

## Introduction

Dear Readers,

Just before the UN-REDD Programme's very productive seventh Policy Board meeting this month (read more in our news section below), I had the privilege of attending the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) High Level Forum on Forests and Climate Change for Sustainable Development from 10-11 October. The event gathered more than 300 participants, including a number of noteworthy national and international officials, including the DRC's Ministers for Environment, Planning, Energy and High level Education, the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Congo and the Climate Ambassador of Norway. This high-level event, which was convened under the patronage of the President, was designed to show how DRC is integrating REDD+ into the country's green strategy, with the highest level of political commitment.

While highlighting how REDD+ will in advance in the DRC, it was clear that many of the issues and next steps discussed are highly relevant to all countries undertaking REDD+ readiness and implementation. The importance of political commitment to the success of REDD+ was clear, especially if we are to bring about transformation in how we value and use forests. The delivery of the President's speech by the Prime Minister during the high-level event was one example of this kind of political commitment. It's also clear that political commitment has to be complemented by broad stakeholder participation, institutional strengthening and capacity building. We heard encouraging reports about how this happening in the DRC.

Another key to REDD+ success is understanding and influencing the underlying causes and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the design and implementation of REDD+. In order to do this, the national context, particularly national policies and economic development, must be taken into account, and we saw how these issues are being addressed with a good deal of success in the DRC.

The urgency of climate change requires that we move towards scaling up from small REDD+ projects to strategic, large-scale action. In order to achieve this, the high-level event also highlighted the importance and need to improve the availability of predictable and sustainable financing for REDD+ in the medium and long-term. In this light, the importance of engaging the private sector was highlighted to define modalities on how national governments and the private sector can work together.

I applaud the DRC's robust REDD+ efforts. Their level of commitment and REDD+ advancements hold valuable lessons for everyone working in the REDD+ space. Moving forward, we will need to ensure we continue to learn from each other, while remaining realistic about the complexity of procedures and demands placed on REDD+ countries by different partners.

Yemi Katerere  
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

## News

### UN-REDD Programme Approves US\$4 million for REDD+ in Nigeria

At the Programme's recent Policy Board meeting, UN-REDD partner countries share valuable lessons learned in implementing their National REDD+ Programmes.

During its seventh Policy Board meeting (PB7) 13-14 October 2011, the UN-REDD Programme approved US\$4 million in funding for Nigeria's National REDD+ Programme, bringing the total amount of approved funding for UN-REDD National Programmes to US\$59.3 million.

Read the full press release:  
[http://www.un-redd.org/PB7\\_Press\\_Release/tabid/7006/Default.aspx](http://www.un-redd.org/PB7_Press_Release/tabid/7006/Default.aspx)  
Download PB7 documents and presentations: <http://www.un-redd.org/PolicyBoard/7thPolicyBoard/tabid/54129/Default.aspx>  
See photos on UN-REDD's Facebook page:  
<http://tinyurl.com/UNREDD-Facebook>

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For more information on the UN-REDD Programme visit [www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org)



The approval of Nigeria's UN-REDD Programme was sealed with applause and a congratulatory handshake between Nigeria's National Coordinator for REDD+, Salisu Dahiru (left) and Policy Board co-chair Alexander Müller.

### Partner Country Progress

The first day of the Policy Board meeting was devoted to hearing progress and lessons learned from UN-REDD Programme partner countries. Cambodia, Paraguay and Tanzania—three partner countries that have already begun implementing their UN-REDD National Programmes—engaged in an interactive panel to share the lessons emerging from their REDD+ implementation phases. Policy Board participants discussed progress, opportunities and challenges facing the 13 countries implementing National Programmes. The Policy Board also heard updates on REDD+ readiness efforts in Colombia, Guatemala, Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka.

#### Salisu Dahiru

##### National Coordinator for REDD+, Nigeria

"If you look at the current deforestation rates in Nigeria, it's one of the highest in the world. And the forest dependent communities are first in line in terms of the



vulnerability of the adverse effects of deforestation. We think that the opportunity to partner with the UN-REDD Programme will give us the extra mileage to reverse environmental problems, improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities and also contribute to Nigeria's efforts towards climate change mitigation. REDD+ for us is the ideal vehicle because of the potential it has to address all these problems.

