

IMPLEMENTING  
**REDD PLUS**  
IN MALAYSIA



MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Published in 2020.



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PART 1

# INTRODUCTION

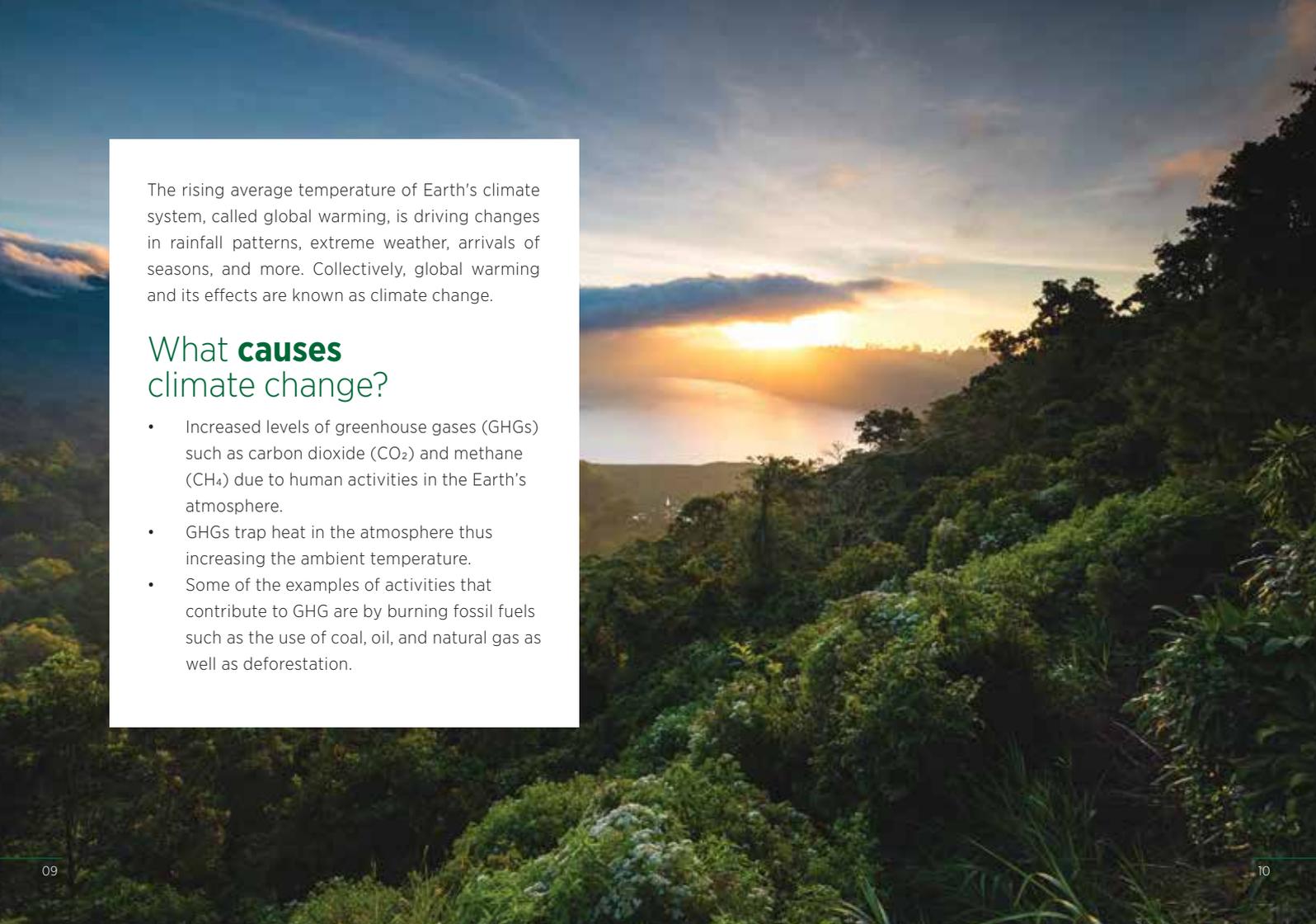
# FOREWORD

Climate change is an issue gaining importance in both the international and national platforms today. With its far-reaching effects, climate change has become one of the greatest challenges facing mankind and the future of this planet. The observed impacts of climate change are becoming more obvious and prominent as time goes by.

