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Report of the Administrative Agent of the UN-REDD Programme Fund for the period

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UNDP

UN environment

UN-REDD Programme Fund

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Environment

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In accordance with the UN-REDD Programme's commitment to contributing to climate neutrality, hard copies of this document will not be printed. All relevant documents of the UN-REDD Programme are available at: www.unredd.net and www.un-redd.org.

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Kara Michelle

Foreword

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Over the last decade, the UN-REDD Programme has evolved and shifted its focus to meet the challenges and opportunities of a new global climate landscape. A growing number of the 64 UN-REDD partner countries are now preparing for and implementing REDD+ actions against the backdrop of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-REDD has responded to this demand by turning its assistance to help partners align and achieve their climate and forest goals.

As UN-REDD partners make the transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation, the UN-REDD Programme is supporting them to move beyond the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ to achieve results on the ground. Ecuador – a REDD+ pioneer – commenced the world's first Green Climate Fund programme for REDD+ implementation and became eligible to seek REDD+ result-based payments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), achievements that benefited from technical assistance from UN-REDD since 2009. Other countries forged new partnerships that will unlock private climate finance and investment to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the Programme's central goal.

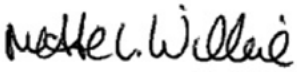
Since the UN-REDD Programme was launched in 2008, it has been the largest international provider of REDD+ readiness assistance in terms of funding, expertise and geographical scope. In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme consolidated its focus on providing technical assistance and knowledge for REDD+ implementation. As the Programme moves into a new phase in 2018 – 2020, it will be with a greater focus on supporting countries in Phase 2, while reaching out to a broader set of partners to accelerate progress through an enhanced knowledge management and communications approach. The Programme will continue to build on the best practice approaches, innovations and complementary experience of its three partner agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment – to provide the network of technical experts and the convening capacity that has underpinned the success of UN-REDD since its onset.

The achievements of the UN-REDD Programme have been made possible through the generous support of the European Union and the Governments of Denmark, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Switzerland, and with the comprehensive technical assistance and cooperation of FAO, UNDP and UN Environment.

The 2017 Annual Progress Report of the UN-REDD Programme Fund highlights the results across the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and key thematic areas, including gender mainstreaming and social inclusion, private sector engagement and tenure. These are accompanied by significant progress in REDD+ implementation, which will be at the centre of the UN-REDD Programme from 2018. The report also highlights the areas of South-South collaboration and institutional partnerships that have been critical to the success of the Programme. Finally, as UN-REDD initiates a new REDD+ implementation-focused programme from 2018 – 2020, the report outlines the strategy and approach for meeting continued partner country demand, while enabling countries to learn from the vast experience and best practices approaches of all partner countries.

Eva Muller
FAO

Adriana Dinu
UNDP



Mette Loyche Wilkie
UN Environment

Executive Summary

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The 2017 Annual Report presents the results of the UN-REDD Programme between January and December 2017, in the context of key cumulative achievements since the Programme's launch in 2008. With partner countries making progress on REDD+ readiness, the UN-REDD Programme has increasingly focused on country demand for technical assistance for REDD+ implementation and support to commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. As of December 2017, the UN-REDD Programme had enabled 64 partner countries across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to make significant progress on REDD+ readiness and implementation.

In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported 37 countries, including the Congo Basin and West African regions. A key focus of the Programme remained assisting partner countries in their efforts to complete the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, a requirement for results-based payments. Adopted in 2013, the Framework outlines four areas of REDD+ readiness: National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs), National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), Forest Reference Emissions Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs), and Safeguards and Safeguards Information Systems (SIS). With UN-REDD Programme support, Ecuador became the first partner to complete these pillars and became eligible to receive results-based payments. In 2017, Ecuador also launched the first Green Climate Fund project for REDD+ implementation. Additional highlights in 2017 include Mexico, which launched the world's first fully operational safeguards information system. In Sri Lanka, the Government approved a National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan in May. This five-year, $99 million investment framework incorporates domestic and international sources of finance. In 2017, together with national and international stakeholders, the UN-REDD Programme supported the development and finalization of Côte d'Ivoire's National REDD+ Strategy, adopted in 2017 by the Ivorian Council of Ministers. These achievements, among others, are outlined in further detail in the report.

Throughout the year, 37 partner countries received customized UN-REDD Programme support through National Programmes, targeted support, technical assistance, community-based REDD+ initiatives, and country and regional needs assessments. In addition to 12 National Programmes, the UN-REDD Programme launched its technical assistance to REDD+ implementation project in 16 countries. The Programme also increased its support to South-South cooperation, and knowledge management and communications, which will play an even larger role in the 2018–2020 programme.

Anchored in the human-rights-based approach, the UN-REDD Programme further strengthened its commitment to stakeholder engagement in 2017 through the development of mechanisms to enable the full and effective inclusion of women, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, local communities and other stakeholders in the design and decision-making for REDD+ actions. Countries also made significant strides in integrating gender equality, increasingly employing the UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender, which was published in early 2017.

UN-REDD programming proactively incorporates lessons learned, in order to improve the range and flexibility of delivery mechanisms to best match each country's needs, and to swiftly provide technical expertise to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in helping partner countries to progress from REDD+ readiness to implementation, and to ultimately access results-based payments.

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Partner Countries of the UN-REDD Programme

In addition, support to Cook Islands, Gambia, Kribati, Marshall Islands, Niger, Palau, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tongo and Tuvalu.

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Introduction

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The 2017 Annual Report presents the results of the UN-REDD Programme between January and December 2017, and the key cumulative achievements since the Programme's launch in 2008. The 2017 Annual Report emphasizes progress against the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and advances towards REDD+ implementation.

The report also highlights annual results at the country level. In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported a total of 37 countries, including countries in the Congo Basin and West African region, through National Programmes, targeted support, community-based REDD+ initiatives and technical assistance to REDD+ implementation. Each of these work areas built on a foundation of almost ten years of UN-REDD country-level programming.

National Programmes in 12 countries helped UN-REDD partners across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean move closer to completing the requirements under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. Moreover, technical experts from across the UN-REDD partner organizations—FAO, UN Environment and UNDP—supported countries to move beyond the Warsaw Framework to develop investment plans for resource mobilization and REDD+ implementation. As part of this shift, the UN-REDD Programme launched a technical assistance to REDD+ implementation project in 13 countries plus the Congo Basin in response to country demand and to target those partners already on the path to achieving REDD+ results.

This combined support to UN-REDD Programme countries aims to help partners to complete the pillars of the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+, requirements that must be delivered before becoming eligible for results-based payments. The framework—adopted in 2013—outlines four requirements of REDD+ readiness: National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs), National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), Forest Reference Emissions Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs) and Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS).

This report also outlines the 2017 results across the Programme's thematic and cross-cutting areas that are critical to REDD+ success, including community-based REDD+ initiatives, social inclusion and gender, private sector engagement, tenure and legal governance, and communications and knowledge management. Knowledge management and exchange continued to play an important role both at country and at global levels. By increasing the understanding of REDD+ actions and fostering exchange on approaches and lessons, the Programme helps countries accelerate their progress towards REDD+ readiness and improve implementation. The results in 2017 continued to demonstrate the added value of South-South cooperation in catalysing REDD+ actions and promoting innovation across the globe.

Building on the achievements of nearly a decade of work, the UN-REDD Programme continued to support stakeholders making progress in REDD+ implementation through country technical assistance and through the generation of new knowledge on specific actions and linkages with other relevant national and international processes. Making real progress on combating deforestation and forest degradation at country level is dependent on the capacity of a country to include these targets in relevant national processes and in looking beyond the forest sector, and to address complex synergies and relations among the different sectors of the landscape for their implementation.

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Impact Story: Viet Nam

HOW THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME CHANGES LIVES

NGUYEN TUONG Hiep is a 38-year-old farmer living in a small village in the southernmost province of Viet Nam. He is one of 2,700 households to receive 20 year contracts from the local forest management board to transform 10,000 hectares of land using sustainable agricultural practices that will enhance the villagers' livelihoods while also increasing forest cover.

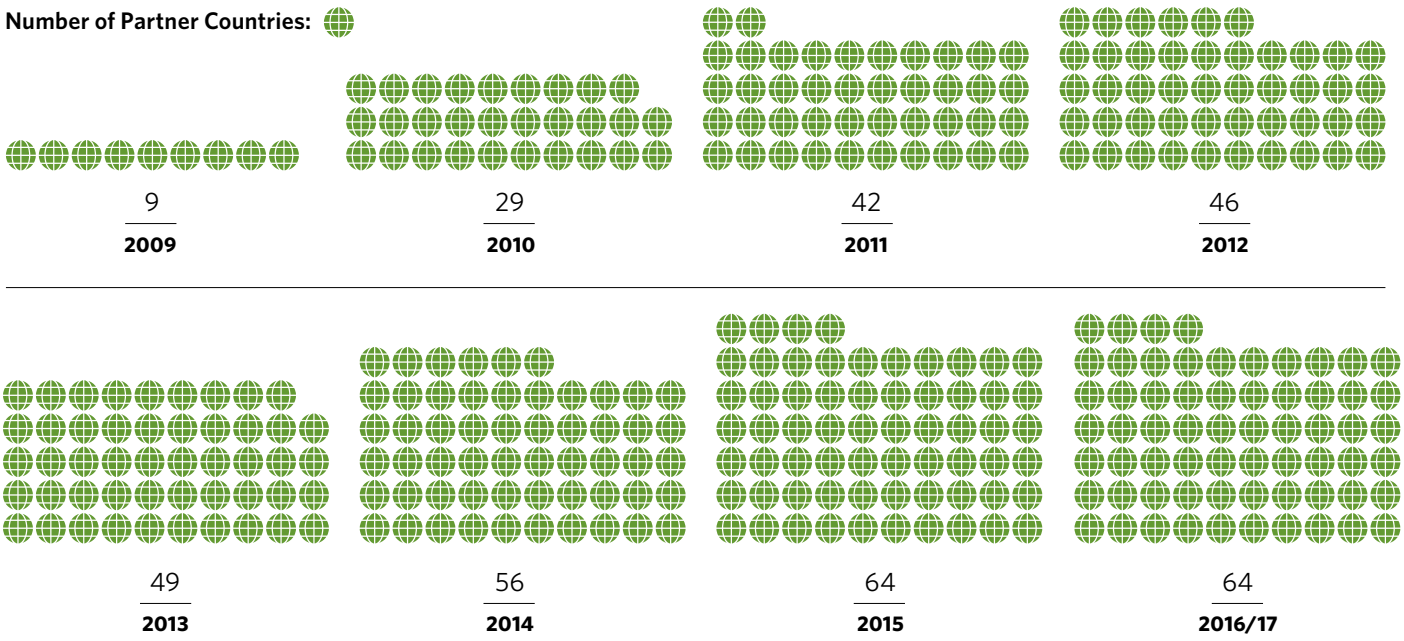
With technical and financial support from the UN-REDD Programme, the local forest management board is working with local families, like Hiep's, to reverse mangrove devastation and the destruction wrought by illegal shrimp farms. Since 2015, Hiep and other local farmers have been adopting integrated forest-aquaculture management models, including certified organic shrimp farming. Lessons from this support will further guide implementation of sustainable and deforestation-free agriculture and aquaculture, which is a measure identified in the Prime Minister's Decision No. 419 for a revised National REDD+ Action Programme. The decision and its implementation plan for 2018-2020 will see the scaling up of these sustainable forest-aquaculture practices - a clear win-win in terms of socio-economic development as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

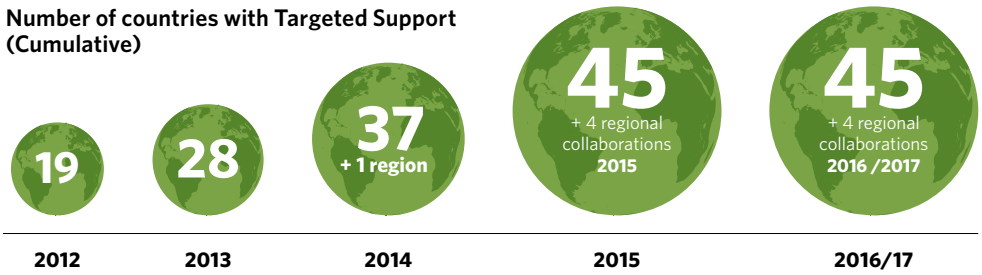
Hiep and his wife are now managing 8.4 hectares of land. When they started working with the UN-REDD Programme, just 36 per cent of their land was covered with mangroves. The rest was deforested long ago. Hiep and his wife knew that organically certified shrimp would generate a 15 to 30% price premium, but they didn't believe they could obtain certification because of the requirement that at least 60% of their land be forested. Also, high technical standards and capital were required for certification, producing shrimp fry and preparing the land for forest plantations and farming.

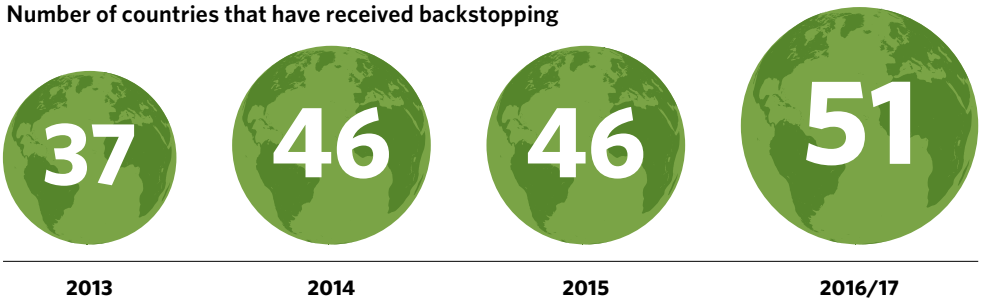
But with the help of the UN-REDD Programme, Hiep was able to overcome these challenges by receiving support in designing an organic farming model, receiving shrimp fry and training on integrated mangrove-shrimp farming. In addition, a local government project also committed to additional support for mangrove restoration to help him reach the 60% forest cover requirement. Today, Hiep is on his way to achieving his dreams of providing a reliable and solid income to support his family of four, his wife and two children, while rebuilding the land.

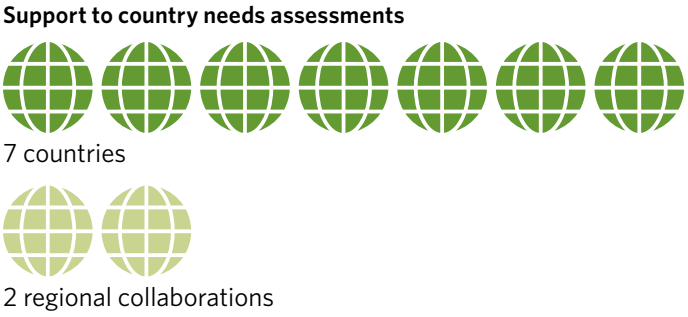
Paul Morris on Unsplash

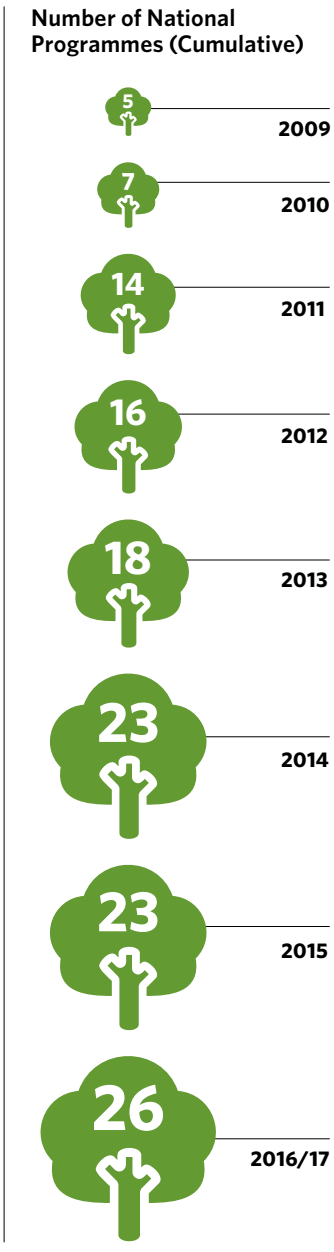
FIGURE 1. UN-REDD PROGRAMME COUNTRY SUPPORT











Progress Against the Warsaw Framework

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The following section outlines cumulative results in achievements against the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework: NS/APs; NFMS; FREL/FRLs; and Safeguards/SIS. Given that this section highlights results over the ten years of the UN-REDD Programme, some countries listed may not be reflected in the country results section if they no longer receive direct Programme support.

NATIONAL STRATEGIES OR ACTION PLANS

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, more than 30 countries have advanced their national REDD+ strategies or action plans, including 17 that have finalized and adopted these strategic documents. During 2017, Argentina, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Viet Nam all finalized national strategies or action plans. Another 12 countries are making strong progress with Programme support: Bangladesh, Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay and Suriname. Every strategy or action plan is developed following a participatory approach, based on capacity-building and technical support to Governments, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities. The strategies or action plans include measures for increased transparency and robust, gender-sensitive institutional, legal and fiduciary arrangements. With Programme support, these strategies and actions plans are increasingly informing countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the land use and forest sector and defining clear paths for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With many strategies or action plans completed and formally endorsed, technical assistance in 2017 focused on developing complementary investment plans to enable the implementation of REDD+ strategies and to attract financing. Ecuador, Sri Lanka and Zambia finalized National Investment Plans in 2017, while Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of the Congo, Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea made notable progress in their design. In Indonesia, an options paper developed on REDD+ investment design options and synergies with the funding mechanisms was presented to the Minister of Environment and Forestry.

Highlights of the UN-REDD Programme partner country achievements in enacting policies, strategies and investment plans for REDD+ in 2017 include the following:

▶ Argentina completed its National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change. The Plan—which aims to mitigate climate change via the forestry sector—was approved by the National Climate Change Ministerial Cabinet following a robust participatory process engaging stakeholders at the national and local levels.

▶ Costa Rica finalized its National REDD+ Strategy and developed a comprehensive REDD+ Implementation Plan, including extensive analysis of the multiple benefits of REDD+ actions, and cost-benefit analyses of REDD+ strategic options for the implementation plan.

▶ Côte d'Ivoire's REDD+ National Strategy was adopted by the Government at the level of its Council of Ministers, in November. UN-REDD support also strengthened its institutional framework for REDD+ through the establishment of the National REDD+ Commission, which contributed to the finalization and adoption of the REDD+ strategy.

▶ Mexico officially adopted its National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2030 in August. The strategy sets out a series of policies and measures which will be incorporated into existing policy instruments to achieve sustainable rural development and deliver REDD+ results.

▶ Myanmar conducted a series of consultations with ministries and other stakeholders resulting in the completion of a first draft of its National REDD+ Strategy.

▶ Nigeria and Uganda launched their national REDD+ strategies at the UNFCCC 23rd annual Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) negotiations in November. Nigeria also launched a comprehensive subnational Cross River State REDD+ Strategy at the same time.

▶ Paraguay completed a first version of a REDD+ national strategy, entitled "National Strategy of Forests for Sustainable Growth", which will be further discussed with stakeholders and endorsed in 2018.

▶ Sri Lanka approved its National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan in May. The five-year, $99 million investment framework incorporates domestic and international sources of finance, sets a clear vision for REDD+ in Sri Lanka, and highlights short and long-term benefits in terms of climate change adaptation, community livelihoods and biodiversity conservation and reduced GHG emissions.

▶ In Viet Nam, the second National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP) was approved, covering the period 2017-2020, and including a national vision for 2030, which demonstrates significant progress towards a transformative approach to REDD+ and sustainable forest development in Viet Nam. Viet Nam then commenced the development of its NRAP Implementation Plan 2018-2020.

NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS

Since its inception, the UN-REDD Programme has supported 40 countries in the development of national forest monitoring systems (NFMS). Thirty countries have received technical support related to satellite land monitoring systems (SLMS) for the generation of land cover/land use (change) information. Twenty-two countries have been supported to develop national web portals for their NFMS, with over half having launched operational portals or web platforms that display NFMS information. In 2017, 13 countries received support to make progress on their national forest inventories (NFIs).

Over the last ten years, the UN-REDD Programme has assisted 26 countries

to meet international reporting requirements or generate data to improve the quality of reporting in this area, including 22 countries that have used this support to enhance transparency through the visualization of national data. The Programme has supported open source modular solutions for satellite and ground data processing (including the OpenForis suite), for example, and cloud-based solutions for data processing and automation.

The UN-REDD Programme has also supported countries, mainly in Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay) in making progress towards adopting appropriate legal instruments to clarify institutional mandates associated with NFMS;

The UN-REDD Programme has helped countries to ensure consistency between REDD+ forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels (FREL/FRLs) and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and to strengthen reporting on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sectors and REDD+ results. These actions addressed a gap that had been highlighted in several country needs-based assessments.

Additionally, the UN-REDD Programme has continued to collaborate with several other initiatives on REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification, including the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), UNFCCC, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and SilvaCarbon, the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) and the Open Foris initiative, which provide the technical tools for NFMS implementation. In 2017, an OpenSAR modular suite was developed for processing of radar data on the SEPAL platform and has been used in several countries. Existing apps for change detection and other applications (e.g. in emergencies) were further developed and refined. Together with forest reference emissions levels/forest reference levels, these mechanisms provide the building blocks to establish national forest monitoring systems in country, which contributes to sound REDD+ policy and decision-making.

Impact Story: Panama

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE USE DRONES TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THE FOREST

MORE THAN HALF of Panama is covered with forests, with more than one-third of those areas in indigenous territories. Since 2016, the country's indigenous groups (Bribri, Bugle, Embera, Guna, Naso Tjër-Di, Ngäbe and Wounaan) teamed up with the UN-REDD Programme to monitor the forests using drones and other technology.

A series of training workshops that began in early 2016 have seen indigenous technicians from each general congress learning how to design flight plans, pilot drones and use aerial data to produce detailed maps of tribal lands. Drones also allow these communities to monitor crops, forest fires, harvests from farmlands, water sources and encroachments from logging, mining or ranching operations on indigenous territories.

Indigenous technicians have also been trained in the fundamentals of cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), geographic databases, spatial data processing tools, Google Earth tools and remote sensing. This training has strengthened the capacity of local technicians to generate information for the management of their territory and their natural resources, and to train other members of their communities.

"The combination of land and remote sensing monitoring allows us to know the dynamics of loss, degradation and restoration of forest cover," says Rafael Valdespino, a trained drone technician from the Embera-Wounaan territory.

With the country's rainy season making ground surveys impossible for half the year, the drones' ability to cover remote areas from above makes them vital tools for forest monitoring. Beyond assessing forests, community monitoring is key to improving the management and conservation of natural resources in indigenous territories. Some indigenous participants have already developed maps and other documents to support land claims and a more integrated use of land.

The experience and knowledge some of the indigenous technicians of Panama have learned has led to South-South cooperation, in the form of workshops held in other countries like Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru.

Maria Fernanda Gonzalez on Unsplash

Highlights of country achievements in 2017 include the following:

▶ Argentina received support on the GHG inventory for the AFOLU sector, included in its Biennial Update Report (BUR)

▶ Sri Lanka completed its NFI, while Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea and Uganda are near completion.

▶ SEPAL reached 790 users in over 60 countries, with approximately 57 per cent of those users located in Africa, Asia and Latin America - demonstrating its added value for the needs of developing countries.

▶ The UN-REDD Programme actively engaged community groups in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Peru to develop their technical capacity for community forest monitoring and management. Empowering communities through monitoring initiatives ensures they have an active role in the national forest monitoring processes. As a result, countries are more likely to achieve their national strategy's objectives.

FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVELS/FOREST REFERENCE LEVELS

The UN-REDD Programme has been instrumental in maintaining momentum for countries to construct and submit forest reference emission levels (FREL/FRL). Of the 34 countries that have submitted FREL/FRLs to the UNFCCC, over 70 per cent have received UN-REDD Programme support.

In 2017, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Uganda submitted their FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC following UN-REDD Programme

Impact Story: Mongolia

UN-REDD'S FIRST NON-TROPICAL COUNTRY DEVELOPS ITS NATIONAL FRL

MONGOLIA'S BOREAL forests are part of the world's largest land-based carbon sink, stretching across the Northern Hemisphere and supporting the livelihoods of local people, including many nomadic communities. The boreal forests, together with the country's unique saxaul forest, cover about 12% of the country's surface area.

Mongolia, the first non-tropical country to join the UN-REDD Programme, is a low emitter of greenhouse gases, but is disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change. Over the past two decades, temperatures have been rising at three times the average annual global rate, leading to hotter summers, drought, advancing desertification and melting permafrost. These changes have led to the degradation of forests and grassland ecosystems on which nomadic livelihoods depend. In addition, the release of carbon stocks in thawed permafrost could significantly increase the net emissions of the country's greenhouse gases.

Deforestation rates are low, but Mongolia's huge scale and small population mean that emissions from forest degradation are hard to address. On average, over 140,000 hectares of boreal forest is affected each year by fires and insect pests.

With support of the UN-REDD Programme, the country is developing a national forest and climate change strategy focused on the promotion of sustainable forest management and the role of forests in achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.

Together with national partners including the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the Forest Research Development Centre and the Climate Change Project Implementation Unit, the UN-REDD Programme has conducted a series of technical workshops and advisory services to prepare a national Forest Reference Level (FRL). The FRL was submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2018, and technical staff from national institutions are currently working with UNFCCC experts on a technical assessment of the submission, with a view to revising and improving the data and conclusions.

"The FRL is not only a benchmark document," says Sanna Enkhtaivan, GHG Inventory Specialist with Mongolia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism. "But it is also a starting line for us to protect, manage and enhance the carbon storage in our forests."

Safeguarding forests can help the country meets its Sustainable Development Goals by putting climate change measures into national policies and plans, creating business opportunities for sustainable forest management, improving climate change awareness and mobilizing finance for mitigation.

Jean Beller on Unsplash

support. Further support provided during 2017 enabled six countries to finalise their FREL/FRL: Democratic Republic of Congo, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Suriname. The Programme also supported eight countries (Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Kenya and Mexico) to significantly advance their FREL/FRL submissions, or provide technical support on potential REDD+ results reporting and/or alignment with UNFCCC requirements. This support was provided through methodological work and consultations with a broad range of stakeholders from Government ministries, non-Governmental organizations, academia and the private sector. The UN-REDD Programme increased in-country capacity and understanding of the FREL/FRL through training on the UNFCCC requirements and of information on the policy and technical implications of FREL/FRL construction.

Cambodia, Honduras, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Uganda, which submitted FREL/FRLs by the end of 2016/ in early 2017, also received UN-REDD Programme support during 2017 to make improvements as a result of the UNFCCC Technical Assessment.

Several countries took advantage of the opportunity to collaborate and exchange FREL/FRL experiences during regional knowledge exchanges in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Eleven African countries were able to exchange experiences through South-South collaboration when a panel of African countries that had submitted FREL/FRLs shared lessons learned at a regional event. Eleven Asia-Pacific countries participated in a similar regional experience-sharing event in Nepal, focusing on the lessons learned from countries undergoing the TA process with the UNFCCC.

In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme focused on building capacity in areas where gaps had been identified during the 2016 country needs assessment. In several countries, for example, FREL/FRL and GHG reporting are not the responsibility of the same Government entity. However, by providing complementary support for FREL/FRL submissions and GHG inventory reporting through the biennial update reports and national communications, the UN-REDD Programme improved communication and data sharing between different Government agencies and ensured consistency in reporting.

Both the technical assistance and strengthening capacities on the FREL/FRL are of particular importance, not only for the REDD+ international process but also as a key tool for domestic decision- making. With the focus of country work increasingly moving towards the implementation of REDD+ actions, stakeholders will have to reinforce the linkages between NFMS and FREL/FRL with the results of this implementation. The UN-REDD Programme is gearing up and initiating support on technical methodologies to better measure the effectiveness of specific implementation actions (e.g. restoration).

