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Food and Agriculture
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Workshop Report On

Inception Workshop UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

3rd August 2016

Antora Hall, Radisson Blu Water Garden,
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Programme Management Unit (PMU)
UN-REDD Bangladesh National
Programme
Bangladesh Forest Department**

14 August 2016

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

The UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme is implemented by Bangladesh Forest Department under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and Forests. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are the two co-implementing partners.

Citation

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14 August 2016

List of Acronyms

BFD	-----	Bangladesh Forest Department
CCF	-----	Chief Conservator of Forests
CHT	-----	Chittagong Hill Track
CSO	-----	Civil Society Organization
ERD	-----	Economic Relations Division
FAO	-----	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPIC	-----	Free Prior Informed Consent
FREL	-----	Forest Reference Emission Level
FD	-----	Forest Department
IPLC	-----	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
GHG	-----	Green House Gas
LULUCF	-----	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MoEF	-----	Ministry of Environment and Forests
MRV	-----	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
NGO	-----	Non Governmental Organization
NPD	-----	National Project Director
PD	-----	Project Director
PMU	-----	Programme Management Unit
REDD	-----	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
R-PP	-----	REDD+ Preparation Proposal
SDGs	-----	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	-----	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	-----	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	-----	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

The Government of Bangladesh is progressing on its journey towards global climate change mitigation effort and set a milestone on the global mission for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) by officially launching the Bangladesh National Programme through inception workshop supported by the United Nations Collaborative Programme on REDD+ in developing countries, worldwide known as the UN-REDD programme.

The inception workshop was graced by Dr. Kamal Uddin, Secretary, MoEF as the chief guest. Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh and Mr. David Dolan, Acting FAO Representative in Bangladesh joined as guests of honour. Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Mr. Yunus Ali chaired the workshop. The event marked participation from different ministries, departments, government agencies, research institutions, universities, NGOs, civil society organizations, ethnic groups and international organizations.

The Chair, Mr. Yunus Ali, CCF at his welcome address emphasized that the UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme is not only about reducing emission, but also on our efforts towards sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction through livelihood improvements of rural people.

Mr. Md. Rakibul Hasan Mukul, National Project Director, UN REDD Bangladesh Programme through a presentation outlined project's objective, outcome, activities, timeline, deliverables, budget and challenges likely to be faced by the project. He solicited continued cooperation and active participation from all relevant stakeholders to make the programme a success.

Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh highlighted on REDD+ initiatives linkage with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She mentioned that overcoming challenges like bringing necessary institutional reform, solving land dispute and capacity building will be key to programme success.

Mr. David Dolan, Acting FAO Representative pointed out the FAO's role in capacity building effort of the project towards establishment of National Forest Monitoring System and establishment of Forest Emission Reference Level or Forest Reference Level (FREL/REL) which are key elements in sustainable forest management.

An open discussion moderated by Chief Conservator of Forest provided opportunity for clarifications to participants on some key issues like project scope, safeguard, inclusiveness, how to bring all stakeholders together etc.

In his address as Chief Guest, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmad, Secretary, MoEF, reiterated government position in halting degradation and deforestation and opined that REDD+ mechanism will open the opportunity to manage the forest resources of the country sustainably.

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1 UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

1.1. Background

In August of 2010, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh became a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme. The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative programme on reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation. The program assists developing countries like Bangladesh to build capacity to reduce emissions and to participate in a future REDD+ mechanism.

In subsequent years, Bangladesh took several key steps i.e., established the National REDD+ Steering Committee; 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. Finally, the government approved the UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme in 19 June 2016.

The Forest Department (FD) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) is the lead Implementing Partner for the UN-REDD National Programme, headed by a National Project Director (NPD), supported by Programme Management Unit (PMU). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are the two co-implementing partners helping the PMU. The duration of the NP is from July 2015 to June 2018.

The UN-REDD Bangladesh 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+.

1.2. Scope of the Report

The primary aim of the workshop report is to document and present the outcome of the meeting held on 3 August 2016, collaboratively by Bangladesh Forest Department, UNDP and FAO with participation from different ministries, departments, government agencies, research institutions, universities, NGOs, civil society organizations, ethnic groups and international organizations.

1.3. Organization of the Report

Section 1 introduces the Background of UN-REDD programme; Section 2 elaborates on the details of the meeting. Relevant annexes – i.e., presentation on UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme and list of participants are appended at the end of report.

2 Inception Workshop: UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

2.1. Background of the Inception Workshop

Through this workshop, Bangladesh has formally started its journey with UN-REDD programme. Globally 64 countries and within Asia-Pacific 19 countries are supported under this programme, and from now Bangladesh is also part of global commitment to stop deforestation and forest degradation.

The objective of the Inception Workshop was to launch the programme, to present the project to relevant stakeholders, partners and experts, community; to inform the project goals, objectives, outcomes and activities; to inform on the implementation and management arrangements; and to inform on the roles of various partners and stakeholders in the project implementation. The purpose of the inception workshop was to ensure ownership, support and commitment to various project outputs by partners and stakeholders.

2.2. Organization of the Inception Workshop

List of Invitees: Participants list was developed from several sources and references. The National Programme's Technical Project Proposal (or Programme Document) enumerates preliminary stakeholder institutions identified during R-PP proposal development phase. These listed institutions were included in the participants list. The PMU also consulted participant list of previous workshops arranged during R-PP phase as well as under relevant projects like Third National Communication, workshops and training arranged under National Forest Inventory (NFI) project, and workshop organized under UN-REDD project on CSO and IP self-selection to represent Programme Executive Board, workshops under Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation Reforestation Project (CRPARP), Climate Resilient Environment and Livelihood (CREL) etc projects. A list of climate change focal points of different ministries was also obtained from Bangladesh Climate Change Trust.

