

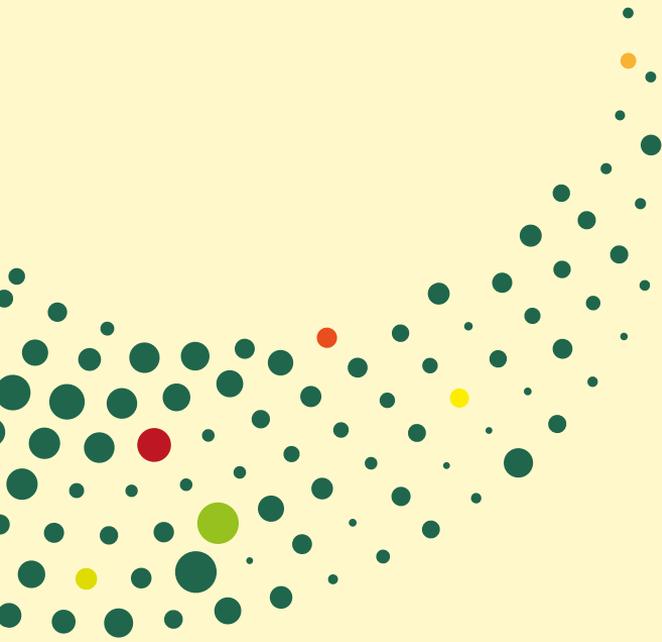


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

From reference levels
to results reporting:
**REDD+ under
the UNFCCC**

POLICY BRIEF

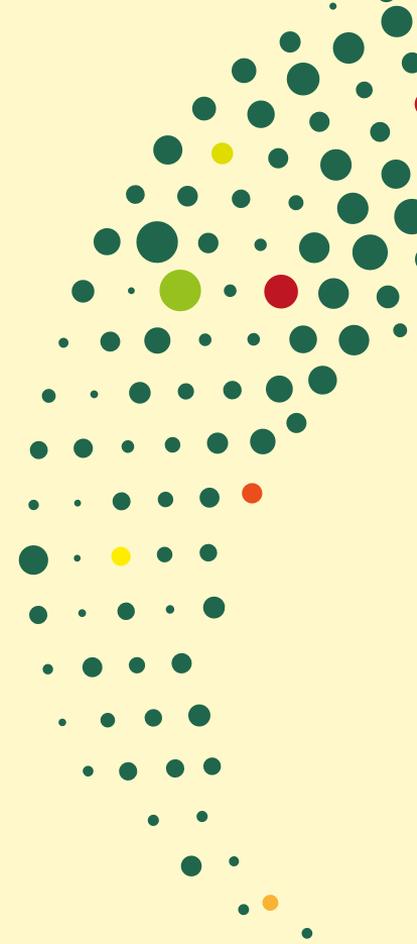
The 2016 Paris Agreement on climate change has sent a strong political signal to mobilize action in the forest sector by encouraging all countries to take actions to implement and support “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks” (REDD+). This policy brief includes an update on developments related to the critically important measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ activities.

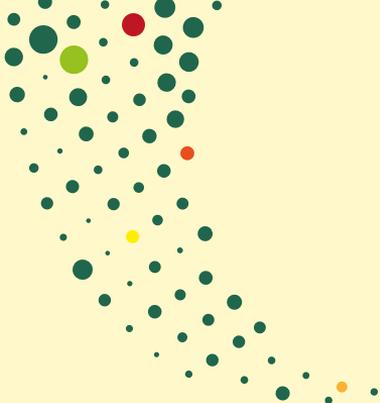


Highlights of developments related to REDD+ reference levels and results reporting

Some 25 countries have submitted Forest Reference (Emission) Levels (FREL/FRLs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for technical assessment as of early 2017. The UNFCCC has published nine technical assessment reports of FREL/FRLs; a further 17 technical assessments are ongoing.

Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Malaysia have gone a step further and reported REDD+ results to the UNFCCC, totalling over three billion tCO₂e in reductions, mostly from Brazil. Simultaneously, several other countries are pursuing results-based financing through the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is making progress towards a first call for proposals for REDD+ results-based payments.





