National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap in Mongolia

Workshop - Tuesday, 13 September 2011

BRIEFING NOTE

# What is REDD+?

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) is a new international mechanism to reward developing countries for reducing their rate of deforestation and forest degradation, and for increasing carbon stocks.

As defined under the *1992 United Nations Convention on Climate Change*, REDD+ will operate at the national level and will cover all forested areas in a country. Countries will be rewarded for reducing their rate of deforestation below a set baseline (called a ‘reference emissions level’), and/or for increasing their carbon stocks above a set baseline (called a ‘reference level’). Any reductions in deforestation or forest degradation at the sector or sub-national level will not be rewarded unless overall national rates also decline. Under the UNFCCC framework, it is not yet clear whether REDD+ payments to developing countries will be made from a global fund, through a market-based mechanism, or through a combination of both. Participation by developing countries in REDD+ is voluntary.

# How can REDD+ assist Mongolia?

REDD+ involves improved forest conservation and management. As such, while REDD+ is a financial mechanism to address climate mitigation, actions required to implement REDD+ are also valuable for climate adaptation. Mongolia has approximately 11 million hectares of coniferous and hardwood forests located in the north, and 2.2 million hectares of Saxaul and shrub forest located in the south. The northern coniferous forests are being lost an annual rate of 0.75%, due mainly to legal and illegal logging, domestic fuel wood consumption, forest fires, mining, insects and disease, while the southern Saxaul forests are being lost at an alarming annual rate of 6.5%, with the main drivers being climate change, desertification and overgrazing (FAO 2010). REDD+ offers Mongolia an opportunity to more clearly identify these drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and to develop national strategies to address them.

Actions in support of REDD+ can also contribute to climate change adaptation by encouraging forest conservation and regeneration to protect watersheds and can help to stabilize sand and soil to create buffer zones against desertification, such as is occurring under the ‘Green Wall’ program. A further possibility is to undertake activities which are similar to those under REDD+ to conserve and increase carbon stocks in grassland areas (referred to by some as ‘REDD++’), which could be used to address pastureland degradation, although this aspect of the REDD+ mechanism has not yet been endorsed by the UNFCCC.

Under REDD+, demonstrated reductions in forest carbon emissions and increases in carbon stocks at the national level will be rewarded with REDD+ revenues, which can be used to compensate those who incur the costs to secure these results. Since such costs are mainly borne by rural stakeholders, REDD+ revenues can contribute to reducing poverty and improving rural livelihoods, thus helping Mongolia to achieve its Millennium Development Goals.

To be effective, REDD+ should be integrated into Mongolia’s Comprehensive National Development Strategy for 2007-2021, and should be coordinated with Mongolia’s efforts to develop a low carbon economy.

# Background to REDD+ in Mongolia

REDD+ has already been identified as a potential mitigation activity in Mongolia’s NAMA (para 11(b)) and in Mongolia’s Second National Communication to the UNFCCC (Table 4.10).

The UN-REDD Programme (‘UN-REDD’) assists countries to prepare for REDD+. UN-REDD is a joint collaboration between UNDP, FAO and UNEP. From 14-18 March 2011, UN-REDD/UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre conducted a scoping mission in Mongolia, during which the first stakeholder roundtable meeting on REDD+ readiness was held.[[1]](#footnote-1) On 17 April 2011, Mongolia’s Forestry Agency (Mrs Tungalag) submitted a request to the UN-REDD Programme for Mongolia to participate in UN-REDD, and on 20 June 2011 the UN-REDD Policy Board formally invited Mongolia to join.

# How can Mongolia obtain funding to carry out REDD+ readiness activities?

UN-REDD provides funding for REDD+ readiness. [[2]](#footnote-2) The UN-REDD Policy Board periodically invites specific member countries to prepare a proposal for funding, and the decision on which member country to invite is based, in part, on evidence of national commitment in undertaking preliminary REDD+ readiness activities, such as the preparation of a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. The World Bank, through its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), also provides funding for a similar range of activities, although Mongolia is not yet a member of the FCPF, and is therefore not eligible. The World Bank-administered Forest Investment Program provides funding for major REDD+ investments based on initial readiness activities. Bilateral donors and development partners also provide funding.

If Mongolia is invited by the UN-REDD Policy Board to prepare a proposal for funding, grants are typically in the order of USD $1 million - $4 million. The funding request can be made by submitting a document to the UN-REDD Secretariat called a ‘REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal’, or R-PP, (also called a ‘REDD+ Roadmap’), which sets out how a country proposes to get ready for REDD+. The cost of preparing a REDD+ Roadmap in Mongolia is being met by UN-REDD using earmarked funds from the Government of Japan (a ‘Tier 2 project’), with an additional financial contribution from the UNDP Country Office of Mongolia.

# Three phases of REDD+

Under the UNFCCC framework, the development of a national REDD+ framework will involve three phases:

* *Phase 1: Development of a national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap (we are here)*
* Phase 2: Implementation of the national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap
* Phase 3: Operation of REDD+.

# What is a REDD+ Roadmap?

A national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap sets out how a country plans to get ready for REDD+.

A REDD+ Readiness Roadmap (R-PP) should address the following:

1. A process for organizing REDD+ readiness and for consulting with key stakeholders
2. Preparation of a REDD+ Strategy
3. Design of an Implementation Framework (including, for example, a benefit distribution system)
4. Development of a Reference Level
5. Design of a system for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
6. Schedules and budgets.

The process of preparing a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap should be guided by a national coordinating body, such as a National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce, which includes broad cross-sectoral representation across government sectors. The process should also include consultation with key stakeholders in the non-government sector.