All participant list were merged and grouped into categories like – ministries, departments, educational and research organizations, NGOs and Indigenous communities, development partners, members from media. The list of participants was scrutinized, corrected and finalized by Forest Department and shared with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Inception Workshop Presentations and Information Materials: The primary objective of the workshop was to introduce the National Programme to the relevant stakeholders. Therefore several materials were developed having information on the project and REDD+ in general. The following materials were developed and shared:

Table 1: List of Awareness Materials shared during Inception Workshop		
Sl	Item	Information shared
1.	REDD+ and National Programme Leaflet in Bangla	What is UN-REDD programme; what is REDD+, what are the five activities of REDD+, Warsaw Frameworks, why REDD+ is important, its relevance, why REDD+ is important for Bangladesh; evolution the NP and the targeted outcomes.
2.	National Programme Leaflet in English	Relevance of REDD+ in Bangladesh, evolution of REDD+ programme, phased approach and outputs, Warsaw framework, National Programme Objective, duration, budget, outcomes and outputs, project management.
3.	Brochure on UN-REDD FAO supports MRV set-up in developing countries	FAO's support to the pilot countries to increase their technical and institutional capacities to design and implement REDD+ based on robust and transparent national MRV systems.
4.	Document folder	What is REDD+, short brief on National programme, phased approach of UN-REDD programme and institutional framework proposed for REDD+ programme in Bangladesh.
5.	Note book	What is REDD+, its five activities, UN-REDD programme, Warsaw elements, Bangladesh National Programme, targeted outputs and delivery schedule.
6.	Stand Banner – 4 nos	Forests contribution to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, five activities of REDD+, benefits of REDD+, climate change and forest, along with slogans.
7.	Branded Pen	With UN-REDD, Government and Forest Department's logo.
8.	Printed copy of Presentation given by National Project Director	on UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme (see Annex - 2)
9.	Short Videos on REDD+: 3 nos	- "Introduction to the concept of REDD+" produced by UNFCCC. - "REDD+ National Strategies and Action Plans" produced by UN-REDD Secretariat. - "Safeguards and SIS Lessons and Experiences from Asia-Pacific Countries" produced by UN-REDD AP Region. - "Strengthening Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Participation in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific Countries" produced by UN-REDD AP Region.
10.	Baseline questionnaire on REDD+ awareness	- A questionnaire on REDD+ to judge participants awareness level

2.3 Programme Schedule

The general design of the workshop comprised of welcome remarks from Bangladesh Forest Department, followed by presentation to familiarize of international REDD+ framework and UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme. After the presentation, the representatives from implementing co-partners gave their speech highlighting key issues. An open discussion session followed where participants were given chance to bring important issues or concern to the policy makers. The workshop concluded by the speech from Chief Guest.

Table 2: Programme Schedule		
Time	Item	Person-in-charge/Remarks
10:30 – 11:00 am	Registration	Antora Hall, Hotel Radisson Blu
11:00 - 11:15 am	Introduction	All participants
11:15 - 11:30 am	Short Video presentation	UN-REDD
11:30 – 11:40 am	Welcome remarks from Chair	Mr. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department
11:40 – 12:00 am	Presentation on UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh	Mr. Rakibul Hasan Mukul Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests & National Programme Director, UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme
12:00 – 12:10 pm	Speech by Guest of Honor	Mr. David Dolan, Acting FAO Representative in Bangladesh
12:10-12.20 pm	Speech by Guest of Honor	Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh
12:20- 12.40 pm	Open Discussion	Moderator, Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forest, Bangladesh Forest Department
12.40-13.00 pm	Speech by Chief Guest	Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Environment, Government of Bangladesh
13:00 – 14:00 p.m.	Lunch	

2.4 Speeches & Discussion Points

Welcome Address: The inception workshop started by welcome speech by the Chair, Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF). In his welcome speech CCF informed that UN-REDD programme is not only focused on reducing emission from the forestry sector, but also will focus on sustainable forest management, watershed management, biodiversity conservation and most importantly poverty reduction through livelihood improvements of poor. He briefly described importance of forests and how forests help maintaining biodiversity, regulating local climate, and key elements of environment.



Picture 1: Welcome Address by Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh Forest Department.

He also mentioned about forest's role in improving livelihood of local and indigenous people. He opined that we cannot rely only on carbon market, rather country like Bangladesh should also focus on co-benefits of REDD+, where millions depend on forest for their livelihoods.

He referred to challenges especially deriving from lack of clear land rights which gives rise to conflict between different land uses. Mr. Ali affirmed that Bangladesh is committed to sustainable forest management and stressed on importance of effective measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) mechanisms for sustainable forest management.

Presentation on UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme: Mr. Md. Rakibul Hasan Mukul, National Project Director (NPD), provided a power point presentation (PPT) on UN-REDD programme in Bangladesh (Annexed in this report). His presentation had the following outlines:

- UN-REDD Collaborative Programme
- GHG and Forestry Sector
- REDD+ Mechanisms and evolution
- REDD+ Process
- UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme
- Challenges/Risks

Mr. Mukul informed the audiences about historical background of REDD+ development at global and national level. He informed that UN-



Picture 2: Presentation on UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme by Mr. Md. Rakibul Hasan Mukul, Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests and National Project Director, UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

REDD National Programme is 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 bringing necessary changes. Phase III involves results-based payment 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.

The NPD highlighted four (4) elements of Warsaw framework that the National Programme must establish in order to receive result based payment. He brought to the notice of the participants as well as senior officials that at this very moment, the Safeguard and Safeguard Information System (SIS) one of the key elements, is not included in the project due to shortage of fund. He requested senior officials to secure funding for inclusion in the project.

The NPD stressed that effective stakeholder engagement is the most important priority for the project and it is equally a challenge. He showed the participants a list of deliverables that the project will be working to produce. He encouraged all to participate actively in the project activities according to respective roles and set of expertise to ensure quality of deliverables and also to ensure that concerns are incorporated. He underscored that the project will reach out to all relevant stakeholders through workshop, meeting, forum, information sharing platform, to members of different committees to bring consensus on key outputs / issues.

The NPD showed a draft institutional mechanism (proposed during R-PP phase) for REDD+ management in the country. He informed participants that the project will sought help from time to time to finalize institutional mechanism. A budgetary breakdown of the project by year, especially first year was shown to the participants.

The NPD in his presentation showed common challenges faced by UN-REDD programme i.e., establishing REL/FREL and NFMS, stopping leakage, ensuring permanence, good governance, safeguarding environmental and social issues, and financing. He also brought to the notice of the audience of the likely challenges the National Programme will likely to face – i.e., forest boundary and land tenure, lack of national level data, lack of data sharing protocol, institutional arrangement for GHG inventory and REDD+ and lack of manpower.

