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2

UNDERSTANDING  
REDD+ AND THE  
UNFCCC

# REDD+ ACADEMY

LEARNING JOURNAL

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# ABOUT US

## UN-REDD

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).

The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

## REDD+ACADEMY

The REDD+ Academy is a coordinated REDD+ capacity development initiative led by the UN-REDD Programme and the UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit, which seeks to match the scale of the global climate change mitigation challenge and enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground.

The REDD+ Academy is a comprehensive response to capacity building needs identified by the countries receiving support from the UN-REDD Programme. The main aim of the REDD+ Academy is to empower potential “REDD+ champions” with the requisite knowledge and skills to promote the implementation of national REDD+ activities.

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### **METTE L. WILKIE**

DIRECTOR,  
ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION,  
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Dear Learner,

Welcome to the second edition of the REDD+ Academy Learning Journals. The journals provide you with state of the art knowledge on REDD+ planning and implementation, developed by some of the world's leading experts at the UN-REDD Programme.

The journals have been designed to accompany you in your learning journey and equip you with the necessary knowledge to understand the various components of REDD+, from the basics to the finer points of setting reference levels, monitoring, allocation of incentives and stakeholder engagement.

With deforestation and forest degradation being the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions globally, action to reduce deforestation and to rebuild forests globally is vital. By realizing social and economic benefits, REDD+ is also fundamental to delivering on the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the focus of many developing countries is now firmly on REDD+ implementation. I encourage you to take the REDD+ Academy online course, and apply your knowledge to make REDD+ a national and a global success!

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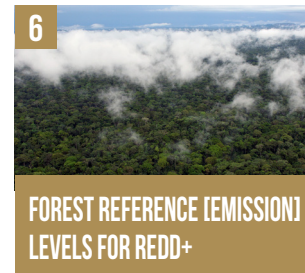
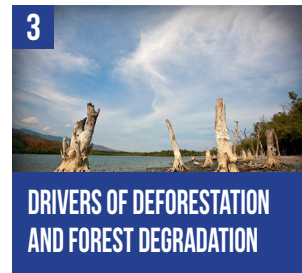
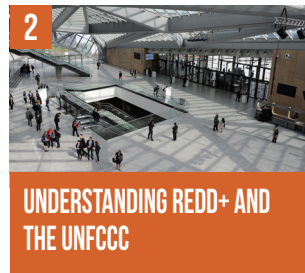


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- Emergence of REDD+ at the global level
- What are the five REDD+ activities and what do they mean?
- What are the required elements for REDD+?
- Implementation of REDD+ activities at the national level
- Multilateral REDD+ initiatives

## ACTIVITIES

- Exercise 3**  
Fill in the blanks
- Exercise 4**  
Label the graph



# 2

## Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC

This module presents the basics of REDD+ under the UNFCCC



**The module includes sections about:**

- What REDD+ is and how it has been negotiated at the global level
- REDD+ implementation at the national level and related challenges
- International initiatives to support REDD+ implementation at the national level



**What do you already know about this topic?**

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## 2. UNDERSTANDING REDD+ AND THE UNFCCC

### INTRODUCTION

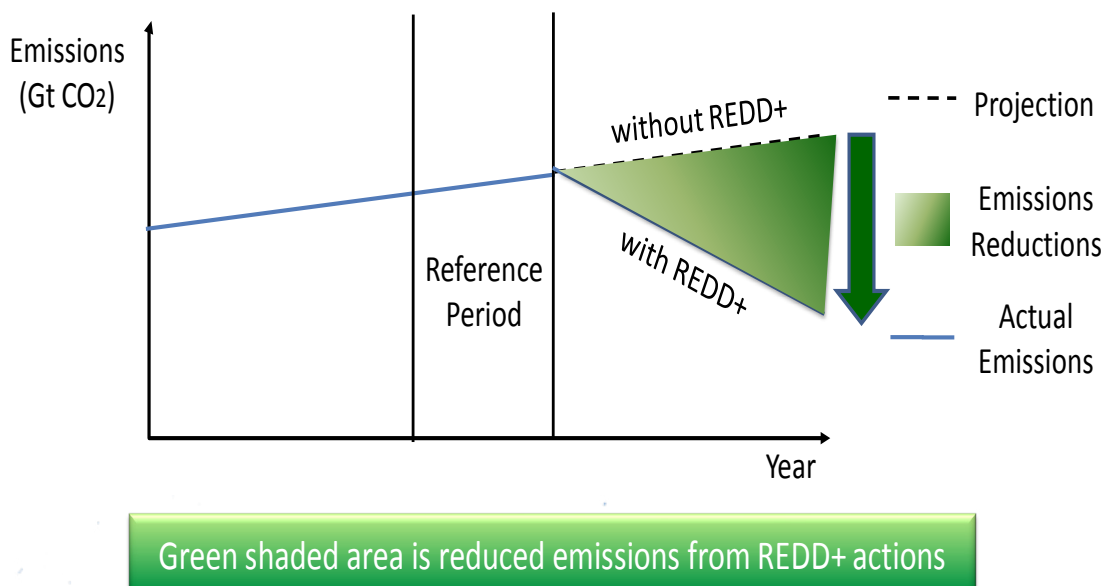
This module presents the basics of REDD+ and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### WHAT IS REDD+?