In this regard, forests are deemed to play an important role in alleviating the negative effects of climate change. Forests have been identified as an important short- and medium-term solution to minimize the negative effects of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Subsequently, the REDD Plus mechanism was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) with the objective of providing incentives to developing countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources. The incentive is known as Results-based payment (RBP) where payments are made based on performance delivered.

It is also important to note for all to understand that REDD Plus is a cross-sectorial issue which must require participation of all the relevant stakeholders and partners, and not the responsibility of the Forestry Department alone. This Handbook is especially designed to assist stakeholders in understanding what REDD Plus and its mechanism is about and it is hoped that through this, awareness on the REDD Plus mechanism will be widely understood and its key message of protecting the Malaysian forests will be shared within and beyond our borders.





The rising average temperature of Earth's climate system, called global warming, is driving changes in rainfall patterns, extreme weather, arrivals of seasons, and more. Collectively, global warming and its effects are known as climate change.

## What **causes** climate change?

- Increased levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) due to human activities in the Earth's atmosphere.
- GHGs trap heat in the atmosphere thus increasing the ambient temperature.
- Some of the examples of activities that contribute to GHG are by burning fossil fuels such as the use of coal, oil, and natural gas as well as deforestation.

# Negative **impacts** of climate change



Livelihood and human health



Water scarcity



Energy security



Increase in extreme weather patterns



Food security



Affects ecosystem services



*and many others...*

## The connection between **climate change** and **forests**

- Forests absorb CO<sub>2</sub>
- Forests emit CO<sub>2</sub> when deforested and/or severely degraded
- Forests react sensitively to a changing climate
- Managed sustainably, forests help to store carbon



PART 2

# MALAYSIA AND FORESTS

## What is Malaysia doing to protect its forests?

### Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Malaysian forests have been subjected to a voluntary independent assessment of forest management practices: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). This is done to ensure the sustainable management of Malaysia's forest. The audits are conducted every five years by an independent certification body (CB).



## Forest governance

Under the Federal Constitution, land matters are under the jurisdiction of the respective state governments that enact laws and regulations for forest management. However, the coordination of policies between the Federal and State Governments in respect of forest management, particularly to ensure sustainable forest management is facilitated through the National Land Council (NLC).



The National Forestry Act 1984, Sabah Forest Enactment 1968 and Sarawak's Forests Ordinance Cap 126 are laws which augment sustainable forest management. Forest policies in Malaysia aims to achieve a comprehensive approach that addresses in greater depth the requirements for sustainable management, development, conservation, and control of the resources to fulfil the needs of people, industry, and the protection of the environment.



PART 3

# REDD PLUS

## What is **REDD Plus**?

**REDD** Plus refers to **R**educing **E**missions from **D**eforestation and Forest **D**egradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

REDD Plus is a set of guidelines on how to report on forest resources and forest management strategies as well as their results in terms of reducing emissions and enhancing removals of GHGs.





## National REDD Plus Strategy

The National REDD Plus Strategy endeavours to reduce emissions by 15 to 25 mil tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> annually between 2016 to 2025.

### The three main objectives are:

- to promote consistency and synergies in the implementation of climate change, forest and biodiversity related policies between federal and state levels;
- to measure, report and verify (MRV) REDD Plus results as part of the efforts to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, UNFCCC;
- to develop a sustainable financing mechanism for REDD Plus implementation.



## Forest Reference Level (FRL)

Malaysia submitted its FRL for 2016 to 2025 for the following activities:

- Deforestation
- Conservation of carbon stock
- Sustainable management of forests



## National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

NFMS consists of two monitoring components:

### 1) Short term:

Biennial geospatial imageries for monitoring changes in forests.

