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WHAT IS THE REDD COUNTRIES DATABASE?

The REDD Countries Database is a centralised and collaborative database of the diverse and rapidly evolving range of ongoing REDD Readiness activities in tropical forest owning nations. Organised by country, it summarises key information in multiple languages across a range of areas. The REDD Countries Database does not attempt to assess activities or offer normative analysis but instead uses a common analytical framework to facilitate quick comparison within and between countries.

Three pilot countries were launched on the platform in May 2011, and research for eleven more countries is currently underway. Follow @theREDDdesk on twitter for REDD news and platform updates.

http://www.theREDDdesk.org/countries/redd-countries

GLOSSARY OF ICONS

The following icons are used throughout the REDD Countries Database (and in the sample case studies presented in this booklet) to present information in a clear and easily comparable form about the ongoing readiness actions in each country.
In 2010 Vietnam had around 44% forest cover, almost a 50% increase since 1990 when forest cover was less than 30%. Despite an overall increase in forest area over recent years various regions of Vietnam still have high rates of deforestation and forest degradation, and fragmentation is occurring throughout the remaining natural forests. There has been considerable work undertaken in Vietnam to get ready for REDD, and the country is advancing across many areas.

Vietnam is currently in the implementation phase of the UN-REDD programme and has received USD 4.3 million to assist the Vietnamese government getting ready to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Vietnam also presented its R-PP to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in October 2010 and has requested an additional USD 3.6 million from the FCPF to support REDD readiness in the country. Vietnam has a number of plans, policies and laws that support REDD activities, including the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change, which aims to assess the impact of climate change on Vietnam, identify measures to combat climate change, and strengthen the capacities of organizations involved in responding to climate change. The National Target Plan also commits to working with the international community to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

Although REDD in Vietnam is being driven by the national government, subnational activities are taking place that will influence countrywide outcomes. For example, the Cat Tien Landscape pro-poor REDD project supports local institutions to establish a forest carbon monitoring programme that can compensate local villagers as well as reducing deforestation and degradation in the Cat Tien National Park. The Lam Dong Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is a partner in this project. Other sub-national activities include capacity building for district and provincial officials who will be in charge of implementing essential REDD functions such as a benefit distribution system and carbon monitoring methodologies.
have been independently evaluated and verified by the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC).

RIGHTS AND TENURE
The Constitution of Vietnam states that all forest resources (including land, trees, and wildlife) are owned by the people; the government, on behalf of the people, legally entrusts the management of forests to specific groups. At present eight types of forest “owner” (effectively leaseholders) are recognized in Vietnam: state enterprises, joint venture enterprises, individual households, management boards for forest protection, management boards for special-use forest, army units and people’s committees and collectives. These eight stakeholder groups are represented in three forest tenure arrangements: Private tenure applies to the first three stakeholder groups listed above, and is the most common form of tenure. Forest is allocated to its tenure-holder for long-term management (typically 50 years). Most forest tenure holders under this arrangement are entitled to a legal land-use certificate. State tenure applies to groups 4–7 in the list above. Forests are typically allocated for an unspecified period. For special-use or protection forests, the tenure holders are entitled to receive State budget for their management. Common tenure is found in forest managed by collectives that are legally recognized by the State. Currently, only a small area of forest falls under the common tenure arrangements. Despite these arrangements, a recent UN-REDD study into options for a REDD Benefit Distribution Study concluded: “Vietnam’s current distribution of forestland tenure does not currently provide the required basis for an effective, efficient and equitable distribution of REDD benefits. Moreover, Vietnam will need to find ways to resolve disputes over forestland”.

COMPLIANCE (INCENTIVES AND ENFORCEMENT)
Vietnam has a number of laws and policies on forest law enforcement. The Law on Forest Protection specifies a range of prohibited acts, including illegal logging; forest destruction; encroachment on forest land; illegal forest products transport; illegal grazing; and various other practices. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has the main responsibility for ensuring compliance with forest protection. As part of an effort to improve progress on law enforcement MARD and the European Commission (EC) have established a joint Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Working Group. Vietnam and the EC reached an agreement in August 2010 to prepare a Voluntary Partnership Agreement. Part of the National Strategy includes enforcement of planning and environmental requirements. It suggests undertaking regular checks of the quality of EIAs to ensure they adhere to high standards, including safeguarding policies. The REDD pilots will also make appropriate law enforcement a central component of project design from the beginning. They will indicate ways to determine the liability of forest managers under different circumstances.

