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





Forests: A natural solution to climate change, crucial for a sustainable future

Special commemorative message from the Heads of FAO, UNDP and UN Environment on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the UN-REDD Programme¹

Throughout history, times of crisis have yielded extraordinary innovation and social cooperation. Not only has this been essential for conquering many seemingly insurmountable challenges, but it has also demonstrated one of the greatest strengths of human nature: that we can best face and overcome crises through joint, creative action.

Anthropogenic climate change constitutes one such historical crisis. The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), a joint undertaking of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to fight deforestation and forest degradation, was developed to advance the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to foster innovative and collaborative approaches to address the existential challenge of climate change.

Founded 10 years ago with the ongoing and substantial support of Denmark, Japan, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the European Union, UN-REDD was the first joint global United Nations programme on climate change. It has been a pioneer of innovative policy and financing approaches to

valuing and protecting forests and their social and ecosystem services.

The programme now encompasses 64 partner countries² and has become a flagship United Nations partnership for the Paris Agreement, and for delivering on the Sustainable Development Agenda. Today, it is a global knowledge hub for solutions to deforestation and forest degradation, and a major world partner in the implementation of nature-based solutions to climate change.

The programme has helped partner countries improve governance and advance national policy and institutional systems to safeguard forests and

¹ This article was originally published on the UN-REDD Programme blog on 3 October 2018: <https://www.un-redd.org/single-post/2018/10/03/Forests-A-natural-solution-to-climate-change-crucial-for-a-sustainable-future>

² Thailand joined UN-REDD Programme in November 2018, bringing the number of partner countries to 65.

mitigate climate change. Ecuador, for example, with support from the programme, became the second country after Brazil to meet all the requirements for the REDD+ mechanism (known as the Warsaw Framework for REDD+). Since 2012, Ecuador has reported reductions of over 28 million tons of CO₂ emissions; in 2017 it became the first country to receive Green Climate Fund investment to co-finance its National REDD+ Action Plan.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the multi-faceted support of the UN-REDD Programme has enabled the country to put forests at the core of its national development, through enacting policy reforms, developing innovative and cross-sectoral investment plans and programmes, increasing technical capacity for efficient data collection, analysis and reporting, and supporting the establishment of a pioneering national fund for national climate finance instruments, thus facilitating the engagement of different national stakeholders, international partners and donors.

The UN-REDD Programme has also helped countries make significant progress in modernizing their forest monitoring using new technologies, satellite data and open-source software. Measuring forest change is now easier, more cost-effective, faster and more transparent than ever before.

Indonesia has also been at the forefront of REDD+ since its inception. With high-level political will, great efforts have been made to reduce its high deforestation rate, supported by new cutting-edge technology and the use of satellite data for forest and peatland monitoring. Increased transparency in reporting in the State of Indonesia's Forests 2018 publication shows encouraging signs of a reduction in deforestation in the past two years.

Commitments to the human rights-based approach, social inclusion and stakeholder engagement are central to the programme's policy and technical support. In Colombia, the UN-REDD Programme enabled nationwide social

inclusion for forest and climate processes, including the engagement of indigenous, Afrodescendent and local communities. A grass-roots vision on REDD+ was developed and then integrated into the national policy arena.

These examples show that dedicated support for governance and policy reforms, multi-stakeholder cooperation, technological innovation and institutional capacity-building can unlock forests' potential as the pre-eminent nature-based solution to climate change. This is crucial for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Forests are a major, requisite front of action in the global fight against catastrophic climate change thanks to their unparalleled capacity to absorb and store carbon. Forests capture carbon dioxide at a rate equivalent to about one third the amount released annually by burning fossil fuels. Stopping deforestation and restoring damaged forests could therefore provide up to 30 per cent of the solution for climate change.

Nevertheless, deforestation remains shockingly high and intractable in most countries without major policy and institutional reforms and corresponding

governance and financial support. In fact, agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) represents 24 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from deforestation and agricultural emissions.

The year 2020 will mark a pivotal moment in humanity's quest for a sustainable future, when greenhouse gas emissions need to start declining if we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change. Key to securing this future are increased ambitions for the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation and the United Nations' innovative and collaborative power.

Awareness of the need for forest action has never been greater, nor has the ability to deliver transformative change. We are seeing positive momentum and opportunities to take action on forests worldwide, driven by Governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and businesses. We need to continue reforming policies and building partnerships if we are to vastly increase investments in forest conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

The UN-REDD Programme is a proven model for the joint creative action required to overcome the climate crisis. Now it is time to scale it up.



Executive summary



The 2018 Annual Report presents the results of the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) between January and December 2018, in the context of the considerable cumulative accomplishments of its partner countries over the past decade, since the programme's launch in 2008. With partner countries making progress on REDD+ readiness, the UN-REDD Programme has increasingly focused on responding to country demands and needs for technical assistance in implementing REDD+ and supporting commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. As of December 2018, the UN-REDD Programme had enabled 65 partner countries across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to make significant progress on REDD+ readiness and implementation.

As a key focus in 2018, the programme continued 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 Emission Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FRELs/FRLs) and Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS). With advisory support from UN-REDD, alongside its partners, Colombia completed its National REDD+ Strategy, *Bosques Territorios de Vida*, which also fed into the country's new national development plan. Additional highlights from 2018 include the Republic of the Congo developing its first methodology to determine and map forest degradation, and Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia producing Africa's first summaries of information through consultative multi-stakeholder processes. In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme also helped Mexico, Viet Nam, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia prepare investment plans to enable the financing and implementation of their REDD+ strategies or action plans. With UN-REDD support, Argentina produced [audiovisuals](#) for

the general public to share the main areas of its recently completed National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change, submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) REDD+ Info Hub in December 2018. In Indonesia, UN-REDD played a catalytic role beyond formal workplan activities, supporting work on forests and peatlands linked to the Global Peatlands Initiative, prompting national actions and working to highlight lessons from Indonesia while facilitating South-South knowledge exchange and collaboration among Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo and Peru. These achievements, among others, are outlined in further detail in the report.

Throughout the year, 19 partner countries received customized UN-REDD programme support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. In addition to 10 national programmes, the UN-REDD Programme started implementing its multi-annual 2018–2020 Technical Assistance to REDD+ Implementation project in nine countries and through six knowledge management areas.

UN-REDD knowledge management support complements its country-level work and is critical to achieving the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework and the goal of REDD+ implementation. The following are some highlights of the programme's knowledge management work. The UN-REDD Programme's knowledge on forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples was a catalyst for change in the REDD+ arena in 2018. For example, in Viet Nam, a High-level Ethnic Minority Development Forum was convened for the first time in August 2018 and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, who recognized the need for specific policy and investment approaches to forest lands and communities of ethnic minorities. As a result of continued support from UN-REDD for a forest and gender knowledge dialogue within the framework of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a collaboration proposal between UN-REDD and the International

Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) was discussed, with the aim of launching activities in 2019. In Myanmar, UN-REDD provided expert knowledge and best practice to encourage dialogue on forest conservation and sustainable development with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that dwell in and control large forest areas. With continued UN-REDD support, Ecuador's forerunner REDD+ programme, PROAmazonía, which has US\$ 62 million in financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has provisions to ensure that indigenous peoples participate in at least 60 per cent of the programme actions. To support REDD+ countries in undertaking spatial analyses, the UN-REDD Programme has this year developed four new [GIS tutorials](#) (on wind erosion, fire, landslide vulnerability and multiple benefits), which were tested in country working sessions.

In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme's global work on financing and the private sector enabled a new blended finance fund – AGRI3 Fund – to be set up by Rabobank and UN Environment, in association with the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The AGRI3 Fund is intended as a vehicle for ultimately directing US\$ 1 billion in deforestation-free loans to companies and projects in developing countries in order to help countries meet their REDD+ objectives under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The UN-REDD Programme has also been granted formal observer status in the ongoing negotiations in the forthcoming aviation market Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

In 2018, UN-REDD furthered synergies and supported the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land-use action as a vital "nature-based solution" towards achieving NDCs and advancing the broader Sustainable Development Agenda. In support of and in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) NDC Support Programme, UN-REDD helped pilot integrated support for NDC implementation, with a focus on Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ecuador, providing

country-level stakeholders with inputs and guidance on how to integrate forests into NDCs.

UN-REDD also consolidated its knowledge and technical assistance stream on REDD+ funding mechanisms to help countries organize, mobilize, sequence, channel, coordinate and monitor finance for REDD+ actions. Technical assistance also facilitated Brazil and Ecuador in designing and submitting their first results-based payment proposals on REDD+ to the GCF – scheduled for official submission in 2019. These are the

very first programmes to recognize and reward REDD+ implementation under UNFCCC rules, and are likely to have a catalysing effect on other countries advancing their REDD+ processes towards implementation.

Building on its achievements in previous years, in 2018 the programme continued to support 16 countries in advancing the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment principles into nationally led REDD+ action, at both the national and subnational levels. Steady progress is being made to build

our internal capacity for applying a [Gender Marker Rating System](#) to assess and monitor the gender responsiveness of the 2018–2020 Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation Programme.

The policy and institutional support that UN-REDD provides through national programmes, technical advice and knowledge dissemination is helping countries advance their sustainable development agendas, across the spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals.



UN-REDD Programme

Introduction

The 2018 Annual Report presents the results of the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) between January and December 2018, and the key cumulative achievements since the programme's launch in 2008. The report emphasizes progress against the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and shares countries' achievements in advancing REDD+ implementation. Moreover, this year's report showcases the clear linkages and contributions of the programme work to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including featuring gender more prominently.

The report also highlights annual results at the country level. In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme supported a total of 19 countries through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation.

Building on its foundational work between 2008 and 2017, from 2018 the UN-REDD Programme has adopted a dual approach to REDD+ action through technical assistance in nine countries (Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mexico, Myanmar, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia) and through global knowledge components. These components share cumulative UN-REDD knowledge and approaches to reach a broader set of countries and stakeholders, organized around key thematic areas.

National programmes in 10 countries helped UN-REDD partners across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean move closer to fulfilling the requirements under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. Moreover, technical experts from the UN-REDD partner organizations – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – helped countries move beyond the Warsaw Framework to develop investment plans for re-

source mobilization and accelerate REDD+ implementation.

Reaching its tenth anniversary in 2018, the UN-REDD Programme has continued to perform a key role at the global level by consolidating and communicating UN-REDD approaches, best practice and knowledge accumulated over a decade, in key thematic areas. The programme has harnessed its expertise and experience in knowledge management to build capacities and reach a broader set of countries and stakeholders in 2018. This included providing access and ideas to inspire innovative solutions, harmonized approaches, best practices, high-quality knowledge products and South-South collaboration to advance REDD+ implementation. The six key thematic knowledge areas for delivery are: landscape approaches; forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples; financing and private sector engagement; REDD+ contribution to the SDGs and implementation of the Paris Agreement; monitoring, reporting and verification tools; and supporting national REDD+ funding mechanisms.

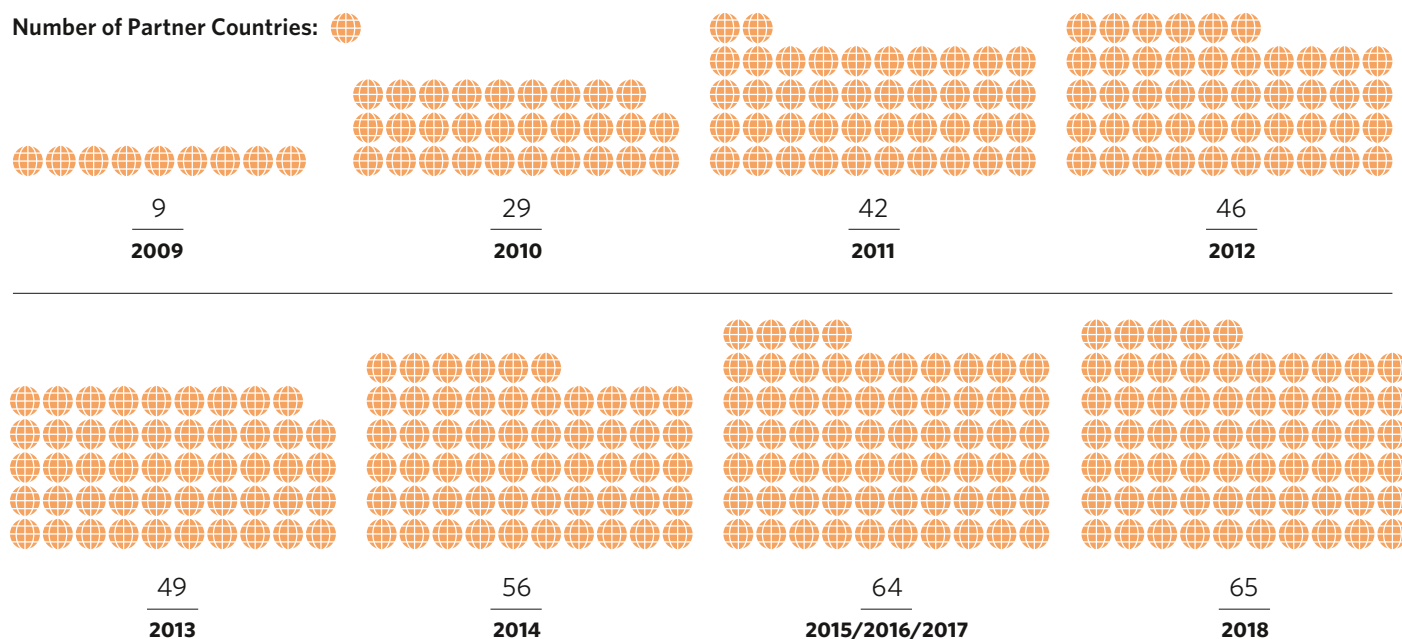
A global, cross-cutting knowledge management and communication work area links the thematic knowledge areas and country elements, boosting their individual and collective impact. This component enables the scaling up and cross-fertilization of ideas and approaches within countries and agencies, essentially forming the foundation that makes UN-REDD a programme.

Building on a decade's worth of work and achievements, in 2018 the UN-REDD Programme continued to help stakeholders make progress on REDD+ implementation through country technical assistance and the generation of new knowledge on specific actions and linkages with other relevant national and international processes. Real progress on combating deforestation and forest degradation at the country level is dependent on a country's capacity to include these corresponding targets in relevant national processes and on looking beyond the forest sector, addressing the complex synergies and relations among the different landscape sectors for their implementation.

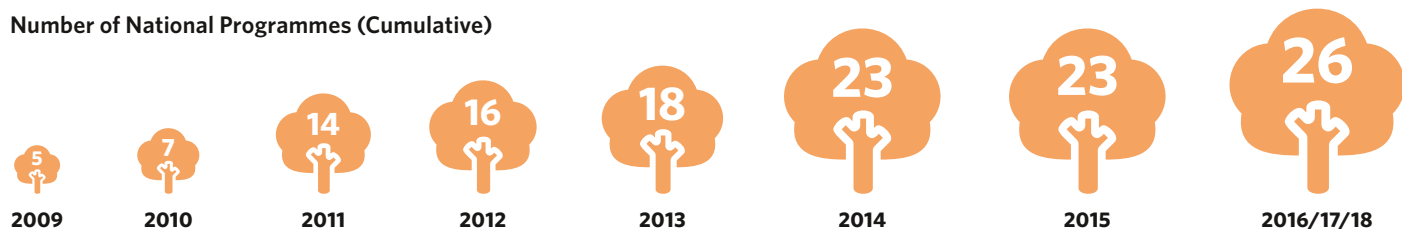


FIGURE 1. UN-REDD PROGRAMME COUNTRY SUPPORT

Number of Partner Countries: 

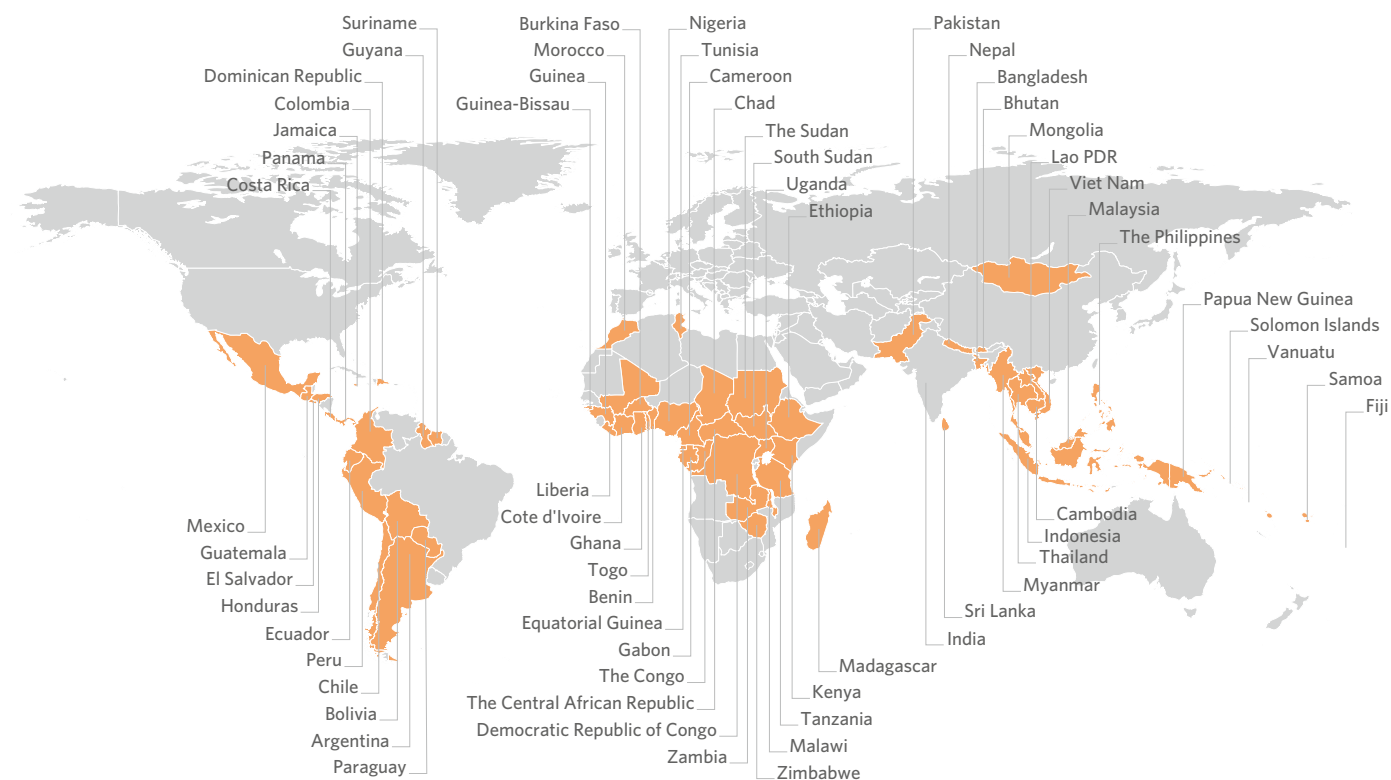


Number of National Programmes (Cumulative)



Of the 26 National Programmes, 16 were closed and 10 were active in 2018. Additionally, 3 of the latter closed in 2018.

Partner Countries of the UN-REDD Programme



Thailand joined UN-REDD as partner country in 2018.

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

Progress against the Warsaw Framework



The following section outlines cumulative results in achievements against the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework: National Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs); National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS); Forest Reference Emission Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FRELs/FRLs); and Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS).³

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGIES OR ACTION PLANS

With support from the UN-REDD Programme, 34 countries have advanced their National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs),⁴ in line with the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (see figure 2). Of these, a total of 24 countries have finalized and adopted these strategic policies for nature-based emissions reductions. In 2018, UN-REDD provided dedicated

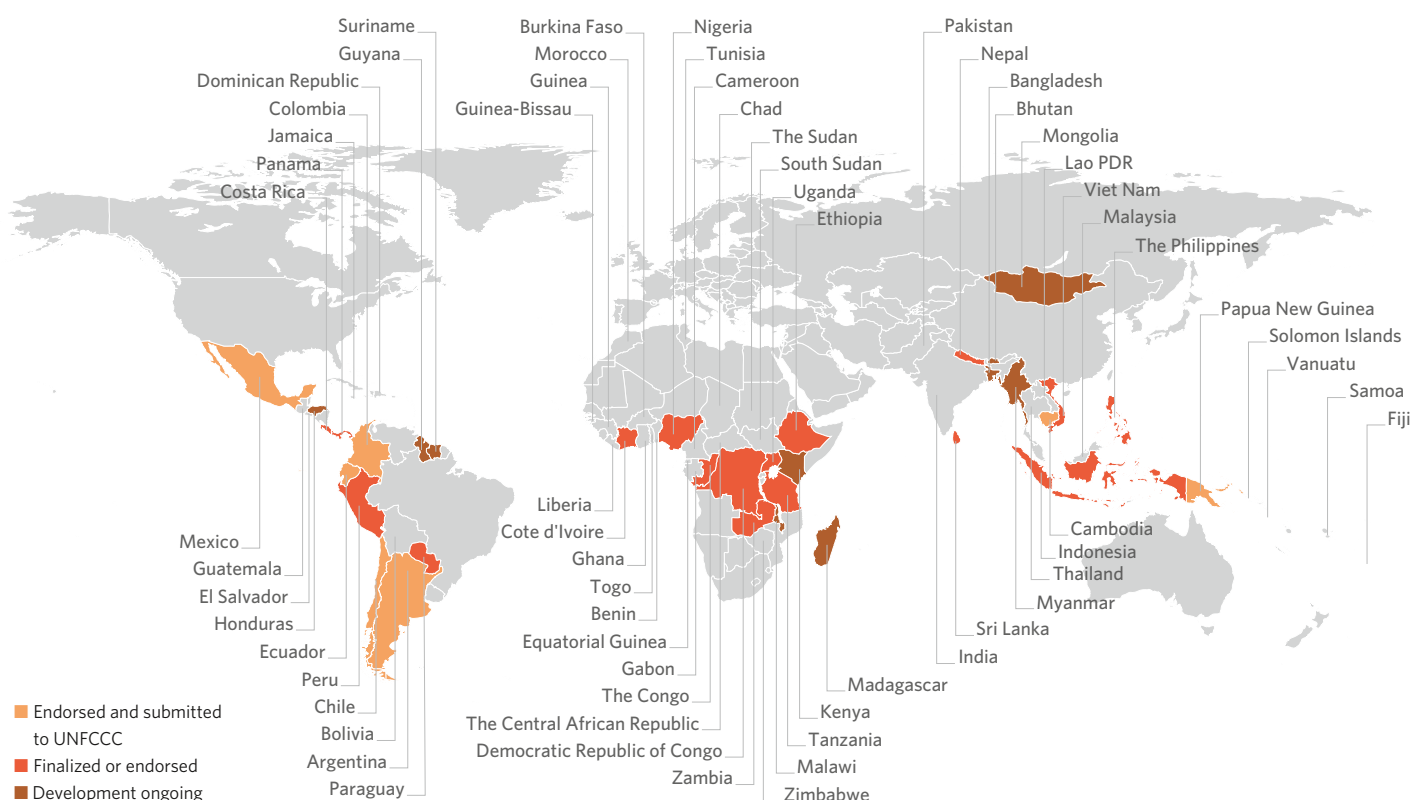
advice and support to Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Honduras, Mongolia and Myanmar in their efforts to define, analyse, consult and adopt their national strategies or action plans for REDD+. In addition, UN-REDD helped the Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Viet Nam and Zambia prepare investment plans to enable the financing and implementation of their REDD+ strategies or action plans.

With UN-REDD support, every strategy or action plan is developed following in-depth analysis of deforestation drivers, and using a participatory approach based on stakeholder engagement and the inclusion of the rights of indigenous peoples and forest communities, as well as embedded capacity-building for Governments and other key stakeholders for REDD+ action. These strategies or action plans include measures for the

consideration of social and environmental safeguards, particularly transparent governance and gender mainstreaming. The UN-REDD Programme also supports the translation and integration of such strategies and actions plans into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for climate change mitigation within the land-use and forest sector, as well as defining clear paths to ensure that they contribute to the SDGs.

Colombia's National REDD+ Strategy development process is an exemplary case of UN-REDD Programme advisory support in 2018. The UN-REDD Programme, alongside its partners, helped Colombia complete its National REDD+ Strategy, *Bosques Territorios de Vida*. Extensive participatory processes were used to incorporate the views and experiences of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples. In parallel, the processes informed

FIGURE 2. UN-REDD PARTNER COUNTRY PROGRESS ON NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AT THE CLOSE OF 2018



³ Given that this section highlights results over the 10 years of the UN-REDD Programme, some of the countries listed may not be reflected in the country results section if they are no longer receiving direct programme support. Likewise, there are also cases where country progress is a result of knowledge areas of the technical assistance, and therefore may not be included in the country results summaries.

⁴ Argentina*, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia*, Chile*, Colombia*, Republic of the Congo*, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Ecuador*, Ethiopia*, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia*, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico*, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal*, Nigeria*, Panama*, Papua New Guinea*, Paraguay*, Peru*, Philippines*, Sri Lanka*, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania*, Uganda*, Viet Nam*, Zambia* (* indicates finalized or endorsed National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan).

the implementation of Colombia's Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on REDD+, which the country signed with Norway, the United Kingdom and Germany. UN-REDD technical advice also supported the inclusion of selected components of the National REDD+ Strategy into the new national development plan, the policy to combat deforestation and a Green Growth Policy Directive (CONPES).

Additional highlights regarding efforts by UN-REDD Programme partner countries to advance National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans in 2018 include the following:

► Argentina, with support from the UN-REDD Programme, officially published its [National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change \(PANByCC\)](#). The plan, which was prepared in full consultation and collaboration with stakeholders at the provincial and national levels, has been uploaded to the [REDD+ Info Hub](#).

► Bangladesh further developed its National REDD+ Strategy, due to be published in April 2019, by identifying drivers of deforestation and degradation. Policies and measures (PAMs), including gender-sensitive PAMs, were identified and vetted through stakeholder consultations and are undergoing assessment for implementation benefits, costs and risks.

► Honduras completed keynote assessments on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and land tenure as part of its National REDD+ Strategy development. The National Programme for the Recovery of Degraded Ecosystem Goods and Services was also finalized.

► Myanmar's draft National REDD+ Strategy was prepared and posted for a period of public comment in 2018. Consultations on five of the more contentious PAMs have been scheduled, with two already complete, as well as consultations with the various ethnic minorities on the strategy.

► Mongolia's draft NS/AP was further advanced through an extensive consultation process and active engagement of a core working group throughout 2018.

With many NS/APs already completed and formally endorsed, UN-REDD technical assistance in 2018 continued to focus on developing and supporting complementary investment plans to enable the implementation of REDD+ strategies and to mobilize the corresponding REDD+ financing required (see the section on '[Progress towards REDD+ implementation](#)' for more details and country examples).

NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS

Tailored NFMS enable countries to inform their forest policymaking with up-to-date, reliable, transparent and accessible information. Over the last 10 years, capacity development supported by the UN-REDD Programme has given risen to unprecedented transparency in terms of countries' forest data, with more and more countries able to meet international reporting requirements. A 2018 UN-REDD publication entitled '[Ten years of capacity development on national forest monitoring for REDD+](#)' investigates capacity development in 16 UN-REDD partner countries, using

a forest monitoring scorecard to track capacity over time. The results show that national forest monitoring capacities doubled between 2008 and 2015, and doubled again by 2018, in the space of three years. In addition, continued capacity development on NFMS, experience with REDD+ FRELs/FRLs, REDD+ results reporting and the associated technical assessment and analysis have provided useful lessons in drawing up the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework.

The UN-REDD Programme has supported 40 countries⁵ in developing NFMS since its inception. This has included technical support for Satellite Land Monitoring Systems (SLMS) used for generating land-cover/land-use (change) information. In addition, 25 countries⁶ have received support for developing national web portals for their NFMS, with 15 countries⁷ having launched operational platforms disseminating NFMS information. Eighteen countries⁸ have received support and made progress on their National Forest Inventories (NFIs) since the UN-REDD Programme began.

Over the last 10 years, the UN-REDD Programme has helped 29 countries⁹ meet international reporting requirements or generate data to improve the quality of reporting and enhance transparency through visualization of national data. It has supported open-source modular solutions for satellite and ground data processing through the [Open Foris](#) suite, with over 20,000 country installations.

The UN-REDD Programme has also assisted countries in Latin America

5 Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

6 Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cook Islands, Ecuador, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia.

7 Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

8 Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Chile, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

9 Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Impact Story: Nepal

FROM STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENTATION – SUBNATIONAL REDD+ ACTION PLANS

NARAYAN POUDEL, a beekeeper from Kalika village in Chitwan district, brushes away lush green banana leaves to expose a small *Paulownia tomentosa* sapling underneath. “We just planted it, but this timber species grows really fast,” he says. “It can be harvested after eight years and sold at a good price for its wood.”

Poudel was introduced to this agroforestry technique only recently. “I knew that intercropping was possible, but I didn’t have the knowledge to implement it until the UN-REDD Programme came to our village to provide saplings and technical training.”

Over 70 per cent of households in Nepal use fuelwood for cooking, so growing woodlots for fuel on farmland also helps decrease the pressure on forests. What’s more, for Poudel and his neighbours, most of whom are beekeepers, some agroforestry species such as *Paulownia* also increase honey production and quality.

Nepal has made three decades of successful advances in community forestry, a participatory approach towards forest protection and management that now involves more than a third of the country’s population and covers a third of the forest area. Community forestry is therefore a central feature of Nepal’s National REDD+ Strategy.

For Nepal to implement its National REDD+ Strategy effectively, recognition of the local context is essential, given both the importance of this decentralized approach to forest management, and the vast contrasts between

forest ecosystems in the high Himalayas and the low-lying plains, and in the diverse drivers of deforestation and degradation that the strategy will have to address.

The UN-REDD Programme, together with the Government of Nepal’s REDD+ Implementation Centre (RIC) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), supported the development of subnational REDD+ action plans in order to provide this local context. A series of consultations were held over a year to develop the first subnational action plan in Chitwan district, which included identifying local drivers of deforestation, formulating actions to address them, and finally, monitoring the effectiveness of those actions.

One key action identified for Chitwan was the integration of agroforestry models into local cooperatives’ business plans, including the Milijuli Beekeeping Cooperative, of which Poudel is a member. This was identified as a relatively simple and inexpensive intervention that, if extended throughout the district, would contribute to the objectives of the National REDD+ Strategy while also improving food security and diversifying local livelihoods.

The subnational REDD+ action plan directs public and private investment towards this and other prioritized interventions in order to achieve national objectives in the most cost-effective way. Given the successful experience in Chitwan, Nepal’s RIC has replicated this subnational planning approach for REDD+ in other parts of the country including Ilam district, known for its thriving tea

industry, and the south-western part of the country, known as the Terai Arc Landscape, where community forestry approaches are less well established than in other regions.

REDD+ does not consist of complex and expensive solutions to old problems, nor does it necessarily entail ground-breaking innovation. Ultimately, it is about scaling up approaches that have been demonstrated to work. The subnational REDD+ planning process in Nepal helps both the Government and local communities to relate REDD+ to the real world, encouraging planning and investment in tried, tested and locally relevant forestry and land management techniques.



(Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay) in making progress towards adopting appropriate [legal instruments to clarify institutional mandates associated with NFMS](#). In Costa Rica, the Ministries of Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Livestock and Justice moved closer towards signing a decree to ensure the formal long-term participation of institutions that have committed to use the Monitoring System for Land Use, Coverage and Ecosystems. In Ecuador, an entire section on NFMS has been drafted in the context of regulating the Environmental Code. The experience and lessons learned from country work were also shared with other countries¹⁰ through a South-South web-based knowledge exchange organized in conjunction with the Virtual Center of Excellence on Forest Monitoring, Mexico.

The UN-REDD Programme has continued to collaborate with several other initiatives on REDD+ measuring, reporting and verification (MRV), 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, all of which provide the technical tools for NFMS implementation. Together with FRELs/FRLs, these mechanisms provide the building blocks for establishing NFMS in countries, which in turn contributes to sound REDD+ policy- and decision-making.

Highlights of country achievements in 2018 include the following:

► Myanmar received significant support for its ongoing NFI, including technical assistance on methodological design and data processing.

► The Republic of the Congo developed its first methodology to determine and map forest degradation in order to better ascertain the location of degraded areas in the country.

► In Colombia, guidelines were developed for monitoring forest restoration.

FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVELS/FOREST REFERENCE LEVELS

Following 10 years of UN-REDD programme support, national forest emissions data are more transparent and of a higher quality than ever before. Of the 39 countries that had submitted FRELs/FRLs to UNFCCC by January 2019, over 70 per cent¹¹ have received UN-REDD programme support. The programme has been crucial in providing technical assistance and capacity-building for FREL development, which has an impact far beyond the submission of FRELs to UNFCCC as the data enable countries to better address the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, and provide important input for policy- and decision-making.

Regional collaboration continued to be a core tenet of UN-REDD programme support in 2018 to capitalize on the range of lessons learned from national activities. Strong collaboration among agencies, national government partners and development organizations has enabled knowledge-exchange events to take place in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America. Fifty delegates from 13 countries¹² in Asia and the Pacific and 26 delegates from 11 countries¹³ in Africa shared practical experiences on FRELs/FRLs and discussed REDD+ implementation at different scales through exchanges on nesting. Delegates from eight countries¹⁴ in Latin America also attended a [regional workshop](#) to share lessons learned from the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories for

the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector, highlighting how increased technical capacity from FREL development can support broader national climate change objectives.

