

## News

### Solomon Islands and Pakistan Move Forward with their National REDD+ Roadmaps

Solomon Islands REDD+ Taskforce makes an appeal to its national cabinet for increased leadership and coordination; and Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change makes forests a major part of the country's strategy to combat climate change.

Last month, the Solomon Islands' National REDD+ Taskforce and Technical Working Groups held a meeting to discuss key approaches to the preparation of the country's REDD+ roadmap. The meeting was attended by a wide range of stakeholder representatives from relevant national institutions, local civil society organizations and the private sector.



Some of the participants of Pakistan's REDD+ readiness roadmap workshop in Islamabad on 21 February 2013 Some of the participants of Pakistan's REDD+ readiness roadmap workshop in Islamabad on 21 February 2013 Some of the participants of Pakistan's REDD+ readiness roadmap workshop in Islamabad on 21 February 2013

The two-day meeting, held on the 18-19 February in (Honiara), discussed the current baselines and potential strategies for addressing deforestation and forest degradation across the country by looking at the country's experiences and existing capacities in stakeholder engagement, safeguards implementation and national forest monitoring.

Key discussions focused on three fundamental issues – national ownership, national approaches to REDD+ and coordination among land-use sectors. Taskforce members agreed to draft and submit a formal letter to the national cabinet requesting that:

- The Government takes full ownership of the development and implementation of a national approach to REDD+;
- Government leadership facilitates a multi-sectoral approach to implementation of REDD+; and

- The Government considers the establishment of an official mechanism for the review and approval of forest carbon initiatives and that adequate time is provided for the development of a full framework to guide implementation of REDD+ within the Solomon Islands.

The Taskforce and Technical Working Group members expressed that a stronger political-level commitment was necessary to ensure the overall sustainability and contribution of REDD+ to the national development agenda. Thus, the members requested better coordination and integration of policy formulation and implementation processes by key land-use sectors including forestry, agriculture, mining and rural development, which could mitigate risk in REDD+ implementation.

At the end of the meeting, stakeholders emphasized that because there is a lack of clear guidance on voluntary carbon activities at the national level, risks exist in the rapid development of an unregulated forest carbon market in the country. As such, participants stressed the urgency of establishing an official mechanism to ensure effective harmonization of forest carbon initiatives in the country, and for a strong national approach to REDD+.

Building on the momentum of the country's the National REDD+ Taskforce and Technical Working Groups meeting, Solomon Islands' Programme Executive Board (PEB) also met mid-February to reinforce the importance of informing and guiding the national government on REDD+ readiness, as it is a new and evolving concept to the country. Representatives from a range of government ministries concluded that the UN-REDD Programme will continue to support the work of the National Taskforce and Technical Working Groups during the course of 2013 to help establish an effective

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REDD+ implementation framework through the preparation of the National REDD+ roadmap and guidelines on issues relating to stakeholder engagement, safeguards and the measurement and monitoring of forest carbon.



Solomon Islands' National REDD+ Taskforce and Technical Working Groups meeting in Honiara 18-19 February 2013

### Pakistan Launches its REDD+ Readiness Roadmap Process

In February, Pakistan's Ministry of Climate

Change (MOCC), with the support of the UN-REDD Programme and the United Nations Joint Programme on the Environment (JPE), took an important step towards making forests a major part of Pakistan's strategy to combat climate change. More than 60 forestry experts and stakeholders gathered on 21 February in (Islamabad) to initiate a roadmap for improving forest protection and management.

The MOCC has already taken steps to introduce REDD+ to Pakistan by forming a national REDD+ Steering Committee under the chairmanship of the Office of the Inspector General of Forests (OIGF). The OIGF also secured support from the UN JPE in May 2012 for a project to initiate REDD+ readiness activities. As well as facilitating a REDD+ readiness roadmap process, this project aims to identify the key drivers of

deforestation and degradation in each of the six provinces of Pakistan, and strategies to address them. This project is implemented by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and the World Wide Fund for Nature in Pakistan. Pilot activities related to REDD+ have also been initiated by the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan in the north of the country, where the majority of Pakistan's forest cover is located.

The REDD+ roadmap process launched at the workshop in February drew on the UN-REDD Programme's experience of similar processes in several other countries in Asia-Pacific. The UN-REDD Programme will provide additional financial support to the Pakistan REDD+ Roadmap process over the coming year, in coordination with the UN JPE project. ■

## DRC Shares Lessons with Tanzania on Forest Monitoring Systems for REDD+

Last month, delegates from Tanzania visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to share experiences on setting up national satellite forest monitoring systems; and the DRC launches new video to highlight its National Forest Monitoring System Portal.

The National UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania supported a mission to enhance understanding on how the DRC's national satellite forest monitoring systems, called TerraCongo, functions in-country and to assess whether Tanzania could adopt a similar system to monitor its national forest cover and disseminate relevant information on REDD+ activities.

During the course of the mission, which took place 12-16 February in the DRC, the Tanzanian delegates met and discussed with key decision-makers from this country including the National REDD+ coordination unit (CN REDD), the Directorate of Forest Inventory and Planning (DIAF) and Central Africa Forest Observatory unit (OFAC).

The mission allowed the Tanzanian delegation to learn about the system's functions to provide information on safeguards and on REDD+ pilot activities, as well as how it is leveraged to disseminate private sector investment for REDD+. DRC delegates provided a detailed explanation on the institutional set-up of its NFMS, its data sharing policy, as well as on the web dissemination portal, transparency guidelines and users' feedback function.

