



International legal framework for REDD+

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Outline of presentation

- REDD+ negotiations under UNFCCC framework
- UNFCCC requires countries to develop four elements:
 1. National REDD+ strategy
 - should include a benefit-sharing system
 2. Reference level (baseline)
 3. Monitoring system
 4. Reporting on safeguards (environmental and social)
- REDD+ revenues: how will REDD+ be funded?
- Other international legal obligations




History of REDD+ negotiations under the UNFCCC

- Copenhagen, 2009 (COP 15)
 - **Copenhagen Accord:** recognized the crucial role of REDD+ in mitigating global emissions
- Cancun, 2010 (COP 16)
 - **Cancun Agreements:** adopted a framework for REDD+ which includes a list of environmental and social safeguards ('REDD+ Decision')
- Durban, SA, December 2011 (COP 17)
 - Negotiations will continue on how to develop an international REDD+ mechanism (eg how to finance REDD+).



UNFCCC framework for REDD+

- The REDD+ Decision from Cancun requires countries to develop:
 1. A national REDD+ strategy
 2. A national forest reference emission level
 3. A monitoring system (MRV)
 4. A system to report on how social and environmental safeguards are being met
- Each of these is explained below.



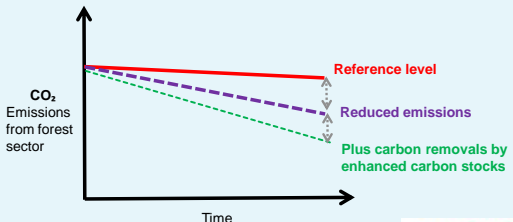
1. National REDD+ strategy

- A national REDD+ strategy must address
 - Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
 - Land tenure issues
 - Forest governance issues
 - Gender considerations
 - Safeguards (environmental and social)
- Set out how benefits (\$\$'s) will be shared
 - Through a benefit-sharing system
- Stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities must participate in the development and implementation of the REDD+ strategy




2(a): National forest reference level (baseline)


Payments for reductions below reference level






CO₂ Emissions from forest sector

Time







2(b): How will the baseline be set?






- Reference level (baseline) has two elements:
 1. Reference emission level (REL) from deforestation and forest degradation; and
 2. Forest reference level (RL) for carbon stocks
- Sub-national baselines are only allowed as an interim measure
 - E.g. Mongolia could set a reference level just for Selenge province, but this must be followed by a plan to establish a national baseline
 - Why? To avoid leakage
- Methodology to calculate baselines not yet agreed (SBSTA)


3: Monitoring system

- A national monitoring system must:
 1. measure, report and verify (MRV) how much carbon has been saved (avoided emissions) and sequestered (stored)
 2. Provide information on whether environmental and social safeguards are being met
- MRV for carbon should:
 - Combine remote-sensing (e.g. satellite imaging) of forest change data with ground-based monitoring to verify changes and calculate emissions factors
 - Provide estimates that are transparent, consistent and accurate
 - Enable the results to be reviewed.
- This is important because financial incentives will only be paid for demonstrated (actual) carbon reductions
 - REDD+ is 'results-based'




4. Safeguards



Environmental	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity protection • No conversion of natural forests to plantations • Leakage to be avoided (displacement of emissions to another area) • Risk of reversals to be limited (loss of permanence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples and local communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Respect for their rights – Full and effective participation • Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved forest law enforcement – Anti-corruption measures






REDD revenues

Funding for emission reductions?


- Under UNFCCC framework, not yet clear whether funding for emission reductions will be:
 - Fund-based (donors)
 - Market-based (carbon credits)
 - A combination of both
- Financing options will be negotiated at COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, December 2011
- Interim funding sources for REDD+:
 - Bilateral donors (e.g. Norway-Indonesia partnership)
 - Bilateral purchases of carbon credits from developed countries (e.g. Australia, California)
 - Voluntary carbon market

REDD+ revenues: benefit sharing

- Not yet clear, but likely to be paid directly to national governments
 - Payments only made after demonstrated emission reductions ('results-based')
- National government should establish a national benefit-sharing system with:
 - provincial/district/local governments
 - indigenous peoples and local communities
- Benefit-sharing system should:
 - aim to reduce poverty
 - be transparent and accountable




International treaties relevant to REDD+

Category	International treaty or declaration	Ratified / endorsed by Mongolia?
Human rights	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)	Yes
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Yes
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	Yes
Governance	United Nations Convention Against Corruption (2003)	Yes
Environmental	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)	Yes
	Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Yes

Thank you for
listening!

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