

Introduction

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! It's been a busy month and a half since our last UN-REDD newsletter, with our focus firmly on supporting our partner countries and the REDD+ negotiations at the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP17) in Durban, South Africa in December.

The UN-REDD Programme was pleased to host a number of very valuable REDD+ side events during the Climate Talks, as well as support the Joint Declaration of Intent for REDD+ in the Congo Basin. You can read highlights from all these activities on the UN-REDD Programme blog.

Since Durban, we've been reflecting on the outcomes and implications of COP17 for the UN-REDD Programme. In terms of overall outcomes, we remain encouraged that the Parties agreed to move forward with the "Durban Package" that includes a roadmap to develop a legally-binding instrument for all countries, an agreement on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol, and a set of decisions to operationalize the Cancun Agreement, including making the Green Climate Fund operational.

With respect to REDD+, we were pleased to see the progress made on safeguards, reference levels and reference emission levels. Parties decided to set reference levels on a historical basis, adjusted according to national circumstances; and regarding safeguards, it was decided that countries will be required to report on their nationally-based safeguard actions as part of their national communications. Durban did progress the discussion on REDD+ financing and methodologies, however the negotiations leave us with a lack of clarity on the scale and channels for financing of REDD+ activities in Phase 3.

For REDD+ to take off, it will depend on the speed at which the discussions on a legally-binding agreement proceed and the availability of finance. It will also require a serious commitment from developed countries to mobilize significant climate funds from both private and public sources. What is also clear coming out of COP17 is that mitigation and adaptation activities need to be better integrated. This makes sense since those affected by climate change live in landscapes where the synergy between mitigation and adaptation defines their reality.

We begin this New Year with a sense of encouragement and a clearer picture of the work needed moving forward. As the UN-REDD Programme newsletter enters its third year in circulation, we promise to continue to bring you all the latest developments and analysis from our work and the work of our partners, as we remain committed to realizing the potential of REDD+ as a critical part of the climate change solution.

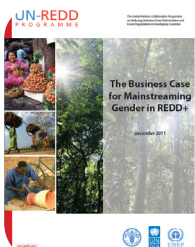
Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

UN-REDD Launches Three New Publications

The UN-REDD Programme recently launched a new report on mainstreaming gender in REDD+, as well as a new lessons learned and policy brief series.

Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+



This new publication by the UN-REDD Programme, entitled "The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+", sets out to demonstrate how integrating gender

considerations in REDD+ planning makes good business sense. The "Business Case" examines what gender equality and equity mean and entail for stakeholder engagement, land and resources tenure, multiple benefits of forests, benefit distribution systems, anti corruption efforts and inclusive growth and development. The report also examines why integrating gender considerations may increase efficiency,

efficacy and sustainability, and proposes initial recommendations on how to do so.

The report, a working copy of which was released at COP17 in December 2011, highlights brief case studies showing, for example in India, how women's participation has positively affected forest regeneration and the control of illicit grazing and felling; and how women's engagement as decision-makers in executive committees, as is shown in an example in Nepal, can lead to increase in forest carbon stock, increased sequestration of carbon dioxide, as well as increase community income. Giving considerations to gender equality in REDD+, the report concludes, makes good business sense.

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

Recommendations are structured around how to build the evidence base, build capacity and ensure that monitoring and evaluation plans include gender-sensitive indicators. These recommendations also point to various actions for different phases of REDD+.

Taking into account men and women's different needs and knowledge will be key in promoting gender equality, and will require a willingness to experiment, a commitment to share best practices and lessons learned, and the opportunity to scale up. The UN-REDD Programme, in collaboration with UNDP's gender group and other partners, will support these efforts.

Context

The draft decision agreement on REDD+ resulting from the Durban UNFCCC negotiations in December 2011 notes the importance of "respect[ing] gender considerations" in systems to provide information on how REDD+ safeguards are respected.

Women and men's specific roles, rights and responsibilities, as well as their particular use patterns and knowledge of forests, shape their experiences differently. Failure to understand these differences could

lead to incomplete information on which to design REDD+ policies, and should be avoided through effective and meaningful participation of women. Gender equality is a human right, as set forth in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other international instruments.

