

Country Updates

In September 2013, Conservation International (CI) received an award from the US Department of State (DoS) for the proposal entitled, “**Widening Informed Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ (WISE REDD+)**,” in response to the request for applications entitled, “REDD+ Stakeholder Engagement in Support of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.” The purpose of WISE REDD+ is to enhance and scale-up ongoing stakeholder engagement in five developing tropical forest countries (Costa Rica, Kenya, Peru, Suriname and Vanuatu) that are participants in the global Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This is expected to help ensure that national REDD+ Readiness programs and associated Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) and Emission Reduction Programs (ER Programs) have strong support from all stakeholders including local populations, indigenous peoples and civil society.

During this first project phase, country projects in Costa Rica, Kenya, Peru, Suriname, and Vanuatu have worked in close coordination with country governments and FCPF delivery partners to align project objectives and work plans with the current needs and priorities of FCPF stakeholder engagement in each country. As a result, the project consortium, as well as key partnerships with local partners and key stakeholders in each project country, is being formalized to kick off project implementation.

Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, CI is partnering with Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria de Centroamérica (ACICAFOC). ACICAFOC and CI will support Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal (FONAFIFO) with activities and products that contribute to improving stakeholder engagement in the R-Package, the Emissions Reductions Program Document (ERPD), the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and the drafting of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

Kenya

In Kenya, project partner and country lead International Union for Conservation of Nature Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (IUCN-ESARO) is partnering with the East Africa Wildlife Society (EAWLS). IUCN-ESARO and EAWLS will support stakeholder engagement activities for REDD+ Readiness by working across sectors including the government—with the Forest Service and the Ministry of Environment—the private sector, NGOs and community groups. Throughout the project, the Kenya team will work with the REDD+ Coordinating Unit, the World Bank, and the REDD+ Technical Working Groups. During this first phase, an inception meeting was successfully held with active participation of relevant stakeholder groups. Key inputs were gathered for the implementation and next steps of the project.

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US Department of State Meets with WISE REDD+ Costa Rica Team

A team from the US Department of State visited Costa Rica on Friday, April 25th and met with the WISE REDD+ Costa Rica team.



CI, ACICAFOC and FONAFIFO organized the meeting to introduce WISE REDD+ to the US Mission in Costa Rica and the newly appointed Minister of Environment. During the meeting, the partnership and project work plan were presented, and it was explained how the WISE REDD+ US Department of State grant will support the implementation of the R-Package and Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD) for REDD+ in Costa Rica.

Kenya Inception Meeting

The WISE REDD+ inception meeting for Kenya was held on 18th February 2014 at Silver Springs Hotel in Nairobi. The meeting was attended by diverse stakeholders who are interested in REDD+ processes in Kenya. They included government officials from different departments such as the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), indigenous Sengwer people, various natural resource user groups including pastoralists, NGOs and private sector groups who are involved in REDD+ project development, including Wildlife Works.

During the workshop, the IUCN and EAWLS project teams presented strategies, activities and the priority regions the project will target.

The National REDD+ Coordination Officer & Focal Point presented the status of Kenya REDD+ Readiness to date.

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Peru

In Peru, CI is partnering with Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation. Helvetas will be in charge of designing and validating a mechanism that will allow the collection of claims and the feedback from stakeholders related to the REDD+ processes at multiple levels and scales with the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) and representatives of public, private and civil society sectors. CI and Helvetas will also lead and coordinate meetings with MINAM and other relevant stakeholders at the national level, as well as designated FIP regions such as San Martin, Atalaya, and Madre de Dios.

Suriname

In Suriname, CI coordinated with the Climate Compatible Development Agency (CCDA) to focus on section 1c.3 of the R-PP, "Capacity Strengthening in Government." The expected result of this collaboration is that CI will facilitate a co-designed community engagement process developed by both the government and indigenous and tribal communities to increase government capacity in community engagement and FPIC principles in accordance with section 1c.3 of the R-PP. The participation and leadership of indigenous and tribal leaders and representatives in defining and guiding the capacity building activities will be a unique opportunity for shared learning and mutual understanding of needs and priorities. This approach will build relationships, create opportunities for continuing dialogue, and lay the groundwork for future civil society capacity building activities.

Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, CI is partnering with Live and Learn Environmental Education. A Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CBSEP) is now complete and is being circulated for comments to CI-Pacific Islands, local stakeholders, and the Vanuatu REDD+ Technical Committee. WISE REDD+ has received endorsement from the government and they strongly support the planned activities, which complement those of the Vanuatu REDD+ Unit.

Quick Facts: October–March 2014

During the first six months of the WISE REDD+ Project, funded activities and cost share activities included:

- Four REDD+ training workshops in three countries with a total of 57 people trained, 38% of whom were women,
- A total of 117 participants from 45 institutions engaged in REDD+ and WISE REDD+ project-related discussions,
- A total of five workshops in four countries,
- A total of 74 meetings related to the project or related to REDD+ stakeholder engagement in five countries, with 124 total participants, 43% of whom were women.

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His presentation covered, among other things, national REDD+ goals; priority areas of focus; REDD+ Readiness activities; Kenya's progress towards Readiness; the consultation and participation Process.



The workshop also benefitted from the participation of IUCN's Uganda office, who provided an overview of REDD+ processes in Uganda with special focus on lessons from the "Towards a Pro-Poor REDD+," a project initiated by IUCN which formulated a consultation and participation plan for the REDD+ process in Uganda.

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