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Introduction

This week, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation will host the first-ever "Oslo REDD Exchange". This workshop will bring together REDD+ practitioners and technical experts, the scientific community, Indigenous Peoples, forest communities, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and international organizations from around the world that are directly involved in "making REDD+ work". It will focus on safeguards and REDD+, with a particular emphasis on the exchange of experiences from the field.

Several UN-REDD Programme colleagues and I are delighted to be attending this worthwhile exchange. In particular, I will be delivering, jointly with Benoit Bosquet, Coordinator of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), a keynote speech at the opening of the event on, REDD+ sustainability elements from a multilateral perspective. It has certainly proven a worthwhile exercise to step back and assess the most important elements of REDD+ from a multi-lateral perspective that will contribute to its sustainability in the long-term. Among the many elements needed, here are some of the points our talk will touch upon:

- Institutional arrangements: From high-level political commitment, to national policies and laws that recognize the role of local institutions for effective resource management.
- Convergence with UNFCCC negotiations: REDD+ efforts around the world are rapidly evolving outside the UNFCCC process. If this continues without the guidance of a fullydefined mechanism, the risk is that REDD+ could become a series of fragmented and uncoordinated approaches too weak to address one of the world's most immediate sources
- Stakeholder engagement: REDD+ needs to continue to be a unique platform for many Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities to engage with governments in the management of forests.
- Implementation processes and frameworks: REDD+ needs to be embedded into national economic development policies and low-carbon development strategies, using harmonized
- Partnerships: The REDD+ landscape is multifaceted and complex, necessitating a range of partnerships, from multilateral initiatives such as the FCPF and UN-REDD Programme to $critical\ partnerships\ with\ civil\ society, In digenous\ Peoples, do nors\ and\ the\ private\ sector.$
- Managing expectations: There are mounting expectations that REDD+ can equally benefit all forests, constituencies and countries, and that these benefits could be substantial. The reality is that REDD+ is likely to require difficult trade-offs, and reconciling expectations will
- Governance challenges in the design and implementation of REDD+: Addressing the design of safeguards to present guidelines to meet minimum standards and prevent undesirable outcomes or actions in REDD+. Provision of meaningful support for alternative livelihoods, and strengthen the conditions for resilient people and forests (tenure, benefits, decision-making authority, reconcile power/authority with responsibility of environmental custodians) are all part of this.

Despite the challenges of making REDD+ sustainable, it continues to play a critical role in catalyzing important national debates about where countries' forests fit into national economic development policies.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Oslo for a rich two-day discussion on these issues.

Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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News

Solomon Islands Now Ready for REDD+ Readiness

With the recent signing of Solomon Islands' initial National UN-REDD Programme Document, the country is now ready to begin the process of laying the foundations for its national REDD+ strategy.

The initial National UN-REDD Programme in the Solomon Islands will support the country's plans to lay out the basis for REDD+ readiness through six main areas of work: 1) supporting broad-based, multistakeholder consultations; 2) analysis of forest resource data; 3) developing a REDD+ roadmap; 4) awareness raising; 5) supporting the process for ensuring free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and other forestdependent communities; 6) developing capacities to formulate its reference emission levels (RELs) and systems for forest measurement, reporting andverification (MRV).

"The recent endorsement and signing of the UN-REDD National Programme Document for Solomon Islands is an important step forward for the country to put in place a national REDD+ strategy," says Chanel Iroi, Under Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands joined the UN-REDD Programme as a partner country in February 2010. In November of the same

year, the country presented an initial National Programme Document to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board and received approval for a budget allocation of US\$550,000.

"Solomon Islands fully values the partnership with the UN-REDD Programme especially the tireless efforts of the staff of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. We would also like to thank the UNDP Bangkok regional office and Honiara UNDP sub office for the tremendous assistance in securing the endorsement of the document. We will now focus on implementing the project and the usual assistance of our partners will continue to be valued," says Iroi.

With the initial National Programme document now signed, implementation of the Programme will start soon after an inception workshop scheduled for later this month.

"It is an exciting process because it is one of the areas where if all partners work together, the results will be enormous not only for the environment but the resource owners as well," said Iroi.

More on Solomon Islands

The total forest area in the Solomon Islands is approximately 2.2 million hectares, and the country has the highest per cent loss of forest in the South Pacific. The logging industry is the single most significant economic sector in the Solomon Islands. It contributes 67 per cent of export earnings, and some 12-13 per cent of total government revenue. As much as 50 per cent of the employed workforce may be associated directly or indirectly with the forest sector. Officially, annual export earnings in 2007 were approximately US\$110 million.