The UN-REDD Programme supported the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria (Cross River state) and Suriname in 2017, all of which subsequently submitted their FRELs/FRLs to UNFCCC in early 2018. Programme support also enabled four countries – Argentina, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Solomon Islands – to finalize their FRELs/FRLs for submission in early 2019, either through direct programme support in 2018 or building on support previously provided. Several countries received support to assess and report REDD+ results to UNFCCC (Colombia, Ecuador and Chile), as well as two countries that are expected to submit these in the near future (Cambodia and Papua New Guinea). This support was provided through methodological work and consultations with a range of stakeholders from government ministries, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector. The programme increased in-country capacity and understanding of FRELs/FRLs through training on the UNFCCC requirements and information on the policy and technical implications of FREL/FRL construction.

Overall, the UN-REDD Programme supported 43 per cent of the countries that have submitted REDD+ results to date and 50 per cent of the countries that submitted REDD+ results in 2018. The DRC, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Myanmar, which submitted FRELs/FRLs in early 2018, also received UN-REDD programme support during 2018 to make improvements following the results of the UNFCCC Technical Assessment.

¹⁰ Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama.

¹¹ Varying levels of support were provided to: Argentina, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Nigeria (Cross River state), Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia.

¹² Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

¹³ Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia.

¹⁴ Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama.

Impact Story: Republic of the Congo

MAKING STRIDES WITH ITS NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM

SITUATED IN Central Africa, the Republic of the Congo is in the heart of the Congo Basin, the world's second largest rainforest. More than 65 per cent of land in the Republic of the Congo is forested; however, these forests are increasingly threatened by slash-and-burn agriculture; logging for timber, charcoal and fuelwood; and deforestation for rubber and palm oil plantations. Nevertheless, the country is making significant progress in confronting climate change through the sustainable management and protection of its remaining forests.

Since becoming a UN-REDD Programme partner country in 2010, the Republic of the Congo has strengthened its forest monitoring by developing projects at the National Center for the Inventory and Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources (CNIAF), as well as improved its NFMS. One of the first African countries to submit its forest reference emission levels (FREL/FRLs) to the UNFCCC, the country also recently produced a REDD+ Investment Plan, which highlights its achievements in Measuring, Reporting and Verifying (MRV) REDD+ results, and its progress on issues including climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forest management.

In particular, the Republic of the Congo is making strides in building capacity in remote-sensing and mapping; forest data collection, monitoring and measuring forest changes; and detailed strategic analyses to improve sustainable forest management – essential to supporting the livelihoods of its 4.6 million people that depend on forests for their livelihoods. “Forests allow people to carry out productive activities such as agriculture for subsistence,” says Carine Saturnine Milandou, a forest specialist with the Republic of the Congo's National REDD+ Programme and one of the female experts in the country's REDD+ coordination unit and CNIAF. “Hence the need to protect them to guarantee the livelihoods of the people who live in them.”

The UN-REDD Programme in the Republic of the Congo actively encourages the involvement of female experts, providing them with leadership opportunities during planning and technical work. With support from the UN-REDD Programme, Carine has been working with the Government on mapping the country's forest cover and improving the country's land-use planning efforts to promote the development of sustainable agriculture.

“The technical help provided by the UN-REDD Programme is really important,” she says. “Our goal is to eventually become autonomous in carrying out

high-quality inventories that will ensure the protection of our forests and help the Republic of the Congo maintain its biological diversity, bringing the country closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The UN-REDD Programme has helped shape a new development approach in the Republic of the Congo that takes into account the critical role of forests in mitigating climate change and in fostering a green economy. “We have seen a growing awareness among people who live in the forests,” she says. “They are now more aware of the value of forests and the importance of using their products sustainably.”

Thus, the Republic of the Congo's REDD+ activities have sent an important message about the country's commitment to putting forests at the centre of climate change mitigation processes, and its recognition of the contribution of forests to sustaining the livelihoods of men and women in the Republic of the Congo.





As countries continue to advance through the pillars of the Warsaw Framework, technical assistance and capacity-building on FRELs/FRLs remain fundamental components of the UN-REDD programme support. This support also responds to countries' changing circumstances, and as countries move closer to receiving results-based payments, more support has been provided in 2018 on nesting and managing emission reductions at different scales, through registries – this is a requirement for many payment schemes to avoid the double-counting of emission reductions.

SAFEGUARDS AND SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS

REDD+ has the potential to deliver social and environmental benefits that go beyond the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but may also entail potential risks to people and the environment. The UN-REDD Programme has been helping countries put in place safeguarding mea-

sures to protect against or avoid such risks while promoting the benefits. The benefits and risks of REDD+ implementation depend on several factors related to national circumstances, such as how REDD+ actions are designed, and where, how and by whom these actions are implemented. Safeguard measures are essential to render REDD+ action long-lasting, sustainable and equitable while also contributing to a country's progress towards their sustainable development agenda.

The three key UNFCCC safeguard requirements for REDD+ are to:

- 1) promote and support the 'Cancun safeguards' throughout the implementation of REDD+ PAMs;
- 2) develop a [Safeguard Information System](#) (SIS) demonstrating how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected;

3) provide [summaries of information](#) (SOIs) to UNFCCC on how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ PAMs.

Over the past 10 years, the UN-REDD Programme has supported – either directly (through technical assistance) or indirectly (through facilitating South-South knowledge exchange) – 36 countries¹⁵ with their [approaches](#) to meeting UNFCCC safeguard requirements. In 2018, achievements regarding safeguards, which are helping countries to protect against and avoid risks while enabling them to reap more benefits, can be summarized as follows:

► Nine of the countries supported made progress with their SOIs: Côte d'Ivoire, Viet Nam and [Zambia](#) finished drafting their first SOIs; Argentina, Myanmar and Peru initiated processes to produce their first SOI; [Colombia](#)

¹⁵ Argentina, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Sri Lanka, Surinam, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia.

submitted its second SOI to UNFCCC and Chile its first; and Mexico's first SOI (2017) was uploaded to the REDD+ Info Hub. Figure 3 presents a close-of-2018 snapshot of global progress on SOIs.

► Six countries made progress in designing or operating their national SIS:

Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Mongolia and Zambia produced SIS design documents; Argentina and Myanmar initiated SIS design processes, which will conclude in 2019; and Viet Nam launched its SIS after a year-long process rendering a 2017 design into an [online platform](#), and also completed its [first summary of in-](#)

[formation](#). Figure 4 presents a snapshot of global progress on SIS.

► Knowledge of how to meet UNFCCC safeguard requirements was exchanged among countries in Africa¹⁶ and Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁷

Impact Story: Viet Nam

THE FIRST COUNTRY IN ASIA-PACIFIC TO FULFIL THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK FOR REDD+

V IET NAM has become the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to complete the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ after fulfilling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) safeguards requirements.

REDD+ has the potential to deliver many social and environmental benefits that go beyond mitigating climate change, but REDD+ actions could also entail some potential risks. In order to minimize these risks while simultaneously enhancing the potential benefits, [seven safeguards, known as the "Cancun safeguards,"](#) are in place that must be supported throughout the implementation of REDD+ actions.

At the end of 2018, coinciding with the [10 year-anniversary](#) of the [UN-REDD Programme](#), the Government of Viet Nam completed two final climate change convention requirements, relating to safeguards, which now makes the country eligible for REDD+ results-based payments. Viet Nam submitted its first [summary of information on safeguards](#) to the UNFCCC, mapping out how the country will address and respect the safeguards throughout REDD+ implementation, and also released one of the world's first fully operational, online [Safeguard Information Systems](#) (SIS).

With its updated [National REDD+ Programme](#) approved in 2017, [modified Forest Reference Emissions Level](#) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016, and an operational and institutionalized National Forest Monitoring System, Viet Nam has become one of the first countries in the world to complete all four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. The online SIS is incorporated within the Government of Viet Nam's Forest Management Information System (FORMIS), along with some elements of the NFMS, and presents information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected nationally, as well as in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's



[Emission Reductions Program](#) covering six provinces in Viet Nam's North-Central Coast Region.

The preparation of Viet Nam's first summary of information and SIS has been a consultative, multi-stakeholder process, led by the Government. "The legal framework in Viet Nam has many regulations related to environmental and social safeguards in every sector, but there are still gaps in how these regulations are implemented in practice. REDD+ opens up an opportunity to strengthen the enforcement of these laws," says Ms. Phuong Le Ha, who has coordinated [Viet Nam's national REDD+ safeguards](#) efforts over the past five years for the Government, also noting that the drivers of deforestation are multi-faceted and connected.

With the completion of the Warsaw Framework and approval of the National REDD+ Implementation Plan, Viet Nam is now looking to further operationalize REDD+ on the ground, focusing on [both increasing forest cover and improving forest quality](#), while promoting the socio-economic benefits that forests can provide. Its recent success can inspire other countries in the Asia-Pacific region that are looking to move from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation.

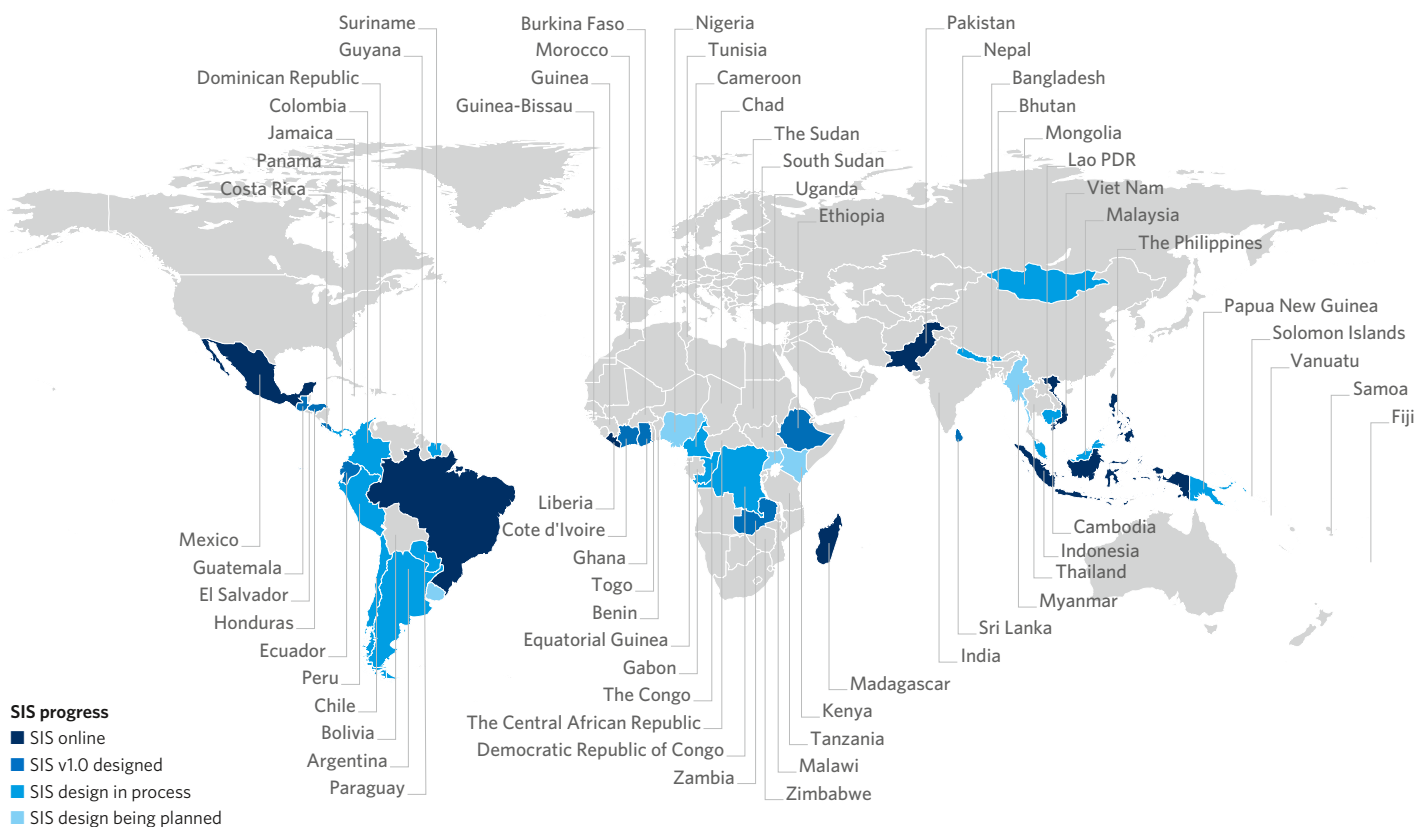
¹⁶ [Country Approaches to REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems](#), Accra, June 2018; safeguards session in [REDD+ Implementation at Scale: Emerging Lessons on Jurisdictional Approaches and Linkages with National Policy Frameworks](#), Nairobi, October 2018.

¹⁷ [Regional webinar on participative processes and safeguards](#), April 2018; [UN-REDD Argentina safeguards dialogue](#), March 2018.

FIGURE 3. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SUMMARIES OF INFORMATION ON SAFEGUARDS AT THE CLOSE OF 2018



FIGURE 4. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE CLOSE OF 2018



Progress towards REDD+ implementation



Under its renewed strategic approach since 2017, the UN-REDD Programme has been increasingly supporting the pioneer REDD+ countries in implementing their PAMs for REDD+, as well as in deploying the institutional mechanisms that will underpin such implementation (e.g. investment plans, national funding mechanisms, monitoring systems, forest governance arrangements and legitimate [tenure rights](#)). This support has also helped countries tangibly advance their NDCs in the land and forest realm. This section outlines the most relevant or innovative progress and achievements of UN-REDD technical assistance to support REDD+ implementation in 2018, notably in the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Viet Nam. It also refers to the role of UN-REDD in designing the pioneer REDD+ RBP proposals for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (Brazil and Ecuador).

In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire advanced its investment portfolio and institutional framework for implementing the PAMs identified in the National REDD+ Strategy. A first investment portfolio for REDD+ was designed, including a GCF programme proposal linked to a co-financing partnership with the private sector (US\$ 70 million). Actions and partnerships for zero-deforestation commodity chains were also developed under the framework of the international Cocoa & Forests Initiative, which brings together major international companies in the cocoa sector and selected countries, including Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative made progress in enhancing forest governance and the legality of wood production by developing decrees for the Forest Code that address issues related to timber legality, deforestation and degradation. Work is ongoing to pilot a payment-for-ecosystem-services mechanism and develop a partnership for financing sustainable commodity production that will underpin REDD+ actions with community and small-producer stakeholders. Côte d'Ivoire continued to make progress in designing a national financial mechanism for

REDD+, which will help mobilize, coalesce, sequence and monitor finance for REDD+ from diverse sources, e.g. public and private, domestic and international, investments and incentives.

Indonesia adopted a new approach to addressing forest and land fires, which are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, through the establishment of 'clusters'. With support from the international community, the country is aiming to continue improving its capacity to develop and implement an integrated fire management approach for abating repeated fires. To pilot the integrated fire management approach, seven clusters will be established, covering 14 million hectares of peatlands both in and outside the forest estate.

With UN-REDD support, Ecuador, which has fulfilled all the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (in which UN-REDD played a pivotal role), and has advanced actions on its National REDD+ Strategy, engaged in the RBP pilot program launched by the GCF to recognize the emission reductions achieved during 2014. Ecuador reported a result of 4,831,679 tCO₂ for this period, which is eligible for results-based payments. Technical support was provided for compiling, analysing and submitting these results and included the development of a funding proposal for the GCF. Additionally, technical assistance was provided for developing a REDD+ Implementation Plan for indigenous peoples with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE), including priority actions for implementing the plan, with funds expected from the 2014 results-based payments. Finally, UN-REDD technical assistance helped the country enhance its [NDCs](#) using a participatory approach, and supported the national REDD+ working group (*Mesa de Trabajo REDD+*), which met five times during 2018. One of its principal achievements was approving the national proposal for results-based payments for future submission to the GCF.

In Mexico, the UN-REDD Programme provided technical knowledge and

supported participatory processes to coalesce a collective, cross-stakeholder understanding on the legal ownership of forest carbon. As a result of the consensus reached, the Government will promote adjustments to the forestry law, while developing short-term options to facilitate the fair distribution of benefits for the preliminary carbon projects. The technical inputs and lessons learned from this process were shared with the region via South-South knowledge exchanges supported by the UN-REDD knowledge platform.

In Peru, UN-REDD assisted the Government in setting up a framework for implementing Peru's [National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change](#) (ENBCC), within the context of Peru's multilateral agreement for REDD+ – a [JDI](#) signed with Norway and Germany. This entailed support around the JDI Phase II Implementation Plan, including an agreement among stakeholders on its content and approaches to align with the ENBCC. In addition, UN-REDD advised on the approaches and stakeholder discussions required for a coherent and practical governance structure of the forest and climate change agenda in Peru, including the ENBCC, JDI Phase II Implementation Plan and the [NDC](#) on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), among other projects and instruments. Finally, the UN-REDD Programme helped key national and subnational stakeholders – including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Forest Service and regional governments – agree on the need to [endorse land-use policy reforms to reduce deforestation and degradation](#) and identify the principal first steps to be taken in this regard.

UN-REDD has supported the Republic of the Congo in revising its [REDD+ National Investment Framework](#) to ensure that it is closely aligned with the country's efforts to secure current international climate and forest financing opportunities. This investment framework, which includes programmes for climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forest management, was positively received by the Executive Board of the

Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), which decided to initiate a negotiation process for a funding agreement that is likely to be secured in 2019. The revision of the investment framework equally served to enhance the country's engagement with the Forest Investment Program (FIP), as well as underpinning the design of a proposal for the GCF to address the pressures on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection.

Thanks to UN-REDD support in Viet Nam, the midterm National REDD+ Implementation Plan was finalized and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) in December 2018. Compared with previous REDD+ policy implementation plans, the National REDD+ Implementation Plan reveals a robust cross-sectoral approach. It also boasts an in-depth degree of stakeholder engagement, notably engagement of indigenous peoples and the private sector. UN-REDD has advised the Government and stakeholders on how to engage and include ethnic minorities in national investment endeavours, including policy dialogue within the Committee on Ethnic Minorities that was backed by a high-level political forum (see the section on 'Forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples' in this report for more details). UN-REDD also supported the Government in engaging and guiding private-sector actors towards deforestation-free sustainable investments, including the development of responsible investment guidelines and forest certification approaches, all of which will guide producers, traders and industrialists in various commodity chains (notably rubber, coffee and cashew nuts). UN-REDD continued providing technical advisory support for REDD+ implementation in pilot provinces. In addition, it advised on the development of a draft monitoring and evaluation framework for REDD+ implementation that is key to enabling stakeholders to track and support implementation.

The UN-REDD Programme provided technical assistance to two pioneer countries – Brazil and Ecuador (see above) – for designing pilot RBP pro-



posals on REDD+ to submit to the GCF. These are the very first proposals to recognize and reward REDD+ implementation under UNFCCC rules. The approach undertaken by UN-REDD experts will serve other REDD+ nations, as it demonstrates that using REDD+ as a results-based financial system works. These cases highlight that REDD+ implementation yields financial returns as per UNFCCC agreements.

In addition, UN-REDD supported several institutional mechanisms and instruments to underpin and monitor the implementation of REDD+ PAMs. One major stream of knowledge and advisory services concerned the establishment and governance of national REDD+ funding arrangements, aimed at mobilizing, channelling, coordinating, assessing, sequencing and monitoring international and domestic REDD+ finance – this is further detailed in the section 'REDD+ funding mechanisms'. UN-REDD also helped Chile develop integrated systems for monitoring the pace and results of implementation of the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). This included a methodological approach to monitoring the non-carbon co-benefits of the ENCCRV, suitable for different policy and investment partnerships, from UNFCCC reporting requirements to GCF programmes. The UN-REDD+ Programme also supported enhanced forest governance mechanisms to enable implementation

of certain REDD+ actions, such as the legal clarification of forest and carbon rights. In particular, UN-REDD helped the Latin-American Parliament (Parlatino) prepare a draft climate change law within its Agricultural Commission that will guide many countries in the region to conciliate the forest-farm-climate linkages. The collaboration between the UN-REDD Programme and various initiatives on FLEGT continued, as cited in the Côte d'Ivoire case, as well as in Colombia and Viet Nam.

In response to country requests, UN-REDD has increasingly been supporting countries to achieve their forest-carbon emission reduction targets through a combination of cross-sectoral and policy reform efforts originating from forest, land and agriculture actions alike. Several countries received support to advance sustainable and low-impact forest management practices (Chile and Panama), integrated fire management (Chile), landscape restoration (Chile), inclusion of 'value chain' concepts (Zambia), and to mobilize private finance for deforestation-free agriculture (Indonesia). Countries also received support for REDD+ investment plans, South-South exchanges on the use of market mechanisms for forest conservation (Colombia and Mexico) and the empowerment of indigenous people to manage and monitor their territories (forests and lands) using innovative technologies (Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama).

Contribution to the SDGs



The policy and institutional support that UN-REDD provides through national programmes, technical advice and knowledge dissemination is helping countries advance their sustainable development agendas, across the spectrum of the SDGs.

Regarding the intersection between climate and forests, UN-REDD work has a direct and systemic influence on SDG 13 – “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” – and SDG 15 – “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests...”. The various

national strategies, investment plans, NFMS, SIS, cooperation agreements and partnerships, and financial arrangements that UN-REDD countries develop, adopt and implement are directly advancing many of the SDGs, and in particular SDGs 13 and 15, with notable contributions across the following targets:

TABLE 1. EXAMPLES OF UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS TO SDG 13 (CLIMATE ACTION) AND SDG 15 (LIFE ON LAND) AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL IN 2018

SDG TARGETS – BRIEF DESCRIPTION		EXAMPLES OF UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2018
13.2	Mainstream climate issues in national policy	<p>UN-REDD policy advice on National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan development includes mainstreaming climate issues in national policy by identifying and strengthening linkages with existing forest policy frameworks, national development plans and climate change mitigation commitments (NDCs).</p> <p>UN-REDD helped the Latin-American Parliament (Parlatino) prepare a draft climate change law within its Agricultural Commission that will guide many countries in the region to conciliate the forest-farm-climate linkages.</p>
13.3	Human and institutional capacity-building on climate change mitigation	Each of the nine UN-REDD national programmes has been directly contributing to this SDG target in multiple ways, such as: technical assessment on deforestation drivers, forest monitoring capacities, SIS and multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue and engagement. The REDD+ Academy and the diverse South-South regional exchanges are also directly serving countries in this SDG target area.
13.B	Climate planning and capacity in least developed countries	This support has been systemic, i.e. UN-REDD support for national strategies, investment plans, NDC reviews, MRV design, FRLs and SIS, among other planning tools and outcomes.
15.1	Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular forests, and in line with obligations under international agreements	<p>Support in this area is transversal to the whole UN-REDD Programme portfolio of activities. The inter-agency team supports countries to meet international obligations under UNFCCC, notably the provisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. For example, in 2018, the UN-REDD Programme supported Peru to analyse land-use legislation, focusing on the administrative acts/permits that authorize land-use changes for forest areas, such as for mining, expansion of agricultural lands and infrastructure. The harmonization of land-use planning frameworks is vital to the REDD+ priorities and NDC targets in the AFOLU sectors in regions of Peru.</p> <p>Lately, and based on the experience gained from the work on safeguards, there has been increased interest in enabling international transactions of mitigation outcomes. For this growing area, which can have significant impacts, the UN-REDD Programme is providing advice on the social and environmental integrity of potential transactions, including in sectors outside the Paris Agreement (aviation).</p>
15.2	Sustainable management of forests and halting deforestation	<p>UN-REDD directly contributes to this SDG target through supporting countries to achieve REDD+ readiness (UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+). This provides countries with national strategies for sustainable forest use and conservation, as well as the means to monitor advances and ensure that social and environmental safeguards are respected. UN-REDD also facilitates access to financial flows from both public and private sources.</p> <p>For example, guidance on sustainable forest management in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State and the drylands of Ethiopia was finalized during 2018 with support from the UN-REDD Programme.</p>

SDG TARGETS – BRIEF DESCRIPTION		EXAMPLES OF UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2018
15.A	Mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystems	<p>The UN-REDD knowledge components on “financing and the private sector” and “REDD+ funding mechanisms” guided many countries to mobilize financial resources for sustainable forest management and for reducing deforestation. As part of its global work on private financing for REDD+, UN-REDD continued to support and expand the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia and established a new fund with Rabobank (AGRI3 Fund) to mobilize US\$1 billion in financing for sustainable commodity production and forest conservation. A similar facility will be established in India and partners are exploring setting up another one in Côte d’Ivoire. UN-REDD is also involved in formative discussions on the future aviation market (CORSIA) and contributing to enable the environmental integrity of such forest offsets. In the area of private-sector financing, UN-REDD is exploring opportunities compatible with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for investment in REDD activities and transactions between private companies and countries.</p> <p>UN-REDD has helped many countries prepare investment plans (see section on ‘Progress towards REDD+ implementation’ above), which are standard requirements for REDD+ finance. It also provided key technical advice to several countries – e.g. Brazil, Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru – to enable them to access, unlock or implement financing sources, such as the GCF, bilateral results-based finance, private-sector pledges and CAFI.</p>
15.B	Provide incentives to advance management, conservation and restoration of forests	UN-REDD has helped design and test incentive mechanisms (payments for ecosystem services) that can open up avenues for REDD+ action and financing, in countries such as Chile and Côte d’Ivoire.

As a United Nations partnership committed to the entire Sustainable Development Agenda, the UN-REDD Programme offers technical and policy advice in a strategic and integrated way to connect the SDGs. In effect, the wide range of policy, institutional and

cross-sectoral work that UN-REDD promotes in countries – as described in this report – enables a transformational and inclusive approach to REDD+ that renders service across the Sustainable Development Agenda, thereby contributing to a range of SDGs and SDG targets.

Table 2 below provides a glimpse of the broad relevance of UN-REDD work across the Sustainable Development Agenda (beyond SDGs 13 and 15), with selected examples from country work and knowledge management.

TABLE 2. UN-REDD CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS IN BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES (BEYOND SDGS 13 AND 15)

SDG TARGET – BRIEF DESCRIPTION		UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED EXAMPLES)
1.4	Promote equal rights to economic and natural resources among all men and women, and in particular, vulnerable population groups such as indigenous peoples and forest communities	In Viet Nam, UN-REDD has supported partnerships for natural, forest-based economic models between women and men from ethnic minorities and private companies for traditional herbal medicinal products – this fosters the sustainable management of forests as well as empowering ethnic minorities to enhance their livelihoods, in terms of both income and access to markets.
1.B	Promote gender-sensitive development strategies	<p>As part of Colombia’s National REDD+ Strategy, a gender report was prepared and socialized among stakeholders, providing concrete recommendations and entry points for gender action within existing and future REDD+ actions and processes.</p> <p>The Republic of the Congo’s REDD+ Investment Plan integrates a gender approach, with a minimum quota of 30 per cent women coordinating its implementation and women-specific agricultural development projects, and financial arrangements will be developed to provide women with direct access to material and financial support.</p>

SDG TARGET - BRIEF DESCRIPTION		UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED EXAMPLES)
2.4	Promote resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems	<p>The UN-REDD Programme continued providing support to the TLFF in Indonesia, through which sustainable commodity production is helping local communities and preserving forest ecosystems. A similar facility to be launched in India will follow the same objectives. UN-REDD has also partnered with international banking institutions to extend financial support for deforestation-free agriculture to Brazil.</p> <p>UN-REDD helped develop a deforestation-free jurisdictional approach for the Central Highlands in Viet Nam, with a focus on mobilizing finance to introduce deforestation-free practices in the coffee supply chain.</p> <p>The UN-REDD Programme provided technical expertise for the inclusion and elaboration of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forest management in the Republic of the Congo's REDD+ Investment Plan. This support was catalytic in the preparation of GCF proposals for the country, which aim to secure financing for reducing pressure on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection.</p>
4.7	Education for sustainable development	<p>The REDD+ Academy, now an online training platform sustained by UN-REDD, is active and hugely popular, with over 1,000 people enrolled in one of its two programmes: Fundamentals on REDD+ and Advancing on REDD+.</p>
5.5	Women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in political and public life	<p>Thanks to proactive advice and advocacy from UN-REDD, in Honduras women accounted for 47 per cent of the participants in stakeholder engagement efforts with indigenous peoples and local communities. These efforts focused on deliberations about deforestation drivers and land tenure issues.</p>
5.A	Give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land, and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources	<p>In the Republic of the Congo, the country's REDD+ Investment Plan notes that agricultural development projects shall serve to set up women-specific support initiatives and will have a minimum quota (30 per cent) for women's participation. This national policy document also states that financial arrangements will be developed in such a way as to ensure that women have direct access to material and financial support.</p>
7.2	Promote renewable energy	<p>As charcoal is a key source of energy among many rural and poor urban populations, the National REDD+ Strategies and Investment Plans that UN-REDD is facilitating incorporate policy and investment options for sustainable fuelwood production and the expansion of renewable energy systems (e.g. in DRC and Kenya).</p>
8.4	Support measures towards decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (deforestation)	<p>UN-REDD helped develop tools and approaches for countries in Africa to incorporate multiple benefits, a green economy and green investment into REDD+ planning. UN-REDD provided technical assistance to Liberia, DRC and Ethiopia to support the integration of REDD+ into the countries' national land-use planning and development efforts, recommend viable options for monitoring environmental performance in commodity concessions and scope out private investment opportunities that support REDD+ objectives.</p>
10.2	Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all	<p>UN-REDD provides a wide range of partner countries and stakeholders with advice, knowledge, facilitation processes and tried and tested practices to promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including their political, tenure and natural-resource rights. This knowledge-based support comprises participatory policy platforms, legal and institutional instruments such as protocols for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs), and approaches to integrate the perspectives and proposals of indigenous peoples in investment programmes. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme generates and disseminates knowledge on the responsible governance of land and forest tenure, and how this is critical for simultaneously broadening REDD+ results and advancing indigenous and community rights.</p>

SDG TARGET - BRIEF DESCRIPTION		UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED EXAMPLES)
10.B	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, in particular to least developed countries and African nations	<p>UN-REDD technical assistance in Côte d'Ivoire is underpinning the institutional mechanisms to access, coordinate, connect and implement official development assistance (ODA) and climate finance. In addition, it is helping mobilize private-sector co-financing (for GCF investments) and private-sector partnerships (e.g. Cocoa & Forests Initiative).</p> <p>The South-South cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Costa Rica has resulted in a programme document that translates areas of cooperation between the two countries into concrete activities. This US\$ 500,000 programme is mobilizing resources from the World Bank, the private sector and other donors.</p> <p>In Ethiopia, UN-REDD supported the Government to develop the Institutional Strengthening for Forest Sector Development project, focused on the forest sector's capacity at the strategic and operational levels and on creating an enabling environment for strong forest-sector delivery. The project has US\$ 15 million in funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).</p> <p>Through policy dialogue, UN-REDD facilitated the mobilization of US\$ 4 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to support Kenya's REDD Readiness process. These resources will support development of a National REDD+ Strategy and a national SIS, as well as facilitating county governments to develop a framework guide on sustainable management of forest resources.</p>
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	In Honduras, UN-REDD assistance is helping national stakeholders design a 'cultural safeguard' for forest and REDD+ actions to complement the Cancun safeguards on REDD+.
12.6	Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices	<p>As part of its global work on private-sector financing, UN-REDD has made available innovative sources of financing through partnerships with the private sector. These include the AGRI3 Fund, the TLFF and similar initiatives being launched in India and Africa. UN-REDD is also active in the current negotiations regarding the aviation market and discussions on investment in REDD+ activities and transactions between private companies and countries under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>In Viet Nam, 2018 saw progress in engagement with private-sector actors, including on the development of responsible investment guidelines, forest certification and engagement with industry commodity groups including rubber, coffee and cashews, towards deforestation-free sustainable investments.</p>
16.3	Equal access to justice for all	UN-REDD is using the REDD+ processes in countries such as Viet Nam and Myanmar to help design and institutionalize GRMs, which are critical instruments for indigenous peoples and local communities to defend their rights.
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions	<p>Integration of a multi-stakeholder participation platform is an integral part of UN-REDD technical advice for National REDD+ Strategy development and implementation, including policy advice on legal and institutional instruments, such as protocols for FPIC and GRMs.</p> <p>The UN-REDD Programme has collaborated with various initiatives on FLEGT in the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia and Viet Nam, as previously mentioned in the report.</p>
16.7	Inclusive and participatory decision-making	The participatory policy dialogue process on forests and REDD+ in Colombia has become a model for inclusive and participatory decision-making, with impacts beyond its expected boundaries (see the SDG 17.9 row further down in this table and the Colombia section in this report).
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	<p>United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)</p> <p>GCF/Implementation Plan Policy</p> <p>UNFCCC Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Platform</p>

SDG TARGET - BRIEF DESCRIPTION		UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED EXAMPLES)
17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	<p>UN-REDD is providing technical assistance to several countries to enable them to access, channel and implement a wide range of climate finance to fund their PAMs for REDD+ or to participate in results-based finance: GCF (e.g. Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador), private investments (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay), finance facilities (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia and soon, India). In addition, as a spinoff of UN-REDD activities, the Government of Costa Rica is submitting a proposal on sustainable cattle farming and ecosystem conservation to the GCF.</p>
17.9	International support for implementing capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all SDGs, including through South-South cooperation	<p>UN-REDD uses South-South cooperation as a primary mechanism to exchange knowledge, accelerate progress and catalyse ambitious results, and to foster long-term commitments to reducing deforestation and forest degradation. In Colombia, UN-REDD support for policy-dialogue platforms between indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples and the Government has informed both the national forest policy and the new national development plan, recognizing UN-REDD as a catalyst for multi-stakeholder efforts towards the Sustainable Development Agenda.</p> <p>Work by the UN-REDD Programme in Indonesia helped to inspire and enable South-South cooperation between key tropical peatland countries. Indonesia's experiences and its willingness to share its knowledge on peatlands management helped inform discussions globally and resulted in the Brazzaville Declaration – a commitment by the Republic of the Congo, DRC and Indonesia to work together, with support from Global Peatlands Initiative partners, for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of peatlands.</p> <p>A South-South partnership between Ghana and Ecuador has been established based on successful knowledge exchange, with the participation of high-level government officials, civil society and private-sector representatives. The partnership focuses on building the capacity of Ecuador and Ghana for REDD+ implementation, leveraging investment and greening domestic investments for REDD+.</p> <p>UN-REDD supported the triangular cooperation between Ghana and Korea with the Development Solutions Partnership (DSP) programme, providing Ghana with US\$ 75,000 for sustainable forest management, which will facilitate a longer-term framework for technical cooperation covering the forest sector. The DSP builds on existing cocoa programmes in Ghana.</p>

Impact Story: Côte d'Ivoire

PRODUCING FOREST-FRIENDLY CHOCOLATE

GUITTY SAIDOU is a smallholder cocoa farmer from Agboville, Côte d'Ivoire, who recently learned about the importance of agroforestry. "Before, I used to plant cocoa without planting other trees," he says. "Worse, I would take a piece of forest and clear all the trees."

