

Introduction

Feedback from REDD+ countries is pointing towards a desire to learn more from what others are doing, especially in terms of what has worked or not worked. In this month's newsletter, we feature what I consider to be a very important example of exactly the kind of cross-regional learning and exchanging that countries are yearning for and that can be a catalyst for moving the REDD+ concept forward.

In our lead article, "**UN-REDD Countries from Asia Pacific and Latin America Meet in Unique Cross-Regional REDD+ Exchange**", we read about Viet Nam's recent knowledge-sharing visits to Ecuador and Mexico, in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme. Both of these visits resulted in valuable learning that all three countries will use to advance their national REDD+ efforts, specifically in the area of benefit distribution for REDD+.

As countries look to scale up their REDD+ activities, these face-to-face, south-south exchanges will play a central role in the advancement of REDD+. Reports and articles on progress, while valuable and necessary, can only teach us so much. Being together on the ground, in each other's forests—that's where the most effective learning can happen. These exchanges are allowing countries to avoid re-inventing the wheel, in order to parlay lessons learned into more informed decisions that have the potential to maximize limited resources.

There's another important lesson to take from Viet Nam's exchanges with Mexico and Ecuador. Rather than coming together to discuss REDD+ in general terms, they chose to focus their discussions on benefit distribution. This is key; the more strategic and targeted these exchanges are, the more beneficial I think they will be for all parties involved.

So I extend my congratulations to our three partner countries—Viet Nam, Ecuador and Mexico—for continuing to move their REDD+ efforts forward in such a constructive and meaningful way. The UN-REDD Programme looks forward to supporting more of these exchanges in the months and years to come.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

News

UN-REDD Countries from Asia Pacific and Latin America Meet in Unique Cross-Regional REDD+ Exchange

Delegates from Viet Nam recently visited Mexico and Ecuador to exchange valuable lessons and experiences on benefit distribution for REDD+.

The Vietnamese delegation visited Mexico and Ecuador in two separate trips between 5-13 April to learn from the ample experience in both countries on Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and community-led forest management. Mexico and Ecuador, for their part, were very interested to learn from the experience Viet Nam – the first country to start a national UN-REDD Programme in September 2009 – has generated in establishing a National REDD+ Programme.

Mexico's PES system has been operational since 2003, with emphasis on payments for

watershed protection. This was demonstrated very effectively in a fieldvisit to the Cerro Grande in Colima state, where a community-managed forest forms the catchment for the entire water supply of 300,000 city dwellers in the state. The payments will go to the community as a whole, whose members jointly decide on how the funds will be



The Vietnamese delegation along with their Mexican hosts visited the forest community of Cerro Grande in Mexico.

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applied in the community. More recently, the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) implemented a system for matching funds, doubling the impact of the payments made to forest owners. This approach has great potential for REDD+ implementation but requires further development. In Viet Nam this stacking of payments from REDD+ and other PES schemes for a single piece of forest is currently being studied, with specific attention to balancing payment levels in order to attain greater equity for all forest owners in the country.

Ecuador has been implementing its Socio Bosque program since 2008, signing agreements with local communities for the management and protection of forests. Delegates from Ecuador and Viet Nam visited the Campo Cocha community in the Amazon region. This community received its first payments for protecting the forest and used the proceeds to install a proper water supply to the village, dramatically reducing the likelihood of water-borne illnesses within the community. Secure land tenure rights and approaches appropriate to existing

community structures are seen as key to the success of the program.

Ecuador established a unique climate change mitigation mechanism in the form of the Yasuní Fund. In the Yasuní, a remote and pristine forest area in the Amazon region with a largely Indigenous population, a vast deposit of oil has been found. The Government of Ecuador has decided to leave the oil deposit untouched – net avoided emissions, as they call this – foregoing \$7.2 billion in net revenues in exchange for contributions from third parties into the Fund for 50 per cent of the revenue foregone. The Fund is managed by the Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office in UNDP, through a new legal structure that allows the Government to directly access to the resources in the Fund, thus giving the Government much greater control over the management of the Fund. This new arrangement is also considered by the MDTF Office as a viable model for National REDD+ Programmes, and in Viet Nam this may be used for financial management under a proposed second phase of the UN-REDD Programme.

