

Introduction

This month, the World Cup started on the same day UNFCCC climate change talks wrapped up in Bonn. At first glance, the connection between the two events might not be an obvious one. But if there is one take-home message from soccer it is about fair play and scoring goals-- a message that those at the climate talks seem to have embraced. During the two weeks of negotiations, participants demonstrated their commitment to the goal of reducing emissions and making sure REDD+ remains in the game. As we work toward COP-16 in Mexico in December, *fair play*- in the form of innovative discussions and solutions to climate change- will be key to scoring a winning goal for the environment.

Okay, no more tenuous soccer analogies. But I think you get my point...

While in Bonn, I was struck by how lessons from REDD+ pilot countries and conversations with a broad range of stakeholders could reinforce and inform the formal negotiations. I took away three key messages in conversations with these groups.

Firstly, REDD+ remains one of the most cost effective solutions to stabilizing global climate change. But as each day passes without a legally binding treaty, we reduce our ability to halt the increase in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We need to have conversations on the substance that can get us closer to an agreement. Lessons from pilot REDD+ activities are an important part of this.

Secondly, moving from funding pledges to implementation is urgent.

Finally, we need to enhance our dialogue with the private sector on their role in REDD+. The private sector is not only a potential source of future funding from emissions trading, but we could benefit from hearing their views and perspectives on the design and implementation of REDD+.

Yemi Katerere

Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

UN-REDD at the Bonn Climate Change Talks

More than 150 participants attended the UN-REDD Programme side event at the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Bonn, which focused on developments in MRV and monitoring of mitigation actions and safeguards for REDD+.



Presentations at the UN-REDD side event in Bonn on 3 June: (left to right) Peter Holmgren (FAO), Danilo Mollicone (FAO) and Thelma Krug (Brazil's INPE). Rosalind Reeve, Associate Fellow at Chatham House (not in the picture) also presented.

The UN-REDD Programme and its partners assist countries in establishing robust and transparent measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and monitoring systems. The UN-REDD side event covered issues related to remote sensing applications, monitoring systems in the Congo Basin as well as monitoring governance safeguards for REDD+. UN agencies and other REDD+ partners at the event highlighted that investments in monitoring are intensifying as countries prepare for REDD+, and that MRV and monitoring is not exclusive to carbon.

Development of MRV and Monitoring Work by UN-REDD and Partners

Speaking about how the UN-REDD Programme and its partners are working to

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

develop MRV and monitoring systems, Peter Holmgren, Director of the Environment, Climate Changes and Bioenergy Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in his opening remarks explained that monitoring and MRV are not only about carbon, and that governance and benefit sharing are important elements to be monitored for REDD+. He highlighted that the relative importance of these elements of REDD+ vary according to the scale at which they are being monitored (global, national

and local). For instance, carbon and governance are more important for a global scale, but benefits and impacts have more importance at a local level.

INPE-FAO Partnership and Work Programme to Build Forest Monitoring Capacity

Thelma Krug, National Institute for Space Research in Brazil (INPE) said that INPE's system for monitoring deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, monitors yearly gross deforestation, and more recently forest degradation. It also detects early stages of deforestation using MODIS—a scientific instrument in space that captures images of the Earth every one to two days. The findings are used to inform preventative measures. In closing, Ms. Krug highlighted that, INPE has built a new center that aims to offer tools and capacity to other developing country partners, and has established a partnership with FAO in order to expand the training to as many developing countries as possible with the aim of each country having its own monitoring systems in place for REDD+.

Monitoring of Governance Safeguards

Building on the momentum of the UN-REDD-Chatham House workshop on Monitoring of Governance Safeguards held

24-25 May 2010 in London, Rosalind Reeve, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, presented the results of the workshop and explained that the workshop was the result of a process spearheaded by the UN-REDD Programme in October of 2009, where representatives of governments, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, and the UN-REDD Programme, discussed the meaning and implications of monitoring governance. As a follow-up to those discussions, the UN-REDD-Chatham House workshop resulted in a draft framework of governance parameters for REDD+ and draft guidance on tools and institutional arrangements.

