TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

Faculty of Environmental Sciences, Department of Forest Sciences

Implementing REDD+ in Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia: current status and perspective

Duc Le[1*], Fitria Rinawati[1], Walter Lintangah[2], Thuy Anh Le[3]

[1]Technische Universität Dresden, Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products, Tropical Forestry
[2]Technische Universität Dresden, Institute of Forest Economics and Forest Management Planning, Forest Policy and Forest Resource Economics
[3]WWF Great Mekong, Vietnam Programme, Vietnam

Introduction and Objective

UN-REDD PROGRAMME
FAO, UNDP, UNEP

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, forest conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) is a high concerned 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 UNREDD 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.
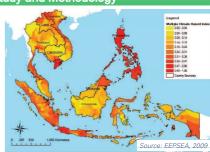
Case-study and Methodology

Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia are selected as case-studies.

By literature review to see how REDD+ is implemented in three Southeast Asia countries: Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia

Source: EEPSEA, 2009

Result and Lessons Learnt

Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia have been actively responded with 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.

Readiness efforts
- Institutional development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Benefit Distribution System
- Reference (Emission) Levels
- MRV framework
- National REDD+ Programme

Figure 1. The dynamic of REDD+ : case of Indonesia

Source: Adapted from Global Comparative Study CIFOR, 2011

Table 1. Opportunities and Challenges- Vietnam case

Opportunities	Challenges
• In line with the program's objectives, current strategies and international commitments about environment that VN has signed, • Benefits that REDD+ provides are very promising: Reducing emissions, contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management, improving the lives of people who involved directly in forest protection and development, • Vietnam has potential and can get huge benefits through the implementation of REDD+, • Vietnam has received the attention and technical and financial support from international donors; and continues to receive the support from big donors.	• REDD+ is anew and complex issue, and still in negotiation process, • Many concepts, monitoring, reporting, verification system (MRV) are not yet agreed, • Approach possibility to financial support is dependent on many factors such as dynamic and relationship between donors and recipient countries, • Difficulties in integrating climate change and REDD+ into planning, plan of forest protection and development, economic development, • Systems of forest inventory, forest change monitoring has not yet met requirements, the data on forests and forestry land, capacity to calculate stock of forest carbon are still weak.

Source: Pham, 2012, Vu, 2012, Swan, 2013,

Table 1. Opportunities and Challenges- Indonesia case

Opportunities	Challenges
• Reduction 41% GHGs emission against 2005 contributes to halving the world emission mostly by protecting the carbon in tropical forest, • Carbon market based solutions; incentives mechanism for preserving carbon, • Generating financing option, • Benefit to local community, • Sustainable development through REDD+ - a socio economic transformation and incentives mechanism that directly benefit local economics • Long lasting climate benefits, • Forest and Conservation Biodiversity (the spot of biodiversity).	• The REDD+ is still in readiness process, and takes time for implementation, • Technical implementation (Additionality, Permanence and Leakage), • Monitoring - Measuring, Reporting and verification (MRV), • Corruption – transparency, • Carbon Market Mechanism, • Forest moratorium contra development • Biodiversity vs. carbon (monoculture plantation-carbon farm expansion).

Source: Rinawati, 2012

Table 1. Opportunities and Challenges- Malaysia case

Opportunities	Challenges
• Enhancement of awareness, capacity (learning by doing), and readiness to implement REDD projects, • Potential for funding options, • Flexible policy instrument, • Strong support from national and international institutions to govern fund mobilization, allocation and disbursement, • Supporting national policy and national development planning, • Recognition of the role of forests for climate change adaptation.	• Method for implementation involving different level of national and state, facility data and technology and the monitoring, reporting, verification system (MRV) –standard, • Mechanism and accounting of costs and benefits related to the implementation, • Payment for environmental services, • Stakeholders consultation and representation of different level, • Legal & institutional framework (architecture) that is related to ownership rights, transaction cost and Contractual and legal obligations, • Scale of project involving Local, state, national, • Funding mechanism.

Source: Ghani, 2011, Musa & Samah, 2012,

Outlook

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 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.

Thus a failure to mobilize the REDD+ funds will deflate the enthusiasm to implement REDD+ activities on the ground, which means a serious delay of REDD+ implementation at the expense of both the communities that are dependent on forest resources, and the global population from continued destruction of primary forests.