

Forest Reference Level Submissions under REDD+: An Analysis of Submission Trends, Leading Practices, and Areas for Improvement

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Forests and REDD+ Outcomes from COP21

Preamble

Art. 2: Purpose

Art. 3: Communication of NDCs

Art. 4: Mitigation (sinks)

Art. 5: Forests & land

Art. 13: Transparency

Art. 9: Finance

***Adopted decisions:**
Par. 55 of Finance decision

Art. 6: Sustainable Development Mechanism

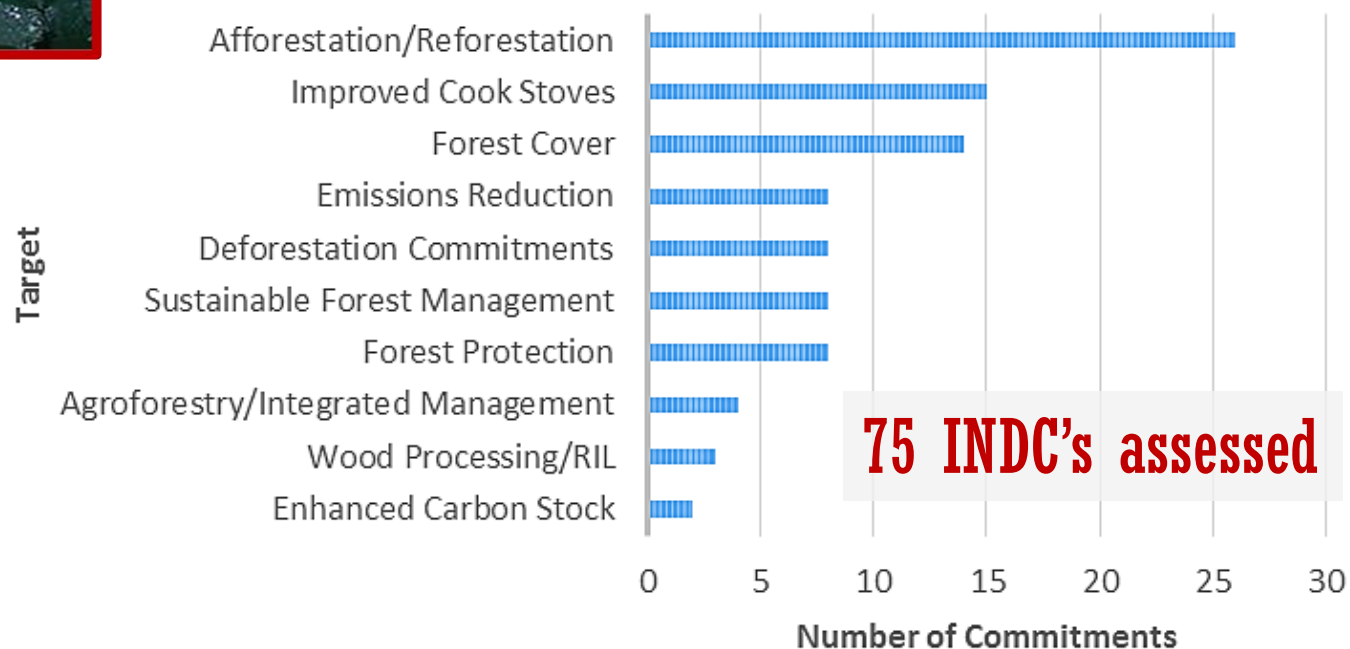


Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC's)

