

Introduction

This week, the Government of Norway will host the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference, which will seek to establish an interim partnership arrangement for REDD+. Conference organizers have written, "This partnership would aim to ensure rapid implementation of a global coordinated effort to preserve the world's tropical forests, in line with UNFCCC decisions."

The UN-REDD Programme supports this process, motivated by our own commitment to ensure country-led REDD+ initiatives around the world continue to be successful. Countries have called for a better, more streamlined approach to support their REDD+ strategies... and we have listened.

This month, the UN-REDD Programme met with the secretariats of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Program (FIP) to begin the design of a coordinated delivery mechanism to support REDD+ readiness at the country level.

The Global Environment Facility, the UN Forum on Forests, the Amazon Fund and the Congo Basin Forest Fund also joined in some of these discussions. Once agreed, this delivery mechanism, with a standardized set of operating principles and common standards, will allow countries to draw on the combined strengths and expertise of the leading multilateral agencies in the REDD+ space.

In their draft partnership document, organizers of the Oslo Conference recently proposed that the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF teams could provide secretariat services to the proposed REDD+ interim arrangement. The UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF teams have, in turn, jointly stated that we are, "ready to provide the services envisaged in the partnership document in an effective and efficient manner."

As also stated in our joint response, we "remain fully committed to a comprehensive, coordinated approach to the provision of REDD+ services so as to address country needs in a timely and collaborative manner at a scale required to address the enormous challenges presented by climate change."

We look forward to an outcome from the Oslo Conference that provides coordinated and efficient support to country-led REDD+ initiatives. We also wish to reiterate that the UN-REDD Programme will continue to work with our key partners to ensure countries have access to the support needed to realize their REDD+ objectives.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

Joint Response to Oslo Conference REDD+ Partnership Proposal

Organizers of the upcoming Interim REDD+ Partnership meeting in Oslo recently distributed a draft partnership document, which proposes that the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) teams could assume the Secretariat duties of the proposed REDD+ interim arrangement. Below is the official joint response to this proposal from the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank, issued on 12 May, 2010.

UN-REDD, a collaborative of three UN agencies (FAO, UNDP and UNEP), and the World Bank, which facilitates the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and partners with other Multilateral Development Banks in managing the Forest

Investment Program (FIP), recognize the important contribution that could be made by an interim REDD+

Partnership pending agreement within the UNFCCC on a future REDD+ mechanism. Accordingly, we appreciate receiving the

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For more information on the UN-REDD Programme visit www.un-redd.org

partnership proposal and the invitation to participate in the upcoming meeting in Oslo.



Tanzanian Landscape

We are pleased to advise you that, since COP 15 in Copenhagen, the FCPF Facility Management Team, the UN-REDD Secretariat and the CIF Administrative Unit are working together to respond to calls by their

respective governance bodies to explore options for enhancing cooperation and coordination. This includes an effort by the FCPF Facility Management Team and the UN-REDD Secretariat to develop a joint delivery platform for REDD+ readiness, which would encompass an agreed set of operating principles and common standards, including a shared readiness template.

Recognizing that the governance bodies of these three initiatives have already called for a review and analysis of how best to coordinate their operations and to promote collaboration and on-the-ground synergies, we are confident that they will fully support all efforts to achieve the objectives of the proposed partnership to scale up REDD+ actions and finance and to improve the

effectiveness, transparency and coordination of existing REDD+ initiatives.

If so requested by the partnership, the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF secretariats are ready to provide the services envisaged in the partnership document in an effective and efficient manner.

We remain fully committed to a comprehensive, coordinated approach to the provision of REDD+ services so as to address country needs in a timely and collaborative manner at a scale required to address the enormous challenges presented by climate change. ■

Brazzaville Declaration Reaffirms Central Africa's Commitment to REDD+

The Declaration recognizes REDD+ as a "crucial" mechanism in the global fight against climate change and highlights the region's desire to work with the UN-REDD Programme.

In an unprecedented show of support for REDD+ in the Central African region, the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) came together and released the "Brazzaville Declaration" at the end of April which formally states their commitment to sustainably manage their forest resources.

The declaration came out of a special session of COMIFAC's Council of Ministers held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo from 19-21 April. Environment ministers and forestry experts from Central Africa gathered to analyze the implications of the Copenhagen Accord and the International Conference on Major Forest Basins, held in 11 May 2009 in Paris, and to adopt a common position leading up to the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference, to be held 27 May 2010, which will seek to define an interim arrangement for how global REDD+ efforts will be managed and governed.

The Brazzaville declaration states that, "Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, as well as conservation, sustainable management of forests and increasing forest carbon stocks (REDD+) are crucial for global efforts for the fight against climate change."

It reaffirms that member countries of ECCAS-COMIFAC are determined to continue

their efforts to "sustainably manage their forest resources and their rural landscapes," but it also calls upon the international community to urgently provide US\$200 million to support Congo Basin countries' initial readiness actions and collaboration with key implementing partners, including the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), hosted by the World Bank.

