

Introduction

As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Tianjin and Cancun draw closer, progress on REDD+ will attract tremendous interest from a range of climate change stakeholders, especially those interested in seeing a REDD+ agreement. At the UNFCCC's meetings in Bonn in August, new disagreements emerged over aspects of the REDD+ text, creating new challenges for negotiators to make progress and forge renewed agreement on these issues.

In order to overcome these challenges, it is clear that negotiators will need to keep their eye on the big picture-- that REDD+ remains one of the most effective means of mitigating climate change. REDD+ is a mechanism that will create incentives for developing forested countries to protect, and better manage their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. When fully operational, payments for verified emission reductions and removals provide an incentive for REDD+ countries to pursue low carbon development. In this way, REDD+ can help limit global temperature rise while contributing to poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation.

In short, REDD+ is a potentially powerful policy tool to improve how forests are managed, and provides an innovative way of bridging the gap between developed and developing countries on issues of climate change mitigation. The REDD+ community is hopeful for positive progress on REDD+ at the Tianjin negotiations, and ultimately for a COP decision on REDD+ in December. Political will to agree on the overarching issues will be key to achieving this goal.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

Indonesia's National REDD+ Strategy

UN-REDD Indonesia is collaborating with the National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) to conduct an intensive multi-stakeholder consultation process that will produce the world's first fully participatory National REDD+ Strategy.



Indonesia, a country with the world's third largest tropical rainforest, has also one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. In addition to resulting in a dramatic loss of the archipelago's unique biodiversity, this deforestation also contributes significantly to climate change, which in turn threatens the livelihoods of millions of people who live across 17 000 islands.

The Indonesia UN-REDD Programme has been launched to assist the Government of Indonesia in its REDD + readiness efforts, in order to establish and organize a fair, equitable and transparent REDD+ architecture in the country. Moreover, one of the important aims for the Programme is to support the Government of Indonesia to build consensus on key issues for national REDD+ policy development. In this regard, UN-REDD Indonesia aims to contribute to an inclusive process where multi-stakeholder participation and empowerment of local stakeholders are central in the National REDD+ Strategy.

After a series of national consultations for the initial drafts of the strategy, a series of regional consultations will be held in order to ensure multi-stakeholder participation from all regions. After the second draft has been

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

developed, BAPPENAS and UN-REDD will conduct a national consultation workshop in order to get additional inputs and approach a national consensus.

The current draft strategy identifies poor spatial planning, tenurial problems, ineffective forest management, and weak legal basis and law enforcement as being amongst the main causes for deforestation and forest degradation in Indonesia. The draft proposes planning reforms in the land use sector, law reformation and enforcement within a climate-friendly legal framework, stakeholder involvement in keeping with the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principle in the REDD+ implementation, and good governance principles, such as transparency, participation and accountability in the different processes. The document stresses

the importance of including potentially affected people and vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of the country's REDD+ strategy.

The multi-stakeholder consultation process will produce several drafts of the strategy, and a final document is expected to be ready by early November. The final draft will be a 'living' document, meaning that new insights and inputs may be incorporated into the document as REDD+ evolves, and lessons learned will be shared with other countries. The document will function as a guideline for

the development of sub-national REDD+ action plans and will be mainstreamed into the development processes.

A recent mission was carried out by UN-REDD Programme representatives at the end of August to help address logistical issues, such as capacity building for government staff, communications requirements, support from international experts, as well as developing the thinking for new ways to increase the value of standing forests.

The concerted effort between UN agencies, combined with the country's commitment

towards conserving forests and ensuring equitable benefits to local populations, catalyzes new funding opportunities in the climate change forestry sector.

Drafts of Indonesia's REDD+ strategy are publicly available in Indonesian and in English on UN-REDD Indonesia's website: www.un-redd.or.id

Comments and inputs to the National REDD+ Strategy can be sent to nationalstrategy@un-redd.or.id and kehutanan@bappenas.go.id ■

Remote sensing training for REDD+ in Tanzania

The UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania continues to assist the government there with the establishment of a national forest carbon Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system as one of its key tasks and collaborates with NAFORMA to provide training to achieve this.



