

## Introduction

In two weeks, the UN-REDD Programme will host its seventh Policy Board meeting in Berlin, Germany. These meetings are critically important as they provide a forum for the full range of UN-REDD Programme stakeholders to participate in the decisions that shape the future direction of the Programme.

At the upcoming Policy Board meeting in Berlin, Nigeria—a partner country of the Programme since February 2010—will present its National Programme document and funding request for the Board's consideration. Part of Nigeria's presentation will highlight their most recent REDD+ progress, including exciting work in the area of piloting participatory governance assessments. Last month's bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Abuja has not discouraged Nigeria from moving ahead with its National Programme.

The Policy Board will also hear informal presentations from Colombia, Guatemala, Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka on current efforts to prepare REDD+ strategies. Progress in the UN-REDD Global Programme will be presented, including updates on the Programme's work in the area of Monitoring and Information and REDD+ as well as progress in developing guidelines for upholding free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Further clarification requested by the Policy Board on the Global Programme Framework Document (approved inter-sessionally in August) will also be presented.

Once again, the UN-REDD Programme is pleased to be coordinating with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in holding back-to-back governing meetings (FCPF's Participants Committee meeting is happening in Berlin 17-19 October), in order to streamline travel arrangements for participants attending both meetings. The FCPF and UN-REDD Programme will also hold a one-day planning meeting between these two governing meetings, to discuss various points related to coordinating support to countries.

As always, we welcome the opportunity to interact with country representatives as well as the diverse stakeholders, including civil society and Indigenous Peoples, who will participate in our upcoming Policy Board meeting. To those of you joining the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF in Berlin, travel safe and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yemi Katerere  
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

## News

### Mongolia Begins its REDD+ Roadmap Process

The UN-REDD Programme has begun supporting the Government of Mongolia as the country establishes a multi-stakeholder REDD+ taskforce to define a roadmap for its REDD+ readiness activities.

Mongolia's Forest Agency, the country's national REDD+ focal institution, held its first national stakeholder consultation meeting on 12 September to inform Mongolian national institutions, local governments, community groups, the private sector, civil society, academia and development partners about the country's REDD+ plans. This consultation also set out to establish the membership of Mongolia's newly created REDD+ taskforce.

The mandate to create this taskforce came from the country's initial REDD+ consultations in March of this year. Since then, the Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism prepared a draft ministerial decree to formally establish the taskforce and ensure it is set up with a balanced representation from a wide range of stakeholders.



Mongolian mixed aspen-conifer forest on mountain slopes

Participants at this month's stakeholder consultation were asked to nominate taskforce members, which consist of individuals from the Cabinet Secretariat, line ministries, national human rights

## In this Issue

### News

Mongolia Begins its REDD+ Roadmap Process .....Page 1.

Encouraging Signs for the REDD+ Process in Republic of Congo ... Page 2.

UN-REDD Launches New REDD+ Capacity Building Studies for Asia and Africa .....Page 3.

New Study Examines the Role of Local Governance Institutions in Tackling Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean .....Page 3.

### Features & Commentary

UN-REDD and INPE Team Up to Train Experts on Satellite Forest Monitoring .....Page 4.

### Reports & Analysis

UN-REDD-FAO Releases Report from Training Workshop on National Systems for Greenhouse Gas Inventories .....Page 5.

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

commission, the private sector, civil society and academic institutions. In addition, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), FAO and UNDP have been officially requested to form a technical advisory group to assist the taskforce in preparing the roadmap.

The taskforce and advisory group will spend the next several months to work on detailed stakeholder mapping, gap analyses and

recommendations to address existing needs in three key areas: i) drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and strategies; ii) stakeholder engagement and safeguards; and iii) REDD+ assessment and monitoring (MRV and monitoring).

Results of this work in these areas will then be put together into a roadmap, and a number of national and local-level consultation and validation meetings will

be held during this process to ensure the sustainability and national ownership of the roadmap. The roadmap is currently expected to be ready in February 2012.

