

Annex 1

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation + (REDD+)

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) is a mechanism designed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to enhance the role of forests in curbing climate change (UNFCCC 2007). The UNFCCC and its bodies have expanded REDD to include forest conservation and human activities that increase carbon stocks, REDD+ (UNFCCC 2007, 2009). REDD+ has the potential to alter the incentives for deforestation and land use change and instead to encourage sustainable forest management.

REDD+ will take shape in three principal phases. During the readiness phase, countries build the institutional and policy framework. During the implementation phase, national strategies and measures are put into place. In the final stage, performance-based payments are made for carbon emission reductions that have been achieved.¹

REDD+ planning in Viet Nam

Since the 2007 Climate Change Conference in Bali recognized forest's contribution to climate change mitigation and formally agreed to incorporate the REDD+ initiative into the post-2012 negotiations, the Government of Viet Nam (GoV) has been moving rapidly to formulate and implement a REDD+ framework program for the country. Climate change as received in increasing political interest and support. In December 2008, the National Target Programme (NTP) to Respond to Climate Change was approved by the Prime Minister. The NTP aims to assess the impact of climate change on Viet Nam, identifying measures to combat climate change, strengthen the capacities of organizations involved in responding to climate change as well as lay out how Viet Nam will join the international community's efforts in fighting climate change.

The Action Plan Framework (APF) for Adaptation to Climate Change for 2008-2020 was launched by Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD) simultaneously with the NTP. The APF included a five-year action plan and established a MARD steering group on climate change and mitigation to lead the development of a REDD+ strategy². Work is still ongoing in the development of the REDD+ strategy, which Viet Nam has labeled the National REDD+ Programme, which will outline the institutional structure and legal frameworks to handle REDD+ activities.

Within this existing and forthcoming policy framework, the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the lead agency with responsibility to develop and implement policies and programmes relevant to REDD+, in particular through the recently-established Viet Nam REDD+ Office. It is responsible for coordinating international assistance and developing the NRP.

REDD+ activities in Viet Nam

Viet Nam was one of the first countries identified for country programming under the UN-REDD Global

¹UN-REDD, www.un-redd.org

² REDD Vietnam. <http://vietnam-redd.org/Web/Default.aspx?tab=intro&zoneid=106&lang=en-US>

Programme, and also received approval for a Readiness Project Identification Note (R-PIN) under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) very early.

The long-term objective of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is to assist the Government of Viet Nam in developing an effective REDD+ regime and to contribute to reduction of regional greenhouse gas emissions. The specific objective of the Programme is to strengthen institutional and technical capacity of relevant MARD organizations at central and local levels to ensure that by the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-ready and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

In July 2013, the second phase of the UN-REDD Programme Phase II was officially launched. The Programme will build on the REDD+ readiness work of Phase I, and start implementing Viet Nam's National REDD+ Action Programme in six provinces across the country, namely Lao Cai, BacKan, Ha Tinh, BinhThuan, Lam Dong, and Ca Mau. Over the next 3 years the Programme will help identify, negotiate, plan and implement land-use practices that are sustainable, climate-smart and adapted to local needs.