

UNDP Statement at PA 14, Washington DC, 17 December 2021

Thank you co-Chair.

I would also like to introduce Tim Clairs, Principal Policy and Technical Advisor of the Climate and Forests Programme, UNDP, who is with us in our virtual meeting space today.

Two years running, but a virtual PA and PC meeting is very welcome; it continues to provide the space to update Participants, provide crucial information and foster innovation and exchange. Many congratulations to the FCDP FMT and Countries for all the impressive work. Thank you for providing the space to present our comments.

We hope that colleagues are safe and well and coping with the continuing demands led by a changing world. On the heels of COP 26 held in Glasgow, we see our Country partners and institutions forging ahead in an effort to access the long-promised and appropriately-scaled finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation. They are positioning themselves to apply opportunities afforded by Article 6 as well as the Voluntary Carbon Market. Carrying this momentum forward, UNDP continues to support countries to access finance and investments to implement their NDCs and REDD+ Strategies.

Countries have continued working in 2021 to deliver FCPF Readiness grants in two countries with UNDP's support: Cambodia and Kenya. Four countries - Honduras, Papua New Guinea; Panama and Paraguay, have closed their programmes and are into the steps of submitting final project and financial reports as well as the results of project evaluations. The 7th country under our portfolio, Suriname is now conducting a final evaluation. Cambodia and Kenya will have operationally closed their programmes by the end of the first quarter in 2022, allowing sufficient time for financial closure and fulfilment of requirements. Yesterday Kenya presented its progress report. It is one of the countries that joined at the tail end of the Readiness Fund, and is set to deliver in good time, the main elements of the Warsaw Framework. It has been heartening to see that even with the constraints that continue due to Covid 19, the willingness to deliver has not attenuated and stakeholders are hopeful and galvanised after COP 26, to ensure that the elements to access climate finance are set in place and will result in social inclusiveness and benefits, protection and conservation of forests and mitigation of climate change.

Of a total allocation of US \$ **41,713,257.41**, **97% from the Readiness Fund, 97% has been disbursed and utilized as of October 31st, 2021.**

A full written statement will be uploaded to the meeting webpage and include updates for each country, I would like to offer a few highlights now:

[Cambodia](#)

Implemented with the **General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection, Ministry of Environment**, Cambodia has been working on REDD+ with FCPF funding since 2014 and has a SIS, NFMS, a REDD+ Strategy and FREL. A summary of information has been submitted and Cambodia has been developing an operational guideline for its Safeguards Information System as well as implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework.

As part of the continuous improvement of the NFMS to monitor the results of REDD+ activities in the field, a Retreat was conducted in early 2021 to identify gaps in technical, institutional, and financial requirements of the REDD+ implementation at multiple scales and to set a new vision of the NFMS. The project continues to make significant progress to enhance Cambodia's eligibility for the requirements for REDD+.

COVID-19 led to the cancellation of missions to Cambodia and subsequently prevented some consultants from meeting the target delivery which required more time to complete the tasks. In addition, several stakeholder's consultation planning workshops and meetings, joint training for MRV Technical Team with partners have been delayed or cancelled. However a great deal has been achieved.

The Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG-I) time series data for all sectors (AFOLU, energy, industry and waste) has been completed. The final draft of GHG-I is submitted to the National Council for Sustainable Development for inclusion in the preparation of the first BUR for Cambodia. In 2020, Cambodia submitted a REDD+ Technical Annex with its first BUR.

The Action and [Investment Plan](#) for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy was completed and officially endorsed by the Minister of Environment on 12 May 2021. The AIP sets up the programmatic framework of investments needed to achieve the REDD+ Strategic Objectives identified in the NRS. The AIP presents the policies and measures, financial plan and monitoring and evaluation framework needed to implement REDD+. It also seeks to guide investments for effective implementation of various REDD+ actions across the country in a way that ensures social inclusion and gender equity. The AIP links existing policies and addresses gaps in an implementation framework that enhances coherence and coordination, especially between the Ministries and their technical and financial partners.

