

# What is REDD+?



REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is a global initiative to help tackle climate change by creating financial value for carbon stored in forested landscapes. It works to create incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low carbon paths to sustainable development. REDD+ includes activities to:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- Conservation of forests
- Enhancement of carbon in forests
- Sustainable management of forests

REDD+ also carries out activities that promote carbon enhancement by increasing tree plantation, restoring forest landscapes, and improving forest management. These three activities make up the '+' in REDD+.

REDD+ differs from the previously implemented Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) programme. Under REDD+, the country must show that it has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> levels. This involves comparing actual forest loss with a baseline or the rate of business-as-usual deforestation, also known as the 'forest reference level'. Countries have to measure their yearly forest gain or loss against this long-term rate.



In other words, REDD+ is payment for results.

## REDD+ safeguards and FPIC

To make the REDD+ processes inclusive, all relevant stakeholders need to be involved in local and national level planning. This increases the ownership and sustainability of REDD+ related activities and actions.

Countries participating in REDD+ have to adopt the social and environmental safeguards endorsed by parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a tool for consulting and involving relevant stakeholders prior to the implementation of REDD+ activities. Involved parties in a given area must agree on all of the terms and conditions as an initial step in implementing REDD+ activities.

## What is a REDD+ strategy and why is it needed?

A national REDD+ strategy consists of a plan of action and policies and measures for implementing REDD+ in a country-specific context.

This is vital because national policy and governance is a driver behind a significant share of forest loss. Policies and measures must be designed at the national level to address specific drivers behind deforestation and forest degradation.

## For further information

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