

TERI'S INITIATIVE ON REDD+

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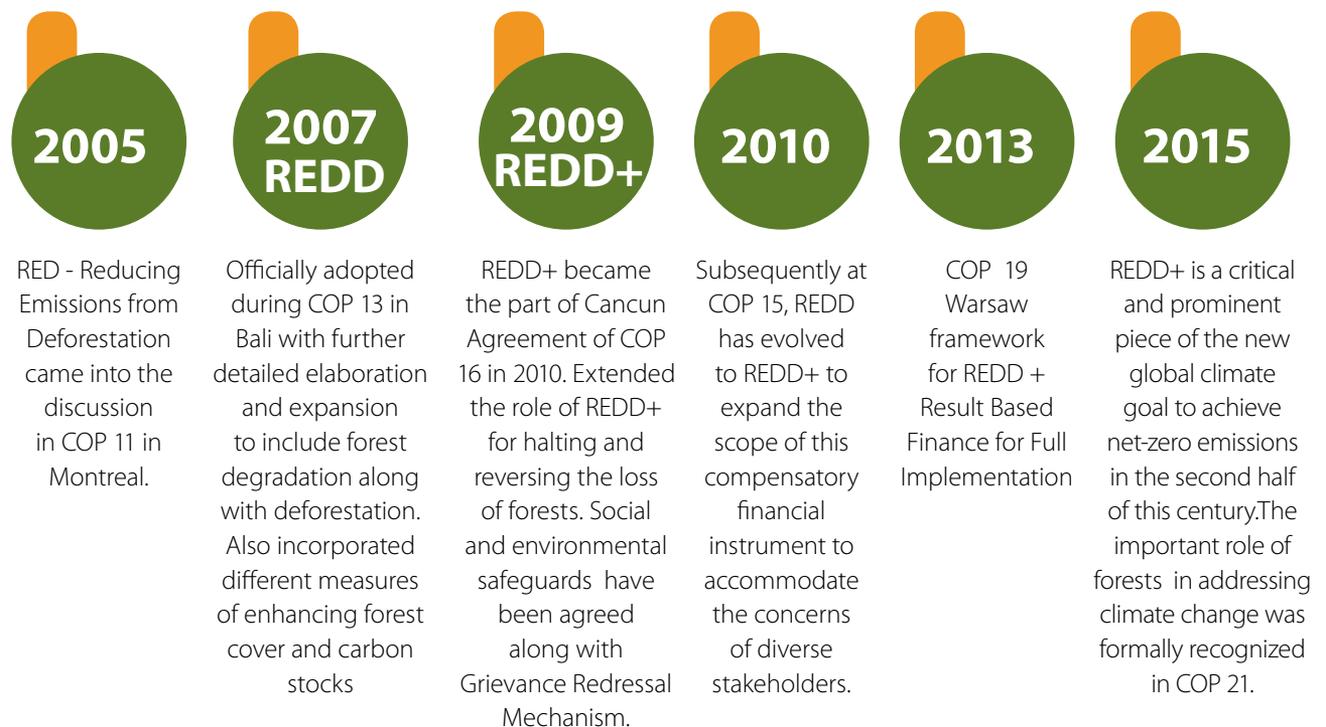




The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, has organized many national-, regional- and state-level consultations and has come out, jointly, with many policy briefs on Forest Governance, Methodology for Carbon Assessment, International Architecture on REDD+ and Institutional Mechanism on REDD+. These policy briefs and proceedings of workshops are available on the website of MOEF&CC, Gol. TERI also assisted MOEF&CC, Gol in the preparation of a reference document on REDD+. On the basis of TERI's efforts on REDD+ and knowledge available from other sources, MOEF&CC, Gol is in the process of preparing policy on REDD+ in India.

“REDD Plus is a financial incentive mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus signifying positive elements of conservation, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and enhancing carbon stock through afforestation & reforestation, with the potential of sustaining livelihood of Forest Dependent Communities (FDCs), maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation along with safeguards the right of the people living in and around forests.”

