

# UN-REDD Programme Newsletter

## Introduction

Dear Readers,

Next week in Durban, South Africa, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will meet for the 17<sup>th</sup> time to advance critical negotiations on an agreement to supersede the Kyoto Protocol and ensure a legally binding commitment to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

You can read more on the UN-REDD Programme's activities at COP17 in the News section of this month's newsletter.

The UN-REDD Programme is aware of the overarching issues at stake in the UNFCCC negotiations in Durban, including the importance of agreeing on ways to advance the implementation of the Cancun Agreements that emerged from COP16, and ensure meaningful action to limit global warming. The Programme will focus especially on the expected progress to be made in the REDD+ negotiations at COP17, including agreements on funding for the full implementation of REDD+, and on the guidelines of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) regarding systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, and for setting reference levels. The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that it is crucial to agree on instruments and mechanisms to promote reduction of emissions from all sectors—not just forests—which will require greater commitment and ambition from all parties.

The Green Climate Fund agreed to in Cancun is expected to be established in Durban, including its governance bodies, financial instruments, funding windows and modalities for access. Having the Green Climate Fund operational is of critical importance for developing countries, as it will provide support to mitigation and adaptation actions undertaken by these countries, as well as supporting technology transfer and capacity building.

During the UNFCCC's COPs of the past few years, REDD+ has remained an area of the negotiation where developing and developed countries have been able to find common ground. The REDD+ community is optimistic and looking forward to seeing a similar spirit of collaboration and compromise in other areas of the negotiations at COP17, so that the UNFCCC process can deliver a robust climate change agreement urgently needed to protect our planet for generations to come.

Yemi Katerere

Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

## In this Issue

### News

UN-REDD at COP17 and Forest Day 5 .....Page 1.

National UN-REDD Programme Updates ..... Page 2.

Addressing Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific .....Page 3.

New Stakeholder Engagement Resources on un-redd.org .....Page 4.

### Features & Commentary

Update on REDD+ in Solomon Islands .....Page 4.

### Reports & Analysis

New Publication on Climate Change for Forest Policy-Makers .....Page 5.

Report on Multiple Benefits of REDD+ in Ecuador now Available in Spanish .....Page 5.

REDD+ Partnership Discusses Progress Made on REDD+ Database, Measuring and Monitoring .....Page 6.

## News

### UN-REDD at COP17 and Forest Day 5

The UN-REDD Programme invites participants at COP17 and FD5 to join in the REDD+ discussions the Programme will host in Durban, where the first publications under the Programme's new Lessons Learned and Policy Brief series will be launched.

#### UN-REDD at COP17 and Forest Day 5

#### CEB SIDE EVENT: "Making Progress with REDD+: Applying Lessons Learned to Enhance Success"

**Date:** Wednesday, 30 Nov 2011

**Time:** 13:15-14:45

**Location:** Room 2, ICC Convention Center, Durban

Countries worldwide are implementing REDD+ readiness and significant lessons are already emerging. Join the UN-REDD Programme to discuss how these lessons are advancing REDD+ and revealing opportunities to connect with other sectors to meet

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



**COP17/CMP7**  
UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA



Shaping the global agenda for forests and climate change

climate and sustainable development goals while catalyzing transitions to a green economy. For more information on this side event, email [un-redd@un-redd.org](mailto:un-redd@un-redd.org).

#### Launch of UN-REDD Lessons Learned and Policy Brief Series

#### "UN-REDD Lessons Learned: Asia-Pacific"

Drawing from the early experiences of supporting partner countries in their REDD+ readiness and



implementation efforts over the past three years, the UN-REDD Programme will launch its first “Lessons Learned” series with a substantive, 12-page publication focusing on lessons learned among UN-REDD Programme partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The “UN-REDD Lessons Learned: Asia-Pacific” booklet (in English, French and Spanish) will be available at the REDD+ CEB side event on 30 November 2011 in Durban, as well as at the UN-REDD Programme booth throughout the first week of COP17 and on the UN-REDD Programme website.

In the “UN-REDD Lessons Learned: Asia-Pacific” booklet, the UN-REDD Programme identifies tangible challenges and best practices that have emerged among its 12 partner countries in the region, including examples and case studies related to information, monitoring and MRV, benefit distribution systems, safeguards and the formulation of national REDD+ strategies. In 2012, the Programme will launch two more publications in this series, focusing on lessons learned in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

**UN-REDD Policy Brief: “REDD+ and a Green Economy”**

The UN-REDD Programme’s inaugural policy brief entitled, “REDD+ and a Green Economy: Opportunities for a mutually supportive relationship”, will also be launched at the REDD+ CEB side event on 30



November 2011 in Durban, and will be available at the UN-REDD Programme booth throughout the first week of COP17 and on the UN-REDD Programme website.

