2021

13TH CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE
UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND

Report of the Administrative Agent of the
UN-REDD Programme Fund for the period
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UN-REDD
P R O G R A M M E

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

UNDP

UN environment programme

UN-REDD Programme Fund

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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UN-REDD Programme

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Foreword

Following a one year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 culminated with world leaders meeting face-to-face in Glasgow for the UNFCCC's 26th Conference of the Parties. Two major outcomes of COP26, the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use, reaffirm global intent to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rise to well below 2°C, with forests expected to become one of the key solutions. Through the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration, 141 countries, representing 90 percent of Earth's forest-cover, committed to collectively halting or reversing deforestation by 2030 as an essential course of action to achieve the Paris Agreement goal.

The Glasgow conference also marked the completion of the Paris Rulebook, following agreement on several previously unresolved issues. Notably, this included Article 6, to operationalize the use of international carbon markets in the context of the Paris Agreement as well as a transparency process to hold countries to account to deliver on their greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation targets. The Paris Rulebook sets guidelines for countries to implement the Paris Agreement, across all sectors including forests and land-use.

The outcomes of the Glasgow climate conference align with the efforts of the UN-REDD Programme over the last decade and resonate particularly with the current strategic framework of UN-REDD. That includes implementing forest solutions to the climate emergency, mobilizing finance notably through performance-based finance and high-integrity carbon markets and enhancing ambition in the forest and land-use sectors. The seven UN-REDD partner countries that have accessed REDD+ Results-based Payments (RBPs) from the Green Climate Fund are providing an important proof-of-concept for the innovative performance-based finance scheme for forests solutions. They also show how UN-REDD support for comprehensive national and jurisdictional policy frameworks, transparent forest monitoring systems, accurate forest reference emission levels and robust approaches to social and environmental safeguards enable countries to reduce deforestation and attract the necessary international climate financing to sustain such sustainability pathways. These front-running GCF/RBPs countries, like Costa Rica, demonstrate that RBPs can be deployed to rapidly invest in sustainable forest management and conservation, benefiting targeted populations such as smallholders, rural women and indigenous peoples to yield increasing emissions reductions and a transition to sustainable livelihoods.

The ambitious, yet crucial, climate target of 1.5°C will remain out of reach without drastically scaled-up finance from the private sector. In 2021, UN-REDD engaged in a major global initiative to mobilize private funding for tropical forests. Launched during the Leaders' Summit on Climate, and convened by the US government in April, 2021, the coalition for Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) announced an initial record pledge of $1 billion in public-private finance for countries and jurisdictions to protect tropical forests. Five national and eight sub-national jurisdictions have now submitted successful proposals to the LEAF Coalition. Seven of the jurisdictions submitting successful proposals to LEAF were technically assisted by UN-REDD, and four of those jurisdictions have signed letters of intent to move towards emission reductions purchase agreements by COP27 at the end of 2022.

With over a decade of experience, the UN-REDD Programme is uniquely positioned to support ambitions that unleash the full potential of forest solutions to climate change. UN-REDD has set a mid-decade goal of helping to realize one gigaton of emission reductions from the forest and land-use sectors per year, together with helping to mobilize $5 billion of REDD+ results-based finance, including RBPs, carbon market transactions and other schemes under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Since 2008, the UN-REDD Programme has supported 65 countries in designing national and sub-national REDD+ policies and on-the-ground interventions, as well as facilitating the identification and establishment of financial arrangements to capture and manage results-based financing. UN-REDD has been instrumental in establishing good practices and codifying knowledge on landscape approach and planning, forest tenure, indigenous peoples' rights, financing and private sector, forest monitoring systems and MRV, linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs, REDD+ funding mechanisms, safeguards and gender. From the Glasgow climate agreements and pledges, UN-REDD is ready to help countries harness the growing amount of public and private financing available for forest solutions as they are a catalyst for transformations into low-carbon, socially inclusive and sustainable pathways.

The architecture for a new era in forest solutions and REDD+ action is now in place. The Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use, agreements on the Paris Rulebook, proof of concept for REDD+ readiness and Results-based Payments, GCF engagements in the REDD+ agenda, expanding public-private partnerships for forest financing and emerging carbon markets – all intend to serve forest solutions. The time for action is now. Together, FAO, UNDP and UNEP stand ready as the UN-REDD Programme continues to support countries in leveraging the full potential of forests to keep the 1.5°C goal alive – for people and for the planet.

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United Nations Environment
Programme

CIFOR Programme

Executive summary

This annual report presents the cumulative results of the UN-REDD Programme up to and including 2021. It builds on, and continues, a progressive series of technical, policy and knowledge achievements at the nexus between climate and forests since the Programme's launch in 2008.

2021 has been a transition year for the UN-REDD Programme, moving from a phase focused on REDD+ readiness and capacity building to a new phase designed to support massively scaled-up international REDD+ implementation.

Looking to the 2030 horizon, the goal of UN-REDD is to help fully realize the mitigation potential of forest solutions to the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and fostering carbon sequestration at levels of at least 5 Gt-CO_2e per year (as proposed by the 2019 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the 2018 UNEP Emissions Gap Report). In pursuing this goal, UN-REDD will employ both proven and innovative approaches to help countries implement sustainable land and forest policies and investments, access climate finance for carbon emission reductions and promote social inclusion

in climate policies and finances, while simultaneously realizing non-carbon benefits including safeguarding biodiversity, supporting local livelihoods and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

Within the scope of this ambition, UN-REDD initiated the implementation of its new results framework for the period 2021-2025, aiming to support countries in implementing and enhancing forest solutions to the climate emergency. This results framework positions UN-REDD to assist countries in accessing performance-based finance schemes for REDD+ results, including carbon markets (under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement), by supporting them to meet standards of high environmental integrity and to advance their efforts in delivering results. The results framework is based on more than a decade of UN-REDD experience and lessons learned at the global, country and community levels, as well as on the aims and provisions of the Paris Agreement – this century's milestone treaty for climate action. It aligns UN-REDD with other major international development undertakings in the coming decade, as the Paris Agreement enters full imple-

mentation and as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are realized.