Evolution of REDD +



Issues and Challenges of REDD+

REDD+ KEY CHALLENGES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference levels • Leakage • Permanence • Safeguards • Governance • Measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) • Finance | <p>Addressing leakage, social and environmental safeguards, ensuring community based forest governance and capacity to measure enhanced carbon along with biodiversity conservation are key challenges in developing countries for implementing REDD+.</p> |
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REDD+ in India

- For the implementation of REDD Plus, India has a legal framework and enabling policies, such as National Forest Policy, 1988; National Environmental Policy, 2006; Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and Forest Rights Act, 2006, for the sustainable management of its forests.
- India has launched the Green India Mission programme under its National Action Plan on Climate Change to further improve the quality and extent of forest and tree cover.
- Involvement of local communities in management of forests and centrally sponsored scheme on 'Intensification of Forests Management' for creation of infrastructure for the development, protection, and conservation of forest resources in the country, further strengthens its commitments for mitigation of climate change.

TERI's Initiative - REDD+ Study in India

Joint consultation held with MoEF&CC, Gol and State Forest Departments

International Workshops

- The CBD COP 11 side event on REDD+ architecture and its relevance for developing countries on October 11, 2012, held at HICC-HITEX complex, Hyderabad, brought together a panel of speakers who presented REDD+ experiences from south and south-east Asia and Africa.

Special Events

- In association with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Forestry and Biodiversity Group of TERI organized a special event, 'Towards Realizing Potential of REDD+ in South Asia', during TERI's flagship event--Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) on February 6, 2014.
- In association with ICIMOD, the Forestry and Biodiversity Group of TERI organized a special event on 'REDD+ – South Asian Perspective', on January 31, 2013, during DSDS.

National-level workshops

- Preparedness of REDD+ Project in India held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on March 23, 2012, organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, and TERI.
- National-level Consultation on International REDD+ Architecture and its relevance for India held on June 14, 2012, at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, organized by MoEF&CC, Gol, Gol, and TERI.

Regional-level Consultation on Preparedness for REDD Plus

- Agra--organized by MoEF&CC, Gol, TERI, and Uttar Pradesh Forest Department (UPFD) on 3-4 February, 2013
- Bhopal--organized by MoEF&CC, Gol, TERI, Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Madhya Pradesh

Forest Department (MPFD) on 8th and 9th November, 2012

- Nagaland—organized by MoEF&CC, Gol, TERI, and Nagaland Forest Department (NFD) on February 9, 2013
- Bengaluru—organized by MoEF&CC, Gol and TERI on January 23, 2013
- Delhi—organized by MoEF&CC, Gol, TERI, and Gol in March 2012

Community-level Workshops

- Local-level workshops on May 12, 2012, at Angul, Odisha
- Meeting of REDD+ at Delkhari, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, on April 7, 2012.
- Local-level consultation on REDD+ at Renukoot Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh, on March 3, 2012
- Community-level consultation on REDD+ at Dhanaulti on September 17, 2012
- Community-level consultation on REDD+ in Sundarbans in 2012

Key Points

Forest Governance

- Gram Sabha-based forest governance
- Role of Forest Department –Technical, Monitoring, and Enforcement of Legislation

Project Design

- Small scale at JFMC /Gram Sabha level
- Five pools of carbon (AGB, BGB, Litter, dead wood, and Soil Carbon)

Financing

- Fund-based mechanism initially
- National-level Schemes/Funding Mechanism such as GIM, CAMPA, EAPs, and Finance Commission may be utilized for compensating conservation efforts of community by way of carbon

Livelihood

- Livelihood based on sustainable harvest
- Unsustainable harvest must be substituted with alternate means of employment and opportunities

Capacity Building

- Capacity building of forest department officials and communities
- Capacity building of other departments related to rural development
- Generating awareness among officials of other line departments

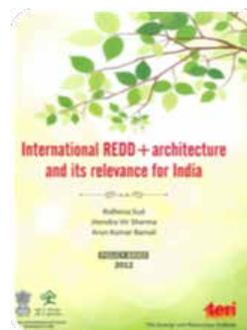
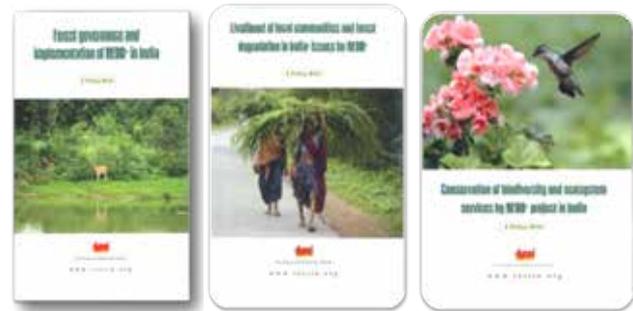
Ecosystem Services

- Carbon sequestration is just like other ecosystem services and is treated as a co-benefit; other services and biodiversity conservation are key benefits

Framework Agreement between the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and TERI

Publications

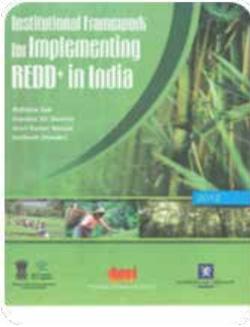
Policy Briefs



The International Architecture on REDD Plus is limited to the Annual Meeting of National Focal Point. The Institution on the line of CDM mechanism is needed at international and national levels. There is a need for third-party monitoring mechanism for Cancun safeguards.