Finally, the NPD stressed that strong and continued policy and institutional support will be required to establish REDD+ in Bangladesh, active participation from all corners will be required to ensure all-inclusiveness, and at the end of the day, across society, stakeholder we need to agree on conserving and sustainably managing our forests.

Speech of Guest of Honor: Mr. David Dolan, Acting Country Representative of FAO highlighted FAO's role in UN-REDD programme in Bangladesh. In his speech he stated that forests are lungs of the earth, they give us oxygen and capture carbon, therefore protecting forest is central to climate mitigation. He emphasized the establishment of National Forest Monitoring System and its importance for REDD+ mechanism as well as sustainable forest management. He also informed that FAO has been providing support to forest inventory, forest monitoring, forest management and conservation in many countries including Bangladesh.



Picture 3: Remarks of Guest of Honor, Mr. David Dolan, Acting FAO Representative in Bangladesh

Under the REDD+ National Programme, FAO will support to implement two outcomes - Outcome 3&4 which are related to preparation of national FREL and establishment of national forest monitoring system. Several key activities will be carried out to achieve each outcome such as assessing the historical trends of forest and land use changes, support to institutional arrangements for the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), the development of the methods for forest monitoring, and strengthening the capacities on the preparation Green House Gases (GHGs) inventory for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and establishing an information system.

Speech of Guest of Honor: Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP, felt emotional given it is her last public speech in Bangladesh, being present in the inception workshop related to forests and that her two grandfathers were forester. She opined that managing forest is complex since it is not only relates to trees but also peoples' livelihood and land rights. She showed how REDD+ is linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and mentioned that successful REDD+ implementation can contribute to SDG goals like - Climate Action (Goal 13), Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12), Gender Equality (Goal 5), Life on Land (Goal 15) and Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8) etc. However, she identified three



Picture 3: Remarks of Guest of Honor, Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director, UNDP Bangladesh

challenges for the project: 1) policy and institutional arrangement to halt deforestation, 2) land ownership issue as - almost 70% of the total cases filed are related to land disputes, 3) building capacity (human, technical and financial). She also highlighted the project's capacity building assistance that is aimed to capacitate Forest Department to comply the UNFCCC Warsaw framework to get access to result based payment of REDD+ mechanism.

Open Discussions:

- Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed (Project Coordinator, CCCP, PKSF), informed that if safeguard component is not included, then the country will not be able to have result based payment. He suggested to search alternative funding and advised not to fully rely on result based payments rather focus should also be given on non-carbon benefits.
- The CCF responded by informing that the Forest Department is already have started working to ensure fund for the Safeguard element.
- Dr. Moklesur Rahman, Executive Director, CNRS, a national NGO asked question about how REDD site and co-management site will be managed? Whether they will have separate management entity or simultaneously managed?
- In response, the CCF informed that Forest Department has started co-management in 2003-04 and now there are 26 Co-Management Committees operating in different protected forests for conservation of the same. He informed that these stakeholders are important part of REDD+ stakeholder landscape. He opined that there is scope of co-existence and upcoming institutional mechanism will focus on the issue.
- Dr. Hossian Mohammed Selim, representative from Livestock Department asked if the project will include enumeration/mitigation of methane gas emission from livestock sector, as this sector also contributes considerably in GHG emission.
- The CCF informed that the UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme has focused on forestry sector only. Other sectors like livestock may come up with their own initiative.
- Dr. Muhib from Department of Agriculture Extension wanted to know if the project will carry out baseline survey on Methane gas and CO₂ emission?
- The CCF replied that the programme need to establish Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) / Forest Reference Level (FRL) – which is basically the baseline. In addition, National Forest Inventory is ongoing which will complement the National Programme on estimation of emission from forestry sector. Mr. Mozaharul Islam, Conservator of Forests and National UN-FEDD Focal Point, added that component 3 of the R-PP (Readiness Preparation Proposal) is about baseline preparation and under this project emission from LULUCF sector will be estimated.



Picture 4: Guests of the Occasion



Picture 5: A section of the participants

- Dr. Mizan R. Khan, Professor, North South University, informed that REDD+ is a very innovative instrument compared to the earlier climate mitigation tools which did not have any incentive for forest conservation. REDD+ has started few years back, and to date, the Paris agreement has got a specific article (Article 5) on REDD+ and there is more clarity on finance. He advised to reform current forest management model and to make it more inclusive for maximum benefit to local people.

	
Picture 6: Dr. Fazlay Rabbi Sadque Ahmad stressing his view on safeguard.	Picture 7: Dr. Mokhlesure Rahman asking future of co-management entities in relation to REDD+
	
Picture 8: Mr. Mozaharul Islam, UN-REDD Focal Point, clarifying issues on FREL/REL baseline.	Picture 9: Dr. Mizan R Khan urging to bring change in current forest management model.

- The CCF also agreed with Dr. Khan's suggestion and said that although there is an absence of predictable and robust financing for REDD+, however funds are being committed more and more at the international arena. He stressed that while issues are being determined, for accessing funds we need to focus on more governance, inclusiveness, ensure safeguards and strong institutional mechanism.
- Ms. Uchacha-A Chak, work for Maleya Foundation and a member of Indigenous Community, thanked the CCF for his role from the very beginning for being open about the indigenous people's involvement for the successful implementation of this program. She added that during earlier development initiatives, indigenous communities have noticed exclusion. In that context, REDD+ is as an opportunity for local communities, indigenous people, who are living in forest to be involved effectively and that the common terminologies like - Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), safeguard mechanism - should be meaningfully understood, realized and materialized. She then asked two questions, (1) when the project is planning to develop a safeguard information system? And (2) does the project has any plans regarding capacity building for the people who are working at the local level, who are living and depending on this forest resources?
- Mr. Md Yunus Ali, CCF informed that with regard to safeguard, the Forest Department in close collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Forests, have been working to secure fund for the safeguard. The CCF also informed that he has had meeting with Barrister Raja

Debashish Roy recently in the policy board meeting of UN-REDD in Geneva and both exchanged / shared views about the future forest management, particularly in those areas where indigenous people live. He stressed that Forest Department does not see words like Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) as mere terms used in workshops, these will be respected as well. He also added that forestry master plan will be developed very soon and for the reforestation or the re-vegetation of the degraded forests in Chittagong hill tracts, indigenous people will be brought on onboard. He understands that the land tenure / right issues will be a challenge and ultimately everything may depend on it. However, the Department needs to deal with all these issues as re-vegetated, restocked and the healthy ecosystem can provide benefit of local community. He stressed that it is necessary to harness support from all corners.

