



UN-REDD Asia-Pacific

Work on the National REDD Roadmap Process

Making progress towards REDD+ readiness involves activities on many issues, covering many different disciplines. This can appear a daunting task, and without careful planning, progress can be ineffective and inefficient. The UN-REDD Programme supports a structured approach to REDD+ readiness, which can help to establish the necessary partnerships required for REDD+ readiness.

A REDD+ Roadmap is a plan for how a national Government and key stakeholders, including development partners, would like to move forward with REDD+ readiness. To be effective, the Roadmap process should be led by the relevant Government agencies, and undertaken in consultation with development partners, REDD+ project developers, civil society and indigenous peoples groups. Forest carbon is generally a state asset and Government leadership on the issue, in accordance with the principle of national ownership, is critical. The Programme has been supporting such an approach in Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Papua New Guinea.

Key Steps in a REDD+ Roadmap Process

1. Establish a multi-agency Government coordination mechanism for development of the Roadmap. This mechanism may have a temporary mandate, and through consultation will determine an appropriate permanent mechanism for implementation of the Roadmap.
2. Establish consultation mechanisms between the Government agencies, civil society and development partners.
3. Provide initial training and capacity building to Government and civil society on REDD+ in order to increase general understanding of the key components of REDD+ Readiness and the main technical issues such as carbon emissions monitoring and verification and benefit sharing.
4. Establish agreement on the key components of REDD+ Readiness to include in the Roadmap. These fall into approximately the six components of REDD+ Readiness.
5. Undertake a legal review of the roles and responsibilities of different actors with respect to aspects of REDD+ readiness.
6. Through broad consultation identify existing laws, policies and programs that are relevant to REDD+ readiness, and identify how these can be harmonized with REDD+ readiness activities.
7. Through surveys and consultations develop an institutional map of the activities (existing and planned) of all stakeholders with respect to REDD+ Readiness.

Based on these initial steps, the Roadmap can be written. Roadmap activities could include initiation of new coordination bodies, establishment of planning processes, stakeholder consultation and engagement, policy studies, REDD+ strategy development, among others.

THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), which builds on the convening power and 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 Programme assists developing countries to prepare and implement their national REDD+ strategies and mechanisms to improve forest governance.

LESSONS LEARNED

ASSISTING NATIONAL REDD+ ROADMAP PROCESS IN ASIA- PACIFIC

Lesson 1: Development of REDD+ Readiness is primarily a political process

Although there are substantial technical aspects to REDD+ and technical questions that need to be resolved, the decisions made almost always have a political dimension. For example, development of a plan for MRV involves technical questions about the most appropriate methods a country should use. However, an MRV plan also involves political questions, such as who should be implementing MRV. It is important to recognise early the political dimensions of any REDD+ Readiness activity.

Lesson 2: REDD+ Readiness requires cross-sectoral coordination within Government

REDD+ Readiness requires coordination across multiple Government agencies, including forestry and environment authorities, land management authorities, finance ministries, sub-national government agencies, all of whom may have responsibility for some aspects of the process. In some countries it may be necessary to establish a core group of decision-makers, and then to bring in additional agencies as the implications of REDD+ become clear.

Lesson 3: REDD+ Readiness requires extensive consultation among all stakeholders

Many stakeholders have a high level of interest in REDD+, including government agencies, NGOs, civil society, private sector investors, indigenous peoples, and development partners. The Readiness process needs to establish both formal and informal mechanisms to ensure adequate consultation among all these stakeholders.

Lesson 4: REDD+ Readiness is more effective and efficient if harmonized with existing laws, policies and programs, rather than designing new policies and institutions

In Cambodia it has taken over 10 years to establish official recognition for community forests. Designing new policies for REDD+ might take a similar period of time, but REDD+ might be easily integrated into the existing community forestry program.

Lesson 5: Go slowly.

Support existing structures (rather than creating new ones), and build technical understanding amongst all stakeholders on key issues before making decisions.

Lesson 6: Develop an institutional map

This involves documenting the activities (existing or planned) of key stakeholders against REDD+ readiness priorities. This matrix can then be used to identify areas that are not currently receiving support, areas for further support, and areas where coordination between actors might be useful in order to achieve more effective results.



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