

UN-REDD Programme Newsletter

Introduction

The UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) have taken some important steps forward over the past month to improve coordination and support to REDD+ countries. At the end of June, representatives from the UN-REDD Programme had the opportunity to attend both the FIP Sub-Committee meeting in Washington, D.C., and the FCPF Participants Committee meeting in Georgetown, Guyana. At both meetings, the working draft of the UN-REDD/FCPF/FIP joint paper, entitled, "Enhancing Cooperation and Coherence among REDD+ Institutions to Support REDD+ Activities", received important endorsements by both governing bodies.

The UN-REDD Programme, FCPF and FIP are discussing both short and long-term options to enhance cooperation and coherence among REDD+ institutions in support of REDD+ activities at the country level. From joint missions, planning meetings and templates, to developing a joint delivery platform with common standards, the three organizations are developing pragmatic options for fostering collaboration among existing REDD+ institutions. Cooperation among these three initiatives has significantly strengthened in the past few months, supported not only by their governing bodies but also inspired by the establishment of the Interim REDD+ Partnership.

The demand for this degree of collaboration is undeniable to strengthen support to national REDD+ efforts by the UN-REDD Programme agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP), World Bank and the Multilateral Development Banks, as well as GEF. REDD+ continues to be one of the most cost-effective ways of mitigating climate change and more and more countries are expressing their desire to become "REDD+-ready". With this increasing interest comes the need to ensure national readiness efforts are supported in the most coordinated and efficient way possible.

We look forward to continuing our work on this front with our partners. An update of our enhanced coordination plans is expected to be presented at our first joint meeting, scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. on 6 November, in conjunction with the meetings of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, FCPF Participants Committee and the FIP Sub-Committee.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

REDD+ Partnership Meeting in Brazil

The Interim REDD+ Partnership, established at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference in May, held its first expert meeting in Brasilia 14-15 July, and the UN-REDD Programme was there to lend support and present initial concepts for a global REDD+ voluntary database.



Mangroves at Itaparica Island, Brazil.

Over 130 participants, from 32 countries and several international organizations attended the meeting which was co-chaired by representatives from Japan and Papua New Guinea. The agenda began with a

discussion among partner countries on what concrete actions the REDD+ Partnership should take to fulfill its objectives. Key milestones were also identified and discussed, including scheduling meetings at upcoming events in Nagoya and COP-16 in Cancun.

There was wide consensus about the development of a voluntary REDD+ database. The UN-REDD Programme presented its preliminary work on some initial ideas and concepts for how this database could be set-up, with the goal of tracking global REDD+ activities on financing, actions, results and preliminary gap analyses.

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For more information on the UN-REDD Programme visit www.un-redd.org

Several partners suggested that a detailed concept note on the database would be a core deliverable to be presented at the next partnership meeting in Nagoya this October.

The UN-REDD Programme, in collaboration with the FCPF also provided logistical assistance to meeting, and presented to the Partnership a range of Secretariat services the Programme and FCPF could offer moving forward.

The discussions on the Partnership workplan and working modalities are expect to continue alongside the Bonn Climate Changes Talks at the beginning of August. ■

UN-REDD Hosts FPIC Workshop in Viet Nam

The UN-REDD Programme held consultations with Indigenous Peoples from Asia and the Pacific, looking at how to apply the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to the REDD+ Readiness process.



Group discussion at the UN-REDD Programme FPIC workshop mid-June in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

The UN-REDD Programme, in collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, and with the support of UNDP's Asia and Pacific Regional Indigenous Peoples Program and the UN-REDD Programme in Vietnam, hosted a three-day workshop in Hanoi, from 16-18 June, to begin elaborating how the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) should be applied to the activities of the Programme and in the context of readiness and REDD+ more broadly.

The purpose of the workshop in Hanoi was to initiate a three-step process to develop guidelines on FPIC and recourse for the UN-REDD Programme. The initial guidelines will be elaborated through a series of regional follow-up dialogues (in Latin America and Africa) and via a public comment and input process. The resulting guidelines will be added as an annex to the UN-REDD Programme Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities.