In the “REDD+ and a Green Economy” policy brief, the UN-REDD Programme explores the concepts of REDD+ as a source of investment for green development; as a natural capital-led investment strategy; and as an opportunity for change to green development. The policy brief also offers recommendations for creating a roadmap for REDD+ in the context of green development.

**Forest Day 5**

**Date:** Sunday, 4 December 2010  
**Time:** 9 am-6:45 pm  
**Location:** Olive Convention Centre, Durban

At Forest Day 5, join representatives from the UN-REDD Programme’s participating UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) as they lead learning events, all targeted at exploring various REDD+ issues.

More details of the UN-REDD Programme’s participation at Forest Day 5 and other events in Durban can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/UN-REDD-AT-COP17>

**National UN-REDD Programme Updates**

Ecuador signs its National Programme and enters into implementation; REDD+ Readiness consultations begin in Bangladesh; the Philippines officially kicks off REDD+ implementation with its Inception workshop; and Viet Nam finalizes its study on ecological stratification linked to REDD+.

It’s been a busy past few months for UN-REDD Programme partner countries. Below are progress updates from UN-REDD National Programmes in Ecuador, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

**Ecuador signs its UN-REDD National Programme and gets ready for implementation**

After reviewing and addressing comments from the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board and independent reviewers, Ecuador signed its National Programme document on 28 October, 2011.

Read Ecuador’s signed National Programme document: <http://tinyurl.com/Equador-NPD>

Read more on Ecuador’s National Programme approval at the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board in March 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/Equador-NP-Approved>

**Consultations on REDD+ Readiness Roadmap begin in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh recently took its first steps on the road to REDD+ Readiness by holding national

and sub-national REDD+ consultations. The national multi-stakeholder workshop in Dhaka on 25 October was followed by a regional workshop in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. These events brought together more than 70 participants to engage in active discussions on Bangladesh’s REDD+ Roadmap process and issues in its forest sector. The national workshop last month, which included participants from the government, civil society, academics, donor partners and the media, was designed for those with at least a basic familiarity with the concept of REDD+.

Its objective was to establish three voluntary, multi-stakeholder working groups to contribute to focus on the following aspects of the country’s Roadmap development:

1. Methods: Monitoring, MRV and REL/RL
2. Strategy: Drivers, Policies and Measures
3. Safeguards: Consultation process, Social and Environmental Safeguards

Follow-up work to ensure that these working groups are fully operational will include the identification of focal points for each group, both within the country’s REDD+ operational unit (also known as the ‘REDD Cell’) and within the technical advisory team.

The regional workshop in Rangamati, in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, focused on the region of Bangladesh with the highest concentration of Indigenous Peoples and a



Bangladesh’s national workshop last month included participants from the government, civil society, academics, donor partners and the media.

recent history of conflict. The event brought together officials of the Forest Department with media and civil society groups, Indigenous Peoples and their elected representatives to discuss the underlying causes of forest loss and degradation in this remote and beautiful area. The focus of this workshop touched on sensitive, unresolved

issues from the recent conflict and marked the first time that these groups have openly discussed their respective opinions.

"I am surprised at how much we all agree on," noted one divisional Forestry Officer. Similar consultation workshops will be conducted in other regions of Bangladesh over the coming months.

### Context

Since being accepted into the UN-REDD Programme as a partner country in August 2010, the Bangladeshi government has been keen to make swift progress towards developing a full REDD+ Readiness Programme. The Ministry of Environment and Forests moved quickly to establish a national REDD+ Steering Committee and the REDD Cell. Although the UN-REDD Programme is not currently supporting a National Programme in the country, the UNDP country office in Bangladesh supported a preliminary scoping visit in August of this year, which has been followed by a joint mission with FAO to initiate the Roadmap process. The national REDD+ Steering Committee has endorsed a joint technical advisory team of FAO and UNDP consultants and the national REDD+ focal point.

### Philippines' Inception Workshop kicks off their National Programme implementation

The Philippines inception workshop, held last October 15, 2011, brought together close to 60 participants from over 20 organizations and different divisions of national and international agencies. Views and comments expressed by participants were considered and shall be included in the final workshop report that will be coming soon. The participatory process of enriching the documents of the UN-REDD National Programme in the Philippines allowed the establishment of a programme crafted together by the national agencies and civil society organizations in the country.