Josh Calabrese on Unsplash

SAFEGUARDS AND SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS

During 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported 15 countries with their country approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Honduras, Mongolia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Panama, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Of these countries, half made progress with their summaries of information, including Colombia and Ecuador, which submitted their first summaries of information to the UNFCCC. Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Viet Nam have drafted first summary texts for 2018 submission. Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia have started planning processes for drafting their first summaries.

Nine countries (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia) made progress in designing their national SIS and are moving towards operationalization.

Two thirds of the countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Mongolia, Myanmar, Panama, Viet Nam and Zambia) have conducted analytical steps in their country approaches to safeguards contributing to one or more UNFCCC requirements. These include assessments of environmental and social benefits and risks of proposed REDD+ Policies and measures, national interpretations of the Cancun safeguards and/or assessments of existing policies, laws and regulations.

Highlights of country achievements in 2017 include:

▶ Mexico launched the world's first fully operational SIS. The SIS is now online and expected to be populated with information early in 2018. Staff operating the system, at national and State levels, have been trained in its use. A first summary of information was drafted and is scheduled for early 2018 submission to the UNFCCC.

▶ Mongolia established a technical working group, which has assessed the environmental and social benefits of REDD+ policies and measures in the national strategy. The country also reviewed existing safeguards, relevant policies, laws and regulations, and clarified the Cancun safeguards in the national context.

▶ Zambia progressed with its country approach to safeguards having established a multi-stakeholder working group, which has assessed the environmental and social benefits of REDD+ activities comprising the national investment plan. The country also interpreted the Cancun safeguards in the national context, and contributed to a first iteration SIS design.

FIGURE 2. UN-REDD PROGRAMME COUNTRY SUPPORT

Over 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported 15 countries with their country approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements; this year's achievements can be summarized as:

of the countries made progress with their summaries of information

Colombia and **Ecuador** submitted their first summaries of information to the UNFCCC. **Chile**, **Costa Rica**, **Mexico** and **Viet Nam** have drafted first summary texts for 2018 submission. **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Zambia** have started planning processes for drafting their first summaries. Figure XX presents a close-of-2017 snapshot overview of progress with summaries of information.

of the countries have made progress in designing their national SIS

Argentina, **Colombia**, **Costa Rica**, **Honduras**, **Mexico**, **Nigeria**, **Sri Lanka**, **Viet Nam** and **Zambia** have made progress in designing their national SIS and are moving towards operationalization. Figure YY presents a close-of-2017 snapshot overview of progress with SIS design.

of the countries have conducted analytical steps in their country approaches to safeguards

Argentina, **Chile**, **Colombia**, **Cote d'Ivoire**, **Honduras**, **Mongolia**, **Myanmar**, **Panama**, **Viet Nam** and **Zambia** have conducted analytical steps in their country approaches to safeguards contributing to one or more UNFCCC requirements.

FIGURE 3. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SUMMARIES OF SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION AT THE CLOSE OF 2017

FIGURE 4. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE CLOSE OF 2017

Impact Story: Mexico

MEXICO LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST FULLY OPERATIONAL REDD+ SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM

MEXICO HAS 64.8 million hectares of forest, both tropical and temperate. Improving sustainable rural development has been identified in the National REDD+ Strategy as the best way to reduce the pressures that drive deforestation and forest degradation. Safeguards have been a priority for Mexico's National REDD+ Strategy, ensuring that the planned rural development benefits both people and nature.

After eight years of extensive consultations, the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) launched the world's first, fully operational SIS in December, 2017, a milestone achievement for Mexico and the UN-REDD Programme. Since 2010, the UN-REDD Programme has been working with CONAFOR on designing and establishing the information system, a key requirement of the UNFCCC for REDD+ countries as part of a broader National Safeguards System.

The brand new SIS will serve to present integrated information and issue reports on REDD+ safeguards and how they are implemented at national and state levels. Identifying, assessing, and strengthening policies, laws, regulations that comprise the National Safeguards System, as well as the institutional capacities to implement them, will ensure the benefits of REDD+ are enhanced and risks reduced.

To design the SIS, a broad, participatory approach was applied, engaging national institutions, civil society, academics, indigenous peoples, women, local communities and State-level representatives through national workshops, webinars and workshops. The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities was considered particularly important and will be an ongoing challenge, making sure they are kept informed in a culturally appropriate manner.

"The design and the development of the SIS represented an unprecedented process, which was carried out in a participatory manner," said Norma Pedroza, REDD+ Safeguards Coordinator with FAO in CONAFOR.

The SIS will be used in the national decision-making process, improving the implementation of REDD+ activities across the country. Mexico's experiences setting up the world's first fully functioning SIS will also provide inputs and practical help to other REDD+ countries in the region and beyond.

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Progress Towards REDD+ Implementation

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In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme increasingly focused on supporting countries with establishing and implementing a range of policy, institutional and financial arrangements to effectively tackle the drivers of deforestation and degradation and foster the implementation of REDD+ actions. This includes structural reforms and addressing complex landscape issues beyond the forestry sector.

With UN-REDD support and advice, partner countries are progressively incorporating REDD+ into existing national processes and international commitments, in particular in relation to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the UNFCCC, as set out in the Paris Agreement. In Argentina, the UN-REDD Programme supported the preparation of the "Forest and Climate Change National Action Plan," which was presented at the COP23 as one of the components of the country's NDC. In Ecuador, the collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme helped finalize arrangements to implement the country's REDD+ Action Plan, including forest conservation, restoration and "bio-business" (through Socio Bosque), and deforestation control, traceability, responsible purchasing of forest products and engagement with national public and private banks to fund sustainable production. While working on the preparation and revision of the NDC in the agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) sector, the country is paying special attention to linkages with REDD+.

The UN-REDD Programme is also supporting the implementation of investment plans and the associated resource mobilization, thus enabling REDD+ actions. Ecuador and the Congo Basin deserve a specific mention. Ecuador, building on UN-REDD Programme technical support and capacity building in past years, in 2017 initiated the first Green Climate Fund programme for REDD+ implementation and became eligible to seek REDD+ result-based payments under the UNFCCC. The country is also willing to participate in the Green Climate Fund results-based payments pilot programme: for 2014, Ecuador has 4,831,679 tCO_2 that are eligible for submission for results-based payments.

In the Congo Basin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo National REDD + Fund (FONAREDD) has had several investment and sectoral reform programmes submitted and approved, which will propel the country towards REDD+ results in line with its national strategy, investment plan and the agreements with the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).

Other countries in the region advanced their national investment plans: Gabon, Equatorial Guinea (where two Green Climate Fund readiness proposals focusing on REDD+, mainly on NFMS and FREL/FRL, were prepared and approved) and the Republic of the Congo (a concept note proposal was discussed with the country stakeholders and submitted to the Green Climate Fund for consideration. The activities proposed in the concept note are aligned with the priorities established in the National REDD+ investment plan). When Côte d'Ivoire adopted its National REDD+

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Strategy at the level of the Council of Ministers in 2017, this signalled REDD+ as a national development priority. The country also submitted its FREL to the UNFCCC. These two achievements laid the basis for a national project submission to the Green Climate Fund on zero-deforestation agriculture, which attracted close to $100 million in co-financing commitments from the cocoa private sector. Meanwhile, Viet Nam has been reviewing its monitoring, reporting and verification plans and submitted FRLs for participation in the Green Climate Fund results-based payments pilot programme.

The UN-REDD Programme is also helping countries recognize the importance of enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation to manage natural resources as a means of decreasing deforestation and forest degradation, while maintaining land for other key sectors and boosting the economy. It is worth mentioning the revised 2017 National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP) for Viet Nam, which involved agencies outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for a third of its 44 policies and measures. Underpinning the NRAP objective, the National Target Programme for Sustainable Forest Management to 2020 was approved, establishing a multi-sectoral steering mechanism, group certification for smallholders under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and mangrove management and restoration initiatives with aquaculture farmers. Subnational level plans for REDD+ implementation were completed in six pilot provinces, demonstrating the progress on intersectoral coordination on REDD+.

Other countries advancing with support on REDD+ implementation include Paraguay, Colombia, Liberia-Guinea transboundary efforts and Nepal, where actions in the domain of integrated approach for forestry, land tenure and food security were implemented. These actions involved relevant partners such as FAO's Forest and Farm Facility, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Ford Foundation.

Ecuador has revised a number of credit lines in the national banking system,

promoting changes to direct financing for REDD+ compatible activities in the land use sector. Joint efforts with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) identified triggers of transformational change in the forestry and land use sectors and generated a series of general recommendations calling for better cross-sectoral coordination, strengthening public and private investment and integrated landscape management, among others. The joint work undertaken with CIFOR and based on the experience of three countries (Peru, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia), led to the preparation of a framework that Governments can use to review and amend their policy and institutional frameworks for effective implementation of REDD+, NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for cross-sectoral, coherent and inclusive outcomes.

Finally, countries consistently recognized tenure rights and good governance as key factors for successful REDD+ implementation. The UN-REDD Programme played a role in addressing issues of forest land encroachment (Tunisia), designing and implementing a forest boundary demarcation methodology (Sri Lanka), strengthening legal arrangements for forest or land monitoring systems (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Honduras) and forest-enhancing governance and legality of wood production, in collaboration with other initiatives such as the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). On this last aspect, UN-REDD joined efforts with the Tropical Research and Agricultural Education Centre (CATIE) and Forest Trends to analyse and develop concrete plans and recommendations for catalysing FLEGT efforts in the framework of REDD+ national processes.

Several countries advanced towards low impact forest management (Panama, Bolivia), fire integrated management (Chile), inclusion of concepts of value chains in REDD+ investment plans (Zambia) and community forestry as actions to bridge local and national efforts in combating climate change in the forest sector. This was stronger in Latin America, where the Programme empowered indigenous people to manage and monitor their territories using innovative technologies in Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, while enhancing South-South cooperation among them.

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Country Results

The following section outlines results across the 26 countries, plus the Congo Basin and West African regions, that were actively supported by the UN-REDD Programme in 2017 through technical assistance, capacity-building and national programmes. A "traffic light" colour code is used to give a quick snapshot of progress in each country against the five delivery-support mechanisms the Programme used in 2017, namely: technical assistance (comprising technical assistance provided to ongoing national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation); targeted support; national programmes; community-based REDD+; and country needs assessments.

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

As outlined in the table below, each country has identified the type of support received from the UN-REDD Programme (see table for abbreviations) and the status of implementation. In the case of multiple types of support, each will be listed separately. Under the traffic light system, the implementation status of each type of support is identified as follows:

Completed: all activities have been completed in 2017 the programme is pending closure or closed

On track: all activities are underway in accordance with the 2017 annual workplan

Delayed: activities have been delayed. The cause of delays and solutions to ensure the programme's successful completion are briefly outlined in the "Challenges and Solutions" section

Not started: the Programme experienced severe delays and was not initiated in 2017. The reason for the delay along with anticipated solutions and a new timeline are briefly outlined in the "Challenges and Solutions" section

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK PILLARS

In order to simplify country updates, the following abbreviations will be used when discussing progress against the Warsaw Framework:

NS/AP: National Strategies or Action Plans

FREL/FRL: Forest Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level

NFMS: National Forest Monitoring Systems

SIS: Safeguards and Safeguards Information Systems

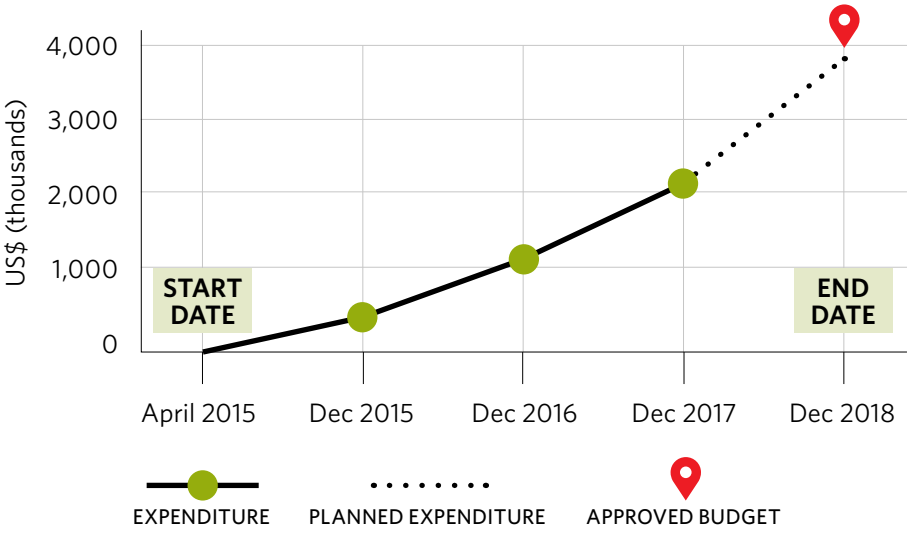
Completed	On track	Delayed	Not started

Technical Assistance to ongoing National Programmes	TA
2017 Technical Assistance to REDD+ Implementation	2017 TA
Targeted Support	TS
National Programme	NP
Community-Based REDD+	CBR+
Country Needs Assessment	CNA

ARGENTINA

NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Argentina has been receiving support through a UN-REDD National Programme since 2015 for REDD+ readiness across all four pillars of the Warsaw Framework. The National Programme has been extended (without cost), and it is now due to be completed in December of 2018.

NS/AP: With support of the UN-REDD Programme, Argentina finalized a first version of its Forest and Climate Change National Action Plan (FCCNAP) on December 2017. The Action Plan is integrated into Argentina´s nationally determined contribution (NDC) implementation framework and contains mechanisms for addressing emissions from the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector. It has received a first approval from the Ministers Cabinet and was presented at COP23. The Plan has an unconditional target to avoid 27 Mt CO2e by 2030.

FREL/FRL: Dialogues and joint sessions of work carried out among Forests and Climate Change offices inside the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development identified elements for the construction of a national level FREL and analysed technical implications and linkages with the greenhouse gas inventory (GHG-I) and Biennial Update Report (BUR). A working group will aim to complete construction of the FREL by the end of 2018.

NFMS: Following a road map established in 2016, technical studies and methodologies implemented by the Forest Direction (MAyDS) and a consortium of institutions aimed to automate the national forest monitoring system in five priority regions of the country. These new methodologies will enhance the capacity of the NFMS to meet the increasing demand for national and international reporting. Technical assistance was also provided to analyse the second National Forest Inventory to include REDD+ aspects, for example an analysis of carbon stocks. The NFMS dissemination platform was enhanced with tools to improve its functionality and was populated with data layers, including those related to the GHG-I and AFOLU sector.

SIS: The UN-REDD Programme supported Argentina to complete a study of the relevant legal and institutional framework on addressing and respecting the REDD+ safeguards, and the identification of gaps and weaknesses. These

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inputs were socialized and discussed with key stakeholders of the Working Group on Safeguards and Social and Environmental Benefits of Forests. Argentina continued with the identification and analysis of relevant national information systems and sources and an analysis of this information to support the design of a proposal for a SIS.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Delays in restarting the programme after the change of Government in 2016 put the expected results at risk. The Government of Argentina requested and was granted a no-cost extension. The UN-REDD agencies evaluated the year's performance and concluded that an extension until December 2018 would be sufficient to achieve the results committed in the project document.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The integration of gender in the national programme, originally drafted in 2015, has not been fully observed. In response, the Programme Management Unit has taken additional measures to promote and ensure the adequate integration of gender into the national programme. As a result, there will be an additional focus on gender for the remainder of the implementation period.

In 2017, the Programme Management Unit led a multi-stakeholder assessment to determine the best approach for consultations with indigenous peoples. The assessment concluded that the National Programme would contribute to the development of guidelines to be applied by national public entities regarding consultations with indigenous peoples (to be finalized in 2018).

The development of Argentina´s Forest and Climate Change National Action Plan (FCCNAP) followed a systematic participatory process, involving stakeholders at the local level, from indigenous peoples to smallholder farmers. This represented a departure from common practice in national policy development in Argentina.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) programme started in Argentina in December 2017. The FCPF will take up key aspects related to the implementation of the FCCNAP (formulated with the support of UN-REDD), through financing mechanisms in the provinces, which have legal responsibility for the implementation of measures to reduce deforestation and possibly execute pilots in priority territories.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2009 — **October** Became Partner Country

2012 — **November** Approval of targeted support

2013

2014 — **July** Policy Board approval of NP

2015 — **March** Signature of NPD; **April** First Fund Transfer for NP

2018 — **December** Planned NP end date

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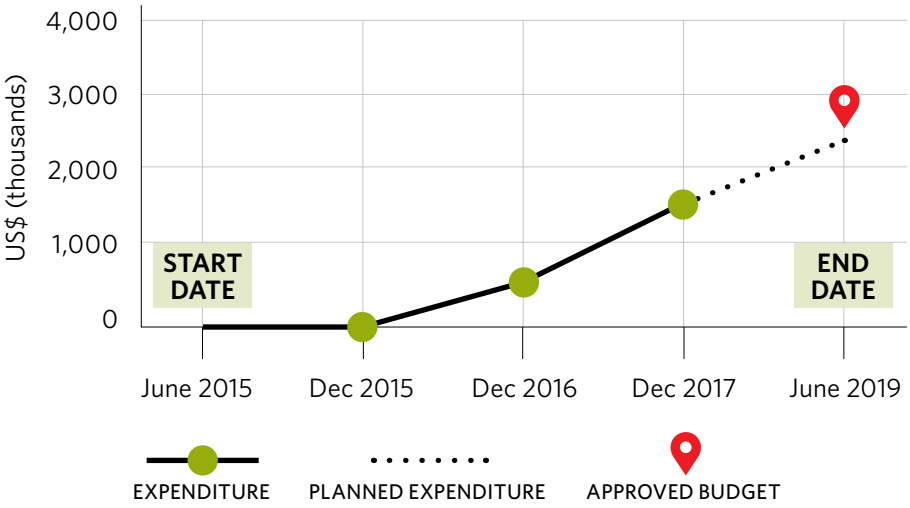
BANGLADESH

NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: Following a study of the drivers of deforestation in Bangladesh completed during 2016, the UN-REDD Programme has continued to provide support to analyse the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and the barriers to forest enhancement. As a result, potential policy and measures have been outlined for the National REDD+ Strategy, which is currently in a development stage.

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme supported Bangladesh to draft its first national FRL, which is now ready for submission to the UNFCCC prior to the technical assessment phase.

NFMS: Bangladesh completed its National Forest Inventory (NFI) design

Adrien Taylor on Unsplash

with UN-REDD Programme support and initiated a first cycle. Land cover maps for recent years have been prepared and the satellite land monitoring system is currently being tested. The development of a sophisticated satellite monitoring system and finalization of a first draft FRL are all major steps towards successful REDD+ implementation in Bangladesh.

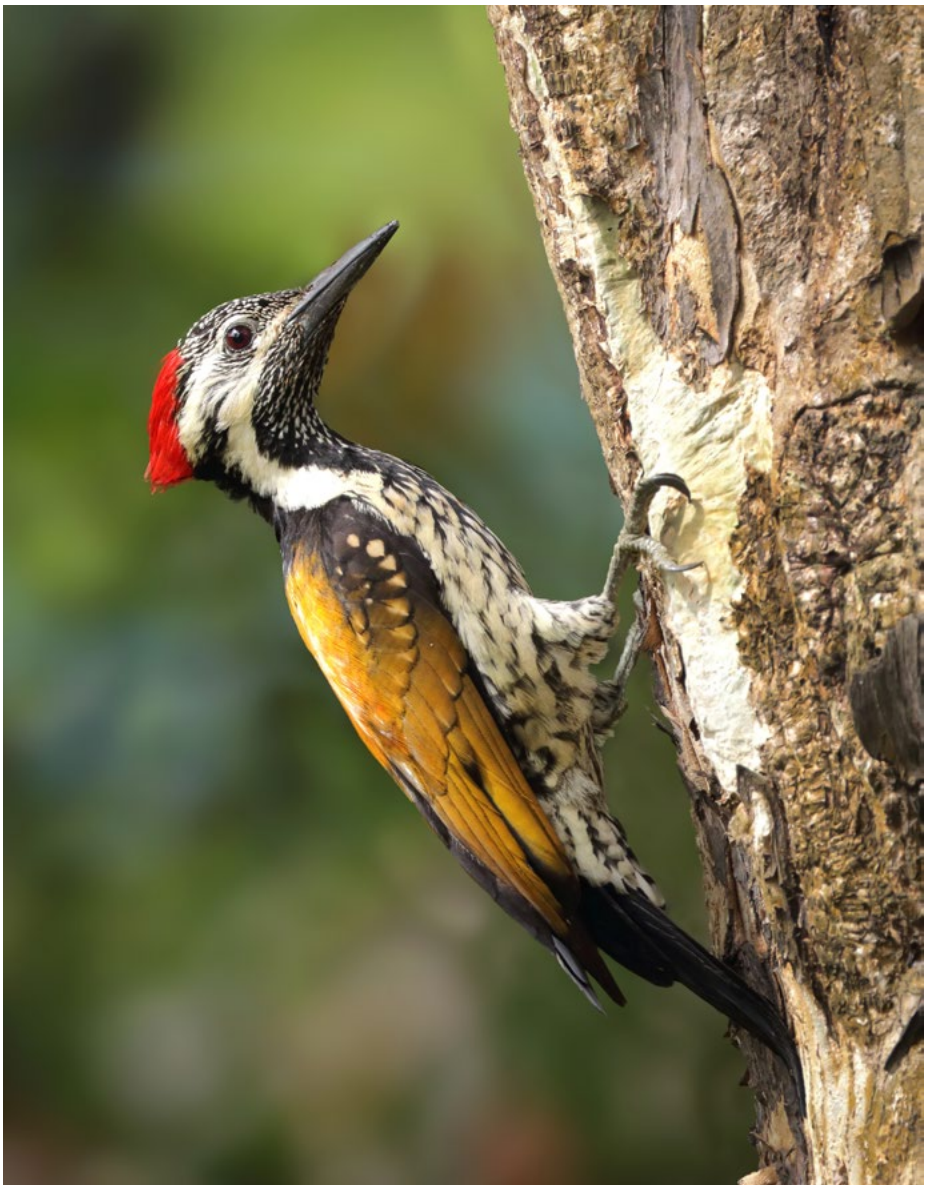
SIS: Social and environmental parameters have been incorporated into the NFMS and an analysis has been completed on the status of environmental safeguards.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Implementation of the Bangladesh National Programme is one year behind schedule due to delays in establishing Government-mandated institutional arrangements. Following significant advancements on NFMS and FRL-related activities supported by the UN-REDD Programme, additional activities can now proceed through an FAO/USAID NFI project, although National REDD+ Strategy-related activities have been affected.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Bangladesh's National Programme has a strong focus on addressing gender. In support of these efforts, a number of gender issues were identified in the analysis of deforestation drivers, and as a result, subsequent consultations will set female and youth participation and attendance targets, as well as ensure activities follow an accessible format to minimize participation barriers among women and youth. Ongoing gender efforts also include development of a gender analysis to identify and recommend how REDD+ policies and measures, governance structures, land tenure arrangements and safeguards can be designed and implemented in the country so as to ensure women, men, male and female youth and disadvantaged communities are involved in and benefit from the REDD+ process. Additionally, women's active participation will be encouraged through women's only groups while any key person interviews will consider the interviewer-interviewee gender dynamic.



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PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh is working closely alongside two USAID-financed forest sector initiatives; for design and implementation of a multi-purpose NFI, and for building capacity on climate change within the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These initiatives given the National Programme access to an enhanced pool of international and national expertise to advance NFMS and FRL activities.

TIMELINE

2010 — **August** Became Partner Country

2012 — **January** Approval of targeted support (1st); **July** Approval of targeted support (2nd); **August** Approval of targeted support (3rd)

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

2013 — **December** Policy Board approval of NP

2014 — **July** Approval of targeted support (4th)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2015 — **May** Signature of NPD; **June** First Fund Transfer for NP

2019 — **June** Planned NP end date

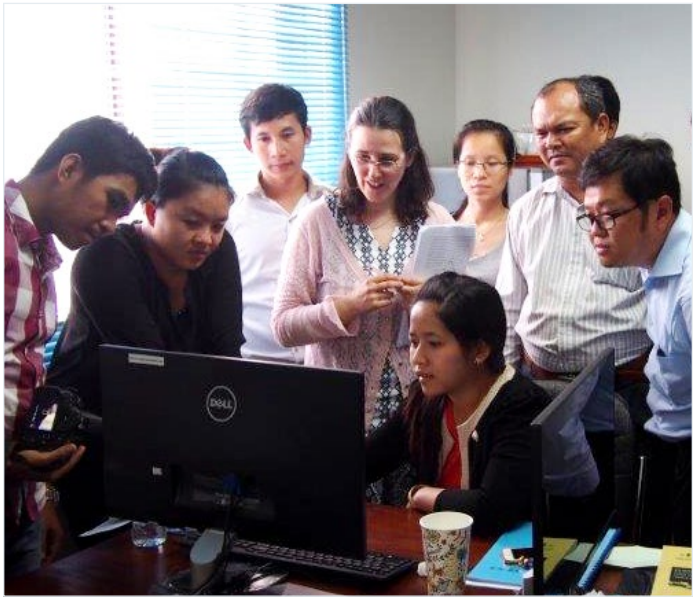
CAMBODIA | TS

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported the completion of the National REDD+ Strategy, which has now been endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The Programme also supported the elaboration of the national FRL that was submitted in January 2017 and the Technical Assessment process which was completed in 2017. The revised FRL will be finalized in 2018. The NFMS design has been completed and its implementation strengthened through the improvement of data and national institutional capacity. Safeguard systems are yet to be fully designed, but a proposal for a national approach to SIS has been developed. The Programme has also strengthened capacities to develop a National Forest Inventory (NFI). NFI trials were undertaken in conservation areas and production forest sites in two jurisdictions. The UN-REDD Programme also supported Cambodia to revise its NFI field manual, update Open Foris Collect database and field forms and develop Open Foris Calc scripts for data analysis. Training events coordinated by the Programme enhanced Government stakeholder capacity on forest inventory, data entry and data analysis. The latest NFI field manual was translated into Khmer to increase accessibility.

PARTNERSHIPS

Capacity development through the Programme has made possible the implementation of a national-level NFI as part of Cambodia's Forest Investment Programme (FIP) funding proposal to the World Bank. Programme support was implemented alongside the first phase of the FCPF Readiness support to Cambodia, which provided inputs on National REDD+ Strategy development, SIS and NFMS. Building directly on UN-REDD Programme technical support, FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme provided assistance to Cambodia's national FRL and Technical Assessment process.

