

UN-REDD | REDD+ ACADEMY

PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



*Empowered lives
Resilient nations*



UNEP



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United Nations Institute
for Training and Research

REDD+ ACADEMY

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradations

**ADVANCING 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 UN Environment 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 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 Advancing on REDD+ is directed at the above-mentioned individuals, who already have pre-existing knowledge of the principles of REDD+.

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

- Describe the process and objectives of developing a National Forest Monitoring System;
- Explain the importance of developing Forest Reference [Emission] Levels (FRELs/FRLs);

- Explain the need for Safeguard Information Systems in REDD+ implementation;
- Describe the characteristics of an Incentive Allocation System;
- Describe the importance of stakeholder engagement for successful REDD+ implementation;
- Describe the underlying governance factors that can affect REDD+ implementation.

Course Structure and Content

The Advancing on REDD+ course is structured around six modules. While how to prepare and implement REDD+ at the national level through a National Strategy or Action Plan, including financial resources available, is discussed in the course Fundamentals on REDD+, the Advancing on REDD+ course presents the other three REDD+ elements, to which it adds the importance of engaging the relevant stakeholders in the process and the principles of good governance.

The six modules are as follows:

1. National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+;
2. Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs);
3. REDD+ Safeguards under the UNFCCC;
4. Approaches for the Allocation of Incentives;
5. Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+;
6. Good Governance.

Module 1: National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+

This module looks at how countries can measure their REDD+ performance in terms of greenhouse gas emissions reductions. It answers the questions:

- What is meant by National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)?
- Why are NFMS required, with reference to the UNFCCC?
- How are NFMS developed and implemented?

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:

- Define a National Forest Monitoring System;
- Describe the process and functions of developing a National Forest Monitoring System;
- Identify tools available in developing a National Forestry Monitoring System;
- Describe the Measurement, Reporting and Verification process for REDD+.

Module 2: Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs)

This module presents one of the four elements for REDD+ readiness - Forest Reference (Emission) Levels. The module explains:

- What is meant by an FREL/FRL;
- How to support the development of an FREL/FRL;
- How to submit an FREL/FRL.

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:

- Describe Forest Reference (Emission) Levels (FRELs/FRLs);
- Explain the importance of developing FRELs/FRLs;
- Describe the process of constructing and submitting FRELs/FRLs;
- Explain why and how national circumstances should be taken into consideration.

Module 3: REDD+ Safeguards under the UNFCCC

This module will discuss the concept of safeguards and safeguard information systems (SIS) for REDD+ under the UNFCCC. It will include sections on:

- REDD+ safeguards requirements under the UNFCCC, including the seven 'Cancun' safeguards;
- A conceptual framework for country approaches to meeting these (and other) safeguards requirements;
- Considerations and generic steps in designing a safeguard information system (SIS);
- Considerations for the content of summaries of safeguards information;
- UN-REDD tools available to support countries in designing and applying their country approaches to REDD+ safeguards.

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Describe the Cancun safeguards for REDD+;
- List the required elements in a country safeguards mechanism;
- Explain the need for Safeguard Information Systems in REDD+ implementation;
- List tools available to support development of safeguards.

Module 4: Approaches for the Allocation of Incentives

This module will discuss the approaches to allocation of incentives, also called benefits sharing system, to incentivise stakeholder actions. This module includes sections on:

- What is meant by an Incentive Allocation System;
- Key principles to follow when establishing an Incentive Allocation System;
- Issues to address in an Incentive Allocation System.

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Define an Incentive Allocation System;
- Describe the characteristics of an Incentive Allocation System;
- Describe the importance of effectiveness, efficiency and equity;
- Explain the seven key issues in designing an Incentive Allocation System.

Module 5: Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+

This module describes the importance of stakeholder engagement in REDD+ processes, as well as tools and entry points to promote stakeholder engagement. The module includes explanations about:

- What is meant by a stakeholder in the context of REDD+;
- The rationale for stakeholder engagement;
- How to engage stakeholders in REDD+ activities;
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent;
- Grievance Redress Mechanisms.

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 5, participants will be able to:

- Explain what is meant by stakeholders in the context of REDD+;
- Describe the importance of stakeholder engagement in successful REDD+ implementation;
- List the tools available for carrying out the stakeholder engagement process;
- Explain the importance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

Module 6: Good Governance

This module presents the importance of good governance in REDD+ processes:

- Governance under the UNFCCC REDD+ decisions;
- Governance factors underlying Drivers and Barriers to “+” activities;
- Governance to develop successful and effective national REDD+ strategies and policies and measures (PAMs);
- Monitoring and accountability for PAMs;
- Strengthening governance to implement NS/APs and PAMs;
- Governance and REDD+ safeguards;
- Managing REDD+ funds.

Learning Objectives

After completing Module 6, participants will be able to:

- Define the meaning of good governance in the context of REDD+;
- Describe how good governance is essential in effective REDD+ implementation;
- Describe the underlying governance factors that will affect REDD+ implementation;
- Explain the role of good governance in the design of effective National Strategies and Policies and Measures.

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