

News

New Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples Observers Selected for UN-REDD Policy Board

New observers have been selected through a robust self-selection process to represent each of the regions where the UN-REDD Programme works.

The UN-REDD Programme is pleased to announce the results of the self-selection process for new observers to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board: four new civil society representatives and three new indigenous peoples representatives. The term of the newly selected representatives begins with the ninth UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting in the Republic of Congo in October 2012, and representatives will serve until 2014. The Programme would like to thank all civil society and indigenous peoples organizations who were nominated for the observer positions, and those who voted and participated in the selection process. Click here <http://bit.ly/RGCXTC> for more information on the UN-REDD Programme's Rules of Procedure governing the self-selection processes, and the duties and responsibilities of observers.

New civil society representatives

The self-selection process to choose civil society representatives was conducted by the Bank Information Center between July and September 2012, in consultation with the Independent Advisory Group on Forests <http://bit.ly/OL1fuS>, Rights and Climate Change. There was overwhelming interest in the positions: a total of 92 organizations were self/nominated: 55 for Africa, 20 for Asia-Pacific and 17 for Latin America and the Caribbean. Click here <http://bit.ly/MT5o4u> for more information on the self selection process, including a list of the nominated organizations. For Africa, the new observer organization is the NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE), an environmental network of NGOs and CBOs with over 45 members based in Nigeria. NGOCE has as

its primary focus the protection of the Cross River State environment, which encompasses the last remaining tropical rainforest in Nigeria, 90 per cent of which is located in Cross River State, as well as the mangrove ecosystem.

For Asia, the new observer organization is the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), an independent non-profit civil society organization based in Pakistan that serves as a source of expertise for policy analysis and development, policy intervention, and policy and program advisory services. You can learn more about SDPI at their website.

For Latin America, the new observer organization is the Ut'z Che' Association, a Guatemalan umbrella organization of 36 community-based indigenous and farmers' organizations representing some 30,000 members. Ut'z Che' is also a member of the National Climate Change Table and the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations. You can learn more about Ut'z Che' on their website.

For the developed countries, the new observer organization is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), based in the USA. EDF works on the most urgent environmental threats to the climate, oceans, ecosystems and people's health. EDF has a strong domestic focus for its on-the-ground programs, but its International Program focuses on the UNFCCC negotiations, related policy making fora, and the large International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank. For more information about EDF, consult their website <http://bit.ly/SaM4jv>.

New indigenous peoples representatives

The self-selection process to identify

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indigenous peoples representatives was conducted by the regional Indigenous Peoples caucuses around the 11th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues earlier this year.

For Africa, the Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) from Tanzania was re-elected for a second term. CORDS was created to address the security of tenure for key pastoral resources such as land, grazing, water and mineral resources; improved animal health and inclusion of pastoral communities in social development processes. Please visit CORDS' website <http://bit.ly/QGTub8> for more information. For Asia, the new observer organization is the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities

(NEFIN), an autonomous and politically non-partisan, national-level organization. NEFIN currently consists of 54 indigenous member organizations widely distributed throughout the Terai, Hills and Himalayas of Nepal. You can learn more about NEFIN on their website <http://bit.ly/S8CdX3>.

For Latin America, the new observer organization is the Andean Coordinator for Indigenous Organizations (Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas, CAO), uniting indigenous organizations in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. Its main objective is the full realization of indigenous peoples' rights, particularly rights to self-determination, land, consultation, and free, prior and informed

consent with the goal of constructing Buen Vivir (Living Well) and multinational states. CAO carries out research and political advocacy on the regional and international fora. For more information on CAO, visit their website <http://bit.ly/M6Hi1q>.

The Full Member representing indigenous peoples is the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, currently Ms. Myrna Cunningham Kain, whose term is valid through 2013.

Zambia Strengthens its Monitoring and MRV Systems with New Assessment

Zambia's country-wide Integrated Land Use Assessment (ILUA) moves into Phase II in October to capture more data on forests as well as the socio-economic condition of forest dwelling communities.

The Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Zambia, Wylbur Simuusa, recently launched Phase II of the country-wide Integrated Land Use Assessment (ILUA II) supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

States (FAO) and the Government of Finland. The Minister addressed the nation through the ZNBC, the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation to launch the initiative last month stressing the importance of quality information for REDD+. He stated that, "Information about the extent, quality and quantity of forests is needed to support political decision making, to fulfill international reporting requirements and to gain access to potential funding mechanisms such as REDD+." (Read the Minister's full speech here)

Sustainable forest management requires assessments of a forest's physical extent and composition as well as the socio-economic benefits provided to communities. Zambia's ILUA II aims to enhance capacity in collecting and analyzing forest resource information for sustainable forest management, REDD+ monitoring and carbon inventory. With more than 4000 sampling sites across Zambia, ILUA II will assess forests and integrated land-use practices in order to provide new qualitative and quantitative information on the state, use, management and trends of these resources. The information collected in ILUA II will satisfy local, national, regional and international reporting requirements, and will facilitate informed decision making at all levels. ILUA II will provide an important input into Monitoring and MRV reporting requirements for REDD+.

The UN-REDD Programme is catalyzing momentum from ongoing efforts to establish and operationalize the Zambian National Forest Monitoring System. This system will be strengthened and enhanced by the launch of ILUA II, and the commencement of field measurements in October. Zambia's UN-REDD National Programme and ILUA II have the opportunity to coordinate and synchronize to ensure the establishment of a robust and bona fide national MRV system for Zambia.



Ceremonial handing over of the key for the ILUA II field vehicles from Mr Adrianus Spijkers (FAO Representative of Zambia) to the Minister for Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental

Protection of Zambia, Wylbur Simuusa, recently launched Phase II of the country-wide Integrated Land Use Assessment (ILUA II) supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations (FAO) and the Government of Finland. The UN-REDD National Programme in Zambia will benefit greatly from Phase II of the country-wide ILUA since it will be building

Viet Nam Shares REDD+ Lessons with Cambodia and Myanmar

Delegates from Cambodia and Myanmar met in Viet Nam for South-South Exchange on REDD+ Readiness Preparations.

Representatives from Cambodia and Myanmar, two countries near the beginning of their REDD+ readiness activities, gathered in Hanoi, Viet Nam July 30-August 3, 2012 in order to learn about experiences and lessons related to the REDD+ readiness process and the UN-REDD Programme, as well as measures to promote broad stakeholder participation. This valuable five-day South-South exchange and study tour included delegates from



Viet Nam welcomed delegates from Cambodia and Myanmar to share REDD+ lessons from Phase 1.

the Forest Department of Myanmar and Cambodia, and REDD+ network members, including International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Viet Nam Non-Governmental Organizations (VNGOs), and Viet Nam's Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST), REDD+ Office (VRO), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), as well as UNDP, UNEP, FAO and Viet Nam's UN-REDD National Programme Management Unit.

Presentations and discussions during the

workshop were shared and stimulated by thematic sub-technical working groups, looking at a wide range of issues including: lessons learned in REDD+ readiness preparation on social and environmental safeguards; development of national MRV, (MRV framework, allometric equations and land monitoring systems); REDD+ implementation at the local level; and preparation for piloting REDD+ payments at the local level. Viet Nam shared its challenges and best practices, which triggered a range of important questions from both

Cambodia and Myanmar, related to forest land allocations, selection of plant species that could benefit both local people and REDD+, co-efficient criteria for carbon pool and forest management, and how to effectively engage with local communities to inform opinions and raise awareness regarding REDD+.

Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam concluded the exchange with a commitment to strengthen cooperation between the three countries in REDD+ implementation, including to boost the regional REDD+

thematic cooperation. It is hoped that the regional cooperation including bilateral and multilateral cooperation will be strengthened in a more active, effective and flexible manner.

Study Tour

Between 2-3 August, delegates of the exchange visited the UN-REDD Programme pilot site in Lam Dong province, and had a meeting with the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The visitors also had an opportunity to visit the forest and talk to the



REDD+ experts from Cambodia and Myanmar tour one of Viet Nam's REDD+ pilot districts.

Indigenous Peoples in Ka La To Rieng village. Delegates from both Cambodia and Myanmar agreed that the study tour provided an excellent opportunity to understand some of the successes and lessons learned within the UN-REDD National Programme in Viet Nam, which could be brought back to their countries.