Côte d'Ivoire has one of the fastest rates of deforestation in Africa, with dramatic consequences: a steep decline in rainfall and other devastating alterations in local climatic conditions that threaten the cocoa crop, Côte d'Ivoire's main agricultural commodity.

Cocoa has brought prosperity to the country; however, decades of cocoa production have exhausted the soil. The decreasing fertility of unsustainably operated plantations has led local farmers to encroach on forests in their search for more productive land.

In response, President Alassane Ouattara confirmed his commitment to defining a better strategy and a sustainable solution to restore the national forest to 20 per cent of the territory by 2030. Côte d'Ivoire became a UN-REDD Programme partner country in 2011 and has been able to leverage this high-level political support to make substantive progress on REDD+.

The country's national approach to REDD+ includes agroforestry as an effective means of shifting deforestation trends. To this end, the UN-REDD Programme is working with local cooperatives including SCOOPS-BAD (La Société coopérative simplifiée Binkadi d'Aké Dounanier) to provide free technical training to farmers like Saidou.

"Agroforestry, though not the only solution to deforestation, is potentially one of the most effective," says

Jonathan Gheysens, UN-REDD expert on financing for sustainable land use. "It means the diversification of revenue streams and reducing monoculture risks for smallholder farmers who face fluctuating cocoa export prices. It also increases their resilience to climate variations and makes a positive contribution to climate change mitigation."

Before converting to agroforestry, Saidou's cocoa plantation suffered from too much sun exposure. "The sun would strike the cocoa trees, making them lose their leaves. It would dry out the soil and cause the roots of the cocoa trees to die."

"The shadow of the associated trees protects the roots of the cocoa plant," says Amory Parfait, one of the trainers. "The shadow also lets herbs grow quickly, herbs that retain water, which helps against drought. We started this diversification two years ago, and we now help farmers plant avocado, orange and mango trees among their cocoa."

Youssef N'djoré, acting country director for the Côte d'Ivoire office of the World Cocoa Foundation, supports the need for a sustainable cocoa business through agroforestry. "Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana signed the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, a commitment to produce more cocoa on less land. The way to do that is through agroforestry, to produce green cocoa, cocoa that can be traced to ensure it isn't coming from prohibited or protected areas, that it's not harmful to the forest and that it gives sustainable revenue to farmers. The vision of the World Cocoa Foundation for the future is to have more cocoa with thriving farmers on less land so that we can have a better environment for future generations."



Country results

The following section outlines results across the 19 countries¹⁸ that were actively supported by the UN-REDD Programme in 2018, through technical assistance and national programmes. A 'traffic light' colour code is used to give a snapshot of progress in each country against the two delivery-support mechanisms the programme used in 2018, namely: technical assistance (comprising technical assistance provided to ongoing national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation) and national programmes.

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

As outlined in the table below, each country has identified the type of support received from the UN-REDD Programme 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 2018; the programme is pending closure or closed.

On track: All activities are under way in accordance with the 2018 annual workplan.

Delayed: Activities have been delayed. The cause of the delays and solutions to ensure the programme's successful completion 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 REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan

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

NFMS: National Forest Monitoring System(s)

SIS: Safeguard Information System(s)

Completed

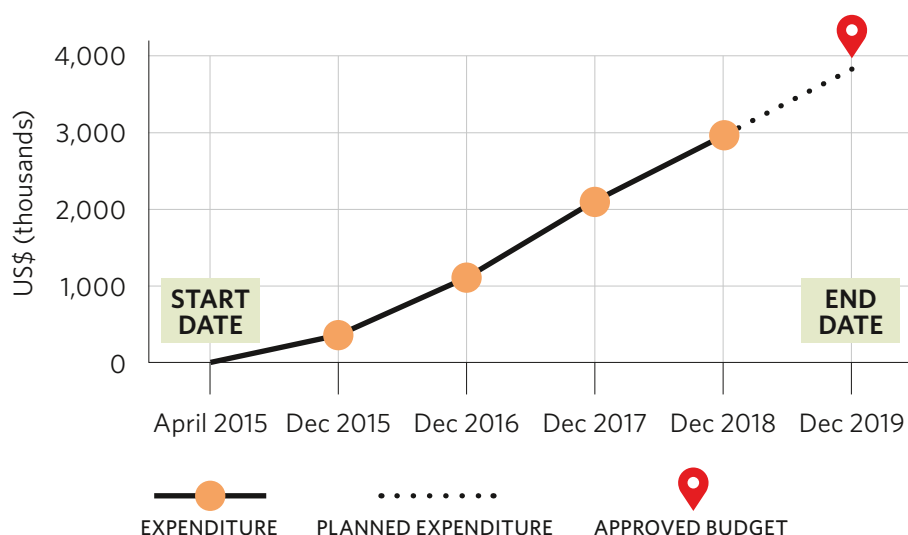
On track

Delayed

National Programme	NP
2018 Technical Assistance to REDD+ implementation	TA/2018
2017 Technical Assistance to REDD+ implementation, extended into 2018	TA/2017

¹⁸ The total includes countries that had some deliverables pending and for whom support was carried over from 2017 into 2018. For those countries where the scale of the planned activities and the related knowledge value was more significant (Ecuador, Ethiopia and Liberia), a full debriefing is provided in the report. For those with minor pending deliverables (Costa Rica and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), this work is not showcased in the report.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



Argentina's NDC unconditional goal is "not to exceed the net emission of 483 MtCO₂ eq. by 2030". The Biennial Update Report (BUR) reported a decrease in deforestation rates from 375,000 hectares in 2010 to 185,000 hectares in 2014, representing more than a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Rates have fallen significantly since 2010 due to the implementation of Law 26.331 on Environmental Protection of Native Forests and the drop in crop prices.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: With UN-REDD support, Argentina submitted its National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change (PANByCC) to the [UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub](#) in December 2018. The plan is integrated into the country's NDCs and sets an unconditional emissions reduction target of 27 MtCO₂eq and a conditional goal of 81 MtCO₂eq by 2030. Advances were made in identifying and mapping the social and environmental benefits of the plan. An analysis of potential non-carbon benefits derived

from REDD+ implementation was carried out at the subnational scale. The main work areas of the plan have been shared with the public through [audiovisuals](#) prepared with the support of the National Programme.

FREL/FRL: The FREL was constructed and submitted to UNFCCC through the [REDD+ Info Hub](#). UN-REDD support and the intensive technical work of national experts were key to achieving this milestone. The subnational scope of the FREL encompasses almost 90 per cent of Argentina's forest lands and includes gross CO₂ emissions due to deforestation from changes in the above- and below-ground biomass of native forests for the period 2002–2013, accounting for 101.141.848 tCO₂. Its accuracy assessment is ongoing and will be annexed in 2019.

NFMS: Technical cooperation between UN-REDD experts, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (SAyDS) and national scientific institutes boosted automation and new methodologies for the NFMS, taking

into consideration five priority regions to be finalized by September 2019. The studies and methodology will enhance the capacity of the NFMS to meet increasing demands for national and international reporting, including on REDD+ activities. Analysis on including other carbon pools in the NFI is progressing. The NFMS web-dissemination platform was enhanced with tools to improve its functionality and add new data layers. Finally, the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory systematized the information and data for the AFOLU sector.

SIS: A safeguards dialogue with participants from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico took place in March 2018, with a focus on sharing experiences and lessons learned to advance the countries' national safeguards approaches. A draft of the national interpretation of safeguards, plans for the SIS design and an index of key content for the SOI on safeguards were reviewed with a range of stakeholders. Information needs for the SIS were identified, including how benefit and risk analyses and gender-related activities, processes and outputs can provide key inputs. The consolidated information will enable Argentina to submit the SOI to UNFCCC by December 2019.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Although Argentina is not receiving UN-REDD technical assistance for REDD+ implementation, the country is developing an implementation plan and a financial strategy with the support of the FCPF.

Alongside implementation of the PANByCC, Argentina launched the ForestAr 2030 Initiative, whose objective is to accelerate investments in reforestation and reach the goal of 2 million hectares by 2030. The country also launched the National Forest Restoration Plan – framed in the Forest Law – which outlines a program for an initial period of six years (2018–2023) to reach the goal



of 20,000 annual hectares of native forest restored by 2023. In addition, through the PANByCC, Argentina is seeking to implement subsidies for natural forest management plans and their preservation in order to meet the goals committed to in its NDC.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Argentina was granted a further no-cost extension to its national programme, until the end of December 2019, to account for implementation delays due to institutional reforms and other domestic factors external to the UN-REDD Programme, the national programme and the United Nations agencies.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Guidelines are being developed to support subnational decision makers in mainstreaming gender in the im-

plementation phase of the PANByCC. Development of the plan followed a participatory process – stakeholders at the local level were involved through multi-sectoral regional meetings where provincial working groups prioritized interventions and actions for implementation. Moreover, guidelines on consultations with indigenous peoples are also being developed.

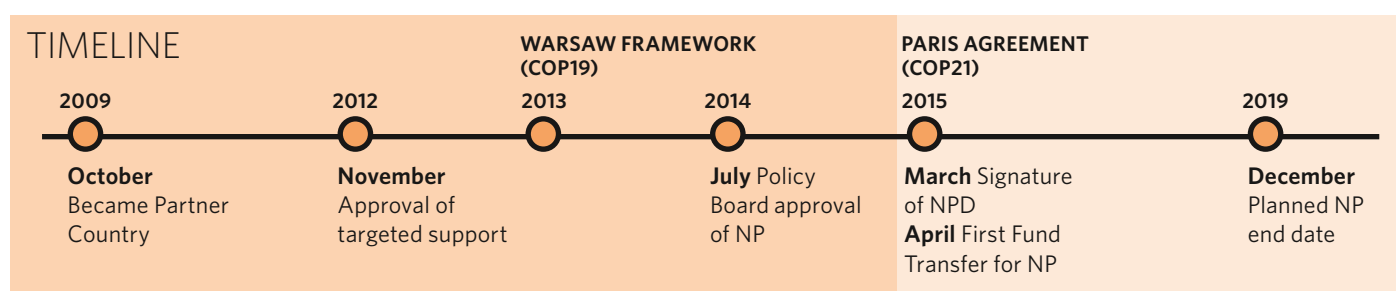
PARTNERSHIPS

Through the joint work with the National Direction on Climate Change, the National Direction on Forests and the related provincial governments, UN-REDD maintains an active partnership with the Climate Change and Forest Commission of the Federal Council for the Environment, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the FCPF programme, the [ForestAr](#)

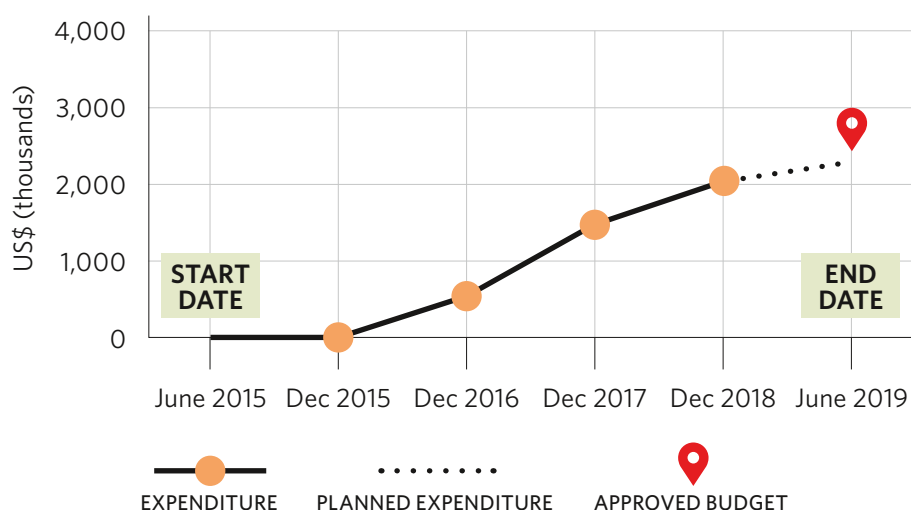
[2030](#) Initiative and various research and scientific institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The PANByCC has served as an important opportunity to integrate the national development plans related to NDCs and the Sustainable Development Agenda. Beyond the direct impact that forestation, forest conservation and forest restoration have on SDGs 13 and 15, a national policy proposal about integrating cattle ranching with forests to reduce its impact on deforestation is now central to the country's rural development framework. This policy will impact directly on SDG 12 (sustainable farming) and will support actions related to SDG 13 (climate mitigation) and SDG 15 (safeguarding and restoring forests).



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The official launch of the national programme encountered delays due to the formulation of the Project Steering Committee and the UN-REDD national Programme Executive Board. A no-cost extension to the national programme until June 2019 was approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board to accommodate these delays; however, several other activities scheduled for 2018 were also delayed. Preliminary approval for the budget revision was obtained and will be formalized in 2019.

A lack of IT and programming capacity in the Forest Department necessitated additional training and recruitment of more IT and database management consultants.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme supported Bangladesh to further develop its National REDD+ Strategy with the identification of deforestation and degradation drivers. PAMs, including those of a gender-sensitive nature, were identified and vetted through stakeholder consultations and are undergoing assessment for implementation benefits, costs and risks. The institutional arrangement for REDD+ management was also proposed to the Government.

FREL/FRL: Technical capacity for FRELs/FRLs was strengthened through UN-REDD events and a national consultation on the proposed FREL/FRL. A revised version of the FREL/FRL report was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, approved and submitted to the [UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub](#) in January 2019.

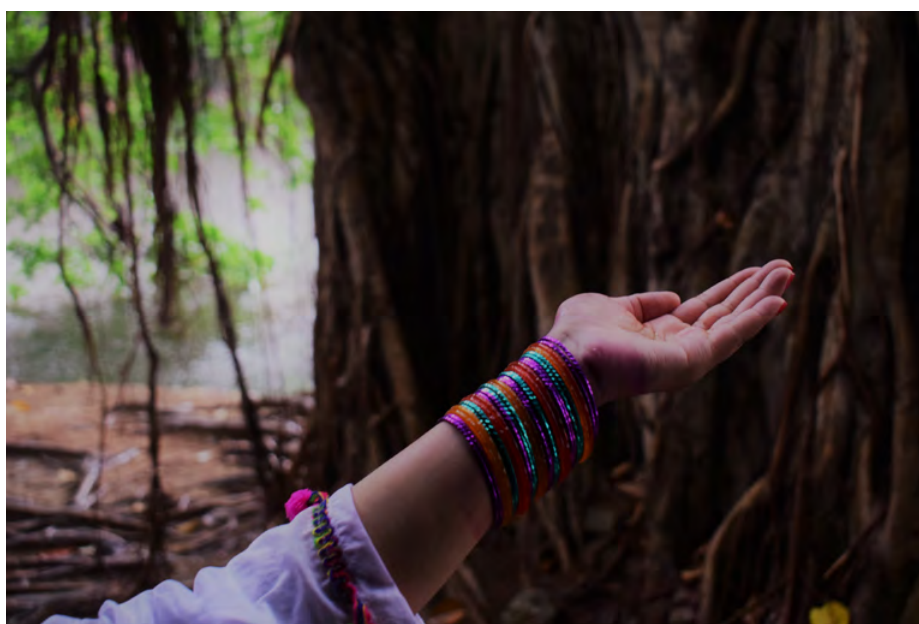
NFMS: With UN-REDD programme support, the structure and several modules of the Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS) were finalized and

presented to the Forest Department. The BFIS was officially launched in December and has benefited from the creation of national land-cover maps for 2005 and 2010, as well as capacity development for database management. A draft data-sharing policy for the Forest Department has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The national programme carried out two gender assessments in 2018: a literature review on gender issues in forest resource management and a screening of policies, laws and regulations and PAMs against gender issues. A gender expert facilitated dedicated discussions at eight regional consultations on PAMs, which concluded in early 2018.

During 2018, 387 participants took part in UN-REDD Programme events in Ban-





gladesh, 349 of whom were men and 38 women. Overall, 2,726 individuals have participated in project events since the programme's inception, 2,265 of whom were men and 461 women. Inputs from forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples and women were considered and interpreted when formulating PAMs. A minimum representation of one women is required in the National REDD+ Steering Committee (of a total of 37 institutional members), REDD+ Cell (eight members) and Strategy and Safeguards Technical Working Group (15 members), and a minimum of two women in the National REDD+ Forum (34 members).

In 2018, the programme supported the drafting of the REDD+ management structure, which includes positions for indigenous peoples and CSOs, and is under review by the Government. The National REDD+ Steering Committee

has three dedicated positions for indigenous communities out of 37 representative institutions. The 34-member REDD+ Forum includes one member representing marginalized communities, six members from civil society/non-governmental organizations and journalists, and nine members from forest-dependent groups.

During the PAM development, 316 participants from five districts were consulted, five of whom were from indigenous communities and 113 from CSOs. Basic training on REDD+ issues started at the end of 2018 with 71 participants in attendance, of whom 13 were from CSOs.

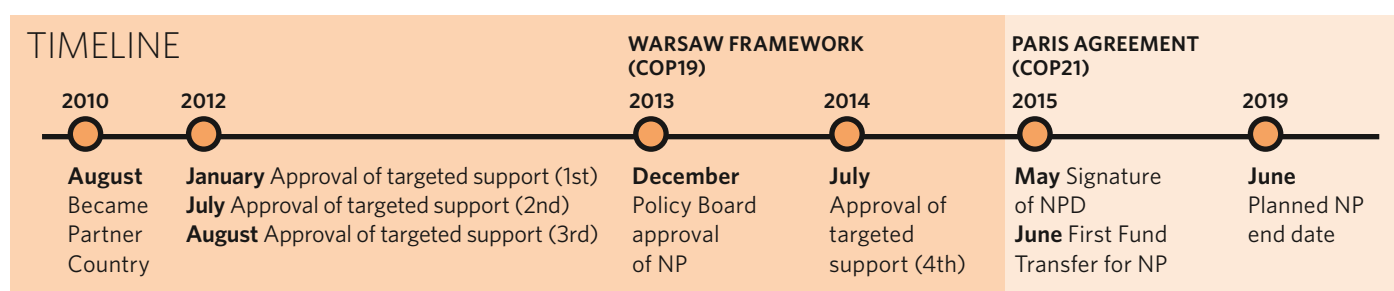
PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD programme support is closely coordinated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bangladesh NFI project. The

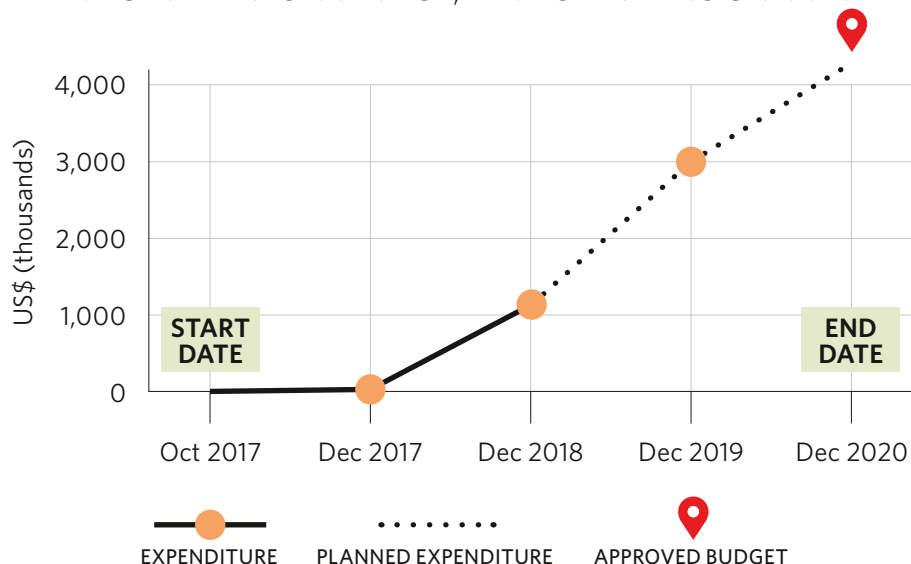
programme supported the World Bank Forest Investment Program formulation team and the development of the US\$ 175 million World Bank Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods project, approved in October 2018.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

Programme support contributes to SDG target 13.B by building capacity for climate change-related planning and management, and to indicator 15.2.1 through the development and institutionalization of the National REDD+ Strategy. The BFIS supports the provision and transparency of information required to adapt planning processes to the impacts of climate change and to mitigate AFOLU-related emissions. The REDD+ Strategy development process provides a policy framework for these planning processes and the FRL provides a benchmark to assess their effectiveness.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The country already has a national strategy for REDD+, known as the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). In 2018, advances were made to develop integrated systems to underpin and monitor its implementation. Terms of reference and a methodological approach for a system to monitor the co-benefits of the ENCCRV were developed. Plans for the system were reviewed following different requests on the reporting of non-carbon benefits, i.e. from UNFCCC and the GCF. The objective of this activity was to enable the piloting of actions that ensure the coherence of the ENCCRV with UNFCCC requisites, on the one hand, and the preparation of emission reports, emission reductions and carbon absorption, based on the UNFCCC guidelines, on the other.

FREL/FRL: Chile submitted its first subnational FREL/FRL in January 2016. In 2018, UN-REDD provided technical support to ensure data coherence based

on UNFCCC requirements, the preparation of emission reports, emission reductions and absorption and strengthening of the technical capacities of the MRV team of the Climate Change and Environmental Services Unit/National Forestry Corporation (UCCSA/CONAF). This support established the foundations for ensuring better data quality and capacity for future updates and territorial expansions of the current FREL/FRL. In addition, UN-REDD supported technical analysis, in line with IPCC criteria, to estimate the precision of land-use and land-change maps (2013/2017) for the regions indicated in the REDD+ Results Annex for Chile. The preliminary analysis facilitated the finalization of Chile's first REDD+ Results Annex.

NFMS: Chile does not have an NFMS. As such, the UN-REDD national programme in Chile has been instrumental in supporting the integration of existing monitoring systems and in promoting consistency between the evaluation of the forest resources native to Chile, the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (INGEI) and the NFI and the Inventory

of Wood Energy. During 2018, the ENC-CRV Monitoring and Measuring System (SMM) was published. This document describes the agreements and institutional roles pertaining to the development of base information for preparing biennial technical reports. Work is currently under way to ensure that these agreements are legally binding so that the reports can be produced on a permanent basis. In October 2018, the technical annex for the REDD+ results was appended to Chile's BUR on climate change.

SIS: With UN-REDD support, Chile made important advances during 2018 on the development of an SIS, including an initial proposal for the system design, which will be piloted in 2019. Advances were also made in collecting safeguard information at the project scale. These experiences are feeding into the development of protocols for collecting information on safeguards, protocols that are sufficiently broad yet also flexible enough to cover (existing and new) relevant safeguards.

UN-REDD also provided support for designing and implementing Chile's National Safeguard System. In 2018, Chile further revised the design of the system and identified the sources of information and procedures required to verify and address the safeguards. A final version of the SIS is expected in 2019. During 2018, Chile also submitted to UNFCCC its first summary on compliance with the safeguards and completed the Environmental and Social Management Framework (MGAS).

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

With UN-REDD support, new forest management models are being tested using different resources and considering a wide array of social, cultural and economic situations, adopting a participatory and gender-inclusive approach. Ecological restoration projects are being piloted in Cerro Blanco, Penablanca and the Andes regions, a sustainable

forest management programme is being tested in the farming community of Villa Alhué, and an adaptation project looking at reducing social and environmental vulnerabilities in indigenous communities is being undertaken on a fully participatory basis. Through these efforts, Chile is testing a variety of approaches in different landscapes and social contexts to further inform REDD+ implementation moving forward.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In order to achieve success at the national level and to prioritize REDD+ actions, transparency, participation and the socialization of this process were key factors in defining areas for investment, and at the same time, served as a basis for the ENCCRV prioritization tool. Chile dedicated specific efforts in 2018 to ensuring: the active participation of indigenous peoples and the promotion of their rights in the Early Implementation Projects; support to ensure that safeguards frame activity implementation; and the incorporation of women's traditional activities into the ecological restoration process.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

In Cerro Blanco, Chile has been supporting the participation of women farmers in ecological restoration activities. A group of 20 women from the Ovalle community were trained in ecological restoration activities not traditionally undertaken by women. These women were included in the project formulation and design and were offered a flexible schedule during the implementation phase to enable them to participate alongside their traditional community responsibilities.

Based on these early successes, UN-REDD technical support focuses on replicating these experiences in other parts of the country, providing financial incentives through payments for environmental services and developing proposals to update the annual workplans for the regions, with the objective of ensuring budget allocation for gender-related activities.

Safeguarding and compliance with indigenous traditional and ancestral knowledge, integration of community interests

and respect for their rights have been central elements of the UN-REDD national programme to date. During 2018, social inclusion efforts focused on safeguarding and ensuring compliance with the rights of Chile's indigenous communities. With UN-REDD support, a participatory process resulted in the inclusion of all the elements prioritized by indigenous communities in the diagnostic phases, formulation and implementation of the actions in the territories concerned. The process incorporated their 'cosmovision' of the territories based on the balance of people, animals, nature, energies, material and spiritual elements, both tangible and non-tangible.

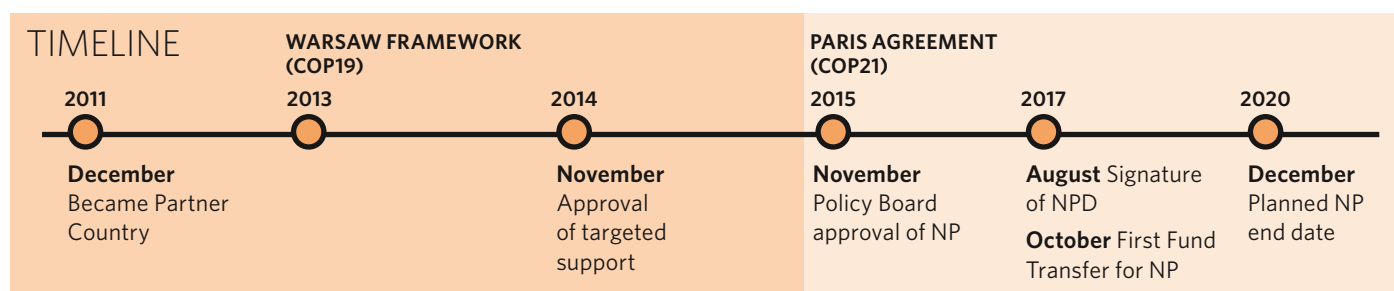
UN-REDD support has also strengthened the technical knowledge of communities on the following issues: restoration and native forest management, forest fire management, effects of climate change, necessary actions for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and the risks and opportunities presented by climate change at the local level.

PARTNERSHIPS

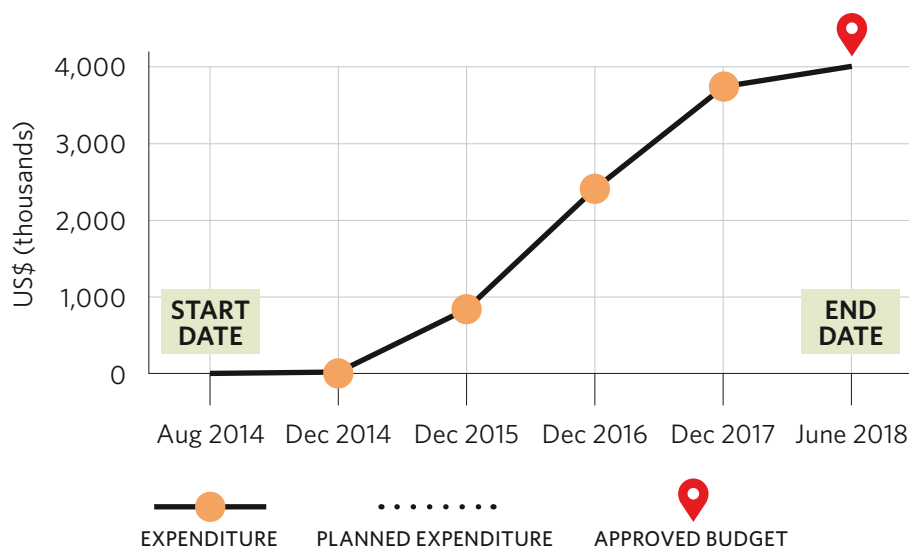
In the future, the ENCCRV will be the basis for implementing REDD+ activities in Chile and is already providing input for institutional discussions on the continuity or modification of the legislation and programmatic sectoral activities associated with forests that could be implemented in the future.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The ENCCRV is a key tool for accomplishing SDGs 13 and 15. In the country's development context, the ENCCRV also has positive effects on SDG 6 (availability of water and its sustainable management), SDG 8 (inclusive sustainable economic and productive employment for all) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production).



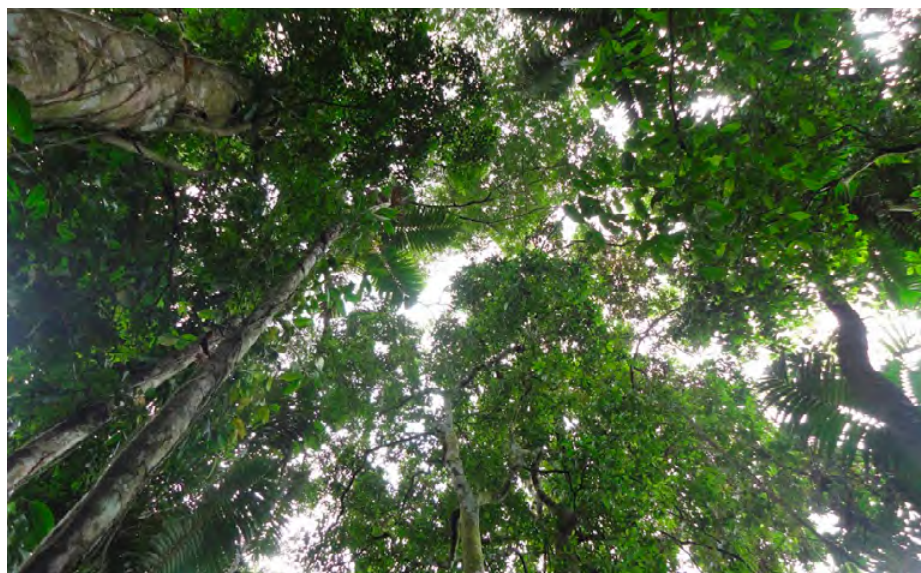
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The UN-REDD Programme, alongside its partners, supported Colombia to complete its National REDD+ Strategy: *Bosques Territorios de Vida*. The programme supported the inclusion of inputs from the National REDD+ Strategy in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development's (MADS) goals related to forestry and

REDD+, proposed in the new national development plan, the policy to combat deforestation and a Green Growth Policy Directive from the National Council on Economic and Social Policy (CONPES). The strategy used participatory processes to incorporate inputs from indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians and supports the implementation of Colombia's JDI with Norway, the UK and Germany.



NFMS: The UN-REDD Programme supported the development of Colombia's NFMS with community monitoring, preparation and implementation of the Third Annual Forest Cover Monitoring Summary and provided guidelines for monitoring restoration.

FREL/FRL: Technical support was provided for constructing the FREL. In December 2018, the second BUR was submitted to UNFCCC, which included the technical annex for assessing the 2015–2016 REDD+ results.

SIS: Colombia's second summary of safeguards information was submitted to UNFCCC, and the country started developing its third summary with UN-REDD programme support. Regarding the country's SIS, progress was made in identifying means of verifying that safeguards are being addressed and respected, and also in the development of a proposal of technical specifications for the SIS. These inputs will guide the implementation of the system. In addition, assistance was provided to the country on area-based planning for REDD+ that aims to ensure that PAMs integrate non-carbon benefits.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Four Colombian technicians and community leaders received capacity development on sustainable cattle ranching at a regional workshop in Paraguay. Colombia's agricultural development banks (FINAGRO and Banco Agrario) enhanced their environmental and social risk management systems through capacity development on financing agricultural production, in the context of zero-deforestation commodity production, with 22 risk and credit officers receiving training in environmental and social risk assessment, including 12 women. The UN-REDD Programme assisted with the conceptualization and implementation of the Community Forestry Program, which was launched in November 2018 and forms part of the National REDD+ Strategy.

The Programme has convened South-South community forestry exchanges with Mexico and Guatemala, alongside MADS, which included six community participants (one woman) and four institutional participants (two women). As a result, a working group was established for community groups, MADS, Prisma and the UN-REDD Programme to participate in and exchange information.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Following the presidential election, changes in the Colombian Government caused delays to specific activities due to new priorities. To minimize impact, the programme has maintained ongoing communications with the Government. The electoral process and changes in Government created additional challenges for programme delivery, requiring the workplan to be adapted to new circumstances and priorities. In the case of the legislative process for the Forest Law or the review of the uncertainty analysis of the NFI results, programme support was redirected to other activities focused on developing the concept note for the GCF REDD+ RBP pilot programme.

