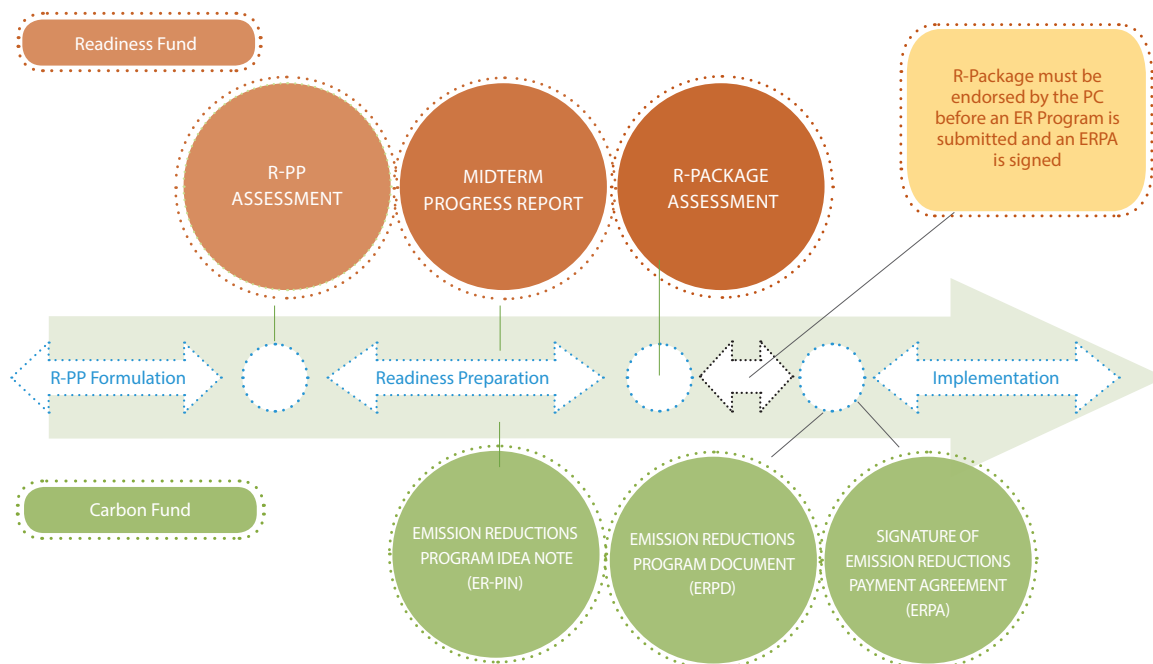


Readiness Package Assessment Framework

What is the Readiness Package (R-Package)?

The R-Package is generated by a REDD+ country towards the end of the REDD+ readiness preparation phase, i.e., at a stage when activities proposed in the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) are well advanced or completed. The R-Package is a major milestone and comes at the transition from readiness preparation (under the REDD+ Readiness Fund) to REDD+ piloting (i.e., the implementation of performance-based activities under the Carbon Fund or with other financing).



What is the purpose of the readiness assessment?

The readiness assessment provides an opportunity for REDD+ countries to demonstrate their commitment to REDD+. By self-assessing progress on REDD+ readiness countries identify remaining gaps and further needs. As part of the assessment process, countries also receive feedback and guidance from in-country stakeholders and the Participant Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

What is the scope and what is the approach?

The scope of the R-Package is national and encompasses all major readiness preparation activities – from REDD+ organization, consultation and strategy preparations, to establishing a reference level and monitoring systems, as well as cross-cutting issues such as governance and environmental and social safeguards. The assessment provides a snapshot of a country’s progress on all readiness preparations – not just those activities financed by the FCPF.

Because the REDD+ readiness process will be different in each country, the readiness assessment focuses on a country’s relative progress.

