

18 January, 2010

Dear Policy Board members,

Happy New Year!

Since our last meeting a lot has happened. While we recognise the need for change, the UN-REDD Programme's primary focus will remain on delivering REDD+ readiness support as defined by the countries. The Programme has been steadfast in delivering on its commitments made since the last Policy Board meeting, working on an ambitious five-year programme strategy, responding to an increased demand from countries to join the Programme, reflecting on the outcomes of COP 15 and taking stock of lessons learned.

There were a number of encouraging developments for REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme at COP-15. The COP adopted the SBSTA recommendation on methodological REDD issues. While REDD negotiations progressed far, there was no final decision yet on the establishment of the REDD+ mechanism, as REDD was eventually negotiated as part of the overall climate change arrangement. However, REDD was specifically mentioned in the official Copenhagen Accord, which established the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, worth US\$10 billion a year from 2010-2012, which included financing for forestry.

The reactions to the Copenhagen Accord have been mixed. While REDD+ is mentioned, the COP decided simply to "take note" of the Accord. Some political issues on REDD, such as financing need still to be considered at a political level. Several bilateral and group meetings following up on the outcomes of Copenhagen have been announced for early this year, such as BASIC and the one called for by President Sarkozy. These meetings will have potential impacts on the future financial, institutional, and political aspects of REDD and should be closely monitored.

Heading into 2010, the UN-REDD Programme is developing a five-year programme strategy to mobilize additional resources to help more and more countries develop successful REDD+ mechanisms that have the potential to mitigate climate change for many decades to come. Our ambition remains to present a draft at the fourth Policy Board meeting in March.

Zambia and Bolivia have made great progress in preparing their National Programmes. They both intend to submit their documents to the next Policy Board meeting. The DRC intends to present their joint RPP-NP document- a solid example of integration between the UN-REDD programme and the FCPF- at the next policy meeting as well.

The global programme has made significant progress in the past few months in supporting technical meetings, providing technical reviews and practical guidance, and enhancing the engagement of stakeholders to develop capacity to implement REDD+. The activities, while reaching out to multiple countries and regions, ultimately support the country efforts for REDD+ readiness. The current focus has been on MRV - specifically on remote sensing data supply, training on GHG inventories and technical reviews on measurement and assessment, engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil



Society in REDD activities and consultations with pilot countries on multiple benefits around REDD and development of tools and guidance for addressing trade-offs.

In our continued effort to strengthen collaboration and coordination with the FCPF, the UN-REDD Programme is once again holding its Policy Board meeting back-to-back with the FCPF's Participants Committee meeting in March. We have continued to dialogue and consult with the FCPF on issues of common interest. All indications point clearly to the need to strengthen this partnership further.

Building on the momentum of a successful quick start communications and multi-media strategy in 2009, the UN-REDD Programme has many communications plans in the works for 2010. A longer-term communications strategy is currently being finalized. The Programme plans to develop a formal disclosure policy as well, to govern the collection and dissemination of information.

The fourth Policy Board meeting is just around the corner. The meeting is scheduled to be held in Nairobi, Kenya at the United Nations Office in Nairobi from the 17-19 March, 2010. On the 17 March, a field visit to the Mau Forest is being organized. The visit will provide an opportunity to explore current issues, challenges, and concerns about REDD+. It will also be a chance for Policy Board members to interact outside of the standard meeting setting and to build relationships. More information on the fourth Policy Board meeting and field trip will follow.

On behalf of the UN-REDD Programme I would like to once again thank you for your continued support and close collaboration. We look forward to your active participation at the next Policy Board meeting, and until then, wishing you all the very best for 2010!

Sincerely,



Yemi Katerere
Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat