

GETTING READY FOR REDD+

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Focali - Forest, Climate and Livelihood research network - is a Swedish knowledge-based network aiming to contribute to the provision of relevant knowledge to Sida and other Swedish authorities for the effective use of forest operations to reach climate and poverty objectives. Focali also aims to increase the flow of relevant information between academia, government authorities, and civil society.

Focali is a part of the **Forest Initiative** which is a strategic partnership between Sida, the Swedish Forest Agency and the Swedish Forestry Association. Sida provides funding for Focali.

Focali currently consists of representatives from **University of Gothenburg**: Departments of Earth Sciences, Human and Economic Geography, Plant and Environmental Sciences, Economics, School of Global Studies; **Chalmers**: Division of Physical Resource Theory; **Linköping University**: Centre for Climate Science and Policy Research; **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences**: Department of Forest Ecology and Management, Swedbio. The Focali secretariat is placed at the Environmental Economics Unit at the **School of Business, Economics and Law**, University of Gothenburg.

This report is part of a series of publications within three themes that Focali is undertaking. Responsibility for its contents rests entirely with the author(s).

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The **Forest Initiative** is a strategic partnership between **Sida, the Swedish Forest Agency** and the **Swedish Forestry Association**. The overall objective of the Initiative is poverty reduction through promotion of sustainable management and administration of forest resources within Swedish development cooperation. Sida is the main donor of the Forest Initiative, which is based on the belief that forests play an important role for poor people and can contribute to economic and social development as well as a better environment.

This document has been financed through the Forest Initiative and does not necessarily reflect the view of the three main partners of the Initiative. Responsibility for its contents rests entirely with the author(s).

The Forest Initiative Partnership



Abbreviations

CAR	Central African Republic
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
COMIFAC	Commission of Central Africa Forests (Cameroon, the CAR, the Republic of Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Gabon, Sao-Tomé & Principe, Rwanda, Burundi)
COP	Conference of the Parties of the Convention
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (WB)
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU)
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFCI	Australia's International Forest Carbon Initiative
MDB	Multilateral Development Banks
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Official development assistance
R-PIN	Readiness Plan Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks
SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNCCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
WB	World Bank
WRI	World Resources Institute

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1. Introduction

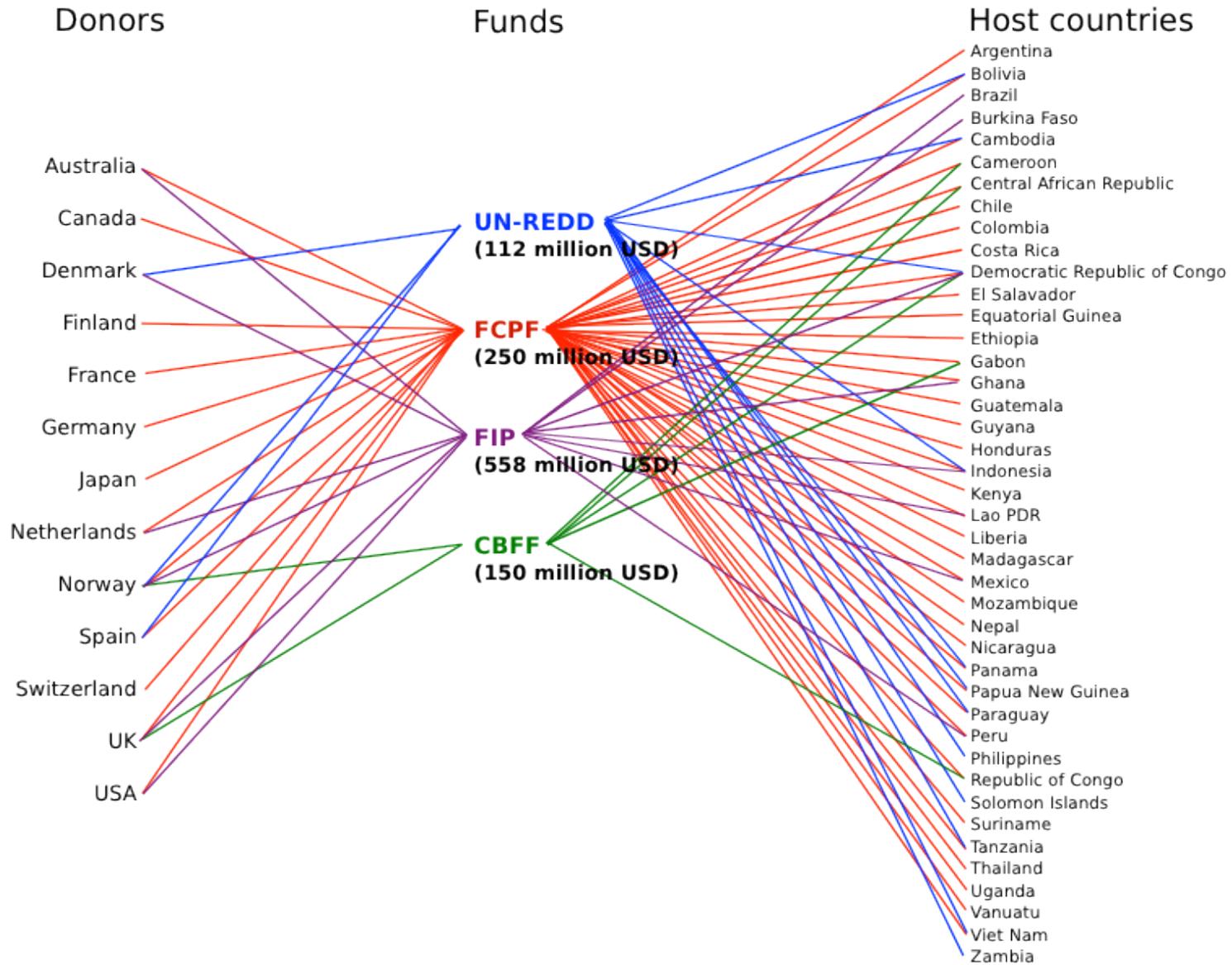
When we wrote our first report on the REDD pilot initiatives, less than two years ago, they were in the initial planning phase. REDD was a relatively new idea in which much hope was invested. To some extent, this is still true. REDD has been developed and expanded to REDD+, including not only deforestation and forest degradation, but also conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks. After COP15 in Copenhagen, the outlook for REDD+ was better than for most issues discussed in the negotiations. At COP16 in Cancún, Mexico REDD+ was one of the topics where agreement was reached and a decision made.

