

Template for report and accounts for organizations under the Climate and Forest Initiative
funding scheme for civil society

2013-2015

This template for reports and accounts is to be used by organizations with agreements with Norad under the Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society.

This template must be used for the **final report** and correspond with the signed agreement and the latest approved Project Document. The final report for the whole agreement period (2013-2015) should include results on a higher level in the results chain than previous reports (please see figure below). The final report should give a description of **achieved outcomes in terms of effects on target groups, and explain how these outcomes are expected to contribute to the intended impact.**

In cases where outcome cannot be documented by the end of the agreement period, substantial evidence of outputs should be presented with an explanation on how these will lead to the desired outcome and when.

The report should not exceed 15 pages, and please remember to submit the common indicators separately (if already submitted in March and there are no changes, you may refer to this).

The deadline for delivering the report is 1 June 2016, unless you have agreed otherwise with your desk officer. Please submit the report electronically to postmottak@norad.no, and Cc your desk officer.

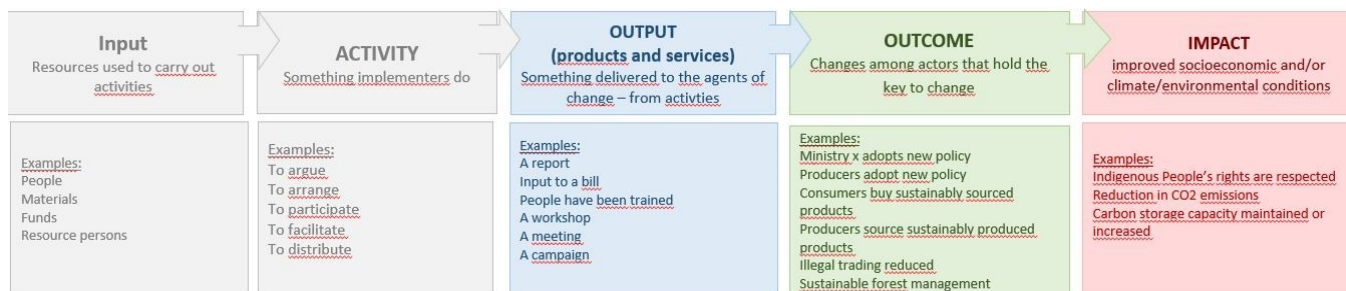
1. General Project Information:

- 1.1 Name of recipient organisation: Naturvernforbundet (NNV), Regnskogfondet (RF)
- 1.2 Reporting year: 2013-15
- 1.3 Agreement Number: GLO 0634, QZA 12-0815
- 1.4 Name of project: REDD+: Building consensus on an international binding framework for sustainable emissions reductions and forest protection.
- 1.5 Country and region in the(se) country if applicable: NA
- 1.6 Financial support to the project from Norad for last calendar year 2015: 1.500.000

1.7 Thematic area: 4. Creating global consensus on REDD+

2 Please describe the project’s progress for the whole grant period

Result chain:



With reference to the Result Chain as illustrated above, Norad requires reporting on the effect on target groups (outcomes) for this final report. If possible, we also highly appreciate reporting that reflect any results at impact level. Please remember to relate the reporting to the baselines.

Reporting of results: The achievements should be documented (for example by data on indicators or examples).

2.1 Please repeat the **project’s target group(s)** and the baseline for the target group at the start of the project (from the approved project document).

As outlined in the application, the primary target group is decision makers, while civil society organizations are a secondary target group:

“In the end, it is decision makers in countries actively participating in the UNFCCC and also in the multilateral REDD+ organizations of the UN and World Bank that will be able to deliver the change we hold to be necessary. However, our experience is that these main actors can indeed be influenced to a large extent by the information and arguments provided from civil society nationally and internationally. In this sense, a strong, coordinated and informed civil society is also key for the change needed.”

Baseline was described the following way:

“Decision makers need clearer understanding of how carbon trading most likely will be unable to provide significant finance for REDD+, and will be incompatible with the 2 degree target, because the emission reductions from REDD+ will not be additional to already weak mitigation pledges in developed countries. Weak pledges will also mean insufficient financial contributions from carbon trading. The need for clearer understanding is indicated in two ways. Firstly, too few decision makers fully understand the challenges posed by carbon trading. Moreover, readiness activities on the ground are marked by substantial resources being directed to setting up MRV tailored for carbon markets, incentivizing only payment for avoided carbon.