My advice to countries that have yet to have their National Programmes approved, is for them to be resolute, determined and openly engaged in every opportunity to improve their capacity because generally most people are not very conversant with the

REDD+ mechanism and the process. And there is the need to collaborate, share information, share experiences and to continue to learn, and learn and learn about REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme is a companion as well as a guide for every nation on this front."

#### Ana Lorena Cordova REDD+ Focal Point, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala



"We have a high rate of deforestation in Guatemala, so we need to improve our forest policies and other policies that are sometimes not helping the situation. Guatemala needs REDD+

plus because we think we have the potential to improve livelihoods and improve the environmental conditions of our forests.

Guatemala has an important relationship and experience working with the UN-REDD Programme agencies. They can give us technical support and we can build on that experience. We are very interested in the community and social issues related to forests in our country and I think that's also of high interest to the UN-REDD Programme."

#### Anura Sathurusinghe REDD+ National Coordinator, Forest Department, Sri Lanka

"It's exciting because REDD+ is a new concept for us. There had been deforestation and forest degradation for a long time, and we were trying our best to stop or control it. But with these new interventions such as REDD+, and with the help of the UN-REDD agencies, we are trying to do something



innovative. We are learning by doing, and Policy Boards meeting like this are allowing us to sharing our information and experience and these are good lessons for us to implement our future REDD+ programmes.

"After coming to know about REDD+, we were interested in becoming partners with the UN-REDD Programme. It's really different from other projects and programmes because it supports nationally-driven, country-led programmes. Partner countries can express their views and needs and get assistance from the three agencies involved in UN-REDD. So this is something new that I have not seen in other programmes and partnerships."

#### Gervais L. Itsoua Madzous Assistant National REDD+ Coordinator, Republic of Congo



"In our country there is now more engagement with stakeholders. Civil society, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector—they are all engaged in the REDD+ process, and they will be represented in our national steering committee on REDD+. Republic of Congo is managing our forest pretty well. For example, we have already integrated reduced impact logging; it's already in our law. And now with REDD+, we can recognize what the country is doing with emission reductions. The value of the partnership with UN-REDD is that the Programme connects us with UN agencies which are able to assist us in developing our MRV systems, drafting IPCC guidelines and other structures to manage the process in our country." ■

## UN-REDD Social and Environmental Criteria Open for Public Consultation

### The UN-REDD Programme's draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria is open for public consultation until 31 December 2011.

REDD+ has the potential to deliver substantial benefits beyond carbon. However, fulfilling this potential depends on careful planning and implementation that effectively address such issues as monitoring, transparent and effective governance, participation, inclusiveness of all stakeholders and respect to indigenous people's rights. Accordingly, the UN-REDD Programme is working with partners and REDD+ countries to develop tools and

guidance to enhance the multiple benefits of REDD+ and reduce risks from inadequate planning and implementation.

#### Download the draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria in English, Spanish and French from:

[http://www.un-redd.org/Multiple\\_Benefits\\_SEPC/tabid/54130/Default.aspx](http://www.un-redd.org/Multiple_Benefits_SEPC/tabid/54130/Default.aspx)

As part of this work, a set of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria are

being developed. The Principles and Criteria are intended to contribute to the UN-REDD Programme's developing framework for ensuring that the Programme's activities contribute effectively to promoting social and environmental benefits and reduce any potential risk from REDD+ implementation. In particular, the Programme proposes that the Principles and be used as a tool for:

- Assisting countries in formulating national REDD+ programmes and initiatives for which they seek UN-REDD support;
- Reviewing national programmes prior to submission for a UN-REDD Policy Board decision on funding;
- Assessing national programme delivery.

The Principles and Criteria are coherent with and draw from the guidance provided by the Cancun agreements, and emerge from the existing rich body of knowledge and literature on safeguards, standards and certification. They consist of broad principles (overarching, fundamental, active statements) within which a list of criteria have been identified as conditions to be met by UN-REDD Programme-funded activities in order to contribute to the achievement of the Principles.

**We invite you to comment on the latest draft Principles and Criteria (Version 3 of October 2011). In addition to comments**

**on the Principles and Criteria themselves, comments are welcome on how the three specific uses for them should be implemented in practice.** In addition, an associated tool will be made available for comment in draft form in mid-November. The tool will articulate in greater detail the significance and meaning of the Principles and Criteria. We will circulate a reminder of this review process when this draft tool is released.