Meanwhile, a number of pilot initiatives continue to advance the preparatory work for REDD+, including technical development of systems for monitoring and verification, capacity building and stakeholder consultations. The REDD+ work is still in a stage of planning and consolidation. Both international organisations and countries hosting REDD+ initiatives are at the same time taking part in a learning process and in a process of informing the REDD+ developments. This report aims to provide an update of what has happened in the REDD+ arena in the last two years and to identify some key issues for the future.

As a point of departure for our analysis we use figure 1. The first version of the figure was published in the report *“Assessment of existing global financial initiatives and monitoring aspects of carbon sinks in forest ecosystems – The issue of REDD”* (Westholm et al., 2009). This new version contains a few modifications. Most of them are due to changes in the REDD+ pilot landscape:

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Tropical Forest Account is no longer a player on the REDD+ arena.
- The GEF has launched new SFM/REDD+ funding for its fifth replenishing cycle GEF-5, but it has not yet initiated activities.
- The Forest Investment Program has advanced its work since the first version of the figure and has now chosen eight pilot countries.
- On the donor side, a few changes can be observed, notably Denmark entering as a donor to the UN-REDD and the FIP.
- Spain has announced new donations to the UN-REDD Programme.
- The FIP has received new funding from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the US.
- The Congo Basin Forest Fund has reached a decision on support to a number of projects working in five countries.
- The UN-REDD has expanded support to three additional countries.

Figure 1 REDD+ fund flows¹



¹ Including selected REDD+ pilot initiatives and their active donors (including pledges for future contributions) and host countries (observing partners of UN-REDD not included). Sums may vary with exchange rates.

2 Update on multilateral initiatives

2.1 UN-REDD

The UN-REDD has grown since its inception two years ago. Three pilot countries, namely Cambodia, the Philippines and Solomon Islands, have been added to the nine initially selected countries. Further, there is a constantly growing number of observer countries. In October 2010 seventeen observers² had been approved by the Policy Board. In addition to Norway, Denmark and Spain have pledged contributions to the Programme Fund. As of 1 October 2010, over 112 million USD had been pledged and/or deposited to UN-REDD (the sum may vary with exchange rates) (UN-REDD, 2010a).

