



GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payments

Lessons from the Pilot Programme
and early insights from applying the new Policy

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UNDP
Climate and Forests

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A man with a beard, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, a yellow safety vest, and a green baseball cap with a yellow headlamp, is looking upwards in a dense forest. He is holding a clipboard and a blue pen. The background is filled with green foliage and tree trunks.

Part 1:

Quick Background

Role of GCF's REDD+ RBP

*Summary of a briefing note
prepared jointly by FAO and UNDP*



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations

Paris Agreement

Article 5 of the Paris Agreement recognises specifically the critical role of forests and proposes performance-based incentives as a key policy solution.

Warsaw Framework for REDD+

The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and related decisions under the UNFCCC **define the REDD+ process, rules and requirements, including for RBP**

Theory of Change behind REDD+

By providing **adequate and predictable financial support to developing countries**, they should collectively aim to **slow, halt, and reverse forest cover loss**, in accordance with national circumstances, and in line with the objective of the UNFCCC.

Critical role of GCF to support REDD+ Theory of Change by providing adequate and predictable support to developing countries that demonstrate emission reductions, as agreed under REDD+

Inside the implementation of the GCF RBP Pilot Program

Alignment with NDCs and REDD+ NS/APs

- i. Develop and expand **sustainable deforestation -free production models** ;
 - ✓ Argentina
 - ✓ Brazil
- ii. Create **incentives for conservation** in public and private areas ;
 - ✓ Colombia
- iii. Enhancing action to prevent, address, and manage **forest fires** ;
 - ✓ Costa Rica
- iv. Establish or strengthen **payment for ecosystem services** ;
 - ✓ Chile
- v. Promote and expand **social forestry programmes** ;
 - ✓ Ecuador
- vi. Financing programmes for **native forest restoration** and land rehabilitation.
 - ✓ Indonesia
 - ✓ Paraguay



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO and UNDP serve as GCF accredited entities for 7 countries that received REDD+ FLR from the Pilot Programme (90% of the total allocation)

An aerial photograph of a lush green mangrove forest. A winding, light-colored river or canal cuts through the dense vegetation, creating a complex, meandering pattern. The water appears calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The forest extends to the edges of the frame, with some sandy or cleared areas visible near the water's edge.

Part 2:

RBP GCF Pilot Program Lessons

Summary of a briefing note prepared
jointly by FAO and UNDP

Lessons | Accessing to GCF REDD+ RBP

1. A cost-effective incentive -based instrument

- **11.5 GtCO₂eq** were generated in emission reductions incentivized by expected RBPs;
- Additional emissions reductions are expected **to be generated through the use of proceeds**;
- **105 MtCO₂eq** of real emissions reductions that comply with the WFR were paid directly.

2. The REDD+ readiness phase set a solid foundation to access RBP

- Many national policy documents and information systems were developed as part of the readiness process (with support from UN-REDD, FCPF and other multilateral programmes). Many of these reinforced **the link with the NDCs and contributed to ETFs**.
- However, national circumstances influenced the time to meet the requirements to access RBP, and **progress has been uneven between countries and regions**.

3. REDD+ readiness work requires constant maintenance and improvement

The **pilot REDD+ RBP ToRs and scorecard helped** to:

- ✓ determine the key requirements to access RBP,
- ✓ Identify areas for improvement (data, systems, and policies) that will make the **REDD ToC work over time**

Countries that accessed GCF RBPs invested part of the payments to **address gaps** and improve data, systems, and policies relevant to REDD+ implementation.

Lessons | Accessing to REDD+ GCF RBP

4. Close linkage with UNFCCC decisions was appreciated

- In a context where developing countries have to manage requirements from various sources of financing to scale their impact, a **framework based on UNFCCC decisions was appreciated**.
- However, concerns were expressed **about the additional requirements of the GCF and/or Accredited Entities** (EAs).
- The efforts of AEs have aimed to inform applicable policies and strengthen capacity to **meet the requirements of different funding sources**.

5. Retain sovereign rights over emissions reductions

- Countries expressed positive views on the **retention of sovereign rights** on the additional results paid for by the GCF.
- This helps countries, for example, to **use those ERs to meet NDC targets**, and it also contributes to **greater ownership of the overall process**.