There is an increasing discussion internationally on how a comprehensive and centralized mechanism where payment for more than emission reductions will be crucial in order to ensure lasting results for REDD+. Still, decision makers lack a clear understanding of the role and implications of different incentive structures. We believe that without actively incentivizing the non-carbon benefits of REDD+, there is a danger that they will not be attained and that results in emission reductions will not last over time.

Also, there is a lack of understanding of the need for further guidance on the implementation of safeguards, specifically the safeguards information system. This is indicated by the fact that presently few decision makers advocate further guidance, while experience from national REDD+ activities clearly demonstrate the need for such guidance. There is also a lack of agreement on the purpose of and procedures at the international level for the information provided on safeguards. This is a barrier against robust monitoring of safeguards at the national level.

Importantly, civil society is today exercising considerable influence on the shaping of consensus on REDD+. NNV/RF is a central actor in this work. Nevertheless, the influence of civil society has been insufficient to release the full potential of REDD+. This is indicated by the decisions from the negotiations, where our impact has been inadequate, but also by the fact that several important ENGOs have scaled down their work related to REDD+.”

2.2 Please repeat the project’s **desired impact** (from the approved project document).

“Sustainable and additional global emission reductions from reduced deforestation and forest degradation, social benefits for forest-dependent peoples and environmental benefits for rainforest ecosystems have been achieved.”

2.3 Is the project still relevant for the desired impact? (Yes/No) If No, please give a short explanation.

Yes, the project is still relevant for the desired impact. In order to avoid dangerous climate changes (temperature increase within 1, 5 degrees Celsius), deforestation of rainforest must be halted by 2020, and damaged ecosystems must be restored. Scientific research shows that the most sustainable way to achieve this is to give forest dependent peoples rights to manage forest in an environmentally sound way.

2.4 **Main outcome(s)**

a) Please repeat the project’s planned outcome(s) (effect on project’s target group(s), beneficiary (-ies)) (from the approved project document).

“A number of decision-makers have supported and promoted a REDD+ mechanism which ensures sustainable and additional global emission reductions, contributes to social and environmental benefits and attracts sustainable finance.”

b) Please report on all outcomes from the project document:

i. **What changes have been achieved with reference to the baseline?**

Many of the decision makers that have been involved in REDD+ had in 2013 a lack of knowledge and awareness on important environmental and social aspects of forest protection. Through the project we have been able to educate and build capacity of a wide range of decision makers and negotiators. Cooperation with civil society organizations from the South with thorough knowledge of the situation on the ground has provided decision makers and negotiators with relevant and important information for the negotiation processes.

The improved knowledge and awareness can be traced in written documents and proposals from the negotiation processes, and in the results of the negotiations. In the REDD+ framework it is now acknowledged that non-carbon benefits are important for sustainable management of rainforests. We have, in particular, seen how negotiators from African countries have picked up this argument.

The improvement of knowledge of decision makers and negotiators has been a time consuming process. Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet have been following and participating in the UNFCCC negotiations for almost ten years now. Through frequent meetings, presentations, and informal contact with negotiators and relevant stakeholders, our long-term presence and advocacy work have made us well known among actors in the negotiations, and we are increasingly being asked for advice and information about REDD+, forest protection, indigenous peoples' rights, and other topics. We have also become an important ally for those who promote non carbon benefits and a comprehensive safeguard information system (SIS) for REDD+ within the UNFCCC.

Since 2009, Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet worked for the elaboration and inclusion of REDD+ safeguards reporting (which ended up as the Safeguard Information System (SIS)), holding meetings and producing policy briefings advocating for the importance of designing and implementing a SIS. In June last year, a decision regarding SIS in REDD+ was adopted within the UNFCCC. This decision states the elements that should be reported by countries implementing REDD+ programs before they can receive results-based finance. Those elements shall be reported in a "Summary of Information" and should include information about how each of the safeguards approved in Cancun were addressed and respected during the implementation of REDD+ in the country.

Regarding non carbon benefits, we did not achieve a strong framework as we hoped for. Currently, non carbon benefits are recognized as an important element under the UNFCCC, but the operationalization is still unclear and will therefore need to be followed up in bilateral and multilateral channels that finance REDD+ initiatives.