The Declaration also calls on international community support for, "the funding of Phase 2 in ECCAS-COMIFAC REDD+ member countries," which would enable them to implement their national REDD+ strategies, with the help of various REDD+ initiatives including the UN-REDD Programme.

Congo Basin countries have stressed the importance of a regional approach to REDD+, highlighting institutions such

as COMIFAC, the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and Congo Basin Forest Partnership as the means through which such an approach can be realized. Uniquely, they have also proposed a regional coordinator for REDD+ under COMIFAC, who would ensure cohesive coordination of efforts.

"The CBFF welcomes the Brazzaville COMIFAC Declaration as an important and renewed commitment from COMIFAC countries for REDD+. This declaration is an illustration of their willingness to continue to move as one regional bloc," said Clotilde M. Ngomba, Coordinator for the CBFF.

"The message in the Brazzaville Declaration is very clear," says Yemi Katerere, head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat. "Central African States are wholeheartedly committed to REDD+, but at the same time, they cannot move ahead alone. They require both technical and financial support to



Environment ministers, experts, UN and donor representatives gather outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, after the opening ceremony of the COMIFAC Ministerial meeting on 20 April 2010.

sustainably manage their forests, and that's a message the international community needs to hear."

Moving forward, the ministers at the International Conference on Major Forest Basins also agreed to hold a preparatory meeting of Ministers on the eve of the Oslo Conference to strengthen the position of Central African countries. To underscore the importance of a coordinated approach in the

sub-region, the ministers also called for the appointment of an interim secretariat to facilitate the mechanism of mobilization and fund management at both the sub-regional and international levels and their willingness to engage actively in such a secretariat. The ministers also agreed on the need to establish a research group on climate in Central Africa, and ECCAS was requested to do all the preliminary studies.

Representatives from Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Chad attended the meeting of Ministers that drafted the Declaration. The meeting was also attended by representatives of national, sub-regional and development partners including The World Bank, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, CIFOR, IUCN, GTZ, WWF, CARPE/USAID, and the Norwegian Embassy in Angola. ■

Forest Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and REDD+

At a recent Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Kenya, the UN-REDD Programme stressed the need to keep biodiversity conservation a key component in the design of REDD+ strategies.



Over 60 participants, including negotiators, NGO representatives, and multilateral colleagues, attended the UN-REDD side event, focusing on forest biodiversity, ecosystem services and REDD+.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held its 14th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in Nairobi, Kenya on 10-21 May 2010. Relevant and important themes discussed during the meetings included Biodiversity and Climate Change as well as Forest Biodiversity. In addition to the official sessions, over 90 side events were held on a wide array of topics including several that focused on issues relating to REDD+ and Forest Biodiversity.

In order to reach out to this key biodiversity constituency and begin to build a strong

relationship, the UN-REDD Programme held a side event focused on "Forest Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and REDD+." Over 60 people, including negotiators, NGO representatives, and multilateral colleagues, attended the side event held on 11 May 2010. Ravi Prabhu, Senior Programme Officer for UN-REDD/UNEP moderated and kicked off the event by emphasizing the importance of sustainable forest management not only for obtaining carbon credits but also for the conservation of biodiversity and the potential of payment for other ecosystem services.

Over 60 participants, including negotiators, NGO representatives, and multilateral colleagues, attended the UN-REDD side event, focusing on forest biodiversity, ecosystem services and REDD+.

Nicolas Kosoy, the Implementation Coordinator for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP, provided the first presentation about the economic valuation of forest ecosystem services and raised some key issues about equity, participation and the importance of bundling services. This presentation was followed by one from Josephat Nyongesa, Natural Resource Project Economist, WWF-EARPO, who provided an on-the-ground perspective about local management of ecosystem services and Barney Dickson, Head of the Climate Change & Biodiversity Programme, UNEP-WCMC, concluded the presentations with an explanation of the various tools for integrating ecosystem services in national REDD+ strategies and decision-making that his team has been producing for the UN-REDD Programme.

The presentations were followed by a lively discussion about the need for biodiversity and other safeguards and the importance of creating synergies between the Rio Conventions, especially the CBD and UNFCCC. Participants also raised concerns about corruption and elite capture that could arise when payments from ecosystems are flowing in an area. Mr. Prabhu concluded the event by stressing the importance of the biodiversity community in the establishment of a REDD+ mechanism and the desire of the UN-REDD Programme to cultivate this relationship between climate change and biodiversity counterparts. ■

UN-REDD & Brazil's INPE: Building Forest Monitoring Capacities

The UN-REDD Programme and Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) are working side by side to make satellite monitoring systems available to UN-REDD Programme countries.

The implementation of REDD+ requires advanced ways of monitoring forest carbon stocks, and FAO is currently collaborating with Brazil's INPE to provide UN-REDD Programme countries adequate measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) capacity.