### 2) Long term:

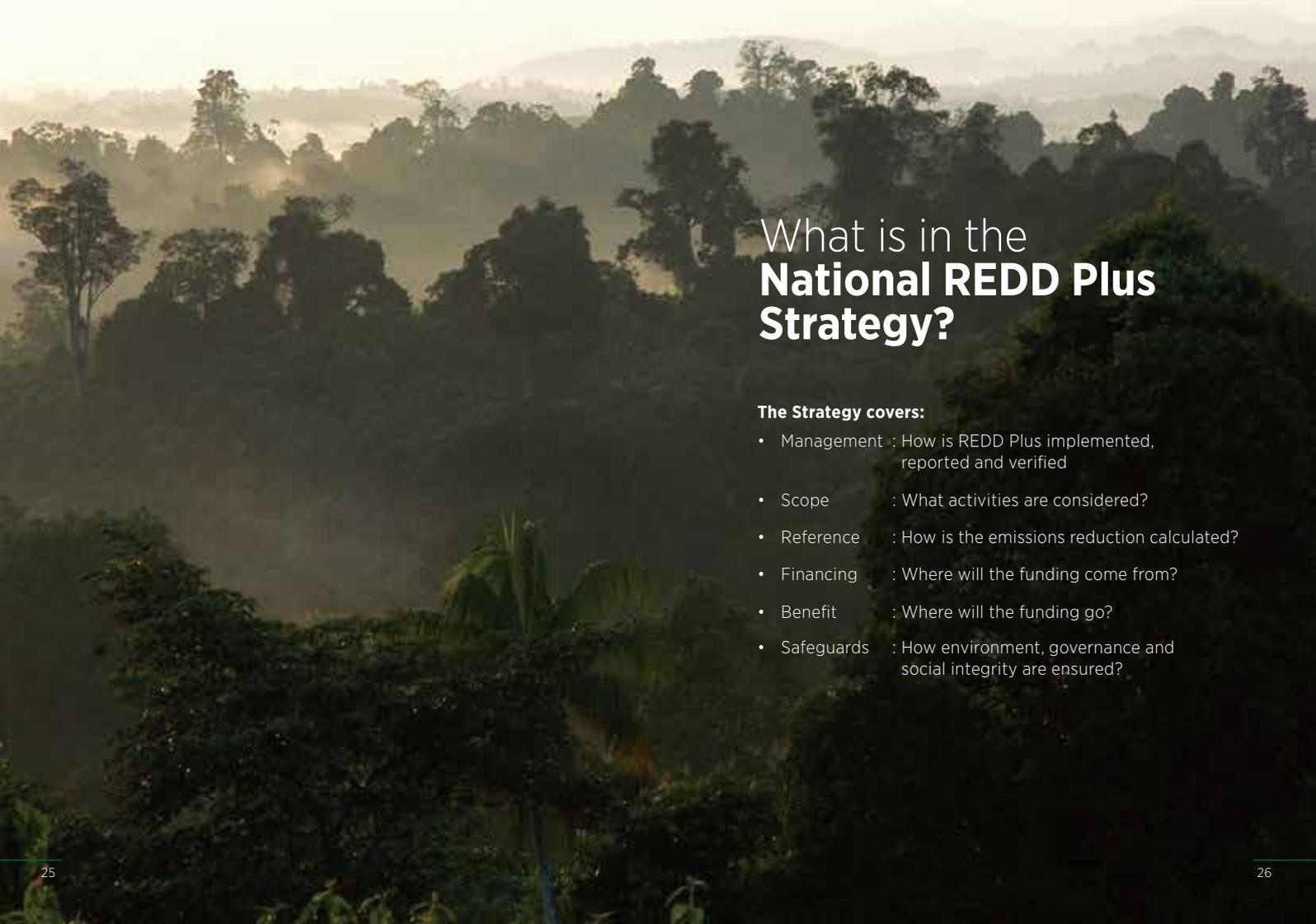
National forests inventory once every 10 years to assess carbon stocks in forests.



## REDD Plus Safeguards

REDD Plus Safeguards consists of governance, social and environment aspects. It is a set of seven principles and action items that ensure that all of the safeguards are addressed and respected.

