REDD+ Academy

Developing capacity for increasingly self-reliant national implementation of REDD+ actions
6 November 2013

Introduction

This background document note proposes the process for the design and development of a REDD+ capacity development initiative, a 'REDD+ Academy', which will lead to the development of the Academy in a way that addresses regional and national needs and draws on the strengths of the partner organizations.

Background

In the coming 10 – 15 years, in order to stay within the trajectory of <2 degree increase in global temperatures, there needs to be a significant change towards sustainable land-use, particularly in support of developing countries. This cannot be achieved without a halt or at least significant reduction in the rates of deforestation and degradation of forests within the context of sustainable development, food security and poverty eradication. The work of the UN-REDD Programme aims at enabling this vision to come to fruition, including through targeted capacity building for REDD+ countries.[1]

Rationale

It is evident that there is a need for a REDD+ capacity development initiative which can match the scale of this global challenge and enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground.[2] In fact, Parties to the UNFCCC have requested that information on REDD be better coordinated in order to address the wide range of tools and information available (see Annex 1 for examples).

At this stage, however, capacity building efforts for REDD+ are often uncoordinated, and are offered out by a variety of actors without clear coordination. Although many have demonstrated positive results, they are usually short-term workshops or training, covering only a small part of the wide spectrum of required REDD+ competencies and knowledge. The target audience also tends to be varied and delivery to these audiences is often uncoordinated. Furthermore, many existing capacity building initiatives are passive - information is developed and posted but there are few mechanisms to assess the suitability of the information or adapt the delivery to match regional and national needs. Most existing initiatives also lack a monitoring and evaluation system to assess the impacts of participation.

At the same time, the body of knowledge and experience on REDD+ readiness and implementation action has grown considerably, and there is an increasing potential for South-South Cooperation to complement capacity building. Several leading REDD+ countries have expressed an interest in supporting a South-South focused capacity development initiative and sharing their experience in REDD+ readiness and implementation. The success of such an initiative will be tied to responsiveness to regional and national

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[1] The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). www.un-redd.org

[2] The joint World Bank/UN-REDD Country Needs Assessment 2012 highlighted the need for increased capacity building efforts across all regions and all main technical areas of REDD+.

needs, an ability to support South-South Cooperation, and the development of a learning framework that can deliver tangible benefits to participants over both the short and long term.

There is also significant training and capacity building experience that could contribute to the development of a more coordinated and systematic approach based on best practices and lessons learned from national and regional levels. This includes the specific REDD+ experiences from the UN-REDD Programme, and partners in the wider REDD+ community; as well as the capacity development experience the three partner UN Agencies of the UN-REDD Programme can bring (e.g. the FAO Knowledge Forum, UNDP Capacity Development Group, and UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit), as well as other potential partners, such as one or more universities.

The REDD+ Academy
An initial framing for a responsive REDD+ capacity building initiative is to create a 'REDD+ Academy' to provide a strong framework for capacity building in which the needs of participants are tied to the delivery of on-the-ground REDD+ readiness activities through a long-term and sustainable learning experience. The REDD+ Academy would address the key issues mentioned above in a systematic, coordinated approach to REDD+ capacity development, drawing on existing strengths, and current and future needs of stakeholders. By adoption of a demand-driven regional approach tied to implementation, the REDD+ Academy would also support ongoing South-South Cooperation through mentoring, institutional twinning and other mechanisms to be defined during the design phase. In doing so the REDD+ Academy will build on past experiences with regards to capacity building, will provide a platform for further specialization in REDD topics through relevant initiatives (where agreed with partners), and continue to engage an Alumni of graduates from the REDD+ Academy.

Some initial considerations for the types of topics a REDD+ Academy could cover include: the scientific evidence on climate change and significance of forests to sustainable development; international commitments on sustainable forest management, climate change, biodiversity, and rights of indigenous peoples, and the rationale behind REDD+; developing and implementing a National Forest Monitoring System to deliver national MRV and monitoring capacity for REDD+ and reporting to other international processes; credible, inclusive national governance and tenure systems for REDD+ implementation; stakeholder engagement including Indigenous people and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); safeguards and multiple benefits of REDD+; linkages between REDD+ and a Green economy transformation processes; communication and public awareness; and REDD+ funding, benefit distribution and public-private partnerships.

Next Steps
The process of designing and managing the REDD+ Academy is critically important to ensure the outcomes are useful for key stakeholders, addressing real needs and building the right competencies and capacities to sufficient numbers of people to bring REDD+ up to scale. Since the REDD+ Academy is intended to support long-term and sustainable learning, elements need to be carefully designed to support South-South Cooperation and the dissemination of capacity by participants throughout their institutions and organizations. In effect, the REDD+ Academy will empower participants, not just to be better managers of REDD+ processes, but also to be agents of change.

