Accounting in a nested system

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Outline

• What a REL/RL is and its purpose
• What is in a REL/RL
• Implications for nested accounting
What is a REDD+ “REL” or “RL”?  
(and why are they important)

Before COP17 (Durban, December 2011)

- A baseline to measure changes in emissions/removals from forest-related activities? To understand global changes in GHG concentrations.

- A reference to measure **anthropogenic** emissions or removals from the forest sector? To create a comparable metric to measure countries’ efforts.

- Use to assess results, determine finance
What is a REDD+ “REL” or “RL”? (and why are they important)

COP 17

• “benchmarks for assessing each country’s performance in implementing” REDD+ activities… To determine “results-based” finance.
  – Applicable to market and non-market results based finance

• Other options may still be valid?
What is in a REL/RL (COP17)

• Scale:
  – National, subnational (what does this mean?)

• Scope:
  – Which REDD+ activities?
  – Which gases?
  – Which pools?

• How is the REL/RL estimated?
  – Based on historic but may adjust
Implications for nesting

• How to deal with REL/RLs and MRV at different scales? (e.g. project, province, national)
• How to treat existing or new projects when develop national REL/RL?
• Other accounting issues
Implications for nesting

• How to deal with REL/RLs and MRV at different scales? (e.g. project, province, national)
  – May have different activities at different scales (e.g. national RED, provincial REDD, project REDD+)?
  – May have different gases and pools at different scales?

  – But increased flexibility = increased complexity!
Implications for nesting

• How to treat existing or new projects or province when develop national REL/RL?
  – Recognize existing REL/RL for period of time?
  – Data collection and use (existing and new)
  – Set rules for new projects/provinces
Example…

Start with two REDD+ projects in a province…

- Project receives credit for reducing deforestation and degradation

Next develop provincial REL for RED…

- Project gets credit for degradation, +, province & project get credit for deforestation?
Then scale up to national REL…

- National RED REL, specific provincial RED REL, and REDD+ projects
- Can assess performance by location
It can also work in reverse (start with a national REL and work down)

- Same as prior example, but start at top level and work down
There are many options…

Develop REL/RL for each province…

…or each region

Nesting is about how it all fits together
Other accounting issues

- Leakage across scales/scope
  - E.g. leakage from deforestation to degradation, from project to province
- Crediting/benefit sharing across scales and different scopes
- Permanence/reversals
- Natural disturbances
- Lots of issues – but there are solutions!
Conclusion

• Success will be measured against REL/RL
  – Finance (market or non-market) will only follow success

• Nested accounting allows performance of specific sites (project/province) to be determined; either as standalone province/project or under national REL/RL

• Nesting raises a number of technical complexities, but there are solutions!
Thank you

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