



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE



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Resilient nations.*

2017 Work Plan for the Partnership between the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) and the United Nations Development Programme to support REDD+ implementation in critical Forested Countries through GCF funding proposals

In line with what is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNDP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS);

Based on the concept note submitted in December 2016; and

Further developments in terms of country requests for support to UNDP,

This document presents the 2017 work plan.

1 Introduction

The scope of the Memorandum of Understanding (to be signed) between IMELS and UNDP, is to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate and strengthen collaboration in areas of climate change, forestry and forest-related sectors such as agriculture and energy, with the ultimate goal of enhancing, strengthening and accelerating sustainable forest management, REDD+ implementation and REDD+ results. The specific areas of cooperation of the MoU are the following:

1. Foster a close collaboration to support developing countries, interested in engaging in REDD+ under the UNFCCC, in enhancing capacities for the implementation of REDD+ and related safeguards, in addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in creating and enhancing institutional capacity in the forestry, environment sector and green growth based on technical cooperation, training, research / knowledge and technological support and transfer;
2. Support countries to submit REDD+ projects and programmes to the GCF, as well as their implementation, through the provision of skills, expert knowledge transfer, best practices, political support and international recognition for efforts made and results achieved;
3. Support a comprehensive response towards the New York Declaration on Forests thanks to technical, private sector and political exchanges on the multiple aspects of the architecture;
4. Support countries in coordinating the negotiations and implementation of public-private partnerships and agreements with international corporations involved in commodities supply chains and forest-related sectors; and
5. Support countries in showcasing their work and progress in international meetings (such as the UNFCCC) and high-level political meetings, as well as through facilitating technical workshops and south-south exchanges.

The Cost Sharing Agreement (CSA) to operationalise the MoU is based on this 2017 work plan in terms of costs.

Based on criteria in terms of advancing through the REDD+ readiness phase under the UNFCCC and an internal evaluation of progress achieved, three countries were identified to receive support by IMELS in 2017 to develop and submit REDD+ GCF proposal: the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

UNDP's Regional Technical Advisors worked with the respective government to identify the support needed in a country-tailored manner to develop the aforementioned REDD+ GCF proposals.

Taking note of important strategic needs and opportunities identified by IMELS, a global overarching work plan is also included to respond to these.

The total cost of the 2017 workplan¹ is of € 1,052,257 or USD 1,197,107 as presented as an overview in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

¹ Budgets were originally calculated in USD and subsequently converted to € using an exchange rate of USD to € of 0.879 as per the UN Operational Rates of Exchange, available [here](#)

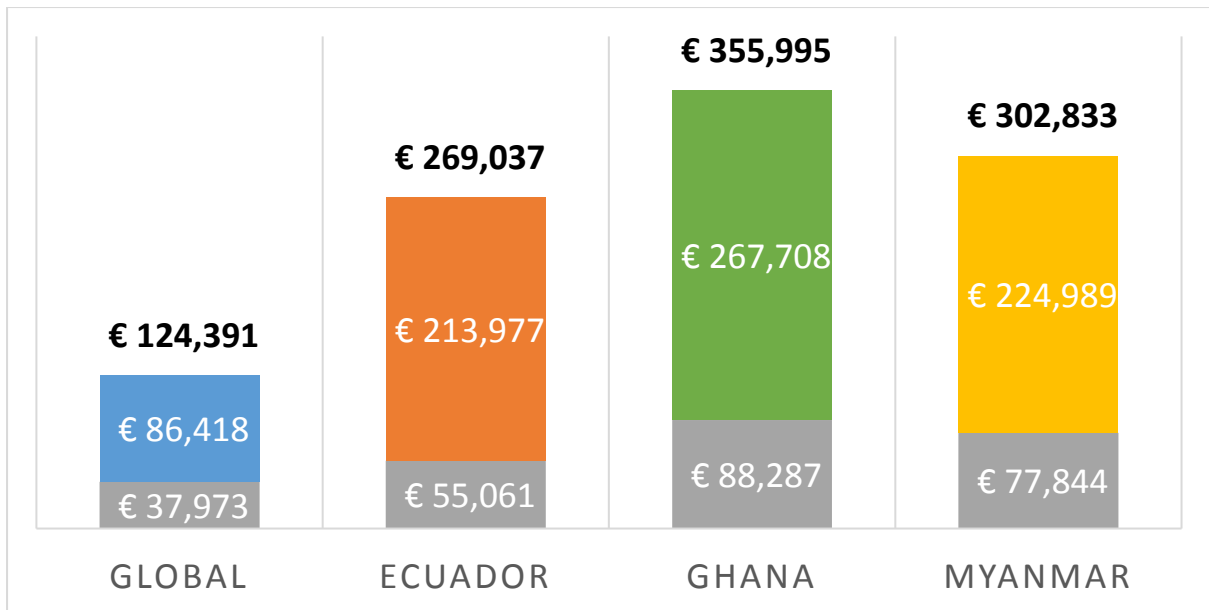


Figure 1 Total budget per component in bold at the top of each bar. Grey bars represent the costs of the UNDP REDD+ team to provide technical advice, policy support and quality assurance. Coloured bars represent the global and in-country activities.

