



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity building workshop on REDD-plus

Singapore, 15-18 March 2011

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and

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National experience with REDD-plus

National structure for REDD-plus planning

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- Bangladesh has established a 15 member technical committee for REDD + preparation.
- The committee is headed by the Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF).
- Chief Conservator of Forests is the member secretary.
- Representatives from all concerned like the Department of Environment, IUCN, USAID, UNDP, FRI, Academia and enlightened civil society are also included in the committee.



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Status of REDD-plus preparations

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- National REDD Strategy/Action Plan under preparation.
- Bangladesh applied for UN REDD program and National UN Joint program.
- Carbon stock inventory has been furnished for Sundarbans Reserve Forest and other 8 protected areas.
- Indigenous Local People are being discussed regarding activities of REDD-plus and benefit sharing.
- Strategies for benefit sharing with local people are being planned.
- Method of Monitoring, Reporting and Verifications are being set.
- Manpower development and Institutional strengthening are under process.



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Some Objectives REDD Strategy and Action Plan

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- To establish a process for overseeing all REDD-related activities.
- Identify and convene a REDD Forum and Facilitate the Forum of a Strategy and Action Plan that articulates what Bangladesh hopes to achieve through implementation of a REDD program,
- Undertake awareness raising, training or workshop events as needed.
- Suggest *policy reform, legislative reform*, engagement with private sector (including banks), and others.
- Setting targets for GHG mitigation, prioritizes specific geographic areas to meet those targets, and assigns responsibilities for implementation.
- Establishing strategy for a monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) process that meets UNFCCC requirements



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Involvement of biodiversity experts and traditional knowledge holders

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- Biodiversity experts are already included in the REDD steering committee.
- Traditional knowledge holders will be taken into due account in formulation and implementation of REDD+ project.
- Draft Biodiversity Act has also given emphasis on conserving the traditional knowledge and establishing the rights of the holder's of the knowledge.



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Involvement of indigenous and local communities

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- Indigenous and local communities are already involved in the Management process of Protected Areas through co-management.
- Village conservation groups have been operational in various areas significant to biodiversity conservation.



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Experience from the voluntary carbon market

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- Bangladesh is trying to explore voluntary market for Sundarbans Reserve Forest and other 8 Protected areas for REDD+



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Experience with biodiversity safeguards

Political support and capacity for including biodiversity safeguards

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- Highest level of the policy of the government is convinced to conserve biodiversity.
- Cabinet has imposed ban on tree extraction from natural reserved forests to ensure biodiversity conservation.
- Biodiversity act has been prepared.
- PRS (Poverty Reduction Strategy) also has got the impetus to conserve biodiversity and ensure environmental sustainability.



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Main obstacles for including biodiversity safeguards.

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- Lack of awareness and understanding on the value of ecological goods and services among various development agencies.
- Absence of separate Law for biological safeguards.
- Rapid expansion of Agriculture.
- Unplanned development activities.
- Increasing density of the Population.
- Scarcity of land.



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Concrete capacity building needs regarding biodiversity safeguards

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- Integration of Biodiversity safeguard into development planning process. (Govt. level).
- Valuation of Ecological Goods and Services.
- Education and Awareness. (local communities).
- Alternative livelihoods for the local communities.
- Development and enforcement of safeguard regulatory regimes.
- Provision of incentives for contribution in safeguarding biodiversity.

Main lessons learned so far regarding biodiversity safeguards.

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- Local communities are supportive of biodiversity conservation.
- Ecological services has not been quantified.
- Each of the Ecosystem needs to be conserved for safeguarding biodiversity.
- Food production should be carried out in tune with Nature.
- Land-use change and other habitat transformation causing biodiversity loss.
- Natural forests were wrongly treated as wood industries only in the past.



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National experience with safeguards for indigenous and local communities



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Structure of civil society organizations representing indigenous and local community views.

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- Civil society Organizations are structured through local government bodies and local level community groups or associations.
- Co-management committee and Co-management councils of the protected area.
- Their views are communicated but process can be improved more.



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The mechanisms through which the views of indigenous and local communities are considered.

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- Parliamentary democracy exists in Bangladesh.
- Local government bodies at the grass root level are formed through election of the local community
- The local govt. body has got the mechanism to consider the views of local communities through discussion.
- Co-management councils are set to receive views of the indigenous and local communities which are transferred to co-management committee for consideration.



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Concerns related to CBD Articles 8j
(respect for traditional knowledge) and
10c(support customary use of
biodiversity) reflected in REDD-plus
planning and design

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- During REDD strategy formulation due consideration will be given on Art. 8j and 10c of the convention.
- Biodiversity experts already included in the REDD starting committee.
- Traditional knowledge holders also will be given due importance under REDD + program
- As a means to conserve biodiversity “In Situ” condition, Protected areas and Environmental critical areas established.



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Experience with assessing/ monitoring impacts of REDD-plus



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Planning Tools to assess/monitor the impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity and indigenous and local livelihoods.

- Yes, it is apprehended that the REDD-plus program may impact on Biodiversity and local livelihood therefore measures taken like-;
 - Ban on extraction of trees from Natural forests.
 - The Indigenous and local inhabitants of the forest peripheries are involved in the management system.
 - The traditional knowledge and cultures of the indigenous people are valued and conserved.

Criteria and indicators for REDD-plus impacts on biodiversity.

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- Criteria and indicators will be identified during the process of development of REDD+ strategy, Probable criteria may be
 1. Water Quality,
 2. Financial condition of indigenous people.
 3. Soil erosion.
 4. State of forest vegetation. Etc.



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National Ecological Gap analysis under the CBD

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- Not yet done.
- Will be addressed through upcoming programs of implementing CBD obligations. Bangladesh has developed Biodiversity National Assessment and Program of Action towards this end.
- Recently initiatives taken to identify ecological gaps in the protected areas of the country.



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Consideration of the National gap analyses in REDD planning?

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- National Gap analysis will be addressed during formulation of REDD strategy



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Application and Development of multiple benefit tools at national level,

e.g. mapping of biodiversity and carbon overlays (such as www.carbon-biodiversity.net/OtherScales)?

- Due consideration will be given to develop multiple benefit tools during formulation of REDD strategy



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Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

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Regional and international exchanges of REDD-plus pilot experiences regarding multiple benefits.

- This is first collaborative programme my delegation is participating
- Countries with common boundary need to have regional collaborative program regarding safeguards and impact assessment.



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Level of regional collaboration on REDD-plus e.g. through regional organizations such as ASEAN

- SAARC countries are expected to collaborate with each other on REDD-plus matter.
- SAARC countries adopted the **Thimpu Statement on Climate Change** in April 2010 to develop policy direction for regional cooperation on climate change.
- India and Bangladesh to set up the Sunderbans Ecosystem Forum to conserve the Sunderbans – the world's largest riverine delta. Climate change will be the central component of this Forum.
- Governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and Bhutan established a coordinated body to countering threats from illegal exploitation and trafficking of tigers, elephants, rhinos, birds, reptiles, medicinal plants, timber etc.



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What regional and international support (in addition to support provided by UN-REDD/FCPF/ITTO, etc.) would be useful

- UNEP, ADB, ASEAN, SAARC etc. organizations could facilitate REDD+



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Thank you