

UN-REDD Programme in Africa

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The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership of FAO, UNDP and UNEP that supports countries to develop capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to implement a future REDD+ mechanism in a post- 2012 climate regime. The UN-REDD Programme works at the global and national levels.

Through its national activities the UN-REDD Programme is providing funding and technical support to three African countries – Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia, all of which have entered the implementation phase of their UN-REDD national programmes and REDD+ readiness activities. In addition, the Central African Republic, Kenya, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo and Sudan have joined the Programme as partner countries, benefiting from participation on the Programme community of practice through trainings, workshops, online knowledge sharing tool, as well as observer status at the Policy Board.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

DRC initiated its REDD+ readiness activities with a an initial Programme of US \$1.88 million over twelve months, in 2009. In 2010 DRC's REDD+ programmatic document, the "RPP" (Readiness Preparation Plan) for a total of US \$ 22.7 million, was presented and approved by the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board (US \$ 5.5 million) and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. The RPP, resulting from a highly participatory process that ensured a good degree of country appropriation, represents the national roadmap for REDD readiness, as well as a meeting point for all stakeholders, including donors, who wish to support DRC's REDD+ readiness process. The DRC has already moved rapidly on institutional

arrangements and stakeholder engagement. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment (MECNT), the National Coordination (Coordination Nationale) has been established and pilots the REDD+ process and implementation of the programmes, backed by a Decree establishing a REDD

What is REDD+?

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is an endeavour to create an incentive for developing forested countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. It rests on the effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in standing forests. "REDD+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. In the long term, payments for verified emission reductions and removals, either market or fund based, provide an incentive for REDD+ countries to further invest in low-carbon paths to development.

National Committee and signed by the Prime Minister in November 2009. DRC has also embarked on a remarkable process of engagement of civil society and Indigenous stakeholders. The National REDD Committee comprises four civil society representatives, selected by an autonomous civil society working group and capacity building workshops have and will continue to be regularly held. As part of an ambitious Information, Education and Communication plan, a "Universite d'Eté" ("Summer Campus") was held in August 2010 and allowed DRC stakeholders to deepen their knowledge of REDD+, join and create networks and strengthen regional cooperation dynamics through 18 workshops and 80 presentations.

Tanzania

Tanzania's full UN-REDD programme was approved in March 2009 for funding allocation of US \$ 4.28 million over twenty-four months. Through this funding, Tanzania is receiving support to strengthen national governance framework and institutional capacities for REDD+, increase its capacity for capturing REDD elements within National Monitoring, Assessment, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems, improve its capacity to manage REDD+ and provide other forest ecosystem services at district and local levels and foster broad based stakeholder support for REDD in the country. The REDD+ process is led by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division and supported at the district level by environmental officers serving as REDD coordinators. While implementation of the Tanzania UN-REDD programme has only recently started, institutional arrangements are now in place. As part of capacity building for REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania is collaborating closely with a number of on-going interventions. Vast stakeholder consultations have already taken place, and a study on lessons learned from participatory forest management is informing the development of Tanzania's REDD+ strategy.

Zambia

Zambia's full UN-REDD Programme was approved in March 2010 for funding allocation by the Policy Board of US\$ 4.5 million and signed in September 2010 by the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, leading and coordinating the process. This programme will allow Zambia to build institutional and stakeholder capacity to implement REDD+; develop an enabling policy environment for REDD+; develop REDD+ benefit-sharing models; and build its MRV systems for REDD+. Since 2009 Zambia has already reviewed its Forest Policy review through a stakeholder consultative process in all provinces. This review examines the REDD+ agenda, strengthening the participatory forest management, climate change and a clear definition of the protected area systems and environment mainstreaming.

Partnering with African Countries

Since December 2009 the Central African Republic, Kenya, Nigeria, the Republic of Congo and Sudan have joined the UN-REDD Programme as partner countries, along with twelve countries from Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. As partner these countries have had the opportunity to participate in workshops and trainings on MRV roadmaps for national implementation, multiple benefits of REDD+ and monitoring governance safeguards for REDD+. Through additional financing by United Nations agencies and the support of Regional Centres and Country Offices, partner countries are also receiving technical support and advice to initiate the development of their REDD+ readiness roadmaps.