The pilot countries receive financial support for developing and implementing national REDD+ strategies. At the fifth Policy Board meeting in Washington in the beginning of November, 2010, additional funding for national programmes was approved (UN-REDD, 2010b). The original nine pilot countries and Cambodia now have approved national programmes, while the Philippines and the Solomon Islands have been allocated funding for developing initial national programmes. Support from the UN-REDD consists in direct support to design and implementation of national programmes and complementary global and regional activities. The observers do not receive direct financial support, but are invited to participate in workshops, networking and knowledge sharing.

At the fifth Policy Board meeting a five year programme strategy was adopted. It identified six interlinked work areas guiding the priorities of the support to national readiness processes. The six work areas are (UN-REDD, 2010c):

1. Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and monitoring;
2. National REDD+ governance;
3. Stakeholder engagement;
4. Multiple benefits;
5. Transparent, equitable and accountable management;
6. Sector transformation.

The UN-REDD aims to support countries in developing MRV systems. In collaboration with other institutions, work is being done to improve access to data and expertise on remote sensing in order to monitor carbon stocks (UN-REDD, 2010b). There is also ongoing work on MRV related to governance and multiple benefits. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the UN-REDD and Brazil's Space Agency to develop a land monitoring system using remote sensing (UN-REDD, 2010d). MRV and monitoring will also include developing transparent monitoring procedures for governance safeguards (UN-REDD, 2010c).

Support to national REDD+ governance structures will focus on country-led multi-stakeholder governance assessments, social standards including poverty and gender and land (and/or carbon) tenure (UN-REDD, 2010c). The stakeholder engagement is guided by the principles of representation, transparency, access to information, accountability and participation and inclusion (UN-REDD, 2010b). This has so far included several workshops on governance issues related to REDD+, outreach consultations and guidance and requirements on consultative processes in the development of

² Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Guyana, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Sudan

national strategies. The UN-REDD Programme aims to facilitate the development of guidelines for seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent³ from indigenous peoples (UN-REDD, 2010c). The work with multiple benefits of REDD, including both ecological and social benefits, consists in encouraging countries to integrate these benefits in REDD+ strategies and providing guidance on how this can be achieved. The Programme aims to provide tools for dealing with multiple benefit trade-offs in REDD+ planning (UN-REDD, 2010c). Consultations on national priorities, analyses of the relationship between carbon, biodiversity and ecosystem services and exploration of the role of payments for and valuation of ecosystem services are anticipated (UN-REDD, 2010b). In addition, the strategy includes making use of the potential synergies between REDD+ and Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (Dickson & Miles, 2010). Several workshops have been organised for discussing these issues. Supporting sector transformation will mostly consist of compilation, analysis and guidance on best practices (UN-REDD, 2010c).

The Programme is reaching a phase of implementation of the approved national programmes. In the countries with approved national programmes and allocated budgets, coordination activities, stakeholder consultations, capacity building on REDD+ and technical knowledge-sharing are being initialised (UN-REDD, 2010e). The Programme has organised workshops on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in several countries. In Indonesia, the UN-REDD is working with capacity building among government staff (UN-REDD, 2010f). In Tanzania the UN-REDD Programme supports the establishment of a national MRV system. In collaboration with a Finish-funded programme (National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment of Tanzania, NAFORMA), a national forest inventory is taking place in order to produce a land-cover map.

2.2 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

The World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is mobilising funds for its two mechanisms. Deposits and pledges to the FCPF fund, as of November 2010, amount to over 200 million USD dedicated to the Readiness Fund and almost 50 million USD dedicated to the Carbon Fund (Chassard, 2010). The Readiness Mechanism has eleven Donor Participants, namely Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the US. The Carbon Fund has five participants; the European Commission, Germany, Norway, The Nature Conservancy and the UK (World Bank, 2009). Additional funding to the Carbon Fund of about 100 million USD has been pledged for 2011 and 2012 by Germany, Norway, the UK, The European Commission and The Nature Conservancy.

The main task of the Readiness Mechanism is technical assistance to REDD countries, consisting of support to readiness preparation processes concerning safeguards, as well as coordination and feedback on Readiness Plan Idea Notes (R-PINs) (World Bank, 2009). This is performed by World Bank country teams. The countries are currently formulating Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) which will be reviewed by Technical Advisory Panels and the Participants Committee. Eventually they will be subject to a due diligence process conducted by the World Bank before agreements on readiness support of up to 3.6 million USD are signed. To some extent the process of formulating R-PPs is coordinated with the development of UN-REDD National Programme Documents, for the countries participating in both initiatives. However, while the UN-REDD focuses on quick-start readiness activities, the FCPF R-PPs aim at a broader framework for organising the readiness process.

