

REDD+ Monitoring, and Measurement, Reporting and Verification workshop

“Training the Trainers”

Workshop background document (English version – version in French to follow)

Fourth regional workshop
Abidjan, Ivory Coast
6-10 February 2017



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26 October 2016

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List of Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GFOI	Global Forest Observations Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse Gas(es)
GOFC-GOLD	Global Observation for Forest Cover and Land Dynamics
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MGD	Methods and Guidance Document from GFOI
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification (of forest related greenhouse gas emissions)
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMA	National Forest Monitoring and Assessment
R&D	Research and Development
REDD+	REDD+ refers to the UNFCCC decision (COP16, 2010) on: “Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.”
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
WB FCPF	World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
WU	Wageningen University

1. Background

1.1 The need for REDD+ MRV training support

The performance-based climate mitigation framework REDD+¹ encourages the reduction of emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation, and removals through enhanced forest carbon stocks and improved forest management. These activities should be measured and reported to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); including a process of verification. This requires methodologies for estimating actual emissions and removals and for establishing the reference level. UNFCCC requests countries to build robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems to facilitate the measurement and reporting of forest related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, following the guidelines and guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Various training materials and tools have been developed to support forest monitoring and MRV for REDD+, (see section 3.2), and will be introduced in the workshop. All of these products aim to support and facilitate country processes with the development of capacities for implementing a national system for monitoring forest area and area changes, the associated carbon stocks and changes; and for MRV of REDD+ activities.

Additionally, the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) has been established as an international partnership on forest monitoring and, measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) issues for REDD+. GFOI brings together a community of international experts, donors and specialist organisations and provides a forum for them to consolidate their considerable resources in to a more holistic and specialised package of support for REDD+ countries.

1.2 The REDD+ training workshops

To make available training materials more accessible for countries and REDD+ / forest monitoring professionals, four (4) regional one week workshops are planned in three different continents: one in South-East Asia (in English), one in Latin America (in Spanish) and two in Africa (in French and English). The basic concept of these workshops is to “train the trainers”. A selected group of around 35 participants from countries in each region (2-3 per country) will attend with the aim of further disseminating the knowledge and insights gained to and train other relevant people who are involved in REDD+ monitoring and reporting in their country, in order to further build their capacities.

The workshops will be jointly organized by GFOI partners who include World Bank FCPF, FAO/UN-REDD, Wageningen University, and GOF-C-GOLD. Organization of the workshops will be under the coordinating leadership of Wageningen University.

¹ REDD+ refers to the UNFCCC decision (COP16, 2010) on: “Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.”

2. Workshop objectives

This workshop from 6-10 February 2017 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, will be the last in the series of four regional workshops. This workshop will be held in French. The aim of the workshop is to build upon existing expertise and experiences and to use available training materials and tools in a broad capacity development context to help build countries' capacities and to spread the use and increase the impact of available knowledge and tools.

After the successful completion of the workshop, participants should be able to become 'multipliers' by further disseminating the knowledge and experience gained and train other relevant people who are involved in REDD+ monitoring and reporting in their country. In the workshops, participants learn about the different training materials and tools that are available and how these different materials all fit together in the "bigger picture" of REDD+ MRV capacity building. Participants will also know how and where to make request for further appropriate training and make use of available tools for implementation. Direct interactions with leading international experts present at the workshop will be facilitated so specific issues can be discussed face to face.

Through these regional workshops the materials will become more accessible for a wider public. Interactive settings, such as the workshops, allow course participants to ask specific questions and to better comprehend the topics and apply the knowledge to their own country context. Workshop participants bring back the knowledge to their own country and can spread the newly acquired knowledge and insights within their home institutions and networks.

3. Organization, set-up and expected outcome of the workshops

3.1 General workshop information

Sponsors

World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (WB FCPF)

UN-REDD Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO/UN-REDD)

REDD+ partnership

Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Office, with funding from the Australian and Norwegian Governments

United States SilvaCarbon Program

US Department of Interior

START

GOFC-GOLD Land Cover Office

Wageningen University (WU)

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Workshop venue

The workshop is intended as a five-day meeting from Monday 6 February 2016 – Friday 10 February 2017. The venue will be announced nearer the date.

Further information about Abidjan

Weather: February is the dry season in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and average temperature is around 25-30 °C.

Electricity: In Ivory Coast the power sockets used are of type C and E, so most continental European appliances will fit. Please bring your own plug adapter kit if needed (<http://www.power-plugs-sockets.com/ivory-coast/>)

3.2 Training materials that will be used/presented during the workshops

WB/GOFC-GOLD training materials:

The WB/GOFC-GOLD training materials consist of lecture presentations, practical examples of implementation under different country circumstances, and exercises and tutorials. The training materials provide a strong basis for use in comprehensive educational and pedagogical approaches, thereby using the GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook, GFOI MGD and other guidance material as background documents. They consist of fourteen modules under three main components: REDD+ Background and Design, REDD+ Measuring and Monitoring and REDD+ Assessment and Reporting. They are freely available at: http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/Training_materials.php and <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/redd-training-material-forest-monitoring>

The GFOI Methods and Guidance Document (MGD)

The MGD provides step-by-step advice on how to estimate emissions and removals associated with REDD+ activities, focusing on operational methods and freely available data. The MGD describes the use of remotely sensed and ground-based data in combination, and is systematically linked to IPCC guidance. This document published in English, Spanish and French are freely available at: <http://www.gfoi.org/methods-guidance>

