

UN-REDD Regional Information Exchange, Nov. 8-11, 2010, Bangkok

BACKGROUND

All sources agree that REDD+ readiness can be expensive, with estimates ranging from millions to tens of millions of USD. However, it is useful to break down “REDD+ readiness” into phases in order to consider costs more thoroughly:

- The initial readiness phase is heavily analytical, with an emphasis on institutional capacity development. Thus, for example, it covers organization of REDD+ readiness management, including the formulation and/or strengthening of broad-based stakeholder fora, identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, analysis of benefit distribution issues, formulation of an initial REL, etc.
- The investment phase, involving interventions to address systemic, institutional and individual capacity gaps identified during the initial readiness phase. Thus, this phase might involve legal reform, establishment of new institutions and equipping them to perform essential functions, extensive training, etc.

During the initial readiness phase, there are substantial opportunities for cost savings through exchange of information and lessons. Some examples of cost savings through information exchange in the initial readiness phase are:

- The UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam spent about \$100,000 to analyze the policy implications of a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system, through which 17 policy issues were identified. Solutions to those issues are currently being pursued in the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam, but many of the issues are equally valid for other countries. Thus, by starting from the conclusions of the Viet Nam benefit distribution study, the cost of REDD+ readiness can be substantially reduced.
- The UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam spent approximately \$40,000 in an analysis of REL methodologies. About 75% of the resulting report deals with generic issues that are equally applicable to all other countries, so further cost savings can be effected if the Viet Nam report is shared with others.
- In Cambodia, a process of establishing an effective mechanism for management of readiness has been supported by UNDP and FAO. Other countries can benefit from lessons learnt from this experience and can also better quantify likely costs in their own context.

The UN-REDD Programme already has a number of mechanisms for information exchange. These include the regular UN-REDD newsletter, the UN-REDD workspace and internet site, and reports, presentations and other materials produced when opportunities present themselves. However, all of these are examples of passive information exchange – there is no attempt to match information against needs, or to tailor information to specific country circumstances. The information is designed for a global and diverse audience. In the context of UN-REDD support to REDD+ readiness

in the Asia-Pacific region, there is a need to design and implement an **active** information exchange process, through which targeted information is provided to teams responsible for REDD+ readiness in a form that is of greatest value to them.

The UN-REDD Programme team in the Asia-Pacific region therefore organized the first regional information exchange meeting, which took place 8-10 November 2010 in Bangkok. The three day event included sessions on administrative and technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme, including establishing and managing broad-based multi-stakeholder networks, Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and international legal frameworks, MRV and participatory carbon monitoring, Reference Emission Level (REL) methodology, and guidelines/requirements of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The agenda is shown in Annex 1.

In addition to members of UN-REDD country programmes from Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines and the Solomon Islands, participants of the meeting included delegations from bilateral partners such as Norway, GTZ (Germany), JICA (Japan), and USAID, and country and regional representatives of the UN agencies. Representatives of some non-UN-REDD Programme countries were also invited to participate in the technical sessions and November 9-10th. A full list of participants is shown in Annex 2.

RESULTS

Notes taken by rapporteurs are recorded in a separate document, "UNREDD Regional Workshop Report 8 to 10 Nov 2010.docx". Evaluation sheets were distributed on the last day, and the results are shown in Annex 3. The information exchange and discussions received high marks from almost all participants. Further information exchange events were requested. Proposals for future activities included annual regional meetings, smaller and more frequent targeted meetings on specific topics (e.g. FPIC, MRV), study tours and the establishment of regional UN-REDD Programme e-mail group.

NEXT STEPS

Representatives of the UN-REDD Indonesia Programme offered to host the next regional meeting in Indonesia in 2011. There was also a suggestion to organize something during the UN-REDD Policy Board Meeting in Viet Nam in March 2011. In the meantime, UN-REDD Programme regional coordinators in Bangkok will continue to support information exchange in the region. Additional opportunities can also be realized under the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme Phase II, which has, as an explicit outcome, the enhancement of cost-effectiveness through sharing of experiences.