³ Principle established in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (United Nations, 2008).

The Carbon Fund Mechanism is under formulation. It will officially start its operations in February 2011. The Carbon Fund is envisioned as a public-private partnership and a condition of the participation of two companies for the launch of the fund has been agreed upon.

A review of R-PPs by the World Resources Institute (WRI) shows that most countries have done well when it comes to identifying relevant stakeholders, as well as when it comes to considering REDD+ in the context of other sector policies, such as land-use planning and national development plans (Davis et al., 2010). However, many countries lack a grievance or dispute resolution mechanism and have not considered the capacity of the judicial or non-judicial system to resolve conflicts. Most countries have also failed to discuss any efforts to combat corruption in their R-PPs. An additional review of R-PPs and UN-REDD National Programme Documents conducted found that although most authors recognise the importance of strengthening forest governance they have not yet faced the scale of the challenge (Goers et al., 2010). The WRI authors call for “a more systematic analysis of forest governance policy and practice, including past attempts at reform” that would inform the design of a REDD+ strategy. The authors also observe a failure to analyse potential land-use trade-offs and propose ways to handle potentially difficult land-use decisions.

2.3 Forest Investment Program

The Forest Investment Program (FIP) is a program of the Strategic Climate Fund – one of the two funds within the Climate Investment Funds, which is a collaborative effort between the Multilateral Development Banks. Its administration is placed at the World Bank. By the end of September, 2010 pledges and deposits to the FIP amounted to 558 million USD (FIP, 2010).

In March 2010, the FIP Sub-Committee selected five pilot countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R. and Peru. In June the same year, an additional three countries were selected; Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mexico (Carrasco & Studart, 2010). The countries were chosen according to a number of criteria, namely a) potential to lead to significantly reduced emissions; b) potential to contribute to FIP objectives and principles and to initiate transformational change; c) potential of mainstreaming investments in ongoing policy framework and development activities; d) country preparedness and willingness to undertake REDD initiatives and address drivers of deforestation; and e) distribution among pilot countries across regions and biomes (FIP, 2009).

All eight pilot nations have designated country focal points and initiated planning for the FIP work. Money is channelled to the countries through their respective Multilateral Development Bank. In the beginning of 2011 scoping and joint missions will be organised in cooperation with stakeholder groups and interested partner institutions (FIP, 2010). Countries are expected to present Investment Strategies during the second half of 2011 or in 2012. After preparation of the Investment Strategies, the countries will receive funding for projects and programs after approval from the FIP Sub-Committee. However it has not yet been decided how funds will be distributed among the eight pilot countries.

2.4 Congo Basin Forest Fund

In 2009, fifteen projects had been selected for funding by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). The grants run on a two to three year basis and range from 170 000 to 2.3 million EUR. As opposed to the other multilateral REDD+ initiatives, funds are not channelled through governments but through non-governmental organisation (NGO) project developers. Almost half of the projects are managed by local or national NGOs, while the rest are managed by international NGOs, among others the Rainforest Alliance, Conservation International, FERN and WRI (CBFF, 2010). A majority of the projects work in a single country, but others work in up to five countries. Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the main focus areas, while projects are also being implemented in the Central African Republic, Republic of Congo and Gabon. Project activities range from introduction of new technologies that reduce pressure on forests, sustainable management of national parks and protected areas and development of community management to quantification of carbon stocks. Most projects have an explicit poverty reduction focus. In text box 1 a few examples of projects are presented.

Box 1. Examples of Congo Basin Forest Fund projects

- **Quantifying Carbon Stocks and Emissions in the Forests of the Congo Basin**

The World Resources Institute and its partners have been awarded 1.16 million EUR for a project in the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project will quantify emissions from deforestation and degradation using carbon accounting methodologies, support the development of national carbon accounting strategies in order for the countries to benefit from future forest carbon payments schemes, and build capacity of satellite observatories to monitor forest carbon (AfDB, 2010; Austin et al., 2010).

- **Phasing out Slash-and-Burn farming with Biochar**

A local environment and development NGO in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been awarded with a grant of 310 000 EUR to replace current slash-and-burn farming with an agricultural practice that involves bio-char. Bio-char is a carbon-rich product derived from biomass that can be tilled into agricultural lands to increase soil fertility and improve agricultural yields. The method holds potential for climate change mitigation and its applicability is studied in this pilot project (AfDB, 2010; Biochar Fund, 2010).

