KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME
2008 - 2016

UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

CONTRIBUTING DONORS

Denmark

Norway

European Union

Spain

Japan

Switzerland

Luxembourg

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office serves as the Administrative Agent for the UN-REDD Programme

Map:

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part FAO, UNDP and UNEP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Introduction

The UN-REDD Programme has, since its full operations began in 2009, supported developing countries as they establish the technical capacities necessary to prepare and deliver REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme has also promoted the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ actions. Now, after almost eight years in operation and with an ambitious strategy for the future, the UN-REDD Programme has numerous achievements to highlight across its 64 partner countries.

Through the convening technical strengths of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN-REDD Programme provides advisory and technical support tailored to the specific needs of each country as it works to mitigate the effects of climate change and achieve sustainable, low-carbon development paths while meeting commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

PARTNER COUNTRIES OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Dominican Republic
Colombia
Jamaica
Panama
Costa Rica

Guinea
Guinea-Bissau

Cameroon
Chad
The Sudan
South Sudan
Uganda
Ethiopia

Bangladesh
Bhutan
Mongolia
Lao PDR
Viet Nam
Malaysia
The Philippines

Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
Samoa
Fiji

Mexico
Guatemala
El Salvador
Honduras
Ecuador
Peru
Chile
Bolivia
Argentina
Paraguay

Liberia
Cote d'Ivoire
Ghana
Togo
Benin
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
The Congo
The Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of Congo
Zambia

Madagascar
Kenya
Tanzania
Malawi
Zimbabwe

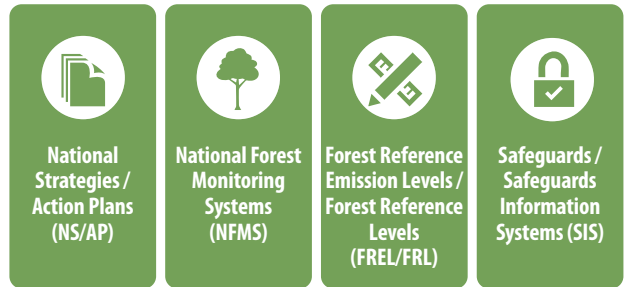Cambodia
Indonesia
Myanmar
Sri Lanka
India

In addition, support to Cook Islands, Gambia, Kribati, Marshall Islands, Niger, Palau, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tongo and Tuvalu.

With UN-REDD Programme support, developing countries have become active participants in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) processes and contributed to the substantive level of consensus informing REDD+ negotiations. Sharing their particular experiences in REDD+ readiness, countries have also helped to shape the emerging global REDD+ architecture (including the Warsaw Framework[1] and Cancun Agreement[2]) - an important part of the 2015 Paris Agreement on global climate change.

Although the primary focus of the UN-REDD Programme has been to respond to country demand for completing REDD+ readiness, support is increasingly being provided to countries moving to implementation with the overall aim of achieving emission reductions and accessing results-based payments (RBPs).

Pillars of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+

National Strategies / Action Plans (NS/AP)	National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS)	Forest Reference Emission Levels / Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRL)	Safeguards / Safeguards Information Systems (SIS)

The UN-REDD Programme measures have yielded substantial results across all initial work areas, and lessons learned along with stakeholder inputs have been included in the new **UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2016–2020**. As work continues, listed here are some of the key achievements in the programme's first eight years.

1. Adopted at COP19 in 2013.
2. Adopted at COP16 in 2011.

FAO / UN-REDD Programme

Supporting implementation of UNFCCC decisions

In-country capacity on REDD+ has been built, resulting in a vast platform of REDD+ expertise and experience across Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. South-South exchanges have helped countries to learn from each other's experiences and advance their REDD+ efforts. Guidance and strategies have been developed for explaining, clarifying and articulating elements of REDD+ readiness and provide countries with the means to establish and operationalize these elements within their own contexts.

This has resulted in a high level of ownership among countries in the REDD+ process, adapting global agreements and approaches to their individual contexts.

Ultimately, national-level results and experiences have both contributed to, and benefited from, UNFCCC decisions. At the same time, the quality and outcomes of UNFCCC negotiations are significantly enhanced by the increased capacities of UN-REDD partner countries.

