

UN-REDD

PROGRAMME

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



Setting the Stage: REDD+ sustainability elements from a multilateral perspective

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(part of a joint address with Benoît Bosquet, Partnership Coordinator, FCPF)

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- Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen
- My counterpart, Benoit Bosquet, the Coordinator of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and I have been asked to address the sustainability of REDD+ from a multilateral perspective.
- We thought about the elements of REDD+ sustainability, and came up with the following list:
 1. Convergence with UNFCCC
 2. Institutional arrangements, incl. partnerships
 3. Technical issues, including MRV and REL
 4. Funding
 5. Strategy, including implementation framework
 6. Safeguards
- Benoit and I will divide up the discussion of these various points. I will cover convergence, institutional arrangements, and technical issues. Benoit will cover funding, strategy and safeguards.
- We would like to underscore that this list is by no means exhaustive but represents some important elements of sustainability based on our multi-lateral experience

Convergence with UNFCCC

- REDD+ has evolved rapidly and made tremendous progress under the UNFCCC negotiations over the past two years... Simultaneously, REDD+ efforts around the world are rapidly evolving outside the UNFCCC process.
- Two strands of activities have evolved since COP 13 and contributed to the REDD+ community of practice and learning by doing:
 - **Strand 1:** mainly work by the multi-laterals, bi-laterals and NGOs including pilot projects
 - **Strand 2:** mainly private sector pilot projects but this is less developed than strand 1 but increasing in importance
- If this continues without the guidance of a fully-defined mechanism, the risk is that REDD+ could become a series of fragmented and uncoordinated approaches too weak to address one of the world's most immediate sources of global emissions.
- Also the increasing number of REDD+ initiatives outside the UNFCCC process could potentially undermine the UNFCCC itself.

- A convergence between the UNFCCC processes and those complimentary, yet external, to it will become increasingly important.

Institutional arrangements, including partnerships

- While REDD+ is not a governance initiative, failure to address governance issues can undermine its sustainability.
- The Cancun agreements call for national REDD+ plans or strategies to address land tenure issues, governance issues and gender
- Adoption of appropriate national level legal and policy frameworks to clarify issues of rights and ownership as well as benefits distribution will certainly enhance sustainability
 - National policies and laws that recognize the role of local institutions can result in effective resource management
 - Clear rules and regulations can help deal with conflicts and hold users accountable
 - Effective law enforcement and sanction are also important to reduce deforestation
 - Carbon ownership should be defined so that those managing the forest resources can benefit
- Political will: The chances of success with design and implementation of REDD+ strategies tend to be greatest where there is strong political support (e.g., Presidential or ministerial)

Stakeholder Issues

- There is a **dominance of government and international organizations in the mix of organizations involved in REDD+**. However, successful design and implementation of REDD+ requires effective participation and engagement with a range of stakeholders including civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector.

Partnership Issues

- **REDD+ landscape is multifaceted and complex necessitating a range of partnerships:**
- **Policy:** The REDD+ Partnership is a good example. FCPF and UN-REDD are providing secretarial support as an example of another partnership
- **Capacity Development /Delivery:** e.g. within the UN and between the UN and other multilaterals such as FCPF and FIP. Also working with Civil Society, IPs and research groups
- **Funding:** contributing countries are key partners in terms of funding and technical expertise
- **Working with the private sector:** We need to think about how best to engage with the private sector so that they become part of the solution.

Technical issues, including MRV and REL

- The development of MRV systems should be driven by the country context. It should be an incremental learning process that can become more comprehensive over time
- Key to sustainability is supporting country capacity development to design and operationalise these systems:
 - need national institutions responsible for developing and implementing these systems
 - There has to be a legal framework that guides how these systems work
- Need to have human resources to carry out the work
- The system design should lend itself to generating information and knowledge that feeds into:

- planning and policy formulation
 - Helps understand where land-use is changing and what the key drivers of change are
- Where communities are involved in forest management then systems should be designed to harvest local knowledge so that the benefits are at local and national levels.
- Many tools and methods already exist and we should avoid reinventing the wheel. The challenge is adapting these tools to national needs
- Systems should be designed and developed in such a way as to enable future alignment with the guidelines of the UNFCCC processes
- South-South collaboration is essential for sustainability