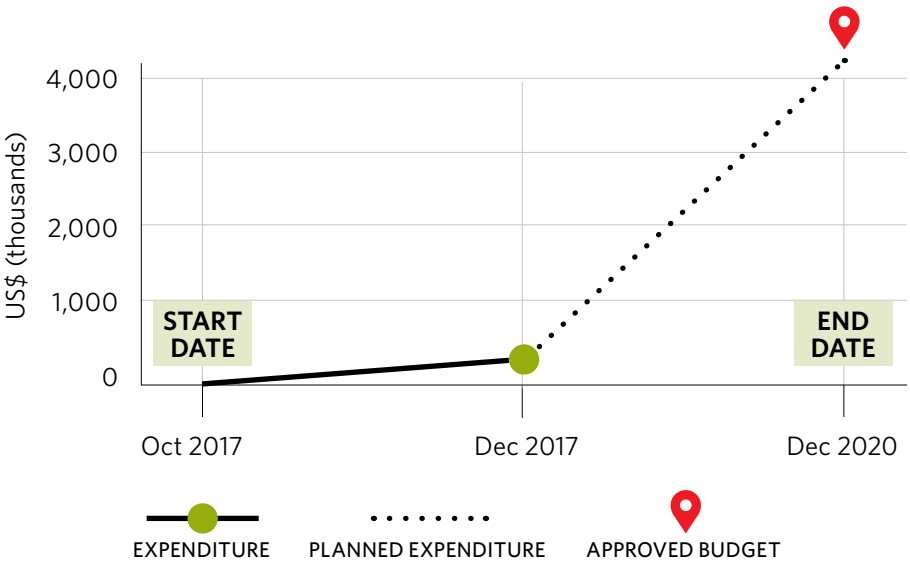


Clockwise from top left: UN-REDD Programme; Kristen Sturdivant on Unsplash; UN-REDD Programme; Vanrith Va on Unsplash

CHILE

TA | TS | NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

The UN-REDD Programme commenced a National Programme in Chile in late 2017, which has focused its initial efforts on developing an adequate management structure to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of planned activities under the Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF) in Chile. These efforts resulted in the development of road maps and terms of references for procurement that will start during the first trimestre of 2018 and aim to strengthen several aspects of the National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV), in line the Warsaw Framework.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The Environmental Forest Fund (FFA), designed with targeted support from the UN-REDD Programme, serves as a tool for the financial and operational architecture of the ENCCRV of CONAF. This Fund aims to be an intermediary to channel private and public, international and national donations to implement the actions of the ENCCRV, and will be tested in the UN-REDD National Programme. In addition, the first application of the Social and Environmental Management Framework (MGAS) restored 51 hectares of land, giving continuity to the 137.4 hectares that have an influence over a surface area of 445.8 hectares and a CO2e balance of 20,889 tons. As a result of landscape restorations, Chile was able to develop environmental indicators specifically aimed at estimating the impact of water availability, soil loss and landscape fragmentation. Other outputs were based on calculations for estimating opportunity costs and estimating the cost of forestation and operative planning for the implementation of the measures under the ENCCRV.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In order to achieve success at the national level, it was critical to establish a system for prioritizing actions. The transparency, participation and socialization of this process were key factors in defining areas for investment, and at the same time served a base for the prioritization tool of the ENCCRV.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

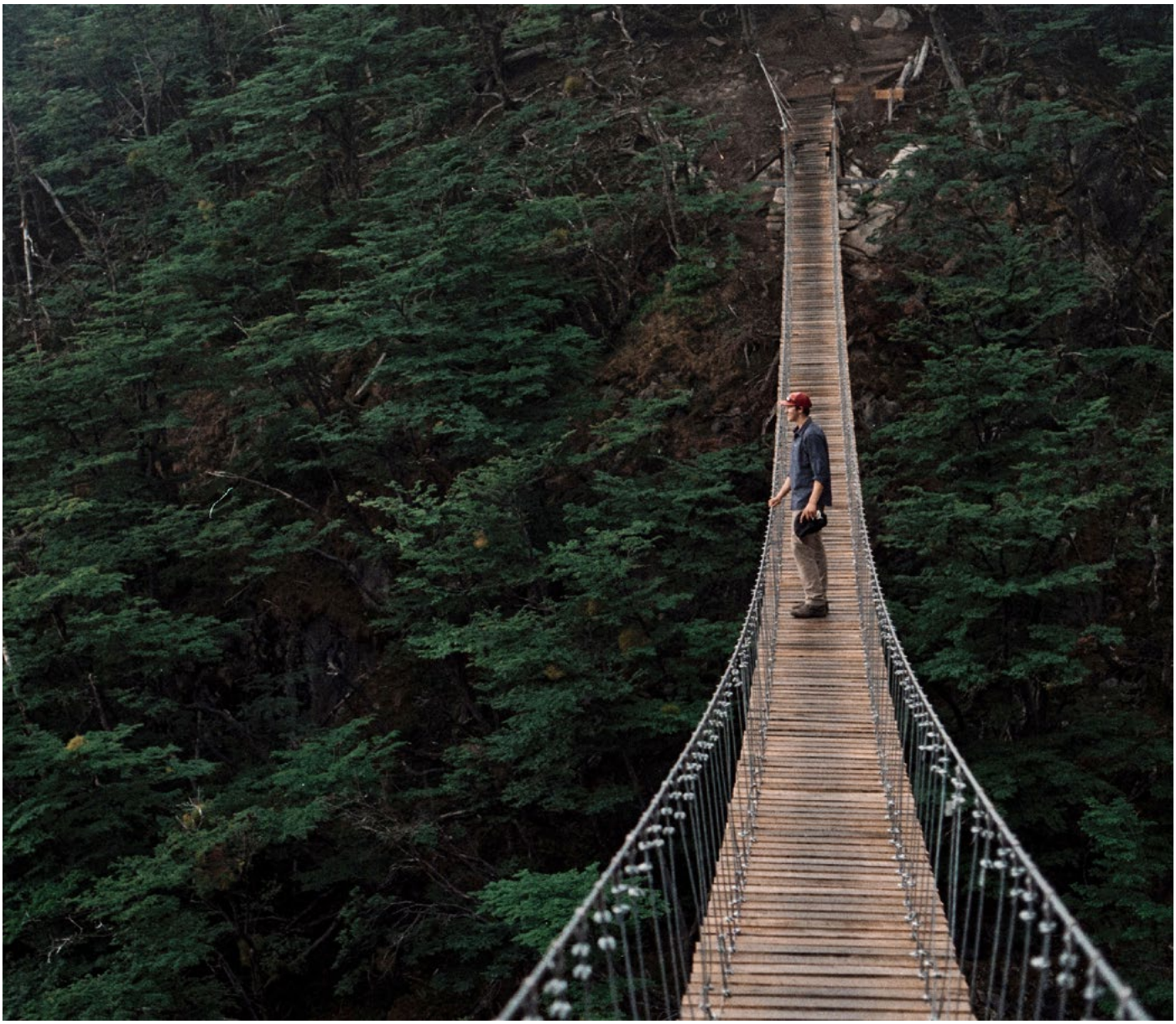
Gender and stakeholder participation was considered during all phases of the development of the ENCCRV. During

Ricardo Alfaro on Unsplash

the workshops for the development of the ENCCRV 31 per cent of participants were women. Integrating gender is considered a challenge in Chile, and it is a public policy commitment. Acknowledging this, several dialogues have taken place exclusively for women from the different regions in Chile to seek their opinion on forest resources, and the barriers women face in accessing the benefits. There is a plan to incorporate a gender perspective in the upcoming projects to be developed in the territories to ensure women benefit directly from the actions taken.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) has supported Chile through a Readiness Grant to participate in positive incentives for REDD+. This includes: adopting REDD+ national strategies that correspond to the ENCCRV; developing forest emissions reference levels; designing measurement, reporting and verification systems (MR) and establishing measures for REDD+ national management, including the approach to environmental and social safeguards. The ENCCRV has received support from other funds, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and benefited from South-South cooperation.



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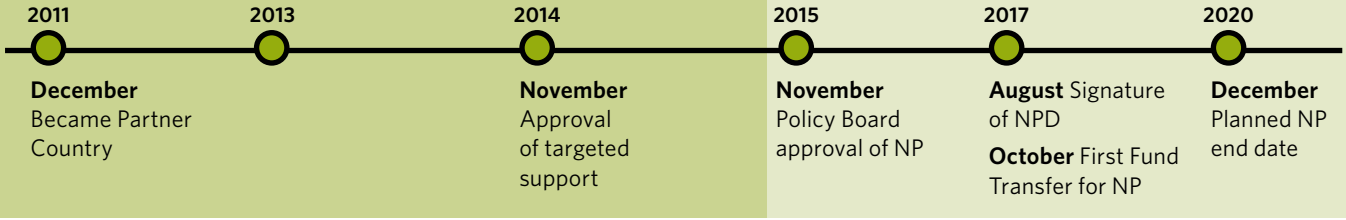
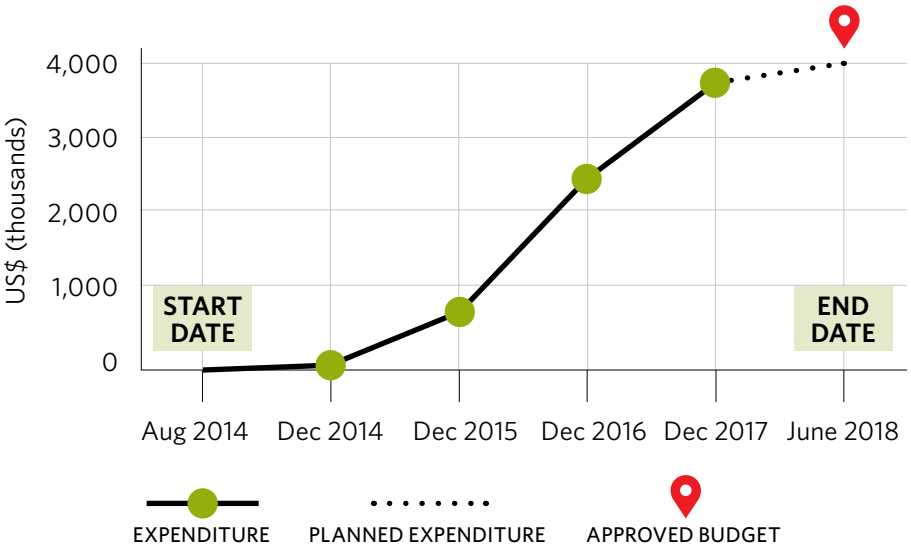
TIMELINE



COLOMBIA

2017 TA | **NP** | **CNA (Part of Mesoamerica)**

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

The UN-REDD Programme has continued to support the final stage of Colombia's National Programme, which will be completed in 2018.

NS/APs: In 2017, Colombia developed the draft National Integral Strategy to Control Deforestation and the Management of Forests—also known as "Bosques Territorios de Vida"—which is expected to be finalized in early 2018 following public consultation on its policies and measures.

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme supported Colombia to develop its national FREL methodology, which incorporated National Forest Inventory data and will enable submission to UNFCCC. The FREL should be completed in 2018, in accordance with the country's commitments under the Joint Declaration of Intent with Norway, the United Kingdom and Germany (JDI/REDD+). Colombia submitted a subnational forest reference emission levels (FREL) for the Amazon biome and submitted the first Technical Annex of REDD+ Results as part of its Biennial Update Report (BUR), which will enable a national FREL to be developed.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme provided legal advice on different drafts of the resolution developed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to establish the regulatory structure for the National Forest and Carbon Monitoring System and National Forest Inventory and Forest Information System, which is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the NFMS. With Programme support, Colombia integrated community forest monitoring, sustainable forest management and forest degradation monitoring tools, which will support the national reporting process.

SIS: Colombia delivered its first summary of information for the Amazon region to the UNFCCC through its third National Climate Change Communication in 2017. A draft of its second report has been prepared following a public consultation process, including a national safeguards workshop with indigenous peoples. The national safeguards interpretation has been consolidated, and inputs for the SIS have been generated.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The Programme supported the consolidation of two national level and one regional participatory platforms, including Mesa REDD+ and existing stakeholder platforms incorporating indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and *campesinos*. Mesa REDD+ strengthened cross-sectoral cooperation, with the participation of the Government and non-Government stakeholders to implement Colombia's policies and measures and the Strategy to Control Deforestation and Manage Forests.

Programme support for post-conflict rural development programmes catalysed cross-sectoral integration and improved rural productive systems for the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures. In 2017, the Government developed options to address mitigation and adaptation measures in six agricultural systems, particularly for cacao, with UN-REDD Programme support, and a national agreement for zero-deforestation oil palm production.

The Programme supported Colombia through consultation and capacity development with stakeholders to identify and prioritize social, environmental and institutional benefits from their policies and measures and national strategy. The Programme also supported awareness raising and technical inputs to enhance forest law enforcement, in collaboration with the European Union-FAO FLEGT Programme, and provided guidance on how to create an enabling environment for sustainable forest management through community forestry.

Colombia developed economic instruments for REDD+ with a redesign of the Forest Conservation Incentive programme focused on the Pacific Region. The country also worked with development banks to examine the potential

effects of loans and other financial incentives for commodity production in the Amazon. Commodity producers and the local finance sector were engaged by the Programme to examine the feasibility of sustainable agriculture business models and, alongside Colombia's development banks, examined the impacts of loans and financial incentives for commodity production in the Amazon region.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The upcoming presidential elections in 2018 present a challenge to maintain momentum in a context of potential changes in Government and policy priorities. Maintaining communication with Government officials and key partners during the transition will ensure that progress to date and lessons learned will inform future policy direction concerning forests and climate change.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

With UN-REDD support, a gender analysis and a corresponding gender mainstreaming strategy was prepared to help identify entry points for gender action within existing and future REDD+ readiness processes. The strategy was widely disseminated among key stakeholders, including indigenous peoples, *campesino*, and Afro-Colombians. Participation of Afro-Colombians in the REDD+ process was strengthened and facilitated through six workshops and capacity-building events in which more than 200 people participated (24 per cent were women). As a result of such efforts, gender equality principles were also integrated in the draft National Strategy to Control Deforestation and the Management of Forests.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has continued to coordinate REDD+ initiatives, while the UN-REDD Programme has continued to collaborate with other REDD+ initiatives in the country, including the FCPF, the Biocarbon Fund, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) Programme on Forests and Climate, and the implementation of JDI/REDD+.

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TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2010
August Became Partner Country

2013
February Approval of targeted support
June Policy Board approval of NP

2014
August Signature of NPD
• First Fund Transfer for NP
September Approval of regional CNA incl. Colombia

2015

2018
June Planned NP end date

CONGO BASIN

2017 TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

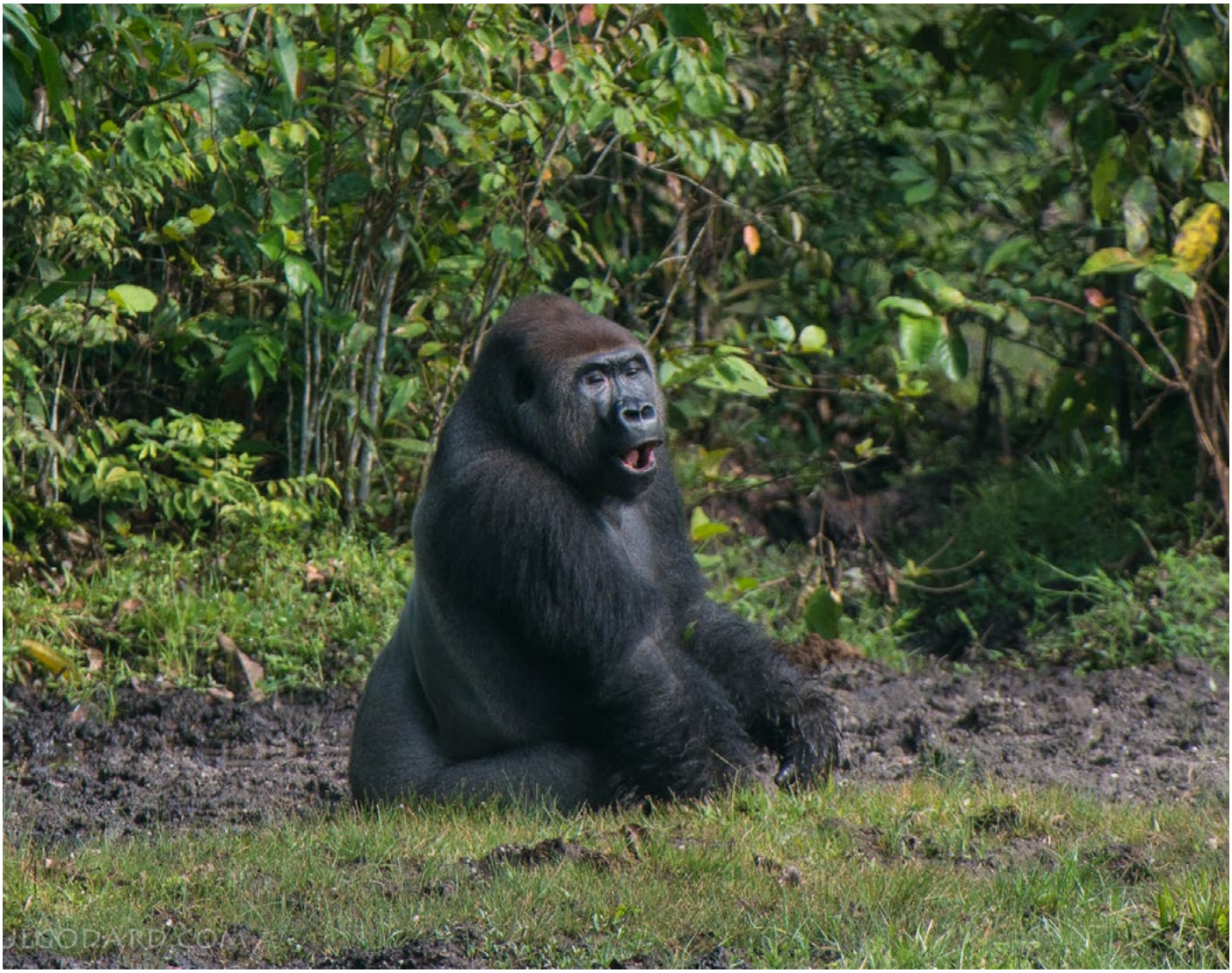
In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme provided support to three countries in the Congo Basin: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea.

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme supported Equatorial Guinea in the implementation of CAFI-funded activities in the development of the national REDD+ strategy and investment plan. In the Republic of the Congo, the UN-REDD Programme supported the development of the national REDD+ strategy and provided technical inputs on the development of the investment plan. This was submitted to the FIP subcommittee, and endorsed in Dec 2017, although the subcommittee noted a need to address the comments of the CAFI Board sent to the Government of the Republic of the Congo in November 2017.

FREL/FRL: the Programme supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop its FREL in 2017, which was then submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2018. This FREL is currently undergoing the technical assessment. In addition, the Republic of the Congo was supported to modify its FREL which was re-submitted to UNFCCC for technical assessment and is now published on the UNFCCC website. The UN-REDD programme is now developing activities for 2018 to cover the areas of improvement identified during the technical assessment process for the Republic of the Congo.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme supported the implementation of the CAFI-funded national forest monitoring system and provided technical expertise related to national forest inventories in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This national forest inventory is functioning and the satellite forest monitoring system is operational, which will enable an update of national deforestation statistics and the tracking of major deforestation events.

Following the Programme's support to the operationalization of the satellite land monitoring system and the assessment of forest changes for the period 2014-2016 in the Republic of the Congo, the Programme further supported a pilot for the methodology



Paul Godard on Flickr

to assess forest degradation through remote sensing technology. The results were presented at COP23. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme supported the analysis of the national forest inventory results and their validation and publication. The results will be published in early 2018.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN-REDD Programme has supported the development of effective and transparent institutional arrangements through the following initiatives: providing technical assistance to refine programme objectives and targets for governance and the investment plan in the country; supporting political negotiations that resulted in the cancellation of illegal forest concessions covering more than 400,000 hectares in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; acting as a focal point for the country portfolio; facilitating DRC's participation in CAFI board meetings and developing country-specific work plans with FONAREDD. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme contributed to the implementation of policy and measures by supporting national partners with recruitment, capacity development and through project development for Land Use and Eastern Programmes and the Energy Programme.

In the Republic of the Congo, the UN-REDD Programme has also collaborated closely with the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and key Government actors in the development of the country's REDD+ Investment Plan, submitted to the FIP in December 2017 as well as CAFI, and implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

In Equatorial Guinea, the UN-REDD Programme provided technical assistance to develop a study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in synergy with CAFI-funded activities. The study is guiding the development of the national REDD+ strategy and investment plan, which will be completed in 2018. Technical support was also provided in the formulation of REDD+ readiness proposals in the framework of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

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CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In the Republic of the Congo, the main challenge remains the weak anchoring of the investment planning process and lack of leadership by a Government entity with an intersectoral mandate. The UN-REDD Programme could provide support in conveying this message to the authorities and help leapfrog the institutional burdens to demonstrate Government commitment to implementing and monitoring cross-sectoral policies and measures in the LULUCF sector. Another challenge for the Republic of the Congo will be maintaining stakeholder participation via the Consultation Framework for Congolese Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples (CACO-REDD) platform, which the UN-REDD Programme supported in its establishment phase.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, internal political conflicts between two ministries responsible for REDD+ in the country resulted in several delays. To resolve these issues, high-level discussions have been held with the ministries and the CAFI representatives to clarify misunderstandings and restart activities for a smooth implementation in 2018.

In Equatorial Guinea, progress on the finalization of the REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan was hampered by national staff changes in key positions following legislative elections. There were also some difficulties in accessing and cross-checking information for the drivers study. Consequently, work on these two outputs slowed and resources were redirected from the UN-REDD Programme to recover lost time from this delay.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the national forest inventory collection methodologies include gender and youth data and socially inclusive practices and approaches. In Equatorial Guinea, technical assistance was provided in the development of a consultation and communication plan for REDD+ and an Action Plan for Gender in REDD in the framework of the CAFI project.

PARTNERSHIPS

Support from the UN-REDD Programme during 2017 was closely coordinated with the FCPF, FIP and CAFI in the different countries of the Congo Basin. The REDD+ investment plan in the Republic of the Congo has been developed closely with CAFI and FIP partners (Agence Française de Développement (AFD), World Bank, AfDB) and the work supported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is coordinated at high level with other partners such as the World Bank, AFD, the CAFI Secretariat and the CAFI Board. In addition, progress of the intermediary outputs towards the development of the REDD+ Strategy and Investment Plan in Equatorial Guinea are regularly shared with the CAFI board.

COSTA RICA | TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: UN-REDD Programme support has been provided to the Government to successfully finalize the National REDD+ Strategy and develop a comprehensive REDD+ Implementation Plan. Understanding of the benefits of REDD+ was integral to this work. The Programme supported an extensive analysis on multiple benefits of the National REDD+ Strategy actions and a policy brief on the multiple benefits of REDD+, cost-benefit analyses of REDD+ strategic options for the implementation plan and the development of indicators to evaluate the multiple REDD+ benefits in Costa Rica. In addition, a review of private sector and financing options for REDD+ and the development of a substrategy for gender mainstreaming, were carried out to assist in creating enabling conditions for policies and measures.

FREL/FRL: The current Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) is being updated based on recommendations by the UNFCCC Technical Assessment Report and the FCPF. Support was provided by the UN-REDD Programme through participation in the discussion of a new methodology to measure forest degradation and integrate this into the FREL/REL.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme continued to support the development of the National Land Use, Land Cover and Ecosystems Monitoring System (SIMOCUTE) with the establishment of four task forces to design the technical elements of the system. The task forces

UN-REDD Programme

have successfully brought together cross-sectoral stakeholders from 12 organizations, including the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and various academic institutions. During 2017, task forces carried out technical activities including NFI modifications, harmonization of the classification systems for coverage and land use; and, pilots on sampling with remote sensing to estimate land use changes and forest degradation. Support was also provided to finalize a review of legislation, which became the basis for the decree establishing SIMOCUTE. The Monitoring Land Use Change Within Productive Landscapes (MOCUPP) became operational during 2017 thanks to support from the Programme and will progressively monitor five commodities until 2020. A task force was established to facilitate its inclusion into the SIMOCUTE.

SIS: Significant progress was made to develop the summary of safeguards information for the UNFCCC with support from the UN-REDD Programme. Programme assistance included a webinar on best practices to operationalize and integrate the SIS in Costa Rica's National REDD+ Strategy.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Following completion of the National REDD+ Strategy and implementation plan, Costa Rica costed all the REDD+ policies and measures. The Government then identified financing sources for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, in addition to those already provided by the FCPF Carbon Fund, to develop a REDD+ financial plan. The country was also able to engage the Development Banking System to develop tailored financial products that contribute to REDD+ implementation.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The main challenge is the length of time taken to institutionalize the SIMOCUTE across Costa Rica. In order to tackle this, the process should be started as soon as possible and mobilize other sources from the cooperation.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A substrategy for gender mainstreaming, as part of the enabling conditions for policies and measures, was recommended and integrated to the National REDD+ Strategy and implementation plan.

PARTNERSHIPS

The NFMS/SIMOCUTE has been supported by a joint collaboration with the United States Forest Service (USFS)-Silva Carbon. Funds from the Inter American Bank for Development/ Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (BID/CATIE), Silva Carbon and FCPF were coordinated to adjust and conclude SIMOCUTE's methodologies after the pilots.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2010
August Became Partner Country

2012
October Approval of targeted support

2013
July Approval of targeted support (1st) with top up

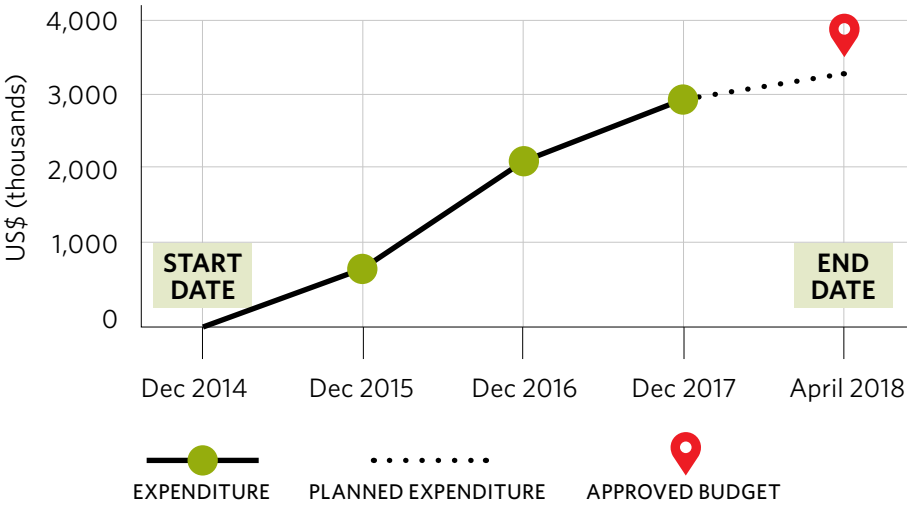
2014
August Approval of targeted support (2nd)
September Approval of regional CNA incl. Costa Rica

2015

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

2017 TA | **NP**

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: Together with national and international stakeholders, the UN-REDD Programme has supported the development and finalization of Côte d'Ivoire's National REDD+ Strategy, adopted in 2017 by the Ivorian Council of Ministers. Programme support also helped strengthen the institutional framework through the establishment of the national REDD+ commission, which is composed of three bodies: the national committee, the interministerial technical committee and the executive secretariat, which in turn have contributed to the REDD+ strategy finalization and adoption.

FREL/FRL: The FRL document was submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017, revised between March and November 2017 and has now been published. The technical support of the UN-REDD Programme experts to the monitoring, reporting and verification and the LULUCF GHG inventory process has ensured alignment and consistency between the GHG inventory, the biennial update report and the reference level.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme strengthened the forest monitoring and monitoring, reporting and evaluation(M&MRV) cell capacities for the National Forest Monitoring System including:

Carrying out a forest biomass inventory that has allowed the country to determine the deforestation emission factors. It will provide the basis for the National Forest Inventory.

Completing a mapping study of forest dynamics (1986-2000-2015) for the land surveillance spatial system. The M&MRV cell continues to refine these preliminary results, and expand the time frame depending on the availability of satellite images.

Developing the greenhouse gas inventory for the forest reference level.

SIS: The Safeguards Working Group was formally launched in November 2017. The UN-REDD Programme supported a risks and benefits assessment of REDD+ policies and measures inscribed in the National REDD+ Strategy and the national clarification of UNFCCC guidance undertaken by the Working Group. These efforts will lead to the conclusion of work on the SIS design elements in April 2018. Planning for the first Summary of Information on Safeguards was also initiated.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Weaknesses in the governance and financial management of the SEP-REDD (the REDD+ Permanent Executive Secretariat), and the change of personnel including the coordinator, have led to significant delays in the implementation of the annual work plan 2017.

Solutions adopted include the reorganization of SEP-REDD, the strengthening

UN-REDD Programme, Brice Delagneau

of the implementation team (including through technical assistance), a revision of the annual work plan and an extension of the National Programme until April 2018.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, gender considerations were integrated into the National REDD+ Strategy. To illustrate, the strategy highlights job creation for women and youth as a co-benefit of the Strategy's objectives, while efforts around zero deforestation in the agricultural sector explicitly note efforts to equally improve the livelihoods of producers, women, men and youth. In 2017, women were also involved in REDD+ consultations and in decision-making bodies. However, there is a continued need to improve their involvement, as women only represented 25 per cent of the participants at REDD+ consultation activities and held 22 per cent of seats on the national REDD+ committee and 25 per cent of seats on the executive board of the Ivorian Observatory for Natural Resources Management (OIREN). Within SEP-REDD women hold a slightly larger proportion of positions (30 per cent), but this needs to be improved upon as well. Given these findings, in 2018, the UN-REDD Programme will pay particular attention to increasing the participation of women.

