

Introduction

Dear Readers,

Just yesterday in Santa Marta, Colombia, the UN-REDD Programme took an encouraging step forward in its commitment to supporting the needs of partner countries. The Programme hosted a workshop to present the preliminary findings of a country needs assessment to national REDD+ focal points from more than 20 partner countries, along with representatives from civil society, donor countries, the UNFCCC and the Programme's Independent Advisory Group.

This country needs assessment, being done jointly with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), is one of the UN-REDD Global Programme's most important priorities this year. Informed by survey results from 15 countries and six in depth case studies with country visits, the final version of this preliminary assessment will serve as the basis for the planning of future UN-REDD National and Global Programme support, to ensure resources are applied efficiently and effectively towards meeting the needs of countries in the readiness process.

While the needs of countries differ depending on their stages of readiness and national capacity, the preliminary findings of the country needs assessment identified the following common needs, among others, in a number of REDD+ countries:

- Strengthen national technical capacities for a more country-led national and international REDD+ agenda;
- Developing national legal frameworks for REDD+, including for REDD+ finance;
- Resolving land tenure issues in the REDD+ context;
- Demonstrating a strong "business cases" for REDD+ in relation to other competing land policies;
- Enhancing capacity building for establishing reference emission levels;
- Strengthening the role of local NGOs and community groups, and initiating REDD+ pilot projects to demonstrate examples for communities and local governments;
- Linking pilot projects to the REDD+ financial architecture, including carbon funds or markets, and setting minimum investment thresholds;
- Strengthening forestry administration, protecting fragile and high conservation value forests and enhancing the potential for the rural poor to share the benefits of legitimate investments.

I'd like to extend sincere thanks to all countries that participated in the assessment and to workshop participants who contributed their invaluable time and energy and experiences to reviewing the draft report. The Programme also extends its thanks and gratitude to the Government of Colombia for hosting this important workshop.

After the workshop, the UN-REDD Programme and the Facility Management Team of the FCPF will work closely with the consultants in order to have a more comprehensive analysis of the data and to incorporate views collected during the workshop as well as comments from UN-REDD Programme and FCPF stakeholders not present at the workshop. The UN-REDD Programme looks forward to continuing this important work with partner countries, donors and other stakeholders in order to meet the priority needs to complete readiness and move towards a results-based phase of REDD+.

Look for more details from the workshop in our July newsletter issue next month.

Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

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

News

UN-REDD and INPE Train African Experts on Satellite Forest Monitoring

The UN-REDD Programme team at FAO teamed up with Brazil's Space Agency (INPE) to run a two-week intensive training programme on the use of remote sensing data for forest monitoring in Tanzania and Zambia.

This first UN-REDD-INPE training in 2012 aimed at improving the knowledge on the use of remote sensing (RS), information technology (IT) and modeling aspects of a satellite forest monitoring system. The knowledge gained will be valuable to expand monitoring of the entire national territory, which may become relevant for Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories related to Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) or Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). The training targeted country-level technical experts from Tanzania and Zambia including computer science experts as well as GIS forest experts responsible for the implementation of REDD+ and national forest inventory for national governments.



Hands-on training on remote sensing at INPE's training centre in, Belém, Brazil.

The first part of the training, which took place at INPE's training center in Belém, Pará, Brazil, in March, included hands-on exercises using Brazilian monitoring projects and data. The second part of the training focused on the application of forest monitoring techniques and image processing in the Zambian and Tanzanian country context. The training included practical exercises using a standardized set of Brazilian satellite data,

and a thorough training based on country-specific data and imagery. Country-specific activities such as the assessment of the historical forest cover changes were also carried out during this training course.

As a follow up to this course, the UN-REDD Programme and INPE will work with countries to set up portals for their autonomous national forest monitoring systems. The portals will allow all end-users to follow and have open access to available forest data, updated frequently to represent national forest conditions. The use of remote sensing data allows a high frequency of data availability as well as the possibility for wall-to-wall monitoring of the forests in the countries. The use of National Forest Inventory data will complete the remote sensing data in order to fulfill the reporting requirements of the UNFCCC.

A highly specialized technical UN-REDD Programme team at FAO, together with Geosolutions and INPE, is supporting country requests in the set-up of such a data analysis and web-based dissemination system. The ultimate goal of all these joint efforts is to build up the autonomous capacity of REDD+ countries to monitor their forest-related land cover, generating annual data on deforestation, forest degradation and forest conversions.



The Zambian and Tanzanian delegations at the UN-REDD-INPE training course.

More on INPE

INPE's centre in Belém is responsible for the centralized training on the Brazilian monitoring forest systems using TerraAmazon as the Brazilian software platform to support the estimation of the annual rate of deforestation (PRODES), the detection of forest degradation (DEGRAD), selective logging activities (DETEX) and the "near-real time" monitoring of the forest cover in support of more effective forest control and enforcement activities (DETER). TerraAmazon, developed by INPE integrates geographical information systems (GIS), image processing and database management functionalities.

