Linkages between REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Review of objectives and country answers to pre-workshop questionnaires

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Overview

- Why should linkages between objectives be explored?
- What are the objectives of REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
- How can linkages between objectives be explored?
- Country experiences and insights into exploring synergies
- Conclusions
Opportunities for synergies with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – Why?

International support for exploring synergies

• CBD Decision XI/19:
  • helpful for countries to consider how activities under REDD+ and those aimed at achieving the Aichi Targets may complement one another, and to promote synergies between them

• The Rio Conventions: Action on Forests - a 2012 Joint publication by the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD:
  • confirms that policies of the three Conventions and their implementation complement each other
  • in all three Conventions Parties have agreed to promote, support and/or encourage the sustainable management of forests as well as the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forest

Opportunities for synergies with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – Why?

Potential opportunities for countries

• Many countries have ratified both the CBD and the UNFCCC

• Advancing goals under both conventions may be cost-effective (financially and in terms of land allocation)

• Coordination among different ministries (or departments within ministries) could enhance synergies, maximize benefits and minimize conflicts

• Collection, management and sharing of information could improve availability and use of datasets on forests, biodiversity and on other national priorities that influence land-use decisions
What are the objectives of REDD+?

REDD

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

Conservation of forest carbon stocks
Sustainable management of forests
Enhancement of forest carbon stocks
• Land-use change estimated to provide a net contribution of around 10% of global emissions (IPCC 2013)
• Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are preparing to address deforestation & forest degradation through REDD+
• REDD+ reduces emissions and increases removals of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, while promoting the sustainable development of the nations involved
• REDD+ is expected to provide incentives for countries to implement actions relating to five main activities
REDD+: the multiple functions of forests

REDD+ also has the potential to deliver additional social and environmental benefits – “multiple benefits of REDD+”
REDD+: potential social and environmental benefits and risks

Although REDD+ actions can yield multiple social and environmental benefits, there are also potential risks. Both benefits and risks depend on -

- the type of REDD+ activity being undertaken
- the approach to its implementation
- the type and condition of forests involved

Important role of spatial information in providing information on benefits and risks

In recognition of potential benefits and risks of REDD+, Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed to promote and support a set of “Cancun safeguards” for REDD+

- If these safeguards are respected and appropriately addressed, REDD+ should deliver multiple biodiversity and ecosystem service benefits with minimal risks
REDD+: Cancun safeguards

REDD+ safeguards identified in Appendix I of UNFCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1: Decision 1/CP.16

When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

(a) That 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 United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
(d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
(e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision 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;
(f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions
What are the objectives of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets?

• Form part of the CBD’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020

• Global targets, but actions to achieve them are primarily implemented at the national, sub-national and local level

• The objectives of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets vary (e.g. conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems; access to genetic resources and the benefits arising from their use)

• Strategic Plan is translated to national circumstances through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) developed by Parties to CBD
### High level overlap: Relevance of REDD+ activities for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Goal</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reducing deforestation and degradation</th>
<th>Sustainable management of forests</th>
<th>Conservation of forest carbon stocks</th>
<th>Afforestation and reforestation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Goal A:</strong> Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</td>
<td><strong>Target 2</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Goal B:</strong> Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</td>
<td><strong>Target 5</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</td>
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<td><strong>Target 7</strong></td>
<td>By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</td>
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<td><strong>Target 9</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Goal C:</strong> To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</td>
<td><strong>Target 11</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</td>
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<td><strong>Target 12</strong></td>
<td>By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Goal D:</strong> Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</td>
<td><strong>Target 14</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</td>
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<td><strong>Target 15</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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## Overlap in specific actions taken to achieve REDD+ and NBSAP objectives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Types of actions</th>
<th>Options for achieving REDD+ objectives</th>
<th>Options for achieving NBSAP objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Improving agricultural practice</td>
<td>Demand for agricultural products can be met on a smaller area of land, thus reducing pressure for conversion of forests, and potentially decreasing a driver of land use change</td>
<td>Can serve as a strategy for managing areas of agriculture sustainably in a manner which conserves biodiversity in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 7; however intensive farming often requires more irrigation, fertilisers and pesticides, which can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems downstream</td>
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<td>Sustainable agricultural intensification</td>
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<td>Protection measures</td>
<td>Creating or expanding forest areas which strongly limit human activity may help to protect and maintain biomass carbon stocks; however, adequate measures should be in place to ensure that deforestation pressure is not displaced to other forest areas, or non-forest areas that are of biodiversity importance</td>
<td>Strictly protected areas play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity, in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11</td>
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<td>Creating or expanding protected areas with strict levels of protection (cat I-IV IUCN)</td>
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<td>Reducing impacts of extractive use</td>
<td>Reduced impact logging techniques, such as reducing harvest intensity, careful management of access and removal routes and well-planned directional felling can reduce carbon emissions from logging.</td>
<td>Selectively logged forests provide habitat for forest species and in many cases are able to retain biodiversity even after severe and repeated logging. Ultimately, how the forest is managed under reduced impact logging will determine biodiversity impacts. Reduced impact logging has the potential to contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7.</td>
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<td>Reduced impact logging</td>
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*UNEP WCMC*
Country experiences and insights into exploring synergies: key observations about NBSAPs

13 country responses to questionnaire

• Most countries are currently revising or finalizing their NBSAPs
• Some NBSAPs make explicit reference to REDD+, some mention role of sustainable forestry and protected areas, and some refer to the role of forests in climate change mitigation
• On the whole there has been contact with REDD+ focal points in the development of revised NBSAPs (sometimes the CBD focal point and REDD+ focal point are the same person; sometimes CBD and REDD+ focal points work in the same ministry)
Country experiences and insights into exploring synergies: key observations about REDD+

• Most countries are currently developing their REDD+ strategy; some are in the process of finalizing it; some have finalized it

• Some REDD+ strategies make (or will make) explicit reference to the CBD or Aichi Biodiversity Targets; some strategies note the conservation of biodiversity

• For just over half of countries there has been some contact with CBD focal points in the development of the REDD+ strategy
Considerations when exploring synergies

- REDD+ implementation is *not expected to contribute to the achievement of all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*

- Action for REDD+ can help to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and vice versa, *in many but not all cases*

- REDD+ could sometimes hinder the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets if pressure on forest land were displaced across national boundaries or into other ecosystems, unless such ‘leakage’ is prevented
Conclusions

• Clear overlaps exist between REDD+ objectives and some Aichi Biodiversity Target objectives

• How actions under REDD+ and NBSAPs are planned and implemented is key to determining to what extent synergies are achieved.

• If the Cancun safeguards are respected and addressed, this will increase the ability of REDD+ to contribute towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

• Several countries have started exploring synergies, and their national strategy and policy documents reflect this (explicitly or implicitly); will explore this further over the course of the workshop.
Thank you!

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