MRV in the Congo Basin

Danilo Mollicone, Forestry Officer, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division, FAO, speaking on the UN-REDD Programme's establishment of an MRV system in the Congo Basin, underscored that coordination among institutions supporting different actions with regard to MRV and agreeing on common

tools like a regional forest map are essential for success. Further, the basic elements for a national MRV system need to be developed in accordance with the policies and best practices of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, especially given the phases of REDD+ are linked to the phases for MRV. Mr. Mollicone concluded that a regional approach, as illustrated through the work of the UN-REDD Programme, in establishing robust and transparent MRV systems is cost-effective, and also stressed that the process be country-driven, that a "learning by doing" approach is taken, and south-south cooperation is promoted. ■



Over 150 representatives attended the UN-REDD side event in Bonn on 3 June 2010.

Monitoring Governance Safeguards for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House host a two-day expert workshop to set up a common understanding and framework on monitoring governance safeguards for REDD+.

Good and efficient governance of forest resources and the distribution of benefits will be central to the success of REDD+ strategies. This is notably recognized in the draft UNFCCC REDD+ text that came out of the negotiations last year in Copenhagen, where three of seven safeguards to be supported and promoted when undertaking REDD+ activities relate to governance, namely:

- Transparent and effective national forest governance structures
- Respect for the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of local communities
- Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, Indigenous Peoples and local communities

The importance of REDD+ governance interventions is increasingly being recognized, along with the need and demand for **monitoring governance performance**.

This is part of a larger trend that seeks to include, beyond emission reductions, governance, livelihood and ecosystem services parameters as elements to measure, report and verify (MRV) REDD+ systems. Monitoring governance performance has also been described in the UN-REDD Programme document "**Towards an MRV for Governance**" scope of work, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's template for REDD Readiness Preparation Proposals, and is being discussed under the UNFCCC process. A number of initiatives and different methodologies exist for monitoring governance of forests, and some are now considering REDD+.

The workshop

To advance thinking and coordination on this topic, the "Expert Workshop on Monitoring Governance Safeguards in REDD+", convened by the UN-REDD Programme and Chatham House in collaboration with Global Witness and the World Resources Institute, gathered

40 governance practitioners from REDD+ partner countries and donor governments, civil society organizations and multilateral institutions.

After taking stock of what can be learned from existing initiatives that monitor elements of governance, participants discussed what could be key governance parameters as a starting point for designing monitoring systems, and draft guidance on participatory governance monitoring at the national level.

What to monitor?

A framework of three core governance parameters for REDD+ was presented at the meeting which provided the basis for discussion of the question of 'what to monitor'. Although not all aspects were discussed, there was overall broad support for this framework and further inputs were provided. It was agreed that specific indicators need to be developed for each core parameter, along with country and context specific indicators and measures.

Among issues highlighted as crucial for successful REDD+ implementation were: the existence of clear institutional roles and responsibilities; the need for effective

coordination between institutions and across sectors; institutional capacity to implement decisions; and transparent systems for the management of budgets and financial flows.

Another key aspect of governance recognized by workshop participants was the effective participation of all stakeholders. Participation needs to be broad and genuine, in particular ensuring that space is provided for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Transparency of and access to information, and the provision of information in a timely manner, are important to ensure effective participation. The need for sufficient capacity to implement genuine multi-stakeholder processes was noted.

Developing principles for effective monitoring

Fifteen practical principles for implementing monitoring derived from best practice and

lessons learned from existing initiatives and case studies were developed as a basis for discussion at the workshop. Although consensus was neither sought nor reached, there was broad support for many of the elements presented. The group was notably supportive of the approach of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to revenue transparency and reconciliation and the potential application of a similar approach to REDD+ financial flows.

Next steps: broadening the discussion

This workshop was the first of a continuing dialogue, and more discussion and involvement of increasing numbers of stakeholders is intended. As initial steps in this broader engagement, a brief summary of the outcomes was presented in Bonn on 3 June, and will be shared during the next

Chatham House illegal Logging Stakeholder consultation on 24-25 June.