Over time, efforts to help countries to become ready for REDD+ have evolved and are now increasingly focused on development and delivery of the key pillars within the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

Forest Reference Emission Levels / Forest Reference Levels

Of the 15 submissions of FRELs/FRLs made by countries to the UNFCCC, 14 are from partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme. This positive trend reflects progress supported by the Programme. Eight countries (Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Honduras, Nepal, PNG, Sri Lanka and Uganda) have taken initial steps towards FREL/FRL submissions to the UNFCCC, including consultations with a broad range of stakeholders including government ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the private sector.

Additionally, ten countries (Argentina, Bhutan, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Kenya, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Panama) have increased their capacity and understanding of FREL/FRL through trainings, which emphasizes the UNFCCC requirements for FREL/FRLs, plus political and technical implications of FREL/FRL construction.

FREL/FRLs submissions to UNFCCC:
Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia.

National Forest Monitoring Systems

Key to measurement and reporting of forest carbon is reliable data about the forest area and any changes. 40 countries are moving ahead with National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), with UN-REDD Programme guidance on methods, approaches and minimum standards. Several partner countries are now producing forest data for the first time.

The UN-REDD Programme has developed a 'gold-standard' system for the flexible, efficient and transparent collection, analysis and reporting of forest and carbon monitoring information through the Open Foris. This fills an important methodological gap that had hindered many countries' progress in establishing robust NFMS.

About 20 countries have developed national web portals for their NFMS and more than half of those countries have now have operational portals or web platforms that display NFMS information. Capacity has been built on greenhouse gas inventories reporting of the Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector to ensure consistency with REDD+ FREL and REDD+ results reports. 17 countries have built capacity to conduct national forest inventories (NFIs), and two countries (Argentina and Panama) have completed NFIs.

All of these results, together with Forest Reference Emission Levels and/or Forest Reference Levels (FRELs/FRLs) constitute important building blocks in establishing NFMS at the national level – crucial in providing accurate and accessible data for sound policies and management decisions.

National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, 26 countries are preparing national REDD+ strategies or action plans, including five which have finalized and adopted those national plans: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. Another 13 countries are currently making strong progress with significant support by the UN-REDD Programme (Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, the Congo, Chile, Costa Rica, Guyana, Indonesia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Uganda), while the Programme is supporting preparatory or strategic elements in nine other countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Honduras, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Myanmar and Suriname). All strategies and action plans are developed following a participatory approach, based on capacity building and technical support to Governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities. They include measures for increased transparency and robust gender-equitable institutional, legal and fiduciary arrangements.
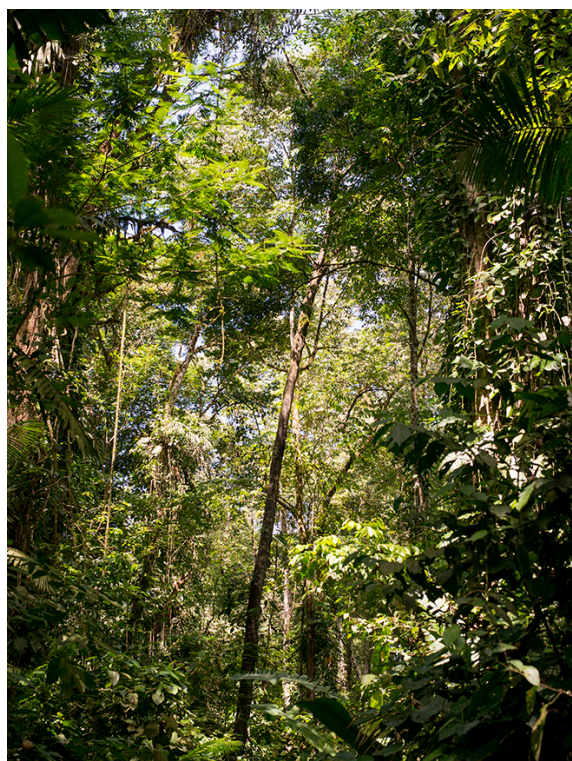
There has been significant technical and political support for developing crucial REDD+ policies and measures (PAMs). The UN-REDD Programme supports design and implementation of PAMs, which are integrated into national planning processes and development objectives.

Examples of additional country achievements with support from the UN-REDD Programme:

• Significant capacity has been built on all issues related to development of PAMs and national strategies and action plans, from the local to the national level, across sectors, and involving all key stakeholders in the countries.