Please send comments and any questions you might have to [ccb@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:ccb@unep-wcmc.org). Your feedback will be part of a public consultation process, running from 15

October to 31 December 2011, which will also include information and feedback sessions at upcoming international REDD+ gatherings and facilitated consultations with pilot REDD+ countries.

Download the feedback form at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/SEPC-Feedback-Form>

The Principles and Criteria have been greatly enriched through the consultations held so far. See a response matrix on the feedback received on previous draft versions of the Principles and Criteria:

<http://tinyurl.com/SEPC-Response-Matrix> ■

## UN-REDD at the Oslo Governance Forum

**At the recent Oslo Governance Forum this month, the UN-REDD Programme presented progress in piloting Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ in Indonesia and Nigeria.**

During the Oslo Governance Forum (OGF) which took place 3-5 October, the UNDP Democratic Governance Group and UNDP Oslo Governance Centre convened close to 250 governance practitioners and experts from government, civil society and academia from around the world to discuss how governance assessments can be a tool in achieving social accountability.

The UN-REDD Programme initiated the first two Participatory Governance Assessments (PGA) pilots in May this year and was interested to learn from similar governance initiatives with a longer track record. As such, one of the main sessions of the OGF targeted governance work within REDD+ and Natural Resource Management to feed into the work of the PGA pilots by focusing on challenges and risk faced by different governance initiatives and lessons learned. In addition, possible links between some of the initiatives were explored throughout the sessions focusing on country experience, methods, tools and approaches.

The different presentations within this REDD+ session, ranging from the extractive industries, water and forest governance made it clear that a lot of the same challenges are recurring, such as the need for stronger inter-ministerial coordination, improved access to information and anti-corruption efforts. The

first two PGA pilots – Indonesia and Nigeria – were presented and discussed during this track. In addition, a range of useful and relevant governance tools and training manuals such as the WRI's "Governance Forest Indicators Toolkit" and Stockholm International Water Institute's "Training on Water Integrity" were presented and discussed, and will be considered for future utilization in the PGA pilots.

Possible synergies between the PGA pilots and the EU's Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)/ Voluntary Partnership Agreements will also be explored further where the two initiatives are being implemented in the same

countries. Although the objectives are not identical, some of the same local communities are relevant for the two initiatives, as well as many of the same issues and challenges will be addressed. In Vietnam, such a linkage will be explored shortly during the preparatory work leading up to the implementation of the PGA pilot there.

In light of the objective of this track, the OGF was indeed a success as it provided an arena to present and discuss the PGAs for REDD+ with a larger audience, as well as allowed sharing of lessons learned from similar governance initiatives.

A report from the OGF will be available shortly on the UN-REDD Programme workspace. Meanwhile, more background information and individual presentations are available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/OGF-Information> ■



Participants at the Oslo Governance Forum, which gathered close to 250 practitioners, policy experts and leaders representing government, civil society, academia and international organizations.



## Expert Group Defines Options for Panama's REDD+ Implementation

The UN-REDD Programme in Panama has convened a multidisciplinary team of experts that is developing scenarios to assist policy makers in implementing REDD+.

The UN-REDD Programme in Panama launched its work last month on the definitions of scenarios for implementation of REDD+ in Panama. The work involves a multidisciplinary team of experts in the areas of economics, forestry, statistics, Geographic Information Systems, rural development and modeling. The work is intended to assist policy makers in defining options for implementation of REDD+ that can fully take into account environmental and social benefits. The focus on understanding forests not only as potential sources of carbon payments but as vectors of environmental and social services requires that policy makers have information about costs and benefits from different implementation options. The objective is not just to maximize monetary flows from carbon payments but to realize the vast array of environment and social benefits that forest can provide.

Different designs of a REDD+ programme will deliver different combinations of carbon, environmental and social benefits, which can complicate decision-making. For example,

stakeholders may want to explore designs of REDD+ that: improve the connectivity between previously isolated protected areas; protect critical water catchment sectors, improve income of rural communities from sustainable land use activities; and allow for an attractive flow of REDD+ payments. The multidisciplinary team will look at how this mosaic of conservation and production activities would look like, and what the associated benefits and costs would be.