INPE's technology to support their Amazonia monitoring systems is composed of different operational and complementary projects which are mentioned above: DETER, DEGRAD, DETEX and PRODES. The Brazilian system is the largest and most robust operating forest monitoring system in the world and has been providing official annual rates of gross deforestation to the Brazilian government since the late 80s. Monthly information on forest cover changes in Amazonia has been provided to the government control and enforcement agency since 2004, allowing early measures to be taken to prevent further non-authorized deforestation activities. As open source products, DETER, DETEX, DEGRAD, PRODES and TerraClass are distributed free of charge, as all available INPE data. ■

Malaysia and Uganda Join the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme is now working with 44 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The UN-REDD Programme's Policy Board agreed in a recent inter-sessional decision in May to welcome Malaysia and Uganda as new partners of the Programme and official

observers to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board.

"Malaysia hopes to build upon the experience gained from the region, develop common

approaches, tools and guidelines to facilitate the country's REDD+ readiness activities through this partnership with the UN-REDD Programme," says Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim Nik, Deputy Secretary General II for Malaysia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

"The UN-REDD Programme will benefit Uganda in all its Programme areas because, it is the only funding mechanism that has

the highest resident expertise in all the three areas of REDD+, namely development, environmental stewardship and a robust history for forestry assessment," says Mr. Xavier Mugumya, from the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda.

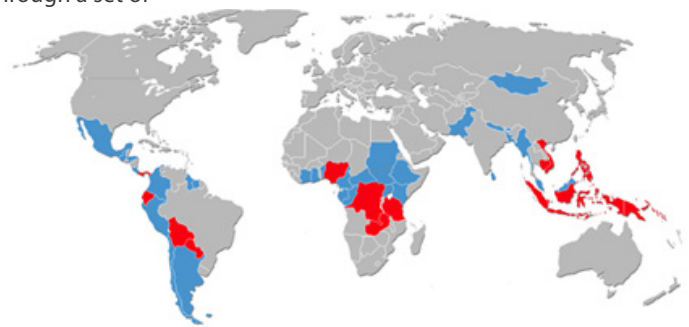
Mr. Mugumya adds that the harmonization of many of the operational details of the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility offers Uganda ideal conditions for leveraging comparative advantage offered by each UN-REDD Programme agency (FAO, UNDP and UNEP).

New UN-REDD Programme partner countries can benefit from receiving targeted support from the UN-REDD Global Programme-Support to National Actions, as well as unique knowledge sharing opportunities, facilitated through UN-REDD Programme events and the Programme's online collaborative workspace (www.unredd.net). Partner countries also have observer status at UN-REDD Programme Policy Board meetings,

and may be invited to submit a request to receive funding for a National Programme in the future, if selected through a set of criteria to prioritize funding for new countries approved by the Policy Board.

To date, 16 UN-REDD Programme partner countries have presented National Programmes to the Policy Board and have been allocated a total of US\$67.3 million in funding. The UN-REDD Programme continues to pursue additional funding options that will enable the Programme to

expand its financial support on REDD+ to more partner countries in the future. ■



Countries receiving support to National Programmes: Bolivia, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Other partner countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malaysia*, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname and Uganda*.

*New UN-REDD Programme partner countries as of May 2012

Expert Meeting Kicks off Collaborative Process on Forest Governance Data Collection

Earlier this month, the UN-REDD Programme contributed to groundbreaking international discussions on the need for guidance in forest governance data collection.

International and national experts met in Rome on 6-7 June, 2012 to share their experiences of collecting forest governance data in more than 10 developing countries. The expert meeting identified and discussed common issues faced when conducting forest governance assessments, such as defining the scope of governance assessments and prioritizing indicators, estimating costs and ensuring adequate capacity, balancing robustness and practicality in measurement and dealing with data gaps or unavailability. In addition, understanding the political economy context of an assessment and identifying specific objectives emerged as important first steps in the design of effective approaches to data collection.

During the expert meeting, the UN-REDD Programme provided an overview of the progress being made in Indonesia's Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD+. The World Resources Institute and the Instituto Centro de Vida

of Brazil discussed their forest governance assessments in two states of Brazil, and the World Bank presented a recent assessment performed in Russia. Participants from several other initiatives, including the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP-FLEGT Programme) also shared their experiences and the forest governance results from a recent household survey done in Tanzania were presented.

The expert group saw the need for new guidance to assist practitioners undertaking forest governance assessments. They agreed that this guidance should be relevant to a range of different users, cover

all major stages of an assessment, include case studies and be a resource that points to other guidance as well as giving new information. Moving forward, participants requested that FAO and the World Bank, with support from the UN-REDD and ACP-FLEGT Programmes, facilitate a collaborative process for the development of guidance on forest governance data collection.

The agenda and the list of participants of the expert working meeting on forest governance data collection, as well as the presentations, can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/Forest-Governance-Meeting-docs> The report of the meeting will be available on the UN-REDD Programme's website in the coming month. ■



UN-REDD Explores New Forest Monitoring Collaborations for REDD+

The UN-REDD Programme recently contributed to a global Capacity Development for REDD+ (CD-REDD) workshop, joining forces with other initiatives to enhance forest monitoring support to REDD+ countries.

