

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Report of the Third Executive Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME THIRD
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-3)

21 June 2019

Bonn, Germany

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Summary of Decisions

Decision 1:

The Executive Board members approved the agenda for the Third Executive Board meeting.

Decision 2:

The Executive Board approved the 2020 funding allocation for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation.

Decision 3:

The Executive Board approved the direct cost for Secretariat services for 2020.

Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Third Executive Board Meeting on 21 June in Bonn, Germany, at the Marriott Hotel.
2. The meeting was chaired by Susan Gardner, Director of Ecosystems Division, at UN Environment. The meeting was attended by 23 participants (see Annex I). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [workspace](#).

Agenda Item 1: Opening and Approval of the Agenda

3. The Chair provided welcoming remarks and highlighted the value of Board members' strategic guidance in what is a critical year for the global action on climate. She stressed the importance of UN-REDD as the first joint UN programme on climate change, a global knowledge hub for solutions to deforestation and forest degradation and a major world partner in the implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change.
4. The agenda for the Third Executive Board meeting was approved as presented. (Decision 1)

Agenda Item 2: Progress Review

5. The Chair opened the session on progress and results since the last Executive Board meeting and invited Board members to share their feedback on the work of the Programme, their advice on improvements and suggestions on how to better communicate the results achieved. Noting the 2018 Annual Report provided an opportunity to appreciate the value and magnitude of the Programme results, she then turned to the Secretariat to present an overview of progress.
6. The Secretariat introduced the 2018 Annual Report noting the recommendations put forward at the previous meeting of the Board were taken on board, strengthening both its reporting focus as well as its communications value. On the latter, the improvements aimed at making the annual report a valuable communication tool focused on the graphics, making the language more accessible, and increasingly using impact stories to illustrate how the Programme has resulted in changes at grassroots level. A web version of the Report is also forthcoming. In terms of content, the 2018 report showcases the contribution of UN-REDD work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed, the policy and institutional

support that UN-REDD provides through National Programmes, technical assistance and knowledge dissemination is helping partner countries advance their sustainable development agendas, across the spectrum of the SDGs. Moreover, some examples of progress on gender inclusiveness and women empowerment were presented, including the development of a gender-responsive tool for consultations and workshops, the operationalisation of the UN-REDD gender marker through ratings currently being assigned to the outputs of the Programme's technical assistance work, and the establishment of a web-based UN-REDD community of practice on gender and REDD+.

7. An overview of the Programme's achievements was presented, noting 19 partner countries directly supported in 2018 through National Programmes and technical assistance, as well as a much larger number of countries serviced through knowledge sharing and capacity building at a global level. The UN-REDD support focused on both REDD+ readiness and increasingly more – under its renewed strategic approach since 2017 – on REDD+ implementation, resulting in progress both at the country and global level.
8. Some highlights of results achieved by the Programme were presented by the UN-REDD agencies. On private sector engagement, UN Environment noted a catalytic investment in the Tropical Landscape Facility of US\$24 million by the &Green Fund, as well as a new “on-granting” modality for REDD+ activities being piloted, whereby grants are paid back to the donor – in this case the GEF. UNDP highlighted UN-REDD's support to Brazil and Ecuador in designing and submitting their results-based payment proposals on REDD+ to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), contributing to Brazil recently becoming the first country to receive US\$96 million payments for REDD+ results, and Ecuador's upcoming GCF submission over US\$18.5 million for RBPs under the GCF pilot program. FAO spoke about the key contribution of collective tenure rights towards mitigating climate change in a systemic and sustainable way, in the context of REDD+ and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), pointing to an upcoming UN-REDD knowledge product collecting examples of success stories in Peru, Nepal and Tanzania. The case of Zambia was used to show the benefits of strengthened cross-agency and cross-sectorial coordination and harmonisation of forest data – an example of UN-REDD's catalytic role, enabling leveraging multiple strengths of different agencies for more effective efforts in REDD+. Moreover, communications and knowledge management highlights included references to South-South exchanges and knowledge events, as well as the impact videos produced in a number of partner countries showing experiences from the ground through the voices of local communities.

