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Implementing REDD+ in Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia: Current Status and Perspective

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Abstract

Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, forest conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) is a high concern of the international agenda recently. Up to date, the progress of REDD+ in practice is still unclear, on how the mechanism can be implemented on the ground. This paper reviews how REDD+ is implemented in three Southeast Asia countries, namely Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. The countries have been involved in the UN-REDD National Programmes and currently undergoing several REDD+ projects. It has so far been found that the initiative is appropriate with the national strategies with a very promising mechanism.

Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia have actively responded to the REDD+ initiative and committed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) at 20%, 26% and 40% respectively, relative to business-as-usual (BAU) conditions by the year 2020. All of the three countries have adopted strategies to put REDD+ into practice with the ‘National REDD+ Action Plan’ in Vietnam, the ‘Strategy of 26/7’ in Indonesia and the ‘National Strategy on REDD+’ in Malaysia. Many legal documents have been identified as supporting to the REDD implementation in the respective countries. The three countries have also received different amount of financial supports from bilateral/international partnerships to implement REDD+ via projects until 2017. It is approximately USD118.8 million for Vietnam, USD1,000 million for Indonesia, and USD11.4 million for Malaysia. With these supports, the respective countries have implemented a number of activities on REDD+ such as sharing of information and experience, capacity building, policy dialogue and cooperation opportunity seeking.

The REDD+ is complicated and until today the countries are still in readiness process. Technical operations are identified as a big challenge for REDD+, particularly when it comes to the implementation at national or nested (sub-national programs, within the national system) level in Southeast Asia. There are outstanding issues of unclear pathway how to verify and determine the monitoring, reporting, verification system (MRV), benefit distribution system (BDS), and carbon market mechanism. REDD+ is considered as still uncertain incentives and market mechanism, which possibly would drive to the worsening of tropical resources due to its utilisation for development.

Keywords: Implementation, Indonesia, Malaysia, REDD+, Vietnam

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