While Mexico and Ecuador have started implementing their national REDD+ activities relatively recently, they both have considerable experience with PES and community-led forest management. The Viet Nameese delegation was particularly impressed with the sophistication of the benefit distribution system in both countries, including aspects such as financial management, risk management, stacking of payments and third-party funding modalities. Inversely, Mexico and Ecuador appreciated learning from Viet Nam's experience with the establishment of a National REDD+ Program, particularly through the UN-REDD Programme.

This form of South-South collaboration has proven very effective. Even when the physical, socio-economic and political conditions are different in each country, there is commonality in many aspects of establishing a National REDD+ Programme. ■

UN-REDD Highlights Partner Country Progress in Briefing to UN missions in Geneva

The UN-REDD Programme, in partnership with Norway, recently hosted a briefing on country progress to the diplomatic corps in Geneva, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia spoke about their significant REDD+ inroads to date.

The Programme was pleased to welcome representatives from Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), FAO, Indonesia, IUCN, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Poland, Philippines, Switzerland, UNDP, UNEP and Zimbabwe to the event.

In her welcoming remarks, H.E. Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen of the Permanent Mission of Norway in Geneva underscored that the UN

must play a key role in supporting developing countries' efforts to reduce deforestation.

"By focusing on good governance, forest monitoring, ecosystem services, stakeholder engagement, equitable sharing of benefits and gender equality, the UN-REDD Programme is uniquely placed to support governments in planning and implementing national strategies for REDD+," she said. Ambassador

Angell-Hansen also stressed that the demand for support from developing countries is far higher than current financial commitments can support.

During a presentation on the UN-REDD Programme's recent activities and support to countries, Dr. Yemi Katerere, Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, explained that the REDD+ landscape was multifaceted and called for building partnerships to develop policies, capacity building and

scaling up financing to deliver effectively at the national level. Dr. Katerere underscored that the most important contribution from the Programme continues to be delivering support to build capacity on the ground.

"The Cancun Agreements on REDD+ provided the political impetus, it is now up to the countries and our role is to support them," said Dr. Katerere.

Brigitte Mukundji Eale, Climate Expert for the DRC's Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Geneva (UNOG) presented achievements, progress and challenges in DRC's national REDD+ readiness phase. Ms. Mukundji Eale explained that 62 per cent of DRC's landscape was forested and REDD+ was an opportunity for the country to contribute to the fight against climate change. She stressed that for the DRC there are three success factors for REDD+ to work: national ownership, capacity building and cooperation with partners such as the UN-REDD Programme. With the support of partners, the DRC is now ready to move into the next REDD+ readiness phase. ■



Representatives of permanent missions to the UN in Geneva, NGOs and UN-REDD Programme partners gather for the UN-REDD Programme briefing, which took place in Geneva 9 May.

INPE and UN-REDD Partnering to Develop National Forest Monitoring Systems

The Brazilian National Institute of Space Research (INPE) and FAO recently met to further define next steps to support UN-REDD Programme partner countries in the set-up of their autonomous national forest monitoring systems.

The Brazilian National Institute of Space Research (INPE) along with UN-REDD Programme as well as other programmes within FAO developing databases and information systems for countries participated in a one week technical meeting, from 16-20 May at FAO Headquarters in Rome, to define the start-up activities for establishing REDD+ information systems.