At the Inception Workshop, the UN-REDD Programme recognized the particularly strong inputs of the group CodeREDD who worked on the development of the national REDD+ strategy, which has been a great asset to the UN-REDD Programme in the Philippines. The country's national strategy will benefit from the inputs of the UN-REDD Programme to strengthen the implementation of its actions. This concerns in particular the MRV activities. The implementation of a monitoring and MRV action plan which can be integrated into the national strategy and support for the development of a national forest monitoring system shall be the main contributions of the UN-REDD+ Programme.

### Viet Nam finalizes study on Ecological Stratification linked to REDD+

As a country aiming to reach Tier 3 reporting by the eventual implementation phase of REDD+, Viet Nam, supported by the UN-REDD Programme engaged in a study to stratify the country into ecological zones which are conducive for forestry. The Ecological Stratification study of Viet Nam was finalized in October 2011. ■

## Addressing Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific

### The UN-REDD Programme recently co-organized two regional workshops in Nepal and Thailand to identify practical recommendations in tackling corruption risks for REDD+.

The Asia-Pacific region is characterized overall by both advances in REDD+ readiness – with six countries currently implementing national UN-REDD Programmes<sup>1</sup> - and the emergence of national anti-corruption strategies following broad ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (link to Sam's presentation). Last year's publication "Staying on track – Tackling Corruption Risks in Climate Change" identified broad corruption risks for REDD+ and risk mitigation actions. Building on this primer and on recent reports by UN-REDD Programme partners<sup>2</sup>, the UN-REDD Programme and UNDP's

Democratic Governance Group<sup>3</sup>, organized two regional workshops to raise awareness on this issue and initiate discussions on tailored risk mitigation measures.

#### Highlights from the Kathmandu and Bangkok Anti-Corruption & REDD+ Workshops

- The workshops were attended by over 120 participants from 12 REDD+ countries.
- A poster and notes summarizing the findings and proposals of the Kathmandu workshop was prepared to inform participants in the Bangkok workshop.
- Summaries of country-specific measures to address corruption risks in REDD+, based on participants' inputs, are being elaborated for participating countries.
- Civil society participants were offered a hands-on training on using Transparency International's Manual for Assessing Integrity in REDD+ and forest carbon projects.
- Virtual engagement prior to the workshops facilitated constructive face-to-face discussions.



Kathmandu workshop participants

The Nepal workshop, held in Kathmandu on 10-11 October 2011, as part of the Asia-Pacific "Integrity in Action" week, targeted anti-corruption experts from anti-corruption commissions, UNDP anti-corruption focal points and non-governmental organizations working on increasing transparency and integrity. Prior to the workshop, participants were invited to share views on the Asia-Pacific "Integrity in Action" (INTACT) network and on their experiences on anti-corruption efforts in the forestry sector. The workshop was an opportunity for participants to draw from their experiences - for example in tackling corruption in the forestry sector (e.g. in Bhutan, Indonesia and Malaysia), from the Global Fund and in activities in the health and education sectors - to provide concrete recommendations. These recommendations will build on the ongoing governance support provided by UNDP and UN-REDD in Asia and the Pacific (such as the draft social and environmental principles and criteria, FPIC and benefit distribution and participatory governance assessments for REDD+). At the conclusion of the workshop, participants identified different but coordinated roles for different actors.

Messages and recommendations from the Nepal workshop were then taken to participants in the Thailand workshop, held in Bangkok 20-21 October. This workshop gathered REDD+ government, civil society

and UNDP practitioners. An online survey held prior to the meeting acted as a starting point to identify the relevance of each risk. Participants were tasked with discussing actions to tackle identified risks, based on the developing REDD+ institutions, framework and progress and on existing anti-corruption frameworks and instruments available in their countries. In an afternoon co-hosted with Transparency International (TI), civil society participants received a hands-on training on using TI's upcoming Manual for Assessing Integrity in REDD+ and Forest Carbon projects.

The specific corruption risks identified and the associated mitigation measures that

participants suggested will inform the 2012 integrated work plan of UN-REDD Programme and UNDP's Thematic Programme on Anti-corruption for Aid Effectiveness (PACDE).

Corruption may take many shapes and forms, and preventive anti-corruption measures must be identified as early as the REDD+ readiness phase. Taken together, the workshops clearly demonstrated that tapping into the expertise of anti-corruption and REDD+ experts can facilitate constructive discussions between a range of stakeholders. Building on the success and lessons from these events, UNDP and the UN-REDD Programme are planning to

organize a similar capacity development exercise for stakeholders from UN-REDD Programme partner countries in Africa early next year.

All workshop presentations are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/Asia-Pacific-Anti-Corruption>

<sup>1</sup>Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam.