Through the National Programme, civil society has been supported to engage with OIREN, and to strengthen its institutional and technical capacity. Some internal difficulties have also been solved.

PARTNERSHIPS

Coordination with partners (mainly FCPF, AFD and European Forest Institute (EFI)) has helped avoid overlap and duplication, in particular through ensuring mutual consistency of work plans. This cooperation has been affected by the fund freeze the World Bank implemented during 2017. Examples of coordination at the technical level include the standardization of monitoring, reporting and verification methodologies between national and regional levels (for example, the World Bank Emission Reduction (ER) Programme and the Debt Reduction-Development Contract (C2D)/French Development Agency (AFD)-funded REDD+ project in La Mé region) or a UNDP/ UN Environment/ EFI collaboration on zero-deforestation agriculture.

UN-REDD Programme, Brice Delagneau

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011 — **June** Became Partner Country

2012 — **November** Approval of targeted support (1st)

2013 — **December** Approval of targeted support (2nd)

2014 — **July** Policy Board approval of NP
August Approval of targeted support (3rd)
October Approval of regional CNA incl. Cote d'Ivoire
November Signature of NPD
December First Fund Transfer for NP

2015 — **March** Signature of NPD
April First Fund Transfer for NP

2018 — **April** Planned NP end date

ECUADOR

2017 TA | **TS**

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: With UN-REDD Programme support, Ecuador became the second country worldwide to finalize its REDD+ readiness process by complying with all the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. Ecuador is now officially ready to seek REDD+ result-based payments and is willing to participate in the Green Climate Fund's pilot programme for results-based payments.

FREL/FRL: The Programme is supporting Ecuador is develop its second FREL/FRL, which will preliminarily include emissions from degradation and potentially other REDD+ activities such as conservation and carbon stock enhancement.

NFMS: Ecuador is one of the first countries to complete the process and have its Technical Annex successfully analysed by the UNFCCC, enabling the country to receive results-based payments for REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme continues to provide technical assistance to the Government for the result-based payments phase, and is collaborating in the development of Ecuador's national determined contribution (NDC). In 2017, the Programme provided support to define the guidelines and management model of the NFMS and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in the NFMS. As a result, two legal reports have been developed, focusing on the legal and institutional analysis of the environmental/ forest legislation related to the NFMS, and on a comparative analysis of NFMS national legislation of Colombia, Peru, Costa Rica and Mexico.

In addition, a characterization of the different systems linked to the NFMS has been developed to identify and describe the information systems and platforms able to facilitate the exchange of data for the NFMS. These reports were prepared based on interviews with the Ministry of Environment and consultation meetings that were organized to share preliminary results. The Programme's support in this area centred on drafting the articles related to the NFMS to implement the Environmental Code.

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SIS: The UN-REDD Programme has supported Ecuador to map out the processes needed for the implementation of the system for providing information on how the safeguards have been addressed and respected, including the definition of activities, roles and forms. The country is currently working on the automation of these processes and the development of the REDD+ web platform, which hosts the SIS. The system will be publicly available in the first trimester of 2018 under the Ministry of Environment platform – the Environmental Information System (SUIA). In addition, Ecuador submitted its first summary of information to explain how the Cancun safeguards were addressed and respected during the 2013-2015 period. Finally, the Programme supported the country to draft a manual that will guide the development of subsequent summaries of information.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Ecuador is now starting the implementation of its REDD+ Action Plan through the Integrated Amazon Programme for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Production – ProAmazonía, with Green Climate Fund and GEF funds. The programme will reduce greenhouse gases emissions from deforestation, which represents 30 per cent of emissions in Ecuador, and provides a coherent package of policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation and improve land use efficiency in the Amazon. It will also contribute to the mitigation of climate change and Ecuador's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.

The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture also engaged with the finance sector through the organization of training sessions for risk managers within financial institutions focused on managing environmental risks within the financing of commodity production. The UN-REDD Programme also supported the development of proposals for financial products tailored to more sustainable commodity production. Finally, the Programme supported a draft proposal for a financial regulation that encourages financial institutions to integrate environmental and social considerations into their credit allocation.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Ecuador is moving into the REDD+ implementation phase and given the high bar imposed by the Green Climate Fund, the country will need support from UN-REDD Programme agencies. However, this will be subject to securing additional funding and key alliances among agencies and additional donors.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Criteria and activities have been developed to ensure the consideration of a gender approach in the implementation of REDD+ and the social inclusion of priority groups, established in the country´s constitution. These include the development of a study that analysed existing capacity and provides recommendations for mainstreaming gender in climate change measures, specifically in REDD+ actions. This study, along with the gender reports, developed with UN-REDD Programme support in 2015, will be used and updated as necessary in 2018 to provide specific information related to gender gaps, targets, indicators and tangible actions, and will inform REDD+ implementation and monitoring efforts over the next five years.

A collaborative workplan was also developed with indigenous organizations—the **Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon** (CONFENIAE) and the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (COICA)—and WWF, in order to identify REDD+ measures and actions that could be implemented in indigenous peoples' territories. Efforts were devoted to ensure that these actions are coherent with the measures established in the REDD+ Action Plan, and defined according to their circumstances, needs and priorities. The potential social and environmental risks and benefits associated with these actions were also identified.

PARTNERSHIPS

A collaboration framework has been established with the Government of Germany (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) in order to continue the support on the FREL. The FIP investment plan was approved in December 2017. The province of Pastaza became a member of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force. Italy started to support REDD+ efforts in Ecuador. And preliminary discussions for collaboration took place with the European Forestry Institute (land use planning and tracking tools) and the Green Climate Fund (funding options).

TIMELINE

2009
June Became Partner Country

2011
March Policy Board approval of NP
October Signature of NPD
November First Fund Transfer for NP

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

2013

2014
September Approval of targeted support (1st)
December NP end date

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2015
January Approval of targeted support (2nd)
March NP Final Evaluation
June Approval of targeted support (3rd)
July Approval of targeted support (4th)

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ETHIOPIA

2017 TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Ethiopia's national REDD+ strategy was completed and endorsed by the Government with support from the FCPF. The UN-REDD Programme contributed to the strategy through the forest economic valuation study. The Programme will build upon this to develop private financing options and a capacity-building framework. Furthermore, the Programme's support in Benishangul-Gumuz will focus specifically on enhancing the capacity of the Forest Directorate to enhance carbon stock and to sustainably manage the existing forest resources through the development of a road map for sustainable forest management in support of REDD+ activities.

The road map will enable the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to plan for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the regional state of Benishangul-Gumuz, and will focus on sustainable forest management, forest and landscape restoration and approaches to incentivize investments in the forest sector. This contributes to the Warsaw Framework in that it addresses Ethiopia's national REDD+ strategy. Furthermore, the work draws on outputs of the NFMS within the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Unit, utilizing national land use/land cover maps to identify areas of bamboo and target communities in and around those areas in Benishangul-Gumuz.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme has supported the scoping of private financing options for Benishangul Gumuz province, building on previous and ongoing Programme work in the region. The scoping exercise has also been embedded in an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding between Ethiopian Airlines and the UN Environment. Ethiopia has also initiated the design of a funding proposal concept to support REDD+ implementation in the region.

A capacity-building framework has been drafted, and the Programme is collaborating with CIFOR on restoration and sustainable management of degraded Ethiopia forests and landscapes and the development of a sustainable forest management (SFM) plan for Benishangul-Gumuz. This collaboration will deliver; a) Guidelines on SFM in Ethiopia's drylands, including constraints and opportunities for applying SFM and forest landscape restoration guidelines, b) Capacity development and awareness raising with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, regional Benishangul-Gumuz and federal authorities and stakeholders on utilizing guidelines on sustainable forest management and preparing a sustainable forest management plan for Benishangul-Gumuz. The plan focuses on bamboo, including guidelines and recommendations for SFM practices and restoration activities in relation to bamboo management and private sector incentives.

Planning for technical and high-level dialogues to disseminate the findings of Ethiopia's forest ecosystem valuation and capacity-building framework have been initiated with UN-REDD Programme support. These dialogues are intended to mobilize support for REDD+ and proposed private sector initiatives in Ethiopia.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Government buy-in of the technical assistance business model proved to be a long process, which led to delays in implementation. There is now an agreement on the implementation of each technical area of work and activities are on track for conclusion in 2018.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The SFM plan will incorporate a section on gender to help provide guidance on how to take gender into consideration within SFM. This will also contribute to stakeholder guidance on participation in sustainable forest management at all levels.

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration has been established with CIFOR on capacity-building on restoration and sustainable management of degraded Ethiopian forests and landscapes and development of the SFM for Benishangul-Gumuz. This collaboration will deliver: a) guidelines on SFM in drylands for the Ethiopia context, including constraints and opportunities to applying SFM and forest landscape restoration guidelines; and b) capacity development and awareness raising of the officials in the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, both the regional Benishangul-Gumuz and federal authorities and stakeholders, in utilizing guidelines on Sustainable Forest Management. The Programme has also worked closely with FCPF and FAO on the forest reference level, although outside the UN-REDD Programme partnership.

UN-REDD Programme / Breakthrough Media / Sam Sapin

GUYANA

2017 TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme carried out remote advisory services and one mission to provide technical support and general guidance on ensuring consistency among different reporting mechanisms: second FREL/FRL, BUR including REDD Technical Annex, and the nationally determined contribution.

SIS: The UN-REDD Programme contributed to Guyana's progress towards addressing and respecting the Cancun safeguards, namely related to compliance with international law, good governance, respect for indigenous peoples' rights and full and effective participation. According to newly adopted guidelines, the Ameridian Land Titling Project will work with indigenous peoples and other stakeholder to fulfil the Guyana's duties and obligations to recognize and title indigenous peoples' lands in a participatory and transparent process, especially during the investigative phase. This will be carried out in accordance with the norms, values and customs of the Amerindian peoples themselves, and with the free and informed consent of the Amerindian communities and villages prior to undertaking key activities and decision-making expressly identified in the guidelines.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme supported Guyana to build a business case for the forestry sector in its Green State Development Strategy (GSDS). A draft document was developed to identify opportunities and challenges for the forestry sector in the GSDS. The general objectives of structurally transforming Guyana into a green and inclusive economy are: i) Recognizing the economic value of the forestry sectors; ii) institutionalizing measures to ensure environmental sustainability in operations; iii) creating an enabling business environment for new economic growth from a more diverse set of inclusive, green and high-value processes; and iv) promoting participation, inclusiveness and social cohesion for a peaceful and resilient society. The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and the National Forest Plan (NFP) have been revised during 2017 as required by the GSDS.

Assistance from the UN-REDD Programme has also increased the capacity of the Guyana Forestry Commission (the institution responsible for generating the data for the FREL/ LULUCF GHG-I, the REDD technical annex and the NDC (LULUCF sector) to ensure the consistency among the different report schemes (mentioned above). The UN-REDD Programme provided technical assistance (one in-country mission) and remote assistance through the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL).

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Although the 2017 NFPS and NFP were tailored to meet the vision of the GSDS, there are still barriers that hamper the shift towards an inclusive, structural transformation of the economy. These include: low perceived value of ecosystem services; low value added of forestry products; lack of alignment between the different avenues of action of the GSDS with indigenous values; lack of incentives for restoration of degraded lands, which is important in the case of the mining sector; and lack of Government capacity and coordination among sectors.

The application of the guidelines to improve implementation of Guyana's Amerindian Land Titling Project will require increased education and capacity-building among all stakeholders, equitable distribution of resources among relevant State institutions, review and update of titling practices and engagements across Government commissions and ministries, additional human resources and expertise throughout the Government, and the urgent establishment of the grievance office created by the guidelines.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The development of the GSDS was characterized by a wide consultation process, including indigenous peoples and civil society. The Amerindian Land Titling Project is in alignment with international law, standards and best practice, and if implemented will ensure respect for indigenous peoples' rights in the context of the project.

PARTNERSHIPS

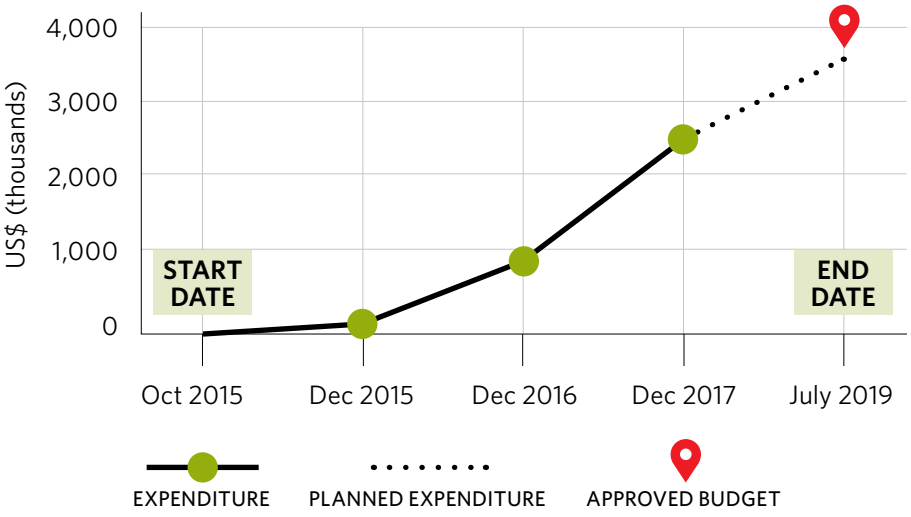
Guyana's REDD+ preparation is being carried out in collaboration with the FCPF and Inter-American Development Bank. The management of Guyana's forest resources along a green development pathway, as outlined in the GSDS Framework document, is synergistic to the national REDD+ programme and the EU FLEGT Project.

Sam Rich on Flickr

HONDURAS

TA | NP | CNA

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme supported 51 events in 2017, ranging from capacity-building (REDD+ Academy) to consultations on a range of areas, including the following: climate change and its impacts; gender; restoration of forests; meetings with indigenous peoples' national organization; Honduras' National REDD+ Strategy; free, prior and informed consent; climate finance; and incentives for the forestry sector. These fora engaged 1,884 participants of which 43 per cent were women. An analysis of future deforestation scenarios conducted with Programme support, revealed five fronts of deforestation (related to land tenure and agriculture expansion) and provides useful information for identifying priorities in the development of the national strategy. These events resulted in a robust consultative process that generated inputs for Honduras´ first REDD+ national strategy draft, currently under development.

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FREL: Honduras' FREL was finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2017; the technical assessment process was already finalized in December 2017; and the assessment team has prepared the final report following Honduras's comments.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme supported Honduras to operationalize its NFMS, which includes the following: estimation of national emissions factors from the national forest inventory; scripts based on the google earth engine platform to generate activity data; and a completed set of protocols to ensure consistency in the generation of information for future reports and decision-making processes. A series of technical consultations with different stakeholders in 2017 identified improvements to be implemented in 2018.

SIS: The UN-REDD Programme supported Honduras in its quest to make significant progress on safeguards during 2017. A national committee (CONASAH) was established as a permanent consultative platform, with the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives, several Government institutions, private sector and NGOs. A road map was agreed upon, and a legal and institutional framework analysis and a proposal for the SIS was completed. In 2018, a first summary of information will be submitted to the UNFCCC.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Honduras' NFMS is managed by the Forest Conservation Institute in coordination with MiAmbiente. But, the lack of a clear mandate on roles and responsibilities and the governance mechanism has put long-term sustainability at risk. A legal instrument is needed to regulate and institutionalize the NFMS.

The national presidential elections in November 2017 and associated political crisis delayed programme delivery. Mitigation measures will need to be adopt-

ed during 2018, in addition to extending the implementation period.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

In line with the Equal Opportunities for Women Act, in 2017 43 per cent of participants in REDD+ workshops were women. To support their involvement, spaces for female representatives of different organizations and community groups across REDD+ platforms were prioritized and guaranteed, and efforts were taken to ensure their active participation. Support was also given to the Honduran Federation of Agroforestry Cooperatives (FEHCAFOR), in which women participated actively and the product of these workshops was a FEHCAFOR gender proposal which was delivered to MiAmbiente. This proposal contains a component calling for the incorporation of women from indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran groups and local communities.

Additionally, a progressive and inclusive consultative process was achieved, with four national workshops on gender, REDD+ and climate change, and numerous events and dialogues with indigenous peoples. Women from the following areas were also represented: indigenous organizations, academics, agroforestry, business, professional associations, civil society and NGOs, foundations, cooperatives and international cooperation on the platforms for the REDD+ mechanism.

PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD National Programme is implemented in coordination with the FCPF project, where UNDP acts as a delivery partner. The two programmes co-finance the development of the National REDD+ Strategy, FREL, and NFMS. Participating United Nations agencies provided inputs and participated actively in the FCPF Mid-Term Review.

TIMELINE

2011

June Became Partner Country

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

2013

September Approval of targeted support (1st)
December Approval of targeted support (2nd)

2014

September Approval of regional CNA, including Honduras
November Policy Board approval of NP

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2015

August Signature of NPD
October First Fund Transfer for NP

2019

July Planned NP end date

Clockwise from top left: Lauri Väin on Flickr; Joe Townsend on Flickr (3)

INDONESIA

2017 TA | TS | CNA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme has supported Indonesia to mainstream its National REDD+ Strategy in the nationally determined contribution and National Midterm Development Plan. Indonesia has put two moratoria in place (on the conversion of primary forests and on peatlands protection) and REDD+ is a key part of Indonesia's mitigation efforts. Peat fires and degradation are linked to the REDD+ agenda covering 50 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Indonesia aims to restore 2 million hectares of peatlands and introduced a set of management practices that are legally obligatory. Forest-related emissions are reported separately, and a distinct policy framework has been developed with UN-REDD Programme support.

NFMS: Indonesia's REDD+ Inventory is linked to its greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and verification system. The NFMS has been reviewed with recommendations to improve accuracy updated by the Directorate General of Forest Planology. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Badan Restorasi Gambut/National Peatland Agency are jointly developing a peatland monitoring system.

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FREL: the UN-REDD Programme has supported Indonesia to submit its FREL levels to the UNFCCC with forests included in the greenhouse gas monitoring, reporting and verification system. The Programme also provided technical input on the remarks of the reviewers.

SIS: Indonesia's SIS is in place and online with indicators at the national level, thanks to UN-REDD Programme support. The SIS is being operationalized for subnational implementation and piloted for Jambi and East Kalimantan Provinces. Targeted support from the Programme (REDD+ finance/fiscal reform) was finalized and is being followed up by the UN Environment in collaboration with the Fiscal Policy Agency of the Ministry of Finance (FPA) with an emphasis on improving the definition of forests. UN-REDD Programme technical assistance is ongoing with an emphasis on peat monitoring and fire/peat-related activities.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme has supported Indonesia to make major improvements to its NFMS. Work on improving approaches to NFMS and assessing land use and land use change through remote sensing has been initiated using the FAO's Open Foris Collect Earth tool in 2016 and the Norwegian-funded SEPAL satellite image processing system using cloud-computing power. Work is underway and will be expanded in 2018-2020 to facilitate access to results-based finance. The Programme also supported Indonesia to operationalize its fire risk management system. Improving forest fire/peat fire management is critical to enable Indonesia to meet its greenhouse gas emission targets.

With regards to the national REDD+ implementation framework, Indonesia has embarked on its regional governance law (23/2014) through a provincial FRELS system and emission reduction targets, linked to provincial REDD+ strategies. The strategies were developed with UNDP support from 2011-2016. However, with new peat legalization in place, the scope of support has changed and UN Environment is assisting four provinces to adjust their provincial REDD+ strategies.

Indonesia is establishing a general service agency, a public-sector entity that will manage and finance REDD+ activities (including peat) and environmental remediation of mining sites, among other activities, and has the legal mandate to raise levies. Mechanisms for South-South cooperation on forest monitoring and fire management have been established. The UN-REDD Programme delivered workshops on different REDD+ related subjects, safeguards and financing throughout 2017 and organized a visit of Indonesian policy-makers to South Africa to learn their best practice approach to fire-risk management.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Indonesia has most of its REDD+ architecture in place. However, questions remain on safeguard implementation, and the ability of subnational entities to deliver greenhouse gas emission reductions and access to results-based payments. The UN-REDD Programme could provide a critical review of Indonesia's readiness for results-based payments.

Given the likelihood of El Niño creating an increased fire risk and related rapid escalation in forest clearing, the Programme will work with partners on the fire risk management system, which is operational in four provinces.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Indonesia has a progressive gender framework. Throughout the process post-REDD+ implementation, there is a legal requirement for gender mainstreaming, and civil society organizations are involved in consultations. Through support of the social forestry and land reform agenda, the Programme has ensured the inclusion of marginalized groups and acknowledgement of their tenure claims.

PARTNERSHIPS

Indonesia has partnerships with the FCPF and the BioCarbon Fund for a subnational pilot. Indonesia has a FIP loan in place and subnational Governments are embarking on deforestation free commitment/certification for example in East Kalimantan and South Sumatra linked to the Bonn Challenge.

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KENYA | TS

The UN-REDD Programme supported Kenya in 2017 through the facilitation of South-South technical exchanges between Kenya and Uganda to share knowledge of FREL and NFMS design and operationalization. Knowledge gained through these exchanges will strengthen a future FREL submission to the UNFCCC, although further support to the country is required to ensure good technical quality. The UN-REDD Programme also supported Kenya with capacity-building on the land cover classification system, which strengthens approaches to forest mapping and FREL design.

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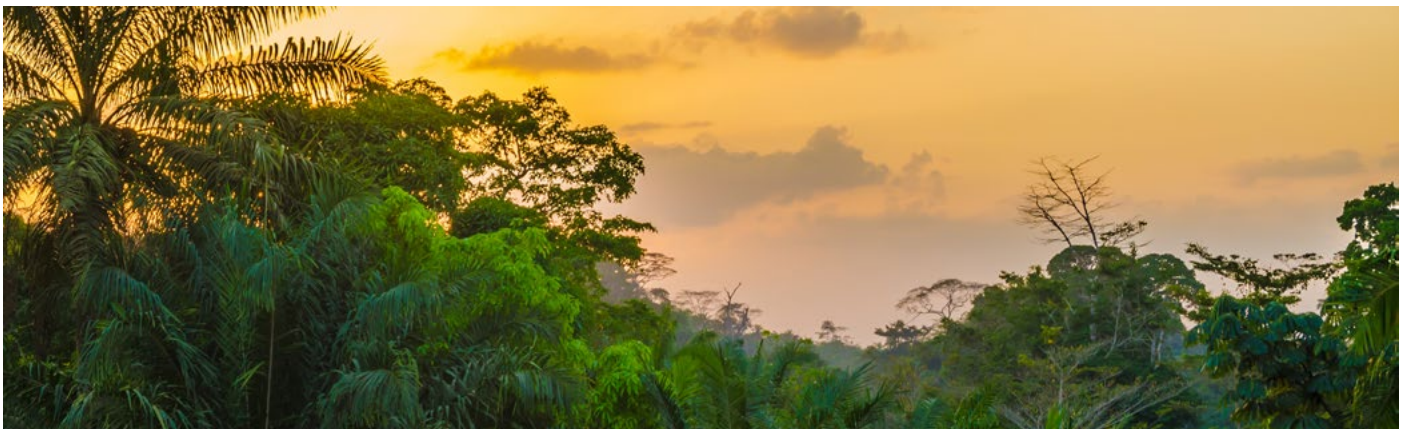
LIBERIA | 2017 TA



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

In Liberia, the UN-REDD Programme has supported initial steps towards the establishment of a National Forest Monitoring System. The Programme also contributed to national capacity development in mapping forest change, remote sensing systems and national forest inventory (NFI). The methodology for the NFI was developed and institutional arrangements established in particular with the Forest Development Authority (FDA), Forest Training Institute, the University of Liberia and the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS) to create an enabling environment for the NFMS. The Programme also provided a review of the National REDD+ Strategy for consideration by the Forest Development Authority.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of specific policies and measures to support REDD+ implementation at the regional level and toward the National REDD+ Strategy included work on the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi-Foya Transboundary Forest Landscape between Liberia and Guinea. The Forestry Development Authority communicated in May that the West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (WA-BiCC) would take over REDD+ implementation responsibilities. Initial discussions were held on a fund management arrangement and will be followed up in 2018. Inputs are being made into the Oil Palm Sector Technical Working Group through the GEF Integrated Approach Pilot project on reducing deforestation in commodity value chains, which began in November 2017.

An institutional strengthening and capacity-building event in collaboration with the Liberia Forest Support Project and led by FDA has been planned. Arrangements are being made for this and it is expected to be held in the second quarter of 2018.

Planning to develop the technical capacity of FDA staff on mapping of non-carbon benefits in support of REDD+ implementation was initiated during 2017 and two capacity-building sessions are foreseen for the first quarter of 2018.

The UN-REDD Programme supported analytical work that will make recommendations for a conservation monitoring system in palm oil concessions, managed by the private sector, has advanced considerably and should be finalized by mid-2018. The potential contribution of private sector initiatives to achieving REDD+ results is being analysed by the Programme, with a brief expected for early 2018 to enable increased REDD+ public-private collaboration in Liberia.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The type of capacity-building support evolved to become broader than anticipated, due to a dynamic and multifaceted REDD+ portfolio in the country. The Programme is providing assistance on mapping to support land-use planning and has refocused activities with the private sector. Deliverables that were first agreed with the FDA were adjusted, based on the evolution of initiatives and a number of new projects coming on line.

The FDA revisited the focus of technical assistance provided by the UN-REDD Programme. National elections and staffing changes with the UN-REDD Programme resulted in some delays in the delivery of the support. Timeframes have been revised and implementation is expected to conclude successfully.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The UN-REDD Programme has encouraged women to participate in NFMS capacity-building workshops. However, ultimately only a few women have benefitted from the training. Thus, additional efforts on capacity-building will be taken in 2018 to encourage women's increased active involvement and ensure integration of a social inclusive and gender approach.

PARTNERSHIPS

Strong links were built with the FCPF and the Liberia Forest Support Project on NFMS and capacity- building activities. The work carried out under the UN-REDD Programme will provide a solid basis for the development of the NFMS and FREL that will be supported by FAO under the FCPF and the Liberia Forest Sector Project. A collaborative capacity-building and institutional strengthening event is scheduled for the second quarter of 2018 with funding from the project.

istockphoto

MEXICO

2017 TA | **TS** | **CNA**

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: In August 2017, Mexico officially adopted a final version of its National REDD+ strategy 2017-2030. The strategy, which received support from the UN-REDD Programme, set out a series of policies and measures which will be incorporated into existing policy instruments to achieve sustainable rural development and REDD+ results.

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme supported an analysis on the technical annex to Mexico's 2017 Biennial Update Report (BUR) using the current assessed national FREL. The analysis considered the time frames for results-based payments from the Green Climate Fund and methodological improvements made by Mexico in its greenhouse gas emissions reporting for the Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector, which will be updated in the 2017 BUR. However, this ultimately led to the decision not to present a technical annex due to issues of consistency, uncertainties and country's performance over the period 2011-2015.

SIS: The UN-REDD Programme support to safeguards in Mexico successfully concluded in December 2017, resulting in the operationalization of one perhaps the world's most advanced SIS. It is expected to fully operational in early 2018. Mexico's first summary of safeguards information has been prepared and is being finalized. The second summary will be partially informed by the functioning SIS, using information collected up to March 2018.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Programme support to Mexico helped the country review its legal and institutional frameworks, and thus articulate the distinction between national and subnational levels for REDD+ safeguards and support its safeguard platform. Mexico's SIS contains general information about REDD+ safeguards, detailed information on the national interpretation of each of the seven safeguards, documents on the legal, institutional and compliance frameworks. At

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the state level, the SIS focuses on seven states where REDD+ early actions are implemented: Campeche, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo and Yucatan.

