



**Interim Progress Report on Activities Implemented
under the UN-REDD Programme Fund**

**Interim Report of the Administrative Agent of the UN-REDD Programme Fund
for the Period 1 January to 31 December 2009**

**Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office
Bureau of Management,
United Nations Development Programme
www.undp.org/mdtf**

In accordance with the decision of the Policy Board this document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of the UN-REDD Programme processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Participants are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings. Most of the UN-REDD Programmes meeting documents are available on the internet at: www.unredd.net.

UN-REDD Programme Fund

PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATIONS



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Abbreviations and Acronyms

DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
MDTF Office	Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office/UNDP
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RC	Resident Coordinator
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN-REDD Programme	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

Definitions

Allocation

Amount approved by the MDG-F Steering Committee for a Joint Programme.

Amount deposited

Amount received by the MDTF Office for approved Joint Programmes.

Amount Transferred

Amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations from the Multi Donor Trust Fund Office.

Approved Joint Programme

A Joint Programme that has been approved by the UN-REDD Policy Board.

Participating Organizations

Organizations that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office.

Project Expenditure

Amount of project disbursement plus unliquidated obligations related to payments due for the year (except for UN Organizations that have adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)).

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Interim Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the UN-REDD Programme Fund (or the Fund) is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office (MDTF Office) in its capacity as the Administrative Agent of the UN-REDD Programme Fund. This report is submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board's fourth meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya in March 2010. The Consolidated Annual Progress Report, which will include the official expenditure figures from the Participating UN Organizations, will be submitted electronically by 31 May 2010 in line with the Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Administrative Arrangement. This interim, consolidated report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2009 and provides interim narrative and financial information on progress made in the implementation of the Joint Programmes funded by the UN-REDD Programme as well as the lessons learned and common challenges faced.

Progress Reports

This interim report is consolidated based on information and data contained in the individual Joint Programme narrative progress reports received by the MDTF Office. Annex 1 contains the individual Joint Programme narrative reports.

Report Structure

The Interim Report is presented in seven sections. Section 1 provides a brief overview of the UN-REDD Framework document, governance and approval process. Section 2 presents information on Joint Programme approval and fund transfers. Section 3 highlights Joint Programme implementation. Section 4 presents achievements and challenges. Section 5 provides an overview of the financial performance, based on the available, preliminary financial information. Section 6 presents the transparency and accountability of UN-REDD Programme operations, and finally, section 7 presents the conclusions. The Joint Programme reports are annexed.

UN-REDD Programme Overview

The UN-REDD Programme was established in June 2008 and became operational with its first contribution from the Government of Norway in August 2008. The Programme has two components: (i) assisting developing countries prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms (national programmes); and (ii) supporting the development of normative solutions and standardized approaches based on sound science for a REDD instrument linked with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (global programme). REDD+ is an important part of the global climate change agenda, and its negotiation advanced considerably in Copenhagen.

As defined in the UN-REDD Programme Framework Document, a primary objective of national actions is to facilitate and broker the challenging national process in which REDD+ actions are defined and agreed. National actions are identified and led by the host government and supported by the UN Country Team. As "honest brokers" to support country-led development programmes and to facilitate the informed involvement of national stakeholders, particularly forest-dependent local communities, UNDP, UNEP and FAO aim to provide

the critical assurances necessary to help establish a national REDD+ institutional framework. The application of UNDP, UNEP and FAO rights-based and participatory approaches helps to ensure the protection of the rights of indigenous and forest-dwelling peoples and the active involvement of local communities and relevant institutions in the design and implementation of REDD+ plans.

Using their convening power, FAO, UNDP and UNEP bring together the required experts and scientists to develop the global monitoring, assessment, verification and financial components. The UN-REDD Programme works closely with other REDD+ actors such as the World Bank, bilateral donors, research institutions, NGOs and potential investors.

The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board

UN-REDD Programme Policy Board is made up of representatives from pilot countries, donors to the Fund, Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and UN organizations. In addition, the Policy Board includes observers from indigenous peoples and civil society organizations from each of the regions, the Global Environment Facility, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility hosted by the World Bank, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Multi Donor Trust Fund Office. Other observers, such as observer developing countries, have participated in the Policy Board meetings. By the end of 2009, in addition to the nine pilot countries, five additional countries, Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Nepal and Sri Lanka were granted observer status.

