

Concept Note
“Expert Consultation Event: FREL/FRL development in Asia/Pacific”
Siem Reap, Cambodia 4-5 May, 2015

Background and Overview:

At the Forest Monitoring Systems and Forest Reference Levels for REDD+ Regional Workshop in Hanoi, Viet Nam, 20-22 October 2014, the idea of sub-regional support to countries in Asia and the Pacific was conceived. Countries organised themselves into those with greater and lesser experience. Those with the greatest experience (Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal), along with Cambodia and Viet Nam, who are also relatively advanced in preparations for FREL/FRL submission, requested support from the UN-REDD Programme for organisation of an event to share experience and develop more substantial guidance frameworks for FREL/FRL development in the region. This concept was included as part of a Targeted Support request from the government of Cambodia, which includes dedicated country-level support to that country on the same topic.

Objective and Outputs

For those countries participating in the event, the objectives are to:

- Provide information on international guidance that has been provided on designing and constructing REDD+ FREL/FRLs (focusing on guidance from the UNFCCC);
- exchange information on country approaches to FREL/FRL development and design;
- discuss and explore possible approaches to resolve technical FREL/FRL issues encountered by countries;
- discuss emerging lessons from the FREL/FRL review process under the UNFCCC;
- provide an informal setting for countries to discuss and consult with experts and other colleagues in countries on their approach to FREL/FRLs prior to submission to the UNFCCC

For those partner countries not participating in the event, the UN-REDD Programme will provide support through documenting a FREL/FRL lessons learned note for Asia-Pacific as means of knowledge exchange, which will be posted on the A/P E-Knowledge platform;

Design and Process:

Reviewing progress made in A/P partner countries, it was considered that countries which have the most experience developing FRELs/FRLs are Malaysia, Indonesia and Nepal, with Cambodia and Viet Nam also advanced in preparations.

A two-day event is proposed.

FREL design is a decision of the government. The main target participants are technical government officers who have been involved in REDD+ readiness especially in MRV, GHG inventory and NFI. This may involve 3 or 4 participants per country.

The design of the event will emphasize country-to-country exchanges, through presentations and discussion groups.

Draft programme for FREL/FRLs workshop (Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Nepal, Indonesia)

Day One: 4th (Monday) May 2015: Regional Progress on FREL/FRL, issues and options			
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker
8:00-8:30	Arrival and registration		
8:30-9:00	Opening remarks from host	Cambodia REDD+	H.E. Chheng Kimsun Director General Forestry Administration
9:00-10:15	Introduction to FAO's role in assisting countries with FREL/FRLs Refresher on FREL/FRL development under the UNFCCC	UN-REDD	María J. Sanz-Sánchez
10:15-10:45	Break		
10:45-11:30	1) Presentation of Cambodia's progress toward REDD+ FREL/FRL 2) Issues and obstacles encountered by Cambodia 3) Questions - clarifications	Cambodia REDD+ Unit	Cambodia REDD+
11:30-12:15	1) Presentation of Malaysia's progress toward REDD+ FREL/FRL 2) Issues and obstacles encountered by Malaysia 3) Questions - clarifications	Malaysia REDD+ Unit	Malaysia REDD+
12:15-13:15	Lunch		
13:15-14:00	1) Presentation of Vietnam's progress toward REDD+ FREL/FRL 2) Issues and obstacles encountered by Vietnam 3) Questions - clarifications	Vietnam REDD+ Unit	Vietnam REDD+
14:00-14:45	1) Presentation of Nepal's progress toward REDD+ FREL/FRL 2) Issues and obstacles encountered by Nepal 3) Questions - clarifications	Nepal REDD+ Unit	Nepal REDD+
14:45-15:15	Break		
15:15-15:45	1) Presentation of Indonesia's progress toward REDD+ FREL/FRL 2) Issues and obstacles encountered by Indonesia 3) Questions – clarifications	Indonesia REDD+ Unit	Indonesia REDD+
15:45-17:00	Open discussion of issues and options encountered by countries	UN-REDD	Facilitated by Akiko Inoguchi

Day Two: 5th (Tuesday) May 2015: UNFCCC FREL/FRL submission and review process			
Time	Event	Organization	Speaker
8:00-8:30	Arrival and registration		
8:30-8:45	Recap of discussions from first day and introduction to second day	UN-REDD	Mathieu Van Rijn
8:45-9:45	The UNFCCC FREL/FRL review process Emerging lessons from FREL/FRL review under the UNFCCC	UN-REDD	María J. Sanz-Sánchez
9:45-10:15	UNFCCC submission experiences - Malaysia	Malaysia REDD+ Unit	Malaysia REDD+
10:15-10:45	Break		
10:45-14:30 (including lunch at 12:00)	Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and Indonesia present elements (10 slides; 20 minutes) of their planned FREL/FRL which are subject to UNFCCC technical review After each presentation, the group provides informal technical feedback (10 minutes; simulation of the UNFCCC review process)	All	All
14:30-16:00	Open discussion of emerging lessons, and expectations for the UNFCCC review process	All	Facilitated by Ben Vickers
16:00-16:15	Break		
16:15-16:40	Closing remarks from FAO	UN-REDD	María J. Sanz-Sánchez
16:40-17:00	Closing remarks from host	Cambodia REDD+	H.E. Chea Sam Ang Chair REDD+ Taskforce