9. The Executive Board commended the content, quality and enhanced communications focus of the 2018 Annual Report, in particular the impact stories, the SDGs chapter and the challenges and solutions sections.
10. Several Board members noted the value of the UN-REDD partnership and congratulated the Programme on its success over the last ten years. For instance, it was mentioned how UN-REDD has enabled countries to comply with the different pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, as well as the value of sharing knowledge, lessons learned and good practices through South-South exchanges and capacity building. Some suggestions made by Board members included carrying-out an impact assessment based on the different funding streams of the Programme, documenting collective tenure more quantitatively, enhancing the linkages with the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, and collaborating with governments and universities to increasingly translate UN-REDD publications.

Agenda Item 3. Workplan and Budget

3.1 Approval of the 2020 Funding allocations for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation & Direct cost for Secretariat services

11. The Chair opened the session by acknowledging the work done by the Board at its first meeting in 2017 where it adopted the multiyear workplan and budget for Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementations (TA) 2018-2020, and recalled the request from the Board to ensure inclusive consultations, which the Programme has thoroughly undertaken.
12. The Secretariat provided an overview on the preparation of the 2020 workplan and budget, noting it was developed within the framework of the two guiding elements of the Programme: (1) the Results and Monitoring Framework 2018-2020, which provided the outputs for each country and thematic area of the 2020 workplan; and (2) the multiyear workplan and budget 2018-2020, of which the 2020 budget is an integral part. The Secretariat stressed the importance of the consultation process as a fundamental element in the development of the 2020 workplan and budget. Consultations were carried out with relevant stakeholders in each of the nine TA countries throughout 2019. As requested by the Board in 2017, the Secretariat circulated the draft 2020 workplan and budget one month in advance of the Executive Board meeting.
13. On the 2020 output-based budget, the Secretariat noted it provided indicative activities for each of the 55 outputs. The 2020 Secretariat budget was then presented, noting it is equivalent to

6.9% of the UN-REDD Programme's estimated capitalisation in 2020, commensurate with the nature and specific features of the Programme.

Feedback from the Board

14. Board members appreciated the work undertaken by the Programme to present a timely and detailed workplan and budget.
15. Norway thanked UN-REDD for the documentation provided and the level of detail of the budget. In response to the request to include the Norwegian embassies in the consultations, UN-REDD welcomed the engagement with Norway's embassy in Indonesia. On a comment related to the support and complementarity of UN-REDD and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), FAO elaborated on the close coordination between the UN-REDD technical assistance to the Republic of the Congo and work carried out under CAFI, to avoid duplication and to build on the catalytic UN-REDD support to mobilise funds from CAFI in order to scale up activities. Responding to a remark on the ratio of the cost of the Secretariat having increased from 6.6% in 2019 to 6.9% in 2020 in relation to the estimated capitalisation by the Programme, the Secretariat explained this is due to the reduced volume of funds to be disbursed in 2020, with a number of National Programmes coming to an end, while the cost of Secretariat remained the same throughout the last three years, functioning on the bare minimum resources. He added that, as per standard practice, the evidence of funding needs will be submitted to the donors following the budget approval by the Board, so that funds will be transferred based on the actual cash flow situation.
16. In response to a comment by the civil society organizations (CSOs), the Secretariat reassured that consultations on the UN-REDD technical assistance will continue in the remaining six months of 2019, through participatory processes at country level, with a view to continue adapting work plans and providing the best tailored support based on demand by the countries and stakeholders. A concrete example of such adaptive planning and management, attentive to new opportunities offered by different countries and processes, is the collaboration with the new global platform on local communities and IPs adopted under the UNFCCC, which has been included in the UN-REDD work plans and will be further refined as the Platform evolves. Another example was noted in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, currently implemented in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Colombia to promote deforestation-free supply chains in the cocoa sector, which opens spaces for collaboration under UN-REDD's global component on private sector engagement.

