

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

OUTCOME 4.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REDD+ DECISION MAKING, STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Investment in supporting stakeholder engagement has increased steadily since January 2012, leading to greater provision of direct technical and financial support to countries. As a result, the Programme is showing tangible outcomes in safeguarding stakeholder engagement both in bringing the REDD+ knowledge and capacity building at community level and conversely, in making their voices heard at national, regional and international decision making.

Over 27 countries currently have concrete actions or mechanisms to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, forest-dependent communities and civil society. Of these, 14 countries have advanced concrete mechanisms to include stakeholders in their national REDD+ processes through representation on national REDD+ bodies and/or strengthening platforms for engagement. Nine countries have activities to tailor and apply the [UN-REDD Programme FPIC Guidelines](#) and the [Grievance Redress](#)

In Focus

Investing in building strong civil society and indigenous peoples' REDD+ platforms is a crucial step in full and effective participation. In 2014, such platform was for example strengthened in:

- DRC – through developing criteria for membership, mapping members and their intervention areas, clarifying responsibilities and mandates, reassessing the civil society and indigenous peoples' platform structures and internal procedures, and focusing on training members on certain key areas. The activities are based on the recommendations from a civil society [self-evaluation of national engagement in REDD+ that was carried out in 2013](#), thus representing a continuation of civil society-driven action.
- Ecuador – through dialogues between government and other stakeholders and national REDD+ platform discussions.
- Sri Lanka – through capacity building activities targeting the CSO Platform, specifically CSO representatives on the Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme Executive Board, to enhance abilities to engage in national processes.

[Mechanisms Guidelines](#) at the national and local levels.

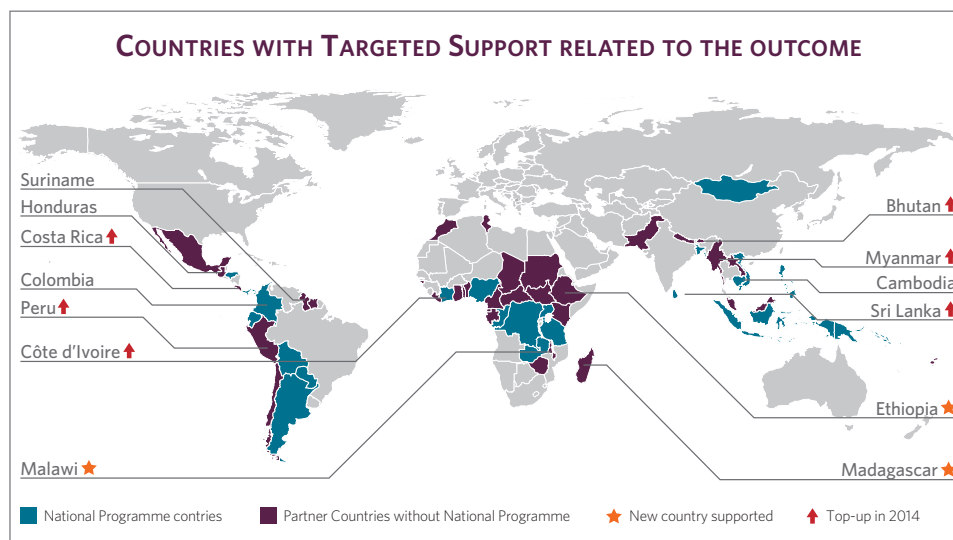
Some 270 relevant stakeholder organizations have been informed of REDD+ at international and regional level events, while over 170 indigenous peoples' and civil society organizations participated in international REDD+ processes such as the UNFCCC.

For example, in 2014 alone:

- [Community Based REDD+ \(CBR+\)](#), a new partnership with the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme launched

in May 2014, will provide REDD+ grant funds directly to communities in six pilot countries, Cambodia, DRC, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka starting in 2015. In all six countries, CBR+ country plan development work has reached the final stages, through consultation with communities and other stakeholders.