The UN-REDD Programme, a partnership of UN agencies, is responsible under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, to support the application

of its provisions, including the articles on the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples to policies, programs, and measures that may impact their traditional territories, resources or livelihoods. This responsibility is articulated in the UN-REDD Programme Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities. The Programme has been called upon by its Policy Board and by other stakeholders, including the participants of the first Asia and Pacific Indigenous Peoples Consultation that took place in October 2009, to provide guidance on how FPIC, as well as adequate recourse, should be implemented within the context of the Programme.

This second gathering of Indigenous Peoples' representatives from Asia and the Pacific region brought together over 60 participants from UN-REDD Programme pilot and partner countries, and international civil society organizations, including the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba Foundation), Forest Peoples Programme, the Center for International Environmental Law, and The Forests Dialogue, as well as civil society and Indigenous Peoples representatives to the UN-REDD Policy Board from Latin America.

Participants and resource people shared information on the UN-REDD Programme, UNDRIP and FPIC, and approaches that have been taken to applying FPIC in other sectors. Participants also discussed the lessons that can be drawn from past experiences to inform how best FPIC and recourse should be applied to the readiness activities supported by the UN-REDD Programme.

Members of the UN-REDD Programme teams in Vietnam and Indonesia presented the

efforts that are underway to implement FPIC in national-level activities. The UN-REDD Programme in Vietnam reported on the eight-step pilot FPIC process that was implemented in Lam Dong Province in the first half of this year. The presentation was followed by an overview of the initial findings of an independent verification and evaluation of the process conducted by The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC).

Workshop participants then spent two days in working groups, tasked with offering specific guidance to a hypothetical UN-REDD country on how to ensure that the readiness activities implemented by the Programme receive the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples where their resources, territories or livelihoods are impacted and how adequate recourse will be provided in cases where their decision is not respected, or FPIC is not properly implemented. The working group recommendations will be consolidated into an initial set of guidelines that will serve as an input to the next regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean that will take place in Panama in late September.



Opening remarks by Charles McNeill of the UN-REDD Programme.

For more information on the consultation, please visit the UN-REDD Programme workspace and see the interview on FPIC with UN-REDD Programme team members on the UN-REDD website. A full report on the consultation, along with the initial draft guidelines, is forthcoming and will also be posted on the Programme's website. ■

Governance Update

The UN-REDD Programme has been active over the past few months, in convening and engaging with partners from around the world to advance ideas and common understandings of governance issues related to REDD+.

Rarely a day passes without a new conversation, study or report on REDD+ and good governance. International and domestic NGOs, government practitioners

and negotiators, and multilateral partners alike are preparing for the governance challenges and opportunities emerging with the REDD+ mechanism, and the UN-REDD

programme is taking active part in discussions and debates at the global level. In May, the UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House kicked off a series of discussions with a Workshop on monitoring governance safeguards in REDD+ in London, where a framework was presented for discussion on what and how to monitor governance safeguards. This conversation will be taken to the next level at the UNFCCC Climate talks at the beginning of August, where the Programme will host a side



Group photo at the UN-REDD Programme FPIC workshop mid-June in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

event to discuss the outcomes of the London workshop with a larger group of stakeholders. This series on governance will continue with the UN-REDD Programme's roundtable at the Workshop on Forest Governance, REDD and Decentralization in Latin America, happening in Oaxaca at the end of August, and at the 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Bangkok in November in a roundtable organized with Germany's GTZ.

In June, the UN-REDD Programme also organized a workshop on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and recourse mechanisms in Hanoi, Viet Nam, the first of a series of three regional dialogues that will

engaged in discussions convened by partners and experts over the last months. At the Transparency International workshop on climate governance on 12-14 June in Berlin the discussions encompassed a number of climate change mechanisms, with particular interest focused on transparency and accountability risks in the REDD+ context. Risks associated with decision-making within multilateral platforms, such as the UN-REDD Programme, were openly discussed, as were risks related to the REDD+ mechanism themselves, both at the global and national levels.