- **Alternatives to Mangrove Destruction for Women's Livelihoods in Central Africa**

The Organization for Environment and Sustainable Development has been granted 260 000 EUR for a project in Cameroon to reduce the rate of mangrove deforestation and secure the supply of ecosystem services. The traditional economic activities in the region are freshwater prawn fishing, finfish processing and marketing which depend on mangrove forests as a source of prawn juveniles and fuel wood for fish smoking. By offering training in less energy-demanding fish processing technologies and low-tech solar drying methods, fuel wood consumption is reduced drastically. Furthermore, the project includes prawn aquaculture research trials with local fisherwomen and will support the women to find new markets for their products (AfDB, 2010).

2.5 GEF-5 SFM/REDD+ strategy

For its fifth replenishing cycle, the Global Environment Facility adopted a funding envelope for sustainable forests management (SFM) and REDD+ - GEF SFM/REDD+. It is a continuation of the Tropical Forest Account launched in 2007, which financed SFM projects in the Amazonia, the Congo Basin and Papua New Guinea/Borneo. The GEF SFM/REDD+ however will include all countries with “forests of global importance” (GEF, 2010). The fund has 250 million USD at its disposal. The objectives of the mechanism are to (GEF, 2010):

- Reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services;
- Strengthen the enabling environment for REDD and LULUCF activities that enhance carbon sinks.

Resources will be allocated to projects and programs working with a combination of two or more of the focal areas biodiversity, climate change and land degradation financed through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (GEF, 2010). For every three dollars a country receives for programs within these areas, one dollar can be released from the SFM/REDD+ mechanism. This means that, in practice, the total investments in SFM/REDD+ projects may amount to 1 billion USD during the fifth replenishing cycle. The mechanism is intended to serve as an incentive for countries to combine funding for biodiversity, climate change and land degradation projects with SFM/REDD+ funding. Countries must invest a minimum of 2 million and a maximum of 30 million USD of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources in order to be eligible for SFM/REDD+ funding.

The agencies implementing the UN-REDD, FCPF and FIP, i.e. UNDP, UNEP, FAO, the World Bank and the Multilateral Development Banks are also GEF implementing agencies, meaning that partnerships between the initiatives are likely to be established (FIP, 2010).

2.6 Coordination

As the REDD+ readiness preparations proceed, the need for coordination between REDD+ institutions has grown. Especially for countries participating in all three initiatives (UN-REDD, FCPF and FIP) there are gains to be made from efficient coordination. In a review of FCPF R-PPs and UN-REDD National Programme Documents, Goers et al. (2010) request a more holistic picture of the connection and overlap between different REDD+ initiatives. The secretariat of the FIP, the FCPF and the UN-REDD are in the process of writing a joint paper identifying options for enhancing cooperation and coordination between the REDD+ institutions (FCPF et al., 2010). Representatives from the Amazon Fund, the Congo Basin Forest Fund, the GEF and the UN Forum on Forests have also been asked to comment on the paper. In addition, outcomes from the meetings of the REDD+ Partnership have also fed into the paper.

The paper describes the division of work between the agencies according to the three phases of REDD+, as illustrated in figure 2 below. The first phase; developing national strategies is the responsibility of the FCPF Readiness Fund and the UN-REDD together with the GEF, national governments and bilateral initiatives (FCPF et al., 2010). The implementation phase is the responsibility of the UN-REDD and the FIP together with the GEF, CBFF, the Amazon Fund, national governments, bilateral and multilateral initiatives and the private sector. The final phase; results-

based actions will be led by the FCPF Carbon Fund, national governments and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative.