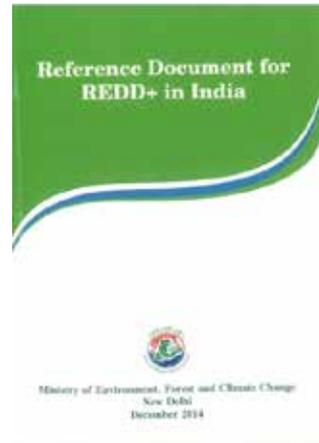


The assessment of the five pools of carbon must be a part of the Working Plan. A simple methodology has been established which can be adopted by front line staff and community for the assessment of the five pools of carbon alongwith GIS support from the respective Forest Department. Capacity of the community and front line staff must be built in this regard.



India has an appropriate policy and legal regime, required for REDD Plus, which addresses social and environmental safeguards and promotes biodiversity conservation without sacrificing the livelihood rights of the people living in and around forests. India needs a three-tier institution to have monitoring mechanism for safeguards mentioned above. Summary of information to be submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for result-based finance under REDD Plus.

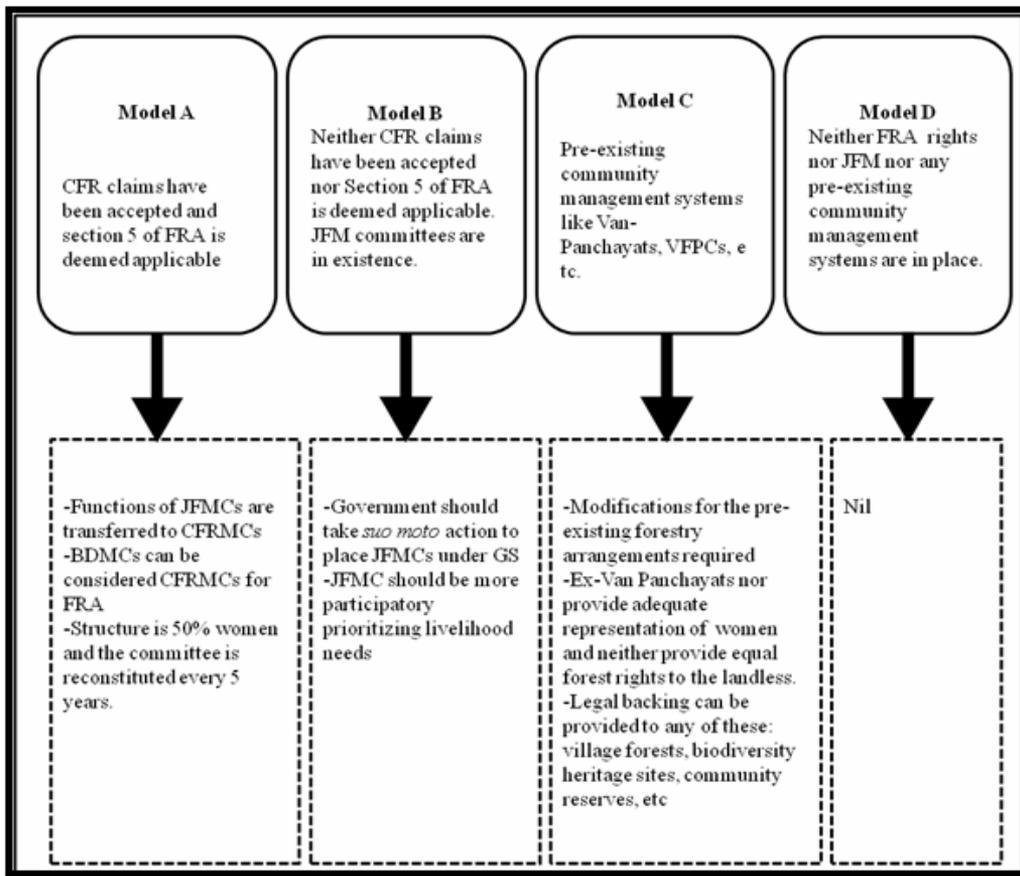
Reference Document for REDD+



Other Publications

- **Studying Potential Impacts and Response Options for REDD+**

The paper reviews the policy and regulatory and institutional framework of forest governance in India and identifies the gaps in the framework. The paper suggests directions



