



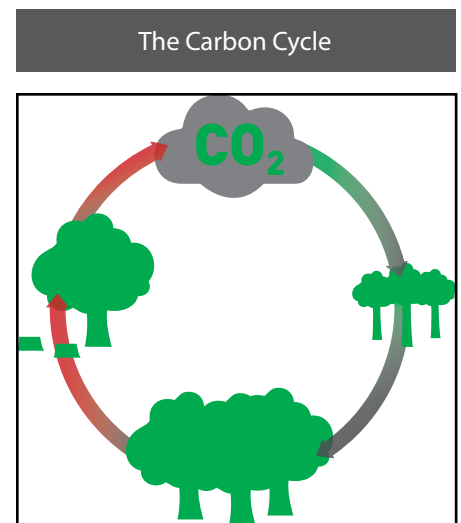
THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED TO ENGAGE IN REDD+: A COMPETENCIES FRAMEWORK

This resource is available at www.conservation.org/REDD-Competencies.
It is also available at www.catie.ac.cr, www.iucn.org, and www.recoftc.org.

Stopping tropical deforestation and degradation is an essential part of humankind's response to climate change and could simultaneously provide enormous benefits for biodiversity and for the people whose livelihoods directly depend on the forest. Yet changing the entrenched ways in which forests are used is a monumental task, with important risks as well as potential benefits. Dramatically new approaches to managing forested land are needed and this requires building new capacities among a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that the new mechanisms are just, technically sound, and sustainable over time.

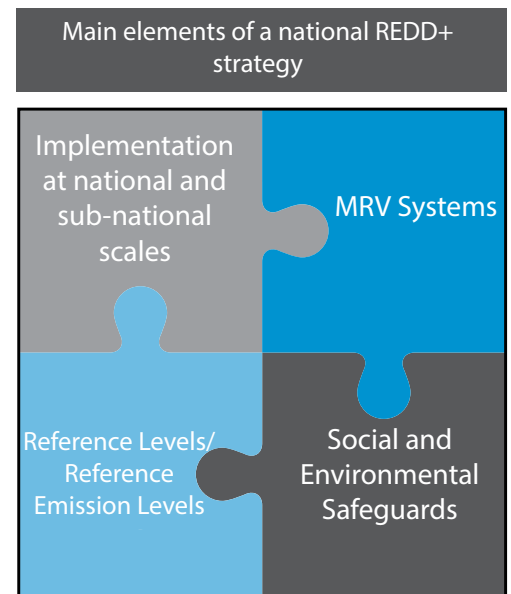
Throughout the development of the REDD+ mechanism, governments and civil society have emphasized the need for building capacity and significant investments have been made to support this. Major initiatives like the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the UN-REDD Programme, bilateral aid programs, and REDD+ country governments have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the preparations for REDD+. Yet there is still a great need to reach a wider set of stakeholders to ensure that all of those that are potentially affected have the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to the development of the REDD+ mechanism.

The literature related to REDD+ has rapidly grown in recent years and detailed guidance is now available about many of the different aspects of REDD+, including the technical elements of how to account for the emissions from forests, how to promote participation among various stakeholder groups, and how to ensure positive social and environmental performance. There are few publications, however, that present an overview of the skills and knowledge required for a wide range of issues related to REDD+. This gap presents a challenge for those who need a broad understanding of all REDD+ themes: for example, someone who is responsible for designing capacity building programs or someone who must identify qualified individuals to work on specific aspects of a REDD+ program. This competencies framework fills that gap.



The competencies framework is designed to be broad in scope, addressing ten of the main thematic areas related to REDD+. Each of these themes presents an overview of important knowledge, including policy context and key terms. Definitions from authoritative sources were used to help reduce the confusion that arises when stakeholders have different understandings of basic concepts. Each theme also describes some of the key skills needed for more detailed engagement on that topic. This document is designed to be broad reference and not a detailed manual on any of the themes. A list of references of specialized resources is provided for each theme.

The REDD+ mechanism is most prominently being designed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and this document makes frequent reference to policy decisions and definitions created through the UNFCCC process. Important advances are being made through other forums, including bilateral agreements between developed and developing countries, and through voluntary private sector offsetting programs. For some users, these other frameworks may be more relevant than the UNFCCC. In almost all cases, however, the concepts that are being debated in the UNFCCC are equally relevant to other frameworks for REDD+. Stakeholders who understand the UNFCCC process are well placed to ensure that other REDD+ initiatives address the key issues that are being debated at the global level, and will be better able to ensure that REDD+ programs are compatible at all scales.



Applications and use of the competencies framework

The target audience for this framework includes organizations that design trainings about REDD+ for a wide range of stakeholders. This includes government representatives at all levels, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector project developers, and others potentially affected by REDD+.

This competencies framework may also be useful for leaders seeking to identify the knowledge and skills that their organizations need to engage in REDD+ design and implementation. For example, a government official in charge of building a REDD+ team could draw from the competencies to develop terms of reference for personnel. The complete Framework is available at: www.conservation.org/REDD-Competencies, as well as www.catie.ac.cr, www.iucn.org and www.recoftc.org.

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