

REDD-plus from the UNFCCC's perspective: status of play, needs and expectations

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OUTLINE

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Overview of the REDD process

- Proposal by PNG and Costa Rica (FCCC/CP/2005/MISC.1) calling for COP11 (Montreal, 2005) to consider possible approaches for addressing emissions from deforestation
- Parties agreed it is an important issue. Agreed to launch process for further consideration, starting at SBSTA 24 (June 2006)
- The SBSTA, in its 24th to 27th sessions, initiated consideration of relevant scientific, technical and methodological issues, exchanged experiences and provided proposals on policy approaches and positive incentives
- COP13 adopted a decision on “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action“ (**decision 2/CP.13**)
- After Bali - **Two parallel tracks** of work relating to REDD:
 - a) The SBSTA initiated a programme of work on methodological issues, during which it identified the main methodological issues relating to REDD
 - b) The AWG-LCA initiated consideration of policy approaches and positive incentives relating to REDD



Overview of the REDD process:

COP 15 Decision on Methodological Guidance

- Outcome from programme of work on methodological issues under SBSTA
- COP adopted a decision on “*Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.*” ([decision 4/CP.15](#))
- Provides methodological guidance; guidance for capacity-building and potential work that may be needed to support REDD activities
- It also provides general guidance for the establishment of forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels. These levels should be established transparently taking into account historic data and adjusted for national circumstances.



COP 15 Decision on Methodological Guidance

- (i) **Guidance that should be taken into account when implementing activities relating to decision 2/CP.13:**
- a) To identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and the means to address them;
 - b) To identify activities within the country that result in reduced emissions and increased removals and stabilization of forest carbon stocks;
 - c) To use the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating forest-related greenhouse gas emissions and removals, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
 - d) To establish robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems and, if appropriate, sub-national systems as part of national monitoring systems, using a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches.
 - e) Monitoring systems should provide estimates that are transparent and consistent, as far as possible accurate, and that reduce uncertainties, and results are available and suitable for review as agreed by the COP.



(ii) **Guidance on capacity-building:**

- a) All Parties in a position to do so are encouraged to support and strengthen the capacities of developing countries to collect and access, analyse and interpret data, in order to develop estimates,
- b) Parties in a position to do so and relevant international organizations are invited to enhance capacity-building in relation to using the IPCC guidance and guidelines,
- c) The secretariat has been requested to enhance coordination of capacity-building activities in the context of existing initiatives.

(iii) **Further work:**

- a) Work may need to be undertaken by the IPCC, in accordance with any relevant decisions by the COP
- b) Encouragement to develop guidance for effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting.

REDD+ under the AWG-LCA

- In Copenhagen, Parties started to consider a draft text for a decision on REDD+
(REDD+ refers to “Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest C stocks in developing countries” – para 1 (b) (iii) of the Bali Action Plan)
 - This draft text covered the core elements for implementing REDD+ activities, including:
 - o Scope of activities, guiding principles and safeguards (e.g. *country-driven, promotes co-benefits and biodiversity, actions consistent with conservation of natural forests, involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, transparent forest governance*)
 - o Phased-approach for implementation (*readiness, implementation of national policies, measures and plans, full implementation*)
 - o Means of implementation (*financing options for readiness and full implementation – funds, markets only, combination of markets and funds*)
 - o Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of actions (e.g. *establishing reference emission levels, national monitoring systems, use of IPCC guidelines*)
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REDD+ under the AWG-LCA

- Parties considered further the draft text for a decision on REDD+ at the AWG-LCA sessions in June and August 2010. New proposals and text were added to the draft text (*Chapter VI, FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14*)
- On readiness activities relating to REDD+, Parties shared a common understanding of the following:
 - There is an urgent need for scaled-up financing, particularly for readiness activities and to ensure the participation of all developing countries. There should be fast start and sustainable financing for readiness. There also needs to be better coordination for existing financing.
 - There is also a need for capacity-building of all aspects, from institutional to technical, and to strengthen and build capacities for transparent forest governance. Better coordination of capacity-building activities is also needed.
 - The development and implementation of national strategies and action plans need to address the drivers of deforestation and ensure the rights and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and the implementation of safeguards.



