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Pilot Programme for REDD+ Results-based Payments

Summary

As per decision B.14/03, paragraph (b), this document presents a draft request for proposals for REDD+ results-based payments for consideration by the Board.

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I. Introduction

1.1. Mandate

1. At its fourteenth meeting, the Board, through decision B.14/03, paragraph (b), requested the Secretariat to develop a request for proposals (RFPs) for REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs), including guidance consistent with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other REDD+ decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), taking into account topics included in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of document GCF/B.14/03 titled “Support for REDD+” and decision B.08/08.
2. In decision 14/03, paragraph (c), the Board also requested the Secretariat to implement, with the advice of the Co-Chairs, a process for stakeholder and expert input to support its work under this decision.
3. In UNFCCC decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC encouraged entities financing REDD+ activities, including the GCF in a key role, to collectively channel adequate and predictable results-based finance in a fair and balanced manner, taking into account different policy approaches, while working with a view to increasing the number of countries that are in a position to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions.
4. This document responds to the above-mentioned request and encouragement. It provides an update of the stakeholder consultations undertaken, a summary of the inputs received, and presents a draft RFPs with terms of reference (see annex II) for consideration by the Board.

1.2. Linkages to other documents

5. This document has linkages with documents on the following:
 - (a) Progress on support for REDD+;¹
 - (b) Support for REDD+;²
 - (c) The GCF and the Paris Agreement;³
 - (d) Further development of some indicators in the performance measurement frameworks;⁴
 - (e) Strategy on accreditation;⁵
 - (f) Further development of the initial investment framework: sub-criteria and methodology;⁶
 - (g) Further development of the initial results management framework, including the initial logic framework for REDD+ results-based payments;⁷ and
 - (h) The guiding framework and procedures for accrediting national, regional and international implementing entities and intermediaries, including the GCF fiduciary principles and standards and environmental and social safeguards.⁸

¹ GCF/B.15/Inf.07.

² GCF/B.14/03.

³ GCF/B.13/06.

⁴ GCF/B.13/26.

⁵ GCF/B.13/12.

⁶ GCF/B.09/07.

⁷ GCF/B.08/07.

⁸ GCF/B.07/02.

1.3. Consultation process for developing GCF REDD+ results-based payments

6. Since the fourteenth meeting of the Board, when the mandate was given to prepare an RFP for REDD+ RBPs, notable progress has been made in the process of fulfilling this mandate. At the fifteenth meeting of the Board, two members of the Board were nominated as REDD+ champions to facilitate consultation processes.⁹ In coordination with the two REDD+ champions and the Co-Chairs, two calls for inputs from the Board and stakeholders were issued on 24 February 2017. These calls for input concerned 10 procedural and technical elements related to the design of the RFP. In response to these calls for input, the Secretariat received 22 submissions from members of the Board and 23 submissions from stakeholders.

7. Based on the inputs received, the Secretariat, in coordination with the REDD+ champions, held a REDD+ expert workshop from 21 to 24 April 2017 in Bali, Indonesia. The workshop successfully convened more than sixty REDD+ experts from around the world, who provided technical inputs on issues concerning the operationalization of REDD+ RBPs in the GCF. Following the expert workshop, the Secretariat provided status updates at the UNFCCC fourth voluntary meeting on the coordination of support for the implementation of REDD+ activities in developing countries held in Bonn on 13 May 2017.

8. Based on the inputs received online and at the REDD+ expert workshop, the terms of reference for the request for proposals for the GCF REDD+ RBP pilot programme has been prepared and is contained in the Annex II.

1.4. Rationale for REDD+ results-based payments pilot programme

9. As outlined in paragraph 3 of its Governing Instrument, the Fund is a “continuously learning institution guided by process for monitoring and evaluation.” The GCF is mindful that countries are at different stages of readiness across the REDD+ spectrum, with most countries being in the early phases of REDD+. The GCF has a role to play to support these countries to become REDD+ RBP-ready and is able to provide support for early phases of REDD+. For countries that are more advanced, timely mobilisation of RBP for REDD+ will help to incentivise action, generate lessons and knowledge, and inform a longer-term approach. As such, the Fund proposes a pilot RFP to test its efficacy and troubleshoot any potential issues that may arise.

II. Initial analysis of the implications on existing GCF policies and procedures

10. Paragraph 35 of the Governing Instrument confirms that REDD+ financing is eligible for GCF support. In addition, paragraph 55 notes the possibility of the implementation of results-based financing approaches, including for incentivizing mitigation actions, and payments for verified results, where appropriate.

11. However, the current GCF policies and procedures were designed for upfront investments, whereas the REDD+ RBP pilot programme will include payments for results from investments which were made in the past. Accordingly, the application of such policies and procedures to projects whose implementation period has past will need to be considered when operationalizing the proposed pilot programme.

⁹ GCF/B.15.24, paragraph 116.

12. The initial analysis set out below, identifies possible ways in which the substance of the current policies and procedures adopted by the Board could be taken into account in the implementation of REDD+ RBP pilot programme, if necessary. This may, in certain cases, require modifications to the way in which such policies are applied in relation to results-based payments:

- (a) **Accreditation and associated matters:** In the case of ex-post payments, the accreditation type of the AE should be taken into consideration when channelling the RBP proceeds. Each individual AE is accredited for different amounts of funding, fiduciary functions and environmental and social risk categories, based on their institutional and accreditation assessment. AEs may only submit Funding Proposals that match their accreditation types. While these accreditation types should be applied to RBP proposals, some factors may need to be adjusted and/or waived considering the limited role and involvement of the AEs in the activities already undertaken that generated results. This could be done at the time of approving a relevant Funding Proposals;
- (b) **Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) and Funded Activity Agreement (FAA):** the AMA sets out the general terms and conditions applicable between the AE and the GCF at the institutional level, and the FAA sets out terms and conditions for a specific funded activity after Board approval of the Funding Proposals. Certain provisions in the AMA would not be applicable for payments against achieved results, such as the level of reporting requirements for investment-type projects. Therefore, terms and conditions specific to RBP would need to be set out in the FAAs and may need to deviate from the AMAs on a project-by-project basis. Such terms and conditions are likely to be different from the terms and conditions tied to conventional investment-type proposals, but will ultimately seek to give the GCF the same level of comfort. Relevant deviations from the AMA should be included in the Term Sheet submitted to the Board for approval in respect of the relevant Funding Proposals. By way of example, standard obligations, which set out the standard of care that the AE is required to meet during project implementation, could be amended to require the AE to give a representation that throughout the implementation of the relevant funded activity, the AE has met the relevant standard of care set out in the AMA. Other forward-looking obligations could equally be converted into backward-looking representations (e.g. in relation to compliance with environmental and social standards, and other GCF policy requirements);
- (c) **Interim risk and investment guidelines:** the interim risk and investment guidelines for the public sector only address grants and loans.¹⁰ For the implementation of the RBP, the interim guidelines could be applicable. Further development of the Investment Framework and risk management guidelines will need to provide additional clarity on the various types of financial instruments used by the GCF for operationalizing results-based payments/financing not only for REDD+ but also for other sectors, where applicable;
- (d) **Monitoring and Accountability Framework:** the current reporting requirements under the GCF Monitoring and Accountability Framework include annual performance reports, including financial management reports, an interim evaluation report and a final evaluation report. As these reports are essentially designed for upfront investment, the operationalization of the RBP pilot programme will require different reporting. The GCF may instead request a report in the form of a Completion Report at the time of receiving the RBP proposal describing the plans for the use of proceeds in compliance with GCF policies. The nature of the relevant reporting arrangements should be set out in the relevant Funding Proposals and the Term Sheets submitted to the Board for approval.
- (e) **Initial Investment Framework:** the assessment of RBP proposals may include substantive evaluations of the activities that generated results against the GCF initial

¹⁰ Annex VIII to decision B.13/36.