In 2021, UN-REDD assistance to partner countries completing the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ was largely concluded. This is the foundational requirement for countries to access results-based finance for their REDD+ actions and results. Adopted in 2013, the Warsaw Framework outlines four areas of REDD+ readiness: national REDD+ strategies or action plans (NS/AP), national forest monitoring systems (NFMS), forest reference emissions levels/forest reference levels (FREL/FRL) and safeguards information systems (SIS).

Over the years, UN-REDD has supported more than 30 countries in the global south to elaborate NS/AP, of which 26 have formally endorsed these policies at a ministerial or parliamentary level. UN-REDD has also supported more than 50 countries in developing robust NFMS and 29 countries in submitting FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC. On the safeguards front, key achievements in 2021 included the launch of SIS in Peru and the development of DRC's SIS webpage and upgrades to the systems in Mexico and

Chile, bringing the number of countries supported by the Programme, with their approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements, to 36.

Despite the disruption and delivery challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many REDD+ countries continued to make significant progress towards REDD+ implementation in 2021 with UN-REDD Programme support. Throughout the year, 16 partner countries and one region – the Lower Mekong – received customized UN-REDD support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. Country-level work was complemented by knowledge management (KM) and communications support, further extending the reach of the Programme's support to its many partner countries and beyond. Highlights of support to countries are presented below for each of the four outcomes of the UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework.

OUTCOME 1.
FOREST SOLUTIONS REALIZED.
UN-REDD provided comprehensive support on the Warsaw Framework elements, as highlighted above. This support positioned partner countries to advance implementation of REDD+, addressing drivers of deforestation. This included support to advance sustainable management of forests, particularly through community forestry, to manage and enhance fire management preparedness and to address the agricultural drivers of deforestation and restore degraded lands, in close conjunction with efforts of the UN decade on ecosystem restoration. It also included actions to strengthen readiness and enable countries and jurisdictions to anticipate and meet requirements of emerging standards with stricter social and environmental requirement (for example ART-TREES). Specifically, the Programme is expanding support to improve forest monitoring systems, expanding the use of high-resolution imagery, improving their quality of products, expanding reported REDD+ activities, enabling reporting under multiple standards and nesting activities across scales.

OUTCOME 2.
FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED.
Progress towards achieving the mid-decade target of mobilizing $5 billion for REDD+ from results-based financing was made in 2021 by focusing on support for seven countries including Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Ghana, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Uganda and Viet Nam. This support was in the preparation of LEAF proposals for anticipated future emissions reductions and/or enhanced removals (ERRs) over the 2022-2026 period. One hundred percent of countries requesting technical assistance from UN-REDD on LEAF proposals successfully completed the initial technical screening process. Eighty percent (four out of five) – Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and Viet Nam – are in the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions and have signed Letters of Intent (LoI) with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. Based on the forecast ERRs in LEAF proposals, the total potential REDD+ results-based financing that could be achieved over the 2022-2026 period in the countries technically assisted by UN-REDD in 2021 is between $1 - 1.2 billion.

OUTCOME 3.
FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED.
UN-REDD has been supporting countries in integrating and enhancing Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry Sector (LULUCF) actions related to REDD+ to increase the ambition in their new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This includes support for the inclusion of enhanced or new targets or commitments in the forest sector, as well as for improvements to the institutional coordination for submission of NDCs and for securing finance to enhanced NDC mitigation actions in the forest sector. With UN-REDD support, countries like Chile, Colombia and Côte d'Ivoire integrated enhanced quantitative forest and REDD+ related targets in their NDCs in 2021, in time for the Glasgow climate summit where a first NDC political stocktake took place. Meanwhile, Costa Rica is accelerating the achievement of its forest sector NDC mitigation targets through implementation of the Results-based

Payment for REDD+ from the GCF.

OUTCOME 4. CONNECTING ACTORS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR FOREST SOLUTIONS.
To further deliver on Outcomes 1-3 and to serve its large family of partner countries, UN-REDD continued to work on capturing, managing and disseminating knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation to accelerate climate action. This included a virtual regional knowledge exchange where UN-REDD partner countries from Latin America shared lessons learned and good practices from the first pilot phase of Green Climate Fund (GCF) RBPs. In addition, UN-REDD organised and conducted a virtual, trilingual panel at the Global Landscapes Forum Amazonia, a South-South exchange between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Suriname on indigenous rights in forest affairs, and webinars on the Open Tenure tool. Moreover, a total of 10 knowledge briefs were drafted, produced and released, summarising the Programme's knowledge and good practices on landscape approach and planning, forest tenure, indigenous peoples' rights, financing and private sector, forest monitoring systems and MRV, linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs, REDD+ funding mechanisms, safeguards and gender.

UN-REDD continued to garner collective political and societal support for forest-based solutions through various online activities including: an event on scaling up forest finance at UNFCCC COP26, knowledge generation and dissemination on forest-positive agriculture and halting deforestation, contributing to the 5th session of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, and collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact.

The UN-REDD Programme continued the development and deployment of digital tools to enhance support to partner countries. The Open Foris initiative to support multi-purpose forest inventories, data processing and dissemination of results was further developed and Openforis Arena (a web-

based platform) was launched in 2021. In support of socially inclusive digital cooperation and virtual engagement, UN-REDD compiled and assessed lessons and approaches for the digital participation of indigenous peoples in policy and institutional processes in Colombia, a pilot initiative to scope best practices for inclusive digital partici-pation of indigenous peoples and rural communities.