• The Congo, Costa Rica, DRC and Ecuador advanced their investment plans through cost benefit analyses of strategic options for their National REDD+ Strategies and the development of REDD+ financing plans. This process is on-going in Zambia with combined support from the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Investment Program (World Bank, African Development Bank and the International Finance Cooperation).

• Costa Rica and Peru advanced in identifying specific business models with the potential to mobilize private sector investments while supporting REDD+ PAMs implementation. Specific examples for the countries' main deforestation drivers were analyzed as well as the viability to replicate and scale up these examples in other prioritized REDD+ areas.

• The Strategy developed by the DRC with strong support from the UN-REDD Programme was instrumental in securing significant funding for its implementation, through the Central Africa Forest Initiative.

• Bhutan, Nigeria, Paraguay and Sri Lanka have identified the potential benefits and risks of PAMs, which feeds into strategy design and

informs the country approach to safeguards. Others, such as Ecuador and Uganda, have identified priority benefits for the REDD+ programme as a whole, rather than for specific PAMs.

• 12 countries (the Congo, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia/C. Sulawesi, Kenya, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Tanzania, Viet Nam) have mapped potential non-carbon benefits of REDD+, which has often involved mapping areas suitable for specific PAMs, and many countries are integrating the results into the design of national or subnational REDD+ strategies. Additionally, seven countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Panama, Tanzania and Zambia) have undertaken forest economic valuation studies with UN-REDD Programme support.

Pablo Cambronero / UN-REDD Programme

Safeguards and Safeguards Information System

More than 30 countries are developing their approaches to meet UNFCCC requirements on safeguards, with the support from the UN-REDD Programme:

- 12 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, the Congo, Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, PNG, Paraguay, Uganda and Zambia) have developed core elements of their country approach to safeguards as part of their broader NS/AP processes.

- 12 countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Chad, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Mexico, PNG, Panama, Paraguay, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) have identified and assessed how existing governance arrangements (legal frameworks, institutional frameworks and or information systems) can help to address and respect the Cancun safeguards during REDD+ implementation.

- 9 countries (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia) are developing a SIS; 5 of which (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) have SIS designs close to completion. Recent (2015-2016) key achievements are exemplified by:

- Mexico, which is in the advanced stages of developing its National Safeguards System and SIS;

- Sri Lanka, which went from initiating safeguards work to designing a SIS within seven months; and;

- Viet Nam, which has assessed institutional capacities to respect safeguards as well as designed a SIS.

UN-REDD Programme / Breakthrough Media / Sam Sapin

Governance

Strengthening governance is essential to ensure the institutional and legal changes proposed through REDD+ are realized, and is therefore a central approach of the UN-REDD Programme. This has also supported improved governance across several other areas.

Governance improvements supported by the UN-REDD Programme include for example:

- 11 countries (Argentina, Cambodia, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia) have advanced the design and governance of their national REDD+ fund management systems towards the establishment of robust, inclusive and credible fiduciary arrangements for REDD+. DRC has established a National Fund which is operational and functioning.

- 12 countries (Benin, DRC, Honduras, Colombia, Kenya, Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Guatemala, Peru, Malawi and Pakistan) have completed and validated the analysis of their legal frameworks for REDD+. An additional 7 countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Peru, Colombia, Honduras, DRC and Panama) are in the process of integrating REDD+ considerations into legal reforms.

- Indonesia and Viet Nam have finalized benefit distribution arrangements for REDD+.

- 6 countries (Bhutan, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Peru and the Philippines) completed corruption risk assessments for REDD+, and an additional 5 countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal and Nigeria) integrated corruption analyses in other broader REDD+ governance assessments.

- Participatory Governance Assessments (PGAs) have been undertaken in Indonesia, Nigeria and Viet Nam and the findings are integrated into national REDD+ processes to identify and address governance weaknesses.

- 6 countries (Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Honduras, Panama and Viet Nam) have identified and strengthened synergies between the REDD+ and FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) processes and platforms in country.