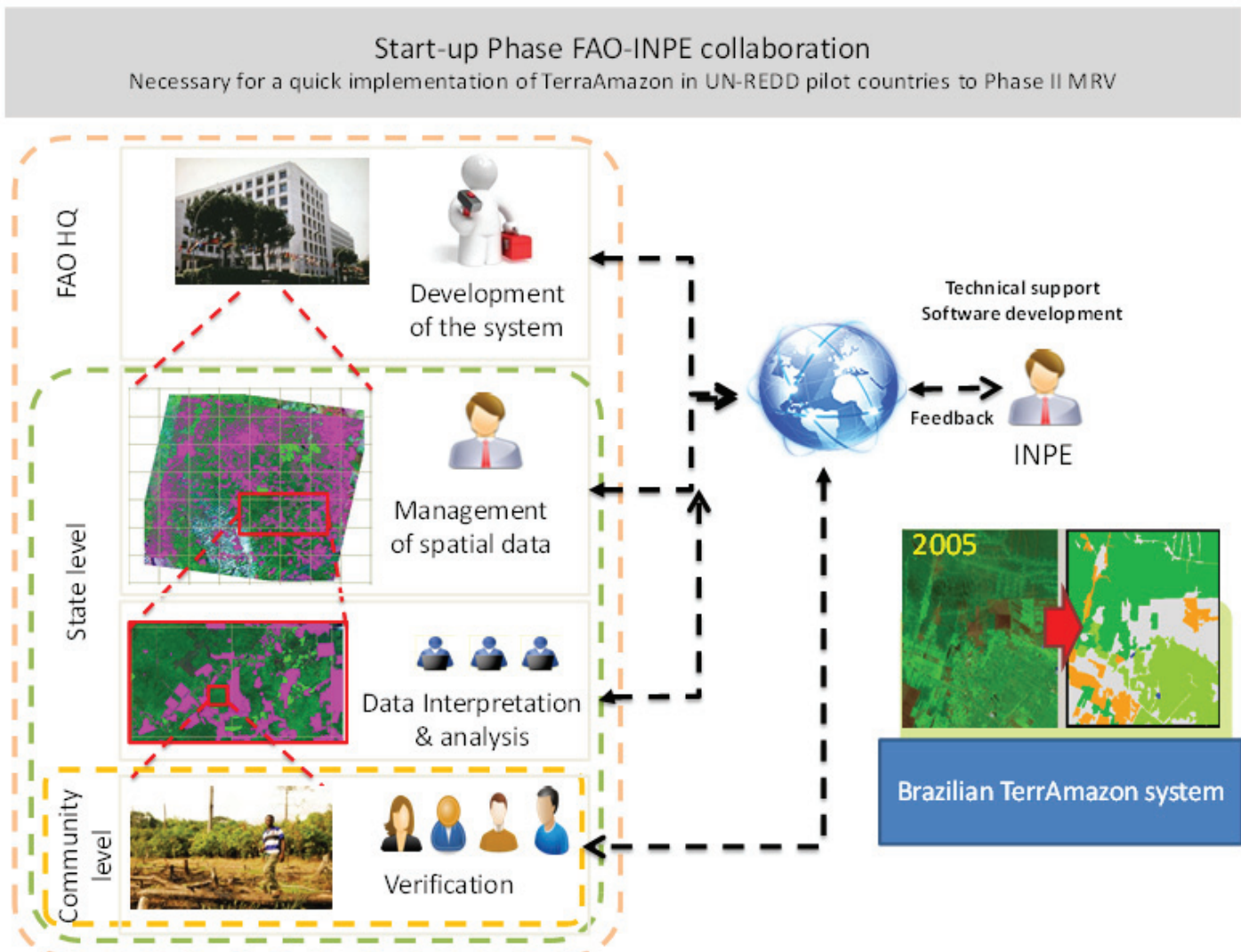
The meeting was a follow-up to the training carried-out in April 2010 of several UN-REDD Programme partner countries on the TerraAmazon platform used in Brazil

for monitoring forest area changes in the Amazon. These meetings are part of the activities of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Copenhagen in 2009 between INPE and FAO aimed at leveraging the UN-REDD Programme partner countries' efforts in the operationalization of the monitoring system as part of the readiness phase for REDD+.

Start-up activities will include several case-studies for the establishment of national satellite forest monitoring systems, giving countries the opportunity to establish a REDD+ information

system and an autonomous satellite forest monitoring system. Activities will be carried out between FAO initiatives such as the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the UN-REDD Programme and INPE. This system will also be valuable as a tool to report greenhouse gas emissions following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines and Guidance. In their readiness process for REDD+, countries are required to have a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ activities following COP Decision 1/CP.16 (I).

The proposed REDD+ information system will include a satellite forest monitoring system that will be integrated with the INPE software platform for the monitoring system, TerraAmazon, which consists of Geographic Information Systems, image processing, and database management functionalities. ■



Features & Commentary

UNEP-FI Launches New Study Stressing Financial Sector Involvement in REDD+

Financial leaders call for an investor-friendly forest-carbon market at a recent event to launch UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) study entitled, "REDDy – Set – Grow: Opportunities and roles of financial institutions in forest-carbon markets".