With MRV funding, as Andres mentioned, and If you joined the knowledge session on Nesting, you may have heard more about Cambodia's work, with a range of stakeholders, project proponents, international NGOs and development partners to pioneer a nested system for REDD+/Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects. Extensive work continues to develop a regulatory framework (through "Prakas" or proclamation and Guidelines which plugs into draft regulation and sub-decree under review), and an operational system with technical considerations to facilitate the creation of the nested system. This will include a revision of the FRL (submitted in Jan 21 with the revised version submitted in May) and development of rules and a tool for its allocation at different scales, as well as a REDD+ database linked to the national emissions reduction registry. An on-going priority is to seek funds to operationalize this nested system to support REDD+ implementation.

This work is undertaken in close collaboration and coordination with the key stakeholders, an important goal when developing such a system, in order to have everyone evolve a workable process together. These include the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), including Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Alliance, Conservation International, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Mitsui & Co., Ltd, USAID Greening Prey Lang, Japan Forest Agency, Korean Forest Agency and Wildlife Work Carbon.

In addition, while working on the development of and anticipating the adoption of the PRAKAS by the Government, in order to ensure REDD+ projects have "crediting pathway" to generate and issue "nested" carbon credit and given that majority of REDD+ projects currently use VERRA-VCS standard, Cambodia is also working to assess the application of Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ (JNR) in the Cambodian context. Currently, Cambodia is working to develop and finalize VERRA-JNR project proposal to be submitted to VERRA.

Cambodia is also taking part in the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI) through its Country Contact Group to learn and facilitate international cooperation that will advance high integrity VCMs, especially in the forest and land use sector. It is in the process of developing a VCM Access Strategy to identify opportunities that will align VCM finance flows with its climate policy and finance priorities to support its NDC implementation. Given that the NDC sets an ambitious national target to halve its deforestation rate by 2030 through, among others, the implementation of its national REDD+ strategy, the opportunity to secure and redirect finance is crucial.

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Honduras

Honduras presented its updated NDC in May 2021. In the official document, Honduras recognized the support of the UNDP Climate Promise in the review process of the first update of the NDC and established its new and ambitious climate promise to reduce by 16 % net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through 7 specific measures and a proposal for the distribution of this goal among the prioritized sectors, the two synergistic contributions for forests and reduction of firewood consumption were also confirmed, where it was committed to an increase of 300 hectares of forest under the approach of functional restoration of the rural landscape, in addition to the million hectares to be reforested proposed in 2015.

The updated NDC is presented as a “commitment of our people” with 13 national strategic objectives, a strengthened chapter for adaptation that includes 9 contributions and 14 measures, as well as 3 additional chapters such as social inclusion (with 6 contributions and 16 measures), financing (with 4 contributions) and MRV. Building on the REDD+ work, UNDP, with its team of specialists, delivered to the government a baseline report that brings together the trend analysis of each of the sectors and their mitigation potential, a roadmap for mitigation and adaptation that indicates the priorities and actions that the country must adopt towards its second NDC to be presented in 2025, a specific roadmap for financing has also been delivered, and a strategic roadmap for gender is currently being worked on. More information is available if needed.

There are multiple sources of support for REDD+ including FCPF and UN-REDD, Forest Investment Preparation funds and the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)-FLEGT with the European Union in its final stage of negotiation, three national programs are under way through the Water-Forest-Soil Master Plan: a) National Agroforestry Program with the focus of sustainable management of productive landscapes; b) National Restoration Program; and c) Strategy for the control of illegal logging within the framework of VPA-FLEGT. These programs are the instruments that will allow the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

With serious conflicts over environmental and land resources, efforts have been made to open up communication channels and restore the dialogue between the Government and the Indigenous Peoples, and to enable Government to comply with the agreements reached. Extensive consultations were held with the Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples to respect and recognize their rights. One platform has been the VPA through which IPs have the opportunity to express their needs and advocate for their rights and the participation of the Indigenous People and Afro- descendants

The inclusion of indigenous women in the REDD+ preparation process, and their active participation in discussions and negotiations was a success considering the restricted channels for participation in the past. Women face particular challenges including the no access to land ownership, economic dependency and discrimination. Gender considerations were therefore a key cross cutting element of the Programme.

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Kenya

The activities and implementation of the Kenya REDD+ Programme stands at brink of a sea-change in Kenya’s management of forests. You were able to hear about Kenya’s progress on Wednesday and would have noted the pace of implementation; Kenya was one of the last countries to begin work in the Readiness pipeline, yet, the project is set to close at the end of this year with a majority of the ambitious deliverables met. Extensive

consultations resulting in a REDD+ Strategy that reflects the Nation's hopes and vision has been developed. Kenya is actively looking to mobilise resources to implement the REDD+ Strategy and thereby its NDC.

