



# REDD+ Knowledge Day

## Brief Summary

**Hybrid Virtual/In-person: The Hub Hotel, Oslo, Norway**

Thursday, June 27, 2024

9:00 – 17:15

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**Forests and climate change are at a critical juncture, and the REDD+<sup>1</sup> architecture supporting their conservation is pivotal. Without rapid progress, climate, forest protection, and biodiversity targets are at risk of becoming unattainable. Over 70 countries<sup>2</sup> have advanced REDD+ design and implementation, providing valuable experience for scaling actions to meet the global zero net deforestation target by 2030<sup>3</sup>.** With the window to limit warming to 1.5 degrees closing and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due in 2025, immediate action is essential to meet the 2030 goals.

**Sharing and applying knowledge on key issues, challenges, and solutions is crucial for realizing the REDD+ vision of protecting forests for people, nature, and climate.** This also involves unlocking additional finance and ensuring political will and public acceptance to REDD+. Further, there is a need for understanding how REDD+ programs in turn can stimulate countries' development and achievement of broader climate and nature goals. There is a strong demand to share and apply lessons from implementation to accelerate progress in current and future programs. In addition to new REDD+ initiatives, the overall engagement of multiple stakeholders has increased, including from Indigenous Peoples (IPs), subnational governments, stakeholders in agricultural and forest supply chains as well the financial sectors, both public and private. Cross-fertilization of knowledge amongst both existing and new REDD+ actors is important for collective progress.

**Over the past fifteen years, various REDD+ agencies, funders, and implementers have conducted knowledge and capacity-strengthening activities, creating a strong learning community of practitioners.** For example, the FCPF Readiness Fund, the UN-REDD Programme, and others have facilitated knowledge events for representatives from 47 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) countries and 65 UN-REDD partners, along with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), IPs, Local Communities (LCs), private sector, and development partners. The BioCarbon Fund's Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) also has a robust learning mandate, piloting payments for emissions reductions from integrated sustainable land use programs at scale. Additionally, UN-REDD and its partners, along with other multilateral and bilateral programs, have supported sub-national, country, regional, and global knowledge exchanges. These programs are delivering concrete results. Initiatives like the Scaling Climate Action by Lowering Emissions (SCALE) partnership, Enhancing Access to Benefits by Lowering Emissions (EnABLE) fund, LEAF Coalition, and Green Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ programs are set to support future results-based climate finance programs in REDD+.

**In response to demand from client countries and stakeholders, key REDD+ agencies and funders are revitalizing the REDD+ learning community in various ways, including through a recent co-owned, co-organized, and co-sponsored REDD+ Knowledge Day. This event, supported by the FCPF, ISFL, and the UN-REDD Programme, under the guidance of the Norwegian Government, took place in Oslo, Norway, on June 27, 2024. There were approximately 140 in-person participants from over 40 countries.** Participants included representatives from REDD+ countries, donors, World Bank task teams, IPs, LCs, private sector, and international partners. Due to the diverse participants, simultaneous interpretation was provided in English, French, and Spanish. The event was scheduled one day after the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum (OTFF). The OTFF, which took place on June 25-26, 2024, offered a significant opportunity for exchange among governments, civil society, IPs, and private sector actors involved in REDD+. The

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<sup>1</sup> REDD+ stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

<sup>2</sup> Lima REDD+ information hub: <https://redd.unfccc.int/>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030: [Global Forest Goals](#)

REDD+ Knowledge Day built on the participation and leveraged insights from REDD+ stakeholders at the OTFF.

The REDD+ Knowledge Day was designed to achieve the following objectives:

- **Participant-oriented objectives:** The Knowledge Day aimed to provide a platform for project managers and practitioners to share practical and technical experiences, aiding their progress on the ground and fostering ideas for future knowledge exchange opportunities and priorities.
- **Improving current and future work in various thematic areas:** Discussions during the Knowledge Day focused on key takeaways and actions for ongoing work in Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) implementation, Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), social inclusion, private sector engagement, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU), Emission Reductions (ER) title transfer, etc., with an emphasis on improving future implementation.
- **Pave the way for future REDD+ programs' design and implementation:** Insights from the Knowledge Day were focused on helping to shape the design and implementation of current and future REDD+, including the World Bank's new SCALE partnership and new efforts under the UN-REDD programme, among others.
- **Enhance coordination of REDD+ efforts among development agencies:** The Knowledge Day aimed to bolster collaboration among different development agencies involved in REDD+ programs. It also aimed to leverage the convening and knowledge sharing expertise of the World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme to deliver accurate and up-to-date knowledge, while also gathering top-tier expertise from global stakeholders to advance forest conservation and restoration.
- **Continue the convening role for knowledge exchange:** The Knowledge Day continued the World Bank and UN-REDD's role in facilitating knowledge exchange among practitioners and project managers, building on the legacy of the FCPF Readiness Fund and UN-REDD. The World Bank and UN-REDD are committed to maintaining this tradition through renewed efforts.