It will also be important to ensure that the REDD+ Academy design process includes monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the on-the-ground impacts of capacity building efforts and allow for adaptive management. This process will include regional needs assessments in order to support a

baseline against which impacts can be assessed and frame the institutional context within which capacity building will take place.

The delivery mechanism is also important and could consist of formal (e.g. through a university), non-formal (e.g. workshops), or in-formal (e.g. self-paced e-learning course) learning. It would be worthwhile to explore attaining accreditation for the capacity development which will give the graduates a recognised qualification (e.g. a certificate) and differentiate this approach from other capacity development initiatives.

Objectives

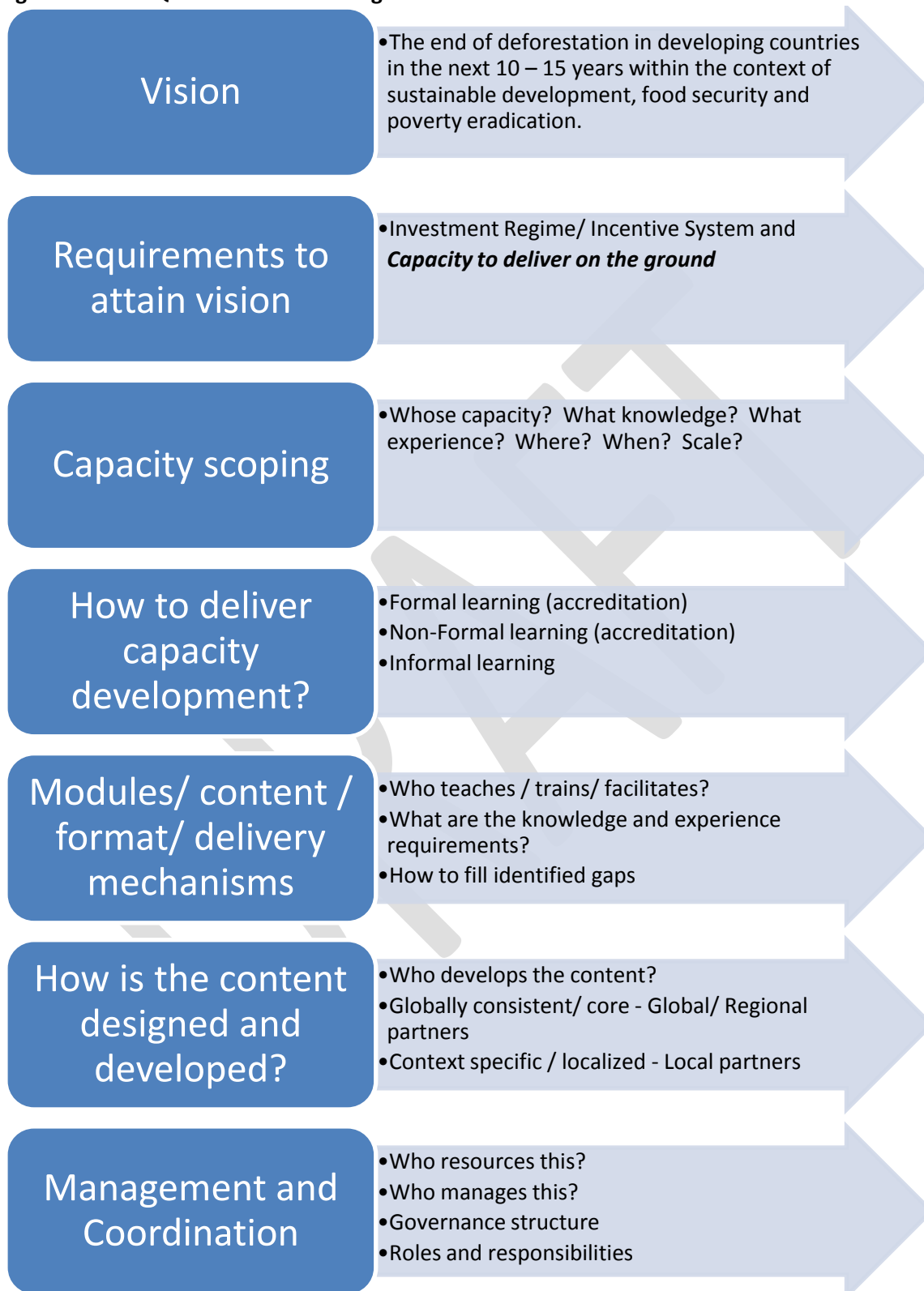There are four overall objectives to this design phase:

- Establish a **REDD+ Academy design team** consisting of representatives of the UN-REDD Programme and other suitable donors and partners to map out the design process and coordination of this initiative.
- **Review** existing capacity building initiatives to identify how the REDD+ Academy could provide a platform for their further dissemination while ensuring that best practices are captured
- **Hold regional workshops** (one in each of Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and Caribbean), bringing together a range of stakeholders to address key questions (to be confirmed by the design team, but based on the list of key questions below). These workshops could be facilitated using the U-Method and likely draw on approximately 30 people per workshop for approximately 1-2 days each, possibly back to back with other regional or global meetings.
- **Hold a consolidation meeting** to bring together a small team of people to consolidate the outcomes of the regional workshops and finalise a comprehensive REDD+ Academy programme and implementation plan.

