

With preparations for the 4th Policy Board meeting well underway, the UN-REDD Programme remains committed to support the international consensus around REDD+ and continuing to help countries build up their capacity to achieve readiness. As part of our new strategy, the Programme is ready to support and contribute to the development of an institutional architecture for REDD+ as requested by countries. In the coming months, we will be exploring with the World Bank and other partners more integrated approaches and partnerships on REDD+.

In supporting national REDD+ efforts in the future, we plan to continue to provide support, in particular for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and monitoring, establishing transparent and effective national governance structures and systems for equitable benefit sharing, and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society.

At the heart of our work is a singular commitment to provide support to countries in developing and implementing their REDD+ strategies, aimed at tipping the economic balance in favour of sustainable management of forests and the improvement of livelihoods.

Yemi Katerere  
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

## News

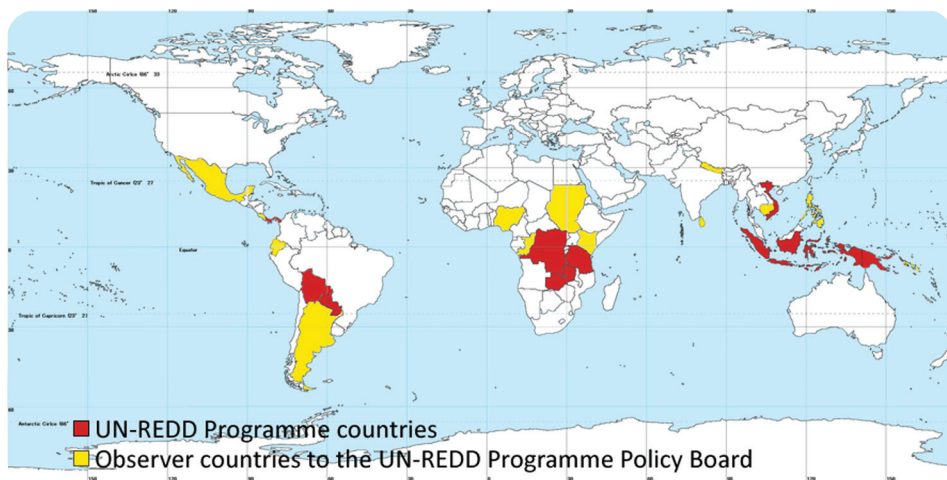
### 8 New Countries Join the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme welcomes eight more countries from Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific to the Programme

The UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board agreed in an inter-sessional decision in February to extend formal invitations to **Costa Rica, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, and Sudan** to join as observer countries to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. This group of countries joins Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Nepal and Sri Lanka that were granted similar status by the Policy Board in October 2009. The Programme currently supports nine pilot countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"We are encouraged to see the UN-REDD family grow in such a significant way," says Dr. Yemi Katerere, Head of the UN-REDD Programme. "These eight new countries will undoubtedly enrich the Programme's strong community of practice with valuable REDD+ inputs and contributions."

Current UN-REDD funding is programmed for its nine pilot countries, but observer countries can take advantage of many other benefits of the UN-REDD Programme, such as networking, and knowledge



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

sharing, which is facilitated by the UN-REDD Programme's online community of practice through its dedicated workspace. Observer countries can also participate in global and regional workshops and have official observer status at UN-REDD Policy Board meetings, the next one scheduled for 17-19 February 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Despite the current funding gap, the UN-REDD Programme considers requests from all countries. As more funding becomes available, the Programme hopes to extend full programme participation to observer countries.

"The UN-REDD Programme welcomes the participation of observer countries as a further sign of its engagement and commitment to the REDD+ agenda," says Dr. Katerere.