Providing Information on Governance of Forests and REDD+

At a recent expert meeting in Rome, the UN-REDD Programme, together with Chatham House and the World Bank, presented two new guides to assist practitioners in providing information on governance of forests and REDD+.

The Draft Guidance for the Provision of Information on REDD+ Governance developed by the UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House and the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance, emerging from the 2010 Stockholm meeting on forest governance led by the World Bank and FAO, propose a common language and concepts for those interested in assessing and providing information on governance.

Both documents use a working definition of good governance based on three pillars: (1) Policy, legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks; (2) Planning and decision-making processes; and (3) Implementation, enforcement and

compliance, and six principles - accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, participation and transparency.

The documents have a wide range of possible applications, from advocacy work aimed at emphasizing specific issues in a country, to a more government-centered approach where they could be used in reform processes. Participants however stressed the need for participatory approaches to the use of the documents, highlighting the importance of stakeholder participation in addressing governance issues.

Participants in the expert meeting, which took place 19-20 May 2011, included

representatives from the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ecuador, as well as from NGOs including Madera Verde, Transparency International and the CoREDD NGO network in the Philippines. Each of these representatives explained the usefulness of the documents for their activities related to the governance of forest and REDD+.

opportunities for application of the documents emerged from the discussion, such as assisting with guiding the **UN-REDD** Programme's Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ methodology, forming part of the e-training courses by the International Development Law Organisation, field-testing through the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and REDD+ Facility, and providing a basis for research in the Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research Programme.



The final remarks of participants stressed the need to ensure that the documents find productive and practical Lead applications. agencies were recommended to further develop the documents, including their dissemination and translation, to continue to analyze synergies between initiatives and to encourage coordination between existing tools. The organization of a "community of practice" was suggested as a suitable way of collecting and sharing information on country best practices. Participants mentioned the need to support in-country actions through training, capacity building and pilot application.

Download the report of the Expert Meeting on the Governance of Forest and REDD+ at: http://tinyurl.com/Gov-Expert-Meeting-Report

Read the FAO press release on the guides at: http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/ item/74825/icode/



Openina session from L-R: Gerhard Dieterle, World Bank: Eduardo Roias Briales, FAO: Alexander Mueller, FAO: Ken Rosenbaum, Sylvan Environmental Consultants.

6 New Countries Join the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme welcomes Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mongolia, Pakistan and Peru as new partners to the Programme.

The UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board agreed in an inter-sessional decision in June to welcome Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mongolia, Pakistan and Peru as partners of the Programme and official observers to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. These countries join the Programme's 29 other partner countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean (see map).

"In June 2010, the UN-REDD Programme had 22 partner countries and now we have 35... that's incredible growth in just one year. We are honoured to welcome this new group of partner countries to contribute to and benefit from the UN-REDD Programme's increasingly vibrant community of practice," said Clea Paz-Rivera, UN-REDD Programme Officer for National Programmes.

date, 13 UN-REDD Programme partner countries have presented National Programmes to the Policy Board and have been allocated a total of US\$55.4 million in funding. New partner countries can benefit from receiving support from the Programme and knowledge Global sharing, which is facilitated by the UN-REDD Programme's online community of practice (www.unredd.net). Partner countries will also have official observer status at UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meetings. In addition, they may be invited to submit a request to receive funding for a National Programme in the future if selected through a set of criteria to prioritize funding for new countries approved by the Policy Board. The UN-REDD Programme continues to pursue additional funding options that will enable the Programme to expand its financial support on REDD+ to more partner countries in the future.

FACT BOX:

Countries receiving support to National Programmes:

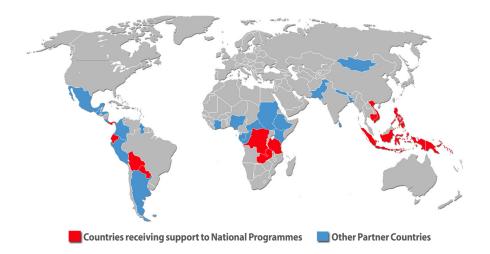
Cambodia the philippines Democratic Republic of the Congo Ecuador Solomon Islands Tanzania Indonesia Viet Nam Panama Zambia

Papua New Guinea

Other Partner Countries:

Argentina Bangladesh Bhutan Central African Republic Honduras* Kenya Mexico Mongolia* Nepal Nigeria Pakistan* Colombia Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Ethiopia* Peru* Republic of Congo Sri Lanka Gabon Guatemala Guyana Sudan

*New UN-REDD Programme partner countries as of June 2011





Features & Commentary

Advancing on MRV for REDD+ in Mexico

Rosa María Román from the UN-REDD Programme provides an update on the project "Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico and enabling South-South cooperation"— the main outcome of the cooperation between Norway and Mexico aimed at strengthening the country's MRV system and sharing experiences on REDD+ in the region.

Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) is a central element of REDD+ architecture globally and highly relevant to REDD+ readiness in Mexico. MRV systems help foster trust among countries, instill confidence in the post-2012 international climate regime, and guarantee that parties will effectively curb emissions from deforestation and degradation and/ or improve forest absorptions. However, several methodological and practical challenges remain, and there is an urgent need to develop and test cost-effective methodologies to implement MRV systems at national and subnational levels.

In May 2010 Norway and Mexico signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The MoU includes specific areas of cooperation related to the implementation of strategies and policies for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The implementation of the project is being carried out by the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR-Comisión Nacional Forestal) with the technical and administrative support from UN-REDD Programme's FAO and UNDP agencies.

The "Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico" project is one of the outcomes of this cooperation currently underway and it covers three specific lines of action:

 The development and implementation of a MRV system as part of the post-2010 REDD+ regime

- The dissemination of the Mexican MRV system and the promotion of regional exchange of experiences and capacities on REDD+
- The identification and assessment of national and international financial incentives for REDD+ (e.g. research on REDD+ funding through experiences and case studies in Mexico)

Research on MRV will be targeted to areas where Mexican experiences may provide particular value as input and guidance to the efforts of other countries, which include the development of a national system for the MRV of greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals of sinks, forests carbon stocks and forest land use area changes in accordance with UNFCCC decisions, and methodological guidance.

Mexican capacity, data availability, and socio-ecological diversity offer a clear opportunity to deliver valuable answers to methodological questions in the short-term, both to improve and redefine its own MRV system, and to contribute to the international community with examples of effective methodological approaches.

From the REDD+ requirements defined under the Cancun Agreements (Decision 1/CP.16): i) A national strategy or action plan; ii) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level; iii) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system; and iv) a system for providing information on the safeguards; Mexico already counts on a national REDD+ vision that will be developed into a National REDD+Strategyattheendof2011.The country is also working on its national reference emission levels (RELs). Since

Mexico already produces a regular National Forest Inventory (NFI) it is well positioned to develop robust national forest monitoring system in the short term; the NFI is a valuable platform on which to build an MRV system with reasonably low levels of uncertainty. However, the national forest monitoring system would greatly benefit from a satellite system to survey its natural resources and the changes in land use. While Mexico has implemented a 15-day early warning system and produces a five-year national assessment of land use changes, it currently lacks an operative satellite system to monitor annual land use changes. Therefore, in the short-term activities will include the development and implementation of operative an satellite monitoring system offer annual national activity Methodological research on multi-scale MRV systems and the reinforcement of already on-going pilot REDD+ research will also be priorities.

Several of these initiatives will be done in collaboration with other governmental institutions, such as the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) and National Institute for Ecology (INE). MRV activities include capacity buildina, knowledge sharing, and institutional arrangements among others in order to consolidate Tier 2 reporting, clarify the institutional framework, prioritize activities and funding, and transfer MRV responsibilities to the institutions. These processes will be coupled with a thorough documentation of the methodologies, approaches, and lessons learned, to best transfer knowledge to other REDD+ countries.



Rosa María Román is the coordinator of MRV activities of the Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico project. Along with seven other professionals, she supports Mexican

CONAFOR in strengthening its national forest monitoring system along with two other governmental institutions: CONABIO and INE



Making the Case for REDD+

The Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, **Dr. Yemi Katerere**, recently authored two editorials, looking at how REDD+ has brought conserving and sustainably managing forests back to centre stage and highlighting the challenges that lie ahead for REDD+.

Below are excerpt from two recent editorials from the Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, Dr. Yemi Katerere:

"Unique Opportunity"

Published June 2011 in Our Planet magazine, on pages 12-13





Achieving carbon reductions emissions from forests may be the raison d'être of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). However, it also presents an opportunity to address many of the challenges related to the underlying drivers of global tropical forest loss. It is therefore, a potentially powerful instrument policy influencing how tropical forests

managed and valued. Yet, despite this apparent "win-win" option – or perhaps because of it – there remains animated debate on how the REDD+ mechanism should be designed and implemented.