REDD+ Knowledge Day sessions explored a targeted set of timely REDD+ topics and generated important insights to inform current and future progress. These include:

- **The REDD+ financing architecture:** This has evolved significantly since REDD+ was first conceived, with major private sector initiatives and a multitude of new partnerships and commitments. The discussion emphasized that high integrity on both the demand and supply sides is critical for engaging the private sector and ensuring inclusiveness for IPs and LCs. Policy certainty, legal stability, and robust regulatory frameworks are essential for creating a conducive environment for private investment. Governments and financial institutions must reduce bureaucratic barriers and simplify processes to make resources more accessible to IPs and LCs. Additionally, the complexity of Emission Reductions Purchase Agreements (ERPAs) remains a barrier to scaling up RBCF and Carbon Markets (CM). Building and maintaining capacity, supported by stable financing, is crucial for enabling countries to fully access these markets and funds.
- **Expanding from REDD+ to broader AFOLU:** Many countries and programs are expanding the REDD+ concept to cover areas that have not traditionally been part of forest-based REDD+ programs, notably agriculture. This is key to address the drivers of deforestation and develop an integrated land use approach. This session explored the AFOLU approach, highlighting how grants, loans, and even results-based payments (RBP)—can be utilized to evidence how more sustainable land uses can make rational economic sense for land users, and hence drive the adoption of more sustainable land uses. Ultimately the more profitable land use models are

what drive behavior change across land-use sectors to reduce emissions by simultaneously boosting incomes. Case studies from Colombia, Zambia, and Uganda emphasized the need for cross-sector collaboration and the integration of agriculture as a solution to land-based emissions, particularly in developing economies. Tailoring approaches to specific landscapes and engaging communities is crucial, while recognizing challenges like monitoring and breaking down siloes between ministries. Knowledge exchange, coordination, and public-private partnerships were seen as key to the success of future AFOLU programs. As was considering all land users ranging from smallholder farmers to large scale agribusiness concerns.

- **Innovations in MRV:** There have been many new developments in recent years, with satellite imagery, AI and other technologies emerging. This session highlighted how technological innovations, including machine learning and remote sensing, have enhanced forest emission estimates and MRV processes. Countries like Guatemala, Côte d'Ivoire, and Papua New Guinea showcased how systematic grid data collection helped to address map inaccuracies. Challenges such as costs, sustainability and technology access were discussed, alongside the benefits of improved data quality, efficiency, and transparency. Institutional arrangements were deemed crucial for ensuring accountability and coordination in MRV, with participants emphasizing the importance of transparency, streamlined reporting, and the balance between technology adoption costs and benefits.
- **Transfer of title and carbon credit ownership:** This session discussed the progress of forest countries in clarifying ownership and the capacity to transfer ERs in the context of REDD+ programs. Transferring ER titles remains complex, with the FCPF Carbon Fund offering various options for countries to demonstrate their ability to transfer ERs, including legal frameworks and BSPs. Many countries, lacking an existing legal basis for ER title transactions, have enacted decrees to facilitate FCPF ERPA signings, though broader legal frameworks are needed to access global carbon markets. Countries like Costa Rica are transitioning from ecosystem preservation payments to carbon credit trading, marking a cultural shift, while others, such as Indonesia, are focusing on regulations to meet ambitious NDC targets. The private sector is also showing willingness to engage, even in countries where carbon market frameworks are still under development, with nations like Costa Rica actively evaluating private-sector competitiveness in carbon credit transactions.
- **Effective and inclusive benefit sharing:** Benefit sharing is core to the REDD+ concept and there has been a lot of experience in designing inclusive benefit sharing plans. This session outlined six key principles for an impactful benefit-sharing framework: effectiveness, equity, efficiency, legitimacy, accountability, and sustainability. These principles guide the core elements of BSP design, which include defining the purpose, addressing deforestation drivers, fostering social inclusion, and operationalizing the framework. Country-specific examples, such as Côte d'Ivoire's focus on direct mobile payments and Chile's subnational governance approach, emphasized the importance of data quality, extensive consultations, and transparent governance. The discussions also underscored the need to involve IPs and LCs, who are essential forest custodians, and to foster national and global partnerships. Capacity building and knowledge sharing were highlighted as crucial for empowering IPs, LCs, and even governments to engage in REDD+ and carbon markets. Additionally, the Amazon Environmental Research Institute's (IPAM) high-integrity carbon credit guidelines stress the need for companies to commit to science-based targets, prioritize High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) credits, and ensure due diligence and jurisdictional-scale program support.
- **Partnering with private sector for sustainable supply chains:** Enhancing private sector engagement within landscapes is critical for reducing emissions in AFOLU sectors. The private sector is the primary driver of deforestation in most cases, and thus has a crucial role to play in