## FACT BOX:

### UN-REDD Pilot Countries:

Bolivia  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Indonesia  
Panama  
Papua New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Tanzania  
Viet Nam  
Zambia

### UN-REDD Observer Countries:

Argentina  
Cambodia  
Costa Rica\*  
Ecuador  
Kenya\*  
Mexico\*  
Nepal  
Nigeria\*  
Philippines\*  
Republic of Congo\*  
Solomon Islands\*  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan\*

*\*New UN-REDD observer countries as of February 2010*

The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) recently requested that the UN-REDD Programme extend membership to all 10 of its African country members. One of its members, the Democratic Republic of Congo, is already a pilot country of the UN-REDD Programme. The Programme has responded to COMIFAC, encouraging the Commission to work with its member countries to formally apply for membership to the UN-REDD Programme in the coming months. ■

## Look Ahead to 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board

### The UN-REDD Programme looks forward to holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board meeting 17-19 March in Nairobi, Kenya

Policy Board meetings are an important opportunity for the Programme to share experiences and lessons learned, as well as make strategic decisions that move the Programme forward. Key items on the 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board agenda include: feedback on country programmes, budget approval for three National Programmes (Bolivia, DRC and Zambia) and the Global Programme, presentation of the Programme's first five year draft strategy, and discussions around the UN-REDD Programme's collaboration with other REDD+ initiatives in 2010.

The meeting will begin with an optional field trip to the Rift Valley on 17 March, which will provide the group with an opportunity to look at a variety of issues related to REDD+, climate change, deforestation, ecosystem services, and the need for regional and South-South

cooperation. The Programme is also fortunate to have a number of noteworthy speakers at the meeting, including UNEP's Executive Director, Achim Steiner, and Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai, who will both be a part of the meeting's opening session.

A strong emphasis will be placed on ensuring new countries and participants, including eight new observer countries, are welcomed and fully introduced to the UN-REDD Programme and stakeholders. Time will also be devoted to reviewing and sharing country progress in an interactive and dynamic way.

Progress since 3<sup>rd</sup> Policy Board The UN-REDD Programme will also report on the Programme's progress since the last Policy Board meeting in October 2009. Some highlights include:

- Welcoming Spain as a new donor in November 2009
- The official launch of the UN-REDD National Programme in Tanzania in November
- UN-REDD Programme side events at the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Barcelona and the UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation
- Co-organizing and participating in several events at COP-15, including Forest Day 3
- Completion of the REDD+ Benefits Distribution Study in Viet Nam
- FAO partners with Google Earth to test Google's new earth observation application prototype in Tanzania using some applications from the FAO Forest Resource Assessment.

The Programme looks forward to building on this progress and is confident the 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board will provide fresh new goals and direction to further evolve the UN-REDD Programme in 2010. ■

## Update: Benefit Distribution System Study in Viet Nam

### Under the leadership of the Viet Nam Department of Forestry and the UN-REDD Programme, a team of technical experts and advisors studied the requirements for a REDD+-compliant benefit distribution system in Viet Nam

Viet Nam is one of nine countries where the UN-REDD Programme is supporting the development of REDD+ readiness. In preparing for REDD+, there are several elements that need to be addressed – the "components of readiness". Of these, the Government of Viet Nam identified the design of a transparent and equitable benefit distribution system (BDS) as a

priority for UN-REDD support. This is innovative because few countries have looked at how benefits should be distributed. It is also courageous because, unlike carbon monitoring and other technical challenges, it raises potentially sensitive governance issues.



Under the leadership of the Viet Nam Department of Forestry and the UN-REDD Programme, a team of technical experts and advisors studied the requirements for a REDD+-compliant benefit distribution system in Viet Nam. The full study, which was conducted between September and November of 2009, and published in February 2010, identifies what Viet Nam needs to do in order to create an equitable system for distribution of benefits arising from REDD+. The study, "Design of a REDD-Compliant Benefit Distribution System for Viet Nam" benefited from the technical advice of the Netherland Development Organization (SNV) and

co-financing from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and was coordinated with the help of the UN-REDD Programme, IUCN and independent experts.