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 launched its first "Lessons Learned" series at COP17 in December 2011, with a substantive yet concise, 12-page publication focusing on lessons learned among UN-REDD Programme partner countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

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 Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The UN-REDD Lessons Learned: Asia-Pacific" booklet is available in English, French and Spanish.

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", was launched at COP17 in December 2011. In this

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. It is currently available in English, but will soon be translated into French and Spanish. ■

7 New Countries Join the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme welcomes Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Ghana, Myanmar, South Sudan and Suriname as new partners to the Programme.

The UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board agreed in a recent inter-sessional decision to welcome Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Ghana, Myanmar, South Sudan and Suriname as partners of the Programme and official observers to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. These countries join the Programme's 35 other partner countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America, and the Caribbean (see list).

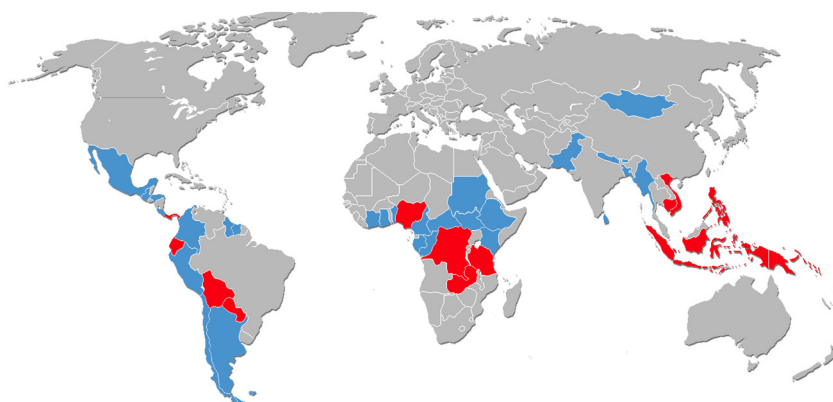
"With these seven new partner countries, the UN-REDD Programme's community of practice is now 42-countries strong. Together, these partner countries possess an incredible wealth of experience in REDD+ readiness which the Programme will continue to harness to facilitate knowledge sharing and learning by doing," said Dr. Yemi Katerere, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat.

New partner countries can benefit from receiving targeted support from the UN-REDD Global Programme and knowledge sharing, which is facilitated by the UN-REDD

Programme's online community of practice (www.unredd.net). Partner countries will also have observer status at UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meetings, and may be invited to submit a request to receive funding for a National Programme in the

future, if selected through a set of criteria to prioritize funding for new countries approved by the Policy Board.

To date, 14 UN-REDD Programme partner countries have presented National Programmes to the Policy Board and have been allocated a total of US\$59.3 million in funding. The UN-REDD Programme continues to pursue additional funding options that will enable the Programme to expand its financial support on REDD+ to more partner countries in the future. ■



- Bolivia, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia
- Argentina, Bangladesh, **Benin***, Bhutan, **Cameroon***, Central African Republic, **Chile***, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Gabon, **Ghana***, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, **Myanmar***, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Congo, **South Sudan***, Sri Lanka, Sudan and **Suriname***.

UN-REDD Develops Multiple Benefits Mapping Toolbox

The toolbox is designed to help users understand the relationship between ecosystem carbon stocks, other ecosystem services, biodiversity, land-use and pressures on natural resources.

The UN-REDD Programme has launched a new GIS toolbox to assist in mapping the potential for multiple benefits from REDD+, together with detailed guidance on identifying, mapping and understanding the spatial relationship between ecosystem carbon stocks, other ecosystem services, biodiversity, land-use and pressures on natural resources. The outputs of such work can support REDD+ decision-making on the location of REDD+ activities, in that they:

- Can be adapted to specific national priorities and needs for information;
- Provide a relatively quick-to-produce snapshot (rapid assessment) of the distribution of carbon stocks based on best available data (not a basis for carbon MRV);
- Illustrate where REDD+ could secure biodiversity and other ecosystem services (ecosystem-based multiple benefits) in addition to maintaining carbon stocks;
- Present the distribution of carbon stocks in relation to land-use plans and

management units (such as protected areas) that countries may wish to consider when planning for REDD+;

- Highlight where areas of importance for ecosystem-based multiple benefits may be under pressure, e.g. from deforestation or oil, gas and mining activities;
- Identify areas of importance for biodiversity or ecosystem services that are unlikely to directly benefit from REDD+. As land-use change is reduced in REDD+ forests, some of these areas may come under additional risk of change;
- Assist countries in identifying what spatial distribution of REDD+ activities will help to promote and support the Cancun safeguards on natural forest and biodiversity.