Under the first outcome a host of analytical studies to inform the development of the National REDD+ Strategy issues and options were carried out on NRM management and policy, private sector engagement, assessment of financing, incentives, and benefit sharing opportunities and options for REDD+ implementation at national and county levels in Kenya and enhancing participation of the marginalized and forest dependent communities in the development and implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.

County Model Laws on forest policy and bill on forest conservation and management were developed to support the devolved functions of environment and forestry. These model laws set the basis for a jurisdictional and devolved actions for forest conservation in Kenya. These are buttressed by the national PLR framework constituting of the National Climate Change Action Plan, the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National REDD+ Strategy and the Kenya National Forest Programme 2016-2030. Through the project's support the National Forest Policy was finalized and endorsed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Two Counties; Nyeri and Elgeyo Marakwet passed a County Forest Management and Conservation Act and Policy. In Nyeri County where Kenya's highest mountain, with dwindling snow at the equator due to Climate Change, lies, a band of rich montane forests forms around this revered mountain. These seeks to provide legal and institutional framework for the sustainable management of forest resources and trees outside forest land. They aim to ensure respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights in all forestry and tree growing actions; implement provisions of the Constitution and national laws on environment, forest conservation and land use planning.

The development of ethics and integrity guidelines in forest governance at the County level were also completed: and were informed by international best practices. The REDD+ anti-corruption guidelines outline principles and strategies for REDD+ implementing partners towards eradication of corruption throughout the REDD+ cycle. They also provide relevant measures for prevention, detection, eradication of corrupt practices and subsequent mechanisms for reporting, monitoring, and accounting for and fair determination of identified cases.

The project has laid great emphasis on gender and stakeholder inclusion by conducting a Gender Inclusion and Vulnerability Assessment for Forest Dependent Communities. It examined vulnerability of communities in terms of access and use, protection, conservation and management of forestry related resources; and make appropriate recommendations to inform the key actors and the REDD+ Strategy. A training curriculum and manual on mainstreaming of a Human Rights Based Approach in forest conservation, protection, and management was developed through a consultative process led by the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights in close collaboration with the Kenya Forest Services to mainstream this approach to forest conservation and protection, as well as within the nexus of climate change, forest protection and human rights.

As of December 2021, a draft National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been developed with the support of Japan-funded CADEP, and further work to advance it, conducted under the leadership of Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Kenya Forest Service, the REDD+ Strategy is completed and a national approach to safeguards should also be achieved.

Kenya recently submitted a proposal to the LEAF Coalition and this is currently being assessed.

Kenya is engaging with Climate Focus and UNDP to develop a Voluntary Carbon Market Access Strategy. It will assess how to achieve a policy framework that enables Kenya to bring high-integrity carbon credits into the VCM, and ultimately leverage financial resources needed to achieve its climate change goals.

Through UNDP facilitation, the Government of Kenya is effectively participating in the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI) dialogues - VCMI is an umbrella initiative to connect and align key stakeholders and initiatives who share VCMI's vision, and to deliver two initial priorities, namely (i) the promotion of demand-side integrity and (ii) the promotion of demand-side integrity and access - as member of the Country Contact Group (CCG).

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Panama

Building on work previously conducted under the UN-REDD Programme, The Ministry of Environment (MiAmbiente) has closed the REDD+ Programme in June 2019.

The main achievements are a strategy, reference level, and NFMS REDD+ Preparation Process in Panama are a National REDD + Strategy, a National Forest Monitoring System, a Forest Emission Reference Levels as a baseline, and an Environmental and Social Safeguards Information System is in place to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and of all users of forests. The REDD+ Strategy has been anchored under the Sustainable Forest Strategy 2050 providing a legal framework and an enabling environment to implement the five REDD+ activities that Panama has decided to measure and monitor and provides a good basis for the implementation phase; however, it needs to be supplemented and updated with more in-depth analysis and relevant data specifying the measures and actions defined.

