

Collaboration with FCPF, FIP and other REDD+ Initiatives

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

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Background to UN-REDD Programme Collaborative efforts

The UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) as the two leading multi-lateral initiatives providing REDD readiness support to countries recognized very early that it will be essential to work closely and coordinate efforts.

This recognition resulted in a technical cooperation note agreed in 2008. Since then numerous joint missions have been undertaken to support countries in their REDD+ efforts and more are being planned. Joint presentations and discussions have been held at a variety of major international fora, including joint side events during the UNFCCC COP 14 and 15 climate talks and learning events organised at Forest Day 2 and 3 in Poznan and Copenhagen in December 2008 and 2009. In addition, there is good cooperation on developing guidance for issues such as MRV and stakeholder engagement.

The two initiatives engage regularly to review progress explore opportunities for improved collaboration. One area in which significant progress has been made is in the readiness process.

Subsequently two other initiatives have been launched. The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) formed in June 2009 to support innovative and transformative projects that safeguard the Congo Basin rainforest is another initiative that UN-REDD is exploring collaboration with. The CBFF has indicated its willingness to work closely with UN-REDD and requested to be an observer to our Policy Board.

The Forest Investment Programme (FIP) was also launched by the World Bank to help implement policies and measures and to leverage increased funds to bring about the reduction of deforestation and degradation and to improve sustainable forest management. The UN-REDD Programme is an active observer of the FIP Steering Committee.

Calls for reform and expressed readiness by the UN and WB to work together

Despite the above progress with harmonizing templates and improved collaboration, there have been clear signals from both REDD countries and donors that the overall coordination among the UN's and World Bank Group's REDD initiatives should be further strengthened, and their complementary roles made clearer. Addressing the UN and the World Bank just before COP 15, five heads of state/government stated that while recognizing the efforts made towards coordinating and improving operation of our initiatives, the UN and the World Bank should work together to reform and streamline their REDD institutions. In response, the UN Secretary-General and World Bank President stated "As you noted, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), UN-REDD Programme (UN-REDD) and Forest Investment Programme (FIP) are already serving to generate a community of practice, policy development, and on-the-ground lesson learning around REDD+ and transformational forest investments. The FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme are already providing early action support for countries to get ready for REDD+.

"We believe that the institutional architecture to support developing countries in preparations for, and up-scaling of, REDD+ efforts can be built on existing and proven strengths in financial services, capacity building, and technical assistance. ..."

"... These initiatives could therefore be a starting point in the design of a unified and coherent institutional architecture for REDD+, which would continue to draw on the respective strengths of the participating Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank Group) to meet country requirements in a timely, effective, and coordinated manner. The strong performance of the United Nations in supporting institutional and technical capacity building and the World Bank Group in transforming pilot programs into large-scale

investment programmes provides an excellent foundation for supporting countries in implementing an international REDD+ agreement.”

At its February 3-4, 2010 meeting, the FIP Steering Committee requested the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Administrative Unit to “work with other multilateral REDD+ institutions and REDD+ initiatives to study options for enhancing cooperation and for seeking coherence among them to support countries’ REDD+ efforts. The CIF Administrative Unit should report back to the FIP Sub-Committee at its June session with an options analysis report, if appropriate”.

These calls clearly point to an opportunity for the UN-REDD Programme to engage with the FCPF and FIP, and other initiatives and to explore options to streamline REDD+ institutions in a manner that will increase efficiency and reduce costs and be able to respond at a scale that will be required.

Interim Institutional Arrangements for REDD+

Any discussion on coordination of existing REDD+ initiatives will undoubtedly be influenced by discussions on the establishment of an interim REDD+ institutional architecture. Discussions on this will take place as part of the French-Norwegian process started by Prime Minister Stoltenberg and President Sarkozy. Meetings are planned for March 11 in Paris and May 27 in Oslo. Such an interim REDD+ arrangement would be an important mechanism to coordinate support for REDD+ activities until the UNFCCC REDD+ architecture is in place, in keeping with the Copenhagen Accord.

Options for new form of collaboration

The UN-REDD Programme Coordination Group (three agencies) and the Secretariat recognize that any international governance structure for REDD+, including interim arrangements, need to be efficient and not fragmented. The Coordination Group also recognizes that business as usual is not an acceptable model moving forward. Subject to guidance by the Policy Board, the UN-REDD Programme is ready to support and contribute to any efforts by the countries to create an appropriate institutional arrangement for REDD+. In this regard, the options that could improve efficiency could possibly include:

1. Common or joint governance structure
2. Joint administrative body (secretariat)
3. Streamlined approaches for applying funds
4. Agreement on geographic or thematic delineation of roles

Issues to be considered by the Policy Board

1. The Policy Board may wish to consider the challenges and opportunities for the UN-REDD Programme to contribute to the streamlining of REDD+ institutions in a manner that will increase efficiency and reduce costs and be able to respond at a scale that will be required.
2. The Policy Board may also wish to consider providing guidance on how the UN-REDD Programme could best support the country efforts in designing a future institutional architecture for REDD+.