UN-REDD Programme

Tenure

Ten countries (Benin, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia) are assessing their particular tenure conditions in the context of REDD+, with the support of the UN-REDD Programme. Sri Lanka has also applied the tenure analysis to refine its selection of PAMs. The goal is to create incentives for sustainable management of forests and other land use; strengthen accountability; and ensure that community livelihoods are not adversely affected by REDD+ implementation The UN-REDD Programme has also supported integration of REDD+ considerations into national tenure processes following the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of

National Food Security (VGGT) in countries. Key achievements by countries include:

• Benin, Madagascar, Malawi, Lao PDR, Tunisia and Viet Nam have analyzed tenure issues related to REDD+ and proposed ways to strengthen tenure rights in relevant policies/legislations and in REDD+ priority areas.

• Lessons learned and best practices to address tenure issues across their region have been reviewed by Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe through exchanges.

Stakeholder Engagement

The UN-REDD Programme has supported the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including rights holders such as indigenous peoples, in the planning and decision-making related to REDD+ policies. This has included the promotion of the principles, rights and safeguards related to indigenous peoples and local communities as required under the UNFCCC provisions. For example, 29 countries have set up mechanisms to promote the inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society organization (CSOs) in formulating national policies for REDD+. Across many countries, understanding and acceptance

has been growing towards REDD+ and forest management as their involvement is being increasingly allowed and recognized. Fourteen countries have made measurable advances in ensuring key stakeholder groups chose their own representatives to national committees and decision-making structures. Joint guidelines on stakeholder engagement - developed by the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) - have been shared widely to support those processes.

In the case of Kenya, the national guidelines for free, prior and informed consent has been

FAO

developed by an indigenous people's organization, the first of its kind in Africa, and the guidelines will be used in the development of forest carbon related projects by all project proponents as well as by the extractives industry.

The Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) initiative has yielded concrete results in terms of access to legal and technical advice on improved land use management and alternative livelihoods, and early lessons and experiences are feed into the process of developing national REDD+ strategies.

The UN-REDD Programme has raised private-sector awareness of the risks and opportunities, costs and benefits of REDD+ implementation, and has supported countries in identifying options for

policy development and reforms that can shape private sector investments to be supportive of REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme supported countries to engage the private sector during the development of their REDD+ strategies or action plans. Analyses have encouraged shifts in production processes away from deforestation. Further, the UN-REDD Programme has supported countries in establishing National Commodities platforms for some sectors, as well as building capacities in the national banking sector where environmental risks in the context of financing sustainable land use actions was discussed with key stakeholders another step in preparation for REDD+ implementation.
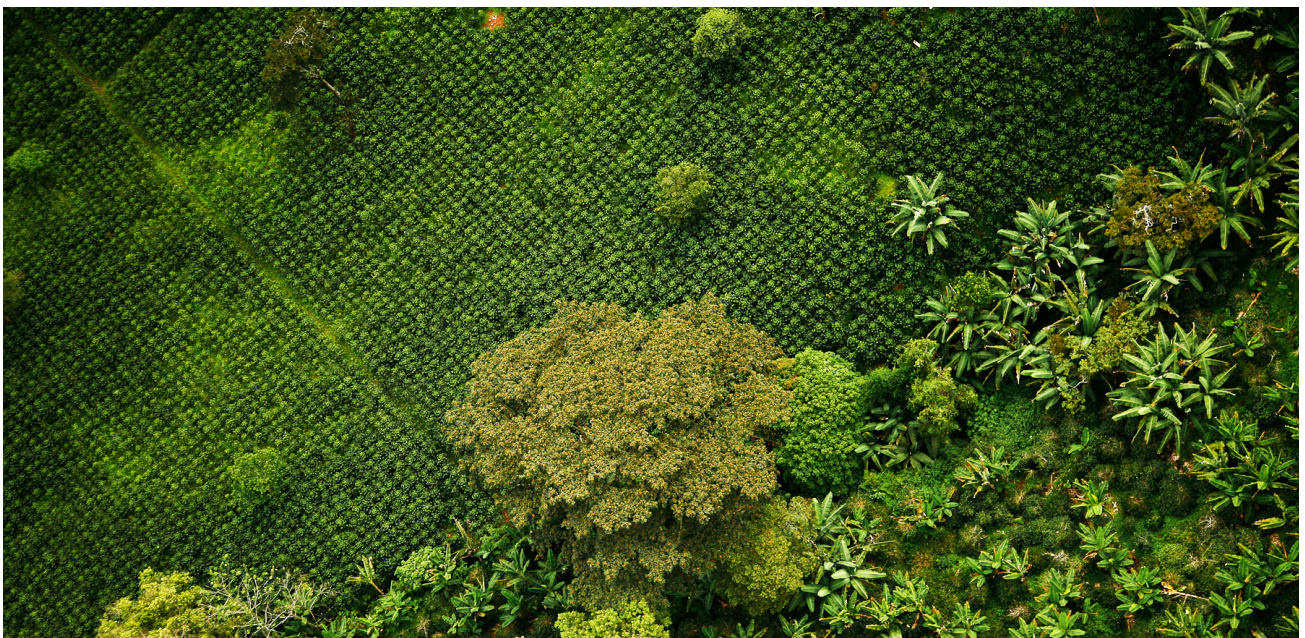
Gender