# What is the purpose of the REDD+ workshop on 13 September 2011?

The purpose of the workshop on 13 September 2011 is:

* To discuss how to establish a national coordinating body (membership, etc), and
* To identify its role and specific tasks (functions), and
* To set out a timetable for the work of the Taskforce.

Annex A contains draft Terms of Reference for a National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce for discussion at the workshop.

# Timeframe

The proposed timeframe for preparing Mongolia’s national REDD+ Roadmap is from August 2011 – January 2012.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Annex A: ToR for National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce

[DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION AT MONGOLIA’S REDD+ ROADMAP WORKSHOP,

to be held on

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2011]

**MONGOLIA’S NATIONAL REDD+ ROADMAP TASKFORCE**

**Terms of Reference**

# Background

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) is a new international mechanism to reward developing countries for reducing their rate of deforestation and forest degradation, and for increasing carbon stocks. As defined under the *1992 United Nations Convention on Climate Change*, REDD+ will operate at the national level and will cover all forested areas in a country. Countries will be rewarded for reducing their rate of deforestation below a set baseline (called a ‘reference emissions level’), and for increasing their carbon stocks above a set baseline (called a ‘reference level’). Any reductions in deforestation or forest degradation at the sector or sub-national level will not be rewarded unless overall national rates also decline. Similarly, increases in carbon stocks will not be rewarded unless the increase takes place at the national level.

To implement REDD+ on a national scale, it is therefore necessary to establish a national coordinating body which has broad cross-sectoral representation across government. The body should include representatives from non-government stakeholders and have a process for engagement with other key stakeholders.

Under the emerging UNFCCC framework,[[4]](#footnote-4) it is anticipated that the development of a national REDD+ framework will involve three phases:

* *Phase 1: Development of a national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap*
* Phase 2: Implementation of the national REDD+ Readiness Roadmap
* Phase 3: Operation of REDD+.

These Terms of Reference address Phase 1 only.

# Decision to establish Taskforce

[BUNCHIN/ENCHEE – ARE THERE ANY REQUIREMENTS THAT THE TASKFORCE NEEDS TO BE SET UP UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT OR BY PRESIDENTIAL/MINISTERIAL DECREE?

A National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce is hereby established under the [CITE RELEVANT ACT/DECREE] by the [insert position with authority to establish Taskforce e.g. President/Minister for Environment, etc]. The Taskforce will function as a sub-committee under [THE OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATION, OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE?].

# Taskforce objective

The National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce is responsible for coordinating the development of a National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for Mongolia (Phase 1 above). This will be achieved through the preparation of a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

# Membership

The Taskforce will have the following members: [NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTIONS ONLY]

* Forestry Agency representative
* [Representative from the Climate Change Coordination Office?]
* [Land use planning representative]
* [Agriculture sector representative]
* [Mining sector representative]
* [Focal point for desertification under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification]
* [Aimag representative (Selenge?)]
* [CSO/NGO representative]
* [others?]

## Chair and Secretariat

The Chair of the Taskforce is the Director of the Forestry Agency within the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism.

The Secretariat of the Taskforce is [INSERT HERE].

# Advisory Board

The Taskforce will be supported by an Advisory Board which is made up of the following members:

* [representative from UNDP Country Office, Mongolia]
* [representative from FAO Mongolia]
* [representative from UN-REDD Programme]
* [representative from GIZ]
* [others? SCD/ADB?].

# Tasks

## Taskforce members

* To develop a draft REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for endorsement by [INSERT name of Minister or other body which should endorse the Roadmap when it is finalised].
* To manage the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap drafting process, including the identification, commissioning and supervision of any additional studies (consultancy inputs) which may be required.
* To provide relevant information to UNDP and FAO to assist in the preparation of a draft Roadmap for discussion.
* To review drafts of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and to provide guidance to UNDP, UN-REDD and FAO on the preparation of further drafts.
* To guide stakeholder consultation and awareness-raising about REDD+ and the process of developing a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

## UNDP/UN-REDD tasks

* To prepare draft versions of a REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for consideration by the Taskforce, and to incorporate Taskforce comments in subsequent drafts.
* Advising the Taskforce on background reports which should be prepared to support the Roadmap.
* To take minutes of Taskforce meetings.

## FAO

* [to be inserted]

# Reporting

The Director of the Forestry Agency is responsible for reporting on the progress and decisions of the Taskforce to [INSERT POSITION OF PERSON THAT FORESTRY AGENCY REPORTS TO].

The UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre and FAO will be responsible for reporting on progress in preparing the REDD+ Roadmap to the UN-REDD Programme.

# Duration of Taskforce and meeting timetable

The National REDD+ Roadmap Taskforce will meet [INSERT – monthly, or insert specific dates] while the REDD+ Roadmap is being prepared. Preparation of the REDD+ Roadmap will begin in September 2011 and is estimated to be completed by [January/February 2012].

Once the National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap for Mongolia is finalised, consideration will be given to reviewing the membership and structure of the Taskforce to create a new coordinating national body responsible for implementation of the National REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.

1. A copy of the Draft UN-REDD Country-level support to REDD+ Readiness in Mongolia, UN-REDD Programme, 22 April 2011 will be available at the workshop. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The UN-REDD Programme is currently funding national REDD+ programmes in 13 developing countries to carry out REDD+ readiness activities. These are: Bolivia, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Panama, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board has its 8th meeting in March 2012. Applications for funding for national REDD+ programmes must be submitted to the UN-REDD Secretariat by January 2012 for consideration at that meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Cancun Agreements, Dec. 1/CP 16, Chapter III C. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)