INDC ANALYSIS: AN OVERVIEW OF THE FOREST SECTOR

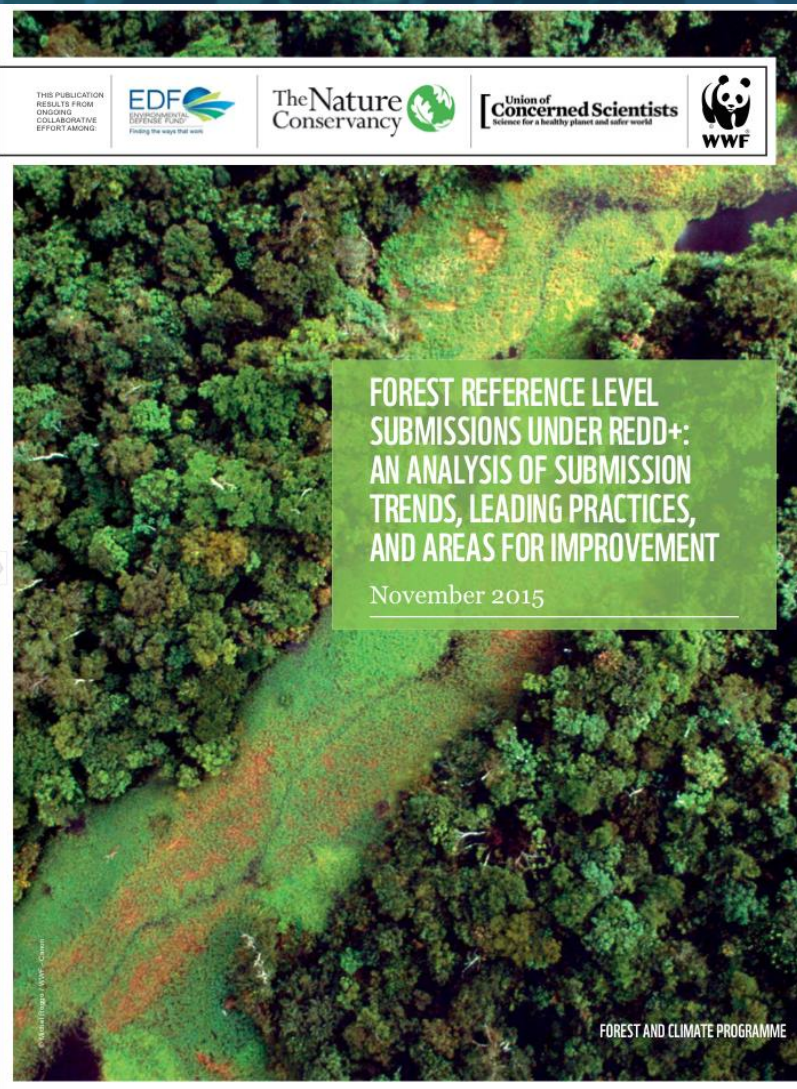
Karen Petersen and Jeschna Bralá Varela

COMMON FOREST TARGETS



Implementation:

