

How REDD+ can contribute to achieving SDGs and delivering NDC goals: Experiences from three contrasting countries in Asia/Pacific

**COP23 Side Event Concept Note:
Mongolia/Myanmar/PNG Side Event at the UN Climate Change Conference
Date: 16 November 2017, 12:30 – 14:00
Venue: Room E10, UNDP Pavilion, Bonn Zone**

Context and Challenge:

There has been a tendency for REDD+ to be viewed in isolation, in part because of the intensive and relatively isolated REDD+ negotiation process that led to the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ in 2013. As a climate mitigation measure under the UNFCCC, it is natural that the primary focus for REDD+ should be SDG Goal 13 (Climate Action). However, since forests provide a wide range of ecological, political, economic, social and cultural services, a narrow focus on climate mitigation could mean that the multitude of other services may be overlooked or their benefits adversely affected.

In terms of the SDGs, besides Goal 13, forests can contribute to at least the following:

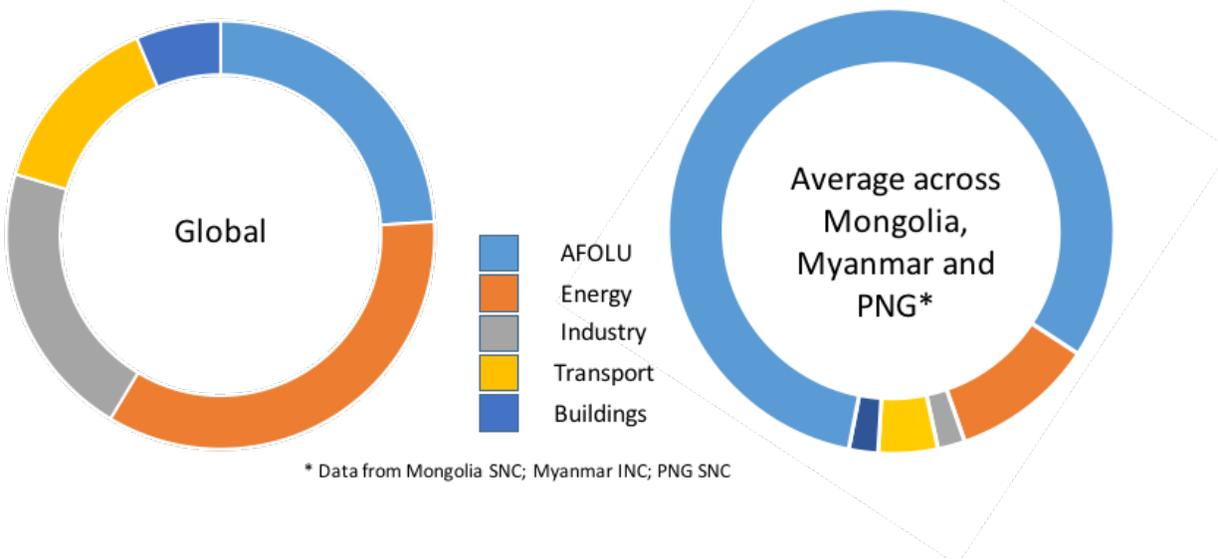
- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

In the case of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the role of forests in reducing emissions in developing countries is dominant – see diagram below contrasting sectoral emissions globally and in the three countries, Mongolia, Myanmar, and PNG. But, again, the multiple roles of forests mean that they are equally important in climate adaptation, by contributing to reducing storm surges and regulating water flows, thus reducing flood impacts and droughts, in preventing landslides, thus protecting infrastructure, and in supporting ecological processes that control disease agents.

In this context, a challenge for developing countries is to design national REDD+ strategies (and the other elements of the Warsaw Framework) that will effectively and efficiently reduce net emissions while simultaneously ensuring that the other climate and non-climate services provided by forests are not adversely affected.

To illustrate how this challenge has been addressed, three highly contrasting countries from the Asia-Pacific region will present their vision for REDD+ and explain how their REDD+ strategies will contribute to meeting SDG and NDC Goals.

GHG Emission Sources



1. Mongolia:

The world's only boreal REDD+ country, where temperatures have been rising at three times the global rate, the role of forests in adapting to climate change is an imperative in the country's NDC.

2. Myanmar:

Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are typical of many tropical forested countries. Though just emerging from decades of political isolation and facing internal conflicts, the country is still with the largest remaining forest areas in SE Asia, third highest deforestation rate in the world and a huge potential for climate change mitigation through REDD+, which is the cornerstone of its NDC.

3. Papua New Guinea:

With its unique, clan-based land tenure system, and ranking 154th on the Human Development Index, PNG identified national priorities on climate change and other sectors by including targets of a 50% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and to reach a point of carbon neutrality by 2050 in the NDC and National Strategy for Responsible and Sustainable Development (StaRS).

This side event will provide a platform for the three countries to highlight how they have approached these highly contrasting national circumstances, and illustrate the flexibility of REDD+ in contributing to multiple environmental, social and economic goals.

Agenda:

How REDD+ can contribute to achieving SDGs and delivering NDC goals: Experiences from three contrasting countries in Asia/Pacific		
Thursday 16 November 12:30 – 14:00 Room E10, UNDP Pavilion, Bonn Zone		
Time	Session	Speaker/Facilitator
12:30 – 12:50	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keynote by Ganbat Damba, Ambassador of Mongolia to Germany ➤ Keynote by Hon. John Pundari, Minister of MEC (PNG) 	Jyoti Mathur-Filipp
Presentation sessions:		Jyoti Mathur-Filipp
12:50 – 13:05	Mongolia: (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Video: REDD+ and Green Development in Mongolia ➤ Presentation: Progress in integrating REDD+ into Green Development Strategy of Mongolia by REDD+ Focal Point of Mongolia 	Ms. Tungalag Mr. Khishigjargal Batjantsan
13:05 – 13:20	Myanmar: (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Video: REDD+ and National Comprehensive Development in Myanmar ➤ Presentation: Progress in integrating REDD+ into the National Comprehensive Development Plan of Myanmar by the REDD+ Focal Point of Myanmar 	Ms. Khin Hnin Myint
13:20 – 13:35	Papua New Guinea: (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Video: “REDD+: A Green Path for the Future” ➤ Presentation: Progress in integrating REDD+ into the National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development and Climate Change Commitments under Paris Agreement of PNG 	Mr. Ruel Yamuna Mr. Goodwill Amos
13:35 – 13:55	Panel discussion: “How to communicate to stakeholders the role REDD+ can play in achieving broader development goals” (20 minutes) <i>(Panelists: Mr. Batjargal Zamba, GCF NDA for Mongolia, U Hla Maung Thein, Director General, Environmental Conservation Department, and UNFCCC Focal Point for Myanmar, and Ms. Gwen Sissiou, Climate Change and Development Authority of PNG)</i>	Jyoti Mathur-Filipp



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13:55 – 14:00	Concluding remarks by Mr. <i>Magdy</i> Martínez-Solimán, UN Assistant Secretary General, <i>UNDP</i> Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme of UNDP	
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Expected Participants:

GCF board members, representatives of donors, representatives of development partners, governments of Brazil, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, ...

Materials:

Three countries will also produce key communications materials, videos and/or supporting documents to be shared/projected at a display in the UNDP Pavilion.

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