

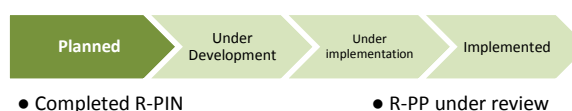
LEAF POLICY BRIEF: REDD+ Policy Support - Thailand

Overview

Thailand is in the early stages of REDD+ readiness. It is not presently participating in UN-REDD and is in preliminary stages with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), having submitted a Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) in 2009 and recently submitted a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) after a series of consultations throughout 2012.

Thailand's R-PP submission is currently under review by the FCPF. Although no project level REDD+ activities have been piloted in Thailand to date, REDD+ is receiving national level attention through the creation in 2010 of an inter-ministerial REDD+ Taskforce led by the Department of National Parks (DNP). The taskforce will oversee a number of Technical Working Groups and will coordinate the implementation of REDD+ with REDD+ offices at both the national and local levels. REDD+ activities may focus on addressing drivers such as commercial agriculture including expansion of shrimp farming in mangrove areas.

Progress Towards National REDD Implementation



Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

Direct:

- Illegal logging
- Fire
- Aquaculture expansion
- Commercial agriculture

Underlying:

- Lack of clear forest land tenure

The DNP has expressed interest in pursuing and piloting Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) which could be integrated into future REDD+ activities. Building on regional experience in Vietnam where PES has been codified into law, the DNP has expressed interest in a pilot project

in the Mae Sa-Kog Ma Man and Biosphere Reserve near Chiang Mai where communities would receive incentives for forest protection and management. One hurdle in implementing PES in Thailand concerns land tenure in forest areas, which in many cases remains unclear. The vast majority of forests (88%) are state controlled and the rights of communities living in and around forest areas are often contested, such that local forest management has frequently not been legitimized. A Community Forestry bill addressing tenure issues was passed in 2007 but has yet to be promulgated.

National REDD Institutions

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) - DNP is responsible for the conservation and protection of forests within protected areas. The DNP also heads the national REDD+ working group.

REDD+ Taskforce – Chaired by the DNP, the taskforce will serve as the REDD+ policy making agency to develop national REDD+ strategy options for REDD+ readiness in Thailand. The REDD+ TF is tasked with establishing a number of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and overseeing the REDD+ Office and REDD+ Information Center.

REDD+ Office- The implementing agency charged with facilitating, implementing and promoting all REDD+ activities. The DNP's Director of the Forest and Plant Conservation Research Office will lead the REDD+ Office and draw the membership from DNP, Royal Forest Department (RFD), Department of Marine Coastal Resources (DMCR) and Forestry Industry Organization (FIO).

The REDD+ Information Center – A multi-ministerial center charged with heading all REDD+ carbon registry activities in Thailand

LEAF Policy Assistance

LEAF adopts a regional approach in strengthening capacities across the six target countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam - to produce sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the forestry and land use sector.

To help reach this goal, the following areas have been identified for policy assistance in Thailand:

1. Supporting development of a pilot integrated PES system focusing on bundled environmental services derived from forests (i.e. water, carbon and biodiversity);
2. Supporting development of a mechanism to allow local communities to receive income for mangrove conservation focusing on the Ranong Man and Biosphere Reserve (see box);
3. Supporting evaluation of proposals for a National REDD+ strategy and subsequent development of related activities;
4. Supporting development and adoption of a roadmap for a national and sub-national reference emission levels (RELs);
5. Scoping the potential to create a national level PES committee responsible for promoting PES frameworks.

Income for local communities for mangroves conservation

In collaboration with FAO and Mangroves for the Future (MFF), this initiative seeks to develop a mechanism enabling investors to responsibly promote mangrove conservation/ restoration, carbon emissions reduction and sustainable development through the provision of funding to local communities. A key purpose of the mechanism is to facilitate flows of funding to smaller mangrove areas where entry into voluntary and compliance markets for carbon is not economically feasible but the environmental services provided by mangroves are significant.

Implementation

The support provided by LEAF will be implemented primarily through the following activities:

- Desk review of legislation, policy and current practices that inhibit or promote PES schemes;
- Supporting establishment of a national PES committee;
- Connecting local stakeholders with regional platforms including Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forestry and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC);
- Regional and national capacity building workshops.

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