

Welcome to the first issue of the UN-REDD Programme Newsletter.

This monthly newsletter aims to keep REDD international and national stakeholders in the loop on the enormous volume of news and information emerging on REDD and on the UN-REDD Programme. In the months leading to Copenhagen and beyond, it is designed to be a resource containing some of the most relevant news, updates, research findings, opinion pieces and progress on the fast-moving issue of REDD and the activities of the UN-REDD Programme.

We hope that you enjoy this issue and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Yemi Katerere  
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

## News

### World leaders in L'Aquila, Italy, reaffirm the importance of forests in fighting climate change

#### G8 leaders pledge to support initiatives such as the UN-REDD Programme



Last July's G8 Leaders Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, reaffirmed the need to protect the world's forests in addressing climate change and pledged to cooperate

around innovative initiatives like the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (the UN-REDD Programme).

At the conclusion of the first day of the Summit, the G8 leaders released a declaration stating: "We remain engaged in seeking the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and in further promoting sustainable forest management globally..."

"We will cooperate to identify innovative instruments in this respect, including through initiatives such as [the] UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation [UN-REDD Programme], [the] Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Informal Working Group on Interim Finance for

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (IWG-IFR)."

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) is an effort to put a financial value on the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives to developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. This is a vital effort in the fight against climate change given that deforestation accounts for approximately 20 percent of annual CO2 emissions.

The UN-REDD Programme helps strengthen the capacity of developing countries to tap into REDD, and to do so while protecting the biodiversity and ecosystems of their forests and the rights and livelihoods of those indigenous peoples and communities who depend on them. "Recognition by world leaders of the value of REDD is an important step towards reaching an agreement in the December 2009 climate change meeting in Copenhagen, because stabilizing global average temperatures to within two degrees Celsius will not happen without it," said Yemi

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

Katerere, head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, speaking of the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) set for December of this year.

"The significant flow of finance from

developed to developing countries that REDD could stimulate could result not only in meaningful carbon emission reductions but also help finance a new, low carbon path to development," he added.

The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership between Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP), was created in response to the Bali Action Plan on climate change. It builds on the convening power, expertise and networks of the three UN agencies, strengthening the UN's ability to deliver as one. ■

## What's new in the UN-REDD Programme support to country actions

### Nine pilot countries have been identified in Africa, Asia and Latin America



The UN-REDD Programme empowers countries to manage their REDD processes by assisting them in identifying ways to address their specific drivers of deforestation, developing methods and

tools for measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating the participation of national stakeholders, and accessing financial and technical assistance.

The UN-REDD Programme is currently assisting nine developing countries to prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms. The first set of UN-REDD Programme pilot countries are in Africa: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia; in Asia and the Pacific: Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam; and in Latin America and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay.

Designed collaboratively by national stakeholders and country-led, national UN-REDD programmes are informed by the technical expertise of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Priority is given to developing sustainable national multisectoral approaches with broad stakeholder engagement that promote equitable outcomes. The programmes also aim to ensure that countries use reliable methodologies to assess emission reductions. In some countries, key elements of delivering emission reductions – such as REDD payment structuring and distribution options – will also be tested. ■

## Latest in REDD talks in Bonn

### Making progress on clarifying REDD issues

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Parties met in Bonn last week (10-14 August 2009) for the latest set of preparatory meetings in the build-up to Copenhagen at the end of the year. REDD issues were discussed in one of the informal groups established at the beginning of the week under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA).

This group, facilitated by Tony La Viña of the Philippines, worked to consolidate and clarify the text on REDD which had been produced by the June meeting of the AWG-LCA (Annex to FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1). The group

also looked at convergences and divergences between the Parties on the existing text.

While several issues remain to be agreed, it seems that – in general – the concept of REDD + is widely supported (even though there are divergent views as to what the "+" means). There was also support for a phased approach to move towards realizing its financial benefits, coupled with strengthened capacity development, including through international support.

The group will continue its work at the upcoming Bangkok meeting, scheduled to take place from 28 September to 9 October. The negotiations in Bangkok are expected to further clarify the scope and approach, to define the role of funds and the carbon market, and to clarify the relationship between Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and REDD.