Overall Fund Achievements and Challenges

In this first year of operations, the UN-REDD Programme established its governing mechanism, the Policy Board, and the Secretariat, and supported national REDD coordinating mechanisms. The Policy Board approved allocations to seven Joint Programmes in six countries: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Vietnam, and the Global Programme that supports and complements the country efforts. Of these, three joint programmes—DRC, Viet Nam and the Global Programme—received funding. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme Fund fostered wide stakeholder consultation for national REDD programmes, elevated the visibility of REDD through outreach activities, developed Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) tools, and drafted and built consensus for guidelines, such as those related to the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities. Challenges include the rapidly changing environment, underestimation of the length of time for consultations, changes in governments, and recruiting qualified technical staff.

Financial Performance

In 2009, deposits to the fund increased from US\$35 million to US\$54 million. US\$37 million were allocated to seven joint programmes—US\$24 million (+ earmarking of 3.8) for six countries, and US\$ 9.6 million for the international support functions. Of the allocated amount, nearly US\$ 16 million were transferred to the Participating UN Organizations in three joint programmes. Informal updates show that of the amounts transferred, US\$6.3 million were disbursed.

Accountability and Transparency

In 2009, the MDTF office developed the MDTF Office GATEWAY, a knowledge platform, combining easy access to more than 4000 relevant reports and documents, with tools and tables displaying financial data in real-time from the MDTF Office accounting system on donor contri-

butions and transfers to the Participating UN Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent and accountable information on the fund-management services provided to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and can be found on <http://mdtf.undp.org>.

Conclusion:

2009 marked the first full year of UN-REDD operations. It has increased its funding platform, and has engaged with more participating countries taking interest. US\$16 million were transferred to three joint programmes. The joint programmes have reported increased stakeholder engagement including at highest political level, progress in Measurement, Reporting and Verification approaches, and establishment of national REDD coordinating structures. There has been growing interest in the UN-REDD Programme, with five additional countries that were granted observer status and a number of other countries have requested participation, as well as additional funding and donors. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme has heightened the visibility of the REDD+ issue in international fora, as well as enhanced coordination with different actors including the World Bank.

1. Introduction

The UN-REDD Programme was established in June 2008 and became operational with its first contribution from the Government of Norway in August 2008. The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board was established in March 2009, and since then, has met three times to decide on fund allocations, and to review and endorse UN-REDD activities and guidance. A Secretariat has also been established. The UN-REDD Programme played a catalytic role in raising awareness, knowledge and consensus in preparation for the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 2009.

1.1. Strategic Framework

The Programme has two components: (i) assisting developing countries prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms (national programmes); (ii) supporting the development of normative solutions and standardized approaches based on sound science for a REDD instrument linked with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (global programme). The nine pilot countries are: Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Paraguay, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. The REDD+ mechanism was significantly advanced in the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in December 2009.

As defined in the UN-REDD Programme Framework Document, a primary objective of national actions is to facilitate and broker the challenging national process in which REDD actions are defined and agreed upon. National actions are identified and led by the host government and supported by the UN Country team. As “honest brokers” to support country-led development programmes and to facilitate the informed involvement of national stakeholders, particularly forest-dependent local communities, UNDP, UNEP and FAO aim to provide the critical assurances necessary to help establish a national REDD+ institutional framework. The application of UNDP, UNEP and FAO rights-based and participatory approaches helps to ensure the protection of rights of indigenous and forest-dwelling people and the active involvement of local communities and relevant institutions in the design and implementation of REDD plans.

Using their convening power, FAO, UNDP and UNEP bring together experts and scientists to develop the global monitoring, assessment, verification and financial components. The UN-REDD Programme works closely with other REDD actors including the World Bank, bilateral donors, research institutions, NGOs and potential investors.

1.2. Governance Arrangements

Overall leadership of the UN REDD Programme Fund is provided by its Policy Board. The Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, which were approved at the first meeting of the Policy Board, set out the process for fund allocation.