DRC Advances Work on REDD+ Safeguards and Multiple Benefits

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues working on its REDD+ framework strategy, and important work is ongoing to advance REDD+ implementation..

DRC is currently developing a Safeguard Information System (SIS), and within the DRC's work on multiple benefits supported by the UN-REDD Programme, the country is starting to use spatial planning software to identify priority areas for capturing the multiple benefits of

REDD+.

Three years into a rich national REDD+ process, DRC is now entering a phase of consolidation of its readiness phase while entering into its implementation phase by kicking-off on-the-ground REDD+ experimentation and

investments. Following a recent joint mission of partners from the UN-REDD Programme, FCPF and Norway, a number of priorities were agreed for the coming months:

(1) Consolidating all the work produced in the last three years into a national document

devising the general direction of REDD+ reforms and investments in the future. The National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD+) will intensify its efforts to produce a national framework REDD+ strategy for the DRC in time for the UNFCCC COP 18 in Doha.

(2) Finalizing the design of DRC's national REDD+ fund by the end of 2012 and operationalizing it in 2013 (the specific institutional structures of the fund will only be put in place once sufficient funding is secured). The ambition of this fund is to introduce specific funding streams for performance based payments while providing direct access to national entities.



(3) Scaling up REDD+ experimentation through projects and programmes that can pilot the different strategic REDD+ interventions on the ground. Close to US\$85 million has already

been secured for new projects and investments through the Forest Investment Program and the Congo Basin Forest Fund.

As an initial step for developing a Safeguards Information System (SIS), UN-REDD Programme colleagues from UNEP facilitated a working session at the CN-REDD in August. Experts from the Monitoring Committee (Comité de Suivi) of social and environmental risks and benefits (a multi-institutional group set in place by the Ministry), the World Bank, Conservation International, and the three UN-REDD Programme agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP) contributed to the two-day workshop. Colleagues from CN-REDD and from UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) gave presentations on the current governance structure of REDD+ monitoring and ongoing work on national REDD+ standards and general background of SIS, as well as on the collection of information on socio-economic and biodiversity impacts.

The main output of this working session was the elaboration of a detailed outline for the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Framework of REDD+ activities in DRC that can be linked

to national standards and feed into a national SIS. Within the next few months, next steps towards developing a SIS will be the full elaboration of this Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Framework. To identify relevant risks, responses and indicators within this framework, the CN-REDD's social and environmental expert are considering the application of the benefit and Risk Tool (BeRT) developed by the UN-REDD Programme.

As part of ongoing work on multiple benefits supported by the UN-REDD Programme, DRC is also looking at enhancing capacities for the accounting of multiple benefits in spatial REDD+ planning, so as to provide decision-support for the development of a REDD+ strategy. Marxan, a conservation planning software, is a potentially powerful tool to identify solutions that can reach a number of interwoven objectives (e.g. emission reductions and biodiversity conservation targets) in the most cost-effective way. Closely collaborating with institutions and experts in the DRC, UNEP-WCMC is planning to provide an illustrative example and guidance material on how Marxan can be used for national REDD+ planning. A stakeholder consultation meeting was organized in order to present the Marxan tool and to discuss the setting of realistic targets in the Marxan exercise. Based on the initial work, UN-REDD Programme colleagues at UNEP-WCMC will work closely with its partners in DRC in order to produce an example solution that is tailored to the REDD+ context there.

UN-REDD and Partners Explore REDD+ Dialogue with Private Sector

Alongside the UNFCCC and REDD+ Partnership meetings in Bangkok this month, the UN-REDD Programme co-hosted a workshop looking at how to open up dialogue on private sector finance for REDD+.

The UN REDD Programme, the Ateneo School of Government and UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) co-hosted a workshop on REDD+ finance in Bangkok on Friday 7 September, to explore private sector finance for REDD+. The event took place immediately after the REDD+ Partnership meeting as this was a good opportunity to bring together the key target audience of REDD+ negotiators and the members of the private sector.

