UN-REDD | REDD+ ACADEMY

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

E-ACADEMY SYLLABUS
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Background

The REDD+ Academy is a coordinated REDD+ capacity development initiative led by the UN-REDD Programme and the UNEP 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, and
- To adopt a demand-driven, region specific approach to training tied to REDD+ implementation; and
- To facilitate South-South cooperation.

The REDD+ e-Academy is an e-learning course which aims to ensure the material developed for the REDD+ Academy is accessible to all. It provides an overview of key REDD+ issues with the aim to empower participants to contribute to a well-informed national REDD+ process.

Target Groups and Learning Objectives

The REDD+ e-Academy is likely to be of use to train REDD+ decision-makers in economic and policy sectors which will be essential for the success of Results-based Actions, 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 course.

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the fundamentals of climate change science.
- Present the international climate change legal and policy framework and explain key issues under negotiation.
- Describe the expected consequences of climate change and the role of adaptation.
- Provide a rationale for climate change mitigation and propose actions in key sectors.
- Identify main streams of climate change finance.
- Outline basic elements of planning processes to deliver climate change action.
- Analyse principal challenges and opportunities for climate change action.

Course Structure and Content

The course is structured around 12 modules. The two first modules present a general introduction on the topic. Modules 3 to 8 present the core of REDD+, including the various elements which are required under the UNFCCC and how to prepare and implement REDD+ at the national level. Finally,
modules 9 to 12 present cross-cutting issues which are of interest in all steps of REDD+ readiness and implementation.

1. Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change
2. Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC
3. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation
5. National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+
6. Forest Reference Emission Levels for REDD+
7. Policies and Measures for REDD+ Implementation
8. REDD+ Safeguards under the UNFCCC
9. REDD+ Finance
10. Approaches for Allocation of Incentives
11. Introduction to Stakeholder Engagement
12. Good governance

Module 1: Forest, Carbon Sequestration and Climate Change

This module shows evidence that the climate is changing and shows a clear link with human activity. It then presents the role of forests regarding climate regulation. It includes explanations about:
- Evidence of human induced climate change and factors influencing the climate
- The regulatory role of forests
- How human activity impacts the climate related function of forests

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 1, participants will be able to:
- Describe the process of climate change and list the major greenhouse gases;
- Describe how the climate is changing;
- Explain the role of deforestation and forest degradation in the process of climate change;
- Explain the potential of tropical forests in mitigating climate change in the future.

Module 2: Understanding REDD+ and the UNFCCC

This module provides the basis for the UN-REDD programme. It includes explanations about:
- What is REDD+ and how it is being negotiated at the global level?
- The importance of REDD+ implementation at the national level and challenges
- International initiatives to support REDD+ implementation at the national level

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 2, participants will be able to:
- Define REDD and the importance of the ‘+’ aspects;
- Name the 4 REDD+ readiness components and the 5 REDD+ activities;
- Describe the REDD+ implementation process and some of the associated challenges;
- Explain some of the associated challenges of REDD+ implementation.

Module 3: Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation
This section presents the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (from here on referred to as DDFD) and proposes a framework to analyze them. It includes explanations about:

- The main DDFD
- The importance of analyzing DDFD
- How to analyze DDFD

**Learning Objectives**

After completing Module 3, participants will be able to:

- Define and give examples of the drivers (direct and indirect) of deforestation and forest degradation in the context of REDD+;
- Explain trends that will affect drivers in the future;
- Explain the importance of analyzing and prioritizing direct and indirect drivers;
- Describe challenges in identifying and finding solutions to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

**Module 4: National Strategies and Action Plans**

This module aims at participants to understand the purpose and the importance of quality REDD+ NS/AP design processes and NS/AP documents in order to implement REDD+ activities successfully and ensure results. It also highlights various elements that countries may find useful to take into consideration so as to achieve this. The Module includes explanations about:

- NS/APs and the UNFCCC
- Developing NS/APs
- Cross-cutting issues throughout the NS/AP development process

**Learning Objectives**

After completing Module 4, participants will be able to:

- Describe a National Strategy and Action Plan in the context of REDD+;
- Describe the process of developing a National Strategy and Action Plan;
- Identify relevant stakeholders and cross-cutting issues associated with the development of an NSAP;
- Describe some important elements a country should consider when developing a quality National Strategy and Action Plan.

**Module 5: National Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+**

This module looks at how countries can measure their REDD+ performance in terms of greenhouse gas emission reductions. It includes explanations about:

- What is meant by National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)
- Why NFMS are required, by reference to the UNFCCC and relevant international agreements
- How it is done, in terms of classifying land-use, developing forest inventories, calculating emission factors, consistency with the IPCC, reporting to the UNFCCC and the subsequent verification of reports

**Learning Objectives**

After completing Module 5, 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 6: Forest Reference Emission Levels for REDD+

This module presents one the four elements for REDD+ readiness, Forest Reference (Emission) Levels. It includes explanations about:
• What is a FREL/FRL
• Guidance to support FREL/FRL and
• How to submit a FREL/FRL

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 6, 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 can be taken into consideration.