In addition to learning from the DRC's NFMS, the Tanzanian delegation shared its experience on its own national forest

monitoring and assessment, as the DRC is currently initiating activities to develop a national forest inventory.

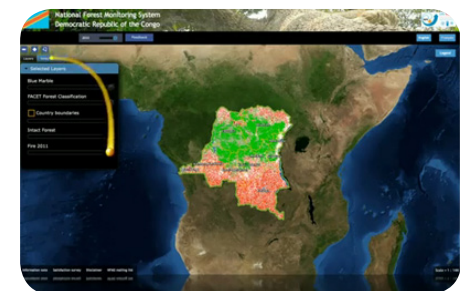
The UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania has been learning from the experience of other UN-REDD Programme partner countries with NFMS, particularly from those implementing a national satellite forest monitoring system based on the approach developed by the Brazilian Space Agency (INPE) called Terra Amazon. Since 2011, INPE and FAO have developed a strategic partnership to support several UN-REDD National Programmes in implementing tailored satellite forest monitoring systems, drawing from Brazil's experience in remote-sensing while promoting South-South cooperation. This experience is being carried out in three UN-REDD Programme partner countries, including the DRC, Papua New Guinea and Paraguay and will soon be extended to other countries such as Cambodia and Zambia. The most advanced of these Terra Amazon inspired national satellite forest monitoring systems is DRC's TerraCongo.

To implement and monitor the performance of REDD+ activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries are required to establish NFMS using a combination of remote-sensing and ground-based data.

### DRC Launches New Video to Highlight its National Forest Monitoring System Portal

The video shows how this dynamic geo-portal is a model for transparent and in-depth presentation of data, the first of its kind to be country-led and country-specific.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) recently launched an animated video that gives viewers an in-depth introduction to its dynamic, online geo-portal. The video was developed by DRC in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme team at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research.



This geo-portal [[www.rdc-snsf.org](http://www.rdc-snsf.org)] is part of the country's efforts to develop a robust and transparent National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for REDD+ activities.. The DRC's NFMS brings together data from many sources, and aims to combine them into a forest management tool related to REDD+ and the DRC's forests policies and measures.

View and share the videos in English([bit.ly/118iVc7](http://bit.ly/118iVc7)), French ([bit.ly/YZko58](http://bit.ly/YZko58)) and Spanish ([bit.ly/139rg32](http://bit.ly/139rg32)). ■

## UN-REDD Partner Countries Increase their REDD+ Technical Expertise

- Bangladesh, Cambodia, Tanzania and Zambia host workshops on Greenhouse Gas and National Forest Inventories
- Bhutan Explores REDD+ Safeguards and Multiple Benefits
- Ecuador Ramps Up Education on REDD+ and Climate Change
- Nigeria Advances its Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+

### Bangladesh, Cambodia, Tanzania and Zambia Host Workshops on Greenhouse Gas and National Forest Inventories

A series of recent UN-REDD Programme training workshops provided support to these four countries as they build national capacities in assessing forest biomass and preparing greenhouse gas inventories.

Both Cambodia and Bangladesh carried out training workshops entitled “GHG Inventory Preparation for Forestry” in November and December 2012, bringing together a number of participants from relevant government ministries, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), universities, research institutions and non-governmental organizations.



Participants in the GHG training workshop in Cambodia

The training workshop in Cambodia provided numerous technical presentations on principles, guidelines and protocols for reporting Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for REDD+; updated information on remote sensing/forest cover maps, national forest inventory and other components of the UN-REDD Programme; and a short practice with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) software for default reporting. Participants also developed suggestions and recommendations for future improvement of Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) of carbon from forests under the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme. A network for REDD+ within the context of MRV related activities has been built in Cambodia and will expand with greater participation in REDD+ activities in the future.

In Bangladesh, with the support of the UN-REDD Programme team at FAO, a training course entitled “GHG Inventory Preparation for Forestry” was held by the UN-REDD

National Programme, with the cooperation of multiple government actors from the Forestry, Environment, Development Cooperation and Statistics Department in the country as well as research institutes and universities. The training course provided an overview on methods and good practice guidelines from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to be applied in the preparation of transparent, accurate, complete and consistent GHG estimates for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector that can be comparable among countries.

### Tanzania and Zambia participate in South-South exchange on carbon stock estimates

In December, Zambia hosted a training workshop on Allometric Equations (AEs) with counterparts in Tanzania, aimed at building capacity among participants working on biomass and carbon stock assessment, tree AEs and national forest inventory in these two countries. Facilitated by a technical team from the UN-REDD Programme team at FAO and from International Cooperation Centre on Agricultural Research for Development/ French National Institute for Agricultural Research in France, the workshop covered both the theoretical and practical elements of the construction of AEs, from the collection and analysis of field data to the construction of mathematical representations of AEs.



Participants in the South-South training on carbon estimates in Zambia

The workshop produced a roadmap for building AEs in Tanzania and Zambia that will allow the two countries to properly measure, report and verify GHGs from forest lands.

### More on UN-REDD's technical support to countries

The UN-REDD Programme has supported countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin

America and the Caribbean through a series of technical workshops providing an overview on methods and guidance to be applied for preparing a National Forest Inventory (NFI) and a GHG inventory. These NFIs will give countries transparent, accurate, complete and consistent estimates, to be comparable among countries, and to provide information on data collection and analysis, and choices among methods for preparing GHG estimates.

Estimating the levels of GHG emissions and removals is an important element in achieving the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC which is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human activities that could interfere with the climate system. Being able to provide up-to-date inventory reports in 2013 is crucial, since the first biennial update report to the UNFCCC is due by December 2014.

### Bhutan Explores REDD+ Safeguards and Multiple Benefits

Bhutan is currently building its capacities in the area of REDD+ safeguards and understanding the multiple benefits that REDD+ can catalyze beyond reducing carbon emissions.

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, the country brought together 35 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Dzongkhags, College of Natural Resources, the Department of Hydropower Services, and NGOs to take part in a workshop designed to increase knowledge of these issues.

When forests are maintained, restored or enhanced as part of REDD+, this will result in multiple benefits including climate change mitigation and other ecosystem services. While REDD+ has the potential to yield substantial social and environmental benefits, there are also potential risks from its implementation. For example, biodiversity may be lost from non-forest ecosystems as a result of afforestation.

Workshop presentations covered:

- The meaning of multiple benefits and REDD+ safeguards;
- The UNFCCC safeguards (the “Cancun Safeguards”);
- Building a national approach to safeguards;
- Safeguards Information Systems; and
- REDD+ activities and relevant Policies, Laws and Regulations in Bhutan.

On the first day, participants identified priority risks and potential benefits from REDD+ in Bhutan using the UN-REDD Programme

Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria. One benefit from REDD+ identified by the participants was enhancing watershed protection and hence securing hydroelectric power generation. The group also underscored the potential threat to forest community livelihoods if REDD+ activities were to create restrictions on access to forest resources.

On the second and third day, policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) were identified which could support Bhutan's national approach to safeguards. The draft UN-REDD Programme Benefits and Risks tool (BeRT) was used to identify PLRs that relate to the protection and enhancement of non-forest ecosystems and natural forests. The outputs from working through BeRT will be summarized in the workshop report. They will be used to develop the approach to safeguards within the national REDD+ strategy.



Participants at Bhutan's workshop on REDD+ safeguards and multiple benefits

The proposed next steps after the workshop, which took place 10-12 October in Paro, Bhutan, are for the National Technical Working Group to undertake further work on developing a national approach to safeguards using BeRT, and for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to make some basic information on REDD+ and REDD+ safeguards available on their website. Raising awareness on REDD+ is a crucial issue in Bhutan. The report containing the workshop findings can be found at: [bit.ly/12im5Lx](http://bit.ly/12im5Lx).

### Ecuador Ramps Up Education on REDD+ and Climate Change

During a recent "Training for Trainers" workshop, Ecuador focused on increasing its capacity to promote a better understanding of how REDD+ can help mitigate climate change in the country.

The objective of Ecuador's first "Training for Trainers" seminar last month was to teach a new group of environmental experts in the country on how to use specialized communications materials, including strategic teachings, books and educational guides produced by the Ministry of Environment, with the support of the (Germany Agency for International Cooperation), to explain climate change and REDD+ to local communities. These materials aim to help facilitate and improve meetings with different groups of people involved in

areas related to climate change and the REDD+ mechanism.

The workshop, entitled "Training trainers: Climate Change and REDD+", was organized by Ecuador's Ministry of Environment with the support of the GIZ and Ecuador's UN-REDD National Joint Programme, and took place on 19-21 February in 2013.

"REDD+ is a new thing... as a forestry professional, who should be immersed in the subject...I need to have a clear understanding in order to apply it to communities where I work," reflected Mr. Laurence Zambrano Lara, a 45-year-old Afro-Ecuadorian, who was one of 24 participants in the training seminar.

One of the expected activities of Ecuador's UN-REDD National Joint Programme is to support the state to carry out a process of consulting and involving civil society, communities, indigenous peoples, afro-Ecuadorian peoples, montubio peoples, and sub-village communities in the process of preparing and implementing the REDD+ mechanism in the country. These types of training workshops attempt to help disseminate official information on REDD+ to all involved actors and through this, strengthen their decision-making abilities.

When asked what he took away from this training, Mr. Zambrano said, "It is not easy to teach people who live in the depths of the forest, due to the difference in languages and cultures, and the accessibility of these lands. Only training ourselves in this subject is where we can improve our work each day."

Ecuador's Ministry of Environment has planned to replicate this "training of trainers" in climate change and REDD+ in other Amazonian and coastal provinces in Ecuador.

### Nigeria Advances its Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+

At a recent consultative workshop in Nigeria, government officials, civil society actors and experts reached consensus on the way forward for the country's Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+.

More than 50 participants from Nigeria's federal and Cross River State level recently convened to gain more insights on the relevance of the Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) in Nigeria's federal and state level REDD+ efforts. Participants reached agreement on the governance domains on which the PGA will be providing governance data, and they agreed on an organizational structure and next steps in the coming months. It should be noted that from the onset of its REDD+ efforts, Nigeria has been very eager to conduct

a PGA in order to ensure that such efforts are appropriately designed and take into account due governance measures. Furthermore, the PGA methodology will subsequently inform Nigeria's REDD+ safeguards efforts.



Participants in the Participatory Governance Assessments workshop

Prior to the workshop, a PGA research team was commissioned by key stakeholders to undertake a preliminary research in three pilot sites in Cross River State, namely Esuk Mba in Akpabuyo, Iko Esai in Akamkpa, and Buanchor in Boki Local Government Areas. This research focused on the following governance aspects:

- Stakeholder analysis to identify relevant stakeholders to include throughout the process;
- Entry points for how to more meaningfully involve key private sector actors in the PGA process;
- Traditional means of communication to ensure that PGA data and results are made available to local stakeholders in an appropriate manner; and
- A mapping of governance issues relevant for the REDD+ process at the Cross River State and federal level.