- Mr. Mihir Biswas from Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) expressed his concern that both forest cover and agricultural land is decreasing as per the FAO report. He also informed that wetland are being encroached as well. He wanted to know whether Forest Department can take initiative to save wetlands as well.
- CCF also agreed with participant from BAPA that both forest is showing decreasing trend, and that Forest Department alone cannot take responsibility. He informed that once the country had 7 crore (70 million) people in 1971 and now the current population is about 16 crore (160 million). And these people live on ecosystems like forests for their livelihood – exerting enormous pressure on limited resources and capacity. Agricultural ecosystem is expanding day by day to feed the population and the forest land is converted into agri-system. Wetlands are also decreasing – for both anthropogenic and natural reasons. He informed Department of Environment has programme on wetland conservation and management.
- Nathan Sage (Environment & Climate Change Team leader) from USAID informed that several initiatives have been on-going to supplement REDD+ programme in Bangladesh like - Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihood (CREL) project, National Forest Inventory Project (NFI), in Chittagong Hill Tracts on watershed management and affirmed USAID's commitment on continued support. In his opinion, given similar initiatives of the Department supported by other development partners on forest carbon and forest carbon sequestration, it is time to move forward towards a low carbon and low emission development strategy. He opined that UN-REDD may create a plat form to bring together different partners and programme for greater effect.
- The CCF agreed on low carbon and low emission development strategy. He requested development partners and implementing agencies to be careful in (agriculture/ horticulture) species selection for any project in CHT so that the practice does not increase soil erosion. He advised to avoid crops like ginger, turmeric, aroid, potato in watershed management projects as these have been found to increase soil erosion and reduces productivity of the soil in the long run.

	
Picture 10: Ms. Chak believes REDD+ can ensure active participation of indigenous communities.	Picture 11: Mr. Sage highlighting programs of USAID in forestry sector contributing REDD+
	
Picture 12: Mr. Ahmed sharing lessons of Arranayak Foundation	Picture 13: Mr. Ali, responding to queries of the participants.

- Mr. Farid Uddin Ahmed, Executive Director of Arranayak Foundation shared their experience of implementing small REDD+ projects in CHT involving indigenous people. He stressed that involvement of community in measuring stock will bring clear understanding and ownership on project. He informed audience that Arranayak Foundation has project in Khagrachori, where careful selection of species has reduced soil erosion significantly. He welcomed interested parties to visit their sites.
- Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) draw attention of the participants on time management and requested to provide comments and perspectives through email to the Project Director, himself, or UNDP and FAO. He then requested, honorable Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dr. Kamal uddin Ahmad to give his perspective.

Speech by Chief Guest: Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmad, Secretary, MoEF welcomed all to the inception workshop. He informed that the UN-REDD programme is currently support 64 partner countries in the world and Bangladesh is one of them. The Country is pleased to join the innovative programme to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

The Secretary stressed that within the three (3) phases of implementation, the first phase relates to clear understanding of the situation at first. Clear understanding and direction will lead to phase two to carry out the tasks in proper manner. He, therefore, encouraged participants to have better understanding on the basic issues about the REDD+, GHGs emissions in relations to forestry sector.



Picture 14: Chief Guest, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmad depicting government initiatives in REDD+

He informed that the issues raised by the participants about inclusiveness, will be looked into very carefully in the project and that the project will work on to develop stakeholder awareness and will have a plan to effectively engage stakeholders. He hoped that methodological approach will ensure the issue of involving relevant people – especially people in Chittagong Hill Tracts. He informed that the capacity to develop and test national forest reference emission level and forest reference level and national forest information system will greatly enhance the capacity of the Government to develop a national greenhouse gas inventory for the forest sector. He also referred to other key outputs of the project which will be very useful for our country, towards a green future.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the participations on contribution of global forestry sector in GHG emission and stressed that in order for ultimately to address the adverse impact of climate change we need to work on forestry sector. According to the Secretary, Bangladesh have put a lot of emphasis to bring more green cover for long. He referred to the inauguration of tree planting programme by honorable Prime Minister and informed audience that the theme of this year is '*jibon er jonno gach, jibikar jonno gach*' that means **'tree for our life, tree for our livelihood'**.

He underscored our dependencies on trees, forest and biodiversity resources. He also reminded that unlike some countries where it takes a lot of effort to grow a tree, Bangladesh is blessed with fertile soil and climate conducive to grow green vegetation. So we can benefit by planting trees and securing our livelihood, and set good example of sustainable watershed management in our country.

As there will always be challenges, however, what we need is national awareness, consensus, political will and dedication to bring the areas under forest cover which the country have lost. He alluded to requests MOEF often receives for a land which is a forest land for other land use purposes. He stressed that we need to understand the value of forests. While population pressure is a key challenge, he gave example of countries with high population densities along with good forest cover. He also brought to the attention of audience of co-management efforts in the country where people are protecting forests, practicing an alternative livelihood that reduces pressure on forest resources.

He argued that proper land use planning can revert transformation of forest land into other land uses. He informed that current government under the direct supervision of our honorable Prime Minister will be developing economic zones where industries will cluster. He commended Prime Minister's strong support and position in this regard. The Government while steering the country steadily towards becoming a middle income and developed country by the year 2021 and 2041, is also ensuring that the developed is not achieved at the cost of environment.

He opined that with initiation of the first phase of the National Programme, and the current complementary projects that are being implemented at this very moment like CRPAR – Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation project, Green Belt Project in coastal area, where considerable areas are being brought under forest cover, the country will be able to embark on 2nd and final phase of implementation.

