

# UN-REDD PROGRAMME



# Report of the Sixth Executive Board Meeting

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME SIXTH  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-6)

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1 December 2022

Hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual)

## Table of Contents

Introduction

Opening

Agenda Item 1: Strategic dialogue on Climate Finance

Agenda Item 2: Strategic dialogue on Capacity Development and Knowledge Management

Closing

Annex 1: Final List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda

## Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Sixth Executive Board Meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> in a hybrid format. All Board representatives attended the meeting, with two thirds participating in person and one third actively contributing via Zoom online platform.
2. The meeting was chaired by Susan Gardner, Director of UNEP's Ecosystems Division. The meeting was attended by 28 participants (see Annex 1). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [website](#).

## Opening

3. The Chair provided welcoming remarks highlighting the importance of the UN-REDD partnership as a model of the UN working together with demonstrated impact. She recalled how since last year the programme has switched gears, moving from a phase focused on REDD+ readiness and capacity building, to a new phase designed to support massively scaled-up international REDD+ implementation. UN-REDD has continued to support partner countries to advance implementation of REDD+, including through assisting countries with the preparation of proposals for finance through the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition; and also as a founding partner of the Green Gigaton Challenge, a global effort to catalyse funds to transact one gigaton of high-quality emissions reductions from forest-based natural climate solutions by 2025 and annually after that.
4. The Chair introduced the Board meeting noting the wide recognition of forests as a key solution to the climate crisis, including at COP27 where forests were profiled as an active front with progress being made. She highlighted finance and capacity building as the two most pressing priorities in order to deliver forest solutions at scale, thus the aim of the Board meeting to provide guidance on how the UN-REDD Programme can be most helpful in continuing to support countries to achieve access to finance at scale, and capacity development (see agenda in Annex 2).

## Agenda Item 1: Strategic dialogue on Climate Finance

5. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to seek guidance from Board members on how UN-REDD can better support countries in relation to (i) scaling up finance for REDD+ implementation and increased ambition, (ii) increasing and diversifying leveraged sources for results-based and performance finance to scale up action, which includes importantly also

supporting carbon price increase as an incentive to accelerate carbon markets and financial flows to developing countries.

6. The strategic dialogue on climate finance was structured in three parts: firstly a series of framing interventions, secondly a deep-dive discussion focusing on results-based finance, and thirdly a deep-dive discussion on finance for implementation.
7. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer provided a framing presentation on climate finance (see PPT [here](#), slides 3-11), noting that out of the mitigation potential of forests (5.700 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr), only an average of 13% (765 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr) has been transformed into emissions reductions, of which only 0.6% was rewarded in terms of results-based finance.
8. The Latin America and the Caribbean representative to the UN-REDD Board shared a debrief on the outcomes of the UN-REDD Country Dialogue on REDD+ Finance held on 28-29 November ahead of the Board meeting. She started by thanking UN-REDD for the qualitative and neutral support provided throughout the years in accompanying countries with vital technical assistance, and suggested organising visits and exchanges in the field so UN-REDD donors may see local realities on the ground. On the outcomes of the Country Dialogue on REDD+ Finance, she emphasized the need for more flexibility and alignment between the requirements of the different funds, options to adjust implementation after the signature of results-based payments projects so to ease their implementation, as well as dedicated financing and requirements to ensure the effective inclusion of women as end beneficiaries.
9. The civil society representative to the UN-REDD Board presented the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (FTM), as an alternative funding mechanism for climate finance that is directly managed by indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in the region between Mexico and Panama (see PPT [here](#), slides 12-28). Noting that in the last decade less than 1% of global climate finance reached IPs & LCs,<sup>1</sup> he said the results achieved by the FTM in its pilot phase 2020-2021 include USD 600,000 invested, of which 80% reached the territory, with 40% women supported.
10. The donor representative to the UN-REDD Board shared insights on the [joint donor statement on IPs & LCs forest tenure at COP26](#), noting this investment by several donors represents a new way of working together amongst themselves, with philanthropic foundations, as well as with IP and LC organizations such as the [Global Alliance of Territorial Communities](#), in a partnership-based manner, committing to a higher level of funding with a long-term perspective, up to 2025 and

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<sup>1</sup> [Falling Short: Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to Secure Tenure Rights and Manage Forests in Tropical Countries \(2011-2020\)](#)

beyond. He pointed to [work done during 2021 and 2022](#) on how to realise the funding and the aim of more direct access, building on the comparative advantages between the donors behind this pledge (bilateral and philanthropic) to maximise effect. He concluded that philanthropic resources are key to finance the role of IPs & LCs in nature-based solutions, while bilateral donors are key to connect communities with governments and ensure efforts to secure land rights form part of more comprehensive land use reforms.

