

# Key themes and questions for national REDD strategies

IIED suggestions for discussion in “South-South REDD” planning meetings

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## Introduction

This briefing paper aims to stimulate thinking about process and content issues within national REDD strategies. Under different thematic headings it poses some key questions for exploring in-country options for REDD.

This paper has been prepared as an input into a new initiative, “South-South REDD: A Brazil-Mozambique initiative for zero deforestation with pan-African relevance” that is being funded by the Norwegian Embassy. This new initiative will provide technical and participatory process support for the development of a National REDD Strategy and National REDD Programme in Mozambique.

While this briefing note was designed for Mozambique, these themes and questions have broader relevance for the development of REDD. The paper also includes boxes outlining how IIED might share its experience to help provide answers to some of these questions.

## Key themes and questions

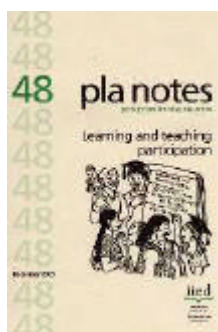
### 1. Participation and decision-making in developing and implementing REDD processes

How to assess for different groups of people the balance of incentives that currently drive forest loss, and their views on what might shift this balance in favour of avoided deforestation within a national REDD strategy?

How to ensure that stakeholders are fully informed of any national REDD strategy process and the options, timeframes, positions of other stakeholders and ways to engage?

What support is needed to ensure groups of stakeholders can make their positions clear and put their priorities on the agenda?

How to facilitate credible and accountable decision-making that translates these priorities into programmes with buy in from those key groups?



IIED is currently contracted by the Norwegian government to advise on and monitor multi-stakeholder consultations on Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) which in their case overarches a National REDD Programme. IIED also has a substantial institutional capacity in the design and implementation of participatory decision-making processes and edits and publishes the International Journal "Participatory Learning and Action". IIED could contribute by adapting to

the Mozambique context guidelines on international best practice for multi-stakeholder consultations in the development of REDD strategies.

### 2. Goal, scale and focus of REDD activities within country

Towards what political, economic, social and environmental ends is REDD targeted?

What is the right in-country spatial scale for REDD?

Which forests and landscapes should be included? How best to target forests at risk?

In what contexts might REDD avoid doing harm and result in a win-win-win, improving financing for good governance, achieving sustainable forest management and helping improve local livelihoods?



IIED has strong connections with two dialogue streams, orchestrated by The Forest Dialogue (TFD) on REDD Readiness and REDD Financing that are exploring these practical issues. IIED has also

been involved in recent analyses of the forest sector in Mozambique, publishing for example a booklet on Mozambique's small and medium forest enterprise sector. IIED could contribute by sharing findings from TFD dialogues and sector specific studies to help national partners clarify issues of goal, scale and focus.





### 3. National costs and benefits of REDD

What are the costs and potentials of REDD given national forest assets and governance capacities – in competition with other nations?

How might these costs and benefits change if different international scenarios emerge with variable scope (what carbon pools and reduction activities might qualify?), reference levels (what historic, current or projected baselines will be used?), distribution mechanisms and financing options (what mix of direct funds, markets and voluntary payments will emerge?)?

What is the size and source of financing that might be available? In what contexts might it be economically worth developing a REDD programme?



IIED in partnership with NORAGRIC and five other developing country partners is identifying and quantifying, where possible, the poverty and sustainable development impacts of REDD. This work will model likely returns to countries in a carbon market. This will be complemented by field studies that improve our understanding on the likely impacts of REDD benefits to farmers and communities. IIED could contribute by connecting in-country partners with this international initiative and make available the methodologies used.

### 4. Mainstreaming REDD into national governance

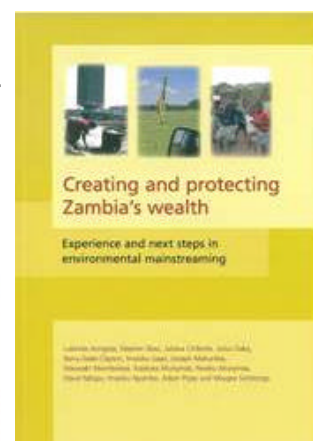
How can extra-sectoral drivers of land use change be tackled by REDD?

How can REDD help stop/reverse government programs in other sectors that drive deforestation?

How can REDD be installed and contribute to wider sustainable development frameworks and poverty reduction strategies (e.g. ProAgri and the PARPA in Mozambique)?

Is a national REDD strategy the best approach or would the country be better served by a more encompassing Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) that includes REDD financing as one component element?

IIED is responsible for catalyzing in Mozambique, with the FAO, IUCN and World Bank, an initiative called 'Growing Forest Partnerships' that is seeking to strengthen local and international partnerships and investment to support stakeholders in their efforts to improve forest livelihoods and ecosystem services. IIED also has a considerable track record in helping to mainstream environment across different sectors. IIED can contribute by building close links between these initiatives.