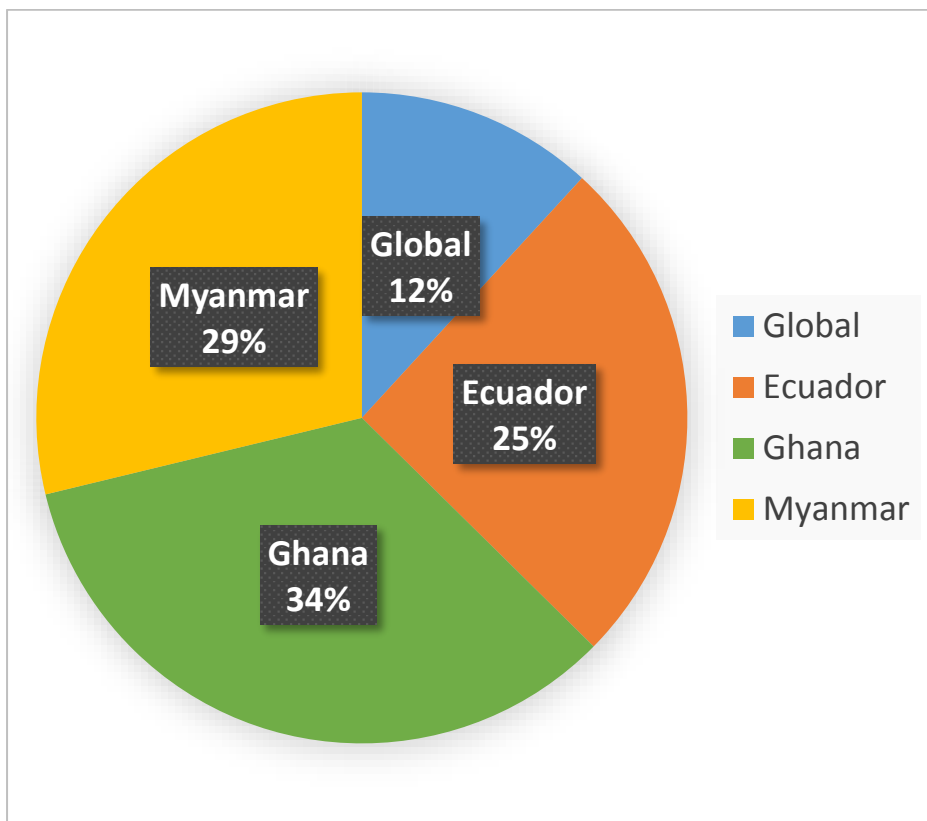


Figure 2 Distribution of total budget across the different components.

2 2017 Work plan

A general results framework of the project is presented below.

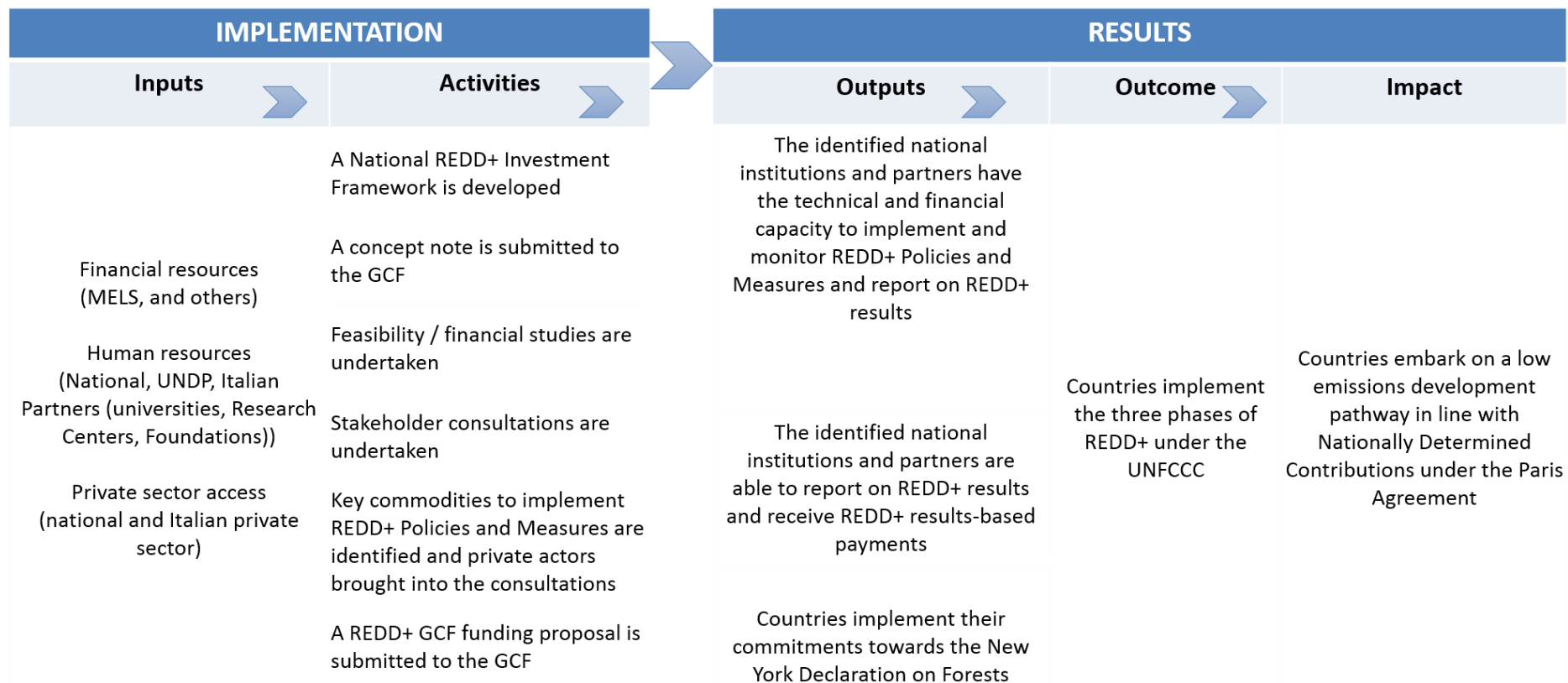


Figure 3 Project general results-framework

This section provides four work plans for 2017: (i) an overarching global workplan; (ii) the workplan for the Republic of Ecuador; (iii) the workplan for the Republic of Ghana and (iv) the workplan for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2.1 Global work plan

The objective of this global work plan is to deliver increased awareness within the supported countries, Italian research institutions, universities, NGOs and private sector in REDD+, with an emphasis on the private-sector demand-side of commodity production while showcasing the support provided by IMELS on the international level through this project.



2.1.1 Overview of activities

2.1.1.1 *Activity 1. Scoping of current and potential private sector involvement in high-level international initiatives*

Responding to pressure from consumers, civil society and governments, various initiatives targeting specific supply chains have been established to reduce deforestation from commodity production. Many Italian companies are already involved in such initiatives and many more companies could join in the future.

The objective of this activity is to undertake a detailed assessment through desk research, reaching out and networking to map where opportunities lie for the private sector to further engage in this domain, with an initial emphasis on Italian companies active in the demand-side of commodity production. Particular attention will be given to engagement with the New York Declaration on Forests, the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) and the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF).

2.1.1.2 *Activity 2. REDD+ Implementation capacity building, south-south sharing and finance leveraging roundtable*

The objective is to (i) build the capacity of the three countries in terms of understanding REDD+ implementation, leveraging investment and greening domestic investments for REDD+; (ii) allow the countries to share experiences so far in REDD+ implementation and have a south-south exchange; and (iii) bring in potential investors from the private sector (building on Activity 1) around the discussion table to leverage investment.

The event will be organised in Rome, Italy at IMELS during a four-day period. The event will be supported by relevant Italian research centres and NGOs.

2.1.1.3 *Activity 3. Participation of IMELS in high-level events panels on REDD+*

This activity seeks to bring high-level attention in international forums to the support IMELS is providing to support countries in moving from REDD+ readiness to implementation through quality GCF REDD+ projects. UNDP will position IMELS in such events, two such events are foreseen.

2.1.1.4 *Activity 4. Communication and outreach*

This activity will support the development of a targeted communication and knowledge management strategy in this cooperation between UNDP and IMELS to enhance the visibility of the support provided by IMELS for REDD+.