The issuance of permits and fraud in forest carbon accounting were identified as

take place this year, the next one being planned in Panama for the end of September. The UN-REDD Programme has also actively

particular risks, as were issues associated with unresolved land tenure and new property and user rights. Yet REDD+ also presents opportunities for engagement and improved governance. Investing in the capacity of developing countries to handle large funds and in stakeholder participation and oversight, catalyzed by access to information and robust monitoring and feedback mechanisms, was widely seen as necessary to tackle governance deficits.

At the Transparency International and Inwent Conference, held on 15 June in Berlin, the UN-REDD Programme contributed to a panel on equity in climate governance, highlighting emerging questions on equity in the REDD+ context and defining elements of equitable benefit distribution systems at the national and local level. At the Rights and Forest Initiative's Fifth Dialogue on Rights, Forests and Climate Change held in Washington, D.C. on 22 June, the UN-REDD Programme presented a risk-based approach to minimum social standards, articulated around three interlinked components of good governance, livelihoods and policy coherence. ■

US\$8.7 Million Approved for UN-REDD's Global Activities

In a recent intersessional decision on 25 June, the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board approved the budget for an additional US\$8.7 million to fund global activities aimed at supporting national REDD+ readiness efforts.

The additional funds are part of Norway's US\$30 million funding for 2010, announced at the UN-REDD Programme's fourth Policy Board meeting in March. The UN-REDD Programme's support to global activities (January 2009-July 2011) now totals US\$22 million. This is in addition to US\$42.6 million allocated to UN-REDD's National Programmes.

New funds will enable the Programme to continue work on measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), engagement of stakeholders, and realizing the multiple benefits forest can provide. Further, the funds will help to enable:

- **Increased transparency and effectiveness in national REDD+ governance**

The Programme will develop understanding and sharing of experience

on governance monitoring, decentralization, and convening dialogue and partnerships with REDD+ governance actors. Another key area is to develop and apply land tenure tools and advice for REDD+ implementation.

- **Development of equitable benefit sharing systems**

The UN-REDD Programme will support integrating the development of payment structures and equitable benefit sharing systems in national programmes, and fostering transparency and accountability in financing flows. Efforts will also be put on women's empowerment and gender equality, and to develop safeguards and standards for social impacts of REDD+.

- **Support to low carbon sector transformation**

The UN-REDD Programme will analyze environmental, social and economic drivers of high-carbon forest uses and compile best practices on alternative institutional and economic options, as well as on the contribution of sector transformation to meet green economy goals.

These and other on-going global activities support REDD+ readiness efforts at the country level and seek to benefit the REDD+ global community at large.

"The Policy Board's recent approval will go a long way to developing and sharing knowledge, guidance and tools to help countries design and implement their national REDD+ strategies," says Tiina Vahanen, Senior Officer of the UN-REDD's Global Programme.

"Norway's generous support has been vital to the UN-REDD Programme's success in providing REDD+ readiness support to countries," says Ms. Vahanen. ■

Features & Commentary

Making REDD+ Work for Zambia

UNDP Programme Officer, **Samuli Leminen**, highlights REDD+ progress in Zambia since the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board approved US\$4.5 million for the country's national REDD+ strategy.



Miombo forests of Mpika area, North Zambia

"In recognition of the role REDD+ can play in reducing emissions and facilitating sustainable socio-economic development, the Government of the Republic of Zambia is presently assessing the opportunities that can be potentially delivered through REDD+."

These opening words for the UN-REDD Programme document for Zambia already reveal that the UN-REDD Programme is not a business-as-usual development project, but instead a process of consultations, strategic planning, creative thinking and seeking realistic solutions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and make REDD+ work for Zambia. While the goal of reversing deforestation and achieving sustainable development is clear, the path to reach it can only be paved by Zambia and Zambians themselves.

