

Fundamentals of REDD+ and how to make it work

Experiences from the UN-REDD Programme

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Background

- The Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is one of the international conventions that came after Rio 1992.
- Most countries have signed this convention, which is a non-binding instrument
- Within the framework of UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol was negotiated – it was ratified 1998, but the rules on how to account and report on emissions were not agreed upon until 2002. KP is a binding instrument with compulsory emission reductions for developed countries.

Background

- One of the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol is the "Clean Development Mechanism " - CDM – which among other allows for generation of carbon credits from "afforestation / reforestation"
- CDM A/R turned out to be very complicated and very few projects have been approved
- At COP 11 in Montreal 2005 the Coalition of Rainforest Nations proposed that countries should be able to get paid for actions that lead to a reduced rate of deforestation. The term at this time was "*avoided deforestation*".

Background

- The term “avoided deforestation” was soon changed to RED – Reduced Emissions from Deforestation
- And thereafter widened to also include forest degradation, now called REDD
- The Stern report (2007) emphasized deforestation as one of the mayor sources of greenhouse gas emissions – 17% according to the report

Background

- COP 13 in Bali (2007) recommended support for early actions
- At COP 15 in Copenhagen (2009) it was discussed to extend REDD to also include conservation and sustainable management of forests, which later was ratified by a decision at COP 16 in Cancún (2010) => REDD+

Avoided Deforestation – RED – REDD – REDD+
REDD++ ???