The workshop, which took place 16-18 January in Calabar, Nigeria, was divided in two parts: the first two days consisted of a multi-stakeholder consultation; and a smaller number of participants remained on the third day for a training on indicator development and considerations for data collection.

After intensive discussions and valuable contributions from workshop participants, four governance domains were prioritized. These are: broad and informed participation of REDD+ stakeholders; harmonization of policy and legal framework for REDD+; transparency and accountability of the REDD+ process and finance; and lastly, inter-governmental relations and coordination.

Further, participants agreed on a road map, laying out who will be involved in the different steps reached, as well as an indicator set based on agreed priority governance domains. The draft indicator set will be further refined based on comments and inputs by stakeholders.

Relevant background documents, presentations and workshop report can be found at: [bit.ly/118LrKF](http://bit.ly/118LrKF). ■

## Indonesia and UN-REDD to host Global Symposium on REDD+ in a Green Economy

The Symposium aims to highlight how REDD+ can help countries to further develop their green growth agenda.

The UN-REDD Programme, in collaboration with the Government of Indonesia and international partners, will convene a Global Symposium on REDD+ in a Green Economy, in Jakarta on 19 and 20 June 2013. The Global Symposium aims to take stock of the lessons learned across the UN-REDD Programme, with a view to support the political momentum

for REDD+ by showcasing how it can catalyze green economy/green growth efforts. Symposium participants will be invited to share knowledge and experience on linking REDD+ with green economy/green growth efforts in UN-REDD Programme partner countries.

Over the past three years, the UN-REDD Programme has developed a body of work on linking REDD+ with broader sustainable development goals and a green economy transition, and carried out pilot activities in a number of partner countries.

A presentation of the main outcomes of the Symposium will be provided to participants of the 10th UN-REDD Policy Board meeting in June 2013 in Indonesia. Please contact [John.Prydz@unep.org](mailto:John.Prydz@unep.org) for more information. ■

## UN-REDD Launches Independent Evaluation of National Programme in Panama

In response to concerns raised recently by Panama's National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples, the UN-REDD Programme will commission an independent evaluation of the entire UN-REDD National Programme in Panama, with particular emphasis on the participation of indigenous peoples.

The UN-REDD Programme reiterates its unwavering commitment to promoting and upholding the rights of indigenous peoples. The UN-REDD Programme's policy and programming continues to be informed by and adheres to a human-rights based approach, and full respect for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Representatives of indigenous peoples form part of the UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board, the Programme's consensus-based governing body, which also includes representatives from partner countries, donors, civil society and UN agencies. Indigenous peoples play a critical role in key decision-making processes in the 16 partner countries that have active National Programmes.

Accordingly, the UN-REDD Programme has acknowledged and taken immediate steps

to address the concerns raised by COONAPIP, the National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama, in their letter dated 27 February 2013 in which the organization withdraws from the UN-REDD Programme in Panama.

In response to the recent communications from COONAPIP, a delegation of senior representatives from the UN-REDD Programme undertook a mission to Panama from 20 to 21 March 2013 to meet with stakeholders. The high-level mission had a meeting with technical staff of COONAPIP, as senior officials were not available. In this meeting, COONAPIP reiterated their decision to withdraw from the National Programme in Panama. The UN-REDD Programme acknowledges and respects COONAPIP's decision. The mission also met with government representatives,

including the Minister of Environment, UN agencies and project staff.

The UN-REDD Programme notes with concern COONAPIP's allegations of human rights violations and seeks further clarification and specific details on this matter. The UN-REDD Programme will immediately launch an independent evaluation of the National Programme, with a view to thoroughly investigate the allegations made by COONAPIP. Although the evaluation will assess the entire National Programme, it will place particular emphasis on the participation of indigenous peoples in the Programme. The evaluation is expected to be completed by June 2013 and the results will be made public and disseminated widely as soon as they are available. Until such time, any new activities of the National Programme in Panama are suspended.

Read more on Panama's UN-REDD National Programme at: [bit.ly/15hOIVR](http://bit.ly/15hOIVR).

For further information please contact: Mario Boccucci, Head, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, [un-redd@un-redd.org](mailto:un-redd@un-redd.org). ■

## UN-REDD Highlights Tenure as a Success Factor for REDD+

At a recent global meeting in Rome, forest experts and stakeholders agreed that securing tenure for indigenous peoples and local communities is one of the most crucial issues to be solved in the sustainable management of forests.

More than 60 participants from UN-REDD Programme partner countries, civil society and international institutions gathered in Rome last month for an expert meeting on Tenure of Land and Forests under REDD+. The meeting,

organized by the UN-REDD Programme team at FAO helped to foster agreement among participants that REDD+ provides an opportunity to achieve sustainable forest management and mitigation action and



Participants of the recent global meeting in Rome on tenure of land and forests under REDD+ gives momentum for renewed interest in supporting local communities and indigenous peoples to regulate tenure.

The key outcomes of the expert meeting, which took place 25-27 February at FAO headquarters, showed that REDD+ is seen as a catalyst for sustainable forest and land management, and that, in addition to emissions reduction, multiple benefits of forest need to be considered. The expert group agreed that REDD+ implementation will benefit from a broad approach to govern and secure forest, land and natural resources tenure rights. This will require reviewing and improving existing legal frameworks for land and forest tenure and recognizing customary rights of local communities.