2.1.1.5 Activity 5. UNDP REDD+ team technical advice, policy support and quality assurance

This activity will allow the UNDP REDD+ Team to provide continuous high-level technical, strategic and managerial support to this project, including for the four aforementioned activities.

2.1.2 Global activities and budget

Global Deliverables	Global Specific activities	Estimated Budget USD	Estimated Budget Euro
Activity 1: Scoping of current and potential Italian private sector involvement in high-level international initiatives and REDD+ countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report with identification of current and potential engagement for the Italian private sector 	Desk study, emails, phone calls, networking in international meetings	\$ 7,560	€ 6,645
Activity 2: REDD+ Implementation capacity building, south-south sharing and finance leveraging roundtable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop reports Capacity is build Private sector is engaged Further opportunities for Italy to engage in REDD+ are identified 	Technical & private sector workshop / REDD+ academy in Rome for participating countries, relevant Italian experts and Italian private sector (4 days (four nights), 6 Italian participants, 9 country representative participants, lunch & coffee provided and one dinner) + translations	\$ 82,115	€ 72,179
Activity 3: High-level international event / panels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports of panels & meetings 	Two events to be organised in 2017	\$ 6,480	€ 5,696
Activity 4: Communication and outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press briefings & releases Twitter presence Updates through website 	Media (press briefings, press releases) Translations Social Media Outreach	\$ 2,160	€ 1,899
Activity 5: UNDP REDD+ technical advice, policy support & quality assurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely completion of all workplan deliverables Interim narrative and financial reports 	Coordination with UNDP Country Offices and business units High-level strategic & technical support Counterpart correspondence with IMELS	\$ 43,2000	€ 37,973
Total		\$ 141,515*	€ 124,391

**All figures include General Management Support*

2.1.3 Global work programme time line

Activity	Month											
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
Activity 1: Scoping of current and potential Italian private sector involvement in high-level international initiatives and REDD+ countries	x	x										
Activity 2: REDD+ Implementation capacity building, south-south sharing and finance leveraging roundtable				x								
Activity 3: High-level international panels					x			x				
Activity 4: Communication and outreach	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 5: Global Support UNDP REDD+ team	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

2.2 Republic of Ecuador



2.2.1 Brief country overview

Ecuador, under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment (MAE), started to work on REDD+ in 2012. In 2016, Ecuador finalized its REDD+ readiness process. A Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was submitted and technically assessed by the UNFCCC in 2015². A national forest monitoring system (NFMS)³ is now operational. A System of Information on Safeguards has been elaborated and needs to be implemented. Finally, a national REDD+ Action Plan (REDD+ AP) has been approved and officially launched in November 2016⁴. This Action Plan presents the policies and measures prioritized to address the drivers of deforestation in the country. Its objective is to contribute to national efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through conservation, sustainable forest management, and optimization of other land uses to reduce pressure on forests. It will also help Ecuador in complying with its commitment under the NY Declaration on Forests, as well as with the provisions related to REDD+, deforestation free commodities, traceability and social and environmental issues which are included in the Free-Trade Agreement recently signed between Ecuador and the European Union.

Based on all the information generated during this process, Ecuador and UNDP as accredited entity, have successfully submitted the very first REDD+ Funding Proposal⁵ to the GCF (usd41millions) which was approved in Oct 2016. This project should initiate in mid-2017, once all the requirements of the GCF are met. By that time, a new government will be in place in Ecuador.

In September 2016, Ecuador submitted its First Biennial Update Report (BUR) with its technical annex on REDD+⁶. According to the information monitored and reported in this technical annex, emissions avoided by gross deforestation for Ecuador have been estimated at 28,990,071 tCO₂-eq for the period 2008-2014. This information is in the process of verification by the experts of the Convention. It is important to note that during the same period of time, agricultural productivity in Ecuador increased by approximately 9%. Ecuador and UNDP are now working together to elaborate and submit a second Funding Proposal to the GCF, to seek the REDD+ Result Based Payments corresponding to this reduction of 29 million tCO₂-eq. This proposal will be submitted as soon as the GCF launches its call for proposal for REDD+ RBP, supposedly in June 2017; and may have to be adjusted to the specific conditions that the GCF Board will decide, for instance with regards to eligibility dates.

² http://redd.unfccc.int/files/submission_frel_ecuador.pdf

³ <http://mapainteractivo.ambiente.gob.ec/>

⁴ http://suia.ambiente.gob.ec/documents/10179/185860/MAE_2016_11_21+ART+LIBRO+REDD+17+nov+2016.pdf/e282f00c-37b2-4183-8349-54ecc9837bc8

⁵ <http://www.greenclimate.fund/-/priming-financial-and-land-use-planning-instruments-to-reduce-emissions-from-deforestation>

⁶ http://unfccc.int/essential_background/library/items/3599.php?rec=i&preref=7861#beg

2.2.2 Overview of activities

The key objectives of this GCF project. Through its four components described below, the GCF project will contribute directly to the implementation of most of the Strategic and Operational Components of the REDD+ AP of Ecuador:

- 1) Invest in enabling policies to reduce the drivers of deforestation and its associated emissions;
- 2) Implement financial and economic incentives in non-forest areas to support the transition to sustainable deforestation-free agricultural production systems;
- 3) Implement financial and non-financial mechanisms for restoration, conservation and connectivity;
- 4) Implement enabling instruments related to the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework, such as the NFMS and the SIS, and operationalize the financial architecture of the REDD+ AP to receive and channel future results-based payments in the future.

The support that Ecuador would like to receive from IMELS is expected to contribute to REDD+ in different ways across the activities described below. These activities will help Ecuador to reduce its impact on climate change as agreed in the Paris Agreement and both Ecuador and Italian companies to demonstrate tangible progresses towards their commitments under the NY Declaration on Forest, as well as under the Amsterdam Declaration recently signed by Italy.

Output 1: GCF funding proposal

2.2.2.1 REDD technical team supports preparation of the GCF RBP Phase 3 proposal

Activity 1 allows the national REDD+ technical team to continue working without interruption in 2017, as the GCF Phase 2 that was approved is not expected to be operational before mid-2017. Without this technical team, the MAE will not be in a position of keeping the momentum on REDD+ and participate meaningfully into the elaboration of the GCF RBP Phase 3 proposal to be submitted to the GCF.