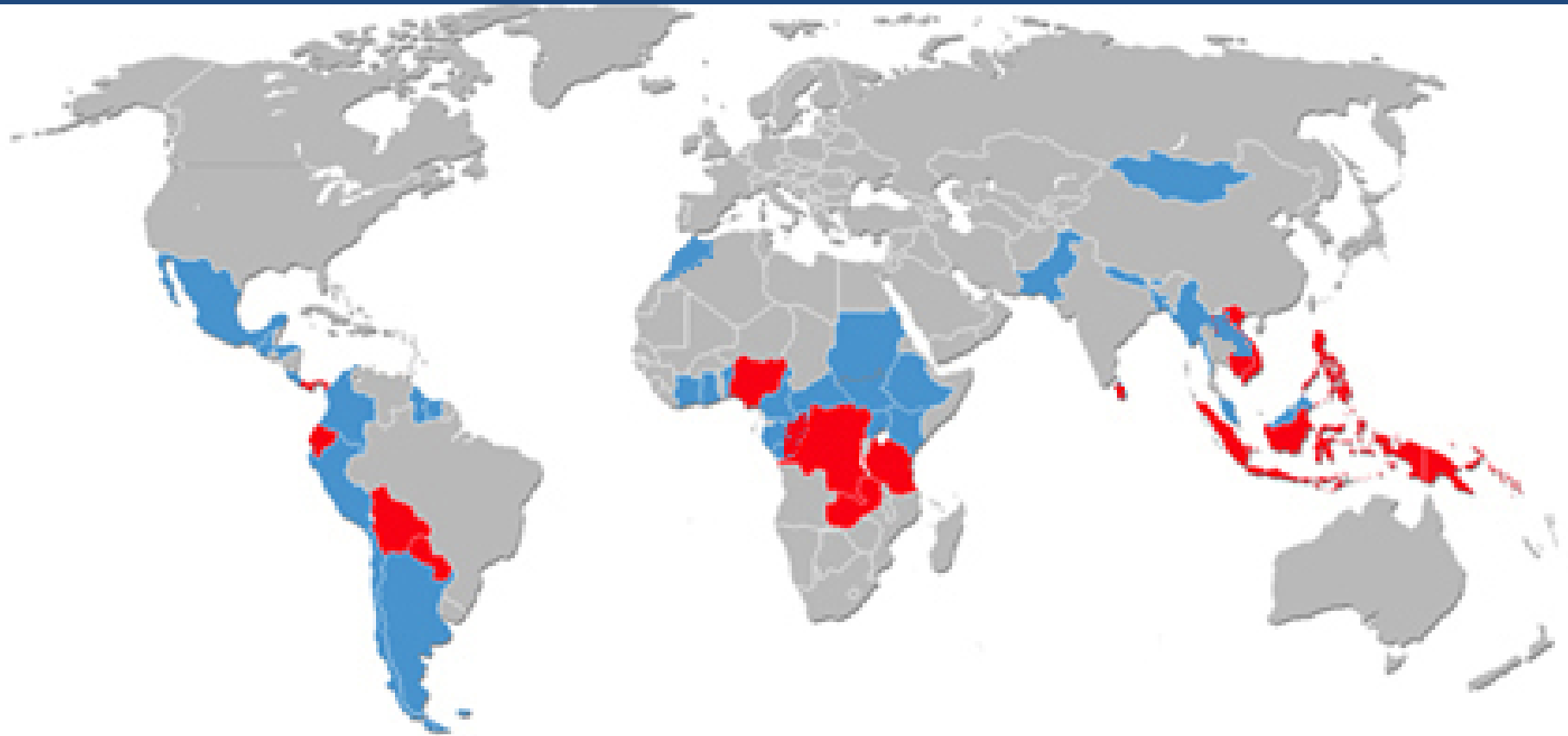


- UN-REDD Programme is a collaborative programme between FAO, UNDP and UNEP to support countries to develop “REDD Readiness”
- The UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank are the main initiatives to provide support to countries related to REDD.

The UN-REDD Programme

- Financed through a multi-donor trust fund where Norway is the main donor
- Has 46 partner countries, and full-scale national programmes are being implemented in 16 countries.
- Non-programme partner countries can still benefit from targeted support activities.

UN-REDD Countries



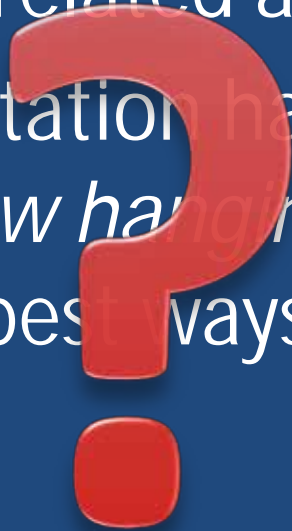
Countries receiving support to National Programmes



Other partner countries

What is REDD+

- It is a mechanism that will give economic compensation to countries that reduce their emission of GHG from deforestation, forest degradation and related activities.
- Reducing deforestation has often been considered as *“low hanging fruit”*, one of the easiest and cheapest ways to reduce the GHG emissions.



REDD+ activities (decision COP 16)

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forest;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

Still not fully clear whether or not to include:

- Afforestation (change of other land use to forest)
- Agroforestry

What is needed to take part of a future REDD+ mechanism?

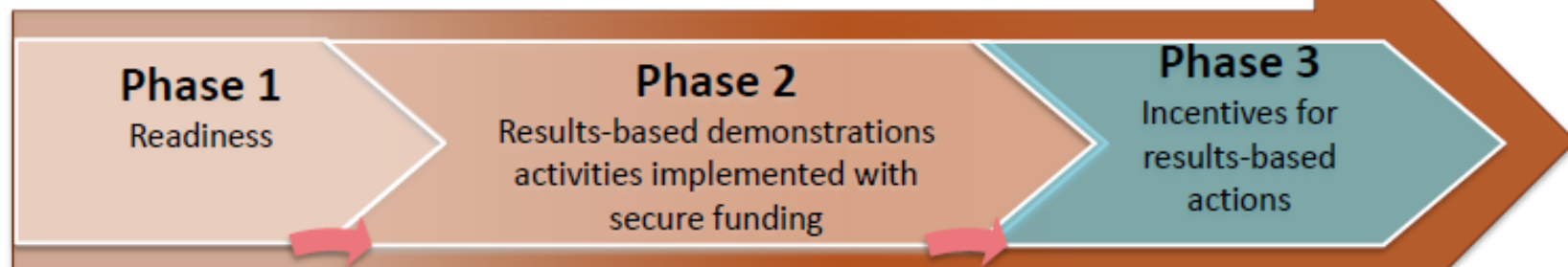
- (a) A national REDD+ strategy or action plan;
- (b) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level;
- (c) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the REDD+ activities;
- (d) A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities;

This implies huge technical, institutional and political challenges

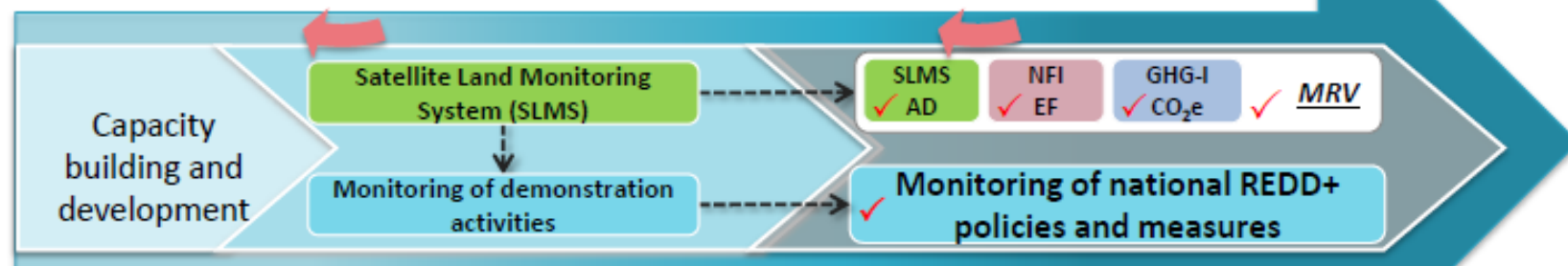


Phased implementation of the NFMS

REDD+ Phases



Technical activities throughout the phases



Monitoring and MRV Phases

National REDD+ strategy

- Open and participatory process
- Should include many stakeholder from both public and private sector, local and indigenous communities, civil society
- Political support from highest possible level
- REDD+ is a **national mechanism** (not project based as CDM). REDD readiness, including the REDD+ strategy and capacity building should be **country led and country driven**
- An important part of the strategy is to elaborate on institutional roles and responsibilities and how future money flows should be distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

Reference emission levels / reference levels

- Constitute the “baseline” against which future emissions will be compared
- Different methods under discussion, nothing decided yet.
- Should be based on recent historical trends, taking current local circumstances into consideration.
- Has considerable political implications – how these levels are determined affect directly how easy or difficult it will be for a country to get economic compensation for its efforts.

Safeguards (Decision COP 16)

- Actions should be consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- Transparent and effective national forest governance structures;
- Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities;
- The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, indigenous people and local communities;
- Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ... used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;
- Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- Actions to reduce displacement of emissions (leakage).