As discussed in **Module 1: Climate Change and the Role of Forests**, the forestry sector offers significant potential for the mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To capture that potential, the Parties to the UNFCCC, beginning

in 2005, developed the approach known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, or REDD. This subsequently evolved to become REDD+, a forest-based climate change mitigation approach that aims to provide positive incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, to sustainably manage their forests and to conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks. Figure 2.1 demonstrates the potential benefits of REDD+ implementation in terms of emissions reductions. REDD+ also has the potential to enhance other forest-related ecosystem services.

**Figure 2.1** REDD+ and GHG emissions



Source: UN-REDD Programme



## EMERGENCE OF REDD+ AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

### The UNFCCC

Anthropogenic climate change is a consequence of large volumes of GHGs being released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and land-use change, including the destruction of forests. GHGs act to trap energy from the sun as heat, and this in turn affects the global climate system. The main anthropogenic GHGs and drivers of climate change are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>).

Rising concern about the effects of these emissions on the climate led to the negotiation of the UNFCCC, which entered into force in 1994. It was one of three international conventions adopted in 1992 at the 'Earth Summit' to help set the planet on a more sustainable course. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

All institutions involved in the international climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC are supported by a Secretariat based in Bonn, Germany. The Conference of the Parties (COP), comprised of country Parties, serves as the main forum to negotiate agreements to reduce human contributions to climate change and facilitate adaptation to the impacts of climate change. As of October 2015, the UNFCCC has 196 country Parties. Under the UNFCCC, developed countries are known as 'Annex I Parties' while developing countries are known as 'non-Annex I Parties' (UNFCCC, n.d. a).

In 1997, Parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Kyoto Protocol (KP), a landmark agreement to set internationally binding emission reduction targets, with the main burden falling on developed countries due to their emissions during more than 150 years of industrial activity.

The international community took another major step toward the goals of the UNFCCC in 2015 with the adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties

(COP21) in the French capital. The agreement established the goal to "hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius" (UNFCCC, 2016).

The agreement recognized the important role of removals by sinks, including forests, in achieving this goal:

***"Parties aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, ... and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century."***

The Paris outcomes also recognized the role of forests and REDD+ specifically. This is covered in more detail below.

### Forests and the UNFCCC

From the outset, the UNFCCC recognized the role of forests in climate change mitigation. Because trees and other plants are made up largely of carbon, it is released into the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub> as a result of forest degradation or clearance. Conversely, healthy forests absorb ('sequester') CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere when growing, and store it while standing. Thus, forests and other terrestrial ecosystems can slow the build-up of GHGs in the atmosphere by sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> and accumulating carbon in vegetation and soils.

Specifically, Article 4 of the Convention commits Parties to promote the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of GHGs, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems.

However, tropical deforestation was mostly excluded from the scope of the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which provides Certified Emission Reduction units which may be bought and sold in emissions trading schemes.

In the period 2005-2010, the idea of establishing a global process to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries emerged and gained traction in the deliberations under the UNFCCC.

## REDD+

The introduction of REDD to the UNFCCC agenda occurred at COP11, Montreal, in 2005 and led to a two-year process under the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), including several technical workshops on the issue ([UNFCCC, n.d. b](#)). As a result of the negotiations and decisions that followed, REDD evolved to become REDD+ as part of the Bali Action Plan at COP13 in 2007<sup>1</sup>, a forest-based climate change mitigation approach that aims to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forest carbon stocks, sustainably manage forests and enhance forest carbon stocks. A second decision ([2/CP.13](#)) adopted in Bali provided some early methodological guidance for REDD+.

The Bali discussions represented a shift in approach under the UNFCCC from one where only developed, Annex I countries undertake mitigation actions to one where all Parties do so, laying the foundations for non-Annex I Parties to implement Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), that should be Measured, Reported and Verified (MRV).

Since 2007, successive COPs have established guidance, rules and modalities to steer the implementation of REDD+, notably in Copenhagen in 2009 and in Cancun in 2010.

During the COP15 in Copenhagen (2009), several principles and methodological guidelines were defined through the adoption of decision [4/CP.15](#):

At COP16 in Cancun (2010) Parties adopted the so called 'Cancun Agreements' ([Decision 1/CP.16](#)) and also agreed the scope of REDD+ as comprising five activities:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;

- Sustainable management of forests;
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The agreed scope gave developing countries freedom to decide which activities to implement "in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances."

In Cancun, the COP requested the SBSTA to work on methodological issues, including modalities for forest reference levels and national forest monitoring systems ([Decision 1/CP.16, Appendix II](#)).