These are not easy scenarios to navigate because the challenge is not one of finding the maximum for a single variable but rather to try to find the "best balance" among several. The definition of the "best balance",

however, is not a technical but rather a political decision and as such it is of critical importance that decision makers work with good quality information about benefits and costs for different options.

This is the objective of the work launched in September. It will involve the development of scenarios for the implementation of REDD+ that take into account current land use trajectories, the estimated impact of national development plans and options to realize environmental and social benefits. The work will make extensive use of modeling tools



that will allow policy makers to wind-test different options according to their nationally-stated priorities. The Programme expects to have the first results during the second quarter of 2012. ■

## Features & Commentary

### Ever heard of SEDD+?

In this month's feature commentary, UN-REDD Programme Coordinator for Asia-Pacific, **Thomas Enters**, uses some clever wordsmithing and playful straight talk to clarify what the REDD+ mechanism is all about.

Since you are reading this newsletter, we can safely assume that you are aware of REDD+ and its make-up. But have you ever heard of SEDD+ ("Stopping Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation")? Perhaps you have not come across this acronym, which is not surprising, because it does not exist. I invented it in order to make a very important distinction between the concepts of "stopping" and "reducing" deforestation and forest degradation.

The concern I often hear from government agencies, the private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations, is that the REDD+ mechanism once implemented in a country would have serious negative consequences for many forest users, including local communities and Indigenous Peoples, logging concessionaires and/or the wood

processing industries. They remain concerned that under REDD+, non-timber forest product collection would have to stop, logging operations would cease and land-use change would become history. They fear that economic and infrastructure development in many developing countries would be frozen in time, as industrial countries would pressure them to focus almost exclusively on reducing emissions through mitigation in the forestry sector.

These concerns are why I invented the "SEDD+" acronym, which is how many stakeholders continue to understand REDD+. SEDD+ has rooted itself in the minds of many people, although it does not exist.

It is very clear that "stopping" and "reducing" are two rather different concepts. This

becomes very clear when you think about trimming some of the fat that has accumulated in your body over the years (lucky you, if you are not affected by this development). To get your weight down, would you decide to stop eating altogether or simply reduce the amount of food – and drinks – you consume? The latter, I suspect. You would probably also consider changing your lifestyle. But it's entirely doubtful if anyone would stop eating as the preferred way to rapidly lose weight.

In the forestry sector, the requested or required changes are very similar to the lifestyle change, I referred to above. Under SEDD+, any activity with potentially negative consequences to carbon stocks would have to cease. Under REDD+, on the other hand, developing countries and their stakeholders would mitigate the impacts they have on forest ecosystems and would go about enhancing carbon stocks. For logging concessionaires, this would mean improving their operations by, for example, applying reduced impact logging. Plantations of industrial crops would be established on land not currently covered by forests. I am sure you can think of many other mitigation actions in the forestry sector.

I find SEDD+ a very useful concept or acronym and use it in explaining what REDD+ is all about. Try it the next time you are asked whether poor people can still cut timber to build their houses or canoes. Under SEDD+, they would have to switch to plastics and concrete. Under REDD+, they would continue

what they have done for centuries, but perhaps plant ten trees for each tree felled. Some are doing this already. Others may do so if they get paid for it.



Thomas Enters is the UNEP-UN-REDD Regional Coordinator in the Asia-Pacific region. ■

## Reports & Analysis

### UN-REDD and CBD Team-up to Support Capacity Building on REDD+ Safeguards

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has recently published results from a regional workshop series on capacity building for REDD+ safeguards spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Over the past year, the CBD Secretariat has organized a series of regional consultations and capacity building workshops, held in Singapore in March 2011; Quito, Ecuador, in July 2011; and Cape Town, South Africa, in September 2011. The three regional workshops, with support from the UN-REDD Programme, built on the results of a global expert workshop on biodiversity benefits from REDD+, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2010.