The Programme collaborated with La Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) and the national NFMS authorities to support technical improvements to methodologies used by the Mexican National System for Monitoring of Activity Data (MAD-Mex), which in turn improved the national capacity to operate the NFMS.

Mexico's progress and lessons learned were shared across South-South networks related to the implementation of safeguards and forest monitoring. The Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID) and the National Forest Commission (CONAFOR) were supported to participate in the Mesoamerican Environmental Sustainability Strategy (EMSA) 2018 – 2019. These departments also worked alongside CATIE to share good practices on data analysis and to contribute to regional NFI exchanges in Brazil, which led to the creation of two regional groups that aim to harmonize measuring criteria.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

While Mexico has pioneered the design and establishment of the pillars for REDD+, with UN-REDD Programme support, effective implementation of the policies and measures to achieve emission reductions remains a critical challenge. CONAFOR intends to focus its efforts on assessing the feasibility and mitigation potential of the proposed policies and measures in the national REDD+ strategy, and accessing additional finance for full implementation. Compatibility with other safeguard systems, such as the FCPF Ministry of Health of Quintana Roo (SESA) and the environmental and social management framework, is required in order to ensure national integration of its SIS.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

During the design of the SIS, a participatory gender equity approach was applied by consulting national institutions, civil society and state-level representatives through five national workshops, two internal workshops at CONAFOR and two State-level workshops in Oaxaca and Chiapas, held between 2015 and 2017.

PARTNERSHIPS

The environmental and social management framework formed the basis of the development of mechanisms for South-South cooperation, which have been implemented, with co-finance, in coordination with other regional initiatives lead by GIZ, World Resources Institute, SilvaCarbon and the United States Forest Service.

TIMELINE

2009
December Became Partner Country

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)
2013

2014
August Approval of targeted support (1st)
September Approval of regional CNA, including Mexico

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)
2015
December Approval of targeted support (2nd)

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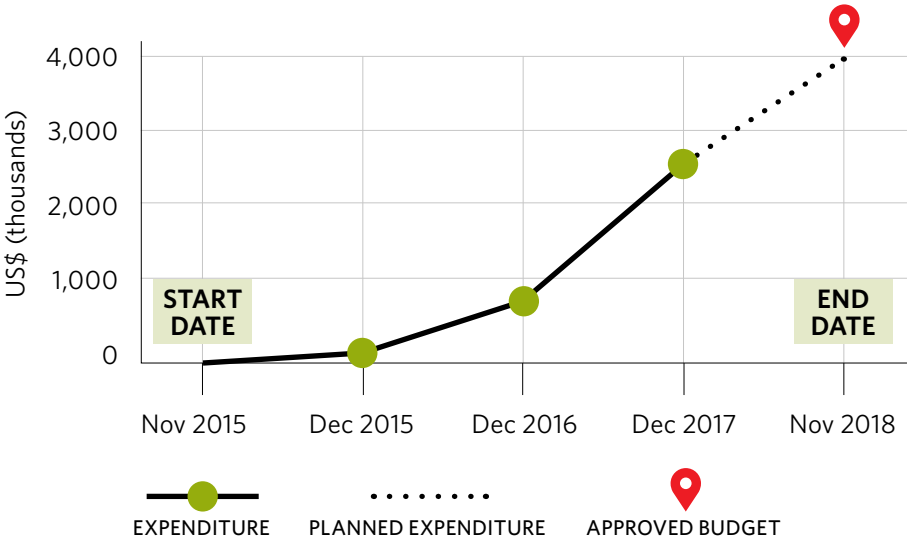
MONGOLIA

NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: With UN-REDD Programme support, Mongolia prepared a briefing paper on options for the development of a national strategy, which led to the high-level approval for the development of a Mongolian National Programme and Action/Investment Plan on REDD+. Studies have been undertaken on policies, financing, risk and saxaul forest to feed technical details into the strategy. In addition, consultation and development of subnational plans in three forested provinces have almost been completed. Technical working groups and the Forest and Sustainable Development Council (FSDC - CSO forum) provided inputs to the process. Awareness raising and communication work has been undertaken with public, high-level policy-makers and technical stakeholders.

FREL/FRL: With UN-REDD Programme support, methodologies and decisions for establishing the FRL were elaborated and refined by a core group of national experts and endorsed by the NFMS/FRL Technical Working Group. National forest inventory data were analysed to develop national emission factors and activity data were developed using FAO's Open Foris Collect Earth tool. Mongolia's FRL was drafted and submitted in January 2018.

NFMS: The Programme has supported the drafting of institutional arrangements for Mongolia's NFMS. This includes data-sharing agreements and data flows among key stakeholders. The Programme has also supported Mongolia to prepare guidelines for consistency and transparency in data collection and analysis and to develop a clear division of roles for the implementation of monitoring, measurement, reporting and verification. The national institutions for greenhouse gas inventory reporting for the LULUCF sector are in place, and, following additional design and trainings, now include remote sensing analysis and field inventory and additional work on monitoring, reporting and verification activities.

SIS: Progress has been made on the necessary steps towards the development of Mongolia's Safeguard Information System, including an assessment of data sources, risk and benefit analyses of policies and measures, and a Policy, Law and Regulations review in the context of potential risks and safeguard implications for the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures. The Programme also supports the creation of a technical working group for safeguards.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

No major challenges exist at the time of writing. An internal mid-term review noted that most outputs were on track, though programme implementation could be improved in some areas, such

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as capacity-building and administration. However, the Minister of Environment was changed in November 2017, which may result in a cascade of Ministry staff changes including the National Program Director and State Secretary for the Ministry of Environment. The impacts of this change are unknown, it may or may not cause delays to the achievement of the REDD+ outcomes in the final year of the programme. It is possible that few major decisions will be possible during the first quarter of 2018 due to these uncertainties.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A civil society forum established in 2016 represents this constituency on the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board, and has been actively participating in the Programme. Capacity-building, advocacy and awareness-raising events have been conducted for members at the provincial level. The Forest Sustainable Development Council provides useful inputs to the determination of policies and measures and development of the strategy. A social inclusion and gender assessment was undertaken in 2017 and an associated policy brief developed in order to identify the extent of gender and social inclusion across the forest sector, recommend options for improving the social inclusiveness and gender responsiveness of the candidate policies and measures of a draft national REDD+ strategy. Gender considerations were also integrated into the workshop on "Linking Social Inclusion and Safeguards in the REDD+ context" in January 2017.

Additionally, a team of consultants was formed to develop a gender-responsive stakeholder engagement handbook for Government gender specialists and forest extension officers at aimag and soum levels. A corresponding capacity-building programme will also be developed to complement the handbook. Both will be finalized in 2018.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with relevant programmes, such as GIZ, ADB and the FAO GEF forests programmes, are effectively maintained.

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TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011
June Became Partner Country

2012
July Approval of targeted support

2013

2014
June Approval of targeted support (2nd)
July Policy Board approval of NP
October Approval of targeted support (3rd)

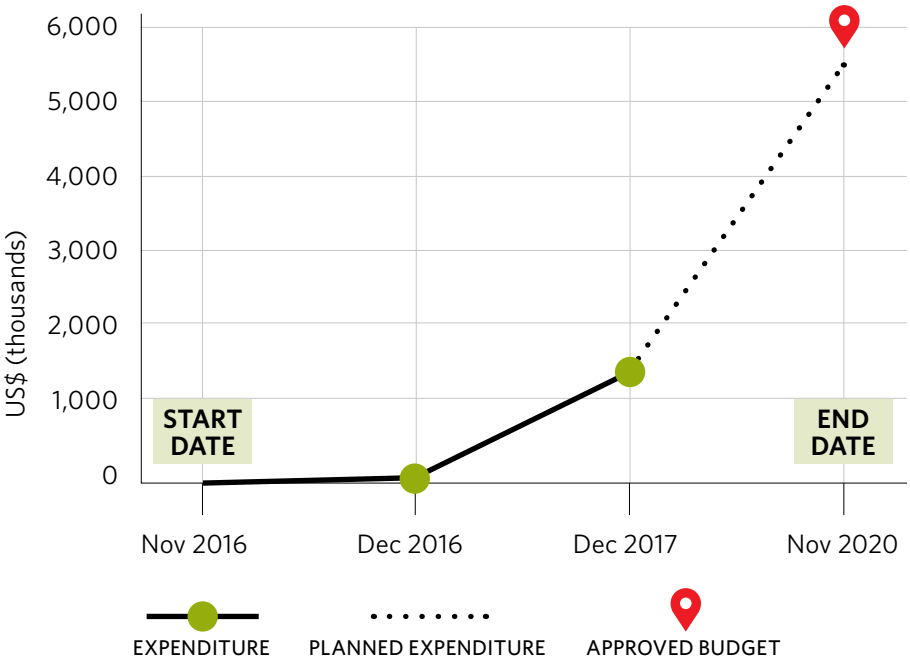
2015
August Signature of NPD
November First Fund Transfer for NP

2018
November Planned NP end date

MYANMAR

TA | 2017 TA | NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme supported an initial analysis of drivers of deforestation in Myanmar in 2017. A detailed technical background to the national REDD+ strategy was produced in the first quarter of 2017. Following consultations with ministries and other stakeholders, this was developed into a first draft of the strategy in late 2017. Subnational consultations on the proposed policies and measures were begun, with three out of the planned 15 consultations completed in 2017.

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme supported the development of an advanced draft of the forest reference level.

NFMS: The NFMS is currently under development with UN-REDD Programme support.

SIS: A road map to prepare for the implementation of the Cancun safeguards and development of a SIS was adopted through the Technical Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards. An assessment of social and environmental benefits and risks is being undertaken as part of sub-national consultations on the proposed policies and measures. It will also support the identification of information needs for the SIS.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme strengthened the capacities for implementation of the national strategy, including support to the operationalization of the National REDD+ Taskforce and REDD+ Training. The first two meetings of the Taskforce were held during 2017. At the second meeting, it was decided to hold four meetings during 2018. The cadre of trained REDD+ trainers developed through earlier UN-REDD Programme funding streams was mobilized during 2017 to provide training courses to Government officials (three events), civil society organizations (one event) and the media (one event).

The Programme also supported the development of an action plan for increased commitment from the private sector on sustainable land use, including initial consultations with the private sector. A review of opportunities and barriers to attracting private finance for REDD+ in Myanmar is under development, to be followed by an assessment of potential opportunities to link with the ICAO global market-based mechanism.

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CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The physical isolation of the National Programme from the FAO and UNDP County Offices has occasionally complicated administration. A focus on increasing communication has improved the situation.

The country technical advisor left in mid-September and an interim country technical advisor was assigned on a part-time basis pending recruitment of a replacement to be completed in February 2018.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Inequalities between women and men are particularly significant in the country. Women, especially from forest-dependent communities, do not participate equally in socio-political and decision-making processes, due in significant part to an inferior status in a religious context and the institutionalization of the view within society that gender inequality is not a problem. The UN-REDD Programme has been working actively to overcome these constraints – for example, by inclusion of explicit gender guidance in the REDD+ stakeholder engagement guidelines. Additionally, women's equitable and active participation in training events is being promoted to help address the low rate of participation among women.

Indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society organizations are very actively engaged in the UN-REDD Programme. Representatives sit on the Programme Executive Board, on the National Taskforce and on technical working groups.

PARTNERSHIPS

There are no other national-level REDD+ initiatives active in Myanmar. There are a number of subnational "REDD+" projects at various stages of development. The Programme has worked with these initiatives, for example in combining training events with the Korean Forest Service and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011 **October** Became Partner Country

2013 **February** Approval of targeted support (1st)

2014 **May** Approval of targeted support (2nd)

2015

2016 **July** Approval of NP
November Signature of NPD
November First Fund Transfer for NP

2020 **November** Planned NP end date

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NEPAL TS

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Nepal's draft National REDD+ Strategy was translated into Nepali with UN-REDD Programme support, and is now ready for wide dissemination among stakeholders. A financial assessment was carried out of the policies and measures proposed in Nepal's strategy and an implementation plan for the strategy was developed. The UN-REDD Programme supported the finalization and submission of Nepal's first FRL, the revision of the FRL through the technical assessment process under the UNFCCC and a regional South-South experience-sharing event, hosted by Nepal, for countries undergoing the FRL technical assistance process. The Programme also supported the development of a REDD+ training module that was delivered to stakeholders through two events to promote understanding and engagement

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

UN-REDD Programme technical support also facilitated the implementation of a subnational REDD+ planning process in Chitwan district, and the replication of the planning process in Ilam district, as part of a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral approach to REDD+ strategy implementation.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A total of 39 forestry professionals participated in the two REDD+ training events to test the newly drafted REDD+ training manual. Out of the 39 participants, 16 were female (41 per cent) forestry professionals from the Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN), the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), the Rural Development Foundation (RDF), the Community-based Forestry Supporters' Network (COFSON) and the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MoFSC). All of them contributed to the training manual's elaboration and finalization.

The implementation of Chitwan's district REDD+ action plan involved the design of five-year business plans for four agroforestry cooperatives with a total of 1,048 individual members, of whom 51 per cent are women. In one cooperative indigenous peoples comprise the majority of members. The Ilam district REDD+ action plan design process involved 30 stakeholders, including 8 women. All processes involved representatives of civil society organizations and Dalits.

PARTNERSHIPS

Nepal's REDD Implementation Centre is guiding the coordination of all REDD+ actions and funding sources in the country. This includes the UN-REDD Programme, a FCPF readiness grant and FCPF Carbon Fund and Forest Investment Programme (FIP) proposals. All funding sources are contributing to the implementation of Nepal's National REDD+ Strategy.

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PERU

2017 TA | **NP**

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: After Peru endorsed the National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change (ENBCC) in 2016, a new Government cabinet was formed towards the end of that year. As a result, the UN-REDD Programme spent much of 2017 supporting the conceptual reaffirmation of these instruments to respond to climate change and forests (JDI, NDCs, ENBCC) with the new climate change authorities. This included: (i) working with the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) National Forest Conservation Programme (PNCB) and National Climate Change Directorate (DGCCD) on the visualization and implementation of a common agenda and goals through the use of instruments like the JDI and ENBCC; and (ii) providing feedback to MINAM´s Climate Change Director on the rationale that links the JDI (Joint Declaration of Intent between Peru, Norway and Germany), NDCs, and ENBCC, and on views and ways to present these ideas at the political level with sectors unfamiliar with the issue.

The Programme provided technical support to the Government of Peru to develop an in-depth legal analysis (followed by a national consultation workshop) focusing on the administrative acts/permits authorizing land use changes of forest areas to other purposes, and collecting relevant data and information from the regions of Ucayali and Loreto. An internal review panel has been created to ensure the involvement and endorsement by key national counterparts (MINAM, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI) and the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)). Reviewing and addressing policies like the secondary regulation for land use major capacity is seen as one of the key areas to promote enabling conditions to reduce deforestation.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme supported technical discussions between the Government and indigenous peoples' representatives on indigenous monitoring, reporting and verification, which allowed the Government and representatives to agree on a conceptual framework for the integration of indigenous monitoring, reporting and verification into Peru´s NFMS, and

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on the priorities for Peru´s UN-REDD National Programme investments on this topic. A road map for the integration of this approach into the relevant modules of Peru´s National Forestry and Wildlife Information System was developed, in consultation with indigenous peoples' representatives. Views from different interested parties were collected to then propose a draft road map to the Government. This road map is part of Peru´s commitments to fulfil Phase I of the Joint Declaration of Intent between the Governments of Norway, and Peru (JDI).

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Most of the challenges faced in 2017 related to the evolving dynamic of priorities and political views on forests and climate change and related issues. As a result, the main challenges included: new or different roles for United Nations agencies expected by the new Government authorities; evolving mandates and Government focal points among different but related initiatives; and a lengthy process to agree on technical details and approaches. Regular interaction with Government counterparts has brought parties closer to a common understanding of the priorities and approaches to accommodate programme delivery. In addition, Government counterparts have agreed that many of the deliverables that were not completed in 2017 will be added to the 2018 work plan.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Based on the UN-REDD Programme capacity-building on indigenous peoples and gender delivered in 2015 and 2016, specific gender-responsive elements have been integrated into the design of Peru´s National Programme in 2017. Implementation of the Programme will be critical to put in practice such elements and demonstrate a gender-responsive approach.

Regarding social inclusion, a participatory approach is included in both the National Programme and in the design and implementation of technical assistance. Civil society organizations and indigenous peoples' representatives have participated in technical meetings, workshops, consultations and capacity-building events. The elements of interest to indigenous peoples have been assessed in detail with representatives of the two major organizations representing indigenous peoples in the Amazon (CONAP and AIDESEP). All decisions on the design of the National Programme have been taken in a participatory manner.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2017, the Programme contributed to two significant partnership frameworks. First, in the context of the FCPF, Peru requested top up readiness funding, through a programme of work that was based, to a great extent, on the Country Needs Assessment Report developed by UN-REDD in 2016. In 2017, the FCPF provided similar funding to Peru. Coordination arrangements for sound implementation of FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme is under discussion, as well as with other related programmes developed by GiZ and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Secondly, the implementation of Peru´s JDI has provided grounds for cooperation with the UN-REDD Programme. The programmes have contributed towards realizing deliverables under Phase I, and are coordinating efforts towards Phase II deliverables (i.e. with the UNDP-Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) Project).

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011 — **June** Became Partner Country

2013

2014 — **October** Approval of targeted support

2015 — **November** Policy Board approval of NP

2017 — **December** Signature of NPD

2018 — **January** First Fund Transfer for NP

2020 — **May** Planned NP date

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PHILIPPINES | TS

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

The Philippines has not yet submitted any of the four Warsaw Framework elements to the UNFCCC. In 2017, progress on the NFMS continued, with UN-REDD programme support. An action plan for the implementation of the National Forest System of the Philippines was completed in 2017. The NFMS Action Plan was developed through consultations and focus group work. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme strengthened capacities through a training event on accuracy assessment of land cover/ land use change in the Philippines, and a training event on biomass and R statistical analysis using country field-inventory data.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

TA

In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme began its activities in the Solomon Islands to establish a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL). The Programme supported survey design and capacity-building for the use of Collect Earth (a point sampling tool) for a national forest and land use change assessment (2000-2016) in the archipelago. A participatory process, which involved Government forestry officers, was used to ensure the consideration of social and environmental circumstances in Solomon Islands.

The design of National Forest Inventory and FRL was discussed at the workshop based on the outcomes of the initial assessment. Detailed assessments with the Collect Earth tool are ongoing and expected to be completed in early 2018. They will be used for establishment of FREL.

Despite very limited resources available to support the country, the Solomon Islands made significant progress on the establishment of NFMS and FRL. These activities have formed a solid foundation for additional support provided by FAO and funded by GEF in 2018 for the "Integrated Forest Management in the Solomon Islands" project.

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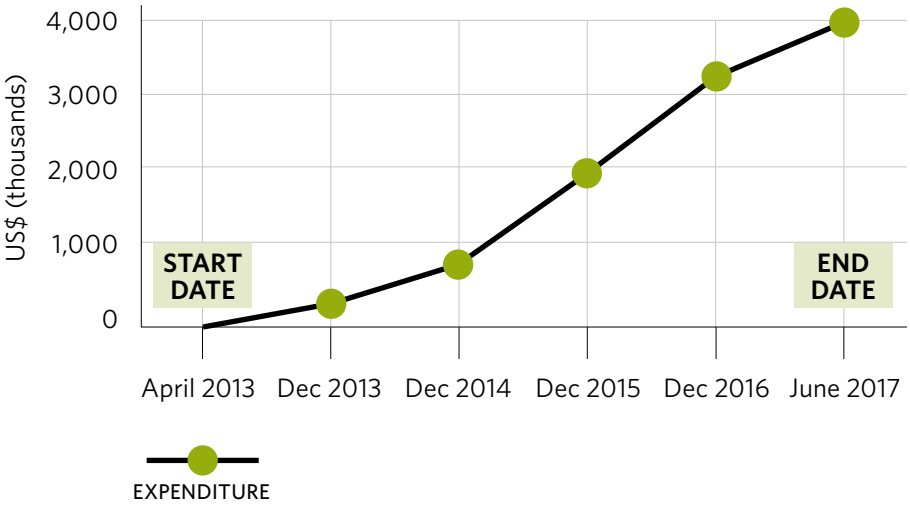
SRI LANKA

NP | CBR+

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



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PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The Government of Sri Lanka officially approved the National REDD+ Investment Framework and Action Plan (NRIFAP) in May 2017. It is a five-year, $99 million investment framework incorporating domestic and international sources of finance; it sets a clear vision for REDD+ in Sri Lanka; and highlights the short- and long-term benefits of climate change adaptation, community livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The UN-REDD Programme also supported ongoing efforts to attract investment for the elements of the NRIFAP not covered by domestic sources.

FREL/FRL: The UN-REDD Programme supported the submission of Sri Lanka's first national FRL to the UNFCCC in January 2017, and the country completed the Technical Assessment process.

NFMS: A NFMS geoportal was successfully established and launched in March 2017 with UN-REDD Programme support. Additionally, the Programme supported the production of forest cover maps, which were made publicly available, and the design and initiation of a national forest inventory (NFI) through South-South collaboration with the Forest Survey of India. A trial run of the NFI method was undertaken in 400 plots nationwide, and a manual released in two languages in June 2017.

SIS: Sri Lanka's SIS was established as a central information and reporting function coordinated by the Climate Change Secretariat. The UN-REDD Programme also supported the identification of safeguard parameters and indicators against which they may be assessed, and capacity-building for the CCS and other institutions necessary for its implementation.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The Sri Lanka UN-REDD National Programme was successfully completed in

June 2017. The Programme promoted the sustainability of activities and outputs achieved in the readiness phase through efforts to secure funding for some of the policies and measures in the NRIFAP. A grant of $21 million from the World Bank and United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was provisionally approved, and the Government made a commitment of $20 million over five years from 2018. These commitments already represent a very successful "exit strategy" for the NP. A further proposal has been submitted by UNDP to the Green Climate Fund.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Sri Lanka, as one of the pilot countries for the UN-REDD Community-based REDD+ (CBR+) initiative, approved eight grants. Lessons from the field highlighted community-based approaches to address the local-based drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

PARTNERSHIPS

South-South collaboration was enhanced through invitation from the Government of Sri Lanka to the Forest Survey of India to design the NFI and train the Forest Department of Sri Lanka in its implementation. India agreed to provide technical assistance for NFI data entry and analysis in the future. Both countries have identified a focal point in their respective departments who will communicate in any further technical cooperation.

TIMELINE

2009
September Became Partner Country

2012
February Approval of targeted support (1st)
March Policy Board approval of NP
June Approval of targeted support (2nd)

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

2013
February Signature of NPD
April First Fund Transfer for NP

2014
July Policy Board approval of NP

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2015
January CBR+ call for proposal issued
July CBR+ grants approved
August Implementation of CBR+ projects began

2017
June NP end date

Clockwise from top left: Asantha Abeysooriya on Unsplash; Thomas Gamstaetter on Unsplash; Uthpala Shyamendra on Unsplash; Ben O Bro on Unsplash

TUNISIA | TS

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

While Tunisia's National REDD+ Strategy is not yet in place, the UN-REDD Programme completed three key studies to contribute to its development. These studies include a series of needs assessments for the NFMS, institutional arrangements and tenure security in the context of REDD+. The studies make detailed recommendations to support further progress under three of the four Warsaw Pillars.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Tunisia made headway in implementing REDD+ through developing national capacity with a pilot project to address issues of forestland encroachment in the Siliana governorate. The six-month project involved workshops with Government officials, provision of field measurement and data collection equipment and on-the-ground implementation, followed by reflection, reporting and sharing of results. Officers from the Directorate General of Forestry, including one woman, were trained in Open Tenure, Collect Mobile and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) operation. They used their new skills to collaborate with local stakeholders in Siliana, including land claimants in State forestlands, to collect claim data, identify precise State forest boundaries, and prepare dossiers for regularization of overlapping claims. More than 60 claimant surveys were collected and more than 70 forest boundary markers installed. It is hoped that through this collaborative approach, land claimants will refrain from further expanding agriculture into State forestlands.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

During the fieldwork in Siliana, a lack of female participation in the pilot activities became evident with the majority of participants and land claimants being male. The UN-REDD Programme's efforts in promoting the benefits of women's involvement in activities to stakeholders in Tunisia resulted in one woman participating in capacity-development and pilot activities. In addition, a few local women were interviewed to collect their viewpoints on land and forest issues.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

See "Challenges and Solutions" discussion above.

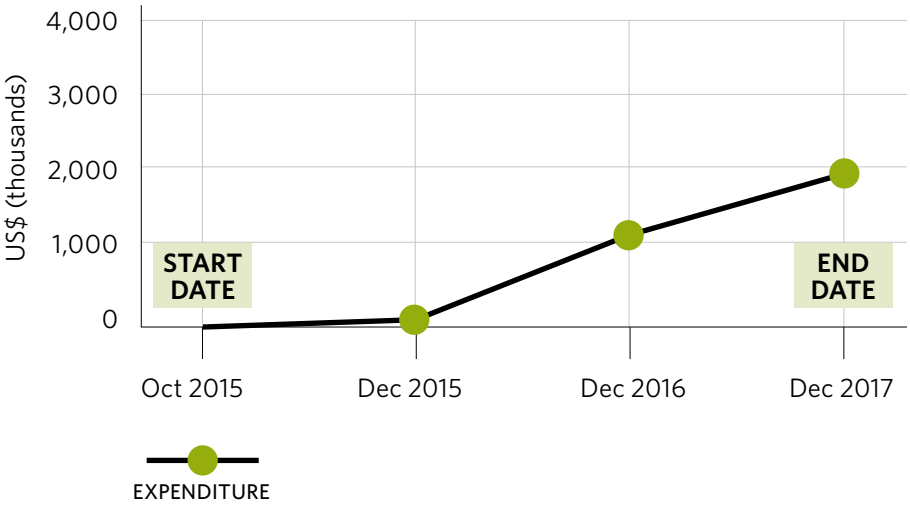
PARTNERSHIPS

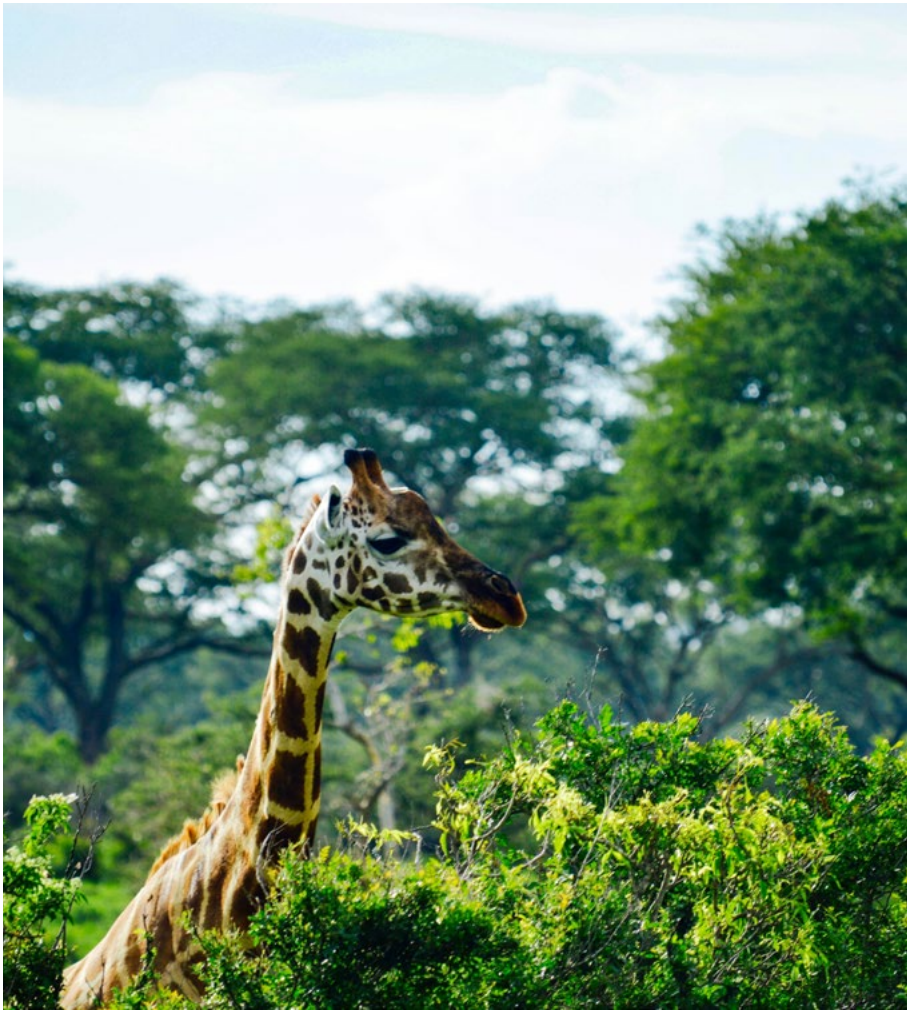
The results of the support have been shared with those developing the Forest Investment Programme, the Readiness Preparation Proposal and the Integrated Landscape Management in Tunisia's Lagging Regions Project, implemented by the World Bank and funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Country-level partners continue to support and coordinate with this initiative.

istockphoto

UGANDA | NP

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME





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PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: The UN-REDD National Programme was completed in December 2017. A terminal evaluation will be undertaken in April/May 2018. An advanced draft of the national REDD+ strategy was launched at the UNFCCC COP23 to garner international recognition and to mobilize support for the investment phase. Some final revisions of the strategy are programmed for 2018 with FCPF support. The national strategy was designed in a manner respectful of REDD+ readiness principles, with robust technical backstopping and in coordination with the overall Uganda REDD+ process. In 2017, a SWOT analysis for reforestation potential and a study on community-based approaches to REDD+ in Uganda were completed.

