

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



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UPDATD- CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZING COUNTRIES FOR NEW NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

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22 June 2012

Preconditions

- *To be eligible to submit proposals, a country should first be accepted as partner country of UN-REDD Programme.*
- *The Programme will seek to have comparable investments (meaning similar comparative amounts invested) in the following three regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.*

Criteria for prioritizing Countries for New National Programmes

Considering the need to have a simplified- and as objective as possible system- for country selection the following criteria will constitute the basis to prioritizing countries.

1. Contribution of UN-REDD to the national readiness process: The UN-REDD Programme seeks to maximize the impact of its interventions by fulfilling country REDD+ readiness needs emphasizing countries that either have not yet received support for REDD+ readiness or those where there are opportunities to add value and maximize coordination with other REDD+ bilateral and multilateral initiatives (as reported on the Interim REDD+ Partnership database or subsequently to the UNFCCC);
2. Effective engagement of UN agencies at a country level: In order to quickly respond to country needs, the capacity of FAO, UNDP and UNEP to effectively engage and support the implementation of National Programmes needs to be taken into account. The participating UN agencies will conduct an assessment of relevant factors, including:
 - Existing engagement in the national readiness process, forestry sector, climate change and/or other relevant initiatives
 - UNDAF and Country Programme priorities, contribution of core funding and capacity of local offices
 - Past experience of local offices in managing similar initiatives, pipeline of related projects, and opportunities to co-finance through the Global Programme
3. REDD+ potential¹: The UN-REDD Programme is committed to make a contribution to global climate change mitigation through REDD+. The REDD+ potential⁴ of countries is therefore an important consideration and will be assessed using data on forest percentage of land area, annual change rate, and potential importance of forests to the poor.

Post conditions

In addition, the following criteria were redefined as a post-condition, acknowledging the importance of its consideration (as reflected in the Board's comments) but the difficulty on applying it on a ranking exercise:

Commitment to applying the principles of the UN-REDD Programme², including:

- a. Demonstrated commitment to the human-rights based approach to development*
- b. UN-REDD operational guidance, such as for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities*
- c. UN-REDD social and environmental principles and criteria, including the risk identification and mitigation tool*

¹ Complete data sets for all elements of REDD+ potential are not available, therefore a selected group of variables with comparable data sets is used in this analysis, acknowledging that the set of variables is incomplete

² To be assessed through a rapid application of the UN-REDD Programme's "Risk Assessment Tool for Social Principles", see the UN-REDD Strategy 2011-2015 for more details

d. Consistency with the overall REDD+ framework emerging from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the REDD+ safeguards in Annex I of UNFCCC COP16 Decision 1/CP.16 and CBD COP10 Decision X/33.

A written communication documenting this commitment should be required of countries invited to present proposals for new National Programmes.

Applying the criteria

To apply the criteria and produce a list prioritizing partner countries the Policy Board working group ranks countries against the criteria assigning the following qualitative ranks: high, medium, and low. The rating is done based on an analysis of available data sets related to the criteria and serving the purpose of the exercise, acknowledging that the set of variables is incomplete. Data analyzed and weights considered include:

1. REDD+ financing as reported in the REDD+ Partnership database by donors (updated data) and revision of funding gaps in RPPs, for Criteria 1 (weight 33%)
2. UN agencies self-assessment ranking for Criteria 2 (weight 33%)
3. Forest percentage of land area (FRA, 2010) for Criteria 3 (weight 11%)
4. Forest annual change rate (FRA, 2010) for Criteria 3 (weight 11%)
5. Poverty (% Population below \$ 2.00/day WDR, 2011) for Criteria 3 (weight 11%)

Results of the prioritization

Results of the prioritization exercise will be presented separately every time the ranking is realized.

The Policy Board working group recommends that the Secretariat then engages with the selected countries and assess if preparation of proposals for full National Programmes is feasible, keeping the possibility of considering proposals for initial National Programmes and extending the invitation to one additional country per region based on the same priority list.

Treatment of future new partner countries

Considering that the Programme continues receiving applications to join and potential new requests to receive support for new National Programmes, the working group proposes that the ranking exercise is repeated **at or after** each Policy Board meeting, considering accepted new partner countries as part of the pipeline.

Treatment of countries invited to submit a National Programme that do not submit one by the deadline

Countries that are invited to submit a National Programme and do not present on time shall wait for two Policy Board meetings before being considered again in the prioritization exercise.