17. The indigenous peoples (IPs) recognized the support received from UN-REDD throughout the years, allowing strengthening the intervention of IPs and local communities in the work of the Programme, and called for continuing strengthening their active participation, highlighting the importance of the gender perspective and the need to increasingly engage women in all processes.
18. After a rich and comprehensive discussion, the Executive Board approved the 2020 funding allocations for the Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation (Decision 2) and 2020 Direct cost for Secretariat services (Decision 3).

Agenda Item 4. Dialogue on strategic issues and updates

19. The Chair introduced the dialogue session noting it provided the opportunity for the Board to exchange views on some strategic opportunities in terms of engaging communities, the Climate Action Summit and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – all themes of high relevance for the future of the UN-REDD Programme post-2020.

4.1 Community-based REDD+ Initiative CBR+2 Proposal

20. The Chair opened the session before turning to UNDP to update the Board on a proposal for a second phase of the CBR+ initiative, a pioneering scheme for community action in the REDD+ domain, established by UN-REDD.
21. UNDP recalled that CBR+ was successfully implemented in the period 2014-2017 and has received praise from a wide range of stakeholders including communities and indigenous organisations, national governments, as well as the UN-REDD Executive Board, whose members have expressed interest in exploring opportunities to finance and implement a second phase. CBR+2 would provide community grants to empower indigenous peoples (IPs) and forest communities, enabling them to test and implement forest solutions to the climate crisis, while at the same time bringing their experiences and capacities to feed the NDCs process in a participatory way, as well as nurturing the global UNFCCC platform on IPs with country and local practises.

Feedback from the Board

22. Board members welcomed the proposal of continuing the CBR+ initiative. The indigenous peoples (IPs) stressed that local processes and platforms are needed for capacity building,

knowledge exchange and participation especially for local and indigenous communities, women and importantly – youth. They noted that CBR+2 would greatly support and complement the work planned under the UNFCCC IPs platform by providing a platform for traditional knowledge holders to exchange lessons and ideas at the national and subnational level in a participatory and effective way. Pointing to their country experience through the Dedicated Grant Mechanism initiative, Ghana stressed the need to make the link between the sub-national and national levels in the implementation of CBR+2, to ensure the national focus of REDD+ is maintained. UNDP reassured on the national mindset of CBR+ which ensures alignment with national sustainable development plans.

23. The CSOs noted CBR+2 would be a strategic investment in the issue of participation, stressing that guaranteeing the engagement of all stakeholders including IPs and rural communities in the construction of climate policies is as important as a forest monitoring system or any other element of REDD+.
24. Chile asked for widening the focus of the initiative to allow for flexibility according to the different conditions between and within regions and countries. Nepal noted that country-driven REDD+ is based on community forest management systems which makes CBR+ crucial for the REDD+ process.
25. Norway welcomed the CBR+2 proposal, praising its added value and noting their intention to explore ways to support a second phase of the initiative in connection with the future of the UN-REDD Programme post-2020.
26. The Chair highlighted the importance of engaging youth, creating space for their voices to be heard, as well as empowering them to be part of the solution. UNDP added that linking REDD+ with community granting engages particularly a high proportion of youth innovators and that a second phase CBR+ may consider additional provisions to bring this dynamic to a larger scale.

4.2 The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration & The UN Secretary-General Climate Summit 2019

27. The Chair opened the session and invited UN Environment to deliver brief remarks.
28. UN Environment recalled that on 1st of March 2019, the UN General Assembly designated the period 2021–2030 as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to reflect the increased importance that ecosystem restoration in general, and forest restoration in particular, can play in contributing nature-based solutions to climate change. She noted the Decade covers all

ecosystems on the planet and highlights the role of women and youth as pivotal in the process of restoration.