The joint work programme, discussed during a meeting in late April 2010, will include the implementation of the Brazilian satellite monitoring system in UN-REDD Programme countries that will help in large-scale monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation. This meeting is a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between FAO and INPE in December 2009.

Brazil's INPE is fully committed to sharing its experience in large scale monitoring of deforestation that can help provide accurate and transparent data to the public. These data and monitoring systems (TERRA-AMAZON, PRODES, DETER, DEGRAD) will be made available to other countries to help them advance their own forest monitoring. Currently, monitoring systems in these countries are not accurate enough or simply non-existing for the MRV of forest carbon stocks that will be required for REDD+ implementation. For this reason, countries are exploring how to design and implement forest monitoring systems in a cost-efficient way.



Tropical forest of Takengon, Indonesia.

To develop strong nationally-owned forest monitoring systems, technical and institutional capacity building is key. INPE will be responsible for training in a new center in Belem, Brazil, while FAO will be responsible for the in-country training and implementation. In two years time, the goals are to train technical people from 30-40 countries. ■

MRV in Tanzania

Following the latest UN-REDD Programme workshop on monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) in Tanzania, coordination of MRV activities is currently underway in the country.

Tanzania's MRV progress is a good example of how integration between local institutional actors, global initiatives and donors can yield promising results. Following a first mapping of the country's actors and activities in MRV, a consultation on behalf of the Tanzanian government was carried-out to streamline

respective MRV work plans. This harmonization will avoid duplication and will create synergies in all the MRV initiatives happening in Tanzania to enhance the MRV framework between all existing and ongoing initiatives.

Tanzania's programme has successfully managed to get an update for sub-national as well as national REDD+ initiatives throughout the country. FAO is supporting the creation of a robust team on MRV to work with Tanzania's UN-REDD Project Coordinator. The objective is to lead the implementation process to develop strong monitoring and reporting systems. The work will include linkages between the UN-REDD Programme and the National Forest Inventory (NAFORMA) for Tanzania, with the strong technical backing of the MRV Team at FAO headquarters in Rome. ■

UN-REDD at the UNPFII

At the 9th session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) at the end of April, the UN-REDD Programme hosted a side event, exploring significant examples of stakeholder engagement in the REDD+ readiness process.

The side event, which took place on 23 April at UN headquarters in New York, focused on sharing experiences from the country level. Senior Policy Advisor for UN-REDD (UNDP) Charles McNeill moderated the discussion, and panelists included Pacifique Mukumba, Executive Director of CAMV, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mr. Hipolito Acevei, President of the Coordinating Body of Self-Determining Indigenous Peoples (CAPI)

in Paraguay, Elspeth Halverson of the UN-REDD Programme and Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director of Tebtebba Foundation.

Mr. Mukumba shared the process of engaging civil society in national REDD+ readiness in the DRC, where the role of civil society has been formalized with a ministerial decree outlining the creation and composition of structures to implement the



Pacifique Mukumba (middle), Executive Director of CAMV in the DRC, discussed stakeholder engagement in his country at the UN-REDD Programme side event at UNPFII.

REDD+ process nationally. As a result of the decree, civil society and Indigenous Peoples feel sufficiently represented, recognized, and empowered to communicate information to stakeholders on national REDD processes and contribute actively to the development and design of local, provincial, and national REDD initiatives.

Mr. Acevei gave an overview of CAPI's engagement with the government on REDD+. When the new government took office in 2008, CAPI was given the opportunity to participate in the articulation of the national REDD+ readiness process. In order to provide input, CAPI organized a series of workshops for Indigenous and forest dependent stakeholders focusing on analyzing and elaborating Paraguay's approach to conservation – a service that indigenous peoples have been providing for thousands of years. CAPI is now a member of the National REDD Technical team and has provided substantive comments to the current draft of the National Programme.

Mrs. Halverson gave an overview of the way the UN-REDD Programme supports stakeholder engagement as reflected in the Programme's Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dependent Communities and in the governance of the UN-REDD Programme. She referred to the series of national and international consultations that have taken place over the last year, and highlighted ongoing work to develop a model to ensure free, prior, informed consent (FPIC).

Mrs. Tauli-Corpuz gave an overview of the progress of stakeholder engagement in REDD+. The current state of engagement is a big success since Indigenous Peoples are now able to participate in the process globally and link it to the local level. Since forest dependent communities know what it means to be environmental stewards, it is important to bring them to international processes and to help connect them with national governments. Mrs. Tauli-Corpuz gave examples of traditional forest management in Indonesia, Kenya,



Presenters at the UN-REDD Programme side event at UNPFII (From left to right) Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Hipolito Acevei, Charles McNeill (moderator), Pacifique Mukumba and Elspeth Halverson.

Nicaragua, and the Philippines. She stated that "Indigenous Peoples can speak with authority because they are the ones that have been doing conservation in their day-to-day lives" and concluded that local examples show the importance of strengthening traditional authorities and knowledge. ■

Features & Commentary

A REDD+ Partnership Based on the Rights of Forest Communities: Myth or Reality for the Future?