### Coalition for Rainforest Nations Capacity Development Workshop: 14-15 August 2009, Bonn

The Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) hosted the well-attended workshop on REDD Readiness: Forests for Climate Change Mitigation in the Context of National Development Policies as an activity of the Capacity Development REDD project. Participants underscored the immediate need to move from talk to action. As a way forward, they proposed to have a venue under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process that will address capacity development issues, and enhance balanced, inclusive and coordinated approaches for REDD readiness.

The meeting was supported by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ),

the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the UN-REDD Programme. Brazil, the

Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador and Papua New Guinea also presented ongoing activities, followed by Norway's

International Climate and Forest Initiative, and Germany's International Climate Initiative. ■

## Features & Commentary

### Call for nominations: civil society organizations selection process to serve on the Policy Board

Civil society organizations (CSO) are invited to submit nominations for representatives to serve on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. The call for nominations opens today and will close on 11 September 2009. Voting for CSO nominees will take place from 14 - 28 September 2009.

The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that the success of REDD initiatives depends on the engagement and ownership of all stakeholders in forest landscapes, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dwelling communities, as well as local, national, regional, and international organizations that comprise civil society. Thus, it is a matter of priority to ensure that representatives of civil society are supported to engage in REDD initiatives in order to provide essential expertise and ensure transparency and accountability in all programme activities.

The UN-REDD Programme is seeking nominations for four civil society organization (CSO) representatives to serve on its Policy Board – one representative of a northern CSO and one representative of a CSO that operates in each of the three UN-REDD Programme regions (Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean). The self-selection of CSO representatives to the Policy Board is being facilitated by the Rights and Resources Group, Secretariat of the Rights and Resources Initiative, at the invitation of the UN-REDD Programme.

As set out in the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance, one full member seat is reserved for a representative of civil society, as identified via a self-selection process. To support the full member, there are three observer seats for civil society. Full member status will rotate among the group of CSO representatives at least once per year. The civil society representatives identified via the self-selection process will determine among themselves who shall serve first as the full member.

#### The civil society representatives to the Policy Board are expected to:

- attend and participate in UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meetings, which will be held at least twice a year, beginning with the next meeting at the end of October 2009
- provide input on meeting agendas and share and disseminate information among their networks, organizations, and constituencies on the UN-REDD Programme meetings and processes
- in the interim between meetings, solicit issues and concerns to be raised at the meetings on behalf of CSOs and their constituencies
- work together with the other CSO representatives to advise the full member, develop strategies and decide on interventions, recommend agenda items to be presented at Policy Board meetings, and work with indigenous peoples representatives and observers on potentially overlapping issues

Nominations are sought from candidate organizations meeting the following criteria:

- knowledge of the relevant issues of climate change and forests
- familiarity with REDD processes
- demonstrated ability and willingness to represent the views of a range of CSOs from the appropriate region
- proven capacity to disseminate information gained from the Policy Board meetings back to their respective constituencies, organizations, and networks
- fluency in at least one of the three working languages of the UN-REDD Programme: English, Spanish and French. (Policy Board meetings are conducted in English, with simultaneous translation provided for Spanish and French speakers)
- registered as a non-profit organization in the country in which they are active
- self-nominations are accepted

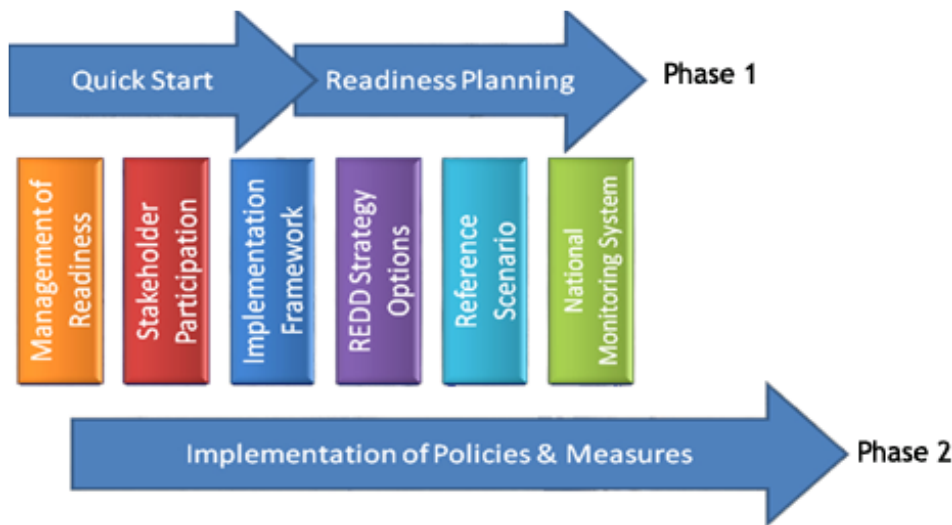
Nominations are accepted until 11 September 2009. Please download the nomination form at: <http://tinyurl.com/cso-selection>