The workshop started with contributions from the UNEP FI, Terra Global Capital, and

Bank of America Merrill Lynch. UNEP FI set the scene for the discussion by elaborating on the difference between the source and types of financial flows involved in REDD+. Terra Global Capital delivered some thoughts on REDD+ from the perspective of a private sector investor and developer. Bank of America Merrill Lynch touched on how demand might be scaled up over time and what the key policy signals might be for the private sector.

The ensuing discussion in the question and answer period revolved around four main

themes: the role of the private sector in REDD+; the potential financial contribution of the private sector; the risks of private sector engagement; and the signals the private sector needs to scale up investment.

The dual roles of the private sector in REDD+, as potential sources of finance but also as a driver of deforestation and degradation through corporate activity, was a topic that was discussed during the first theme. The conversation later moved onto the potential ways the private sector could be involved in REDD+ during Phases 1 and 2.

The second theme touched on the very large volume of investments held by the private sector. One estimate from 2010 put the total global assets under management by the private sector at around US\$ 126 trillion. Government

policy will be key in redirecting a portion of this capital towards green investments. Even if 1 per cent was redirected, it would represent a significant contribution to the sums required for long term climate finance.

The discussion on risks involved debate over how risks for investors and risks for forest communities

can be managed. This strand evolved into the differences between permanence and reversal, and also the management of risks over different time horizons. The concept of "advance market commitments" was raised during discussions on signals, with the success of GAVI (a public-private global

partnership committed to children's health) being used as an example. This wide-ranging discussion also touched on the role of standards and certification, compliance markets and disclosure initiatives.

Mexico Holds Expert Meeting on Estimating National Forest Carbon

Experts gathered last month in Mexico to strengthen the country's MRV system and share experiences on REDD+ in the region.

To advance towards a better strategy to estimate carbon stored in Mexican forests, national and international experts met in Guadalajara, Mexico 9-10 August to discuss methodological and practical challenges of the project "Reinforcing REDD+ Readiness in Mexico and enabling South-South cooperation"-- the main outcome of the cooperation between Norway and Mexico on Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+.

Experts from Costa Rica, Peru, Colombia, France, Holland, Italy and Mexico attended the meeting, as well as representatives of the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR), National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), and investigation institutions, such as El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR). Participants in

the meeting recognized Mexico's potential to estimate carbon in its forests, thanks to the improvements made in its technical tools and methodology and the international financial support it continues to receive. Mexico is now closer to drafting a report of carbon at the

highest possible level with guidelines from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Samples of good quality collected during the forest inventory are key to guarantee that laboratory results include the estimates of carbon in five areas (biomass aboveground and underground, soil, organic mulch, and deadwood), especially the information of the carbon and the dry weight (oven-dried



biomass). Choosing the right allometric model tool was deemed by participants in the meeting as vital to obtain the best measurement results. A recommendation was to obtain the original data used in the construction of the models in order to generate new models with known

uncertainties and a group of well-known trees. Statistical criteria were also discussed to make a logical choice of models that provide results close to reality.

The project will also seek to incorporate the authors and researchers who have developed the allometric models in the country to create a group of experts in allometry, to facilitate the sharing of data for allometric modeling optimized for reporting carbon at a national level. It has also been proposed to design a validation protocol to revise the variation of the estimations on the field.

Finally, methods in line with IPCC guidelines will be used to maintain consistency in the estimates, with the help of a group of experts and technical support from the UN-REDD Programme, through FAO. With the implementation of these measures, the project plans to gradually strengthen Mexico's forest monitoring system and increase the accuracy of forest carbon estimates over time.

To read the outcomes of the meeting in Spanish click here <http://bit.ly/QqRGT7>. (Reunion de expertos: Estimacion de carbono en bosques mexicanos-Agosto 2012)

Indonesia Hosts National Workshop on Improving Forest Carbon

As a follow-up to the forest monitoring training in Viet Nam last June, experts recently gathered in Indonesia to look at ways of using allometric equations in REDD+ in Indonesia.

The Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia, the UN-REDD Programme and FAO jointly organized a workshop on tree allometric equations in July in Bogor, Indonesia. The workshop featured a number of expert speakers, including the

Senior Adviser to the Minister of Forestry on Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Yetti Rusli, and Dr. Matieu Henry from FAO headquarters. More than 35 participants from the Ministry of Forestry, research centers, universities and NGOs

across the country attended the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were: to share information and experiences in developing tree allometric equation; to identify gaps in the coverage of Indonesia's forests by the

existing allometric equations; and to develop plan of action to fill gaps for assessing forest carbon stocks. Carbon stock assessment can be improved by having appropriate tree allometric equation. In his presentation, Dr. Henry explained that the selection of model played an important role in achieving accurate estimate of tree carbon stocks and changes. Inappropriate model may introduce up to 40 per cent uncertainty in certain context. The effect could be even greater if the models are applied beyond the ranges for which they were developed. This indicates that more specific models for certain types of forest or region are required to achieve accurate results of forest carbon stock estimates. Currently, carbon stock assessments in Indonesia use generalized allometric equations

and researches focus only on certain areas such as Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan. It appears that some regions notably eastern Indonesia, including forest-rich islands Papua and Sulawesi, are not yet well represented in the existing allometric equation researches. Directly measuring biomass is accurate but the research involving destructive sampling is time-consuming and costly. Therefore there is an urgent need to develop a single and comprehensive database that covers already developed volume and biomass allometric equations for further and improved research on allometric equations.

The participants of the workshop agreed to support the planned work on mapping and inventory of existing allometric equations. Current estimate of forest carbon and emission

still uses general allometric equations. The purpose of future work on allometric equation is to make available country-specific models for certain regions/ecological zones/forest types in Indonesia. The participants appreciated that Indonesia had already developed a national standard on the development of allometric equations; nevertheless it still needed to be improved. It was discussed during the workshop that since peat forest contributed to the country's GHG emission figure significantly, focus should be given to increase the accuracy of biomass allometric equations used to estimate carbon stock and emissions from this type of forest.

Features & Commentary

Nigeria Engages Further in Forest Conservation and Green Development

Nigeria, Cross River State and the United Nations sign Nigeria's UN-REDD National Programme, with an innovative two-track approach, and gear up to implement it.

By Josep A. Garí

Nigeria's UN-REDD National Programme was signed on 28 August 2012, in Abuja, by the Federal Minister of the Environment, the Governor of Cross River State and the UN Resident Coordinator, with the presence of senior government officials, representatives of the diplomatic community and the media. The signing ceremony started with a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist bombing of the UN House in Nigeria, which happened just a year before.

Nigeria's REDD+ programme intends to be a catalytic endeavour in the country, part of a new vision for green development. As the Minister of the Environment, the Honorable Mrs. Hadiza Ibrahim Mailafia, stated, "The Federal Government considers REDD+ as a national development priority which forms an essential component of President Goodluck Jonathan's transformation agenda."

Part of the programme will have an operational focus in Cross River State, which is home to more than 50 per cent of the tropical high forest remaining in Nigeria. The Governor of



Cross River State, His Excellency Senator Liyel Imoke, praised the signing as, "a significant event in the manifestation and actualization of our big dreams for the protection of Nigeria's last remaining tropical high forest and the mangrove forests found predominantly in Cross River State."

The signed programme, with a budget of US\$4 million from the UN-REDD Programme and an implementation span of 2.5 years, will allow Nigeria to craft the REDD+ mechanism, which is part of the set of policy and financial instruments of the UN climate change convention. Nigeria's REDD+ programme has an innovative, two-track approach consisting of actions at both federal and state levels. At the federal level,

the Programme will create technical capacities, develop strategic and policy frameworks for REDD+, and support the alignment of the country with international climate change and environmental negotiations and agreements. At the state level, the Programme will conduct strategy-development and demonstration activities on REDD+ in Cross River State, as this state has shown a determined political commitment for green development.

"The lessons learned in Cross River State will be used to roll out REDD+ in other States," said the Federal Minister of Environment, adding that eight additional states have so far indicated interest in joining the national REDD+ process, namely Taraba, Nasarawa, Jigawa, Lagos, Enugu, Katsina, Yobe and Oyo states. The Governor of Cross River State acknowledged the value of this two-track approach on REDD+ and stated, "We will do all that is within our powers to ensure that Cross River State remains a credible model for REDD; this is a demonstration of our appreciation for the choice of Cross River State as the pilot state for REDD in Nigeria."

