

Introduction

Dear Readers,

In one month's time, political leaders and experts from across the globe will gather in Rio de Janeiro to re-energize a conversation about sustainable development that was at the heart of the first "Earth Summit" exactly 20 years ago in that very city. It is hoped that the Rio+20 Earth Summit will produce a political agreement on how to achieve meaningful sustainable development moving forward. Below is an excerpt from the soon-to-be-released editorial I recently wrote for the Rio+20 edition of *Climate Change The New Economy* magazine. In this article, I lay out some of the reasons why leaders and experts at Rio+20 must keep forests, and strategies such as REDD+, central in their discussions and future action plans for sustainable development.

Excerpt from "REDD+ Lessons for Sustainable Development" article by Yemi Katerere:

"The results and lessons that have emerged so far in REDD+ readiness and early implementation can provide valuable inputs into several dimensions of the sustainable development discussions at Rio+20. Firstly, enacting both REDD+ and sustainable development policies are political processes that require the development of enabling conditions, including a cross-sectoral approach that coordinates efforts within governments as well as between the public and private sectors. This coordination requires access to improved data about key sectors; national-level policy action led by governments that promotes harmonization with existing programmes, policies and laws; and coordination of international and multilateral programmes and funding sources. Weak capacity to plan and implement has emerged as a key challenge for REDD+. Moving forward, both REDD+ and sustainable development efforts will need to invest significantly in developing institutional capacities, and strategic partnerships that involve multiple state actors as well as the private sector.

...
REDD+ provides an opportunity to shift the development paradigm away from destructive uses of forests and towards the conservation of forests. Besides having benefits for climate change mitigation, this shift also has the potential to conserve forest biodiversity and ecosystem services such as water purification, soil retention and tourism, as well as reduce poverty and improve livelihoods of people living in and around forests. One pathway to meet these broader goals is a sustainable or "green economy" transition. Promoting such a transition means that countries develop in a manner that both reduces poverty and maintains and enhances the natural resource base. The development of REDD+ strategies provides an opportunity to promote efficiencies in natural resource management as well as catalyze a range of low carbon alternatives, approaches and technologies in a way that can contribute transformative investments in natural capital while also developing human and social capital.

...
Building on the valuable lessons emerging from REDD+, let us support world leaders to emerge from the upcoming Rio+20 conference with a renewed global commitment to sustainable development that recognizes the life-sustaining multiple benefits forests provide."

The full version of this article will appear in the upcoming edition of *Climate Change The New Economy* magazine, which will be released to G8 leaders and attendees of the 38th G8 Summit, 18-19 May 2012 in Maryland, USA, and delegates of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro on 20-22 June 2012.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

In this Issue

News

Unprecedented Cooperation Established on Anti-Corruption for REDD+ in AfricaPage 2.

South-South Exchange on REDD+ Governance Sets Up Unique Community of Practice Page 3.

Update on UN-REDD's Work with Indigenous PeoplesPage 3.

Vacancy Announcement for UN-REDD SecretariatPage 4.

Features & Commentary

Mexico Adopts Landmark REDD+ Legal ReformsPage 5.

Reports & Analysis

Committee on World Food Security Launches Groundbreaking Guidelines on Land TenurePage 6.

New Go-REDD+ Issue Explores Anti-Corruption Efforts in Forest SectorPage 6.

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

News

Unprecedented Cooperation Established on Anti-Corruption for REDD+ in Africa

At a recent workshop in Zambia, participants from seven UN-REDD Programme partner countries, civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations in Africa signed a joint statement on why and how to deal with anti-corruption efforts related to REDD+.

The workshop entitled, “Strengthening Transparency and Accountability for REDD+ in Africa”, kick-started initial country action plans and energized collaboration between national anti-corruption practitioners and REDD+ teams. Organized jointly by the UN-REDD Programme and UNDP’s Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness, with strong support from UNDP’s Zambia office, this workshop gathered close to 80 participants from seven UN-REDD Programme partner countries from anti-corruption commissions, national REDD+ teams, civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations and UN staff.

“You are doing groundbreaking work in unchartered territories, and your efforts can serve as a model for climate finance”, said Veerle Vandeweerd, UNDP’s Director of the Energy and Environment Group during a High Level Policy Dialogue that was opened with a key note address by the Honorable Wylbur Simuusa, M.P., Zambia’s Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.



