

# UN-REDD | REDD+ ACADEMY

PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



*Empowered lives  
Resilient nations*



UNEP



**unitar**

United Nations Institute  
for Training and Research

## REDD+ ACADEMY

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and  
Forest Degradations

**FUNDAMENTALS ON REDD+  
SYLLABUS**

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## Background

The REDD+ Academy is a coordinated REDD+ capacity development initiative led by the UN-REDD Programme and the UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit, which seeks to match the scale of the global climate change mitigation challenge and enable systematic, focused capacity development to deliver REDD+ on the ground.

The development of the REDD+ Academy responds to needs expressed by UN-REDD Programme partner countries for a regionally focused education initiative for those involved in national REDD+ programmes. Accordingly, the design of the REDD+ Academy is guided by the following principles:

- To engage new REDD+ practitioners in key policy and economic sectors relevant for reducing deforestation and forest degradation;
- To build on existing REDD+ capacity development initiatives;
- To ensure the delivery of a long-term and sustainable learning experience;
- To adopt a demand-driven, region specific approach to training tied to REDD+ implementation; and
- To facilitate South-South cooperation.

The REDD+ e-Academy comprises two e-courses which aim to ensure the material developed for the REDD+ Academy is accessible to all. The two courses are Fundamentals on REDD+ and Advancing on REDD+. While the first course provides the basics for a good understanding of REDD+ principles, the second provides content for a deeper understanding of how countries can benefit from applying REDD+ at a national level. Overall, the two courses provide an overview of key REDD+ issues with the aim of empowering participants to contribute to a well-informed national REDD+ process.

## Target Groups and Learning Objectives

The REDD+ e-Academy aims to train REDD+ decision-makers in economic and policy areas - essential for the success of Results-based Actions – in sectors such as agriculture, energy, mining, finance and development planning.

Other REDD+ stakeholders, such as civil society and academia, will also find useful information in the two courses.

The course on Fundamentals on REDD+ is directed at the above-mentioned individuals, who are at the beginning of their REDD+ journey and who do not have pre-existing knowledge of the principles of REDD+.

After completing the course Fundamentals on REDD+, participants will be able to:

- Explain the role of deforestation and forest degradation in the process of climate change;
- Define REDD+ aspects in the context of the UNFCCC;

- Explain the importance of analysing and prioritizing direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Explain the relationship between policies and measures (PAMs) and the five REDD+ activities;
- Describe the process of developing a National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan;
- Identify the variety of perceptions of REDD+ finance in each of the three REDD+ phases.

## Course Structure and Content

The course on Fundamentals on REDD+ is structured around six modules. The first three modules present a general introduction on the topic. The last three modules present various REDD+ elements which are required under the UNFCCC and how to prepare and implement REDD+ at the national level, including what financial resources are available.

1. Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change;
2. Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC;
3. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation;
4. Policies and Measures for REDD+ Implementation;
5. National Strategies and Action Plans;
6. REDD+ Finance.

### Module 1: Climate Change and the Role of Forests

This module shows evidence that the climate is changing and shows a clear link with human activity. It then presents the role of forests in relation to climate regulation. It includes explanations about:

- Evidence of human-induced climate change and factors influencing the climate;
- The role forests play in regulating the Earth's climate;
- How human activity impacts the climate-related function of forests.

#### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:

- Describe the process of climate change;
- List the major greenhouse gases;
- Explain the role of deforestation and forest degradation in the process of climate change;
- Explain the potential of tropical forests in mitigating climate change in the future.

## Module 2: Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC

This module provides the basis for the UN-REDD programme. It includes explanations about:

- What is meant by REDD+ and how it is being negotiated at the global level;
- The importance of REDD+ implementation and challenges faced at the national level;
- International initiatives to support REDD+ implementation at the national level.

### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:

- Define REDD and the importance of the '+' aspects;
- Name the four REDD+ "Design" elements and the five REDD+ activities;
- Describe the REDD+ implementation process;
- Explain some of the associated challenges of REDD+ implementation.

## Module 3: Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

This section presents the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (from here on referred to as DDFD) and proposes a framework to analyse them. It includes explanations about:

- The main DDFD;
- The importance of analysing DDFD;
- How to analyse DDFD.

### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Define examples of the drivers (direct and indirect) of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Explain trends that will affect drivers in the future;
- Explain the importance of analysing and prioritizing direct and indirect drivers;
- Describe challenges in identifying and finding solutions to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

## Module 4: Policies and Measures for REDD+ Implementation

This module looks at how countries can design and implement policies and measures (PAMs) for REDD+ implementation. It follows on from the module on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and is closely related to the next module on National Strategies/Action Plans. The module includes explanations about:

- PAMs under the UNFCCC;
- PAMs in relation to drivers and REDD+ activities;
- Analytical work in support of PAMs design;
- Designing and implementing nationally-appropriate PAMs;
- Monitoring for PAMs.

### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Define policies and measures (PAMs) in the context of REDD+;
- Explain the relationship between policies and measures and the five REDD+ activities;
- Describe factors guiding the design and implementation of policies and measures;
- Explain why effectiveness and impact monitoring is important.

## Module 5: National Strategies and Action Plans

This module is designed for participants to understand the purpose and the importance of quality REDD+ NS/AP design processes and NS/AP documents to implement REDD+ activities successfully and ensure results. It also highlights various elements that countries may find useful to take into consideration to achieve this. The module includes explanations about:

- National Strategies/Action Plans and the UNFCCC;
- Developing National Strategies/Action Plans;
- Cross-cutting issues throughout the National Strategies/Action Plans development process.

### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 5, participants will be able to:

- Describe a national REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan;
- Describe the process of developing a National REDD+ Strategy/Action Plan;
- Identify relevant stakeholders and cross-cutting issues associated with the development of a National Strategy/Action Plan.

## Module 6: REDD+ Finance

This module considers finance as a multi-faceted means to achieve REDD+ objectives, i.e. reducing emissions and increasing removals of greenhouse gases. The module includes explanations about:

- The multi-facets of REDD+ finance;
- Financing REDD+ readiness;
- Financing the implementation of policies and measures;
- Accessing results-based REDD+ finance.

### *Learning Objectives*

After completing Module 6, participants will be able to:

- Identify the variety of perceptions of REDD+ finance;
- Define financing of the REDD+ “readiness”;
- Describe financing of the REDD+ “implementation”;
- Explain the results-based REDD+ finance.

## Methodology and Certification

The course is self-paced and adapted to the schedule of full-time working professionals. Participants are provided with the opportunity to learn through various experiences: absorb (read); interact (activity); and reflect (relate to one’s own reality).

The six modules of the course are self-standing and can be completed in any order. However, it is recommended that learners complete the modules in a chronological order, if they do not have pre-existing knowledge of all the topics.

The successful completion of each module rewards learners with a badge. Users who receive all six badges, associated with the six modules of the course, will receive a certificate of completion of the course.

## Learning resources

To support this learning, the course features a range of learning activities and experiences. This includes video presentations, interactive lessons, a learning journal and a quiz.

### *Video presentations*

Each module is briefly introduced by a subject matter specialist in a video format. The videos walk the learner through the content of the module, highlighting the main concepts and principles discussed.

### *Interactive lessons*

The interactive lessons are provided with the purpose of achieving the three to four specific learning objectives per module and contain a series of interactive spaces. These guide the learner through the various themes and key messages of the module and are linked to specific pages of the learning journals.

### *Learning journals*

The learning journals are documents which contain all the information necessary to complete the quizzes.

### *Quizzes*

The quizzes can be completed at any time. They assess the achievement of the learning objectives for each module. Each quiz can be attempted a maximum of three times. Passing a quiz with at least 70% rewards learners with a badge associated to the specific module. Once the six quizzes are passed, and learners obtain all the six badges available, they can download a certificate of completion from the course home page.

### *Course evaluation*

Participants will be requested to provide feedback on the course by filling in a feedback form that can be accessed in the 'Certificate and Course Evaluation' section on the course home page.

## Technical Requirements

### *Browser:*

- The course works best with Firefox 3.6 or higher (download for free at <https://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/>)
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome (download for free at <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/>)
- For technical reasons, it is not recommended to use Internet Explorer.
- Note: JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled.

### *Software:*

- Adobe Acrobat Reader (download for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).
- Adobe Flash Player (download for free at <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>)
- Microsoft Office (Windows or Apple version) or Open Office (download for free at <http://www.openoffice.org>)

Platform: Windows 95, 98,2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X Hardware: 64MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space

Modem:56 K