- A global coalition of five indigenous peoples organizations (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara – AMAN, Inter-Ethnic Association for Development of the Peruvian Amazon-AIDSESP, Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin-COICA, Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forests-AMPB, and Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa-REPALEAC) participated in the [UN Secretary General's Climate Summit's Forest Action Area and Forest Pavilion](#) and presented a unified position of their needs for rights protection at the highest international levels, with support from the UN-REDD Programme.
- Cote d'Ivoire developed a national plan for stakeholder engagement in a participatory and bottom-up manner



through a series of consultations and dialogues held during June-August 2014. As a result, a CSO and the indigenous people’s platform for REDD+ and FLEGT process was strengthened.

- CSO and ethnic minority representation on the Viet Nam Programme Executive Board for the UN-REDD Phase II Programme was strengthened through the completion of a self-selection process. Mechanisms to facilitate representatives’ contribution to decision-making were strengthened through the development of work plans with a specific focus on the six pilot provinces.
- Honduras, PNG, Paraguay and Viet Nam developed national and local FPIC guidelines. Knowledge on FPIC was also strengthened for more than 30 indigenous leaders and 20 government staff in Honduras through a national workshop in partnership with the International Labour Organization and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Better collaboration on REDD+ between indigenous peoples and governments was achieved in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Viet Nam through a series of

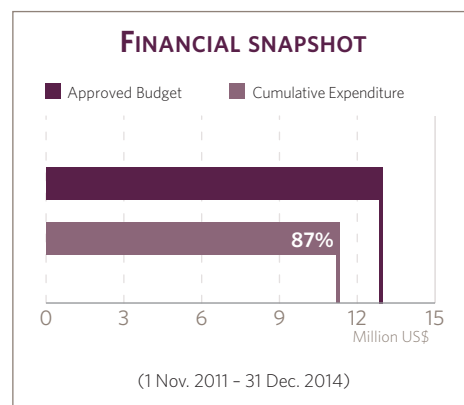
national dialogues on REDD+ carried out in partnership with the [Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact](#).

CHALLENGES

There is a risk that stakeholder engagement is not adequately planned and budgeted for by countries as they advance in REDD+. Countries can also underestimate the scope, scale and cost of activities required to ensure full and effective participation. In some countries, this has been addressed through the provision of targeted support and technical backstopping for the development, implementation and/or completion of National Programmes.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Ensuring high quality engagement of marginalized stakeholders such as indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities can require more sustained support and resources than are often anticipated. This is especially the case in countries where there is limited presence of UN counterparts and lack of capacity in the country to understand and support the full and effective participation of these specific stakeholders. Building the capacity of national authorities is therefore important.



- Investing in building the capacity and supporting the self-organization of stakeholder groups is crucial to ensure that they have the individual and organizational capacity to engage in REDD+ processes effectively. Experiences in resolving conflicts reveal that that it is of paramount importance to invest time and resources in ongoing processes to build trust and dialogue between government, the UN and indigenous peoples and civil society to ensure a strong foundation for genuine stakeholder engagement.

LOOKING FORWARD

- It will be a priority to ensure that stakeholder engagement priorities are effectively embedded in REDD+ processes beyond the readiness phase, particularly in the development and implementation of national REDD+ strategies. This will need to include investment in core mechanisms for engagement, for example by ensuring that there are effective multi-stakeholder platforms in Partner Countries.
- Efforts need to move beyond general engagement towards substantive engagement in thematic areas as REDD+ discussions and actions mature in countries. Issues such as tenure, forest monitoring and benefit distribution all have direct implications on indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities. Embedding participatory processes within these streams of work will therefore be crucial as REDD+ moves towards implementation.



Mongolia - Oyuntugs, a volunteer Forest Ranger and member of the Altansumber soum Forest User Group with her horse. ©FAO/Sean Gallagher