The so-called Cancun Agreements included another important milestone in the UNFCCC with the adoption of seven safeguards that should be promoted and supported when undertaking REDD+ activities ([Decision 1/CP.16, Appendix I](#)). Further progress was made at COP17 in Durban (2011), particularly on safeguards and forest reference levels.

At COP19 in Warsaw in 2013, most of the REDD+ work programme was finalised, pending further negotiation on safeguard information systems, methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits of REDD+, and the joint mitigation and adaptation approach to forests. The seven REDD+-related decisions adopted at COP19 are referred to as the '[Warsaw Framework for REDD+](#)'. The Warsaw Framework includes a decision on enhancing coordination of support for the implementation of activities, including institutional arrangements. A first REDD+ decision on aspects related to finance for results-based actions was also adopted.

Three REDD+ decisions were adopted by Parties at COP21 in Paris in December 2015. These pertain to (i) safeguards, (ii) alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation (JMA) for the integral and sustainable management of forests and (iii) non-carbon benefits. With the adoption of these decisions, the negotiations on REDD+ methodological issues and guidance were closed.

Taken together, all these decisions constitute a 'REDD+ rulebook', providing the guidance and process for developing countries to have the results of their REDD+ activities recognised for results-based payments (RBPs) or results-based financing (RBF).

The role of forests in the mitigation of climate change is strongly recognized in the Paris outcomes, mainly through Article 5 of the Paris Agreement but also through other supporting,

<sup>1</sup> The text of this decision ([1/CP.13](#)) and others relevant to REDD+ are gathered in the '[Decision booklet REDD+](#)' (UNFCCC, 2014). Decisions taken at COP21 in 2015 that are relevant to REDD+ (decisions 16-18) are available [on the UNFCCC website](#).

complementary elements, particularly a provision recognizing the importance of RBPs / RBFs for REDD+.

Within Article 5, Parties are called upon to adhere to previous REDD+ related COP decisions. These include the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ that outlines key UNFCCC requirements for developing countries to be eligible to receive RBPS / RBF for REDD+ activities.

The inclusion of REDD+ in the agreement, especially at the level of a dedicated article, cements REDD+ as a core element of the global climate regime going forward, and strongly reinforces the centrality of the Warsaw Framework and broader 'REDD+ rulebook'.

## WHAT ARE THE FIVE REDD+ ACTIVITIES AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

The Cancun Agreements set out the five REDD+ activities<sup>2</sup>, which are considered the 'scope' of REDD+:

- Reduction of emissions from deforestation;
- Reduction of emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- Sustainable management of forests;
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The REDD+ activities have not been further defined in the decision texts, which allows for flexibility of implementation by developing country Parties. While this provides an opportunity for countries to define a national interpretation of these activities, it may also be difficult to frame what the activities may consist of in practice in their national contexts. The UN-REDD Programme does not offer a definition of these activities. Rather, it supports countries to understand the nature, implications and potential relevance (or not) of applying the five activities in a specific country context.

Emissions from deforestation occur when forests are cleared for a variety of purposes, such as using the land for agriculture, or for building

infrastructure such as roads. Reducing emissions from deforestation is an effort to mitigate GHG emissions resulting from the human-induced long-term or permanent conversion of land use from forest to other non-forest uses.

Emissions from forest degradation occur when human disturbances, such as logging or fuelwood gathering, directly reduce the carbon stock of a forest without changing the land use (i.e. it remains a forest).

'Enhancement' is generally understood to include afforestation and reforestation, and forest rehabilitation/restoration. Of the REDD+ activities, conservation is the only one without precedent under the UNFCCC. To date there is no experience with forest carbon stock conservation under the Convention, leaving this activity largely open to interpretation by countries. Conservation activities may be defined by certain countries as the preservation of existing carbon stocks, which in itself may not generate emissions or removals. Some countries may however argue that conservation activities increase removals, in their national circumstances.

Other useful definitions of land use, land-use change and forestry activities can be found within the UNFCCC context. Articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the KP require Annex I Parties to include afforestation, reforestation, deforestation, and forest management for GHG accounting purposes. Under Article 12 of the KP's CDM,<sup>3</sup> only afforestation and reforestation are eligible project activities in non-Annex I countries to meet KP Parties' emissions reductions commitments. Table 2.2 General explanations of the five REDD+ activities and practical examples.<sup>1</sup> offers a general explanation of the five REDD+ activities, adapted from a resource offered by the Global Observation for Forest Cover and Land Dynamics ([GOFC/GOLD, 2016](#)). The UNFCCC cites versions of this resource on its [REDD+ Web Platform](#), which can offer a useful starting point for countries engaging with REDD+.

<sup>3</sup> The CDM allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the KP (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries. Such projects can earn saleable certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, which can be counted towards meeting Kyoto targets (see the [UNFCCC webpage on CDM](#) for more information).