The toolbox is flexible, providing a set of tools that can be used interchangeably while using a consistent and efficient methodology that will decrease the time required to undertake

such analyses. This customized ArcGIS 9.3.1 toolbox has been developed at UNEP-WCMC for REDD+ multiple benefits analyses. It has been developed through work funded by both the UN-REDD Programme and the German Environment Ministry (BMU) through its Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).



Download toolbox (version 1.2):

<http://tinyurl.com/MB-Mapping-toolbox>

Download manual (version 1): Identifying and mapping the biodiversity and ecosystem-based multiple benefits of REDD+: A step-by-step guide:

<http://tinyurl.com/MB-Mapping-toolbox-manual> ■

New "GO-REDD+" Listserv launched in Asia-Pacific

Through GO-REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific will disseminate a wide range of regionally-focused information on REDD+ to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts.

Go-REDD+

To kick start 2012, the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific has launched an invitation for the new knowledge-sharing gateway "Go-REDD+". As part of the

UN-REDD Programme's regional support to countries in the Asia-Pacific, Go-REDD+ is an electronic listserv that will distribute information, hot topic, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific.

Messages will be disseminated twice a month and all messages will be archived on the Regional Activities page of the UN-REDD Programme's web-site. The first issue of GO-REDD+ was launched on 9 January 2012, exploring the topic of seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+ readiness and implementation efforts. For those who are interested in keeping updated on REDD+ issues, or have some interesting stories to share about REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, contact the Go-REDD+ Team at: Goredd.th@undp.org. ■

Features & Commentary

DRC Launches New National Forest Monitoring System

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has taken the lead in developing a revolutionary tool for managing tropical forests, capable of meeting the required standards for REDD+ monitoring and reporting.

By: Danae Maniatis, Stefano Giaccio, Bruno Guay and Inge Jonckheere

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) officially launched its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) at a COP17 side

event in Durban, South Africa in December 2011, demonstrating live how it works and inviting users to provide feedback.

This monitoring system was developed by the DRC government in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) in response to the relevant decisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) made at COP16 in Cancun in December 2010. One of those decisions (paragraph 71 of Decision 1/CP.16) requests developing country Parties that undertake REDD+ activities to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and

reporting of the five REDD+ activities. The aim of the DRC NFMS is to address domestic and international monitoring needs and international MRV reporting requirements.

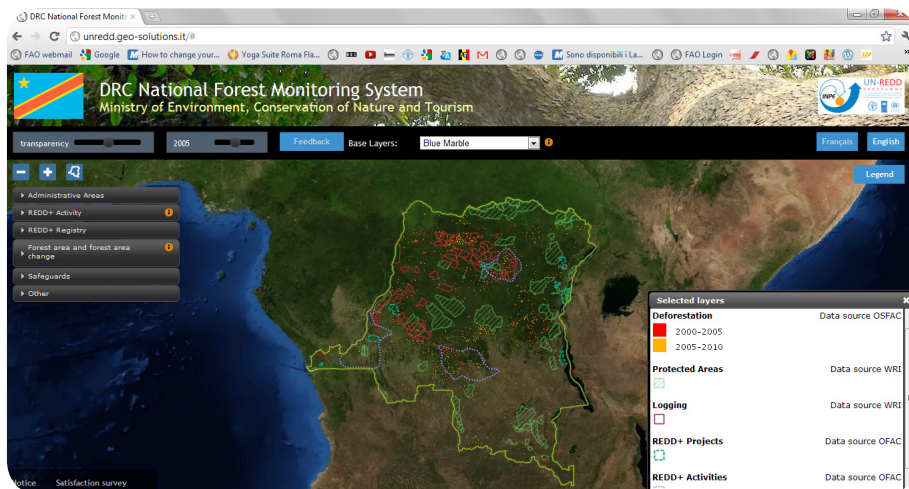
developed in a time-span of six months, and further development of the system will continue in 2012.

activities, results-based actions and national policies and measures in the forestry sector; (ii) have a multi-purpose methodological approach to address monitoring needs for other relevant national or international processes beyond REDD+ (e.g. biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of forests, etc.); (iii) build on existing monitoring systems or system elements in the DRC; (iv) be developed to become an operational, permanent and independent long-term monitoring system as an integral part of the mandate of DRC's Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism (MECNT) and its technical divisions.