The journey of Nigeria towards REDD+ started in 2009 with a growing effort of policy dialogue among stakeholders at different levels, preliminary capacity building with UN-REDD Programme's support, field visits, UN missions and joint strategic planning. The signature of this Programme signals the beginning of a new stage. Nigeria's UN-REDD National Programme was first presented at the sixth UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meeting, where it

was praised for taking an innovative approach. It was subsequently approved at the seventh UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, in October

federal officials to community delegates.

A REDD+ Programme is highly pertinent in



2011, after which it underwent further design improvements along with capacity building and national dialogue efforts. In particular, Nigeria organized a three-day "REDD+ University", which was a major training and dialogue event on REDD+, held in Calabar, Cross River State, last March, with more than 150 participants from

Nigeria, as the country suffers a deforestation rate of 3.7 per cent, one of the highest in the world. The country urgently needs to preserve and recover its natural resource base to sustain a population of more than 150 million people, most of them holders of rural livelihoods whose prospects depend on resilient ecosystems and

recovering degraded landscapes. The UN-REDD National Programme is perceived in Nigeria as both a means to halt the deforestation trends and a gateway for promoting a green development path. As the UN Resident Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Daouda Touré, stated during the signing ceremony, "The implementation of this Programme is likely to be a vanguard effort (that) we hope will be followed by many other national programmes for low-carbon and climate-resilient development."

An inception workshop for Nigeria's UN-REDD National Programme is scheduled for the first week of October, 2012.

Download Nigeria's signed UN-REDD National Programme <http://bit.ly/TbGVKx>



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Indigenous Peoples in Asia-Pacific Call for a Strengthened Role in REDD+

At a recent dialogue event in Bangkok, indigenous peoples from across Asia-Pacific made valuable recommendations on how to increase collaboration and stakeholder engagement in REDD+.

By: The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

The Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue, held on 31 August 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand in parallel with the UNFCCC and REDD+ Partnership



UN-REDD Programme presents its work on safeguards.

meetings, brought together a diverse range of participants to discuss indigenous peoples' effective engagement in REDD+. Participants included representatives of Indigenous Peoples organizations, government representatives and civil society organizations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,

Nepal, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as representatives from the UN-REDD Programme. Participants came out with substantive and concrete recommendations to strengthen collaboration and cooperation between the UN-REDD Programme and indigenous peoples on REDD+. The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and UN-REDD Programme organized this dialogue.

Ms. Joan Carling, Secretary General of AIPP, shared the objectives of the dialogue: to inform participants on the UN-REDD Programme's Asia-Pacific regional and global activities; discuss the views, concerns and priorities of indigenous peoples regarding the UN-REDD Programme's work in the region; and discuss and plan activities and mechanisms to improve the engagement of indigenous peoples in UN-REDD Programme activities. The UN-REDD Programme presented its framework for

safeguards, and provided updates on the global and regional programmes and activities in countries in Asia-Pacific.

Key points that emerged from the plenary sessions were concerns about land grabbing in the name of conservation, the need for policy reforms at the national level, the central role of communities and the need to engage rather than sideline them, and the urgency to develop appropriate and customized information materials based on local conditions. The UN-REDD Programme was also requested to share their experience in the conduct of FPIC, including FPIC validation processes. Tim Boyle, Regional Coordinator of the UN-REDD Programme, emphasized the value of FPIC for country governments, noting that countries planning for REDD+ should not view FPIC as a problem for them but instead recognize that the implementation of FPIC enhances their authority in terms of state engagement with the

communities resulting in enhanced ownership.

A series of working groups looked at a range of issues such as stakeholder engagement and safeguards. Almost all the groups emphasized the lack of proper recognition of the rich knowledge and capacities of indigenous peoples in managing their forest resources. The need to empower indigenous peoples to effectively engage in advocacy and lobbying at all levels was stressed, including with the UN-REDD Programme in relation to stakeholders' engagement. It was also recommended that the UN-REDD Programme place more attention on the capacity building and strengthening of indigenous peoples towards the recognition and exercise of their rights to their land, territories and resources, and FPIC.

