

UNDP Statement at PA 13, Washington DC, 22 October 2020

Thank you co-Chair.

I would also like to introduce Tim Clairs, Prin Pol and Tech Advisor of the Climate and Forests Programme, UNDP, who is us in our virtual meeting space today.

The circumstance in which we deliver this update, at PA 13 is a marked difference from our gathering in the in November last year, in the Dominican Republic where it was a privilege to have been together with colleagues in the same room. It paves the way, however, for a necessary rite of passage If we are to make efforts to reduce our travel footprint and emissions associated with it. We thank FMT for successfully organising this virtual meeting.

We hope that colleagues are safe and well and coping with the demands led by the changes we have seen in the past months.

Despite these challenges in 2020, Countries continued to deliver FCPF Readiness grants in seven countries with UNDP's support: Cambodia and Papua New Guinea; Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Suriname; and Kenya. The programmes in Panama and Honduras are now closed. Yesterday Paraguay presented its MTR report. It has been heartening to see that even with the constraints, the willingness to deliver has not attenuated and countries are well on their way plan and implement activities that will result in social inclusiveness and benefits, protection and conservation of forests and mitigation of climate change.

Total Delivery is **\$ 41.5 Million** and by the end of September 2020, **almost 90% of the funds have been expended.**

2020 also saw the FCPF readiness fund formally extended to 2022. This decision has been important for many countries to be able to ensure that deliverables are met; and viewed in tandem with the effects of the pandemic, the extension could not be better timed.

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, Strategy and FREL. Cambodia's National REDD+ Strategy integrates and links its outcomes to a National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan, Production Forests Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan for Fisheries Conservation and Management to demonstrate the integrative nature of the Strategy. Funding to implement the NRS is being sought through the development of an Action and Investment Plan. As per last year's report, emission factors for flooded forest and different types of mangrove forest have been collected for the update of the country's forest reference level.

Mainstreaming gender through training of staff and stakeholders in the three REDD+ subnational demonstration projects that receive Forest Carbon Partnership Phase II grants has been a focus since November last year. Following the submission of its first Summary of Information to the UNFCCC last year, Cambodia has been focusing on developing an operational guideline for its Safeguards Information System as well as implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework.

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. On Oct 6, Cambodia submitted a REDD+ Technical Annex with its first BUR.

It is also closely with project proponents, international NGOs and development partners to pioneer a nested system for REDD+. Extensive work continues regarding a regulatory framework (draft regulation under review), operational systems and technical considerations that will facilitate the creation of the nested system (incl. revision of the FRL and development of rules and a tool for its allocation at different scales, development of 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.

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Honduras

The programme began in 2014 and is implemented with the Secretaría de Energía; Recursos Naturales; Ambiente y Minas (MiAmbiente+).

Honduras closed its programme in December 2019. It has developed capacities of its main stakeholders and laid out the basis of the Strategy which includes implementation and financing an agroforestry programme. The Safeguards Information System has been presented and approved by the CONASASH (Comite Nacional de Salvaguardas Sociales y Ambientales). The SESA and ESMF are complete. The NFMS continues to be improved.

The FREL was constructed with updated land use change maps and standardized methodology and the country has now in place the capacity and tools to measure and monitor the five REDD+ activities as reported in the FREL. Honduras has had two cycles of Forest Inventories and supported the execution of a third. An update to the FREL was submitted to the UNFCCC for review.

The Honduran NDC includes the commitment of reforestation of 1 million hectares of forest (Related to the Bonn Challenge) and a 39% reduction of firewood consumption by 2030.

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. Nation-wide discussions on a new Forest Policy and Community Management regulations are geared to learn from current arrangements and to craft harmonised, feasible and clear policies, laws and regulations for effective community engagement and management of forests. With regards to practical actions, the Ministry is undertaking a mapping of all tree nurseries in the country to facilitate certification and enhancing communities especially the youth to explore the business opportunities especially those who have been affected by the pandemic.