2.2.2.2 Socialization and validation of the Phase 3 RBP GCF Funding Proposal

Activity 2 is focused on supporting the socialization processes and the validation of the RBP Funding Proposal before it is submitted to the GCF. The national REDD+ platform, which has been created with the support of UNDP at the beginning of the REDD readiness process in Ecuador, and which gathers representatives from different sectors (representatives of indigenous communities, NGOs, productive sector, academia, organization of youth and women, government entities) will have several meetings in 2017 to provide their inputs on the RBP proposal, and endorse it before submission. Furthermore, MAE will also need to have high level meetings in the country, as well as meetings with GCF, to prepare and present this RBP funding proposal. These national and international workshops and meetings will offer the opportunity for the MAE to explain the support provided by IMELS. There is also a big debate in the UNFCCC about Article 6 on the Paris Agreement on whether REDD+ should be included in these new mechanisms and it is very important for Ecuador to participate in the formal and informal meetings, which will also permit Ecuador to promote the advance in this area and lessons learned.

2.2.2.3 Analysing existing platforms and providing recommendations to strengthen them, or create them when needed

Activity 3 and 6 are aiming at mapping and analysing the existing platforms aiming to contribute to institutional coordination at different administrative levels, as well as the existing platforms related to cocoa, coffee, palm oil and cattle; providing recommendations to strengthen these existing platforms; and providing recommendations and methodology for the creation of new platforms when needed. This is the type of urgent activity, which have been identified during the closure of the UN-REDD TS, and which will contribute to speed up the implementation of the GCF project already mobilized, and the design of the upcoming proposal for RBP. These platforms will also be important elements to facilitate future interactions between Italian private companies and representatives of producers from these commodities.

2.2.2.4 Prioritization of Autonomous Decentralised Governments (GADs), update of guideline for land use planning and technical proposal for an online tool to connect land use plans

Activities 4, 5 and 7 aim to identify and prioritize the land use plans which will be updated (to include provisions related to REDD+) with the support of the upcoming RBP proposal. They will also support updating of the guidelines related to preparing land use plans, in order to incorporate REDD+ as well as other environmental provisions, and identify best options to create a system to integrate all the land use plans, which are prepared at different geographical and administrative scales, but are not linked together so far.

2.2.2.5 Implementation of REDD+ measures by indigenous communities in their territory, and lessons learned on safeguards and safeguards information system.

Activity 8 is about initiating the implementation of REDD+ measures by indigenous communities, in their territory, and simultaneously pilot the system of safeguards which has been designed during the REDD readiness phase. This will be an extremely important process which will probably provide important lessons which will in turn be used to improve the design of the implementation plans, as well as the safeguards process; which will then be incorporated into the upcoming RBP proposal. This activity will be closely linked to the activities 10 and 11.

2.2.2.6 Implementation and institutionalization of systems and processes

Activities 9, 10 and 11 are focused in the implementation and institutionalization of systems and processes which are instrumental to initiate the implementation of the REDD+ AP and the monitoring and reporting of the different policies and measures, which will be needed to implement later on the RBP proposal of the GCF.

Table 1. Overview of key activities to be undertaken in Ecuador

Ecuador (Phase 2 and 3)	Target commodities (not exhaustive)	Preliminary REDD+ Activity	Activities	Status	Indicators	Proposed target submission date
	Palm oil Cacao Coffee Cattle	Deforestation	1: REDD technical team supports preparation of the RBP proposal as well as the implementation of urgent activities identified during closure of the UN-REDD TS	Contracts to be renewed asap	RBP funding proposal submitted to GCF	As soon as the GCF launches the call for proposal for RBP
			2: Socialization and validation of Phase 3 GCF RBP FP	To be started	# of meetings of the REDD national platform, and other key stakeholders	July 2017
			3 and 6: Analysing existing platforms and providing recommendations to strengthen them, or create them when needed	To be started	Report available	July 2017
			4, 5 and 7: Prioritization of GADs, update of guideline for land use planning and technical proposal for an online tool to connect land use plans	To be started	3 reports available	Oct 2017
			8: Implementation of REDD+ measures by indigenous communities in their territory, and lessons learned on safeguards and safeguards information system.	To be started	Report available	Dec 2017
			9, 10 and 11: Implementation and institutionalization of systems and processes	To be started	Report available	Dec 2017

2.2.3 Ecuador activities and budget

Ecuador Deliverables	Ecuador activities	Estimated budget USD	Estimated budget Euros
<p>Activity 1. REDD + Technical Team in the Ministry of Environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed UNDP-GCF project document (USD41 million); Funding Proposal for REDD+ RBP FP prepared, socialized and validated by stakeholders of the REDD+ national platform, and submitted to the GCF; Annual report to Italy, on results achieved in 2017 thanks to their support; As well as all the deliverables below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist in participatory processes; Specialist in project management and finance; Specialist in Social and Environmental Safeguards; Responsible of Institutional Coordination; Administrative and Financial Assistant. 	\$ 90,072	€ 79,173
<p>Activity 2. Socialization and Validation of the RBP Funding Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of meetings of the REDD+ national platform, detailing inputs to the RBP proposal; Report of the high-level meetings; Report of meetings and exchanges with GCF about Funding Proposal on RBP; Report of the dialogues about Art. 6. And REDD+. 	4 workshops and meeting of the REDD+ national platform to present and validate the RBP Funding Proposal before submission to the GCF	\$ 20,520	€ 18,037
	High level meetings with key entities and stakeholders, to facilitate institutional coordination for the inception of the existing GCF project, and ensure high level engagement for the RBP Funding Proposal	\$ 3,240	€ 2,848
	Participation to GCF meetings and other international related events, to present the Funding Proposal on RBP (travel expenses outside Ecuador)	\$ 21,600	€ 18,986
	Participation in dialogues for relation between REDD+ and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement		
<p>Activity 3. Institutional platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for strengthening existing platforms when needed, and for the creation of potential new ones, to facilitate interactions between entities involved in the implementation of the REDD+AP. 	<p>Consultancy for the design of the different platforms proposed under the GCF project, which will facilitate the implementation of the REDD+AP and potential discussions between national and international private companies interested in purchasing free deforestation agricultural commodities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identification and characterization of existing participative platforms and of platforms to be created to support the implementation of the RED+AP; analysis of processes and capacity of these platforms; proposal for strengthening existing platforms when needed, and for the creation of potential new ones, to facilitate interactions between entities involved in implementing the REDD+AP. 	\$ 9,720	€ 8,544