Finally, the Secretary drew kind attention of the participants on the key strategy or policy documents that are being developed – for example, development of Forestry Master Plan, Country Investment Plan, revision of Forest Policy and updating of Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action plan. He encouraged everyone to be more thoughtful and careful to bring harmonized changes to bring synergy and leverage benefits and to see development holistically so that the country can tackle challenges of degradation and deforestation in an integrated manner. He hoped that with support from all corners, the country will be able to play considerable praise worthy role in bringing atmospheric stabilization.

He thanked everyone for their active participation in the workshop and welcomed all to join the lunch.

Annex - 1: List of Participants

SL	Name	Designation	E-mail	Tel/Mobile
1.	Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed	Secretary, MOEF & Co-chair PEB, UN-REDD	secretary@moef.gov.bd	01511007711
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6.	Shamshur Rahman Khan	Deputy Chief, MOEF	shamshu_1970@yahoo.co	01552317637
7.	Md. Yunus Ali	Chief Conservator of Forest & PEB Member, Forest Department	ccf-fd@bforest.gov.bd	
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143.	Zakir Hossain	Desh TV		01788822121
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Annex - 2: UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme

INCEPTION WORKSHOP

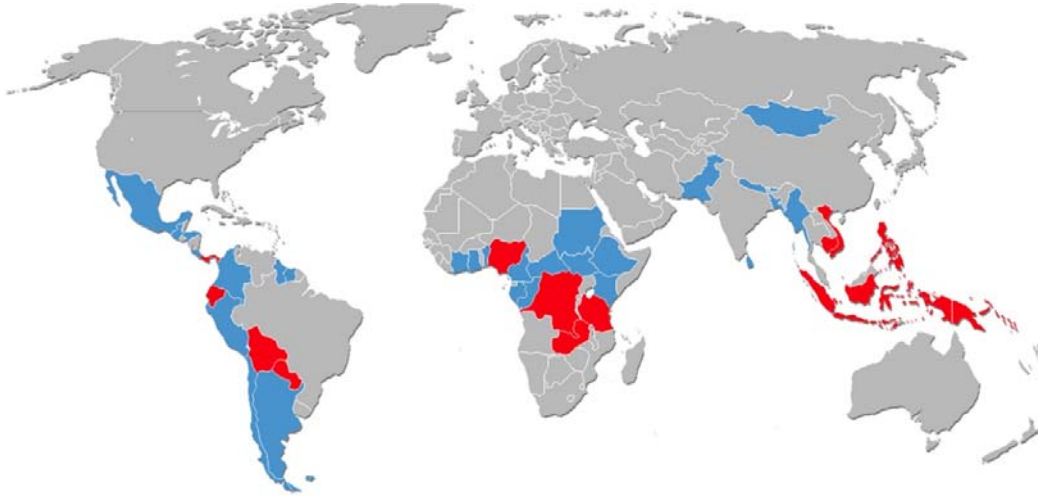
3 August 2016

Mr. Rakibul Hasan Mukul, NPD, UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh
PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
BANGLADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- UN-REDD Collaborative Programme
- GHG and Forestry Sector
- REDD+ Mechanisms and evolution
- REDD+ Process
- UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme
- Challenges/Risks

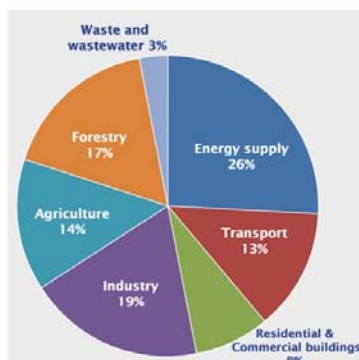
UN-REDD PROGRAMME



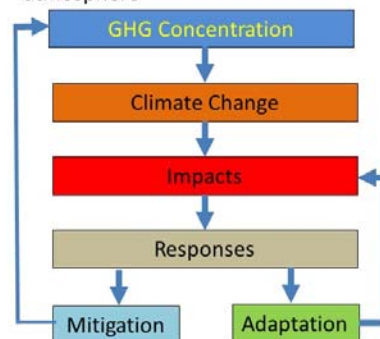
The UN-REDD Programme currently (2016) supports 64 partner developing countries;
The regions of Africa (28 countries),
Asia-Pacific (19 countries), and
Latin America and the Caribbean (17 countries)