One explanation lies in its complexity. Every country has its unique institutional architecture and capacity, political commitment and forest-resource endowment. All are looking at how, through REDD+, they can balance social and environmental goals, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Each nation's uniqueness calls for understanding the relative importance of the different drivers of deforestation and the roles that diverse stakeholders play in them.

...

REDD+ has brought forests back to centre stage, forcing a debate and a re-examination of issues related to Sustainable Forest Management. REDD+ is effectively enabling countries to drill deeper and define the role of forests in their national economic development, the amount of forests they need to preserve, and the transformation of their economies to low carbon. Irrespective of whether a nation ever trades a single ton of carbon, it needs a national debate about where its forests fit into national economic development policies: REDD+ is proving a critical catalyst for such a debate.

"The Road Ahead for REDD+"

Published May 2011 in the G8 edition of Climate Change- The New Economy, on pages 42-45



Defining REDD+

The text on REDD+ in the COP16 agreements now recognizes the need to "promote and support" safeguards and requests that a "system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected" is developed. It also supports a phased approach to countries reaching their readiness objective and provides methodological guidance to continue working on national REDD+ strategies. Politically, the agreement on REDD+ provides a positive signal for donors and REDD+ countries to keep working on and investing in readiness efforts.

• • •

The agreements provide some elaboration on the activities that developing countries need to undertake in the development and implementation of REDD+, such as a national plan, national reference emission levels and robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems— all of which are work areas that the UN-REDD Programme and other readiness initiatives have been supporting for the past two years.

•••

The Challenges Ahead

From now until Durban, the remaining key elements will need to be finalized, including how REDD+ financing will work. At the same time, REDD+ efforts around the world are rapidly evolving outside the UNFCCC process. If this continues without the guidance of a fully-defined mechanism, the risk is that REDD+ could easily become a series of fragmented and uncoordinated approaches too weak to address one of the world's most immediate sources of global emissions.

• • •

The challenges ahead may be great but so are the opportunities. As livelihoods improve and poverty is eradicated, the capacity of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change is likely to increase. By providing an incentive for developing countries to further invest in low-carbon development REDD+ remains a critical component of the climate change mitigation solution.

Dr. Yemi Katerere is the Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat based in Geneva.



Reports & Analysis

Safeguards Highlighted at UN-REDD and Ecuador Event in Bonn

The UN-REDD Programme and Ecuador's side event at the UN's Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) focused on new tools and country progress in addressing REDD+ safeguards.

Through presentations from the UN-REDD Programme, Ecuador, Viet Nam, the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), more than 120 participants from 30 countries and various governmental and non-governmental organizations were given an overview of some of the concepts and tools being developed to address safeguards in REDD+ implementation.



More than 120 participants from 30 countries and various governmental and non-governmental organizations attended the UN-REDD and Ecuador ioint side event.

Safeguards—a hotly debated issue over the past two years— were one of the biggest breakthroughs in the REDD+ negotiations at COP16. The Agreement on REDD+ now recognizes the need to "promote and support" safeguards and requests parties to develop a "system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected." Safeguards include critical issues such as forest governance, respect for the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of local communities and actions that are consistent with conservation of natural forests and biological diversity.

The UN-REDD Programme presented its approaches and related products on safeguards, namely:

- Draft Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria and associated risk identification and mitigation tool
- Participatory Governance Assessments (PGAs) for REDD+ designed to identify governance challenges and recommend responses
- Guidelines on stakeholder engagement and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and its draft Guidance for the provision of information on REDD+ governance

CCBA gave an overview of its Social and Environmental Standards Initiative, which is developing a framework for reporting social and environmental performance using a multi-stakeholder assessment process, and will identify key principles, criteria and indicators for the standards.

Both Ecuador and Viet Nam gave overviews of how their countries are addressing the dimension of safeguards in their REDD+ readiness and implementation efforts. Ecuador highlighted its work in the area of Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and plans to work with UN-REDD Programme Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria in a complementary manner. Viet Nam looked at the progress and challenges of upholding Indigenous Peoples' right to FPIC and recourse mechanism as part of the country's REDD+ strategy. Tebtebba shared Indigenous Peoples experiences in relation to safeguards, highlighting some inroads that have been made as well as the gaps that still need to be addressed, especially in the area of land tenure.