Activity 4. Prioritization of Autonomous Decentralized Governments (GADs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of GADs prioritized for both the existing GCF project as well as the upcoming proposal for RBP to be submitted to the GCF. 	Identification and prioritization of Autonomous Decentralized Governments (GADs) at the national level for the elaboration of Land Use Plans to be updated with REDD provisions, and financed by the existing GCF projects as well as the upcoming one on RBP	\$ 21,600	€ 18,986
Activity 5. Review of the land use planning guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated guidelines for land use planning incorporating provisions for REDD+ 	Review of the land use planning guidelines to incorporate REDD provisions, as well as provisions related to environment, indigenous rights and gender, with SENPLADES	\$ 6,480	€ 5,696
Activity 6. Proposal for commodity platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal and methodology for the strengthening of commodity platforms, or for their creation when appropriate 	Identification of commodity platforms, including: identification and characterization of existing ones, analysis needs and options for strengthening, as well as proposal for the creation of new ones when relevant; to facilitate technical discussions between producers of coffee, cocoa, palm and cattle, as well as commercial discussions with potential national and international private buyers	\$ 7,560	€ 6,645
Activity 7. System to link the different land use plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document analysing existing information systems, mechanisms and processes of SENPLADES and identification of options for articulation of land use plans 	Identification of options to create an online system or tool to link the different land use plans, from the local to the national levels. Such a tool will be instrumental for the upcoming work on traceability systems related to deforestation free commodities.	\$ 10,800	€ 9,493
Activity 8. REDD+ actions with the Kichwa communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report detailing lessons learned after 6 and 12 months of implementation 	Initiate implementation of the REDD+ actions with the Kichwa communities on the Napo River, which will allow to pilot the system of information on safeguards.	\$ 10,800	€ 9,493
Activity 9. Strengthen the traceability system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for the strengthening of the traceability system for forests and non-timber products in the amazon 	Gathering information to strengthen the traceability system in the Amazon, related to forest and non-timber products	\$ 12,960	€ 11,392
Activity 10. Pilot safeguards and Management system for the REDD+ measures and actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes to address and respect social and environmental safeguards in ATPA and Socio Bosque Program 	Pilot safeguards and Management system for the REDD+ measures and actions with Socio Bosque Program, ATPA and private sector.	\$ 10,800	€ 9,493
Activity 11. Electronic platform for the system of management of REDD+ measures and actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical proposal for the electronic system 	Creation of the electronic platform for the system of management of REDD+ measures and actions, to be linked with the SIS and the NFMS	\$ 11,880	€ 10,443
Translations		\$ 5,400	€ 4,747
UNDP REDD+ technical advice, policy support & quality assurance	Inputs of team, support/expertise lead by regional technical advisors but including expertise from relevant UNDP specialists	\$ 62,640	€ 55,061
TOTAL		\$306,072*	€ 269,037*

**All figures include General Management Support*

2.2.4 Ecuador work programme time line

Activity	Month								
	Aug 2017	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	April 2018
Activity 1: REDD + Technical Team in the Ministry of Environment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 2: Socialization and Validation of the RBP Funding Proposal	x	x	x	x	x	X			
Activity 3: Institutional platforms	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Activity 4: Prioritization of Autonomous Decentralized Governments (GADs)	x	x	x	x					
Activity 5: Review of the land use planning guidelines	x	x	x						
Activity 6: Proposal for commodity platforms	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Activity 7: System to link the different land use plans	x	x	x	x					
Activity 8: REDD+ actions with the Kichwa communities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 9: Strengthen the traceability system	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 10: Pilot safeguards and Management system for the REDD+ measures and actions	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		
Activity 11: Electronic platform for the system of management of REDD+ measures and actions	x	x	x	x					
Activity 12: Translations	x		x		x		x		x

2.3 Republic of Ghana



2.3.1 Brief country overview

Ghana is pursuing the international REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC to significantly reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Major progress has been made towards readiness for REDD+ implementation and the key building blocks as stipulated by the Warsaw Framework of 2013 have been put in place, in accordance with methods, guidance and processes established by the UNFCCC. A recent example which is noteworthy is the submission of Ghana's draft national forest reference level on 3rd January, 2017 to the UNFCCC for technical assessment. The [Ghana REDD+ Strategy](#)⁷ (GRS), was also launched in November 2016, and has received high level political endorsement. The GRS identifies a set of strategic options for addressing the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The REDD+ process is supported by UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and has also received bilateral assistance from Japan, Germany and the EU in the form of technical support.

Implementation of REDD+ is part of [Ghana's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution \(INDC\)](#)⁸, which was prepared through a comprehensive and participatory process, and having received Cabinet approval was submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2015. Ghana committed to reduce its carbon emissions by 15% by 2030 compared to the business as usual scenario unconditionally, and by an additional 30% conditionally. "Sustainable forest management" is one of the INDC's priority sectors for both mitigation and adaption, and the need to for example, "Promote Sustainable utilization of forest resources through REDD+" (Policy Action).

In transitioning from full REDD+ readiness to implementation, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project is being developed to support the effective implementation of specific Policies, Actions and Measures (PAMs) identified in the GRS. More specifically, the project aims at implementing the Emission Reductions Programme for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savanna Woodland, while at the same time addressing Ghana's Policy and Legislative Reforms on Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights.

The ecological zone targeted by the project covers vast swathes of Ghana's landmass (over 60%), which is fast losing its preponderance of forests, highly valuable and diverse savanna woodland species (including rosewood and Shea trees) and wildlife due to destructive charcoal production, illegal logging, unsustainable farming practices, illegal mining, hunting, livestock grazing and human-induced fires. The project is designed to promote sustainable approaches to land use, forest conservation, and enhanced community-based resource management to stem the on-going degradation and deforestation from illegal logging, charcoal production, agricultural expansion and illegal mining that threaten the forests and Shea production system. This project will also be an important initiative to strengthen rural economies in the north, support female-dominated Shea processing and other revenue generation activities to ensure poverty reduction.

⁷ [http://www.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/REDD%2B/Ghana REDD%2B Strategy.pdf](http://www.fcghana.org/userfiles/files/REDD%2B/Ghana%20REDD%20Strategy.pdf)

⁸ [http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Ghana First/GH INDC 2392015.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Ghana%20First/GH_INDC_2392015.pdf)

2.3.2 Overview of activities

Output 1: GCF funding proposal

UNDP is supporting Ghana to submit a GCF concept note to the GCF Secretariat, following which the full development of a funding proposal will commence. Overall technical and financial support for the preparation of the proposal comes from core UNDP resources, and in kind contribution from Government. However, this is inadequate to cover the full scope of work, including technical assessments, required to submit a full funding proposal to the GCF. The support provided by IMELS will seek to build on the ongoing support, help consolidate the gains made on REDD+ readiness and help fill in important gaps in the REDD+ process.