<sup>2</sup>See for example Transparency International's Global Corruption Report on Climate Change and Global Witness's "Forest Carbon, Cash and Crime" brief

<sup>3</sup>Through its Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness ■

## New Stakeholder Engagement Resources on un-redd.org

Check out the newly revamped webpage on [Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent communities on un-redd.org](#).

The new section now features more resources and information on the Programme's national and global-level stakeholder engagement activities, the history of stakeholder engagement, the

UN-REDD Programme's guidelines on stakeholder engagement and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and recourse mechanisms, as well as more links to other resources and UNFCCC decisions.

Let us know what you think of our new stakeholder engagement section by emailing us at [un-redd@un-redd.org](mailto:un-redd@un-redd.org) or posting on the UN-REDD Programme blog or Facebook page.

See the pages at: [http://www.un-redd.org/Stakeholder\\_Engagement/tabid/55630/Default.aspx](http://www.un-redd.org/Stakeholder_Engagement/tabid/55630/Default.aspx) ■

## Features & Commentary

### Update on REDD+ in Solomon Islands

Faced with high rates of deforestation that call for urgent action, the Solomon Islands continues its ongoing REDD+ implementation efforts with a half-day training event on measurement, reporting, verification (MRV) and monitoring for REDD+.  
By: **Aki Kono** and **Matieu Henry**

As part of the inception phase of the UN-REDD Initial National Programme in the Solomon Islands, a half-day training event on MRV and monitoring was organized at the end of October in Honiara to provide an

overview of national MRV and monitoring systems, as well as various capacity, data and resource requirements for the implementation of such systems. The event was attended by technical staff members of the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Ministry of Forests and Research, experts from the UN-REDD Programme and several NGOs, including the World Wildlife Fund, Live & Learn and The Nature Conservancy.



Participants at the Solomon Islands' recent MRV and Monitoring training included staff members of the Ministry of Environment along with other international experts and NGO representatives.

REDD+ in Solomon Islands will be implemented through the following three phases: i) **development** of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and

capacity building; ii) **implementation** of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans; and iii) **results-based actions** that should be fully measured, reported and verified.

However, at the current rate of deforestation and forest degradation, the Solomon Islands may not have much time left before the country completely loses its forests. This should generate a strong sense of urgency to address all illegal and unsustainable logging and plantation practices in the country. The REDD+ readiness process supported by the UN-REDD Initial National Programme will assist the country in meeting this challenge through, among others, helping to develop MRV and Monitoring capacities and systems in order to establish and implement appropriate policies and measures against those illegal and unsustainable practices.

In addition, stricter control on logging and plantations in insular Southeast Asian over the decades has resulted in increased logging and plantation activities in the Pacific Melanesia. With limited capacities and resources to ensure sustainable practices, the Solomon Islands has been severely affected

by this trend. In addressing this challenge through REDD+, one of the most cost-effective strategies is through regional cooperation with neighboring countries in Melanesia, to collaboratively build the necessary capacities and share information, knowledge as well as resources to establish and implement appropriate policies and measures in each country. Such an approach is particularly critical for those technical and costly areas like MRV and Monitoring. In this

regards, the currently proposed regional approach among the Pacific countries on REDD+ would be very timely for the Solomon Islands.



*Aki Kono is a technical advisor with UNDP's regional team in Bangkok, supporting UN-REDD Programme partner countries in Asia-Pacific.*

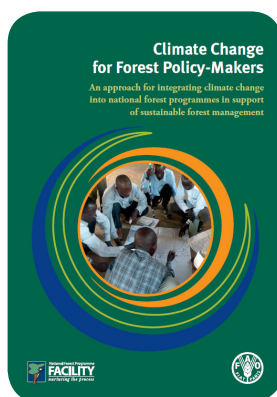


*Matieu Henry is a MRV expert for the UN-REDD Programme, based in Rome. ■*

## Reports & Analysis

### New Publication on Climate Change for Forest Policy-Makers

Under the lead of FAO and the National Forest Programme Facility, the UN-REDD Programme has contributed to the extensive review process of a new publication which provides a practical approach for integrating climate change into national forest programmes.



The publication, entitled *"Climate Change for Forest Policy-Makers – An approach for integrating climate change into national forest programmes in support of sustainable*

*forest management- version 1"*, is the outcome of a process initiated in 2009 with a series of national stakeholder workshops, aiming to support countries in the process of integrating climate change into their National Forest Programmes (NFP). The outcomes from the workshops were further discussed during an expert consultation in September 2010 and the draft guidelines went through external and internal review

in 2011 with the inputs of many partners including the UN-REDD Programme. Engaging in REDD+ activities has implications on forest and land management and may require revision of national forest programmes in the participating countries. Hence it is important that climate change strategies and plans including REDD+ strategies are integrated into a country's existing forest policy framework and other sectoral frameworks that influence forests; this can help to ensure that climate change objectives are balanced with other forest sector objectives and that trade-offs are weighed and synergies captured.