**Table 2.2** General explanations of the five REDD+ activities and practical examples.

Activity	Explanation	Examples
<b>Reducing emissions from deforestation</b>	Deforestation is the conversion from forest land to non-forested land <sup>4</sup>	Reduce the rate of forest loss due to industrial agriculture
<b>Reducing emissions from forest degradation</b>	Degradation is the human-induced loss of carbon stocks within forest land that remains forest land <sup>5</sup>	Reduce the rate and/or intensity of forest degradation due to unsustainable logging or fire
<b>Conservation of forest carbon stocks</b>	Refers to any effort to conserve forests	Strengthen and/or expand the protected area network  Establish long-term commitments to forest conservation by signing conditional payment agreements with stakeholders <sup>6</sup>
<b>Sustainable management of forests</b>	Generally refers to bringing the rate of extraction in line with the rate of natural growth or increment to ensure near-zero net emissions over time	Increase area of forest land under sustainable management
<b>Enhancement of forest carbon stocks</b>	Refers to (1) non-forest land becoming forest land and (2) the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in forest land remaining forest land (e.g. in the case of recovering degraded forests)	Increase area under reforestation and afforestation  Allow degraded forests to regenerate  Increase area of degraded forest under enrichment planting

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR REDD+?

The Cancun Agreements ([paragraph 71](#)) request countries to have the following four elements in place for REDD+ implementation and to access RBPs/RBF (see Figure 2.3):

- A National Strategy (NS) or Action Plan (AP) (see **Module 4**);
- A robust and transparent National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for the monitoring and reporting of the five REDD+ activities,

including for measurement, reporting and verification of results (see **Module 5**);

- A national (or subnational as interim) Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and/or Forest Reference Level (FRL) (see **Module 6**);
- A Safeguard Information System (SIS) (see **Module 8**).



### REFLECTION POINT

How do you think these activities could translate in your region or country?

4. This is the definition in decision [16/CMP.1](#)
5. The [IPCC \(2003\)](#) presents five different potential definitions for degradation along with their pros and cons. It also suggests the following characterization of degradation: "A direct, human-induced, long-term loss (persisting for X years or more) or at least Y% of forest carbon stocks [and forest values] since time T and not qualifying as deforestation".
6. REDD+ stakeholders could include government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and women, men and youth from forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples and smallholders. See also Module 11: Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+.

**Figure 2.3** Overview of the four elements and where the respective methodological guidance (also known as rules and modalities) can be found in the UNFCCC decisions.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The phasing of REDD+ implementation, as stipulated in the Cancun Agreements ([paragraphs 73-74](#)), can facilitate an iterative approach:

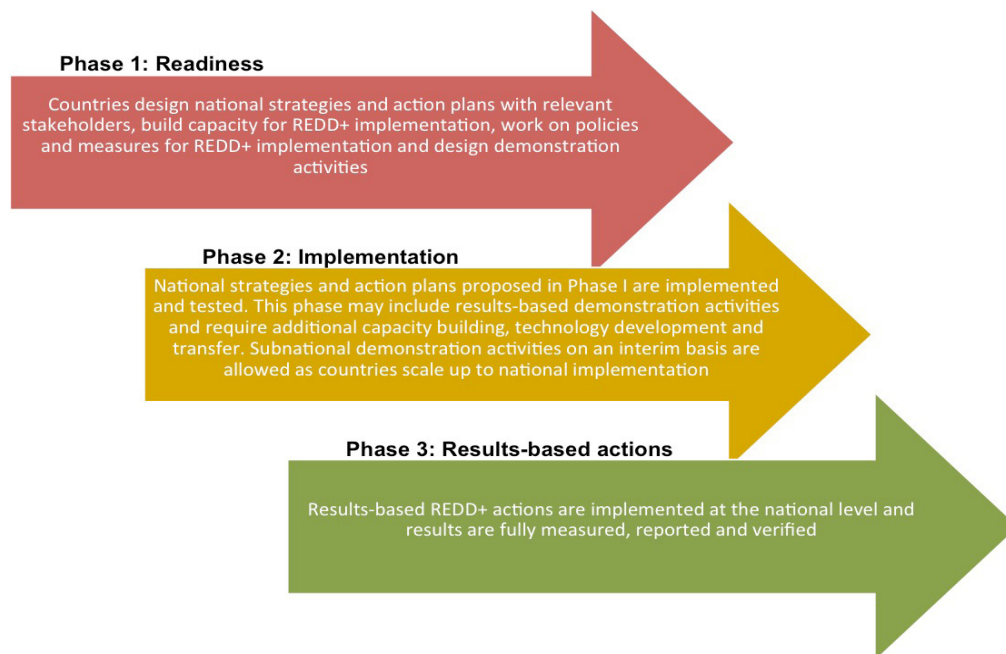
*“the activities undertaken by Parties [...] should be implemented in phases, beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified”.*<sup>7</sup>

The phased approach recognized that: *“the implementation of the [REDD+] activities ... including the choice of a starting phase as referred to in paragraph 73 above, depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country Party and the level of support received”.*

This approach can be reasonably assumed to reflect UNFCCC countries’ convergence around the need for a flexible, learning-by-doing approach to REDD+ implementation, which is important given that REDD+ is a relatively new climate change mitigation approach. While the phases are defined flexibly enough to allow for country-level interpretation, the UN-REDD Programme deems them to be non-discrete and that there will be some overlap between them – particularly in terms of continuous capacity development. As the boundaries between the phases are not clearly demarcated and may overlap, it is expected that REDD+ countries will move fluidly through these phases. The phased approach to REDD+ implementation is illustrated in Figure 2.4.