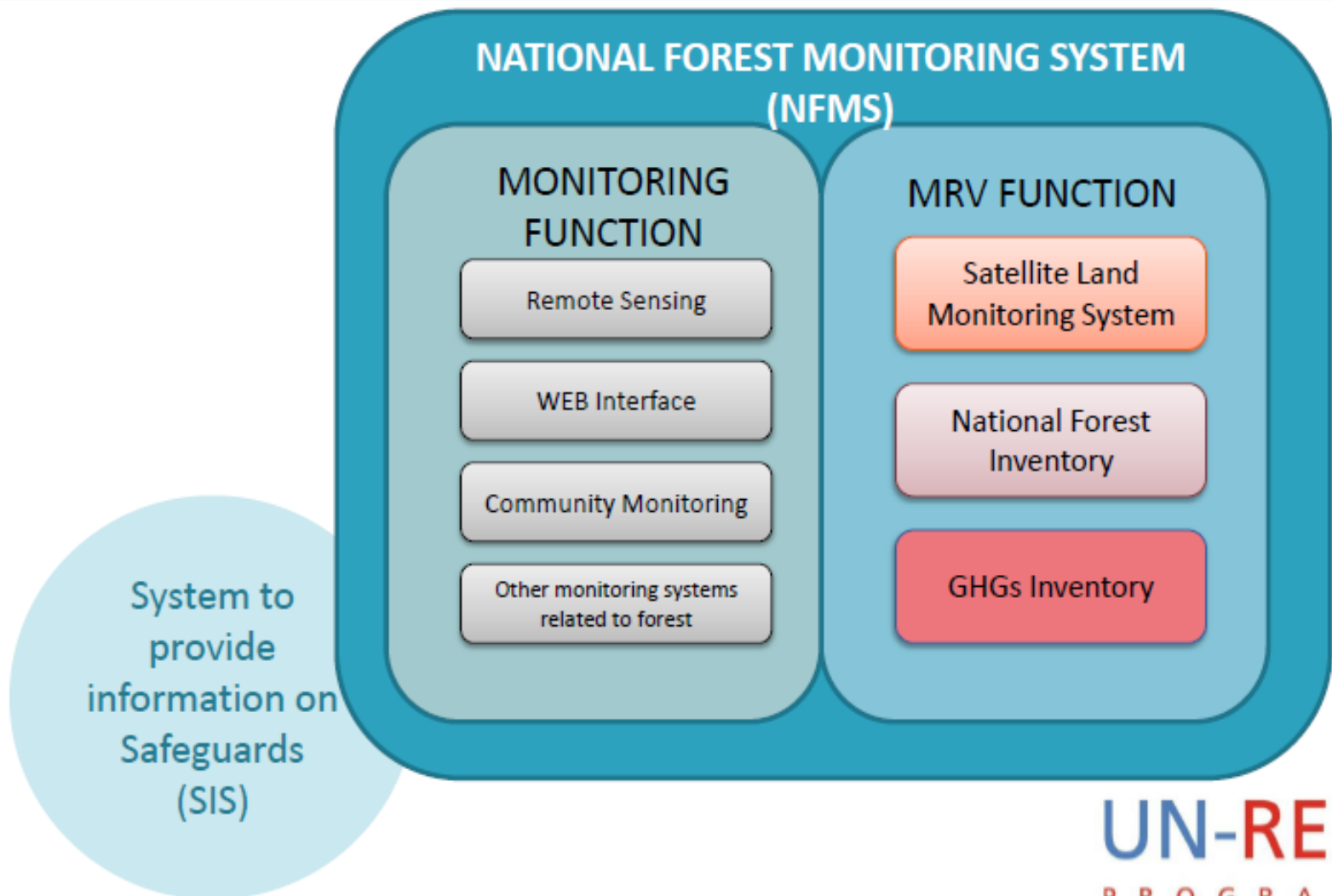
National Forest Monitoring System

- One of the most technically challenging components of REDD+
- REDD+ is primarily interested in **emissions and removals of GHG**. Stocks and stock changes of biomass and carbon is only a way to estimate these.
- FAO and others are working on approaches on how to develop monitoring systems for REDD+

NFMS - GHG emission/removal estimates

- Based on methodology in the IPCC Guidelines
 - 2003 IPCC Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF
 - 2006 IPCC Guidelines for AFOLU
- Basic principles
 - Transparent
 - Consistent over time
 - Exact (known error)
 - Complete (report all five carbon pools)
- Five carbon pools
 - Above-ground biomass
 - Below-ground biomass
 - Dead wood
 - Litter
 - Organic soil carbon