As part of capacity building for REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania is collaborating closely with the Finish-funded National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment of Tanzania (NAFORMA) Programme to train national experts in remote sensing and forest mapping.

In early September, experts from several national institutions followed an intensive remote sensing and Earth observation training course in Morogoro to improve their understanding of remote sensing tools and their applications in forest monitoring. This

was followed by a five-day training session on Open Source software which was held in Dar es Salaam. More than 15 Tanzanian technicians and forest officers participated in these training programs.

The main objective of the training sessions was to strengthen national capacity and knowledge concerning remote sensing of forests. It was based on using Open Source software for spatial data analysis and remote sensing cartography, both of which require strong national expertise. Satellite image interpretation was carried out by national

technicians and officers, who had already benefited from training led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

According to Inge Jonckheere, who is supporting the UN-REDD Programme at FAO, "in Tanzania, where field data often are difficult to obtain, remote sensing tools represent a precious help in forest resource assessment."

The NAFORMA project is currently undertaking a National Forest Inventory of Tanzania, based on field samples comprising biophysical, environmental and socio-economical parameters identified by national users and stakeholders. NAFORMA will produce a 2009/2010 Land Use Land Cover map of Tanzania. UN-REDD Programme activities aim to achieve maximize synergy with the ongoing inventory and mapping work, to generate reliable figures for deforestation and forest degradation and the NAFORMA system of permanent sample sites will play a role in monitoring the future development regarding forest degradation in Tanzania.

In addition to the above in-country training, the global UN-REDD Programme, in collaboration with the Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE), is also organizing intensive training on the satellite forest monitoring system based on the INPE model. Experts from UN-REDD Programme member countries, including Tanzania, will be trained later this year in Brazil. ■

Mexico Launches its REDD+ Website

At the recent workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD+ in Oaxaca, Mexico launched its new REDD+ website, www.reddmexico.org and online community of practice.



The idea for the site, called "REDD+ Mexico" emerged from Mexico's Consultative Technical Committee on REDD+ (Comité Técnico Consultivo de REDD+, CTC-REDD+), with the goal to disseminate and share

information with a broad audience on the activities that the Government is developing on REDD+.

The site went live on 1 September 2010 and features news, reports as well as Mexico's position on REDD+, fueling both national and international discussions. The site seeks to facilitate an understanding of both the

REDD+ context and technical aspects that underpin the REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC.

REDD+ Mexico has been developed thanks to the support of the United Kingdom's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassy in Mexico, with technical support and assistance from the World Wildlife Fund.

Mexico has been a partner country to the UN-REDD Programme since February 2010.

Visit the site at: www.reddmexico.org ■

Reminder: Register for Forest Day 4

Forest Day 4 will take place on 5 December 2010 alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancún, Mexico.

Forest Day is one of the world's leading global platforms for anyone with an interest in forests and climate change to come together with others and exchange their views. Last year, nearly 1,500 people attended Forest Day 3 in Copenhagen, including world

leaders, three Nobel Prize winners, top scientists, donors, global and regional media, policymakers, leaders of indigenous communities, and notably 250 climate negotiators. This year, we anticipate up to 2,000 participants.

Forest Day 4 will take place on 5 December 2010 alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancún, Mexico at the Cancún Center. Forest Day 4 is hosted by the Government of Mexico, through the National Forestry Commission, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and CIFOR.

To register, visit www.forestday.org ■

Features & Commentary

Making REDD+ Work for Biodiversity and Livelihoods

UN-REDD Programme officers, **Wahida Patwa-Shah** and **Julie Greenwalt**, highlight what REDD+ efforts need to do in order to protect the multitude of social and economic benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services. *(With contributions from Lera Miles)*



The International Year of Biodiversity (2010) reminds us of the long history and struggle for biodiversity conservation, and the need to recognize the significance of ecosystem services for human well being. From

biologists and conservationists, to public health experts, and economists, experts from a variety of backgrounds and sectors around the world have been demonstrating through their research how and why ecosystem services and biodiversity impact human health, economic activities and ecosystem health.