The outcomes of this workshop will also serve to inform the support that the UN-REDD Programme provides to countries as they develop their monitoring systems in the current REDD+ readiness phase. The discussions during the workshop will indeed inform the upcoming nationally-owned, multi-stakeholder country led governance assessments supported by UNDP, and the development and incorporation of governance parameters in FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment.

For a full report, background documents and more information about the workshop, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/chatham-house-workshop> ■

MRV Workshop in Mexico

The UN-REDD Programme, with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Mexican Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) are organizing a workshop to share experiences on measuring, reporting and verification of REDD+.



During the three-day workshop entitled "Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), a roadmap for implementation at the country level", over 75 participants will gather in Guadalajara, Mexico from 22 to 24 June to discuss the current framework for MRV and review the needs of countries and their forest institutions to properly monitor forests and establish well-functioning MRV systems.

The workshop will also allow for members of UN-REDD Programme countries to share experiences in implementing MRV systems for REDD+ while identifying current challenges, bottlenecks and data issues. The

main goal will be to identify best practices and relevant experiences that could be adapted and replicated by others.

The workshop will include a series of panels that will offer examples of ongoing methodological approaches to:

- Monitor land use changes focusing especially on forest land use changes
- Develop Green House Gas (GHG) inventories for forests
- Measure Reference Emission Levels (REL) and Reference Levels (RL)
- Estimate emission factors (carbon stock changes) by implementing solid national forest inventories

All methodological approaches to be presented during the panels comply with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance and reporting requirements under the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requirements.

During the panels, special attention will be given to the development of the use of satellite monitoring systems, remote sensing as well as linkages between National Forest Inventories and National GHG Inventories for forests.

The UN-REDD Programme is supporting countries to develop cost-effective, robust and compatible systems for MRV of emissions. Such systems are designed to use a scientific base, available technology – and most importantly - respond to national needs.

FAO's soon-to-be-launched framework proposal for national MRV systems will reflect the most common and robust approaches currently used by Annex I countries. It will help countries to develop a National GHG Inventory to report on REDD+ activities. It will also provide countries the basis to strengthen in-country technical capacities in relevant institutions.

For more workshop details, please visit: <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/un-redd/63223/en/> ■

UN-REDD at World Environment Day

Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in cities around the world on 5 June to celebrate World Environment Day (WED) and the UN-REDD Programme was in Rwanda to talk about the multiple benefits of preserving and enhancing national parks.



Thousands of people gathered in Kigali, Rwanda for the official World Environment Day 2010 celebrations which were marked by traditional Rwandan dances

Rwanda, this year's global host for WED, organized a vivid celebration in the Volcanoes National Park that brought

together Don Cheadle, a Hollywood star, the Rwandan President, environmentalists and businesses alongside 30,000 people. The WED celebrations were preceded by a conference on "Conservation and Environment" held in Kigali.

The conference presented a strong focus on REDD+ and forests as a key mitigation and adaptation measure and as an opportunity for moving towards a green economy. The UN-REDD Programme was represented by Dr. Johannes Refisch who presented on "National Parks for a Green Economy". The concept of national parks has shifted over the past decades, from well-defined

protected areas for the ultimate goal of protection to multi-functional landscapes, which provide many services ranging from ecotourism, water, carbon storage to local livelihoods. National parks can function as catalysts, to help national economies move toward a more "green" and sustainable focus that places less emphasis on consumption.

The Vice-President of Conservation International, Mr. Carlos Rodriguez (former Minister of Environment of Costa Rica) presented the Costa Rican transformation model which has both increased the national forest cover and the GDP. The Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner concluded with a presentation on the economic importance of functioning ecosystems and the steps governments of the world are taking towards a green economy and transition towards low-carbon development paths. ■

UN-REDD Indonesia website launch

The UN-REDD Indonesia Programme has launched a new website, www.un-redd.or.id, as it recently entered its implementation phase.