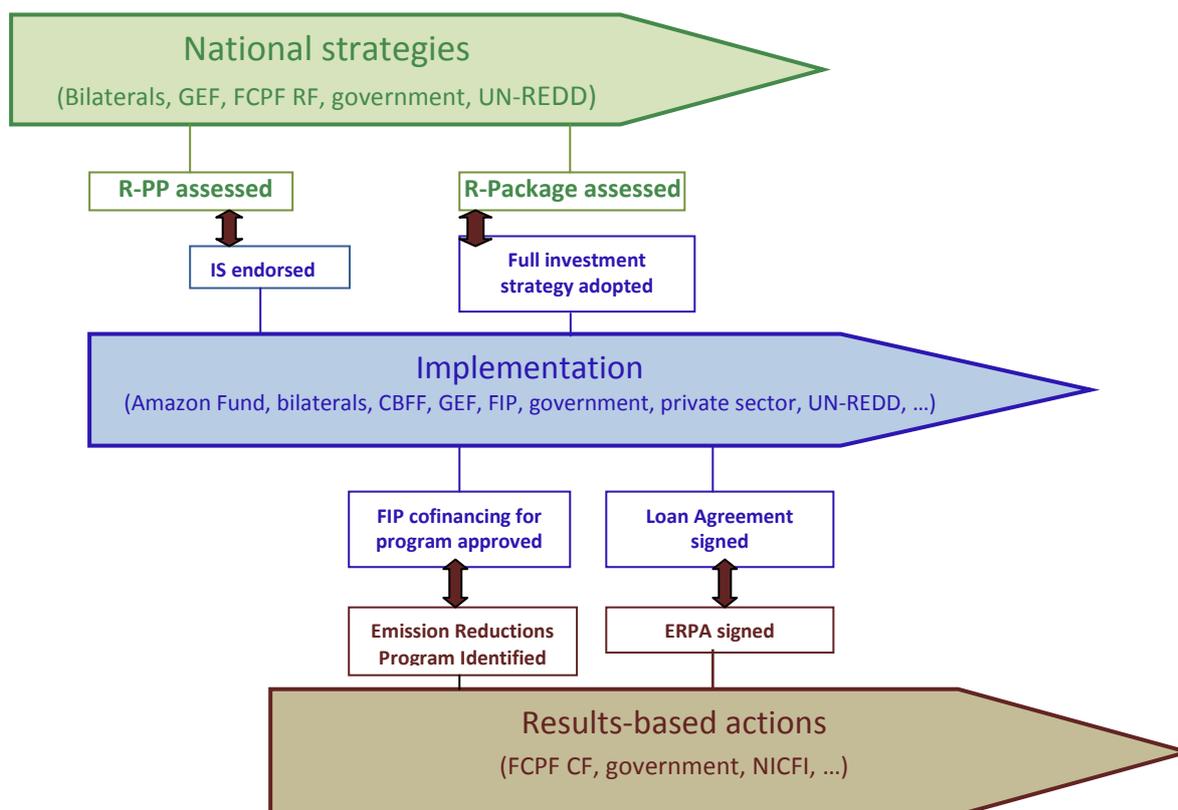


Figure 2 FCPF, FIP and UN-REDD Programme contributions and linkages to REDD+ (FCPF, et al., 2010).

The paper further proposes possibilities for countries to use a common template for submissions to the UN-REDD and the FCPF, the adoption of a common review process for the UN-REDD, the FCPF and possibly also the FIP, coordinated work processes for stakeholder involvement among other things, all with the view to streamline REDD+ efforts.

3 Updates on other developments

3.1 Bilateral initiatives

Numerous bilateral REDD+ initiatives have been initiated. Norway, one of the big donor actors in the REDD+ arena has signed agreements with Indonesia, Brazil (through the Amazon Fund), Guyana, Tanzania and Mexico. Indonesia and Brazil will receive up to 1 billion USD and Guyana up to 250 million USD for result based actions (Miljøverndepartementet, 2010). Tanzania will receive up to 83 million USD in support to national REDD efforts, pilot experiences and methodology development. Mexico will receive up to 15 million USD for developing MRV methodology.

The Australian International Forest Carbon Initiative (IFCI) will invest in REDD+ activities in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, including practical demonstration activities and forest carbon monitoring and accounting capacity development (Australia, 2010). Almost 70 million USD will be used for a REDD+ demonstration project in the Kalimantan peatlands and one project in Sumatra, as well as development of Indonesia's forest and climate policy. About 3 million USD have been committed to technical, scientific and analytical support to the development of a REDD+ policy in Papua New Guinea.

3.2 The REDD+ Partnership

The REDD+ Partnership, also called the Interim REDD+ Partnership, was initiated at a ministerial conference in Paris in March 2010 and later formalised at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference in May the same year. It aims at catalysing and scaling up REDD+ actions and finance. It is not meant to prejudge, but rather to support the UNFCCC process. The 2010 work program of the Partnership includes establishing a fully functioning database of REDD+ financing, actions and results; initiating a process for regularly identifying and analysing REDD+ financing gaps and overlaps, including recommendations for Ministers; proposing targeted effectiveness improvements to multilateral initiatives; and sharing lessons among REDD+ Partners (REDD+ Partnership, 2010a).