reversing deforestation. This session emphasized the critical role of private sector engagement in reducing emissions in the AFOLU sectors and scaling up REDD+ efforts. While private sector involvement is often linked to carbon credits, the discussion focused on how public sector financing can drive changes in private sector practices across agriculture, livestock, and forestry value chains. Countries like Colombia, Ecuador, Vietnam, and Zambia showcased diverse approaches to successful private sector collaboration including developing traceability systems for deforestation-free coffee, cocoa and other commodities. While challenges such as lack of trust, lack of incentives, and unclear roles persist, participants stressed that clear communication, adaptive strategies, scaling up successful models, fostering partnerships, and improving market access, can effectively help to address them. Presenters spoke to how the private sector is willing to adopt new practices and improve their land usage as long as the improved practices are demonstrated to be economically attractive.

In addition to the above thematic areas, the event also hosted a Knowledge Café session which allowed the participants to have an open dialogue on diverse topics among themselves and with technical experts. The topics covered by the Knowledge Café included:

- **Building evidence on REDD+:** The discussion stressed the importance of rigorous evidence and analysis to guide policy decisions. Some countries use impact evaluation and outcome analysis to analyze impacts on reducing deforestation and to strengthen their REDD+ programs. However, it was noted that impact evaluations can be narrow, and a broader focus on the enabling environment and sustainable development is needed. Tools like Natural Capital Accounting and budget tagging were highlighted for justifying nature-positive investments and identifying gaps, emphasizing the need for diverse analytical approaches for informed decision-making.
- **Enhancing IPs and LCs participation in REDD+, NDCs and climate finance:** IPs and LCs have actively participated in REDD+ processes, from consultations and strategy design to piloting RBP and forest carbon programs. However, while some funds have been channeled to IPs and LCs through environmental services, these remain insufficient, and IPs continue to call for increased direct finance. Participants discussed bottlenecks and solutions for scaling up finance for IPs and LCs in REDD+ and climate initiatives. They emphasized replicating best practices from the past 15 years, such as inclusive governance, partnerships with IP and LC organizations, and transparent decision-making. While there are funding options for IPs and LCs ranging from small grants to larger funds, a gap in mid-sized funding was noted. Participants also stressed the need to shift from 'capacity building,' to knowledge exchange, as many IP and LC organizations are well-equipped with capacity. The mismatch between short-term government cycles and Indigenous long-term approaches was identified as a key challenge.
- **Data management for REDD+: collecting data beyond MRV:** This discussion explored how National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) provide data beyond carbon MRV, covering areas like biodiversity and watershed protection, which support climate mitigation, adaptation, and safeguards reporting. Papua New Guinea and Chile's data collection were highlighted as examples. The Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Secretariat introduced its upcoming "The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard" (TREES) modules on accounting non-carbon benefits, which may offer price premiums. Countries raised concerns about the increased data burden and uncertainties about whether additional reporting would yield significant rewards. The ART Secretariat recommended using existing verifiable metrics, recognizing both the opportunity to increase TREES credit value and the challenges involved.