When it comes to the question on how the land sector shall contribute to emission reductions in a post 2020 climate regime, it is relevant to look at experiences from the non carbon discussions, and important to acknowledge that forest and land provides food security, habitats and other benefits for the people who live there.

In 2015, the negotiations on the Paris Agreement raised important questions about the role of forests and REDD+ in international climate policy post 2020. Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet together with the Brussels-based NGO Fern and the Stockholm Environmental Institute developed a report prior to COP21 in Paris that looked into how the forest and land sector might contribute to long-term climate mitigation targets in a way that also has benefits for the environment, indigenous peoples, livelihoods and social development. Based on the report we recommended that any long-term goal in the Paris Agreement must give a clear message about phasing out fossil fuel, and that references to “net zero” or “climate neutrality” should be avoided as they open the door to offsetting fossil fuel emissions against carbon sequestration in the land sector. Furthermore, we argued that REDD+ and the land sector more generally should not be linked to fossil emissions through carbon markets, and that strong provisions for human rights and the integrity of natural ecosystems would be needed in order to avoid risky mitigation action in the land sector.

The report received much attention, and will serve as basis for our future work on how forest should be integrated in a new regime. Together with Cifor and the University of Jena, Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet organized a side event in the Paris meeting which was attended by more than 200 stakeholders, including negotiators, scientists and representatives from civil society organizations and indigenous peoples.

While the report contributed to increased understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with using forests and lands in climate change mitigation, the uptake of our recommendations in the final Paris Agreement was mixed. As a result of strong pressure from civil society and indigenous peoples’ groups, including Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet, it does include references to human rights and environmental integrity. How these references will be operationalized in practice, however, remains to be seen. Contrary to our recommendations, the Paris Agreement also establishes a new goal to achieve a “balance between emissions by sources and removals by sinks” – i.e. “net zero” emissions – in the second half of this century. The practical implications of this for forests and the land sector are however still unclear.

The Paris Agreement reiterated support for implementing the existing REDD+ framework, which includes hard-won provisions on social and environmental safeguards and the SIS referred to above. At present, the REDD+ framework is not directly linked to carbon trading, and this situation is maintained in the Paris Agreement. How the issue of forests will be treated in a new carbon market after 2020 is still unclear. Our work during the 3 year period has provided us with an increasing number of experiences on the difficulties of the inclusion of forest in a carbon market, and these experiences have been discussed with decision makers and negotiators within the UNFCCC.

As stated in the baseline, there was a need for clearer understanding among decision makers on carbon markets and REDD+. Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet have continued to highlight the importance of not including REDD+ in carbon markets. This has

been put forward at UNFCCC meetings, in bilateral discussions with parties to the UNFCCC and through media. These activities can be traced in written documents and proposals within the UNFCCC and in Norwegian media articles. This has contributed to REDD+ still being kept out of carbon markets despite several suggestions for it be included.

Upfront the Paris meeting, we experienced increased interest by negotiators and civil society organizations about the question on how REDD+ and land-use in general shall be integrated in a post 2020 agreement. Since the adoption of the Warsaw framework until last year, our work (together with other civil society organizations) focused mainly in rainforest protection and indigenous peoples rights. Nevertheless, as a response to the wider focus on land use that the negotiations within the climate regime have experimented, we initiated cooperation with a broader spectrum of organizations orientated towards issues like agriculture, food, carbon markets, LULUCF (Land use, land-use change and forestry), forest and REDD+. This has been of mutual benefit for all involved, and we believe this network will continue to serve as an important basis for future policy work and involvement of civil society. During the negotiations, we have been able to secure good participation from civil society organizations in the South, and this has increased our influence.

Naturvernforbundet is member of Friends of the Earth (FoE), but many European countries members of the network have gradually distanced themselves from the negotiations, and many organizations in Africa and Latin America have been in direct opposition to the results-based finance of REDD+, and the idea of integrating emissions reductions from REDD+ in carbon trading. Naturvernforbundet has spent a good amount of time to try to persuade more organizations in the FoE network, that have critical position to REDD+, to engage in the debate rather than distance themselves from the discussions. This has not been too successful, but has, based on these contacts, and brought some key points in to the negotiations.