Among many other roles, tropical and subtropical forests store more carbon than any other biome--an estimated 550 gigatonnes. Long before climate change took the centre stage, forests have been providing innumerable benefits for humans and a multitude of other species. While a focus

on the threat posed by climate change has brought carbon to the forefront, the need to conserve biodiversity remains critical. Carbon payments associated with REDD+ provides an opportunity as well as a challenge for biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity can benefit from REDD+

There has been concern that a win for carbon will mean a loss for biodiversity and other ecosystem services. However, the relationship between carbon and biodiversity goals can be more symbiotic. With the right tools and safeguards for identifying, managing and monitoring biodiversity and other ecosystem benefits, REDD+ will mitigate climate change by reducing emissions and produce multiple benefits by keeping forest habitats intact.

There is a need to monitor policies that increase carbon sequestration by forests at the expense of biodiversity, or where the protection of high-carbon forests may displace conversion pressures onto low-carbon forests and other ecosystems. At

different scales, countries and communities implementing REDD+ will need to assess which ecosystem services they are able to maintain and enhance by analyzing and addressing trade-offs.

Ensuring the conservation of biodiversity while taking the necessary steps for REDD+ will need to be planned and programmed and will require continued research to better understand the range of goods and services provided by forest ecosystems, and their relationship with carbon. It will require increased collaboration between technical experts, government practitioners and negotiators from the biodiversity and climate change fields. This month, a workshop in Nairobi hosted by the CBD and co-organized by the UN-REDD Programme, entitled "The Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of REDD+", provided an opportunity for collaboration and discussion. In October, the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya will provide further opportunities for discussion, improved understanding and identification of challenges. In Nagoya, the "REDD+ Hour" workshop series, organized by the UN-REDD Programme in collaboration with multiple partners, will focus on a range of relevant topics including: monitoring carbon and biodiversity, traditional knowledge,

empowerment of the biodiversity community in the REDD+ process, and environmental safeguards.

A bright future for biodiversity, ecosystem services, forests and people?

The key ingredients in the recipe for a successful way forward for biodiversity and ecosystem services in REDD+ are safeguards, effective tools, sound policies, and meaningful collaboration. Safeguards must ensure that REDD+ respects and does not harm biodiversity and ecosystem services. Effective tools will measure and monitor biodiversity and ecosystem-derived benefits, in order to plan for multiple benefits from REDD+, and to identify and respond to any negative impacts. Sound policies will ensure that multiple benefits are considered at each stage of REDD+ planning and implementation. Meaningful collaboration between stakeholders involved in REDD+ and forest biodiversity must be encouraged to promote understanding, the exchange of information and an effective policy and legal implementation framework.

We see an opportunity afforded by REDD+ investments to safeguard, enhance and optimize environmental services and biodiversity. Success would contribute to national sustainable development objectives and the transformation of the forest sector and forested landscapes, while sustainably mitigating emissions of greenhouse gases and supporting biological and cultural diversity. ■



Wahida Patwa-Shah

Wahida Patwa-Shah is a Programme Officer for the UN-REDD Programme, based in Nairobi, Kenya.



Julie Greenwalt

Julie Greenwalt works with the Division for Environmental Policy Implementation on REDD+, as a Programme Officer for the UN-REDD Programme.

UN-REDD and FCPF Joint Mission in Republic of Congo

Civil Society representative to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho, reports on stakeholder consultation and engagement in Republic of Congo's REDD+ readiness efforts.



Meeting between civil society representatives (from Republic of Congo and DRC) and the UN-REDD-FCPF delegation in Brazzaville, as part of the joint UN-REDD-FCPF mission to Republic of Congo in August.