<sup>7</sup> Color-coding is added to paragraph 73 for interpretation to distinguish between the three phases.

**Figure 2.4** Description of the three phases of REDD+ implementation based on decision 1/CP.16.



As of late 2016, most UN-REDD partner countries are in the REDD+ readiness phase, or phase 1. REDD+ readiness relates to the efforts a country is undertaking to develop the capacities needed to implement REDD+. REDD+ readiness support is currently being provided to developing countries through bilateral and multilateral initiatives.

The two main multilateral readiness initiatives are the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF of the World Bank. They are actively coordinating their efforts in assisting countries in their readiness efforts. This has led to the harmonization of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) format, a framework document which sets out a clear plan, budget and schedule for a country to achieve REDD+ readiness.

The second phase of REDD+ implementation foresees 'demonstration activities'. An annex to a decision adopted during the Bali COP in 2007 contains indicative guidance for undertaking and evaluating a range of demonstration activities.

This guidance is listed below:

1. *Demonstration activities should be undertaken with the approval of the host Party.*
2. *Estimates of reductions or increases of emissions should be results based, demonstrable, transparent and verifiable, and estimated consistently over time.*
3. *The use of the methodologies described in paragraph 6<sup>8</sup> of this decision is encouraged as a basis for estimating and monitoring emissions.*
4. *Emission reductions from national demonstration activities should be assessed on the basis of national emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.*
5. *Subnational demonstration activities should be assessed within the boundary used for the demonstration, and assessed for associated displacement of emissions.*

8 "Encourages the use of the most recent reporting guidelines as a basis for reporting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, noting also that Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention are encouraged to apply the Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry".

- 6. *Reductions in emissions or increases resulting from the demonstration activity should be based on historical emissions, taking into account national circumstances.*
  - 7. *Subnational<sup>9</sup> approaches, where applied, should constitute a step towards the development of national approaches, reference levels and estimates.*
  - 8. *Demonstration activities should be consistent with sustainable forest management, noting, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.*
  - 9. *Experiences in implementing activities*
- should be reported and made available via the Web platform.*
- 10. *Reporting on demonstration activities should include a description of the activities and their effectiveness, and may include other information.*
  - 11. *Independent expert review is encouraged.*

Table 2.5 shows where some countries stand in the phased implementation of REDD+. The examples illustrate the diversity of REDD+ implementation modalities. Although these do not necessarily follow the UNFCCC process, it is important to be aware of this diversity when thinking about the REDD+ phases. As of mid-2016, no country can be characterised as Phase 3 (full implementation).

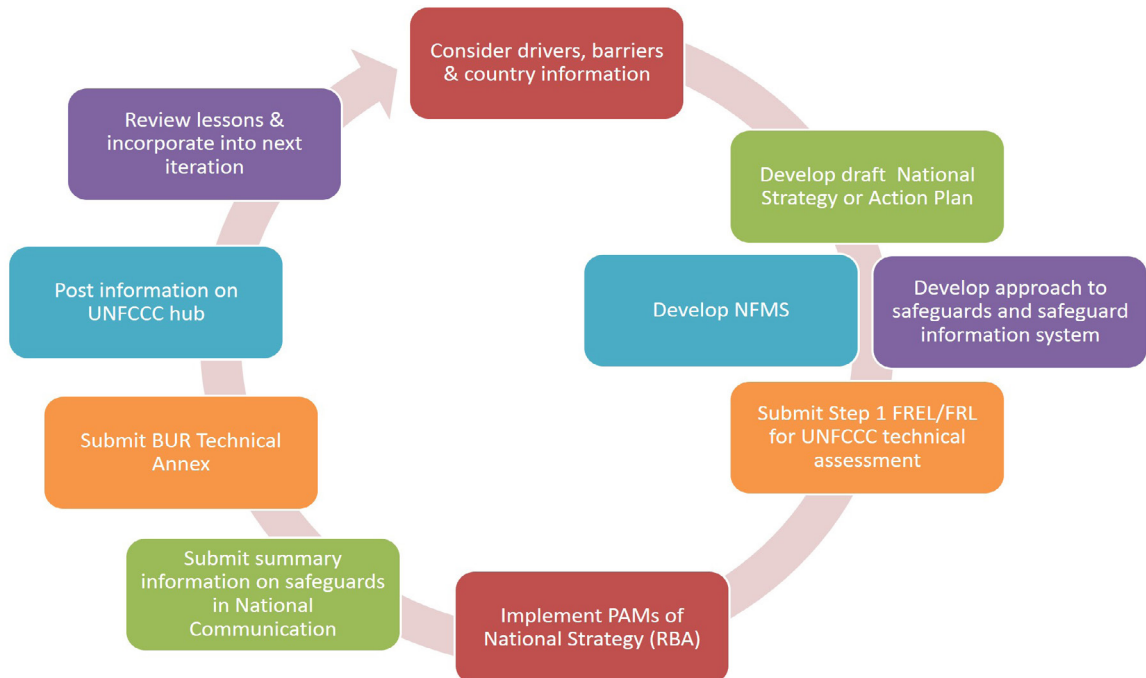
<sup>9</sup> "Activities carried out within the national boundary" (a distinction between sub-national and jurisdictional is made later in this document).