This project has been complemented by additional work by Regnskogfondet through its framework agreement under Norad, where, among other things, Regnskogfondet has given travel support to Southern partners to the UNFCCC negotiations. The combined work with these two funding streams has yielded better results than this project could have achieved as a stand-alone effort.

We also point to our report on common indicators sent Norad in March 2016.

ii. Please report on the key indicators used to document that the desired change has occurred.

- A number of decision makers have supported and promoted:

- A robust safeguards information system to ensure implementation of safeguards

The UNFCCC has agreed on further guidance on SIS. The Philippines and some African countries actively used our policy briefings and arguments for advocating for the adoption of a robust safeguards information system in REDD+. The final UNFCCC decision is an improvement, despite not meeting all NNV/RFN's expectations.

- Incentivizing emission reductions and social and environmental benefits

Regarding emission reductions, we can say that almost all the countries within the UNFCCC agreed on this point. The UNFCCC has also agreed on the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits (social and environmental benefits beyond safeguards). Countries like the Philippines and some African countries embraced the importance of including social and environmental benefits beyond REDD+ in the negotiations, but despite the general acknowledgement of non-carbon benefits, the decision does not provide sufficient details on how this will be operationalized and achieved.

- Scaled-up and predictable finance for results-based REDD+ activities

We have advocated that REDD+ should be financed from public sources and new, innovative finance mechanisms. References about the importance of keeping financing REDD+ activities were also included in the decision of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015. Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogfondet together with other civil society organizations worked for this result.

- Broad debates and involvement of civil society organizations.

Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogfondet together with other civil society organizations have organized frequent meetings where negotiators from different countries and the co-chairs of REDD+ negotiations under UNFCCC have answered questions from civil society organizations regarding the developing of the negotiations. Through these meetings, civil society organizations have received updated information and provided relevant input to decision makers.

- Arguments and support is given by decision makers towards national governments and in international REDD+ fora, in oral and written form.

Yes. The most prominent example is the Philippines, which has embraced our argument and has served as an important mouthpiece in the negotiation for our arguments. Also other countries like Kenya, Germany, Norway and the Coalition of Rainforest nations have picked and actively used policy arguments provided by our project cooperation.

- iii. **Please reflect on whether targets that were originally set have been achieved, and what project outputs were key to achieving them. If relevant reflect on why outputs delivered as planned did not help meet the targets**

The agreement from the Paris meeting confirmed REDD+ as a core element of the new global climate regime under the UNFCCC. In this project period, decision makers have also concluded with a rather robust Safeguards Information System (SIS). From detailed guidelines for the Measurement, Reporting and Verification framework (MRV), the negotiations have moved towards a significantly broader understanding of forest and land use as important elements of climate mitigation. Results-based finance, preservation of forest, and land use were agreed upon as important elements in the Paris agreement. A specific article that underlines the political will to maintain forest preservation as an important component in the future climate regime was also developed. We believe our joint efforts have contributed to this result.

On the other hand, although non-carbon benefits were acknowledged as an important component of REDD+, parties to the UNFCCC could not agree on its operationalization, and in consequence, this part of the discussion was closed within the negotiations.

It has been very useful to have resources to develop in-depth reports that problematized specific topics in the negotiations. These reports were prepared with assistance from international relevant experts. It has also been highly useful to join efforts with other civil society organizations and develop thorough policy briefings prior to important meetings. Seminars and meetings with Norwegian authorities have resulted in common understanding of principles regarding the implementation of REDD+. Likewise, our ability to arrange side events during negotiation meetings has been very important in order to achieve attention around our inputs.

Cooperation and alliances with civil society organizations from the South have given to our network strength, relevance and increased our influence in the negotiations. Many organizations from the international civil society community in the South do not participate in international fora, either because of resource constraints or due to a reluctance of engaging with REDD+ as a potential market mechanism. We have therefore participated in events outside the UNFCCC to talk and consult with these organizations, for example in meetings with FoE. Our participation in different fora has allowed us to gain a better understanding of a number of concerns regarding REDD+ that might not otherwise be known in the negotiation process.

We have been able to ensure public debate around land use, the forest sector and indigenous people's rights during the COPs in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet have during 2013-2015 delivered 205 newsarticles in Norwegian media about REDD+ in the UNFCCC process. In the external media work it is a constant challenge to be specific enough, and at the same time be able to communicate and explain complex issues that are directed to a broad audience. In order to achieve this objective, we focused on the REDD+ mechanism, but maintaining a comprehensive understanding of the total climate negotiation arena.