The meeting identified three areas for improvement:

- Reform of the legislative framework of tenure and national land-use plans as

well as institutional development of tenure administration and capacity building;

- Establishment of benefit sharing systems, transparency and compliance with existing and emerging laws and regulations;
- Effective participation of stakeholders, particularly local communities as well as enhanced communication and cooperation between global, national and local levels.

Sounds carbon rights require secure tenure and participants agreed that the impact of carbon rights on benefit sharing systems for local communities and indigenous peoples needs to be taken into consideration.

In this regard, participants called for programmatic approaches instead of project interventions in selected sites to build the momentum for REDD+ to address sustainable forest management and climate mitigation action within one consolidated approach.

Since tenure work under REDD+ is seen as a broader and in-depth process of improving rights and responsibilities, accountability and the fight against corruption, participants concluded that the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests of the Committee on World Food Security of FAO will play an important role in framing and informing the work on tenure under REDD+.

A full report of the meeting will be posted soon on the UN-REDD Programme website. ■

## Features & Commentary

### Cambodia's REDD+ Pilot Projects Contribute to Settlement of Forest Disputes

The UN-REDD National Programme in Cambodia has recently begun looking into using consensus building mechanisms from existing REDD+ pilot project sites to resolve forest and land-use disputes.  
By: **Heang Thy**

In January, the UN-REDD National Programme in Cambodia hosted a field mission and associated meetings, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, to identify preliminary options on how to strengthen consensus building mechanisms for forest disputes, based on international best practices and observations at the two REDD+ pilot project sites. Participants included international experts in conflict resolution and stakeholder engagement, community forest network members, civil society and indigenous peoples representatives, as well as representatives from the provincial and national governments.

The field mission and associated meetings have resulted in the assessment of the types of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation likely to lead to conflicts, identification of potential consensus building mechanisms and ways to strengthen them to prevent and resolve forest sector disputes/grievances; and a preliminary analysis of relationships among different state and non-state actors. These results will be used as inputs in designing an effective consensus building and conflict resolution system for REDD+ in Cambodia.

In Cambodia, several factors are contributing to tensions over forest and land use in

the country. Among these are the strong dependence of the people on agricultural activities for their livelihoods; new investments in large-scale commercial agriculture and mining; as well as Cambodia's ongoing recovery from a turbulent history, which requires recreating cadastral mapping almost from scratch. In some areas, the result of these factors has been rapid deforestation and land degradation.



Participants of recent meeting in Cambodia discuss how REDD+ can help resolve forest and land use disputes.

While Cambodia has a number of laws and regulations designed to minimize land use conflict and define the appropriate

application of different land use categories, it faces continuing challenges to implement them. Many forest areas have not yet been demarcated or zoned, and the enforcement of boundaries, regulations and procedures is often challenged by the competing interests in forest lands from different state and non-state stakeholders. If not properly addressed, these competing interests risk undermining development efforts.

To help prevent and resolve disputes over the use of forest land, Cambodia has strong local institutions in its community forest management committees, commune councils, NGOs and local staff of national government agencies. At the provincial level, there is potential for closer collaboration among communes, provincial government and national forest and land management agencies to ensure appropriate land zoning for settlements, small scale agriculture and commercial uses. At the national level, there may be opportunities for government agencies to coordinate their land use decision making more closely, and to make national decision making more transparent and accessible to provincial and community stakeholders. The UN-REDD Programme in Cambodia will support further assessment and dialogue with stakeholders at all levels to strengthen dispute prevention and consensus building capacities.



Ms. Heang Thy is the Communication Officer for the Cambodia National Taskforce Secretariat, where she manages public outreach and relations efforts. ■

## UN-REDD Launches Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent for REDD+

The recently launched UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) outline a framework for partner countries for seeking and obtaining FPIC in the context of REDD+. By: **Gaya Sriskanthan**

The UN-REDD Programme recently launched the UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the associated Legal Companion, which outlines related existing international law and emerging State practice affirming that indigenous peoples have the right to effective participation in the decisions, policies and initiatives that affect them and that FPIC is a legal norm that imposes duties and obligations on States.

The Guidelines outline a normative, policy and operational framework for seeking and obtaining FPIC in the context of REDD+. There will be periodic updates to this version based on the application of the guidelines, increased information and experience related to the application of FPIC more generally, and continued input and feedback from governments, indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, practitioners, experts and partners. In the meantime, the UN-REDD Programme invites actors and practitioners around the world to apply, use and interpret these Guidelines for their own purposes and to help the Programme test and improve their utility on an ongoing basis.

The UN-REDD Programme is now supporting partner countries to apply the Guidelines to their REDD+ readiness activities through building capacity in FPIC, and facilitating the development of methodologies and processes tailored to the national level.

As part of activities to build national-level capacities to understand and apply FPIC, a workshop on "Participation, Consultation and Consent of Stakeholders in REDD+ Readiness in UN-REDD Programme Partner Countries" for the Latin America and the Caribbean region was held in Peru on 1-2 February 2013. This involved 45 representatives

from governments, indigenous peoples' groups, and civil society from UN-REDD Programme partner countries, including Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Participants reviewed the recently released Guidelines as well as the existing legal basis for FPIC in countries, and discussed lessons learned on the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making in the region. Through a series of working groups, practical road maps for implementing FPIC were developed for each country, outlining the actors that need to be involved and the consultative mechanisms, both existing and required, that could be used to support this. Outputs from the workshop will be used to guide national FPIC activities throughout 2013. Key materials from the workshop can be accessed at: [bit.ly/14uYJWA](http://bit.ly/14uYJWA).