Investment Framework. This is because all GCF funds, ex-ante or ex-post, must promote the objectives of the GCF, and because a compliance check against the elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and a Technical Assessment by the Secretariat of the UNFCCC may not in themselves guarantee the alignment of the activities with GCF objectives. The Investment Framework can be applied retroactively for past activities, or to the prospective actions tied to the use of proceeds. Either way, additional information on the activities that generated results may be required for assessment against the Investment Criteria;

(f) **Results Management Framework, Performance Management Framework, initial REDD+ Logic Framework and Performance Measurement Framework for REDD+ results-based payments:** RBP proposals will need to demonstrate the impacts of their programmes against the initial REDD+ Logic Model and Performance Measurement Framework of the GCF. Proposals will be requested to address programme-level outcome indicators where applicable. Also, the Fund's REDD+ RBP performance measurement framework provides eligibility criteria for disbursing RBPs.

(g) **Interim Environmental and Social Safeguards:** the GCF is currently using the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards for Environmental and Social Sustainability as its interim Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) standard,¹¹ which consists of eight performance standards. These standards place considerable emphasis on defining the requirements to manage environmental and social risks anticipated to be generated by projects and programmes. The forward-looking approach of these standards take due consideration of ex-ante assessments, planning and management plans related to the projects/programmes. RBPs, on the other hand, are based on achieved results. The environmental and social outcomes and the way the risks and impacts have been managed in the course of implementing the results-generating activities are determined following the achievement of the outcomes. The REDD+ activities, therefore, will be assessed retroactively based on how the environmental and social risks and impacts have been managed in a manner that is consistent with the applicable and relevant requirements of the GCF ESS standards 1 to 8. The determination of the applicability of the ESS standards will take into consideration the gaps assessed between the requirements of the GCF ESS standards, Cancun Safeguards and the country's interpretation;

(h) **Information disclosure policy for environmental and social safeguard reports:** the information disclosure policy adopted by the GCF in 2015¹² describes the requirements for disclosing the ESS information on activities proposed for GCF-financing. The disclosure requirements are differentiated by the risk category of the proposed activities such that ESS information on high-risk activities and information related to moderate risk activities are disclosed in English and in the local language at least 120 days and 30 days, respectively, prior to Board approval. This policy should apply to RBP proposals as well. The AE and the country submitting the RBP proposal should confirm that the relevant ESS report has been disclosed according to its risk category prior to Board approval. Environmental and social safeguard information that will need to be disclosed includes the summary of information provided by the countries and the environmental and social assessment provided by the entities. These are considered to be equivalent to the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) and environmental and social management plans (ESMP) required under typical activities proposed for GCF financing;

(i) **Gender policy:** any RBP proposals should be fully in line with the GCF Gender policy. The proposal will need to demonstrate how the implementation of results-generating actions met the GCF Gender Policy, including the alignment with national policies and priorities on

¹¹ Decision B.07/02.

¹² Decision B.12/35.

gender. Any gender-related complaints and grievances that may have occurred or may occur in the future during the implementation will be processed through the independent Redress Mechanism;

(j) **Initial proposal approval process:** RBP proposals will follow the GCF initial proposal approval process¹³ until a decision is made to adopt a revision of the proposal approval process. There are no implications for RBP proposals to adjust to a revised proposal approval process by the Board; and

(k) **Interim policy on prohibited practices:** the Board adopted the General Principles on Prohibited Practices, as presented in Exhibit A of the AMA template, as the GCF Interim policy on prohibited practices to be observed by AEs and readiness partners.¹⁴ This policy, together with the AMA, is designed to control prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, by predefining the appropriate use of the funds, the investigating allegations, and imposing sanctions on the counterparty for engaging in the prohibited practices. However, this input-tracking control mechanism may not be applicable to the ex-post payment for activities already undertaken in the past. In this regard, the GCF needs to consider requesting the countries submitting RBP proposals to disclose and declare that financing for results-based activities followed relevant national laws and regulations. The same would be applied to the use of GCF proceeds. In addition, there are other possible risks of fraud and corruption associated with RBP that require attention:

- Undisclosed prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, occurred during the implementation of results-based actions;
- Improper subsequent use of GCF proceeds in the prohibited practices; and
- Double payment or financing for the same results achieved.

In order to mitigate and address these possible and potential sources of fraud and corruption, the GCF will reserve the right to investigate in the event of any prohibited practices through the Independent Integrity Unit. Verification of the flow of funds and expenditure in order to disprove money laundering and the financing of terrorism may not be required.

13. In order to ensure that the Board has all relevant information, including in relation to the implications of proceeding with results-based financing approaches, prior to taking a formal decision on the REDD+ RBP pilot programme, it is recommended that a detailed analysis is undertaken to identify in more detail how and where policies and procedures adopted by the Board could be adapted, if necessary, to accommodate the proposed pilot programme. The Secretariat proposes to conduct this analysis after this Board meeting, and to embed the results of such analysis within the draft RFP to be sent to the Board for its consideration at its next meeting.

III. Key procedural and technical elements

14. Building on the consultations¹⁵ held and analyses conducted by the Secretariat, some concrete determining factors were identified as the basis for each design element. These factors are summarized below:

15. **Access modality:** following the GCF policy on access modalities and accreditation, the submission of proposals for REDD+ RBPs and the RBPs themselves would be channelled

¹³ Decision B.07/03.

¹⁴ Decision B.12/31, paragraph (h).

¹⁵ More detailed information of consultations is available here <http://www.greenclimate.fund/reddplus-results-based-payments>

through accredited entities (AEs) of the GCF.¹⁶ The role of the AEs in this case would be different to their role in conventional investment projects/programmes, which require supervision, monitoring and reporting, and direct implementation in some cases. Given the unique characteristics of the RBP, which involves (ex-post) payments for results achieved, the role of the AEs may be more limited compared with traditional investments.

16. **Financial valuation of results:** based on the experiences of existing initiatives and the extensive discussion through the consultation process, a uniform and fixed price of USD 5 per tonne CO₂ eq is suggested for the pilot programme. The table below provides an overview of existing practices of similar initiatives implementing REDD+ results-based payments:

Table 1: Overview of payments per tonne of some of the existing REDD+ RBP initiatives

Initiative	Payment per tonne of CO ₂ eq
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Carbon Fund	Subject to negotiation to pay up to USD 5 per tCO ₂ eq. No additional payment premium for co-benefits provided
REDD+ Early Movers (REM)	USD 5 per tCO ₂ eq
Norway-Guyana bilateral agreement	USD 5 per tCO ₂ eq
Norway-Brazil bilateral agreement	USD 5 per tCO ₂ eq

17. **Size of the RFP:** the GCF may consider allocating between USD 300 million and USD 500 million for the pilot programme. Considerations for defining the amount include: the potential volume of emission reductions (ERs) from countries compliant with UNFCCC requirements to be achieved through GCF RFP; the cost efficiency and opportunity to generate additional ERs; the available funding at the GCF and the allocation of resources for mitigation and adaptation; and the mitigation potential of REDD+ which in most cases will deliver adaptation benefits as well.