Ambiguous legal interpretations of the community forestry model in Colombia have had implications for implementation. The programme worked closely with the Regional Autonomous Corporations and MADS to identify the legal gaps that affect community forestry initiatives and that are expected to appear within the framework of future MADS projects.

To articulate the institutional landscape for community forestry in Colombia, a workshop was held with national actors to set out the foundations of the com-

munity forestry programme, mobilize support and identify potential future contributions under the leadership of MADS.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Within the national strategy on forests (*Bosques Territorios de Vida*), gender equality is specified as one of the guiding principles and considerations on gender and women's empowerment are integrated into the activities and indicators of various lines of action. As part of the National REDD+ Strategy, a [new gender report](#), co-authored by the Programme Management Unit (PMU), was prepared in 2018, which builds on the guidance of the 2017 gender strategy and REDD+ analysis and corresponding gender-mainstreaming strategy, and provides concrete gender recommendations and entry points for gender action within existing and future REDD+ readiness processes in Colombia.

In addition, data disaggregated by sex, collected from workshops, and gender equity principles were reflected in the consultation on legal preparedness. The UN-REDD Programme also submitted a proposal for the inclusion of gender in community forestry.

The National REDD+ Platform (*Mesa Nacional REDD+*) has facilitated dialogue between civil society and interested sectors on REDD+ and climate change to strengthen social inclusion and participatory processes. Round tables on REDD+ and climate change increased participation in REDD+ from the five national indigenous peoples' organizations and 36 local organizations involved. In total, 2,036 participants (30 per cent women) belonging to indigenous, Afrodescendent and campesino groups, as well as CSOs, strengthened

their knowledge on climate change and REDD+ through their participation.

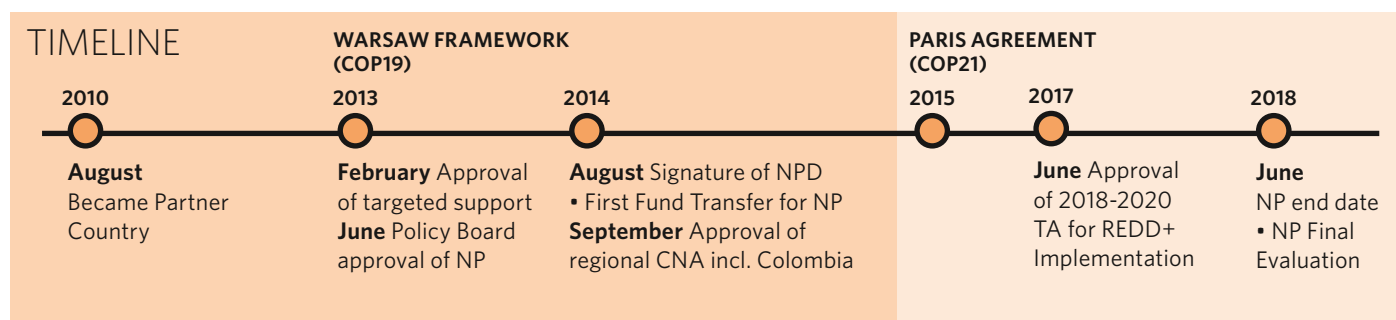
The programme supported national efforts to reactivate the participatory process between the new Government and the indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations by improving the technical capacity of three such organizations to provide inputs for the new national development plan. Sixty local initiatives received technical information thanks to UN-REDD programme support, as part of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies' (IDEAM) Participating Community Monitoring project.

PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout implementation of the national programme, activities related to the participatory process and the National REDD+ Strategy were closely coordinated with the FCPF, the REDD Early Movers programme and Visión Amazonía, through regular meetings and joint workplans under the leadership of MADS.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

In addition to supporting SDG 13 on climate action, UN-REDD programme support in Colombia has contributed to SDG 5 (Gender equality), through gender analysis and inputs for the National REDD+ Strategy, and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). Programme support for sustainable production models, including capacity development on sustainable cattle ranching and environmental and social risk management for the financial sector, also encourages the achievement of SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme supported the Republic of the Congo with NFMS and FREL development. In close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, the Republic of the Congo developed its first forest degradation map and mapping methodology to obtain estimates on forest-cover loss due to forest degradation. Programme support also enabled the Republic of the Congo to update its deforestation estimates for the period 2014–2016. This map and methodology will enable the country to improve its FRELs and submit an updated version to UNFCCC in 2020.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme supported the Republic of the Congo in revising its REDD+ [Investment Plan](#), which has been reviewed thoroughly by potential donors, including CAFI and the Forest Investment Program (FIP). The programme ensured that the Investment Plan aligned with the country's achievements on MRV and included the progress made on issues including climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forest management. It also supported the preparation of a GCF proposal, due for submission in 2019, which aims to secure financing for the REDD+ Investment Plan and focuses on reducing pressure on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Changes in the country's REDD+ coordination unit and uncertainty over its future funding resulted in ongoing delays in the national validation and approval of UN-REDD Programme products in 2018. The UN-REDD Programme, alongside the World Bank and CAFI, have initiated discussions with the Government to assess potential sources of national and international funding for REDD+. The programme has also been strengthening the capacity of the country's forest monitoring agency, CNIAF,

so that it can take more ownership of the UN-REDD Programme products.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The UN-REDD Programme in the Republic of the Congo actively encourages the involvement of the female experts present in the country's REDD+ coordination unit and the CNIAF, including two female lead experts (out of 10 people in total) who are regularly encouraged to take on leadership roles in planning and technical work. The programme works closely with female experts from the REDD+ coordination unit, notably on the UN-REDD Programme annual planning, but also to implement work in the areas of safeguards, governance and gender.

The Republic of the Congo's REDD+ Investment Plan integrates a gender approach, with a minimum quota of 30 per cent women in the coordination of its implementation and in women-specific agricultural development projects, and financial arrangements will be developed to provide women with direct access to material and financial support.

The programme has increased efforts to collect data disaggregated by sex from consultations and training events. Notably, there has been an increase in female participation at consultation events, but slower improvements at events aimed at government officials in the fields of forestry and agriculture.

Representatives of CSOs and indigenous people on REDD+ in the Republic of the Congo are organized under the Consultation Framework for Congolese Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples (CACO-REDD), which is key to the REDD+ process in the country. CACO-REDD members are invited to and consulted during the kick-off meetings and consultations on UN-REDD Programme activities. However, most of the work supported by UN-REDD in 2018 was at the institutional level, resulting in limited direct engagement with indige-



nous peoples, who are mostly located in one remote region of the country.

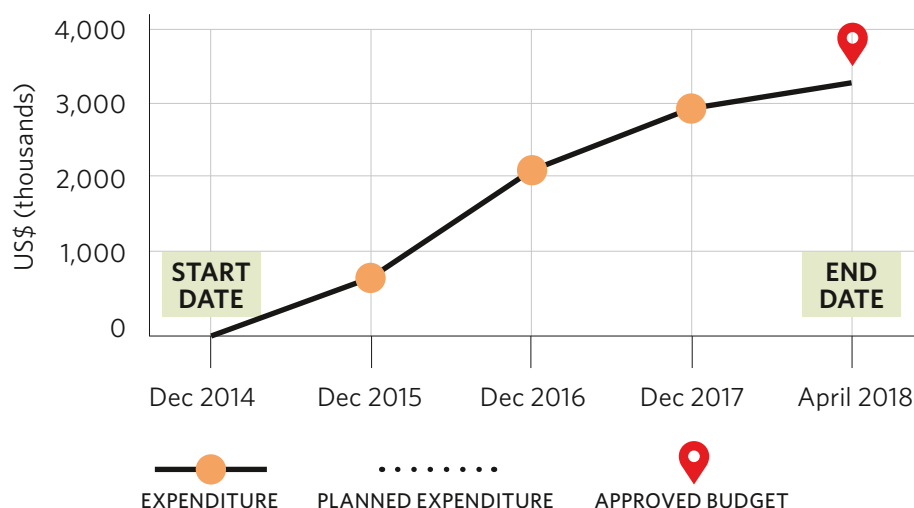
PARTNERSHIPS

REDD+ partners in the Republic of the Congo are well coordinated, thanks to the long-established coordination between the UN-REDD Programme, the FCPF, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), CAFI and the European Forest Institute EU REDD Facility. In-person coordination meetings are regularly held among partners during missions, or alternatively through videoconferencing, as is often the case with CAFI. The number of joint projects between partners is testament to these partnerships. For example, the FCPF Emissions Reduction Programme, which builds on collaboration among the World Bank, AFD and the UN-REDD Programme. The FCPF Readiness Fund and the UN-REDD Programme have developed joint workplans over the years in support of REDD+ coordination.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The UN-REDD Programme supports the Republic of the Congo in achieving SDG 13 (Climate action). In 2018, the programme improved the country's capacities for forest-emission monitoring and greatly improved its reporting data set. This will enable the country to submit its first BUR by 2020, which will include a technical annex of REDD+ results.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



and a solid engagement on zero-deforestation commodities through the Cocoa & Forests Initiative.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The major challenge is to operationalize the National REDD+ Strategy and the monitoring tools (NFMS and SIS), as they entail a wide range of measures, some requiring important policy reforms, a high level of financing commitments from international partners, both public and private, and significant time to mature. The UN-REDD technical assistance under way is supporting the institutional measures (e.g. national fund), the financing avenues (e.g. PES strategy, GCF programme) and the partnerships (e.g. private-sector co-financing for REDD+, the engagement with the Cocoa & Forests Initiative).

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The gender approach was incorporated into the national REDD+ readiness process and its outcomes. Specific women-led consultations took place, while the National REDD+ Unit conducted monitoring on the degree of female participation in the policy and technical consultations. The specific measures that will address the resource issues

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

UN-REDD readiness support (NP) was completed in 2018. The country has virtually achieved the four Warsaw Framework pillars for REDD+ (see [here](#)). This includes the Government's adoption of the National REDD+ Strategy (SN-REDD+), which contains a framework of actions that will enable the country to safeguard its current forests and to restore 20 per cent of its forest cover by 2030. The other achievements during this preparatory phase, which were notably advanced during 2018, were the submission of the FREL to UNFCCC, the implementation of a functional National Forest Monitoring System (SNSF), the design of the SIS and the drafting of the first national SOI on safeguards, which is under validation by the National REDD+ Committee.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

With the technical support of UN-REDD, Côte d'Ivoire is making progress on the institutional framework for REDD+ implementation. In 2018, UN-REDD advised on the design of a nation-

al fund for REDD+ finance, the drafting of the national investment plan and a pilot payment-for-ecosystem-services (PES) mechanism. A first investment portfolio for REDD+ was also designed, including a partnership with the private sector for US\$ 70 million, a GCF programme that is about to be submitted



and livelihood needs of rural women, which appear in the National REDD+ Strategy, informed the investment and partnership efforts.

The REDD+ process in the country has been participatory and inclusive. Most of the policies, measures and investments entail supporting and financing small-scale, rural producers at the grass roots. In this sense, the investment plan, the pilot PES incentive scheme and other actions are directly engaging and supporting communities that wish to preserve or restore their forests while enhancing their agricultural livelihoods. During the official debriefing on NP completion to the UN-REDD Executive Board (October 2018), the civil society representative stated as follows: "The UN-REDD Programme contributed to a better structuring of the civil society, which resulted in the establishment of a platform called OI-REN, [which is] recognized by the Forest Administration as a key interlocutor (Forest Policy, Forest Code)."

PARTNERSHIPS

From the outset of REDD+, UN-REDD has served as the platform to attract, convene and coordinate a wide range of national and international partners for REDD+ actions and investments. This institutional fabric remains dynamic and is expanding. UN-REDD collaborates closely and shares work streams with various partners, notably the FCPF and the EU REDD Facility. It is also fostering public-private partnerships, such as the country's engagement in the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, as well as South-South cooperation with Ghana.

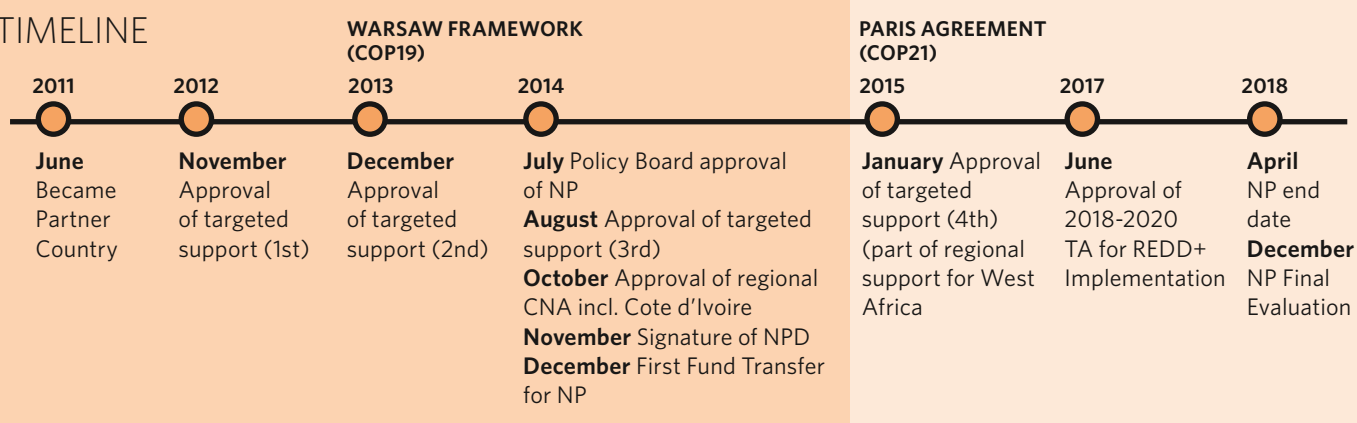
LINKAGES TO SDGS

The National REDD+ Strategy has been one of the major forces in defining the national development plans and policies that underpin the Sustainable Development Agenda in the country. A national policy for zero-deforestation agriculture

is now central to Côte d'Ivoire's development framework, directly influencing SDG 12 (sustainable farming), SDG 13 (climate mitigation), SDG 15 (safeguarding and restoring forests) and SDG 17 (partnerships – see above).



TIMELINE



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Ecuador has completed all the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and is participating in the RBP pilot programme launched by the GCF for the 4,831,679 tCO₂ of results achieved during 2014. UN-REDD provided technical support for elaborating the RBP concept note and funding proposal.

FREL/FRL: Through Component 4 of PROAmazonía (the joint Green Climate Fund/Global Environment Facility (GCF/GEF) programme implemented by UNDP), and with UN-REDD support, a second FREL is scheduled to be presented to UNFCCC for the second half of 2019. Similarly, the second REDD+ technical annex is being updated and will be presented with the BUR in the second half of 2020.

NFMS: UN-REDD is supporting the Ministry of Environment in the imple-

mentation of processing chains and in deforestation and forest degradation issues, to determine activity data using the SEPAL tool. In doing so, Ecuador will be the first country to implement this platform in its NFMS, which has fostered new alliances with institutions such as the KfW development bank.

SIS: With the support of UN-REDD, Ecuador is currently working on automating the processes needed for implementing the system that provides information on how the safeguards have been addressed and respected. The REDD+ web portal, which hosts the SIS, is publicly available at the domain <http://reddecuador.com>.

A road map for a second SOI on how safeguards have been addressed and respected during the 2016–2018 period was developed during 2018.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

With UN-REDD support, the country

was able to transition successfully to the REDD+ implementation phase and access different finance sources such as the GEF, the GCF and the REDD Early Movers programme. PROAmazonía was launched in 2017 and is the first programme to focus on implementing the National REDD+ Action Plan. A description of PROAmazonía can be found here (in Spanish): <https://ecuador-corresponsables.com/actualidad/presentan-proamazonia-bosques>.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Implementing a National REDD+ Action Plan presents a very significant challenge and change of scale when compared with the various processes that took place during the REDD+ readiness process, which were relatively technical and theoretical. The action plan, which includes PAMs to be implemented in forested and agricultural areas and on degraded land, by many different actors and institutions, aims to address all direct and indirect drivers of deforesta-



Andres Medina/Unsplash

tion. Now, the Ministry of Environment, in conjunction with the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, the National Secretariat for Planning and Development, the decentralized authorities, the Central Bank of Ecuador, the private sector (including those who produce, trade, finance and consume agricultural and forest-related commodities), indigenous organizations and academia must implement the actions prioritized in the National REDD+ Action Plan in a coordinated manner. Through the provision of technical advice, UN-REDD adds significant value in supporting these coordination processes and the adequate implementation of this action plan.

GENDER

In 2018, PROAmazonía developed its Gender and Interculturality Strategy

to address the imbalance in the relationships between men and women that determine or condition gender inequalities and gaps, and to create opportunities for effective participation or decision-making. This strategy aims to ensure that gender interventions promote the full participation of women and men. A proposal for mainstreaming the gender approach within PROAmazonía was developed with the support of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

SOCIAL INCLUSION

With the support of PROAmazonía, an agreement between the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples from the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) was approved in 2018, prioritizing

activities from the REDD+ Action Plan that will be implemented using results-based payments from 2014.

PARTNERSHIPS

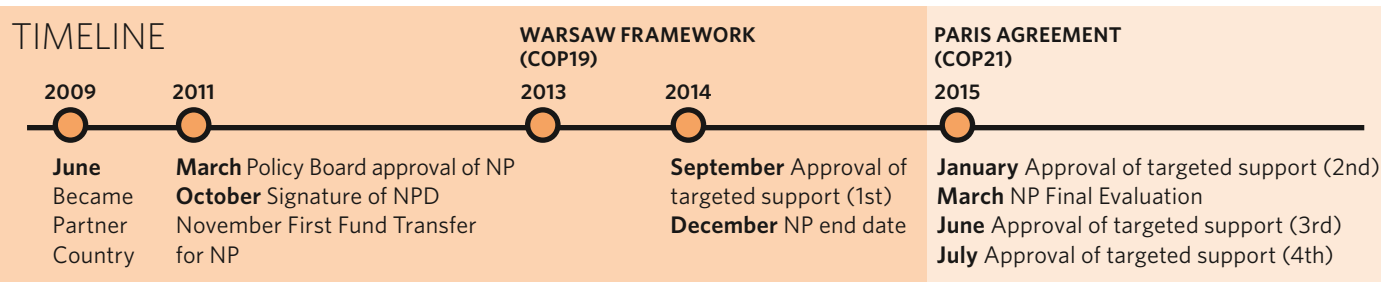
The PROAmazonía programme engaged in a technical assistance partnership with FAO to mobilize UN-REDD expertise on REDD+ operational systems that need completion, namely, NFMS, FREL and community monitoring.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The REDD+ implementation and RBP activities previously described are specifically aligned with the following SDG commitments: SDG 1 – No poverty, SDG 13 – Climate action, SDG 15 – Life on land, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals.



TIMELINE



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

In 2018, UN-REDD helped strengthen the capacities of national and regional authorities to support the implementation of the Warsaw Framework elements, promote understanding of the multiple values of forests, drive and coordinate the development of the various REDD+ components, and design a model for decentralized REDD+ under the Warsaw Framework.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

UN-REDD supported the development of a capacity-building framework focused on government forest agencies and academia, including training on REDD+ implementation and REDD+ finance for the practitioners in the sector.

UN-REDD support also provided input for a concept note on a multi-sector programme to support the National Forest Sector Development Programme (NFSDP), which was integrated into a proposal developed by the Government. Furthermore, a coordination framework was developed under the NFSDP to enhance institutional coordination and partnership arrangements.

UN-REDD helped the Government

promote strategic partnerships and coordination platforms for NFSDP implementation, as well as related PAMs, through the integration of REDD+ into the multi-sectoral investment plans. The report [Scoping private sector opportunities in Ethiopia: How to stimulate both economic development and REDD+ implementation?](#) illustrates the work undertaken on engaging the private sector in investments that support forest and climate change objectives.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Changes to government structure in 2018 resulted in the abolishment of the Ministry of Environment as the entity responsible for climate policies and the establishment of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission. As a result, the UN-REDD team devoted time to establishing a working relationship with the new commission.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The UN-REDD Programme's contribution to the Institutional Strengthening of Forest Sector Development programme, funded by Sida, has centred around the inclusion of processes and mechanisms for implementing the project with an emphasis on gender and social inclusion policies. Priority was given to women's

engagement in training for skill-enhancement activities. The collection and monitoring of data disaggregated by sex has been proposed for the project's design and implementation.

The proposed tools in the capacity-building framework included a land-use planner, which can be used to develop rural land-use scenarios and relay the information to representatives from national and subnational governments, the private sector, CSOs and local communities so that all are actively involved in land-use decision-making.

PARTNERSHIPS

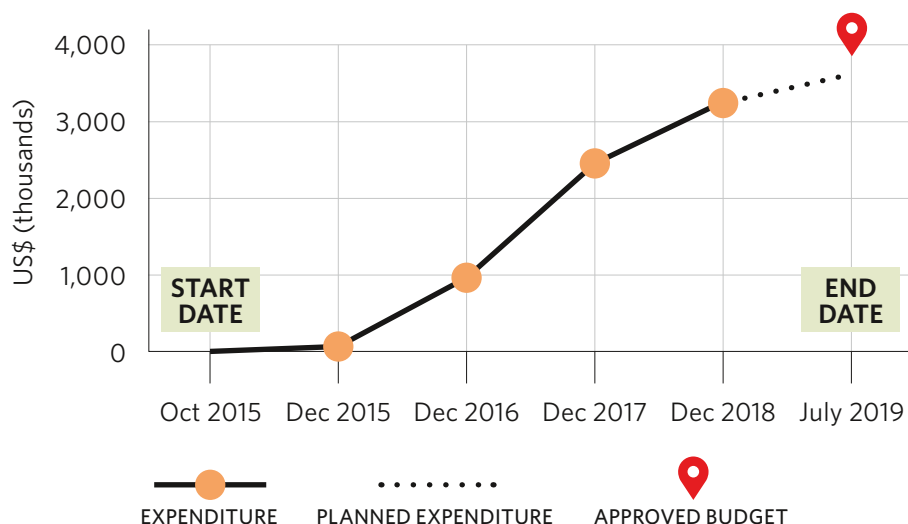
There was close cooperation throughout 2018 with the World Bank on the design of the multi-sector programme and how it could coordinate with the World Bank's existing investment programmes, including the Oromia Forested Landscape Program. Discussions were also held with the European Commission and the Global Green Growth Institute, among others.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The support from UN-REDD focuses on many of the SDGs, particularly SDGs 13 and 15.



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making it the official reporting platform for generating data for informed decision-making in the forestry sector. An improvement plan developed for ICF officials for the management, administration and use of the NFMS platform will be implemented in 2019.

SIS: Honduras made important advances towards meeting UNFCCC requirements on safeguards, including the development of an initial proposal for SIS design, as well as a draft summary of safeguards information. An additional safeguard, 'the Cultural Safeguard', was developed through a participatory process. The National Committee for Environmental and Social Safeguards of Honduras (CONASASH) has also been established.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: In 2018, Honduras completed analysis on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on land tenure. In addition, the National Programme for Recovering Degraded Ecosystem Goods and Services was finalized as part of the National REDD+ Strategy. The programme, formalized by decree and approved under Ministerial Agreement 1030-2018, was officially published in La Gaceta in June 2018. Honduras took significant steps towards assessing the potential non-carbon benefits of REDD+ implementation. A preliminary report maps the areas offering greater potential for non-carbon benefits as well as areas that may be more vulnerable to the main deforestation and forest degradation drivers in the country.

FREL: To improve FREL estimates, progress has been made in clarifying the definitions for the remaining four REDD+ activities (forest degradation, sustainable forest management, enhancement and conservation of forest carbon stocks) in coordination with the

technical team of the National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF). Tests have been carried out to estimate activity data, by integrating spatial information with the NFI's field data in the Google Earth Engine platform to further reach a methodological consensus.

NFMS: The ICF signed a ministerial agreement to institutionalize the NFMS,

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Although Honduras is not receiving UN-REDD technical assistance for REDD+ implementation, through its National REDD+ Strategy (supported by the FCPF), the country is developing an implementation plan and a financial strategy to fund REDD+ implementation through the GCF or another financial entity. Moreover, the REDD+ national team actively participated in the negotiation process that concluded with the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)-FLEGT between Honduras and



the European Union, to obtain support for good governance in the forest sector. To comply with the commitments, an inter-institutional memorandum of understanding was signed between MiAmbiente and the ICF to strengthen cooperation for the implementation of the VPA-FLEGT and REDD+.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

There were substantial changes in both the technical and coordination teams due to the political crisis in 2017; however, a successful transition was achieved thanks to the documentation and systematization of the project. Concerns from groups representing indigenous peoples and Afro-Honduran peoples have been addressed through a series of dialogues, meetings and training sessions to learn about and participate in the project's actions.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Diagnoses and consultations on mainstreaming gender into the various elements of the REDD+ pillars have been carried out and guidelines developed. The national technical team, with support from UN-REDD, updated the stakeholder involvement plan. Workshops were held to inform and gather input from indigenous and Afro-Honduran women and local communities on the studies of deforestation drivers and land tenure, which has strengthened and reaffirmed positions on their conditions to guarantee full and effective participation. The REDD+ process has also supported the elaboration of MiAmbiente's Institutional Gender Strategy, which was validated and launched in October 2018.

Effective participation of relevant stakeholders was achieved through the organization of 29 events (meetings, forums, training sessions, workshops),

which saw the participation of 896 persons representing indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples and other relevant stakeholders – of whom 47 per cent were women and 53 per cent men. Nineteen informative notes have been published on social media, as well as via television, radio and print media as a result of the events and/or activities supported by the project. As for transparency and access to information on REDD+ readiness, all documents from the process are being published on the website: <http://www.ocphn.org/v1/reddhonduras/>. A blog was also created to share the vision and events of the REDD+ process. During the reporting period there have been 2,269 visits to the website.

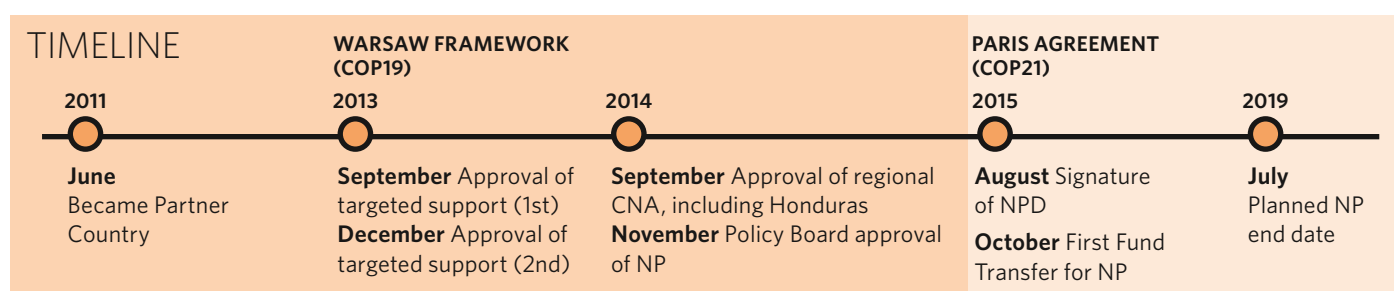
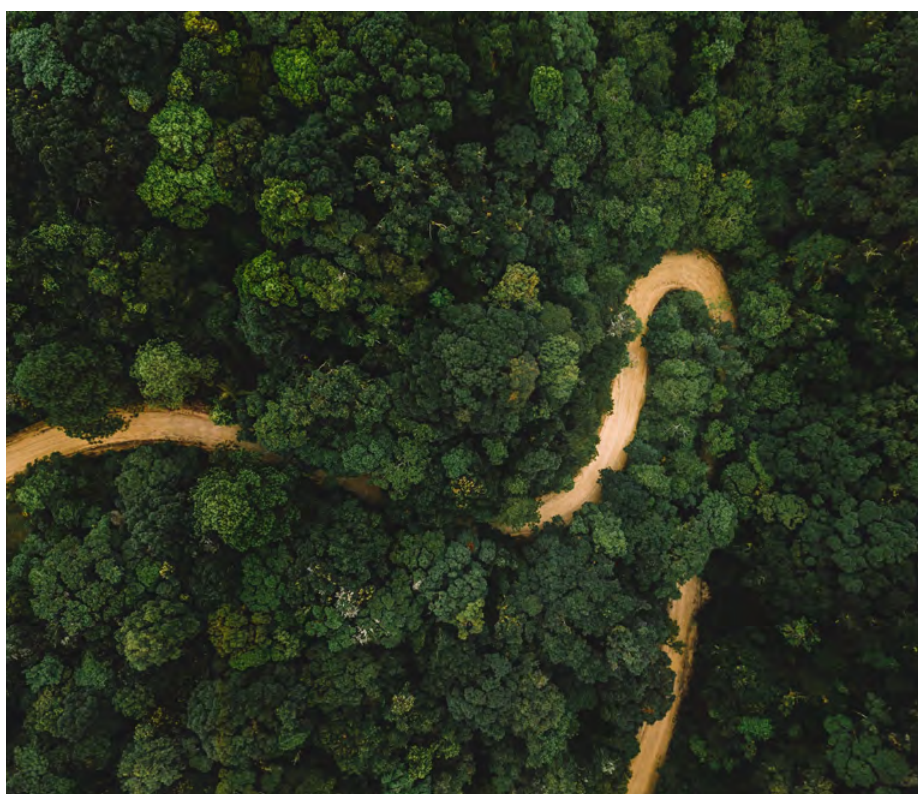
PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD national programme is implemented in coordination with the FCPF project, where UNDP acts as the

delivery partner. Synergies have been established between the results and products of both projects in order to ensure complementary efforts and to strengthen actions.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The national programme is directly related to SDG 13 (Climate action). SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 15 (Life on land) are intrinsic to the National REDD+ Strategy, which prioritizes actions that bring co-benefits beyond mitigating climate change, such as biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. The institutionalization of the NFMS within the ICF also contributes to SDG target 15.9. Furthermore, the project is actively working to ensure the full and effective participation of women, as well as defining actions that are gender-sensitive, thus aligning with SDG 5 (Gender equality).



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Progress has been steady against implementation of UNFCCC decision 10/CP.19, with the support of the UN-REDD Programme. Technical assistance was provided through the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) in developing Indonesia's Low-Carbon Development and Green Economy, its next 2019–2024 medium-term [plan](#). Institutional arrangements for the Cluster Approach for Integrated Fire Management were established to mitigate forest/peat fires. The national FRL is being better incorporated into subnational planning and implementation. Technical assistance was provided to the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs and the MOEF during the development of Palm Oil Moratorium #8/2018, which is seen as a breakthrough response to deforestation while encouraging the private sector and ministries to focus on improving the productivity of existing plantations through replanting schemes with certified seeds. To address climate change, Indonesia has been accelerating efforts towards peatland management and restoration and inspiring other countries to engage in multilateral and South-South cooperation through the Global Peatlands Initiative. Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru are working together with the support of partners, including UN-REDD, to establish the International Tropical Peatland Center (ITPC) in Indonesia.

NFMS: Indonesia made significant progress in increasing transparency with the first [State of Indonesia's Forests report](#), which reveals new data with promising signs of reduced deforestation and fires in the past two years. The report, published in July 2018, was led by the Government with support from UN-REDD and Norway.

SIS: Due to limited human resources in 2018, both in the national and subna-

tional government, technical assistance is ongoing to help MOEF continue to improve its SIS in 2019.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme's engagement with the Government has contributed to improving actions and transparency in forest and peatland monitoring and reporting, which contribute to REDD+. High-level political will from the President and the Minister of Environment and Forestry has been the driving force behind significant efforts to reduce the country's high deforestation rate.

UN-REDD played a catalytic role beyond formal workplan activities and on forests through public forums on deforestation and climate change. In addition, the programme is supporting work on forests and peatlands linked to the Global Peatlands Initiative. The UN Environment-led initiative has prompted national actions and has endeavoured to highlight lessons learned from Indonesia while facilitating South-South knowledge exchange and collaboration between Indonesia,

the Republic of the Congo, DRC and Peru. Based on its work with UN-REDD and partners, Indonesia has led on many outreach activities and has shared best practice through the Global Peatlands Initiative. It also submitted a draft resolution to the UN Environment Assembly on tackling climate change through international cooperation on sustainable peatland management. The draft resolution was negotiated in early 2019 and scaled up to highlight the importance of the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands – it was subsequently adopted, with Indonesia leading negotiations.

UN-REDD funds have served as a catalyst for generating additional resources, helping Indonesia design new projects on peatlands monitoring, an initiative on the Cluster Approach for Integrated Fire Management and a project on livelihoods and natural capital sustained to accelerate peat restoration. These projects will improve livelihoods and help to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Following the appointment of the Directorate General of Climate Change in July 2018, discussions were held to confirm the priorities and delivery of UN-REDD technical assistance, including the investment plan, a business plan, participation in the forthcoming CORSIA as an offset supplier and support on legal issues for the upcoming Environment Fund/BLU funding mechanism. The Government prioritized a demonstration project, where UN-REDD will provide quality assurance in terms of monitoring and evaluation, sharing lessons from other countries and enabling the Government to demonstrate to donor countries that the BLU would have the necessary operating standards.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Staff rotation and institutional changes in the Government have affected delivery of the 2018 activities. Notably, the challenge of coordinating across many different parts of the Ministry, one of the contributions of the Directorate General of Climate Change. As this post was vacant from February to July 2018, coordination required broad consultations with senior staff to avoid

becoming too dependent on individuals. The new Directorate General of Climate Change has effectively been in office since October 2018 and UN-REDD is increasingly engaging with all relevant director generals on sustainable peat management, as well as maintaining close communications on their MRV technical needs and support for establishing the BLU/Environment Fund.

The Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) is planned to close by 2020. As such, an exit/handover strategy will need to be developed to ensure that investment in peatland restoration activities continues.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The UN-REDD Programme is a catalyst for increasing women's participation in activities. For example, there is a minimum requirement of 30 per cent women's participation in Fire Risk Systems trainings for district and provincial government staff and in community-based fire brigade training. Women's participation is also actively sought among cluster management members, staff on NFMS training and exchange visits.

Participation of local communities and indigenous groups has been highlighted and strongly recommended to be replicated, as was the case during the formulation of Fire Clusters at the subnational level, and during the formulation of the MOEF publication on sustainable peatland management.

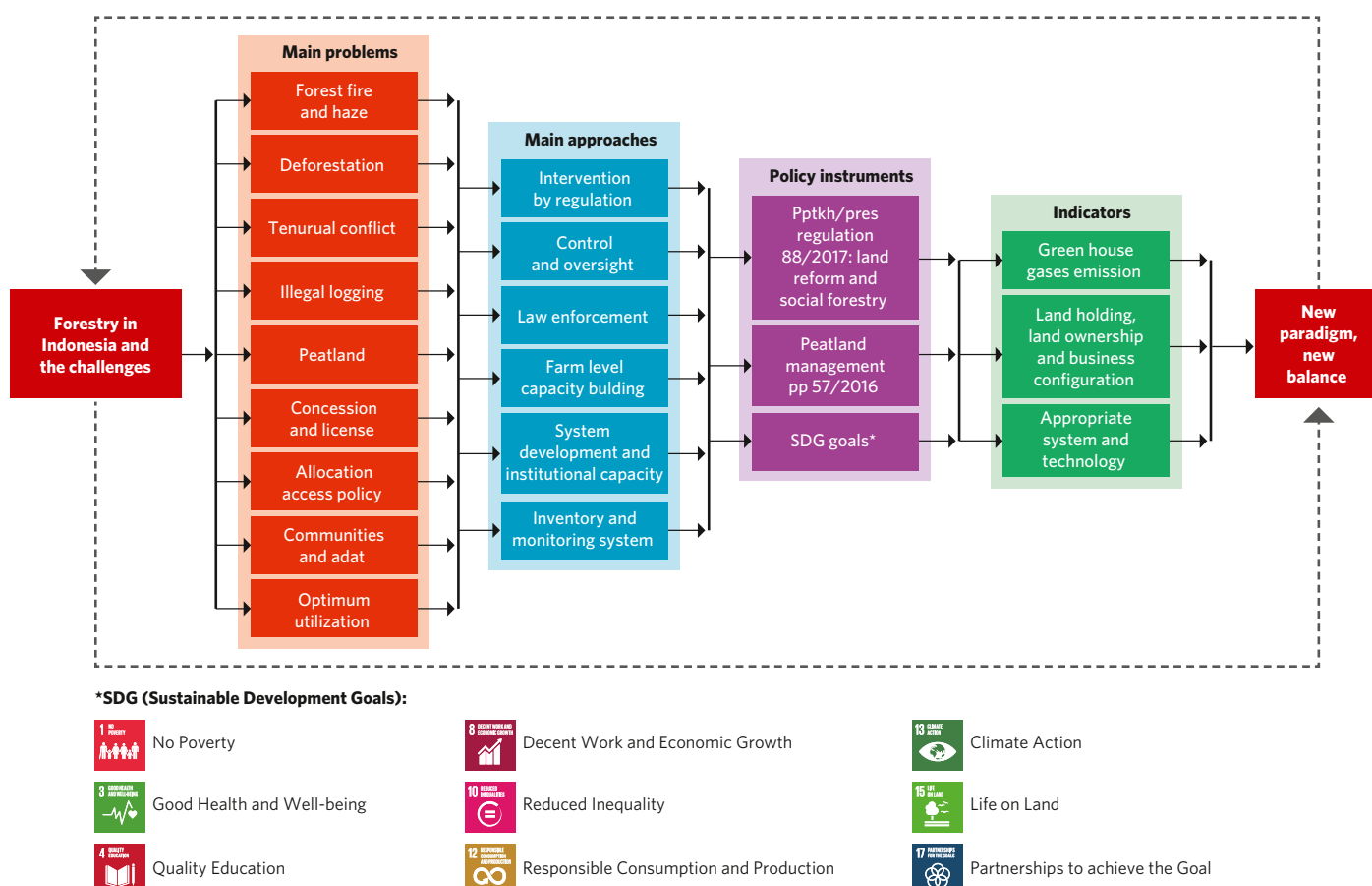
PARTNERSHIPS

Close collaboration between UN-REDD agencies globally and in Indonesia helped to establish the International Tropical Peatland Center (ITPC) and other peat-related collaborative work supporting Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency. Through this effective collaboration, the Government has leveraged UN-REDD's technical assistance.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

Significant progress was made towards the SDGs, including SDG 13 (Climate action), with the launch of the first State of Indonesia's Forests report, which outlines a "new paradigm" of forest governance that links to nine of the SDGs (see figure below).

FIGURE 5. FOREST GOVERNANCE IN INDONESIA



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

The UN-REDD Programme continued to support Liberia in progressing towards finalizing key components of the Warsaw Framework elements.

NFSM: Development of the NFMS, as well as the institutional framework to support this system, are ongoing. The REDD+ Implementation Unit within the Forestry Development Authority currently manages all the AFOLU activities relating to forest-cover monitoring and change assessment. UN-REDD technical assistance supported the preparation of a draft NFMS methodology and guidelines, which have been subsequently validated and implemented. With support from the country's FCPF grant, field teams have been implementing the NFI methodology in fieldwork activities, collecting data throughout the country. NFI activities are ongoing and will be finalized in March 2019.

FREL: Concomitant with the fieldwork activities, support for data processing has been provided by the UN-REDD team. Data managers involved in the fieldwork activities and field team leaders have been capacitated to clean, analyse and interpret inventory results within the context of a carbon inventory and developing an FREL.

Capacity-building activities focusing on the field inventory and the forest cover change analysis continue to respond to the country's MRV needs. An initial country needs assessment, undertaken with UN-REDD technical assistance, informed this process and will be used to further refine recommendations for institutional arrangements to support MRV.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The feasibility of developing a conservation performance monitoring road map in palm oil concessions has been explored. However, discussions with

the IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative and [Green Fund](#), the uncertain situation on the palm oil concessions sector in Liberia and the launch of the Concession Review Panel, led to production of the road map being postponed.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD worked with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to deliver GIS training sessions focused on building capacity on the use of QGIS to carry out spatial analyses to support REDD+ planning (e.g. mapping deforestation, biodiversity richness and hydrological services). An additional working session included a field and a desk component. The field compo-

nent focused on the use, limitations and validation of spatial data sets at different resolutions and scales. The training included presentations, forest data collection in the field and data analyses and validation using QGIS and statistical approaches. The desk component focused on the development of spatial workflows using QGIS to identify priority areas for specific REDD+ interventions, as well as on the production of effective map layouts for policymakers and filling any knowledge gaps regarding the use of QGIS.

A [brief](#) with recommendations on next steps for spatial analysis for Liberia's REDD+ planning was developed and published in September 2018.



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

FREL/FRL: Following Mexico's decision not to submit the technical annex on REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme prepared a technical document that enabled the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) to decide on two methodological scenarios to improve the robustness of uncertainty calculations, without missing the opportunity to access GCF RBP financing windows.

NFMS: The programme conducted capacity development with SEPAL to support CONAFOR efforts to strengthen effective planning and implementation of REDD+ activities at a state level. The programme developed a workplan for South-South cooperation in forest monitoring that has strengthened CONAFOR as a result of the Virtual Center of Excellence in Forest Monitoring of Mesoamerica becoming a major regional platform for consultation and virtual forums on MRV.

SIS: Through UN-REDD programme support, Mexico has continued improv-

ing its SIS, which can now generate reports on the seven Cancun safeguards. Protocols to produce condensed versions of these reports and to communicate them in a more accessible language, as well as to refine institutional arrangements for SIS operation, are also being developed with UN-REDD programme support. Mexico submitted both Spanish and English versions of its first summary of safeguards information (SOI) to UNFCCC in 2018.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD Programme has supported Mexico to use participatory processes for improving understanding among civil society on the legal ownership of carbon in order to implement the Carbon Fund agreement with the World Bank and the [National REDD+ Strategy](#). The Government will promote adjustments to the forestry law, while developing short-term options to allow the appropriate distribution of benefits.

Mexico received the programme's support to develop a map of financing sources for the National REDD+ Strat-

egy. This was further analysed to build a [road map](#) at a [national workshop](#) with 54 participants (47 per cent women) in order to highlight the role of national and private banks. A South-South webinar organized between Costa Rica, Peru and Mexico on lessons learned from participating in RBP initiatives provided [information](#) on the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force actions carried out by states at subnational levels. A similar South-South exchange between Mexico and Colombia was organized to share experiences in the use of market mechanisms for forest conservation. Finally, the programme supported CONAFOR in assessing the feasibility of accessing the forest, LULUCF and RBP windows of the GCF.

An initial scoping of schemes to offset carbon taxes through forest carbon was prepared by the programme and a tax-offset scheme exchange with Colombia was organized. Legal analysis was undertaken to examine whether the existing forest law allowed for the issuance of government-backed or securitized green debt instruments. A review



of instruments in the finance sector for sustainable agriculture models is being undertaken and will be completed in 2019.

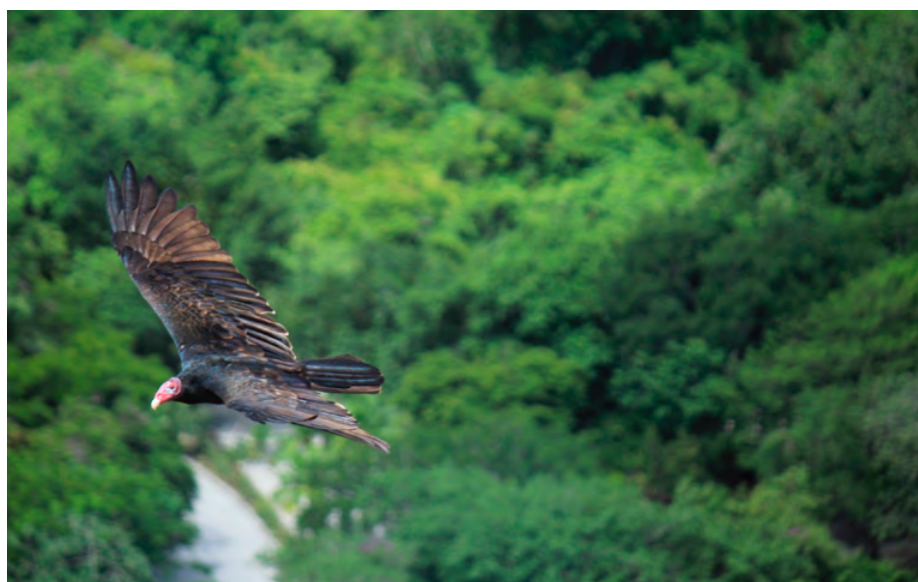
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Mexico's presidential election and subsequent transition period resulted in the realignment of programme activities with UN-REDD programme support. Ongoing communication with the CONAFOR officials ensured that government priorities aligned with UN-REDD Programme activities. CONAFOR made the decision not to submit the updated FREL/FRL in January 2019. As such, the programme proposed a detailed timeline to be considered, enabling access to the GCF financing window for result-based payments for REDD+.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The legal analysis of emission-reductions ownership included gender- and youth-specific recommendations due to frequent marginalization in land-titling and decision-making processes. This was intended to help promote payments being directed to beneficiaries who do not have property titles on forest tenure, but who have contributed to REDD+ mitigation actions.

Mexico's safeguards approach and the development of safeguards processes throughout 2018 has focused strongly on gender. Seven information sheets on REDD+ safeguards were revised for different sectors and recommendations were made to incorporate a gender approach. The information sheets highlighted the role of indigenous peoples, agricultural communities (*ejidos*) and other local actors, and included considerations for land rights and tenure as established in relevant legal frameworks. Mexico's first SOI specifically considers gender, *ejidos*, indigenous



peoples and communities in the interpretation of safeguards, and links its national circumstances, as a pluricultural and multilingual nation, to the legal framework governing land and forest resources.

The UN-REDD Programme promoted the participation of women during 2018. In total, 47 per cent of participants in the national finance workshop and an average of 35 per cent of participants in South-South cooperation events were women.

The UN-REDD Programme actively supports meetings coordinated by CONAFOR within the Climate Change and Forests Committee and the REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee, with participation of representatives from civil society and indigenous communities. These representatives provided inputs for analysing the ownership of emission reductions and the capacity for their transfer to the Carbon Fund.

PARTNERSHIPS

The programme activities are supporting Mexico's participation in the World

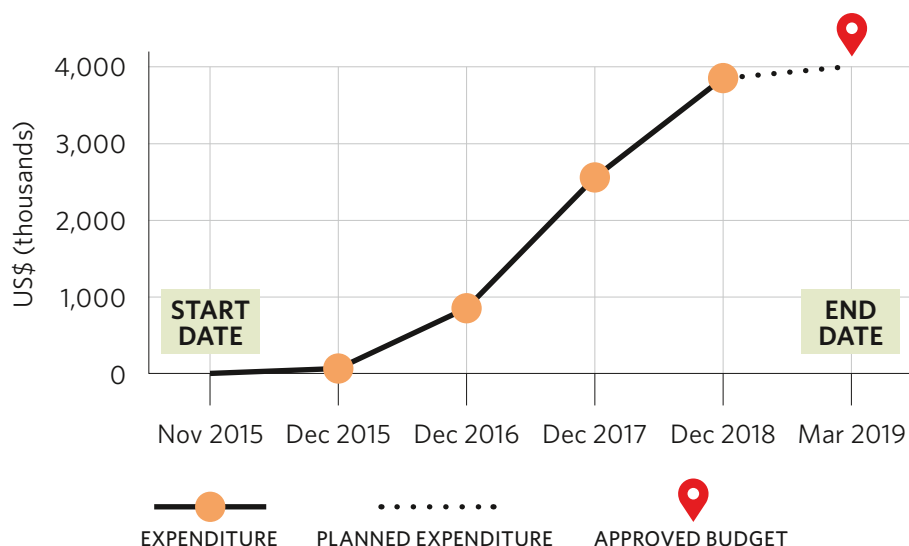
Bank FCPF and BioCarbon Fund, as well as GCF results-based payments under the UNFCCC framework. The work on finance was closely coordinated with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), who co-organized the national workshop along with the UN-REDD Programme. The IDB played a catalytic role by liaising with key stakeholders from the private sector.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

UN-REDD programme support in Mexico has strengthened the capacity of national and subnational actors to take action on SDG target 13.B on climate change-related planning and management through further capacity development related to the NFMS. SDG 5 (Gender equality) is being addressed through women and youth empowerment as part of Mexico's safeguards approach. Financial-sector work undertaken during 2018 will ultimately lead to contributions to SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (Life on land) through the further development of sustainable agricultural models in 2019.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The national REDD+ programme has been drafted along with the action plan. They were informed by the latest study findings, including those on financing mechanisms and options for REDD+ implementation; recommendations for the wood-processing industry; corruption risk assessments; options for effective fire and pest management; identification of potential benefits and risks associated with proposed REDD+ PAMs; and gender-responsive and socially inclusive stakeholder engagement. The draft national REDD+ programme and action plan were further advanced through an extensive consultation process and active engagement of a core working group throughout 2018.

FREL/FRL: A nationally endorsed FRL was submitted to UNFCCC for technical assessment in January 2018. It was then amended based on assessment recommendations and resubmitted in June 2018, entailing a complete set of compiled historical activity data and emis-

sion factors. The FRL was developed by a core group of technical specialists from key national institutions, whose capacities have been strengthened with UN-REDD support. The assessment team acknowledged that the information and data set used for Mongolia's FRL were transparent, complete and overall in accordance with UNFCCC guidelines. In late November 2018, UNFCCC provided a draft assessment report, which is currently being reviewed.

NFMS: Mongolia's first comprehensive and multipurpose NFI in 2016 was updated in 2018 to include information on poorly stocked forest. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) made the decision to undertake an NFI on an ongoing, annual basis, covering at least 10 per cent of permanent NFI sample plots per year, and committed to allocate budget for the NFI under the MET forest management budget. Based on the raw data collected on the below-ground biomass stock of Mongolia's dominant tree species, national research institutes developed a regionally specific biomass model. Data generated through

these studies will help improve the accuracy of biomass and greenhouse gas emission estimates in the future. In October 2018, the Government formally approved a technical guidance document that makes Mongolia's national land use and land-use change statistics compliant with the IPCC guidelines.

SIS: Mongolia's [National REDD+ Safeguards Framework](#) has been designed with stakeholder participation in accordance with the UNFCCC safeguards and national goals and circumstances, making full use of existing systems and institutions in the country. The SIS is set out in a two-volume report, 'Mongolia's REDD+ Safeguard Information System: Proposed Structure, Functions and Roles', available in both English ([vol. 1](#) and [2](#)) and Mongolian ([vol. 1](#) and [2](#)). It includes five key components: goals and scope; potential benefits and risks, and measures to enhance/mitigate these; safeguards, relevant policies, laws and regulations; national safeguards clarification; and GRMs. An Excel version of the SIS database has been developed with relevant content and indicators and will potentially be integrated into an online database hosted by the Environment Information Centre (EIC).

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Changes in key personnel, including technical advisers and the National Programme Director, presented challenges in 2018. The Programme Director was absent for almost five months due to changes in government structure and implementing partner (MET), causing considerable delays to the activities planned in the 2018 workplan. A four-month no-cost extension was requested and approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board to compensate for the delays caused by these changes.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

A Handbook for Socially Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Stakeholder Engagement was developed for government gender specialists and forest



extension officers at the subnational level. A complementary capacity-building manual was tested at a pilot training in Mandal soum, Selenge aimag, with participants representing rural women, forest-user groups, local gender focal points, the private sector and other government entities (10 women and 10 men). In total, 1,574 participants (857 men and 717 women) attended workshops and capacity-building events organized by UN-REDD in 2018. Where possible, equal representation of women and men was ensured in management structures and stakeholder engagement platforms, such as the Programme Executive Board (PEB), and in technical working groups on the Strategy, Safeguards and SIS, and NFMS/FRL.

In 2018, the CSO forum, known as the

Forest-Sustainable Development Council (FSDC), continued to provide inputs to the development of the National REDD+ Programme and Action Plan, representing views from local communities and civil society. The CSO constituency is represented on the PEB and in technical working groups. All members of the FSDC were trained via the Basic REDD+ Training of Trainers. This training was an important step towards building capacities at the local level.

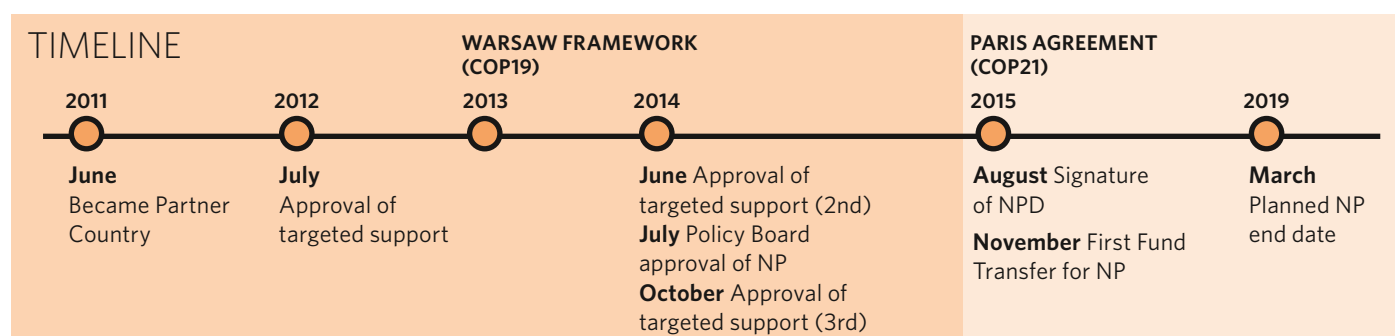
PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with relevant programmes run by institutions such as GIZ, the Asian Development Bank, and the FAO/GEF forest programmes, have been effectively maintained. Representatives of GIZ and FAO/GEF projects continued to engage in coordination efforts through

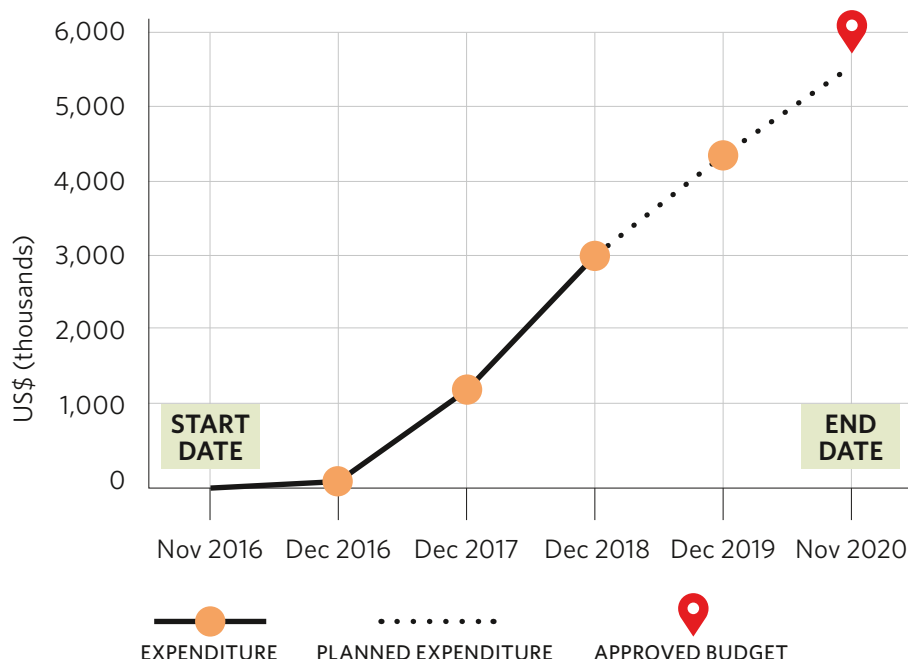
the Programme Executive Board (PEB). The national REDD+ programme process is informing the NDC update that is currently under way.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

A [Factsheet on REDD+ and the SDGs](#) was prepared and disseminated to policy- and decision makers. The national REDD+ programme (strategy), its action plan and investment plan will inform the ongoing SDG planning and budgeting process. In addition, capacities at the local level were enhanced through Basic REDD+ Training and other technical trainings, thus contributing to the national SDG commitment to “educate citizens on coping with climate change through a framework of lifelong education”.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



Moreover, two information briefs were produced through the newly created Sustainable Finance coordination group, covering 'Banking on Forests in Myanmar' and 'Exposure to risks posed by unsustainable land use: what can Burmese banks do?'

Revised Phase II national-level institutional structures have been identified for UN-REDD technical assistance. Tanintharyi and Bago were established as the priority states/regions. The matter of how to engage subnational coordination structures has been discussed in consideration of potential REDD+ programmes in Myanmar and ongoing discussions with EAOs.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The legal framework for forests and environmental conservation is evolving rapidly in Myanmar, with new laws on forestry and on conservation of biodiversity and Protected Areas passed in 2018. Actions to support the subsequent development of by-laws, which were not originally anticipated, have therefore been supported.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

To date, women's participation in Myanmar's REDD+ Task Force and in technical working groups has been limited (less than 20 per cent) and no explicit gender or women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Myanmar's draft National REDD+ Strategy was posted for a period of public comment in April-May 2018. Based on feedback, additional consultations on five of the more contentious PAMs have been scheduled, with two already completed in 2018.

FREL/FRL: A nationally endorsed FRL, including reduced emissions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, was submitted to UNFCCC for technical assessment in January 2018. Government counterparts were supported to engage in the technical assessment process, and to respond to comments received from UNFCCC in July. The revised FRL document was resubmitted and technically assessed, and ready for uploading to the [UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub](#) by late 2018.

NFMS: NFI design and sampling approaches have been developed in line

with the existing forest inventory grid system at the Forest Management Unit level and harmonized with land attributes for activity data and emission-factor reporting.

SIS: A national clarification of the Cancun safeguards has been completed, and an outline for the draft design of the SIS has been developed.



REDD+ Safeguards Road Map (September 2017 version). Acknowledging these gaps in gender mainstreaming, the REDD+ Task Force Secretariat prepared a briefing note on the role of women in REDD+ in Myanmar and how women's active role in REDD+ can be supported moving forward. These recommendations were presented during the fifth meeting of the task force and options are now being explored to promote women's active role in REDD+, including through improved institutional arrangements and a focus on capacity-building.

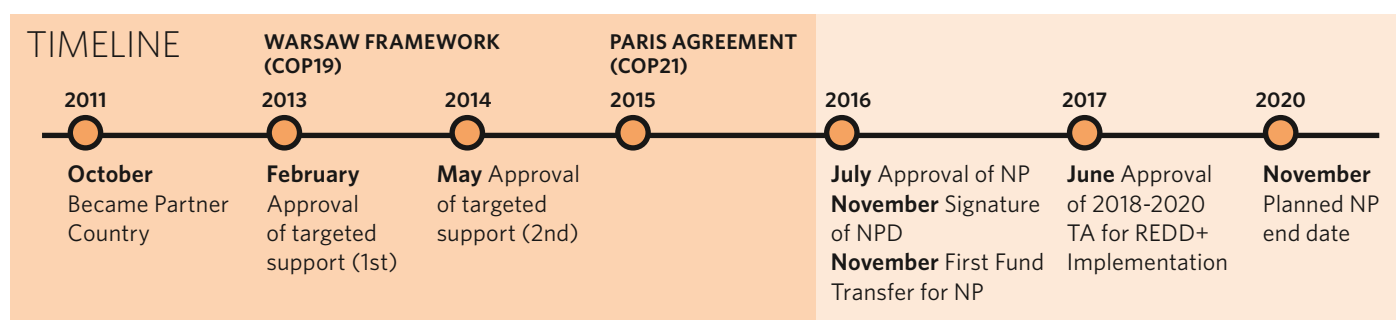
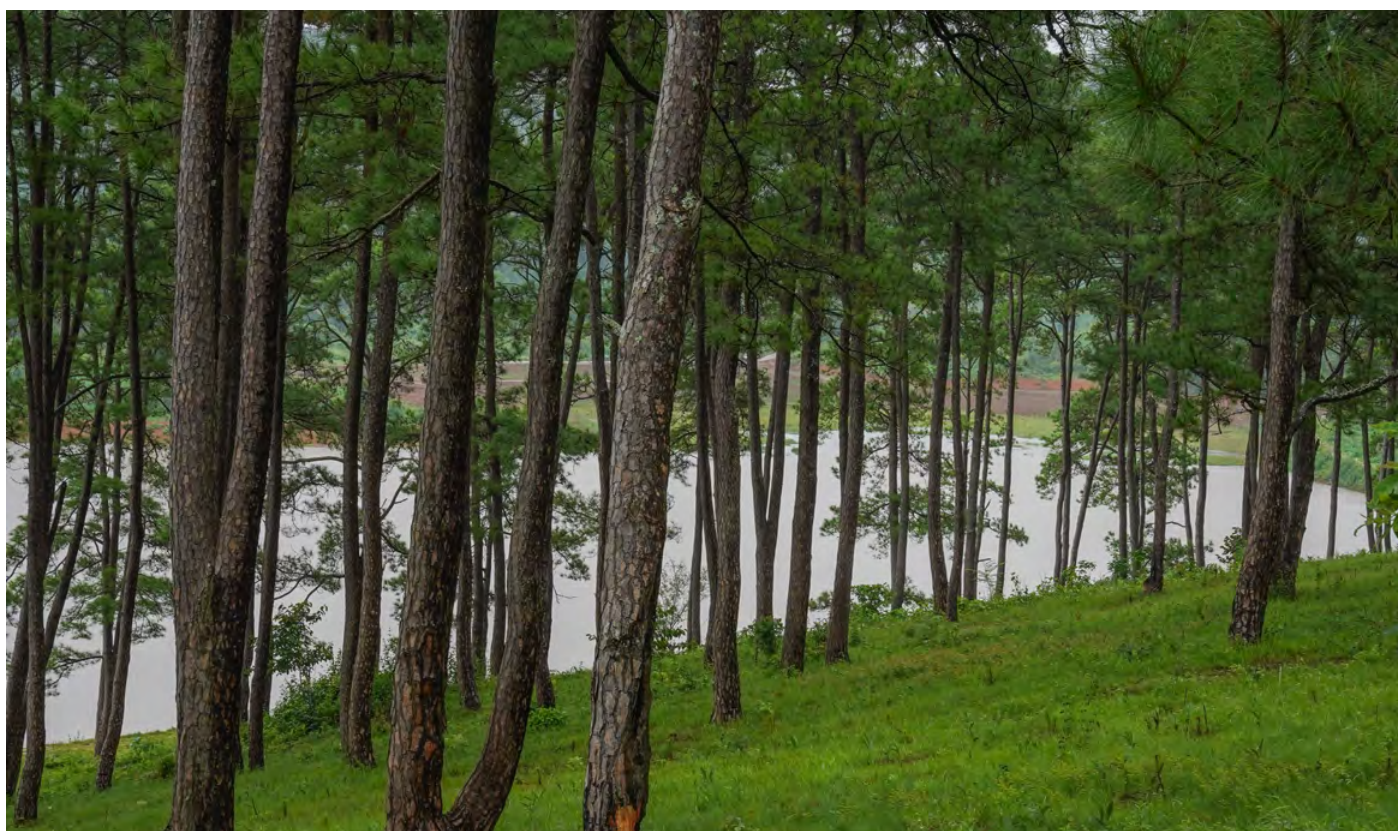
POINT, an indigenous peoples' organization, and MERN, a national CSO, continue to represent their constituencies on the PEB. Moreover, other national Implementation Plan organizations and CSOs are actively participating through the technical working groups. From De-

cember 2017 to April 2018, subnational consultations on the draft National REDD+ Strategy in 12 states and regions, which were outsourced to MERN, obtained feedback from 644 participants (139 women and 505 men).

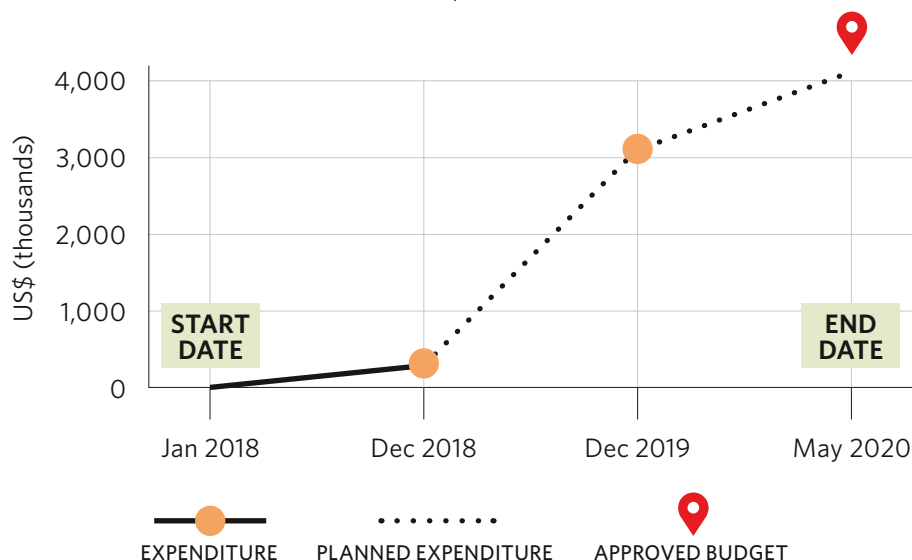
EAOs are key stakeholders in the Myanmar REDD+ national programme, since significant areas of forest are under their control. Engaging them is a complex task and presents multiple challenges. There are also a significant number of EAOs, meaning that a prioritization process for their engagement is required. The following prioritization criteria for EAO engagement have been identified: have signed the National Ceasefire Agreement; control 'significant' amounts of territory; have internal governance structures with which consultation is likely to yield results (e.g. Forest Department or similar).

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The focus on engagement with ethnic minorities is contributing to progress on SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) in Myanmar. The National Ceasefire Agreement calls for cooperation between the Union Government and EAOs on environmental conservation, but there have been no examples of such cooperation as yet. Given that REDD+ in Myanmar will operate at the national level, endorsement of specific REDD+ actions by the Union Government and EAOs is essential. REDD+ in Myanmar will also contribute to SDG target 15.2 – By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/APs: UN-REDD support to Peru in 2018 focused on assisting the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) to set up a framework for implementing Peru's [National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change](#) (ENBCC). This included contributing to an agreement among stakeholders on the content of the [JDI](#) Phase II Implementation Plan; assisting MINAM to set up the JDI Phase II Implementation Plan so that it also contributes to the implementation of the ENBCC; and developing a basis for stakeholder discussions on the overall governance structure of the forest and climate change agenda in Peru, including the ENBCC, JDI Phase II Implementation Plan and LULUCF [NDC](#), among other projects and instruments.

NFMS: In 2018, the national forest and wildlife authority, SERFOR, received legal support from UN-REDD to develop a protocol for defining the organizational structure of the National Forestry and Wildlife Information System (SNIFFS) and its modules, including the

forest-cover monitoring module. The road map for integrating the Indigenous-MRV approach, developed in 2017, served as the basis for identifying the specific needs of Amazonian Indigenous peoples' organizations, and will guide national programme support for integrating the approach into the SNIFFS.

FREL/FRL: UN-REDD provided support to improve reporting processes such as the greenhouse gas inventory, specifically in the LULUCF sector for the second BUR, as well as reporting processes on the implications of Peru's FREL for accessing Carbon Fund-resources and for subnational initiatives. As a result, a road map was developed to improve the FREL and the next greenhouse gas inventory. UN-REDD also provided training on SEPAL and Google Earth Engine to MINAM, SERFOR and the National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP).