UN-REDD Programme support of these efforts is being implemented by UNDP, and financed through the UNDP-Japan Partnership Fund and financial support of UNDP Country Office in Mongolia. ■

## Encouraging Signs for the REDD+ Process in Republic of Congo

**A year after the approval of its REDD+ readiness preparation proposal, and a few months after the Tropical Forests Summit, favorable conditions are reinforcing the Republic of Congo's intention to explore the REDD+ pathway.**

The Republic of Congo's commitment to advancing REDD+ readiness activities shone through during a recent joint mission to the country by the UN-REDD Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The mission, which took place between 14-16 September in Brazzaville, aimed to identify the possible avenues for UN-REDD Programme/FCPF support in the Republic of Congo and to learn more about how the REDD+ concept is advancing there.

(Agriculture, Mining and Energy, Planning), who expressed real interest in the opportunities—but also the challenges—that REDD+ can bring to their sectors. The delegation found this cross-ministerial engagement to be encouraging for the future integration of REDD+ into mainstream policies.

Learning from experiences in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, other critical issues for

appreciated. Two delegates from the civil society interim commission on REDD+ participated in all the sessions of the mission. It was agreed that different options will be developed for a more permanent REDD+ civil society platform, and that these options would, in turn, be proposed to a general assembly of different national and local CSO in January 2012.

The National REDD+ Coordinator, Mr. Boundzanga, will make a presentation at the upcoming UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting in Berlin on the current status of REDD+ readiness in the country. Mr. Boundzanga will also present a proposed set of potential activities for future UN-REDD Programme support. The formal submission of a full National Programme proposal to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board is already a target for the following meeting in March 2012.

In the meantime, the country will move ahead with its priorities, including holding a workshop early November on its REDD+ implementation framework, organizing its civil society platform, and preparing a side event in Durban with Minister Djombo. It is clear that momentum for REDD+ is increasing in the Republic of Congo.

The joint UN-REDD/FCPF mission follows the UN-REDD Programme's recent decision to select Republic of Congo as a priority country in the Africa region. In addition, FCPF also used the mission to discuss the last details for the signature of a US\$3.4 million grant agreement with the country. ■



The UN-REDD/FCPF delegation was impressed by the high degree of national ownership in the early stages of the country's REDD+ process. The National Coordination on REDD+ has a sophisticated understanding of the articulation between the FCPF funds and the potential UN-REDD Programme support. In addition, the UN-REDD/FCPF delegation had the chance to interact with focal points from other important Ministries

the success of REDD+ were discussed, such as the possibility to plan for decentralized REDD+ units from the start, in parallel to capacity reinforcement of national institutions and the articulation of REDD+ with a national vision for sustainable development.

The strong mobilization of civil society on REDD+ in Republic of Congo was also

## UN-REDD Launches New REDD+ Capacity Building Studies for Asia and Africa

The studies will provide insights on capacity building issues for REDD+ from selected countries, and present an assessment of gaps that countries confront in developing REDD+ programmes.

Countries engaging in REDD+ are confronted with the need for technical and functional competencies to prepare, implement and benefit from REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme, through UNEP, is contributing to capacity needs assessments and has launched parallel studies in Asia and Africa aimed at fostering a better understanding of what countries require to move forward with REDD+.

The Africa Study is being led by the African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE). Its conceptual framework addresses the issues around institutional arrangements, leadership, knowledge and accountability. The study focuses on the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania and potential teams from these countries came together in Nairobi in September to discuss a feasible methodology and framework to assess the entities that provide information, learning events and processes on REDD+. The study will assess gaps in terms of core technical competencies needed for REDD+, as well as the issues related to delivering these including quality and availability of data, infrastructure and enabling policy and institutional frameworks.

The Asia Study is being led by the Centre for People and Forests - RECOFTC in Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam. Four national study teams are currently identifying and mapping the organizations involved in capacity building in each country. For the leading capacity building organizations in each country, data is being collected on the main capacity

building themes they address, their skills and experience, the type of services they provide, their target beneficiaries and examples of best practice. A next step will be to assess gaps and make recommendations related to strengthening and coordinating the actions of the various service providers.



Women working in a tree nursery, Bangladesh

### Context

There are a number of issues developing countries and practitioners consider as they are getting ready for REDD+, such as how REDD+ can be included in integrated land use planning at various scales; what standards need to be adhered to; what benefit sharing mechanisms can be employed; how are trade-offs addressed whilst planning development objectives; what governance and legal frameworks are needed for REDD; and how can the multiple benefits from REDD+ be measured and valued.