Lessons | GCF REDD+ RBP Implementation

1. GCF's RBP catalytic role under a systemic approach to provide a sustained effort & enabling framework for a paradigm shift

- The prioritized actions of **NDC-REDD+ NS/AP** make the paradigm shift possible. But **transforming systems is complex** and requires investment in **enabling policy and legal framework** with **long-term results**.
- **Additional finding is needed** to cover the total REDD+ results submitted to the UNFCCC.
- RBPs are **playing a catalytic role**, either to help countries build this **systemic approach to diversifying sources of financing** or to leverage the additional public and private
 - Consecional green credits line (deforestation-free production)
 - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
 - Voluntary Carbon Markets (i.e., ART/TREES)
 - Bilateral Agreements
- Ahead, opportunity to unlock other complementary forest finance resources such as **Tropical Forest Forever Facility**

Lessons | GCF REDD+ RBP Implementation

2. Delivering climate finance at the local level in a socially inclusive and gender-sensitive manner

- Countries are better placed to channel climate finance resources at the local level when they have **robust existing programs and public policies** with a track record.
- The use of **Payment for Ecosystem Services incentive policies** made it possible **to deliver funding to local** stakeholders (including indigenous peoples, women, and youth).

3. Strengthening the implementation of safeguards

- The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) **helped to identify gaps, which served to identify management measures in the Environmental and Social Management Plans**.
- Since ESA's methodology ensures full alignment with the AE SE Standards and UNFCCC safeguards in Cancun, it allowed for a **fully harmonized approach to address multiple sets of standards**, improving compliance with emerging standards and requirements.



Part 3:

Highlights of working with Indigenous Peoples

GCF REDD+ RBP and Indigenous Peoples



UNDP RBP portfolio highlights

1. Strengthening governance in Indigenous Territories:

- REDD+ financing has **strengthened participatory governance** frameworks (including empowerment of women and youth) and supported the development of **Indigenous Plans**, which serve as culturally grounded instruments for territorial planning and climate action.



Ecuador

Indigenous Life Plans (Planes de Vida) shape investments and embed bioeconomy and cultural priorities.



Costa Rica

Territorial Forest Management Plans (PAFTs) anchor REDD+ finance in Indigenous Territories.

2. Operationalizing FPIC:

- Projects have demonstrated that free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) can be a **dynamic, fruitful, and iterative** process, **embedded in safeguard systems**, that enables robust mechanisms of participation in financial benefit mechanisms and project design and implementation.

GCF REDD+ RBP and Indigenous Peoples



UNDP PBR portfolio highlights

3. Direct channeling of funds into Indigenous Territories

- Costa Rica's TFAPs, Brazil's Floresta+ Modality 3, and Ecuador's Life Plans have enabled indigenous organizations to **access and utilize funds from various climate finance sources**, implementing them according to their own priorities.
- These models have improved **indigenous autonomy and ensure transparency, grievance mechanisms, a gender and social inclusion approach, and operational capacity at the local level**.

4. Catalyzing land tenure reform

- REDD+ financing has served as a strategic lever to unlock land tenure bottlenecks in some countries. In **Ecuador, the formal recognition of more than 18,000 hectares** of Shuar ancestral territory illustrates how climate finance (REDD+ RBPs) can align with legal and institutional reforms to guarantee indigenous land rights.

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Part 4:

Early insights of applying the new GCF RBPs Policy

Lessons | Applying GCF's new REDD+ RBP policy

1. Long-awaited signal towards financial predictability for REDD+ implementation

- **Policy stability and coherence** to drive REDD+/NDC strategies. The new GCF REDD+ RBP Policy has the potential to **continue stimulating a paradigm shift and virtuous cycle**.
- However, given the definition of the results period (2018-2022 / 2022-2026) as a dynamic function of each GCF programming cycle, some countries' NDAs may face difficulties in **managing priorities**.

2. New eligibility requirements

- **The links of REDD+ results to the NDC** from 2020 onwards are generally secured, if there is flexibility to corroborate them through the NDC itself or the relevant BTRs.
- The approach to **avoiding double payment and double claim** is a critical gap in most countries that reported REDD+ results to the UNFCCC within the GCF results period. Clear guidelines will be essential.

Lessons | Applying GCF's new REDD+ RBP policy

3. Scorecard

- **FREL/FRL and REDD+ have improved over time** . Despite the introduction of new elements to improve environmental integrity, the scores of most countries (out of a total of 10 evaluated) are very similar to those achieved in the Pilot (% ~75/100).

4. Safeguards

- In the absence of a clear signal that provides financial predictability for REDD+ implementation, many **countries have not consistently gathered, recorded, and reported information on addressing and respecting the Cancun safeguards (i.e. SOI, SIS)**. This constitutes another critical gap.
- REDD+ **specific multistakeholder participatory spaces have declined in some countries** . Such spaces require significant investments.



Thank you!

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