Membership of the Partnership is voluntary and open to all interested countries. The Partnership boasts pledges of over 4 billion USD for fast start REDD+ financing for the period 2010-2012 (REDD+ Partnership, 2010b). This is not additional funding, but the sum of all pledges that Partnership members have made to the UN-REDD, FCPF, FIP, GEF and other multilateral and bilateral REDD+ initiatives.

The Partnership has been criticised by environmental NGOs and indigenous organisations. The critique is twofold. Firstly, there is a fear that the Partnership will become a forum for advancing REDD+ negotiations outside the UNFCCC process, undermining the role of the UN. Martone (2010) of the Forest Peoples Programme warns that while some critical issues are still pending in the negotiations, a consensus view may be decided on within the REDD+ Partnership. He also points to the risk that the Partnership might be a precedent for similar partnerships on other key topics. Reyes (2010) at the Carbon Trade Watch sees the Partnership as a way to overpass the UNFCCC negotiations and fast track a REDD+ market.

Secondly, many NGOs and indigenous organisations criticise the Partnership for not adequately including civil society stakeholders. As a response to the call for comments on the work plan 34 NGOs denounced a “protracted lack of political will to ensure proper participation of civil society and indigenous peoples’ organisations” (Lang, 2010a). Critics say that the selection of NGOs invited to the Partnership meetings appears to be random, and that invitations to the meetings have reached them with very short notice (Lang, 2010a, 2010b). After failing to discuss stakeholder participation at a workshop in Tianjin in the beginning of October (Lang, 2010c; Vickers, 2010; Zwick, 2010), a paper on modalities for stakeholder participations was finally agreed upon in a meeting held in Nagoya, Japan, parallel to the COP 10 of the CDB (REDD+ Partnership, 2010c).

4 Discussion

The REDD+ pilot initiatives are still working with the dual role of trying to feed into the REDD+ negotiations and at the same time awaiting their outcome. However, it seems that to some extent the initiatives have grown less dependent on the UNFCCC negotiations. An agreement on REDD+ was signed in Cancún, but many details still remain to be sorted. At the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action in Bonn in August 2010, seemingly new differences in opinion emerged (FIELD, 2010). For example, there was a proposal to remove the words ‘emissions from’ in REDD+ and to include text banning the use of REDD+ as an offset mechanism. The reluctance by some parties to allow for REDD+ to be used as a market mechanism stems from the fear that this may lead to developed countries and/or companies buying themselves free from emission reductions commitments, thus shifting the burden for emission reductions to the developing countries through

the backdoor. This is why progress on REDD+ issues in the negotiations must be accompanied by progress on other issues, such as mitigation targets in developed countries.

However, REDD+ pilot initiatives are advancing, independently of the negotiations, and it is likely that they will continue to do so. Both donors and host countries are committed to launching REDD+. In the long run, decisions on funding mechanisms may of course affect the amount of funding made available, and the efforts stakeholders are prepared to put into the process. Nonetheless, the REDD+ Partnership seems to be an example of a forum aiming to advance the work with REDD+ regardless of the long-term outcome of the UNFCCC agreement. Whether this development is good or bad depends on the beholder. Civil society and other stakeholder representatives fear that advancing the process outside of the UNFCCC framework may compromise their possibilities of influencing it.

Another example of the global interest in REDD+ and the ambition to realise it is the GEF SFM/REDD+ funding mechanism. It aims to steer funding for biodiversity, climate change and land degradation projects towards SFM/REDD+ projects. This is a signal of the hopes put on REDD+. The same can be said about the funding announced by the REDD+ Partnership. It is difficult to know to what extent this funding is additional and new, and to what extent it consists of Official Development Assistance (ODA) that has been redirected or just projects relabelled. Although it can be seen as positive that there is a commitment to REDD+ and large sums of money will be needed to achieve the kind of institutional change and transformation necessary to succeed. However, there is an urgent need for a discussion on the trade-off between REDD+ and other issues that might be overlooked when REDD+ is on the top of the priority list for environmental ODA.