In more than 40 developing countries, a myriad of initiatives and institutions have

been rising to address capacity development needs. Knowledge sharing and training has been provided by a range of actors at various levels including international NGOs to advance the understanding and practical needs for developing REDD+ at national and sub-national levels. Multilateral initiatives such as UN-REDD and FCPF embed capacity building within their programmes as a fundamental element. Bilateral initiatives abound to prepare countries' rise to the REDD+ challenge.

With the benefit of 2-3 years of REDD+ hindsight, it is an opportune time to

contribute to a better understanding of the capacity building needs in terms of existing strengths and abilities as well as assessment of gaps based on a 'desired standard and level' of capacity and competencies. Training needs assessments are being carried out at the national level such as in countries like Tanzania and the Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity (AGRC) also hopes to carry out further work.

The two studies will present preliminary findings at COP17 in Durban in December. For more information contact:

[Wahida.Patwa-Shah@unep.org](mailto:Wahida.Patwa-Shah@unep.org) ■

## New Study Examines the Role of Local Governance Institutions in Tackling Corruption Risks in REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean

REDD+ may help reduce corruption in the forest sector if the issue is adequately addressed and local governance institutions empowered.

There is little evidence that climate change is explicitly on the sub-national policy agenda in most Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. Yet this topic is made increasingly relevant due to both national

REDD+ processes and the decentralization process through which sub-national governments are beginning to assume broader democratic governance responsibilities and strategic competencies.

A new study, titled "*Local Governance, Anti-corruption and REDD+ in Latin America: Exploring synergies to strengthen Transparency and Accountability*" developed as a collaboration between the UNDP Democratic Governance Practice Area at the Regional Services Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean (in Panama) and the UN-REDD Programme, seeks to initiate thinking and dialogue on the role of local governance institutions in tackling corruption risks in REDD+.

The study draws specific recommendations for building the necessary capacity in the

REDD+ context, and provides a rapid analysis of how local governance and corruption are treated in existing UN-REDD National Programme documents in LAC. **The overarching message is that REDD+ may involve new and specific corruption risks especially at the sub-national level, but may ultimately help reduce corruption in the forest sector if the issue is adequately addressed and local governance institutions empowered.**

Last year's "Staying on Track: Tackling Corruption risks in Climate Change" (now updated to reflect recent REDD+ developments) included a recommendation to examine the specific role of local

governance institutions. The new local governance, anti-corruption and REDD+ in LAC" study take this recommendation forward by first highlighting corruption vulnerabilities at the local level and examining two case studies in Brazil and Bolivia. From there lessons and good practices are extracted, including in the areas of social monitoring, participation of local communities in forest management including decision-making processes and monitoring, and transparency in public finance and spending.

The study, which is also available in Spanish, was first released during the Third Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Community of Practice

(COP) in Latin America and the Caribbean: "Mainstreaming Transparency and Accountability to Strengthen Democratic Governance and Reduce Inequality" organized at the beginning of September by the Democratic Governance Practice Area/ UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of its Transparency and Accountability in Local Governments Regional Initiative (TRALOG). On this occasion, strategic inputs were gathered from the UNDP anti-corruption community in LAC, providing practical guidance on effective measures and entry points to tackle corruption risks in REDD+. ■

## DEFINITIONS

**Local governments:** can be defined as formal institutions mandated to deliver a variety of public goods and services at the sub-national level.

**Local governance:** refers to the ways in which local level decision-making is carried out, subject to the scrutiny and oversight of citizens open and transparent, rule-bound and participatory.

**Local governance institutions:** vary from country to country, but generally include governments (municipal, state, provincial, community) and a variety of other special purpose institutions (such as for water, health and education).

## Features & Commentary

### UN-REDD and INPE Team Up to Train Experts on Satellite Forest Monitoring

The UN-REDD Programme team at FAO and Brazil's Space Agency (INPE) join forces to run a two-week intensive training programme on the use and possible application of remote sensing data for forest monitoring. By: **Inge Jonckheere**, UN-REDD-FAO Forestry officer.

The first training took place last year at INPE Amazônia in the Training Center (CRA) in Belém, Pará, Brazil, when INPE trained FAO trainers and piloted the course. The second training programme, which started 19 September at INPE's CRA, is targeting country-level technical experts is structured in different phases. Country delegations to the training from Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Vietnam and Papua New Guinea (PNG) include computer science experts as well as GIS forest experts from country government institutions responsible for the implementation of REDD+ and/or national forest inventory.

The first part of the training is based on specific material including hands-on exercises using the Brazilian monitoring projects and data. The second part of the training will focus on the application of forest monitoring techniques and image

processing in their specific country context. The training includes practical exercises using a standardized set of Brazilian satellite data, and a thorough training based on respective country specific data and imagery. The course aims at improving the knowledge on the use of remote sensing (RS), information technology (IT) and modelling aspects of a satellite forest monitoring system. Country specific activities such as the assessment of the historical forest cover changes will be carried out during this training course. The knowledge gained will be valuable to expand monitoring of the entire national territory, which may become relevant for GHG inventories related to Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) or Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU).

INPE's centre in Belém is responsible for the centralized training on the Brazilian



A comparison of forest cover status between different years using the TerraAmazon software.

monitoring forest systems using Terra Amazon as the Brazilian software platform to support the estimation of the annual rate of deforestation (PRODES), the detection of forest degradation (DEGRAD), selective logging activities (DETEX) and the "near-real time" monitoring of the forest cover in support of more effective forest control and enforcement activities (DETER). TerraAmazon, developed by INPE integrates geographical information systems (GIS), image processing and database management functionalities.

INPE's technology to support their Amazonia monitoring systems is composed of different operational and complementary projects which are mentioned above: DETER, DEGRAD, DETEX and PRODES. Recently, the project TerraClass has also been developed

to monitor the land use of the deforested areas already mapped in PRODES. The Brazilian system is the largest and most robust operating forest monitoring system in the world and has been providing official annual rates of gross deforestation to the Brazilian government since the late 80s. Monthly information on forest cover changes in Amazonia has been provided to the government control and enforcement agency since 2004, allowing early measures to be taken to prevent further non-authorized deforestation activities. As open source products, DETER, DETEX, DEGRAD, PRODES and TerraClass are distributed free of charge, as all available INPE data.

The training is part of the huge capacity building effort and knowledge transfer of

### National Forest Monitoring System in the Cancun Agreements

The decision 1/CP.16 of the Cancun Agreements requests developing country Parties aiming to undertake REDD+ activities to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the REDD+ activities. These activities would be undertaken in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities. If appropriate, sub-national monitoring and reporting as an interim measure can be developed, in accordance with national circumstances, and

with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties. In short, the Cancun Agreement's text reads as follows: "including monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, if appropriate, and reporting on how displacement of



Training activities with the country-experts in the intensive training course in Belém.

the FAO-led activities of the UN-REDD Programme for developing countries in the REDD+ context. After these training programmes, the FAO-UN-REDD Programme team will be responsible for the in-country implementation and operationalization of national forest monitoring systems to ensure monitoring systems are adapted to accommodate national circumstances.

emissions is being addressed, and on the means to integrate sub-national monitoring systems into a national monitoring system".

The FAO/UN-REDD-INPE training recognizes the provisions of Articles 1 and 4 of Decision 4/CP.15 as well as 1/CP.16 and suggests concrete and effective actions to strengthen developing countries' technical capacities to monitor their forest land. The training provides the opportunity among REDD+ countries to set up autonomous satellite forest monitoring systems that will

be valuable also as a tool to report GHG emissions following the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance.

In that context, FAO/UN-REDD and INPE are also currently supporting the launch of national forest monitoring systems for DRC and PNG. Both countries will launch their national forest monitoring portal in December in Durban at COP17. The portals will allow all end-users to follow and have open access to available forest data, updated frequently to represent national forest conditions. The use of remote sensing data allows a high frequency of data availability as well as the possibility for wall-to-wall monitoring of the forests in the countries. The use of National Forest Inventory data will complete the remote sensing data in order to fulfil the reporting requirements of the UNFCCC.