REDD+ under the AWG-LCA

- A. There remains a number of key issues which are linked to the wider discussions:
- o Financing options, particularly for full implementation (funds only, market approach, a combination of funds and markets);
 - o The inclusion of REDD+ as part of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs);
 - o The link between MRV of actions and support;
- B. There are also issues specific to REDD+ that remain to be finalized:
- o Scope of REDD+ activities;
 - o Safeguards for implementing REDD+;
 - o Elements required for implementation (national strategy or plan, national forest reference emission level, national forest monitoring system);
 - o If subnational level implementation would be allowed as an interim step;
 - o If, and when, details of modalities for developing reference emission levels, national forest monitoring system, MRV of actions should be developed (post-Cancun ?)
- C. Parties will continue to consider the draft text at AWG-LCA 12 in Tianjin in October 2010.



REDD+: Needs and opportunities

At an expert meeting (May 2010) on capacity-building in relation to using the IPCC guidance and guidelines for REDD+,

Some issues raised:

- Lack of data, particularly on rates of deforestation;
- Lack of activity data, particularly on forest degradation and illegal logging; lack of country-specific emission factors;
- Limitations of remote sensing, such as cloud cover, lack of capacities to analyze and interpret data, limitations to monitoring forest degradation;
- Need to improve operational side of the IPCC guidance and guidelines and make them more user-friendly;



REDD+: Needs and opportunities

Recommendations made, particularly on regional cooperation:

- National agencies and international organizations should promote and enhance regional cooperation to facilitate sharing of experiences from demonstration activities and use of the IPCC guidelines, sharing and exchange of data sources;
- The secretariat to work together with or rely on regional coordinators or organizations for organizing capacity-building activities;
- Fully utilize technical capacities that already exist within countries;
- Regional cooperation should be region- or country-driven; capacity-building should focus on issues relevant or common to the region;
- Regional cooperation to promote institutional memory of capacity-building received

Full report available at:

<http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/5603.php>



Ongoing work and next steps

- Taking into consideration the outcomes of the expert meeting, SBSTA32 (June 2010) requested the secretariat:
 - a) To increase the number of experts trained in the use of the IPCC guidance and guidelines referred to in decision 4/CP.15, paragraph 1 (c), by organizing and facilitating activities such as training of trainers workshops, and to work with the IPCC on promoting the use of the IPCC Emission Factor Database, and report on its progress to the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session (June 2011);
 - a) To enhance sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned on the use of the IPCC guidance and guidelines on the UNFCCC website through an interactive discussion forum to be set up on the web platform.



Ongoing work and next steps

1. The secretariat, in fulfilling the requests by the COP and the SBSTA, is:
 - Exploring possibilities and initiating steps for enhancing coordination of capacity-building activities in the context of existing initiatives relating to REDD, such as training of trainers workshops;
 - Liaising and collaborating with existing initiatives relating to REDD and capacity-building on REDD GHG inventories;
 - Supporting the Chair of the SBSTA in his efforts to explore ways of facilitating the coordination of activities relating to 2/CP.13;
 - Developing an interactive discussion forum on the use of the IPCC guidance and guidelines on the web platform;
2. The COP and the SBSTA continues to remind and encourage Parties, organizations and stakeholders to share information on activities relating to REDD+ via the web platform on the UNFCCC website.



Ongoing work and next steps

The REDD Web Platform

- The COP, in decision 2/CP.13, requested the secretariat to develop a Web Platform where information (e.g. on ongoing efforts, actions and demonstration activities, resources to support efforts, capacity-building activities, methodological approaches) submitted by Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders will be made available.
- Information on the following aspects of REDD can be found on the Platform:
 - Technical assistance
 - Demonstration activities
 - Country Specific Information
 - Methodologies and tools
 - Interesting links to related sites
- COP15 invited Parties to share lessons learned and experiences gained in the application of methodological guidance recommended in its decision and in the annex to 2/CP.13 through the Platform



USEFUL LINKS

- Information on REDD under the SBSTA process
http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/4123.php
- REDD Web Platform (*where Parties, organizations and stakeholders share and exchange information on REDD*)
http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php
- Updates, documentation and information from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)
<http://unfccc.int/meetings/items/4381.php>





- 2. *Further affirms* that when undertaking activities referred to in paragraph 3 below, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:
 - (a) Actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
 - (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
 - (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities in actions referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5 below;
 - (e) Actions that are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions referred to in paragraph 3 below are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;[1]
 - (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
 - (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions;
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[1] [Taking into account the need for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependence on forests in most countries, reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Mother Earth Day.]