29. The Chair provided an overview of the preparations for the UN Secretary-General Climate Action Summit and in particular on nature-based solutions (NBS) work stream. Due to take place on 23 September 2019, the Summit aims to mobilise political and economic actors at the highest level, requesting concrete visions and impactful actions which can demonstrate a leap in the collective national political ambition and realistic and transformative outcomes. She explained that nine interdependent work streams, recognized as having high potential to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increase global action on adaptation and resilience, have been established. She noted the preparatory stocktaking meeting in Abu Dhabi on 30 June – 1 July as a key milestone on the road to the Summit, to take stock of actions that can be committed, as well as the way forward in terms of integrating the work of the various action areas.
30. Nature-based solutions are an effective, long-term, cost-efficient and globally scalable approach to reducing GHG emissions while triggering substantial mitigation outcomes and multiple co-benefits for adaptation, sustainable development, biodiversity and others. Stressing the unique opportunity offered by the Summit to trigger transformative change for Nature, the Chair described the widely inclusive process undertaken through a global solicitation in April-May which yielded over 140 ideas of transformative actions towards the Summit, encompassing four thematic areas: forests and other terrestrial ecosystems; ocean ecosystems and water resources; agriculture and food systems; and nature's systemic role in development. The NBS proposition emerging from the global solicitation is built around the interconnections between people and nature and proposes concrete actions to integrate nature systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Chair concluded underlining the importance of the longer-term process beyond the Summit, to incorporate NBS in other international processes – such as the upcoming Conferences of the Parties (COP) to the Climate Convention (UNFCCC), the Biodiversity Convention (CBD), the NDC review, as long as the longer-term objectives over the next decade – with the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration.

Feedback from the Board

31. Chile spoke of the close linkages between the objectives of both the Ecosystems Restoration Decade and the Climate Summit with the upcoming UNFCCC COP 25 in Chile, announcing a high-level meeting on forests will be convened by the COP Presidency which will also be aligned with the outcomes of the Climate Summit.

32. Ghana emphasised the importance of national ownership of the NDCs by the Heads of State of forested countries, while also stressing the need for NDCs to include NBS and specifically REDD+. Referring to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the CSOs suggested that actions under this Decade be closely linked to those of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and called for including the views of local and indigenous communities in all restoration activities.

4.3 Options for the future of UN-REDD post-2020

33. The Chair opened the session and invited the Secretariat to present some reflections on the future of the UN-REDD Programme after 2020.

34. The Secretariat briefly recalled the history of the UN-REDD Programme from its launch in 2008 throughout its development into what is currently the largest UN inter-agency flagship partnership on forests, noting the reflection on its future for the next decade has started already last year, including through the roundtable discussion at the UN-REDD Executive Board in October 2018. Listing some contextual elements in which the thinking on UN-REDD post-2020 is advancing, he noted: the overall long-term objectives of halving GHG emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 in order to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius; the fact that Nature can provide one third of the solution, equivalent to 12 gigatonnes (gt) of carbon emissions equivalent (Co2e) per year, of which forests represent 6Gt; but that Nature as a whole receives less than 3% of the climate finance; and that less than one third of current NDCs have some specific target that relates to land or oceans. Pointing to Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, the only article to speak of a specific sector – forests – he noted the need for transformations at an unprecedented pace and scale if we are to achieve the 2030 and 2050 targets.

35. The Secretariat then introduced the possible scope of a future programme, noting the Climate Summit and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will provide the political direction for the partnership to play the role of catalyser of forest solutions at scale. Among the elements forming the scope of a potential UN-REDD post-2020, he noted the NDCs and the SDGs, mobilising finance in order to incentivise the supply of emission reductions while also ensuring multiple benefits, as well as defragmenting the REDD+ space, building partnerships and ensuring learning of good practices throughout the process. On service lines of a possible future programme, he referred to UN-REDD as a thought leader that brings innovation and sets the agenda informing the global policy dialogue, a convener and neutral broker for all parties to find solutions that are mutually beneficial and to share knowledge, as well as a service provider that helps stimulate the supply, reform the policies while also stimulating demand.