The growing interest in Zambia towards REDD+ is felt not only through the high participation in the stakeholder meetings while developing its UN-REDD National Programme document, but also through the numerous questions and discussions with people and organisations willing to support the efforts to protect the forests in Zambia. The questions range from a request to provide seedlings for a tree-planting at a local school to guidance on designing sub-national forest monitoring systems that are aligned to the national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework.

While there are uncertainties in both the international REDD+ framework and the national arrangements, it is essential not to let these uncertainties discourage the actors who feel the urgency of acting

now to stop deforestation. To quell misunderstandings about the programme and to reassure the multitude of actors involved, a significant part of the programme funding has been allocated to building the institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement processes that provide a platform for discussing the issues and finding the answers that work best in the Zambian context.

Progress since UN-REDD's March Policy Board meeting

The UN-REDD Policy Board in March 2010 approved the budget allocation of US\$4.5 million for Zambia and tasked the country to finalize the UN-REDD Programme document based on the received comments. Due to the lively discussion both in the in-country validation meeting and at the Policy Board, close to 50 separate issues were identified. The comments were then divided to the participating UN organizations, national and international experts and the government representatives according to their respective strengths and knowledge. The compiled draft responses were put together and reviewed by all parties. Some of the responses will lead to direct changes in the project document and adjustments in the budget allocations between the programme outputs.

The final product of this work will be presented to a wide group of stakeholders in the country and only after their endorsement will the government and the UN agencies sign the document and commence implementation. The collaborative effort to address the comments has proved the strength of the UN-REDD Programme as a

community of practice, with active knowledge-sharing between experts in different areas and learning from the experiences of other countries.

UN-REDD's June mission to Zambia While the UN-REDD Programme is at the forefront of developing on-line collaboration and information-sharing tools, face-to-face gatherings of professionals is irreplaceable in ensuring common understanding and giving impetus to the process. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organized a joint mission to Zambia on 15-16 June 2010, with a dual objective of ensuring the linkages with Zambia's Integrated Land Use Assessment Programme and making the UN-REDD Programme ready for inception.

The mission succeeded in strengthening the alignment of the UN-REDD Programme with other environment and natural resources sector programmes, and agreeing on common institutional arrangements. The open discussions with national counterparts also helped to reach common understanding on the next steps and provided confidence that the programme can be signed within the six months period set by the Policy Board in March.

With the inception of the Programme in the coming months, the processes of envisioning and discussing how REDD+ can work for Zambia will continue with more structured consultations and channels to integrate REDD+ in Zambia's development plans. Furthermore, additional support for REDD+ readiness is emerging from different actors with objectives ranging from demonstrating REDD+ concepts on the ground to establishing the financial structures to access international carbon markets. Private sector and civil society actors may already be a step ahead of the national REDD+ process, and the government faces the challenge of coordinating and guiding the development of the national REDD+ strategy. With its international community of practice, UN-REDD Programme is well placed to support Zambia in this effort.



Samuli Leminen is a Programme Officer in the Energy and Environment Unit of the UNDP Country Office in Lusaka, Zambia. ■

MRV and Monitoring for REDD+ Implementation

Peter Holmgren, Director of Climate, Energy and Tenure Division and UN-REDD Programme Coordinator at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), explains the challenges ahead and key steps when it comes to setting-up a national monitoring system for REDD+.

Never before has there been so much interest in forest monitoring. For many years, forest inventory experts have mostly worked without much recognition or wider interest in their achievements. Measuring trees or designing complex sampling schemes have simply never been in the mainstream. But REDD+ is changing all this.

It is worth noting that the five types of mitigation activities that are defined under REDD+ means that all forests may be included and therefore will need to be monitored for REDD+ reporting. Further, the monitoring approach must be designed to capture deforestation processes (obvious and rapid forest changes), as well as gradual changes related to forest degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

	Carbon (Emission activities)	Benefits & Impacts (Services, Products)	Governance (Safeguards)
Strategic level (International commitments, National policies)	National Forest Inventory <i>IPCC, GHG</i>		Dedicated Governance Monitoring
Operational level (In-country implementation)	Monitoring for local implementation		

Figure 1. Framework of MRV and Monitoring for REDD+

One of the fundamental challenges of REDD+ is that developing countries must establish robust and transparent forest monitoring systems. Otherwise they risk standing on the side of the REDD+ mechanism, or to cut less attractive deals for their REDD+ efforts, because results from mitigation activities will be less reliable.