On awareness-raising and information dissemination, it was recommended that key actors across the region should produce information materials for indigenous communities by collaborating to optimize resources and harmonize their activities. Such

awareness-raising activities must also be customized to suit the circumstances of target communities (e.g., language, level of literacy etc.). It was noted that community radios have been very effective in raising awareness among indigenous communities.

On the engagement and participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+ processes at the local and national levels, it was noted that this varies from country to country. Indigenous peoples in Nepal and Indonesia are represented in the national REDD+ working groups and the UN-REDD Programme has undertaken FPIC processes in a number of REDD+ pilot communities in Vietnam and Indonesia. However, there is a need to conduct specific consultations with indigenous peoples in most countries. Indigenous participants urged the UN-REDD Programme to ensure specific consultations with indigenous peoples at the local and national levels, not just in multi-stakeholder consultations.

Discussions on the implementation of

safeguards were also conducted through a working group. There was a recommendation to the UN-REDD Programme to designate a focal person to engage with indigenous peoples in countries where they have National Programmes and for AIPP to help identify national indigenous peoples' focal points. These focal points could work together and facilitate better coordination and engagement with relevant government bodies and other key actors for the implementation of safeguards, especially in relation to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+ processes and the respect for their rights and traditional knowledge. Participants also requested that the UN-REDD Programme build a community of practitioners on safeguards.

Participants expressed their appreciation of the initiatives of the UN-REDD Programme in conducting exchange workshops and work on FPIC and good governance. To further enhance information dissemination for indigenous peoples especially on key developments and lessons learned, they requested the UN-REDD

Designing Meaningful Participation for REDD+ in Ecuador

Ecuador's Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ is laying the groundwork for inclusive, action-oriented evaluation of governance in the REDD+ sector.

By: Danae Issa

"Participation" is not a new concept in Ecuador. Since 2008 participation is recognized by Fundamental Law, and government entities such as the Ministry of Environment have or are developing formal structures for participation of all parts of society including national and local NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, business sector, academia, international organizations present in the country, and others. Yet ensuring meaningful and effective participation of all Ecuadorian citizens is proving to be a great challenge, in spite of the highly favorable political and legal environment around it and the concrete efforts to establish structures for it. This context seems to have led to what some describe as an "epidemic of committees and meetings" and a certain sense of fatigue. But the cause of this might be that participation ought to be more than a well-advertised concept, or even a "Fundamental Law" and a formal structure. In fact, even if its intrinsic

value is undeniable in relation with political and civil rights, participation can hardly be effective as an end in itself. Meaningful participation can only happen when the purpose and outcome of it is tangible to those who are offered the



opportunity to participate. Being invited to join a committee or a meeting becomes little more than just another cumbersome process if the function of that committee, the outcome of that meeting or the follow-up actions are not clear

and guaranteed.

The Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) that Ecuador is undertaking, under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment (Ministerio del Ambiente – MAE) with support from the UN-REDD Programme, intends to break through this relative skepticism around the concept of participation, by facilitating meaningful ways of participation towards a legitimate, inclusive and action-oriented assessment of governance in the REDD+ sector. The difference that the PGA can make here comes from the fact that all stakeholders, State and non-State, national and local, are to be included in the process in all its steps, from the choice of priority issues to focus on, to the selection of indicators and data collection methods to be used, to the production and dissemination of assessment results and until the institutionalization of the assessment mechanism. Nothing in this process is pre-determined, neither the specific governance issues that should be assessed, nor any of the

indicators that should be used, nor even the actual management structure for conducting the assessment – the only condition is that it includes all key actors at equal level of decision to ensure the legitimacy, country relevance and accuracy of the assessment.

Ecuador has now moved forward in this pioneering experience (for which the first exploratory steps had been taken in late 2011). To ensure the inclusion of a wide array of points of view and realities as well as the legitimacy of the process, thorough consultations have been implemented for the design of the initial roadmap of the PGA – before the start of the PGA itself. Starting from June 2012, with the help of a national facilitator, individual interviews have been conducted with key people from different government institutions, REDD+-related private businesses, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and other. On 24 August 2012 a national workshop with members of all these different constituencies was held in Quito to discuss the PGA's specific objectives, thematic areas of focus and operational management structure. The note describing

in detail the contents, process and practical arrangements of the PGA for REDD+ in Ecuador is currently being revised with the inputs from this workshop. Additional consultations are also scheduled to be conducted at the local level in REDD+-relevant provinces of the country, and a follow-up meeting will be held to validate the revised version of the note with all those who contributed to it.