Voting for the nominees will commence on 14 September and close on 28 September 2009. Instructions on submitting a ballot will be distributed when voting commences. Nominations will be publicly available for review through the UN-REDD website. ■



## The UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Working together for better national and international coordination



The two main multilateral readiness platforms for REDD, the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) housed at the World Bank, are well aware of the challenges REDD countries face in successfully preparing for and implementing REDD. As a result, the two initiatives are actively coordinating their efforts. The FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme work together both at the international level, harmonizing normative frameworks and organizing joint events, and at the national level, where joint missions and sharing of information are producing coordinated support interventions.

The UN-REDD Programme and FCPF agreed early on to coordinate their global analytical work in a manner that builds on and leverages their comparative advantages. For example, the UN-REDD Programme has taken the lead on providing its technical expertise to furthering methods and approaches on how to best meet country needs for carbon measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), while the FCPF leads in the area of economic analysis for REDD strategies.

In other areas, the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme are working jointly and learning from early experiences, for example developing harmonized thinking on what constitutes REDD readiness (see the framework presented in Figure 1.) The harmonization of the components of readiness will make it easier to cross-reference

activities and demonstrate complementarities. At the country level, the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF work together as the national programmes develop in Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tanzania and Viet Nam. Joint missions, commitment to supporting national ownership and regular sharing of information seek to provide harmonized support.

In the DRC for example, the joint mission of January 2009 prompted early integration of the activities of both programmes at the national level and agreement on the workings of country-based processes. This synergy led to an agreement between the Government, the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme to establish a national REDD office, "la Coordination Nationale", through which the activities of both readiness support platforms will be implemented. One of the expected initial results of the DRC UN-REDD Programme is to support the preparation of DRC's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) for submission to the FCPF. Some activities - such as policy review for REDD, a study on land tenure and forests and deforestation drivers, and studies and consultations on reference scenario options - will be co-financed and co-implemented with the FCPF.

Stakeholder participation is a critical element of initial readiness that must permeate all other aspects. On this, the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme are

working to present a clear and harmonized approach on how to properly engage indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities. The UN-REDD Programme bases its programmatic approach on an Operational Guidance that was drafted in consultation with indigenous peoples and civil society organizations; the FCPF relies on the World Bank's well established Operational Policies on Indigenous Peoples, and has issued recommendations in a Guidance Note on the steps to be taken at the national level to progress towards alignment with these policies. The two initiatives have agreed to align and harmonize these procedures, striving to uphold the highest standards.

The UN agencies and the World Bank have undertaken a number of public events together (at UNFCCC COP14 in Poznan, Forest Day 2, FAO's Committee on Forestry's World Forestry Week, etc.) and are planning to do so again before and during COP15. The next scheduled event will be a high level event on REDD on 23 September 2009 at UN headquarters during the UN General Assembly, co-hosted by the UN Secretary General and REDD countries and supported by the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank. Also, a joint side event is planned in Copenhagen for Forest Day 3 reviewing early lessons learned from the preparation of national programmes.

The UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF have collaborated in holding their respective Policy Board and Participants Committee meetings back-to-back, first in Panama (March 2009), then in Switzerland (June 2009) and in Washington DC (upcoming October 2009).

### Looking forward

The fact that two institutions with different operational policies, procedures and approaches can find common ground on REDD issues and harmonize their activities is encouraging and shows that a contribution to the success of national and international REDD efforts can be made in the coming years. Many forested countries are committed to REDD but recognize that progress towards readiness will depend on national capacities and priorities. The UN-REDD Programme and FCPF are ready to support these national efforts, especially to progress from one phase to the next of the three readiness phases as defined by the International Working Group on Interim Finance for REDD (IWG-IFR). ■

## Monitoring for REDD

### Learning to measure carbon emissions

The UN-REDD Programme provides planning tools and advice to help countries strengthen their technical and institutional capacity for effective national Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems of carbon emissions. At the international level, it fosters improved guidance and training on MRV approaches, including consensus on principles and guidelines for MRV.