Take home message

With the support of FAO and the UN-REDD Programme, the DRC has successfully developed a revolutionary NFMS showing that with a few ingredients – strong national political will, collaboration between national and international stakeholders, secure financing by donors and building creatively on existing technical knowledge and products (by bringing everything together in one system) – there is a real opportunity to provide concrete building blocks to protect and sustainably manage tropical forests.

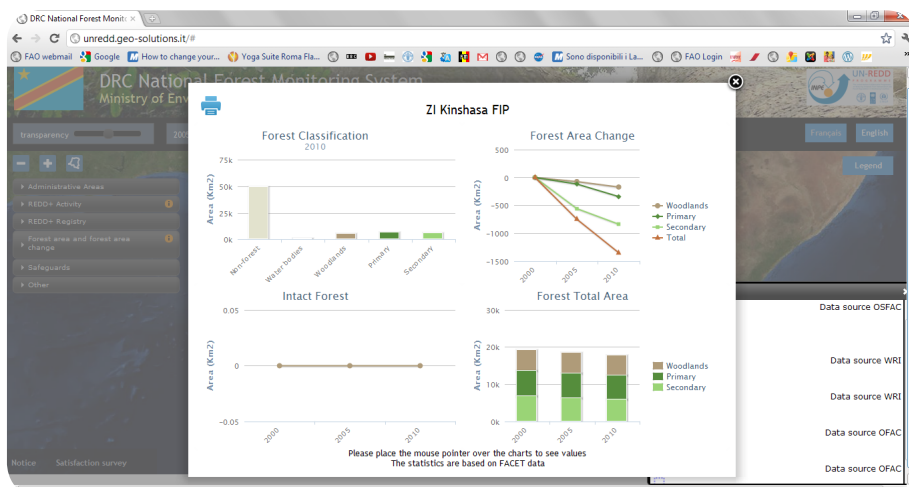
To see how the DRC National Forest Monitoring System works visit www.rdc-snsf.org



Screenshot of the DRC NFMS

The DRC NFMS can be regarded as a gold standard forest monitoring tool for countries to sustainably and transparently manage forests far beyond the realm of REDD+. It is a simple, yet revolutionary tool to monitor the DRC's forests on a national level for REDD+ that will allow the government to make informed, transparent decisions on how to monitor, manage and protect its forest and

This initiative provides support to the REDD+ process through capacity building, knowledge transfer and by developing a DRC REDD+ wall-to-wall NFMS based on satellite data. It draws on available satellite data and existing mapping technologies, fully recognizing the valuable work already carried-out by various partners in this area of work. It is based on open-source tools



Screenshot of the DRC NFMS and a result of a statistical query. Users can query statistics on a number of parameters and will be able to download statistics and reports in the near future.

biodiversity resources and can easily be developed for, and together with, other interested countries.

Behind the scenes

The UN-REDD Programme at FAO developed the NFMS concept in 2011 and, along with the DRC government, developed the DRC NFMS with inputs from relevant local and international stakeholders (e.g. World Resources Institute (WRI), Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OSFAC), Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), etc.). The current system was

developed and applied by FAO under the UN-REDD Programme and INPE and builds on concrete and existing collaborations (OSFAC, WRI, Greenpeace, The Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), etc.) to strengthen DRC's technical capacities to monitor its forest land.

Objectives of the DRC NFMS

The overall goal of the DRC NFMS is to be the national tool to monitor the country's REDD+ policies and measures. More specifically, the DRC NFMS aims to: (i) report on results obtained through REDD+ demonstration



Danae Maniatis is Forestry officer at FAO for the UN-REDD programme and is the Focal Point in FAO HQ for the DRC.



Stefano Giaccio is Consultant at FAO for the UN-REDD programme, in charge of the technical implementation of the web portal for the DRC National Forest Monitoring System.



Bruno Guay is DRC National REDD+ Coordination Technical Advisor.



Inge Jonckheere is Forestry officer at FAO for the UN-REDD programme, coordinating the Development of National Forest Monitoring Systems in developing countries.

