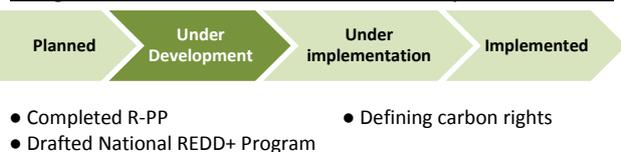


LEAF POLICY BRIEF: REDD+ Policy Support - Viet Nam

Overview

Viet Nam's forest cover is increasing as a result of large-scale afforestation and reforestation efforts although deforestation and degradation continue to affect natural forests. REDD+ readiness preparations are relatively advanced and Viet Nam is engaged in FCPF and UN-REDD processes, which have committed a combined USD \$8 million. To date, preparations have included the establishment in 2011 of a national REDD+ steering committee and REDD+ Office, both of which are overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The REDD+ plans align with existing legislation including the National Target Plan to Respond to Climate Change, which calls for expansion of national forest cover from 44% to 47% by 2020.

Progress towards National REDD+ implementation



Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

Direct:

- Aquaculture
- Hydropower
- Illegal Logging
- Industrial agriculture

Underlying:

- Perverse land use incentives
- Commodity prices

Viet Nam has circulated a draft National REDD+ Program (NRP) which aims to enhance existing momentum by phasing in additional REDD+ activities through 2020. The NRP will address areas such as forest policy; legislative and administrative reform; integrated land-use planning and zoning; improvement of forest

tenure security, including a framework for community forest management; enforcement of planning and environmental requirements including REDD+ safeguards; promotion of activities to reduce forest conversion including agricultural intensification; introduction of improved cook stoves; and a shifting cultivation support program. NRP funding has been committed by bilateral and multilateral donors and NGOs. As of June 2012 the NRP is awaiting Prime Ministerial approval.

National REDD+ Institutions

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) –Responsible for land use planning and allocation, and guiding and implementing biodiversity and nature conservation policies. It has overall responsibility for climate change policy and for proposing and implementing environmental law.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) –Responsible for agriculture, forestry, fisheries & rural development, including forest protection and development. Powers include developing and implementing standards for forest protection and development; elaborating the national forestry development strategy and other forestry policies and programs; implementing assignment, lease and recovery of forests; and issuing and revoking permits. MARD oversees the REDD+ steering committee.

Viet Nam Forestry Administration (VN Forest) - As one of three directorates under MARD, VNFOREST is headed by the Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development and is responsible for implementation of forest protection and development. It oversees the eight functional departments and six national park authorities as well as the CITES Administration and the Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI). VNFOREST is directly responsible for all climate change activities in the forestry sector including REDD+.

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.

In Viet Nam, rapid institutional reform motivated by REDD+ is presenting LEAF with substantial opportunity to provide policy support in several areas including the following:

1. Supporting development of a pilot decision on carbon regulation under Decree 99 (see box). Work will include studies on carbon rights, revenue distribution and monitoring, and a nationwide consultation process;
2. Supporting implementation of REDD+ nesting architecture to facilitate support for sub-national REDD+ pilot activities including in relation to revenue distribution systems;
3. Supporting development of REDD+ Action Plans (RAPs) in Lam Dong and Nghe An Provinces;
4. Supporting development of a mechanism to facilitate payments to local communities for mangrove conservation;
5. Providing input to the design of disbursement modalities for Provincial Forest Funds, targeting issues such as stakeholder participation, gender and nesting.

About Decree 99

In 2010, Viet Nam established itself as a regional leader in Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) when it passed Decree 99, the national *Policy for Payment for Forest Environmental Services*. Although forest carbon is explicitly mentioned in the decree, rights to carbon are not defined. Helping define these rights through a legal framework integrated with Decree 99 has been identified as a focal area for LEAF.

Implementation:

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

- Desk based review and stakeholder consultations to build a framework defining carbon rights and responsibilities in relation to REDD+;
- 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);
- Provision of policy advice on nested carbon accounting and revenue distribution systems;
- Regional and national capacity building workshops.

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