The project has facilitated the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Kenya Forest Service to develop a curriculum and manual on a human-rights based approach in forest protection, conservation and management. This approach will be used to train Kenya Forest Service staff and rangers and will be institutionalized in the Kenya Forestry College for all future induction of all forest rangers, staff and County Government forest officers.

The REDD+ Project held several different events and workshops with the youth, community mobilisers, the National Land Commission and many other country and national stakeholders (government ministries, academia and non-state actors) on forest management in Kenya. IPs continued to discuss sensitive issues around land tenure and sustainable management of forests. Some of the early achievements include fostering of better relationships between Government and communities.

The devolution of forest management to Counties and communities was bolstered by the development of the Elgeyo Marakwet County Sustainable Forest Management and Tree Growing Policy, Forest Conservation and Management Bill. The Policy has been approved by the County Assembly and County Cabinet. The bill has been submitted to County Assembly for enactment. It constitutes a model framework at the County level for sustainable forest conservation and management.

Phase one of the REDD+ Gender Vulnerability Assessment was completed in eight counties. Phase two of the assessment will cover 12 additional Counties, forming a representative sample of all the 47 Counties in the country. The assessment will inform the finalization of the REDD+ Gender Action Plan and Indigenous Peoples Action Plan.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry commissioned the review of the National Forestry Policy 2016 and accompanying proposed amendments to the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016. The review will to address needs for institutional alignment and reforms, climate change, green economy policy requirements, devolution of key aspects of forest management in Kenya, entrenching public participation in forest management and enhancing private sector investment in the forest sector. The proposed National Forest Policy is expected to reflect Kenya's commitment and responsibility to achieve and maintain a 10% forest cover, emphasizing the productive, ecological and environmental services of forests.

Through the CADEP¹ project, Kenya's Forest Reference Levels (FRL) was finalized and submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for review in January 2020. After the TA, Kenya undertook a rigorous assessment and in October the FRL was endorsed by UNFCCC. A working group on a nested approach has been constituted to provide expert recommendations on policy and technical aspects of

¹ The Capacity Development Project for the Sustainable Forest Management in the Republic of Kenya (CADEP-SFM) funded by the Government of Japan has the following outputs by 2021; policy support to the Ministry of Environment, implementation of sustainable forest management in two pilot countries; REDD+ readiness – support to the NFMS and FRL and Tree Breeding with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute.

the REDD+ nesting to the Government. This is in view of the several REDD+ projects already in place and receiving results-based payments in the Country.

Kenya's programme is extended to December 2021 when it aims to finalise its REDD+ readiness requirements.

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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).

In 2018, Panama became one of the few countries in the world to include all five REDD + activities in its forest reference level as well as in Panama's Law on Incentives for Forest Conservation. The development of the FREL allowed capacity building and building up of geospatial information. The FREL and its annexes form part of Panama's commitments to the UNFCCC and updated and transparent forest cover maps are available for the first time. Indigenous technicians and MIAMBIENTE officials were trained for on-site monitoring using drones.

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And now moving to Asia Pacific

Papua New Guinea

Implemented through the National Climate Change and Development Authority, PNG has worked on REDD+ with FCPF funding since 2015 and is on track to finish its current Programme with FCPF by the end of 2020.

To ensure effective implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, US\$20 million has been secured by the seventh replenishment programme of the Global Environment Facility and the European Union's Global Call on Climate Change Initiative. PNG Government has led the development of the Climate Response Roadmap based on SDG13 to set out an integrated pathway for action on climate change across different sectors. More

than 800 stakeholders (40% female) attended provincial consultations and capacity building programmes². To support implementation, a [success story](#) “Ensuring Women Have a Say - Putting Gender at the Heart of Free, Prior and Informed Consent” was featured in the UNDP Asia Pacific Gender Equality Dispatch.