Each of these provided evidence-based inputs into the national strategy. A total of 10 high-level dialogues were conducted with stakeholders, including media, civil society, the private sector, technical experts, authorities and parliamentarians. The consultations were linked to reference emissions levels, national strategy, options and implementation arrangements (benefit sharing arrangements and feedback on grievances and redress mechanisms). This also ensured that the national REDD+ strategy is fully embedded in and directly contributes to the national development planning and budgeting processes.

FREL/FRL: With UN-REDD Programme support, Uganda submitted its initial FRL to the UNFCCC in January 2017. A plan for omitted significant pools, activities and gases is in place. Uganda used time series data for the years 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2015 to identify hot spots and trends of land conversions over the last 25 years. Data from 2000 and 2015 were used to construct the FRL. Emission factors were estimated for three out of four identified forest strata, and a Forest Inventory is being used to fine-tune the identified

emission factors. Information generated during the construction of FREL was shared with key stakeholders and used to inform the policy dialogues and the development of strategic options for REDD+ implementation.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme has strengthened the capacity of the National Forestry Authority (NFA) to systematically monitor forest and land cover/use change (REDD+ activity data), and to store, update and disseminate REDD+ information. The development of a forest and land use monitoring web-portal to display REDD+ information started in 2016 and was completed in 2017. Database management capacities were strengthened through external support and training of NFA staff. Institutionalization of the NFMS (with monitoring, reporting and verification functionality) will continue with additional support from FCPF.

The Government of Uganda has the capacity to report on its GHG emissions from the forestry sector, and the NFA plays a key role in the provision of the data needed for the national greenhouse gas inventory. UN-REDD is building the capacity of the NFA to develop a greenhouse gas inventory for the AFOLU/LULUCF sector that meets UNFCCC standards through trainings and focused group discussions with key sectors.

SIS: Development of the SIS is being supported by funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Many elements are still required before Uganda is ready to start its REDD+ implementation. However, the institutional arrangements are in place and functioning, there is broad support for REDD+ and many actors are interested in developing activities and supporting implementation. The production of a National Forest Accounting System, which will ensure support from national policy and decision makers, and a road map for subnational implementation, were finalized in 2017 and will further enable implementation.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The main challenges in 2017 were linked to the complexities of operating in a multi-donor context with several ongoing initiatives. Coordination and communication have been key to avoid overlapping and repetitive efforts, and ensure efficiency. Limited capacity at the country level and a heavy workload has led to some delays throughout the Programme. Delays in the delivery of certain FCPF components, on which the UN-REDD Programme depends, have also led to some delays. These challenges have been addressed through close collaboration and coordination of work plans to find joint solutions. A no-cost extension of two months was granted the UN-REDD Programme to allow completion by end 2017.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The UN-REDD Programme has been attentive to the inclusion of women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups in the national REDD+ process. A gender inclusion strategy was developed early, which has been used as guidance throughout. In most consultations and workshops, between a third and half of all participants have been women. 2017 also finally saw the completion of the self-selection process of civil society and indigenous peoples' representatives to the national governing structure for REDD+.

PARTNERSHIPS

Uganda's REDD+ Readiness Preparation is supported by the FCPF REDD+ Readiness grant, the UN-REDD National Programme and the ADC. The UN-REDD National Programme was designed to cover gaps in the FCPF programme, and deliverables in the two initiatives compliment and build on each other. UNDP as the lead agency has played a key role in ensuring coordination and synergies of these initiatives, exchange of information and joint missions whenever possible.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2012 — **May** Became Partner Country

2013

2014 — **April** Approval of targeted support **November** Policy Board approval of NP

2015 — **August** Signature of NPD **October** First Fund Transfer for NP

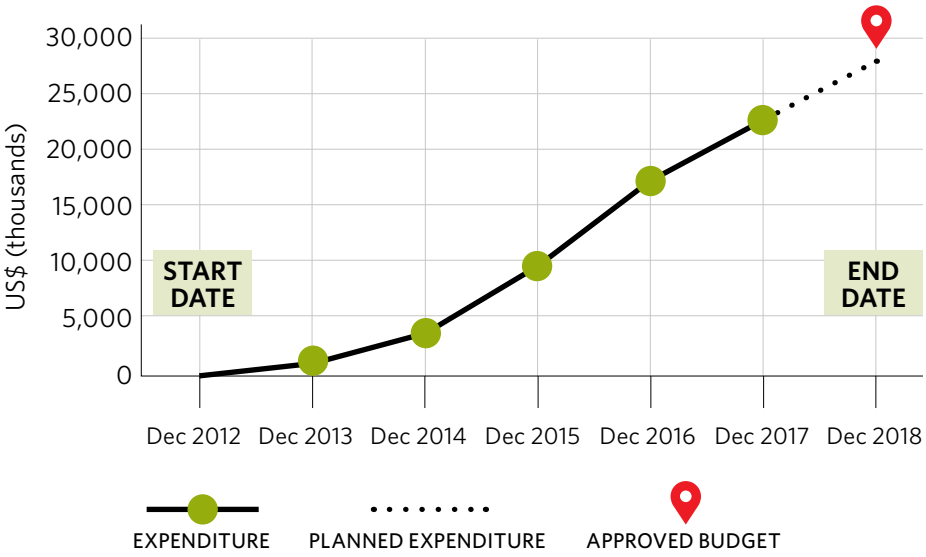
2017 — **December** NP end date

UN-REDD Programme / Bridge Films

VIET NAM

2017 TA | **NP**

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



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PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: The second National REDD+ Action Plan (NRAP) was approved in 2017, covering the period 2017-2020, and includes a national vision for 2030, which demonstrates a transformative approach to REDD+ and sustainable forest development in Viet Nam. With UN-REDD Programme support, a mid-term implementation plan corresponding to the NRAP is now under preparation. This plan will strengthen the leadership in various ministries and departments through the development of operational REDD+ action plans, resource mobilization frameworks and will eventually identify and secure social and environmental safeguards.

NFMS: Viet Nam possesses adequate capacity and institutions for its NFMS. However, there has been a gap in the National Forest Inventory implementation (2011-2016) due to a Government decision to prioritize other forms of forest resources assessment in the country. Now the Government has endorsed the start-up of a new cycle of the National Forest Inventory Monitoring and Assessment Programme (NFIMAP), there is more clarity on the future monitoring, reporting and verification design and they are generally consistent with the FREL/FRL. The UN-REDD Programme has supported the Government in preparation for the next cycle National Forest Inventory, namely in the Quality Assessment and Quality Control (QA/QC) protocol development.

SIS: The UN-REDD Programme has supported Viet Nam to develop its SIS and summary of information, and the country is ready to deliver on the UNFCCC safeguards requirements. The development process has been lengthy, but enriched with quality-oriented activities focusing on including civil society organization and ethnic minority capacity-building and engagement, local governance strengthening through participatory governance assessment

and institutionalization of mitigation measures in collaboration with Ministry of Justice. The Programme also mobilized expertise to identify social and environmental risks and benefits and formulate mitigation measures and redirection of activities through the mid-term implementation plan.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

In 2017, UN-REDD Programme technical assistance directly contributed to the implementation of the National Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Programme (NFIMAP) 2016-2020, as part of Viet Nam's NFMS. By ensuring the quality assurance procedures it enables the technical annex to the Biennial Update Report to be produced. Support was also provided to roll out the revised NRAP, which includes a multisector investment framework and monitoring framework under Viet Nam REDD+ Office coordination. Since its approval in April 2017, the NRAP is being rolled out first by developing a corresponding mid-term implementation plan. Financing options for REDD+ implementation being explored include: strengthening the offset plantation policy; joint implementation of payment for forest ecosystem payment and REDD+ benefit sharing towards leveraging business investment; framing of the forest carbon pricing agenda; and leveraging investments in multiple sectors including agricultural commodity supply chains, green growth policies and ecotourism.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

With the NRAP now underway and ideal conditions to enable a shift towards results-based payments, the main challenge is to ensure continuity and momentum particularly among the non-forestry sectors that have started to engage in the REDD+ dialogue. The closure of the National Programme in 2018 will present a challenge for the Government to ensure the sustainability to REDD+ efforts.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

In 2017, gender was mainstreamed throughout the National Programme with particular attention being paid to awareness-raising activities on REDD+ and climate change. Civil society and ethnic minority stakeholders were engaged in a multitude of UN-REDD Programme activities in 2017 including: consultations on development of the mid-term implementation plan; organization of dialogues between ethnic minority representatives and provincial management units in Binh Thuan and Lao Cai provinces; and implementation of the provincial action plans, site-level REDD+ Implementation Plans and REDD+ action plans.

PARTNERSHIPS

The FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme share the same Government counterparts, which enable collaboration, such as in providing information for the Emission Reduction Programme Document (ERPD). Collaboration between the UN-REDD and FLEGT Programmes in Viet Nam has advanced the adoption of forest certification by State forest enterprises and smallholder associations, as a key element of national strategy implementation.

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WEST AFRICA | TS

Following a subregional needs assessment in 2016, which highlighted the existence and use of incompatible land use classification systems within and between countries, a recommendation was made on the need for a harmonized classification system. It is within this framework that the UN-REDD Programme provided support to undertake a capacity-building workshop in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, which brought together representatives from 12 West African countries: Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The representatives explored the capabilities of the FAO Land Cover Classification System software (LCCSV3) for the harmonization of map legends in West Africa. The Programme also supported the strengthening of subregional cooperation with the creation of a West African Network of Experts in mapping land use/land cover (WANEM-LULC). This network will be managed by a provisional team of six committee members, who were elected to promote the process of harmonization of classification systems in the subregion.

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ZAMBIA | 2017 TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: Zambia's National REDD+ strategy, completed in 2014 with UN-REDD Programme support, was launched on the International Day of Forests in 2017 in conjunction with the Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II final report. The strategy's development coincided with Zambia's National Forest Inventory, which contributed to a better understanding of the drivers of deforestation and guides Zambia's Forest Investment Plan.

FREL/FRL: Zambia is continuing to review the Technical Assessment Report from the FREL submission in 2016 before reporting results in its upcoming Biennial Update Report submission to the UNFCCC. The UN-REDD Programme supported Zambia through capacity development workshops to advance understanding of how to update the FREL using advanced cloud-based data processing systems including SEPAL.

NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme supported Zambia to launch its NFMS, which is comprised of the National Forest Inventory (Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II) and the Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS). Zambia's largest natural resource inventory forms an important component of Zambia's NFMS, informs emissions factors used in the FREL and facilitates Sustainable Forest Management activities. The SLMS provides activity data used to quantify forest cover change in the FREL. The Programme continues to support the development towards suitable monitoring, reporting and verification tools.

SIS: Zambia's SIS progressed with a completed first draft of the Summary of Information on Safeguards focusing on institutional arrangements. Work will continue into 2018 as Zambia continues to refine the REDD+ activities to be implemented in a second and more robust iteration of the SIS. UN-REDD also supported the formation of a Safeguards Technical Working Group, which steers the REDD+ safeguards processes and planning for a summary of information on safeguards.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Zambia has now completed its National Investment Plan to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation (2018–2022). The Zambian Government presented the REDD+ National Strategy Investment Plan at the Forest Investment Plan Subcommittee meeting in Washington on 14 December 2017. It was well received by the subcommittee with compliments from Mexico, United Kingdom and the United States on its quality and innovation (recognizing the unique international partnerships between the UN-REDD Programme, the multilateral development banks, and the Nature Conservancy) and no request was made for any revision.

The UN-REDD Programme supported Zambia to integrate analytical studies into national REDD+ implementation.

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The Investment Plan was strengthened by several UN-REDD Programme-supported studies and multi-stakeholder consultations, including a significant contribution from a value chain study dealing with the energy sector and a sectoral analysis on mining sector engagement in REDD+ supportive investments.

Studies also explored the availability of charcoal and or fuelwood (bio-energy) and the role communities could potentially play in community-based forest management also contributed to the Investment Plan and Zambia's Seventh National Development Plan. A benefits and risks assessment of REDD+ policies and measures was successfully conducted in the context of the Safeguards Technical Working Group. The Programme is currently exploring options for financing to operationalize the REDD+ Investment Plan, with an "options menu" due to be released in February 2018 outlining possible public and private sources of financing for the Government.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The Zambian Forestry Department required additional human resources from within the Government to be reallocated to improve delivery and communications. A major challenge has been the speed at which the Investment Plan was completed which prolonged the finalization of the SIS design document. Programme support was required to facilitate completion of the Investment Plan so resources were redirected to support safeguards-relevant sections.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender parity is a guiding principle when organizing capacity development interventions as part of the UN-REDD Programme. Support to Zambia is closely aligned with the Zambia Climate Change Gender Action Plan, and consultations took place during 2017 to determine the nature of future civil society engagement. The Ministry of Gender and Development is also identified as a contributor of information within the proposed national institutional arrangements for Zambia's SIS.

PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD Programme worked closely with multilateral development banks (World Bank and African Development Bank) and the Nature Conservancy in providing sectoral support to the Government of Zambia in the development of the National Investment Plan to Reduce Deforestation and Forest Degradation (2018 – 2022).

TIMELINE

2008
August Became Partner Country

2010
March Policy Board approval of NP
September Signature of NPD
October First Fund Transfer for NP

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)
2013

2014
September Approval of targeted support (1st)
December NP end date

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)
2015
October Approval of targeted support (2nd)

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Impact Story: Honduras

HONDURAS UN-REDD PROGRAMME ACHIEVES OVER 40 PERCENT PARTICIPATION FROM WOMEN

HONDURAS HAS a forest area equivalent to almost half of its territory; however, the country faces serious problems with deforestation and degradation. Studies estimate up to 67,000 hectares are lost each year from agricultural encroachment and illegal logging. About 70 per cent of the country's broadleaf forests are in territories belonging to indigenous peoples. Before receiving support from the UN-REDD Programme, women and men in the country's rural communities had limited access to the economic benefits of forests and often did not participate in decision-making.

However, with assistance from the UN-REDD Programme, this situation is changing, with women in particular participating at record levels in workshops, political dialogue and consultations. Concerted efforts have also been made to design workshops to empower them to participate actively. The Honduran Federation of Agroforestry Cooperatives (FEHCAFOR), for example, held a series of workshops in 2017 where participating women came up with a gender proposal to be delivered to MiAmbiente, the implementing partner for the UN-REDD Programme in the country. Among other things, the proposal called for the incorporation of women from the indigenous, Afro-Honduran and local communities.

"We, as indigenous women, need to participate in the whole process that REDD+ and MiAmbiente are developing," says Candida Dereck Jackson of the Miskitu People. "We need to be informed and participate, and that means not only being on an attendance list but having round-table discussions and presenting our own ideas."

As a result of its efforts over the years to encourage the participation of women, there was a record 43 per cent of female participants at more than 60 REDD+ workshops held in Honduras last year. "We need to replicate what we are learning in the REDD+ process in our communities so that women can look for a way to face the effects of climate change," says Nely Gonzalez, Representative in the Confederation of Autonomous Peoples of Honduras. "We are the ones who feel it the most."

Flicker River on Flickr

Thematic Results

Ollivier Girard/CIFOR on Flickr

The following section presents results in 2017 across key thematic areas. The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that support to thematic areas complements country-level support. Moreover, it is critical to the achievement of the four pillars under the Warsaw Framework and the goal of REDD+ implementation. The thematic areas highlighted in 2017 are the community-based REDD+ initiative; gender mainstreaming; social inclusion; private sector engagement; tenure and legal governance; and knowledge management and communications.

THE CBR+ INITIATIVE

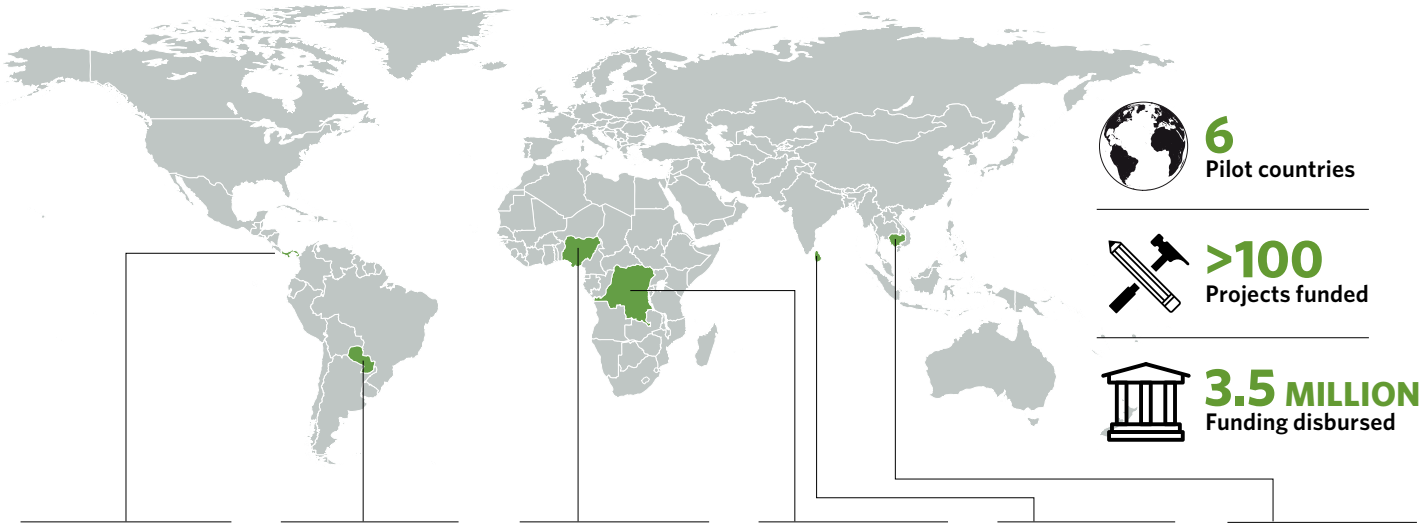
In 2017, the initiative on community-based REDD+ (CBR+), implemented in partnership with the GEF Small Grants Programme, completed its implementation in its six pilot countries: Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay and Sri Lanka. In total, more than 100 community projects have been approved and implemented in the pilot countries, resulting in a wide range of increased local capacities, tested innovations and field results. For example, in Cambodia, CBR+ has strengthened local communities and religious leaders' efforts to protect their forests. In DRC, CBR+ has empowered indigenous women to become guardians of the forest, contributing to securing their rights and livelihoods in their communities.

In Nigeria, CBR+ is emerging as the most far-reaching community focused initiative in the Cross River State in decades, giving communities the independence to be innovative and vocal. In Panama, an extensive CBR+ process has resulted in valuable policy recommendations for REDD+. In Paraguay, CBR+ supported and strengthened indigenous peoples, enabling them for the first time to directly access and manage public funding. In Sri Lanka, CBR+ has supported the formation of a civil society-led forest monitoring system that is favourably considered by the Government. In order to better capture the value and diversity of such outcomes, a knowledge management initiative for CBR+ was designed and deployed in 2017 (completion expected in 2018).

In Panama, UN-REDD supported several knowledge exchange events and the compilation of various knowledge products, from articles to films. In Sri Lanka, a programme review with lessons learnt was produced, including its dissemination in the form of a brief. The other pilot countries have also engaged knowledge initiatives, all of which will result in an integrated overview to be released in 2018.

During the UN-REDD Executive Board held in mid-2017, a thorough debriefing on UN-REDD Programme work on social inclusion, including CBR+, was presented and received praise from board members. A debriefing on CBR+ was also offered to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples at its annual meeting in May 2017. Some CBR+ pilot countries are also conducting policy dialogue activities so as to ensure CBR+ lessons inform national policy. Some countries have requested a follow-up phase, while new countries have asked to join the initiative. Currently, the UN-REDD Programme does not have funding to support CBR+ moving forward, but intends to continue exploring options to mobilize funding for this innovative work stream. More information on CBR+ is available via the CBR+ Progress Update and CBR+ Brochure.

FIGURE 5. SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS



Impact Story: Nigeria

A CBR+ SUCCESS STORY

NIGERIA HAS one of the highest deforestation rates in the world, with less than 10 percent of the country forested. Since 2010, the UN-REDD Programme has provided support for the country's ambitious efforts at forest conservation, climate change mitigation and community development. In particular, Cross River State, which has more than 50 percent of Nigeria's remaining tropical high forests, is host to a Community Based REDD+ Programme (CBR+) that promotes forest management and biodiversity conservation, rural livelihoods improvement with focus on climate smart approaches, capacity building for participation in climate change programmes including REDD+, and sustainable energy alternatives. To date, more than 300 households across 21 communities have benefited from the Programme, which targets women, men and youth. The outcomes and experiences from the CBR+ Programme feed into Nigeria's national REDD+ process.

Working with civil society groups, the Cross River State CBR+ Programme is aimed at redefining participatory and local-level forest management and conservation, while simultaneously improving rural livelihoods. Through this programme, villagers have improved sustainable management of their community forest and lands by developing management plans and doing reforestation and enrichment planting, including of indigenous timber species and non-timber forest products. One example is bush mango which can yield, by some estimations, up to USD 10,000/hectare annually from sales of mature fruits. Improved processing of cassava and sustainable cultivation of cocoa are also enhancing productivity and increasing household income by at least 10 percent in some of the target communities.

"The CBR+ Programme provides a platform to encourage dialogue among different groups and to ensure community experiences are fed into the CRS REDD+ Strategy," says Tony Atah, the stakeholder engagement specialist with the UN-REDD Programme in Nigeria. "Local communities have designed and implemented community-based initiatives to improve livelihoods, skills and land and forest management, provideding insight on how REDD+ can appropriately respond to local circumstances to reduce carbon emission."

"The Programme is helping us rehabilitate our mangrove forest and think carefully about sustaining its productivity," says Chief Bassey Ekeng from Esierebum. "Our dependency on fishing and fuelwood from the mangroves means we need this forest standing if we are to survive, and through REDD+ activities we have developed a land and forest management plan, including practical steps to regenerate over 5 hectares of mangrove forest."

"With CBR+, we now have semi-mechanized equipment for the very first time in our community. This allows the women to produce cassava flour at home, doing in 2 days what used to take a week. We are now able to sell our produce and make money for our families," says Mrs. Martina Afor from Bokalum. "The women are also included with men in training for improved cocoa production and sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products like bush mango, and we have taken an active part in reviewing our community forest management plan. We feel involved and empowered, and our community is now giving us more recognition and support."

In the Cross River village of Edondon, the CBR+ project has brought together a divided community for the first time. "We have learned that successful forest management will be better enforced when there is social cohesion, political will and productive livelihoods," says Chief Barry Inyang. "With support from CBR+ and DEVCON, a local NGO that worked with us, we have developed a community forest management plan with bylaws, and we have started to regenerate degraded forest sites, improve livelihoods for women and also improve the value chain for cocoa, the major driver of forest loss."

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GENDER

In 2017, 23[1] UN-REDD partner countries made positive strides in integrating gender equality and women's empowerment principles within nationally-led REDD+ action. Such efforts are successfully being undertaken along the phases of the REDD+ policy cycle and across the five streams of the Programme's Gender Approach (see UN-REDD's Methodological Brief on Gender). To illustrate the breadth of this work, country highlights in 2017 include:

▶ Bangladesh, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Mongolia, Myanmar and Nigeria either integrated a gender perspective within a REDD+ assessment, action plan, strategy and/or undertook a gender-specific analysis (Stream 1);

▶ Chile, Mongolia and Tunisia raised awareness on gender and the benefits of women's involvement within its capacity-building on REDD+ (Stream 2);

▶ Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia integrated gender and women's empowerment considerations within REDD+ stakeholder participation, awareness raising and capacity-building efforts across various REDD+ work areas (Stream 3);

▶ The Democratic Republic of the Congo's national forest integrated gender and child data in its inventory collection methodologies (Stream 4); and

▶ Panama, within its publication on the "Programa Bosques de Vida", documented how women and youth contribute to the sustainable management of forests (Stream 5).

In many instances, these gender actions are undertaken in parallel, reinforcing and strengthening their reach within countries in helping to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

[1] Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

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For example, in Colombia, feedback from a gender-mainstreaming strategy, conducted in early 2017, and REDD+ Strategy consultation efforts, undertaken in 2016 with women, namely Afro-Colombians, fed into and helped strengthen the gender approach of the draft National Integral Strategy to Control Deforestation and the Management of Forests (August 2017 version).

Acknowledging the crucial role knowledge exchange and capacity-building on gender can play in catalysing change and breaking down gender barriers around REDD+, the Programme also released a Methodological Brief on Gender and a Report on Lessons Learned on Gender and REDD+ in Latin America in early 2017. The gender approach and good practices on gender detailed within these new publications were also showcased within a guest article on the SDG Knowledge Hub and at an event at the 2nd Annual General Assembly of the Tropical Forest Alliance.

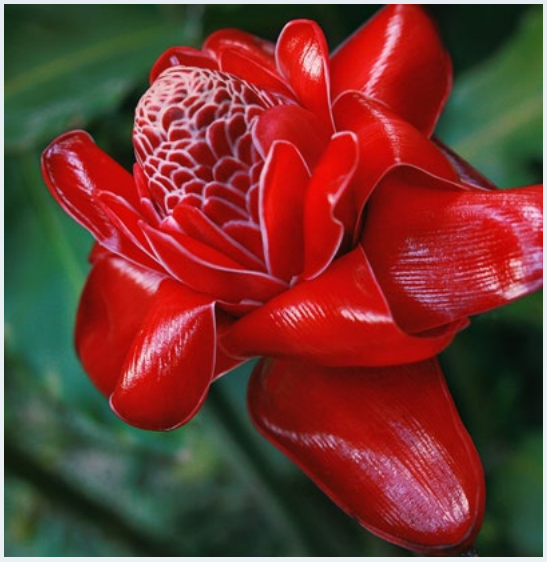
SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Programme has supported a wide range of mechanisms and approaches to promote stakeholder engagement and inclusion in REDD+ policy processes. Stakeholder mapping and engagement guidelines/plans were supported in many countries, notably in Argentina (at both national and local tiers, all underpinning the national strategy for REDD+); Bangladesh (underpinning the assessment of deforestation drivers and the consultations on REDD+ policies and measures); Colombia (including new multi-stakeholder dialogue avenues for forest affairs in the country); Democratic Republic of the Congo (where the GTCR-R, the civil society platform, completed its internal restructuring with a new strategy, plus lessons learnt from the process that will soon be released); Honduras (underpinning the national REDD+ strategy process, still ongoing); Mongolia (production of a stakeholder-engagement and gender-equality handbook for provincial Government officers); and Myanmar (underpinning public participation in the national strategy for REDD+).