At www.un-redd.or.id, you can find a presentation of the UN-REDD Programme in Indonesia, important events, and links to relevant websites. In addition, REDD+ is

explained through video content, and there are links to the UN-REDD Programme on Twitter and YouTube.

As the Programme evolves, the page will expand into a larger website, including more detailed information about UN-REDD Programme activities in Indonesia. Videos and pictures from the implementation in Sulawesi will be among the upcoming content featured on the website. ■

Features & Commentary

Supporting REDD+ Readiness in UN-REDD Partner Countries

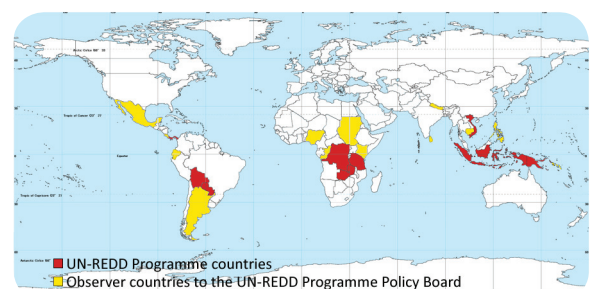
UN-REDD Programme Regional Coordinator in Asia-Pacific, **Tim Boyle**, and West-Central Africa Regional Technical Advisor, **Josep Garí**, explain how the UN-REDD Programme is developing effective support to new partner countries, building on the activities underway in the Programme's nine initial pilot countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

The UN-REDD Programme was launched with international finance to support REDD+ readiness in nine pilot countries. In order to respond to the high interest expressed by a number of REDD countries, the Programme created an option to welcome new countries as partners. Since October 2009, 13 new partner countries have joined the Programme—and more have formally expressed interest. These new partner countries enjoy observer status on the

UN-REDD Policy Board, receive technical assistance, and have access to various activities, information and networks under the UN-REDD Programme.

Even if they are not receiving large-scale funding support from the Programme (or other multilateral or bilateral

initiatives), these new partner countries are truly interested in, and ready for the UN-REDD Programme's support to advance in their REDD+ readiness. To respond to this interest, the Programme is taking alternative and concrete steps. These include sharing practical knowledge and lessons learned between UN-REDD pilot countries and UN-REDD partner countries, identifying existing national activities that can serve to advance their REDD+ readiness, as well as helping to identify sources of funding.



Options for technical and operational support

The UN-REDD Programme is exploring and implementing various options to provide technical and operational support to REDD+ readiness when lack of financing impeded a full REDD+ readiness processes at the national level. Some of these options build on existing development activities, while others are rather low-cost. They all allow countries to start working on REDD+, even if partially, so when full REDD+ readiness financing becomes available, a REDD+ readiness process can speed up as some foundations will have been developed.



Acacia albida, with the Niger river in the background

A number of missions from the UN-REDD Programme have already been conducted in new partner countries that requested them, including Cambodia, the Solomon Islands, and the Philippines. These missions have served to share practical knowledge about REDD+ readiness, to identify opportunities to support low-cost interventions that allow some progress towards REDD+ readiness (while awaiting full financing), to advise on basic institutional, coordination and participatory mechanisms for REDD+, or to fuel multi-stakeholder dialogue.

In addition, new partner countries can benefit from activities already undertaken (and thus tested) in pilot countries, thanks to their easy access to knowledge and their inclusion in UN-REDD activities and networks. For example, Viet Nam- a pilot country- conducted a detailed analysis of the requirements for a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system, identifying 17 policy issues. While the proposed solutions are country-specific, the inventory of these issues is very useful to most other countries; they may not need to repeat the exercise, but perhaps just validate and adapt it. Similarly,

the lessons learned in the Democratic Republic of Congo- another pilot country- on REDD+ coordination and multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms have been shared fruitfully with initial REDD readiness work in Nigeria, a new partner country. Similarly REDD+ stakeholders from the DRC and the Republic of Congo (another new partner country) have met, thanks in part to their geographic proximity, to share lessons and issues, and build a cross-border community of practice on REDD+.

