



Terms of Reference for Tier 2

UN-REDD PROGRAMME
EIGHTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING

25-26 March 2012

Asunción, Paraguay



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1. Background

The UN-REDD Programme assists developing countries build capacity to reduce emissions and to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism. The 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. Current priorities are defined in the UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015, which was endorsed at the fifth Policy Board meeting of the UN-REDD Programme in October 2011.

The strategy defines a new financial modality for the UN-REDD Programme, called “Tier 2”, for associating activities funded outside the existing UN-REDD Programme Fund with the UN-REDD Programme.

The Tier 2 modality increases opportunities in the UN-REDD Programme for REDD+ readiness support and for scaling up REDD+ activities in countries that have made progress with initial readiness and that want to benefit further from the UN-REDD Programme approach and support to REDD+. Tier 2 therefore provides an opportunity for countries to initiate a range of REDD+ activities within the UN-REDD Programme, using funding opportunities beyond the UN-REDD Programme Fund, and so providing greater flexibility of funding arrangements. This means that the well established United Nations’ platform and governance arrangements for development cooperation can be more fully utilized, for the benefit of participating countries.

2. Scope and eligibility

The overall scope of the UN-REDD Programme includes:

- activities defined and funded under the existing UN-REDD Programme Fund, and
- activities defined and funded outside the UN-REDD Programme Fund (Tier 2 activities).

For Tier 2 activities, funding arrangements include the full range of options that the UN-REDD Programme agencies offer as part of their operations. This includes multi-donor trust funds, joint programmes, as well as other project agreements between individual countries, donors and agencies. The actual management and fiscal arrangements will be determined through discussions between agencies, donors and recipient countries.

An activity is eligible for Tier 2 if it meets all of the following criteria:

- is undertaken and implemented jointly or individually by the UN-REDD Programme agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP), in partnership with UN-REDD Programme countries, regional or global entities;
- contributes to the objectives and one or several work areas of the UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015;

- complies with the UN-REDD Programme principles, criteria, guidelines and quality assurance measures that apply to the activity.

3. Roles and responsibilities

UN-REDD Programme agencies shall:

- In agreement with the relevant UN-REDD Programme partner countries and donors, send requests for approval of Tier 2 activities to the Secretariat
- Ensure that Tier 2 activities contribute to the overall UN-REDD Programme as defined in the strategy and comply with UN-REDD Programme principles, criteria and guidelines that apply to the activities
- Engage relevant quality assurance mechanisms to ensure the technical quality of Tier 2 proposals before submitting to the Secretariat
- Ensure information sharing and transparency among UN-REDD Programme agencies, the Secretariat, and concerned countries and partners regarding proposed and ongoing Tier 2 activities
- Submit progress reports of Tier 2 activities to the Secretariat.

The UN-REDD Programme Secretariat shall:

- Convene meetings of the Coordination Group to review and endorse Tier 2 activities
- Maintain a registry of Tier 2 activities that is linked to the Voluntary REDD+ Database
- Report on Tier 2 activities to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board
- Coordinate communication on Tier 2 activities as part of the overall UN-REDD Programme communications strategy
- Support countries and UN-REDD Programme agencies in their efforts to plan and raise funds for Tier 2 activities.

The UN-REDD Programme Coordination Group shall:

- Assess whether proposed activities meet the Tier 2 eligibility criteria
- Endorse the association of Tier 2 activities to the UN-REDD Programme.

4. Means to ensure coordination and reporting back to the Policy Board

- The Coordination Group will ensure interagency coordination (as specified in the roles and responsibilities section above)
- The Secretariat will facilitate the development of a registry of all Tier 2 activities that is linked with the Voluntary REDD+ Database to ensure consistency
- The Secretariat will report on Tier 2 activities at UN-REDD Policy Board meetings
- Tier 2 activities that specifically complement activities funded by the UN-REDD Programme Fund will be documented in the Programme's progress reports as co-financing or contributing activities.