1. Developing a legal framework for REDD+ in Viet Nam
2. Classifying REDD+ revenues and creation of a dedicated REDD+ fund
3. Identifying sub-national levels at which REDD+ revenues should be managed
4. Identifying Institutions to be involved in monitoring REDD+ interventions and actions
5. Managing revenue retention by the government

6. Identifying Local payment levels and payment structuring
7. Defining types of forest owners eligible to receive REDD+ benefits
8. Strengthening law enforcement for performance-based distribution
9. Developing participatory monitoring
10. Designing a socially acceptable recourse mechanism

The full study on a REDD+ Compliant Benefit Sharing System in Viet Nam is now available for download directly at: <http://tinyurl.com/VietNam-BDS-Study> ■

## UN-REDD Video Reaches a Wider Audience

One of the UN-REDD Programme's videos, "REDD: As Part of the Solution" will be screened at The World Bank's upcoming Film Fest in Argentina



The UN-REDD Programme's six-minute REDD awareness video, called "REDD: As Part of the Solution", will be seen by hundred of festival goers at the World Bank's Environmental Film Festival, happening 18-25 March in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The video, which was sponsored by the UN-REDD Programme and produced by TVE

in 2009, explains the role of forests in addressing climate change and features interviews with five of the world's leading experts on REDD, including: Beto Borges, Director of Forest Trends; Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Nick Stern, author of the Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change; Pavan Sukhdev, leader of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity Study; and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chair of the UN's Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples.

"The film highlights that we need to protect the forests to improve the livelihood of local communities and reduce the carbon emissions that contribute to climate change," says World Bank festival organizer, Carolina Crerar.

"We have programmed the documentary "REDD: As Part of the Solution" with two related stories: one about deforestation in Indonesia, called "The Dark Side of Green Fuel", and one about a successful restoration case called "Hope in a Changing Climate", says Crerar.

In "REDD: As Part of the Solution", Dr. Rajendra Pachauri notes that 30% of the world's land area is covered by forests, and adds, "We need to ensure that the lungs of the earth are not reduced in any way."

Another voice in the film, Professor Nick Stern, states that, "REDD has a very valuable role to play in putting the right kind of incentives in place so that trees are indeed more valuable standing than cut down."

"It's very crucial that the involvement of Indigenous Peoples is ensured and that the rights to own, control and manage their forests are respected by governments and the international community," Victoria Tauli-Corpuz observes in the video.

Crerar says that including the UN-REDD Programme's video in the film festival is, "a good opportunity to show that international institutions are working to protect forests around the world, and to learn that local communities can also make profit out of conservation."

"REDD: As Part of the Solution" has already been screened at a number of important climate change events throughout 2009, including the United Nations Secretary-Generals High Level Event on REDD held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September. ■

## Features & Commentary

### The International Year of Biodiversity

The UN's International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 highlights REDD+ and what the UN-REDD Programme is doing to help conserve biological diversity on Earth

2010 has been designated as the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) by the United Nations, in order to bring greater international attention to the issue of the continued loss of biodiversity. It intends to inspire action to safeguard biodiversity by raising awareness of and celebrating life on earth and the value of biodiversity. The CBD



Secretariat has the main responsibility for the coordination of events and activities going on throughout this year.

Events and activities relating to biodiversity and its celebration are happening all over the world, including, amongst others, meetings, conferences, workshops, exhibitions and high level international meetings. Amongst the early celebrations was the North American Launch of the Year of Biodiversity on 10 February 2010, an event sponsored by UNDP that was held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and attended by over four hundred biodiversity enthusiasts who braved storm and snow.

On the International Day for Biodiversity on 22nd May, celebrations and activities will be happening worldwide. From 20th-22nd September, the UN General Assembly will meet in New York, and one day will be devoted to a high-level discussion, featuring heads of state and government, on biodiversity and its contributions to the Millennium Development Goals. Finally, from 11th-29th October major meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-MOP 5 and COP-10) convene in Nagoya, Japan. More information on these

and other events can be found on the IYB website: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/calendar/>

REDD+ is of great importance to the conservation of biological diversity for two reasons. First, an effective REDD+ mechanism will provide climate change mitigation, which will reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity from a changing environment. This should lessen the pressure on species to adapt or migrate. If global mean temperatures rise more than 1.5-2.5°C (relative to 1980-1989), 20-30% of species will be at risk of extinction (IPCC 2007). Second, maintaining forests in developing countries, many of which are biodiversity rich, will significantly aid the conservation of biodiversity. It is estimated that half of the world's species can be found in tropical forests (Myers 1984; Wilson 1992).