Other related upcoming activities include a one-day workshop on 7 April 2013 for indigenous peoples from the Amazon Basin on latest developments related to stakeholder engagement, governance, and safeguards. The workshop will be jointly organized by the UN-REDD Programme and the Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) during COICA's annual meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and will include a specific session on the implementation of the Guidelines.

Over the next year and beyond, the UN-REDD Programme will focus on supporting the implementation of the Guidelines at the country level, providing technical support and guidance to ensure that nationally appropriate strategies are developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

### Background

Recognizing the critical role of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent

communities in the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme has prioritized stakeholder engagement from its inception. A key component of effective stakeholder engagement is the right to FPIC. Responding to calls from stakeholders, countries, partners and donors for further clarification on FPIC in the context of REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme initiated a comprehensive consultative process to develop the Guidelines. The process encompassed a series of regional consultations with indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, between June 2010 and January 2011. The draft emerging from these regional consultations was opened for public review and comment and the feedback received was discussed in February 2011 at a global level workshop with governments, indigenous peoples' representatives, and technical experts on FPIC, to further refine the Guidelines.



Community members discuss conditions for consent for proposed activities during an FPIC pilot activity in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

This working final version of the Guidelines is therefore the result of more than two years of consultation, analysis, pilot activities on FPIC in partner countries, consensus-building and refinement around core issues related to FPIC; from its conceptual definition to its practical application.

*Gaya Sriskanthan is a member of the UN-REDD Programme team based at UNDP in New York, and supports the Programme's work in the area of stakeholder engagement. ■*

## Moving from Global Advocacy to Country-level Actions on Anti-Corruption for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme highlights results and outcomes of its regional capacity building efforts on anti-corruption for REDD+, undertaken over the past two years. By: **Estelle Fach and Tsegaye Lemma**

Since 2011, the UN-REDD Programme in collaboration with UNDP's Global Programme on Anti Corruption for Development

Effectiveness (PACDE), Regional Centres and UNDP Country offices, has organized four regional workshops in Nepal, Thailand, Peru,

and Zambia on the theme of anti-corruption and REDD+. These events connected over 300 REDD+ and anti-corruption officials and practitioners and helped develop a common understanding on:

- **Why** the issue of anti-corruption in REDD+ should be addressed – as corruption will undermine the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of REDD+, and hence its sustainability;

- **What** are corruption risks in REDD+, i.e. both existing corruption as a driver of deforestation and degradation, and new corruption risks that could be brought about by REDD+;
- **How** to mitigate them - by developing corruption risk management capacities that builds on national REDD+ systems and existing national anti-corruption initiatives.



Participants of recent meeting in Cambodia discuss how REDD+ can help resolve forest and land use disputes.

These events have allowed national stakeholders to discuss the sensitive topic of corruption in a safe and facilitated setting, and ways to address it jointly through country-tailored solutions.

There is now greater momentum among partner countries to explicitly address corruption risks in REDD+ processes which can be witnessed from the action plans initiated in almost all the countries that participated in the workshops.

There are at least 10 countries now carrying this work forward: Viet Nam has integrated detailed anti-corruption activities and budget lines to its Phase 2 funding proposal; Bangladesh, Bhutan,



Fawark Hlawn Ching and Shree Kumar Maharjan, AC-REDD Workshop, Bangkok, Thailand, October 2011

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Nepal, Peru and the Philippines are receiving funding and technical support on the topic of anti-corruption and REDD+, under the targeted support modality of the UN-REDD Programme;

Indonesia and Nigeria have integrated anti-corruption as main components of their participatory governance assessments.

Unprecedented in-country mechanisms have also been triggered, bringing together government practitioners from the REDD+ and anti-corruption sectors which previously had little interaction.

Countries have also done a good job of adapting tools that were used in regional workshops for their national settings. For example, DRC, the Philippines and Viet Nam, have replicated the anonymous online survey (which allows respondents to provide their perceptions of corruption risks without giving their names) in their respective settings.

**Lessons Learned**

Engaging participants prior to the workshop through, for instance, online surveys has proven valuable not only to design the sessions according to needs but also to get participants thinking about and discussing the issue. Moreover, disaggregated results from online surveys conducted before the events revealed some differences in perception of corruption risks. For example, for all corruption risks listed in the surveys, civil society participants and indigenous peoples perceived the likelihood of risks much greater than what's perceived by government officials. The second difference emerged in the way men and women perceive corruption risks in REDD+. For instance, in Latin America and the Caribbean, women were more preoccupied than men about nepotism when hiring REDD+ personnel.

We've also learned that although politically sensitive, open conversations about corruption are possible with minimal tensions. As a basis for discussion, the anonymous online perception survey, referred to above, has allowed participants to focus on solutions rather than risks during events. Similarly, encouraging government representatives from anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) and REDD+ coordination offices to prepare joint presentations helps lessen potential tensions.

Finally, not all ACAs, or anti-corruption national plans, are at the same level of

knowledge and capacity regarding climate finance in general or REDD+ in particular. ACAs demonstrated overall willingness to work on the issues in a cross-sectoral manner with the relevant REDD+ ministries, especially when already engaged in combating illegal activities in the forest sector.