By: **Sebastien Malo** and **Jessica Boucher**

Leading financial institutions and government representatives discussed the importance of their various roles in mitigating climate change as they called for more effective forest-carbon regulations on the occasion of UNEP FI's recent report launch at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch's European headquarters in London on 6 May 2011.

Over 200 participants, including a range of stakeholders from the financial sector, government and civil society organizations, welcomed the findings of the new study, **REDDy – Set – Grow: Opportunities and roles of financial institutions in forest-carbon markets**, which stresses that the financial sector must step up its engagement in REDD+.

Previous research has established that a 50 per cent reduction in deforestation is needed by 2030 if the forestry sector is to support global efforts aimed at holding the global temperature rise to below 2

Change (UNFCCC). Achieving this reduction will require investment previously estimated at US\$17-\$33 billion per year, according to UNEP.

"The market for forest carbon has significant potential but will require concerted efforts in the design phase by policy-makers to ensure that it attracts flows of private capital. Because of the ability for sustainable forestry projects to deliver not just carbon but also biodiversity and community benefits, financial institutions stand ready to work with governments to help ensure the full potential is realized," said Abyd Karmali, Managing Director and Global Head of Carbon Markets at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The commitment of the private sector and financial institutions toward the implementation of REDD+ is crucial, the UNEP FI study says, since the overall investment needed for implementation of REDD+ activities exceeds public capabilities and will thus largely hinge on action from the private sector.

The report stresses how private sector participation in REDD+ and deforestation activities can lead to a win-win scenario for the finance sector and governments, since such projects can translate into both lucrative investment opportunities and cost-effective strategies to abate carbon emissions and protect biodiversity and livelihoods.



Over 200 participants, including a range of stakeholders from the financial sector, government and civil society organizations attended the launch of UNEP FI's report at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch's European headquarters in London.

degrees Celsius, the global climate target the world's governments have set themselves in the international climate change agreements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Finance sector attendees at the event saluted the report as the first step in a critical learning process that will not only sharpen their competitive edge, but also boost their role in shaping tomorrow's green economy.

"It is unwise in this day and age for companies that wish to remain competitive to turn a blind eye to emerging green markets such as the forest-carbon market. This is a rationale that makes sense from a sustainability perspective, but also from a profitability one," said Richard Burrett, partner at Earth Capital Partners LLP and Co-chair of UNEP FI.

A follow-up report - REDDy – Set – Grow: Part II - specifically geared for policy-makers and containing recommendations on the design of forest-carbon policies, will be released in June.

This two-part series marks the beginning of UNEP FI's work on engaging with the private sector on REDD+. In collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme, UNEP FI hopes to deliver guidance, including the promotion of environmentally and socially responsible investments and case-based templates and arguments to support the engagement of the private sector effectively and efficiently in REDD+. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme will continue to engage with the private sector to provide information on environmental and social safeguards and emphasize the importance of the rights and engagement of local and Indigenous Peoples.

A short video summarizing key elements of the press conference and panel sessions will be posted on the UNEP FI website soon. UNEP FI will also be hosting a unique cross-cutting session on REDD+ at their biennial Global Roundtable in Washington DC 19-20 October 2011, keynote speaker Yvo de Boer, former Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC (TBC). Registration is now open.



Sebastien Malo is Communications Officer, and Jessica Boucher is a Programme Coordinator for UNEP FI in Geneva. ■

Senior Legislators from Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Mexico Launch Initiative to Prepare for REDD+ Laws

GLOBE International, in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme and the Global Environment Facility, recently launched the "GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative", offering a new channel of support to senior legislators working with REDD+ at the national and international level. By: **Chris Stephens**

Although the structures and functions of legislatures vary around the world, there are a number of recurring responsibilities that the majority of legislators share. These include amending or passing laws, setting budgets and holding the government to account. As global efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in developing countries begin to mature, these parliamentary functions will begin to play an increasingly important role. This gap in the REDD+ puzzle was recognized during the work of the GLOBE International Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems, which was supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which is a participating UN agency of the UN-REDD Programme.