Module 7: Policies and Measures for REDD+ Implementation

This module looks at how countries can design and implement policies and measures (PAMs) for REDD+ implementation. It follows on from, and is closely related to Module 3: Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Module 4: National Strategies/Action Plans. The module includes explanations about:
• PAMs under the UNFCCC
• PAMs for REDD+
• Designing and implementing nationally-appropriate PAMs
• Private sector engagement
• Monitoring for PAMs

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 8, participants will be able to:
• Describe how a country’s safeguards should address the information in the Cancun Safeguards;
• List the required elements for a country to develop its own safeguards;
• Explain the need for Safeguard Information Systems in REDD+ implementation;
• Identify tools available to a country to develop their own approaches to safeguards.

Module 8: REDD+ Safeguards under the UNFCCC

This module will discuss the concept of safeguards and safeguard information systems (SIS) for REDD+ under the UNFCCC. It contains sections about:
• REDD+ safeguard requirements under the UNFCCC, including the seven ‘Cancun’ safeguards
• A country approach to meeting (or exceeding) these safeguard requirements
• Considerations and generic steps in designing a safeguard information system (SIS)
• Considerations for the content and structure for a summary of safeguards information, and
• UN-REDD tools available to support countries in designing and applying the country approach to REDD+ safeguards
Learning Objectives
After completing Module 7, participants will be able to:
- Define PAMs in the context of REDD+;
- Explain the relationship between PAMs and the 5 REDD+ activities;
- Describe what factors will guide the design, implementation and choice of appropriate PAMs;
- Describe the process and importance of monitoring the impact and effectiveness of PAMs.

Module 9: REDD+ Finance

This module presents both the economic context in countries in which REDD+ needs to be implemented, as well as more detailed elements of a REDD+ finance plan including potential sources of finance. The module includes explanations about:
- REDD+ as part of a country’s overarching Green Economy transition
- REDD+ finance in the context of UNFCCC
- The economics of deforestation
- Sources and gaps in funding for REDD+, and
- The building blocks of a UN-REDD financing plan

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 9, participants will be able to:
- Explain the role REDD+ and REDD+ finance can play in the transition to a green economy;
- Define the terms ‘finance’ and ‘funding’ in the context of REDD+;
- Describe the role REDD+ finance can play in addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Describe the sources and use of REDD+ finance.

Module 10: Approaches for Allocation of Incentives

This module will discuss the approaches to allocation of incentives, also called benefits sharing system, as a way to incentivise stakeholder actions. It includes sections about:
- What is an incentive allocation system
- What are the key principles to follow when establishing an incentive allocation system
- Issues to address in an incentive allocation system

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 10, 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 7 key issues in designating an Incentive Allocation System.

Module 11: Introduction to Stakeholder Engagement

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+
- What is the rationale for stakeholder engagement in REDD+
- How to engage stakeholders in REDD+ activities
- What Free, Prior and Informed Consent is in the context of REDD+
• What Grievance Redress Mechanism is in the context of REDD+

Learning Objectives
After completing Module 11, 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 in effective stakeholder engagement;
• Describe the importance of having effective systems to deal with grievances.

Module 12: Good governance

This module presents the importance of good governance in the REDD+ processes. It includes explanations about:
• Governance under the UNFCCC REDD+ decisions
• Governance factors underlying drivers and barriers to (and potential of) “+” activities
• Good governance to develop successful and effective national REDD+ strategies and policies and measures
• Accountability mechanisms to monitor policies and measures (PAMs)
• Strengthening governance to implement NS/APs and PAMs
• Governance 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 the REDD+ implementation;
• Explain the role of good governance in the design of effective NS/APs and PAMs.

Methodology, Certification and Feedback

The course is self-paced and it is not moderated, and it has been divided into twelve modules provided to help reach the overall learning objectives. The modules are self-standing and can be completed in any order; however all twelve must be passed to receive a certificate of completion.

Each module contains an interactive lesson, a learning journal and a quiz.

The interactive lessons are provided with the purpose of achieving the 4 specific learning objectives per module, and contain a series of interactive spaces. These guide the user throughout the various themes and key messages of the module, and are linked to specific pages of the learning journals. They are available in English.

The learning journals are documents which contain all the information necessary to complete the quizzes. They are available in English, Spanish and French.

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. Once the twelve quizzes
are passed with at least 70% each, the learner can download a certificate of completion from the course home page. The quizzes are available in English.

Participants will be requested to provide feedback on the course by filling a feedback form which 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 [http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/firefox](http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/firefox))
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome (download for free at [https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/](https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/))
- For technical reasons it is not recommended to use Internet Explorer
- Note JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled

**Software:**
- Adobe Flash Player (download for free at [http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer](http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer))
- Microsoft Office (Windows or Apple version) or Open Office (download for free at [http://www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org))

**Platform:** Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X

**Hardware:** 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space

**Modem:** 56 K