**Table 2.5 Examples of support for REDD+ implementation through REDD+ phases**

Phases	Phase 1: Readiness	Phase 2: Implementation
<b>Country/ Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 64 UN-REDD Programme <a href="#">partner countries</a>, of which 26 have established National Programmes</li> <li>- 47 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (<a href="#">FCPF countries</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 23 countries in Forest Investment Programme (<a href="#">FIP</a>)</li> <li>- Viet Nam: <a href="#">Phase 2</a> supported by the UN-REDD Programme</li> <li>- <a href="#">12 countries</a> have signed FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Payment Agreements</li> <li>- <a href="#">Ecuador</a>: REDD+ Early Movers and Green Climate Fund</li> <li>- <a href="#">Costa Rica</a>: FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Programme</li> <li>- <a href="#">Guyana</a> REDD+ Investment Fund</li> <li>- Brazil: <a href="#">Amazon Fund</a> (sub-national level)</li> </ul>

During the UNFCCC negotiations, countries collectively agreed on the importance of having an iterative, flexible and learning-by-doing approach to REDD+ implementation. In practice, the three-phase implementation shown in Figure

2.4 is too simplified and there is consensus that the three phases can overlap and intertwine. A more realistic picture of the process is shown in Figure 2.6.

**Figure 2.6** The iterative process of REDD+ implementation

Source: UN-REDD Programme

The following modules will present in more depth most of the elements found in this diagram:

- Module 3: Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Module 4: National Strategies or Action Plans
- Module 5: National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+
- Module 6: Forest Reference [Emission] Levels
- Module 7: Policies and Measures for REDD+ Implementation
- Module 8: REDD+ Safeguards under the UNFCCC

### Benefits of implementing REDD+ activities at the national level

In addition to contributing to global GHG emissions mitigation, the integration of REDD+ activities at the national level can provide several benefits:

- Support to design and implementation of Policies and Measures (PAMs) in the forestry and other sectors that have an impact on REDD+ efforts;
- RBPs per ton of carbon emissions reduced or removed;
- International recognition for mitigation results;
- Multiple other benefits: biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, catalysing a green economy that integrates multiple sectors (e.g. forestry, agriculture, energy, finance).



### REFLECTION POINT

How will your country interpret the 'flexibility of implementation'?



## Challenges in implementing REDD+ activities at the national level

A number of technical concerns have hindered early action on REDD+ in developing countries:

- **Permanence:** how to ensure that reductions in emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, sustainable management of forests, conservation and enhancements of forest carbon stocks are not eventually reversed by other actions;
- **Displacement:** how to ensure that actions are not reversed by increases in deforestation or forest degradation activities elsewhere;
- **Finance:** ensuring meaningful sources of finance and adequate private sector engagement
- **Conflicting interests:** powerful political and economic interests may favour continued deforestation and degradation;
- **Institutional arrangements:** implementation must be coordinated across various government levels and agencies – e.g. ministries of environment and forest should successfully coordinate with ministries of finance and planning;
- **Benefit sharing:** if benefits are to be distributed, effectiveness, efficiency and equity need to be balanced; tenure insecurity and safeguards must be genuinely addressed for all stakeholder groups, including those more marginalised, such as women, youth, indigenous people, etc.; and transparent institutions must be put in place
- **Technical complexity:** measuring emissions from forestry and establishing reference levels can be difficult.

Recognizing these challenges, the international community has tried to provide guidance on these issues. One such response was the definition of safeguards, which are further detailed in **Module 8**. Additionally, multilateral initiatives have been created in order to help countries address these challenges.

## MULTILATERAL REDD+ INITIATIVES

Several multilateral initiatives support countries in getting ready for REDD+ and starting to implement REDD+ policies and measures. The following section will describe a few of them, namely:

- UN-REDD Programme
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
- Forest Investment Program
- Other initiatives

