



IS REDD+ IN ITS PRESENT FORM ACHIEVABLE BY ALL?

Interest in REDD+ has been growing markedly among developing countries, especially since the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun, Mexico in 2010, when a general outline of how REDD+ will work emerged. Many developing countries have now begun to initiate the first of the three-phased process of REDD+ (i.e. Initial Readiness) through a wide range of actions to secure systemic, institutional and individual capacities for implementing REDD+ at the national level before moving into the second phase, Results-based Activities at the sub-national level.

Some interesting lessons are already emerging from these Readiness efforts. One lesson is that some countries seem to be able to make progress more easily and successfully than others. Is it because those countries have national Readiness programmes that are superior in design? Or are they simply more committed to become REDD+ ready than others? Are there any other factors?

In *'Can "fragile States" decide to reduce their deforestation? The inappropriate use of the theory of incentives with respect to the REDD mechanism'*, Alain Karsenty and Symphorien Ongolo attempt to shed light on intriguing factors and challenges faced by governments of so-called, 'fragile states' in REDD+. These countries are often characterized by failure of the rule of law, weak judiciary systems and limited capacity and/or will to provide basic functions for development and safeguarding the security and rights of their citizens.

REDD+ is currently founded on the assumption that developed (i.e., "Annex 1") countries will compensate developing countries for foregone economic benefits from not converting natural forests to other uses. Karsenty and Ongolo argue that such an assumption is unlikely to work with fragile states, where corruption and private agendas dominate their national affairs. They point out some inherent weaknesses of this assumption. Due to corruption and unwillingness and/or inability of these states to implement tough measures to shift its development pathway based on a rational cost-benefit analysis, they argue that REDD+ will not result in expected outcomes as it currently stands but rather end up rewarding corrupt governments.

This poses the intriguing question: "How could we make REDD+ work for those fragile states?" The article explores the possibility of alternative architecture, which would invest in long-term capacity development of fragile states to trigger fundamental socio-economic transformations, instead of directly rewarding governments. It also suggests incentive mechanisms to directly benefit local economic agents who are likely to respond to incentives more effectively. Such transformations would allow governments of fragile states to carry out rational policy reforms and implementing necessary policies and measures on their own to effectively address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Of course, this would not lead to cheap or fast reductions of forest carbon emissions, but such an approach might be more sustainable in the long run. The full article is available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=5615&Itemid=53

Go-REDD+ is an e-mail listserv managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific, based in Bangkok. The main objective of **Go-REDD+** is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. Old messages will be archived on the [Regional Activities pages](#) of the UN-REDD Programme web-site. Discussion forum on **Go-REDD+** is available through UN-REDD Programme's online knowledge sharing platform, www.unredd.net. Please note that you must be a member to join the Discussion Forum. To request membership, please contact admin@unredd.net with your name and affiliation. The **Go-REDD+** team welcomes feedback, suggestions or inquiries to goredd.th@undp.org.