SIS: In 2018, Peru made significant progress on the implementation of their Safeguards Road Map. This included the development of a proposal for the na-

tional interpretation of safeguards, the identification of participatory processes related to safeguards, the development of considerations and key elements for SIS design and the outline of a table of contents for the SOI. Stakeholder consultations on these outputs included meetings with the Safeguards Expert Group, regional workshops, bilateral meetings with relevant institutions and a national multi-stakeholder workshop.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD technical assistance delivered in Peru in 2018 contributed to advancing numerous elements of REDD+ implementation, including: the development the Climate Change Law provisions on stakeholder engagement and REDD+ and a political declaration to combat deforestation; the enhancement of Peru's stakeholder engagement plan and its alignment with the Climate Change Law provisions related to civil society engagement; support for assessing the alternatives for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and their implications; details of LULUCF NDC measures for NDC implementation; the enhancement of the greenhouse gas inventory for the LULUCF sector; and support for defining the SNIFFS protocol that will facilitate coordination among government entities and stakeholders for the management of forest monitoring information in prioritized areas for REDD+ implementation.

In coordination with the execution of Peru's JDI, UN-REDD also supported progress towards defining an implementation framework for the ENBCC and PAMs, including: input to stakeholder dialogues to agree on the content of the JDI Phase II Implementation Plan; technical sessions to adjust the JDI Phase II Results Framework so that it aligns with both JDI and ENBCC objectives; input to inform decision-making on forest and climate change governance structures, financial mechanisms for REDD+ and other issues; assistance for the implementation of prioritized PAMs; and sup-

port to develop a portfolio of productive bankable initiatives along the value chains for coffee, cocoa and sustainable forest management.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In 2018, the national REDD+ process faced some challenges due to a national discussion and review of the political views and priorities on the forest-climate nexus and its related development issues. This resulted in delays in implementing the national programme and necessary adjustments to the delivery of UN-REDD technical assistance. Regular interaction with government counterparts enabled priorities, approaches and timelines to be successfully adjusted so that the national process could advance with a renewed focus and UN-REDD technical assistance could continue to offer value to the country.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Based on the lessons learned from a UN-REDD-supported capacity-building programme on REDD+, tailored to indigenous peoples (where gender considerations were identified and integrated), specific gender-responsive elements have been integrated into the design of Peru's national programme

during its inception phase. For example, at meetings in the Amazon region to narrow down the scope of the national programme, priority was given to the views of indigenous women, particularly in the context of linking the indigenous approach to forest monitoring to the NFMS. Additionally, guidance was provided to the Government on how to strengthen the gender approach within the proposed Climate Change Law regulation and the 2018-2020 Stakeholder Participation Plan.

Regarding social inclusion, UN-REDD supported the Government to maintain an open dialogue with relevant stakeholders on issues related to forests and climate change. The forum created for this purpose, [Dialoguemos](#), was used as the main platform for discussing issues related to UN-REDD support. Similarly, when providing inputs on the governance structure for the forests and climate change agenda, or on the Climate Change Law regulation, UN-REDD supported means for the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders. Finally, as in the design phase, the implementation of Peru's UN-REDD national programme endeavoured to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders

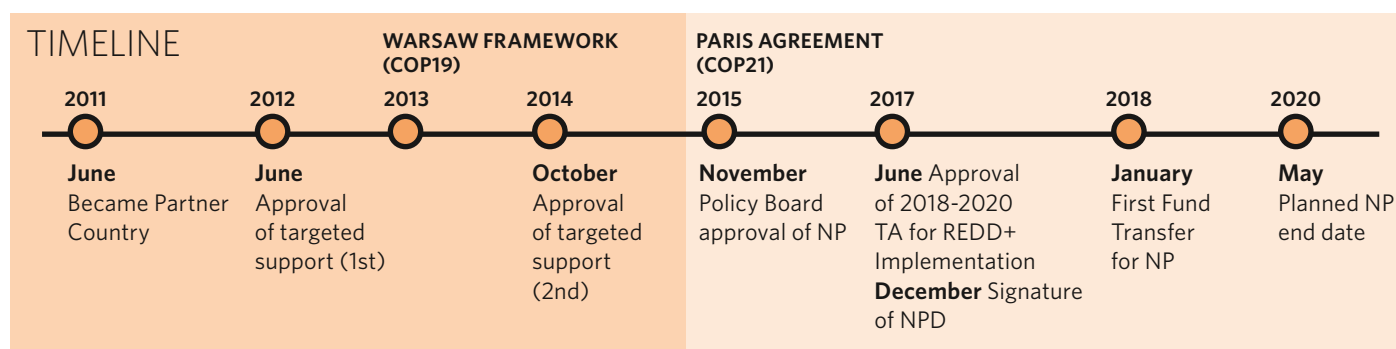
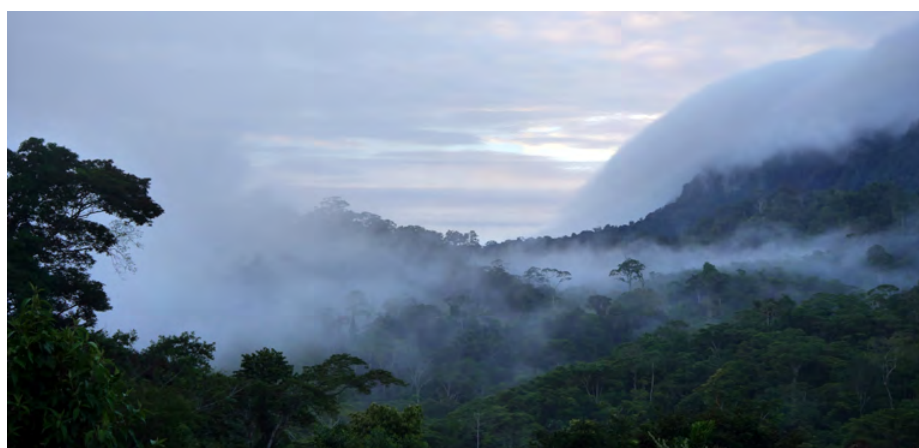
from the Government and civil society, including indigenous peoples.

PARTNERSHIPS

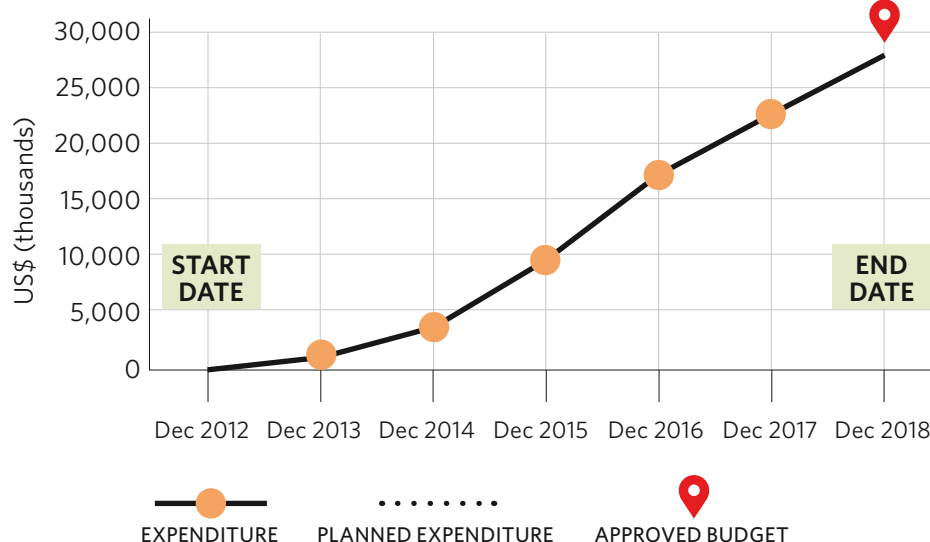
In 2018, support for developing the JDI Phase II Implementation Plan provided an opportunity to accompany the Government of Peru in its efforts to ensure that all initiatives related to forests and climate change are mapped out and aligned with the objectives of the ENBCC and the JDI. In this context, the draft governance structure for forests and climate change includes a specific subcommittee that will focus on the coordination and alignment of relevant projects and programmes in the country. Although there is no formal partnership agreement, the fact that the governance structure has pre-identified a platform to ensure coordination is a step forward.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

In addition to SDG 13 (particularly targets 13.2, 13.3 and 13.B) and SDG 15 (targets 15.2 and 15.9), UN-REDD in Peru contributes to: SDG target 1.4, through supporting the implementation of Peru's JDI work on indigenous peoples' land-titling; SDG target 4.7, by including sustainable development in capacity-building programmes on forest and climate change; SDG targets 5.1 and 5.5, by taking concrete action to actively engage women in national programme and technical assistance activities, i.e. designing capacity-building activities in a gender-sensitive manner and capturing women's voices on needs for capacity-building; SDG targets 16.6 and 16.10, through promoting transparency and access to information, i.e. through the work on NFMS and safeguards; and SDG target 16.7, through support for participatory spaces and governance.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Viet Nam has fully achieved the four key requirements of the Warsaw Framework. Having earlier completed its National REDD+ Strategy, NFMS and FREL/FRL, in 2018 the Government fulfilled the final requirement: an operational and online [SIS](#), as well as the [SOI](#) on safeguards. The SOI was completed

in November 2018 and submitted to UNFCCC in January 2019, outlining how the country will address and respect the safeguards throughout REDD+ implementation. Under the NFMS, development, institutionalization and documentation of REDD+ progressed. Development of standard operating procedures, including the NFI cycle V Quality Assessment and Quality Con-

trol (QA/QC) protocol, is under way. The programme provided suggestions for updating the FRL to put the country in a better position for accessing RBP under the GCF pilot. For the time being, Viet Nam has determined not to resubmit an FRL.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The midterm National REDD+ Action Plan Implementation Plan for 2018–2020 was endorsed by MARD in December 2018. The implementation plan marks the successful cross-sectoral and in-depth engagement with key stakeholders. It lays the foundations for accelerating resource mobilization for implementing the National REDD+ Action Plan. A draft monitoring and evaluation framework for REDD+ implementation has been designed to track and support REDD+ implementation by stakeholders. Continued support was provided on REDD+ implementation in pilot provinces. In 2018, particular progress was made in engaging private-sector actors, including on the development of responsible investment guidelines, forest certification and engagement with commodity industry groups such as rubber, coffee and cashews, towards deforestation-free sustainable investments.

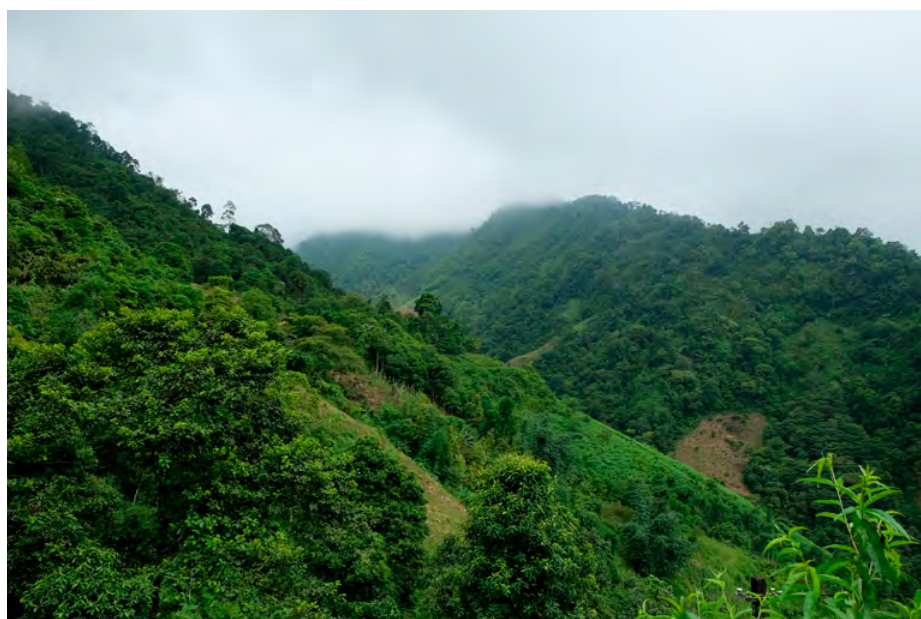
Moreover, the UN-REDD Programme helped develop a deforestation-free jurisdictional approach for the Central Highlands, with a focus on mobilizing finance to introduce deforestation-free practices in the coffee supply chain.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

UN-REDD programme support is on track and 2018 marked the occasion of the national programme successfully achieving the programme targets, as assessed by the Final Programme Evaluation. The documentation of lessons learned and experiences is scheduled to be delivered by June 2019.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Building on the 2013 gender analysis of the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase I



programme, the Phase II national programme focused on implementing gender-responsive actions. Beginning with integrating gender-responsive methods into key development guidelines for the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan and Site-based REDD+ Implementation Plan, and extending to implementation and monitoring, activities in 2018 continued to engage men and women across activities at the national and subnational levels. Efforts included promotion of women's participation in meetings and implementation activities specific to each site, and outreach to vulnerable households, including female-led households, for livelihood support activities. Women's unions also continued to be active at the subnational level.

A high-level forum on ethnic minorities and the development of a sustainable value chain of forest products was held on 20 August 2018, organized in collaboration with the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs and the private sector, and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister.

An FPIC review is being finalized and the study findings will be shared to further inform engagement processes in Viet Nam.

PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD Programme has continued to coordinate on a regular basis with the FCPF, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), GIZ and other development partners that work

directly on REDD+ as well as on areas that contribute to it, such as FLEGT and responsible agriculture. The programme has served as the core support programme for national REDD+ sector coordination. As such, the conclusion of the national programme in 2018 will present challenges for continued momentum, including coordination. However, the national programme has developed an exit and handing-over strategy that includes strategies on coordination.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The UN-REDD Programme is supporting MARD to develop a document that clarifies the role of the sustainable forestry agenda in achieving the SDGs in Viet Nam, to be finalized by mid-2019.



PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

FREL/FRL: In 2018, Zambia completed the technical assessment of its FREL, which had been developed in 2015 and submitted to UNFCCC in early 2016. Making the FREL publicly available on the [UNFCCC REDD+ Info Hub](#) marks a major milestone in progress towards the pillars of the Warsaw Framework.

NFMS: The NFMS was launched in 2017. It includes a Satellite Land Monitoring System for generating activity data and draws on the NFI (Integrated Land-Use Assessment Phase II) for emission factors.

SIS: Technical assistance was provided to the Government and National Safeguards Technical Working Group to help finalize the national interpretation of the Cancun safeguards and the SIS design document. Furthermore, the country's first SOI on safeguards was produced for final review and government approval in 2019.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Following the presentation of the National REDD+ Strategy Investment Plan in late 2017, the UN-REDD Programme supported Zambia to utilize the investment plan for REDD+ implementation, notably through the development and

ongoing review of a set of more detailed concept notes for REDD+ investments. A policy brief on key investment options in participatory forest management was finalized, and a special feature on the online global discussion platform (D-Group on REDD+ and Forest Governance) was organized to highlight the opportunities presented by Zambia's new community forestry legislation.

In late 2018, the Forestry Department made important progress on designing Zambia's approach to nesting subnational REDD+ efforts (notably the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP), discussed below) and carbon credit projects within the NFMS and its FREL. Facilitated by the UN-REDD Programme, stakeholders recommended that projects be integrated into the system and that they participate in the REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanism, rather than accessing international carbon markets directly.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The Zambian Forestry Department required additional human resources from within the Government to be reallocated to improve delivery and communications. Major challenges related to this have delayed progress on UN-REDD Programme activities.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender parity is a guiding principle when organizing capacity development interventions as part of the UN-REDD Programme. For example, the UN-REDD Programme supported a policy brief on participatory forest management, which integrated gender considerations. It suggested the need for strategies to ensure that women benefit from participatory forest management projects (i.e. through quotas or preferential treatment) and the idea of female-run woodlots to ease fuelwood supply duties.

Zambia's first SOI resulted from an analytical and participatory process that involved diverse stakeholders: key



government agencies, CSOs, the private sector, academia and existing REDD+ project representatives.

The UN-REDD Programme engaged with the Zambia Climate Change Network to review its plan and objectives to participate effectively in ongoing climate change processes in the country, such as the Seventh National Development Plan.

PARTNERSHIPS

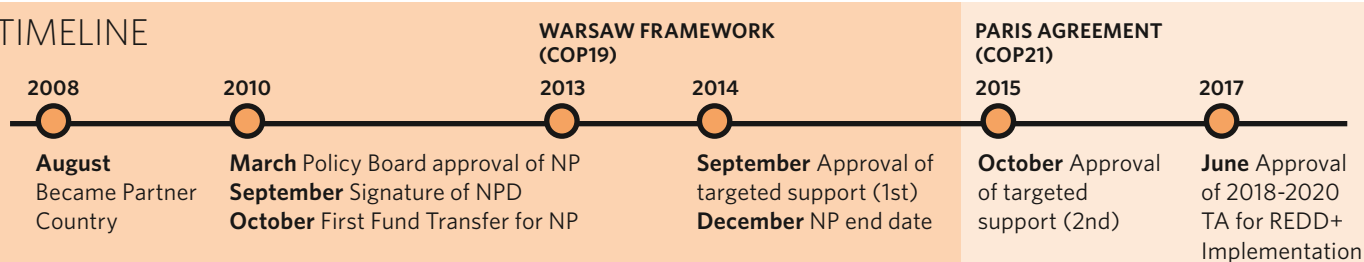
UN-REDD programme support is closely coordinated with other REDD+ initiatives, especially at the subnational level. During 2018, the ZIFLP launched in Eastern Province. The ZIFLP is expected to utilize much of the capacity built with UN-REDD programme support and ongoing support is being tailored to be conducive to the ZIFLP.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The completion of the FREL, the launch of the NFMS and the progress towards the SIS correlate with SDG 15 regarding the sustainable management of forest resources. The gender-sensitive approach to analysing investment opportunities promotes the achievement of SDG 5 on gender equality.



TIMELINE



Knowledge management results

The following section presents the results in 2018 across the knowledge management thematic areas. The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that support for knowledge management areas complements country-level support. Moreover, it is critical to the achievement of the four pillars under the Warsaw Framework and to REDD+ implementation. The knowledge management areas reflect the programme's Results Framework: landscape approaches and planning; forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples; financing and the private sector; forest monitoring systems and MRV; linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs; REDD+ funding mechanisms; and cross-cutting communication.

LANDSCAPE APPROACHES AND PLANNING

The UN-REDD Programme's global work on landscape approaches and planning aims to synthesize experiences on land-use planning/spatial planning to accelerate REDD+ implementation, both through knowledge-sharing events and knowledge products. Multiple land-use planning will help achieve transformational change at a landscape scale in order to raise ambitions in the NDCs.

Specific examples of tools and approaches for integrated land-use planning and management, as well

as lessons learned from country-level implementation, were explored and shared during the technical session at the Sixth World Forest Week entitled '[Common Ground: multipurpose land-use planning for halting deforestation](#)'. The exchange organized by the UN-REDD Programme included country representatives from Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico, as well the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Participants highlighted the need for community participation in land-use planning and for support to enable the development of innovative tools that facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration.

During 2018, the experiences of various countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America in integrating non-carbon benefits and spatial-analysis results into REDD+ policy documents were amalgamated into an Info Brief – Spatial analysis: a tool for integrated land-use planning for REDD+ (available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)). The Info Brief documents best practice in this field to help those countries that are still preparing their NS/APs, as well as those who have already approved an NS/AP and are now in the process of developing investment or implementation plans. Furthermore, two reports about [using spatial analysis to support REDD+ land-use planning](#) were elab-

orated and tailored to the context of Liberia and Papua New Guinea. These highlighted the importance of analysing, considering and strengthening benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods.

As of October 2018, 27 UN-REDD partner countries have a finalized NS/AP.¹⁹ Almost all the available national and subnational REDD+ Strategy and planning documents (published and yet to be published) include non-carbon benefits among their objectives or strategic goals, with maps included in two thirds of them. Several countries (e.g. Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Peru, Sri Lanka and Zambia) have included spatial analyses to inform their REDD+ planning documents, focusing on deforestation hotspots, ecosystem boundaries or watershed-based landscape approaches. More than 20 countries have received UN-REDD support for identifying and mapping non-carbon benefits. Of these, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Nigeria have directly included the results on multiple benefits in their REDD+ plans and strategies. In Viet Nam, where UN-REDD support has focused on integrated land-use planning, spatial analyses have been included in the Provincial REDD+ Action Plans to identify priority areas for the implementation of REDD+ PAMs, using participatory approaches.

Integrated land-use planning aims to balance, in a participative, evidence-based way, the goals of different sectors or policy areas. Within a REDD+ context, this involves understanding the potential benefits and risks related to the objectives of specific REDD+ actions, and how they vary across a country or landscape. What policy or measure is implemented, where it is implemented and how it is implemented are factors that will collectively influence the social, environmental and economic outcomes. The analysis of benefits and risks specific to REDD+ PAMs has been carried out in numerous countries with UN-REDD support to help ensure that REDD+ is designed and implemented in a way that avoids



19 See list of 24 finalized UN-REDD-supported National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs) on page 6. In addition, Ghana, Liberia and Malaysia, all of which are UN-REDD partner countries, have finalized their NS/APs.

Impact Story: Kenya

REDD+ PROJECT CHANGES LIVES FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

KENYA LOSES significant forest area each year through deforestation. Demand for fuelwood, timber products and charcoal, as well as population and infrastructure pressures and the conversion of forest to agricultural land have led to dramatic climate change impacts in the country. However, the country's forest cover has been improving in recent years, in part due to the REDD+ readiness activities under way in Kenya, which have educated women and youth across the country on the importance of forest preservation.

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme, has embarked on a process to develop Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidelines for Kenya – the first of their kind in Africa. Indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities, including women and youth, are the central drivers of this multi-stakeholder process. Their engagement is essential to the success of REDD+ in Kenya because the majority of remaining forests are located where they live, and also because they have played a major historical and cultural role in the sustainable management of forests for centuries.

“The REDD+ project has been a life-changer because previously, communities were left out of the conversation around tree planting efforts,” says Tecla Chiumba, treasurer with the National Alliance of Community Forest Associations in Kenya. She says that women and youth are now involved in forest conservation, tree planting both in forests and on their own farms, as well as in developing and implementing innovative wood product ventures to generate income.

“Forest communities are very happy, and there are now a lot of women and youth active in conservation,”



she says. “Replanting efforts and REDD+ activities have not only meant preserving forests, but have also allowed us to get firewood from the trees on our farms, not in faraway forests, and it has brought water closer to us. This saves us time and dramatically improves our lives as women.”

Many young people across the country involved with REDD+ now have their own woodlots on family farms, allowing them to earn a living by planting trees and selling seedlings to nurseries. “They have formed groups and gotten jobs,” says Chiumba. “It has changed their lives completely.”

Utilizing the knowledge they have acquired through the UN-REDD Programme's support, forest communities in Kenya will continue planting trees, conserving what they have and creating non-wood products such as beehives and mushrooms to conserve the forest while also generating income and employment, according to Chiumba. “We have realized the importance of trees. Unless we plant trees, we won't have water and we can't sustain life.”

or mitigates potential environmental and social risks and enhances benefits, in line with the Cancun safeguards. These specific benefits and risks were mentioned in almost half of the strategy documents reviewed and, in most cases, there was evidence that they had influenced the choice of PAMs incorporated into REDD+ strategies and plans.

Interviews with representatives from nine different countries identified the following key factors enabling the integration of non-carbon benefits and risks into REDD+ strategies and plans: reliability of spatial data; timing of spatial

analyses; clarity of goals; relevance to policies; and stakeholder involvement. Best practices emerging from REDD+ work, which support the integration of spatial-analysis results into policy, include use of participatory approaches to agree on analysis objectives; alignment of spatial analyses and policy development; involvement of key stakeholders; increased accessibility and availability of spatial data; and technical capacity-building.

To support REDD+ countries in undertaking spatial analyses, the UN-REDD Programme has this year developed

four new GIS tutorials (on wind erosion, fire, landslide vulnerability and multiple benefits – available at <http://bit.ly/gistools-redd>), which were tested in country working sessions. Two existing tutorials (Comparison of carbon data sets and ArcGis Toolbox) have also had a major update.

FOREST TENURE AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The UN-REDD Programme continued to provide a wide range of partner countries and stakeholders with advice, knowledge, facilitation and tested practices to promote the rights of in-

indigenous peoples and local communities, including political, tenure and natural-resource rights. This knowledge-based support comprised participatory policy platforms, legal and institutional instruments such as protocols for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM), and approaches to integrate the perspectives and proposals of indigenous peoples into investment programmes (e.g. GCF proposals). In addition, the programme continued to produce and disseminate knowledge on the responsible governance of tenure of land and forests, and how this is critical for broadening REDD+ results and simultaneously advancing indigenous and community rights. Here follow some country examples and global efforts where UN-REDD knowledge on forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples has been a catalyst for change in the REDD+ arena.



In Viet Nam, UN-REDD provided knowledge and technical advice to advance institutional measures for stakeholder engagement and to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples. The implementation of a blueprint for stakeholder engagement to underpin the deployment of REDD+ plans at the provincial and site levels was concluded, including a set of FPIC provisions. Simultaneously, reports outlining the GRM proposed for REDD+ in Viet Nam, and lessons from the blueprint – including those related to FPIC – were prepared for dissemination. In addition, the efforts to promote the development rights of ethnic minorities – most of whom dwell in forest areas and have engaged in REDD+ as a catalyst for change – yielded pioneer outcomes: most prominently, a High-level Ethnic Minority Development Forum was convened for the first time in August 2018 and was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, who recognized the need for specific policy and investment approaches in forest lands and in communities of ethnic minorities. In addition, a policy brief on [“Positioning Ethnic Minorities as Key Partners in Forest Supply Chains in Viet Nam”](#) was released. From a social media perspective, a photo essay and a video demonstrated the new collaboration between

ethnic minorities and private companies, as shown in Lao Cai.

In Myanmar, UN-REDD, which is active through both a national programme and technical assistance, provided expert knowledge and shared best practices to engage EAOs, which dwell in and control large forest areas, in dialogue on forest conservation and sustainable development. In addition, a set of options and recommendations on a GRM for actions and investments in forest lands in Myanmar was prepared, paving the ground for institutional mechanisms that can reconcile national investments with community rights.

UN-REDD continued to provide knowledge and tested practice on participatory policy, stakeholder engagement and consultation mechanisms across Latin America, with a focus on the rights of indigenous peoples. This ranged from forest policy, climate policy and internal regulations design and FPIC instruments, to investment programmes for REDD+ results. On these topics, intense knowledge transfer and technical assistance on how to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples into REDD+ policies and investments was provided to Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Pan-

ama, Paraguay and Honduras, among other countries. In [Panama](#), UN-REDD technical experts supported indigenous peoples’ communities (Aruza and Embera-Drua) in developing internal regulations aimed at formalizing traditional rights and regulating the use and management of forest resources.

In Ecuador, UN-REDD support continued to generate and consolidate opportunities for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ implementation phase (Ecuador was the second country to fulfil the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ requirements and the first to receive GCF REDD+ funding). As a result, indigenous peoples are recognized as priority actors in the implementation of the REDD+ Action Plan: more particularly, PROAmazonía – the forerunner REDD+ programme in the country with US\$ 62 million in financing from GCF – has provisions to ensure that indigenous peoples must participate in at least 60 per cent of the actions. In Ecuador, the international case for indigenous peoples as forefront stakeholders for REDD+, coupled with the Government’s commitment to an inclusive REDD+ agenda, has yielded a rights-based approach to REDD+ actions and investments.

In Colombia, the full and active participation of indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples in national policy processes, from the forest and climate strategies to national development plans, reached a climax in 2018, with the release of the national strategy on forests (“Bosques, Territorios de Vida”) and the advancement of the national development plan. These two key national policy streams show a notable recognition for and inclusion of indigenous peoples’ rights and their relevance in forest issues. They are a model of best, inclusive practice to other countries. Therefore, with support from UN-REDD, Colombia undertook a major knowledge management process in 2018 to collect, systematize and disseminate the lessons from this national participatory policy process, in order to guide other nations and stakeholders. A rich set of knowledge products was prepared and disseminated, showing how indigenous peoples and other rural grass roots had been engaged and had resulted in stronger, more viable policy results. In addition, the MADS received technical support for implementing the community-based forestry approach, complementing additional activities financed by the EU to help implement community forestry in pilot areas.

In Honduras, the UN-REDD Programme has provided knowledge and policy practice to inform various complex processes to integrate indigenous rights into national forest, climate change and development policy. The knowledge provided on options for FPIC resulted in a draft “Law on Free, Prior and Informed Consultation”, with 31 articles, submitted in May 2018 to the national Parliament – there joining other draft legal contributions to the matter. All of these inputs will serve well the highly anticipated parliamentary deliberations on an FPIC legal instrument intended to safeguard the political and territorial rights of indigenous peoples and forest communities in the country. In addition, UN-REDD assisted indigenous peoples with defining an additional safeguard to the Cancun REDD+ safeguards, named the “Cultural Safeguard” (UN-REDD advisers supported three policy dialogues on this matter, engaging some 150 rep-

resentatives of the Tolupan, Maya Chortí, Garifuna, Lenca, Miskitu and Tawahka peoples). This safeguarding innovation should continue in 2019, at the request of indigenous leaders. In addition, UN-REDD, at the request of the Network of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Women (RedMIAH), supported the organization of the Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Women’s Public Policy Forum, with the participation of a large majority of women representing the nine indigenous peoples of Honduras and notable discussions on forest and land rights. Joining hands with the Canada funded “Empoderamiento de las mujeres para la acción climática en el sector forestal” [“Empowerment of Women for Climate Action in the Forestry Sector”] project, the UN-REDD technical experts supported the implementation of in-depth assessments on tenure and community forestry aspects, following the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Security (the VGGT). In addition, technical support was provided to specific local communities to evaluate forest management and community-based forest monitoring effectiveness, contributing to enhanced community actions in pilot areas.

In 2018, the Rainforest Foundation Norway and UN-REDD experts jointly drafted and published a [knowledge report](#) on stakeholder and civil society engagement in the DR Congo, based on the country’s renowned REDD+ process. The report identifies and assesses the main lessons on how civil society and indigenous peoples can effectively participate and engage in the REDD+ process, also analysing a critical institutional reform in 2015 that served to help the DRC’s civil society and indigenous peoples’ platform keep pace with the governmental transition to the REDD+ investment phase. UN-REDD provided substantive advisory support to this entire process, from stakeholder engagement to the internal reform, and then to disseminating knowledge through this report.

At the global level, in 2018 the UN-REDD Programme was influential in boosting dialogue on REDD+ and tenure rights

by disseminating lessons learned from country-level work to global audiences. For instance, UN-REDD support to [Tunisia](#) on state forestland demarcation using the Open Tenure tool was showcased at the World Bank’s Land and Poverty Conference. Conversely, UN-REDD helped apply global knowledge instruments – such as the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests \(VGGT\)](#) – to local challenges, such as in the case of the support provided to indigenous peoples in Panama (Aruza and Embera-Drua) to develop internal regulations to formalize traditional rights and to enhance forest resource management. Furthermore, a new knowledge product on the importance of collective tenure rights for REDD+ and sustainable development was drafted, with publication planned for 2019.

The programme continued to facilitate dialogue and South-South exchanges through the “[REDD+ and Forest Governance](#)” online discussion group, which now has 650 members from 84 countries. The discussions in this forum foster knowledge exchange and new approaches to address forest governance challenges. In 2018, this platform provided a specific focus on titling as an emission reduction strategy, highlighting Mexico as a notable example, Zambia’s new community forestry regulations, and the Honduras experience-sharing on the forest tenure assessment.

During 2018, the lessons uptake and dissemination of the community-based REDD+ (CBR+) programme (2014–2017) was continued and completed, including a wide range of reports, articles, videos and contributions to social media. A number of short documentaries produced and released in 2018 were much appreciated by indigenous peoples; they include an assessment of CBR+ achievements and policy lessons in Paraguay, the CBR+ project on apiculture and forest conservation in the DRC, the CBR+ project empowering indigenous women in Tavaí county (Paraguay) and the mapping experience of indigenous forests in Panama. The UN-REDD Executive Board welcomed the sharing of overall lessons of the CBR+ initiative with UN-REDD

stakeholders at the international level, with some Board members proposing a second phase. Various UN-REDD partner countries have also expressed interest in receiving CBR+ support, such as Colombia, DRC, Kenya and Viet Nam.

In addition, UN-REDD provided support and advice to the negotiations towards policies and mechanisms for indigenous peoples in global institutions, notably in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and regarding the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (UNFCCC/LCIP Platform). Together with the UNDP GEF/Small Grants Programme (SGP) Team and the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, UN-REDD has been supporting a consortium of indigenous peoples' organizations, under the leadership of TEBTEBBA (Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy Research and Education), on the development of an Indigenous Peoples' Policy of the GCF, which was completed and successfully adopted in early 2018 by the GCF Board (GCF B-19). UN-REDD also provided technical and institutional advice to these organizations on ways to access the GCF to finance actions from indigenous peoples that tackle climate issues in their lands, ecosystems and territories. Furthermore, UN-REDD provided support and advice to diverse stakeholders in the negotiations around the UNFCCC/LCIP Platform. In particular, the wide range of UN-REDD knowledge on national policy and knowledge-exchange platforms was shared to guide and foster trust in a global platform mechanism, while offering practical approaches. The LCIP Platform was successfully adopted by the parties at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (CoP) in December 2018 (there are ongoing discussions with implementation plan leaders and the UNFCCC Secretariat to continue this advisory and knowledge support from UN-REDD during the inception phase of the LCIP Platform, 2019–2020).