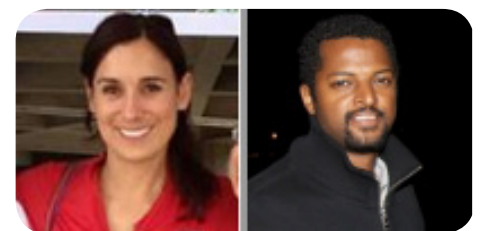
**On regional anti-corruption work in Africa:**

*"This is a well-functioning cross practice effort that manifested so well on the ground with the regional REDD+ workshop on Anti-Corruption. This is exactly the kind of partnering in-house that brings great dividends to our national stakeholders and also shows our donor community the best of UNDP and the UN."*

**Kanni Wignaraja**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Zambia

In regions where ACAs exist, it is easier to identify actors that may become responsible for coordinating anti-corruption action for REDD+. In others, such as in Latin America, other actors such as ombudspersons, prosecutors, general comptrollers, and courts of audit can all be considered – which may necessitate tackling coordination challenges.

This body of work is part of the UN-REDD Programme's overall efforts to support countries in their efforts to prevent corruption in REDD+, as per its 2011-2015 Strategy and "Support to National REDD+ Actions- Global Programme Framework Document" (both documents are also available in French and Spanish on un-redd.org).



Estelle Fach and Tsegaye Lemma are global advisers on governance and anti-corruption for REDD+ at UNDP for the UN-REDD Programme. They work with UN regional and country teams in the governance and REDD+ areas to support national efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability in REDD+. ■

**Understanding REDD+ and FLEGT Linkages Through Country Experiences**

The UN-REDD Programme recently released two new studies on the linkages between REDD+ and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade processes in Cameroon and Central African Republic. By: **Emelyne Cheney and Marjo Maidell**

The Forest Policy Team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, and the UN-REDD Programme have been working

together since 2012 to study the linkages and possible synergies between REDD+ and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The aim has also been to analyze the interface between both initiatives and forest policy planning processes (also called national forest programmes). A series of country case studies from the Central and West African regions have emerged from this collaboration, as well as events to share and learn from country



experiences. A workshop session organized in Accra, Ghana during the regional conference in October 2012 on the implementation of bilateral trade agreements, also known as Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), generated lively discussion on the needs, challenges and opportunities to create linkages between the two processes.

This body of work indicates that realizing synergies between REDD+ implementation and FLEGT VPA is not only possible, it is also desirable to strengthen the processes respectively. For instance, the significant advancement of FLEGT in Cameroon after the country signed a VPA in 2010 has provided stronger forest governance structures on which to build REDD+ readiness efforts. In turn, REDD+ has brought a renewed momentum to carry through the legal reforms necessary for the forest sector to engage in new initiatives, such as REDD+ and FLEGT.

Below are some key findings from the Cameroon study, which have also emerged from the experiences of the Central African Republic and other countries in the region.

- The implementation of REDD+ and FLEGT VPAs present a number of common work areas, many of which are also integral parts of national forest policy planning processes. These areas include stakeholder participation, capacity-building and awareness-raising, clarification of tenure rights, reviews and revisions of legal frameworks, and private sector engagement.
- Synergies can be created through: (i) sharing lessons collected by the processes, (ii) building on the relevant achievements of one process to advance

another; and (iii) identifying joint activities which can be delivered in a timely way for both processes.

- Possibilities for creating synergies between REDD+ and FLEGT are country-specific, and appropriate actions are best identified through multi-stakeholder participatory processes.
- One of the main obstacles to the realization of synergies is the lack of awareness and communication across processes and their main actors at national and sub-national levels.
- Support may be needed to revise national forest policies and laws to integrate REDD+ and VPA processes into the long-term vision and development of the sector.

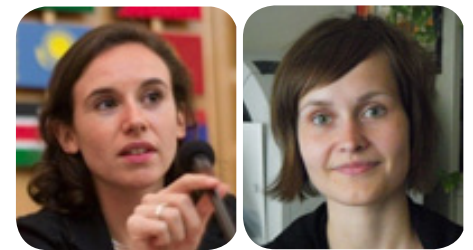
REDD+ is being negotiated and developed by countries to reduce forest loss and mitigate the effects of climate change. FLEGT is being implemented through VPAs between the European Commission and developing countries. VPAs aim to ensure the legality of timber products imported from these countries to EU markets.

While different, the two initiatives promote the sustainable management of forests and place a great emphasis on forest governance for their success. Their implementation processes present many similarities and possible interactions, bringing opportunities for synergies.

Coordinating REDD+ and VPA implementation can help achieve progress towards common objectives, such as increased transparency, effective stakeholder participation and widespread law enforcement. Linking REDD+ and VPA processes can also improve the long-term sustainability of the processes themselves and support the efficient

allocation of resources deriving from them. Finally, joint efforts by the processes can bring stronger momentum for broader national issues such as tenure reforms and cross-sectoral coordination.

The UN-REDD Programme and partners will continue to raise awareness on the linkages between REDD+ and FLEGT. A regional workshop and an international meeting are planned for 2013 to share county experiences and further a common understanding between the initiatives. Upon request, the UN-REDD Programme will consider providing targeted support to countries in the Central and West African regions to facilitate information-sharing and coordination between stakeholders involved in the REDD+ and FLEGT processes. Additional studies on Ghana and Liberia are being finalized and will be made available soon.