REDDcompass

The GFOI has also developed an overarching application called REDDcompass, which links available training products in an easy to follow workflow approach, accompanying countries all the way through the otherwise complex process of developing these systems and capacities. REDDcompass is a web-based application which enables users to progressively work through the key themes, concepts and actions of REDD+ National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) gaining access to a suite of GFOI methods and guidance, space data resources, training materials and tools along the way. Available at: <http://www.gfoi.org/reddcompass>

FAO Open Foris software tools

Open Foris is an FAO-led initiative to develop, share and support specialized software tools required by countries and institutions to implement multi-purpose forest inventories. It is a set of free and open-source software tools that facilitates flexible and efficient data collection, analysis and reporting. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fma/openforis/en/>

WB FCPF / Winrock REDD+ Decision Support Toolbox

The REDD+ Decision Support Toolbox by Winrock International in partnership with the World Bank FCPF provides a methodological framework for countries to enhance their near term capacity for producing REDD+ FRLs/FREs. The framework outlines the decisions and steps needed to develop a FRL/FREL, the capacity, data, and technical steps needed to carry out each component. Available at: <https://redd-dst.ags.io/accounts/login/>

BFAST Open-source toolbox for forest change monitoring

BFAST training materials and open-source toolkit enables countries to monitor changes in forests (e.g. deforestation and near real-time alerts) using satellite images (e.g. Landsat). Training materials and software are available here: <http://changemonitor-wur.github.io/>

BEEODA/ MGD

The Boston Education in Earth Observation Data Analysis (BEEODA) is a suite of open source software and education materials designed to provide practitioners with the software tools necessary for securing activity data. The software and materials have been designed to allow practitioners to make use of novel and often required methods such as time series analysis, object based image analysis and statistical inference, and have been developed to support implementation of the guidance outlined in the MGD. The education material is centered around modules which provide detailed instructions for completion of various image processing tasks. More information available here: <http://beeoda.org> and <http://github.com/beeoda>.

3.3 Profile of workshop participants

35 – 40 workshop participants will be attending. Each sponsor organization is responsible for inviting a group of 5-10 workshop participants. Selection is done in priority countries and identification of participants should be in line with the objectives to “train-the-trainers”. Participants may have the following profile:

- Regional organizations to foster partnerships
- REDD+ country experts and representatives
- Stakeholders with an active role in building REDD+ country monitoring capacities
- Other individuals who can help to multiply the information and use of the training materials

While there is an expected difference in level of understanding, participants will at least have a basic level of understanding in tropical forest and REDD+ monitoring and reporting. This is to ensure that the workshop objectives can be addressed in an efficient way.

3.4 Preparations before the workshop

Workshop participants will be provided with access to the GFOI MGD web application, REDDcompass, and the training materials (eventually e-learning resources) prior to the workshop to prepare themselves.

The following actions are expected from participants in order to come prepared to the workshops:

1. To fill in the MGD checklist of needs in the GFOI REDDcompass, where they can indicate the priority areas for their country and what they would like to learn from the workshop
2. To go through the 14 GOFC-GOLD modules and come up with questions on topics that are not clear or need more explanation
3. If they feel comfortable with the material after this pre-workshop preparation, prepare themselves to present one of the lectures of the GOFC-GOLD training materials. This can be any of the 14 topics.

3.5 Expected workshop outcome

The workshop outcome for a specific country and partners is a “way forward” plan based on the knowledge and understanding of various open-source training materials and tools available and presented during the workshop. Workshop participants will be aware of how to access and use materials and tools and how to develop a plan for further training for their country and regional circumstances and activities. The follow up idea of the workshop is to also build a user community of these materials and tools. Participants get to know the experts that are developing and making these tools available so they can also be contacted for questions and feedback afterwards. So specific workshop outcomes will be:

- The establishment of a network / community of practice for building capacities for REDD+ national forest monitoring systems and MRV in Africa using the tools available
- The establishment of partnerships with all workshop organizations and participants. Workshop participants will be aware of all the guidance and training materials, portals and tools that are available, and their relationships. They will make connections across the different organizations and contact points for seeking further information and training.
- Workshop participants are expected to perform practical training afterward the workshop and to deliver at least 1 module at one occasion in the next 6 months after the workshop.
- A survey will be sent around approximately 6 months after the completion of the workshop to assess the impact and usefulness of the workshop.
- A series of Webinars are planned and will be recorded over the course of the next year after the workshop. If workshop participants are interested, they have the opportunity to collaborate on this and use this opportunity to continue to engage in this network while having the experts ready to respond to their specific needs and requests.

4. Workshop agenda

At the beginning of the workshop, all of the 14 modules of the GOFC-GOLD REDD+ training materials will be introduced under the three main components of the materials: REDD+ Background and Design, REDD+ Measuring and Monitoring and REDD+ Assessment and Reporting. The focus and balance between the different modules will depend on the specific country needs and priorities as indicated in the survey. There will be a mix of regional experts, GOFC-GOLD, GFOI experts and workshop participants who will be presenting the modules. Participants are encouraged to put forward specific questions, issues and ideas on the modules in interactive discussion sessions. The aim is to learn from each other experiences, and to provide feedback to improve the training materials. The following 3 days will introduce available open source tools, and a capacity building plan for trainers to us as a basis for developing an MRV roadmap in their country/region. There are also interactive discussions planned where participants can interact with each other and with the presenters (plenary or in break out groups). This provides the opportunity to put forward for example country-specific needs and national circumstances.

The agenda will follow, but to get an idea of what the programme will look like, you can view the agendas from the previous regional meetings:

- http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/redd_training_bangkok2016.php
- http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/redd_training_lima2016.php
- http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/redd_training_addis2016.php