JICA's cooperation on REDD-plus Morita Takahiro (Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA))

JICA's mission and vision



Today, I will be talking about JICA's cooperation on REDD+ initiatives.



First, I would like to introduce JICA's mission and vision. Based on the Development Cooperation Charter¹ of the government, we are carrying out various activities. We are trying to promote human security. In other words, we want people to be able to live with dignity in this world. At the same time, we want to protect the global environment and achieve high quality sustainable growth. Those are in our mission statement.

As for our vision, we hope that our initiatives will contribute to Japan gaining trust from the world. There are five actions that we are focusing on in that regard. We want to commit to achieve what we have said we would do. Related to REDD-plus, we want to try to do mid to long-term initiatives with a long-term perspective. When implementing projects, we will always aim for innovation and for co-creation with multiple stakeholders. Finally, but not least, we need to go into the field and work together with the people in the field.

¹ <u>https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000067701.pdf</u>



Those are the basic actions that we want to take at JICA as a cooperation for REDD.

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JICA's strategy for nature conservation

In JICA's work for natural conservation, we also included REDD+ related activities. There are three strategic objectives that we pursue. The biggest goal is to harmonize nature conservation and human activities. First, regarding climate change mitigation, we are highly aware of the UNFCCC, and for mitigation of GHG emissions, we are trying to promote sustainable forest management to address climate change. Recently, there have been many forest fires, as well as damage from typhoons. We want to use the ecosystem to do ecology-based disaster risk reduction. So we have strategic goals both for mitigation and adaptation. Second, there are many people living in very severe natural environments. We want to help them to use their natural resources sustainably and improve their livelihoods. We are carrying out these projects in line with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification². Third, we want to promote biodiversity conservation, especially in buffer zones and protected areas under the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity³. All these activities contribute to a number of SDGs.

REDD+ cooperation policy

² <u>https://www.unccd.int/</u>

³ <u>https://www.cbd.int/</u>



Next is the REDD-plus cooperation policy. Based on the government's Development Cooperation Charter and JICA's 4th Medium-term Plan⁴, we are promoting climate change mitigation and we are trying to contribute to a sustainable society. These are focus areas for both of these policies, and we are also developing and implementing multiple projects in this line.

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We have three basic policies for mitigation and REDD+ cooperation. The first is to work for mitigation under the Paris Accord, promoting and helping independent activities, especially in developing countries. We want to contribute to developing countries to develop good policies and to implement them. Secondly, since JICA is an aid organization of Japan, we want to apply Japan's knowledge and technology as much as possible to our actions. For instance, after World War II, Japan's forest rate was less than 50%, but now it has recovered to around 70%. The whole nation worked together to recover its forests. We think this experience could be shared with people in developing countries. We also have superior remote sensing systems. We want to work with research agencies and government agencies as well as private sector players to make full use of our remote sensing and other technologies. Japan's ODA budget is limited, so we want to help players get access to external funds. We also want to make sure that the measures for emission reduction at the national level contribute to global emission reduction. At JICA, we are focusing on global partnerships making use of

⁴ <u>https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/organization/c8h0vm000000ks38-att/medium_term_plan.pdf</u>

external funds as one approach. This is Policy 3.



For Policy 1, the keyword is to work with people in developing countries to develop their development policies and help them in their preparation and implementation, as well as results-based payment phase of REDD+ projects. We want to help them to take a tailor-made approach to developing and implementing REDD+. Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw of Myanmar and Mr. Ma of ITTO mentioned that education is very important. We are also inviting students from overseas to Japan to help contribute to the policy adoption and implementation capability of many countries.

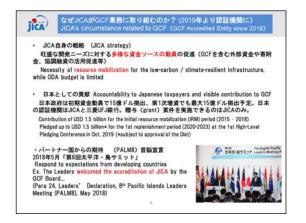
Regarding Policy 2, as I explained, we want to make use of Japan's advanced remote sensing technology to provide effective and efficient sustainable forest management technology development and expand these results around the world.

Regarding Policy 3, for external funds and partnerships, as Dr. Buszko-Briggs mentioned of FAO mentioned, we work closely with FAO and ITTO as important partners. We are collaborating with various stakeholders and partners around the world. As for external funds, in addition to doing projects in Africa, such as the Congo, we have been doing co-financing with the Central African Forest Initiative⁵. We have been blending multiple funding sources for our projects.

⁵ <u>https://www.cafi.org/</u>



Here is an example of our innovation in the field of remote sensing. Dr. Buszko-Briggs of FAO mentioned about SEPAL, but we at JICA are working with JAXA and making use of the ALOS-2 (Daichi 2) satellite for monitoring of tropical forests in 77 countries around the world. If you have a PC or a smartphone and do a search for JJ FAST⁶, you will be able to take a look at the system. If you tap the map, you can see the situation of the forests of the world for instance. We would like to share this information globally. It would be very costly and time consuming for each country to develop these systems on their own, but by collaborating with JAXA, it has been possible to shorten the time and reduce the cost for developing such a forest early warning system by offering one platform.



As for overseas funds access, we have been working closely with GCF. GCF is a public fund promoting climate change measures under a global partnership. In Japan, JICA has been partnering with Mitsubishi UFJ Bank⁷ and has been accredited as an accredited entity. JICA is the only entity in Japan authorized to accredit grant projects. At the Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting, leaders from around the world expressed high expectations for JICA to serve as a GCF accredited entity. We will continue to focus on our role as an accreditation entity for GCF.

⁶ <u>https://www.eorc.jaxa.jp/jjfast/jj_index.html</u>

⁷ <u>https://www.bk.mufg.jp/global/</u>

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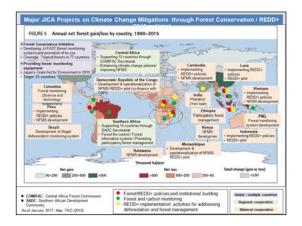
We are now trying to develop projects for preparation, implementation, and results-based payment of REDD+.



Regarding cooperation with stakeholders, we are also working with FFPRI to establish a public-private platform for REDD+ since 2014. About 90 private sector corporations have joined this platform to do knowledge-sharing, promotion of understanding, and development of business models. If there are any Japanese companies who have not joined the REDD+ platform yet, we encourage them to actively consider becoming a partner of the REDD+ platform in Japan.



Here are the REDD+ related projects that JICA is carrying out around the world. In Asia, Africa, and Central and South America, we are carrying out a wide range of REDD+ projects.



This is in English, but unfortunately we do not have any REDD+ projects in Myanmar. However, next door in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, we are doing REDD+ projects. Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw mentioned that Myanmar's REDD+ program is quite advanced. We are inspired by that. We are currently working in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, but we hope to work with Indonesia as well, and do work for conservation in the Mekong region in general. It will be wonderful if we could collaborate to that end.

Way forward for JICA's cooperation on REDD+

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Developing countries are working proactively on REDD+, but there is still a need for further capacity development. As Dr. Sato of FFPRI mentioned, there is a need for long-term initiatives. We at JICA are continuing to focus on capacity development. Rather than continue with business-as-usual, we want to actively promote innovation and make the best use of Japan's know-how and technologies. Furthermore, we want to connect the results of multiple projects to link them together and then make those dotted lines expand into broader footprints for a larger scale and impact. JICA will continue to maximize its cooperation to REDD+. That is our wish, so we seek your continued support and cooperation.