

Policy Brief

EXPECTATIONS FOR REDD+ AT UNFCCC-COP 19, WARSAW, POLAND, NOVEMBER, 2013

WWF calls on Parties to the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP 19) to finalize REDD+ design elements and to work on the financial architecture to deliver results-based payments, specifically to:

- Work collaboratively and positively to address differences and commit with ambition to progress the building of a REDD+ mechanism that benefits people and nature.
- Reach an agreement on the technical assessment for Reference Levels or Reference Emission Levels.
- Provide guidelines for measuring, reporting and verifying of REDD+.
- Progress the results-based finance architecture elements of REDD+ to ensure support for all phases of REDD+.
- Integrate REDD+ within the broader climate architecture.



An effective REDD+ mechanism must be a significant part of a global climate solution, given that deforestation and forest degradation make up to 20% of all global carbon emissions. Parties have made important progress towards the finalization of the design elements of REDD+, but there are still important pieces of the puzzle to complete.

Given the significant progress made on REDD+ since Doha, the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention (UNFCCC – COP 19) represents a great opportunity for Parties to finalize the methodological package for the core elements of REDD+: reaching an agreement on the technical assessment for reference levels or reference emission levels (RLs), and providing guidelines for measuring, reporting, and verifying (MRV) of REDD+. In parallel, WWF is calling on Parties to work on the results-based finance architecture elements of REDD+, so as to achieve a balance in the technical discussions and the building blocks for the provision of adequate and predictable support for all REDD+ phases.

SBSTA:

Continued disagreements in the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Assistance (SBSTA) would threaten the perceived relevance of the REDD+ process by strengthening the view by some that Parties to UNFCCC are not able to agree on the basic elements of REDD+.

Therefore, Parties should:

1. Commit to working cooperatively and with ambition to progress the building of a REDD+ mechanism that benefits people and nature.
2. Decide on a robust technical assessment process of Reference Level(s) or Reference Emission Level(s) (RLs) submitted voluntarily by Parties to the UNFCCC to ensure climate integrity and to provide clear signals that submitted REDD+ RLs will be assessed in a fair, transparent and timely manner.

PARTIES HAVE MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FINALIZATION OF THE DESIGN ELEMENTS OF REDD+, BUT THERE ARE STILL IMPORTANT PIECES OF THE PUZZLE TO COMPLETE.

SBSTA CONTINUED:

Parties should decide specifically on:

- Guidelines for the technical assessment of RLs:

Objective: *to assess the degree to which Parties have provided information in accordance with the guidelines for submissions of information on forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in the annex to decision 12/CP.17 in the construction of the forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, offering a facilitative and iterative technical exchange of information that results in a robust RLs (option 2 for the objectives included in the Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12)*

Scope and type of information: *a technical assessment of the data, methodologies, assumptions and procedures used by the developing country Party in the construction of the reference level(s) in accordance with the guidelines in the Annex to Decision 12/CP.17, covering the issues regarding transparency, consistency, accuracy, etc. (as described in Scope option B section of Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12)*

- Procedures for the technical assessment of RLs:

General procedures: WWF concurs with the general procedures described in Annex II of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12, in particular with the text that indicates that each submission will be technically assessed by an assessment team in accordance with the procedures and timeframes established in these guidelines, as well as with the proposals on composition of the team (that must include LULUCF experts), and the time line for the technical assessment (that should be realistic).

Status of the recommendations/ findings: Parties should find a balanced agreement on this issue that allows the technical assessment to be a facilitative and iterative process that results in a robust outcome.

- Finalize the methodological guidance for

the process of measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV), adopting the International Consultation and Analysis process, and:

Seeking for consistency with previous and future decisions (e.g. 4/CP.15, MRV for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, or NAMAs);

Deciding that data & information should be transparent, consistent over time and with the established R(E)L, and submitted through the Biennial Update Reports (BURs);

Recognizing the need to create capacities and the need of support for reporting activities;

Requesting developing country Parties seeking to obtain and receive results-based finance, when submitting the data and information referred to in paragraph 3 above, through the biennial update reports, to supply a technical annex as per paragraph 20 of annex 3 of decision 2/CP.17 (paragraph 9 of Annex I of document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.12) . Parties should promote a comprehensive technical annex for the ICA that without overburdening REDD+ countries, provides the information needed to safeguard the environmental integrity of the mechanism.

- As Parties agreed on submitting the three decisions on National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), the time and frequency of the presentation of the summary of information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, and on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, for adoption by the COP, WWF would like to see these draft decisions to be adopted in Warsaw. However, the draft decisions on safeguards and drivers are weaker than what we would have expected, therefore, WWF encourages Parties to work in establishing a strong link between the respect of safeguards and the access to results-based finance, in order to guarantee the sustainability of REDD+ in the long-term.