For the first time indigenous peoples had a structured opportunity to negotiate and plan with respect to their forests, with a clear designation of their rights and responsibilities and a chance to participate in national decision making and capacity building. A key highlight was the recognition of the importance of indigenous territories as carbon stocks and the role they could play in keeping national GHG emissions in line with Panama's NDC. The indigenous sector included 12 requirements in the REDD+ Strategy to be addressed in the implementation phase. A focus on gender was another important part of the process; women now occupy the positions of forest rangers, are leaders, and actively participate in the REDD+ Board and the Indigenous Technical Committee (CTI).

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Papua New Guinea

PNG closed its REDD+ Readiness programme with the following achievements made.

A National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), developed through a highly participative, intersectoral and successful process, and endorsed by the National Executive Council in May 2017. A National REDD+ Finance and Investment Plan (NRFIP), aimed at turning the NRS into a more concrete, detailed and costed plan to implement, with responsibilities clearly defined and existing funding sources identified was finalised in 2020.

A Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2017, technically assessed by UNFCCC and resubmitted the same year. It provided the basis for the development of a REDD+ annex to Biennial Update Report (BUR) that has been submitted by the country to the UNFCCC in 2019. The data and information provided in this annex, which covers the 2014-2015 period, has been deemed compliant by the UNFCCC, which allows PNG to be eligible for Results-based Payments, for example under the GCF.

A National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), for which a web portal has been established. The NFMS should be strengthened in the future with new data from the National Forest Inventory and the remeasurement of Permanent Sampling Plots to improve accuracy of estimating GHG removal in degraded forest.

A Summary of Information (SOI) on safeguards, together with a National Safeguards Information System (SIS), which have been endorsed by the National Executive Council in November 2020, as well as the guidelines for a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM).

National REDD+ management arrangements are not fully in place with the absence of a national REDD+ Steering committee. However, the project has successfully engaged, informed and built the capacities of key stakeholders and supported a real improvement in cross-sectoral coordination between key national agencies.

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Paraguay

The Project Forests for Sustainable Growth (BCS), executed from September 2017 to June 2021, has achieved the requirements of the Warsaw framework in relation to the REDD+ pillars. In addition, it has providing the country with tools and public policies to build the capacities and instruments of the country to ensure effective achievement of these pillars. Paraguay has begun its [Results-based Payment \(RBP\)](#) obtained as a result of the efforts and actions carried out as part of the BCS Project, in November 2019, led by UNEP in coordination with UNDP and FAO.

Other significant achievements of the reported period are: the Implementation Plan of the National Strategy Forests for Sustainable Growth (ENBCS), and the conclusion of various support tools for the implementation of the ENBCS, such as: legal proposals addressing carbon ownership, benefit sharing, the approval of the ENBCS in different bodies other than the MADES, the regulation of [Decree 1039/18 on Free, Prior and Informed Consultation and Consent](#), Management Plans of Protected Wild Areas (PWAs), update of the National System of Protected Wild Areas (SINASIP), ENBCS Financial Strategy and ENBCS Communication Plan.

The BCS project has achieved a great deal of cross integration and coordination, linking to other REDD+ related activities, to enable conditions for the implementation of ENBCS activities. These include:

- **Project Green Production Landscapes (MADES/UNDP/GEF):** the support for the initial phase of the development of the Environmental Code was coordinated, which sought to address carbon ownership, the benefit sharing plan and the registration of emission reduction projects;
- **[Green Chaco Project](#) (MADES/UNDP/GEF):** Technical materials identifying areas of high conservation value, as well as communication materials linking sustainable production and conservation, as an integral part of sustainable development were generated; and
- **PROMESA Chaco Project (MADES/WWF):** coordinated the support to provide training on Environmental Services to indigenous peoples and to producers, as the main beneficiaries. The BCS Project provided the enabling conditions to Paraguay to access the REDD+ Results-based Payment window of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This payment corresponds to the reduction of emissions from deforestation for 23 million tons of CO₂ equivalent, achieved during the 2015-2017 period.

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[Suriname](#)

Implemented with the **National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS)** in the Cabinet of the President, the Suriname FCPF REDD+ programme which began in 2014 has now a [National REDD+ Strategy](#) available in both Dutch and English. Progress has been made on the SIS which is available at www.sis.surinameredd.com. Information can be accessed on how safeguards are addressed and respected at both national and project scale of REDD+ implementation. Suriname has an advanced forest monitoring system including inputs from community-based monitoring. As part of the NFMS a near real time tracking model uses more recent satellite images to track the activity in forests and focuses on crosschecking the logging activities registered in SFISS with Sentinel-2 images. For instance one of the activities that was recently carried out, is an assessment of all log yards. Due to the mobile application, it was easy to immediately see the status of all encountered logs on the spot and to identify illegally procured logs which were confiscated. This has resulted in a meeting of the export companies agreeing that they will not acquire illegal logs anymore. These companies have access to the system and can immediately check if the logs being sold to them are registered and legally harvested.

