**UN-REDD Programme**

**UN-REDD/EB2/12**

**Second Executive Board meeting**

**Rome, Italy**

**18-19 October 2018**

**Information Note**

**Background on Technology and Innovation**

**for the Advancement of MRV and Transparency Frameworks**

**Session Objectives**

* This knowledge session will present an overview of how technology and innovation can transform forest monitoring making it faster and more cost-effective than ever before and thus help informed national decision making and international reporting.
* More specifically how new National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) and advanced Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), enable more **accurate** and **transparent** data and information.
* During this session, innovative tools and technologies such as [Open Foris](http://www.openforis.org/) and [SEPAL](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1142131/icode/) will be presented, and country case studies introduced.
* The session will provide an opportunity to raise awareness among stakeholders of the transformative effect of technology and innovation on MRV and transparency frameworks, and the possibility for further advances using high-resolution imagery creating a win-win for REDD+ and the Paris Agreement.

**Introduction**

* A new UN-REDD publication to be launched on the 6th October has measured progress in National Forest Monitoring (NFM) capacity over 10 years of sustained technical support. NFM capacities doubled between 2008 and 2015, and then doubled again by 2018, in only three years. The acceleration in capacities and systems can be attributed to the development and deployment of innovative open-source software which enable rapid technology transfer, and allow partner countries to do the work themselves.
* Advances in country NFM capacity and systems has resulted in significant progress in countries’ ability to measure and report emission reductions or enhancements for REDD+ with 38 Forest Reference Emission Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs) submitted to the UNFCCC for technical assessment representing 1.4 billion hectares of forest and 36% of global forest area ([FAO 2018](http://www.fao.org/3/CA0176EN/ca0176en.pdf)).
* Both FREL/FRL and REDD+ results undergo Technical Assessment and Technical Analysis respectively under the REDD+ MRV modalities of the UNFCCC a key step in advancing the **transparency** and **accuracy** of country data and information.
* SEPAL is FAO’s powerful, cloud-based, satellite image processing platform that supports MRV efforts in UN-REDD countries and is currently in use in over 85 countries advancing national efforts to generate **accurate** and **transparent** statistics on land cover and land-use change.

**The role of technology and innovation and further opportunities**

* Despite the advances in country data and capacity, there remains a gap between current NFM capacity and systems and the **accuracy** and **transparency** expected by donors for payment of REDD+ results.
* Given the urgency conveyed in the recent [IPCC statement](http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/pr_181008_P48_spm.shtml), there is a need to deepen investments in NFM capacity development, and support providers such as UN-REDD need to innovate and find ways to further fast-track capacity development, leveraging and strengthening innovative technologies.
* Innovative technology enabling accurate, efficient, and cost-effective forest measurement and reporting has a clear role and can continue to facilitate the fast-tracking of technical capacity development for efficient technology transfer to REDD+ countries for NFMS and MRV creating a win-win for REDD+ and the Paris Agreement

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