In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme continued to support partner countries in advancing their efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empow-erment principles into their REDD+ actions, particularly on REDD+ im-plementation and RBP efforts. Within this context, the gender approach of the Programme was informed by the

findings and results of the 2020 UN-REDD gender survey, which explored and identified ways to further promote the equitable and active participation of women and men in the COVID era of cooperation. Furthermore, the 2018-2020 UN-REDD Gender Marker ratings were analysed, showing that UN-REDD almost achieved its ambitious target of having 50 percent of its 55 outputs re-ceive the highest gender rating.

The Glasgow COP, at the end of the year, shone a spotlight on the contribu-tions of forests to combating climate change and keeping the 1.5°C target alive. The conference yielded a number of milestone commitments and 80 percent of the signatories to the Paris Agreement signed a $12-billion Decla-ration on Forests and Land Use. 2022

presents UN-REDD with a powerful opportunity to advance the forest and climate agenda as we travel the road from Glasgow to Sharm el-Sheikh. The Programme will make concrete progress on building strong partnerships to scale up and connect country ambition and action with massively scaled up finance. Strategic priorities for UN-REDD in 2022 include: convening stakeholders involved in bringing a diverse pipeline of REDD+ results to meet a range of re-sults-based finance opportunities; sus-tainable, deforestation-free approaches to commodity supply chains; and, sup-port to government-led IPLC processes and platforms. UN-REDD stands ready and equipped to join hands across con-stituencies to help make the COP26 forest declarations and pledges an unequivocal success.

UN-REDD Programme 2021-2025

Who we are

The UN-REDD Programme is the UN interagency flagship programme on forests and climate, helping its 65 partner countries protect their forests and achieve their climate goals
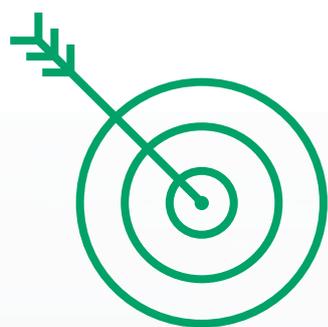
High-quality results

Social and environmental integrity

Social inclusion

UN-REDD in a nutshell

Innovating the fight against deforestation

- Launched in 2008 by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

- Largest UN inter-agency flagship on climate:

Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations
(FAO)

United Nations
Development
Programme
(UNDP)

United Nations
Environment
Programme
(UNEP)

- Track record of delivering results at scale

- $320 million; 65 countries across Africa, LAC and A-P; 7 donors

- First phase focused on readiness and capacity building

- 2021-25 phase redesigned to massively scale-up implementation

- 2021 has been a transition year

Partner Countries
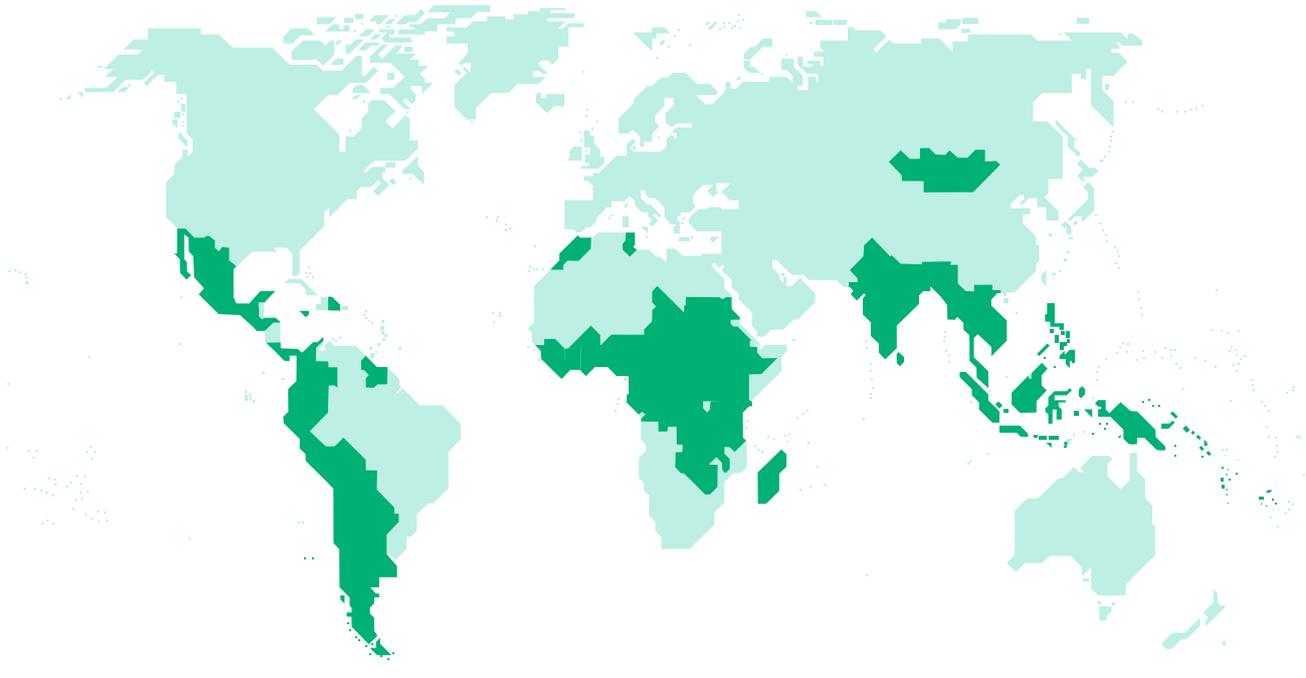
UN-REDD partner countries host **70 percent of all tropical forests**