Other consultative meetings can take place on the back of other REDD+-related events to gather inputs, feedback and expressions of interest in the design and implementation of the REDD+ Academy.

Key Questions

A list of key questions outlined in figure 1 below will form the basis for the design of the REDD+ Academy. These questions will be verified with key partners and adapted as needed as the design phase progresses.

Figure 1: Initial Questions for the Design Phase

Vision
- The end of deforestation in developing countries in the next 10 – 15 years within the context of sustainable development, food security and poverty eradication.

Requirements to attain vision
- Investment Regime/ Incentive System and *Capacity to deliver on the ground*

Capacity scoping
- Whose capacity? What knowledge? What experience? Where? When? Scale?

How to deliver capacity development?
- Formal learning (accreditation)
- Non-Formal learning (accreditation)
- Informal learning

Modules/ content / format/ delivery mechanisms
- Who teaches / trains/ facilitates?
- What are the knowledge and experience requirements?
- How to fill identified gaps

How is the content designed and developed?
- Who develops the content?
- Globally consistent/ core - Global/ Regional partners
- Context specific / localized - Local partners

Management and Coordination
- Who resources this?
- Who manages this?
- Governance structure
- Roles and responsibilities

Process and Timeframe

The proposed process and timeline for the design of the REDD+ Academy is outlined below:

Stage	Description	Timeframe
REDD+ Academy design team convened	Meeting of REDD+ Academy design team to map out design and coordination of initiative. Representatives from UN-REDD Programme Agencies and other initial partners in a video conference call.	October 2013 (Informal consultation to take place during REDD Exchange, Oslo Norway, October 29 – 30 2013)
Regional Workshop Africa	Workshop of key stakeholders to address key questions	Informal consultation during Regional Safeguards Workshop, Nairobi (17-19 September) / Workshop in Q1 2014
Regional Workshop Asia-Pacific	Workshop of key stakeholders to address key questions	Q 1, 2014
Regional Workshop Latin America & Car.	Workshop of key stakeholders to address key questions	Q 2, 2014
Consolidation meeting	Meeting to consolidate inputs from three workshops and finalise design and implementation plan for REDD+ Academy. Curriculum design would be finalized at this meeting and development of specific content would then continue from July to November.	July 2014
REDD+ Academy launched	Launch of first stage of REDD+ Academy	November 2014 (to be launched at UNFCCC COP)

Potential Donors & Partners

There are potentially a wide range of donors, partners and stakeholders that will be incorporated into various stages of the design and implementation of the REDD+ Academy. The organizations listed below are only those identified at this stage under consideration to be invited to join the REDD+ Academy design team. The extent of participation of each partner (as core members or as advisors) will be discussed during the first design team meeting. The functions that are needed to deliver the REDD+ Academy will be a key determinant to which organizations are engaged.

UN-REDD Programme: Representation of each of the UN Agencies that collaborate under the UN-REDD Programme (FAO, UNDP and UNEP), plus the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. (www.un-redd.org)

Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity (AGRC): Alliance of global REDD+ practitioners involved in capacity development initiatives. (http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/climate/agrc)

CIFOR Centre for International Forestry Research: The Center for International Forestry Research is a nonprofit, global facility dedicated to advancing human wellbeing, environmental conservation and equity. (http://www.cifor.org/)

Climate and Development Knowledge Network: The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. (http://cdkn.org/)

Conservation International: Conservation International is a nonprofit environmental organization with the mission is to protect nature, and its biodiversity, for the benefit of humanity. They have been active in a variety of REDD+ fields. (http://www.conservation.org/)

Norwegian Government: The Norwegian Government, through Norad, are a major donor to the UN-REDD Programme and potential donor for the REDD+ Academy (http://www.norad.no/en/)

Rio Conventions Pavilion: The Rio Conventions Pavilion is a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realized through implementation of the three Rio Conventions. It is a joint initiative of the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD Secretariats and the Global Environment Facility (www.riopavilion.org).

