



## Jamaica REDD+ Stakeholder Information Packet

### Briefing Module 1: UN REDD+ and how it is governed at the international and national levels



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## Acronyms

NRSC	National REDD+ Steering Committee
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stock
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## Introduction

Jamaica is an Annex 2 party to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change and its 2015 Paris Agreement. Annex 2 countries may earn results-based payments for maintaining or improving carbon stocks in standing tropical forests through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Plus (REDD+) programmes. REDD+ involves reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation as well as conservation, sustainable management of standing forests, and enhancements of forest carbon stock through initiatives such as agroforestry, reforestation, and afforestation. REDD+ creates an incentive for protecting and restoring forests ecosystems by creating market value for the carbon they sequester.

The Government of Jamaica is desirous of developing a national REDD+ programme to earn results-based payments from forest protection. The International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) is assisting the government with the development of the National REDD+ Strategy in what is known as Phase 1 of REDD+ programme development.

REDD+ offers Jamaica an opportunity to attract non-official development assistance finance not only for forest protection but also national development goals. Through participation in UN REDD+, Jamaica may have the opportunity to enrich carbon stocks by promoting agroforestry and sustainable timber production on idle agricultural land in a manner that addresses chronic development challenges such as providing greater access to lands for small farmers, especially youth and women, reducing the outflow of foreign currency by lowering the food import bill and producing timber for the construction sector where imports now fill the demand, and increasing economic activity in rural areas through community-based management of REDD+, agroforestry, value-added processing, and ecotourism linked to REDD+ and collaborative forest management. REDD+ also offers the country the opportunity to go beyond forests to brand Jamaica as a climate responsible destination with potential spin offs in tourism and to leverage its REDD+ efforts to attract finance for integrated national sustainable development.

In the last two years, research and analyses were conducted to help craft a REDD+ strategy that responds to international requirements and local social, economic, environmental, and cultural needs. These analyses were done in participatory manner with key stakeholder groups across Jamaica. The draft strategy is now ready for broader multi-stakeholder scrutiny and feedback and the conduct of a participatory Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the strategy to ensure that potential positive impacts are amplified, and negative impacts addressed.

This stakeholder information packet provides essential background information on REDD+ to help stakeholders understand the requirements of a REDD+ programme, situation in Jamaica, and how the proposed REDD+ strategy responds to requirements and local situational needs. During the last two years, essential information on REDD+ was provided on a rolling basis in all stakeholder engagements conducted. Feedback on findings were also shared in this manner. This packet documents that information and provides a background for stakeholders that are newly engaged. All planned engagement sessions will also provide explanations to reinforce the information provided here and give stakeholders an opportunity to clarify any matters.

The packet is organised into four Briefing Modules. Four of these are contained in this document, and the fifth on the is contained in a stand-alone accompanying document.

The modules herein are: The modules herein are:

- (1) Briefing Module 1: UN REDD+ and how it is governed at the international and national levels
- (2) Briefing Module 2: Required REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards
- (3) Briefing Module 3. Components of a REDD+ Strategy; and
- (4) Briefing Module 4: Summary of National Situation, Overview of Work in Progress REDD+ strategy, Stakeholder Engagement Process and Next steps.

This is the first in the sequence of modules. It provides information on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and basis for the REDD+, explains REDD+ and its global reach, introduces the phases through which a country programme is developed, explains the international governance framework and the national governance framework for REDD+ standardized across countries.