Year of joining

2009

9

2010

29

2011

42

2012

46

2013

49

2014

56

2017-2015

64

2021-2018

65
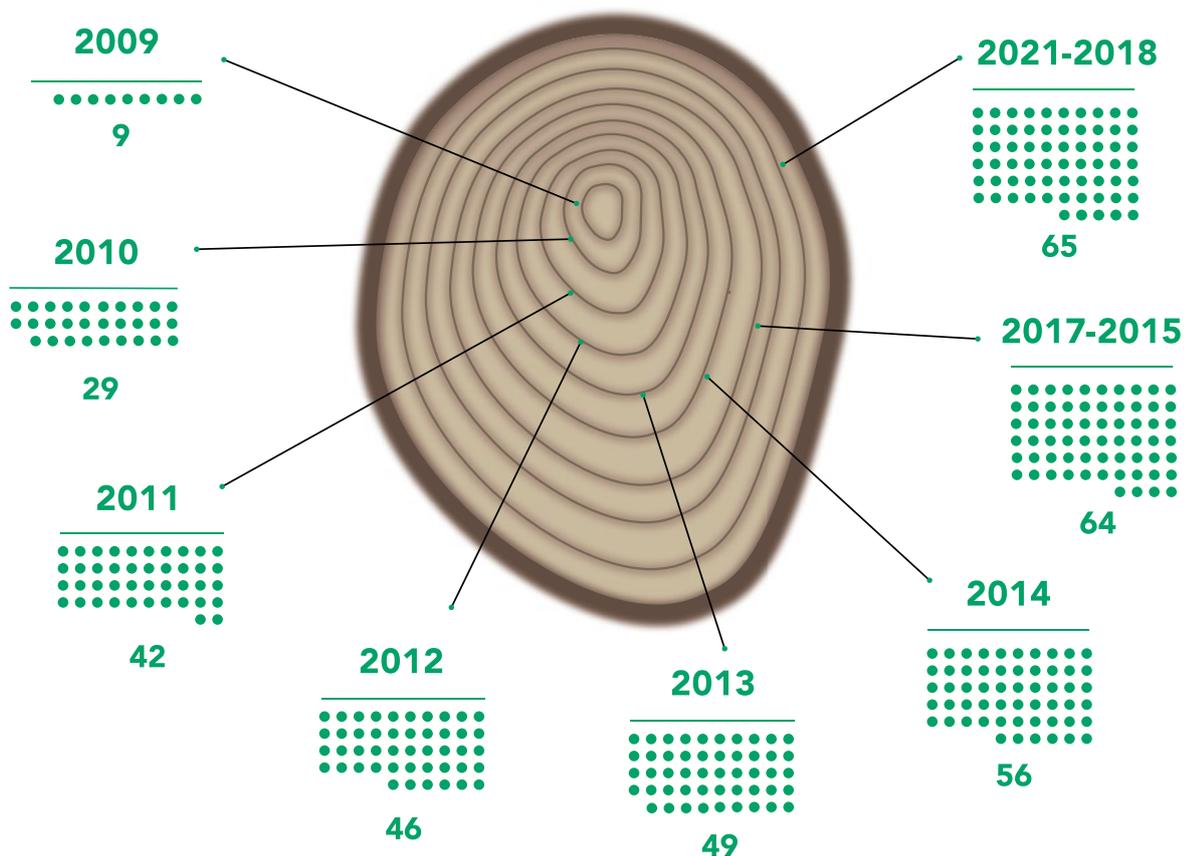
Partner Countries by name

Argentina
Latin America and the Caribbean

Bangladesh
Asia-Pacific

Benin
Africa

Bhutan
Asia-Pacific

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Latin America and the Caribbean