The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board is made up of representatives from pilot countries, donors to the Fund, Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples and UN organizations. In addition, the Policy Board includes observers from indigenous people and civil society organizations from each of the regions, the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Multi Donor Trust Fund Office. Other observers have participated in the Policy Board meet-

ings. By the end of 2009, in addition to the nine pilot countries, five additional countries, Argentina, Cambodia, Ecuador, Nepal and Sri Lanka were granted observer status. The Policy Board met three times in 2009.

UN-REDD Secretariat

The UN REDD Secretariat was established in Geneva in 2009. It comprises of a head of the office, and professional staff to coordinate, implement and oversee the UN-REDD Programme, including serving as the Secretariat to the UN-REDD Policy Board.

Administrative Agent

The UNDP's Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office (MDTF Office) has been designated as the Administrative Agent for the UN-REDD Programme Fund. Its responsibilities as Administrative Agent include the receipt, administration, and management of contributions from donors; disbursement of funds to the Participating Organizations in accordance with instructions from the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board; and consolidation of narrative and financial reports produced by each of the joint programmes and Participating Organizations.

The MDTF Office performs the full range of Administrative Agent functions in accordance with the UNDG-approved "Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi-Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN Funds."

1.3. Countries

The initial nine pilot countries are: Bolivia, the DRC, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. All countries have initiated work on their joint programmes, and six have received approvals for their joint programmes. Of these, two—DRC and Vietnam--have submitted the complete documentation required for fund transfer. Below is a status of approvals and transfers.

Country	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars	Date of Transfer(s)
		FAO	UNDP	UNEP		
DRC	UN-REDD DR Congo Quick	583,150	925,550	374,500	1,883,200	24 June 2009
Indonesia	UN-REDD Indonesia	1,498,000	2,996,000	1,150,250	5,644,250	N/A
Panama	UN-REDD Panama pro-	2,189,000	2,067,350	1,043,650	5,300,000	N/A
Papua New	UN-REDD Programme - PNG	1,016,500	1,568,534	-	6,388,884	N/A
Tanzania	UN-REDD Programme -	1,498,000	2,568,000	214,000	4,280,000	N/A
Vietnam	UN-REDD Viet Nam Pro-	1,690,814	2,501,128	192,814	4,384,756	6 Oct. 2009
International	UN-REDD Programme -	2,738,899	2,812,809	4,010,297	9,562,005	2 Feb, 11 Sept. 2009,
Total Approved		11,214,363	15,439,371	6,985,511	37,443,095	

*The Policy Board approved an 'earmark' of 3,803,850 for the PNG joint programme. UN agency distribution to be provided.

1.4. Approval Process

Joint Programmes from the pilot countries are developed locally and then submitted to the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat for initial vetting. The Secretariat reviews the submissions and provides inputs to the Policy Board for approval.

2. Joint Programme Approval and Fund Transfer

2.1.1 Approved Joint Programmes

Three joint programmes received funding in 2009.

Country	Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars	Date of Transfer(s)
		FAO	UNDP	UNEP		
Democratic Republic of Congo	UN-REDD DR Congo Quick Start Programme - Year 1	583,150	925,550	374,500	1,883,200	24 June 2009
Vietnam	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme	1,690,814	2,501,128	192,814	4,384,756	6 Oct. 2009
Global	UN-REDD Programme - International Support Functions	2,738,899	2,812,809	4,010,297	9,562,005	2 Feb. 2009 11 Sept 2009
Total Transferred		5,012,863	6,239,487	4,577,611	15,829,961	

2.1.2 Programmes in the pipeline

Of the nine initial pilot countries, UN-REDD Programmes in Bolivia, Paraguay and Zambia continue to work on their joint programmes. All programmes report consultations on the REDD activities in the country.

In Bolivia, a national REDD team has been formed, and coordination mechanism is being reactivated. Dialogue and coordination between stakeholders are being undertaken with indigenous and other local communities, highlighting the particular Bolivian context where indigenous rights are protected by law. The first draft of the UN-REDD joint programme is expected to be presented to the Policy Board in early 2010.

In Paraguay, a new Administration was installed in 2009, and consultations have taken place. Leading indigenous peoples organizations in the country have been working together to coordinate their activities. A draft joint programme is expected to be presented in early 2010.

Progress towards developing a national REDD programme in Zambia continues, with the development of an institutional framework and continuing consultations with stakeholders to build consensus. A readiness roadmap has been developed, and the implementation strategy will give a prominent role to on forest dependent communities. The first draft of the UN-REDD joint programme is expected to be presented to the Policy Board in early 2010.