In the lead up to the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference which will seek to establish an interim partnership arrangement for REDD+, Civil Society representative to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho, calls on the Oslo process to stay squarely focused on the rights of forest communities.



Pygmies in Byakato village in the district of Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo

One of the obstacles in the REDD+ process is when governments fail to recognize the land rights of forest communities. Yet the traditional knowledge and practices of these

communities, including Indigenous Peoples, have contributed to the sustainable management and conservation of natural forest areas for thousands of years. These communities have the right to occupy their ancestral lands and freely access the resources there. For example, by claiming that the land and subsoil belongs to the state (Bakajika Act), the Congolese government prevented communities from doing so and left only certain sections of land to be managed by Indigenous communities.

The interim REDD+ partnership to be designed in Oslo should be based, among others things, on the right to the land of forestry communities including Indigenous Peoples. The access of these communities to the land and/or the forests should not be a privilege but a right, considering the roles they have played and continue to play in the sustainable conservation of forests.

The REDD+ partnership must also give communities access to payments for environmental services and derived from both a sustainable forest management over many years, and the decentralized management of community forests granted by governments. Such access would solve the problem of poverty, which forest management policies have failed to mitigate or prevent for many years. The Democratic Republic of Congo provides a striking example. There, profit sharing payments for environmental services must be followed by capacity building of communities involved in the sustainable and decentralized management of forests.

Humans are at the center of socio-economic, cultural and environmental development. The REDD+ process should base its partnership on the protection of biodiversity, including by adopting measures on the transformation of natural forests and improved social and environmental benefits, including ecosystems and environmental services.

Development of monoculture plantations such as oil palm, should not affect the natural forests. The rehabilitation of abandoned plantations should be taken into account as an alternative to logging in natural forests, and the conversion of forests into tree plantations should not be encouraged in this REDD+ partnership.



Pygmies in Byakato village in the district of Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo

The countries that adhere, or must adhere, to the REDD+ partnership have signed international conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. They have also signed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The REDD+ partnership should develop and implement sound environmental and social safeguards that meet international standards and respect the agreements signed. Transparent mechanisms and adequate resources should be put in place

to ensure the effective implementation of these safeguards in the context of REDD+. A system of measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) involving stakeholders including Indigenous Peoples, should also be approved.

The REDD+ partnership should also consider creating an appeal mechanism for stakeholders in the process agreed to in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its implementation with the support of guarantees. Communities, as stakeholders in the process, should have the same right to appeal as any other party.

The REDD+ partnership should develop a clear timetable for adopting a set of relevant procedures and standards through a participatory process.

While aware of the issues of transparency, good governance, consultation, the principle of free, prior and informed consent regarding all issues at stake, the sheer size and diversity of countries, the REDD+ partnership should focus on implementing a strategy for national REDD+ efforts, where all stakeholders are involved and participate

in the preparation of national REDD+ programme documents (R-PPs).

The REDD+ mechanism is one possible solution to the observed climate disruption and to poverty reduction in communities involved as stakeholders in the process. Nevertheless, the mechanism will be more effective if these communities have access to the land (forests) granted to them by governments, and if the latter comply with the international conventions they ratified and with other international declarations to which they adhered.



Pacifique Mukumba Isumbisho is the Executive Director of the Support Center for Vulnerable Indigenous Pygmy and Minority Indigenous Peoples (CAMV) in Democratic Republic of Congo and is also the Civil Society Representative from Africa on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board.

www.camv-pygme.org ■

REDD+ in Ecuador: Ensuring Social and Environmental Co-Benefits

Ecuador, one of the UN-REDD Programme's partner countries, is keeping social and environmental co-benefits a key priority in its REDD+ readiness preparations. REDD Specialist in Ecuador, **Daniela Carrión**, reports on how her country is achieving this goal.

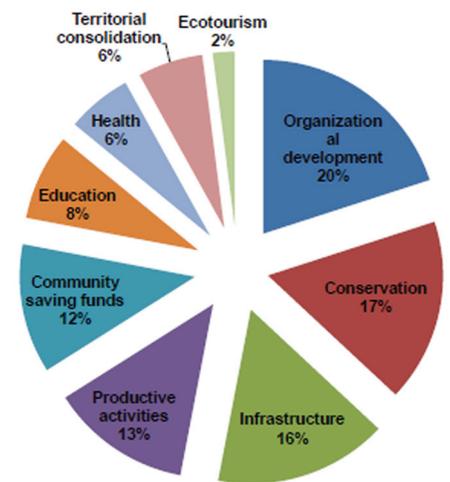
Ecuador has one of the highest levels of biodiversity per surface area in the world. Although it is a small country, representing less than 0.2% of the planet's surface, it is home to 18 per cent of the world's bird species and orchids, 10 per cent of all amphibian species and eight per cent of all mammals.

