

Update for the FCPF Participants Assembly Meeting (PA9)

Thursday, September 29 2016

Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with an update on the UN-REDD Programme. Although the primary focus of UN-REDD has been in supporting countries to move towards REDD+ readiness, this support is increasingly provided to countries moving towards **results based actions** to both meet the requirements of the UNFCCC, and to start implementation of national REDD+ Policies and Measures.

Over the past year, at a **programmamatic level**

- Three new National Programmes were approved¹ and five countries marked the start of their National Programmes.²
- Cambodia, Panama, Ecuador, the Zambia and Solomon Islands have been evaluated - with some of the findings and recommendations integrated into the FCPF grants.³
- Also in 2015, 16 country requests and three regional requests for targeted support were approved, bringing the total number of countries supported to 46 and four regions.
- The CBR initiative, equivalent to the FCPF's Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, disbursed 3M USD through 90 grants in the 6 pilot countries.

Since we last got together, the Paris Agreement also marked an important milestone. Many countries in this room have made bold commitments through their NDCs, which we stand ready to support. As we align our support to the Warsaw framework elements, we continue to learn together with our partners. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our key achievements in the last 12 months.

National REDD+ strategies or action plans

- While National Strategies and action plans are critical, complementing them with investment planning, as was done in the Congo, Costa Rica and Ecuador, helps define strategic options.
- This was done collaboratively in the Zambia where joint UN-REDD and FIP missions supported technical discussions with Government and stakeholders to design REDD+ Investment Plans.
- Additionally, six countries⁴ undertook forest economic valuation studies with UN-REDD support.

NFMS

- **40 countries** are advancing with their NFMS. Several partner countries are now producing forest data for the first time. 20 countries have developed national web portals for their NFMS, and 12

¹ *Chile, Myanmar and Peru*

² *Argentina, Bangladesh, Honduras, Mongolia and Uganda*

³ *Cambodia, the Zambia and Panama.*

⁴ *Ethiopia, Kenya, Indonesia, Panama, Tanzania and Zambia*

countries now have operational portals or web-dissemination platforms that display information on NFMS.⁵

- Open Foris, which facilitates flexible and efficient data collection, analysis and reporting, and broadens access to easy-to-use digital tools, is being used to improve NFMS, as was the case at a recent workshop in Jakarta.

FREL/FRL

- Of the 15 submissions of FREL/FRLs made by countries to the UNFCCC, **14** are from UN-REDD partner countries. This reflects the positive trend and progress by countries through UN-REDD support:
 - Ecuador submitted its FREL and more recently submitted its first Biennial Update Report (BUR) together with the REDD+ plus technical annex
 - Ethiopia became first African country to submit its FRL .
 - Mexico also submitted its FREL, and benefited from technical dialogues on FREL and NFMS data analysis support from UN-REDD.
 - UN-REDD and FCPF collaboration on the ground is providing ongoing assistance on MRV and FREL in Bhutan.

Safeguards

- The past 12 months have seen an intensification of countries' efforts to meet UNFCCC safeguard requirements as they move towards REDD+ implementation, and UN-REDD has been stepping up its technical assistance to meet this upsurge in demand.
- Through UN-REDD support , More than **30** countries are in various stage of their development of "country approaches to safeguards" to meet relevant UNFCCC requirements and **eight** countries are in the process of developing a SIS.
- Key achievements are exemplified by Ecuador, which advanced on its safeguards component of the national REDD+ strategy, and Mexico, which is in the advanced stages of developing its National Safeguards System and SIS.

Support to cross-cutting issues also remains at our core to ensure the Programme achieves its desired results:

Stakeholder Engagement

- As we focus our support towards implementation and investments, stakeholder engagement processes have been broadened and focused around the strategies, priority actions and geographies, as well as FPIC processes. This is the case in Honduras, Kenya and PNG, which have progressed significantly in implementing FPIC principles.
- Similarly, in the pilot countries, CBR has yielded concrete results in terms of access to legal and technical advice on improved land use management and alternative livelihoods.

⁵ *Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, PNG, the Philippines and Solomon Islands have finalized their NFMS action plans. Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, PNG and Paraguay have prepared their forest-cover maps supporting design, methodology and piloting phase of their NFI.*

Governance

- Support to improved governance and institutional arrangements for REDD+, beyond NS/AP's, was provided to 19 countries. This includes Zambia, which passed the Forest Act of 2015, legally recognizing carbon as a forest product.
- Peru built capacity to implement the Forest and Wildlife Law in indigenous and farming communities, and Indonesia, Nigeria and Viet Nam have completed different steps of their participatory governance assessments.

Tenure

- **Nine** partner countries⁶, have, with UN-REDD support, made progress on tenure issues, and three countries⁷ have proposed recommendations to strengthen tenure rights in relevant policies/ legislation and in REDD+ priority areas.

In the UN-REDD Programme we still consider that the most valuable progress happens when our partner countries share their own experiences. Facilitation of South- south and knowledge exchanges remains a vital focus:

- UN-REDD Programme REDD+ Academy sessions have brought together more than 2000 participants through regional and national sessions.
- Ethiopia and the Republic of Korea have exchanged practical experiences on reforestation, while Cote d'Ivoire and Costa Rica have focused their study tours on Cocoa and PES.
- LAC countries have been the most dynamic in exchanging perspectives, and we have seen keen interest in knowledge sharing on topics such as REDD+ financing, which was covered in a regional session in Bangkok.

Partnership and collaboration with other REDD+ initiatives is more important than ever - the Paris agreement has revitalized and increased interest in REDD+ and the contribution of forests to mitigation objectives. Forests and forest action are covered through different instruments, and forests are also supported by different financial mechanisms. This is an incredible opportunity for forest countries, and we deem it our duty to support and work towards harmonization and coordination to support faster implementation so that we can collectively reach the ambitious target of 2 degree C or below. We look forward to the the joint COP22 side event with FCPF on joining forces to achieve SDG15 and delivering on the Global Agenda for forests, climate and development!

You can also read more about progress achieved in the full 2015 annual report, available on the UN-REDD website.

Thank you.

⁶ *Benin, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zambia*

⁷ *Benin, Madagascar and Tunisia)*