In January 2021, the [Second FRL](#) for Suriname was submitted. This went through a technical assessment process of the UNFCCC, where Suriname was given the opportunity to analyse the feedback and submit an improved FREL at the end of June 2021. In this report the FREL was projected for 2020-2024 using the historical period 2000-2019.

With this HFLD Country REDD+ ready, Suriname is poised to take advantage of the windows that are coming up for HFLD countries, for example the TREES Standard V 2.0.

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Finally, I would like close with a few general updates from UNDP's Climate and Forest programme:

[Climate and Forests - UNDP](#)

The Climate and Forests Programme is part of UNDP's Global Policy Network, and, in addition to serving as an FCPF delivery partner, provides technical assistance and knowledge advisory services via the UN-REDD Programme, supports jurisdictional approaches through the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force, and provides demand-based technical assistance for REDD+ delivered through UNDP Country Offices. We works with countries like Costa Rica and Ghana to build forward on work achieved through FCPF readiness finance. We are supporting sub-national jurisdictions in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru, to prepare for results based actions and payments and access climate finance including from the private sector.

Our approach is to:

- enhance ambition and transparency in NDCs' forest components;
- increase access to REDD+ performance-based finance and carbon markets by enhancing countries' national REDD+ and market readiness;
- foster public-private partnerships on deforestation-free finance, for example, to support investments in climate-resilient and deforestation-free practices by cattle ranchers and soy farmers in Paraguay;
- Design and support the operationalization of performance-based finance instruments for domestic implementation.

Cross-cutting our work is a fundamental commitment to social inclusion and environmental integrity in REDD+ actions and finance, promoting models that reinvest proceeds from results-based payments directly into forest conservation incentives for family farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities.

As an example, in Costa Rica, UNDP is the accredited entity for the USD 54M Green Climate Fund REDD+ Result-Based Payment Programme for 2014 and 2015. 90% of the RBP proceeds go to support the National Forest Fire Management Programme as well as the Payment for Ecosystem Services Programme (PES).

In the context of the GCF project these programmes have just undergone an independent verification to assess their effectiveness in the context of the first performance-based payment agreement at UNDP. This detailed technical verification process was carried out by Scientific Certification Services, a US firm of international repute, and included extensive desk review and field visits using robust statistical methods. It concluded that the PES and Forest Fires management programme achieved the following results in 2021:

- 239,190 hectares were under forest protection within the Payment for Environmental Services Program benefiting 4192 forest landowners including 1102 woman and 2263 small holders.
- 545,849 trees have been planted under agroforestry systems through the Payment for Environmental Services Program including 115,899 trees planted on lands belonging to woman and 200,601 trees planted in districts with Very Low Social Development Index (SDI).
- 98% of forest fires were managed at the local level, this early action is key to limit the damage of fire events as reflected in international best practice.
- On average 80.6% of fires in Costa Rica affected pastureland. Only 19.4% of the critical forests and moorlands ecosystems were affected by fire. This shows the high effectiveness of fire breaks and other containment measures designed to limit the impact of fires on forests and moorlands and hence the associated GHG emissions.

Following the verification; a payment of 23,9 million USD was disbursed in the first year of implementation of the GCF project. In the past, the PES program has been fully funded by a national fuel-tax and water fee but for the last 5 years, because of the current economic downturn caused by the pandemic, the GCF funding is essential to consolidating the gains of the last 25 years and sustaining the transfer of needed cash resources directly to impoverished groups in the COVID-19 recovery phase. PES is the largest cash transfer programme targeting indigenous peoples in Costa Rica and now also includes specific provisions to foster the participation of women.

In addition, UNDP hosts the CAFI Secretariat in Geneva and the New York Declaration on Forests Global Platform. New York Declaration on Forests brings together countries, the private sector, civil society, and indigenous peoples, to transform commitment into action to achieve the goal of ending natural forest loss by 2030.

I would like end here and Thank you very much for your kind attention.