NFMS – Monitoring & MRV functions

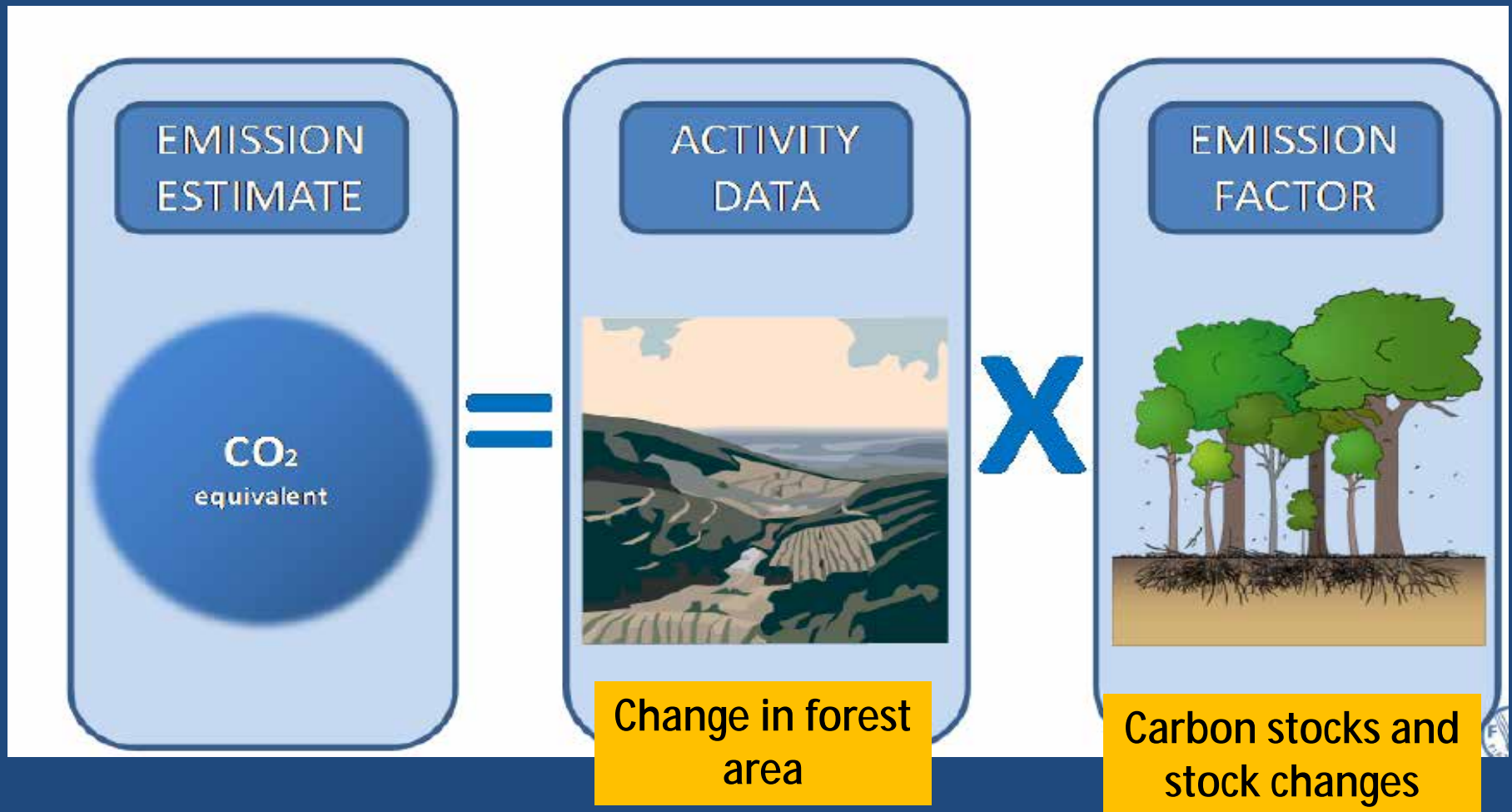


Pillars of Monitoring and MRV for REDD+

GHG Inventory

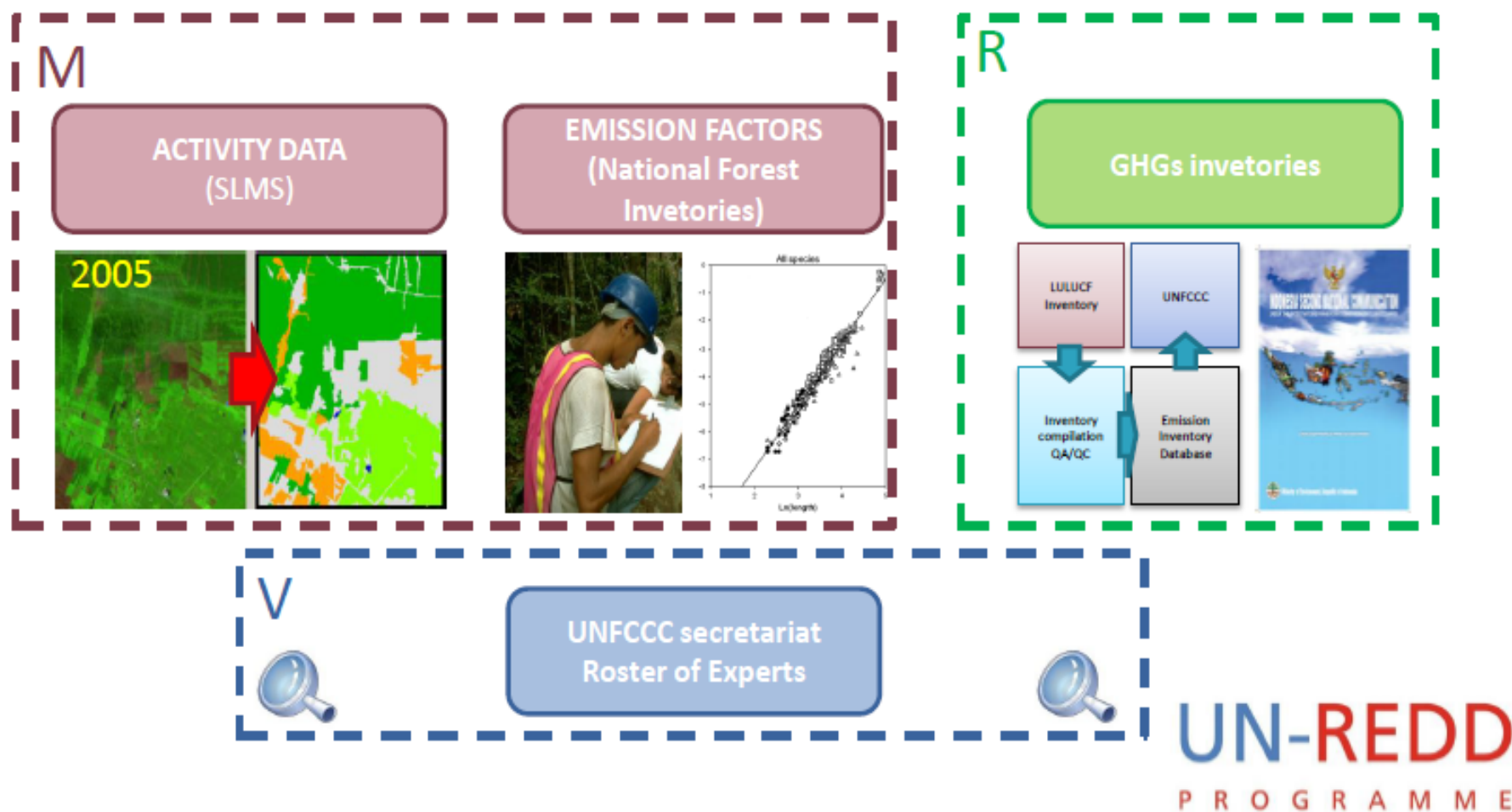
Satellite Land
Monitoring System

National Forest
Inventory

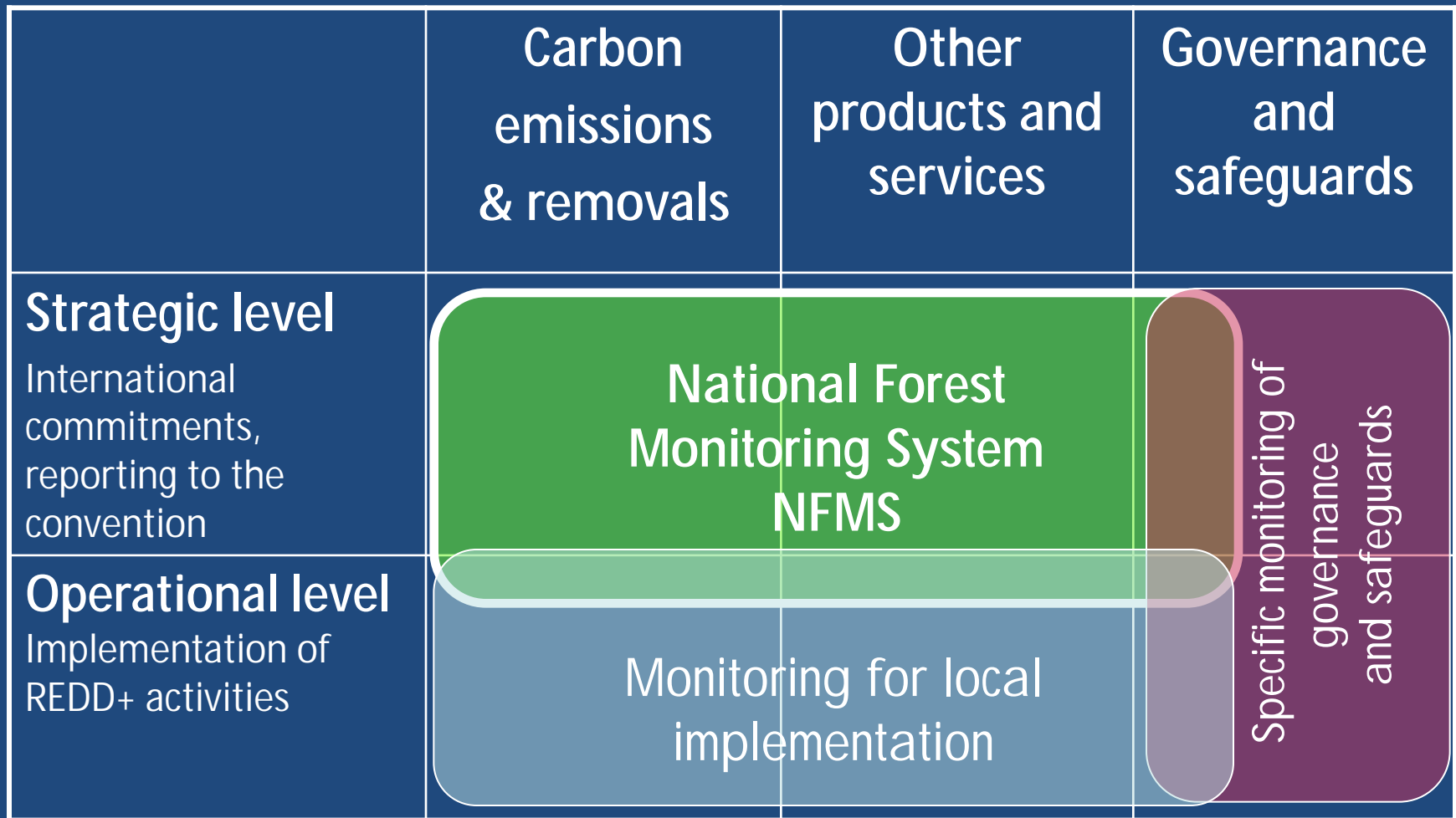


The three aspects of MRV

MRV = Measurement, Reporting and Verification



“Multi-purpose” NFMS for REDD+



Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS)

- Periodic (annual) full cover monitoring
 - Deforested area and if possible also area changes under the other four activities
 - Areas affected by hurricanes, fire and other natural disasters
- Frequent monitoring with low-resolution satellite images (e.g. MODIS)
 - Early warning and identification of deforestation activities, forest fires, etc.