### UN-REDD Programme contributes to IYB

Through its work on these key biodiversity co-benefits, the UN-REDD Programme is contributing to the International Year of Biodiversity. For example, UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has been working with the Tanzanian Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of the Environment to map areas of high biodiversity/ecosystem services and how they overlap with areas of high carbon. Work is also planned with Viet Nam and Bolivia. In Viet Nam, this will take the form of guidance on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity conservation during afforestation and reforestation programmes. In Bolivia, a synthesis of the datasets relevant

to carbon, biodiversity and other co-benefits that have already been generated by various different actors is the first step needed in considering biodiversity conservation within their REDD+ efforts. Within other UN-REDD Programme pilot countries, the issue of multiple benefits for ecosystems is often identified and highlighted in their National Programmes.

The International Year of Biodiversity provides the opportunity to highlight the biodiversity aspects of REDD and, more specifically, what the UN-REDD Programme is doing to help address the issue of biodiversity loss.

### References

IPCC 2007. Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report. Summary for Policy Makers. An Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Myers, N. 1984. The Primary Source: tropical forests and our future. Norton, New York and London.

Wilson, E.O. 1992. The Diversity of Life. Penguin, London. ■



## Reports & Analysis

### MRV Workshop in Tanzania

The UN-REDD Programme and Tanzania met in February to review national MRV advancements and develop a case study for MRV implementation in other REDD+ countries



George Matiko, Principal Information Officer for Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, wears his pride for the UN-REDD Programme at the MRV workshop held in Dar es Salaam in February.

Tanzania, one of the UN-REDD Programme pilot countries, has been developing several MRV tools and methodologies over the past year, with the support of various international initiatives. During the first week of February, the Government of Tanzania represented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Forestry and Beekeeping Division organized a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) workshop in Tanzania, with the support of the UN-REDD Programme. It was to share experiences and results from actual projects in the country and to harmonize ongoing initiatives in other REDD+ countries.

Nearly 60 people from various organizations and agencies attended the workshop, which took place in Dar es Salaam 3-5 February. Among the list of represented organization were: Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norwegian Space Centre, Norwegian Computing Centre, Global Witness, FAO's National Forestry Resources Monitoring and Assessment NAFORMA) and its Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Remote Sensing Survey, the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), The World Bank, The Clinton Climate Initiative, the Forest Carbon Tracking Task (GEO FCT) and Google Earth.

Key outputs from the workshop included the decision to enhance coordination among various MRV initiatives in Tanzania and to develop the National Forest Inventory by NAFORMA, using tools such as LIDAR,

estimations from remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and carbon models. Google announced its support to provide NAFORMA with data collector handheld sets, to test new

technologies that can improve data collection and data integrity from the National Forest Inventory.

Workshop participants agreed that Tanzania's MRV efforts could be used as a case study for other REDD+ countries, given that MRV initiatives in Tanzania are on track to be ready for a post-2012 agreement. ■

## MRV: On the Road to COP16

### The UN-REDD Programme teams up with space agencies and the Global Forest Monitoring Facility to discuss ways of enhancing remote sensing, and develop a joint symposium in Mexico on MRV for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme recently met with the Global Forest Monitoring Facility (GFMF), representatives from space agencies, and representatives from various countries to discuss ways of enhancing remote sensing data for REDD+ in a frequent, free and useful manner for the countries involved in REDD+.

The meeting took place on 17-18 February in Los Angeles, California.

Representatives at the meeting agreed that efforts to enhance remote sensing data will be critical in providing an information system relating to the world's forests to support national MRV activities as well as

international organizations, NGOs, and scientists. The group discussed the development of an open source software facility that could integrate the knowledge from different organizations to facilitate remote sensing work in the MRV process.

Moving forward, the group agreed that the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Tracking Task (GEO-FCT) will hold a joint symposium on MRV for REDD+ in Guadalajara, Mexico from 22-24 June 2010. UN-REDD Programme countries and GEO FCT demonstrators will be invited to present and discuss their experiences and contributions to the MRV framework. ■

## Looking Ahead

### 4<sup>th</sup> Policy Board Meeting of the UN-REDD Programme

17-19 March 2010, Nairobi, Kenya

### Indonesia UN-REDD Programme Inception Workshop

30-31 March 2010, Jakarta, Indonesia

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