



COST-BENEFITS ANALYSIS OF REDD+ AND LULUCF IN THE MENA REGION

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Olivier BOUYER, Jérôme MAURICE, Maden LE CROM	Tunisia, Turkey and Lebanon	112	100,450 €	Gov. MENA countries	GIZ Silva Mediterranea	Oct. 2013	Mar. 2014	n/a	ludwig.liagre@giz.de +212 661 76 92 96

Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>This study was developed as part of the Regional Project Silva Mediterranea CPMF-GIZ "Adapting to climate change framework conditions for forest policy in the MENA region". The final objective was to support countries in the MENA region to position itself in negotiations on REDD+ and LULUCF, focusing on the evaluation of the benefits and costs, direct and indirect, of several strategic REDD+ / LULUCF opportunities, depending on the particular characteristics of Mediterranean forests and national contexts. The study sought to describe the following costs and benefits:</p> <p><i>Indirect benefits:</i> ecosystem valuation of merchant and non-merchant goods and services. In particular, the estimation of the forests' total economic value included (i) the values of direct use, resulting from the immediate use of forest resources such as wood, NLFPS, recreation, etc. ; (ii) indirect use values, which are benefits resulting from services provided by forest ecosystems (watershed protection, water purification, etc.); (iii) the option values (these are the values placed in future use); (iv) non-use values, resulting from the desire of individuals to convey forest-related assets (= bequest value or existence value). Negative externalities were also taken into account;</p> <p><i>Direct benefits:</i> enhancement of GHG emission reductions;</p> <p><i>Indirect costs:</i> mainly transaction costs related to the implementation of REDD+;</p> <p><i>Direct costs:</i> costs related to the implementation of REDD+ and LULUCF activities.</p>	<p>In Lebanon, the following strategic opportunities for potential REDD+ costs and benefits have been found: (i) the fight against forest fire, (ii) reforestation, (iii) wood for sustainable energy production, and (iv) land-use reform. In Tunisia, reforestation, the fight against overgrazing, forest management and the fight against forest fire have been discussed. In Turkey, finally, the analysis focused on the activities covered in articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The national studies were carried out by international and national experts, based on data collected in each country through interviews and literature reviews. The data were updated for the calculation of the total economic value of forests, especially taking into account the values of direct and indirect uses, and negative externalities (such as fires and pests).</p> <p>The results show that despite the low "carbon potential" of forest ecosystems in the MENA region (with high abatement costs), and the uncertainties of such estimations (lack of first hand data), socio-economic and environmental co-benefits of REDD+/LULUCF offset the additional costs. From these results, a number of policy recommendations were issued to support the positioning of the target countries in the international REDD+ / LULUCF debate.</p>