REFERENCE LEVEL
Following work being carried out in Vietnam with international assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Embassy of Finland, reference levels are to be developed for all carbon related activities within the scope of REDD. Vietnam will use an historical reference level for deforestation rates dating back to at least 1990 and potentially dating further back using data from NOAA AVHRR. Generation of reference levels for forest degradation has been deemed more complex and Vietnam is considering foregoing accounting of historical emissions from forest degradation, as the level of detail and coverage of available data is difficult to match with current data sets and information. Vietnam intends to adopt a national approach on the REDD implementation to address domestic leakage. It is likely, however, that a project-based or stepwise approach will be carried out in the short run due to availability of the financial and technical support from international development partners and capacity of the Vietnam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST). Sub-national reference levels will be developed based on stratification of the national territory into more homogeneous eco-regions. Vietnam will develop projected reference levels for carbon stock enhancement based on biophysical responses of forests for each of the eco-regions factoring in sub-national socio-economic conditions per province. Planned or predicted developments as laid down in the Social and Economic Development Plan SEDP and the Forest Development Strategy over the period until 2020 will be considered in preparing reference emissions levels. In particular the regional effects of REDD implementation on the wood processing industry (which imports up to 80% of its raw material, mostly from Asian countries also establishing national REDD programs).

At a project level, there are many activities taking place in Vietnam to support the establishment of reference levels. For example, the Embassy of Finland has developed a project to collect and organize comprehensive information to improve Vietnam’s existing digital forest inventory database. This will lead to initial estimates of Vietnam’s forest carbon stock and culminate with the establishment of the first Interim Baseline Reference Scenarios.

SAFEGUARDS
The UN-REDD Programme globally will produce tools and guidance to assess biodiversity and ecosystem services in reforested areas, with the aim to support the realization of co-benefits from the major reforestation effort underway in this country. This will include simple tools for identifying which ecosystem services could be important in reforested areas, and guidance on selecting approaches for assessing and monitoring change in services. The R-PP suggests that improved legal safeguards are needed in Vietnam to prevent further damage to national forests. It also calls for a more robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regime, with more effective punishment for people or companies that fail to comply
with environmental safeguards. The R-PP also urges that safeguard procedures be integrated into the MRV system, with emphasis on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and other social and environmental benefits.

**MRV**

The proposed measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system in Vietnam will closely follow the guidelines defined by the UNFCCC. Data will be measured through participatory carbon monitoring for households, communes and community forestry management groups. The field data collection will be supplemented by satellite based monitoring. It is proposed all relevant stakeholders will gain access to data and information through a web-based interface. Reporting will be managed through a national data infrastructure for the MRV system. The main tool for communication will be the internet and the mobile phone network, both readily available and relatively easy to implement in Vietnam, except in the most remote areas. The government of Vietnam will establish a procedure to verify that the reported emission reductions and removals meet the criteria of the UNFCCC. The verification based on the MRV system data will be supplemented by analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery on a sampling basis. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme has organized various activities on MRV with stakeholders in Ha Noi and in the pilot province of Lam Dong. Piloting of participatory carbon monitoring at the commune and individual household level has included an evaluation of options and learning from experiences with community forestry management experience in Dak Nong province. Further to this, a draft of guidelines for the implementation of participatory carbon monitoring has been developed; field testing of the participatory carbon monitoring guidelines started in November and December 2010, and full piloting of participatory carbon monitoring is expected in the two pilot districts in the first half of 2011. Through the FAO and Finland’s Forestry Cooperation Programme, the National Forest Inventory program will be undertaken, with the objective of estimating biomass under the National REDD+ Program. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is in the process of defining its Phase II activities, which are expected to include implementation and training for an MRV system for six provinces.

Vietnam is a densely populated, developing country in South East Asia of which 44% is forested. The forests in Vietnam are made up of 74% naturally regenerated forest, 25% of plantation forest and 1% of primary forest. Vietnam is a highly diverse country, with 1534 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles. Of these, 8.2 percent exist in no other country. Between 1990 and 2000, Vietnam gained an average of 236,200 hectares of forest per year, with deforestation rates for primary cover forests decreasing by 77.9%. However, despite an overall increase in forest area since the early 1990s, various regions of Vietnam – including the Central Highlands, the Central Coast and the East of southern region – still have high rates of deforestation. Between the years of 2005 and 2010, the annual change rate of forest cover was 1.08%. The drivers of deforestation in Vietnam are varied. They include infrastructure improvement to support a rapidly developing economy, as well as forested areas being converted to agricultural cultivation to support the lives of rural Vietnamese, which make up 71.7% of the population. Illegal logging is a continuing problem. There are an estimated 30 - 50,000 forest violations per year, very few of which result in criminal prosecution. Vietnam's economy continues to grow, with GDP for 2010 being USD 91.8 billion. Its major industries are food processing, garments, shoe making, mining, coal and steel making. Vietnam's main agricultural products are rice, coffee, rubber, cotton and tea.
**FOREST AREA**

**TOTAL COUNTRY LAND AREA IN 2010**
(1,000 HA)

31,008

**PROLIFIC FOREST TYPE**

**HUMID-DRY**

**FOREST COVER CATEGORY IN 2010**

LOW (44%)

**TOTAL FOREST COVER**

- PRIMARY FOREST IN 2010: 1%
- OTHER NATURALLY REGENERATED FOREST IN 2010: 74%
- PLANTATION IN 2010: 25%

**RATE OF DEFORESTATION**

**TRENDS IN ANNUAL CHANGE RATE**

**CATEGORY OF ANNUAL CHANGE RATE OF FOREST COVER FOR 2005–10**

LOW (-1.08%)

**ANNUAL CHANGE RATE OF NATURALLY REGENERATED FORESTS (1,000 HA / YEAR)**

- 2000–2005: -149
- 2005–2010: -144

**ANNUAL CHANGE RATE OF PRIMARY FOREST COVER (1,000 HA / YEAR)**

- 2000–2005: -141
- 2005–2010: -1

**ANNUAL CHANGE RATE OF PLANTED FORESTS (1,000 HA / YEAR)**

- 2005–2010: -144

FOREST OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT STATUS
OWNERSHIP PATTERN 2005

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP 72%
PRIVATE OWNERSHIP 24%
OTHER 4%

PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS NA
BUSINESS ENTITIES AND INSTITUTIONS NA
LOCAL, INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES NA

FOREST WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS 2010

NA

A SAMPLE INSTITUTION FROM THE DATABASE:
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the key government agency in Vietnam. MARD is the focal point for REDD activities and has a number of departments and directorates that aim to ensure that REDD readiness activities take place. Other government institutions involved in REDD activities include the Ministry for Nature Resources and Environment, the Ministry for Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance. Each of these ministries feeds information into the National Steering Committee of the National Target Plan to respond to Climate Change, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. At the international level, the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is the largest effort to support the government with its REDD activities. UN-REDD includes the FAO, UNDP and UNEP, who each contribute to different outputs. UN-REDD also supports other IGOs who are implementing or have implemented REDD activities in Vietnam. These institutions include JICA, GTZ, SNV, the World Bank and KfW. As major funders of REDD and other development projects the Embassy of Finland and the Embassy of Norway are also important institutions in Vietnam. Many NGOs are also active in Vietnam, including Tropenbos International, Winrock International, ICRAF, and SRD. The REDD Network and the Forest Sector Support Partnership, which any institution that is involved in REDD activities in Vietnam can join, help to coordinate these organisations.

Related Activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Assessment and Long-term Monitoring of Forests and Tree Resources in Vietnam (NEA)</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFM Promotion of Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Vietnam Uplands</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFM VIETNAM Country Program Framework for Sustainable Forest Land Management (COUNTRY PROGRAM)</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td></td>
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Type: Level:
Vietnam has a number of laws that support REDD activities including the Land Law, the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Biodiversity, and the Law on Forest Protection and Development. These laws provide guidance on land rights and tenure, and the types of development that can take place on land as well as enforcement measures for those who break the law. The law on biodiversity also has provisions that create a framework for the implementation of PES activities.

While the term REDD is not mentioned specifically, Vietnam has a number of plans and policies that support efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The key policy instrument to combat climate change that underpins REDD policy development in Vietnam is the National Target Plan to Respond to Climate Change. This plan commits the Vietnamese government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also sets a target to increase forest cover from 44% to 47% by 2020. Aligned, but separate to this plan is the Viet Nam Forestry Development Strategy, which lays out a strategy for 2006–2020. The strategy pays particular attention to rights, tenure and enforcement issues and sets an objective for calculating and monitoring forestry and land inventories in Vietnam. Another significant plan is the Action Plan Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector, which sets out a number of goals for the period 2008-2020 including an increase in the capacity of Vietnam to mitigate and adapt to climate change threats. Supporting and reinforcing the National Plans, Vietnam also has more specific policies that support REDD activities in the country. One of the most significant policies, implemented in 1998, is the Five Million Hectare Reforestation Program (Decision 661). Decision 661 was implemented to rapidly increase forest cover in Vietnam by establishing five million hectares of new forest. It is also the first example of a payments for environmental services scheme in Vietnam and thereby supports designs of a benefit distribution system for REDD activities in Vietnam.