11. The Chair thanked the distinguished speakers for their presentations and invited questions and general feedback.

#### Feedback and guidance from the Board

12. Following the framing interventions, Board representatives shared general feedback which included the following points: financing support and action needs to be massively scaled up and taken on the ground to the jurisdictions, with indicators co-created with the communities and anchored to national realities; the importance of exchanging with investors and donors, closely coordinated in order to reach scale and speed; and the need to ensure diversification of funds.
13. The UNEP/UN-REDD Global Team Leader introduced the results-based finance part of the dialogue (see PPT [here](#), slide 31), highlighting the following key emerging issues: multiple and increasingly complex requirements; forest finance not flowing at the speed and volume to where it is needed (women, IPs & LCs, small holder farmers); “enhanced” readiness needs e.g. accounting, registries, validation/verification; insufficient predictability of payments; low carbon price and low volume of finance; and weak incentives for forest countries for transformational change. He invited the Board to share feedback and guidance on what needs to happen, how to get there, and what UN-REDD can do to help.
14. Points raised by Board representatives included the call for a mindset shift, noting that we should not look only at the last mile of the run for payments for results, but instead be mindful of incremental changes that take us to the final results; as well as by looking at the local level and engaging IPs & LCs not as beneficiaries but as strategic partners in their own right, in their capacity as guardians of the forests. The need to promote mutual cooperation among countries concerned with RBPs was stressed, and the importance of strengthening efforts to facilitate trade policies to promote sustainable production and consumption of commodities. Board representatives also emphasized the importance of consultations, inclusion and participation of communities and women, direct access to funds for IPs & LCs, capacity building, knowledge exchanges and learning.

The need to focus on governance for effective implementation was noted, in order to set up the necessary institutional structure for finance to flow.

15. The guidance to UN-REDD from Board representatives on results-based finance called for assistance to unpack the complexity of the financing landscape, including by convening partners in for open and honest dialogue; facilitating knowledge exchanges and learning such as the one organised recently by UN-REDD on REDD+ Finance; supporting capacity building, helping communicate complexity at all levels – global, regional, national, and local; advocating how to put the right price for carbon in the context of RBPs; supporting strengthening of MRV systems, safeguards, and national strategies; bridging contact between countries and potential buyers and the private sector.
16. The FAO International Consultant on REDD+ Policy and Economics introduced the finance for implementation part of the dialogue (see PPT [here](#), slide 33), highlighting the following key emerging issues: the need for greater policy coherence to support finance for forest-based mitigation; the need for updated estimates of financing needs; challenges to align investments with agrifood system transformation; access to finance being generally difficult and costly at all levels. He invited the Board to share feedback and guidance on what needs to happen, how to get there, and what UN-REDD can do to help.
17. Points raised by Board representatives included the need to: finance governance as part of implementation, so to set up governance structures that allow communities to receive direct payments; address carbon markets as a focus of public policy, creating environments with regulations and incentives for markets; develop REDD+ and other carbon price instruments in a more effective, efficient, inclusive, transparent, accountable and fair way; and further enlarge the opportunities and scale of cooperation including through market and non-market mechanisms, while referring to decisions and methodologies that has been agreed upon multilaterally.
18. The guidance to UN-REDD from Board representatives on finance for implementation called for support to: provide a dedicated platform to promotes exchange and learning; capture and share lessons learned from what is working in different parts of the world e.g. in voluntary and domestic markets, including beyond the price point; provide technical and policy advice to help understand and orient decisions by all stakeholders, e.g. on how to value the non-carbon aspects of REDD+ implementation; how to set up governance structures to allow communities to receive direct payments; ways to enlarge the scale of cooperation through markets and non-market mechanisms; and review synergies between agriculture and sustainable forestry.