Burkina Faso
Africa

Cambodia
Asia-Pacific

Cameroon
Africa

Central African Republic (the)
Africa

Chad
Asia-Pacific

Chile
Latin America and the Caribbean

Colombia
Latin America and the Caribbean

Congo (Republic of the)
Africa

Costa Rica
Latin America and the Caribbean

Côte d›Ivoire
Africa

Democratic Republic
of the Congo (the)
Africa

Dominican Republic
Latin America and the Caribbean

Ecuador
Latin America and the Caribbean

El Salvador
Latin America and the Caribbean

Equatorial Guinea
Africa
Ethiopia
Africa

Fiji
Asia-Pacific

Gabon
Africa

Ghana
Africa

Guatemala
Latin America and the Caribbean

Guinea Bissau
Africa

Guinea (Republic of)
Africa

Guyana
Latin America and the Caribbean

Honduras
Latin America and the Caribbean

India
Asia-Pacific

Indonesia
Asia-Pacific

Jamaica
Latin America and the Caribbean

Kenya
Africa

Lao Peoples' Democratic
Republic (the)
Asia-Pacific

Liberia
Africa

Madagascar
Africa

Malawi
Africa

Malaysia
Asia-Pacific

Mexico
Latin America and the Caribbean

Mongolia
Asia-Pacific

Morocco
Africa

Myanmar
Asia-Pacific

Nepal
Asia-Pacific

Nigeria
Africa

Pakistan
Asia-Pacific

Panama
Latin America and the Caribbean

Papua New Guinea
Asia-Pacific

Paraguay
Latin America and the Caribbean

Peru
Latin America and the Caribbean

Philippines (the)
Asia-Pacific

Samoa
Asia-Pacific

Solomon Islands
Asia-Pacific

Sri Lanka
Asia-Pacific

Sudan (the)
Africa
Suriname
Latin America and the Caribbean

Tanzania
Africa

Thailand
Asia-Pacific

Togo
Africa

Tunisia
Africa

Uganda
Africa

Vanuatu
Asia-Pacific

Viet Nam
Asia-Pacific

Zambia
Africa

Zimbabwe
Africa

Our Strategy

UN-REDD Results Framework
2021-2025 Outcomes
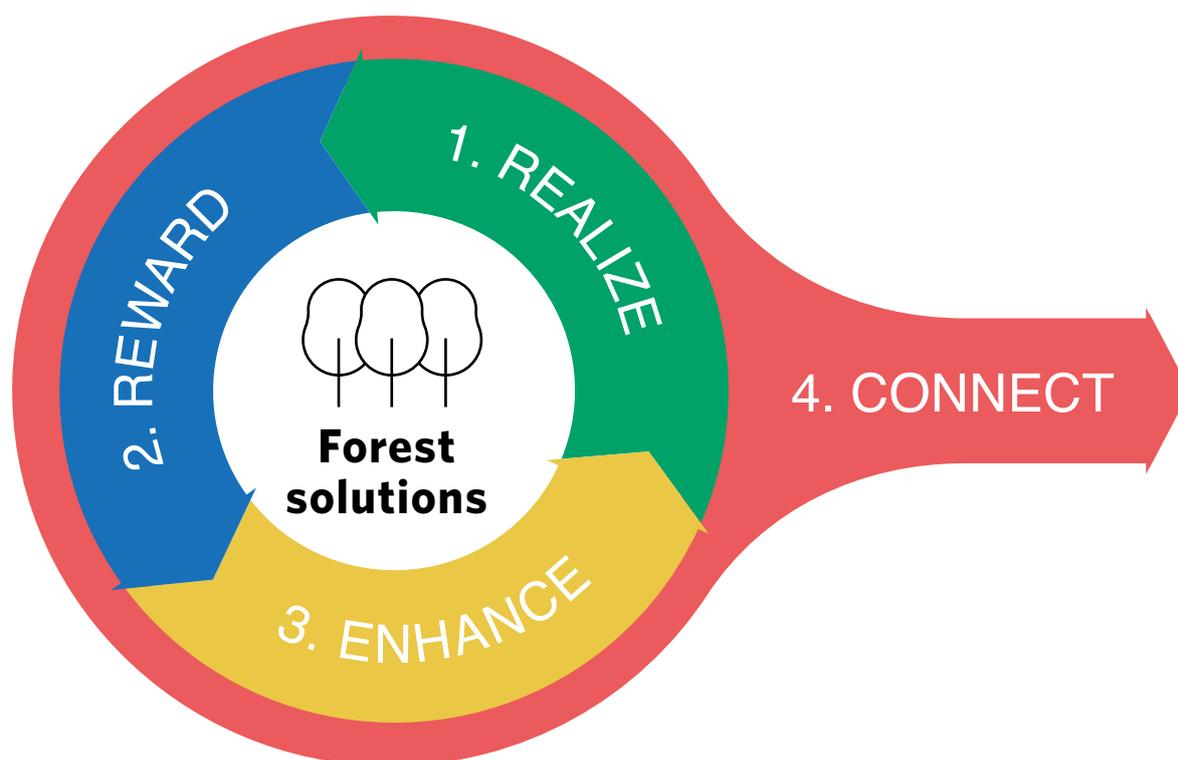
2030 Goal: UN-REDD aims to help implement forests solutions addressing the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and supporting carbon sequestration of minimum 5 GtCO$_2$e/year

1. Forest solutions REALIZED

1 GtCO$_2$e per year in forest-based, high-quality emission reductions and enhanced removals

1.1 REDD+ investment plans/programmes
1.2 Forest landscape restoration
1.3 Deforestation-free commodity supply chains
1.4 Monitoring systems for high-quality and accurate emission data
1.5 Safeguards addressed and reported

2. Forest solutions REWARDED

Mobilising $5 billion for REDD+ from Results-based Payment (RBP) schemes, carbon markets and other transactions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

2.1 RBP for REDD+ results
2.2 Market transactions
2.3 Private-sector forest carbon investments

3. Forest solutions ENHANCED

More than 15 countries enhance significantly the forest \ component of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the 2020-2025 cycle, including their quantitative emissions targets

3.1 NDCs mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors

4. Actors & knowledge for forest solutions CONNECTED

Forests and REDD+ catalyse a global, transformative Nature-based Solutions (NbS) movement to accelerate climate action

4.1 Knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation
4.2 Collective political and societal support to NbS
4.3 Digital cooperation and frontier technologies

Our Expertise

UN-REDD promotes and advances social inclusion across each of its projects, advisory services and knowledge management

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

GENDER EQUITY

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES - RIGHTS & KNOWLEDGE

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Combined expertise – Achieving goals together

Forest tenure, governance & carbon rights

Forest landscape restoration

Forest positive agriculture & food systems

National Forest Monitoring

Safeguards & non-carbon benefits

REDD+ finance

NDC forest ambitions

Social inclusion

Gender equity

Outcome

2009 - 2020 decade of delivery

UN-REDD countries have submitted more than 700 million tCO_2 of forest emissions reductions to the UNFCCC

$$\uparrow \mathbf{O_2} \uparrow$$
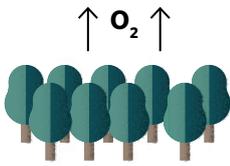
... equal to taking more than 150 million cars off the road for a year

More than $1 billion channeled and mobilized since inception

...Including $350 million for REDD+ results-based payments.

More than $1 billion channeled and mobilized since inception

...Including $350 million for REDD+ results-based payments.

2021 The LEAF Coalition

The LEAF Coalition
Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance

Within 6 months, UN-REDD recalibrated its 2021 work plan to help countries seize the opportunity provided by the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition's 1st call for proposals.

100%

(7/7) of jurisdictions requesting technical assistance from UN-REDD successfully completed the initial technical screening process

= up to 116 million tCO_2e of mitigation potential (116 percent of the LEAF target volume).

80%

(4/5) of jurisdictions entering into purchase agreement discussions, with LEAF corporate participants, were technically assisted by UN-REDD

= up to $280 million of potential results-based finance.