The environmental civil society of both the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) recently joined forces with the joint mission set up by the UN-REDD Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), in Brazzaville from 18 to 20 August 2010 in support of the national REDD+ process in Congo Brazzaville.

The mission aimed, among other things, to strengthen the mechanisms fostering stakeholder coordination, dialogue and engagement in REDD+, including organizations representing the civil society and forest peoples, to make the REDD+ process more participatory and transparent.

The government of the Republic of Congo had received US\$200,000 from the FCPF to draft a Readiness Preparation Plan (R-PP), which was submitted in July 2010 for consideration to the FCPF Participants Committee. The Committee authorized the World Bank to proceed with the preparation of a US\$3.4 million grant for the implementation of activities identified in the readiness plan, subject to certain conditions, including enhancing consultation with local and indigenous populations.

The UN-REDD Programme stated its willingness to provide support to Republic of Congo with a view to strengthen the participatory aspect of the process and to improve the engagement and organization of stakeholders.

Experience sharing between civil societies

A delegation of the Climate and REDD working group from the DRC was invited to share its experience as an interface and an advocate of communities' issues and interests in the REDD+ process in DRC. The delegation also provided insights on how it played a role in drafting DRC's R-PP and its current role in implementing a national REDD+ strategy, including consultations with communities, awareness-raising based on a Information-Education-Communication plan, and involvement of the civil society in the R-PP. To that end, the DRC delegation worked with the government of the DRC while remaining autonomous in the development of national REDD+ strategies.

The sharing of experiences during the joint mission was enhanced by informal meetings between civil societies, and between representatives of the environmental civil society and the delegation of the mission, including participants from the UN-REDD Programme, FCPF, and the Congo Basin Forest Fund. The main goal of these informal meetings was to develop strategies for improved dialogue between all stakeholders in the REDD+ process.

Outcomes of the mission

At the end of the open and constructive discussions between civil societies and government representatives under the auspices of UN-REDD Programme and FCPF mission, an inclusive commission was set up that brings together organizations representing forest-dependant communities and indigenous peoples, and of environmental and human right NGO networks.

The commission has set out not only to develop an action plan for REDD+ consultation and participation, but also to add elements and comments to the Republic of Congo's R-PP. Cooperation between stakeholders focusing on constructive experience sharing and open discussions will be key to the success of REDD+ process in the Republic of Congo. ■



Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho

Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho is the Executive Director of the Support Center for Vulnerable Indigenous Pygmy and Minority Indigenous Peoples (CAMV) in Democratic Republic of Congo and is also the Civil Society Representative from Africa on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board.

www.camv-pygme.org

Reports & Analysis

UN-REDD at the REDD+ Governance Workshop in Oaxaca

The UN-REDD Programme roundtable at the Oaxaca Workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD+ on 31 August gathered more than 100 participants to examine the emerging challenges and opportunities for governance for REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean.



From left to right: Yemi Katerere, UN-REDD Programme; Tuukka Castren, World Bank; Estelle Fach, UN-REDD Programme; Marco Chiu, Ministry of Environment, Ecuador; Mariana Pavan, Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas, IDESAM

Moderated by Alberto Sandoval, from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the roundtable started with a presentation by Yemi Katerere, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. Dr. Katerere underlined the importance of transformational change in actors and institutions involved in REDD+ and that approaches to tackling drivers of deforestation and forest degradation must be comprehensive. Katerere also highlighted that it is critical to define who the actors of deforestation are, be they small farmers or large logging companies, in order to tailor an inclusive approach and provide access to information and participation in policy design and implementation.

Estelle Fach, from the United Nations Development Programme, outlined the UN-REDD Programme's support to building

and strengthening national governance systems for REDD+ that are transparent, effective and inclusive. This area of work, she noted, builds on existing activities by the Programme on stakeholder engagement and UNDP's Latin America programme on local governance

(e.g. on decentralization and institutional reform of the justice sector). Country-led multi-stakeholder assessments conducted by a partnership of civil society and governments allow countries to evaluate the priorities for governance for REDD+ in a participatory and transparent process. "The take home message is that the very way these assessments are conducted can initiate the demand for accountability within a country," Fach concluded.