Figures vary, but it is clear that REDD+ may bring considerable payments to developing countries, perhaps over US\$ 100 billion per year. So the new interest in forest monitoring is easy to understand. Responding to this increased interest, the UN-REDD Programme has invested about 40 per cent (US\$ 25 million) of approved funds so far in Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Monitoring, making this the Programme's largest work area.

What to monitor?

The most commonly debated subject is MRV of forest carbon. That is, how can we reliably account for the amount of forest carbon, including changes over time? This is of course the core monitoring challenge in REDD+, well defined in Green House Gas (GHG) reporting standards and IPCC guidelines, and addressing the direct objective of REDD+. The main focus is on the national level reporting to the convention, and the subsequent, anticipated accounting of valuable carbon credits for the country as a whole.

But MRV and Monitoring for REDD+ is about much more than carbon. Why? Simply put because forest resources have many other values beyond carbon credits. REDD+ can not be implemented in isolation because the mitigation activities will inevitably affect other products and

services. Often we expect synergies between, say, reduced emissions from deforestation and improved conservation of biological diversity. But there may also be trade-offs, for example between income from forest products and income from REDD+ actions. The bottom line is that monitoring efforts must generate information that help policies and forest management navigate between multiple objectives and maximization of total benefits, one of which is REDD+ payments.

Monitoring must also address governance aspects. There is widespread concern that REDD+ activities may inappropriately impact Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The anticipated large financial transfers will also challenge transaction systems and accountability at all levels. Robust and transparent monitoring of governance safeguards is therefore an essential component in the monitoring framework.

How to monitor?

Information requirements are different between strategic levels, where information is needed for national policies and international reporting, and operational levels where local actions by individual land owners and stakeholders are to be verified and accounted for.

Strategic level information needs to have high accuracy, and must build on high-quality (and therefore expensive) individual measurements.

But on the other hand, information is not needed for every piece of land to meet the strategic level requirements. As a consequence, strategic information is mostly generated through representative samples of relatively expensive measurements. Within forest monitoring this is called a "national forest inventory", a concept that has been around for one hundred years and that can easily be adapted to meet REDD+ requirements.

Operational level information, on the other hand, needs to include all land to enable local implementation of policies and payment systems. For cost reasons, the accuracy requirements are therefore usually lower. One approach relevant to REDD+ is to use full cover remote sensing monitoring, as exemplified by the INPE/Prodes system for registering changes in the Amazon forest cover.

All of these MRV and Monitoring considerations can be summarized in a framework to help understand the scope of the challenge (see Figure 1).

Taking action

As we move forward with the implementation of MRV and Monitoring for REDD+, it is important to keep the focus on getting the job done and not get lost in negotiation results and conceptual discussions. Key steps to consider when setting up a national monitoring system for REDD+ include:

1. Developing synergies with other monitoring needs. Clearly, it will be more cost-effective and robust to build on existing arrangements. Developing institutions and activities specifically for REDD+ monitoring is not recommended;
2. Establishing long term and clear institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities. This may require supporting legislation.
3. Engaging stakeholders in developing and implementing the monitoring system, ensuring transparency and access to data and information

Drawing from international collaboration and expertise. The subject is highly specialized and the capacity is limited even globally. There are also several actions that are more efficient at regional or global level, such as training, methodology development and remote sensing data supply.



Peter Holmgren is the Director of the Climate, Energy and Land Tenure division of FAO, and FAO coordinator for the UN-REDD Programme. He is based at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. ■

Reports & Analysis

Joint UN-REDD & GEO MRV Workshop

The UN-REDD Programme along with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) held its first joint workshop entitled "Measurement, reporting and verification, a roadmap for implementation at the country level" from 22 to 24 June 2010 in Guadalajara, Mexico, with the support of the Mexican Forestry Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal – CONAFOR).