The publication is a key part of FAO's and the National Forest Programme Facility's country support and seeks to provide a practical approach to the process of integrating climate change into national forest programmes (NFPs). The document has been developed to help forest policy makers

integrate climate change into existing NFPs, or forest policy frameworks, and to encourage consistent treatment of forestry issues, including REDD+, in national climate change strategies and policies.

The intended use of the publication is concentrated across several levels:

- Countries that already have a forest and climate change strategy or a REDD+ strategy may use the approach to identify and make needed adjustments to their national forest policy framework to facilitate strategy implementation, and ensure that REDD+ actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of NFP.
- Countries that have not yet identified priority actions in the forest sector for climate change mitigation and adaptation may use the approach outlined in the document to develop a national forest and climate change strategy.
- Also other uses exist, such as a control mechanism for countries to verify that existing strategies in relevant sectors are comprehensive and adequately take into consideration stakeholder interests and priorities.

The publication is available in English, Spanish, and French. More information on the initiative can be found on the FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/climatechange/64862/en/> ■

### Report on Multiple Benefits of REDD+ in Ecuador now Available in Spanish

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, the summary report on multiple benefits of REDD+ in Ecuador is now available in English and Spanish.

The Spanish report is the result of a collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador and the UN-REDD Programme, through UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre, which took

place throughout 2010. The report includes spatial analyses on the relationship between biomass carbon stocks (based on a preliminary biomass carbon dataset) and biodiversity, protected areas, forest cover loss

and oil and gas exploitation, among others. The Spanish version is now available on Ecuador's Ministry of Environment website:

<http://www.ambiente.gob.ec/>

Download the report in English:

<http://tinyurl.com/Ecuador-Brochure-En> and Spanish:

<http://tinyurl.com/Ecuador-Brochure-Sp> ■

## REDD+ Partnership Discusses Progress Made on REDD+ Database, Measuring and Monitoring

Alongside UNFCCC talks in Panama in October, the UN-REDD Programme supported the REDD+ Partnership's third official meeting of 2011, which discussed the progress made on the Voluntary REDD+ Database, and the Partnerships' workshops on REDD+ safeguards as well as measuring and monitoring REDD+.

The new interface for the Voluntary REDD+ Database was launched to improve the visualisation of the data. More countries are now reporting and the database is continuously growing and improving. The Voluntary REDD+ Database team (comprised of UN-REDD Programme colleagues at FAO in Rome and UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge) is working together with country focal points to improve the quality of the data.

The REDD+ Partnership meeting also received the final report of the REDD+ Partnership Effectiveness Review of Multilateral REDD+ Initiatives. The review was carried out by the IDL Group, and pointed to a number of improvements that have been made in recent months on coordination and effectiveness of the

initiatives, but also areas where improvements are still needed. The Partnership acknowledged the recommendations of the review and, building on the study, combined a set of recommendations, which were sent as advice to managers of the multilateral REDD+ initiatives of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Investment Programme and the Global Environment Facility. The recommendations were also presented at the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting and the FCPF Participants Committee in October 2011.

The REDD+ Partnership also held two workshops in Panama; on REDD+ safeguards, and measuring and monitoring REDD+.

In the safeguards workshop, partners and stakeholders emphasized the importance and the challenge of finding a balance between: 1) a safeguards approach that is useful for countries and stakeholders, acceptable to international standards, and builds enough confidence in REDD+ to encourage the substantial financial investments required, but 2) does not impose excessive transaction and opportunity costs on the country that could potentially make projects unviable.

In the workshop on measuring and monitoring, the Partnership discussed, among other aspects, the need to consider the multi-functionality of forest resources while achieving the objective of producing acceptable carbon estimates, and how this implies that monitoring systems must inherently be multi-scale and multi-purpose, based on national circumstances and building largely on the national forest inventories. It was noted that it is important to make sure that measuring and monitoring requirements allow all countries to participate, in order to avoid possible leakage. ■

### Looking Ahead

#### UNFCCC COP17

28 November- 9 December, 2011: Durban, South Africa

#### Climate-Smart Knowledge Day

29 November, 2011: Durban, South Africa

#### REDD+ CEB Side event at COP17

30 November, 2011: Durban, South Africa

#### Forest Day 5

4 December, 2011: Durban, South Africa

### UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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