The results of the workshop series are intended to support both the CBD and UNFCCC discussions on relevant biodiversity safeguards for REDD+, and on the monitoring of biodiversity in the context of the forest-related targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Participants agreed that if REDD+ is successful at reducing deforestation and forest degradation and promoting forest conservation, it will have significant and unprecedented benefits for biodiversity and also has the potential to deliver significant benefits to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Other key results and conclusions from the workshops include:

- It would be beneficial and thus it is important that countries address safeguards as early as possible when undertaking REDD+ readiness activities. Financial support is required to support countries to meet the requirements for implementing safeguards.
- There is a need for cross referencing existing safeguard frameworks (for example UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria, FCPF Common Approach, and REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards) with relevant processes and guidelines, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

- Intersectoral coordination between and within Ministries is of utmost importance to ensure timely and effective application of safeguards and synergies in the implementation of REDD+.
- Clarifying tenure issues remains an urgent challenge for many aspects of REDD+, including safeguards for indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Effective land use planning and land use planning at national level would lower REDD+ risks and enhance benefits.
- Addressing safeguards can benefit from existing knowledge at international, national and local level, including from the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, Payments for Ecosystem Services, Community Based Natural Resources Management, etc.
- More analysis is required to identify biodiversity indicators and assessment mechanisms for biodiversity impacts of REDD+.
- Existing guidance from the CBD, such as advice on reforestation and in decision X/33 paragraph 8, can help Parties to

avoid negative biodiversity impacts, and enhance benefits.

- Further capacity building on REDD+ is needed at several levels.

Taken together, the four workshops were attended by representatives from 63 Parties and 55 international organizations, NGOs, private sector institutions and indigenous and local communities. Funding for the workshops was provided by the UN-REDD Programme, the Governments of Germany, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as GIZ and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The CBD Secretariat has submitted the full results of the workshop series to the UNFCCC Secretariat in response to the UNFCCC's request for submissions on methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+, specifically related to systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I to UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected. The submission is available in English, French and Spanish at:

[www.cbd.int/forest](http://www.cbd.int/forest).

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[www.cbd.int/forest](http://www.cbd.int/forest). ■



Participants of the Asia-Pacific regional workshop on capacity building for REDD+ safeguards held in Singapore in March of this year.

## Linking Community Monitoring with National MRV for REDD+

UN-REDD Programme partner countries recently participated in a cross-regional workshop to explore how community-level monitoring can help strengthen National REDD+ Programmes.

More than 65 participants from 15 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America shared their experiences and work on MRV during a workshop entitled, "Linking community monitoring with national Monitoring Reporting and Verification for REDD" held in Mexico last month, from 12-14 September 2011. The workshop sought to come up with a common view on how (ie/ through what methods and for what particular tasks) communities may be involved in monitoring carbon stock changes and other variables related to REDD+. A shortlist of priority actions that need to be undertaken to promote community monitoring within national REDD+ programmes was the main outcome of the workshop.

COP16 documentation on REDD+ promotes and supports community participation through safeguard d, Appendix 1<sup>1</sup>. With this in mind, workshop participants considered the reliability of community generated data and the costs of local monitoring compared to expert-based monitoring. Efforts were made to identify the particular niches which ground level, community monitoring can fit within the overall national REDD+ data

requirements. One of the leading thoughts was that such monitoring should effectively and efficiently support the overall national REDD+ MRV effort while delivering benefits which are also of local value.

It is clear that methods and tasks will vary according to national circumstances, particularly with respect to the role that community forest management (CFM) can play within any given national REDD+ programme (ie/ indigenous groups providing conservation services in relatively intact rainforest areas, farmer communities providing forest enhancement services in already degraded dry forests, etc). A large number of methods and technologies are available, and the pros and cons of many of these were discussed.

In addition to monitoring of carbon, possibilities for community monitoring of

other important variables, such as biodiversity and social impacts, particularly in the context of the growing awareness of the importance of safeguards, were also considered. In addition, the promotion of community monitoring, to overcome the



A reforestation project in Chiapas, Mexico

doubts that some people have regarding its reliability and usefulness was also discussed. The workshop was sponsored by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and organized by the Centro de Investigaciones en Geografía Ambiental of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (CIGA-UNAM).

<sup>1</sup>Safeguard d, Appendix 1 states that, "The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the REDD+ actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of the Cancun Agreements" (Dec 1/CP.16). ■

## Looking Ahead

### Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Regional FPIC workshop

26 October, 2011: Hanoi, Viet Nam

### Asia-Pacific Forestry Week

6-11 November, 2011: Beijing, China

### UN-REDD Cambodia Inception workshop

13-17 November, 2011: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### Forest Day 5- Registration Now Open

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/Forest-Day4-Registration>

4 December, 2011: Durban, South Africa

## UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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