2.3.2.1 Activity 1.1 Development of an Investment Plan

The proposed Investment Plan is to help facilitate the implementation of policies and measures as well as mobilize the requisite financing and investments associated with the implementation of the GRS. Thus, the Investment Plan would help Ghana to define, scope and prioritize key investments as well as the associated costs. The development of the Investment Plan would depart from the very classic approach to investment planning and would adopt a very innovative and iterative approach. For example, the development of the Investment Plan would combine both enabling and asset investments. Enabling investments would take the form of policy and institutional support to engender incentives for investments in particular landscapes. Asset investments, for example, would focus on addressing deforestation along commodity value chains. In addition to the above, the investment planning process is also intended to help provide guidance and coordinate sectoral investments at the landscape level, noting the number of existing and emerging REDD+ related initiatives in Ghana.

The REDD+ Investment Plan offers an opportunity to further REDD+ implementation with appropriate technical and policy support from partners, including the private sector. Support for moving towards REDD+ investment is an important pillar of the proposed support from the Government of Italy. It is expected that, the development of the REDD+ Investment Plan will concurrently position the country to attract potential results based finance. It will also provide a framework for coordinating investments on REDD+.

2.3.2.2 Activity 1.2 Technical Assessments and Feasibility Studies

The GCF proposal will require a number of analytical studies, which will include but not limited to: a) an assessment of the technical components of the project proposal and feasibility of proposed interventions; b) analyse the market for targeted commodities and its impact on deforestation, particularly the Shea value chain and will assess the nature and extent of threat to the Shea value chain as well as for the other commodities across the landscape such as Rosewood; c) the economic and financial analysis of the proposed GCF projects, including justification for the financing instruments that will be accessed for the implementation of the projects; and d) an analysis of the costs and benefits of the implementation of REDD+ in the Northern Savannah.

2.3.2.3 Activity 1.3 Strengthening of existing platforms for the Shea landscape for effective stakeholder buy-in

This activity will facilitate full, fair and gender equitable stakeholder consultations to generate ideas to enhance the value chains of Shea and other commodities within the landscape. This will inform

collective visioning and action to mitigate threat and target investments in Shea commodities across the landscape and at the national level. A number of platforms exist that deals with coordination and capacity building for actors dealing in various commodities including Shea, cocoa etc. This activity will aim to strengthen the platforms to further improve dialogue and collaboration between government agencies, private sector entities, civil society organizations and traditional leaders that will lead to sustainability of livelihoods and the environment. This activity will be key to ensuring national ownership and broad buy-in of the project. Efforts will be made to bring the Italian private sector on board.

2.3.2.4 Activity 1.4: UNDP REDD+ Team technical support

This activity will allow the UNDP REDD+ Team to provide continuous technical support to the Forestry Commission to develop a solid project proposal in a timely manner. This will help meet the current high expectations of the Government of Ghana in succeeding in accessing the GCF to support the implementation of a project that can bring transformational change to the country and contribute to meet Ghana's INDC commitments.

Output 2: Communication, knowledge management and capacity building

This activity will support the development of a targeted communication and knowledge management strategy for Ghana to enhance the visibility of the support provided by IMELS in Ghana, support communication messages in Ghana on REDD+ in relation to the GCF project and strengthen national capacities.

2.3.2.5 Activity 2.1 Develop a targeted Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy to enhance the visibility of REDD+ through the Italian support

More specifically, it will include stakeholder mapping analysis to identify key target audience groups and an assessment of the media landscape and actors, leading to targeted communication messages with a range of proposed communication outputs, including the private sector. It is expected to offer support for the implementation of key elements of the REDD+ Communication Strategy of the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) which seeks to enhance the visibility of the REDD+ process, highlighting objectives, experiences, and outcomes of the proposed Italian support. This activity will also help with the documentation of experiences and lessons learned and how this can be replicated in other African countries and indeed, globally. Ghana is increasingly becoming a leader on REDD+ processes in Africa, as such, is well positioned as an incubator for harnessing experiences on REDD+, particularly on private sector engagement and assisting other countries to replicate such experiences.

2.3.2.6 Activity 2.2: Institutional strengthening and capacity building

Support for institutional strengthening and capacity building is key for sustainable REDD+ processes. This activity will focus on the development of a capacity building framework, which will include but not limited to the development of follow-up actions and proposals for the implementation of the Investment Plan. This activity will also support South-to-South exchange amongst the participating countries namely: Ghana, Myanmar and Ecuador.

Table 2. Overview of key activities to be undertaken in Ghana

	Target commodities (not exhaustive)	Preliminary REDD+ Activity	Activities	Status	Indicators	Proposed target submission date
Ghana (Phase 2)	Shea butter	Deforestation	Activity 1.1: A National REDD+ Investment Framework is developed	To be started	Investment Framework is validated	31 st December, 2017
			Activity 1.2: Technical Assessments and Feasibility Studies	To be started	Study reports/GCF proposal	31 st July 2017
			Activity 1.3: Strengthening of existing platforms for the Shea landscape for effective stakeholder buy-in	To be started	Reports of stakeholder consultations	31 st December, 2017
	Rosewood	Degradation	Activity 1.4: Provision of technical advisory support	To be started	Study reports, GCF proposal, Investment Plan	31 st December 2017
			Activity 2.1: Develop a targeted Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy Italian support	To be started	Reports of meetings, communication and knowledge management strategy in place	31 st December 2017
			Activity 2.2: Institutional strengthening and capacity building	To be started	Reports, capacity building framework developed	31 st December, 2017

2.3.3 Ghana activities and budget

Ghana Deliverables	Ghana Activities	Estimated Budget USD	Estimated Budget Euros
Activity 1.1: Development of an Investment Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessments, scoping and prioritization of REDD+ investments to meet the REDD+ strategy objectives, focusing on sectoral/cross-sectoral issues in priority landscapes 	\$ 54,000	€ 47,466
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costing of Investment Plan and development of financing strategy with appropriate financial instruments for REDD+ developed through technical, economic and financial analyses 	\$ 43,200	€ 37,973
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder and partnership meetings with Government, key partnerships including civil society and private sector around the development of the investment plan held 	\$ 21,600	€ 18,986
Activity 1.2: Technical Assessments and feasibility studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, barriers in the Northern Savanna Analysis of the proposed policies and measures to address drivers, including: technical feasibility of proposed policies and measures, project theory of change and programme description; GCF's value addition; impact potential; paradigm shift potential; sustainable development potential. 	\$ 27,000	€ 23,733
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design of implementation plan for the prioritized policies and measures, including: logic framework, implementation and institutional arrangements, stakeholder engagement, exit strategy, M&E framework 	\$ 27,000	€ 23,733
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the market overview for Shea supply chain and other commodities targeted by the project, including linkages with Italian private sector 	\$ 27,000	€ 23,733
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on financial elements of the project, including budget, financial feasibility, cost-efficiency and effectiveness, economic and financial justification for GCF's concessionality 	\$ 27,000	€ 23,733
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental and social assessment, including gender considerations as well as assessment of risk factors and mitigation factors 	\$ 27,000	€ 23,733
Activity 1.3: Strengthening of existing platforms for the Shea landscape for effective stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with key national Government stakeholders to ensure alignment with national policies and programmes 	\$ 9,720	€ 8,544
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings with key stakeholders in the ecological zone targeted by the project, such as District Assemblies, decentralized agencies, Savanna Accelerated Development Authority, communities 	\$ 8,640	€ 7,595