Even in countries with few explicit REDD+ readiness activities, a careful assessment usually allows them to identify a number of programmes, projects and initiatives that, if duly refocused or simply conducted under a REDD+ premise, can already contribute to REDD+ readiness needs. For example, many countries have projects aimed at strengthening the forest inventory process. Although they were originally designed without considering REDD+, they can easily be modified to ensure they generate vital information on biomass and carbon, to be later used in REDD+ readiness. The UN-REDD Programme is exploring these opportunities in a number of partner countries.

Although some interventions described above are low-cost, few are no-cost. However seed funding can help launch initial REDD+ readiness work. Nigeria for example has started an original two-fold REDD+ readiness process, focusing at the national level and in Cross River State. Catalytic funding from UNDP, coupled with UN-REDD expert advice, are enabling REDD+ in Nigeria, which includes initial stakeholder awareness, training and dialogue activities; setting up technical task forces on REDD+ at the national level and in states interested in REDD+, conducting a preliminary assessment on the REDD+ context in Nigeria to guide future action, UN-REDD support missions, and elaborating and realizing a REDD+ roadmap to move REDD+ readiness forward once financing is available.

In Cambodia, a UN-REDD Programme partner country, the REDD+ process has started with the establishment of a broad-based, multi-stakeholder national REDD+ Working Group, whose major task is to prepare a REDD+ readiness roadmap. This initial strategy, based on building coordination and guidance mechanisms,

offers many benefits and synergies: the national REDD+ Working Group builds broad ownership of the REDD+ readiness process, whereas the roadmap clarifies the interventions required and serves to make the process seem less daunting. UNDP and FAO country offices have committed to providing over US\$1 million for REDD+ readiness activities in Cambodia under the UN-REDD Programme over the next couple of years.

Finally, each UN-REDD agency possesses areas of expertise that are available to the partner countries. FAO's expertise in the area of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) is useful to support initial discussions on the development of national or regional MRV systems. UNDP's experience in governance and its multifaceted dimensions (ie/democracy, state reform, participation, transparency, consensus-building, rights-based approaches to development) is valuable in delicate REDD+ readiness matters such as multi-stakeholder dialogue, establishing systems to secure free prior informed consent, and the design of benefits distribution mechanisms for carbon. UNEP's competencies can help countries with issues related to environmental risk management and environmental standards, REDD+ co-benefits, and environmental policy and awareness-raising.

In addition to joining a UN-REDD community of practice, new partner countries therefore benefit from the strategic policy advice provided by regional teams, as well as key inputs on the initial steps they can make to catalyse national readiness processes, even if they are not receiving large-scale funding support from a multilateral or bilateral initiative.



Tim Boyle is the REDD Regional Coordinator for the UN-REDD Programme in Asia and the Pacific and is based in the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand

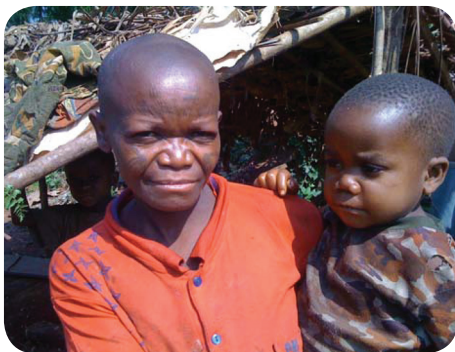


Josep Gari is the REDD Regional Technical Advisor for the UN-REDD Programme in West/Central Africa and is based in the UNDP Regional Centre in Dakar, Senegal. ■

The Oslo Forest and Climate Conference: A REDD+ partnership agreement beyond state partners

In last month's newsletter, Civil Society representative to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board, **Pacifique Mukumba Isembisho**, called on the Oslo process to stay squarely focused on the rights of forest communities.

This month, Pacifique Mukumba Isembisho shares his views on the outcomes of the conference and argues that monitoring of stakeholder engagement and fair participation is key to set up a transparent organizational framework.



A pygmy from the Ituri district in the Oriental Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On 27 May, the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference gave new impetus to the partnership to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Fifty states drew up an agreement describing the intent of their governments to establish a platform with a view to scale up REDD+ operations. Among other things, the agreement stresses the need to engage stakeholders and to develop an organizational framework.

REDD+ pilot countries in Africa, specifically the DRC, Zambia and Tanzania, participated in this partnership under the auspices of the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Constant monitoring is necessary at every step to reassure stakeholders, although negotiations on REDD+ are carried out under the UNFCCC.

Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and civil society have theoretically been stakeholders in the process since the African pilot countries were involved in negotiations

on climate change. During discussions under the auspices of the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF, these governments have often reiterated that all stakeholders were duly involved in the drafting of all documents before their submission.

According to some observers, efforts made by those governments for the inclusion of such stakeholders should be reinforced. It is felt that due to the large size of some countries, the strategies implemented in the consultation process and limited material and financial resources, most Indigenous Peoples and other communities are sometimes prevented from participating effectively in the REDD+ process.

It appears that the opinion and consent of those local and Indigenous communities are not sought. Everything here suggests that communities are poorly informed and consulted, if at all, as compared to other stakeholders, whose endorsement is part of the process, including the government, the private sector, bilateral partners and donors.

Engaging stakeholders

Some argue that the engagement of communities and civil society in the REDD+ partnership should be based on fair participation, and ensure that everyone has the right to appeal human rights violations suffered during the course of the REDD+ process. For example, a legal process of forest title conversion was underway in DRC, but communities had no right of appeal whereas other stakeholders (the private sector) did. Initiatives taken within the REDD+ partnership must absolutely involve the promotion of human rights.



A pygmy from Eringeti, Beni, in the Province of Nord-Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Implementing an organizational framework

A transparent, international and decentralized organizational framework must be developed at the national level to implement agreements coming from the REDD+ partnership. Databases should be made available to the public and funds allocated. Operations and results obtained by various partners should be widely disseminated. Partners should be accountable to the parties, and should report and share operations and output with communities. Civil society should use this organizational framework as a basis to monitor and follow up with the REDD+ partnership process. The key issue here is how it can carry out its operations without the necessary resources.

The REDD+ partnership creates real opportunities to ensure the sustainable protection of forests. Without strict monitoring of the engagement and fair participation of stakeholders, and without a transparent organizational framework, the partnership will face serious difficulties.



Pacifique Mukumba Isembisho 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 ■

Reports & Analysis

UN-REDD Supports National Governance Systems for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme looks at why good governance is essential to the success of REDD+, and highlights the steps the Programme will be taking to support governance activities in countries.



Good and efficient governance of forest resources and the distribution of benefits will be central to the success of REDD+ policies and measures. If the allocation of forest or carbon rights is opaque and uncertain, if the distribution of benefits is unpredictable, untimely or captured by a few, if lack of enforcement allows free riders to exploit the system, or if corruption is perceived as high, stakeholders will not take the risk of forgoing the income they derive from their current uses of forest resources. Meanwhile, when the rights of forest dependent communities are violated or communities are marginalized, investors, weary of insecure business environments and unpredictable emission reductions, are deterred. In addition, REDD+ systems may have to be robust enough to withstand shocks such as fluctuations in carbon prices, rises in the prices of commodities, changes in governments that could all undermine confidence.

Supporting effective and inclusive national governance systems for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme has already begun its support to pilot countries starting to establish governance systems for REDD+, through national UN-REDD Programmes. The Programme is supporting governance interventions that governments and national stakeholders have identified as priorities, such as stakeholder consultation and participation and cross-sectoral coordination in REDD+ planning and implementation, and legislative review

towards reform and enforcement. On behalf of the UN-REDD Programme, UNDP is developing a comprehensive approach to support effective and inclusive national governance systems in REDD+ partner countries, including :

- A body of work on monitoring governance safeguards (activities undertaken with FAO)
- Support to transparency and accountability in REDD+ systems - by drawing on the expertise of and activities of UNDP's work on anti-corruption
- Support to REDD+ "policy enablers", initiated using country-led governance assessments (described below), user capacity development, evidence-based policy-making, land tenure systems and strengthened national legislative frameworks.