GHG & FOREST

Global GHG sources by Sector
Source, IPCC 2007

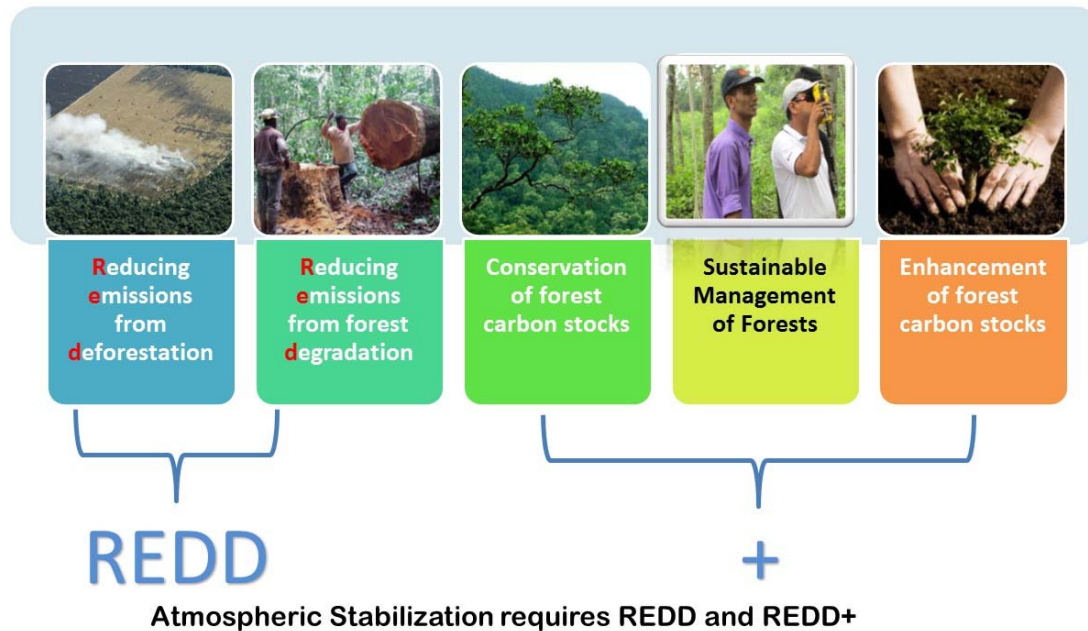


- UNFCCC Convention Article 2
(Objective): stabilize GHGs in the atmosphere

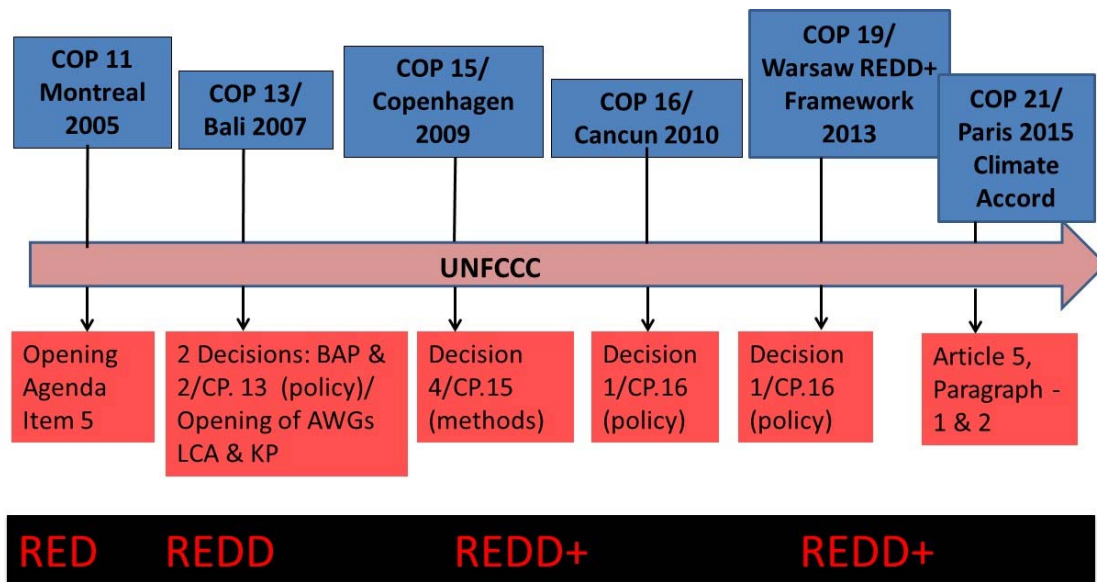


Forests acts as either as sinks or source of C;
 Total C in forest ecosystem was 638 Gt C (in 2005, FAO) > more than the amount of C in the atmosphere;
 Tropical forest store, on average, about 50% more C per unit area, than forests outside the tropics;