The UN-REDD Programme continued to support and provide technical and operational advice to a wide range of multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue for REDD+, such as in Bangladesh, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Myanmar, Peru and Viet Nam. Such support helps Governments and stakeholders find a common understanding and a partnership-spirit on forest and REDD+ matters, which is usually critical to ensure the viability of REDD+ implementation.

In addition, the design of national protocols for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) was supported in Argentina and Honduras, among other countries, aiming at safeguarding the political and territorial rights of indigenous peoples in REDD+ processes.

In Colombia, the Programme intensively supported the participation of indigenous, Afro-Colombian and *campesino*



Impact Story: Colombia

STAKEHOLDER INCLUSION AT THE HEART OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME'S WORK

2017 WAS a busy year in Colombia for the UN-REDD Programme. A number of activities, workshops and training sessions took place across the country with diverse and widespread participation from indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, farmers and other key stakeholders. As a crucial stepping-stone, all groups were brought together as key stakeholders to gain a clear understanding of REDD+ and to contribute to the country's National REDD+ Strategy.

This stakeholder process allowed them the opportunity to express their concerns and ideas for REDD+ and to refine a vision for how REDD+ can support their communities in reducing deforestation and building sustainable environmental economies.

Land title was one the biggest concerns for indigenous communities whose territories are located in key areas of conservation. They are keen to work with the Government on building their autonomy, strengthening governance and being actively involved in consultations around the financial support of projects in their territories.

Afro-Colombian's are concerned primarily with legal recognition and ensuring they are part of the process to limit illegal mining and deforestation as it impacts the forests and water in their territories. "Biodiversity is only possible if our people are able to maintain and strengthen our cultural practices," says Afro-Colombian leader, Absalon Jose Suarez Lider. "For that, the rivers, mountain, streams, farms are essential as both natural and cultural resources. Our territory is not for sale, but it is a place where our community can satisfy our basic human needs and identity".

Colombian farmers, who are seen by indigenous communities to be encroaching on forest areas, expressed their concerns about the need for financial support and recognition as they are often left out of land decisions.

All groups are struggling with illegal logging, mining and agricultural encroachment, with the drug trade and a lack of an effective police presence in their communities. Illegal mining has led to contaminated fresh water sources, particularly in the Pacific region. Moreover, climate change has brought drought and flooding that has resulted in communities losing their homes and forests.

Through the UN-REDD Programme activities, all groups have learned how REDD+ can help empower their communities, while acknowledging their rights and improving the financial mechanisms that can assist in forest conservation while simultaneously improving income and liveability.

Colombia's National REDD+ Strategy, now in a final draft form, is currently being reviewed by the Government and it will soon be presented both to all the stakeholders involved in the process and to the country itself.

Clockwise from top left: Jairu Ollennu on Unsplash; UN-REDD Programme

peoples in national REDD+ processes to ensure their political influence and the inclusion of their REDD+ vision. Many positive results were obtained, including a stakeholder participation strategy, a national REDD + platform, and a series of dialogue roundtables with different public and economic sectors.

In Viet Nam, a pilot Grievance and Recourse Mechanism was concluded, with lessons used to design a specific institutional measure that was included in the National REDD+ Implementation Plan. The Government of Viet Nam prepared recommendations to strengthen the roles of civil society and ethnic minorities in REDD+ implementation, presenting them to the international Executive Group that oversees the programme to operationalize REDD+. They were well-received and will be integrated in the subsequent work plans for this programme. Collaboration is ongoing between the Government's forest sector and the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) to integrate and institutionalize lessons from engaging indigenous peoples in the environment sector.

At the regional level, the UN-REDD Programme collaborated with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact to co-design, organize and implement a regional "Experience-sharing Workshop on Ethnic Minority Affairs" in Thai Nguyen, Viet Nam, on 18-19 September 2017. Indigenous representatives and Governments from the Mekong region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) exchanged lessons. More information is contained in the UN-REDD Newsletter and in a video jointly produced by Viet Nam and UN-REDD.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector engagement is a cross-cutting theme in the UN-REDD Programme. As partner countries are progressing on REDD+ Readiness, there is sustained or even increasing interest to involve the private sector in national REDD+ processes, as companies (particularly in agriculture, but also in mining, forestry, infrastructure and other sectors) are often major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Hence any solution must involve those actors contributing to the problem. In a selected number of cases, the private sector could also directly or indirectly contribute to financing REDD+ implementation, thereby helping countries to meet their nationally determined contributions and other climate targets.

Highlights from private sector engagement in 2017 include:

▶ Indonesia: The President signed Government Regulation (46/2017) on an Environmental Economic Instrument designed with technical assistance from the UN-REDD Programme, which includes REDD+ finance.

Lee Aik Soon on Unsplash

▶ In the Republic of the Congo consultations were held with banks and microcredit providers to understand the barriers that prevent them from increasing their lending portfolio in sectors that contribute to sustainable land use. Furthermore, in Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN-REDD Programme helped carry an assessment of forest value chains, in collaboration with and with support from WWF.

▶ Côte d'Ivoire: With support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative and the European Forest Institute (EFI), the UN-REDD Programme supported the implementation of the "zero-deforestation" cocoa REDD+ strategic option. Achievements include an assessment of the economic viability of sustainable cocoa production through a focus on agroforestry and intensification; data collection partnerships with three leading cocoa companies; and preliminary recommendations of public-private financing mechanisms to incentivize sustainable production and smallholder access to finance.

▶ Ethiopia: The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MEFCC) endorsed a coordinated approach between the UN-REDD Programme's technical assistance on scoping private investment options supportive of REDD+ objectives and the implementation of an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding between UN Environment and Ethiopian Airlines to recommend options for rendering Ethiopian Airlines' "One Passenger, One Tree" policy truly operational.

▶ Zambia: As part of the Programme's targeted support that was carried over from 2016, the sectoral analysis on REDD+ supportive investments by the mining sector in North Western Province was endorsed by the Government and stakeholders during the final multi-partner mission of the REDD+ Investment Plan.

▶ Ecuador: The Ministry of Environment engaged with the private finance sector

Chris Goldberg on Flickr

in Guayaquil and Quito to enhance banks' environmental and social risk management systems in the financing of commodity production and trade, based on support from the UN-REDD Programme and in collaboration with UNEP FI. Additionally, the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the financial regulator, prepared a draft directive to encourage the integration of environmental and social risk management in financial operations in the land use sector.

▶ A group of Latin American countries worked with the CATIE and the UN-REDD Programme to understand synergies between their national efforts for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and REDD+, with REDD+ being an important enabler of SFM. The private sector emerged as an important potential ally for those implementing REDD+ in Latin America.

▶ Additionally, the Programme facilitated the strengthening and development of national and regional platforms with the participation of the private sector in Honduras, Colombia, Argentina and Ecuador.

TENURE AND LEGAL GOVERNANCE

Clear and secure land tenure is a key enabling condition that underpins success in implementing REDD+. The UN-REDD Programme continues to support partner countries to address tenure issues in the context of their national programmes and commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nationally determined contributions, the Sustainable Development Goals and other international obligations. The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) serve as the basis for informing and guiding work on tenure in the context of REDD+.

In 2017, the UN-REDD Programme worked with Ugandan officials in key ministries and civil society organizations on the generation of national knowledge to enhance the compatibility of land tenure and forest spatial data. In Tunisia, as a follow-up of the previously supported land tenure assessment, the Programme worked with national stakeholders in resolving land claims on State forestland, currently a major driver of deforestation. In collaboration with local land rights' claimants, new boundary posts were installed in undisputed areas, and more than 30 claim dossiers were prepared for regularization. Land claimants agreed to refrain from further agricultural expansion in exchange for recognition of their existing claims (See article). In Zambia, an assessment of community participation in forestry was completed, as an input for the preparation of the country's REDD+ investment plan.

In Latin America, the UN-REDD Programme extensively supported countries in reaching legal and institutional arrangements for their NFMS – crucial for its sustainability and operationalization in the REDD+ and implementation of nationally determined contributions. Using the overall framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and in collaboration with other projects and initiatives (FLEGT, GEF, among others) the Programme has been catalytic in the clarification of forest tenure rights in Honduras and Panama; the development of an in-depth analysis of land use change legislation causing deforestation in Peru; and the advancement of the land regularization processes in Colombia. Here, in light of the Article 1 of the Peace Agreements, the UN-REDD Programme has been working with the National Land Agency (ANT) to develop a harmonized methodology for rural land regularization processes. The Programme has also worked with national partners in drafting legal reports in Peru, Colombia and Panama, where the Aruza community regulation on forest resources management was adopted by the local congress. Legal considerations and reviews have also been prepared in support of the construction of the safeguards information system of Argentina.

The year 2017 was also an important year for sharing some of the experience and lessons learned from previous assessments. Malawi's Tenure and REDD+ in Malawi report and Viet Nam's Policy Brief Improving Policies, Processes and Practices of Forest and Forestland Allocation in Viet Nam were published and widely circulated. The important link between tenure and REDD+ was also highlighted in a special

Impact Story: Tunisia

PILOT PROJECT IN TUNISIA BEGINS RESOLVING LAND TENURE CLAIMS AND PREVENTING FOREST CONVERSION

WHILE TUNISIA'S forest cover is relatively low, at approximately 6.6 per cent, this remaining forest is critically important to the Mediterranean ecosystem and plays an important role in climate mitigation. As in many countries, Tunisia's state forest boundaries are unclear and encroachment, particularly from agriculture, has become a major challenge. A comprehensive assessment supported by the UN-REDD Programme estimates that more than 500,000 hectares, or about half of the remaining forest, is threatened.

As a result, a pilot project involving the Tunisian Directorate-General for Forestry (DGF) began in 2017 to map forest boundaries and record overlapping land claims in order to move forward on a more sustainable path in balancing the protection of the country's valuable forests with the needs of the local population. It was a first step towards resolving claims and preventing further forest conversion.

"While land claimants were initially skeptical and concerned about the loss of access and land use rights, they turned around once DGF officers explained they would be able to continue to farm as long as they did not expand cultivation into the forest," said Jamel Kailene, Directorate General of Forestry for Tunisia. "Land claimants then became eager to have their existing claims documented." Claimants like Mr. Airi Romdhan, a 70 year old father of six who farms olives and has expanded his claim of about 2 hectares into the forest. He believes he has a right to farm because of the effort and sacrifices he has made to cultivate over the area since the 1980s. He hopes the pilot project will give him a resolution and recognition in the coming years.

The project involved talking to land claimants to allay their concerns about tenure rights and to collect data and map boundaries of land claimants and forests using the latest technology, including the Global Navigation System GNSS and FAO's tablet-based Open Tenure tool. A national, awareness-raising workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure informed the field activities by establishing an internationally recognized standard of best practice for implementation. The experience in Tunisia suggests that resolving land tenure claims and clarifying forest boundaries need not be divisive and that mutually agreeable solutions are possible with a consultative and responsible approach.

Mohamed Aymen Bettaieb on Flickr

feature publication for the fifth anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

To leverage the breadth and depth of knowledge generated by the Programme's technical assistance portfolio, the UN-REDD Programme applied a multi-pronged strategy to knowledge sharing and communications, tailoring content to different audiences from the general public to technical specialists.

Intensified coordination with partner countries and across agencies generated a constant feed of success stories and lessons learned shared via South-South events, the REDD+ Resource newsletter, the UN-REDD Programme website and workspace. With partner countries progressing on their path to REDD+ implementation, themes of REDD+ financing, investment planning, and private sector engagement became the leitmotif of South-South knowledge-sharing in 2017.

In response to partner country demand, 93 tailored knowledge and communication events took place in 2017, including workshops and trainings. These events averaged 44 per cent female participation and achieved an overall satisfaction rate of 89 per cent. In addition, the Programme developed 52 knowledge print products, and almost 50 blog posts were authored by partner countries and agency experts highlighting country advances, lessons learned and success stories. The Programme maintained an active social media presence, showing strong follower growth and high engagement rates on Twitter and Facebook. A comprehensive list of 2017 information materials is available here and of knowledge events here.

Highlights of UN-REDD's knowledge management and communications efforts in 2017 include:

▶ The Asia-Pacific Knowledge Exchange convened 30+ representatives from 10 Southeast-Asian UN-REDD Programme partner countries, Indigenous Peoples and civil society organization representatives, to discuss issues related to "Operationalizing and financing National REDD+ Strategies: from programming and financing implementation to results-based payments". The knowledge sharing also benefited from interregional cross-fertilization through inputs from Ecuador and Chile.

▶ The Africa Knowledge Exchange saw the participation of 22 forestry sector experts, civil society organizations and indigenous peoples representatives from 11 UN-REDD Programme partner countries in the region. The event provided a space for focused technical dialogue and sharing of experiences on how countries are navigating the transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation.

▶ The UNFCCC COP 23 side event, which drew over 150 people and featured partner country representatives, explored how REDD+ efforts can be scaled up to support countries in accessing results-based payments and other financing sources. The discussion demonstrated that the UN-REDD Programme is well positioned to support countries in their achievement of the SDGs.

▶ The UN-REDD Programme partnered with the <2 Initiative of pro-cycling team Cannondale-Drapac and UNFCCC for a #rideforclimate to put the spotlight on the role of forests as a key climate mitigation measure during COP23. The event targeting a wider public via a social media campaign was opened by then Norwegian Climate and Environment Mister Vidar Helgesen.

▶ The Programme launched the Second Edition of the REDD+ Academy Learning Journals. Covering 12 key topics, the Learning Journals were updated to reflect REDD+ advancements and showcase partner country achievements through case studies. They are available for download here.

Building on the success of the REDD+ Academy regional events and training materials, a series of national REDD+ Academy events took place based on the Learning Journals developed by the UN-REDD Programme. They include:

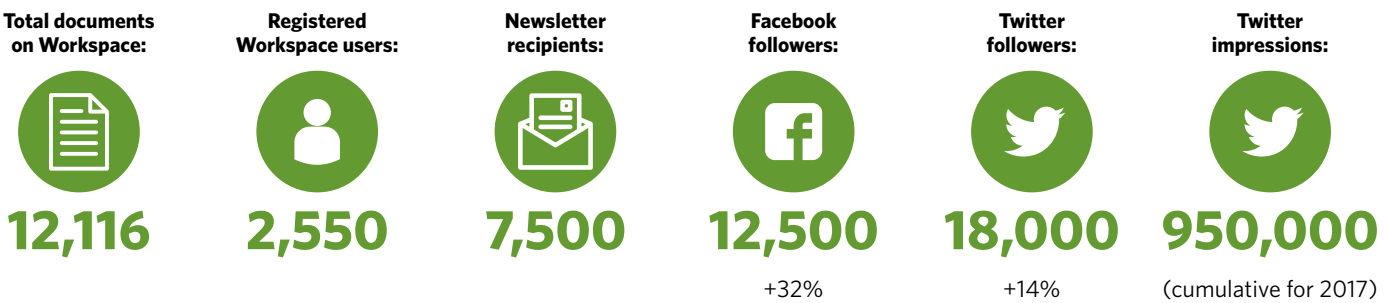
▶ Colombia: REDD+ Academy in Colombia reaches out to local communities, national and regional institutions

▶ Vietnam: REDD+ Academy officially included in the training curriculum of Viet Nam's National University of Forestry

▶ Argentina: A course in Argentina to preserve forests and improve the environment

FIGURE 6. ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2017 Highlights: social media & workspace



Financial Reporting

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THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND, from its inception in 2008, until 2016, was divided into two modalities: National Programmes (NPs) and Global Programmes (GPs).

As of December 2017, the NPs implemented activities in 25 countries, and 3 global projects, 2 of them brought International Support Functions and the most recent project, Support to National REDD+ Action (SNA). At the end of December 2017, the Phase I net funded amount was a total of US$ 256,032 million with an expenditure rate of 94%. The net funded amount allocated to NPs was US$ 93,770 million and US $81,167 million was reported as expenditure with an average delivery rate of 86%. As for the SNAs, a net funded amount of US$ 162,261 million was recorded with expenses of US$ 160,256 million with an average delivery rate of 99.5%.

The Phase II of the Fund started in 2016 and is expected to end in 2020. It has been structured into 3 Regional Programmes (Africa, Asia and LAC) and 3 Global Programmes (Delivering National Programme Readiness, Direct Cost for the Secretariat and KM and Global coordination). This second programmatic phase has a multi-year programming structure which contributed to the improvement of Fund's cash flow management and its monitoring and evaluation system. Phase II, as of 31 December 2017, reported a net funded total amount of 34.812 million and recorded as expenditure 12.661 million. An amount of 14.944 million was net funded to Regional Programmes where 7.495 was reported in expenditure. The Global Programmes of Phase II was net funded 19.868 million where 5.166 million was recorded as expenditure.

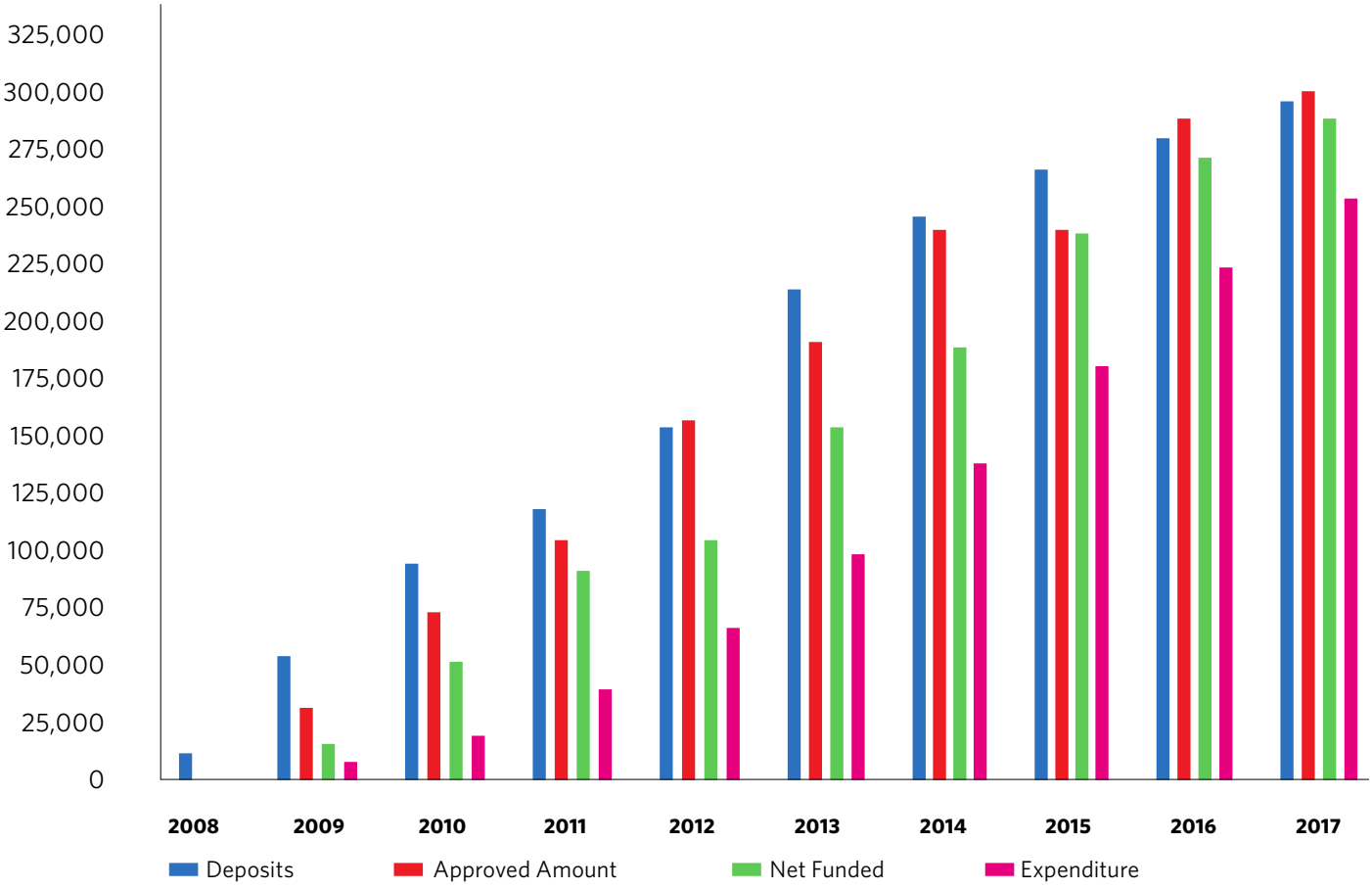
The table 1 below, summarizes the annual and cumulative net funded and expenditure figures for both Phases.

TABLE 1 – FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF PHASE I AND PHASE II OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND IN US$ THOUSANDS

	2016		2017		CULMULATIVE	
	NET FUNDED	**EXPENDITURE**	**NET FUNDED**	**EXPENDITURE**	**NET FUNDED**	**EXPENDITURE**
PHASE I (2008-2016)						
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES	6.337	13.043	2.165	10.720	93.770	81.167
GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	8.811	30.730	0	6.777	162.261	160.256
PHASE 1 TOTAL	**15.148**	**43.773**	**2.165**	**17.497**	**256.031**	**241.385**
PHASE II (2016-2020)						
REGIONAL PROGRAMMES	6.666	0	8.278	7.495	14.944	7.495
GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	11.128	0	8.739	5.166	19.868	5.166
PHASE II – TOTAL	**17.794**	**0**	**17.017**	**12.661**	**34.812**	**12.661**
GRAND TOTAL	**32.942**	**43.773**	**19.182**	**30.158**	**290.885**	**254.084**

The figure 7 reflects the steady growth of the Fund since its inception.

FIGURE 7. UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND DEPOSITS, NET FUNDED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURES IN US$ THOUSANDS (CUMULATIVE 2008 - 2017)



At the end of 2017, the UN-REDD Programme Fund had seven contributing donors; Denmark, the European Union, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain and Switzerland. Total deposits from these donors amount to 294.1 million. In addition, US$ 3.1 million in interest was earned and deposited, bringing the total sources of funds to US$ 297.2 million. Of this, a net amount of US$ 290.8 million, or 98 per cent, has been received by Participating UN Organizations and US$ 254.1 million (or 87 per cent of the net funded amount) was spent. In 2017, contributions received amounted to US$ 14.1 million, transfers to Participating UN Organizations totaled US$ 19.6 million and expenditures stood at US$ 30.2 million. (Table 2) The cash balance with the Administrative Agent at the end of 2017 was US$ 3.4 million, representing a portion of funding allocation approved for the National Programme of Peru that was yet to be transferred at the end of 2017 but has since been transferred in January 2018.

TABLE 2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (IN US DOLLARS)

	ANNUAL 2016	ANNUAL 2017	CUMULATIVE
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DONORS	**13,091,837**	**14,085,249**	**294,148,952**
FUND EARNED INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME	177,947	106,833	2,568,365
INTEREST INCOME RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	62,532	17,528	520,509
REFUNDS BY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT TO CONTRIBUTORS	-	-	-
FUND BALANCE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER MDTF	-	-	-
OTHER INCOME	-	-	-
TOTAL: SOURCES OF FUNDS	**13,332,316**	**14,209,610**	**297,237,826**
USE OF FUNDS			
TRANSFERS TO PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	33,088,026	19,644,613	291,818,111
REFUNDS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	(145,091)	(462,779)	(974,732)
NET FUNDED AMOUNT	**32,942,935**	**19,181,834**	**290,843,379**
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT FEES	93,891	91,994	2,737,983
DIRECT COSTS: (STEERING COMMITTEE, SECRETARIAT...ETC.)	-	-	-
BANK CHARGES	990	411	12,234
OTHER EXPENDITURES	37,027	48,859	203,507
TOTAL: USES OF FUNDS	**33,074,843**	**19,323,098**	**293,797,103**
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT	**(19,742,527)**	**(5,113,488)**	**3,440,723**
OPENING FUND BALANCE (1 JANUARY)	28,296,738	8,554,211	-
CLOSING FUND BALANCE (31 DECEMBER)	**8,554,211**	**3,440,723**	**3,440,723**
NET FUNDED AMOUNT (INCLUDES DIRECT COST)	32,942,935	19,181,834	290,843,379
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS' EXPENDITURE (INCLUDES DIRECT COST)	43,773,556	30,157,566	254,083,374
BALANCE OF FUNDS WITH PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS			**36,760,005**

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Total funding allocation for National Programmes amounted to US$ 96,369 million, net funded amount was US$93.770 million while cumulative expenditures stood at US$ 81.2 million as of December 2017. During the year, US$2.6 million was transferred to the National Programme of Chile while the transfer to the National Programme of Peru was pending as at the end of year. As of 31 December 2017, the National Programmes have ongoing activities in a total of 9 countries. The table 3 outlines the countries per regions where activities are being implemented. The National Programmes of the Phase I are expected to operationally close in 2020.