These governance activities will be tightly linked to the UN-REDD Programme's activities on social standards and benefits. Two elements that will serve to ensure linkages are described below:

Applying minimum social standards

A due diligence tool for applying minimum social standards has been developed to guide and improve national programme design, secure stakeholder support and increase programme sustainability. This rights-based approach has been developed to be consistent with the safeguard guidance provided in the UNFCCC's draft AWG-LCA text on REDD+ and has drawn on contributions from a number of initiatives, such as those of the FCPF and CCBA/CARE, and conventions, policies and guidance of the UN system.

The three inter-related principles of *good governance, stakeholder livelihoods and policy coherence* each contain criteria and questions to assist users in assessing potential risks and identifying risk mitigation strategies. The good governance principles relate to integrity, transparency & accountability and stakeholder engagement. While this tool is first expected to be applied in the design and implementation of national UN-REDD programmes, the methodology seeks to be flexible enough to be used by diverse stakeholders and throughout different phases of REDD+ readiness. The UN-REDD Programme is currently finalizing a zero draft of the social principles risk assessment tool and will undertake a process to gather formal feedback from REDD+ partner countries, institutional partners and a broader range of stakeholders.

Governance assessments of REDD+ benefits

Activities to support REDD+ governance processes should rely on a clear picture of a country's REDD governance situation, gaps and needs - as defined through inclusive, participatory multi-stakeholder processes. Towards this goal, the UN-REDD Programme is also supporting the conduct of **nationally owned, multi-stakeholder, inclusive and participatory governance assessments**. Assessments are both *diagnostic tools* to analyze and obtain credible information and *instruments to mobilize public opinion, create demand for accountability and ensure the leadership of government in strengthening governance outcomes*. This methodology, which has been tested in a number of countries and sectors by UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre, relies on a partnership between government and civil society to identify governance challenges and develop performance improvement processes.

The UN-REDD Programme's approach to governance assessments can open spaces for engagement with stakeholders who are often absent from decision-making and dialogue. These assessments can also potentially address power blockages between, for example, large landowners and marginalized or vulnerable groups – including the poor, Indigenous Peoples and women. Assessments will draw on the existing linkages and processes supported at the country level through on engaging Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

See more details here: <http://tinyurl.com/Monitoring-Governance-Safegds> ■

Expert Report on REDD+ and Rights of Indigenous Peoples

An upcoming editorial in the journal *Global Environmental Change* suggests three broad principles for operationalizing forest people's rights and the need for nested forest and climate governance in support of effective and equitable REDD+ actions.

The international editorial, due out in July, discusses three broad principles for protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of local communities under REDD+ actions. Thomas Sikor (University of East Anglia), Johannes Stahl (University of California, Berkeley), Thomas Enters (The Center for People and Forests), Jesse C. Ribot (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Neera Singh (Michigan State University), William D. Sunderlin (Center for International

Forestry Research), and Lini Wollenberg (University of Vermont) show how climate change negotiators can operationalize the "rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of local communities" acknowledged by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action at the last UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen.

Pointing to recent experience with the recognition of forest people's rights,

they suggest the need for forest people's participation in political decision-making, equitable distribution of forest benefits, and recognition of their particular identities, histories and experiences. Only if the future climate agreement recognizes all three principles will forestry overcome forest people's historical dispossession, political exclusion and cultural marginalization. In addition, they emphasize that global-scale institutions will be important but not sufficient in themselves for the recognition of forest people's rights. Effective and equitable REDD+ strategies require nested forest and climate governance, including decision-making processes at multiple scales and related across scales.

The full editorial is available at:
<http://tinyurl.com/redd-plus-ed> ■

Looking Ahead

Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Joint Workshop with UN-REDD, GEO & CONAFOR

22- 24 June 2010: Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

18th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

28 June - 2 July 2010: Edinburgh, Scotland

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