The UN-REDD countries have made strides in integrating gender considerations in a cross-cutting and comprehensive fashion into their nationally led REDD+ activities, and acknowledging the crucial role gender equality and women's empowerment play in promoting the sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+ policy development and implementation.

To illustrate, 29 countries have integrated activities to strengthen women's effective participation and gender equality concerns into their UN-REDD national programmes, national REDD+ strategies or other UN-REDD supported activities. REDD+ capacity-building efforts and knowledge exchanges on gender - designed to support REDD+ national stakeholders and processes - have ranged from building capacity among national REDD+ coordinators on gender integration in their work on REDD+ policy and action, to working with indigenous women leaders to identify on-the-ground solutions for gender-responsive participation in REDD+. Additionally, since 2013, twelve countries (Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Viet Nam) have used gender analysis and monitoring to help ensure that their REDD+ activities are gender sensitive.

The benefits of integrating such gender equality and women's empowerment considerations can be seen across the programme. Having women and men equitably and meaningfully participate in and inform REDD+ policy development and implementation can not only help to improve the long-term and sustainable management of forests, but also deliver enhanced benefits to affected peoples and communities.

FAO / UN-REDD Programme

Knowledge sharing

In partnership with countries a vast number of knowledge products has been produced under the UN-REDD Programme since its inception in 2008 and the programme offers a variety of online tools and resources for partners and the wider REDD+ community to access knowledge through the **Collaborative Online Workspace (www. unredd.net).** With over 2,000 registered members and approximately 4,000 visitors accessing the site 7,000 times each month, this platform has had a significant impact for users by facilitating the sharing of and access to important information and knowledge. It facilitated that users and national practitioners connect with REDD+ experts and peers across the world.

The UN-REDD Programme is also a major platform for identification, capturing and sharing of lessons learned on REDD+. This has served well in building capacities of national stakeholders for REDD+ readiness.

Responding to the identified needs by countries, knowledge management and strategic communications processes have supported countries in their REDD+ efforts and have been integrated into their activities.

More than 20 regional knowledge exchanges have been held across the three regions, with 18 events organized during 2015-2016 alone, on topics such as National Strategies and Action Plans, NFMS, FREL/FRL development, Safeguards and SIS, REDD+ Finance, and Stakeholder engagement. Regional and sub-regional knowledge exchanges have engaged more than 50 UN-REDD Programme partner countries during this period. Evaluations of these events reveal that they are considered to accelerate countries' advances in REDD+ preparation and progress towards completing the

Warsaw Framework pillars. Country exchanges regionally are exemplified by Kenya- Ghana, Malawi- Zambia, and Madagascar-DRC, and cross-regionally by Ethiopia - South Korea and Cote D'Ivoire - Costa Rica. These knowledge exchanges have contributed to the establishment of joint cooperation engagement frameworks aimed at facilitating the effective and simple exchange of technologies, best practices and knowledge transfer.

The REDD+ Academy is a targeted capacity building mechanism which has been delivered online and through regional events and numerous national events, including in Argentina, Bhutan, Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Uganda and Viet Nam. Through such tools, over 4,000 people have improved their technical capacity and understanding of REDD+.

Access the UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategic Framework.

Visit our website (www.un-redd.org) and online workspace (www.unredd.net).

UN-REDD
P R O G R A M M E

**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

UN
DP

UNEP

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**The United Nations Collaborative Programme
on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation in Developing Countries**