18. As of June 2017, 25 countries have completed their reference levels, and the Technical Analysis by the UNFCCC technical assessment team are completed and published in the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub for 12 of them. As of the presentation of this document, 4 countries have submitted REDD+ results to the UNFCCC Secretariat and undergo to the Technical Analysis. Based on gross assumptions, the potential volume of emissions reductions from countries fulfilling all the UNFCCC requirements could range between 600 and 2500 million tonnes of CO₂ eq over the last 2 to 4 years from 4 to 5 five countries.

19. Despite the limitations to predict accurate volumes of emissions reductions in the future, studies indicate that forests have the biophysical potential to provide up to one-third of the near-term mitigation potential. Therefore, providing positive incentives (within the available resources of the GCF) that encourage countries to accelerate efforts to slow, halt and reverse deforestation, will contribute to materialize this potential and therefore contribute to the Paris Agreement goals.

20. **Double payment and double financing:** double payment refers to the risk of paying for the same emission reduction more than once. Double financing refers to the risk of inefficient use of financial resources where a country receives both support for activities pertaining to phases 1 and 2 of REDD+ and payments for the results achieved during the same periods in phase 3. Based on the consultations and analysis, the risk of double payments can be managed through appropriate control policies (e.g. registry systems) and should be avoided.

¹⁶ Governing Instrument, paragraph 45.

21. Double financing may be difficult to comprehensively avoid because of the complexity of determining attribution of the achieved results. While recognizing that REDD+ results cannot easily be attributed to specific funding, double financing of results should be avoided. Providing information on finance, including information on support received directly related to results, and providing more detailed information on finance, as required in the Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the UNFCCC, would facilitate the understanding of how ex-ante and ex-post financing is used in a complementary manner and improve transparency and reduce the risk of double financing.

22. **Use of proceeds:** Countries receiving REDD+ RBP should reinvest the proceeds in activities in line with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as established under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, REDD+ strategies, or low-carbon development plans consistent with the objectives of the GCF. The use of proceeds should demonstrate alignment with the Investment Framework criteria and reporting on GCF environmental and social safeguards standards (ESS).

23. **Ownership, legal title and implications on NDCs:** the emissions reductions paid for by the GCF under this pilot programme will not be transferred to the GCF and should be retired. Pending further decisions under the UNFCCC, countries (where applicable) could consider at their own discretion to use emissions reductions achieved toward their NDCs.

24. **Eligibility date for results and length of the RFP:** The eligibility date of results, past or future, for payments has implications on the range of countries eligible for RB, it affects the potential volume of ERs, possible requirements for informing how the GCF environmental and social safeguards and Cancun safeguards for REDD+ were considered in the process of achieving the results, the programming process, and timing of payments.

25. In considering the eligibility date for results occurring in the future, some aspects will need to be taken into account, such as the uncertainty and complexity for programming, length of the implementation period, the size of the envelope (considering the lack of clarity financial landscape), larger volumes of unpredictable results in the future for which only limited financial resources would be available, delay in delivering payments and losing the momentum of efforts already made on time to incentivise future results (e.g. assuming that results provided in 2020 would have to be analysed over the course of the following two years, and the additional GCF assessment would take one year more, the first payment would presumably not be made before 2023). Under this scenario, the GCF will only be able to learn lessons about REDD+ RBP implementation six years after the approval of the RFP.

26. In addition, there are ongoing initiatives that are piloting RBPs for future periods (e.g. FCPF and bilateral arrangements), thus the GCF could only explore additional ways to implement REDD+ RBP if it focuses on past results recognizing credible results already achieved by countries in compliance with UNFCCC requirements and not being supported by other means.

27. In order to meet its objective to timely mobilise RBP for REDD+ and to generate lessons, as well as minimise the complexity of the program and the financial exposure of the GCF, the Secretariat suggests that this pilot only consider recent ex post results.

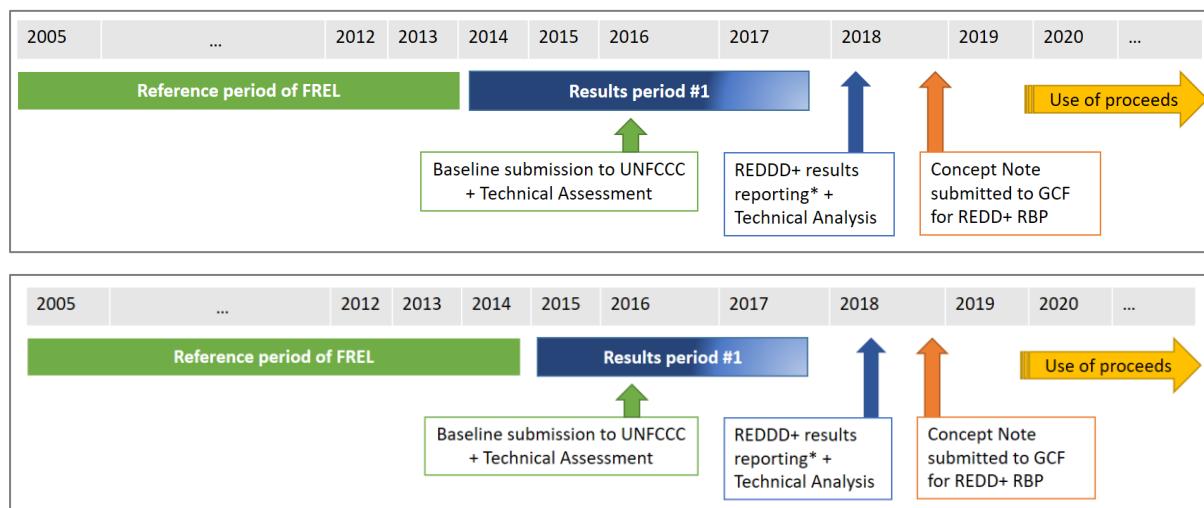
Table 2: Possible dates for the purposes of discussion for defining the starting date for eligible results under the pilot programme

Possible eligibility date for results	Description
2013	Year of the agreement of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

Possible eligibility date for results	Description
2015	Recognition of REDD+ in the Paris Agreement and final decisions on REDD+ including non-carbon benefits and further guidance on safeguards and alternative approaches
Other dates	Alternative dates could include a two-year period prior submission of the Concept Note or milestone-based according to the achievement of all requirements for accessing RBP ¹⁷

28. The entire process could take up to two years from the launch of the RFP until the distribution of payments. The RFP will encompass two stages: in the first stage, Concept Notes are received by the GCF up to 12 months after the launch of the RFP, allowing any interested countries that have fulfilled the UNFCCC requirements for receiving results-based payments to apply. In the second stage, countries that are notified of their eligibility (per scoring of the Concept Note) will have up to six months to submit a Funding Proposal to the GCF.

Figure 1: Possible scenarios including the results period and use of proceeds



*Note: Typically it takes a country ~2 years from the end of the results period to analyse and report GHG estimates in a BUR Annex. Therefore, if a BUR Annex with "REDD+ results" must be submitted by end-2018, the likely end date for results would be end-2016, although some countries may be able to include results from 2017.

29. **Scale of implementation:** Per UNFCCC guidance for REDD+, the proposals should be designed to achieve tonnes of emissions reductions or enhanced removals at national or, in the interim, at subnational level¹⁸.

30. **Forest reference emission levels / Forest reference levels (FREL/FRL) and results:** The GCF will employ a scorecard¹⁹ in order to create a bridge from UNFCCC Technical Analysis processes to GCF RBP payments.

31. **Operationalization of the Cancun Safeguards:** There are key differences between the Cancun safeguards and the GCF ESS standards that will need to be considered in developing the

¹⁷ Countries should have all of the elements referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71, in place, in accordance with decisions 12/CP.17 and 11/CP.19.