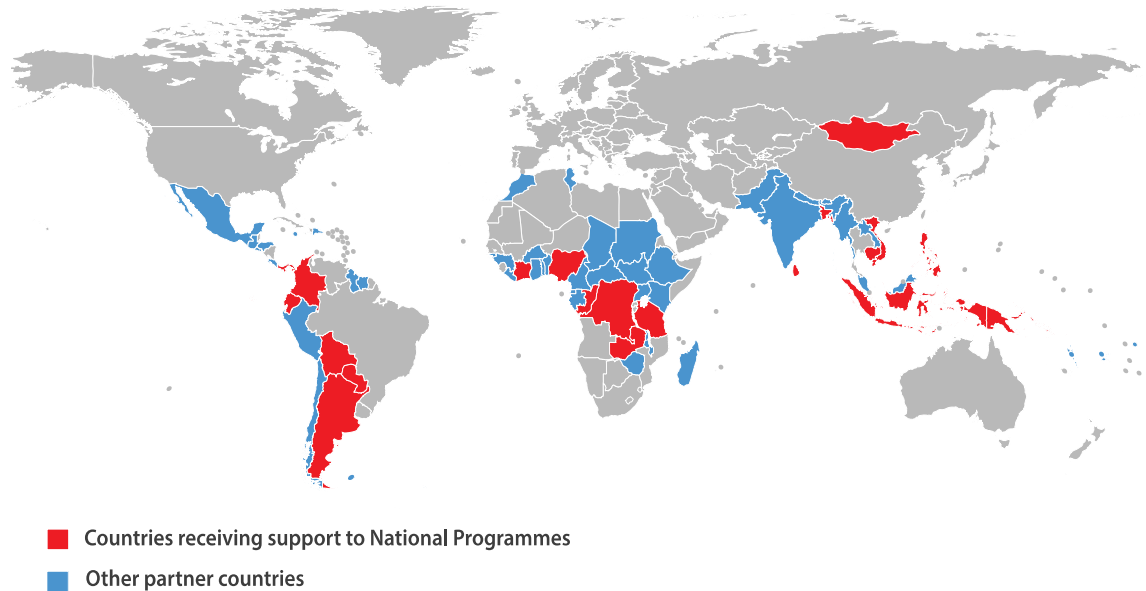
### UN-REDD Programme

The [UN-REDD Programme](#) was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Environment, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Programme offers two kinds of support:

1. Direct National Support
  - Comprehensive REDD+ readiness support through National Programmes to selected partner countries to articulate a national approach to REDD+ implementation;
  - Targeted support and technical advice to all partner countries on issues such as safeguards, benefit sharing, MRV, governance, etc.;
  - Strong focus on country ownership and promotion of full, effective and gender-responsive stakeholder engagement processes including with Indigenous Peoples, forest-dependent communities and civil society.
2. Support to National Actions
  - Development of tools, methodologies and guidelines;
  - Knowledge sharing and South-South collaboration;
  - Building of awareness of and support for REDD+ at national and international levels;
  - Secretariat services.

Figure 2.7 presents the 64 countries that were partners to the UN-REDD Programme as of October 2016

**Figure 2.7 UN-REDD Programme partner countries as of October 2016**

Source: [UN-REDD Programme](#)

### Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Established in 2008, the World Bank's [FCPF](#) is a global partnership focused on REDD+. FCPF's Readiness Fund provides support for capacity building and preparedness for REDD+ activities.

REDD+ preparedness activities include:

- adopting national REDD+ strategies
- developing reference emission levels (RELS)
- designing MRV systems
- setting up REDD+ national management arrangements (including environmental and social safeguards)

Moreover, FCPF's Carbon Fund (operational since May 2011) is designed to pilot performance-based payments for emission reductions from REDD+ activities.

The FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme have developed a harmonized standard template for national programs. The Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) includes a number of conditions, addresses standard policy and governance issues, and is subject to review and monitoring.

### Forest Investment Program (FIP)

The [FIP](#) supports developing countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The program began with activities in eight pilot countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mexico and Peru. Another 15 countries joined in 2015.

The FIP aims to enhance the importance of the REDD+ agenda by linking relevant mitigation and adaptation initiatives and providing additional motivation for comprehensive engagement and dialogue on the issue across multiple stakeholder groups. Channelled through the multilateral development banks as grants and near-zero interest credits, FIP financing addresses mainly:

- Promoting forest mitigation efforts, including protection of forest ecosystem services
- Providing support outside the forest sector to reduce pressure on forests
- Helping countries strengthen institutional capacity, forest governance, and forest-related knowledge

- Mainstreaming climate resilience considerations and contributing to biodiversity conservation, protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and poverty reduction through rural livelihoods enhancements

To extend its reach beyond national investment plans and encourage more private sector participation, funds are also being awarded on a competitive basis for private sector projects in pilot countries. A 2013 call for proposals resulted

in four project endorsements totalling US\$31.3 million in Brazil, Ghana, and Mexico.

