

EVALUATION



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

LESSONS FROM NP EVALUATIONS UNREDD POLICY BOARD

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Evaluation Office

Purpose / Outline of Presentation

- Setting the stage for this learning session
- Based from the national programme evaluations – not the global programme evaluation
- Emphasis on issues in common – not specific country experiences
- Focused on the OECD-DAC and UNEG standard criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact

UNREDD evaluation management group

- Evaluating joint programmes jointly
- Stressing Independence, credibility, consistency
- Supporting global and national programme evaluations
 - UNEP – EO
 - Michael Carbon
 - FAO – EO
 - Ashwin Bhouraskar
 - UNDP – EO
 - Alan Fox

national UNREDD programme evaluations

- Completed reviews and evaluations
 - Cambodia -2013, midterm
 - Indonesia – 2013, final
 - Panama - 2013, midterm
 - Tanzania - 2013, final
 - Vietnam - 2012, final
 - Zambia - 2013, midterm

observations on programme relevance

- Government recognition that deforestation and forest degradation is a serious development problem
- REDD+ is important for addressing deforestation and UNREDD is generally well understood and sought after by governments to help develop effective REDD+ regimes and reduce emissions

effectiveness

- Indicative positive intermediate-level outcomes:
 - increased awareness amongst national-and local-level stakeholders about the REDD+ mechanism and the conditions to achieve REDD+ readiness
 - establishment of national, multi-sectoral coordinating and information sharing mechanisms for REDD+ projects
 - technical capacities enhanced on measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and forest monitoring
 - increased acceptance by governments to engage international partners as well as national stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, in planning and implementation processes

public engagement

- General recognition across the evaluations that the process and pace of stakeholder engagement needs further consideration:
 - There have been efforts to consult with civil society and indigenous people but often with low-level participation, and without major influence on programme development
 - There has been limited private sector involvement
 - A range of policies and measures must be in place in order to establish appropriate Benefit Distribution Systems. Discussing potential benefits with poor villagers before a benefits system is in place creates expectation problems.

efficiency

- Common concern about overly-ambitious and confusing programme designs, plus shortcomings in results frameworks.
- Slow start up process (Panama 1.5 yrs.) & extensions have been required to make up for time lost due to management inefficiencies and difficulties in execution
- Recognition of the difficulties to start up national UNREDD programmes while REDD+ was still being defined, and some methodological aspects (safeguards) not yet in place.
- Common complaint that the different operational requirements of the three agencies create significant burdens for programme implementation.

coordination across the UN agencies

- Each evaluation noted stakeholder concerns about slow programme delivery and high transaction costs stemming from working jointly with the three UN agencies.
- Yet there are also recent examples (Zambia) noting coordination improvements through joint planning and programming as well as regular consultative meetings to improve coordination.
- Concern raised over insufficient interaction between UN-REDD and other initiatives focused on improving forestry management, including other REDD+ activities

risk assessment

- National programmes are identifying many of the inherent risks related to delivering REDD+ benefits: non-permanence due to leakage, disparity of benefits due to elite capture, corruption, market fungibility, conflicts between state and indigenous peoples, land tenure aspects, political upheavals, and other factors

sustainability

- Each country has made partial progress in building national ownership and being REDD+ ready.
- Vietnam: qualified political commitment to REDD+ is reflected in the Prime Minister's approval of the National REDD+ Action Programme
- Tanzania: UN-REDD and others have provided capacity building on a variety of topics, however more is needed to increase country ownership.
- In general, national programmes need to continue experimenting at scale, and learning by doing, especially to establish and support REDD+ implementation funds.

impact

- All evaluations noted it is too early to gauge impacts
- Countries are not fully 'REDD+ ready' but Phase 1 has enabled the rapid introduction of new, complex REDD+ concepts to key stakeholders.
- Of course, outputs alone will not achieve REDD+ readiness. The challenge is to develop actionable strategies and build sufficient national support for changes in policies, regulatory programmes and government capacities

next steps

- Look forward to questions later in the session on these overall results.
- An update on the progress of the global programme evaluation will be provided by the evaluation team tomorrow.

Thank You

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