Structure of the Readiness Package Assessment Framework:

The assessment framework follows the agreed structure of the R-Package and consists of 34 assessment criteria (and related diagnostic questions) corresponding to nine subcomponents:

1. Readiness Organization and Consultation

- 1.a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements
- 1.b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation

- 2.a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance
- 2.b. REDD+ Strategy Options
- 2.c. Implementation Framework
- 2.d. Social and Environmental Impacts

3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level (REL/RL)

4. Monitoring System for Forests and Safeguards (MRV)

- 4.a. National Forest Monitoring System
- 4.b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

For each subcomponent, the assessment framework provides:

- **Rationale**, that describes the role and function of subcomponent activities in the readiness process
- **Assessment criteria**, that capture core aspects related to each subcomponent
- **Diagnostic questions**, that capture desired outcome of readiness preparation activities
- **Guidance notes**, that provide guidance, good practice examples, and references

The assessment results are summarized for each subcomponent by:

- A visual synthesis of overall achievement with progress indicators that are based on a traffic-light approach: Green “significant progress”, Yellow “progressing well, further development required”, Orange “further development required”, and Red “not yet demonstrating progress”
- Description of significant achievements and areas requiring further development
- Actions that address identified areas for further work

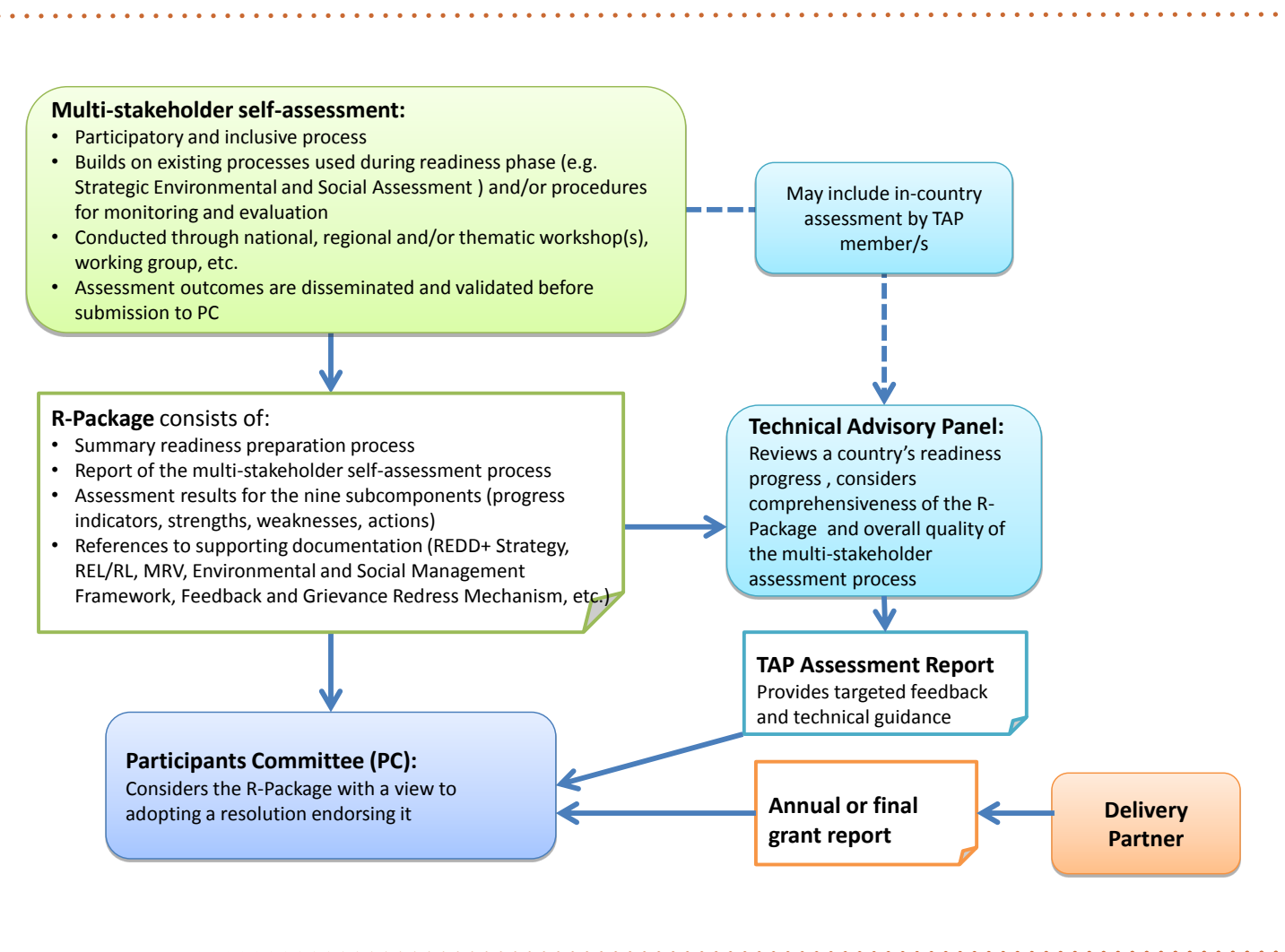
The development of the R-Package is largely a stock-taking exercise or a summation of existing outputs from readiness preparation activities.



