# Introduction to Getting Ready for REDD+ in Asia and the Pacific. Experiences of the UN-REDD Programme

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# PROGRAMME

The **UN-REDD Programme** was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In November 2016, the Programme had 64 partner countries. Introduction to REDD+

## The UNFCCC



**United Nations** Framework Convention on Climate Change

#### Objective:

#### To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system

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## REDD+ under the UNFCCC

- UNFCCC: all countries should contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts
- Many developing countries release significant GHG emissions from land-use change and forestry activities (e.g. deforestation, logging)
- The UNFCCC recognizes that developing countries need support to lower these emissions
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) was designed to provide a financial incentive to developing countries to reduce emissions and enhance removals from forests
- The UNFCCC has provided limited guidance on how developing countries should develop and implement REDD+

## The Five REDD+ Activities: Scope



#### The Five REDD+ Activities

ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION	USEFUL INDICATORS
Reducing emissions from deforestation	Deforestation is the conversion from forest land use to another land use (e.g. forest land to crop land)	- Reduced rate of forest loss
Reducing emission from forest degradation	Degradation is the human-induced loss of carbon stocks within forest land that remains forest land	- Reduced rate & volume of timber extraction
Conservation of forest carbon stocks	Is an effort to decrease the threat to forests and to ensure permanence by establishing long-term commitments to preserve forest	- Strengthening & expansion of protected area network
Sustainable management of forests	Generally refers to bringing the rate of extraction in line with the rate of natural growth or increment	- Increased land under sustainable management (e.g. CFM)
Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	Refers to 1) non-forest land becoming forest land; and 2) the enhancement of carbon stocks on forest land remaining forest land	<ul> <li>Increase in reforestation &amp; afforestation</li> <li>Degraded forests allowed to regenerate</li> <li>Restoration</li> </ul>

## The Four REDD+ "Design" Elements



#### SCALE

REDD+ should be implemented at the national scale

Countries can start by implementing at the subnational scale → with a view to transitioning to national scale

## A phased approach to REDD+ implementation

#### Phase 1: Readiness

Capacity building and developing systems **Develop National Strategy** 



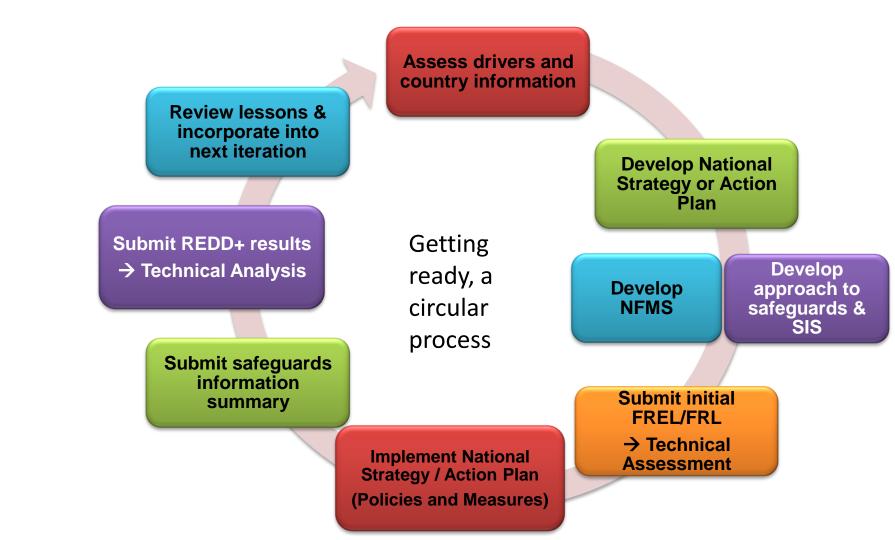
#### Phase 2: Implementation / Piloting

**Implement National Strategy** 

Test & refine methods, implement, further capacity building

#### **Phase 3: Full National Implementation**

Emissions reductions are measured → reported → verified
<u>Results-based finance</u>



Main challenges associated with REDD+

- Sensitivities: especially related to the calculation of forest areas, which tended to be overestimated in the past
- **Commitment**: in many countries commitment at the highest level remains weak
- **Conflicting interests**: powerful (political and economic) interests may favor deforestation and forest degradation; weak engagement of private sector
- **Multi-sectoral coordination:** REDD+ is not a forestry or forest management matter, as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation often lie outside of forest or environment sectors
- Drivers: focus too often on direct and not indirect drivers



## Main challenges associated with REDD+

- **Benefit sharing**: too much attention on benefit sharing, when financial benefits will only become available in the future
- **High expectation**: with finance forthcoming only slowly, enthusiasm for REDD+ has declined at all levels
- Focal agencies: often forest agencies who view support for getting ready for REDD+ as ODA, i.e. just another project
- **Technical complexity**: measuring emissions from forests and establishing reference levels can be challenging, which is why a step-wise approach is recommended; national circumstances not always understood





## More information

- REDD+ Web Platform
- http://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html

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