Four possible models of Decentralized Forest Governance in India

for policy interventions to overcome the gaps identified. Institutional arrangement for implementation of REDD+ under the forest governance framework is described in the paper. Recommendations include safeguards to be adopted under REDD+ and possible forest governance models (shown in Four possible models of Decentralized Forest Governance in India).

Decentralization of forest rights and community-based forest governance is identified as critical to the success of REDD+. Community based forest governance is a form of participatory and inclusive management and a key factor for implementation of REDD+ in India.

▪ **Book on Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ in India**

REDD+ is a financial instrument to incentivize conservation and sustainable management of forests, and thereby achieve reduction in the GHG emissions, resulting from deforestation and forest degradation. It aims at compensating forest owners in developing countries for conserving their forests by putting a value on the forest carbon stocks — one of the many ecosystem services that forests provide. Carbon sequestration is treated as co-benefit and other ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation are treated as key benefits. REDD+ started as market-based incentive mechanism but is now leaning towards fund-based mechanism.

▪ **Assessment for Designing REDD+ Projects in India**

This report provides an assessment of India's potential to implement a REDD+ Project at the ground level, based on a review of the current international architecture on REDD+, an analysis of response options and impacts at the national-level and a field-level assessment in five pilot locations across the country. The report focuses on the field-level assessment, providing a detailed methodology for carbon stock estimation, and reporting the results of the assessments of carbon stock changes, forest dependence, sustainability of forest resource extraction and institutional mechanisms at each pilot location. Wherever relevant, an analysis of gender issues and non-carbon ecosystem services is also provided.

Documentary

This documentary explains the concept of REDD+ to the common man, including community and frontline staff.

Pilot sites for REDD+ study in India

TERI - Pilot sites for REDD+ study in India

- Temperate forests – Mussoorie (Uttarakhand)
- Mixed dry deciduous forests – Renukot (Uttar Pradesh)
- Moist dry deciduous forests - Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh)
- Moist dry deciduous mixed forests - Angul (Odisha)
- Mangrove forests - Sundarbans (West Bengal)



Outcomes

- Establishment of methodology for five pools of carbon assessment.
- Forest degradation due to unsustainable harvest of fuel wood, fodder, and MFP in a majority of situations is a major driver of forest degradation.
- There is a need to provide alternative livelihood options through convergence of other schemes of rural development to maintain the harvest of forest produce within sustainable limit
- There is need to quantify the sustainable limit of MFPs in the working plans /micro plans
- The rights of the community on forests must be respected as the rights under FRA have been assigned in Renukot, Chhindwara, and Angul while in Mussoorie, rights have been assigned through Van Panchayat
- The capacity of the community is to be built with respect to methodology and techniques of carbon assessment.

- The forest governance model is to be synchronized with the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The Forest Department should provide technical and legal support to the JFMC/CFMC, while implementation and benefit-sharing should be done solely by the community.
- There is potential of trading of enhanced carbon through voluntary market mechanism. Development of project design documents under REDD+ methodology of Voluntary Carbon Standards may be explored for the trading of additional carbon.
- The existing institutional mechanism should be strengthened with respect to Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and wherever possible, capacities should be built at the community level.
- Poverty Alleviation Programme should be part of forestry schemes, particularly implemented near forest fringe villages
- Gram Sabha forest governance with technical and regulatory support of the Forest Department
- There is an urgent need for carbon neutrality for the corporate sector which would help in the creation of a national-level market for carbon
- A social and environmental safeguard monitoring portal at the Government of India level is needed
- Capacity building of frontline staff and community with respect to basic elements of REDD+ is required

The Way Forward

- India has the potential to obtain financial benefits through REDD+ mechanism by submitting small-scale projects
- Carbon assessment should be the mandatory chapter of the Working Plans
- Outreach through documentaries and brochures is the need of the hour
- Formulating a policy to have carbon neutrality for Corporates in India will definitely create an opportunity to the Forest Dependent Community to generate additional income through carbon Trading at National Level.