Annex 1: Agenda

Session 1: Setting the scene		
9:00 – 9:15	Welcoming remarks	Martin Krause , Team Leader, Environment and Energy, UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok Patrick Durst , Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Centre, Bangkok Yong-Woo Park , UNEP Regional Director
9:15 – 9:40	Introductions	
9:40 – 9:50 9:50 - 10:05 10:05 – 10:20	The UN-REDD Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on UN-REDD Programme globally Update on UN-REDD Programme regionally Q & A 	Tim Clairs , UNDP HQ Petteri Vuorinen , UN-REDD Regional Coordinator, FAO
10:20 – 10:40 10:40 – 11:00	International Cooperation on REDD+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International coordination mechanism for REDD+ readiness: the Interim REDD+ Partnership Q & A 	Leif-John Fosse , Senior Advisor, Ministry of the Environment, Norway
11:00 – 11:15	Break	
Session 2: Administrative aspects of the UN-REDD Programme		
11:15 – 11:30 11:30 – 11:45 11:45 - 12:15	Managing National REDD programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and managing broad-based multi-stakeholder networks Coordination with other initiatives Q & A 	Tim Boyle , UNDP Regional Centre Akiko Inoguchi , FAO, Viet Nam
12:15 – 1:30	Lunch	
Session 3: Administrative aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (contd.)		
1:30 – 1:50 1:50 – 2:05 2:05 – 2:45	Managing UN-REDD Country Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on UN-REDD Country Programming and applying the HACT Fund management in UN-REDD Country Programmes Q & A 	Tim Clairs , UNDP HQ Tim Clairs , UNDP HQ
2:45 – 3:10	Break	
3:10 – 3:30 3:30 – 3:50	Work planning and Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual and quarterly work planning Progress and Financial reporting 	Machfud , Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD, Indonesia Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen , Programme Manager, UN-REDD, Viet Nam

3:50 - 4:15	• Q & A	
4:15 – 5:00	Wrap-up/general discussion	

9 Nov. Inter-Continental Hotel; President 1-2

Session 4: Technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme

9:00 – 9:25	Managing the REDD+ readiness process • Preparing a REDD+ readiness roadmap in Cambodia	Keo Omaliss , Forestry Administration, Royal Government of Cambodia Richard McNally , SNV, Viet Nam
9:25 – 9:40	• Preparing an R-PP and mainstreaming with UN-REDD	
9:40 - 10:20	• Analysis of plans, discussion, suggestions for future activities	
10:20 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:00	REL methodology • UNFCCC/IPCC guidelines and requirements	Danilo Mollicone , FAO HQ Patrick van Laake , UN-REDD Senior Technical Advisor, Viet Nam Hermawan Indrabudi , Team Leader 2, UN-REDD Pham Manh Cuong (tbc)
11:00 – 11:20	• Regional perspective: technical requirements and options	
11:20 – 11:40	• Country presentations on national developments: ➤ Indonesia ➤ Viet Nam	
11:40 - 12:15	• Analysis of plans, discussion, suggestions for future activities	
12:15 – 1:30	Lunch	

Session 5: Technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (contd.)

1:30 – 1:45	Stakeholder engagement: Free, Prior Informed Consent • Stakeholder engagement in the UN-REDD Programme • Principles of FPIC and international legal framework • Applying FPIC in the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam	Gaya Sriskanthan , UNDP HQ Lisa Ogle , Consultant, Australia Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen , Programme Manager, UN-REDD, Viet Nam Machfud , Chief Technical Advisor, UN-REDD, Indonesia
1:45 – 2:00		
2:00 – 2:25		
2:25 – 2:40	• Plans for applying FPIC in Indonesia	
2:40 – 3:00	• Discussion and suggestion for future activities	
3:00 – 3:20	Break	
3:20 – 3:45	Benefit distribution systems and social safeguards • Analysis of policy issues for a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system in Viet Nam	Pham Minh Thoa , National Programme Director, UN-REDD, Viet Nam Aki Kono , UNDP Regional Centre, Bangkok
3:45 – 4:05	• An approach to ensuring social safeguards	
4:05 – 5:00	• Discussion and suggestion for future activities	

6:30 - later	Welcome reception/dinner: Pinnacle 1-2	
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10 Nov. Inter-Continental Hotel; President 1-2

Session 6: Technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (contd.)		
9:00 – 9:20 9:20 – 10:00	MRV and Participatory carbon monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC/IPCC guidelines and requirements • Regional perspective: technical requirements and options 	Danilo Mollicone , FAO HQ Patrick van Laake , UN-REDD Senior Technical Advisor, Viet Nam Patrick van Laake , UN-REDD Senior Technical Advisor, Viet Nam
10:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to participatory carbon monitoring 	
10:30 - 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A 	
10:45 – 11:10	Break	
11:10-11:40 11:40 - 12:00	MRV and Participatory carbon monitoring (contd.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations on national developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cambodia ➤ Indonesia ➤ Philippines • Analysis of plans, discussion, suggestions for future activities 	Keo Omaliss (tbc) Hermawan Indrabudi , Team Leader 2, UN-REDD (tbc) Tore Langhelle , UNDP, Viet Nam
12:00 – 12:15 12:15 – 12:30	Gender and REDD+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating gender issues into national REDD+ programmes • Q & A 	
12:30 – 2:00	Lunch	
Session 6: Technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (contd.)		
2:00 – 2:20 2:20 – 2:35	National REDD+ Strategy development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a draft National REDD+ Strategy for Indonesia • Plans for the development of a National REDD+ Strategy for Viet Nam 	Ms. Silje Haugland , UNDP Indonesia Pham Manh Cuong , National Team Leader, UN-REDD, Viet Nam
2:35 - 3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of plans, discussion, suggestions for future activities 	
3:00 – 3:30	Break	
3:30 – 5:00	Wrap-up/general discussion/future meetings	