It is also home to about 10 million hectares of forest cover, including many different types of forest, such as humid tropical rainforest, high-altitude Andean forest, mangroves, and dry forest. These forests store large quantities of carbon and generate other important ecosystem services such as a protection of soils and water. In addition, these forests also have great cultural and spiritual value, especially for Indigenous Peoples.

However, Ecuador's forests are seriously threatened. The deforestation rate of Ecuador is among the highest in South America¹. Almost 200,000 hectares of forest

are lost each year to deforestation, which produces about 55 million tons of GHG emissions each year. To change this trend, Ecuador's Ministry of Environment is developing a new forest governance model. This model seeks to manage Ecuador's forests in a sustainable way and one of the objectives of the model is to reduce deforestation. Implementing a REDD+ mechanism in the country offers an opportunity to accomplish this objective.

To date, the Ministry of Environment has identified the elements of its REDD+ strategy and some specific activities for each one of those elements. Some of the identified activities are already in implementation and some cross-cutting elements that will be applied to the entire strategy have also been identified. One of these cross-cutting elements is the *delivery of social and environmental benefits from a REDD+ mechanism*.



Ecuador's Socio Bosque Programme results 2008 - 2009

Ecuador's Socio Bosque Programme

For the Ministry of Environment, it is relevant that REDD+ activities deliver both social and environmental benefits. Through the implementation of the Socio Bosque Programme (an incentive-based policy to tackle deforestation), Ecuador is already delivering social and environmental benefits. Throughout the Programme, forests

landowners and Indigenous communities voluntarily commit to conserving their native forests for a period of 20 years and in exchange, they received an economic incentive yearly.

The Programme has two key elements that ensure social and environmental co-benefits. Regarding social benefits, as a precondition to joining the Programme, Indigenous communities and private landowners have to develop a "social investment plan" in which beneficiaries specify how they will spend the money they will receive yearly from Socio Bosque. This "social investment plan" is developed in a participatory way by all members of the community and beneficiaries freely decide how to use their economic incentive.

Since September 2008, Socio Bosque has signed conservation agreements that cover more than 400,000 hectares, and benefiting more than 40,000 people. As shown in the graph below, beneficiaries are using 17 per cent of the incentive for conservation, 20 per cent for organization and development, eight per cent for education, six per cent for health, 13 per cent for productive activities, and 16 per cent for infrastructure, among others.

Regarding environmental benefits, in order to ensure reduction of deforestation, the Programme developed a prioritization scheme. This scheme considers three different variables: 1) areas with high deforestation pressure; 2) areas with high importance for ecosystem services and; 3) areas with high poverty levels. Concerning the second variable, three ecosystem services were considered; those services are related to: carbon storage, water provision and biodiversity conservation. The prioritization scheme is shown in graph 2. Specific criteria have been defined to weight those variables, among them criteria for variable 2 ensures the provision of environmental benefits.

Ensuring the delivery of social and environmental benefits

Another ongoing activity to ensure the delivery of social and environmental benefits through the implementation of REDD+ activities is Ecuador's work-plan with the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and Care International. This work-plan is designed to develop and implement a REDD+ social and environmental standard for national REDD+ strategies. The standard provides a

bench-mark of good practice guidance for delivering co-benefits at a country level with REDD+. During 2009, Ecuador jointly developed the principles, criteria and indicators for this REDD+ standards. For this purpose, a consultation process was carried out in Ecuador with representatives of civil society and Indigenous communities. This year, the second phase of the work plan will start, developing a national interpretation for the standards and its pilot implementation.

Ecuador is already delivering social and environmental benefits. In order to move forward, some next steps identified include integrating social and environmental benefits in other elements of Ecuador's national REDD+ strategy and developing a system for monitoring REDD+ co-benefits.

¹ According to a study finished in year 2000 the rate of deforestation was of 1.46% per year.



Daniela Carrión is a REDD specialist for the Ministry of Environment in Ecuador.

Safeguarding Multiple-Benefits

UN-REDD Programme Officer, **Wahida Patwa-Shah** and UN-REDD Natural Resources Officer, **Linda Rosengren**, look beyond carbon to flesh out the many ways forests provide benefits to society, and highlight steps the UN-REDD Programme is taking to ensure these benefits are safeguarded in national REDD+ strategies.

The primary function of REDD+ is to realize green house gas emission reductions from forest ecosystems to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Apart from this substantial carbon sequestration and storage function, forest ecosystems harbor many important development benefits or 'safeguards' against disasters. These services underpin human well being, especially for those most vulnerable and for 1.6 billion forest dependent people, by providing fuelwood, timber, shelter, non-timber forest products such as fruits, medicines, gums, mushrooms as well as recreation and cultural services. Yet, as the recent 2010 Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 so clearly communicates (see chart below), these vital services are being undermined.

