



REDD+ in Mexico – US\$15million Agreement Signed between the Government of Norway and the United Nations Development Programme

December 11, 2010, Cancun, Mexico:

At a special event held during the United Nations climate change negotiations (COP16) on 10 December, delegates and participants were invited to witness the signing of a collaborative agreement "Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico and enabling South-South cooperation".

The initiative will strengthen REDD+ implementation in Mexico and to expand the global knowledge base on related methodologies and approaches. In particular, it will build Mexico's capacities for a national measuring, reporting and verifying (MRV) system necessary for the implementation of REDD+, conducting research on local incentives for REDD+ in Mexico, and promoting Mexico as a centre of excellence for south-south cooperation.

Mexico's national MRV system will be a multifunctional instrument, serving as a guide for social, economic and environmental policies and providing information about other variables such as biodiversity. The system would also serve as the basis for the implementation of a wider national policy, coordinated in accordance with Mexico's mitigation and adaptation goals.

The initiative was signed by the Political Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Mr. Arvin Eikeland Gadgil and Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, UNDP Resident Representative in Mexico. The document was also signed by honorary witnesses Mr. Juan Manuel Torres Rojo, Director General of the National Forestry Commission and Mr. Alberto Sandoval, technical focal point of FAO/UN-REDD Programme for the initiative.

Funding is provided by the Government of Norway's International Forest and Climate Initiative, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Mexico and Norway in May 2010.

UNDP and FAO will jointly support the project, as part of their commitment to the United Nations System "Delivering as One" in Mexico. Norway's International Forest and Climate Initiative also provides funding to the UN agencies through the UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership between FAO, UNDP and UNEP. Nearly 30 REDD+ countries – including Mexico – participate in the UN-



REDD Programme, making it an important mechanism for south-south cooperation and the dissemination of Mexico's experiences and knowledge.

During the signing of the agreement, Mr. Arvin Eikeland Gadgil highlighted three aspects. He first noted the importance of the initiative in generating concrete results for REDD+ implementation. Second, Mr. Eikeland pointed out that through this project Mexico will demonstrate its leadership on REDD+ monitoring by transferring its experiences to other countries, including to Norway itself. Finally, Mr. Eikeland highlighted the capacity of UNDP to work at the local level with forest-dependent communities and Indigenous Peoples – critical stakeholders if REDD+ is to be successful.

Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman thanked the Government of Norway for its generous support to the Government of Mexico and for its leadership on REDD+ in general. Norway and Mexico have played a significant role in catalyzing a COP16 decision on REDD+ at the just concluded UN negotiations. This decision, which is part of a package of “Cancun Agreements”, is expected to further invigorate funding flows to support REDD+ readiness, and allow further progress to be made on REDD+.



Magdy Martinez-Soliman and Arvin Eikeland Gadgil sign the agreement on 10 December 2010. Credit : UNDP Mexico