Annex 2: Participants

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Annex 3: Evaluation results

1. Workshop Evaluation Scores; average of scores from 1 (bad) to 5 (good)

Session	Score	No. of responses
Session 1 UN-REDD Global and Regional	4.27	22
Overall	4.15	26
Session 6 MRV	4.14	36
Session 1 Interim REDD Partnership	4.09	22
Session 4 Managing the national REDD+ process	4.03	35
Session 7 National REDD+ Strategy	4.03	36
Session 4 REL/RL	3.97	34
Session 2 Managing national REDD+ programmes	3.95	22
Session 6 MRV country experiences	3.94	36
Session 5 FPIC	3.74	35
Session 5 BDS	3.68	34
Session 6 Gender	3.61	36
Session 3 UN-REDD Fund management	3.59	22
Session 3 Work planning and reporting	3.57	21

2. Workshop Evaluation Comments

Session 1: Setting the Scene (Introduction and International Cooperation on REDD+)

1. Yes indeed, by this workshop, I have been informed directly by other countries concerning their REDD+ process in their countries.
2. The coordination among UN-REDD facilitating agencies (FAO-UNDP-UNEP), their responsibility in promoting (helping) UNREDD process in member countries
3. First session mostly good, second could have been better prepared
4. Still needs to learn more on the mechanisms
5. Regular update on international REDD+ issue to UNREDD+ members is encouraged.

Session 2: Administrative Aspects of the UN-REDD Programme

1. It did provide useful info but many questions need to be answered particularly on finding modality given that 3 UN agencies are involved. Guidance from the secretariat would be helpful
2. i) Useful because it made me realized that the UN-REDD Programme hasn't firmed up its administrative policies +procedures; ii) Useful because I was able to determine what should be the things to be settled before the full implementation of the UN-REDD Programme in the Philippines?
3. Surely, some of the speakers provide some information which I have not been heard before/ Useful glimpse info the everyday operational procedures
4. Need more clarification on the 3 UN agencies admin regulations – some confusion in their different systems although under the UN body.
5. UNDP, FAO and UNEP to come with harmonized procedures i.e fund management/release
6. Yes, some lesson learnt from other countries ...we how to manage the project operationally

Session 3: Administrative aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (Managing UN-REDD Country Programmes)

1. The fund management option is still not very clear/ Confusing
2. I hope the UN-REDD Secretariat can provide the advantages & disadvantages of the different fund management modalities to help countries decide which one to opt.
3. In term of fund management, I still don't understand why the procedure sometimes made difficulties. Pls make the common understanding and together support the UN-REDD Programme implemented smoothly.
4. Very useful to learn about HACT, more mixed picture at country level
5. Funding modality issue was too sensitive issue to have been casually introduced. UNREDD agencies should have a separate meeting.

Session 4: Technical aspects of the UN-REDD Programme (Managing REDD+ readiness process and REL methodology)

1. The presentation and the 2 speakers were very good/Danilo Mollicone made good presentations/ Interesting discussions
2. Yes, indeed, particularly to enrich my knowledge on REL/RL methodology which so far still many different opinions/Excellent REL/RL sessions
3. The sessions provide useful information relevant for the REDD Readiness process in my country.
4. Lesson & experiences in our countries on Readiness preparation have not shown complete sample as yet, and no countries are not yet ready to implement REDD programme
5. Quite useful, country presentations somewhat rushed
6. It would be good to share any evaluation of programme from Indonesia to first 9 pilots

Session 5: Technical aspect (Stakeholder engagement, FPIC, Benefit distribution systems & social safeguards)

1. More info. on actual BDS experience could be shared but since most countries are in the planning/study phase only, this is understandable.
2. Some of the presentations are useful, but need to be more elaborated, particularly on the benefit distribution system and also how do the financing institutional should be established to support those distributions.
3. Should invite CSOs/IPs to provide perspective on this
4. Useful session on BDS & FPIC which will be of relevance where one national REDD+ programme takes place/ Excellent presentation & discussion, in particular the BDS/ Interest on details of the presentation
5. Very interesting discussion FPIC, reflecting real situation in the field
6. Much confusion still exists in how/why both FPIC and BDS Studies were undertaken thus discussions were also confusing. Social Safeguard tool was new.
7. Looked like reinventing the wheel of FAO as pointed out number of times by FAO expert
8. Lack of FPIC guideline and methodology. Presentation from Vietnam was a good learning but required a more explanation on impacts.
9. In theory only, not yet met on ground particularly on benefit sharing

Session 6: Technical aspect (MRV & Participatory carbon monitoring and Gender)

1. Mr. Danilo shared enough and valuable information regarding the IPCC task and mandate also the IPCC guideline which should be guided the countries to assess the 'trend' not to assess 'the accounting'
2. We need more information particularly on methodology & guidelines
3. Gender presentation was good but should have had more than just one country perspective, esp. since that was not at an advanced stage/Need to engage a gender specialist to do this task
4. Excellent/Very good presentations that of high relevance/Very good discussions
5. First time to know about participatory monitoring and very useful & informative
6. Don't reinvent the wheel

Session 7: Technical aspect (National REDD+ strategy development)

1. Yes, indeed, particularly reflection from other countries which have been proceed the national REDD+ strategy in their countries.
2. Despite UN-REDD's intend 'low profile' in the Indonesian process, sounded like the Programme actually played a very big role.

Overall rating: Other comments/suggestions on the day – what went well, what could be improved:

What went well?

1. Excellent opportunity to share & listen to the issues, concerns, success, challenges of implementing UN-REDD in various countries as well as perspectives & advice from UN (FAO, UNDP, UNEP)
2. Very good
3. Thank you very much. Excellent workshop, I found the MRV sessions most useful. I like the broad approach to issues which is not my area of expertise, but which I still need to know about
4. The sessions are good in general to exchange experiences among countries involved in REDD programme/activities. A good platform to keep each other updated. If presenters could share more thoroughly in-depth on process of planning & implementation more frankly, that would be more useful & informative.
5. Sharing of country experiences went well and hopefully the UN-REDD Secretariat/Coordinators have learned a lot so that improved guidance can be provided to countries.
6. The workshop was well organized in terms of time management. The speakers are well informed, and knowledgeable and experts in their fields. Great job!
7. Day 2 and 3 went very well in term of interactions.

What could be improved?

1. i) Suggest a way to get all questions in, perhaps, if this can be written down. Perhaps, separate sessions where there'll be interest groups on FPIC, REL, REDD+ strategy so we can maximize time on have more time for questioning and interaction; ii) Accommodation and food are just great. If there'll be more time to encourage bonding. A food on foot trip outside of the venue
2. There should be more time for discussions + sharing experiences. But, in general, the workshop was a good venue for clarifying issues on REDD+ implementation.
3. i) all the presenter are very excellent speakers and share many experiences for us; ii) In the next future meeting, it would be pleased if the meeting could provide 'an example of REDD+ initiative in the implementation phase/on the ground', and also 'possibilities to look forward whether the negotiation on REDD+ not going to succeed at the international negotiation'
4. I think that participation should be slightly broadened to include Civil Society/IP members of the Country-level REDD+ committees/Taskforce as well as government counterparts. This would give a more balanced perspective at certain issues and would support the spirit of partnership with other stakeholders as a tenant of REDD+. Appreciated focus of meeting, very useful, well done!
5. The workshop is a lesson learnt exercise for me with provides some information that will be of relevance when the national REDD+ programme takes place. Another useful suggestion to continue such an exercise to buildup the networks & lesson learnt for participating countries.
6. More workshop of this kind are regarded useful in future, may include all GMS countries for sharing experience, information sharing platform to be created on REDD+ Networking
7. Too many issues but overall very good introduction to the regional programme & utilization of synergies & lessons learnt
8. Great opportunity for bringing people together (UN agencies). Good discussion moderators for all sessions. The presence of non-UNREDD partners (organizations) were marginal and not very clear.

9. The regional workshop is a good venue for sharing experiences and learning from each other particularly countries just starting. UN agencies should motivate country offices to be actively involved in the UN-REDD programme.

10. Time control is not strict. Good organized and facilitation.

11. Hope this event can be conducted regularly to enrich our understanding & find solutions in running UNREDD projects in our country.