Papua New Guinea

Suggested Approaches for forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels for REDD+

UNFCCC Expert workshop

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PRINCIPLES

- **Environmental Integrity and Cost Effective:** The Reference Emission Level and the Reference Level are the key elements to ensure the environmental integrity and the cost effectiveness of the REDD+ mechanism.

- **Social and Economic Viability:** REDD+ will succeed only if local and indigenous communities will be able to preserve our forests while being competitive compared to other economic drivers (i.e. food security) and mitigation actions.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- **Performance Benchmarks:** The REL and RL must be considered transparent benchmarks for assessing a country's performance in reducing total emissions and increasing removals associated with REDD+ activities implemented by the Party.

- **Transparent and Quantifiable:** The comparison of the current level of emissions and removals with REL and RL is needed to assess whether and how policies and measures implemented for REDD+ have resulted in quantifiable mitigation actions, and is expected to be used to determine the appropriate REDD+ financing and incentives for a particular Party.

Elements for the construction:

- **Transparent and Conservative:** The RL and REL should be characterized by a transparent and conservative approach.

- **Driven by best Scientific Data:** The REL should be data driven, based on historical data and estimates should be verified scientifically.

- **Allow Historical Satellite Data:** Historical data on emission factors are not existing in almost all the REDD+ countries, thus historical data should be based mainly on satellite data from 1990, 2000 and 2005 (and potentially 2010)

Elements for the construction:

- **Fact Based:** The gaps in historical data do not allow to build REL with annual accuracy and also bring into question projections for future trends based on past trends (BAU)

- **Account for National Circumstances:** The REL should be developed through conservative approaches in combination with assumption and adjusted following national circumstances, allowing an 'adjustment factor' (AF)

- **Periodic Updates:** The REL and RL shall be periodically recalculated, such as every five [5 years].

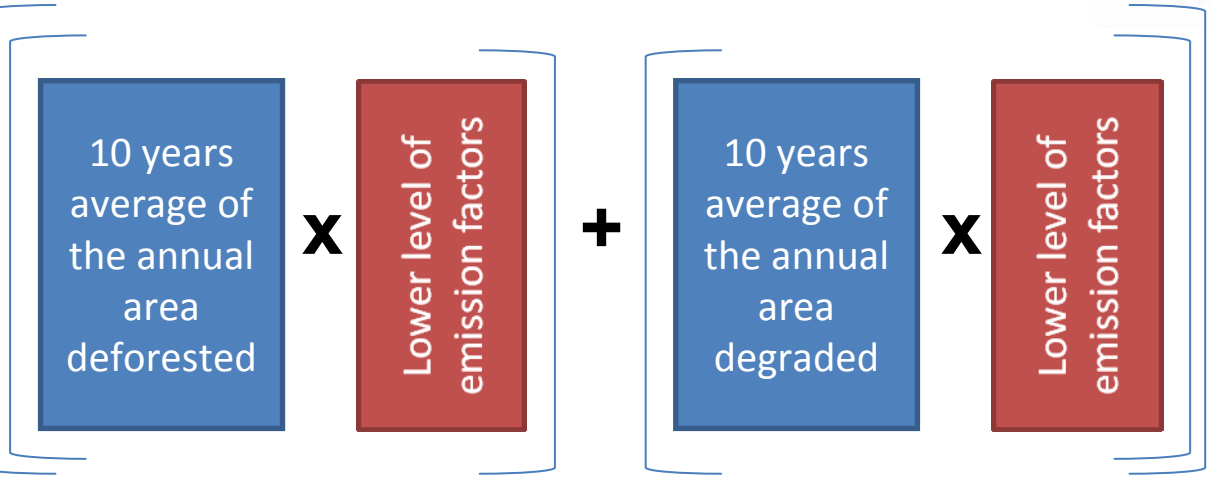
Elements for the construction:

- **National Circumstances:** The AF should be built on national circumstances, address different social and development needs, and use the most recent relevant information (as per Decision 4/CP.15)

- **Equitable Distribution:** The AF should foster equitable distribution of the REDD+ positive incentives, ensuring the full implementation of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" even among the REDD+ Parties.

- **General Rule:** the AF should be > 1 for countries with low deforestation rates and high social and development needs, while < 1 for countries with high deforestation rates and low social and development needs.

Modalities for the construction: REL

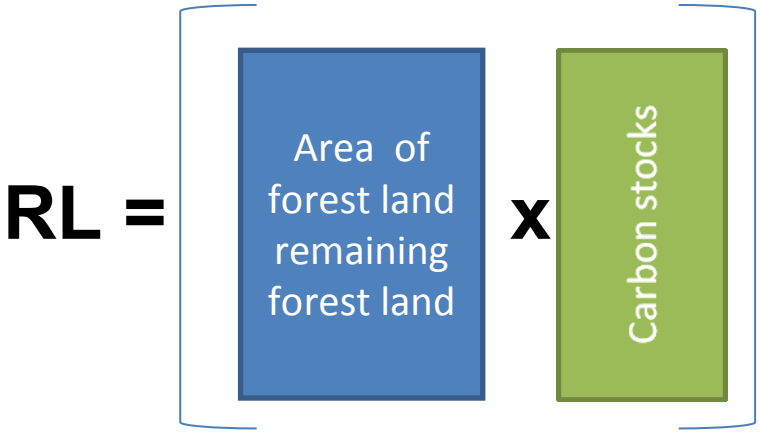


REL = average of the historical emission calculated with a conservative approach multiplied for the Adjustment Factor

➢ The average of annual area should be estimated by average of annual data (e.g. Brazil) or by average obtained from 5-10 years cumulative analysis (e.g. EU Trees or FAO FRA)

➢ The lower level of the emission factor is the minimum value for a type of forest registered in the region. In case of missing data IPCC lower range value of the default data could be used

Modalities for the construction: RL



RL = is the amount of forest carbon stock in forest land remaining forest land at the beginning of each implementation period multiplied for the Adjustment Factor

REL/RL for the REDD+ Accounting:

For the activities, reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation, a NET-NET approach should be used, while for the activities, sustainable management of forest land, and enhancement and conservation of forest carbon stock, a GROSS-NET approach should be used.

With these approach the REDD+ mitigation performance of a country is equivalent to: