

## News

### Ecuador Launches its UN-REDD National Programme

Last month, Ecuador's inception workshop brought together local and national level stakeholders to officially kick-off the country's UN-REDD National Programme.

During Ecuador's inception workshop, which took place on 12 July in Nueva Loja-Sucumbios, the country presented its UN-REDD National Programme to a large group of stakeholders, including the Governor of Sucumbios, local government mayors, parish council presidents, national and international NGOs, as well as representatives from communities and Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio organizations. The diversity of the participants allowed interventions with a high level of debate and substantive contributions. Government officials seized the opportunity to address the issues and concerns raised by participants, generating a positive reaction in the audience.

The UN-REDD National Programme in Ecuador is intended primarily to help the country to complete its preparation for the implementation of REDD+ at the national level. For Ecuador, REDD+ represents an alternative approach to mitigating climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse

gases associated with deforestation and forest degradation. For this reason, the Government of Ecuador, through its National Environmental Authority, in February 2009, has shown high interest in being part of the UN-REDD Programme.

Read more on the UN-REDD Programme funding allocation approval to Ecuador <http://bit.ly/QNd1EG>, endorsed by the Programme's Policy Board in March 2011.

Read updates on Ecuador's REDD+ progress <http://bit.ly/OrUj9z> on the country's dedicated webpage on the UN-REDD Programme website.



### Indonesia Explores the Multiple Benefits of REDD+

The UN-REDD National Programme in Indonesia recently brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss potential benefits derived from REDD+ beyond carbon.

Between 25 and 26 July, the UN-REDD National Programme Management Unit in Indonesia organized a workshop on multiple benefits of REDD+ to raise awareness of the importance and potential of multiple benefits derived by REDD+. More than 50 participants from the provincial REDD+ sub- and various universities and NGOs were given a new perspective on the non-carbon benefits that could be achieved through REDD+ alongside climate change mitigation. The workshop took place in Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi, which is a pilot province of the UN-REDD Programme. Opening

sessions were given by a representative from the Ministry of Forestry and the head of the provincial Forestry Council. UN-REDD Programme colleagues from UNEP's World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) contributed an overview of the multiple benefits of REDD+ introducing the different benefit types, as well as social and environmental risks that can be associated with different REDD+ options. UNEP-WCMC also presented in a session on the economic values of multiple benefits and how to integrate them in REDD+ planning. Further sessions presented a framework for

the assessment of REDD+ options, the costs of REDD+.



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

the importance of biodiversity benefits and examples of multiple benefits from Lore Lindu National Park in Central Sulawesi. A participatory session included two group discussions of the most important non-carbon benefits under REDD+ in Central Sulawesi and how to account for them.

By involving many different stakeholders in the ongoing REDD+ process, the UN-REDD National Programme created a supportive environment for REDD+ in Central Sulawesi.



Participants of the Multiple Benefits workshop

## Voting Period Now Open for New Civil Society Representatives to the UN-REDD Policy Board

After receiving more than 100 nominations over the past month, the UN-REDD Programme is now asking Civil Society Organizations to vote on four new representatives to its Policy Board.

Between 10-31 August, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can vote on eligible nominees that have been identified through a self-selection process to serve as CSO representatives to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. The three-week nomination period for the self-selection process ended on 3 August, 2012 and more than 100 nominations were submitted from across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. The UN-REDD Programme is seeking to identify four CSO representatives to its Policy Board: one from each of the

Programme's three regions and one from a developed country. During the voting period, CSOs will have the opportunity to cast votes for the nominees that they feel will best represent their interests on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. The election will conclude in time for the selected CSO representatives to travel to Brazzaville, Republic of Congo for the ninth meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board in October 2012. The Bank Information <http://bit.ly/UNubj> Center is conducting the self-selection and

voting process at the invitation of the UN-REDD Programme, following consultations with the Independent Advisory Group on Forests, Rights, and Climate Change <http://bit.ly/RU6YW9>.

Access the voting form at the following site: <http://bit.ly/MT5o4u>

Click here <http://bit.ly/PmXiBI> for more information on this process.

## A New Look for UN-REDD.org

This month, the UN-REDD Programme re-launches its global website—[www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org)—with a new look, and features that make finding information easier than ever. r new representatives to its Policy Board.

The new and improved UN-REDD Programme website <http://bit.ly/4h4P8> brings more information about the Programme and partner countries to visitor's fingertips, while maintaining the same information users are used to finding there. From the homepage, detailed information about UN-REDD Programme partner countries as well as global and regional support is now just one click away.

### New features include:

1. Interactive maps on the homepage and partner country sections.
2. A comprehensive Publication & Resources section.
3. Updated information on REDD+, including a retooled Media Centre

featuring the Programme's wide range of multimedia resources.

4. New sections designed for Donors & Partners, including testimonials from donors and partner countries.
5. New animated banners and graphic design.



## Fast-Facts on UN-REDD

Did you know that 56 per cent of the world's tropical forests are located in UN-REDD Programme partner countries? Read more on how the Programme has grown since it was launch almost three years ago.

When the <http://bit.ly/NTpdJx> was launched in September 2008, it supported nine pilot countries with initial funding from Norway of US\$35 million.

Three years later, the UN-REDD Programme is now working with 44 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin American and the Caribbean, with more than US\$118 million in donor contributions from Denmark, Japan, Norway and Spain.

Below are some more facts and figures that help show the progress of the UN-REDD Programme and its partner countries to date.

Download UN-REDD Programme Fast Facts flyer

English <http://bit.ly/PNzgMr>

Francais <http://bit.ly/MXc14S>

Espanol <http://bit.ly/OGpJaJ>



## Features & Commentary

### Crossroads for the REDD+ Partnership

In September, the REDD+ Partnership will meet in Bangkok to discuss its future beyond 2012. In this article, the current REDD+ Partnership co-chairs reflect on the evolution of the Partnership since it began in 2010. By: Christine Dragisic (USA) and Jorge Mario Rodríguez Zúñiga (Costa Rica)

The REDD+ Partnership is an integral part of the constellation of initiatives and programmes seeking to advance REDD+ globally. Formed by an original 58 Partners at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference in May 2010, the Partnership has expanded to include 75 Partners today. The Partnership is open to all countries willing to contribute to REDD+ actions or support, and confirm their agreement to the Partnership Agreement elaborated at the Oslo conference.

The core objective of the Partnership is to contribute to the global battle against climate change by serving as an interim platform for Partners to scale up REDD+ actions and finance, and to that end to take immediate action, including improving the effectiveness, efficiency,

transparency and coordination of REDD+ initiatives and financial instruments, to facilitate among other things knowledge transfer, capacity enhancement, mitigation actions and technology development and transfer. Since its inception, the REDD+ Partnership has served as an open and constructive forum for dialogue for Partners and other stakeholders on technical and financing issues related to REDD+. The development of the Voluntary REDD+ Database <http://bit.ly/c9u9a5>,

and the various studies commissioned by the REDD+ Partnership, have brought a new degree of transparency to financing of REDD+ actions. The collective capacity of Partners and other stakeholders has been increased through focused knowledge exchange and capacity building. However, Partners recognize that there is still much to do to fully achieve the original objective of the REDD+ Partnership, and to realize the full potential REDD+ can play in achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For this reason, Partners are currently considering extending the REDD+ Partnership beyond 2012, which was



its original mandate. Several meetings have been held this year, and submissions received from Partners and Stakeholders alike, on what a future phase of the Partnership might look like, and especially what action Partners might take together to advance the original objective of the Partnership. These discussions are expected to conclude before the end of the year.

As co-chairs of the REDD+ Partnership this semester, we are honored to have been entrusted to help guide the discussions on the future of the Partnership to a constructive

conclusion, and heartened by the thought and consideration given by both Partners and Stakeholders to the role the Partnership might continue to play in shaping REDD+. We look forward to productive meetings on the future of the Partnership in Bangkok in September, and in Doha later this year, and to advancing our collective vision in the spirit of collaboration and trust which defines the REDD+ Partnership today.



*Jorge Mario Rodríguez Zúñiga works for The National Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) in Costa Rica, and is current co-chair of the REDD+ Partnership.*



*Christine Dragisic is the REDD+ Focal Point in the US Department of State, and current co-chair of the REDD+ Partnership.*

## Kenya Advances its REDD+ Readiness Roadmap Two New Go-REDD+ Issues from UN-REDD in Asia-Pacific

The Government of Kenya is advancing its National REDD+ Programme by focusing on developing reference levels and a national forest monitoring system. By: Patrick Van Laake

Two critical elements of Kenya's National REDD+ Programme are reference levels and a national forest monitoring system, as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. Throughout 2012, the country has been developing a roadmap for the design and implementation of these two elements through a consultative process in which a large number of stakeholders from government (five Ministries and various government agencies), FAO, UNEP, NGOs (ie/ Green Belt Movement, Institute for Law and Environmental Governance, WWF) and civil society groups (ie/ National Alliance of Community Forest Associations) participated. The Government of Kenya organized three workshops to discuss technical issues underlying the reference levels and a national forest monitoring system and the roadmap itself, and circulated a draft of the roadmap twice to solicit further comments.

ingi Maisha Bora project ("Many trees, better life", in Kiswahili language), with funding from the Government of Finland. Kenya became a UN-REDD Programme partner

country in February 2010, and it's also a country participant of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). In addition there are several REDD+ initiatives in Kenya that are supported by development partners such as Japan, Finland and Australia. Kenya's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the FCPF was assessed in October 2010 and administrative arrangements are underway for disbursing the FCPF grant to the Government of Kenya. A National Coordination Office has been established at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to oversee the readiness activities. Meanwhile, several readiness activities are already being implemented.

Over the coming months the roadmap will be further elaborated, adding more detail to the individual tasks and considering options for implementation. Support will specifically be provided through the Kenya National Carbon Accounting System project, which

is financially supported by the Government of Australia with technical support from the Clinton Climate Initiative. It is expected that full implementation of the roadmap may



take up to five years, including institutional capacity building among stakeholders in Kenya. The roadmap is available on the Kenya Forest Service web site Kenya Forest Service website <http://bit.ly/PNAeIG>.

Kenya's REDD+ Context In 2010 Kenya adopted a new Constitution, which has

some profound consequences for the way that natural resources, including forests, are managed. In particular, governance over natural resources was devolved to county-level government and it was declared that the State shall, “encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment” and “eliminate processes and activities that are likely to endanger the environment” (Article 69). New Laws and policies are currently being developed to implement specific provisions of the Constitution, including a Land Policy and a Forest Policy, and issues pertinent to the Climate Change Convention, including REDD+, are being considered during the drafting process. For the establishment of Kenya’s National REDD+ Programme and constituent elements, such as a national forest monitoring system, this is both a blessing and an impediment. It’s a blessing because legislation accommodates specific issues such as carbon rights, engagement of local communities and minorities, environmental protection and monitoring, and benefit sharing. However this also means legislation and policies are still pending in some critical

areas. Kenya’s REDD+ roadmap has adjusted to this situation by being responsive to the provisions of the Constitution, while being generic with regards to implementation details.

At only 5.9 per cent of its territory, Kenya has a relatively low forest cover. Article 69 of Kenya’s Constitution establishes that, “the State shall work to achieve and maintain a tree cover of at least 10 percent of the land area of Kenya”. This provides a clear incentive for the National REDD+ Programme to expand its reach beyond the gazetted forest areas under government control to include lands that are communally held, such as the extensive dry woodlands in the north and east of the country. The aim is indeed to have an inclusive Programme that reaches out across the entire territory of Kenya. In the construction of reference levels, this broad territorial scope needs to be accommodated, and separate sub-national reference levels will be constructed for each of the distinct ecological regions of Kenya, with a composite reference level for the entire country made from the sub-national

reference levels. The same national scope holds for Kenya’s national forest monitoring system. It will be set up in such a way that all relevant stakeholders can submit and access data on the status of the forest land under their management. This applies not only to government agencies (ie/county government and Kenya Forest Service) but also to individuals, communities or private sector entities participating in local REDD+ efforts.



