

International Seminar
"REDD+ Implementation and Sustainable Forest Management"
at
U Thant International Conference Hall, United Nations University, Tokyo
in February 6, 2014

Organized by
Forestry and Forestry Products Research Institute (FFPRI) and
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
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< **Draft Conclusion** >

Objectives of The International Seminar

- The main objective of the international seminar is to review and discuss the latest SFM approaches and activities at all scales and forest types, exploring the linkages and synergies with REDD+, with the aim of turning SFM into a mean and an opportunity for REDD+, specifically through:
- Facilitating the exchange of experiences, tools, and inspiring cases of SFM implementation that can contribute to five REDD+ activities: reducing deforestation, reducing forest degradation, sustainable management of forests, conservation, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- Discussing about challenges for addressing different scales of implementation, and explore challenges caused by scaling-up from projects/demonstration activities to national scales.
- Facilitating reflections about the role of SFM in the context of REDD+ demonstration projects and full implementation.

Key messages

- Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) does not have a single definition, but it is a well-established concept in the forestry sector. SFM was described at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 as “a dynamic and evolving concept that aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and

future generations.”

- REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, sustainable management of forest, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks) has a shorter history and is being negotiated by the Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). REDD+ is considered promising as a climate change mitigation instrument that could provide a wide range of co-benefits.
- Strong synergies exist between SFM and REDD+. Practices and experiences from SFM can contribute to the design of effective REDD+ strategies, while REDD+ architecture, actions and lessons can contribute to the objectives of SFM. SFM and REDD+ objectives can be achieved more effectively and efficiently by fully exploiting these synergies.
- Science has an important role to play in both SFM and REDD+, particularly in improving understanding of ecosystems and the environment. Both SFM and REDD+ require better knowledge of how forests can be managed in ways that maintain ecosystem functions and avoid ecological tipping points.
- REDD+ strategies will only be successful when they are built on a sound understanding of local realities, especially of how local communities view the world, their livelihoods and their aspirations. Analysis of local societies and livelihoods, common pool resources and participatory forest management provide knowledge on how REDD+ activities can be designed and implemented at local levels. Local people should be viewed as main partners for SFM and REDD+, not as the culprits responsible for deforestation. How REDD+ can be decentralised and how roles, responsibilities and rewards can be assigned to local levels needs to be considered in each country.
- International financial and technical support for REDD+ must be tailored to assist governments in achieving their broader SFM goals and to reflect national and local realities. For example, investments in national forest monitoring systems should not just build the capacity of countries to count their carbon stocks and monitor safeguards, they should contribute to monitoring other forest values that countries have deemed important in their national forest plans, e.g. timber stocks, biodiversity, etc. The data/information needs and requirements, including the required level of accuracy, will vary by purposes and users.
- A phased approach to developing national forest information/monitoring systems, beginning with the minimum requirements for REDD+, is recommended to allow countries to gain early experience with REDD+. Participatory forest monitoring is an important and promising approach when it is cost-effective and the roles of communities are well-defined.
- National REDD+ readiness processes cannot be rushed and must progress at

speeds appropriate to each country. SFM and REDD+ require major transformations in the forestry sector to enable engagement of all levels and stakeholders, from governments to communities. Governments are key to creating enabling environments for REDD+ (policies, regulations and their enforcement), while other stakeholders are essential for materialising actions.

- REDD+ projects are moving quickly and are providing valuable lessons on strategies, methodologies and benefit distribution, as well as providing revenues in the mid-term. It is important that REDD+ projects are guided by governments to maximise their potential for capacity building and as demonstrations of how REDD+ can be implemented.
- SFM and REDD+ cannot be realised through actions in the forestry sector alone, as many of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation lie outside this sector, e.g. in agriculture and mining. Governance and land use planning are keys to landscape approaches that provide us with a broader framework for analysis and planning to tackle these drivers.