

There is a lot of misinformation about REDD+. Here are some of the most common myths.

**1. The management of our forests have no effect on climate change, we should rather think about reducing emissions from burning of fossil fuels**

No, reducing emissions from the burning of fossil fuels is very important but deforestation and forest degradation also contribute significantly to the total global emissions of greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Forests can also remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere when trees grow and thereby help reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. That's the reason managing existing forests and planting new ones also is very useful for mitigating climate change.

**2. If Mongolia implements REDD+, people living in or near the forest or other people will no longer be able to harvest vegetables or other products from the forest.**

No, forests can be managed in a way that maintains long-term productivity. This is called "sustainable management". REDD+ is a mechanism to promote sustainable forest management that supports local needs and improved rural livelihoods. Harvesting, in a sustainable manner, of non-timber products, such as firewood, berries, wood products, honey, etc., for family consumption or small commercial enterprises under Forest User Group management is consistent with sustainable management, and so would certainly be allowed in a REDD+ programme.

**3. In a Mongolia REDD+ programme, no trees can be cut.**

No, as above, the goal of REDD+ is to promote sustainable management of forests. This does not mean countries cannot harvest trees and other products in the forests. Countries will also still need to do some planned deforestation e.g. for infrastructure development, but with improved planning and involvement of the relevant stakeholders then the effect on the forest area can be reduced and countries can still have positive REDD+ results.

**4. There is no role for communities in REDD+**

No, with appropriate knowledge then communities are perfectly capable of managing their forest sustainably. In which case, communities have roles, responsibilities, and rights in management and use of forest. As REDD+ covers all the forests in the country this also include those forests managed by communities and they will have a role in implementation of REDD+.

**5. All benefits from REDD+ will go to the government.**

The majority of benefits from REDD+ benefits are non-monetary and known as multiple benefits, such as ecosystem services, improved access to resources, maintenance of ecosystem services. Through conserving and managing forests in an improved and sustainable manner it will benefit rural communities and downstream users of ecosystem services, such as water resources vital for Mongolia's development. Rural communities are also important stakeholders for REDD+ planning and implementation which will need to be taken into account when designing incentives for REDD+ interventions.

In terms of Results Based Payments, REDD+ is based on providing incentives to countries for results achieved, in terms of measured and verified reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The policies and measures that

countries implement through their REDD+ strategy should change the behaviors of stakeholders whose activities have impacts on deforestation and forest degradation. Therefore, to be effective in changing these behaviors, REDD+ should provide the right incentives to the right stakeholders in a transparent, fair and equitable way. REDD+ enacts effective social safeguard and stakeholder engagement measures to ensure there is a fair distribution of any results based payments based on contribution to reduction in forest degradation and deforestation.

**6. It is impossible to stop illegal logging or land grabbing by powerful people, and especially when communities are still vulnerable.**

Both illegal logging and land grabbing are difficult to stop. However, these can be reduced through REDD+ implementation – as has been demonstrated in other countries. Part of the solution involves strengthening law enforcement, including forest law, natural protected areas law, and establishing open (“transparent”) processes for reporting and prosecuting crimes.

**7. If local people’s rights are not respected, there is nothing they can do about it.**

No, UNFCCC REDD+ comes with a set of seven safeguards. One refers to the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in particular indigenous peoples and local communities. A national grievance mechanism to allow stakeholders to highlight cases where they feel their rights may not be respected will be established to support full and effective participation.

**8. Implementing REDD+ will have a negative impact on biodiversity (wildlife).**

No, if forests are managed more sustainably by implementing REDD+, the quality of the forest will improve, which will result in increased conservation value. Ultimately, healthy forests will support healthy ecosystems. REDD+ implementation has a comprehensive environmental safeguard system which will ensure that policies which may be detrimental to ecosystems are not carried out.

**9. REDD+ results have nothing to do with CO2**

No, REDD+ results recognized by the UNFCCC are estimated as the difference between the forests reference (emission) level and the actual emissions in the year where the results are assessed. Results are measured in ton CO<sub>2</sub>/year. To have the results recognized, countries need to submit a forest reference (emission) level to the UNFCCC and have it assessed and later to submit information about the actual emissions for the period covered and have the information analyzed by experts appointed by the UNFCCC.

**10. Community based monitoring cannot be part of a national forest monitoring system**

No, the UNFCCC requests countries to have a national forest monitoring system able to provide transparent data on forest-area and forest carbon stocks to allow countries to estimate emissions and removals of CO<sub>2</sub>. Countries should build on existing systems and the UNFCCC encourages development of guidance for the effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting.