



PLANNING FOR REDD+ BENEFITS BEYOND CARBON

Objectives:

- Help countries engaged in REDD+¹ planning to consider the potential for additional environmental and social benefits, such as soil erosion control, biodiversity conservation, provision of food, fuel and fibre, and support to local livelihoods, using an integrated land-use planning approach.
- Build capacity on the use of spatial analyses to help identify areas where REDD+ actions could best deliver non-carbon benefits.

¹ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation; “+” conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 13 (13.1, 13.2 and 13.3). This project contributes to climate change mitigation by supporting countries in the use of spatial analyses to plan for REDD+ actions that are both effective at reducing emissions and delivering additional environmental and social benefits (ensuring stakeholder support). These kinds of analyses also help countries to design interventions that strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (Target 13.1), to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation (Target 13.3), as well as supporting countries in integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (Target 13.2).
- SDG 15 (15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5 & 15.9). By focusing on the consideration of benefits beyond carbon in REDD+ planning (e.g. biodiversity conservation, freshwater provision, soil protection), this project helps countries to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, as well as in poverty reduction strategies and development processes (Target 15.9). It also helps countries to design REDD+ actions so that they contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, as well as of mountain ecosystems (Targets 15.1 and 15.4), and to promote the sustainable use of forests, halt deforestation (Target 15.2), reduce degradation of natural habitats and combat the loss of biodiversity (Target 15.5).

Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- Strategic Goal A (Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society). The conservation of biodiversity is one of the additional benefits that countries can achieve by designing REDD+ measures appropriately. The project therefore largely contributes to this strategic goal, and in particular to Target 2 .
- Strategic Goal B (Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use) and C (To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity). When planning for REDD+, the nature of deforestation pressures needs to be taken into account. The project helps countries to identify areas at high risk of deforestation that are also characterized by the presence of endangered species. This information allows to prioritize areas for REDD+ interventions and address pressures, including through sustainable management of forests (Targets 5 and 7), thus contributing to improvements in species conservation status (Target 12).
- **Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services** . By focusing on the additional benefits that REDD+ can achieve, the capacity building events help countries to identify the location of areas that provide essential ecosystem services (freshwater, soil erosion control, non-timber forest products, etc.), allowing them to be protected, sustainably managed and restored for the benefit of society (Targets 14 and 15).

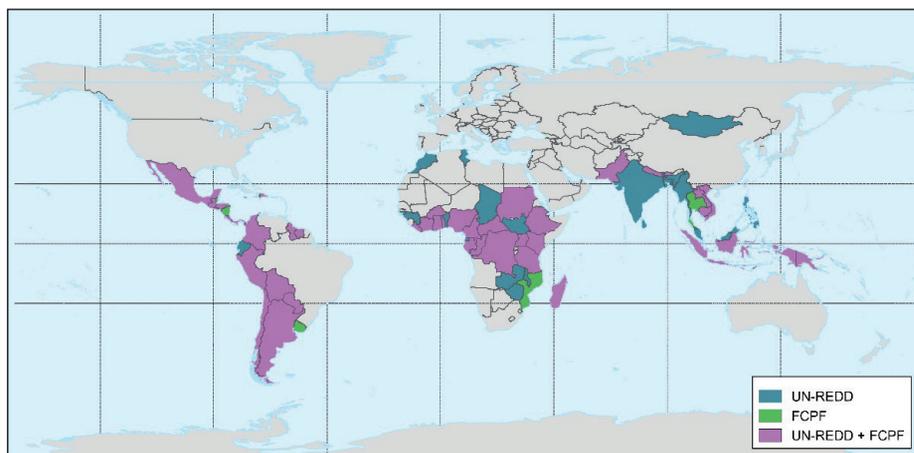
Project's results:

- The UN-REDD Programme currently supports 64 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Among these, 22 have published their National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan.
- All published and draft strategies currently available include achieving non-carbon benefits among their objectives or strategic goals, in several cases building directly upon the capacity-building and analytical work supported by UNEP-WCMC.
- The analyses of non-carbon benefits conducted in Cross River State, Nigeria, and Costa Rica were included in their REDD+ Strategy (not yet published) and Implementation Plan respectively, in both cases to help identify priority areas where REDD+ interventions could be implemented and achieve additional environmental and social benefits.
- In Viet Nam, an integrated land use planning approach has been used to develop REDD+ Action Plans at the provincial level.
- This consideration of non-carbon benefits in national and provincial level planning can help strengthen REDD+ implementation, as well as help countries to achieve SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, among other goals and objectives.



Above: Participants in training events on spatial analyses for REDD+ planning in Liberia and Viet Nam.

Below: Countries participating in REDD+ readiness, through membership of the UN-REDD Programme, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility or both. Due to wide participation among developing countries rich in biodiversity, initiatives to support integration of REDD+ planning with other goals have great potential for synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



Links to websites for further information

The work described in this brief has been undertaken as part of the UN-REDD Programme: www.un-redd.org
UN-REDD country resources on social and environmental benefits can be found at: bit.ly/mbs-redd

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