"If we don't settle land tenure in the early stages of REDD+ implementation, we run the risk of expanded civil conflicts and the ultimate failure of the REDD+ concept," said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director of Tebtebba.

Some participants expressed concern that consultation processes with Indigenous Peoples are not happening as systematically as they should, and called on the UN-REDD Programme to play a strong role in ensuring these processes are consistently occurring in countries. Others expressed skepticism about how expeditious the process of defining and implementing safeguards would be, given how long it took the international community to come to a consensus on the issue.

A conclusion that emerged from the side event is that the various approaches, tool and standards for REDD+ safeguards currently being developed can and should be used in a complementary way moving forward, as is planned in Ecuador. Countries also underscored the need and desire to share lessons and learn from each other, for which the UN-REDD Programme and others can play a catalytic role.

The joint UN-REDD Programme and Ecuador side event took place at the Ministry of Environment building on 7 June 2011, at the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference happening until 17 June in Bonn, Germany. Presenters included Clea Paz-Rivera, National Programmes Officer for the UN-REDD Programme; Joanna Durbin, Director of The Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance; Carola Director of Mitigation for the Ministry of Environment in Ecuador; Pham Manh Cuong, Director of Viet Nam's REDD+ Office; and Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba). The side event was moderated by Thais Linhares-Juvenal, Senior Officer for the UN-REDD Programme.

Please check: http://tinyurl.com/UNREDD-Ecuador-Event for presentations from the event.



A participant from DRC poses questions to the panel on how quickly REDD+ safeguards can be addressed.



Indigenous Peoples' Rights in REDD+ Highlighted at the UNPFII

At the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII), the UN-REDD Programme presented its forthcoming FPIC and Recourse Guidelines, and joint guidelines for stakeholder engagement recently developed with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Program.

The issue of upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples in forest management was a hotly discussed topic at the 10th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII), held 16-27 May 2011 in New York. Observance of the right of Indigenous Peoples to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) on activities that may affect their lands, territories and livelihoods was one of the matters being reviewed by the UNFPII this year.



Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP, delivered a statement to the UNPFII emphasizing the UN-REDD Programme's commitment to free, prior and informed consent.

Ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent communities are able to engage effectively in REDD+ and that their rights are respected is central to the UN-REDD Programme approach. The Programme has therefore been collaborating actively with the UNFPII since 2009 to develop standards and guidelines on stakeholder engagement.

Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP, presented a statement on the UN-REDD Programme's commitment to further the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and uphold the right to FPIC during the UNPFII session on FPIC.

The UN-REDD Programme also hosted a well-attended side event to present its upcoming FPIC and Recourse Guidelines for the Programme. These are being developed inputs from series of a regional consultations with Indigenous Peoples' representatives held between June 2010 and January 2011 in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The Guidelines will be used by countries participating in the UN-REDD Programme when designing and implementing REDD+ actions.

The side event, chaired by Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director of Tebtebba Foundation, included presentations on the process used to develop the Guidelines and their content (access presentations here), and reflections from Diego Escobar Guzman, Indigenous Peoples' representative for the LAC region on the UN-REDD

Programme Policy Board, who also participated in the LAC regional consultation. This was followed by a stimulating discussion with the audience on a range of issues, including how Guidelines the dealt with key definitions and elaboration of the principles for recourse. The Guidelines will be released in July 2011 for public review and will be made available on the UN-REDD Programme website.

Additionally, the UN-REDD Programme coorganized a separate side event with the World Bank-hosted Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Program (FIP), to highlight the Programme's collaboration with these two initiatives (access presentations here). Through harmonizing policy guidance and carrying out joint missions, the three initiatives are implementing a coordinated approach to supporting the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in REDD+.

One of the notable outputs of these efforts is the joint FCPF and UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness with a Focus on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities. These will be used by countries participating in REDD+ under the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme, providing guidance on supporting the full and effective participation of communities in REDD+ at all levels. A draft is currently available for public review until 1 July 2011.

Every year, the Forum brings together Indigenous Peoples' representatives from around the world to discuss issues relating to Indigenous Peoples' social development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights.



Charles McNeill, Senior Policy Advisor, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP, delivered a statement to the UNPFII emphasizing the UN-REDD Programme's commitment to free, prior and informed consent.



Looking Ahead

Oslo REDD Exchange

23-24 June 2011: Oslo, Norway

Latin America and Caribbean REDD+ capacity building workshop

5-8 July, 2011: Quito, Ecuador

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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