Tuukka Castren, from the World Bank, pointed out that in the past 10 years, forest governance has focused on reducing illegal logging, and has done so in a successful manner. Citing recent regional ministerial processes and declarations in other continents, he noted that

recognizing the issue is the first step in addressing REDD+ governance. He added that efforts should rest on existing and ongoing initiatives, and highlighted the World Bank's efforts in Central and South America on forest law enforcement and governance. "We do not have to start from scratch," Castren concluded, adding that, "working on robust implementation of the existing commitments to improve forest governance will be key."

Marco Chiu, from the Government of Ecuador, discussed his country's approach to governance for REDD+, using UNDP's framework of legality, legitimacy and participation. Chiu described institutional arrangements and a process of stakeholder involvement currently under development that includes information, consultations, engagement and capacity building. He noted challenges in defining processes for decision-making that balance urgency and consultation and ensure legitimacy, building and maintaining trust and adequate platforms to secure long-term processes.

Mariana Pavan, from Institute for Sustainable Development and Conservation of Amazonas, Brazil (IDESAM) first underlined the need for involvement of local governments in the design and implementation from the beginning, in order to decentralize decision making and complement existing policies. She highlighted that participation of civil society in the design, implementation and monitoring allows countries to make the most of existing expertise, and insisted on the need to understand REDD+ as part of, but not the only tool, towards economic development.

For the remaining hour of the roundtable discussion, 10 ten break-out groups examined three central REDD+ governance issues:

- **Achieving synergies between policies related to REDD+**, such as decentralization, forest reform, and

tenure. and REDD+ implementation : It was generally agreed that REDD+ must be integrated in national development plans and that policies between different levels of government must be aligned from the onset, and aligned with financial flows. The role of co-benefits and poverty alleviation were emphasized, and many concurred that governance reform is much broader and longer term than immediate REDD+ policies.

- **Examining who are the actors of governance for REDD+**, participants highlighted the role the state and sub-national governments need to play, while noting their responsibility to engage and stimulate the participation of property rights owners as well as land users, cooperatives, NGOs, indigenous communities and different ministries. Effective communication mechanisms that incentivize the participation of Indigenous Peoples clearly defined mandates for each institution ; relying on and strengthening existing human and technical capacities were often highlighted.
- **On ensuring transparency and accountability**, recommendations included the recognition and

clarification of all possible conflicts of interest; a clear definition of roles between the state, municipal and indigenous governments; independent observers and an inter-sectorial and independent audit; a clear and complete political and legal framework; similar levels of access for all to experts and information; a open national database; and a knowledge management system to evaluate, disseminate and integrate feedback. Suggestions on what to monitor included the extent of local participation, representation of communities and land owners, and open spaces for consultations. Multi-stakeholder mechanism will ensure an independent and cost-effective monitoring, as long as indicators are clear and defined collectively, it was noted.

Overall REDD+ was seen as an instrument to achieve governance improvements. Participants agreed that there is no one "single recipe", and operational answers will have to be developed nationally, yet the rich discussions between government representatives, research institutions, advocacy NGOs and multilateral platforms have already delineated common and useful guiding principles for REDD+ governance.

Read a detailed report of the roundtable discussion at: <http://tinyurl.com/Oaxaca-roundtable-report> ■



More than 100 participants participated in the UN-REDD Programme roundtable discussion on 31 August at the Oaxaca Workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD+.

Looking Ahead

20th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO)

4 - 8 October 2010, Rome, Italy

UNFCCC Climate Change Negotiations

4 - 9 October 2010, Tianjin, China

Interim REDD+ Partnership Workshop

2 October 2010, Tianjin, China

CBD COP 10

18 - 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan

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