19. The Chair thanked the Board for their insightful contributions assuring their guidance will be captured and put to good use by the Programme.

## **Agenda Item 2. Strategic dialogue on Capacity Development and Knowledge Management**

20. The Chair opened the second session noting that its objective was to discuss ways to leverage Capacity Development and Knowledge Management (CDKM) to capacitate practitioners, inform and influence decision makers, and contribute meaningfully to the delivery of UN-REDD Outcomes 1, 2 and 3. The session aimed to explore how CDKM should be recalibrated to deliver efficiently and effectively for an increased ambition as well as emerging needs.
21. The strategic dialogue on CDKM was structured in four parts: firstly a framing presentation, followed by three deep-dive discussions focusing on the What – i.e. the capacity development and knowledge management topics; the Who – i.e. the fora and partners; and the How – the delivery modalities.
22. The UNEP Programme Management Officer provided a framing presentation on the UN-REDD Theory of Breakthrough for CDKM (see PPT [here](#), slides 3-8), a new approach made necessary by the urgency in pivoting from readiness to scaled up financing and implementation, partner countries' raised ambitions, and partner donors diversifying contributions. He explained the Theory of Breakthrough builds on the idea of an intrinsically linked three-step knowledge journey, from knowledge generation, to knowledge exchange, and knowledge-based advocacy.
23. The UNDP Programmes and Partnerships Advisor introduced the [the nine UN-REDD thematic knowledge work areas](#) enshrined in the UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework (see PPT [here](#), slides 8-9), inviting the Board to share feedback and guidance on the mission-critical REDD+ topics that UN-REDD constituencies need increase their capacities and knowledge. The UNEP Programme Management Officer provided an introductory presentation on the CDKM (i) constituencies and partners (see PPT [here](#), slides 13-14), inviting the Board to reflect on the key national, regional and global partners and fora that would benefit most from UN-REDD support on CDKM; and (ii) the delivery modalities (see PPT [here](#), slides 15-16), inviting the Board to share feedback and guidance on best ways for UN-REDD to deliver CDKM and knowledge-based advocacy.
24. The Chair thanked the presenters for framing the dialogue and invited reactions and feedback.

### Feedback and guidance from the Board

25. On the areas of knowledge management that should be prioritized by UN-REDD in 2023, Board representatives highlighted REDD+ finance and social inclusion, while also referring to gender equality, tenure rights, capacity support for IPs & LCs, forest friendly agriculture and food systems, safeguards and MRV (see [PPT](#) slide 11 for the results of the Mentimeter used during the discussion as real-time interaction).
26. On the key constituencies and fora that would benefit most from UN-REDD support on CDKM, Board representatives pointed at IPs & LCs, women, civil society, youth, academia, community leaders, and the private sector. Government entities were also highlighted, including forestry commissions, and UN-REDD's historical support to prepare negotiators ahead of COP through policy briefs and lessons learned was also signalled as important.
27. On the delivery modalities, key tools indicated by Board representative included South-South knowledge exchanges, country-level dialogues and platforms, lessons learned, and new digital solutions for supporting REDD+ knowledge and action. The need to reflect on the knowledge already acquired was also noted, and how that can be enhanced and simplified to ensure clear communication of technical and complex information and knowledge. The importance of knowledge-based advocacy was stressed, with a donor representative expressing their strong interest in regional efforts to catalyse progress, supporting UN-REDD initiatives both in the ASEAN region and with the African Forest Forum.
28. The Chair thanked the Board for the feedback and guidance, noting that this would be an ongoing conversation for Board representatives to continue sharing inputs and ideas on CDKM needs and ideas beyond the Board meeting which the Programme will build on in its work in 2023 and beyond.

## Closing

29. The Chair closed the virtual EB meeting, thanking the Board members for the valuable inputs, which will be captured in the meeting report and used to further shape the thinking and acting on the future of the Programme.