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WWF ENCOURAGES PARTIES TO WORK IN ESTABLISHING A STRONG LINK BETWEEN THE RESPECT OF SAFEGUARDS AND ACCESS TO RESULTS-BASED FINANCE, IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF REDD+ IN THE LONG TERM.



JOINT SBSTA/SBI PROCESS:

Given that in the last session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention, the joint SBSTA/ Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) process was affected by the stagnation of negotiations in the SBI, Parties will have a lot of work to advance in Warsaw. Parties should take advantage, though, of the in-session workshop discussions, during which there was general consensus on the need to improve effectiveness and to improve coordination at all levels with respect to financial avenues for REDD+ activities.

Parties, therefore, will have to:

- Find ways to improve the **co-ordination of support** for the implementation of REDD+

activities. Parties may want to focus on agreeing best practices to avoid barriers to access REDD+ finance, as well as to ensure that support is delivered in a timely and coordinated manner.

- Ensure the **provision of adequate and predictable support**, including financial resources and technical and technological support, to developing countries for the implementation of those activities. Parties must show commitment towards REDD+ finance beyond existing fast-start funding for the period until 2020 when a new agreement is to be in place, and clearly demonstrate how to meet the

financing needs for all phases of REDD+. Certainty regarding the financial commitments for REDD+ will create a favorable atmosphere to advance in the methodological and technical issues related to REDD+.

- Consider the need of specific **institutional arrangements or potential governance alternatives** for REDD+. But Parties must decide what functions need to be fulfilled as well as to discuss how REDD+ links to other discussions under the Convention, before deciding upon how best to do it, through new or existing institutions.

COP WORK PROGRAMME:

After the two mandated workshops under the COP Work Programme for REDD+ (CWP-REDD+) took place over the summer, Parties in Warsaw must consider the produced reports to keep advancing in their deliberations on results-based finance for REDD+. Whether a contact group is created for continuing discussions on the CWP-REDD+ issues, or these discussions are merged with the works under the joint SBSTA/SBI process, Parties must:

- Make progress and show commitment on REDD+ finance: this includes unblocking the current discussions on results-based finance for REDD+ and sending a strong signal regarding the provision of adequate and predictable support (including financial, technical and technological) to developing countries for the implementation

of REDD+ activities.

- Acknowledge that commitments towards REDD+ finance must move beyond the existing fast-start period to include both the mid- and long-term.
- Decide on ways and means to transfer payments for results-based actions and to find ways to improve the coordination of REDD+ results-based finance.

Additionally:

To date REDD+ has been approached as a fairly independent negotiation subject. Though this has allowed Parties to make faster progress than they have on other issues, we have now reached a point in the negotiations where important decisions on REDD+ are difficult to

adopt if there is no alignment and integration of REDD+ within the broader climate architecture. In particular, Parties should aim to anchor REDD+ to the Convention by analyzing the linkages to other bodies and negotiation tracks under the UNFCCC, and to send important signals to impact the design and operation of the Green Climate Fund.

Relations to explore include the Work Programme on Long-term Finance, the Standing Committee on Finance, the discussions on the New Market-based Mechanism and the Non-market Based Approaches.

WWF recommends to Parties to consider including REDD+ in the deliberations of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP), both pre- and post-2020.

100%
RECYCLED

CONCLUSION

**THERE ARE
HIGH LEVELS OF
UNCERTAINTY AS
TO HOW REDD+
FINANCE NEEDS
WILL BE MET...
THIS NEEDS TO
BE CLARIFIED
URGENTLY.**

The role of forests is crucial in the climate context. The 5th IPCC Report has shown an urgent need to act to combat climate change in order to avoid possible scenarios demonstrated. Implementing REDD+ in developing countries would not only account for the 38Gt carbon contained in forests in developing countries (an equivalent of anthropogenic GHG emissions at a 2004 rate) but also value the ability of forests to sequester carbon. Tropical moist forests continue to sequester carbon even in old-growth stage. Without REDD+ the 2 degree target is unlikely to be achieved and hence actions now needs to be taken. Given the fact that more than 100 REDD+ activities are ongoing and more than 45 developing countries are preparing their REDD+ national strategies REDD+ now stands at a crossroad.

This mechanism is significant especially in the run-up to 2020 and needs urgent finance commitments for this upcoming period. Why?

Without financial incentives at sufficient scale to engage in forest conservation it will not be possible for forest owning countries to achieve zero net deforestation and forest degradation by 2020. A delay of even one decade would sacrifice another 69 million hectares of forest worldwide, emitting at least an additional 24 GtCO₂ into the atmosphere, and thereby putting out of reach the goal out of maintaining climate stability below a 2 degree Celsius average increase.

There are high levels of uncertainty as to how REDD+ finance needs will be met in the interim period (2013-2020) and in the long-term (beyond 2020). This needs to be clarified urgently if we are to meet the necessary emissions reductions from deforestation and forest degradation now.

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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