

Norad /Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society 2013-2015

Guide to the thematic priority areas

Introduction

The Norad/ Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society is an integrated and strategic component of the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), and relate its efforts to the climate objectives of the Initiative. In line with Norwegian development policy, these efforts should promote sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.

Civil society are seen as important actors in furthering and applying REDD+ - both locally, nationally and globally - as agents of change, and for generating analysis, practical experiences, methodology and knowledge development.

Since 2009 Norad has supported close to 50 projects that have contributed to the work on REDD+ on a number of areas. The collective insights into REDD+ have developed immensely over the last 5 years, and in the coming funding period the civil society support will be centered around a few areas where civil society will continue to be significant in driving the REDD+ agenda forward.

Recognizing that deforestation and forest degradation stem from drivers also outside the forest sector, there is a need to address these particular drivers, and support activities that combine this effort with integration of social and environmental sustainability. It is necessary to increase the understanding of low-emission alternatives that integrate climate-smart agriculture, forestry and energy initiatives, and promote the greening of supply chains of relevant commodities.

Sustainable REDD+ outcomes nevertheless require continued engagement in core social and environmental areas such as rights and governance, MRV, biodiversity conservation and application of safeguards. Knowledge, experiences and consensus on REDD+ still need to be built at the national and international levels.

Thematic categories

1. Sustainable landscapes

The purpose of this category is to promote integrated sustainable land use planning by focusing on sectors and dynamics that may not be directly connected to forest but that nevertheless represent important drivers of deforestation. This includes exploring approaches to agricultural and energy production that may reduce deforestation and forest degradation while also contributing to improved livelihoods, employment, food security, energy access and efficiency.

This includes concepts that:

- Demonstrate how spatial planning and management at the landscape scale can contribute to meeting the demand for e.g. food and energy production (including biofuels) and at the same time maintain carbon stocks and uptake in forests and other ecosystems. This includes demonstration on how communities can become more resilient to local changes in climate and other environmental challenges, and how biodiversity can be maintained.
- Demonstrate opportunities to relocate agricultural activities from native forests to degraded area landscapes or provide economic incentives for sustainable land use planning that leads to reduced deforestation and degradation.
- Contribute to the identification, implementation or methodological development of Climate Smart Agricultural practices that may lead to reduced pressure on forests, including agroforestry, conservation agriculture or other relevant methodologies and practices.

2. Commodity supply chains of relevance to REDD+

The purpose of this category is to support initiatives that engage multiple stakeholders – with civil society organizations in key roles – in developing and promoting supply chains of relevant commodities that can meet market and consumer demand without contributing to deforestation and forest degradation practices.

This includes concepts that:

- Promote /address major voluntary fora for sustainable supply chains, such as roundtable processes, sector associations or national sector development.
- Promote and facilitate the participation of smallholders in sustainable supply chain commitments.
- Contribute to enhanced transparency in commodity supply chains and promote enforcement of relevant policies, laws and regulations as well as/or link voluntary commitments to other public/private sector policies.

Examples of relevant commodities are palm oil, beef, soy, sugar, biofuels, timber and wood products.

3. Analysis, concept and methodology development that contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of REDD+

The purpose of this category is to support efforts addressing core issues that affect the sustainable planning and implementation of REDD+ policies/frameworks, and promote the understanding of these issues nationally and internationally.

This includes concepts that:

- Focus on the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities to land and carbon (including conflicts over land tenure).
- Enhances the understanding and implementation of social and environmental REDD + safeguards, particularly efforts to increase the understanding of the relationship between carbon, biodiversity and other ecosystem services.
- Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) - in particular how information can be provided to and accessed by the public, and how civil society actors can be better engaged in MRV processes, both technically and politically.
- Promote the understanding of gender issues in REDD+.
- Address anti corruption, transparency, enforcement against illegal deforestation and forest degradation.
- Contribute to development of the institutional requirements for REDD+.

Support may be considered to coalitions with a regional broad member base for their efforts to increase the participation and capacity building of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities, where these activities do not overlap with similar initiatives supported by Norway.

Priority will be given to concepts that present innovative approaches to knowledge and methodology development on the above issues.

4. Creating global consensus on REDD+

The purpose of this category is to promote international consensus around REDD+ as a core tool in the global effort to prevent dangerous levels of climate change.

This includes concepts that focus on:

- Short and long term opportunities for economic growth and social benefits from REDD+.
- Options for quickly and significantly scaling up demand and supply of emission reductions from REDD+.

Priority will be given to proposals that describe credible approaches to lift the REDD+ issue on the political agenda in key developing, emerging and developed economies and/or articulate feasible options for achieving sufficient and sustainable mid-term REDD+ finance.

General conditions and considerations

Concept notes that do not fall within any of the above categories will not be considered. Across-theme proposals will be considered, but the proponent must demonstrate significant relevance to one main category.

All concept notes must demonstrate added value to REDD+. Concept notes should demonstrate alignment with national REDD+ policies and programs when relevant.

Partnerships between the project proponent and other relevant stakeholders (such as national or regional authorities, indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities, NGO's or private sector entities) are encouraged. Cooperation with local civil society partners is a strong asset.

Issues such as poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, governance and focus on rights of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities or environmental safeguards should be considered in the project when relevant. Contributions to practical experiences and knowledge generation on these issues are especially pertinent for projects that apply to the thematic categories where this is not the core theme (such as category 1 and 2).

Where relevant, assessment of the potential impact of the proposed project on greenhouse gas emissions and the methodology for that assessment would strengthen the proposal.

Larger projects with assumed broad impact are encouraged.

Geographic priorities

The main geographic target is REDD+ relevant developing countries. Priority will be given to proposals that focus their effort in countries where NICFI is providing substantial support.

[NICFI website](#)

Elaboration on the NICFI objectives

All proponents will be assessed on how their project contributes to the NICFI objectives:

- **To work towards the inclusion of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a new international climate regime.**

An essential basis for permanent, substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation is the inclusion of these emissions in a global regime under the UNFCCC. Using experience gained through the Climate and Forest Initiative, Norway plays a part in the design of a new climate regime, and emphasizes in this connection the importance of substantial transfers of funding from the rich part of the world to developing countries to finance measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. A key goal of the initiative is to contribute to the development of a credible system for monitoring, assessment, reporting and verification.”

- **To take early action to achieve cost-effective and verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.**

It is essential for the initiative to establish early action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries before a global regime is in place under the UNFCCC. In the preliminary phase, which is bound to last for some time, it is in many cases necessary to focus on capacity building, and results in the form of emission reductions cannot be expected until later. During this phase, progress is measured against milestones for the capacity building process. Nevertheless, Norway will also focus on emission reductions from the beginning, and emission reduction targets will be used as soon as this is feasible.

- **To promote the conservation of natural forests to maintain their carbon storage capacity.**

Recent research indicates that natural forests store more carbon than planted forests. Conservation of natural forests is also important in maintaining species and genetic diversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods of forest dependent indigenous peoples and local communities. The Congo basin, for example, is home to more than 10 000 plant species, more than 1 000 birds and more than 400 mammals. Some tropical islands have a high proportion of endemic species (i.e. species that occur nowhere else in the world). It is impossible to put an accurate figure on the value of this enormous biodiversity, and we have only just begun to understand ecosystem functions and use values. The tropical forests form a “green belt” around the world, which provides ecosystem services of crucial importance for human society, economy and culture, and offers great potential for the development of medicines and other useful substances.