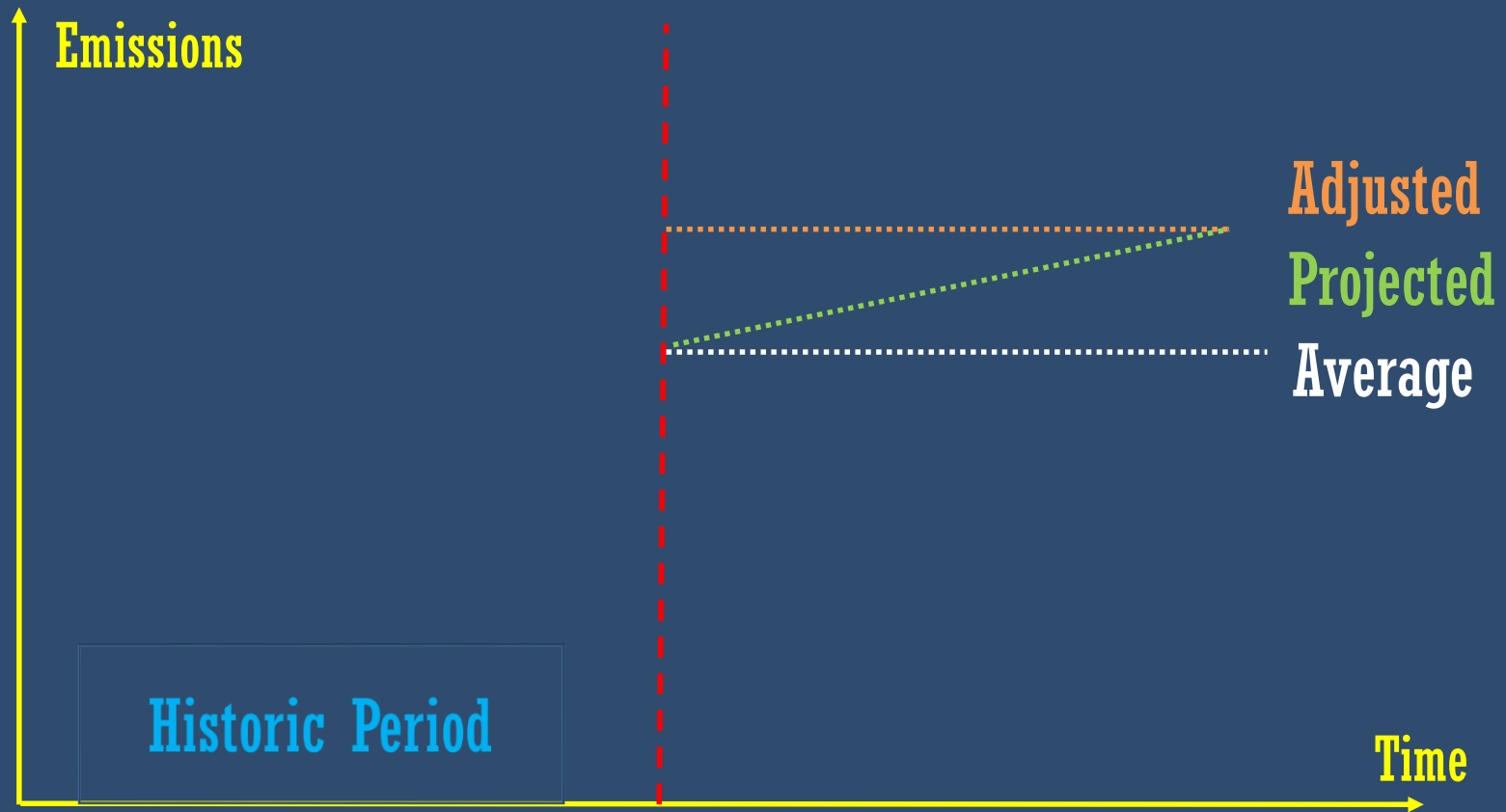
REDD+ Reference Levels ... 15 Countries so far....



http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/frlunder_redd_v4c.pdf

Photo by Kate Evans for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Forest Reference Levels (FRLs): A Key Element for REDD+



UNFCCC FRL Guidelines: 13/CP.19 & 12/CP.17 Annexes

Cross-Cutting Submission Trends

- ▣ National Circumstances
- ▣ Stepwise approach
 - **Scale**: significant for national context
 - **Activities, pools** and **gazes**: mixed tiers vs those with data
 - **Forest Definition**: almost all presented but Link with data not so clear for the most part.
 - **Transparency/completeness**: mostly high levels with full access as good practice
 - **Accuracy/uncertainty**: progress has been made and still a ways to go



Conclusions

Photo by Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Photo by Neil Palmer/CIAT for Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Praise Deserved

- ▣ These countries were the first to take the important step in REDD+.
- ▣ Countries offered lessons about FRL interpretation and showed feasibility of FRL construction.
- ▣ Countries generally showed strong levels of transparency and data consistency in FRL construction.
- ▣ This is a “learning-by-doing” effort, so understandably, there are areas for improvement.