Malaysia has been observing the REDD Plus safeguards through the ongoing implementation of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management Certification (MC&I SFM) and the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025.



# What is in the **National REDD Plus Strategy?**

## **The Strategy covers:**

- **Management** : How is REDD Plus implemented, reported and verified
- **Scope** : What activities are considered?
- **Reference** : How is the emissions reduction calculated?
- **Financing** : Where will the funding come from?
- **Benefit** : Where will the funding go?
- **Safeguards** : How environment, governance and social integrity are ensured?



## Why Malaysia needs **REDD Plus?**

- Recognition of the role of forests in climate change mitigation; contributes to reductions in GHG emissions
- Recognition of forests in providing ecological services
- Supports environmental integrity
- Provides significant adaptation benefits for societies

## What **REDD Plus** does?

### *It helps to...*

- reduce emissions from deforestation
- reduce emissions from forest degradation
- conserve forest carbon stocks
- enhance forest carbon stocks
- ensure sustainable management of forests

**REDD Plus supports  
*sustainable* logging  
activities**



## REDD Plus governance



The National Steering Committee (NSC) on REDD Plus coordinates and monitors the REDD Plus implementation in Malaysia, while the National Technical Committee (NTC) on REDD Plus provides methodological guidance on REDD Plus implementation and formulates national action plans, supported by several working groups. All REDD Plus activities are implemented by the respective State Forestry Departments guided by the National REDD Plus Strategy and state’s development plan and policies or State REDD Plus Policy where appropriate.



PART 4

# REDD PLUS FUNDING MECHANISM

## Malaysia is rolling out its REDD Plus Finance Framework (RFF) which consists of:

- **Forest Conservation Certificate (FCC)**

FCC is a non-market based approach. FCC may be applied internationally and nationally.

- **Forest Carbon Offset (FCO)**

FCO is a market-based approach that allows the offsetting of carbon emissions from the forest. Currently, the FCO is open only to domestic investors.



## Glossary

<b>Adaptation</b>	An adjustment in natural or human systems in response to expected climate change. Adaptation can take the form of anticipatory actions, or reactions taken by private or public entities.
<b>Deforestation</b>	The direct human-induced conversion of forested land to non-forested land.
<b>Forest</b>	A minimum area of land of 0.5 hectares with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 30 per cent with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 5 meters at maturity in situ.
<b>Mitigation</b>	The human intervention to reduce GHG in the atmosphere and subsequently a cessation of further warming.
<b>Stocks</b>	The absolute quantity of carbon held within a pool at a specified time.

## List of acronyms

<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas that plays a critical role in regulating the earth's climate.
<b>FCC</b>	Forest Conservation Certificate
<b>FCO</b>	Forest Carbon Offset
<b>FRL</b>	Forest Reference Level
<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gases (CO <sub>2</sub> , CH <sub>4</sub> , etc) Usually expressed as CO <sub>2e</sub> (equivalent to CO <sub>2</sub> )
<b>LULUCF</b>	Land use, land-use change, and forestry
<b>CH<sub>4</sub></b>	A GHG that is roughly 30 times more potent as a heat-trapping gas than CO <sub>2</sub> when emitted into the atmosphere
<b>MTCC</b>	Malaysian Timber Certification Council
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>NLC</b>	National Land Council
<b>NSC</b>	National Steering Committee
<b>NTC</b>	National Technical Committee
<b>RBPs</b>	Results-based payment
<b>REDD Plus</b>	<b>R</b> educing <b>E</b> missions from <b>D</b> eforestation and <b>F</b> orest <b>D</b> egradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
<b>RFF</b>	REDD Plus Finance Framework
<b>SFM</b>	Sustainable Forest Management
<b>UNFCCC</b>	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Handbook is an updated version of the previous work done in 2011. This Handbook is funded by the Green Climate Fund with the assistance of United Nations Environment Programme. Every effort has been made to ensure the content in this publication is simple in presentation, accurate and consistent.

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