TABLE 3. ON-GOING NATIONAL PROGRAMME APPROVED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURES BY COUNTRY/REGION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

AFRICA								
COUNTRIES	**APPROVED AMOUNT**	**NET FUNDED AMOUNT**	**PRIOR PERIOD EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2016**	**CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2017**	**CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES**	**DELIVERY RATE (%)**	**DATE OF APPROVAL**	**END DATE**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	3,210	3,210	2,073	880	2,953	92	JULY - 14	APRIL-18
UGANDA	1,799	1,799	1,026	670	1,696	94	NOV-14	DEC-17
SUB-TOTAL	**5,009**	**5,009**	**3,099**	**1,550**	**4,649**			
ASIA								
COUNTRIES	**APPROVED AMOUNT**	**NET FUNDED AMOUNT**	**PRIOR PERIOD EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2016**	**CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2017**	**CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES**	**DELIVERY RATE (%)**	**DATE OF APPROVAL**	**END DATE**
BANGLADESH	2,301	2,301	540	936	1,476	64	DEC-13	JUN-19
MONGOLIA	3,996	3,996	832	1,721	2,553	64	JUL-14	NOV-18
MYANMAR	5,554	5,554	88	1,200	1,288	23	JUL - 16	NOV-20
SUB-TOTAL	**11,851**	**11,851**	**1,460**	**3,857**	**5,317**			
LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN								
COUNTRIES	**APPROVED AMOUNT**	**NET FUNDED AMOUNT**	**PRIOR PERIOD EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2016**	**CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURES AS OF 31 DEC 2017**	**CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES**	**DELIVERY RATE (%)**	**DATE OF APPROVAL**	**END DATE**
ARGENTINA	3,842	3,842	1,109	988	2,098	55	JUL-14	DEC-18
CHILE	4,280	2,627	-	0	0.039	1	NOV-15	DEC-20
COLOMBIA	4,000	4,000	2,401	1,333	3,736	93	JUNE-13	JUN-18
HONDURAS	3,610	3,610	953	1,491	2,445	68	NOV-14	JULY-19
SUB-TOTAL	**15,732**	**14,079**	**4,463**	**3,812**	**8,279**			
GRAND TOTAL	**32,592**	**30,939**	**9,022**	**9,219**	**18,245**			

FIGURE 8. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FUNDING ALLOCATION DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

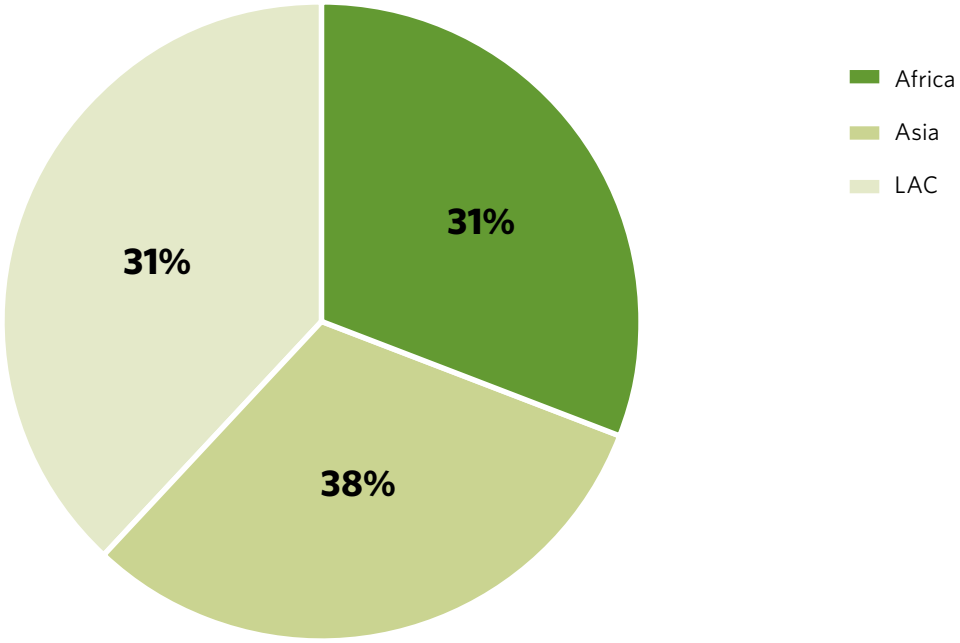
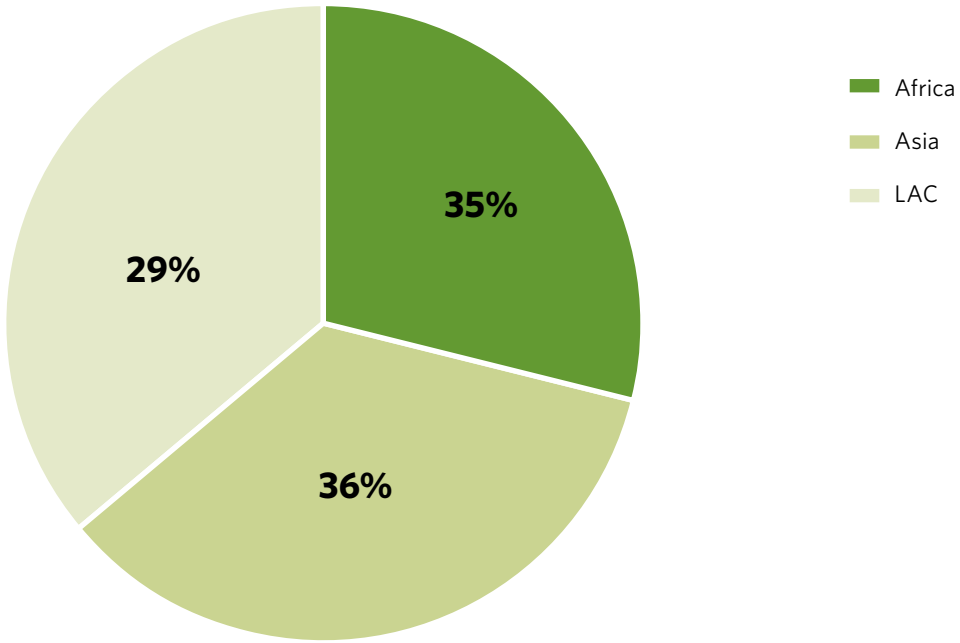


FIGURE 8. NATIONAL PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



SNA APPROVED AMOUNT, NET FUNDED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURE

A no cost extension of the SNA was approved up to 31 December 2017 to allow for the completion of pending activities on ongoing commitments under Targeted Support, technical assistance, CBR and Country Needs Assessment. With the completion of these activities, the SNA was operationally closed by the end of 2017. Table 4 below provides financial information per agency against the total approved amount up to December 2017. Cumulative expenditures for the SNA as of December 2017 amounted to 135.7 US$ million (or 99 per cent) against a net funded amount of US$137.7 million

TABLE 4. SNA APPROVED AMOUNT, NET FUNDED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

PARTICIPATING UN ORGANIZATION	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31 DEC 2017	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31 DEC 2016	CURRENT YEAR AS OF 31 DEC 2017	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE
	APPROVED & NET FUNDED AMOUNT	CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES	CUMULATIVE	%
FAO	48,013	46,203	1.826	48.029	100
UNDP	49,110	44,776	2.703	47.479	97
UNEP	40,583	37,937	2.256	40.193	99
TOTAL	**137,706**	**128,916**	**6.785**	**135.701**	**99**

NEW PHASE PROJECTS: APPROVED AMOUNT AND EXPENDITURES BY COUNTRY/REGION AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$)

Under the Second Programmatic Phase, the disbursement requests to donors are made based on demonstrated needs, the release of funding to programmes is then subject to availability of funds in the UN REDD Programme account. It allows for a shorter and more efficient programming cycle bringing improvement in terms of fiduciary management.

During the year, the balance remaining of the 2017 Technical Assistance to REDD+ Implementation was approved by the Interim Committee in June. With this approval and as additional cash resources became available with the MPTF, during the year the total of amount of US$ 12.173 million were transferred to the following new phase projects:

(1) US$ 8.278 million for the Technical Assistance to REDD+ Implementation
(2) US$2.565 million transferred to the FAO and UNEP for the 2017 budget forTechnical Assistance to National Programme Readiness;
(3) US$ 1.330 million transferred for the 2017 budget for direct cost for Secretariat services.

Table 5 below presents the approved amount, net funded amount and expenditures of these projects as of 31 December 2017.

TABLE 5. EXPENDITURE BY REGIONAL PROJECTS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
NEW PHASE PROJECTS						
00103784	DIRECT COST - SECRETARIAT SERVICE	FAO	250	250	127	51
00103784	DIRECT COST - SECRETARIAT SERVICE	UNDP	650	650	332	51
00103784	DIRECT COST - SECRETARIAT SERVICE	UNEP	1.599	1.599	619	39
SUB-TOTAL	**DIRECT COST - SECRETARIAT SERVICE**		**2.499**	**2.499**	**1.079**	**43**
00103785	AFRICA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	FAO	1.888	1.888	1.084	57
00103785	AFRICA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	UNDP	1.635	1.635	0.732	45
00103785	AFRICA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	UNEP	1.053	1.053	0.637	60
SUB-TOTAL	**AFRICA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**		**4.577**	**4.577**	**2.454**	**54**
00103786	ASIA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T	FAO	2.015	2.015	1.151	57
00103786	ASIA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T	UNDP	1.595	1.595	0.765	48
00103786	ASIA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T	UNEP	0.830	0.830	0.287	35
SUB-TOTAL	**ASIA - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T**		**4.440**	**4.440**	**2.204**	**50**
00103787	LAC - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA	FAO	1.723	1.723	1.112	65
00103787	LAC - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA	UNDP	3.005	3.005	1.124	37
00103787	LAC - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA	UNEP	1.199	1.199	0.601	50
SUB-TOTAL	**LAC - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA**		**5.927**	**5.927**	**2.837**	**48**
00103788	KM & GLOBAL COORDINA	FAO	1.079	1.079	0.208	19
00103788	KM & GLOBAL COORDINA	UNDP	1.884	1.884	0.288	15
00103788	KM & GLOBAL COORDINA	UNEP	3.012	3.012	0.818	27
SUB-TOTAL	**KM & GLOBAL COORDINA**		**5.975**	**5.975**	**1.314**	**22**
00103359	UN REDD - DELIVERING NATIONAL PROGRAMMES READINESS	FAO	8,555	4,079	1,845	45
00103359	UN REDD - DELIVERING NATIONAL PROGRAMMES READINESS	UNDP	5,426	5,426	0.410	7.6
00103359	UN REDD - DELIVERING NATIONAL PROGRAMMES READINESS	UNEP	4,728	1,889	0.519	27
SUB-TOTAL	**UN REDD - DELIVERING NATIONAL PROGRAMMES READINESS**		**18,709**	**11,394**	**2,774**	**15**
NEW PHASE PROJECTS - TOTAL			**42,127**	**34,812**	**12,662**	**30**

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the UN-REDD Programme Fund increased to 294.1 million in 2017, with additional deposit of US$14.1 million. Norway continued to be the largest contributor, donating US$ 252.5 million, followed by the European Union and Denmark. A total of 5.4 million Euros (estimated at US$ 5.9 million) is pending to the Fund as per payment instalments under EU grant agreement. Table 6 shows all amounts deposited to the Fund as of 31 December 2017.

TABLE 6. CONTRIBUTORS' COMMITMENTS, DEPOSITS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2016 DEPOSITS	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2017 DEPOSITS	TOTAL DEPOSITS
DENMARK, GOVERNMENT OF	9,898	9,898	-	9,898
EUROPEAN UNION	20,351	15,465	4,886	20,351
JAPAN, GOVERNMENT OF	3,046	3,046	-	3,046
LUXEMBOURG, GOVERNMENT OF	2,674	2,674	-	2,674
NORWAY, GOVERNMENT OF	252,491	243,390	9,101	252,491
SPAIN, GOVERNMENT OF	5,493	5,493	-	5,493
SWITZERLAND, GOVERNMENT OF	196	99	99	196
GRAND TOTAL	**294,149**	**280,065**	**14,085**	**294,149**

INTEREST

Total interest received up to 31 December 2017 was US$ 3.1 million. This is made up of US$ 2.57 million of interest received at the Fund level and US$ 0.5 million received from Participating UN Organizations. It's noted that the interests earned by the Fund and received by the agencies are included in the amount available for programming.

Table 7 provides details on interest received by the Fund

TABLE 7. SOURCES OF INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

INTEREST EARNED	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2016	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2017	TOTAL
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT			
FUND EARNED INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME	2,462	107	2,568
TOTAL: FUND EARNED INTEREST	**2,462**	**107**	**2,568**
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION			
FAO	37	14	51
UNDP	422		422
UNEP	44	3	47
TOTAL: AGENCY EARNED INTEREST	**503**	**17**	**520**
GRAND TOTAL	**2,965**	**124**	**3,089**

FUNDS APPROVED

As of 31 December 2017, based on receipt of all supporting documentation for UN-REDD Programmes approved by the Policy Board and Interim Committee, the total approved amount was US$ 300.8 million (Table 8), out of which US$290.8 million was transferred (net funded) to Participating Organizations. Funds are transferred by the MPTF Office once the signed programme document and request for funds transfer have been received. For 2017, US$ 19.2 million was transferred to the following programmes; Chile National Programme, TA to National Programmes, TA to Country Implementation, Direct Cost of Secretariat Services, KM & Global Coordination and the Delivery National Programmes Readiness.

TABLE 8. FUNDS APPROVED AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

PARTICIPATION	ANNUAL 2016		ANNUAL 2017	
	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT
FAO	18.073	10.213	8,297	6,458
UNDP	20.294	13.392	8,786	7,452
UNEP	12.868	9.338	6,589	5,271
GRAND TOTAL	**51.235**	**32.943**	**23,672**	**19,181**

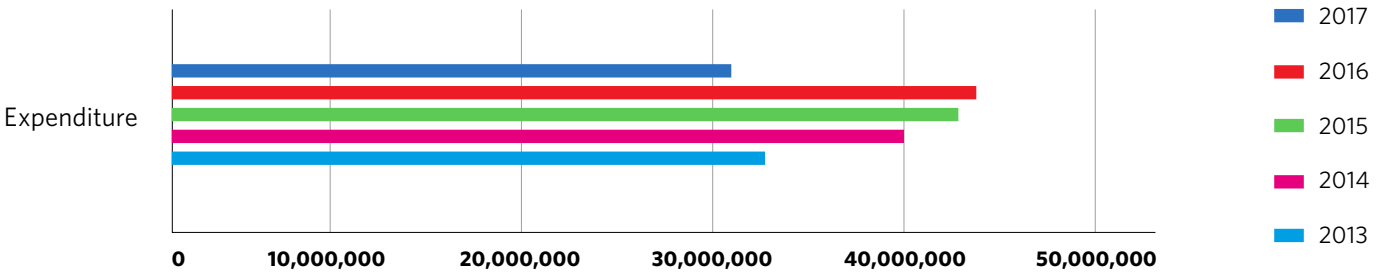
OVERALL DELIVERY RATE AND NET FUNDED AMOUNT PER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Of the total amount net funded (amount transferred less any refunds), US$ 254.1 million or 87 per cent was reported as expenditure. Table 9 shows the expenditure and delivery rate of the Participating UN Organizations

TABLE 9. NET FUNDED AMOUNT AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE			DELIVERY RATE %
			PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2016	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2017	CUMULATIVE	
FAO	112,069	106,888	83,949	12,515	96,465	90
UNDP	114,653	113,159	83,397	10,731	94,128	83
UNEP	74,064	70,797	56,579	6,911	63,490	90
GRAND TOTAL	**300,786**	**290,844**	**223,925**	**30,157**	**254,082**	**87**

FIGURE 9. ANNUAL EXPENDITURE (2013-2017)



EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported in accordance with the agreed categories for harmonized inter-agency reporting. In 2006, the UN Development Group (UNDG) set six categories against which UN entities must report project expenditures. Taking effect on 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board updated these to eight categories as a result of the adoption of IPSAS. All expenditures incurred up to 31 December 2011 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditures are reported in the new eight categories. Table 10 reflects expenditure reported in the UNDG expense categories. Where the Fund has been operational pre and post 1 January 2012, the expenditures are reported using both categories. Where a Fund became operational post 1 January 2012, only the new categories are used.

TABLE 10. EXPENDITURE BY UNDG BUDGET CATEGORY, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017 (US$ THOUSANDS)

CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMME COST
	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2016	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2017	TOTAL	
SUPPLIES, COMMODITIES, EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORT (OLD)	1,256,408	-	1,256,408	0.53
PERSONNEL (OLD)	23,105,695	-	23,105,695	9.72
TRAINING OF COUNTERPARTS(OLD)	3,596,995	-	3,596,995	1.51
CONTRACTS (OLD)	6,914,797	-	6,914,797	2.91
OTHER DIRECT COSTS (OLD)	2,110,598	-	2,110,598	0.89
STAFF & PERSONNEL COST (NEW)	79,675,559	15,989,914	95,665,474	40.25
SUPPL, COMM, MATERIALS (NEW)	1,671,449	166,088	1,837,537	0.77
EQUIP, VEH, FURN, DEPN (NEW)	2,933,267	209,333	3,142,600	1.32
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (NEW)	23,247,234	2,920,543	26,167,777	11.01
TRAVEL (NEW)	19,889,908	3,041,836	22,931,743	9.65
TRANSFERS AND GRANTS (NEW)	26,905,605	3,811,639	30,717,244	12.93
GENERAL OPERATING (NEW)	18,160,935	2,044,014	20,204,949	8.50
PROGRAMME COSTS TOTAL	**209,468,451**	**28,183,367**	**237,651,818**	**100.00**
[1] INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS TOTAL	14,457,358	1,974,199	16,431,557	6.91
GRAND TOTAL	**223,925,808**	**30,157,566**	**254,083,374**	

[1] **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

PROJECTS THAT COMPLETED OPERATIONS

Two (Nigeria & Sri Lanka) National Programmes projects operationally closed while a total of 5 programmes financially closed over the years. The UN-REDD National Programmes Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam financially closed in 2016. The National Programmes of Cambodia and Panama ended their operational activities in 2015, Ecuador in 2014 while The National Programmes in Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo operationally closed in 2013. In 2012, the Global Programme (2009-2011) operationally closed however, their financial closure has been outstanding for 5 years. The submission of final certified financial reports is dependent on each UN agency to close their projects within the timeline stated in the legal agreements of the Fund. As of 31 December 2017, 11 out of the 12 operationally closed projects haven't yet financially closed their books. This issue has been part of the MPTF Office auditors' observations and also discussed with the UN REDD Programme Secretariat. The Administrative Agent is prioritizing the financial closure of these programmes by coordinating with each agency to ensure that financial closure will be executed as swiftly as possible. (Table 11).

TABLE 11. LIST OF COMPLETED PROJECTS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2017

PROJECT ID	COUNTRY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT STATUS	PROJECT END DATE
76668	PHILIPPINES	UN-REDD PROGRAMME PHILIPPINES	FINANCIALLY CLOSED	30 APR 2013
73509	INDONESIA	UN-REDD INDONESIA	FINANCIALLY CLOSED	30 OCT 2012
72449	VIET NAM	UN-REDD VIETNAM	FINANCIALLY CLOSED	30 JUN 2012
71391	THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	UN-REDD-DRC-01 PROGRAMME DE DE	FINANCIALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2013
76666	SOLOMON ISLAND	UN-REDD SOLOMON ISLAND	FINANCIALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2014
76664	PARAGUAY	UN-REDD PROGRAMME PARAGUAY	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	30 SEPT 2016
70986	UNITED NATIONS	UN-REDD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	16 APR 2012
76111	UNITED NATIONS	UN-REDD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	16 APR 2012
73511	TANZANIA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME TANZANIA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	30 JUN 2013
76663	CAMBODIA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME CAMBODIA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	30 JUN 2015
73510	PANAMA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME PANAMA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	30 JUNE 2015
82263	SRI LANKA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME SRI LANKA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	30 JUNE 2017
78169	ECUADOR	UN-REDD ECUADOR	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2014
74834	ZAMBIA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME ZAMBIA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2014
73984	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME PAPUA NEW GUINEA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2016
74797	BOLIVIA	UN-REDD PROGRAMME BOLIVIA	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2016
82262	REPUBLIC OF CONGO	UN-REDD PROGRAMME CONGO	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 JUL 2016
80129	NIGERIA	NIGERIA REDD+ READINESS PROGRAMME	OPERATIONALLY CLOSED	31 DEC 2016

Looking Ahead: Strategic Issues And Opportunities

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2018 – 2020 PROGRAMME

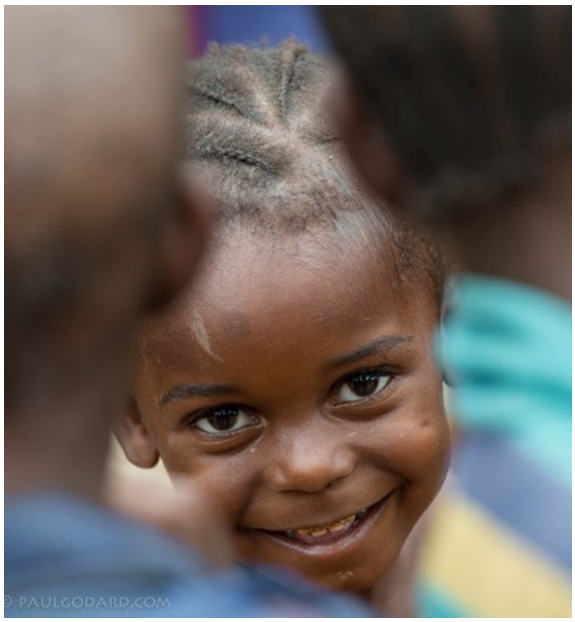
For 2018 – 2020, the UN-REDD Programme will focus on providing technical assistance to further catalyse REDD+ implementation in nine countries: Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Viet Nam and Zambia. Additionally, the UN-REDD Programme will bolster its work at the global level, building on its expertise and experience in knowledge management and capacity building to reach a broader set of countries and stakeholders. The UN-REDD Programme has identified six key thematic areas for global delivery, including landscape approaches; private sector engagement; contribution of REDD+ to the sustainable development goals and the implementation of the Paris Agreement; monitoring, reporting and verification tools; forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples; and supporting national REDD+ funding mechanisms. The Programme's commitment to South-South collaboration will be a critical piece of this initiative.

Finally, a global cross-cutting coordination and communications work area will bind the knowledge management and country elements together, boosting their individual and collective impact. This component enables scaling up of approaches and cross-fertilization of ideas across countries and agencies. Through focused communications efforts, the Programme will take knowledge generated via country experiences and communicate it in a manner that is both digestible and relevant for country partners and teams involved in the implementation of REDD+. This cross-cutting component supports the specialized content producers (country teams, other partners, UN-REDD Programme agencies) by systematizing the collection of localized knowledge and converting it into lessons learned and best practices that will be easily accessible and targeted to different audiences at the global, thematic and local levels.

During 2017, the UN-REDD Programme carried out a work planning and budgeting exercise for 2018, which included wide-ranging stakeholder consultations at the country level. Documentation of these consultations is available on the UN-REDD Programme Workspace.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Resource mobilization is critical to the success of the UN-REDD Programme and to achieving the goals of the 2016 – 2020 Strategy. Led by the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, the Programme focused in 2017 on cementing existing donor relationships and seeking new opportunities. The Programme's resource mobilization strategy is centred on developing a suite of donors and partners to support country-level and global actions. Success will be built on a strong foundation of demonstrated delivery and results as well as showcasing the unique added value of a UN-led partnership with deep technical expertise and an unparalleled convening capacity.



In line with the UN Secretary General's renewed focus on partnerships, the UN-REDD Programme has increasingly sought synergies and collaboration with the plethora of initiatives in an increasingly complex REDD+ landscape, in particular where partnerships can facilitate REDD+ implementation. These include the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Forest Investment Programme and BioCarbon Fund; the Central African Forest Initiative; the Green Climate Fund; the Global Environment Facility and REDD Early Movers.

Political uncertainty in some donor countries has hampered efforts to raise additional funds, however, overall the medium- to long-term opportunities for climate financing continue, particularly in the REDD+ space.

Central to the UN-REDD resource mobilization strategy is the experience and legitimacy of the United Nations system, and the added value of the UNDP, UN Environment and FAO partnership. Moreover, the UN-REDD Programme continues to demonstrate high delivery rates, cost effectiveness and quality programming, where funding can be catalytic for forest countries progressing towards REDD+ implementation and the Warsaw Framework.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the UN-REDD Programme has made significant progress in 2017. While some streams of work – including targeted support and the Community-based REDD+ Initiatives – have been completed and come to an end, these efforts have laid the foundation for more focused UN-REDD support going forward. Technical assistance and National Programmes in 2017 were increasingly targeted towards REDD+ implementation as many partner countries move beyond a purely REDD+ readiness approach. Moreover, the Programme has been successful in leveraging UN-REDD funds into other projects and partnerships, including the Green Climate Fund, demonstrating the impact of almost ten years of UN-REDD achievement.

Going forward, the Programme will continue to respond to high partner country demand, combining available support to advanced countries with a knowledge-oriented approach that will make the lessons learned and best practices available to a much broader audience. As partners continue to demand increased support on nationally-determined contributions and broader REDD+ goals, the UN-REDD Programme will continue to provide support and guidance to help them succeed.

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Definitions

Allocation
Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved project/programme
A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Backstopping
Support provided to a country (requested by liaising directly with the participating UN agency/ies). Backstopping can be provided in the country or through remote support.

Community Based REDD+
CBR+ is a partnership between the UN-REDD Programme and the GEF Small Grants Programme to deliver grants directly to indigenous peoples and communities to empower them to fully engage in the design, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ readiness activities, and develop experiences, lessons, and recommendations at the local level that can feed into national REDD+ processes.

Contributor commitment
Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Country/regional needs assessments
Countries are supported to undertake a participatory readiness assessment, covering the principle areas defined under the Warsaw Framework.

Country specific support
One of the three categories of support of the 'Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015' (SNA), which includes targeted support and backstopping. The other categories are International Support Function and Secretariat.

Contributor deposit
Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery rate
The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organisation against the 'net funded amount'.

Indirect support costs
A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organisations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of seven per cent of programmable costs.

International support function
One of the three categories of support under the 'Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015' (SNA). Activities undertaken by both regional and headquarters UN-REDD Programme personnel, with a view to enhance knowledge on REDD+ related areas, enable countries to contribute to the development of technical guidelines, promote increased expertise on REDD+ and promote exchange of experiences, including South-South cooperation.

Knowledge management and communication support
The UN-REDD Programme provides the tools, resources and expert guidance to its partner countries necessary for them to identify, capture, exchange and apply REDD+ related knowledge towards the advancement of their REDD+ implementation goals.

National Programme
National Programmes (NPs) are technical cooperation initiatives provided by the UN-REDD Programme at the national level. They are designed to support developing countries' efforts to prepare and implement comprehensive national REDD+ strategies and serve countries' REDD+ readiness needs.

Net funded amount
Amount transferred to a Participating Organisation less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organisation.

Net transferred amount
Net Amount transferred to a Participating Organisation as approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent.

Participating UN Organisation
A UN Organisation or other inter-governmental Organisation that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund. For the UN-REDD Programme, FAO, UNDP and UNEP are the Participating UN Organisations.

Project/programme document
An annual work plan or a programme/project document, etc., which is approved by the Policy Board for fund allocation purposes.

Project expenditure
The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organisations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organisation follows for donor reporting.

Project financial closure
A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project operational closure
A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organisation(s) received funding have been completed.

Project start date
Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organisation.

Targeted support
Demand-driven, specific support provided under one or more of the six UN-REDD Programme work areas or outcomes of the Support to National REDD+ Action; Global Programme Framework 2011- 2015 (SNA), as of 2015. It belongs to the SNA support category of country-specific support. See Procedures for Accessing UN-REDD Programme Targeted Support.

Total approved amount
This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AE Allometric equations
ANAM Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente de Panamá (National Environmental Authority, Panama)
CBR+ Community-based REDD+
CCAD Centroamerian Commission for Environment and Development
CCC Climate Change Commission (the Philippines)
CONAFOR Comisión Nacional Forestal (Mexican National Forestry Commission, Mexico)
COONAPIP Coordinadora Nacional de los Pueblos Indigenos de Panamá (National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama)
COP Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
COP21 The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (to the UNFCCC)
CSO Civil society organisation
DRC Democratic Republic of the Congo
FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FAPI Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas (Federation for the Self-Determination of Indigenous People, Paraguay)
FCPF Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLEGT Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMB Forest Management Bureau (the Philippines)
FREL Forest Reference Emission Level
FRL Forest Reference Level
FPIC Free Prior and Informed Consent
GCF Green Climate Fund
GHG Greenhouse gases
GIS Geographic information systems
GIZ German Academy for International Cooperation
GEF Global Environment Facility
GRM Grievance Redress Mechanism
ILUAII Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II
INEGI Instituto Nacional de Geografía e Informática (National Statistics Institute, Mexico)
INFONA Instituto Forestal Nacional (National Forestry Institute, Paraguay)
INPE Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais (National Institute for Space Research, Brazil)
IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPSAS International Public Sector Accounting Standards
JDI Joint Declaration of Intent
JMA Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Sustainable Management of Forests and of Mother Earth (the "Joint Mechanism"
LAC Latin America and Caribbean region
LULUCF Land use, land-use change and forestry
MIACC Mesa Indígena y Afrohondureña de Cambio Climático (Afro-Honduran Committee on Climate Change, Honduras)
MINAM Ministerio del Ambiente del Perú (Environment Ministry, Peru)
MNRT Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism (United Republic of Tanzania)
MoEF Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MPTF Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MRV Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MRV&M Measurement, Reporting and Verification and Monitoring
NAMA Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NFI National Forest Inventory
NFCI National Forest and Carbon Inventory
NFMS National Forest-Monitoring System
NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
NPD National Program Document
NMRC National Multi-Stakeholder REDD+ Council (the Philippines)

Abbreviations and Acronyms

NP National Programme
NRTF National REDD+ Task Force (United Republic of Tanzania)
NS/AP National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans
OIGF Office of the Inspector General of Forests
PAMs Policies and Measures
PEB Programme Executive Board
PES Payments for Ecosystems Services
PGA Participatory Governance Assessment
PLRs Policies, laws and regulations
PMRC Provincial Multi-Stakeholder REDD+ Council (the Philippines)
PMU Programme Management Unit
PNG Papua New Guinea
RBP Results-based payments
REDD+ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
REL Reference Emission Level
R-PP Readiness Preparation Proposal
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
SEAM Secretaría del Ambiente (Environment Secretariat, Paraguay)
SEPC Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria
SES Social and Environmental Standards
SESA Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM Sustainable Forest Management
SIS Safeguards Information System
SNA Support to National REDD+ Action: Global Programme Framework 2011-2015
TPP Technical Project Proposal
TS Targeted support
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UOP REDD+ Readiness Unit
USAID United States Agency for International Development
VPA Volunteer Partnership Agreement
VGGT Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security