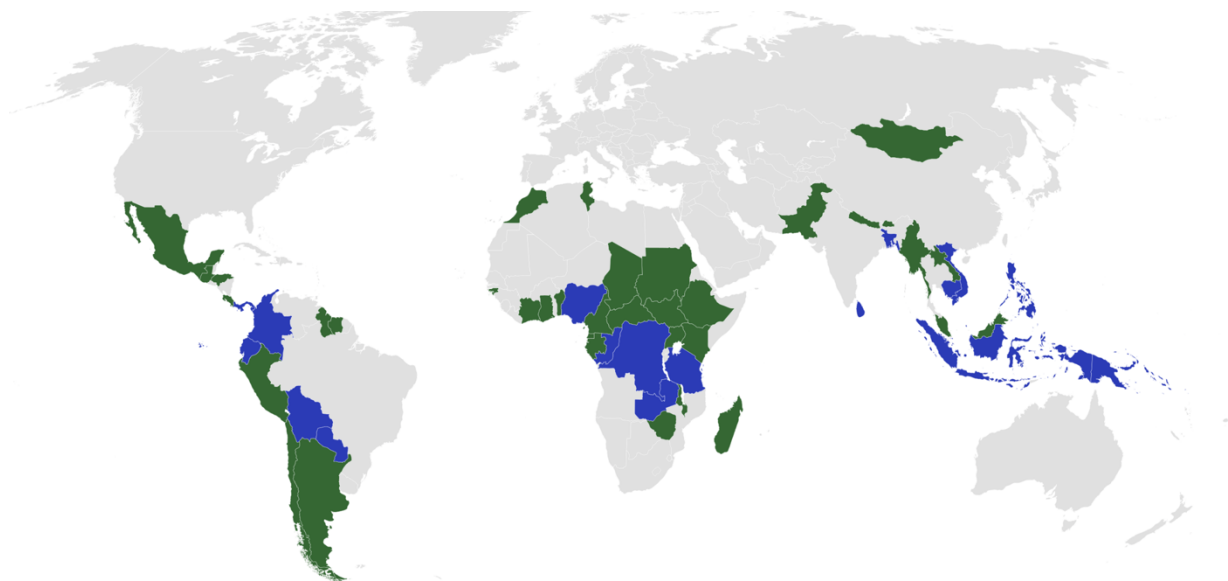
## The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- REDD+ is a Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris Agreement.
- The UNFCCC entered into force on 21 March 1994. It has near-universal membership. The 197 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.
- The aim of the convention is to prevent “dangerous” human interference with the climate system by stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level and in a time frame that will allow ecosystems to adapt naturally and enable sustainable development.
- The UNFCCC Paris Agreement of 2015 allows developing countries to earn results-based payment for preventing carbon loss to the atmosphere by protecting standing forests and reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by increasing their forest stock.

## What is REDD+?

- REDD+ is the acronym for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), and conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock (+).
- It involves results-based payments set on a National Forest Reference Level (this is determined by looking at forest change over the past 20 years). The level of forest is the starting point and from there the country would aim to keep that level of forest or increase the level to earn payments, which are based on the amount of carbon the forest holds.
- To qualify, countries need proper preparation and careful inclusive management. There is a standardized approach across countries and rules that each country must adhere to in the preparation of their National REDD+ strategies and implementation. The standardized elements are called the Warsaw Framework and the UN REDD rules or social and environmental safeguards, are referred to as the Cancun Safeguards. These names are given based on the cities where the Conference of Parties made decisions on the elements and safeguards.
- UN REDD+ programmes can only presently be developed at the jurisdictional level – a programme for the entire country led by the Government of the country.
- Under REDD+ a country can reduce emissions or lock away more carbon dioxide by:
  - Reducing emissions from deforestation (preventing deforestation)
  - Reducing emissions from Forest degradation (reducing of trees and plans in forest to improper harvesting, farming, or animal grazing etc.)
  - Sustainable management of forests (improving management methods to reduce deforestation and degradation)
  - Conservation of forest carbon stocks (protect existing forests, improve protection); and
  - Enhancement of forest carbon stocks (increase existing forests through afforestation or agroforestry etc.)

## Countries with REDD+ Programmes



## REDD+ Phases

- REDD+ programmes are developed in a careful phased approach to ensure that all the challenges and problems are properly identified, and the country builds up national and local capacity to implement the programme.
- REDD+ Readiness Phase 1 – this is where Jamaica is at. At this stage studies are completed, and stakeholders are engaged to develop a National REDD+ Strategy and identify all the gaps and areas in policy and practice, including further studies and capacity building, that are needed to fully develop a REDD+ programme.
- REDD+ Readiness Phase 2 – at this stage the country develops the full institutional capability for managing a REDD+ programme by closing gaps and piloting REDD+ initiatives. This allows for trouble shooting and fixing any problems that could affect the smooth functioning of the programme and qualification for results-based payments.
- REDD+ Implementation – at this stage the country is ready to manage a REDD+ programme and earn payment in exchange for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.
- The overall process from Readiness to Implementation can take approximately 5 years.