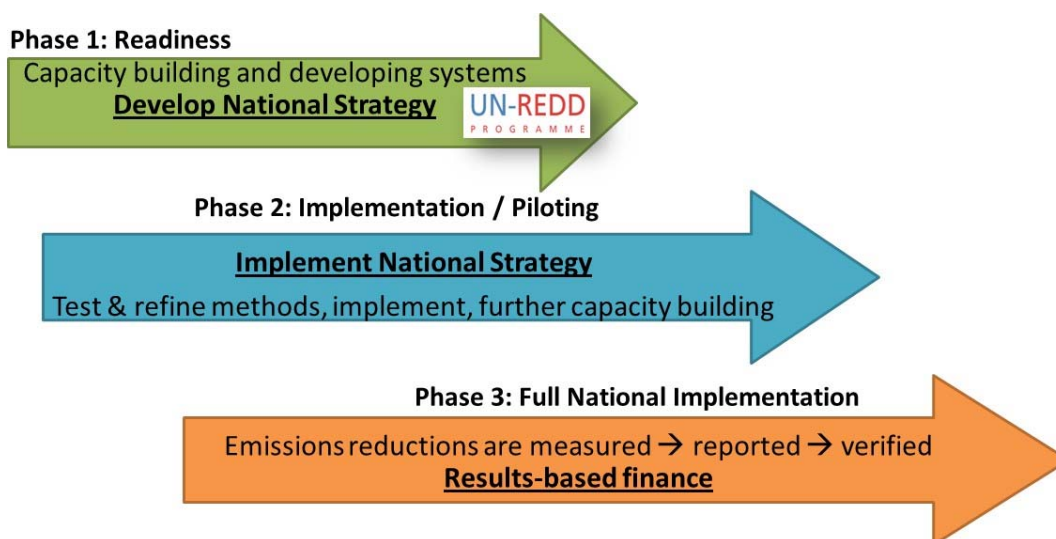
WHAT IS REDD+



EVOLUTION OF REDD+



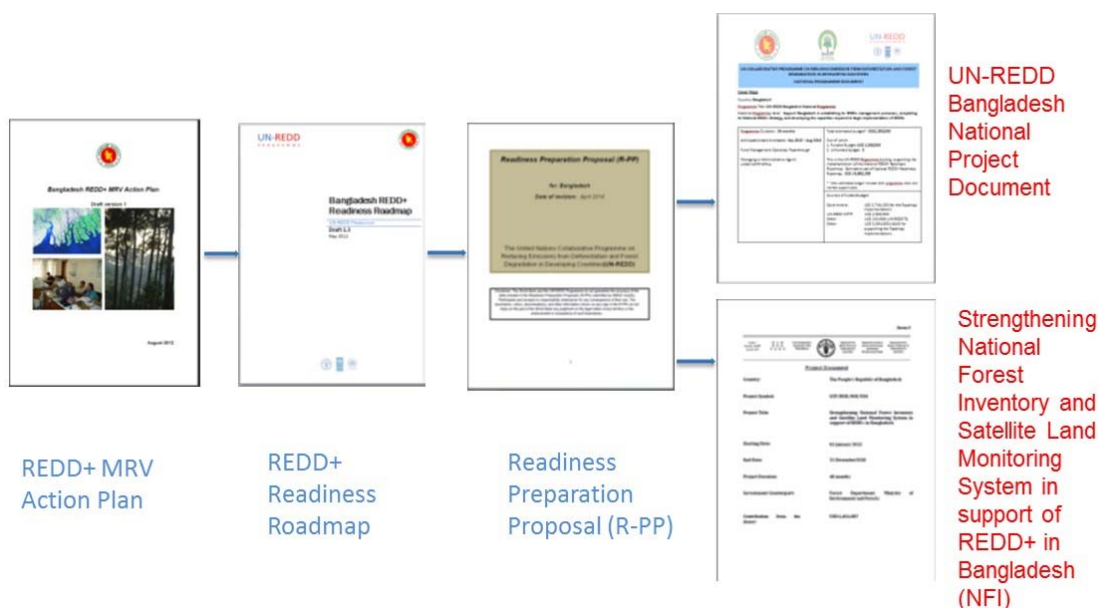
PHASED APPROACH



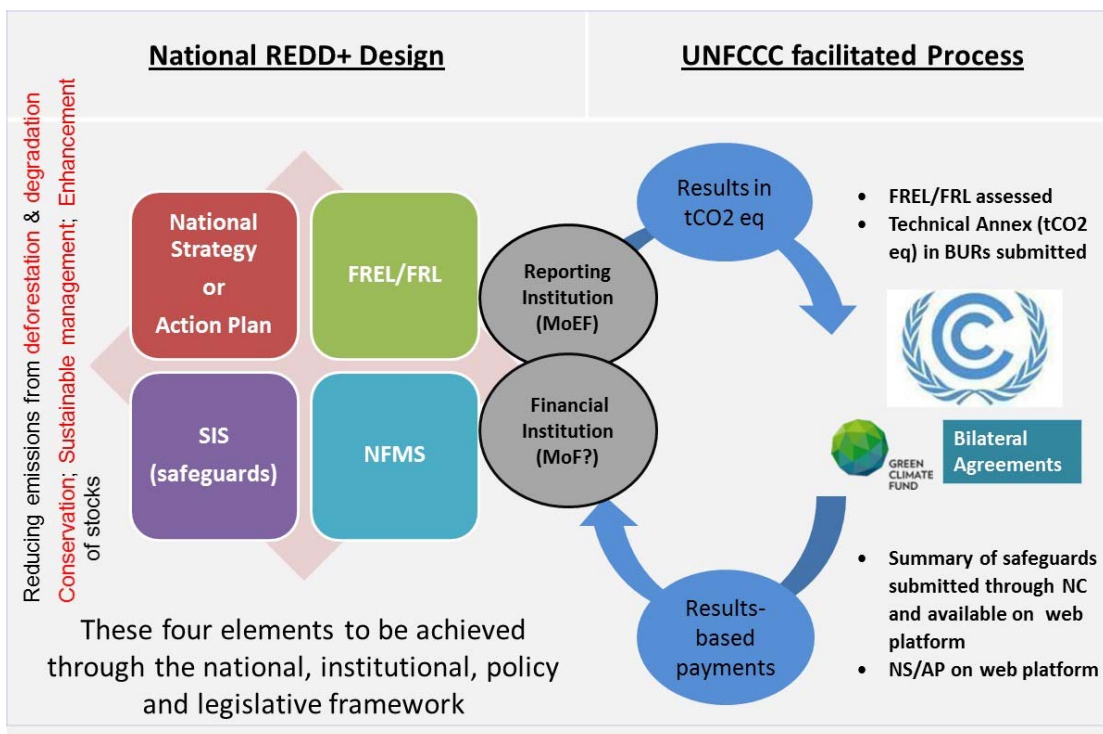
BANGLADESH REDD+ PROGRAMME TIMELINE

- 2010**
 - Bangladesh becomes Partner Country of UN-REDD in August
- 2011**
 - UNDP and FAO initiated assistance to the GoB to draft the Roadmap
- 2012**
 - Roadmap approved by National REDD+ Steering Committee in December
- 2013**
 - R-PP approved by UN-REDD Policy Board in 2013
- 2014**
 - Revision of the R-PP and National Project Document (NPD) formulation by June & NFI Project Doc in July
 - UN-REDD NPD is approved
- 2015**
 - UN-REDD NPD signed by MOEF and ERD on May
 - NFI approval - 13 December 2015
- 2016**
 - TPP approval –UN-REDD 19 June 2016;
- 2018:** - End of two projects- UN-REDD & NFI