¹⁸ More details on the definition of scale can be found in chapter 3.7 of Annex II.

¹⁹ See Annex III

proposals for results-based payments.²⁰ The differences apply to both substantive contents and the environmental and social issues addressed. The countries applying for results-based payments will have the primary responsibility of demonstrating how the Cancun safeguards have been addressed and respected in the implementation of the REDD+ activities through their Summary of Information. The AEs, working with the countries, will prepare and document an assessment describing how the GCF interim ESS Standards have been met and applied in the REDD+ activities.

IV. Matters for consideration by the Board at its seventeenth meeting

32. The Board may also wish to consider to provide additional guidance for the future development of the RFP pilot programme, particularly on the following issues:

- (a) The size of the RFP pilot programme;
- (b) The eligibility date for emission reductions achieved;
- (c) Possible distribution of payments for the verified emission reductions achieved among successfully evaluated proposals; and
- (d) Application of the criteria for evaluating the proposals as described in the scorecard (Annex III).

V. Considerations for the full operationalization of REDD+ results-based payments

33. The pilot RBP programme will allow for the operationalization of the UNFCCC decisions for REDD+ and the testing of procedural and technical elements of RBP in the context of the GCF. Through this pilot programme, it is expected that useful lessons will be learned that will feed into the development of any subsequent GCF REDD+ RBP programme. The following actions are foreseen to be undertaken during the implementation of the pilot programme, among others that could be identified through the pilot programme:

- (a) The development of GCF procedures and policies to allow for the full operationalization of RBPs, including on the ownership and legal title of the emission reduction in the long term;
- (b) Analysis and development of technical and procedural elements for payments at different starting dates for past and future results;
- (c) Exploration of various other options for the technical elements of REDD+ RBP based on the lessons learned from the pilot programme. For example, regarding pricing, options other than a single and fixed price can be explored, including variable prices, reverse auction, differentiated pricing to recognize co-benefits, and linking the price to the assessment results against the scorecard criteria by applying discounting factors;
- (d) Examination of various other options for the procedural elements. For example, consideration of prioritizing the access of REDD+ RBP to direct access entities.; and
- (e) Development of the linkage between REDD+ RBP (phase 3) and the early phases of REDD+ by, for instance, exploring options for using various financial instruments and

²⁰ Adopted from Swan and Walcott, 2017. Discussion paper: Operationalizing the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards in relation to results-based payments made by Green Climate Fund (paper provided to GCF as submission to the call for inputs on REDD+ RBP)



innovative financing options in phase 1 and phase 2 investments that can lead to phase 3 results-based actions.

- (f) Analysis of possible future scenarios of volumes of emissions reductions and potential candidate countries considering their progress in fulfilling all the requirements to access to REDD+ RBP in relation to the available funding.

Annex I: Draft decision of the Board

The Board, having considered document GCF/B.17/13 titled “Pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments”,

- (a) *Takes note* of the progress made in preparing the draft request for proposals for the REDD+ results-based payments pilot programme, as mandated in the decision B/14/03, in the form set out in Annex II;
- (b) *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake a further analysis of existing GCF policies adopted by the Board to determine whether certain aspects of such policies need to be adapted in order to operationalize GCF REDD+ results-based payments projects;
- (c) *Requests* the Secretariat to finalise the draft request for proposals for the REDD+ results-based payments, based on the analysis referred in paragraph (b) and the discussions of the Board at its seventeenth meeting on this matter, and present it to the Board for its consideration at its eighteenth meeting;
- (d) *Decides* to set, for the REDD+ RBP pilot programme only, the valuation of results at USD 5 per tonne of verified emission reductions of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq).

Annex II: Draft terms of reference for the pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments

I. Introduction

1. At its fourteenth meeting, the Board requested the Secretariat to develop a request for proposals (RFP) for REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs), including guidance consistent with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other REDD+ decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).²¹
2. The objective of the RFP pilot programme for REDD+ RBPs is to operationalize REDD+ results-based payments and test the procedural and technical elements of RBPs using the GCF resources in the learning stage.
3. The pilot programme will run for up to two years, with Concept Notes being submitted within twelve months and full Funding Proposals within eighteen months. The Board consideration of REDD+ results-based payments Funding Proposals and distribution of payments should take place no later than 24 months from the approval date of the pilot programme by the Board. A minimum of 3 Funding Proposals should have successfully completed the assessment in order to close the RFP.

II. Eligibility criteria

Proposals must meet the following criteria:

- a) By the time of submission of a Concept Note, the following information related to UNFCCC requirements, including the elements reflected in decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 71, should be in place and made publicly available (e.g. on the Lima REDD+ Information Hub):
 - (i) The National REDD+ Strategy (or Action Plan);
 - (ii) FREL/FRL that is applied to the results period for which payments are sought are submitted to the UNFCCC and have undergone the Convention's Technical Assessment²² of FREL/FRL;
 - (iii) National Forest Monitoring System (description provided in the BUR Annex);
 - (iv) A safeguards information system (SIS) to inform how the safeguards are addressed and respected, and a summary of information on how all the Cancun REDD+ safeguards were addressed and respected.²³
- b) The REDD+ results, for which payments are requested, are submitted to the UNFCCC in a Technical Annex of the country's BUR by the time of submission of the RBP Concept Note; in addition, the Technical Analysis²⁴ should be completed and the report made available on the UNFCCC website by the time of submitting the complete RBP Funding Proposal.

²¹ Decision B.14/03.

²² The FREL/FRL must be technically assess per decision 13/CP.19.

²³ Decision 9 CP.19 paragraph 11 and decision 17/C P.21

²⁴ The results measured against the reference levels, must pass through a technical analysis process per decision14/CP19.

- c) The scale of the REDD+ results-based payments proposal should be national or subnational.²⁵
- d) Written consent provided by the REDD+ national entity/focal point to the UNFCCC where a national entity/focal point has been nominated by a country.
- e) A no objection letter (NOL) provided by National Designated Authority (NDA) at the time of submission of the RBP Funding Proposal.

III. Modality and scope

3.1. Access modality

4. The submission of REDD+ RBP Funding Proposals should be through existing or potential AEs to the GCF,²⁶ or directly by the National Designated Authority (NDA) in coordination with the REDD+ national entity/focal point to the UNFCCC secretariat, and following the procedures defined by their corresponding NDA. In accordance with the Board's initial no-objection procedure, approved by decision B.08/10, a no-objection letter from the national designated authority /focal point is required for all REDD+ RBP proposals. In addition, informed consent from the REDD+ national focal point to the UNFCCC secretariat, where nominated by the country, must be provided.

3.2. Financial valuation of results

5. A default rate of USD 5 per tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent of reduced emissions or enhanced removals, fully measured, reported and verified, consistent with UNFCCC methodological guidance and GCF requirements, will apply for the pilot programme. The final amount to be paid per country will be determined based on a combination of the scorecard results and available finance for the pilot programme and is subject to Board approval.

3.3. Size of funding and distribution of payments

6. The pilot programme will be limited to a total amount of between USD 300 million and 500 million for REDD+ RBP. Considering a valuation of USD 5/tCO₂eq, the GCF would be able to pay for up to 100 million tCO₂eq emission reductions (ERs). The distribution of payments will follow the steps below²⁷:

- a) **Step 1:** Each country offers its volume of ERs to be considered for the pilot programme, limited to the total maximum GCF payable volume of emission reductions up to 100 million tCO₂eq,
- b) **Step 2:** The volume of ERs offered is translated into GCF volume of ERs, based on the results of the scorecard (see Annex III):

$$\frac{\text{Volume of ERs offered (X) } \underline{\text{Total score achieved}}}{\underline{\text{Maximum score}}} = \text{GCF volume of ERs}$$

²⁵ See section 3.7

²⁶ As per decision B.14/08, paragraph (d)(i)(4), should the entity submitting a proposal not yet be accredited, a submission for accreditation should be submitted at the same time as the proposal.