National Forest Inventory (NFI)

- Multi-purpose – not exclusively focused on biomass and carbon
- Statistical design, allows for uncertainty estimates
- Permanent sampling units to improve estimates of change

Challenges for building REDD Readiness

- Still some missing clarity on REDD+ in the negotiations
- Political / institutional issues
- Technical issues
 - MRV & Monitoring systems
 - Reference levels and Reference emission levels
- Indigenous and local communities
- Other

Lack of clarity on some aspects of the REDD negotiations

- What does Sustainable Management of Forests and Conservation of forests mean in practice, as defined activities under UNREDD.
- Will harvesting be allowed under REDD+
- Will REDD+ only be applied on natural forests, or will also forest plantations be included
- Will removals of GHG due to afforestation count as REDD activity?

Political / institutional issues

- Lack of high-level political support and interest in REDD
- Lack of clear institutional mandates
- Lack of collaboration between government institutions (forestry, environment, agriculture)
- Lack of available human resources for capacity building
- Lack of willingness and experience in establishing and running participatory processes.

Technical issues

- Monitoring & MRV
 - How to set up a functioning monitoring system that countries are capable of running by their own (simple, robust, transparent)
 - How to involve local people and indigenous groups in the monitoring activities
 - How to address local/project-based monitoring needs
- Reference levels and reference emissions level
 - Methodological guidance needed

Technical issues related to the NFMS

- Institutional setup – responsibilities and long-term access to resources to maintain the system
- Estimate changes in carbon stocks with an acceptable certainty.
 - Measurement problems
 - Seasonal variation
- Areas with persistent cloud cover (RS monitoring)
- Access to sample plots
 - Difficult terrain conditions
 - Ownership situation / indigenous territories
- Security issues for field crews
 - Armed groups, drug traffic, criminality, etc.

Indigenous people

- Legal rights usually not well defined, e.g. who has the rights to the benefits from reducing emissions in an indigenous territory. Who “owns” the carbon?
- Lack of organizations that truly represent the indigenous people
- IP often have complicated decision-making processes
- REDD issues often mixed with other important political struggles against central Government

Other challenges

- Many actors appear – some less serious – promising easy money to local populations
- This has created expectations among local and indigenous populations, and in some areas there is already frustrations and a mistrust in REDD+ as they don't see any quick results.

What happens right now...

- UNFCCC negotiations continue, hopefully an agreement can be reached within a few years.
- United Nations through the UN-REDD programme (FAO/UNEP/UNDP) works in 16 countries with readiness activities.
- The World Bank (The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility - FCPF) has readiness project in implementation and in pipeline in more than 30 countries.
- A few countries (Mexico, Guyana, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea) have negotiated bilateral support, mainly from Norway

Final remarks

- To make REDD+ a success, the agricultural sector must be actively involved from the beginning. Here are the main drivers of deforestation and here also we will find the main options for changing local people's way of doing agriculture
- It is not likely that we can change local people's mindset and agricultural practices only by offering money to not remove the forest. Food security and options for subsistence must be provided.
- Improving agricultural productivity is a key to make REDD work

Final remarks

- REDD+ has managed to position the forests and forest sector on the international political agenda. It is an excellent opportunity to push for SFM as a way to pursue REDD+.
- Huge financial resources are currently available for REDD+, it is a good opportunity to use these resources for activities of general use for the forest sector, such as institutional strengthening, forest inventories, monitoring, etc.
- The forests should give other economic benefits than just REDD money. In such case REDD+ can be the addition that makes it economically viable to manage the forest.

Final remarks

- There is no easy and cheap way to significantly reduce deforestation. So REDD+ doesn't seem to be the low hanging fruit as was expected.
- We still have to wait some time until REDD+ has become an operational instrument. There is a risk that local communities become tired to wait. Voluntary carbon markets can maybe help to alleviate these expectations, but can also add a further degree of complexity by introducing voluntary standards.

Thank you!