2015/2016*
COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, MALAYSIA



2015/2016*
BRAZIL (AMAZON)

2014/2015*
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO,
COSTA RICA, ETHIOPIA,
VIET NAM, ZAMBIA



2014/2015*
BRAZIL (AMAZON), COLOMBIA,
ECUADOR, GUYANA, MALAYSIA,
MEXICO, CHILE, INDONESIA,
PARAGUAY, PERU

2017*
BRAZIL (CERRADO), CAMBODIA,
IVORY COAST, GHANA,
HONDURAS, MADAGASCAR,
NEPAL, PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, UGANDA

FIGURE 1

Country progress at a glance in REDD+ reference levels and results reporting (early 2017.)

Note: TA: technical assessment - * Date of submission

Measurement, reporting and verification of REDD+

Countries can voluntarily submit FREL/FRLs to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. Once that assessment is complete, countries can then report REDD+ results in an annex to their Biennial Update Report (BUR) for technical analysis. UNFCCC decisions suggest countries should follow these steps if they wish to access results based payments/finance¹.

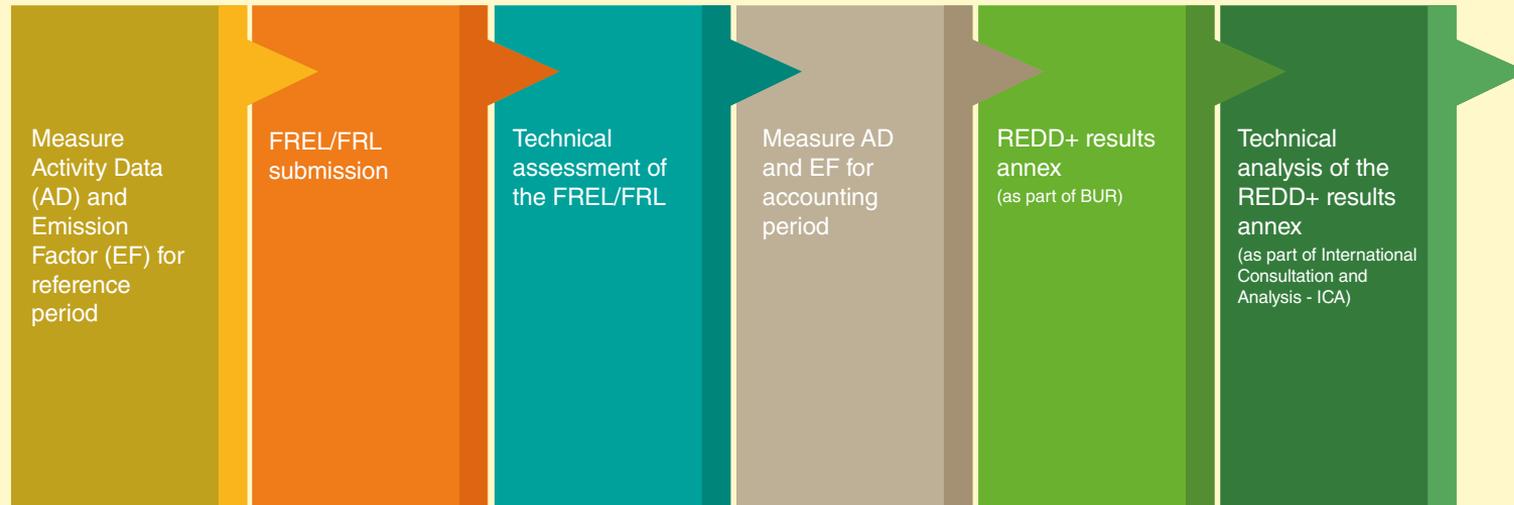


FIGURE 2
Overview of MRV for REDD+.

¹ In particular, regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on land)

Key Messages

- The Paris Agreement on climate change creates a new context for mitigation as REDD+ matures from capacity development to producing results.
- Countries have made progress on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ activities.
- In many countries, unprecedented transparency of countries' forest-sector data and information has resulted from the MRV of REDD+ as, for the first time, data at this level of detail have been reported internationally and undergone a third-party verification.
- A country's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) should provide data and information for the MRV of REDD+, the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, and NDC progress reporting, to enhance sustainability and consistency.
- Experience to date in improving the NFMS, and the development of FREL/FRLs, has demonstrated that such systems can provide needed evidence for policymakers to make decisions that support the implementation of strategies for sustainable development, including for the NDCs.
- Continued experience with FREL/FRLs, REDD+ results reporting, and the associated technical assessment and analysis may provide useful lessons in drawing up the Paris Agreement's transparency framework.
- More clarity is needed concerning how REDD+ results can trigger results-based payments/finance through their FREL/FRLs and REDD+ results annexes as submitted to the UNFCCC.