²⁷ Additional factors could be included to reward performance and quality of the achieved results.

- c) **Step 3:** If the resulting GCF volume of ERs from all proposals exceeds the total payable volume of up to 100 million tCO₂eq, the payable volume will be distributed proportionally among countries per their share of the total GCF volume of ERs, taking into consideration that no single country can receive more than 30% of the total available envelope.

3.4. Use of proceeds

7. Countries receiving REDD+ RBP through the AEs must reinvest the proceeds in activities in line with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as established under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, REDD+ strategies, or low-carbon development plans. These activities must also be consistent with the objectives of the GCF. Countries must provide a plan to reinvest the proceeds, describing the main activities to be conducted, the agencies or relevant stakeholders involved, the timeframe for execution, and the safeguards assessment, consistent with GCF policies. Corresponding ESS reporting in compliance with GCF policies will be required. Future RBPs requests must also include details on the implementation and outcomes of such activities.

3.5. Ownership and legal title

8. For the purpose of this pilot programme, ownership of the emissions reductions paid for by the GCF will not be transferred to the GCF and should be retired by the host country. Countries may use the emission reductions towards achievement of their NDCs. The proposals should indicate the measures to be taken to ensure that such emissions reductions will not be transferred and/or used for any other purposes (e.g. offsetting).

3.6. Eligibility date for results

9. Under the pilot programme, the GCF will accept for consideration the results from a country's BUR REDD+ annex starting from the year [2013] [2015] that have been technically assessed through the UNFCCC process.

3.7. Scale of the proposal

10. Per UNFCCC guidance for REDD+, the proposals should account for tonnes of emissions reductions or enhanced removals at a national or subnational level. Any subnational program proposal should be of significant scale, one political level down from national scale and defined by each country, demonstrating that an aggregation of such subnational units can constitute the national level (e.g. states, provinces, biomes, etc.). Subnational level proposal should also demonstrate ambition to scale up to national level, and should demonstrate a contribution to national ambition for emissions reductions, for example, the NDC and/or the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy.

3.8. Forest reference emission levels / forest reference levels (FREL/FRL) and results

11. The FREL/FRL and REDD+ results reported on the UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub will be assessed against the relevant criteria defined in the scorecard (see Annex III), building on the UNFCCC Technical Assessment of the FREL/FRL and Technical Analysis of the BUR Annex.

3.9. Safeguards information and assessment

12. The information provided in the summary of information on how safeguards were addressed and respected during the results period will be evaluated according to the criteria defined in the scorecard (Annex III). In this regard, the following aspects will need to be considered:

- (i) **Due diligence responsibilities:** the AEs, working with countries, will must prepare an assessment describing how GCF interim environmental and social standards have been

met and applied during the implementation of the REDD+ activities. The GCF will undertake its own due diligence on the assessment;

- (ii) **Risk category:** all GCF-financed activities, both past from past results and future activities financed through GCF, are categorized based on the levels of environmental and social risks and potential impacts. RBP proposals will be categorized to determine the type of assessment report to be prepared and submitted; and
- (iii) **Stakeholder engagement and grievance redress:** within the parameters of GCF-financed activities, the stakeholder engagement relates to two types of requirements: (1) consultations with affected and potentially affected communities conducted during project design, due diligence, and implementation of the REDD+ strategy or action plans; and (2) the stakeholder engagement process that describes the measures to ensure effective consultation and participation. For RBP proposals, stakeholder engagement will form part of the information provided by the countries through the UNFCCC summary of information as well as the environmental and social assessment (ESA) prepared by the AEs. Information related to the stakeholder engagement process will include the identified stakeholders and how they have participated, how stakeholders were consulted, and how information on the activities was communicated. Included in the stakeholder engagement process should be an operational mechanism to receive complaints and address these complaints effectively. The ESA will include a description of the grievance redress mechanisms, whether established as part of the REDD+ activities or as integral to the system of the country, how the mechanisms were accessed, the complaints that were received, and how these were resolved. These can all be reflected as representations in the funded activity agreement (FAA).

IV. Proposal approval process for the REDD+ results-based payment pilot programme

13. The RFP will encompass two stages: in the first stage, concept notes may be submitted to the GCF up to 12 months after the launch of the RFP, allowing all interested countries that fulfilled the UNFCCC requirements²⁸ to receive results-based payments. In a second stage, eligible countries (per scoring of the Concept Note) will have up to six months to submit a results-based payment (RBP) Funding Proposal to the GCF. The Board will consider RBP Funding Proposals based on the Secretariats' assessment and the recommendations from the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP). The distribution of payments would take place 24 months after the launch of the RFP. Further details on the process are provided in the text that follows.

²⁸ Countries should have all of the elements referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71, in place, in accordance with decisions 12/CP.17 and 11/CP.19.

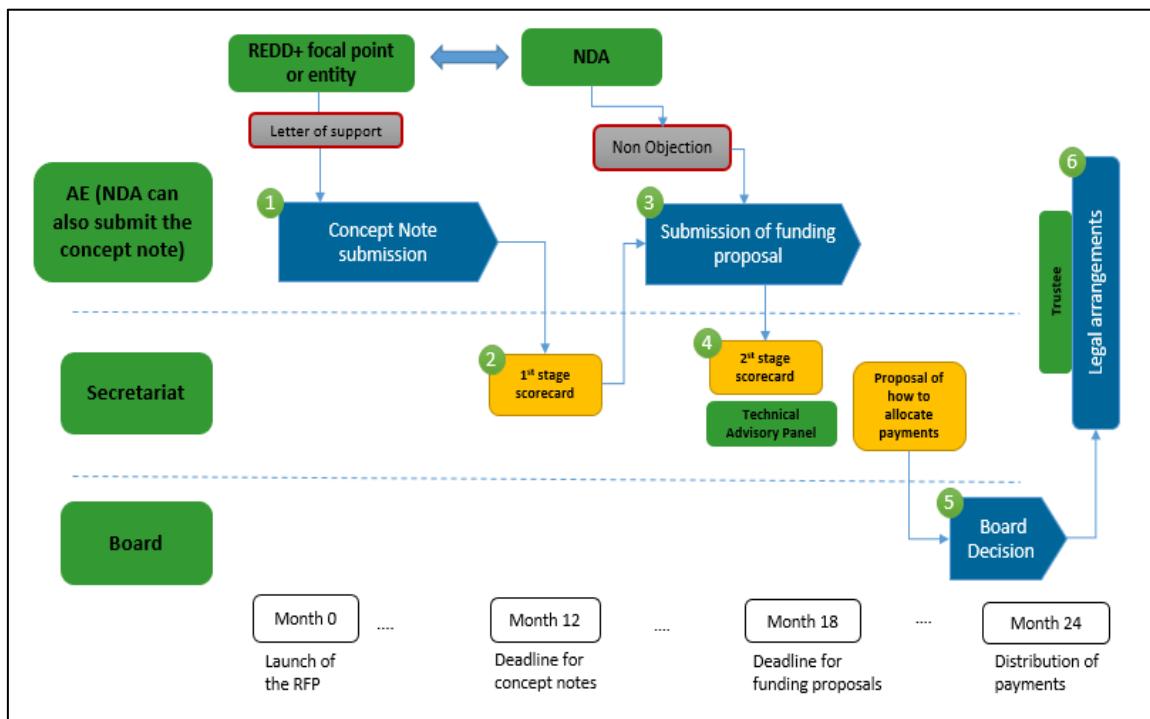


Figure 2: REDD+ RBP proposal approval process

4.1. Stage 1: Submission of results-based payment Concept Notes:

14. The Concept Note should be submitted by the AE or by the selected NDA. The Concept Note will be subject to the eligibility criteria as defined in chapter II above. The Concept Note should follow the template developed by the GCF Secretariat for RBP Concept Notes and should include:

