

**UN-REDD Programme update for the FCPF PA12/PC28 Meeting  
November 11 – 14 2019, Dominican Republic**

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Thank you for this opportunity to provide you with an update on the UN-REDD Programme.

We are witnessing a growing momentum for Nature helping positioning forests in the international agenda.

The emerging Nature-Based Solution movement, which gained critical mass of political support at the 2019 Climate Action Summit, provides the broader context for renewed efforts to deliver on REDD+'s original promise. Forests offer the biggest and, through a decade of REDD+, the most immediate nature-based solution that could drive the whole movement forward.

But there is still a long way to go. 2020 provides an unprecedented opportunity to chart a new course and exponentially accelerate action at scale in the coming decade.

On our side, from next year we will be exploring how this flagship UN partnership – the UN-REDD Programme – can support realizing the full potential of nature's – and forests' – contribution to the climate emergency.

A growing number of the 65 UN-REDD partner countries are now preparing for and implementing REDD+ actions against the backdrop of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UN-REDD has responded to this demand by supporting partner countries to move beyond the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ to achieve results on the ground.

Since the UN-REDD Programme was launched in 2008, it has been the largest international provider of REDD+ readiness assistance in terms of funding, expertise and geographical scope. The Programme continues to build on the best practice approaches, innovations and complementary experience of its three partner agencies – FAO, UNDP and UN Environment – to provide the network of technical experts and the convening capacity that has underpinned the success of UN-REDD since its onset.

Some highlights from 2018:

- During the course of last year, 34 partner countries received customized UN-REDD Programme support, building on a foundation of ten years of UN-REDD country-level programming.

- Ongoing National Programmes in 10 countries helped UN-REDD partners across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean move closer to completing the requirements under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.
- Moreover, technical experts from across the UN-REDD partner organizations supported countries to move beyond the Warsaw Framework to develop investment plans for resource mobilization and REDD+ implementation.
- Knowledge management and exchange continued to play an important role both at country and at global levels. By increasing the understanding of REDD+ actions and fostering exchange on approaches and lessons, the Programme helps countries accelerate their progress towards REDD+ readiness and improve implementation. The results in 2018 continued to demonstrate the added value of South-South cooperation in catalyzing REDD+ actions and promoting innovation across the globe.
- The Programme continues to value and coordinate closely with the FCPF in many countries, for example in Republic of Congo, where the FCPF Readiness Fund and the UN-REDD Programme have developed joint workplans over the years in support of REDD+ coordination. Or in Colombia where UN-REDD fostered complementary interventions in the participatory process for the implementation for Colombia's strategy [\*Bosques Territorios de Vida\*](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some specific contributions of the Programme.

On **readiness**: A key focus of the Programme remained assisting partner countries in their efforts to complete the 4 pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+:

- 34 countries advanced their National REDD+ strategies and action plans (NS/APs), including 24 that finalized and adopted them.
- Over the last 10 years, capacity development supported by the UN-REDD Programme has given risen to unprecedented transparency in terms of countries' forest data, with more and more countries able to meet international reporting requirements. 40 countries supported in NFMS development since UN-REDD inception
- Of the 39 countries that have submitted FREL/FRLs to the UNFCCC by Jan 2019, over 70% have received UN-REDD Programme support
- 36 countries supported with their country approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements.

On **implementation**: Under its renewed strategic approach since 2018, UN-REDD has been increasingly supporting the pioneer REDD+ countries in:

- implementing their PAMs for REDD+

- deploying the institutional mechanisms that will underpin such implementation (e.g. investment plans, national funding mechanisms, monitoring systems, forest governance arrangements and legitimate tenure rights).
- This support has also helped countries tangibly advance their NDCs in the land and forest realm.

**Support to Knowledge management (KM)** complements UN-REDD's country-level support. Moreover, it is critical to the achievement of the 4 pillars under the Warsaw Framework and to REDD+ implementation. I will provide several examples of our KM work:

The Programme's knowledge on ***forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples*** was a catalyst for change in the REDD+ arena in 2018. For example, a forest and gender knowledge dialogue within the framework of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues fostered a collaboration proposal between UN-REDD and the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

UN-REDD's global work on ***financing and the private sector*** enabled a new blended finance fund – AGR13 Fund – to be set up by Rabobank and UN Environment, in association with the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The AGR13 Fund is intended as a vehicle for ultimately directing US\$ 1 billion in deforestation-free loans to companies and projects in developing countries in order to help countries meet their REDD+ objectives under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Programme has also been granted formal observer status in the ongoing negotiations in the forthcoming aviation market Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

***Linking REDD+, Paris Agreement, NDCs and SDGs***: UN-REDD furthered synergies and supported the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land-use action as a vital “nature-based solution” towards achieving NDCs and advancing the broader Sustainable Development Agenda. UN-REDD helped pilot integrated support for NDC implementation, with a focus on Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ecuador, providing country-level stakeholders with inputs and guidance on how to integrate forests into NDCs.

Building on achievements in previous years, the Programme continued to support 16 countries in advancing the integration of ***gender equality and women's empowerment*** principles into nationally led REDD+ action, at both the national and subnational levels.

Last but not least, the Programme has been actively involved in the preparation process for the UN Secretary-General Climate Summit on the Nature-Based Solutions work stream, supporting raising forest ambition and scaling up forest and REDD+ action.

Achieving our shared objective of REDD+ implementation means reinforcing successful partnerships, including our collaboration with the FCPF. The work carried out by the FCPF and UN-REDD already demonstrates that this is possible at both country and global levels and we will continue our commitment to take this forward to reach our shared goals on forests and climate.

**Thank you.**