*Patrick Van Laake is an independent REDD+ consultant, who formerly worked on the UN-REDD National Programme in Vietnam.*

## Reports & Analysis

### Zambia Releases Two Studies on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Management for REDD+

Read more on both studies commissioned by the UN-REDD National Programme in Zambia.

One of the studies entitled “Preliminary study on the drivers of deforestation and potential for REDD+ in Zambia” <http://bit.ly/Por3xL>, seeks to answer the question of what drives deforestation and poor forest management reduce carbon storage in tropical forests, there has been increasing pressure to minimize carbon stock losses.

The objectives of this study were to assess to what extent our current consumption, production and development patterns affect deforestation levels, as well as assessing the potential impact of future shifts in these patterns; to draw conclusions as to which actions/trends would probably have the most serious consequences in terms of additional deforestation, and analyze how these and what is the potential for REDD+ in Zambia. Since deforestation could be reduced in future. The final aim was

to outline the potential for REDD+ in these circumstances. This preliminary study revealed that forest cover loss in deforestation hotspots has been on an upward trend since the late 1980s. Current high levels of deforestation (between 250,000 and 300,000 ha/year) in Zambia mean there is high potential for

Zambia’s participation under REDD+, since degraded sites may still be managed for carbon sequestration through coppice or regeneration management. The major challenge is therefore to reconcile the need to improve people’s livelihoods with the urgency of achieving sustainable forest resource management.

The second study entitled “Forest management practices with potential for REDD+” <http://bit.ly/U7DEss> identifies

practices that can contribute to reducing deforestation and thus address the drivers of deforestation. A selection of the most promising forest and land management practices relevant to REDD+ were included following a stringent process of transparent, academically-sound and practical criteria.

According to the study, the highest rated forest management practices based on their management objectives were:

1. Forest Certification,
2. Joint Forest management
3. Protected Area Systems in National Forests and National Parks.

The study highlights the need for a good mix of practices that emphasize the combination of a partnership approach to forest management (certification and JFM) with a 'forest conservation' paradigm (Protected Area systems). The main findings from the assessment of land use and management practices show a ranking of agroforestry, beekeeping and Community Based Natural Resource management as the most optimal

land use practices for REDD+. Agriculture is one of the key drivers of deforestation in Zambia. Agriculture may benefit from agroforestry technologies that have the potential for increasing soil fertility at low cost. This would reduce the need to open up forested land for cultivation due to declining fertility in cultivated fields. At the same time, agroforestry increases tree cover beyond what is obtained in natural forests.

"Policy Brief - Forest management practices with potential for REDD+ <http://bit.ly/Om9KOy>"

"Policy Brief - Preliminary Study on the drivers of deforestation and potential for REDD+ <http://bit.ly/PNB9J1>"

## Two New Go-REDD+ Issues from UN-REDD in Asia-Pacific

The latest issues from the UN-REDD Programme Asia-Pacific listserv take a closer look at UNFCCC decisions on forest monitoring for REDD+ and participatory approaches to designing REDD+ benefits.

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, REDD+: Taking Gender Seriously? <http://bit.ly/Tnn9WX>, explores and gives some recommendations of how to integrate and ensure gender equality into project design and monitoring including for REDD+.

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, PES and Equity: <http://bit.ly/NYVoms> Lessons for REDD+, highlights some of the central points raised in a recent study looking at "Safeguarding local equity as the global

values of ecosystem services rise". The article looks at this study from a developed framework for assessing the impacts of PES on equity at the local level, and its implication for REDD+.

Go-REDD+ is a bi-monthly newsletter distributed by email and managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific. The main objective is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-

Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts.

Access previous Go-REDD+ articles in the Go-REDD+ archive at [un-redd.org](http://un-redd.org). <http://bit.ly/zo6Syw>

**Go-REDD+**

## Looking Ahead

### UNFCCC Meetings

30 August-5 September, 2012: Bangkok, Thailand

### REDD+ Partnership Meeting

6-7 September, 2012: Bangkok, Thailand

### IUCN World Conservation Congress

6-15 September, 2012: Jeju, Korea

## UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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