In order to support the transition towards greater parliamentary engagement in REDD+, the "GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative" was launched in London last week to work directly with senior legislators by supporting their efforts to strengthen legislation and parliamentary scrutiny structures to underpin national efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation. This initiative will be coordinated by the Global Legislators Organisation (GLOBE) in collaboration with senior legislators from the four initiative countries; Brazil, and three UN-REDD Programme partner countries- the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Indonesia and Mexico.

Despite the unique nature of each country's efforts to reduce deforestation, legislators can play a common role in relation to REDD+ by improving governance, law enforcement, financial scrutiny and accountability. By creating an international political leadership group to share effective legislation and policies, this initiative intends to play a key role in strengthening the capacity of legislators to make REDD+ a success in these four countries in the build

up to the World Summit of Legislators in May 2012.

By building on the successful activities of the GEF-supported International Commission, this initiative further demonstrates the critical role that legislators must play to translate international accords into legislative frameworks. The GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative will build capacity within the parliaments of these four key REDD+ countries to pass or amend legislation, scrutinize government policy and budgets, and safeguard the rights of forest communities and Indigenous Peoples.

The Launch Workshop for the Initiative, supported by the UN-REDD Programme and the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), convened senior legislators from these countries along with representatives of the potential partner organizations and environmental lawyers. The next step of this initiative will be four inception workshops that will convene cross-party legislators along with GEF Focal Points, UN-REDD Programme advisors and other partners, to define the nationally-specific goals of the initiative and to outline the main areas for south-south coordination.

Quotes from Legislators

Rodrigo Rollemberg, Brazilian Senator



"As Chair of the Brazilian Senate Environment Committee I will be considering the amendments to the Forest Code and advancing legislation on REDD. Participating in the GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative will enable me to understand how legislation in other countries is being developed, introduced and implemented to address challenges that are common to all our countries."

José Ignacio Pichardo Lechuga, Mexican Deputy, Chair of the Special Commission on Forests in the Mexican Congress



"To date Mexico's national REDD strategy has been developed without the involvement of the Mexican Congress. As legislators, we fully support the

government's objective of achieving zero emissions from deforestation by 2020. However, in order for this ambitious goal to be achieved, it will be essential to engage legislators in this process. The GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative will strengthen our capacity to advance legislation and scrutinize the budget in support of national REDD strategies."

Hon Dr Akhmad Muqowam, Indonesian MP, Chair of Commission IV on Agriculture, Plantations, Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Food



"In order for REDD to be a success in Indonesia, it is critical that the national strategy is equitable and transparent. We believe that legislators can play a unique role in achieving this by providing greater

parliamentary scrutiny of the government's policies and budgets to reduce emissions from deforestation. The GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative will support GLOBE Indonesia and legislators from other key rainforest nations to achieve this goal."



Chris Stephens is Director of Forestry and Ecosystems at GLOBE International, based in London, and is responsible for managing the GLOBE Legislator Forest Initiative.

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Reports & Analysis

Full Report from 6th UN-REDD Policy Board Meeting Now Available

The final 25-page report is now available for download in English, French and Spanish on the UN-REDD Programme website.

The Report of the 6th UN-REDD Programme Policy Board report provides a comprehensive record of the major discussion points and decisions taken at the meeting which took place in Da Lat Viet Nam, 21-22 March 2011.

Click here for a complete list of links to documents presented and discussed at the Programme's 6th Policy Board meeting. Read highlights from the 6th Policy Board in the official announcement released on 23 March 2011. ■

Looking Ahead

World Environment Day

5 June 2011: Worldwide

34th Session of the UNFCCC

6 - 17 June 2011: Bonn, Germany

UN-REDD joint side event with Ecuador at 34th Session of the UNFCCC

7 June 2011: Bonn Germany

REDD+ Partnership meeting & workshop

Meeting: 12 June 2011: Cologne, Germany

Workshop: 18 June 2011: Cologne, Germany

Vigne des Nations dedication to the UN-REDD Programme

17 June 2011: Village of Bernex, Switzerland

Oslo REDD Exchange

22 - 24 June 2011: Oslo, Norway

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