During the event, working groups composed of Anti-Corruption Commissions, national REDD+ teams and civil society shared ideas and experiences to determine what specific

corruption risk were most likely and impactful in their countries. They also reflected on finding country-tailored solutions that build on both existing anti-corruption efforts and ongoing REDD+ processes. Using the results of an anonymous online survey taken prior to the workshop, participants drafted initial country action plans tailored to the specific corruption risks their countries face in REDD+.

UNDP’s regional anti-corruption policy advisor for Western Africa, Luc Damiba, summarized three challenges and opportunities for preventing corruption in REDD+ in Africa. The first challenge, he noted, relates to the coordination of national REDD+ activities in connection with national efforts to fight corruption, first at a national level and then in terms of cooperation between African countries. The second challenge focuses on the management of corruption risks in relation to decentralization and local involvement in the management and protection of forest resources. Finally, the third challenge is on access to

information for everyone. Practitioners will indeed have to address how information needed for transparency will reach the grassroots level so that it is effectively used to hold decision-makers to account.

Participants also made commitments of joint work. These included for example plans of Kenya’s Ethic and Anti-Corruption Commission to dedicate a professional to



work specifically on climate change and REDD+ issues; the planning of a joint workshop by Nigeria’s Cross River State and UNDP on the issues of anti-corruption for REDD+; and enhancing the existing cooperation between UNDP’s anti-corruption programme and the National REDD+ Coordination in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In a final joint statement (English/ French), participants highlight the relevance of the cross-disciplinary theme of anti-corruption and REDD+, offer findings and recommendations, commit to further work and ask the UN-REDD Programme and partners for support to carry on this ground-breaking work.

The workshop, held in Lusaka on 24-26 April 2012, was the third of a series of regional dialogues that seek to bring together REDD+ and anti-corruption practitioners, raise awareness on the importance of preventing corruption in REDD+ and provide tools on how to do so. Similar workshops were held last year in Kathmandu, Nepal and Bangkok, Thailand.

For more information:

- See the agenda (English - French) <http://tinyurl.com/Zambia-workshop-en>
- <http://tinyurl.com/Zambia-workshop-French>
- Download the presentations <http://tinyurl.com/Zambia-workshop-presentation>
- See more pictures on the UN-REDD Programme Facebook page <http://tinyurl.com/Zambia-workshop-pics> ■

South-South Exchange on REDD+ Governance Sets Up Unique Community of Practice

The UN-REDD Programme recently supported the first South-South Exchange on Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD+ which established a community of practice in Asia-Pacific to strengthen REDD+ governance efforts.

Representatives from more than 10 countries met in Indonesia on 17-18 April in Bogor, Indonesia to discuss governance assessments for REDD+. Practitioners from the PGA pilot countries Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria and Vietnam shared their experiences and early lessons learned of conducting a PGA with governance experts and other countries interested in conducting an assessment in the future.

Discussions covered three central questions of the PGA for REDD+ approach: i) what to measure; ii) how to measure it; and iii) what to do with the data collected. Country ownership of the PGA processes, through the participation of both government and civil society, emerged as key to ensure the sustainability of an assessment process, as well as policy uptake and reform.

Participants also suggested practical ways to organize the PGA for the REDD+ community

of practice and encourage knowledge and experience sharing, such as a database of practitioners and regular annual meetings.

The meeting was also an opportunity to present already existing tools and approaches offered by the agencies of the UN-REDD Programme which can help REDD+ countries address governance issues identified through the PGA processes. Relevant tools and approaches include Institutional Context Analysis, Legislative and Parliamentary Support for REDD+, as well as available UN-REDD Programme publications and guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

The report of the South-South knowledge exchange of the PGA for REDD+ initiative can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/South-South-PGA-report> ■

Update on UN-REDD's Work with Indigenous Peoples

UN-REDD hosts regional exchange on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Indonesia.

The UN-REDD Programme's second REDD+ Regional Information Exchange for Asia-Pacific focused on the issue of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the implementation of REDD+. The meeting sought to build a greater understanding of FPIC among all partner countries, expose them to new approaches and tools, and increase the capacity of country-level actors to design and implement FPIC processes.