The UN-REDD Programme also supported the climate, forest and land agenda within the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). In particular, UN-REDD organized and supported various knowledge sessions during the UNPFII annual assembly, including

lessons learned on social inclusion, gender mainstreaming and land rights in the climate and forest arena, as well as on approaches for community-based monitoring and community-led forest protocols. In addition, UN-REDD continued to support a forest and gender knowledge dialogue in the framework of the UNPFII. This resulted in a proposal for collaboration between UN-REDD and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) being discussed, aiming to start activities in 2019.

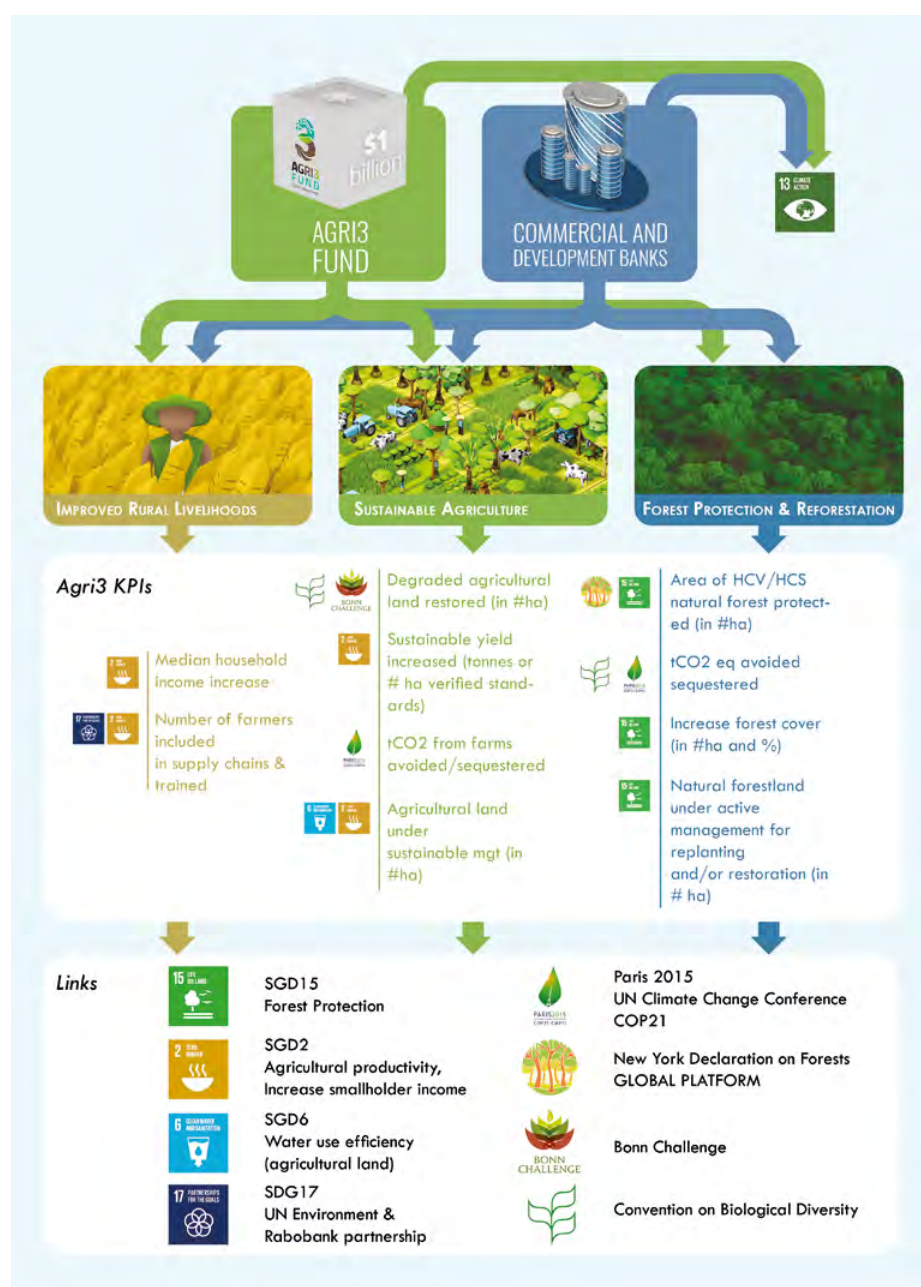
FINANCING AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This area of work within the UN-REDD Programme is carried out both at the national level with customized direct

technical advice and through the 'global programme'. The national-level private-sector and finance deliverables are captured in the respective country sections. This section focuses on the deliverables under the global programme.

The main milestones for 2018 included a) ensuring that at least two agribusiness firms, finance institutions or other companies made zero (net) deforestation pledges or similar commitments; and b) developing an environmental and social risk standard for at least one finance facility that contributes to REDD+.

With regards to the first milestone, the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) joined



Impact Story: AGR13 Fund

FINANCING THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

IN ORDER to feed a growing population and meet global commitments to reduce climate change, a transition to sustainable, deforestation-free agriculture is critical. One of the challenges in making that transition has been the prohibitive cost and financial risk for lenders and investors.

The UN-REDD Programme is therefore developing land-use finance projects with the aim of showing that it is possible to finance sustainable, deforestation-free commodity production and processing models. When replicated at scale, such projects help countries achieve their REDD+ objectives, by ensuring that the production of commodities such as rubber, palm oil, soy, cocoa and others becomes “decoupled” from deforestation. Setting the right environmental and social impact framework enables Governments, banks and investors to see not only the financial return on their investments but also the social and environmental return in terms of hectares of forests protected, jobs created and emissions avoided and sequestered.

The AGR13 Fund, an ambitious partnership with Rabobank, FMO and investment adviser Mirova/Althelia and technical assistance provider the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), has been set up as a model for how banks, Governments and agribusinesses can work together to transform financing for sustainable agriculture. The aim of this new fund is to unlock at least US\$ 1 billion in public and private capital to finance projects, agribusinesses and farmers and requires them to achieve net positive environmental and social impact impacts for the crops

that will be financed. The function of the AGR13 Fund is to partly ‘de-risk’ private finance to make projects that lead to reduced deforestation and better forests financially viable.

“The fund is critical to changing the way land use can move towards more sustainable production,” says Hans Loth, Corporate Strategy Executive with Rabobank Group. “It will allow for the development of new business models that accelerate sustainable management of forests and the implementation of innovative agricultural solutions.”

The AGR13 Fund offers a blueprint to be replicated in other parts of the world, reducing the need for public finance and turning sustainable agriculture into a smart investment. This will, in turn, increase the appetite of investors, banks and agribusinesses to finance projects that combine financial performance with clear environmental and social benefits.

Another landmark example is the world’s first landscape bond over US\$ 95 million, issued by the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility in early 2018 and developed by BNP Paribas and ADM Capital. The bond is financing a sustainable rubber plantation on degraded land in Indonesia and will – at maturity and when fully financed – create 16,000 fair-wage jobs. This successful deal is helping an Indonesia natural rubber producer scale up production and yield, while setting aside part of the concession for forest restoration, ecosystem conservation and community programmes.



the Partnership for Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture (FPSA), set up by UN Environment and Rabobank to help channel US\$ 1 billion in 'deforestation-free' loans or investments towards sustainable land-use projects. FMO signed an MoU to help make this ambitious target a reality. Another MoU was developed with Mirova Natural Capital Partners (formerly Althelia Ecosphere) and UN Environment to help scale up private finance and investment towards projects that contribute to REDD+ impact. Mirova Natural Capital is the fund manager for novel funds such as the Althelia Climate Fund 1, the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund and the AGR13 Fund.

In addition, with regards to the second milestone, an Environmental and Social Framework that includes Key Performance Indicators was developed by Rabobank and UN Environment for the AGR13 Fund in 2018. Mirova/Althelia was selected as Investment Advisor for this new blended finance fund set up in association with FMO and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). This fund aims to act as a vehicle to ultimately direct US\$ 1 billion in deforestation-free loans to companies and projects in developing countries, thereby helping countries meet their REDD+ objectives under 'Nationally Determined Contributions'. See the [AGR13 Brochure](#) (including Environmental and Social Framework).

The Environmental and Social Framework aims to steer projects towards delivering meaningful and positive environmental and social impact. The fund aims to invest alongside commercial and development banks in developing countries to stimulate the transition to deforestation-free commodity production, which – if successful – helps countries meet their REDD+ and climate objectives as stipulated through NDCs.

The UN-REDD Programme has been granted formal observer status at the ongoing CORSIA negotiations on the future of the aviation market. UN-REDD has been actively contributing towards ensuring the environmental integrity



of forest offsets in the future market. In parallel to these activities, the programme is exploring private-sector financing for REDD+ activities through direct investments coupled with carbon transactions compatible with Article 6.

FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS AND MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION

Since 2008, the UN-REDD Programme has supported the development of a variety of technical solutions to assist countries in REDD+ Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and for transparency in REDD+ efforts.

These tools include the free and open-source [Open Foris \(OF\)](#) suite maintained under the UN-REDD Programme. Open Foris enables countries to design and host NFI database (Collect), enable efficient field data collection (Collect Mobile), and analyse (Calc) and provide information on NFI and FRL/FREL reporting. It also includes tools for collecting activity data with the help of Collect Earth and Collect Earth Online. In addition, Open Foris suite contains a cloud-based solution for accessing space data and applying remote-sensing processing chains under the [SEPAL](#) (System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring). SEPAL achieved great visibility and success during 2018: by

December 2018, it had over 1,600 active users representing 132 countries.

In 2018, Open Foris in MRV training events were organized in Argentina, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, Uganda and at the FAO headquarters in Rome. The Open Foris suite was also presented at COFO 24 in July 2018. Several projects, companies, organizations and universities also used Open Foris tools in 2018, such as GIZ, the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), and the United States Forest Service (USFS) – Silva Carbon. SEPAL training events were organized in 2018 in Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Sudan, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Ecuador, Guyana and Mexico. Active online technical support was provided to several countries via e-mail, Skype and the Open Foris community site.

In 2018, transparent online NFMS web portals continued to be developed in DRC and Mongolia, and remote support was given to Bhutan, Suriname and Viet Nam.

The UN-REDD Programme started combining the existing Open Foris tools into a cloud-based solution that will better serve NFMS and their related capacities for MRV. The new system is planned to be operational by the year 2020.



Highlights of achievements in 2018:

► SEPAL was added to Open Foris tools, enabling SEPAL users to use the Open Foris website to access the tool, online support and informative materials.

► [Collect Earth Online was launched](#) and added to Open Foris website. This tool is a [web-based platform](#) that allows users to systematically inspect any location on the Earth with satellite data to identify the corresponding land-cover type. Collect Earth Online has been developed by SERVIR, a collaboration between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program, together with FAO. It was launched at a UN-REDD Special Event [Forests First – From 10 Years of REDD+ to the Full Scope of Nature-Based Climate Solutions](#) at COP24 in Katowice.

► Ethiopia and Bangladesh completed their NFIs, both using Open Foris tools during their projects.

LINKING REDD+, THE PARIS AGREEMENT, NDCS AND THE SDGS

UN-REDD furthered synergies and joint work with the UNDP NDC Support Programme (NDC-SP) and the NDC Partnership, supporting the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land-use action as part of “nature-based solutions” in the NDCs and broader SDG agenda.

UN-REDD, in support of and in close collaboration with the NDC-SP, has been helping pilot integrated support for NDC implementation, with a focus on Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire and Ecuador, providing country-level stakeholders with inputs and guidance on how to integrate forests into NDCs. A technical cooperation initiative on the preparation of the Ecuador NDC (AFOLU) and related reporting tools started in early 2018, through a joint initiative between UNDP and FAO.

Building on collaborative processes under the NDC Partnership and the UNDP NDC Support Programme, UN-REDD advisers reviewed and provided inputs to several countries on their

NDC implementation plans and NDC partnership plans, helping enhance the linkages between REDD+ strategies and the overall NDC plans.

UN-REDD also contributed inputs on the role of forests within the broader focus of the Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use Thematic Working Group of the NDC Partnership. This included providing knowledge and fostering exchanges with countries during interactive exercises on NDC support for the agricultural sectors, as part of the second meeting of this working group (Rome, March 2018). UN-REDD is participating in the Steering Committee of the Low Emission Development Strategy Global Platform AFOLU Working Group, contributing inputs to support regional communities in practices related to the role of AFOLU in low emission development strategies (LEDS) and NDCs.

UN-REDD provided knowledge in several other key global and regional meetings, including:

► A “marketplace” session on REDD+ and transparency at the second Technical Workshop of the Global Coordination Platform on the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) (Berlin, April 2018)

► A panel discussion on REDD+ and NDCs and peatland management at the third Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, April 2018)

► A session, including an interactive exercise referred to as “Broader context of REDD+ results” which included a focus on the linkage between NDCs and REDD+, at the Asia-Pacific Regional Knowledge Exchange on Forest Reference (Emission) Levels, in Dehra Dun, India in September 2018

In addition, UN-REDD developed an analysis of the implications of the Article 6 negotiations emerging during 2018 on REDD+, including in-person tracking of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) discussions on the topic at the Bonn and Bangkok UNFCCC sessions (May and September 2018), and drafting of an

information brief on the topic. The draft brief provided a foundation for a session at the second REDD+ Executive Board Meeting (18-19 October 2018) entitled REDD+ and Cooperative Approaches in Support of NDCs.

The session presented potential opportunities for enhancing the role of REDD+ and contributing to increased ambition in NDCs in the context of Article 6. During the session, Board Members confirmed this knowledge work stream as being particularly useful for countries and called for more of this type of technical assistance related both to REDD+ in the context of NDCs as well as Article 6. They requested that this be made available at the country level.

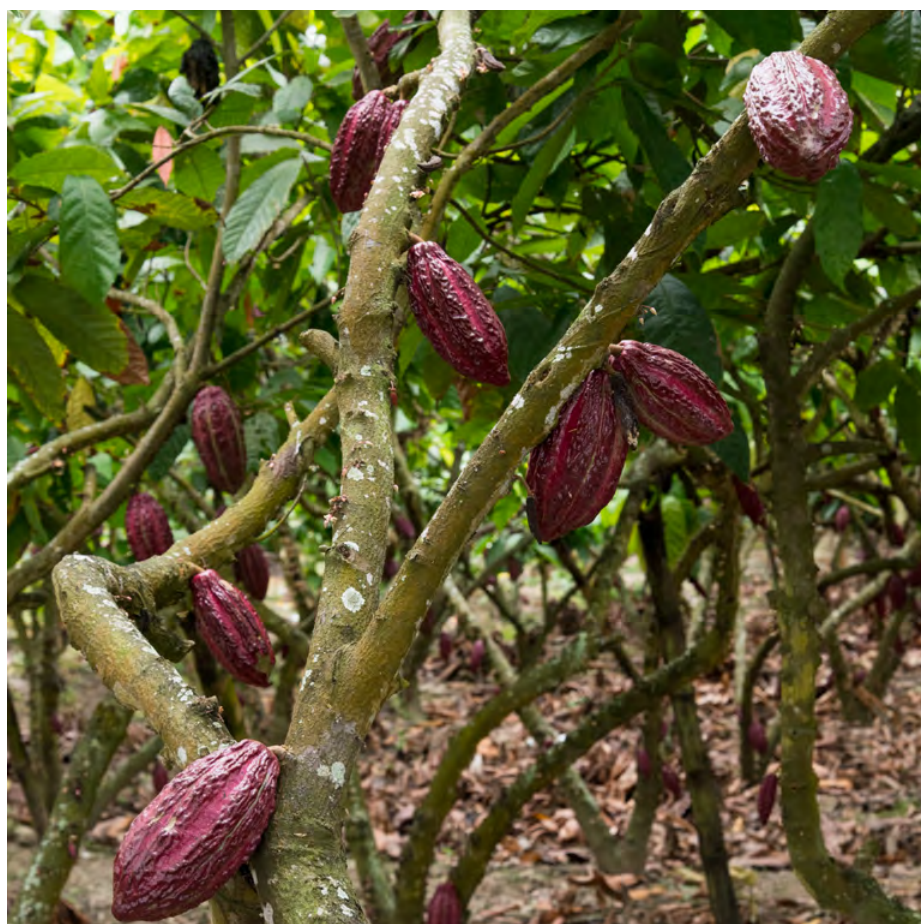
Finally, UN-REDD was active at COP24, organizing and participating in many dialogues and events that reinforced the important role of forests and REDD+ in the context of NDCs and SDGs. For example, UN-REDD contributed to the development of an NDC Partnership event on the synergies between NDCs and SDGs: “Scaling up support to link NDC and SDG implementation”.

REDD+ FUNDING MECHANISMS

In 2018, UN-REDD consolidated its knowledge and technical assistance streams on REDD+ funding mechanisms to help countries organize, mobilize, sequence, channel, coordinate and monitor finance for REDD+ actions, from finance for policy reforms to finance for incentive schemes, investment programmes, and results-based payments, depending on the country opportunities, needs, circumstances and priorities. The technical advice and knowledge in this domain aims to connect funding (public and private, domestic and international) with national strategies, policies and safeguarding measures. Here follows a description of a selected set of cases in which UN-REDD generated, mobilized and offered knowledge to craft innovative funding arrangements for implementing REDD+ actions in countries and connecting the work and skills of various stakeholders.

In Paraguay, UN-REDD technical assistance served to advance an innovative collaboration between the country and the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) to promote sustainable practices in the soy and cattle ranch sectors, including their role in mitigating climate change. In particular, the technical assistance and engagement with the FMO aims to establish a new, major credit line for such sustainable practices for US\$ 220 million, which can simultaneously serve to mobilize GCF funding. Among other knowledge efforts, UN-REDD advised stakeholders on options to align investments with the National Forest Strategy for Sustainable Growth (the national equivalent of the REDD+ Strategy) and prepared the concept note to structure the process and guide stakeholders through it.

In Ecuador, UN-REDD technical assistance supported the investment foundation “&Green” to align its investment capital with the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan. The assistance served to underpin the design of a large project with long-term finance for productive and commercial transformation in the farm sector, which will particularly cover the cacao, coffee, palm oil and cattle sectors (all of which have key linkages with deforestation).



Impact Story: Chile

MOVING TOWARDS RESULTS-BASED PAYMENTS TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND RESTORE NATIVE FORESTS

SINCE 2017, the UN-REDD Programme has supported Chile in implementing measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, increase the country's carbon sinks and help the country move towards result-based payments, to support forest owners in rural communities who want to maintain and restore their native forests.

One area of focus has been to strengthen the country's forest monitoring and reporting system, and to implement the new forest management models included in the National Strategy for Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). This has been done through a series of pilot projects and studies related to the restoration and recovery of two important types of forests: the Araucaria forests located in los Lagos, de los Rios, Araucania, Bío Bío and Maule regions; as well as the Patagonian forests in Magallanes Region. In addition, Chile has made important advancements in establishing reference levels for these regions. By 2020, they expect to have reference levels for the entire country.

As part of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Chile's two forest-related goals require a change in legislation in order to move ahead with promoting forest restoration and sustainable management of native forests. The country is currently working to pass these laws before the upcoming COP25 conference in Chile.

"The idea is to interest landowners in managing forests," says Jose Antonio Prado, head of the climate

change unit for the Chilean Forest Commission (CONAF). "If they have degraded forests, our goal is to get them to use silvicultural practices to promote regeneration. But so far, the incentive from the state is too low, so people are not interested. Now, we are hoping to pass new legislation with more attractive incentives to forest owners so they will be more interested in managing the native forests in a sustainable manner."

Chile is one of few countries to have completed its REDD+ technical annex, one of the REDD+ requirements for accessing results-based payments. If the results comply with the CoP decisions, the country will be eligible for results-based payments from the GCF. Chile has presented a concept note to the GCF as the first step of the approval process. "These payments will be fundamental to continue with the implementation of our national climate change strategy," explains Prado. "It will allow us to mobilize resources towards activities that mitigate climate change such as sustainable forest management, recovery of degraded forests, restoration and the generation of new carbon stocks through planting native species."

According to Prado, the benefits will be oriented towards rural communities, indigenous communities and vulnerable people in rural areas. "Most activities so far with the UN-REDD Programme have been pilot projects," he says. "With results-based payments, we will start generating benefits to forest communities across the country."



This technical assistance supported Sail Ventures, the asset manager for “&Green”, by providing project incubation and support for developing the first set of projects, thus creating models for agricultural investments that can reduce deforestation in Ecuador. This technical assistance is currently covering the following knowledge streams:

- Identification and capacity assessment of potential commercial partners;
- Creation of a participatory project development process involving the &Green foundation in the run-up to making the projects ready for investment, in order to foster trust among stakeholders;
- Support to &Green to specify and apply their methodology and system to quantify the environmental return for &Green (i.e. forest conservation, reduced deforestation and forest restoration) – the results of this effort will be scaled up and replicated nationally;
- Fostering liaisons with key stakeholders, notably the Ministry of Agriculture, producer associations and other private actors in the context of the PROAmazonia stakeholder engagement work.

In Ecuador too, UN-REDD technical assistance also supported the eco.business Fund to align its investment capital with the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan. In particular, UN-REDD helped this fund to scope the option of providing a “deforestation-free” credit line to Banco Pichincha, a national private bank, which could then extend such finance to other producers along the value chain in the cacao, coffee, palm oil or cattle sectors.

However, it is fair to note that the above-mentioned assistance to &Green and eco.business private investors has yet to result in concrete investment opportunities. They will therefore still require continued knowledge and support from UN-REDD in the coming years.

In addition, UN-REDD produced and provided a set of briefing notes for the Governments of Costa Rica, Ecuador,

Mexico and Peru on options for accessing REDD+ funding from public sources, as well as on fiduciary and operational arrangements. These briefing notes were tailored to the policy context and funding sources for REDD+ actions in each of these nations.

In 2018, the UN-REDD technical assistance also helped Brazil and Ecuador to design their first results-based payment proposals on REDD+ to the GCF – scheduled for official submission in 2019. These are the very first programmes to recognize and reward REDD+ implementation under the UNFCCC rules, and are likely to have a catalysing effect in the REDD+ arena, as they demonstrate that REDD+ as a results-based financial system can and does work, while showing how to make it do so. In particular, UN-REDD knowledge and advice underpinned a coherent and technically-sound sequencing of policy design and implementation, monitoring, assessment and reporting through complex and transparent data analysis and management, as well as due compliance with social and environmental safeguards.

Finally, special technical assessment briefs were prepared to advise the Governments of Paraguay, Ecuador, Cambodia, Ghana and Kenya on the option to sell UNFCCC compliant REDD+ emission reductions to oil companies (e.g. Eni, Shell and BP). In relation to this, UN-REDD provided technical assistance to facilitate preliminary exchanges between each Government and these companies on this matter and provided knowledge and advice on key technical requirements and issues to ensure that governmental decisions were fully aligned with UNFCCC REDD+ provisions.

CROSS-CUTTING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Knowledge management and communications in 2018 took place against the backdrop of partner countries progressing on their path towards REDD+ implementation and a globally heightened interest in the climate crisis. Regionally dedicated and globally responsible Knowledge Management and Commu-

nications Officers were placed in the three regions at the UN Environment Regional Offices located in Bangkok, Nairobi and Panama to ensure that activities responded to UN-REDD partner countries’ needs in each region. Inter-agency coordination and collaboration on communications and knowledge management in the regions was further strengthened by the introduction of well-structured quarterly meetings between the three agencies on both the operational and strategic levels.

Leveraging the global trend towards image-driven communication for impact, the UN-REDD Programme invested in vivid storytelling through creative films and multimedia web stories (incorporating text, photos, graphics and videos). Seven professional videos were shot in Côte d’Ivoire, Indonesia, [Nepal](#), Nigeria, [Sri Lanka](#), Uganda and [Viet Nam](#), with films planned to cover the work in Latin America in 2019. Rich visual storytelling was applied to illustrate the achievements of REDD+ on a [dedicated 10-year anniversary website](#) and to highlight the importance of boreal forests as carbon sinks using the example of [Mongolia](#). These products avoid technical jargon and seek to show the impacts of REDD+ on both forests and people in a comprehensible way by focusing on compelling real people and a relatable and accessible narrative.

UN-REDD’s social media activities profited from the multimedia approach as well, with continued massive growth in engagement and reach on Twitter and Facebook – an additional 11,000 followers connected via these platforms in 2018. Dedicated campaigns to celebrate the UN-REDD Programme’s 10-year anniversary, to commemorate the International Day of Forests and to highlight specific topics such as biodiversity and gender reached hundreds of thousands of people.

Target audiences were also reached via concerted efforts to engage news media across the regions. This led to significantly increased visibility, including among groups who do not speak the official United Nations languages. Media pitches and two media trips to

Indonesia and Colombia resulted in 49 news articles and TV coverage. For example, in Asia-Pacific the programme work has been featured by major mainstream media such as the Indonesian national news agency ANTARA, CNN Indonesia, Myanmar TV, and Viet Nam's VTV2. UN-REDD also organized media training on REDD+ in Colombia, Myanmar and Viet Nam which not only led to positive coverage and further strengthening of the UN-REDD brand, but also resulted in strategic and long-term relationships. To organize the workshops and leverage synergies, UN-REDD partnered with LatinClima and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Based on demand among partner countries, three regional knowledge exchanges were organized in [India](#), [Kenya](#) and [Paraguay](#), reaching 145 REDD+ practitioners from 35 countries. Topics were tailored to the regions' specific needs: from forests reference emission levels, to jurisdictional REDD+ and sustainable and deforestation-free cattle farming. In post-event surveys, over 70 per cent of participants indicated they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the knowledge exchanges. In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme organized a total of 73 knowledge events.

To share lessons learned and best practices beyond the physical events, articles, briefs and explainer videos were produced based on the discussions at the exchanges, and close to 80 [blog posts](#) were authored by partner countries, agency experts and guest writers, among them the Norwegian



Environment Minister and the [heads of FAO, UNDP and UN Environment](#). These posts and further knowledge and country-based lessons on REDD+ were shared via the quarterly [REDD Resource newsletter](#), which has almost 9,000

subscribers. A further 53 knowledge print products were developed and made accessible online via the [Work-space](#), Programme's Knowledge Management backbone that has over 13,000 documents available.

FIGURE 6. ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
2018 Highlights: social media & workspace



Impact Story: Paraguay

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND REDUCED DEFORESTATION IN LATIN AMERICA

CATTLE RANCHING is considered one of the main culprits of forest loss in Latin America, with pasture expansion responsible for more than two thirds of deforestation in the region. Given this, the industry is now looking at ways to integrate more sustainable practices, including efforts to conserve forests, which in turn can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

To this end, the Government of Paraguay, with support from the UN-REDD Programme, held a workshop on sustainable cattle ranching and its relationship with forests in 2018. More than 100 participants from 10 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay) gathered in Asunción to discuss the state of sustainable livestock production and examine its links to goals, commitments, and international agreements on climate change and forest conservation.

"It was the first time in Latin America that the UN-REDD Programme had brought together these different stakeholders from outside the forest sector to consider how their industry impacts forests and discuss how it can contribute to climate change," explains Marco Chiu, a UN-REDD regional technical adviser. "It was a milestone

accomplishment, and it showcased the programme's commitment to support countries on addressing the drivers of deforestation." According to Chiu, the workshop was valuable in serving as a regional platform in Latin America to facilitate dialogue between the Government, farmers, producers, traders, financial institutions, and international agencies, and in building trust and developing networks.

Despite the different circumstances and policy frameworks in each participating country, there are commonalities that can help bolster sustainability efforts in the livestock sector across the region.

"The effort has to be focused on land-use planning and on land-use optimization in the territory, since it is not only about forests," says Guillermo Terol, Programme Officer at the International Finance Corporation.

The workshop demonstrated that the industry poses a high degree of complexity, requires knowledge specificity and lacks a one-size-fits-all solution. Nevertheless, producers presented various innovative sustainable practices such as recycling waste; keeping patches of forest – either as reserves, water streams, protection or wind barriers; and reducing the need for expansion through intensification.

"In Paraguay, sustainability means going beyond just complying with the law," says Rosalía Goerzen of Cooperativa Fernheim. "The laws do not ask for forestland connectivity, but this is important. To conserve biodiversity, it is necessary that the reserves and the [forest buffer] strips are connected."

"Farmers are linked to their land, so more than work, it is a passion," says Tiziana Prada, a rancher from Argentina. "There is a lot of biodiversity, but it is very fragile. In our region, the rancher is sustained by nature: if he doesn't respect the biological processes, he will be left with nothing in a short time."

As Marisa Candiani, a rancher from Mexico, explains, "Things well done are good for everyone. We don't practice sustainable livestock for the certification seal, we do it because that's how things should be done and because the land we are working on today is the same one that we will leave to our children."

Government and global delegates to the 2018 workshop will continue to communicate and collaborate to promote the sustainable livestock agenda from their respective constituencies and to take advantage of the new network opportunities they discovered during the event. For example, Ecuador joined the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock as a result of the connections created in 2018.



Gender



Building on its achievements in previous years, UN-REDD continued to support 16 countries²⁰ in 2018 to advance the cross-cutting, comprehensive integration of gender equality and women's empowerment principles into nationally led REDD+ action. This support has been integrated across REDD+ thematic areas and has helped ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment perspectives are incorporated into REDD+ action at both the national and subnational levels.

At the national level, within Colombia's National Strategy on Forests ("Bosques, Territorios de Vida") gender equality is noted as one of the guiding principles and gender and women's empowerment considerations are integrated into the activities and indicators of various lines of action. Additionally, guidance was provided to Peru on how to incorporate a gender approach into its proposed Climate Change Law and its 2018-2020 Stakeholder Participation Plan. Meanwhile, assistance provided to Honduras resulted in the elaboration, validation and launch of the institutional Gender Strategy for the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines. With UN-REDD support, Bangladesh, [Colombia](#) and Myanmar undertook gender-specific analysis to help promote the integration of a gender approach and increase women's active participation within nationally led REDD+ action. Other countries are ensuring that gender, as a cross-cutting topic, is incorporated into REDD+ thematic areas. For example, Mongolia integrated a gender-responsive ap-

proach into its Stakeholder Engagement Handbook, the Republic of the Congo incorporated gender perspectives within its REDD+ Investment Plan and Mexico included gender- and youth-specific recommendations within its legal analysis of emissions reductions ownership.

In 2018, UN-REDD support also contributed to women's active involvement in REDD+ action on the ground. In Viet

ical restoration activities has helped 20 women from the Ovalle community to actively participate and engage in these activities.

Many partner countries are successfully promoting women's more equitable involvement in capacity-building efforts, workshops, events and trainings. In 2018, based on data from 60 UN-REDD organized/supported capacity and policy-dialogue workshops held worldwide,²¹ women represented on average 38 per cent of participants. In fact, some key UN-REDD supported events in Mongolia, Honduras and Mexico (with its national finance workshop) achieved a participation rate of over 45 per cent women.

Lastly, in 2018, the UN-REDD Programme made steady progress in building internal capacity to apply its new [Gender Marker Rating System](#) for the 2018-2020 Technical Assistance Programme. With the objective of building the capacity of colleagues to integrate gender into their work as well as to monitor and report how such actions contribute to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, an in-person training took place at FAO headquarters in November 2018. Additional internal

capacity-building efforts, planned in late 2018, have been rolled out in early 2019 to reach UN-REDD colleagues based in Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

In addition, efforts are currently under way to translate the [UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender](#) into both Spanish and French.



Nam, [through a collaborative effort with women and men from ethnic minorities and private companies](#) in Lao Cai on traditional herbal medicinal products, ethnic minority women are seeing positive changes to their livelihoods, both in terms of income as well as access to markets. Similarly, in Chile, efforts to integrate a gender approach into the planning and implementation of ecolog-

20 Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Viet Nam and Zambia

21 Countries where workshops were held include the following: Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kenya, Laos, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Impact Story: Viet Nam

IMPROVING WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS BY LINKING CONSERVATION WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AS THE morning mist rises over the green mountains, Lo Lo May straps a straw-woven basket onto her back and heads into the surrounding forest with her sister and the other women of Chu Kan Ho village. The 33-year-old mother of three belongs to the ethnic Dao minority whose lives are inextricably linked to the abundant magnificent nature in Lao Cai, a province in the northwest of Viet Nam known for its mountains, rivers, waterfalls and ethnic hill tribes.

The women possess indigenous knowledge of the uses of the forest's medicinal plants to cure ailments – from headaches to fever to pregnancy pains. “My mother took me into the forest as soon as I was able to walk,” says May. “And I will do the same for my daughters. This tradition has been passed on for generations in our community.”

Forests currently cover 41 per cent of Viet Nam's national territory. However, their contribution to the national economy only stands at a modest 1 per cent. Thus, while natural forests provide valuable timber and non-timber forest products, as well as essential ecosystem services, many communities still view them as a barrier to economic development due to a lack of viable economic incentives.

Additionally, most people in Viet Nam use traditional medicines that source 90 per cent of their active ingredients from forests. Nearly 4,000 species of plants in Viet Nam can be used for medicine, yet only 5 per cent of these plants are being commercialized. With domestic revenues estimated at US\$ 1.5 billion, Viet Nam still imports US\$ 1.7 billion of medicinal plants annually, despite its potential to be a global export leader.

To help remedy this, the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme has been actively working with the Government of Viet Nam to develop the market and partnerships for natural forest-based economic models. For example, in Lao Cai province, public-private partnerships are being piloted between provincial governments, ethnic minority communities and businesses selling traditional medicines, such as Sapa Green Hotel, which are managed and harvested with respect to indigenous knowledge and practices.

For Dao women, who depend on the forests for their income, these partnerships have had a large impact on their livelihoods. Lo Lo May has welcomed becoming part of a cooperative set up through this initiative and working with the Sapa Green Hotel.

“The company can open up a more stable market for our products,” she says. “Before becoming members of the cooperative, we didn't have a very stable market,



with each household doing business individually. But now, we work together to protect the forest and gather medicinal herbs, which creates sustainable development.”