Impact Stories

Open Tenure Software Paves the Way for Land Tenure Security in the DRC and Colombia

Land tenure security is widely recognized as a key condition for reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Clarifying and securing land tenure rights can be a complex and challenging process, particularly in countries with customary systems of ownership where information on rights and rights-holders is typically not written down. In some cases, overlapping tenure rights add to these challenges. To address these complex issues, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), within the framework of the UN-REDD Programme, held practical training courses on Open Tenure in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Colombia, empowering local trainers with the skills to host their own training sessions for their communities.

Open Tenure is a tablet or smartphone-based software developed by FAO for field data collection. It works together with a web-based application (community server) to process the collected field data and register claims. This software is freely available and recently updated. In its design, Open Tenure takes into account all of the intricacies of land tenure rights documentation, making it relatively easy for users to gather and organize digital land tenure data. Once the data is collected, Open Tenure generates a report containing all of the relevant information on the claim and claimants, including a small map. If integrated with a process for the recognition of legitimate tenure rights, these claim reports can be compiled and submitted towards formal legal tenure rights registration or held as an internal community document to support better land and resource management.

The Open Tenure tool can be adapted to the local context to meet diverse needs and align with existing legal frameworks. In the DRC, civil society participants envision using the tool to demarcate new local community forestry concessions. In Colombia, the partner Afro-descendent community, COCOMASUR, aims to use Open Tenure to support land use planning and forest governance.

The training courses in DRC and Colombia represent the launch of further on-the-ground efforts to secure tenure rights for smallholders living in these forest contexts. In the words of Dauphin Lomboto, Technical Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, "Open Tenure should be for everyone as it can contribute to our country's development."
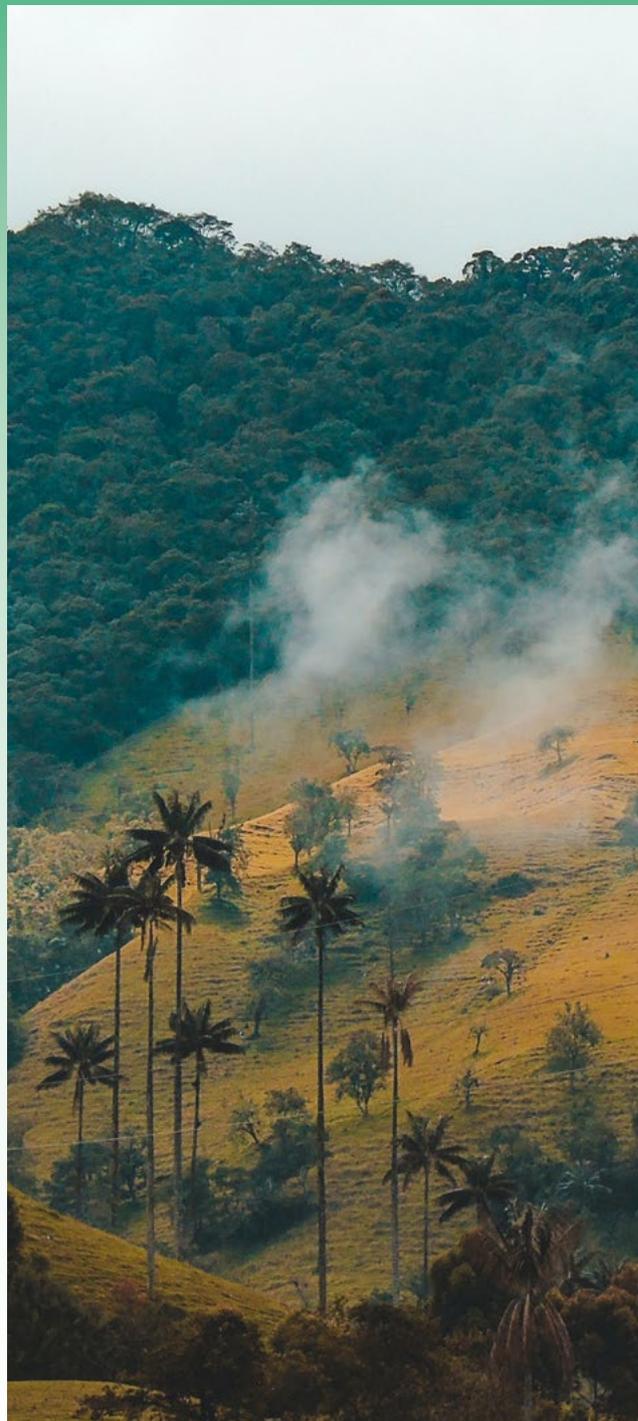
UN-REDD will continue to provide technical support and monitor progress towards securing tenure rights in these diverse contexts.

Arnaud Mesureur/Unsplash

Sustainable Forest Trade Incubation Platform Supports Emerging Small Timber Enterprises in the Lower Mekong

In recent decades, the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) has been a hotbed of deforestation. Significant forest loss - from infrastructure development, agricultural expansion, illegal logging, mining and forest fires - has resulted in negative impacts to forests, biodiversity and the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. The UN-REDD Programme's Sustainable Forest Trade in the LMR (SFT-LMR) is an initiative implemented by FAO and UNEP with national governments and regional and local partners in the region to reverse this trend and focus on addressing timber illegality while enhancing the sustainability of timber production and trade.

One key to increasing the supply of sustainable timber in the Lower Mekong region is investing in restoration and sustainable forestry enterprises. This requires the development of viable businesses that have the potential to scale up and attract commercial finance. There are many emerging businesses wanting to take advantage of changing approaches to forest protection and the emergence of sustainable timber production, but few small enterprises in the region have access to finance, knowledge, partners or markets.

