

UN-REDD

P R O G R A M M E

The United Nations Collaborative Programme
on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

What is REDD?

Deforestation and forest degradation, through agricultural expansion, conversion to pastureland, infrastructure development, destructive logging, fires etc., account for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions¹, more than the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. It is now clear that in order to constrain the impacts of climate change within limits that society will reasonably be able to tolerate, the global average temperatures must be stabilized within two degrees Celsius. This will be practically impossible to achieve without reducing emissions from the forest sector, in addition to other mitigation actions.

REDD - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries - is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.

It is predicted that financial flows for greenhouse gas emission reductions from REDD could reach up to US\$30 billion a year². This significant North-South flow of funds could reward a meaningful reduction of carbon emissions and could also support new, pro-poor development, help conserve biodiversity and secure vital ecosystem services.



Further, maintaining forest ecosystems can contribute to increased resilience to climate change. To achieve these multiple benefits, REDD will require the full engagement and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

To “seal the deal” on climate change, REDD activities in developing countries must complement, not be a substitute for, deep cuts in developed countries’ emissions. The decision to include REDD in a post-Kyoto regime must not jeopardize the commitment of Annex I countries to reduce their own emissions. Both will be critical to successfully address climate change.

The UN-REDD PROGRAMME at a glance

- Launched in September 2008
- A collaborative initiative between three UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNEP
- Two objectives:
 - Assisting developing countries to “get ready” for participation in a future REDD mechanism
 - Supporting the development of guidance and standardized approaches based on sound science
- Nine UN-REDD Programme pilot countries:
 - Africa: Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia
 - Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay
- An initial commitment by the Government of Norway of US \$ 52 million
- \$ 18 million already approved by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board towards REDD-readiness in five countries

¹ IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (2007)

² Climate Change, Financing Global Forests, Eliasch Review (2008)



The UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership between FAO, UNDP and UNEP, was created in response to, and in support of, the UNFCCC decision on REDD at COP 13 and the Bali Action Plan. The Programme supports countries to develop capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to implement a future REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate regime. It builds on the convening power of its participating UN agencies, their diverse expertise and vast networks, and “delivers as One UN”.

The UN-REDD Programme works at both the national and global scale, through support mechanisms for country-driven REDD strategies and international consensus-building on REDD processes.

The challenges of successfully implementing REDD go beyond what any one institution can address. To streamline international support for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the UN-REDD Programme is collaborating closely with other relevant actors such as the UNFCCC Secretariat, the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and its soon to be initiated Forest Investment Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative, Australia’s International Forest Carbon Initiative and others.

Guiding Principles

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



The Programme is guided by the broad principles of UN human rights-based approach; gender equality; environmental sustainability; capacity development; and results-based management. It builds on existing processes such as national development agendas, UNFCCC reporting obligations and sustainable forest management efforts.

In addition to a close collaboration between its three UN agencies, the UN-REDD Programme coordinates with other REDD actors, in particular the World Bank, to develop complementary approaches that do not burden forested developing countries with duplicated demands and competing methodologies.

Objectives

An effective REDD framework has the potential to transform the forest sector in developing countries and enable climate change mitigation, poverty reduction, economic growth and the protection of biodiversity and critical ecosystems services.



Towards this goal, the objectives of the UN-REDD Programme are:

- To assist developing countries to “get ready” to participate in a future REDD mechanism, and
- To support the development of guidance and standardized approaches based on sound science.

To achieve these objectives, the agencies are contributing their diverse and complementary fields of expertise and mandates: FAO on technical issues related to forestry and supporting the development of cost effective and credible Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) processes for emission reductions; UNDP with its near universal country presence, its focus on governance and socio-economic implications of REDD, and the participation of civil society and Indigenous Peoples; UNEP in convening

and increasing the engagement of decision-makers in the REDD agenda and increasing knowledge and capacity on other environmental benefits of REDD.

Support to Countries

The UN-REDD Programme empowers countries to manage their REDD processes by assisting them to identify ways to address their specific drivers of deforestation; develop methods and tools for measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions; facilitate the participation of national stakeholders; and access financial and technical assistance.

The UN-REDD Programme is assisting nine developing countries to prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms. The first set of UN-REDD Programme pilot countries are in Africa: Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia; in Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam; in Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay.

Designed collaboratively by national stakeholders and country-led, national UN-REDD Programmes are informed by the technical expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. Priority is given to developing sustainable national multi-sectoral approaches with broad stakeholder engagement that promote equitable outcomes and to ensuring that countries use reliable methodologies to assess emission reductions. In some countries, key elements of delivering emission reductions – such as REDD payment structuring and distribution options - will also be tested.

International Support

At the global level, the UN-REDD Programme supports country efforts to build consensus and knowledge, and ensures consistency in approaches and economies of scale in the delivery of REDD. The Programme actively explores and documents examples of “best practices”. These activities seek to promote confidence-building in REDD and raise awareness about the options for including a REDD mechanism in a post 2012 regime.

The four specific outcomes of the UN-REDD Programme activities at the global level are:

- Improved guidance on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) approaches, including consensus on principles and guidelines for MRV and training programmes.

- Increased engagement of stakeholders in the REDD agenda, including raising awareness of REDD amongst stakeholders, ensuring Indigenous Peoples representative groups and non-Annex 1 decision-makers are informed and engaged.



- Improved analytical and technical framework of social and environmental benefits maximising the contribution of REDD to sustainable development, including the establishment of indicators to assess governance and socio-economic factors in national REDD frameworks, and developing tools to capture the benefits arising from forest ecosystem services.
- Increased confidence in REDD amongst decision makers on the feasibility of methodologies and the implementation of REDD, through coordination within agencies and with partners, as well as through knowledge management and sharing and support to partner countries.

Moving forward

The UN-REDD Programme has been designed to respond to the urgent need for accelerated and coherent progress on REDD, specifically with Copenhagen and a post-2012 climate change agreement in mind. Countries are currently being assisted to “get ready” for REDD, to establish reference emission levels, monitoring capacity, emission reduction strategies and investment portfolios, institutional arrangements to handle transactions, incentive systems, tools to integrate multiple benefits, and informed and engaged stakeholders.

A large-scale mechanism for REDD will require advancing from current readiness activities to capacity building, institution strengthening and ultimately, to performance-based compensation on the basis of measured emission



reductions from deforestation and forest degradation. The UN-REDD Programme is well positioned to help developing countries 'get beyond readiness', documenting and communicating the lessons learned during the initial phase and informing investments and implementation to strengthen capacity and develop the necessary institutions at the national level.

The UN-REDD Programme will assist developing countries respond to the negotiated mechanisms on REDD. It is now vital to make real progress over the next months and years for REDD to deliver on its potential to mitigate climate change and provide the social and environmental benefits that come from sustaining forests.

“

The battle against climate change cannot be won without the world's forests - this is now clear. This initiative will not only demonstrate how forests can have an important role as part of a post-2012 climate regime. It will also help build much needed confidence that the world community is ready to support the implementation of an inclusive, ambitious and comprehensive climate regime once it is ratified.

”

Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

www.un-redd.org
un-redd@un-redd.org

Photo credits – Front cover: © Idzimage;
Inside spread: © Nigel Dickinson; © Montford Thierry;
© Dani-Jeske; Back page: © Luiz. Marigo
Images sourced from stillpictures.com and istockphoto.com

Printing: Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004 - certified