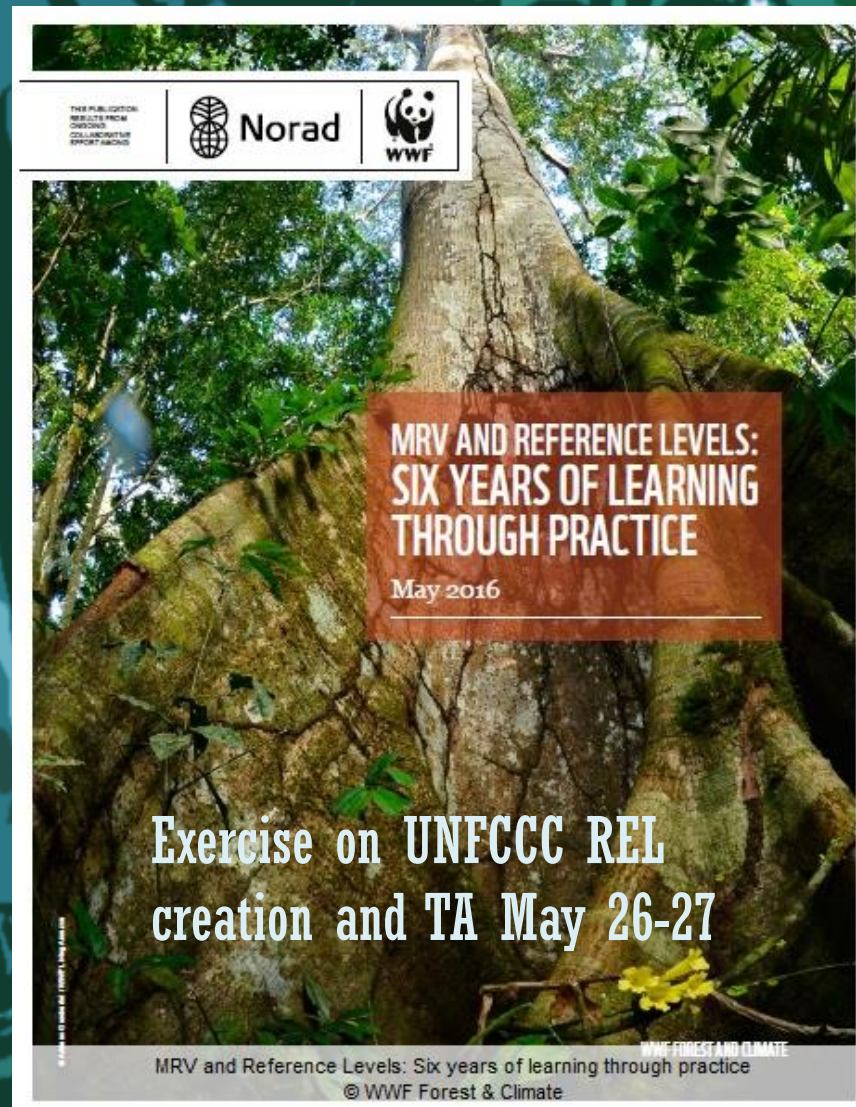
Caution Warranted

- ▣ There are possible concerns about degree to which FRLs uphold climate integrity.
 - ▣ We are looking at a **>10 % GAP between Historical and proposed FRELs**
- ▣ Real reductions depend on political will to undertake mitigation activities and to integrate REDD+ activities into other national commitments.
- ▣ National REDD+ plans could help address climate integrity concerns.
- ▣ Donor countries and international organizations can support climate integrity by making FRLs the basis for negotiations and by providing funding for country improvement.

Still a learning by doing process

▣ Overarching Lessons

- ▣ It's all about transparency
- ▣ As a learning by doing process the readiness phase continues and should include donor countries
- ▣ Reference levels are data informed political proposals
 - ▣ The reference level needs to be built at significant scale for national impact.



Thank you

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