

# **An Introduction to REDD**

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# **Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)**

- Based on a simple idea that trees lock carbon**
- So keeping forests intact or reducing the rate of deforestation and forest degradation will slow down carbon di-oxide emission**
- But cutting down trees is likely to be more profitable than keeping a standing stock**
- So provide incentives so that profit from deforestation is lower than the incentive**

# **Genesis of REDD**

- **During negotiations leading to KP, the idea was raised but rejected**
- **In 2005, a group calling itself Coalition of Rainforest Nations floated the idea again and COP 15 adopted it as Decision 1b(iii)/CP 13.**

# Decision 1 b(iii)/CP 13

- 1b(iii)/CP 13 reads as follows:
- (b) Enhanced national and international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of:....
  - (iii) Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;

**This is called REDD *plus***

# **Issues & Objections against REDD**

- Rights of forest dwelling indigenous people may be harmed as they may lose customary rights and livelihood**
- Conservation is not easy as otherwise it would have taken place**
- Natural forest may be replaced by industrial plantation for faster growing trees**
- Biodiversity may be lost**
- Funding may be a problem**
- The objections are not totally unfounded**
- But even if these issues are resolved, is there a real justification for REDD? Does it make good economic sense?**

# Justification

- **IPCC AR4 shows that for CC to remain within manageable limits, temperature rise must be no greater than 2° C for which GHG emission must peak about 2020 and concentration be no more than 450 ppm by 2100**
- **Accordingly 1/CP13 in Bali called for mitigation commitments by all developed countries and mitigation actions by all developing countries**
- **This means all avenues for lowering emission rate must be utilised. As tropical deforestation accounts for a fifth of GHG emission, this is one way to reduce emission<sup>6</sup>**

# **Is It Good Economics?**

- **Some studies do indicate it to be so**
- **Study on Brazil shows that over 30 yrs, emission may be lowered by 13 bn tonnes below projected BAU emission at a full opportunity cost of \$ 8 bn while the carbon saved is worth at least \$ 70 bn if traded in market**
- **Studies on Indonesia and Congo indicate similar kinds of benefits**
- **Substantial co-benefits due to bio-diversity preservation, enhanced livelihood opportunities due to forest protection**

# Other Issues

- **On other issues or objections, substantial agreement is there that forest dwellers rights must be protected, that natural forest preservation is the key and that cobenefits have to be considered**
- **Non-paper 11 in Bangkok CC Talks this month is quite explicit on these issues**



# Financing

- **Several options have been floated**
- **Public funds, through one or more of the following approaches:**
  - **(a) Specialized REDD-plus funds or funding windows established under the COP, including one or more of:**
    - (i) Trust funds for community forestry accounts;**
    - (ii) Forest reserve fund for conservation and sustainable forest management;**
  - **(b) A Convention adaptation fund to support conservation and [sustainable management of forests][sustainable forest management].]**

# Financing 2

- **Access to and use of markets:**
  - (a) through issuance of carbon credits [tradable emission reduction or removal units] for
  - (b) or [through allocation of assigned amount units from the respective allocations to relevant Parties].
- **General sentiment is to use both public funds and market based private funds through credit**
- **But if credits should be allowed to be used as offsets by developed country Parties is still uncertain**

# Financing 3

- **Several other financing modes available already at least in pilot form**
  - **World Bank's Readiness fund**
  - **UNDP/UNEP/FAO's initiative in certain countries**
  - **Norway's pledge of fund**
  - **Other bilateral funds**

# MRV Issues in Implementation

- **REDD to be part of NAMA?**
- **REDD to be MRVed**
- **A Specialised Body to oversee REDD *plus***

# REDD in Bangladesh

- **BCCSAP has 6 pillars one of which is low carbon development**
  - **REDD is one programme under it**
  - **MoEF is trying to find out if a pilot REDD programme may be started**

# REDD in Bangladesh 2

- **BD may go for REDD in a big way as the country has much forest land in degraded condition while deforestation continues in many areas**
- **Would necessitate a specialised body to oversee the programme**
- **Human and institutional capacity needs to be created**
- **Action research is called for**
- **Govt's own fund may be used for small scale piloting for understanding the problems of implementation including setting benchmark and change in carbon emission**

**THANK YOU**