As the UN-REDD Programme develops, countries are receiving ongoing support for capacity building and technical advice to specifically:

- develop roadmaps and frameworks for forest carbon monitoring and reporting
- set up national forest inventories and assessments and green house gas inventories
- analyze and interpret remote sensing data
- establish reference emission levels

#### Technical meeting on forest degradation: 8-10 September 2009, Rome, Italy

The UN-REDD Programme is supporting the study carried out by the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme on Measuring Forest Degradation and will be participating in the technical meeting



on assessment and monitoring of forest degradation to be hosted by FAO from 8-10 September 2009 at FAO headquarters. Participants will present an analysis of definitions of forest degradation, as well as case studies on forest degradation, recommending actions to improve measurement, assessment and reporting on forest degradation. The study and meeting are part of the joint initiative on forest degradation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

This meeting will provide a good opportunity to discuss technical aspects of methodologies or assessing and monitoring forest degradation and better understanding of the concept and components of forest degradation. For more information on the study download the brochure Measuring Forest Degradation from the

FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/media/17960/1/0/>

#### Measuring, Reporting and Verification Meeting : 11 September 2009, Rome, Italy

Following the technical meeting on forest degradation, the UN-REDD programme, will host a Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Meeting with UN-REDD countries to be held from 10-11 September 2009 also at FAO headquarters.

The goal of the meeting will be to share among UN-REDD countries (Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Panama, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia) and programme agencies the current status of MRV tools as well as existing information in each UN-REDD country. ■

## Reports & Analysis

### Multiple benefits – issues and options for REDD

#### Deciphering the complexities of forest ecosystems for a successful implementation of REDD

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the primary objective of REDD. Yet protecting forests brings many more benefits to our societies and to the environment than simply preventing carbon from flowing into the atmosphere.

In a recently published paper on REDD's multiple benefits, the UN-REDD Programme studies how REDD's design and implementation at the country level can either enable or hinder the ability of forests to provide essential ecosystem services such

as biodiversity, climate and water regulation, timber, and non-timber products.

The relationship between each of these benefits can be complex. Firstly, they are not necessarily interrelated. For instance, increased biodiversity does not automatically translate into an increase of other services. Secondly, services provided vary in space and time: benefits such as climate regulation are global, while others, like timber, are essentially local. They may also vary throughout the year from season to season.

#### Design and implementation are two critical phases

Understanding the complexity of the forest ecosystem is essential to properly design and implement REDD in forested countries. In terms of design, issues related to the scope of REDD, the reference levels adopted and the financing of REDD are all relevant. For example, while the inclusion of forest conservation as a REDD activity will be broadly beneficial to biodiversity, focusing on a forest's potential for carbon retention might lead to policies that increase carbon sequestration at the expense of biodiversity and water regulation services.

The biggest opportunity for countries to achieve multiple benefits -- and to meet, among other international commitments, some of the requirements of the Convention



on Biological Diversity -- will arise during the implementation phase. However, to avoid potential risks countries will need to carefully plan their activities based on informed decisions. Since each country and context is different, they first need to deepen their knowledge of how, at the local level, the various benefits are linked to one another. Then, they also need to study the costs and benefits involved in promoting gains for biodiversity and ecosystem services through REDD.

**What the UN-REDD Programme does on multiple benefits and REDD**

To ensure that countries are well prepared for REDD and its challenges, the UN-REDD Programme has launched several

activities to address the multiple benefits aspects of REDD. These include:

- consultations with UN-REDD's pilot countries to identify priorities and information needs
- developing a framework for understanding the factors that determine land use and land use change, and the consequences for biodiversity and ecosystem services
- spatial analyses of the relationship between carbon storage in forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- developing tools for decision-makers to promote synergies, address conflicts and manage trade-offs

For more details on the UN-REDD Programme's work on multiple benefits, please download the full report from the website: <http://tinyurl.com/multiple-benefits-report> ■

**Looking Ahead**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) Conference on Community Rights, Forests and Climate Change

17-18 August 2009, New Delhi, India

Technical meeting on forest degradation

8-10 September 2009, Rome, Italy

Measuring, Reporting and Verification meeting

11 September 2009, Rome, Italy

United Nations General Assembly High Level Event on REDD

23 September 2009, New York, USA

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