

UNDP Statement at PA12, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 12 November 2019

It is a pleasure to be here at PA12, I, am here with my UNDP colleagues Dario Vespertino and Lilian Portillo from the Paraguay Country Office. Thank you to the Dominican Republic for hosting the meeting in this beautiful country.

UNDP is delivering FCPF Readiness grants in seven countries: Cambodia and Papua New Guinea; Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Suriname; and Kenya. Country representatives from PNG, Paraguay and Suriname are here today at the meeting

Total UNDP Delivery is **\$ 41 Million** and by the end of October 2019, three-quarters of these funds have been expended.

We are pleased that it is likely that the FCPF readiness fund will be extended to 2022 and appreciate FMT's clear presentations of the possible scenarios to enable an informed decision to be made. We also thank Germany which continues, with new funds to support the IP/CSO Capacity Building Initiative.

The written statement is uploaded to the meeting webpage will include key points for each country, but in the interests of time I would like to highlight 3 countries now:

Cambodia

Cambodia trained MRV technicians on the use of drones to improve the monitoring of protected areas. The drone flights were conducted over 10 plots of the National Forest Inventory to support biomass mapping as well. With support from the FCPF, SilvaCarbon and USAID, Cambodia's MRV team also developed emission factors for flooded forest and different types of mangrove forest which will be used to update the country's forest reference level. Cambodia advanced the development of its SIS by conducting a series of consultations with key representatives from forest institutions, relevant ministries to REDD+ implementation, gender groups, local communities, and Indigenous People. The design of Cambodia's SIS is now ready for endorsement by the REDD+ Taskforce.

Paraguay

Thanks to the support of FCPF and UN-REDD, Paraguay is finishing its REDD+ readiness phase. It was able to report REDD+ results to the UNFCCC for years 2015 – 2017 and hopes to do so for 2018. Results reported allowed the country to present a proposal to GCF's REDD+ RBPs Pilot Programme, and this is being considered on 13 November by the Board at B.24. It is expected that Paraguay, with the remaining FCPF readiness finance will consolidate its REDD+ readiness process in 2020, start implementation and receive payments.

Suriname

The draft land rights law, that takes clear steps forward supporting indigenous and tribal peoples' (ITPs) rights, is being submitted to the National Assembly and it is expected that it will be adopted before the next elections in May 2020. This is an important win for safeguards compliance and an opportunity to review and align SESA/ESMF/SIS documents. The national REDD+ strategy has been validated and will soon be available on the Lima Info Hub. Benefit Sharing information is being

socialised to allow indigenous and tribal people full and effective engagement in this process. REDD+ and NDC synergies are and the REDD+ strategy is embedded in the enhanced NDC. Indeed REDD+ stakeholder platforms have been used to discuss the enhanced NDC.

GENERAL

UNDP also provides support to other countries within the Readiness Fund through its Climate and Forests Team, which is part of UNDP's Global Policy Network, UN-REDD related support and through UNDP Country Offices. FCPF readiness finance is enabling these countries, like Peru, Ghana, Nigeria and Indonesia to prepare for results based actions and payments and access climate finance including from the private sector.

As you may know, under the Green Climate Fund's pilot program for rewarding REDD+ results recognised through UNFCCC, Brazil and Ecuador's proposals to the GCF were approved and hopefully Indonesia will be on its way to achieve the same. This is a significant milestone in the effort to reward UNFCCC-consistent REDD+ RBPs.

UNDP hosts the CAFI Secretariat in Geneva. CAFI is funded by Norway, Germany, the EU, France, the UK and South Korea and supports six partner countries in the Congo Basin through a holistic approach that addresses all sectors affecting forests. CAFI is managed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF), and UN agencies, and the WB and bilateral development partners act as implementing agencies to support partner countries. Through CAFI for the first time, Gabon will be rewarded in a 10-year deal for both reducing its GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation, and absorptions of carbon dioxide by natural forests. The partnership provides Gabon with a major incentive by setting a carbon price floor at 10 US dollars per certified ton[1].

it is noteworthy that clear progress is made towards integrating nature based solutions through the bilateral and multilateral efforts which are being better coordinated in countries - so that the sum of the parts are more than the whole.

We agree with FMT that these are exciting times. Finally, nature based solutions to climate change are taking their rightful place. Thank you very much

Updates from the other countries

Kenya

Despite a prolonged slow start, the Project has begun implementation and is accelerating as the PMU is now on board, the forest policy review is underway and consultants are being hired for the development of the national strategy and investment plan. The FRL is scheduled to be submitted in January 2020 to the UNFCCC. The government's Greening Initiative is being supported. A National Taskforce that is directly engaging communities in the design of community models to enhance community participation in forest conservation and management will submit its recommendations. The country held a national consultation meeting to review and adopt guidelines for stakeholder engagement and free, prior and informed consent during REDD+ project implementation.

Community dialogue and consultations were also held on forest policy and regulations with forest indigenous communities in the pilot County of Elgeyo Marakwet.

Honduras

Work on national REDD+ Strategy includes completed detailed drivers assessment, economic analysis of prioritised policies and measures including areas where restoration will take place. Gender work has progressed significantly with strategy, accompanying guide and plan of action on gender integration in policies and measures. Within the safeguards work, the inclusion of a cultural safeguard has been identified by IPs. The NFMS is progressing, SIS design is discussed and proposal for GRM is in place. All readiness activities are progressing well.

The country finalized the design of its Forest Information and Monitoring Management System, which will be one of the main components of the country's National Forest Monitoring System. Methodologies and protocols were also established for forest monitoring mapping and inventories, and for the reporting of emissions from deforestation. Honduras also standardized its information on land use and land use change, resulting in a forest emissions matrix that will be presented for approval later in 2019.

Panama passed a new regulation in December 2018, that creates an incentive program for forest cover and the conservation of natural forests. To comply with this new forestry incentives program, the Panama Reforesta Fund was established, as part of the country's alliance Initiative to reforest a million hectares over the next 20 years. In FY19, Panama also approved its national forest strategy (2018-2050), that includes REDD+ activities.

Papua New Guinea

While developing its first ever National Sustainable Land Use Policy, PNG engaged with REDD+ pilot provinces to understand the different challenges and opportunities of taking a bottom-up approach to broader land use policies. PNG also advanced a review of its National Forestry Act, Climate Change Management Act, and developed provincial forest plans for three REDD+ pilot provinces, as well as established a Palm Oil Platform and the national policy on sustainable palm oil.