UK Government: The UK Government, through DFID, are a potential donor to the REDD+ Academy

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat: The UNFCCC Secretariat have a capacity development mandate and are an important hub in international climate change negotiations. (http://unfccc.int/)

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research: UNITAR is an autonomous body within the United Nations with a mandate to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through training and research. They are experts in training and research and can bring expertise on design, facilitation and accreditation, amongst other areas. (http://www.unitar.org/)

UNORCID United Nations Office for REDD+ Coordination in Indonesia: UNORCID is the focal point for REDD+ activities of the UN system in Indonesia. (http://www.unorcid.org/)

World Bank: The World Bank supports two initiatives of particular relevance to the REDD+ Academy, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the World Bank Institute (WBI). (http://www.worldbank.org/)

WWF: WWF have been active in promoting REDD+ learning initiatives and supporting REDD+ in several regions. (http://wwf.panda.org/)

Annexes
Annex 1: Resources on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Building

Title	Summary	Key Components	Lead Organization	Additional Information
General				
SolArid	Knowledge sharing on SLM tools and methods within countries in the Maghreb and Sahel	Electronic forum Training on resource mobilization Thematic workshops	Global Mechanism (UNCCD)	http://www.global-mechanism.org/en/Special-Initiatives/SolArid-South-to-South-Cooperation
Scope|acp	Capacity building, knowledge sharing and partnership building to improve access to SLM financing	Knowledge portal E-learning courses Access to public or private online workspace Q&A with GM experts	Global Mechanism (UNCCD) / UNEP	http://global-mechanism.org/en/Platforms/Scope-ACP
REDD+ Specific				
Building REDD+ Capacity in Developing Countries	Capacity building for REDD+ negotiators and policy makers from Africa and Asia	Database of tools and publications Links to projects and programmes	IISD, ASB-ICRAF	http://www.iisd.org/climate/land_use/redd/
South-South REDD	Partnership between Brazil and Mozambique to increase the capacity of Mozambique to engage in REDD+	Multi-stakeholder institution Technical studies to exchange experience (interesting because they're project specific) Provision of technical expertise	IIED	http://www.iied.org/south-south-redd-brazil-mozambique-initiative
Asia-Pacific Regional Knowledge Exchanges	Platform for the exchange of experience on REDD+ in Asia - Pacific	Workshops Exhibitions Lessons learned document	UN-REDD	http://www.unep.org/south-south-cooperation/case/casedetails.aspx?csno=79

Other Capacity Building

Title	Summary	Key Components	Lead Organization	Additional Information
General Climate Change				
E-Learning Courses: Climate change	Introduces: climate change, low emission development planning and financing, sustainable energy, and climate-smart agriculture	E-learning courses Expert facilitation Electronic forum Live webcasts Webinars	World Bank Institute	http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/Data/wbi/wbicms/files/drupal-acquia/wbi/infosheet_4.15.13.pdf
Traditional Knowledge and Climate Science Toolkit	Builds that capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to access scientific research on adaptation and mitigation	Guide Videos Database of articles	UNU	http://www.unutki.org/news.php?news_id=161&doc_id=103
REDD+ Specific				
UNFCCC REDD Platform	Database of information on capacity building for REDD+	Online database	UNFCCC Secretariat	http://unfccc.int/methods/redd/redd_web_platform/items/6676.php
IPACC Training Kit	Introduces: climate change, REDD, the role of ILCs	10 page document with information, key questions and lists of supporting documents	IPACC	http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Oct2009/REDD_TRAINING_KIT.pdf
Estimating the Opportunity Costs of REDD+	Tools and methodologies to assess how REDD+ may impact different stakeholders	Training manual Regional workshops	World Bank, FCPF, UN-REDD, ICRAF	http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/Data/wbi/wbicms/files/drupal-acquia/wbi/REDDbrochure_v2pages.pdf
REDD+ Learning Sessions	Invited guest experts present on different REDD+ topics each month	Monthly webinar (presentation followed by Q&A)	WWF	http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/forest_climate2/redd_learning/learning_sessions/
Conservation Training: REDD+	Introduces: climate change and forests, REDD+ policy and REDD+ implementation	E-learning courses Podcast series	Conservation International	https://www.conservationtraining.org/mod/page/view.php?id=4254

Community forestry and REDD+	Introduces REDD+ and community forestry and explains how the two can be mutually reinforcing	Training workshops Field studies	RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests	http://www.recoftc.org/site/Community-Forestry-and-REDD-
FPIC for REDD+	Tools and methods to engage indigenous peoples through free, prior and informed consent	Training workshops Field studies	RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests	http://www.recoftc.org/site/Free-Prior-and-Informed-Consent-for-REDD-
REDD+ Community	Online platform to exchange resources, experiences and lessons learned on REDD+	E-courses Webinars Communities of practice Database of publications and events	WWF (affiliated)	http://reddcommunity.org/
The REDD Desk	Online platform for the exchange of information on all aspects of REDD	Database of publications and events WikiREDD and REDD twitter Online country profiles	Global Canopy Programme, Forum on Readiness for REDD	http://www.theredddesk.org/