As a result, a new programme under the SFT-LMR Initiative called the **Sustainable Forest Trade Incubation Platform** is launching this year to support small, private enterprises through a unique online mentorship program. Applicants from Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam are either new enterprises developing innovative production or processing models, or existing, established enterprises that are pivoting towards more sustainable alternatives or expanding proven working practices.

In Viet Nam and Thailand, this mentorship program will support the development of business plans for two cohorts of 50 entrepreneurs and enterprises seeking early-stage commercial business opportunities in sustainable forest enterprises and forest restoration. The program will also provide support for capital requirements and engagement with capital providers to access finance. In Lao PDR, it will help identify and support initiatives to enhance the likelihood that implementation of new business plans will be successful.

"This is just the first step in a pilot project that could extend to more enterprises if successful. We want to open the eyes of these small timber enterprises to show them what is possible," said Alexis Corblin, Senior Technical Advisor with UNEP, Asia-Pacific region. "Through this mentorship program, they can learn how sustainable business models work both economically and environmentally, while having a big impact on reducing deforestation, illegal logging and unsustainable practises."

Each enterprise selected will have unprecedented access to professionals with experience in business and leadership. The six month programme will support all steps in the development and refinement of a business plan, increasing the possibility of attracting financing to implement the proposed plan for enterprises working in teak, rubber or eucalyptus value chains in Thailand, Viet Nam or Laos PDR.

UN-REDD Programme

Indigenous Peoples Pave the Way for Inclusive Forest Monitoring

Indigenous and tribal territories play a critical role in stabilizing local and regional climates, enhancing sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation on a global scale. With emerging research showing the effectiveness of traditional forestry practices, more countries are recognizing and protecting indigenous tenure rights. According to a recent study, more than 36 percent of intact forest landscapes lie within land held, managed and protected by indigenous peoples, reinforcing the global significance of tenure right in these communities.

Furthermore, a FAO report issued last year demonstrates the importance and urgency of climate action to protect the forests of the indigenous and tribal territories and peoples of Latin America. These territories are home to an enormous ecological diversity, as well as to one third of the continent's forests, representing 14 percent of the carbon stored in the world's tropical forests.

Many UN-REDD countries have already taken steps to support the abilities of indigenous peoples to monitor and manage forests sustainably. Community-based forest monitoring in Peru has proven to be effective in gathering reliable forest data, which can then be incorporated into National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), a requirement for tracking progress towards emission reduction goals outlined in the Paris Agreement. The country has also seen the formation of forest monitoring committees in local communities and trainings to equip them with the skills necessary to adhere to forest regulations.

In Panama, technological innovation has allowed indigenous peoples to develop their forest monitoring capabilities. Since 2016, the country's indigenous communities have collaborated with the UN-REDD Programme to incorporate drones, and other tools, into their NFMS. These advancements have improved forest ecosystem monitoring, particularly in indigenous territories.

Since 2015, Rafael Valdespino, an indigenous technician from Comarca Embera-Wounaan, Panama, has been part of the capacity development program on the community monitoring of forests. After attending several trainings, he became an instructor and now supports his own community and others in Panama by travelling to other countries to share his experience regionally.

"I was born in the forest and I have always lived in my comarca, remotely and isolated. My grandfather and my father taught me about the forest, the plants, and how to protect and take care of them. Taking care of the forest comes naturally to me," he says.

Training other indigenous youth is something Rafael considers an important contribution to motivate young people to actively engage in protecting the environment. Indigenous peoples have a deep knowledge and connection to forest ecosystems, making their contribution essential to forest monitoring. The recognition of indigenous tenure rights and the empowerment of indigenous peoples to monitor forests more independently can enhance sustainable forest management and help mitigate climate change.

Maria Fernandez Gonzales/Unsplash

How Mainstreaming Gender into REDD+ Actions in Chile is Helping Local Communities

Acknowledging the crucial role women play in the success and effectiveness of REDD+, Chile has taken large strides over the years to ensure a gender perspective is fully integrated into REDD+ actions, both in policy and practice. The country's multi-pronged approach and commitment to this work has generated good practices that can help guide other countries and demonstrates how women are key agents of change in climate action.

With support from the UN-REDD Programme and other international organizations, these gender efforts began with the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). Led by the National Forestry Corporation's (CONAF) Indigenous and Social Affairs Unit, a methodology was developed to ensure the ENCCRV complied not only with national and international requirements on gender, but also incorporated a gender perspective into the overall strategy.

In Chile, only 28 percent of native forest management plans are led by women. Of that, they manage only 20 percent of native forests in the country, according to CONAF. Given this disparity, a gender approach was integrated into the UN-REDD National Programme in Chile from 2017 to 2021, with UN-REDD also supporting efforts to implement pilot projects focused on new forest management models for key measures of the ENCCRV.

One such project involved the development of a socio-environmental investment model for the restoration of 200 hectares of semi-arid lands in the agricultural communities of Peña Blanca and Cerro Blanco in Ovalle. The project, which addresses solutions to water scarcity through the installation of fog traps supplying up to six liters of water each day for irrigation, saw the active participation of women from the community. This has led to improvements in the quality of life for women and for the community.

"The land belongs to the entire community," said Claudia Rojas, a beneficiary of the agricultural community of Peña Blanca in Ovalle. "For now, we only graze animals. Before, wheat was sown, but due to a lack of rain, it is no longer done. CONAF helped us with improvements to the community reserve. Then we reforested some sectors with native plants. There is a lot of fog in the reserve which is harvested with mist catchers to help plants. As well, there is a project to sell purified fog-catcher water."

Efforts to integrate and strengthen the gender approach within public policy continue and range from highlighting gender actions in the development of operational guidelines to gender capacity building of local professionals in charge of project design, implementation and monitoring.