More than 90 key players from governments, Indigenous Peoples' and civil society organizations, technical advisors and programme managers from UN-REDD National Programme teams, country and regional UN representatives, and representative of the World Bank, met in Bogor, Indonesia on 19-20 April 2012 to share their knowledge and experience in FPIC.

Discussions were kicked off with:

- Updates on the global UN-REDD Programme FPIC guidelines and how they can be used to develop national guidelines for FPIC;

- Sharing of experiences from Papua New Guinea (PNG) in developing FPIC guidelines and from Indonesia in developing FPIC policy recommendations; experiences in piloting FPIC for UN-REDD National Programmes in Viet Nam and Indonesia, which underscored operational issues such as ensuring enough time for decision-making and building the capacity of those developing and implementing national or sub-national guidelines;
- A review of the institutionalized FPIC processes in the Philippines that highlighted some of the problems with current in-country efforts on FPIC and steps being made to resolve these;
- FPIC planning and implementation at a project level in Cambodia;
- Efforts in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan and the Solomon Islands to inform and consult with Indigenous Peoples and local communities on REDD+.

In working groups, participants explored key issues such as: methods for communicating FPIC (ie/ the use of appropriate languages and materials); documenting FPIC processes; decision-making and recording decisions; and establishing grievance mechanisms. In collaboration with the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), a side training event on how to evaluate and

verify FPIC processes was also offered for interested countries.

A large exhibition area allowed space for PNG, Vietnam and Indonesia to display materials, including posters, brochures and videos used for informing communities. The exhibition received high marks from participants, who commented that it provided them with the means to learn practically about effective strategies to communicate with stakeholders on REDD+ related issues and how these approaches could be incorporated in other national FPIC processes.

Feedback on the Regional Exchange indicated that participants learned substantially from other countries' experiences and were provided with a greater understanding of key operational issues, leading to a greater confidence in carrying out FPIC. Emerging lessons included the need to: review and improve upon existing consultation and consent processes; assist countries to develop supportive policies for FPIC; and develop a "business case for FPIC". A lessons-learned document will be developed to share these findings. Recommendations for future activities included developing updates on FPIC processes, FPIC site visits and the establishment of a FPIC listserv.

A press release for the REDD+ Regional Information Exchange on FPIC is available here in both English and Bahasa Indonesia. All presentations given at the Regional Information Exchange can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/Regional-Info-Exchange>; a full report of the event will be posted at the same link shortly. ■



UN-REDD contributes to Pan Africa Indigenous Peoples Dialogue in Tanzania.

Indigenous Peoples initiated the first of three regional dialogues with the World Bank hosted Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) with the Pan Africa Indigenous Peoples Dialogue held in Arusha, Tanzania during 22-24 April 2012. The purpose of the Dialogue was to provide the FCPF with the opportunity to update Indigenous Peoples on the FCPF's policies, safeguards and activities; to discuss the views and concerns of Indigenous Peoples; and to reach

agreement on mechanisms, processes and funding for the engagement of Indigenous Peoples.

The UN-REDD Programme provided an update on its body of work relating to FPIC, and was available to discuss other issues raised by Indigenous Peoples, including the UN-REDD Programme's work on safeguards and grievance mechanisms, and the role of UN agencies as delivery partners of the FCPF.

The Dialogue was an important opportunity to hear the voices of Indigenous Peoples in the African region and collaborate with the FCPF. Dialogues between Indigenous Peoples and the FCPF will take place for the Latin American and Asia-Pacific regions later this year, culminating with a global dialogue at the end of the year.

Material and presentations relating to the Pan Africa Dialogue can be accessed via the FCPF website here:

<http://tinyurl.com/Pan-Africa-Dialogue> ■

UN-REDD presents progress on FPIC at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

As one of the most important global gatherings of Indigenous Peoples, the UNPFII's annual sessions present a valuable opportunity to inform and engage key Indigenous stakeholders, as well as representatives from UN Member States and other UN agencies.