- World Bank’s Global Challenge Program on Forests:** The Global Challenge Program (GCP) “Forests for Development, Climate and Biodiversity” – one of six Global Challenge Programs being rolled out by the World Bank as part of the Evolution Roadmap – provides an operational framework for scaling attention, action, and impact in forest landscapes through enhanced collaboration across the World Bank Group (WBG). The GCP on Forest aims to scale sustainable forest solutions and investments for enhanced development, climate, and biodiversity outcomes. It focuses on conserving forest landscapes, valorizing forest resources, and creating development benefits for communities. The program mobilizes finance from various sources, including Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), private sector, and philanthropies. Its key objectives include better governance, management, and inclusion to unlock forest economies, create economic opportunities, and leverage innovative financial instruments to scale funding for nature-based solutions.
- AFOLU and Private Sector Engagement (PSE):** To enhance private sector engagement in forest conservation, market mechanisms like carbon trading programs and stronger regulations for ecotourism can provide financial incentives while protecting eco-guards. Investing in national reserve mapping, as seen in Guinea, Cambodia, and Côte d’Ivoire, helps prevent mining and promotes conservation efforts. Burkina Faso’s shift toward private sector involvement in forest conservation through REDD+ projects emphasized the application of financial controls to prevent deforestation. Similarly, Mexico’s Ministry of Finance has developed tax incentives and regulations to promote environmental projects, using project taxonomy to mitigate risks and support forest conservation and emissions reduction.
- Integrating Biodiversity in REDD+:** Biodiversity is essential for healthy ecosystems and economies, though it is difficult to quantify and monetize these benefits. AFOLU/REDD+ programs should integrate forest conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable agricultural practices that enhance soil biodiversity. The value of soil biodiversity is often overlooked, and species like *Coffea arabica* could serve as proxies for biodiversity metrics which may help to generate premium carbon credits with proven biodiversity benefits. Although forests provide much more than just trees, the private sector may not yet be ready to invest in



biodiversity services, leaving international organizations to lead market development. Robust data and verification systems are needed to ensure fair compensation for biodiversity protection and to prevent undervaluation of critical ecological systems.

**At the end of the REDD+ Knowledge Day, representatives from the World Bank, UN-REDD, and REDD+ countries shared their reflections on the progress and future direction of REDD+ initiatives.** They emphasized the importance of collaboration across multiple sectors and stakeholders to scale up efforts in reducing deforestation and enhancing sustainable land management practices. Speakers highlighted the evolving landscape of climate finance, stressing the need for innovative approaches that integrate environmental, social, and technological factors to maximize impact. They also recognized the crucial role of IPs and LCs in implementing successful REDD+ projects and the necessity of building robust governance frameworks that ensure transparency, equity, and long-term viability. The discussions underscored the importance of commitment from both the public and private sectors to deliver meaningful results, while aligning efforts with global climate goals, particularly the 1.5°C target and ending deforestation by 2030.

**The REDD+ Knowledge Day was well received, with 92% of participants rating the overall quality of the event as Excellent or Good.** Participants valued the opportunity to exchange knowledge with peers, engage directly with technical experts and REDD+ program coordinators, learn from the experiences of other countries, and network. They also expressed a desire for longer exchange sessions and more time allocated for discussion and Q&A.

Going forward, learning from this REDD+ Knowledge Day, the Facility Management Team (FMT) of the FCPF and ISFL and the UN-REDD knowledge management team will focus on the following next steps to enhance the effectiveness of the knowledge activities:

- **Collaborate on joint knowledge events and products:** Strengthen partnerships to share insights and best practices, enhancing the impact and engagement of knowledge-sharing efforts.
- **Support South-South Knowledge Exchange events:** Continue promoting regional-level South-South Knowledge Exchange to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience between countries.
- **Refine the design and delivery of knowledge events:** Based on the feedback and reflections, allow for longer, more in-depth discussions and broaden participation by including more stakeholders from each country, focusing on demand-driven topics for mutual learning.
- **Enhance participation of IPs, LCs, and the private sector in knowledge exchange activities:** REDD+ programs will not succeed without the support and active involvement of IPs, LCs, and private sector stakeholders. IPs and LCs not only need capacity-building opportunities to fully participate in and benefit from REDD+ initiatives, but their perspectives must also be heard by other stakeholders, including governments, international development agencies, and donors. Furthermore, public financing alone will not be sufficient to achieve REDD+ goals. Leveraging private sector investments is critical to meeting the 2030 targets. Therefore, IPs, LCs, and the private sector are essential stakeholders in both REDD+ initiatives and knowledge exchange activities.