The participants of the Quito workshop in August have expressed a revival of hope and rise of expectations concerning the meaningfulness and outcome of their "participation" in this process. The only way not to disappoint them is to ensure a meticulous, transparent and prompt follow-up on the workshop recommendations, and eventually the implementation of the results-oriented roadmap that is being elaborated with their input. The success of the PGA unmistakably depends on the active contribution of all the stakeholders gathered around the table, with shared responsibility among all of them for the process and its results. However, the consistent and productive engagement of all will require for those in

charge of coordinating the process (the MAE with UN support) to make sure to give the others good reasons to spend time and energy participating in it. Story to be followed...

The report of the Quito workshop of 24 August 2012, as well as the Ecuador PGA Concept Note including participants' inputs will be available soon on Ecuador's country page <http://bit.ly/OlvVT4> of un-redd.org. Based on conversations with several Ecuadorian stakeholders consulted before and during the UN-REDD/OGC mission to Ecuador in August 2012.

The PGAs are jointly supported by UNDP and FAO, and draw upon technical resources and expertise from the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) on governance assessments and from FAO on forest data collection.



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Reports & Analysis

Viet Nam Releases New REDD+ Reports on Phase 1 and Awareness Raising

In August, Viet Nam launched a lessons learned report reflecting on Phase 1, and another looking at best practices for effective REDD+ training and awareness raising.

The first study, entitled "Assessing the Effectiveness of Training and Awareness Raising Activities of the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam (2009-2011)" <http://bit.ly/RCWmdA>, was led by RECOFTC and closely coordinated with the UN-REDD Viet Nam National Programme. This study assesses the effectiveness of the training and awareness raising (T&AR) activities implemented between October 2009 and December 2011.

The objective of the assessment is to review the effectiveness of the T&AR to guide Viet Nam's UN-REDD National Programme in its Phase 2 implementation, and inform other countries getting ready for REDD+.

The T&AR study highlights key successes, concerns and recommendations including the important progress made in raising general awareness and a thorough "Free Prior, and Informed Consent" process, which was successfully completed in Viet Nam in 2010.

The second study entitled, "Lessons Learned Viet Nam UN-REDD Programme, Phase 1" <http://bit.ly/Uwg5KX> gathers the experience of important lessons generated during Phase 1 of Viet Nam's UN-REDD Programme. The objective of this review is to collect and analyze internal and external lessons learned during the first two years of the Programme, and provide recommendations to the design of Phase 2

of in Viet Nam, as well as in other UN-REDD Programme and REDD+ country programmes around the world.



This report includes feedback from different stakeholders, through face-to-face interviews. Many of these stakeholders expressed a widespread appreciation of the inclusive nature of REDD+ discussions but also some persistent misunderstandings about the nature of REDD+, its likely benefits, and its limitations.

The report organizes lessons into nine categories, representing distinct activity areas and aspects of Viet Nam's UN-REDD National Programme as well as using a simple hierarchy to indicate how well each lesson has been learned and incorporated into the development of stakeholders' activities and knowledge.

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 how National REDD+ Strategies respond to key deforestation and forest degradation drivers, and REDD+ in the agricultural sector.

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, Drivers and strategies...do they match? <http://bit.ly/Q0supy>, analyzes the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation based on reviewed scientific literature and 31 REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposals or UN-REDD National Programme Documents. It explores if National REDD+ Strategies can actually respond to the

national deforestation and land degradation to benefit the REDD+ mechanism.

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, REDD+ and Improving Agricultural Technologies <http://bit.ly/NG2Eqz>, explores how agricultural activities can impact deforestation and land degradation, and how public policy related to agriculture should be

integrated into national REDD+ strategies.

About Go-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://bit.ly/QGVSPd>.

Looking Ahead

World Forest Week

24-28 September, 2012: Rome, Italy

Regional Forum on Anti-Corruption and REDD+

1-3 October, 2012: Lima, Peru

REDD+ Day at CBD COP11

16 October, 2012: Hyderabad, India

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