

# Fact Sheet: Real-Time Evaluation of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative



The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is organising a real-time evaluation of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative.

The Norwegian Government launched its International Climate and Forest Initiative in December 2007, pledging up to 3 billion Norwegian kroner per year to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD).

In order to progressively assess the results of the Initiative with regard to its objectives and the general objectives of Norwegian development cooperation, Norad's Evaluation Department will organise a real-time evaluation starting in early 2010. A consortium of independent consultants and experts led by LTS International has been assigned to carry out the evaluation under a framework agreement covering a four-year period (2010-2013).

The real-time evaluation shall provide timely information and rapid learning opportunities about the fast-moving developments on REDD. The approach will involve a range of evaluation activities to be repeated at regular intervals during the life of the Initiative, as well as stand-alone evaluations of specific thematic or geographic areas.

- forests to maintain their carbon storage capacity
- with regards to the general objectives of Norwegian development cooperation, such as those related to livelihoods, economic and social development and the environment.

## Scope

The main period under study is from the start of the Initiative including its initial preparations until the end of 2013. The evaluation will focus primarily on the work of the major recipients of funding, and cover:

- management and administration in Norway
- multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental agencies funded by the Initiative
- international negotiations and related global and regional policy processes
- national REDD processes, plans and actions

The evaluation will cover ongoing as well as concluded activities, comprising both desk studies and fieldwork. Early in the evaluation, there may be an emphasis on reviewing current knowledge, as a foundation for assessing later developments.

## Norad's Evaluation Department

The Evaluation Department of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is mandated to evaluate Norway's development cooperation. The Evaluation Department organises independent evaluations by contracting international experts and consultants. The Evaluation Department also acts as an adviser for Norad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters relating to evaluation.

## Evaluation objectives

The objectives of the real-time evaluation are to assess the results of the Initiative's support:

1. for improving the prospects of the inclusion of a REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate regime
2. for the preparation of mechanisms and implementation of activities to attain verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
3. for the conservation of natural

Norad  
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Photo: Gunnar Zachrisen, Espen Røst

Postal address:  
Norad,  
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation  
P.O.Box 8034 Dep, 0030 Oslo

For more details, please contact Jørn Stave  
(jsta@norad.no) or Hans Peter Melby (hpm@  
norad.no) in Norad's Evaluation Department.

Visiting address:  
Ruseløkkveien 26, Oslo, Norway  
Tel: +47 22 24 20 30  
Fax: +47 22 24 20 31

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## Evaluation process and principles

The real-time evaluation is intended to serve both a documentation function and a learning function. The concerned partners will therefore be actively consulted during the evaluation process, also on issues related to the terms of reference and timing of the different evaluation activities. Evaluation reports will be made available to the general public.

The evaluation will apply internationally-recognised best practices to ensure objective, transparent, evidence-based and impartial assessment and learning during the course of the evaluation programme.

The methods may include document review and analyses, interviews with key stakeholders, and field visits to selected countries. Validation and feedback workshops will be held during the course of the evaluation.

## Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative

The Norwegian Government launched its International Climate and Forest Initiative in December 2007, pledging up to 3 billion Norwegian kroner per year to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD). The objectives of the Initiative are (1) to work towards the inclusion of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in a new international climate regime, (2) to take early action to achieve cost-effective and verifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and (3) to promote the conservation of natural forests to maintain their carbon storage capacity. To this end, the Initiative supports the UN Collaborative Programme on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD Programme) jointly managed by FAO, UNDP and UNEP, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) managed by the World Bank, the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) managed by the African Development Bank, and the Amazon Fund managed by the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDS). Norway has also entered a bilateral agreement with Tanzania and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Guyana. Civil society organizations are funded through a grant scheme administered by Norad.

The real-time evaluation is managed by Norad's Evaluation Department with inputs from an international advisory panel.

Prior to each evaluation, the concerned partners will be contacted by the consultants, LTS International, or directly by Norad's Evaluation Department.