BANGLADESH REDD+ PROGRAMME TIMELINE

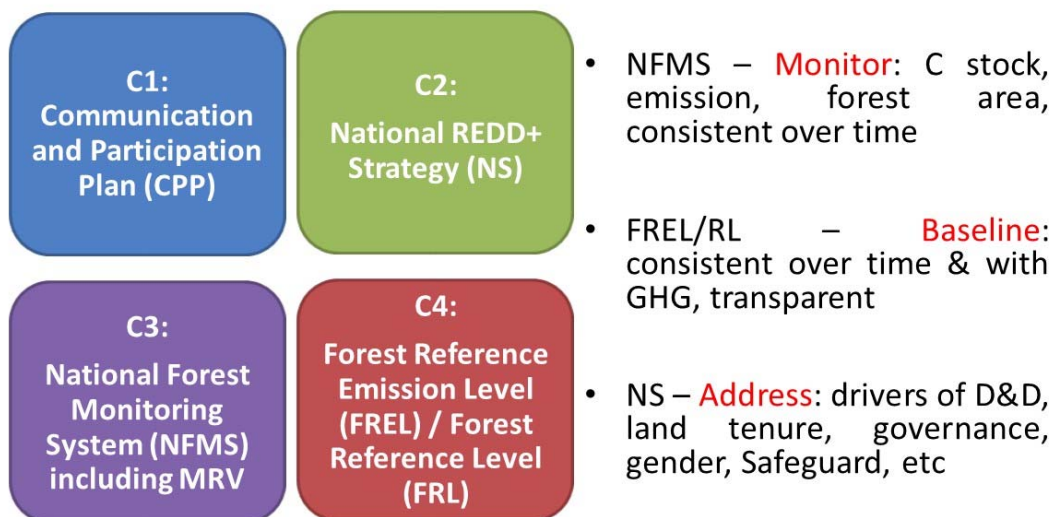


REDD+ PROCESS

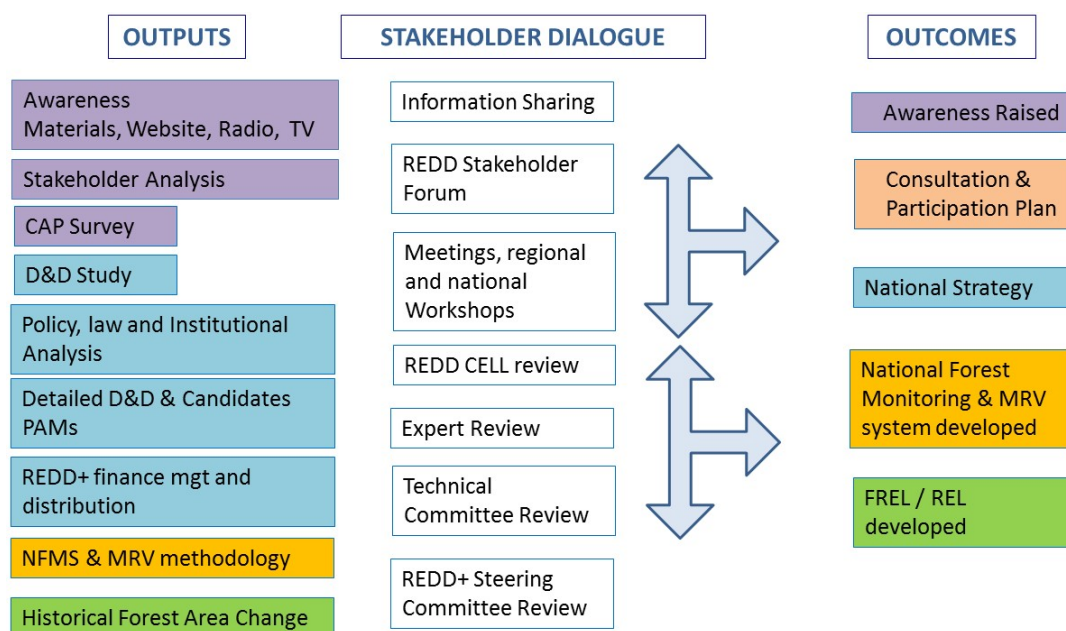


UN-REDD BANGLADESH NATIONAL PROGRAMME

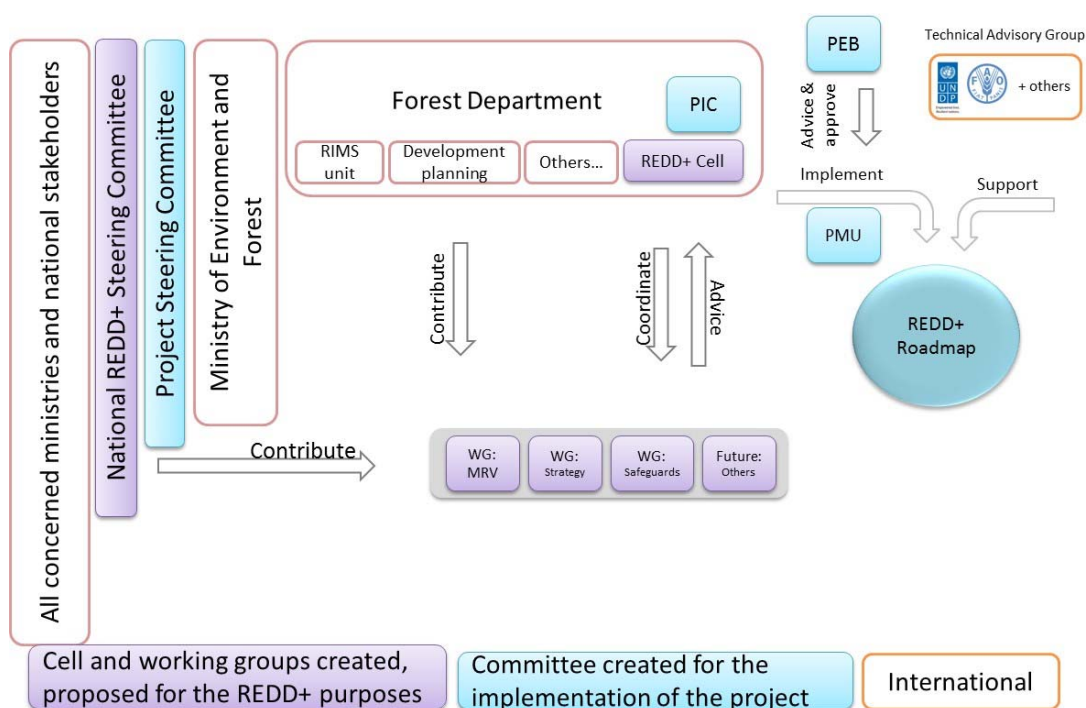
Targeted Outcomes



UN-REDD BANGLADESH NATIONAL PROGRAMME



UN-REDD BANGLADESH NATIONAL PROGRAMME



ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2016

Outcome/Output	2016 AWP (USD)	2017 & 18 (USD)	Total (USD)
Outcome 1: Awareness & Engagement	69,641	230,359	300,000
Outcome 2: National REDD+ Strategy	248,487	601,513	850,000
Outcome 3: Capacities to develop and test FRL	248,000	292,000	540,000
Outcome 4: National Forest Information System	121,000	339,000	460,000
SUB TOTAL	687,128	1,462,872	2,150,000
Indirect / Support Cost	48,099	102,401	150,500
Grand TOTAL	735,227	1,565,273	2,300,500
UNDP	340,397	890,103	1,230,500
FAO	394,830	675,170	1,070,000
TOTAL	735,227	1,565,273	2,300,500

KEY CHALLENGES

Reference Level	Digital Forest boundary & land tenure
Leakage	
Permanence	Lack of national data to guide decision
Safeguards: Environment and Society	Lack of data sharing protocol among institutions
Governance	Institutional arrangement: GHG inventory & REDD
NFMS & MRV	
Financing	Inadequate manpower to implement activities

WAY FORWARD

- Need strong, continued policy and institutional support
- Active participation from all corners
- Consensus on conservation and sustainable management of forests