A highly specialized technical team in FAO, together with Geosolutions and INPE, is supporting DRC and PNG in the set-up of such a data analysis and web-based dissemination system.

The ultimate goal of all these joint effort is to build up the autonomous capacity of REDD+ countries to monitor their forest-related land cover, generating annual data on deforestation, forest degradation and forest conversions. This will allow each country to produce national and sub-national forest related change matrices, at the level of each land use change subcategory that will provide activity data on changes in the use of land in units of area per year.



*Inge Jonckheere is a Forestry officer at FAO for the UN-REDD programme, and is leading the technical collaboration of FAO/UN-REDD with INPE for the capacity building.* ■

## Reports & Analysis

### UN-REDD-FAO Releases Report from Training Workshop on National Systems for Greenhouse Gas Inventories

Download the proceedings of the training workshop, which took place earlier this year at FAO Headquarters in Rome, as part of the UN-REDD Programme's support to countries in the area of greenhouse gas inventories.

The training workshop on national systems for greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventories in

the context of REDD+ brought together speakers and presenters from international

and national organizations, as well as representatives from 35 developing countries.

The proceedings contain all the works op presentations, which cover a range of topics and include descriptions of the national greenhouse gases inventory arrangements of Brazil, Gabon, Vietnam and Mexico. The proceedings also provide the results of a questionnaire that representatives from participating countries completed before the workshop. The questionnaire assessed current status and

practices of national GHG inventory development with the focus on the agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) sector. Below are some of the findings:

- 60 per cent of the Parties had established a greenhouse gas inventory unit, but more than half of these were non-permanent.
- 91 per cent of the countries received support, mostly financial and to a lesser extent technical, from external sources and two-thirds indicated that they do not have any domestic budget dedicated for the inventory.
- 54 per cent of the national experts are not specialized enough in greenhouse gas inventories to meet future reporting requirements.

The questionnaire's findings serve as the basis for a needs analysis and suggestions that are outlined in the proceedings' final section. Some of the suggestions in this section include:

- Given that in many developing countries there is no direct relationship between the GHG inventory unit and the REDD+ coordination, these countries need to strengthen institutional arrangements for GHG inventories. One approach to achieve this goal would be to create a climate change committee consisting of the head of the GHG unit, REDD+ coordination, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) authority and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Designated National Authority (DNA) and representatives of relevant ministries.
- Training programmes, considered a necessary part of the GHG inventory process in many developing countries, should be carried out on a continuous basis to reduce the risk of high turnover of trained personnel and strengthen sustainability. Some developing countries, such as Brazil and India, have the potential to engage in regional cooperation for capacity development.

- Since data issues represent a major constraint for national GHG inventories for the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector in most developing countries, a permanent process of data gathering should be established within the administrative structure of government agencies, relevant enterprises as well as local governmental administrations.
- Although there were increased pledges for international funding in the Copenhagen Accord, developing countries should attempt to lower their reliance on international support to ensure the long-term sustainability of national GHG inventory preparation.

The training workshop, held in January 2011, represented a joint effort of different agencies currently involved in three capacity building programmes: the UN-REDD Programme, CD-REDD II Programme and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Programme implemented under the UNFCCC. ■

## Looking Ahead

### **UNFCCC Climate Change Conference**

1-7 October, 2011: Panama City, Panama

### **Oslo Governance Forum**

3-5 October, 2011: Oslo, Norway

### **High-Level Forum on Forests and Climate Change**

10-11 October, 2011: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **Seventh UN-REDD Programme Policy Board Meeting**

13-14 October, 2011: Berlin, Germany

### **FCPF Participants Committee Meeting**

17-19 October, 2011: Berlin, Germany

### **Corruption and REDD+ in Asia-Pacific: Awareness-Raising Event**

20-21 October, 2011: Bangkok, Thailand

## UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,  
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org)  
[un-redd@un-redd.org](mailto:un-redd@un-redd.org)

Photo credits – Inside spread: © FAO: Patrick Durst, Roberto Faidutti; Patrick Kondjo  
Images sourced from Congo-brazzaville.org; [www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org); [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org);