Another risk with the rapid advancement of REDD+ is that it may lead to problems and obstacles being disregarded or underestimated. For example, the FIP Expert Group may have overestimated the potential for efficiently implementing REDD+ in Burkina Faso in terms of governance (Westholm, 2010). Burkina Faso is commended for its long-term experience working with environmental and natural resource management issues (Carrasco & Studart, 2010). However, reports of corruption and embezzlement suggest that forest management is not working as smoothly as could be hoped for (Westholm & Kokko, forthcoming). Also for the Democratic Republic of Congo the Expert Group may have been overly optimistic. In its report to the FIP Sub-Committee, the Expert Group deems the potential for REDD+ in DRC to be high since there is a “full political commitment” (FIP Expert Group, 2010). However, the report seems to disregard the overall political situation of the country.

Regardless of the risks related to launching REDD+ efforts in countries that are instable or ill prepared, the ongoing REDD+ pilot activities will give those countries that participate an advantage compared to those that do not. The global REDD+ pilot initiatives deal with a total of 42 countries. An additional six countries hold observer status to the UN-REDD. When REDD+ is finally launched the countries that have not participated in these pilot initiatives in any way will lag behind in their readiness and preparedness to implement REDD+ activities. These inequalities in preparation open up for international leakage between the countries that have built up a capacity for enforcement and monitoring and the countries that have not yet started this work.

5 Conclusions

REDD+ preparations are being conducted globally. The pilot initiatives are on the way to preparing countries for REDD+ and taking the first steps towards building capacity and institutions. The preparatory process is advancing rapidly and additional funding pledges continue to be made.

Our key findings are summed up in the following points:

- The UN-REDD, the FCPF and the FIP are making efforts to prepare countries for REDD+ mainly through support to strategy formulation and capacity building.
- It is important that cooperation between REDD+ initiatives continues and is further developed in order to avoid duplication of efforts and overburdening of pilot countries with administrative requirements.
- REDD+ is a reality and indications are that it will proceed regardless of the future outcomes of the UNFCCC negotiations. This work is conducted by the existing global initiatives and urged on by the members of the REDD+ Partnership. There are however fears that the accelerated process might come to suffer from a democratic deficit, insufficient safeguards and rushed activities that are not carefully thought through.
- It is important to make sure that the accelerating REDD+ process does not steal the limelight entirely and steer funding away from other important issues. Large sums of money are being channelled to tropical countries through various REDD+ initiatives. However, this money is not fully additional and there is a need to bring attention to the possible funding trade-offs between REDD+ and other causes.
- Further, it is important to keep a level head and not be too enthusiastic in one's expectations of what REDD+ can actually achieve. The rapid advancement in the REDD+ arena may have led to investors overlooking obstacles and risks in pilot countries.
- There is a risk that while some countries advance in REDD+ preparations others are left behind. This risks causing international leakage and inequality.

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Appendix: REDD+ initiatives and countries

Country	UN-REDD	FCPF	FIP	CBFF	REDD+ Partnership
Hosts					
Angola					
Argentina	observer				
Bangladesh	observer				
Belize					
Bhutan	observer				
Bolivia					
Brazil					
Burkina Faso					
Burundi					
Cambodia					
Cameroon					
Central African Republic	observer				
Chad					
Chile					
China					
Colombia	observer				
Costa Rica	observer				
Dominica					
Dominican Republic					
DRC					
Ecuador	observer				
El Salvador					
Equatorial Guinea					
Ethiopia					
Fiji Islands					
Gabon	observer				
Ghana					
Guatemala	observer				
Guyana	observer				
Honduras					
India					
Indonesia					
Kenya	observer				
Lao PDR					
Liberia					
Madagascar					
Malaysia					
Mali					
Mexico	observer				
Mozambique					
Nepal	observer				
Nicaragua					

Nigeria	observer				
Pakistan					
Panama					
Papua New Guinea					
Paraguay					
Peru					
Philippines					
Republic of Congo	observer				
Rwanda					
Sao Tomé and Príncipe					
Sierra Leone					
Singapore					
Solomon Islands					
South Africa					
Sri Lanka	observer				
Sudan	observer				
Suriname					
Tanzania					
Thailand					
Togo					
Uganda					
Vanuatu					
Viet Nam					
Zambia					
Donors/annex I countries					
Australia					
Belgium					
Canada					
Denmark					
European Commission					
Finland					
France					
Germany					
Italy					
Japan					
Netherlands					
Norway					
Slovenia					
South Korea					
Spain					
Sweden					
Switzerland					
United Kingdom					
United States					

The Forest Initiative Partnership