The CD-REDD Regional Data Collection Workshop, which took place in Berlin 28 May to 8 June, 2012, aimed at assessing and compiling forest sector activity data for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories in 11 countries across Central America and Africa. The workshop made significant inroads in the identification of data gaps still remaining in most countries. Understanding where the gaps remain will be critical to help inform how future work on GHG inventories should advance.

The CD-REDD team is made up of staff hired with German aid funding (GIZ) through the Coalition of Rainforest Nations. The UN-REDD Programme was invited to the workshop to provide technical inputs and expertise, as well as listen and gain a greater understanding about the data collection and training needs of REDD+ countries. Moving forward, the UN-REDD Programme will continue to explore ways in which it can work more closely with the CD-REDD team and other partners to improve consistency and reduce duplication



in terms of training and support to countries developing their GHG inventories.

The UN-REDD Programme also identified possible areas of collaboration with Colorado State University in the USA, which has developed software to calculate GHG emissions from Agriculture and Land Use change (ALU) tool. The software collates GHG input data such as forest areas and changes in land uses and does many of the calculations required to process the data to help countries produce a GHG report. The UN-REDD Programme also made useful contacts at the workshop with the UNFCCC's Eastern and Southern Africa GHG project and the Southern African Development Community's REDD+ project.

There were 34 participants from 11 countries in total over the two-week workshop. Three countries in Central America (Dominican Republic, Guyana and Suriname) participated in the first week and then eight countries from Africa (Botswana, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia) for the 2nd week, five of which—Guyana, Nigeria, Suriname, Tanzania and Zambia—are partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme. The workshop will be followed up by project team visits to each country over the next few months and a later workshop to help them analyze the results using the ALU GHG software.

Presentations from the meeting are available on the CD-REDD website: <http://cdredd.org/content/workshop-berlin>. ■

Reports & Analysis

REDD+ Capacity Building Country Reports Now Available

Four recently released reports identify gaps and opportunities in REDD+ capacity building in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

With the support of the UN-REDD Programme team at UNEP, the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) has recently released four Asia-Pacific focused reports entitled "Country Assessments on REDD+ Capacity Building Services". These assessments focus on the strengths and weaknesses of REDD+ capacity building in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, and identify gaps in capacity building services, based on their REDD+ readiness needs. Download the full reports for the four countries at the following URLs:

- **Cambodia:** <http://tinyurl.com/Cambodia-Report>;
- **Indonesia:** <http://tinyurl.com/Indonesia-Report>;

- **The Philippines:** <http://tinyurl.com/Philippines-Report>;
- **Viet Nam:** <http://tinyurl.com/VietNam-Report> and
- **The updated policy brief:** <http://tinyurl.com/RECOFT-Policy-Brief>, to bring together the findings from across the region.

In the past three years, tropical forested countries across the world have taken important institutional, policy, legal and piloting steps to become 'ready' for REDD+. Capacity building is a key component of this REDD+ readiness process and is backed by a huge investment of time and money from a large number of organizations, government agencies, communities and individuals.

There has been a massive increase in capacity building during this short three-year period, which begs the question: Do the organizations providing such services have the competencies to fully meet countries' REDD+ readiness needs?

Surprisingly, little is known about the competencies of the organizations, which include government agencies, NGOs, community groups, academic institutions, think-tanks, consultancies, legal firms, and media companies. These reports set out to fill this knowledge gap.

To get a quick overview of the assessment findings, visit the RECOFTC's blog. For further information on the assessment, please contact RECOFTC Program Officer Jim Stephenson (jim.stephenson@recoftc.org) or UNEP UN-REDD Programme Regional Coordinator Thomas Enters (thomas.enters@unep.org). ■

Two New Go-REDD+ Issues from UN-REDD in Asia-Pacific

The latest issues from the UN-REDD Programme Asia-Pacific listserv explore how to explain REDD+ at the local level and the potential compatibility of logging and REDD+.

Go-REDD+

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, "Conveying REDD+ at the Local Level: Some Steps in the Right Direction" discusses the nine

key questions and answers developed by The Center for People and Forests, when communicating REDD+ to Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent

communities. The Go-REDD+ issue also underlines the importance of treading carefully when dealing with questions of monetary benefits, suggesting that one of the biggest challenges related to explaining REDD+ is one of managing expectations.

The Go-REDD+ issue entitled, "Logging and REDD+: Are They Compatible?" summarizes several recent publications looking at synergies between REDD+ and improved

forest management to conserve biodiversity, carbon and timber stocks.

About Go-REDD+

Go-REDD+ is a bi-monthly newsletter distributed by email and managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific. The main objective is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts.

Access previous Go-REDD+ articles in the Go-REDD+ archive at: <http://tinyurl.com/GoREDD-Archive>. ■

Looking Ahead

FCPF 12th Participants Committee meeting

27-29 June, 2012: Santa Marta, Colombia

REDD+ Partnership Meeting

1-2 July, 2012: Santa Marta, Colombia

UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

International Environment House,
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

www.un-redd.org
un-redd@un-redd.org

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