To date there is a range of activities involving different organisations underway in Vietnam, from national level programmes to district and commune level projects. Few of these cover every element of REDD, with most focussing on just one or two such as MRV or reference levels. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme with a budget of a USD 4.3 million is the largest and arguably most comprehensive activity taking place. It aims to support the Vietnamese government’s plans to become ‘REDD ready’ by 2012. To do this, it supports many REDD-related activities in Vietnam, including MRV, reference levels, benefit distribution systems, and capacity building. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is also coordinating pilot activities in two districts of Lam Dong Province - Di Linh and Lam Ha. Also at the national level, FAO is about to begin a USD 2.8 million project to collect and analyse forest information for Vietnam to develop a REDD reference level and MRV system. This complements and builds on a long-term JICA REDD project that is designing reference levels for Vietnam. At the subnational level the Cat Tien Landscape pro-poor REDD project is working in four communes to support local institutions to establish a forest carbon monitoring facility that is able to compensate local villagers to an extent that will reduce degradation and deforestation in the landscape surrounding the Cat Loc section of Cat Tien National Park. Other subnational activities include capacity building projects for climate change mitigation and adaptation for civil society in Vietnam focusing on NGOs and their partners.

Funding for REDD activities in Vietnam is generally fragmented and bilateral. The major funding sources in Vietnam are the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme and the governments of Finland, Norway and Japan. The UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme has received funding of USD 4.3 million from the Multi Donor Trust Fund. Of this, $940,142 USD has been disbursed, up to June 2010. (Source – UN-REDD Semi-Annual Progress Report). JICA is providing approximately USD 3.3 million for a study on REDD priority areas and has a REDD demonstration project planned for 2011. The Finland Cooperation Programme is providing USD 2.8 million for a FAO National Forest Assessment project and the Government of Finland is providing USD 2.3 million to other REDD activities in Vietnam. Other donors include the Darwin Initiative and the European Commission that are funding REDD projects in Vietnam. The recent Readiness Preparation Proposal formulated under the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility has also requested USD 3.6 million to assist in REDD readiness activities; this funding is yet to be disbursed. The national government is also funding domestic action for the implementation of the National REDD+ Program. Support is currently being provided through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and other government agencies, provincial and district authorities, and through parastatal organizations. While the current level of domestic financing for REDD is difficult to assess, the Ministry of Finance aims to improve the monitoring of financial flows for REDD.
A SAMPLE ACTIVITY FROM THE DATABASE: CAT TIEN LANDSCAPE PRO-POOR REDD PROJECT

The objective of this project is to support local institutions to establish a properly functioning and equitable forest carbon monitoring facility that is able to compensate local villagers to an extent that will reduce degradation and deforestation in the landscape surrounding the Cat Loc section of Cat Tien National Park. In the longer term, establishing such mechanisms will provide sufficient funding to combat the major threats to the National Park and therefore ensure that the biodiversity within the Park is protected. Training of government staff in REDD techniques will help this initiative be implemented more successfully in the future in Vietnam. By examining a range of incentive mechanisms focused around paying for forest conservation, strengthening protected area management and by ensuring empowerment of local communities, the project will support the government’s implementation of CBD and CITES.

### RELATED INSTITUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>International Institute for Environment and Development</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indochina Carbon</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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<td>Institute of Tropical Biology</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
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### FINANCING

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<td>Darwin Initiative</td>
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<td>$308,173</td>
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<td>Indochina Carbon</td>
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<td>RECOFTC</td>
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<td>The Netherlands Development Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN-REDD Programme</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1 January, 2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### INTRODUCTION
Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010
http://www.un-redd.org/

### ELEMENTS OF REDD
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p9

(Design of a REDD-Compliant Benefit Distribution System for Vietnam, UN-REDD Programme, January 2010, p6, 35-36)

Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility,
p40

(Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p59)

UN-REDD Newsletter, 3 October 2009

Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 12 October, 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p 31, 45, 72

Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p65


Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 12 October, 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p40

### INSTITUTIONS
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p26-27

### LEGAL FRAMEWORK
Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), Socialist Republic of Vietnam 12 October 2010, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, p40

### PLANS AND POLICIES
Vietnam UN-REDD Programme Document, September 2009, p8

### ACTIVITIES
Vietnam UN-REDD Joint Programme Document, September 2009

FAO Interview, November 19 2010

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