

2016 International Seminar for Climate Change and Forests

The Future of REDD+

-Interpreting FREL/FRL for Post-2020 Framework-

Date: January 28, 2016

Venue: Ito Hall, The University of Tokyo

< Concept Note Final Draft >

1. Background and Objective

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) has been discussed under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for 8 years since this mechanism was recognized as a climate mitigation option for the post-2013 framework at COP13 held in Bali in 2007. Subsequently, COP19 adopted the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ which includes the technical guidance for REDD+ implementation and the agreement to start the work programme on the results-based finance.

Based on these agreements, several actions have been taken to initiate results-based payments under the UNFCCC. The Green Climate Fund considered a system for the results-based payments from 2014 through 2015 and the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance discussed forest finance including REDD+ at the 3rd forum held in September 2015. Along with these initiatives, some countries have already submitted their forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels (FREL/FRL) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. REDD+ therefore started to gear up toward full implementation.

Under the UNFCCC, FREL/FRL is defined as a benchmark for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD+¹. In a broader sense, FREL/FRL is related to the evaluation of each country's contribution to mitigate climate

¹ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17

change through forest activities². For the estimation of FREL/FRL, each country needs to consider national circumstances, such as forest definition, historical trends of GHG emissions, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and land use and forest conservation policy. FREL/FRL should be transparent, complete, consistent and as far as possible accurate. The interpretation of FREL/FRL provides lessons to deal with technical challenges of estimating and integrating FREL/FRL. Such understanding provides insights in guiding effective ways to support REDD+ implementation, and designing effective global actions to mitigate climate change.

Along with the REDD+ activities at the national/subnational levels under the UNFCCC, a number of local REDD+ projects have taken place under voluntary schemes. The use of reference levels is also crucial to account for the emissions reduction at the project level. This gives rise to a new challenge of clearly defining the relationship and consistency between FREL/FRL at the national/subnational levels and project level.

For the post-2020 framework, activities related to land use, including REDD+, are expected to play a major role among the mitigation and adaptation measures. The objectives of this seminar are 1) to review and share the past and present of REDD+, including international negotiations up to COP21 and the submitted FREL/FRL, and 2) to discuss the post-2020 REDD+ strategies, particularly on the relationship between the FREL/FRL at the project level and national/subnational levels.

2. Organizers

Organized by: The Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI)

Co-organized by: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Public-Private Platform for REDD+, The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Supported by: Forestry Agency, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, The Japanese Forest Society (JFS), The Japan Society of Tropical Ecology, The Remote Sensing Society of Japan (RSSJ), Japan Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (JSPRS)

² UN-REDD, 2015

*co-organizers and supporters : To be announced

3. Participants

Private sector investors, technical experts, government officials, researchers, and students. (Approx. 200)

4. Language

Japanese and English (simultaneous translation)

5. Tentative program

1. **Keynote speech: Dr. Maria Jose Sanz-Sanchez: Past and Present of REDD+** (10:30~11:30) / Moderator: TBD

Purpose of Session:

- to overview the historical background of REDD+ negotiations and explore future actions.
- TBD/50min and Q&A(10min)
- Forestry agency, Japan (TBD/talk session)
- Ministry of Environment, Japan (TBD/talk session)

2. **Session1: REDD+ and FREL/REL at National / subnational levels** (11:30~14:40) / Moderator: Dr. Yasumasa Hirata (FFPRI)

Purpose of Session:

- to promote understanding of FREL/FRL by providing a brief summary of FREL/FRL
- MURC(TBD)/20 min and Q&A(10 min)

- to introduce the FREL/FRL submitted to the UNFCCC
- to explore the future of forest conservation including REDD+ in each country.
- Countries who have submitted FREL/FRL to the Secretariat (TBD)/15 min and Q&A(15min)

3. **Coffee break and poster session** (14:30~15:15)
4. **Session2: Challenges for post-2020 framework – REDD+ and Scaling –** (15:15~16:40)/ Moderator: Mitsuo Matsumoto (FFPRI)

Purpose of Session:

- to understand how to scale up the FREL/FRL from project levels to the national/subnational levels
- to share experiences at project level
- VCS (TBD)/20 min
- FCPF-CF (TBD)/20 min
- Examples of scaling (TBD) × 2 /15 min and Q&A(15min)

5. **Panel discussion: The future of REDD+** (16:40~17:20) / Moderator: TBD

Purpose of Session:

- to explore the future of REDD+ based on the discussions from this seminar
- a speaker from keynote speech
- 2 speakers from session 1
- 2 speakers from session 2
- an REDD+ experts from Japan