- iv. **If outcomes are not yet achieved, please explain why, and in addition, how the outputs will lead to the desired outcome and when.**
- v. **Are the outcomes expected to be sustainable?**

The respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, the integrity of natural ecosystems have received general acknowledgement in the Paris agreement, and we believe this provides a solid basis for future forest preservation. Still, it is unclear how the post 2020 framework will look. This will be determined in the coming years.

Regarding the financial mechanism for REDD+, it will be highly important that donors request compliance by beneficiaries of the adopted decisions under UNFCCC. It is expected that rainforest countries implement measures also without financing.

2.5 Are there any internal and/ or external factors that have affected the project in any significant way?

- a) Please specify deviations from plans.
- b) Please provide a short assessment of the risks occurred

We consider the project implemented according to the plan.

Regarding risks, our main efforts have been aimed at making REDD+ part of the UNFCCC negotiations, and that was achieved. We have worked to maintain and increase the political will around REDD+. Although the result is ambivalent, there is now a basis to continue working.

Regarding civil society participation, there is a cleavage between many of the organizations. For example, many organizations in the FoE network and from the South have actively resisted REDD+. In order to reduce that cleavage, Naturvernforbundet has participated at different events like annual meetings and also seminars on REDD+ during the project period. Within the FoE network Naturvernforbundet together with the Swiss chapter have received acceptance to promote REDD+, even if there is a disagreement within the organization.

2.6 **Cross cutting concerns.** Please report on whether the project has had any effect (positive or negative) on

- a) Corruption
- b) Gender equality
- c) Respect for human rights

We have encouraged actively that cooperation partners participate with equal gender representation in all meetings, also during negotiations.

One of our main aims has been to integrate respect for human rights in the negotiation framework. We achieved that a section on respect for human rights and indigenous peoples' rights was incorporated in the preface of the Paris agreement. This was

important, even though Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet advocated for a legally binding reference to these rights.

2.9 Lessons learned. For final report, please summarize lessons learned for the whole agreement period. Both internal and external factors are relevant. What could have been done differently? How can lessons learned be incorporated in future plans? We are interested in learning based on positive and negative experiences.

With insufficient carbon mitigation policies we have seen an increase in land-based sinks promoted as a solution to increase the probability of reaching global temperature targets. This again increases the pressure on forests. It is likely that this trend will continue, increasing the demand for forests as a carbon sink. In meeting this trend it has been important to highlight how forests can contribute as a sink taking into account social and environmental risks, limiting the most negative measures at an early stage.

We experience a push for inclusion of REDD+ in carbon markets by new actors outside the UNFCCC. The promotion of REDD+ offsetting within the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) means the debate is taken out of familiar circumstances and continued by people and organizations without the long history of negotiations we have within the UNFCCC. New initiatives outside the UNFCCC is not surprising, but demands flexibility in our own work, being able to intervene and influence such processes at an early stage. It is also a risk for our work, as other people and institutions who have not received our information and policy inputs are to take important decisions.

The north-south civil society collaboration has suffered from scepticism to REDD+ in general. This, combined with the increased pressure on terrestrial sinks, has resulted in increased collaboration with agriculture and food NGOs. We expect this collaboration to revive collaboration with southern NGOs as a broader debate on use of lands would take into account many of the aspects that the southern NGOs miss in the REDD+ debate.

The UNFCCC has proven to be a good arena for public debate with Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogsfondet achieving broad media coverage during the COPs. Concentrating activities directed at media to the COPs is a strategy that should be continued.

3 Case/success story

3.1 Please see separate format for the result example, max 2 pages

4 Project's accounts for last year:

4.1 The accounts must relate to the approved budget for the year in question. All deviations (positive and/ or negative) must be clearly shown and explained.

There are no major deviations.

4.2 Attachment: Audited accounts and completed form from the accountant for last year's accounts.

Only after a contract expires should unspent funds be returned to Norad.

Date 31.05.2016

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maren Esmark', written in a cursive style.

Maren Esmark
General Secretary
Naturvernforbundet

Attachments:

Attachment 1 Project account

Attachment 2 Auditors report

Attachment 3 Result case Naturvernforbundet and Regnskogfondet