*Emelyne Cheney is Natural Resources Officer at the FAO. She provides technical assistance to countries on REDD+ safeguards and governance related activities within the UN-REDD Programme.*

*Marjo Maidell works as an Associate Professional Officer in the Forest Policy Team of FAO. She coordinates and provides technical support to the implementation of activities on the linkages of REDD+ and FLEGT in the context of national forest planning processes. ■*

## Reports & Analysis

### Latest UN-REDD Policy Brief Now Available in French and Spanish

The UN-REDD Programme's third policy brief gives practical recommendations for putting REDD+ safeguards into practice.



The policy brief entitled "Putting REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems into Practice," examines the current state of work on REDD+ safeguards and outlines

some of the key considerations for countries as they develop approaches to promote and support REDD+ safeguards. The brief launched in January of this year provides information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected.

Download the UN-REDD Programme's latest policy brief in English ([bit.ly/14dBhx1](http://bit.ly/14dBhx1)), French ([bit.ly/13iFyL9](http://bit.ly/13iFyL9)) and Spanish ([bit.ly/15IfNOt](http://bit.ly/15IfNOt)).

You can find the first two policy briefs on the UN-REDD Programme's website, under the Publications & Resources section. ■

## Call for Comments on UN Guide to Support Respect of Indigenous Peoples' Rights by Private Sector

The United Nations Global Compact has developed a Business Reference Guide on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which is now open for public consultation until June 2013.

There is growing pressure on businesses, and drive from within businesses, to ensure that they meet their international obligations and respect human rights and that they play a part in supporting and promoting human rights in order to maintain their social and legal licence to operate and be more sustainable and inclusive.



Responding to this interest and demand from the private sector, the UN Global Compact has developed a Business Reference Guide on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). An exposure draft of this Guide is available at [bit.ly/YuvjQC](http://bit.ly/YuvjQC) for public consultation and comment until 1 June 2013.

The implementation of the UNDRIP is a key area of focus for the UN-REDD Programme, particularly given the consideration of the Declaration in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Cancun Safeguards for REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme is supporting adherence to the UNDRIP in its activities through the application of the Programme's Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ and, its Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent which you can read more about at [bit.ly/14vfpgS](http://bit.ly/14vfpgS).

The UN-REDD Programme will provide comments to the UN Global Compact Guide and encourages colleagues and partners to do the same to ensure that the guide is as comprehensive and useful as possible.

Development of the Guide was initiated by a taskforce of Global Compact LEAD companies that wanted to increase their and other companies' understanding of the rights outlined in the UNDRIP and how to respect and support them. The Guide illustrates how rights may be impacted positively or negatively by businesses and provides practical suggestions for business action. Part I outlines key actions for businesses to take in relation to indigenous peoples' rights, including making a policy commitment; due diligence; consultation and seeking consent; and having an effective grievance mechanism. Part II illustrates each right in the UNDRIP, suggests practical actions that businesses should take to respect each right and could take voluntarily to support each right, and gives illustrative examples. ■

## New Report on Economics of Forest Carbon Projects

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, the UNEP Risø Centre recently released a report looking at the economics of forest carbon projects and private sector involvement in REDD+.

The new publication entitled, "**Economics of forests and forest carbon projects – Translating lessons learned into national REDD+ implementation,**" funded by the



UN-REDD Programme, tackles the issue of the economics of forest carbon projects and the perspectives of private sector REDD+ investors. It strives to provide advice to policymakers and project developers on how to attract

private and/or public investments for their forest and REDD+ initiatives.

The publication recognizes the need to find ways to overcome the barriers which carbon forest projects face when seeking finance. Making it easier for these types of projects to attract finance will have a large impact on the development and stabilization of carbon markets or crediting schemes for forest projects alike. In addition, it will contribute to guide the financial aspects of national REDD+ policies and initiatives.

The report uses a case study approach to extract lessons learned from eight carbon

forest projects from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The analysis and comparison of the selected carbon forest projects investigate what characteristics make a project successful, especially focusing on the capacity of attracting finance – public, private or a combination of both. The business models and involvement of stakeholders also provide insight into success factors in terms of the set-up of forest and forest carbon projects.

The report provides advice on actions that countries, governments and project developers can take to increase the attractiveness of their projects. Based on the report findings, the largest barrier to finance is the perceived high risk of forest and carbon projects. The report suggest the development of national REDD+ strategies combined with a mix of public and private financing to reduce the risk exposure of the private sector and thereby incentivize the participation of the sector. Download the publication at: [bit.ly/ZzjAzn](http://bit.ly/ZzjAzn). ■

## New Go-REDD+ Issue Links REDD+ with Poverty Reduction

The latest issue from the UN-REDD Programme Asia-Pacific listserv assesses how REDD+ can contribute to environmental and social co-benefits.

Go-REDD+

Download the latest Go-REDD+ issue entitled, "Assessing the potential of linking REDD+ with poverty reduction".

### 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://un-redd.org). ■

## Looking Ahead

### FPIC and Anti-Corruption workshop with COICA

7 April, 2013: Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

### REDD+ Safeguards and Conflict Resolution workshop

9-13 April, 2013: Paraguay

### Multiple Benefits Mapping workshop

8-24 April, 2013: Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, Tanzania

### Latin America National Forest Monitoring System workshop

23-26 April, 2013: Tena, Ecuador

### UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,  
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CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

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Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.