UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

UNDP

UNEP

বন অধিদপ্তর

A hill of Teknaf National Park was severely degraded in 2005. Same hill with community protection recovering in 2008. The National Programme through engaging forest dependent communities wants to promote sustainable forest management to stop deforestation and degradation.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME BRIEF

Introduction: Bangladesh in 2005 emitted only 59 MtCO2 (million metric tons) as per Second National Communication to UNFCCC. The major emission derived from the energy sector (56%), followed by the land-use, land-use change and forestry sector – which is 26.5%. Hence, whilst devoting considerable resources to reducing vulnerability to climate change, and maintaining its path of economic development, Bangladesh is also striving to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by adopting voluntary REDD+ mechanism under UN-REDD programme.

Total land area of Bangladesh is 14.757 million hectares of which 2.52 million hectares of land is categorized as forestland, equivalent to almost 18% of country's total area. The Government's Forest Department manages 1.6 million hectares of the forest land. There are five broad types of forest, these are: hill forest, Sal forest, mangrove, coastal plantations, and wetland forest.
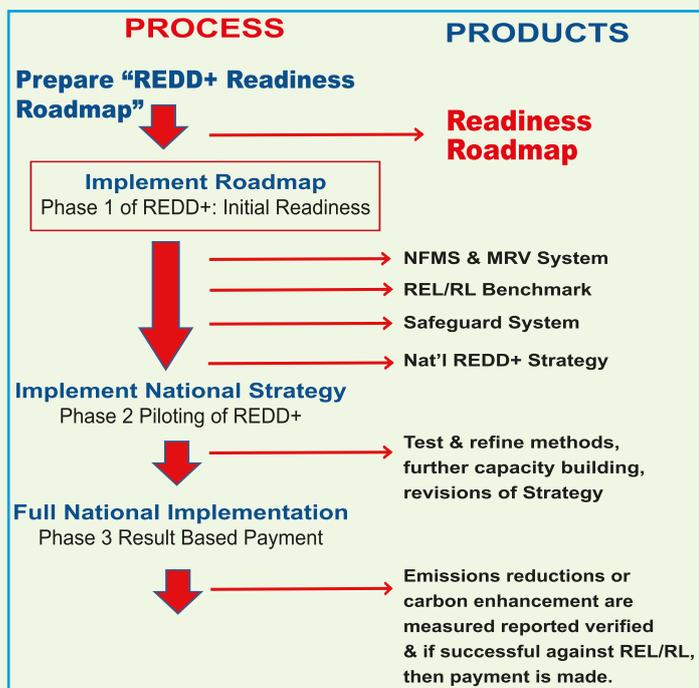
According to a national forest resource assessment undertaken in 2005-07, 9.8% of the country's total land area is under forest cover. Although statistics on forest cover on forest land are not available, but it can be assumed that there are considerable areas in either deforested or degraded condition. The rate of deforestation is calculated as 2000 ha per year based on the assessment. Hence, there is potentially an important scope for REDD+ activities in Bangladesh to reduce deforestation and degradation, as well as potentials areas for conservation of existing forest areas and enhancement of carbon stock.

As part of its long term strategies to reduce GHG emissions, the Government of Bangladesh has taken initial steps to prepare for the implementation of REDD+ activities. The country became UN-REDD partner country in 2010. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries – or UN-REDD Programme – partners with developing countries like Bangladesh to support them in establishing the technical capacities needed to implement REDD+ and meet UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ result based payments.

As per UN-REDD requirement, Bangladesh established the National REDD+ Steering Committee and UN-REDD Focal Point in 2011. The REDD+ Preparation Proposal (R-PP) – was approved in end of 2013 by UN-REDD Policy Board. The UN-REDD National Programme Document was approved by national counterparts & participating UN organization in 2015 and finally, the government approved the UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme in 19 June 2016.

Generally, the UN-REDD National Programme are designed in three phases – towards achievement of REDD+ readiness. Phase I involves the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building; Phase II is the implementation of these plans, policies and measures i.e., piloting and brining necessary changes. Phase III being results-based actions i.e., emission reductions or carbon enhancements are measured, reported and verified against bench mark and payment is made if found successful. The UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme is in its first phase of implementation.

PROCESS   PRODUCTS

Prepare "REDD+ Readiness Roadmap" → **Readiness Roadmap**

Implement Roadmap
Phase 1 of REDD+: Initial Readiness

→ NFMS & MRV System
→ REL/RL Benchmark
→ Safeguard System
→ Nat'l REDD+ Strategy

Implement National Strategy
Phase 2 Piloting of REDD+

→ Test & refine methods, further capacity building, revisions of Strategy

Full National Implementation
Phase 3 Result Based Payment

→ Emissions reductions or carbon enhancement are measured reported verified & if successful against REL/RL, then payment is made.

Project Objective: The UN-REDD National Programme has the objective to support the Government of Bangladesh in initiating the implementation of its REDD+ Readiness Roadmap (i.e., R-PP) by establishing necessary REDD+ management processes, identifying strategic readiness options for completing its National REDD+ strategy, and developing the capacities required to begin implementation of REDD+.

Project Duration: From July 2015 to June 2018.

Project Targets: During this period, the project will target to achieve the following outcomes and outputs:

Outcome 1: Improved Stakeholder Awareness and Effective Stakeholder Engagement

- Output 1.1: Public Awareness Raised
- Output 1.2: Consultation and Participation Plan developed

Outcome 2: National REDD+ Strategy Formulated

- Output 2.1: Study to strengthen legal, policy and legislative framework for REDD+
- Output 2.2: Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified
- Output 2.3: Detailed understanding on the priority drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Output 2.4: REDD+ strategies to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified
- Output 2.5: Operationalising REDD+ implementation
- Output 2.6: Transparent system for national level management of REDD+ finances in place
- Output 2.7: Transparent system for local distribution of REDD+ incentives identified

Outcome 3: Preparation of National Forest Reference Emission Level (Rel) and/or Forest Reference Level (RI) Established

- Output 3.1: Capacities for the development of Reference Emission Level strengthened
- Output 3.2: National circumstances and historical data considered for RELs/RLs
- Output 3.3: RELs/RLs tested

Outcome 4: National Forest Monitoring System Establishment

- Output 4.1: Capacities to implement the GHG inventory for the forest sector strengthened
- Output 4.2: Integrated forest information system developed

Budgetary Allocation: Total budget for National Programme is USD 2,300,500, which is segregated between UNDP and FAO. Achievement towards Outcome 1 and 2 is facilitated by UNDP with a budgetary allocation of USD 1,230,500. FAO is responsible for Outcome 3 & 4 with a budgetary allocation of USD 1,070,000.

The National programme targets achievement of three (3) key requirements out of four (4) UNFCCC requirements for developing countries to obtain REDD+ result based payments. Establishment of Safeguard is not currently included in the national programme.

Elements of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+

- Forest Reference Emission Levels / Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRL)
- National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)
- National Strategies / Action Plans (NS/AP)
- Safeguards / Safeguards Information Systems (SIS)

Project Management: Forest Department (FD) under MoEF is the lead Implementing Partner headed by a National Project Director (NPD). The day to day management is led by PMU supported by UNDP and FAO. The PMU provides update on project activities to REDD Cell which is responsible for coordination of all REDD+ activities in the country. Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by MOEF extends support to facilitate inter co-operational aspects among agencies and ministries. Project Implementation Committee (PIC) chaired by Forest Department monitor project progress and facilitates implementation. Programme Executive Board (PEB) composed of head of all implementing agencies has mandate to approve the Programme's key documents, including annual and quarterly plans, budgets and semi-annual and annual reports.