REDD+ is valuing and targeting one of these services: carbon. Still, there is great potential to safeguard and bundle other services as

well. These benefits may be for example, high carbon densities occurring in biodiversity-rich natural forests and rehabilitation of degraded forests with indigenous trees to improve watershed services. We need to be more explicit about safeguarding these multiple benefits of REDD+ as they may not feature automatically in the range of strategic REDD+ options. The cost of these losses is being felt on the ground, but may go unnoticed at the national level (TEEB 2009).

The COP decision on methodological guidance recognizes the importance of multiple or co-benefits and the present LCA-text holds promise for safeguarding these¹.

The term "safeguard" addressed in the current text call for countries to promote and support effective national forest

governance structures, stakeholder participation, risk of reversal and displacement and knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Safeguards draw the attention both to possible risk as well as the possible increased benefits.

Safeguards and the UN-REDD Programme

In order for countries to fully consider these opportunities and risks associated with REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme is supporting capacity strengthening to use methods, tools and guidelines to ensure that risks and tradeoffs are analyzed and considered within the framework of REDD+ national strategies. Useful material already exists such as the Social and Environmental Standards for REDD+ elaborated by CCBA Partners and Care International and the tools developed by the Natural Capital Project. These are being compiled into a toolkit for countries to use and can be linked to social and environmental impact assessment processes that countries are undertaking for REDD+. To guide programme design, the UN-REDD Programme has also developing a draft "do no harm" approach to minimum social

| Selected Ecosystem integrity and ecosystem goods and services | Status of Service |
|--|-------------------|
| Connectivity – fragmentation of ecosystems crops (GBO3 2010) | down |
| Water quality of aquatic systems (GBO3 2010) | down |
| Capture fisheries (MA 2005) | down |
| Aquaculture (MA 2005) | up |
| Wild foods (MA 2005) | down |
| Fiber, timber (GBO3 2010) | +/- |
| Coverage of Protected Areas (GBO3 2010) | up |
| Wood fuel (MA 2005) | down |
| Trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, cultivated plants and fish species of major socio-economic importance (GBO3 2010) | down |
| Area of forest, agricultural and aquaculture ecosystems under sustainable management (GBO3 2010) | +/- |
| Source: Millennium Assessment, 2005 and Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, 2010 | |
| Note: Trends shown by agreed indicators of progress | |

standards and an accompanying risk assessment tool, for identifying risks associated with not maintaining minimum social standards related to governance, stakeholder livelihoods and policy coherence.

Some countries are taking on the challenge of realizing multiple benefits of REDD+ and forests. The Democratic Republic of Congo's Ecosystem Services Unit is considering incentive and policy mechanisms to build the case for the consideration of multiple benefits within REDD+ readiness plans. The UN-REDD Pro-

gramme has also developed maps of Tanzania identifying where high biodiversity and high carbon overlap in order to allow informed decisions to be made on the biodiversity benefits of prioritizing different areas for REDD+. In this manner, biodiversity protection is included in REDD+ with only a relatively small additional cost.

Safeguarding forests that provide the most benefits, including carbon, is really only the first step in land-use planning influenced by national REDD+ strategies. Next steps would include opportunities for improving the use of these benefits, protecting or

strengthening livelihoods that depend on them or even directing additional investments to create alternative livelihoods. The UN-REDD Programme is supporting countries as they seek to take into account the real costs of alternative uses of forests, adequately addressing who bears the costs of present or future changes in uses. These efforts focus on ensuring that the poor are not affected negatively as a result.

The assurance of healthy forests that provide multiple benefits for local people, national economies as well as global public goods in the form of carbon mitigation are the key to reversing the direction of present drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. And that, after all, is what REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme are all about.

¹ (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/6)



Wahida Patwa-Shah is a Programme Officer for the UN-REDD Programme, based in Nairobi, Kenya.



Linda Rosengren is a Natural Resources Officer for the UN-REDD Programme, based in Geneva Switzerland. ■

Reports & Analysis

Ecosystem Co-Benefits Workshop in Cambridge

UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) workshop provides the UN-REDD Programme with guidance on how to tackle ecosystem co-benefits at the national and global levels and incorporate co-benefits into national REDD+ strategies.

By Lera Miles, UNEP-WCMC

Undeterred by the volcanic ash cloud over northern Europe at the end of April, 44 experts from around the world gathered in Cambridge to exchange ideas and debate emerging issues ranging from the definition of co-benefits to the scope for direct economic incentives. The three-day workshop was held from 27 to 29 April and was attended by REDD+ specialists from UN-REDD Programme pilot and partner

countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Panama, Tanzania and Zambia. Guests from Norway, Germany, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and a number of experts on conservation, development and economics also contributed to the workshop and its findings.

