

International technical seminar

Toward developing a framework of global REDD+ – Scaling up demonstration activities and integrating players' roles –

February 7 – 8, 2012 Tokyo, Japan

1. The Seminar met its target of sharing information, experiences and challenges from various countries; and explored ideas for scaling up, effective and efficient implementation of REDD+, in collaboration with current and emerging players.
2. Strong political commitment is key for countries preparing for REDD+. Some countries are seeking further support and commitment from policy makers to accelerate their efforts.
3. A significant improvement in the quality of information available about forests has been noticed since countries began implementing their REDD+ readiness strategies. During the Seminar, it was noted that:
 - (a) Some innovative methods and promising research are being developed, such as the correlation of canopy volume and standing volume currently being carried out in PNG, for carbon estimation in inaccessible forest areas ;
 - (b) Remote sensing will be important for regional, as well as at national and sub-national scale monitoring.
4. The integration of forest cover information with other information, such as soil, biodiversity, land and forest tenure, socio-economic, infrastructure, etc.; is now necessary; enhancing data collection efforts are fundamental.
5. Credibility is a key element for the success of REDD+. Various tropical forest countries are improving the transparency and accessibility of information regarding their forest resources, forest governance, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation , and how they are being addressed.
6. REDD+ readiness is contributing to sustainable forest management and sustainable development, e.g: through (a) better forest inventories and assessments; (b) improved forest monitoring tools; (c) improved policy, legal and institutional frameworks for forest conservation and sustainable use; (d) new, freshly available funding for forest related activities; (e) increased interest of various players on forest issues; and (f) further development of payment of environmental services from forest ecosystems.
7. Countries are aware of the importance of participation and are making efforts to incorporate participatory processes into their readiness activities.

8. Lessons learned and good examples, including better donor coordination mechanisms, on REDD+ readiness are being accumulated and can be shared among countries.
9. Some organizations are developing guidance and criteria for jurisdictional REDD+ programs to enable crediting at multiple scales, as a potential solution to manage comparability of diversified demonstration and pilot activities in technically feasible manner.
10. Nested systems can enable scaling up from project level to national and sub-national levels.
11. MRV methodologies should be harmonized between projects and national and sub-national levels. Participatory monitoring is also important at national/sub-national levels.

Important challenges identified:

12. Sub-national approaches look feasible and practical. However, how to develop the mechanism, including MRV, for scaling up from sub-national level to national level, and vice versa, is still a challenge. It was recognized that development of national guidelines is needed.
13. More research is needed to clearly demonstrate carbon additionality in production forests that are already under sustainable forest management.
14. Questions whether REDD+ can compete with other land uses remain and require further research.
15. Clear carbon ownership rights and definition of mechanisms for benefit sharing (performance-based, results-based or participation-based) are basic requirements for the successful implementation of REDD+.
16. How REDD+ can benefit small landholders and small country territories (such as small island states) needs further information.
17. Capacity building at regional, government, local and community level is important. In particular, training of forest experts both in developed and developing countries, using technical instruction material such as the REDD Cook Book and Ecosystems Carbon Toolkit, are important to promote technical work on REDD+.
18. Local people, forest managers and others are asking when the benefits of REDD+ will be realized. Managing expectations is now proving to be challenging.