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with private sector, especially for the commodity/market component of the project, including linkages with Italian private sector 	\$ 8,640	€ 7,595
Activity 1.4 UNDP REDD+ technical advice, policy support & quality assurance		\$ 100,440	€ 88,287
Activity 2.1 Development of a Targeted Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy for Enhanced Visibility of the Italian Support (also linked to activity 2.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KM and Communication Strategy developed 	\$ 8,640	€ 7,595
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of communication and knowledge management events 	\$ 15,120	€ 13,290
TOTAL		\$401,760	€ 355,995

**All figures include General Management Support*

2.3.4 Ghana work programme time line

Activity	Months								
	March	April	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
GCF and Warsaw Framework process									
Submission of concept note to GCF	x								
Recruitment of consultants	x	x							
Submission of project proposal to GCF						x	x		
Review of and response to comments from the GCF Secretariat							x	x	
Submission to GCF Board for approval									x
IMELS Technical Assistance									
Activity 1.1: Investment Plan development					x	x	x	x	x
Activity 1.2: Conduct background studies and develop technical components of the project proposal and assess feasibility of proposed interventions				x	x	x			
Activity 1.3: Stakeholder consultations				x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 1.4: UNDP REDD+ Team technical support				x	x	x	x	x	x
Activity 2.1: Develop a targeted Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy				x	x				
Activity 2.2: Institutional strengthening and capacity building				x	x	x	x	x	x
Field missions				x	x	x	x	x	x

2.4 Republic of the Union of Myanmar



2.4.1 Brief country overview

In its INCD, Myanmar proposes to undertake mitigation actions in line with its sustainable development needs, conditional on availability of international support, as its contribution to global action to reduce future emissions of greenhouse gases. Action is proposed in only two sectors, energy and, most importantly, forestry. In the forest sector the target is that by 2030, Myanmar's permanent forest estate (PFE) will consist of Reserved Forest (RF) and Protected Public Forest (PPF) as 30% of total national land area; and the Protected Area System as 10% of total national land area. Related objectives are to decrease the rate of deforestation so that a significant mitigation contribution from the sector can continue to be realised; to preserve natural forest cover to maintain biodiversity and ecosystems in Myanmar; to realize the co-benefits of the policy such as reducing soil erosion, thereby decreasing the risk of floods and landslides that may occur near rivers; to increase the resilience of mangroves and coastal communities which are at risk of flooding; and to increase capacity for Sustainable Forest Management.

With the support of the UN-REDD Programme, the Government of Myanmar (GoM) has implemented its REDD+ readiness programme since 2013. An analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation was conducted in 2016, and validated through a stakeholder consultation process in January, 2017. The validated analysis indicated a number of self-evident Policies and Measures (PAMs) for addressing the drivers, mostly building on pre-existing GoM policies and programmes. This enabled a draft National REDD+ Strategy to be prepared early in 2017, with the goal of final approval by September, 2017. Myanmar's Forest Reference Level (FRL) is currently being prepared and is expected to be submitted by the end of 2017. Its scope will likely cover three REDD+ activities (deforestation, degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks). The carbon pools to be included are likely to be above-ground biomass in all forest types, soil carbon for those soil types where soil constitutes a significant proportion of total carbon, and possibly dead wood/litter.

Myanmar's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for REDD+ consists of three major components: (a) a Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) (b) a National Forest Inventory (NFI) and (c) Greenhouse Gas Inventory data. NFMS development under the UN-REDD programme in Myanmar started in 2015. A comprehensive capacity needs assessment with the Forest Department was carried out and based on this a NFMS development plan or NFMS Action Plan been developed. The main areas of development are the establishment of a National Forest Inventory, improvement of the existing Satellite based Land Monitoring and Forest Assessment System and the development of a permanent National Forest Information System. NFI implementation is being supported by the Government of Finland. In addition to the development of a Safeguards Information system to demonstrate how the Cancun safeguards are addressed and respected during REDD+ implementation, the Forest Department has developed an indicator framework to assess the social and environmental risks of individual REDD+ interventions.

The objective of the GCF project currently under formulation is to reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) in Myanmar. It will do so by providing targeted investment to implement priority measures of the National REDD+ Strategy Action Plan for 2016-2020 that will address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, such as logging (legal and illegal), conversion to agriculture (both industrial and non-industrial); as well as barriers to increased removals by forests, through reforestation of climate-critical areas.

2.4.2 Overview of activities

Output 1: GCF funding proposal

A GCF concept note is about to be submitted by UNDP to the GCF Secretariat, and work is beginning on the full funding proposal. Financial support for the preparation of the proposal comes from core UNDP resources, whilst Norwegian technical assistance support related to REDD+ capacities is also relevant. However, considering the costs associated with GCF proposal development (<http://www.acclimatise.uk.com/resources?resource=304>), additional support from Italy will allow more timely submission of a higher-quality proposal.

2.4.2.1 Activity 1: Technical support to the assessment of environmental and social risks

The GCF requires all project proponents to assess and manage the environmental and social risks associated with their activities conforming to the GCF's draft Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS). This is based on the IFC's safeguards framework, but is expected to evolve during 2017. Italian technical assistance will be used to gather and analyse information related to each of the eight interim performance standards, and any additional standards that may emerge.

2.4.2.2 Activity 2: Technical support to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies

While some proposed interventions have already been subject to (pre-)feasibility studies, others have not. In particular, the role of shifting cultivation and potential measures to address negative impacts of shortening fallow periods and more intensive farming practices are subject to much debate. While the UN can provide a neutral platform for discussions on these issues, additional analysis of possible development pathways associated with policy changes on shifting cultivation are required.

2.4.2.3 Activity 3: Translation of key documents pertaining to the GCF submission

To facilitate stakeholder consultation and the development of broad ownership of the GCF funding proposal, key documents, including technical annexes will be translated into the Myanmar language.

Output 2: Capacities of national actors related to REDD+

Under the UN-REDD National Programme, a detailed training plan, mainly targeting ministries and CSO's has been developed, but is yet to be implemented. The private sector is not adequately addressed in existing capacity building plans. With Norwegian technical assistance, UNEP is proposing to develop an action plan during 2017 on sustainable land use, but specific actions to engage the private sector are not yet budgeted for.