Presentations during the UN-REDD-GEO MRV workshop in Guadalajara (left to right): Garry Richards, GEO-FACT Australia, José Carlos Fernandez, CONAFOR México, Alberto Sandoval UN-REDD Programme

Over 80 participants from 30 different pilot and partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme shared experiences in implementing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems for REDD+ while

identifying current challenges, problems, bottlenecks and data issues. The main goal of the workshop was to identify best practices and relevant experiences that could be adapted and replicated by others.

Participation of countries in the workshop's discussions showed a diversity of levels of understanding and in-country capacity of MRV methodologies. The presentation of the FAO MRV Framework enlightened the major technical challenges in the roadmap towards the REDD+ mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

All participants agreed that the availability of remote sensing data remains one of the most important concerns to develop operational national MRV systems, where there are several good opportunities with GEO and Google,

both initiatives offering data supply and support to countries.

Participants recognized that technology and methods should be developed not only taking into account country circumstances on REDD+ activities, but also country capabilities to understand and implement these technologies and methods. They also stressed that the importance of the use of combined methodologies of remote sensing and ground data is ever more important and UN agencies, especially FAO, should promote more actively this combined approach.

A major effort concerning capacity building is also required and identified as a priority by participants, especially from the World Bank. The GEO and UN-REDD Programme both agreed to increase collaboration within countries increasing support and impact on the ground. Enhancing current collaboration will benefit both the implementation of REDD+ strategies and improve the dialogue and exchange of experiences. The outcomes of the discussion during the workshop will be useful for countries during the upcoming Climate Change talks in Cancun, Mexico in December.

Download presentations and documents from the workshop at: <http://tinyurl.com/MRV-Workshop-Mexico> ■

Report from FCPF Meeting in Guyana

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) sixth Participants Committee meeting, which took place in Georgetown, Guyana at the end of June, reviewed and assessed the Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) of Argentina, Costa Rica, Kenya, Nepal and the Republic of Congo, and allocated \$17.2 million to assist them in executing the contents of their R-PPs and to prepare for REDD+.

More than 120 participants representing governments, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector participated in the Participants Committee (PC) meeting. Dr. Yemi Katerere, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, and Tim Clairs of UNDP were there to represent the UN-REDD Programme.

Some key issues discussed as part of the agenda were:

- Enhancing REDD+ cooperation among the UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the FCPF. The Facility Management Team (FMT) was authorized by the PC to provide secretariat services to this new REDD+

Partnership, together with the UN-REDD Programme team.

- Overall progress of the FCPF Readiness Fund and the design of the FCPF Carbon Fund
- Options for expanding the number of delivery partners under the Readiness Fund (beyond the World Bank), analyzed by a working group in order to optimize the Fund's operations
- The possible need to tweak the R-PP template as the FCPF matures and more R-PPs are submitted by countries. Feedback on such possible changes is being received and a new R-PP template will be circulated at the end of July.

"It is crucial to emphasize the importance of the R-PP development process itself... (it

allows a country to then be better prepared for the implementation of REDD+. It is also an experience that can be shared with other countries that are getting ready for REDD+, helping to improve the quality of proposed R-PPs over time," said Leandro Fernandez, Biologist and National REDD+ Coordinator at the Ministry of Environment in Argentina.

In addition, Peru and Tanzania also reported on progress in the formulation of their R-PPs and received feedback on their drafts from ad hoc Technical Advisory Panels and the PC. Two countries, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana, are currently undertaking their Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) for REDD+ and they briefed the PC on their progress. The UN-REDD Programme offered to provide additional support to continue the consultation process in the Republic of Congo. Also, several countries, including Tanzania, requested increased clarity on the issue of consultation and participation - what it means, how much consultation is expected during the formulation phase, and what do the countries consult on. The PC requested the FMT to present on this topic at the next meeting.