3. Joint Programmes Implementation Status by Country

This section contains the Joint Programme implementation status by country, in alphabetical order, followed by the update on the Global Joint Programme.

Democratic Republic of Congo received US\$1,883,200 in June 2009.

Participating UN Organization	Total Transferred up to 31 December 2009	Total Disbursed up to 31 December 2009*	Disbursement Rate
FAO	\$583,150	\$172,930	30%
UNDP	\$925,550	\$447,920	48%
UNEP	\$374,500	\$47,830	13%
Total	\$1,883,200	\$668,680	36%

The UN-REDD Programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo aims to put in place the enabling conditions for a REDD strategy. Its core objectives are: 1) to prepare a Readiness Plan (R-Plan) through a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach; 2) to inform and train stakeholders in order for them to actively participate in the REDD process; and 3) to lay the technical foundations for REDD.

The main achievements of the joint programme include the finalization of the first Readiness Plan; extensive consultations through workshops (both at the national and provincial levels) already involving several hundred participants, and a plan for further consultations; and a survey involving diverse stakeholders; and increased technical knowledge. In addition, the basis for an institutional framework to support the entry to a full readiness process was endorsed by the Prime Minister.

The consultations involved, among others, civil society representatives, provincial leaders, representatives of indigenous populations, the private sector, and the academic and scientific communities. These workshops enabled discussions where participants were able to share their expectations, concerns, and the contributions they are ready to make to the REDD process. During some of the workshops, concrete decisions were made, for example, the creation of a REDD work group in the Oriental Province.

Regarding MRV, a number of key decisions have been made, particularly on the general structure of the system, and on the steps to follow to achieve a national forestry inventory of carbon, a monitoring system of deforestation activities, and development of a national greenhouse gas inventory. Further, a number of technical assessments and studies have been launched, for example a study on the causes of deforestation, which has provided the basis for discussions and debate. In addition, a national coordination unit was established. DRC is planning to present the first draft for a full UN-REDD joint programme to the Policy Board in early 2010.

The **Indonesia** joint programme of US\$5,644,250 was approved by the Policy Board in 2009.

Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars
	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
UN-REDD Indonesia	1,498,000	2,996,000	1,150,250	5,644,250

The objective of the UN-REDD Indonesia Programme is to support the Government of Indonesia in attaining REDD readiness. The three main outcomes are: 1) strengthened multi-stakeholder participation and consensus at national level; 2) successful demonstration of establishing a Reference Emissions Level, Measurement, Reporting and Verification system and fair payment systems based on the national REDD architecture; and 3) capacity established to implement REDD at decentralized levels.

Indonesia reported enhanced consultations within national entities as well as with CSOs and NGOs, indigenous stakeholders to lead to a more strongly nationally owned REDD programme. The Ministry of Forestry's Directorate of Forest Resource Inventory and Mapping hosts the National Program, with its Director as the national Program Director of the UN REDD joint programme. The joint programme was signed in late 2009.

The **Panama** joint programme of US\$5,300,000 was approved by the Policy Board in 2009.

Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars
	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
UN-REDD Panama programme	2,189,000	2,067,350	1,043,650	5,300,000

The objective of the UN-REDD Panama programme is to assist the Government of Panama in developing an effective REDD regime. This will contribute toward the broader goal of ensuring that by the end of 2012, Panama will be REDD-ready and will have the capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation nationally. The outcomes of the joint programme are: 1) institutional capacity established for the efficient coordination and execution of a REDD programme in Panama; and 2) technical capacity to monitor, measure, report, and verify the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Major achievements have been agreement on the link between the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF and the committed participation of Indigenous Peoples organizations in the drafting, review and elaboration of the UN-REDD National Programme. The change of key staff members at the National Authority of the Environment has impacted on progress towards the results.

The UN-REDD **Papua New Guinea** Programme of US\$2,585,034 was approved by the Policy Board in 2009. An additional 'earmark' of US\$3,803,850 was approved in the Third Policy Board in 2009, and the distribution amongst Participating UN Organizations will be provided with the finalized national programme document.

Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars
	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
UN-REDD Programme - PNG Quick Start Initiative	1,016,500	1,568,534	-	2,585,034
Funds earmarked by the Policy Board				3,803,850

The UN-REDD Programme in PNG supports the preparation of a draft National REDD Plan. The objectives of the programme are: 1) Institutional capacity support to the Office of Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (OCCES); 2) Assessment of information needs for key building blocks of REDD (i.e. MARV, opportunity cost calculations and benefit sharing mechanisms); and 3) Establishing stakeholder engagement processes and building awareness

The joint programme continues to be drafted with engagement and consultations with stakeholders.

The **Tanzania** joint programme of US\$4,280,000 was approved by the Policy Board in 2009.

Joint Programme Title	Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars
	FAO	UNDP	UNEP	
UN-REDD Programme - Tanzania Quick Start Initiative	1,498,000	2,568,000	214,000	4,280,000

The UN-REDD Programme in Tanzania will strengthen its readiness for REDD as a component of the Government's evolving REDD strategy. The outcomes of the programme are: 1) national governance framework and institutional capacities strengthened for REDD; 2) Increased capacity for capturing REDD elements within national Monitoring, Assessment Reporting and Verification systems; 3) Improved capacity to manage REDD and provide other forest ecosystem services at district and local levels; and 4) Broad based stakeholder support for REDD in Tanzania.

The Tanzania joint programme reported extensive consultation processes, with signature of the UN-REDD Tanzania Programme document in late 2009.

The **Vietnam** joint programme received \$4,384,756 in October 2009.

Participating UN Organization	Total Transferred up to 31 December 2009	Total Disbursed up to 31 December 2009	Disbursement Rate
FAO	\$1,690,814	\$26,879	2%
UNDP	\$2,501,128	\$442,866	18%
UNEP	\$192,814	\$9,597	5%
Total	\$4,384,756	\$479,342	11%

The objective of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme is to strengthen institutional and technical capacity of relevant organizations at central and local levels to ensure that by the end of 2012 Viet Nam is REDD-ready and able to contribute to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The programme has three key components: 1) to improve capacity for coordination to manage REDD activities in Viet Nam; 2) to improve capacity to manage REDD and provide other payment for ecological services at district level through sustainable development planning and implementation; and 3) to establish cooperation on information and experiences sharing on REDD implementation.

The Vietnam joint programme reported enhanced consultations through workshops at both the national and provincial levels, the completion of a draft report outlining priority policy recommendations on a REDD-compliant benefit distribution system, a short documentary for the COP 15 side event, and establishment of a coordination and implementation mechanism for REDD.

UN-REDD Global Programme

The UN-REDD Global programme received US\$9,562,005 in 2009. The original joint programme was approved for US\$6,938,591¹ at the first Policy Board covering support to Measurement, Reporting and Verification, stakeholder engagement, analytical work on co-benefits and interagency coordination. The programme was subsequently revised and approved for US\$9,562,005 to include the Secretariat to carry out support functions to the national programmes; strengthen cooperation with the World Bank; support South-South cooperation; liaise with donors, organize and manage the Policy Board meetings in 2009 and strengthen knowledge sharing on REDD as well as communication about the UN-REDD Programme.

Participating UN Org.	Total Transferred Up to 31 December 2009	Total Disbursed Up to 31 December 2009	Disbursement Rate
FAO	2,738,899	1,731,451	63%
UNDP	2,812,809	1,175,274	42%
UNEP	4,010,297	2,071,235	52%
Total	9,562,005	4,977,969	52%

The UN-REDD Global Programme provides support to country actions on REDD readiness through international support functions, such as expert consultations, operational and practical guidelines, technical reviews, analyses, development of knowledge and sharing of experience. It

¹ Includes parallel funding from NORAD.

also aims to increase international confidence and understanding about the potential REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC. The outcomes of the global programme are: 1) improved guidance on MRV approaches; 2) increased engagement of stakeholders in the REDD agenda; 3) improved analytical and technical framework of multiple benefits for REDD decision makers; 4) increased knowledge management, coordination and communication.

The Global Programme has made progress in all the outcomes. In the area of MRV, a breakthrough was made in remote sensing by making available ready-to-use remote sensing data on a website free of charge. This facilitates sound and objective estimates of global forest and land cover change. Progress has also been made in monitoring multiple benefits of forests, for example, through spatial analysis which illustrates that areas that are high in carbon are also high on other benefits such as biodiversity. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme has also started elaborating its governance activities to be led by country-led governance assessments and has promoted independent forest monitoring through collaboration with CSO partners.

The UN-REDD Programme also convened a number of workshops and training programmes to sharpen understanding and develop knowledge on how REDD would work in a number of countries. Further, technical tools such as the Greenhouse Gas Inventory Toolkit have been developed to provide guidance on MRV.

Regarding the engagement and participation of indigenous peoples and civil society organizations, the UN-REDD Programme supported activities at both global and national levels. The Programme drafted and built consensus for the UN-REDD Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities, and supported national UN-REDD programmes to fully engage stakeholders. The Programme has also made progress towards harmonizing the UN-REDD approach to engagement with the FCPF approach. The good practice of engaging stakeholders in the DRC was documented and widely disseminated, and the programme has developed recommendations on Free Prior and Informed Consent and recourse mechanisms.

Outreach on REDD, particularly in preparation to the COP15, included a High Level Event presided by the United Nations Secretary-General, and attended by the World Bank President, 15 Heads of State and government, and over 100 countries and 150 dignitaries and leaders from international and non-governmental organizations, academia, think tanks and the private sector. In addition, two 30 minute documentaries have been broadcast on BBC World and 3,500 media briefing packs were distributed at the COP 15. The UN-REDD Programme also collaborated with development partners to produce supporting material for media to report on REDD.

The UN-REDD Programme also undertook a number of activities to support countries to maximize socio-economic and social co-benefits forests provide through REDD+. Along these lines, a comparative review of REDD+ legislative frameworks was prepared, a publication on 'Making REDD Work for the Poor' and discussions on incorporating gender perspectives and social impact of REDD were initiated. In addition, tools to encourage the capture of ecosystem service co-benefits were developed.

Lastly, the UN-REDD Programme increased knowledge management, coordination and communication both with the World Bank as well as amongst the participating UN organizations, in part through its online collaborative workspace (www.unredd.net). The Programme is working in close coordination with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, hosted by the World Bank, both at the international level, harmonizing normative frameworks and organizing joint events, and at the national level, where joint missions and sharing of information are producing support interven-

tions. It is also working closely with the Forest Investment Program of the World Bank. Other partners include the UNFCCC, GEF, UNFF secretariats as well as donors, indigenous and civil society organizations at the global and national levels and academia.

To raise the awareness of REDD, a number of avenues, such as internal and external websites (un-redd.net; UN-redd.org) newsletters, and a multi-media campaign have been initiated. The visibility of the programme has increased especially on the internet where visits on the UN-REDD website has increased to more than 30,000 monthly and still increasing by 2,500 visits per month.

All of the global activities have been supported through the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat which was established in Geneva in mid-2009. Most posts in the Secretariat had been filled by the end of December 2009.

4. Overall Fund Achievements and Challenges

Overall, the progress reports state increased levels of stakeholder participation and consultation (Tanzania, Indonesia, Vietnam, DRC) supported by the UN-REDD Programme. In three countries (Indonesia, DRC and Vietnam), a REDD implementation coordinating body has been established. Countries, such as Panama, have also indicated heightened coordination between the UN-REDD Programme, the FCPF, and other REDD+ readiness initiatives. Some countries (DRC, Vietnam) have also reported policy decisions on REDD+.

At the global level, technical tools on MRV have been developed in consultation with international and national stakeholders. The use of in-situ and remote sensing data has been included into the design of the MRV framework at global and national level; and initial work on developing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory Toolkit, and methodologies to identify terrestrial carbon stocks have been carried out.

The UN-REDD Programme has convened Indigenous People and Civil Society Organizations at the global and national level and has developed operational guidance on their engagement in REDD and clarified specific initial issues regarding recourse and safeguards.

It has also enhanced knowledge on REDD through its webpages, and multimedia campaigns including documentaries and broadcasts. Further, the UN-REDD Programme has heightened awareness of REDD during the United Nations Secretary-General's High Level held during the 64th General Assembly. The Programme has also provided information on REDD to regional groups in the form of technical support persons at their meetings.

Challenges include the rapidly changing environment an underestimation of the length of time required for consultations, changes in governments, and recruiting qualified technical staff.