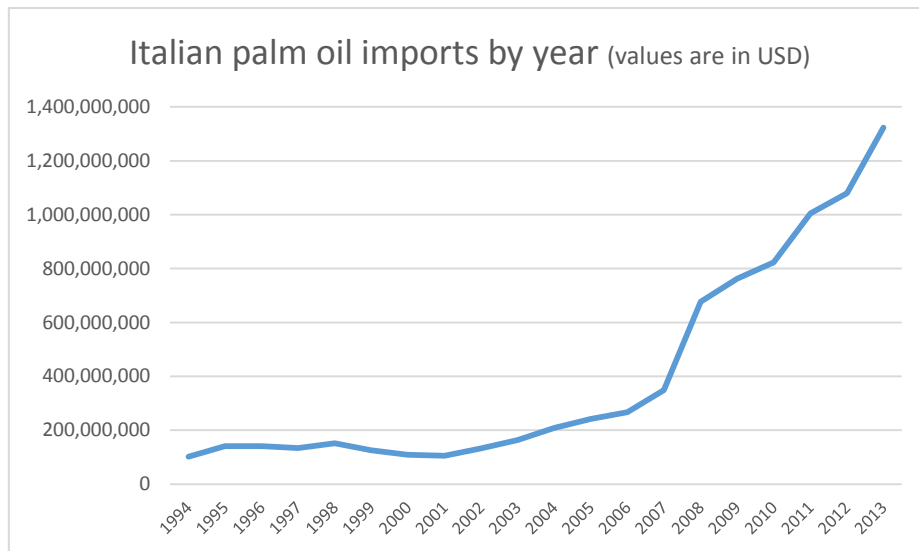
2.4.2.4 Activity 4: Engagement of Italian private sector entities in policy dialogue on sustainable commodity production

This activity will build on preliminary private-sector engagement work under the UN-REDD Programme.

A. Palm oil

Italy is Europe's second largest importer of palm oil and imports are increasing rapidly (see diagram below). On 29th October 2015 the Italian Union for Sustainable Palm Oil (Unione Italiana per l'olio di palma sostenibile) was launched, members including manufacturers such as Ferrero and Nestlè and industry associations such as Aidepi and Assitol. The aim of The Union is to achieve the 100% Certified

Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) goal by 2020, as per the private sector commitment to the Amsterdam Declaration on Palm Oil. About 405,000ha have been allocated by the Government of Myanmar to 44 oil palm plantation companies to develop plantations in the Kawthoung, Myeik and Dawei Districts in the Tanintharyi Region, and although oil palm plantations have been established on only one third of this area so far, these three districts have the highest rates of deforestation in Tanintharyi. Assessments of land suitability for oil palm establishment have not been carried out, and there are cases of logging and burning on steep slopes, and a lack of terracing, prior to planting.



B. Rubber

In 2015, Italy was the 13th largest importer of rubber, with a market value of \$223.2 million, while Myanmar was the 9th largest exporter, with a market value of \$117.6 million. Over the past decade, rubber production in Myanmar has increased by 350%.

In line with the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), Goal 2, Italian companies such as Ferrero, a signatory of the NYDF, are committed to supporting sustainable commodities. Under this activity, Italian private sector entities such as Ferrero, and tyre manufacturers like Pirelli, will be engaged to promote a sustainability dialogue with the agricultural private sector in Myanmar, focused on palm oil and rubber.

Table 3. Overview of key activities to be undertaken in Myanmar

	Target commodities (not exhaustive)	Preliminary REDD+ Activities	Activities	Status	Indicators	Proposed target submission date
Myanmar (Phase 2)	Palm oil Rubber	Deforestation	A concept note is submitted to the GCF	Complete	Formal submission	Jun. 2017
			A National REDD+ Investment Framework is developed	Strategy document, which will form the basis of the investment framework, is being drafted	Investment Framework is adopted nationally	Mar. 2018
			A REDD+ GCF funding proposal is submitted to the GCF	To be done	Formal submission	Mar. 2018
			Stakeholder consultations are undertaken	Underway – Technical Working Groups already involved; DP Roundtable held Jan. 27th	Reports of stakeholder consultations	Feb. 15 th and on-going
		Degradation	Activity 1: Technical support to the assessment of environmental and social risks	To be started	Study reports	Sept. 2017
		Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	Activity 2: Technical support to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies	To be started	Study reports	Dec. 2017
			Activity 3: Translation of key (GCF) documents	To be started	Translated document	On-going
			Activity 4. Engagement of Italian private sector entities in policy dialogue on sustainable commodity production	To be started	Reports of meetings, partnerships made	Sept 2017

2.4.3 Myanmar activities and budget

Myanmar Deliverables	Myanmar Specific activities	Estimated Budget USD	Estimated Budget Euros
Activity 1: Technical support to the assessment of environmental and social risks	Compilation of data related to GCF (IFC) performance standards	\$ 21,600	€ 18,986
	Consultation on data and preparation of ESMS	\$ 43,200	€ 37,973
Activity 2: Technical support to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies	Analysis of information relating to shifting cultivation, with an emphasis on temporal and spatial dynamics	\$ 16,200	€ 14,240
	Review of experiences from other countries and formulation of policy options	\$ 10,800	€ 9,493
	Consultations on policy options and preparation of guidelines on preferred option(s)	\$ 43,200	€ 37,973
Activity 3: Translation of key (GCF) documents	Translation and checking	\$ 16,200	€ 14,240
Activity 4: Engagement of Italian private sector entities in policy dialogue on sustainable commodity production	Analysis of Myanmar-Italy private sector linkages for palm oil and rubber	\$ 12,960	€ 11,392
	Adaptation of sustainable (zero-deforestation) commodity production guidelines to Myanmar circumstances	\$ 10,800	€ 9,493
	Organization of sustainable agricultural commodity roundtable and follow-up action plan	\$ 64,800	€ 56,959
Translation and checking of document		\$ 16,200	€ 14,240
UNDP REDD+ technical advice, policy support & quality assurance		\$ 88,560	€ 77,844
Total		\$ 344,520*	€ 302,833*

**All figures include General Management Support*

2.4.4 Myanmar work programme time line

Activity	Month													
	2017										2018			
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
GCF and Warsaw Framework processes														
Submission of GCF funding proposal											x			
Approval of GCF funding proposal														x
Finalization of National REDD+ Strategy								x	x	x				
Investment plan formulation				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
IMELS Technical Assistance														
Activity 1: Technical support to the assessment of environmental and social risks					x	x	x	X						
Activity 2: Technical support to pre-feasibility and feasibility studies					x	x	x	x	x	X				
Activity 3: translation of key documents					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X		
Activity 4: Engagement of Italian private sector entities in policy dialogue on sustainable commodity production					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X