What is the process for the assessment?

The assessment and endorsement process consist of (i) a multi-stakeholder self-assessment by the country (resulting in the R-Package), and (ii) an assessment of the R-Package by the PC including input from the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), the Delivery Partner (e.g. World Bank, UNDP, IDB), and others.

The following graphic illustrates the readiness assessment and endorsement process:



When is the best time to undertake the readiness assessment?

The R-Package can be prepared any time after the mid-term review. The readiness assessment should be undertaken when readiness preparation is well advanced, and after a country: (i) has taken into account the issues identified at the mid-term progress report review, as appropriate; (ii) has prepared a national REDD+ strategy; designed a REL/RL and a MRV system; prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); and established a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), and (iii) is able to assess progress on all nine subcomponents and the 34 corresponding assessment criteria.

Is it mandatory?

The R-package process is voluntary and not a reporting requirement under the FCPF Readiness Fund. However, it becomes mandatory if a country aims to participate in the Carbon Fund, i.e., a country's R-Package needs to be endorsed by the PC before an Emission Reductions Program Document can be considered by the Carbon Fund.



What is the benefit?

The preparation of the R-Package is a beneficial step for any REDD+ country that has advanced in REDD+ readiness as it serves multiple purposes. It provides a country with the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate national commitment to REDD+,
- Confirm transparency in readiness preparations,
- Assure national and international stakeholders that potential social and environmental risks are being addressed,
- Receive international recognition for early REDD+ activities,
- Receive valuable feedback and technical guidance through the two-step assessment process (as described above), and
- Potentially attract additional funds from external sources for scaling up activities.

What is the relationship with the Carbon Fund?

The Carbon Fund Participants will decide whether to select an Emission Reduction (ER) Program for inclusion in the Carbon Fund portfolio and eventually whether to sign an Emissions Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA). In making this decision, the Carbon Fund Participants will consider the PC's endorsement of the R-Package, among other considerations.

The R-Package, and the outcomes of its assessment, will provide the Carbon Fund with additional information to ensure consistency of an ER Program with the national REDD+ readiness preparation and of ER Program activities (likely to be of subnational scope) with overarching safeguards requirements.

What is the relationship with reporting requirements under the Readiness Fund?

While mid-term and annual reporting focuses on FCPF-financed activities, the R-Package takes stock all readiness activities. M&E frameworks for the REDD+ readiness phase that feed into annual and mid-term and annual reporting are mainly inputs/activity-based, while the R-Package focuses on outcomes/progress.

What are the next steps?

The FCPF PC is expected to approve the Readiness Package Assessment Framework during its upcoming 14th meeting in March 2013. Further refinements to the assessment framework may be required as lessons and experiences from applying the framework become available.

For more information visit:
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