The workshop objectives were:

- To present draft analyses, tools and guidance for addressing ecosystem co-benefits from REDD+ to pilot countries and other stakeholders; and to receive feedback before these products are finalized
- To discuss the social, institutional and economic aspects of ecosystem co-benefits
- To consider the integration of ecosystem co-benefits into national REDD+ strategies
- To arrive at a set of findings, recommendations, and priority actions for how the UN-REDD Programme tackles ecosystem co-benefits (at national and global levels)

As well as presentations on the work of the UN-REDD Programme and national REDD+ programmes on ecosystem co-benefits,

workshop participants heard UN-REDD Programme donor countries' perspectives, and expert presentations on ecosystem service valuation and possibilities for marketing credits linked to co-benefits; financial incentive mechanisms; equity and ecosystem co-benefits; tools for assessing and modelling co-benefits; synergies with the CBD and GEF programmes of work; and two approaches to co-benefits standards: *the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards Initiative, and the UN-REDD Programme Risk-based approach to readiness social standards.*

There was useful discussion in a series of break-out groups on 'what are co-benefits,' 'approaches to safeguard and enhance co-benefits,' 'monetary incentives' and 'equity and governance', and on the regional challenges and issues related to co-benefits in Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific. The workshop recommendations arose from these discussions and a subsequent plenary session.

The recommendations are available together with the workshop proceedings, presentations, agenda and participant list on

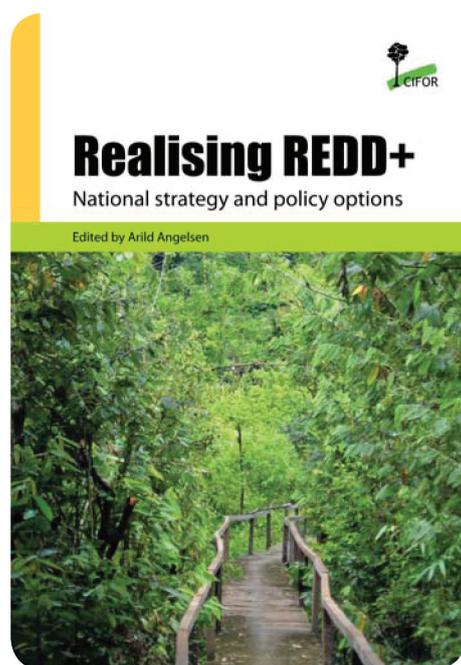
the UNEP-WCMC website: www.unep-wcmc.org/climate/workshops.aspx



Lera Miles works for the Climate Change & Biodiversity Programme of UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK. ■

CIFOR Releases "Realising REDD+"

The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) recently released a comprehensive global review of current REDD+ research which shows the potential for REDD+ projects if countries embrace long and short-term policy reforms while learning from past lessons. By Sarah Sharples, CIFOR



The book has five key messages:

- REDD+ must be transformational. REDD+ requires broad institutional and governance reforms, such as tenure, decentralization, and corruption control. These reforms will enable departures from business as usual, and involve communities and forest users in making and implementing policies that affect them.
- Policies must go beyond forestry. REDD+ strategies must include policies outside the forestry sector narrowly defined, such as agriculture and energy, and better coordinate across sectors to deal with non-forest drivers of deforestation and degradation.
- Performance-based payments are key, yet limited. Payments based on performance directly incentivize and compensate forest owners and users. But schemes such as payments for environmental services (PES) depend on conditions, such as secure tenure, solid carbon data and transparent governance, which are often lacking and take time to change.
- We must learn from the past. Many approaches to REDD+ now being considered are similar to previous efforts to conserve and better manage forests, often with limited success. Taking on board lessons learned from past experience will improve the prospects of REDD+ effectiveness.
- National circumstances and uncertainty must be factored in. Different country contexts will create a variety of REDD+ models with different institutional

and policy mixes. Uncertainties about the shape of the future global REDD+ system, national readiness and political consensus require flexibility and a phased approach to REDD+ implementation.

"PES schemes have many advantages—the incentives for forest users are strong. Those responsible for cutting emissions are compensated directly. But there are many opportunities to make rapid progress with the REDD+ agenda that don't depend on the long-term reforms required for PES programmes," says Arild Angelsen, a CIFOR scientist, professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and the main editor of *Realising REDD+*.

The agricultural sector puts pressure on forests. Angelsen quotes IPCC estimates that 75 percent of deforestation is due to forest clearing for agriculture, which means REDD+ must focus on replacing policies that encourage farmers to expand into sparsely settled forested areas with policies that shift production to more intensively cultivated lands near urban areas.

"Most of what will be undertaken at the national and local levels has in fact been attempted before," says Angelsen, adding that, "We can learn a lot by looking at what has worked and, equally important, what has not."

Better REDD 'imperfect' than REDD 'unrealised'

While the CIFOR report exhaustively explores the many challenges to using the REDD+ process to transform management of the endangered forests of the developing world, the report argues that action is needed despite the various uncertainties.

"We must balance the risk of taking action in less than perfect conditions against the risk

The 400-page report, which includes contributions from 59 researchers and policy experts from institutions in 19 countries, is the most comprehensive analysis of REDD+ to date and follows the success of last year's CIFOR publication, *Moving Ahead with REDD*, which has been translated into five languages.

"Realising REDD+ goes one step further than our previous REDD book and considers what national policy changes are needed to implement a global mechanism to pay countries for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation," says Frances Seymour, CIFOR's Director General.

of lost opportunities if we are too cautious," says Seymour, adding that, "Designed appropriately, REDD+ has the potential to catalyze needed reforms, while protecting vulnerable communities. In a world facing catastrophic climate change, the risk of doing nothing is too great."

REDD+ can indeed be realized in national institutions, policies and actions on the ground.

Copies of the book can be downloaded for free at:
<http://tinyurl.com/Realising-REDD>



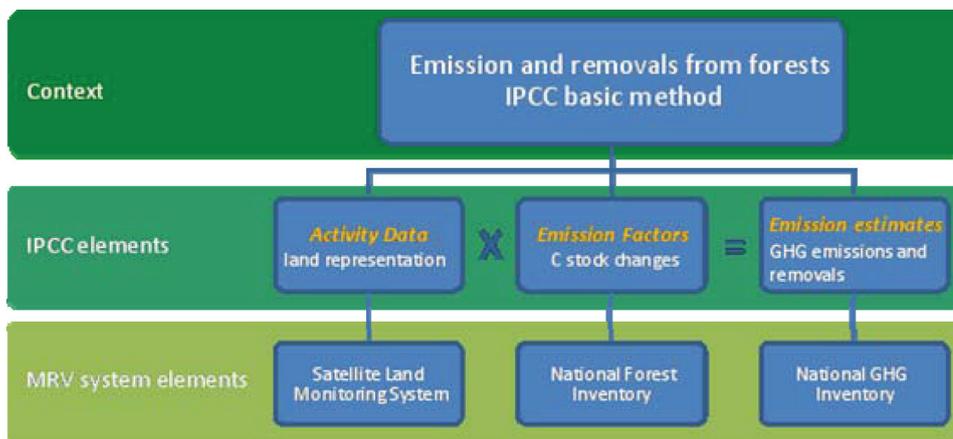
Sarah Sharples is a multimedia Project Officer at The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR, based in Bogor, Indonesia). ■

The analyses presented in Realising REDD+ provide evidence for cautious optimism that

UN-REDD/FAO to Publish National Forest MRV System Recommendations

The document, entitled "Framework proposal for a national forest MRV system for REDD+ implementation" will be presented during the 32nd session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), to be held in Bonn at the end of May.

By: **Cécile Girardin**, FAO Climate Change Forestry Department



The three basic carbon-related MRV components and their relation to the IPCC guidelines.

One of the key elements for REDD+ implementation is the development of transparent, comparable, coherent, complete and accurate measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) national systems. These systems are a guarantee that Parties will effectively meet their respective mitigation commitments under a new UNFCCC mechanism which would include REDD+. The solutions proposed by FAO's framework proposal for national MRV systems are compliant with the requirements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC), developed on the request of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and reflect the most common and robust approaches currently used by Annex I countries.

The framework proposal aims to explain the concepts of REDD+ requirements under the UNFCCC and describes all the elements of a fully operational MRV system that follows IPCC guidance with the objective of navigating countries towards developing a National GHG Inventory to report on REDD+

activities. As such, the framework proposal provides the basis to strategically strengthen in-country technical capacities in relevant institutions.

Ultimately, the outcome of the MRV system is to support countries to develop their National forest GHG Inventory to report on REDD+ activities to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The IPCC's most commonly used approach is to estimate GHG emissions by relating information on the extent to which a human activity takes place (activity data, AD) to coefficients that quantify the emissions or removals per unit activity (emission factors, EF). In response to this, the Measurement and Reporting components of the proposed MRV system consist of the following three components (see figure): (1) a Satellite Land Monitoring System to assess activity data on forest area and forest area changes; (2) a National Forest Inventory to assess emission factors on carbon stocks and carbon stock changes; (3) a National GHG Inventory to estimate and report anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks. Finally, countries will each need to establish an institutional body responsible for the coordination of administrative and technical arrangements, the overall quality of reported estimates, monitoring of safeguards and the successful implementation of REDD+ policies at the national level. FAO, in collaboration with the Brazilian Space Agency (INPE) and relevant local organizations, will provide adapted training courses for UN-REDD Programme countries. ■

Looking Ahead

32nd Session of the UNFCCC Convention UN-REDD Side Event

3 June 2010: Bonn, Germany

World Environment Day

5 June 2010: (UN-REDD represented in Rwanda & Geneva)

23rd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

9-11 June 2010: Bhutan

Forestry Carbon Markets & REDD Conference

10-11 June 2010: Washington, D.C.

18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

28 June - 2 July 2010: Edinburgh, Scotland

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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