policies and Laws relevant to Climate Change and Forests

Pre-existing government institutional framework

Pre-existing institutional framework for REDD+ Readiness

Potential Partners in REDD+ Roadmap

Gaps in Existing Management Structure

Draft Proposal for Management of Readiness

**Section 2: Stakeholder Consultation and Participation**

Stakeholder mapping and potential roles of stakeholders in REDD+

Background to Stakeholder Consultation in the forest sector

Stakeholder Consultation process to date

Planned Consultation Processes

Gender Inclusiveness

Compliance with the Principles of FPIC

**Section 3: Development and Selection of REDD+ Strategies**

Initial Assessment of Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

REDD+ strategy options per forest type (mountain forests, arid forest, mangroves, etc.)

Further Studies on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

Assessment of Policies, Laws and Rules

REDD+ Strategy Options

Feasibility Assessment of Potential REDD+ Strategies

Planning Process for REDD+ Strategy Implementation

**Section 4: Implementation Framework and Safeguards**

Objective of this component

Outcomes of this component

Elements of the REDD+ Implementation Framework

Operationalising the Institutional Structure

Legal Aspects

Clarifying land tenure and land use rights (including indigenous peoples’ rights)

Financial Aspects

Social and Environmental Safeguards

**Section 5: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level (REL)/Reference Level (RL)**

Introduction

Objectives

Data availability:

1. Natural forests
2. Plantations
3. Mangroves, etc.

Carbon pools, Greenhouse Gases, Force Majeure

Historic trends in emissions and deforestation

REDD+ activities that can be undertaken

Projections:

* Approaches, methods, and models that can be used
* Harvesting rates, wood products
* Age class structure of plantations

**Section 6: Development of Monitoring and MRV systems**

Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the NFMS/MRV activities

Issues to be addressed in order to build capacities to implement the GHG inventory for the forest sector

Issues to be addressed in order to develop a Satellite Forest Monitoring System

Issues to be addressed in order to design a National Forest Inventory

Issues to be addressed in order to support scientific research on key issues

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1. The term REL is used in case the total net balance between emissions and removals results in a net emission (emissions > removals) whilst the term RL is used in case the total net balance between emissions and removals results in a net removal (emissions < removals). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Force majeure: extraordinary occurrences whose severity is beyond the control of, and not materially influenced by a Party (e.g. floods, landslides, earthquakes, etc.) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Net* GHG emissions are emissions minus removals, meaning the result of (emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) minus (removals through forest conservation, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)