

A photograph of a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a dappled light effect. The text is overlaid on this background.

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

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# UN-REDD

P R O G R A M M E

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.

# The UNFCCC



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



Reducing  
emissions from  
deforestation



Reducing  
emissions from  
forest  
degradation



Conservation of  
forest carbon  
stocks



Sustainable  
management of  
forests



Enhancement  
of forest carbon  
stocks

# The Five REDD+ Activities

ACTIVITY	EXPLANATION	USEFUL INDICATORS
<b>Reducing emissions from deforestation</b>	Deforestation is the conversion from forest land use to another land use (e.g. forest land to crop land)	- Reduced rate of forest loss
<b>Reducing emission from forest degradation</b>	Degradation is the human-induced loss of carbon stocks within forest land that remains forest land	- Reduced rate & volume of timber extraction
<b>Conservation of forest carbon stocks</b>	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
<b>Sustainable management of forests</b>	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)
<b>Enhancement of forest carbon stocks</b>	Refers to 1) non-forest land becoming forest land; and 2) the enhancement of carbon stocks on forest land remaining forest land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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

Results-based finance





# 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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