



# Information Note on Roadmap for Development of the UN-REDD Programme 2016- 2020 Strategy

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME TWELFTH  
POLICY BOARD MEETING

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## **Introduction**

This Information Note and draft Roadmap for engaging the Policy Board and other stakeholders in the development of UN-REDD Programme Strategy for 2016 – 2020 will be introduced during an information session prior to the start of PB12 and as a note for agenda item 8 on the development of the Strategy.

## **Background**

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the three agencies that established the UN-REDD Programme expires on 31 December 2015, with operational closure by 31 December 2017 and financial closure by 31 December 2018. The current UN-REDD Programme Strategy covers the period of 2011-2015. It has served as a useful guide for the Programme during a period of significant uncertainty and intensive learning about the main obstacles and impediments to the “readiness phase” of REDD+. The Programme was set up to serve the needs of partner countries to develop and test the REDD+ mechanism. Among other accomplishments, the Programme’s strength can be measured in the growth of the number of country partnerships. However, the strategic landscape ahead of the Programme and for REDD+ is vastly different today than it was when the current five-year Programme strategy was finalized at PB5 in November 2010.

When the UN-REDD Programme was established in 2008 there was a high level of expectation that a global climate regime would be developed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009. Although a comprehensive global regime did not emerge, slow and steady progress has been made on REDD+ in the years since. Of particular note is the most recent decision taken at COP19 in 2013 to establish an agreed upon international system for “results-based actions” leading to “results-based payments” for REDD+. The “Warsaw Framework” for REDD+, as it has come to be referred to, is a significant milestone in the evolution of REDD+. It establishes a “rulebook” for how countries will ensure REDD+ results are measured, reported and verified, including setting clear baselines for determining those results that can receive results-based payments. Additional work will be done on safeguards at the upcoming Lima COP.

In addition to the strong guidance provided by the Warsaw Framework, the UN-REDD Programme is now in a position to build upon its own lessons-learned since its inception, including through the recent external evaluation of the Programme. The recently complete comprehensive Programme evaluation provides a timely and useful lens through which the UN-REDD Programme can assess strengths, address weaknesses, and chart the path forward.

## **Overview of the Roadmap**

Given the impending expiration of the MOU between the three agencies, the strategic importance of the Warsaw Framework, the gathering of lessons-learned through the external evaluation, as well as the overarching evolution of REDD+; it is an auspicious time to embark on the development of the UN-REDD Programme Strategy for the next five year period – 2016-2020. The UN-REDD Programme Strategy for 2016 – 2020 must be able to capitalize on the strategic opportunities presented by the Warsaw Framework, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in September of 2014, and the upcoming UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties (COP) in Lima in 2014 and Paris in 2015. Furthermore, a credible strategy must be designed through a robust and inclusive consultative process. This process should engage not only the stakeholders who are currently represented on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board (PB), but the broader REDD+ stakeholder community as well.

The UN-REDD Programme has a unique opportunity to benefit from the current global momentum on forests and to and to strengthen its role as a key partner to support climate change mitigation from developing countries through the implementation of REDD+. As such, the three UN Agencies that established the UN-REDD Programme intend to propose a strategy for the next five year period that will take full advantage of this opportunity and apply the important lessons that have been learned over the first seven years of the Programme's existence. The timeline and approach below provides a detailed draft roadmap for the development of the UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategy.

### **Proposed Timeline & Approach**

August 2014: Following feedback received at PB12 in July, the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat will coordinate informal consultations with representatives of key stakeholder groups, including current members of the Policy Board as well as other stakeholders, regarding their views on the strategic direction and approach that should be taken in the 2016–2020 UN-REDD Programme Strategy.

September 2014: A discussion paper on the UN-REDD Programme Strategy for 2016-2020 will be produced by the UN agencies and the Programme Secretariat and made available in mid-September. The discussion paper will provide the broad elements of the emerging strategy based on informal stakeholder consultations. The strategy discussion paper will be made available for online stakeholder consultation in mid-end September. The online consultation process will create a central location for the UN-REDD Programme stakeholder community to provide input on the issues raised in the discussion paper.

At the close of the online consultation process, work will begin immediately on the production of a draft UN-REDD Programme 2016 – 2020 Strategy. The draft strategy document will be released at the end of September as the foundation for continuing stakeholder consultation. Furthermore the leadership of the UN-REDD Programme will take advantage of the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit to engage in high-level consultations with current and potential donors and partner countries on the draft strategy.

October 2014: Robust, in-person regional consultation sessions will be organized by the Secretariat with the goal of incorporating input from key stakeholders from Latin America, Africa, and Asia into the draft Programme strategy. These consultation sessions will include stakeholders who are members of the Policy Board as well as those who are not. The draft strategy will be revised based on the regional consultations as well as ongoing stakeholder engagement. A revised version of the draft Programme strategy will be released at the end of October ahead of PB13.

November 2014 (PB13): The Policy Board will discuss the revised draft UN-REDD Programme strategy for 2016–2020.

December 2014 – May 2015: Finalize UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategy and development of a rigorous results-based monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact of the Programme during the 2016-2020 period.