FAO's role

FAO will continue to support capacity development at the country level for FREL/FRLs, REDD+ results reporting, and NFMS that can underpin NDC progress reporting. FAO also supports countries' national contributions to climate change mitigation through REDD+ when these are measured, reported and verified with the necessary institutional arrangements in place.

The UN-REDD programme puts NFMS, FREL/FRLs and REDD+ results reporting at the centre of its capacity-development objectives while enhancing support to countries moving towards implementing REDD+ actions. This includes support to develop FREL/FRLs and submit REDD+ results reports, as well as support for improved national GHG inventories, from FREL/FRLs and REDD+ results reporting.

To contribute to these diverse contexts, FAO's capacity development in this regard is built on a set of core elements (Figure 3).

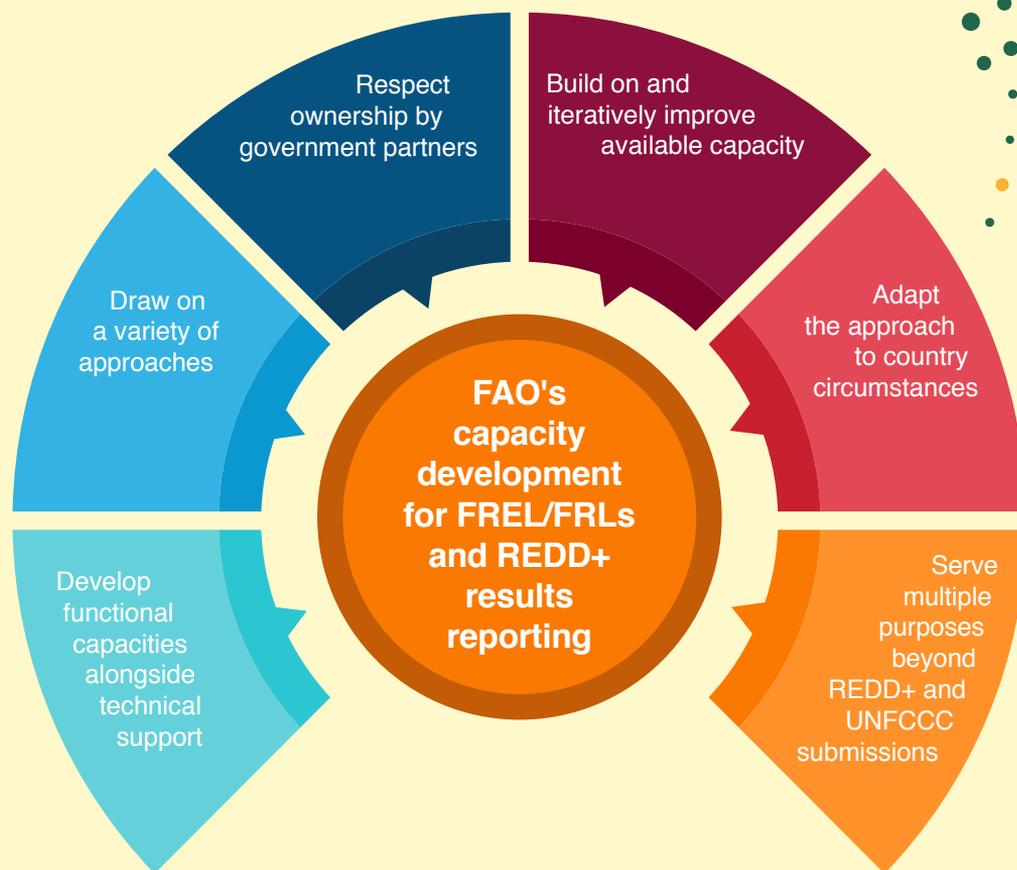


FIGURE 3

Key elements of FAO's capacity development approach for FREL/FRLs and REDD+ results reporting.



For more information, please visit the FAO REDD+ webpage:
www.fao.org/redd