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Update on REDD+ in Mongolia

Mongolia has recently become a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme and is now working to develop a national REDD+ roadmap.

By: **Bunchingiv Bazartseren, Lisa Ogle and Joel Scriven**

When most people think of REDD+, they think of tropical forests. However REDD+ is a mechanism in which all forested developing countries can participate. Mongolia, a country with significant boreal forest cover, is now engaging in a number of activities to develop a National REDD+ Roadmap.



Mr. S. Dashdavaa, Director of the Forestation Policy Division, Forestry Agency, Mongolia, and Secretary of the National REDD+ Taskforce, Mongolia, speaking at the recent UN-REDD Programme mission workshop in Selenge province.

From 16-29 November 2011, a UN-REDD Programme team visited Mongolia to provide technical assistance and training on REDD+, and to conduct consultations with regional and local stakeholder.



Members of the Khurgalag Forest User Group, Mandal soum, Selenge Province, Mongolia

During the mission, the UN-REDD Programme team worked closely with Mongolia's National REDD+ Taskforce. The Taskforce was established by Government decree in September 2011 to guide the development of the National REDD+ Roadmap. It now has 20 members and includes a broad range of representatives from different government sectors, the private sector and civil society.

Two sub-national or local consultation events also took place in Baruunharaa, Selenge province, located 200 kilometres north of the capital, Ulaanbaatar - which has been identified as the source of more than 60 per cent of legally and illegally harvested timber in Mongolia. More than 50 people attended the regional workshop in Baruunharaa, held on 20 November 2011, from both regional and local government forest units, as well as from many forest user groups (FUGs).

The following day, a direct consultation session was held in a rural area with representatives from three community-based Forest User Groups (Khurgalag, Baingal Eej and Ulziit Ovoo) based in Mandal soum. The purpose of the consultation was to briefly introduce the concept of REDD+, and to understand the capacity and governance challenges facing FUGS in Mongolia. To date, FUGs have proved to be highly effective in controlling forest fires in their areas through community monitoring and controlling access to forest areas. The FUGs expressed a need for additional funding and assistance to help them improve forest law enforcement.

At the request of the Forest Agency, a representative from FAO held a two-day specialized training session on 28-29 November 2011 in Ulaanbaatar specifically on REDD+ Monitoring and Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), with financial support from UNDP Mongolia. The training was widely attended by more than 50 people from government (national and provincial), academia, development partners and NGOs. Day 1 focused on the international policy context and technical requirements of REDD+ implementation; while Day 2

shifted the focus to the Mongolian context, with break-out groups discussing existing relevant technical capacities, institutional arrangements, national circumstances and drivers of - and solutions to - deforestation and forest degradation. The discussions initiated at this event mark an important step in building context-specific capacity for REDD+ implementation in Mongolia.

"The permafrost is changing and more trees are being blown over by the wind. The rivers are drying up and there is less surface water."

-Observation from a participant at a recent UN-REDD Programme workshop, when asked whether or not they had observed any changes in climate recently.

Alarming, the impacts of climate change are already apparent in Mongolia, with the country experiencing an increase in average annual temperature of more than 2°C over the past 70 years. According to the "Mongolia: Assessment Report on Climate Change 2009", Climate change models predict that the Gobi Desert, located in the south of Mongolia, will continue its inexorable creep towards the boreal forests in the north. Recognizing the importance of adaptation for Mongolia, the UN-REDD Programme mission was also arranged to coincide with the German Agency for International Cooperation's 'Second Conference on Climate Change Adaptation' held in Ulaanbaatar on 17-18 November 2011, where the UN-REDD Programme and UNDP Mongolia gave a presentation entitled, focusing on how REDD+ can assist Mongolia with climate change adaptation.

The UN-REDD Programme team is supported by the UNDP Country Office in Mongolia. The Programme's work in Mongolia is funded by the Government of Japan through the UN-REDD Programme's Tier 2 programme.



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Reports & Analysis

UN-REDD and FAO Explore the Legal Dimension of REDD+ Implementation

In three new studies, the UN-REDD Programme and FAO are working with the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) to look at how legal and regulatory frameworks shape national contexts for REDD+.

The central role played by domestic laws in REDD+ implementation is becoming increasingly evident. Yet, there is still little knowledge or practical experience regarding the legal and regulatory aspects of the REDD+ mechanism at country level.