Feedback from the Board

36. The CSOs suggested that a post-2020 UN-REDD should go beyond technical assistance and capacity building by focusing more on issues related to tenure rights, benefit distribution and supporting countries in aligning their agriculture policies to their national REDD+ strategies. FAO echoed the importance of the forest-agriculture nexus, which brings win-win solutions for these two often competing sectors, noting this should be a key issue for UN-REDD post-2020 to support countries on.
37. Switzerland pointed to forest bonds as the most promising finance instruments. He also stressed the importance of the Programme's communication strategy, welcoming the idea of involving the media and incorporating youth more strongly into the information component. Chile and Ghana emphasized the need for strengthening the private sector engagement in the post-2020 programme, with Ghana noting also the importance of involving the local private sector actors in supporting national programs on NBS.
38. Norway congratulated UN-REDD for its expertise it provides at the local, national, regional and global levels and welcomed a discussion on a post-2020 programme also taking into consideration the objectives that will be shaped for the next phase of NDCs. On communication, she encouraged the coordination with Norad's communication staff. Nepal called for establishing a dedicated mechanism for gender and youth involvement in NBS in the future.
39. The Secretariat thanked the Board for their insightful reflections which will help shaping the thinking process of a post-2020 programme. Outlining next steps, he recalled the close connection with the outcomes of the Climate Action Summit in September, which will provide an indication of the overall political commitment that UN-REDD can then match with an operational arrangement of the type of partnership that UN-REDD has established for the past ten years.

Next Meeting, Rotation of Board representatives and AOB

40. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present a calendar with next steps in the following months after the Board meeting, and to provide further information on how the rotation of the Board representatives will be operationalized for 2020.
41. The Secretariat noted the draft report of the Third Executive Board Meeting will be circulated for review by 12 July; the Abu Dhabi stocktaking meeting for the Climate Summit on 30 June-1 July;

the Climate Week on 23-29 September; and the forth meeting of the Board possibly to be held in June 2020.

42. On the rotation of Board representatives, as per standard practice, beginning 1 January 2020 the current alternate will serve as a member. A new alternate is to be nominated by each constituency by the end of 2019. Each constituency will undertake the self-selection process in the second half of the year and inform the Secretariat on the nominations of the new alternates by the end of 2019.
43. The Chair invited any further feedback or clarification questions and, hearing no question, closed the meeting, thanking the Board members and the Secretariat.

Annex 1: Final List of Participants

		Name	Country/Agency/Constituency	
1	Ms.	Lovakanto Ravelomanana	Madagascar	Member
2	Ms.	Radha Wagle	Nepal	Member
3	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson	Norway	Member
4	Mr.	Keith Anderson	Switzerland	Member
5	Ms.	Susan Gardner	UN Environment (Chairperson)	Member
6	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei	Ghana	Alternate
7	Ms.	Jose Antonio Prado Donoso	Chile	Alternate
8	Mr.	Ruandha Agung Sugardiman	Indonesia	Alternate
9	Ms.	Akiko Nakano	Japan	Alternate
10	Mr.	Gustavo Sanchez Valle	Civil Society Organization - LAC	Permanent Observer
11	Ms.	Lola Cabnal	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
12	Ms.	Grace Balawag	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
13	Ms.	Tiina Vahanen	FAO	
14	Ms.	Malgorzata Buszko Briggs	FAO	
15	Mr.	Tim Clairs	UNDP	
16	Mr.	Josep Garí	UNDP	
17	Ms.	Musonda Mumba	UN Environment	
18	Mr.	Florian Eisele	UN Environment	
19	Mr.	Mario Boccucci	UN-REDD Secretariat	
20	Ms.	Mihaela Secrieru	UN-REDD Secretariat	
21	Ms.	Frances Lim	UN-REDD Secretariat	