## UN REDD+ Governance Framework

- The UN-REDD Programme is an international programme governed by a UN-REDD Programme Executive Board, which has oversight and makes decision on the allocation of funds/ resources.
- There is a UN-REDD Programme Assembly, which is a broad multi stakeholder forum drawn from participating countries that advises the Board.
- Each REDD+ country participating in UN REDD has a Secretariat and a National Steering Committee, which is a multi-stakeholder committee monitoring and overseeing progress and ensuring the delivery of results according to the programmes approved by UN-REDD Programme and Safeguard Mechanisms.

## What is a National REDD+ Steering Committee?

- The National REDD+ Steering Committee (NRSC) must be a multi-stakeholder body representing government and non-governmental stakeholders that can influence or be affected by national REDD+ programmes and broader national representation to include between Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, forest dependent communities, Civil Society, Academic etc.
- The NRSC is an independent oversight and advisory body for the REDD+ readiness programme in Jamaica throughout the life of the Project and must ensure timely resolution of administrative constraints and resource allocation to ensure that it responds to changes in the overall context and needs.
- The NRSC forms an important link between government and the rest of the society.

## Jamaica's REDD+ NRSC

- The Government of Jamaica assembled an NRSC with tenure from 2019-2021 but extended to present.
- The membership of this NRSC will be updated to ensure all critical stakeholders are represented now that there is research and information on key stakeholders in the REDD+ process.
- Forest dependent peoples can expect to have at least one member representing their interest on the committee.



## The responsibilities of Jamaica's NRSC

- Provide guidance and advice to the Forestry Department on the implementation of the Support for REDD+ Readiness Preparation in Jamaica Project, taking into consideration the overarching objectives, sector policies and other GOJ sustainable development guidelines and legislation.
- Assess the attainment of goals, targets, and strategic objectives by periodically reviewing the progress and results, in accordance with the Implementation Plan.
- Review and approve the Annual Work Plan and progress reports.
- Approve Technical Reports/Outputs/Deliverables with recommendations from the Working Groups.
- It is recommended that going forward the NRSC's terms of responsibilities specify monitoring of implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System, Social and Environmental Management Framework, Safeguard Information System, Gender Strategy, and Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism that will form part of the REDD+ programme. This may be achieved by assembling specific Working Groups tasked with following these initiatives more closely than the NRSC can at a quarterly level.

## Working Groups

- The NRSC may be supported by Working Groups, which are assembled around key work areas of the REDD+ programme.
- These Working Groups may be composed of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.
- The Working groups allow for additional and broader direct participation of stakeholders in the REDD+ management process and make the work of NRSC manageable, as the NRSC must have a reasonable size to function properly.
- The NRSC may decide what types of working groups to assemble and the period of their operation.

## Operations of Jamaica's NRSC

- Presently the NRSC is mandated to meet at least three times a year (or as otherwise agreed). It has been recommended that as Jamaica starts up its REDD+ programme the NRSC should meet four times a year, each in the four different zones of the country (NE, SE, SW, NW), and each time holding a public

forum after their meetings to interact with communities and public, receive feedback, and address any issues if possible.

- Extraordinary meetings may be convened as necessary.
- Presently six (6) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Committee, though the Committee may wish to revise this based on the total membership size going forward.
- In the absence of a quorum at a duly called meeting, a lesser number may adjourn the meeting until a quorum shall be present.

## REDD+ Secretariat

- The Climate Change Division is the Agency responsible for all climate change work and engagement with the UNFCCC. The Forestry Department is the agency with the competency to manage forestry in the country.
- The Forestry Department will provide secretariat functions for the NRSC and will ensure that all matters related to the coordination of meetings for the NRSC is carried out.
- The Government of Jamaica may decide to create an institutional framework that provides support for the Forestry Department by including critical national agencies in the operation of the REDD+ Secretariat.
- Critical governmental institutions include the Climate Change Division, which is responsible for REDD+ as part of Jamaica's climate change portfolio, the National Environment Planning Agency, which is responsible for environmental management nationally, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, which is responsible for country level sustainable development planning, The Rural Agriculture Development Authority, which has a major role to play in agroforestry, the Gender Bureau, which is responsible for gender equity, and the Dispute Resolution Foundation of Jamaica, which is the main body in the country with capacity for alternative dispute resolution.

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