## Annex 1: List of Participants

		Name / Title	Country, Agency or Constituency	EB Designation
1	Ms.	Gabriela Soto Nilo Head, Climate Change Department, CONAF	Chile	Alternate LAC
2	Mr.	Rubén Dario Guerrero Useda Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, MADS	Colombia	Member LAC
3	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei (online) Director, Climate Change, National REDD+ Focal Point, Forestry Commission	Ghana	Alternate Africa
4	Ms.	Lovakanto Ravelomanana (online) Coordinator, National Office of Climate Change and REDD+	Madagascar	Member Africa
5	Ms.	Laksmi Dhewanthi (online) Director General of Climate Change Control Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia	Alternate AP
6	Mr.	Ram Chandra Kandel Joint Secretary and Chief, REDD Implementation Centre, Ministry of Forests and Environment	Nepal	Member AP
7	Mr.	Shankar Adhikari Under Secretary, REDD Implementation Centre, Ministry of Forests and Environment	Nepal	Member AP
8	Mr.	Leif John Fosse Senior Adviser, Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)	Norway	Member
9	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson (online) Adviser, Department for Climate and Environment, Section for Forests, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Norway	Member
10	Mr.	Keith Anderson (online) Forest and Climate Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Forest Division	Switzerland	Member
11	Mr.	Takayuki Ishikawa (online) Assistant Director for REDD+, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency	Japan	Member
12	Mr.	Tetsuji Iwama (online) Deputy Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency	Japan	Member
13	Ms.	Sangah You (online) Deputy Director, Korea Forest Service	Korea	Alternate
14	Mr.	Gustavo Sanchez Valle President of Directive Council Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales (Red MOCAF)	Civil Society Organization/Local Communities	Permanent Observer
15	Mr.	David Ganz Executive Director The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)	Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Alternate Observer
16	Ms.	Dolores 'Lola' Cabnal	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer

Report of the Sixth Executive Board Meeting, 1 December 2022

		Red de mujeres indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y El Caribe (RMIB-LAC) Área de Incidencia, Asociación Ak'Tenamit		
17	Mr.	Henry Parrin Joint Head, REDD+ Policy and Programmes, International Forests Unit	United Kingdom	(Observer)
18	Ms.	Lindsay Mansfield Senior Policy Adviser, LEAF, International Forests Unit	United Kingdom	(Observer)
19	Mr.	Iacopo Sinibaldi Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, Office V - Environment and Land Use	Italy	(Observer)
20	Ms.	Susan Gardner Director, Ecosystems Division	UNEP (Chair)	Member
21	Mr.	Gabriel Labbate Global Team Leader, UN-REDD Head, Climate Mitigation Unit	UNEP	Alternate
22	Mr.	Steven Swan Programme Management Officer	UNEP	Alternate
23	Ms.	Serena Fortuna Senior Forestry Officer, REDD+ Team Leader	FAO	Alternate
24	Mr.	José Carlos Fernández International Consultant on REDD+ Policy and Economics	FAO	Alternate
25	Mr.	Josep Garí Senior Policy Advisor	UNDP	Alternate
26	Ms.	Elsbeth Halverson Programmes and Partnerships Advisor	UNDP	Alternate
27	Mr.	Mario Boccucci Head of UN-REDD Secretariat	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
28	Ms.	Mihaela Secieru Programme Management Officer	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat

## Annex 2: Agenda

Time	Session
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and opening of EB meeting
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Session 1: Strategic dialogue on Climate Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framing presentation: Climate finance &amp; Debrief on outcomes of UN-REDD Country Dialogue on Finance (28-29 Nov 2022, Rome)</li> <li>• Facilitated dialogue: Upfront finance and results-based finance (refer to background note 1)</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:45	Dialogue (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap-up on Board guidance for UN-REDD</li> </ul>
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 – 15:40	<b>Session 2: Strategic dialogue on Capacity Development and Knowledge Management (CDKM)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framing presentation: UN-REDD CDKM approach and Theory of Breakthrough</li> <li>• Facilitated dialogue: CDKM topics, constituencies, and delivery modalities (refer to background note 2)</li> </ul>
15:40 – 15:55	Coffee break
15:55 – 16:15	Dialogue (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap-up on Board guidance for UN-REDD</li> </ul>
16:15 – 16:30	Conclusions and closing of EB meeting