A key milestone for the country was the development and endorsement of [Provincial Forest Plans](#) (PFP) by the National Forest Board on 14 May 2020 to guide provincial governments and stakeholders to use forest and land resources sustainably as well as contribute to the recent government’s intentions to phase out round logs export and increase down streaming processes. The PFP Guidelines are being trialled in three provinces of West and East New Britain and Madang and will be scaled up throughout all provinces. PNG has established a Multi-stakeholder Palm Oil Platform in its efforts to achieve sustainable palm oil development and is in the process of seeking a National Executive Council decision to develop a National Palm Oil Policy and Declaration on Sustainable Palm Oil. The country is also on track to submit its first Summary of Information to UNFCCC once it has been endorsed by the National Executive Council as well as implement its Safeguards Information System.

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[Paraguay](#)

Ulises Lovera, Director of the National Direction of Climate Change of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development *and UNDP RTA Marco Chiu have presented Paraguay’s MTR report at this meeting, therefore a full update is available.*

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Finally I would like to give an update on Suriname

[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.surinamredd.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. The aim is to immediately identify unplanned or illegal activities. Also, a REDD+ Benefit Sharing Mechanism is being developed, and a REDD+ Grievance and Redress Mechanism is being operationalized.

During 2019, The Government of Suriname with support from the FCPF project among others, took the initiative to join forces with countries in similar environmental conditions and organized the high forest, low deforestation Conference on Climate Finance Mobilization. The main objectives of this conference were to be able to meet the economic and social development challenges that HFLD counties faced; assistance in facilitating access to financial resources; and assistance in meeting the commitments related to the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

It is expected that this HFLD Country is REDD+ ready by June 30, 2021. Suriname submitted an enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC in December 2019 at COP 25 restating its contribution as a HFLD country committed to

² <https://png.wcs.org/About-Us/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/11718/PNG-MAPPING-REDD-STAKEHOLDERS-IN-THREE-PROVINCES-FOR-A-BETTER-ENGAGEMENT-PLAN.aspx>

maintaining 93% forest cover. Also, the REDD+ strategy is included in the NDC as the main policy to achieve this goal, as well as the information regarding the Forest Reference Emission Level report to the UNFCCC in January 2018 to assess the quantitative emissions contribution of the sector. Suriname used the existing stakeholder engagement platforms established under the REDD+ readiness process (indigenous and tribal people's platforms) to socialize and validate the NDC.

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

[Climate and Forests - UNDP](#)

UNDP provides support to other countries through its Climate and Forests Programme, which is part of UNDP's Global Policy Network, and encompasses UN-REDD related support, support for jurisdictional approaches through the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force, as well as demand-based technical assistance delivered through UNDP Country Offices. We are working with countries like Costa Rica, Cambodia, Paraguay to build forward on work achieved through FCPF readiness finance. Ghana has a US \$ 54 million programme approved by the GCF for implementation of the REDD Strategy. 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.

As you may know, under the Green Climate Fund's RBP for REDD+ results recognised through UNFCCC, an Indonesia proposal was recently approved for US \$ 103 million and we very happy to say that Costa Rica is presenting its proposal to the GCF Board next month. These are significant milestones in the effort to reward UNFCCC-consistent REDD+ RBPs.

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 to access international results-based payment schemes for the forest sector;
- 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.

It is fundamental to ensure social inclusion and environmental integrity of 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, Indonesia's Social Forestry Programme supports local communities to manage forests – and derive sustainable livelihoods in and around them – while at the same time reducing deforestation and decreasing forestland conflicts arising from competing land use needs. We also support the promotion of rights, knowledge and inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in forest solutions and associated climate finance schemes and benefits and mainstreaming gender and women's empowerment principles in forest solutions and associated climate finance schemes and benefit and assisting countries and jurisdictions meet the requirements of relevant international social & environmental standards. Costa Rica's innovative 'More Women, More Nature' program is at the vanguard of gender-responsive forest conservation, prioritizing Payment for Environmental projects on lands owned or co-owned by women, and will be a primary beneficiary of RBPs to Costa Rica.

In addition, UNDP hosts the CAFE Secretariat in Geneva. CAFE 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. CAFE is managed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF), with UN agencies, the WB and bilateral development partners acting as implementing agencies to support these partner countries.

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