H.E. Robert Persaud (far right), Guyana's Minister of Agriculture, addresses FCPF's recent Participants Committee meeting in Georgetown, stressing the importance of REDD in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.

Increased funding

The Facility Management Team reported an increase in the Readiness Fund, which allowed the PC to authorize the allocation of R-PP formulation grants and associated country implementation support to all REDD country participants who apply and who do not yet have access to such funding through the FCPF or another donor(s). These grants of \$200,000 per country can be accessed provided that a country's grant agreement is signed by December 31, 2011. Also, the PC was pleased to hear Japan announce that it would make

US\$4 million available for the Readiness Fund this year.

Gracious Host

Guyana's Minister of Agriculture Robert Persaud opened the PC meeting and the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) organized an evening of cultural events with impressive dancers and musicians representing different ethnicities of the country. His

Excellency Bharat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana, attended this event and spoke passionately about his country's REDD+ strategy in the context of the national Low Carbon Development Strategy. Furthermore, the GFC organized field trips, which provided the meeting participants with a glimpse of Guyana's natural beauty at Kaieteur Falls, and a tour of a mine and logging station, allowing for a discussion of the challenges in the design and implementation of REDD+ strategies.

Upcoming meetings

The third meeting of the Participants Assembly (PA3) and the seventh meeting of the Participants Committee (PC7), will be held on 1-4 November, 2010 at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. The UN-REDD Programme will hold its fifth Policy Board meeting on 4-5 November in the same building. A joint session among UN-REDD, FIP and FCPF will be organized for 6 November, also in Washington D.C.

"The increased collaboration among the three initiatives which relies on a robust partnership between the UN-REDD and the FCPF, was widely acknowledged at the PC6. We will continue to build on this going forward, both at the global and the country level", said Benoit Bosquet, Team Leader, FCPF.

All background materials, presentations, resolutions and additional decisions have been posted on the FCPF website at: www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/282

For more info, contact the Facility Management Team at: fcpsecretariat@worldbank.org or Isabel Hagbrink, Senior Communications Officer, Carbon Finance Unit at ihagbrink@worldbank.org ■

Report from FIP Sub-Committee Meeting

On June 24 in Washington DC, the governing body of the multilateral Forest Investment Program (FIP) gathered for its fourth meeting and made a series of decisions, advancing the FIP to its next critical stage of implementation.

Most significantly, the FIP Sub-Committee approved Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mexico as the three newest FIP pilot countries, joining Burkina Faso, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Peru as the final set of eight FIP pilots. Joint programming missions for the pilots will start soon. The Sub-Committee also approved operational guidelines for public and private sector investments, criteria for country investment strategies and projects, and a menu of financing modalities ranging from grants to concessional loans and guarantees.

In addition, to ensure coherence among REDD+ organizations, the Sub-Committee reviewed "Enhancing Cooperation and Seeking Coherence between REDD+ Institutions to Support Countries REDD+" Efforts, a joint

paper of the FIP, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and UN-REDD Programme. The Sub-Committee supported a proposal that the three institutions' governing bodies hold a joint meeting in Washington, D.C., in early November.

About FIP

The FIP Sub-Committee is made up of six developing and six contributing countries. Observers, selected through a self-selection process, come from civil society, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector. The FCPF and UN-REDD Programme are also observers. The FIP is a targeted program of the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), one of two Climate Investment Funds (CIF), which are jointly implemented by the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European



Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, and World Bank Group.

The FIP supports developing country efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and promotes sustainable forest management that helps reduce emissions and protect carbon reservoirs. The FIP provides scaled-up financing for public and private investments identified through national REDD readiness or equivalent strategies. ■

Looking Ahead

UNFCCC Climate Change Talks

2 - 6 August 2010, Bonn, Germany

XXIII IUFRO World Congress

23 - 28 August 2010, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Workshop on Forest Governance and REDD in Latin America and the Caribbean

30 August - 3 September 2010, Oaxaca, Mexico

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

www.un-redd.org
un-redd@un-redd.org

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