The UN-REDD Programme side event, entitled "FPIC for REDD+: Emerging Lessons from the

UN-REDD Programme" was held on 16 May, 2012. Updates on the Programme's work on FPIC at the national and global levels were presented during a panel session that included representatives from the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The latest progress on and content of the draft UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on FPIC was presented. Additionally, the event

showcased early work on FPIC and lessons learned from the Asia-Pacific region that were shared during a recent Regional Information Exchange on Free, Prior and Informed Consent held in Indonesia, citing specific examples from the Philippines and Indonesia.

Joan Carling, Executive Director of AIPP, reflected on the process that the UN-REDD Programme has followed to develop the Guidelines and how it incorporated Indigenous Peoples' perspectives. Ms. Carling underscored the value of this process and pilot activities under the UN-REDD Programme in practically tackling the operational challenges of FPIC. Albert Barume, Senior Specialist at ILO overseeing implementation of ILO Convention 169, presented lessons learned through the body of experience under ILO Convention 169. He also noted the opportunity that REDD+ presented to further progress in implementing ILO Convention 169 and FPIC more specifically.

You can access the presentations from the side event here: <http://tinyurl.com/FPIC-at-UNPFII> ■



Vacancy Announcement for UN-REDD Secretariat

The UN-REDD Programme Secretariat is looking for a consultant to review the Policy Board Structure following the request from the Policy Board.

The terms of reference for the position can be found in English:

<http://tinyurl.com/PB-Review-Consultant-en>

Spanish:

<http://tinyurl.com/PB-Review-Consultant-sp>

French:

<http://tinyurl.com/PB-Review-Consultant-fr>

Please note that the deadline is 1 June, 2012 and all applications should be sent to:

un-redd@un-redd.org. ■

Features & Commentary

Mexico Adopts Landmark REDD+ Legal Reforms

The Mexican Senate recently approved a set of legal amendments that set a new precedent for empowering local communities to address deforestation. By: **Francesca Felicani Robles, Andrés Avila Akerberg and Chris Stephens**

The legislative reforms passed in Mexico City on 24 April, 2012, position Mexico as one of the first countries to legislate in support of efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Recognizing the need to reform environmental laws and harmonize legal inconsistencies for REDD+ implementation, the Mexican Congress has advanced a set of legal reforms to the country's environmental law (1988) and forest sustainable development law (2003). The amendments to these laws focus on harmonizing the definitions of key terms, the development of economic instruments to promote environmental services that provide benefits to forest owners and forest land users, and the inclusion of REDD+ safeguards in light of the latest results of the Conference of the Parties of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the national REDD+ strategy of Mexico.

These legal reforms, which were initially presented to the Chamber of Deputies in December 2011, represent a critical step towards ensuring that local communities who sustainably manage their forests receive the benefits derived from any future carbon compensation scheme. Carbon compensation schemes are an alternative to traditional carbon offsetting initiatives, aiming to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by investing in a poverty reduction project in a country vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

By enshrining this in national legislation, the Mexican Congress is building a forward-looking legal framework that supports the concept that forests should be managed in a sustainable way, prioritizing the engagement of forest dependent communities.

The key aspects of these legal amendments are:

- The definition of environmental services has been adapted to emphasize the relation of their benefits with the functionality of the natural ecosystem and the individuals settled in the territory. In addition, it is now recognized that environmental services are regulated by the forest sustainable development law.
- The terms of deforestation and degradation are defined, which is critical for the implementation of REDD+.
- The concept of forest management has been adjusted to now encompass the notion of environmental services and recognize their economical value.
- The national forest inventory is now linked to the REDD+ MRV system which should be established in the country, to be in line with the latest recommendations from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- All economic instruments will be considered as a means to promote environmental services, thus establishing a legal basis for new mechanisms supporting the principle that who conserves will receive the benefits from the services provided.
- Forest land owners will be the direct beneficiaries of the economic revenues generated by the sustainable management of their forests.
- Eight socio-environmental safeguards are established. These are in line with the UNFCCC safeguards and the national REDD+ strategy of Mexico.
- Finally, these reforms urge the executive power to establish, in a period no longer than three years, a national system for monitoring, registration and verification to evaluate and systematize emission reductions derived from actions that prevent deforestation and forest degradation.