This initiative has also brought many co-benefits to Lo Lo May's daily life and livelihood. The plants yield a higher income than other crops, and it is also much easier for her physically, as she only needs to harvest them rather than cultivate them. Additionally, she used to sell her plants for 7,000 Vietnamese dollars/kilo, but she can now sell them for up to 12,000 Vietnamese dollars/kilo with the help of her collaboration with Sapa Green Hotel.

This innovative collaboration shows the unique role that Dao women can play in natural resource management in Viet Nam. At the same time, it also demonstrates how women can be empowered to preserve their indigenous knowledge and practices, as well as improve their livelihoods, including their sources of income. Truly a win-win scenario.

Financial reporting



INTRODUCTION

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the UN REDD Programme Fund is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA)/EU contribution Agreement signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to contributors.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the UN REDD Programme Fund. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00>).

The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

2018 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the UN REDD Programme Fund using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December 2018. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00>.

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December 2018, 7 contributors deposited US\$ 308,545,838 in contributions and US\$ 3,134,087 was earned in interest.

The cumulative source of funds was US\$ 311,679,925 Of this amount, US\$ 306,892,377 has been net funded to 3 Participating Organizations, of which US\$ 277,206,631 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ 2,833,833. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the UN REDD Programme Fund as of 31 December 2018.

TABLE 1. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

	ANNUAL 2017	ANNUAL 2018	CUMULATIVE
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Contributions from donors	14,085,249	14,396,887	308,545,838
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	106,833	20,900	2,589,265
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	17,528	24,313	544,822
Refunds by Administrative Agent to Contributors	-	-	-
Fund balance transferred to another MDTF	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-
TOTAL: SOURCES OF FUNDS	14,209,609	14,442,100	311,679,925
USE OF FUNDS			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	19,644,613	16,202,478	308,020,589
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(462,779)	(153,480)	(1,128,212)
Net Funded Amount	19,181,834	16,048,998	306,892,377
Administrative Agent Fees	91,994	95,851	2,833,833
Direct Costs: (Steering Committee, Secretariat...etc.)	-	-	-
Bank Charges	411	91	12,325
Other Expenditures	48,859	48,118	251,625
TOTAL: USES OF FUNDS	19,323,097	16,193,057	309,990,160
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT	(5,113,488)	(1,750,957)	1,689,765
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	8,554,211	3,440,723	-
CLOSING FUND BALANCE (31 DECEMBER)	3,440,723	1,689,765	1,689,765
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	19,181,834	16,048,998	306,892,377
Participating Organizations' Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	30,157,566	23,123,256	277,206,631
BALANCE OF FUNDS WITH PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS			29,685,746

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this Fund as of 31 December 2018.

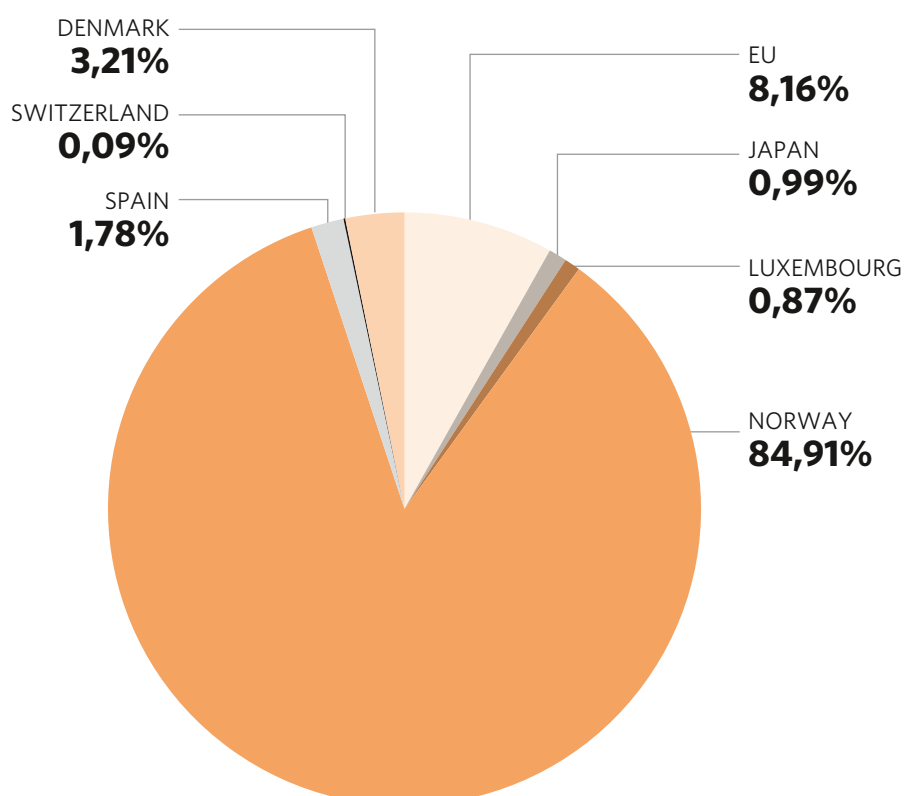
The UN REDD Programme Fund is currently being financed by 7 contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table below includes commitments made up to 31 December 2018 through signed Standard Administrative Agreements, and deposits made through 2018.

TABLE 2. CONTRIBUTORS' COMMITMENTS AND DEPOSITS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2017 DEPOSITS	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2018 DEPOSITS	TOTAL DEPOSITS
DENMARK	9,898,183	9,898,183	-	9,898,183
The EUROPEAN UNION	25,166,208	20,350,700	4,811,805	25,162,505
JAPAN	3,046,138	3,046,138	-	3,046,138
LUXEMBOURG	2,674,100	2,674,100	-	2,674,100
NORWAY	261,986,314	252,490,765	9,495,549	261,986,314
SPAIN	5,492,939	5,492,939	-	5,492,939
SWITZERLAND	285,660	196,127	89,532	285,660
GRAND TOTAL	308,549,541	294,148,952	14,396,887	308,545,838

FIGURE 1: DEPOSITS BY CONTRIBUTOR, CUMULATIVE AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018



3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA. As of 31 December 2018, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 2,589,265. Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ 544,822, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ 3,134,087. Details are provided in the table below.

TABLE 3. SOURCES OF INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

INTEREST EARNED	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2017	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2018	TOTAL
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,568,365	20,900	2,589,265
Total: Fund Earned Interest	2,568,365	20,900	2,589,265
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION			
FAO	51,191	24,313	75,504
UNDP	421,882		421,882
UNEP	47,435		47,435
Total: Agency earned interest	520,509	24,313	544,822
GRAND TOTAL	3,088,874	45,213	3,134,087

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2018, the AA has transferred US\$ 308,020,589 to 3 Participating Organizations (see list below).

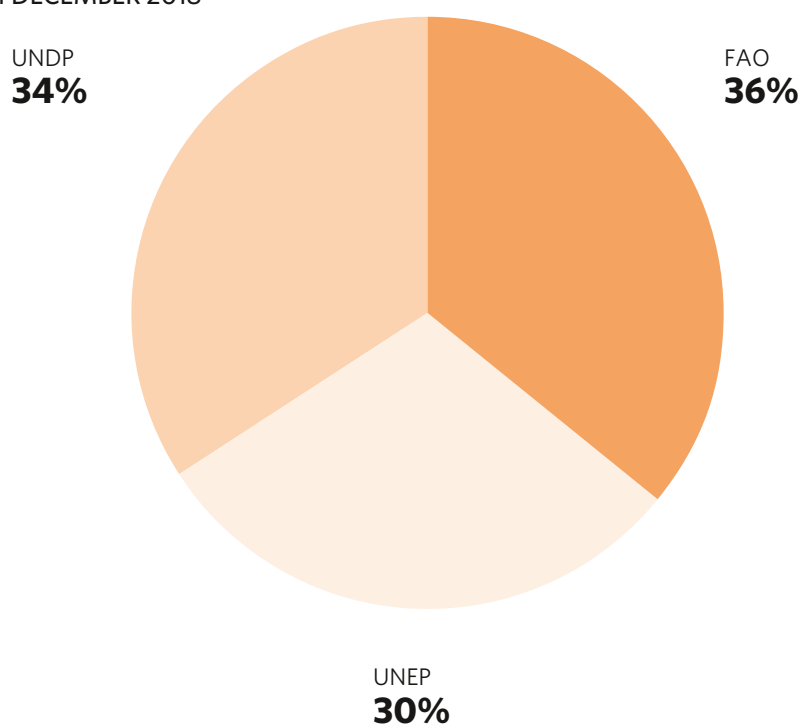
4.1 TRANSFER BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

TABLE 4. TRANSFER, REFUND, AND NET FUNDED AMOUNT BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2017			CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2018			TOTAL		
	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED
FAO	107,270,484	(382,965)	106,887,519	5,825,060	(143,043)	5,682,017	113,095,544	(526,008)	112,569,536
UNDP	113,322,044	(163,058)	113,158,986	5,581,843	(10,438)	5,571,405	118,903,887	(173,496)	118,730,391
UNEP	71,225,583	(428,708)	70,796,875	4,795,575		4,795,575	76,021,158	(428,708)	75,592,450
GRAND TOTAL	291,818,111	(974,732)	290,843,379	16,202,478	(153,480)	16,048,998	308,020,589	(1,128,212)	306,892,377

FIGURE 2: TRANSFERS AMOUNT BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2018



5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported for the year 2018 were submitted by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The reported expenditures were submitted via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2018 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00>.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2018, US\$ 16,048,998 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ 23,123,256 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ 306,892,377 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ 277,206,631. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 90 per-cent.

The agencies with the three highest delivery rates are: FAO (93%), UNEP (91%) and UNDP (87%)

TABLE 5.1 NET FUNDED AMOUNT, REPORTED EXPENDITURE, AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE			DELIVERY RATE %
			PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2017	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2018	CUMULATIVE	
FAO	118,270,351	112,569,536	96,464,609	7,974,882	104,439,491	92.78
UNDP	120,592,362	118,730,391	94,128,425	9,659,190	103,787,614	87.41
UNEP	78,972,957	75,592,450	63,490,340	5,489,185	68,979,525	91.25
GRAND TOTAL	317,835,670	306,892,377	254,083,374	23,123,256	277,206,631	90.33

5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

Table 5.2 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by Participating Organization.

TABLE 5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT WITHIN COUNTRY, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
ARGENTINA - ON GOING						
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	FAO	1,891,760	1,891,760	1,295,073	68.46
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNDP	1,308,610	1,308,610	1,179,206	90.11
00092164	UN-REDD ARGENTINA	UNEP	642,000	642,000	493,283	76.84
ARGENTINA TOTAL			3,842,370	3,842,370	2,967,562	77.23
BANGLADESH - ON GOING						
00090410	UN-REDD BANGLADESH	FAO	1,070,000	1,070,000	1,005,063	93.93
00090410	UN-REDD BANGLADESH	UNDP	1,230,500	1,230,500	1,046,013	85.01
BANGLADESH TOTAL			2,300,500	2,300,500	2,051,076	89.16
BOLIVIA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00074797	UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	FAO	1,095,679	1,095,679	1,095,430	99.98
00074797	UN-REDD Programme Bolivia	UNDP	91,912	90,143	89,269	99.03
BOLIVIA TOTAL			1,187,591	1,185,822	1,184,699	99.91
CAMBODIA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	FAO	1,300,050	1,175,656	1,175,656	100.00
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNDP	1,551,500	1,550,547	1,550,547	100.00
00076663	UN-REDD Programme Cambodia	UNEP	149,800	40,095	40,095	100.00
CAMBODIA TOTAL			3,001,350	2,766,298	2,766,298	100.00

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
CHILE - ON GOING						
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Programme	FAO	856,000	534,465	282,046	52.77
00102605	UN REDD Chile - National Programme	UNDP	3,424,000	2,092,954	858,073	41.00
CHILE TOTAL			4,280,000	2,627,419	1,140,119	43.39
COLOMBIA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	FAO	1,868,687	1,868,687	1,867,322	99.93
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNDP	1,484,489	1,484,489	1,483,742	99.95
00087723	UN-REDD COLOMBIA	UNEP	646,824	646,824	646,824	100.00
COLOMBIA TOTAL			4,000,000	4,000,000	3,997,888	99.95
CONGO - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	FAO	1,368,262	1,299,879	1,299,879	100.00
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNDP	1,813,188	1,813,188	1,825,358	100.67
00082262	UN-REDD CONGO	UNEP	818,550	818,550	818,550	100.00
CONGO TOTAL			4,000,000	3,931,617	3,943,787	100.31
CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme	FAO	2,926,450	2,907,355	2,907,355	100.00
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme	UNDP	3,110,690	3,103,899	3,103,899	100.00
00071391	UN-REDD-DRC-01 Programme	UNEP	1,346,060	1,130,560	1,130,560	100.00
CONGO, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TOTAL			7,383,200	7,141,814	7,141,814	100.00
COTE D'IVOIRE - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	FAO	1,599,650	1,599,650	1,601,703	100.13
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNDP	1,246,550	1,246,550	1,246,562	100.00
00092165	UN-REDD COTE D'IVOIRE	UNEP	363,800	363,800	363,583	99.94
COTE D'IVOIRE TOTAL			3,210,000	3,210,000	3,211,849	100.06
ECUADOR - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	FAO	1,767,908	1,764,477	1,764,483	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNDP	1,457,021	1,447,986	1,447,986	100.00
00078169	UN-REDD Ecuador	UNEP	775,071	773,167	773,167	100.00
ECUADOR TOTAL			4,000,000	3,985,629	3,985,636	100.00

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
HONDURAS - ON GOING						
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emission	FAO	941,600	941,600	925,310	98.27
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emission	UNDP	1,945,795	1,945,795	1,790,020	91.99
00094493	Support to Reduce Carbon Emission	UNEP	722,250	722,250	534,243	73.97
HONDURAS TOTAL			3,609,645	3,609,645	3,249,573	90.02
INDONESIA - FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	FAO	1,498,000	1,391,426	1,391,426	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNDP	2,996,000	2,938,677	2,938,677	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNEP	1,150,250	1,072,285	1,072,285	100.00
INDONESIA TOTAL			5,644,250	5,402,389	5,402,389	100.00
MONGOLIA - ON GOING						
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	FAO	1,171,650	1,171,650	1,172,189	100.05
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNDP	2,396,800	2,396,800	2,274,782	94.91
00092166	UN-REDD MONGOLIA	UNEP	428,000	428,000	427,094	99.79
MONGOLIA TOTAL			3,996,450	3,996,450	3,874,065	96.94
MYANMAR - ON GOING						
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Programme	FAO	2,231,164	2,231,164	1,186,196	53.16
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Programme	UNDP	3,015,688	3,015,688	1,600,318	53.07
00102606	UN REDD Myanmar - National Programme	UNEP	307,518	307,518	271,896	88.42
MYANMAR TOTAL			5,554,370	5,554,370	3,058,409	55.06
NIGERIA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	FAO	1,130,990	1,130,990	1,123,419	99.33
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNDP	2,400,350	2,400,350	2,352,353	98.00
00080129	UN REDD NIGERIA	UNEP	468,660	468,660	439,122	93.70
NIGERIA TOTAL			4,000,000	4,000,000	3,914,894	97.87

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
PANAMA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	FAO	2,189,000	2,188,669	2,188,669	100.00
00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNDP	2,067,350	2,059,635	2,059,635	100.00
00073510	UN-REDD Programme Panama	UNEP	1,043,650	1,043,650	973,325	93.26
PANAMA TOTAL			5,300,000	5,291,954	5,221,629	98.67
PAPUA NEW GUINEA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Programme	FAO	4,520,750	4,455,709	4,455,708	100.00
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Programme	UNDP	1,707,634	1,707,634	1,679,337	98.34
00073984	UN-REDD PNG Quick Start Programme	UNEP	107,000	107,000	107,000	100.00
PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOTAL			6,335,384	6,270,343	6,242,044	99.55
PARAGUAY - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	FAO	2,190,000	2,189,721	2,189,721	100.00
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNDP	1,490,001	1,487,117	1,487,330	100.01
00076664	UN-REDD Programme Paraguay	UNEP	1,040,000	1,040,000	1,040,000	100.00
PARAGUAY TOTAL			4,720,001	4,716,838	4,717,051	100.00
PERU - ON GOING						
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Programme	FAO	1,686,688	1,309,897	75,947	5.80
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Programme	UNDP	1,983,084	1,625,656	187,956	11.56
00102612	UN REDD Peru - National Programme	UNEP	396,007	282,801	34,668	12.26
PERU TOTAL			4,065,779	3,218,354	298,570	9.28
PHILIPPINES - FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	FAO	315,650	276,176	276,176	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNDP	162,950	162,950	162,950	100.00
00076668	UN-REDD Programme Philippines	UNEP	21,400	21,400	21,400	100.00
PHILIPPINES TOTAL			500,000	460,526	460,526	100.00

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
SOLOMON ISLANDS – FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00076666	UN-REDD Programme Solomon Island	UNDP	550,000	489,140	489,140	100.00
SOLOMON ISLANDS TOTAL			550,000	489,140	489,140	100.00
SRI LANKA – OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	FAO	2,578,700	2,569,703	2,569,706	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNDP	979,050	979,050	979,036	100.00
00082263	UN-REDD SRI LANKA	UNEP	442,250	442,250	442,250	100.00
SRI LANKA TOTAL			4,000,000	3,991,003	3,990,991	100.00
TANZANIA – OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	FAO	1,498,000	1,479,705	1,479,705	100.00
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNDP	2,568,000	2,568,000	2,453,336	95.53
00073511	UN-REDD Programme Tanzania	UNEP	214,000	193,841	193,841	100.00
TANZANIA TOTAL			4,280,000	4,241,546	4,126,882	97.30
UGANDA – OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Programme	FAO	684,800	684,179	684,179	100.00
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Programme	UNDP	643,070	643,070	596,491	92.76
00094491	Uganda UN REDD National Programme	UNEP	470,800	470,800	461,842	98.10
UGANDA TOTAL			1,798,670	1,798,049	1,742,511	96.91
UNITED NATIONS – ONGOING						
00103359	UN REDD – Delivering National Support	FAO	9,943,329	5,466,848	3,946,483	72.19
00103359	UN REDD – Delivering National Support	UNDP	5,425,556	5,425,556	1,160,030	21.38
00103359	UN REDD – Delivering National Support	UNEP	5,715,146	2,876,553	1,646,138	57.23
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	FAO	4,358,875	4,344,292	4,344,292	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	4,679,302	4,665,011	4,665,011	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	6,856,866	6,856,866	6,856,866	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	FAO	375,000	375,000	259,082	69.09

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNDP	969,821	969,821	561,985	57.95
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Se	UNEP	2,419,828	2,419,828	1,466,939	60.62
00103785	AFRICA – Technical Assistance	FAO	2,594,844	2,594,844	1,804,666	69.55
00103785	AFRICA – Technical Assistance	UNDP	2,065,723	2,065,723	1,668,616	80.78
00103785	AFRICA – Technical Assistance	UNEP	1,255,959	1,255,959	1,017,776	81.04
00103786	ASIA – Technical Assistance	FAO	2,908,228	2,908,228	2,015,946	69.32
00103786	ASIA – Technical Assistance	UNDP	2,172,868	2,172,868	1,609,310	74.06
00103786	ASIA – Technical Assistance	UNEP	1,077,210	1,077,210	807,343	74.95
00103787	LAC – Technical Assistance	FAO	2,250,668	2,250,668	1,696,472	75.38
00103787	LAC – Technical Assistance	UNDP	3,988,619	3,988,618	2,606,276	65.34
00103787	LAC – Technical Assistance	UNEP	1,452,987	1,452,987	1,166,091	80.25
00103788	KM & Global Coordination	FAO	1,953,018	1,953,018	1,056,505	54.10
00103788	KM & Global Coordination	UNDP	3,529,313	3,529,313	1,278,657	36.23
00103788	KM & Global Coordination	UNEP	5,013,001	5,013,001	3,015,472	60.15
UNITED NATIONS – OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	FAO	48,013,327	48,013,327	47,868,540	99.70
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNDP	49,110,168	49,110,168	48,324,581	98.40
00080070	UN-REDD Support to Country Act	UNEP	40,583,114	40,583,114	39,676,391	97.77
UNITED NATIONS – FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	FAO	3,620,810	3,620,810	3,620,810	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNDP	2,530,632	2,530,632	2,530,632	100.00
00076111	UN-REDD International Support	UNEP	2,537,142	2,537,142	2,537,142	100.00
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL TOTAL			217,401,354	210,057,404	189,208,052	90.07
VIET NAM – FINANCIALLY CLOSED						
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	FAO	1,690,814	1,673,426	1,673,426	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNDP	2,501,128	2,489,254	2,489,254	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNEP	192,814	192,375	192,375	100.00
VIET NAM TOTAL			4,384,756	4,355,054	4,355,054	100.00

COUNTRY / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
ZAMBIA - OPERATIONALLY CLOSED						
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	FAO	2,180,000	2,140,880	2,140,910	100.00
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNDP	1,995,000	1,995,000	2,011,247	100.81
00074834	UN-REDD Zambia	UNEP	315,000	311,963	311,963	100.00
ZAMBIA TOTAL			4,490,000	4,447,843	4,464,120	100.37
GRAND TOTAL			317,835,670	306,892,377	277,206,631	90.33

5.3 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY CATEGORY

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

2012 CEB EXPENSE CATEGORIES	2006 UNDG EXPENSE CATEGORIES
1. Staff and personnel costs	1. Supplies, commodities, equipment & transport
2. Supplies, commodities and materials	2. Personnel
3. Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	3. Training counterparts
4. Contractual services	4. Contracts
5. Travel	5. Other direct costs
6. Transfers and grants	6. Indirect costs
7. General operating expenses	
8. Indirect costs	

TABLE 5.3. EXPENDITURE BY UNDГ BUDGET CATEGORY, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN US DOLLARS)

CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMME COST
	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2017	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2018	TOTAL	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,256,408	-	1,256,408	0.48
Personnel (Old)	23,105,695	-	23,105,695	8.91
Training of Counterparts (Old)	3,596,995	-	3,596,995	1.39
Contracts (Old)	6,914,797	-	6,914,797	2.67
Other direct costs (Old)	2,110,598	-	2,110,598	0.81
Staff & Personnel Cost (New)	95,665,474	13,164,718	108,830,192	41.98
Suppl, Comm, Materials (New)	1,837,537	222,322	2,059,858	0.79
Equip, Veh, Furn, Depn (New)	3,142,600	172,724	3,315,324	1.28
Contractual Services (New)	26,167,777	3,308,138	29,475,916	11.37
Travel (New)	22,931,743	1,917,920	24,849,663	9.59
Transfers and Grants (New)	30,717,244	1,295,160	32,012,404	12.35
General Operating (New)	20,204,949	1,514,412	21,719,361	8.38
PROGRAMME COSTS TOTAL	237,651,818	21,595,394	259,247,211	100.00
¹ INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS TOTAL	16,431,557	1,527,863	17,959,420	6.93
TOTAL	254,083,374	23,123,256	277,206,631	

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%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2018, were as follows:

► The Administrative Agent (AA) fee: 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ 95,851 was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2018, US\$ 2,833,833 has been charged in AA-fees.

► Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations: Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ 1,527,863 was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ 17,959,420 as of 31 December 2018.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway (<http://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

Looking ahead



THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CLIMATE SUMMIT

The United Nations Secretary-General is convening the [Climate Action Summit](#) on 23 September 2019 to mobilize political and economic actors at the highest levels. The summit will aim to boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement goals and to demonstrate transformative action in the real economy in support of these goals. In preparation for the summit, the UN Secretary-General has identified nine areas of work around which coalitions have been established.

The nine interdependent coalitions identified as having high potential to curb greenhouse gas emissions and increase global action on adaptation and resilience are: [Nature-based Solutions](#) (NBS); Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing; Energy Transition; Industry Transition; Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action; Resilience and Adaptation; Mitigation; Social and Political Drivers; and Youth and Public Mobilization. With regard to NBS, this workstream broadly comprises forests and other terrestrial ecosystems; ocean ecosystems and other water resources; agriculture, food production and supply chains; and factoring nature into development. The

UN-REDD Programme provides an important platform in the forests and climate space and is supporting the work of the [NBS workstream](#).

A key milestone for the summit will be the preparatory stocktaking meeting taking place from 30 June to 1 July 2019 in Abu Dhabi, where progress will be reviewed to enable the most ambitious and transformative outcomes to be featured at the summit. The proposition for NBS will make the case for the key role that nature can play, in conjunction with the eight other summit workstreams.

It is expected that the propositions will be supported by world leaders at the summit and then followed up beyond the summit, through the climate CoPs and other processes.

THE UN DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

In a landmark agreement, the UN General Assembly designated the period 2021–2030 as the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This reflects the increased importance that ecosystem restoration in general and forest restoration in particular can play in contributing nature-based solutions to climate change. There is growing con-

sensus that nature-based mitigation can achieve more than one third of the mitigation needed in the next decade.

In addition to avoiding forest loss and degradation, investments in forest restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks are not only REDD+ activities but also two of the most cost-efficient options for sequestering carbon and providing multiple non-carbon benefits.

UN-REDD has an important role to play in making the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration a success, having accumulated more than 10 years of experience on key matters related to REDD+ activities (national strategies; legal issues; MRV; FRELs; safeguards; finance) and built a first-class in-house technical team in the process. It has also gained a reputation as an impartial adviser and broker, which has allowed it to successfully bring together a variety of stakeholders. Equally important, UN-REDD has demonstrated that it has the capacity to achieve high delivery rates and meet work-programme milestones.

The scale required to reduce carbon emissions by a third will demand new approaches to technical support, innovative models for implementation on



Leona Liu/UN-REDD Programme

the ground and the facilitation of large volumes of both public and private finance. During 2019 and 2020, UN-REDD will engage in consultations with partners and stakeholders and define options to support the goals of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

After an intense year providing technical assistance to nine REDD+ countries, as well as supporting many more countries through knowledge management across a wide range of defining themes for the REDD+ agenda, critical times lie ahead for the UN-REDD Programme.

On 23 September 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General will convene a Climate Action Summit in New York City with the aim of catalysing concrete and scalable action by countries,

sectors and civil society to accelerate climate change mitigation efforts. The UN-REDD Programme is supporting the work of the co-facilitators on the Nature-based Solutions work stream, building on the experience and partnerships of the programme. The Climate Action Summit provides a unique opportunity to reaffirm the role of forests as a key climate solution, and the programme will apply its policy skills, technical expertise and knowledge to this end. The UN-REDD Programme partnership stands ready to support the realization of a successful Climate Action Summit and the follow-up of its outcomes.

In light of the growing importance of climate action and upcoming opportunities, the UN-REDD Programme has also been reflecting on its lessons

learned, successes, focus and niche looking towards the post-2020 horizon. In consultation with our partner countries, civil society stakeholders and indigenous peoples' leaders, the UN-REDD Programme will continue to work to define a portfolio that is relevant and catalytic to the nature-based solutions presented at the Climate Action Summit and, more broadly, to progress that partner countries are making under the UNFCCC. As reflected in this report, the programme's global knowledge capture and dissemination, capacity-building and technical assistance are yielding encouraging results for partner countries and stakeholders. These results provide the basis to inspire the future of the UN-REDD Programme as a catalyst for action and a source of innovation for forests and climate.



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.

Contributor Commitment

Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement/EU contribution Agreement 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.

Contributor Deposit

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

Delivery Rate

The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization 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 Organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmeable costs.

Net Funded Amount

Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization

A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization 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.

Project Expenditure

The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization 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 Organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project Start Date

Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the Participating Organization.

Total Approved Budget

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

US Dollar Amount

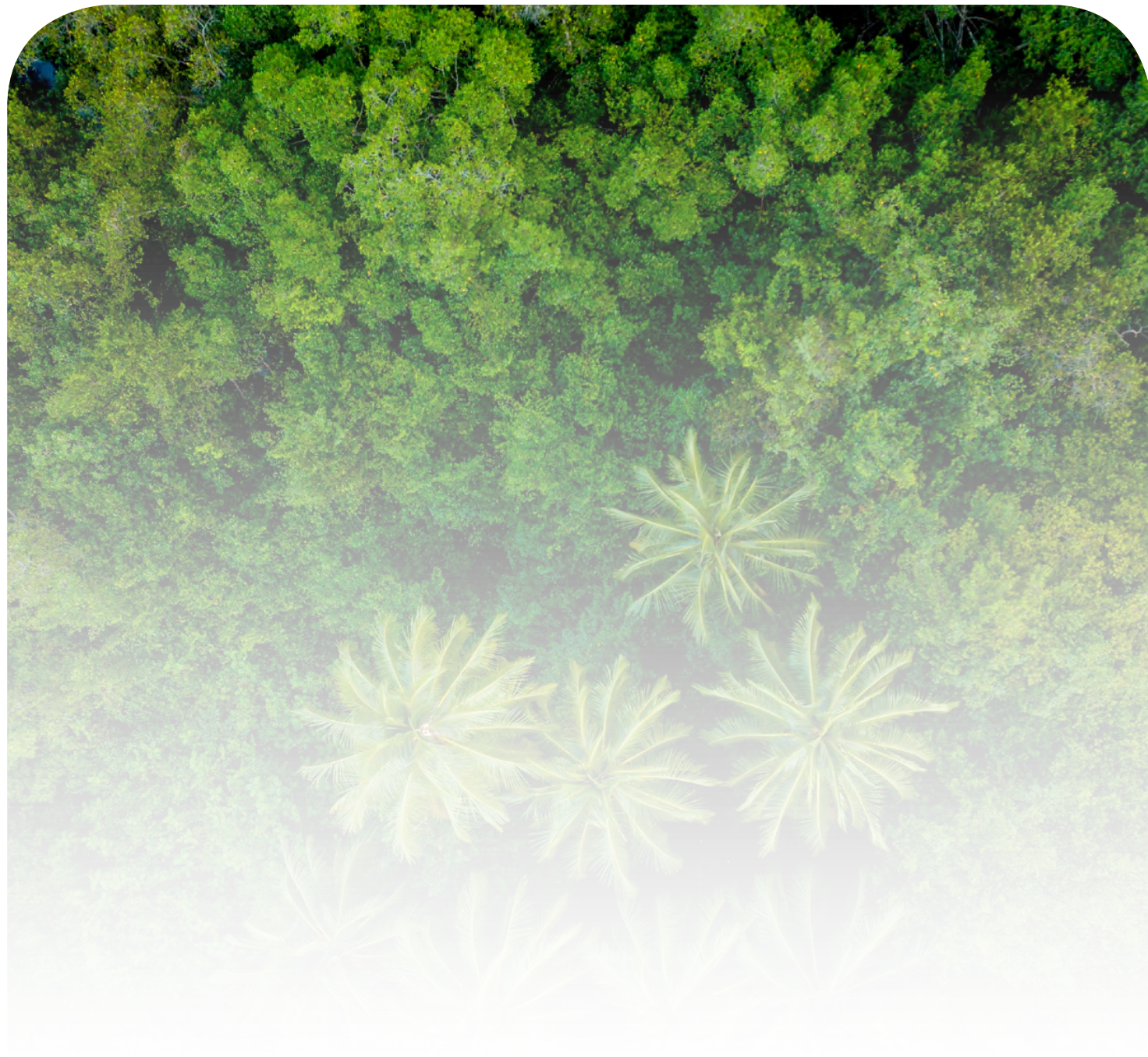
The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars and due to rounding off of numbers, the totals may not add up.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry and other land use
BFIS	Bangladesh Forest Information System
BLU	Public Service Unit (Badan Layanan Umum)
BRG	Peatland Restoration Agency
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CBR	Community-based REDD+
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CNIAF	National Center for the Inventory and Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources
CONAF	National Forestry Corporation
CONAFOR	National Forestry Commission
CONPES	Green Growth Policy Directive
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
CSO	Civil society organizations
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DSP	Development Solutions Partnership
EAO	Ethnic armed organizations
EIC	Environment Information Centre
ENBCC	National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change
ENCCRV	National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FDA	Forestry Development Authority
FIMI	International Indigenous Women's Forum
FINAGRO	Fondo para el Financiamiento del Sector Agropecuario
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMO	Dutch Development Bank
FORMIS	Forest Management Information System
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FPSA	Forest Protection and Sustainable Agriculture
FREL	Forest Reference Levels
FRL	Forest Reference Levels
FSDC	Forest-Sustainable Development Council
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
ICF	National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDH	Sustainable Trade Initiative
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INGEI	National Greenhouse Gas Inventory
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IT	Information Technology
ITPC	International Tropical Peatland Center
JDI	Joint Declaration of Intent
LCIP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples
LEDS	Low emission development strategies

Abbreviations and Acronyms

LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
MADS	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MET	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
MGAS	Environmental and Social Management Framework
MINAM	Ministry of Environment of Peru
MOEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
MRV	Measuring, reporting and verification
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NBS	Nature-based Solutions
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFI	National Forest Inventories
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring Systems
NFSDP	National Forest Sector Development Programme
NP	National Programme
ODA	Official development assistance
OF	Open Foris
PAM	Policies and measures
PANByCC	National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change
PEB	Programme Executive Board
PES	Payment-for-ecosystem-services
PMU	Project Management Unit
RBP	Results-based payments
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RIC	REDD+ Implementation Centre (Nepal)
SAyDS	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Argentina)
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEPAL	System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring
SERNANP	National Service of Natural Protected Areas (Peru)
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SLMS	Satellite Land Monitoring Systems
SMM	Monitoring and Measuring System
SNIFFS	National Forestry and Wildlife Information System
SNSF	National Forest Monitoring System (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
SOI	Summaries of information
SUIA	Unique System of Environmental Information
TLFF	Tropical Landscape Finance Facility
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of Food Security
WRI	World Resources Institute
ZIFLP	Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project



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