- References to relevant information in the UNFCCC Lima REDD+ Information Hub or other public means as required in the UNFCCC decisions, including:
 - o Confirmation that the Technical Assessment of a FREL/FRL has been finalized and is available on the UNFCCC website and/or Lima REDD+ Information Hub;
 - o Evidence that the REDD+ BUR Annex has been submitted to the UNFCCC and either evidence of the completed Technical Analysis or an indication of when the Technical Analysis will be completed;
 - o Reference to the summary of how safeguards referred to in Appendix I of 1/CP.16 were addressed and respected during the results period in the Lima REDD+ Information Hub and evidence that the System of Information on Safeguards (SIS) is in place;
 - o In case the REDD+ Strategy of the country is in a language other than English, the Concept Note should include a description of how the National REDD+ Strategy identifies and addresses the drivers of deforestation.
 - o Evidence that the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is in place, and link to where it is described (i.e. REDD+ BUR annex);
- If the scale of the FREL/FRL and results are subnational, a description of how the subnational scale is defined, how it contributes to national ambition for emissions reductions (e.g. toward the achievement of the NDC or the implementation of the REDD+ strategy), and how the country intends to scale its efforts up to the national level;

15. The Concept Note may include additional information that supports the above required documentation or other criteria mentioned in the scorecard. For example, evidence of non-carbon benefits accrued from implementation of the REDD+ activities associated with the reported results may be provided.

16. The Concept Notes will be assessed by the Secretariat against the eligibility criteria presented in section II and relevant sections in the scorecard related to the elements reflected in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and relevant UNFCCC decisions for REDD+ RBP.

17. Concept Notes fulfilling the criteria will be invited to submit a complete RBP Funding Proposal. A Concept Note may be resubmitted considering the results of the scorecard allowing improvements after the first submission.

4.2. Stage 2: Developing a GCF REDD+ results-based payment proposal:

18. A complete RBP Funding Proposal should be submitted by the selected AE or the NDA. The complete Funding Proposal should be submitted consistent with the template developed specifically for REDD+ RBP Funding Proposals. In addition to the references to the documents requested in the Concept Note, the proposal will require the following additional information:

- A description of the alignment of the proposals with the GCF Investment Framework during the full period over which results are generated;
- A demonstration of the programme level outcomes and Fund level impacts against the initial REDD+ Logic Framework and Performance Measurement Framework for REDD+ results-based payments;
- The ESA describing how the activities leading to the relevant results have met the applicable and relevant requirements of the GCF interim environmental and social standards (the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standards). The ESA should demonstrate how environmental and social risks have been managed, and how the activities complied with the national requirements during the period of reported results.
- Any additional information on safeguards considered by the country to provide sufficient information to demonstrate that each Cancun safeguards have been "addressed" and "respected"²⁹ in the full period during which results were generated.
- Evidence that demonstrates that the information on safeguards has been made transparently available to domestic and other stakeholders;
- A description with evidence of the measures to be undertaken for assurance that such emission reductions will not be transferred, offered for payments, and/or used for other purposes (e.g. offsetting);
- A description of how different financing (domestic and international) contributed to the achievement of the reported results;
- Documented evidence of non-carbon benefits accrued from implementation of the REDD+ activities associated with the reported results (optional); and
- A plan for how the proceeds will be used, consistent with the objectives of the GCF and corresponding ESS requirements.

²⁹ The SBSTA Expert Workshop held in October 2011 broadly considered "addressed" to mean that relevant institutions, policies, regulations, strategies, agreements etc are in place. "Respected" was broadly understood to mean the safeguard was being implemented successfully.

19. Support from the project preparation facility (PPF) can be requested for the preparation of the RBP Funding Proposal

4.3. Assessment of the results-based payments Funding Proposals and distribution of payments

20. The proposals submitted will be reviewed by the Secretariat based on the relevant sections of scorecard included in Annex III related to GCF policies and procedures.

21. Proposals should be consistent with the GCF Investment Criteria and the Initial Logic Model for REDD+ results-based payments and the Performance Measurement Framework for REDD+ RBP.

22. Depending on the volume of submissions received, the Secretariat may take two to four weeks to respond and provide feedback to the AEs. The Secretariat may request additional information, clarification, and revision of the submission, based on its second-level due diligence.

23. After the second-level due diligence and completion of the assessment against the scorecard done by the Secretariat, the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP) will assess the performance of the project or programme independently only against the Investment Framework criteria in order to advise the Board when considering RBP Funding Proposals.

24. The Secretariat will inform the Board of a proposed distribution of payments across qualified proposals based on the results of the application of the scorecard and the criteria set out in section 3.3 above.

4.4. Board consideration

25. The Secretariat will submit the results of the assessment and a proposed distribution of payments, as well as the independent Technical Advisory Panel recommendation to the Board for consideration.

4.5. Legal arrangements and disbursement:

26. The GCF will transfer funds through the accredited entity to the recipient defined in the proposal in a single disbursement. The fees will be included in the total payment from the GCF and are to be negotiated between the recipient and the accredited entity. Further details on the legal arrangements will be developed for the purpose of the REDD+ RBP.

V. Monitoring and progress control

27. AEs will be required to provide information on corresponding ESS monitoring and reporting in compliance with GCF policies. In addition, AEs in coordination with the REDD+ National Entity/Focal Point, are encouraged to monitor the use of proceed as this will be requested if the country seeks RBPs from the GCF in the future.

Annex III. Draft scorecard

The scorecard is structured as follows:

Document	Scorecard sections	Type of assessment	Compliance with
Concept Note (first stage)	Section 1: Eligibility criteria	Pass/fail	UNFCCC & GCF
	Section 2: UNFCCC requirements		UNFCCC
	- Section 2a. National REDD+ strategy or Action Plan	Quantitative / qualitative	UNFCCC
	- Section 2b. National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)	Quantitative / qualitative	UNFCCC
	- Section 2c. Forest Reference Emission Level or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) and Results reporting	Quantitative / qualitative	UNFCCC
	- Section 2d. Safeguards in 1/CP.16, Appendix I (i.e. the "Cancun Safeguards")	Quantitative / qualitative	UNFCCC
	Section 3: Non-carbon benefits	Quantitative / qualitative	UNFCCC (voluntary)
Funding Proposal (second stage)	Section 4: GCF Investment Framework	Qualitative	GCF
	Section 5: GCF Policies	Qualitative	GCF

- Section 1: Eligibility criteria. It is required that all criteria qualify as “pass” for a proposal to be eligible for the pilot programme
- Section 2: UNFCCC requirements. It is required that the proposal scores ≥ 2 in order to “pass” to the second stage
- Section 3: Non-carbon benefits. It is defined as a voluntary requirement that allows increasing the total score of a proposal
- Section 4: GCF Investment Framework. The criteria of the Investment Framework will be applied to inform on past actions towards achieving results. The scoring should be either medium or high in all criteria in order to be considered by the board.
- Section 5: GCF policies. Policies related to ESS, Risks, Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation would be considered for the period of the achieved REDD+ results and for the use of proceeds where applicable. The scoring score either medium or high in all criteria in order to be considered by the board.