These reforms were advanced as part of the

GLOBE Legislators' Forest Initiative (GLFI), with the support of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the UN-REDD Programme. The UN-REDD programme collaborates with the Legal Unit of the National Forest Commission through the FAO commitment on REDD+ legal preparedness. GLOBE Mexico, which is composed of a cross-party group of Mexican legislators, initially submitted the REDD+ legal reforms to the Chamber of Deputies in December 2011 and has been actively involved in their passage through both houses of the Mexican Congress.

The success of this legislative initiative in Mexico highlights the start of a transition towards embedding REDD+ into national legal frameworks, and provides a valuable template that other national legislatures can follow when advancing their REDD+ laws. In addition, to encourage participatory law developments, the Legal Unit of the National Forest Commission of Mexico has recently created a workspace to promote discussions and analyze forest, land, agriculture and environmental laws, which could be used to further analyze cross-sectoral issues related to REDD+ implementation, in collaboration with the Legal Unit of the Ministry (Secretary) of Agriculture and Livestock (SAGARPA).



Francesca Felicani Robles is a Legal Officer in the Development Law Service of FAO, based in Rome, Italy.



Andrés Avila Akerberg is the Director for the Mexico chapter of the GLOBE Legislators' Forest Initiative, based in Mexico City, Mexico.



Chris Stephens is the Global Director of the GLOBE Legislators' Forest Initiative, based in London, UK. ■



Reports & Analysis

Committee on World Food Security Launches Groundbreaking Guidelines on Land Tenure

These internationally-negotiated guidelines, with contributions from the UN-REDD Programme, will help governments safeguard the rights of people to own or access land, forests and fisheries.



Tackling the issue of land and resource tenure is one of the prerequisites for mechanisms such as REDD+ to have positive impacts not only on reducing emissions from the forestry sector but also in reducing poverty and achieving food security. In a landmark decision on 11 May, 2012, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) endorsed a set of global guidelines that will help governments safeguard the rights of people to own or access land, forests and fisheries.

The new Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security outline principles and practices that governments can refer to when making laws and administering land, fisheries and forests rights. The guidelines cover a wide range of issues, including

Capacity development in governance, including for land tenure is an integral part of the UN-REDD Programme. While the negotiations for these global guidelines were happening last year, the UN-REDD Programme along with the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) Programme and the Land Tenure team in FAO held a meeting in November 2010 on, "Land tenure issues and requirements for implementing climate change mitigation policies in the forestry and agriculture sectors", which aimed to contribute to the development of these guidelines. For effective policies in mitigating climate change in forestry and agriculture, long term land management planning is key. ■

enforcement and how to address the shortcomings of the criminal justice system in the forest sector? Is it more effective to tackle small operations or large scale activities?

About Go-REDD+
Go-REDD+ is a bi-monthly newsletter distributed by email and managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific. The main objective is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. Access previous Go-REDD+ articles in the Go-REDD+ archive at <http://tinyurl.com/GoREDD-Archive> ■

New Go-REDD+ Issue Explores Anti-Corruption Efforts in Forest Sector

The latest issue from the UN-REDD Programme Asia-Pacific listserv looks at where anti-corruption efforts should focus in the forest sector in order to achieve the most effective results.



The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, "Where should Anti-Corruption efforts focus in the forest sector?" discusses different anti-corruption strategies in the forest sector. The article states that while governance and anti-corruption challenges in REDD+ will not be the same as those related to illegal logging, useful lessons can be drawn. The article explores the possible answers to several key questions on the issue, including: Are preventive or corrective actions most needed? What is the role of law

sector?" discusses different anti-corruption strategies in the forest sector.

enforcement and how to address the shortcomings of the criminal justice system in the forest sector? Is it more effective to tackle small operations or large scale activities?

About Go-REDD+
Go-REDD+ is a bi-monthly newsletter distributed by email and managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific. The main objective is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. Access previous Go-REDD+ articles in the Go-REDD+ archive at <http://tinyurl.com/GoREDD-Archive> ■

Looking Ahead

GEF Council 42

11-14 June, 2012: Washington, D.C, USA

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

20-22 June, 2012: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Participants Committee meeting

27-29 June, 2012: Santa Marta, Colombia

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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

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

Photo credits

Inside spread: © UN Photo/Logan Abassi, © UN Photo/David Davis,
Images sourced from: <http://www.unmultimedia.org>; www.un-redd.org; www.fao.org



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