5. Financial Performance

Full financial information will be provided in the Annual Consolidated Narrative and Financial Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund after the data are officially provided to the Administrative Agent in line with the MOU. The information provided in this section is informal, and subject to change.

In 2009, the UN-REDD Programme Fund received US\$19 million, bringing the portfolio from US\$35 million to US\$54 million. Norway increased its contribution by US\$17 million, and Denmark joined Norway as a contributor to the UN-REDD Programme.

UN-REDD Programme Fund Cumulative Donor Pledges, Commitments & Deposits 31 December 2009 ²								
DONORS		Donor Currency	PLEDGES (a)		COMMITMENTS (b)		DEPOSITS	
			Donor Currency	USD (c)	Donor Currency	USD (c)	Donor Currency	USD
	Norway	USD	-	-	52,213,730	52,213,730	52,213,730	52,213,730
	Denmark	USD	-	-	10,000,000	1,917,398	10,000,000	1,917,398
Total						54,587,496		54,131,128

The Administrative Agent fee of 1%, or US\$541,311, was calculated based on the total amount of contributions. Interest earned in 2008 was US\$187,324. 2009 interest information will be provided in the second quarter of 2010.

Overview of Deposits, Funding of Projects, and Interest	Amount (US\$)
Gross Donor Committed Contributions	54,131,128
1% Administrative Agent Fee	541,311
Net donor deposited contributions	53,589,817
UN-REDD Programmes	
Funds transferred to Participating UN Organizations	15,829,691
Approved for Funding *	17,809,284
Earmarked for Funding **	3,803,850
Funds Available for Funding from Donor Contributions	16,146,722
Earned Interest (as of 31 December 2008)	187,324
Total Funds Available for Funding (Donor Contributions & Interest)	16,334,046
* Joint Programmes approved for funding by the Policy Board for which signed joint programme documents are pending	
** Funds earmarked by the Policy Board in the expectation that all required submission elements would be completed	

The UN-REDD Programme Policy Board approved US\$34 million towards seven joint programmes in 2009, or 63% of the available resources. Of this amount, US\$16 million, or 47% of the approved amount, were transferred to the three joint programmes that provided the complete

² Pledges: Voluntary contributions by donors, pending formalization of Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA).
b. Commitments: Contribution as per signed SAA.
c. USD equivalents of pledges and commitments not yet deposited are estimated at UN operational exchange rates and are for indicative purposes only.

set of documentation. These three joint programmes have informally reported disbursements of US\$6.1 million, or 39% of the amount transferred.

Country	Joint Programme Title	Transfers to Participating UN Organization			Total Approved Budget US Dollars	Date of Transfer	Disbursement	Disbursement rate
		FAO	UNDP	UNEP				
Democratic Republic of Congo	UN-REDD DR Congo Quick Start Programme - Year 1	583,150	925,550	374,500	1,883,200	24 June 2009	668,680	30%
Vietnam	UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme	1,690,814	2,501,128	192,814	4,384,756	6 Oct. 2009	479,342	11%
International	UN-REDD Programme - International Support Functions	2,738,899	2,812,809	4,010,297	9,562,005	2 Feb. 2009 11 Sept 2009	4,977,960	54%
Total Transferred		5,012,863	6,239,487	4,577,611	15,829,961		6,125,982	39%

6. Transparency and Accountability

In 2009, the MDTF office developed the MDTF Office GATEWAY, a knowledge platform combining easy access to more than 4000 relevant reports and documents, with tools and tables displaying financial data in real-time from the MDTF Office accounting system on donor contributions and transfers to the Participating UN Organizations. It is designed to provide transparent, accountable fund-management services to the United Nations system to enhance its coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and can be found on <http://mdtf.undp.org>.

7. Conclusions

2009 marked the first year of operations of the UN-REDD Programme. In this initial

year, there has been progress towards developing national REDD frameworks as well as providing technical guidance on MRV as well as on conducting inclusive processes for stakeholder engagement, particularly Indigenous Peoples and forest dwellers. There has been growing interest in the UN-REDD Programme, with five additional countries granted with observation status and eight more countries formally requesting participation, as well as additional funding and donors. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme has supported heightening the visibility of this issue in international fora, as well as enhanced coordination with the different actors including the World Bank.