First stage scorecard (based on Concept Note)

Section 1: Eligibility criteria	Evaluation	Score	Indicative guidance
<i>In relation to UNFCCC decisions</i>			
(i) Has a link to the National REDD+ strategy or Action Plan been provided to the Information Hub or is publicly available?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide link
(ii) Has information on the NFMS been provided to the Information Hub and within the Technical Annex to the BUR?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide link
(iii) Has the FREL/FREL applicable to the results period been submitted and its Technical Assessment (TA) finalized?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide links to the FREL/FRL and the TA report
(iv) Is a system in place for providing information on how safeguards referred to in Appendix I of 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected available?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide evidence of the system
(v) Has a summary of information on how safeguards were addressed and respected during the results period provided to the Information Hub or in the National Communication?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide link
(vi) Have REDD+ results been reported in a Technical Annex of the country's BUR?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide link of the BUR (should appear on UNFCCC website)
(vii) Has the Technical Analysis been completed or has evidence of an expected date of completion been provided?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide link of the report or provide evidence of when the TA will be concluded
<i>Eligible scale</i>			
(viii) Is the accounting for tonnes of emissions reductions at a national or subnational level?	Pass/Fail		If yes, see section 2c for additional requirements
<i>Other</i>			
(ix) Does the proposal include a Non Objection Letter (NOL) from the NDA?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide the NOL
(x) Does the proposal include support of the National REDD+ Focal Point or Entity?	Pass/Fail		If yes, provide supporting evidence (e.g. letter from REDD+ focal point or entity)
Total score for REDD+ Strategy, NFMS, SIS	Pass/Fail		Pass requires "pass" on all elements above

Section 2: UNFCCC requirements	Evaluation	Score	Indicative guidance
Section 2a. National REDD+ strategy or action plan			
(i) Does the National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan address the drivers of deforestation?	1 to 3		<p>1 = No evidence on whether main drivers were addressed</p> <p>2 = Evidence presented that main drivers partly addressed</p> <p>3 = Evidence presented that main drivers were addressed during the results period</p>
Section 2b. National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)			
(ii) Are institutional arrangements in place for the NFMS?	1 to 3		<p>1 = no information provided</p> <p>2 = arrangements defined but not fully in place</p> <p>3 = arrangements in place (evidence provided)</p>
(iii) To what extent is the NFMS able to monitor REDD+ activities included in the FREL/FRL?	1 to 3		<p>1 = Activity data and EFs were acquired in an ad hoc basis, not part of the NFMS regular data collection</p> <p>2 = Activity data for the activities acquired through the NFMS system, but not other data</p> <p>3 = NFMS provides all necessary data</p>
<i>National Forest Monitoring System in relation to SIS</i>			
(iv) To what extent is the NFMS able to monitor the natural forests to ensure that RBP do not provide incentives for their conversion?	1 to 3		<p>1 = no information provided on natural forest strata</p> <p>2 = natural forest identified but not geographically explicit</p> <p>3 = natural forest identified in spatially explicit terms (at the minimum land representation unit used in the forest definition)</p>
(v) To what extent is the NFMS able to monitor reversals?	1 to 3		<p>1 = no information provided</p> <p>2 = identified but not geographically explicit</p> <p>3 = identified in spatially explicit terms (at the minimum land representation unit used in the forest definition)</p>
(vi) To what extent is the NFMS able to monitor displacement of emissions?	1 to 3		<p>1 = no evidence</p> <p>2 = some evidences provided</p> <p>3 = national territory monitored regularly by NFMS</p>
Total score for REDD+ Strategy, NFMS	Pass/Fail		Pass requires each criteria ≥ 2

	<i>Score</i>		Score is the total points
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Section 2c. Forest Reference Emission Level or Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) and Results reporting			
<i>The following items are scored on the basis of the UNFCCC Technical Assessment Report</i>			
(i) Is the FREL/FRL consistent with emissions and removals contained in the GHG inventory, including the definition of forest used?	1 to 3		1 = several large inconsistencies raised in the TA report 2 = minor inconsistencies raised in the TA report 3 = no inconsistencies raised in the TA report
(ii) Is the FREL/FRL based on historical data? Was an adjustment made to the FREL/FRL and, if so, was it justified and consistent with national circumstances?	1 to 3		1 = significant inconsistencies with historical data 2 = an adjustment or a trend level has been used and only partially justified by national circumstances 3 = only historical data used or the adjustment was fully justified and consistent with national circumstances
(iii) Is the FREL/FRL transparent, complete ³⁰ , consistent and accurate?	1 to 3		1 = several issues raised on the TA report 2 = minor issues raised in the TA report 3 = no issues raised in the TA report
(iv) Are significant activities that are a source of emissions included? Are exclusions justified?	1 to 3		1 = no information provided to justify exclusions 2 = exclusions were made but the most significant activities were included and the country indicated future plans to include omitted activities or provided adequate justification for exclusion 3 = no exclusions of significant activities
(v) Are significant carbon pools included? Are exclusions justified?	1 to 3		1 = no information provided to justify exclusion 2 = exclusions were made, but the most significant pools were included and the country indicated future plans to include omitted pools or provided adequate justification for exclusion 3 = no exclusions of significant pools
(vi) Are significant gases included? Are exclusions justified?	1 to 3		1 = no information provided to justify exclusion 2 = exclusions were made, but the most significant gases

³⁰ Complete means the provision of information that allows for the reconstruction of the FREL/FRL.

			were included and the country indicated future plans to include omitted gases or provided adequate justification for exclusion 3 = no exclusions of significant gases
<i>The following items are scored on the basis of the UNFCCC Technical Analysis report of the reporting of REDD+ results (in the technical annex to the BUR)</i>			
(vii) Are the reported results in the technical annex to the BUR consistent with the FREL/FRL?	1 to 3		1 = no, several large inconsistencies raised in the TA report 2 = minor inconsistencies raised in the TA report 3 = no inconsistencies raised in the TA report
(viii) Is the data and information provided in the technical annex transparent, consistent, complete and accurate?	1 to 3		1 = several issues raised on the TA report 2 = minor issues raised in the TA report 3 = no issues raised in the TA report
(ix) Are the results consistent with the latest GHG inventory data provided in the BUR?	1 to 3		1 = no, several large inconsistencies raised in the TA report 2 = minor inconsistencies raised in the TA report 3 = no inconsistencies raised in the TA report
(x) Are the results accurate? Are sources of uncertainty associated with the estimation of emissions and removals provided? Are they complete?	1 to 3		1 = several issues raised on the TA report 2 = minor issues raised in the TA report 3 = no issues raised in the TA report
<i>The following criteria are additional to the UNFCCC Technical Assessment and Analysis process</i>			
(xi) If the scale of the FREL/FRL and results is subnational, is the scale significant (e.g. one level down from the national scale)? Does it demonstrate a contribution to national ambition for emission reductions, e.g. the NDC or implementation of the REDD+ strategy?	1 to 3		1 = Subnational, does not demonstrate a contribution to national ambition for emissions reductions 2= Subnational, significant scale 3 = National scale
(xii) If the scale is subnational, has information been provided on how the country intends to scale up over time?	1 to 3		1 = no information of scaling up provided 2 = indications are provided for scaling up 3 = the scale is national or concrete plans to scale up provided
(xiii) Is the reference period chosen for the FREL/FRL suitable for the period results are claimed?	1 to 3		1 = the reference period does not reflect well national circumstances for the results period 2 = the reference period partly reflects national

			circumstances of the results period 3 = the reference period is a good reflection of national circumstances of the results period
(xiv) Is the construction approach of the FREL/FRL, including any adjustments, of the FREL/FRL suitable for the results period claimed for results?	1 to 3		1 = the construction approach does not reflect well national circumstances for the results period and/or the TA report has raised issues with the approach or adjustment 2 = the construction approach partly reflects national circumstances of the results period and/or the TA report raised minor issues with the approach or adjustment 3 = the construction approach is a good reflection of national circumstances of the results period and no issues were raised by the TA report
(xv) Are sources of uncertainty associated with the estimation of emissions and removals provided for both the FREL/FRL and results, and are they complete?	1 to 3		1 = major sources of uncertainty are missing 2 = sources of uncertainty are only partly provided 3 = uncertainty estimates are provided for all data and estimations
Total score for FREL/FRL		Pass/Fail	Pass requires each criteria ≥ 2
		Score	Score is the total points