### Other REDD+ Initiatives

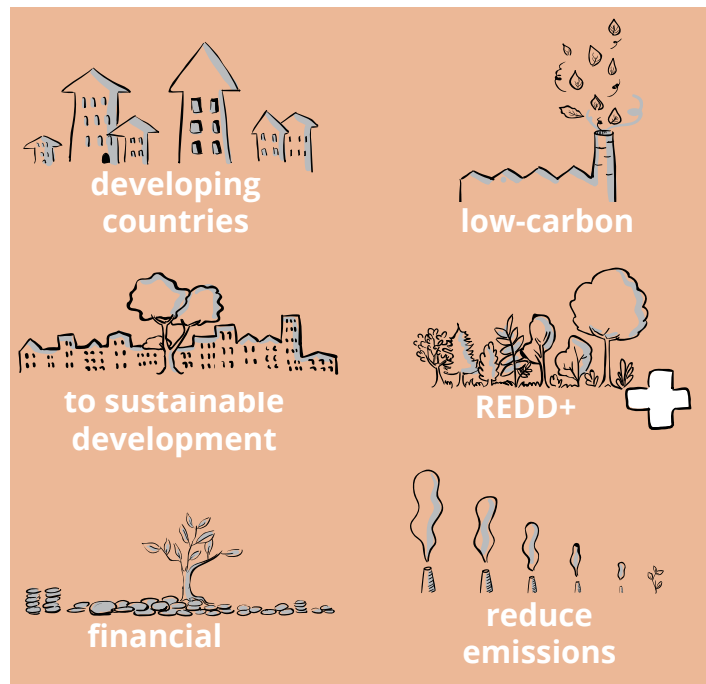
- European Union’s [FLEGT](#) and [REDD Facilities](#)
- Germany’s [REDD Early Movers Programme](#)
- USAID’s Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities [\(FCMC\)](#) project

## EXERCISE 3

Fill in the blanks using the following words

developing countries	low-carbon	financial
to sustainable development	REDD+	reduce emissions

REDD+ is an effort to create a \_\_\_\_\_ value for the carbon stored in forests, offering positive incentives for \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ from forested lands and invest in \_\_\_\_\_ paths \_\_\_\_\_ with developed countries’ adequate and predictable support.





## EXERCISE 4

Look at the graph below and label it correctly, using the following terms:

Emissions

Reference period

Year

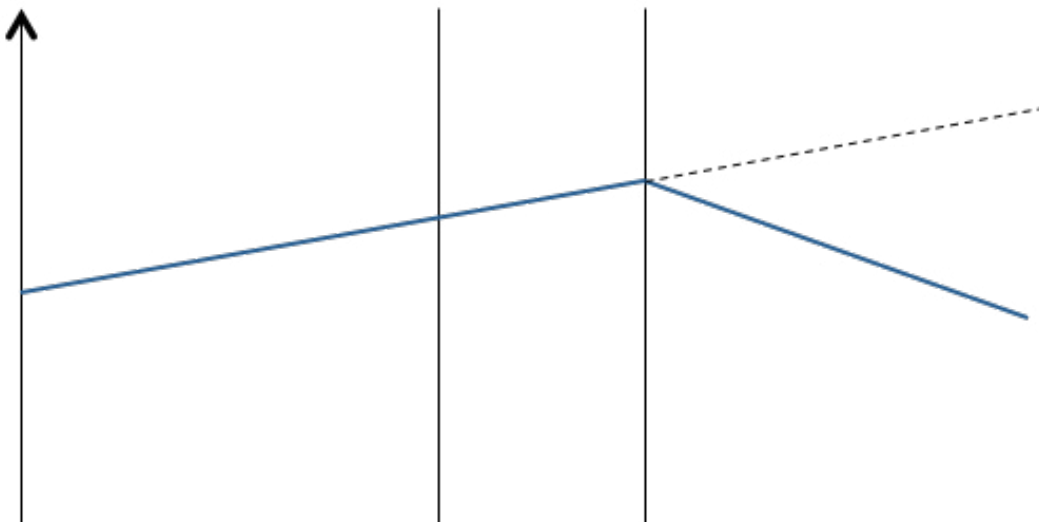
Projection

Without REDD

With REDD

Actual emissions

- I. What is represented by the triangle?
- II. Describe what the graph shows.





## KEY MESSAGES OF THIS CHAPTER

- REDD+ is an innovative initiative that aims at tipping the economic balance in favour of sustainable management of forests;
- Under the UNFCCC, REDD+ is understood to comprise reduced deforestation and degradation, forest carbon stock enhancement, sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stock conservation;
- During the UNFCCC negotiations, countries collectively agreed on the importance of having an iterative, flexible and learning-by-doing approach to REDD+ implementation;
- Several multilateral initiatives support countries in getting ready for REDD+ and starting to implement REDD+ Policies and Measures.



## WHAT FURTHER QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT THIS TOPIC?



## NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

## References and resources

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## Web resources:

- REDD+ Web Platform, at <http://redd.unfccc.int/>. The UNFCCC's hub for sharing information and lessons learned about REDD+ activities.
- UNFCCC website, at <https://unfccc.int/2860.php> (not unfccc.int). A source of background information on the Convention and, in its 'Land Use and Climate Change' section, on REDD+.
- UN-REDD Programme, at: <http://www.un-redd.org/>, and its Collaborative Online Workspace, at <http://www.unredd.net/>. The workspace provides resources and a discussion forum to support countries engaged in REDD+ and promote stakeholder engagement.

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