Between June and December 2011, three studies were conducted by IDLO, the UN-REDD Programme and FAO to review existing laws and regulations relevant to REDD+ in Mexico, Vietnam and Zambia. These studies identify key legal challenges associated with REDD+, including equitable and secure land tenure, decentralized governance, integrated land-use planning, benefit distribution systems, inter-ministerial coordination and definitions in the forest sector.

The findings also revealed how legal instruments already in place in the countries, for instance those related to payments for ecosystem services, could provide context-specific solutions for REDD+ implementation.

These three studies were presented at a side event in Durban during COP17 in

December 2011, organized by the UN-REDD Programme, FAO and IDLO. The event included speakers from the national



governments of Zambia, Mexico and Viet Nam. They all shared the lessons learned from their national experiences, highlighting challenges and innovations in each case. The full report of the "Legal Preparedness for

Climate Compatible Development: The Role of REDD+" side event is available here.

Other organizations, such as GLOBE, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Resources Institute and Client Earth have also responded to the call to strengthen legal and institutional capacity for REDD+. Hence, the UN-REDD Programme, FAO and IDLO organized a roundtable during COP17 to bring together representatives of those initiatives and identify areas of synergies and future collaboration. The discussion shed light on several commonalities between the initiatives, including geographical focus (Mexico, Brazil and Indonesia being popular pilot countries) and key areas for legislation relevant to REDD+, as well as differences in terms of capacity building approaches and methodologies.

The full report of the "Roundtable of REDD+ Legislation Initiatives" is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/REDD-LI-Roundtable>

The Legal Preparedness for REDD+ in **Mexico** is available in English: <http://tinyurl.com/Mexico-Legal-Preparedness-EN> and Spanish: <http://tinyurl.com/Mexico-Legal-Preparedness-SP>

The Legal Preparedness for REDD+ in **Vietnam** is available in English: <http://tinyurl.com/VietNam-Legal-Preparedness-EN> and Vietnamese: <http://tinyurl.com/VietNam-Legal-Preparedness-VN>

The Legal Preparedness for REDD+ in **Zambia** study in English can be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/Zambia-Legal-Preparedness-EN> ■

FAO Releases New Global Deforestation Estimates

New estimates from FAO's recent global survey show continued decline of forest area, and provide important inputs into the work being carried out by the UN-REDD Programme.

A new, satellite-based survey released by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provides a more comprehensive picture of

changes in the world's forests, showing forest area continued to decline between 1990 and 2005. The global remote sensing survey estimated the world's total forest area in 2005 to be 3.69 billion hectares, or 30 percent of the global land area.



The results were presented at a side event to the COP17 meeting in Durban by FAO and technical partners

from the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) summarizing the work and initial results of the Global Forest Remote Sensing Survey. This session was the launch of a summary report presenting new results on global deforestation estimates, including estimates of gross and net gain and loss of forest at the global scale, by region and by broad climatic domain (temperate, tropical etc). These new results are important inputs to the work being carried by the UN-REDD Programme countries as well as a range of processes where forest loss and gain are vital such as REDD+ discussions as part of the UNFCCC.

The study showed that the rate of world deforestation, mainly the conversion of tropical forests to agricultural land, averaged 14.5 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2005. The net loss of forest area - in which losses of forest cover

are partially offset by afforestation or natural expansion - totalled 72.9 million hectares between 1990 and 2005. The new data also show that the net loss of forests accelerated, increasing from 4.1 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2000 to 6.4 million hectares between 2000 and 2005.

During the launch at Durban, Dr Frédéric Achard from the JRC outlined the technical methods for processing the satellite imagery to get estimates of land cover change focusing on the tree cover as Adam Gerrard

from FAO presented the analysis on forest land-use change and the initial results by climatic domain and by regions. Over 100 countries through 200 national experts reviewed the data in a series of workshops around the world. Examples demonstrating the the benefits and use for national forest monitoring work were given from Papua New Guinea by Joe Pokana and from Angola by Mateus Andre who described the involvement of national experts in the review process.

The meeting agenda and presentations are available online here: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/55919/en/>

For more information on the launch read the FAO Press release: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/95180/icode/> ■

Looking Ahead

UN-REDD Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria; and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Workshops
8 - 10 February, 2012: Geneva, Switzerland

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