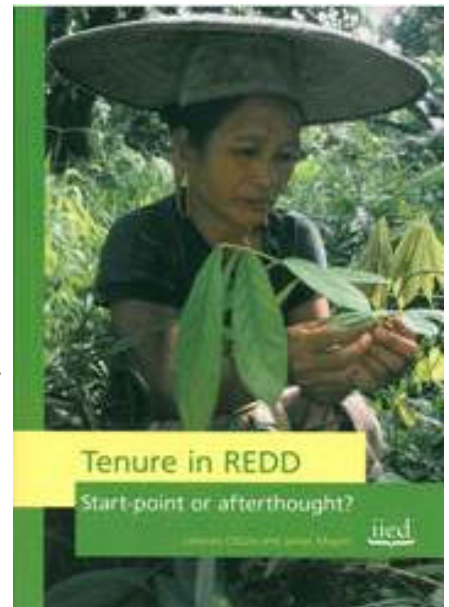
## 5. Good governance and secure policy, legal and tenure arrangements

- How to ensure REDD helps to establish an enabling policy context for community, local management and enterprises that operate sustainably?
- How to ensure REDD helps improve tenure security over carbon, land and resources such that environmental service trade can be secured?
- How to establish clear, enforced, and widely supported, legal framework for forest property rights (land, forests, carbon, other ecosystem services), including indigenous and community property rights?



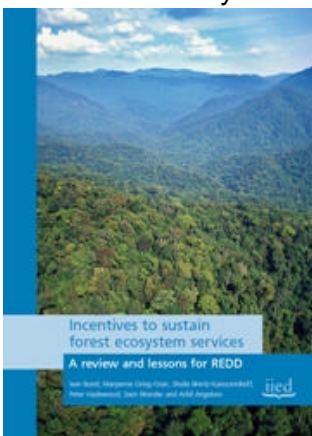
IIED has conducted a multi-country analysis and published a book on “Tenure and REDD” that explores why land and forest rights need to be a central consideration in the design of REDD strategies. IIED has also managed over the last six years a 10 country Forest Governance Learning Group (FGLG) in which Mozambique has participated that is exploring practical tactics to improve forest governance. IIED can contribute

substantial experience on policy, legal and tenure arrangements in REDD discussions.



## 6. Institutional arrangements and the management of REDD costs and benefits

- How to develop broadly owned agreements on who gets compensated?
- What mechanisms are most effective in managing and distributing REDD funds and revenues?
- How to establish a reliable contractual basis for payment schemes? How can risk and liability best be managed?
- With so many sectors and interests at stake, what oversight bodies will be needed to ensure ongoing cooperation by all parties?



IIED has reviewed PES cases studies from four regions and concluded that the payment systems will have to be at the heart of any REDD mechanism. There is little evidence to show that current payment systems do any harm and some evidence to show that where targeted they can have a positive impact on livelihoods. For example, recent work with Virgilio Viana at the

Fundação Amazonas Sustentável (FAS ) has drawn attention to positive payment systems in Brazil. Elsewhere, however much will depend on governance at all levels and it is naïve to think that it will be easy to improve governance in some situations. Under these conditions REDD mechanisms will have to be designed to accommodate deficiencies in governance. IIED can help adapt lessons from it experience in the search for locally appropriate solutions.



## **7. Technical capacity - Baseline establishment, monitoring and verification to ensure permanence and additionality and avoid leakage**

- How to set reference levels and/or historic, current or projected baselines against which REDD payments will be made?
- How to monitor, report and verify carbon emissions from forests, and social and environmental safeguards and impacts, in a credible and transparent way?
- What institutional partnerships will be required for independent enforcement and accountability mechanisms?
- How do we deal with international leakage such as the displacement of deforestation to other areas either within or beyond national borders?
- What provisions to ensure additionality will need to be in place for some REDD approaches?
- How do we ensure permanence and/or assign liability for any future failures?



IIED has strong institutional partnerships and bodies of work in this area and substantial links to the negotiations leading up to Copenhagen at which many of these issues will be debated in preparation for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. IIED has been in-

ited by the Norwegian Government to administer their support to the South-South REDD initiative in Mozambique strategically led by MICOA and FAS, partly in order to facilitate inputs from institutions (such as Indufor) which have a significant body of expertise in relation to the development of REDD baselines.

## **8. Competitive advantage and logical consistency**

- How to make the strategy more attractive to international REDD financing bodies (given that comparative advantage in the scale, nature and historic rate of forest change cannot be altered)?
- How to align potential goals of a national REDD strategy (e.g. avoided deforestation, poverty reduction, greater governance capacity etc) with the process used to design the strategy (e.g. ecological evidence, inclusive participation, transparency etc)?
- How to position and advertise a national REDD strategy in competition with others so as to optimize chances for successful delivery?
- What positions to take in international negotiations to enhance the prospects for a cost efficient outcome in your country?

IIED has considerable experience in matching policy processes with desired governance outcomes. For example IIED has managed a multi-country programme on 'Policies that work for forests and people' with systematic lesson learning on political tools and tactics to achieve desired governance outcomes. IIED could contribute by advising on the consistency between proposed REDD approaches and desired REDD outcomes.



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