UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Criteria for Prioritizing Funding for New National Programmes

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SIXTH POLICY BOARD MEETING

21-22 March 2011
Da Lat, Viet Nam

Background

The UN-REDD Programme under its first phase is supporting nine 'Quick-Start' Pilot national Programmes in nine countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin-America and the Caribbean regions. As per the UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015, endorsed by the Policy Board, the Programme aims to support 20 additional initial readiness National Programmes that are envisaged as funds become available.

At the fifth meeting, the Board recognized the need to have a set of selection criteria for prioritizing funding for new National Programmes noting that while there was increasing demand for support, funding constraints were also to be expected. These criteria are to be applied for initial REDD+ readiness support to countries, as described in the UN-REDD Programme Strategy[1].

The Board decided to form a small working group that was tasked with proposing selection criteria for prioritization of funding allocations for consideration by the Board at its sixth meeting. It was agreed that the working group will be composed of representatives of each member group of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, as follows: UN-REDD Programme Countries – Argentina and Zambia; Donor Countries – Denmark; Civil Society – Global Witness (CSO-Developed Countries); Indigenous Peoples – Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) (IP-Africa); UN Agencies - UNDP.

The working group was facilitated by the Secretariat. The group held two teleconferences and discussed the objective of establishing criteria, draft criteria and modalities of support, and lessons learnt from other initiatives.

This guidance note is the product of the working group discussion and is presented to the Policy Board for decision at its sixth meeting.

Objective

To define criteria and the process of how to apply them in order to prioritize **the allocation of future resources for new National Programmes to accepted partner countries** of the UN-REDD Programme.

Draft criteria

Considering the need to have a simplified and objective system for country selection the following draft criteria are proposed for the consideration by the Policy Board:

- Being a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme: Countries seeking support from the UN-REDD Programme should first be accepted as partner countries of UN-REDD Programme. Priority for access to funding will be given based on the order that countries joined the Programme;
- Achieving regional balance: The Programme will seek to have comparable investments (meaning similar comparative amounts invested) in the following three regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Enhanced coordination with other initiatives: The UN-REDD Programme seeks to maximize the impact of its interventions by a) promoting equitable access to REDD+ readiness support, prioritizing countries that currently have not received support that is reported on the Interim REDD+ Partnership database (or subsequently to the UNFCCC); and b) adding value and maximizing coordination with other REDD+ bilateral and multilateral initiatives;
- Ability of UN agencies to assist the country:
  The UN-REDD Programme has been designed within the context of the UN Development Group's country programming principles – including consistency with the UNDAF--strategic

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[1] The UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015(www.un-redd.org)

programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities-- and the concept of "delivering as one UN". Priority will be given to partner countries where the relevant UN partner Agencies can provide the required support for REDD+ activities.

- Ability to demonstrate progress results in a short term based on REDD+ early action:

  As a pilot initiative the UN-REDD Programme will prioritize support in countries where it is possible to quickly advance and make progress in REDD+ readiness, seeking to use the experiences and lessons learned into further developing of the REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC.

  Consideration would be given to countries that can contribute to the learning objective of the UN-REDD Programme, by selecting countries that could:

  (i) provide an opportunity to focus on innovative and/or advanced concepts of MRV and monitoring, biodiversity protection, governance and social impacts; (ii) provide regionally important leadership in addressing REDD+ or in technical areas relevant to readiness; or (iii) provide an opportunity to demonstrate approaches that are inclusive and focus on REDD+ in combination with poverty reduction, livelihood enhancement, governance reforms and/or land tenure rights, including alternative forest sector or other governance arrangements.

- REDD+ potential

  As well as demonstrating rapid results, the UN-REDD Programme is committed to make a contribution to global climate change mitigation through REDD+. The REDD+ potential of countries is therefore an important consideration. Priority would be given to countries with the following characteristics: (i) substantial forest area and forest carbon stocks; and (ii) relevance of the forests in the country's economy, including relevance for poverty reduction, the livelihoods of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers, and clarification of land tenure regimes.

- Commitment to applying the principles of the UN-REDD Programme[2], including:

  o Demonstrated commitment to the human-rights based approach to development
  o UN-REDD operational guidance, such as for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities
  o UN-REDD social and environmental principles and criteria, including the risk identification and mitigation tool
  o Consistency with the overall REDD+ framework emerging from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, in particular the REDD+ safeguards in Annex I of UNFCCC COP16 Decision 1/CP.16 and CBD COP10 Decision X/33.

Size of the proposals

The aim UN-REDD Programme is to assist developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies, therefore it is expected that proposals have a minimum threshold of 1 million $USD. The maximum threshold should be 4 million $USD[3].

Modalities of country selection

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[2] To be assessed through a rapid application of the UN-REDD Programme's "Risk Assessment Tool for Social Principles", see the UN-REDD Strategy 2011-2015 for more details
[3] If sufficiently justified, the Policy Board could consider proposals beyond the threshold

The working group proposes to the Policy Board that a selection committee be established. The selection committee should be representative of all the constituencies of the Policy Board, and could have the same membership as the working group. At every Policy Board meeting the selection committee will convene and propose to the Board selected countries to be invited to prepare proposals based on:

1. Available resources for new national programmes
2. Selection criteria

Annex 1

Existing pilot and other partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme

Countries receiving support to National Programmes:

Nine pilot countries:
- Bolivia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Indonesia
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Tanzania
- Viet Nam
- Zambia

New countries receiving support for National Programmes:
- Cambodia
- the Philippines
- Solomon Islands

Other Partner Countries:
- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- Central African Republic
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Gabon
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Sri Lanka and Sudan

TOTAL 29 partner countries

Annex 2

Funding status of existing pilot and other partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme

Funded partner countries		Unfunded partner countries	
Pilot partner countries	**Expression of interest**		**Expression of interest**
Bolivia	25 September 2008	Argentina	8 September 2009
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	18 September 2008	Bangladesh	24 March 2010
Indonesia	1 July 2008	Bhutan	9 April 2010
Panama	8 September 2008	Central African Republic	29 April 2010
Papua New Guinea	9 September 2008	Colombia	9 April 2010
Paraguay	11 August 2008	Costa Rica	3 December 2009
Tanzania	22 September 2008	Ecuador	15 June 2009
Viet Nam	17 November 2008	Gabon	9 July 2010
Zambia	5 August 2008	Guatemala	12 March 2010
New partner countries receiving support		Guyana	6 September 2010
Cambodia	10 August 2009	Kenya	12 January 2010
The Philippines	22 January 2010	Mexico	15 December 2009
Solomon Islands	13 November 2009	Nepal	14 October 2009
		Nigeria	3 November 2009
		Republic of Congo	11 February 2009
		Sri Lanka	7 September 2009
		Sudan	23 December 2009