Section 2d. Safeguards in 1/CP.16, Appendix I (i.e. the “Cancun Safeguards”)			
(i) Does the summary of information on safeguards include information on which activity or activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, are included in the summary?	1 to 3		1 = the summary is missing information on several safeguards 2 = the summary mostly covers all the safeguards 3 = the summary is complete
<i>The following are questions that relate to whether the Cancun Safeguards have been addressed and respected</i>			
(ii) Is there a description of how each safeguard has been addressed and respected in accordance to national circumstances?	1 to 3		1 = several safeguards have not been addressed 2 = nearly all safeguards addressed 3 = all safeguards fully addressed

(iii) Does the summary of safeguard information include a description of the legal framework (i.e. laws, policies, regulations, plans and programs) that address the Cancun Safeguards?	1 to 3		1 = the legal framework does not address several safeguards 2 = the legal framework mostly addresses the safeguards 3 = the legal framework fully addresses all safeguards
(iv) Is there a description of the institutional system relevant to the country's safeguards framework?	1 to 3		1 = the institutional system does not address several safeguards 2 = the institutional system mostly addresses the safeguards 3 = the institutional system fully addresses all safeguards
(v) Does the summary of safeguard information provide sufficient information on the effectiveness of the governance arrangements and processes undertaken in relation to the country's safeguard framework? (i.e. to ensure safeguards are respected)	1 to 3		1 = there is no system in place to assess effectiveness of the safeguard framework 2 = a system is in place, but not fully functional 3 = an effective system is in place
Total score for safeguards summary		Pass/Fail	Pass requires each criteria ≥ 2
		Score	Score is the total points

Section 3. Non-carbon benefits			
Has information been provided to the REDD+ Information Hub on non-carbon benefits that contribute to the long-term sustainability of the REDD+ activities for which a country is seeking payments (Decision 18/CP.21)?	1 to 3		1 = no information provided on non-carbon benefits 2 = some information provided on non-carbon benefits 3 = strong evidence of significant non-carbon benefits
Total score for non-carbon benefits		Score	Score is the total points



First stage proposal scorecard

	Pass/Fail	Score
Section 1		N/A
Section 2a and 2b		
Section 2c		
Section 2d		
Section 3	N/A	
Overall assessment		

Second stage scorecard (based on Funding Proposal)

Section 4: Investment Framework	Evaluation	Score	Indicative guidance for the period of the results considered in the RFP
Impact Potential	high/medium/ low		Degree to which results-generating activities contributed to the achievement of the Fund's objectives and results areas (and avoided leakage issues). The description could include adaptation benefits achieved as well.
Paradigm Shift Potential	high/medium/ low		<p>Degree to which results-generation catalyzed impact beyond a one-off project or programme investment; Contributed to the establishment and consolidation of a global REDD+ RBP mechanism; Supported or catalyzed the mobilization of other sources of finance for REDD+ results.</p> <p>Describe how the project/programme strengthened the national / local regulatory or legal frameworks to systematically drive investment in REDD+ activities, promoted development of additional low-emission policies, and/or improved climate-responsive planning and development.</p> <p>Describe how results-generating activities facilitated the participation of the private sector in REDD+ and in environmental services markets related to forests in general.</p>
Sustainable development potential	high/medium/ low		<p>Positive environmental impacts, including impacts on other results areas of the fund and/or in line with the priorities set at the national, local or sectoral level, as appropriate.</p> <p>Potential externalities in the form of expected improvements for women and men as relevant, in areas such as health and safety, access to education, improved regulation and/or cultural preservation.</p> <p>Expected positive economic impacts.</p> <p>Potential for reduced gender inequalities in climate change impacts and/or equal participation by gender groups in contributing to the achieved results</p>
Needs of the recipient	high/medium/ low		<p>Describe the vulnerability and financing needs of the beneficiary country and population, economic and social development level of the country and the affected population. If applicable, include an explanation of the absence of alternative sources of finance to cover RBP for REDD+. And/or need for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity.</p> <p>Describe the barriers that limited access to alternative sources of financing and how they were addressed (explanation of the existing limitations of institutions and implementation capacity for achieving REDD+).</p>
Country Ownership	high/medium/ low		Degree of integration of the REDD+ Strategy into national level policies, policy reforms undertaken in order address the drivers of deforestation and degradation, engagement with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders (involvement of multiple sectors and sub-national stakeholders), improved capacities of the national agencies.
Efficiency and effectiveness	high/medium/ low		Estimate cost per t CO ₂ eq as defined as total investment cost. Include the rate at which emissions reductions were achieved compared to the FREL/FRL.

Section 5: GCF Policies	Evaluation	Score	Indicative guidance for the period of the results considered in the RFP	Indicative Guidance for the use of proceeds
Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)	high/medium/low		Describe how, in the process of achieving emission reductions, the activities undertaken complied with GCF Interim ESS standards. Include information on the main outcomes of the Environment and Social Impact assessment. Specify the Environmental and Social Management Plan, and how the project/programme avoided or mitigated negative impacts at each stage (e.g. preparation, implementation and operation).	Describe how the plan for the use of proceeds will address and respect the Fund's Interim Environmental and Social Safeguards.
Risk Assessment	high/medium/low		N/A	Please describe how the plan for the use of proceeds will facilitate management of financial, technical and operational, social and environmental, and other risks. Include a description of the measures to be taken to prevent potential double financing.
Gender	high/medium/low		Describe how gender issues were considered in accordance with the Fund's Gender Policy and Action Plan during the results-generating period.	Describe how the use of proceeds will affect Gender issues in accordance with the Fund's Gender Policy and Action Plan.
Monitoring and Evaluation	high/medium/low		N/A	Describe the mechanisms to monitor the use of proceeds in regard to the GCF ESS policies. Please indicate how you will organize evaluation of the use of proceeds such that you can provide evidence to the Fund that RBP proceeds have been used in a way that is in line with the Fund's policies (in order to receive future RBPs)
Interim policy on prohibited practices	high/medium/low		Provide information that assures that the activities that were implemented to achieve the results comply with the interim policy on prohibited practices, such as: Undisclosed prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, occurred during the implementation of results-based actions; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved.	Provide information that assures that the activities for implementing the plan for use of proceeds will follow the interim policy on prohibited practices, such as: Undisclosed prohibited practices, including money laundering and the financing of terrorism, occurred during the implementation of results-based actions; improper subsequent use of GCF proceeds in the prohibited practices; and double payment or financing for the same results achieved.