UN-REDD's support of Chile's REDD+ actions over the years has demonstrated that ensuring a gender approach and promoting women's empowerment and involvement in training, environmental education programs and decision-making is key to ensuring REDD+ implementation and sustainability.

Jairo Gallegos/Unsplash

Results-based Payments for REDD+ Benefit Communities in Costa Rica

Since 2015, Adilia Villalobos and Pedro García have managed a pesticide-free agroforestry project in Costa Rica. Finca El Jícaro, which includes a forest, a school and an ecotourism venture, is now known around the world for its exemplary biodiversity management. The project's success is partly a result of the country's pioneering National Payment for Environmental Services Programme (PES) which is funded through Costa Rica's REDD+ Results-based Payment project, which in turn is funded by the the Green Climate Fund.

Creating their own sustainable agriculture experiment in a region full of pineapple farms was no easy feat for Adilia and Pedro. But with the support of the PES through the Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE), they developed a pilot project to cultivate 550 organic pepper plants, or *poró* trees, along with 550 native tree species. Through hard work, creativity and resilience, they managed to turn Finca El Jícaro into an environmental wonder for their community and the ecosystem at large.

Costa Rica's PES provides economic compensation to forest owners such as Pedro and Adilia and to community groups such as indigenous peoples, smallholders and female landowners for diverse ecosystem services such as greenhouse gas mitigation, protection of water sources, biodiversity protection and nature preservation for both tourism and science. Over the last five years, Finca El Jícaro has received about $1,600, contributing not only to improving the quality of life for those who live and work on the finca, but also to improving the overall ecosystem previously threatened by unsustainable agricultural production.

"I will not see the results of all this, but I feel committed to those to come," says Pedro Garcia. "This will be the tiny lung through which my wife and I can contribute to the planet."

In 2021, after just nine months of implementation, Costa Rica received $23 million as the first disbursement of funds under its GCF REDD+ RBP project for the delivery of outstanding results. Adilia and Pedro are among more than 4,000 forest landowners, including 1,100 women landowners and 2,200 smallholders, to benefit from the PES Program, protecting some 240,000 hectares of forest.

Technical advice from the UN-REDD Programme has been instrumental to Costa Rica in successfully accessing and implementing GCF RBPs, as is the case in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Indonesia. Integrating benefit-sharing systems, such as payment for ecosystems services and social forestry programs, into REDD+ RBP projects supports local and indigenous forest conservation efforts and livelihoods, while enabling even greater emission reductions from the forest sector.

UN-REDD Programme

Progress on Safeguards in Peru Paves the Way for Results-based Payments

In Peru, the country with the second largest extension of Amazonian forests, REDD+ is a means to finance and implement actions that allow for reducing emissions, according to the National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change (ENBCC) and for the economic development of forest communities. Safeguards are a key element that ensures REDD+ actions are implemented properly.

With the support of the UN-REDD Programme, Peru has made substantial progress with building and strengthening the national safeguards process, with a strong focus on participation and capacity building. The country defined the national approach to safeguards based on inputs from multi-stakeholder participatory processes.

The first summary of information, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020, was developed with inputs from various stakeholders. It presents a baseline of the country's progress in terms of safeguards, along with relevant information on the arrangements and processes implemented to address and respect environmental and social safeguards.

The Safeguards Information Module (MIS) was launched in December, 2021 to facilitate access to and dissemination of information. It processes, manages and provides information on how safeguards are addressed and respected as REDD+ implementation progresses.

Linked to the MIS, Peru also developed the Mechanism for Complaints and Citizen Attention for REDD+ (MAC), which seeks to promote transparency and access to information through three methods for collecting queries and claims: face-to-face, by phone and virtually. Procedures for receiving, processing, answering and registering information will be established later this year.

In 2022, pilot projects for both the MIS and MAC REDD+ instruments are planned, with the participation of key stakeholders linked to REDD+ actions. In addition, the normative guidelines for both instruments will be published this year.

Peru's trajectory with REDD+ safeguards and the achievements so far result from work carried out since 2012. This would not have been possible without the participatory processes that have reinforced the national approach to safeguards and that have allowed the incorporation of contributions from key stakeholders linked to REDD+.

In Peru, the preparation phase of REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in relation to safeguards is now complete, and with the other elements of the Warsaw Framework, this paves the way for Peru to access REDD+ Results-based Payments.

UN-REDD Programme

Community Participation Improves Forest Monitoring in Colombia

As custodians of the forest, the indigenous, Afro-Colombian and local communities in Colombia have been fighting deforestation through community forest monitoring, sustainable forest management and territorial planning. Since 2014, the UN-REDD Programme has been working to empower the informed participation of all these different communities in the country's REDD+ process, knowing that community management protects forests from degradation and deforestation, while also improving the well-being of local communities.

One example is Cocomasur where a collaboration between the UN-REDD Programme, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) has strengthened and built capacity among the indigenous, Afro-Colombian and local communities for community-based forest monitoring. This community-based monitoring is being increasingly recognized as an efficient tool for collecting information on forests and promoting the rights of people living in forests through active participation in decision-making processes.

According to Everildys Córdoba, Community Leader for Cocomasur, satellite images and other technology and tools from IDEAM have been useful in helping the community collect data on forest coverage and habitats. "Establishing a REDD+ project has allowed us to generate commitments with the community for caring and protecting forests," she said.

"Monitoring is important because it allows us to verify and know what we have in the territory, so the community feels more empowered every day," said Ferney Caicedo, the forestry team coordinator for Cocomasur. "You begin to feel the importance of taking care of the territory because our lives depend on it. This is where we have water, animals. For us, our territory is life."

The national system of forest monitoring in Colombia has three instruments: the forest and carbon monitoring system, the national forest inventory and the national forest information system. Together, these allow the country to better understand the state of the forests using different technology, tools and information from trained forest monitors on the ground.

The UN-REDD Programme, together with FAO, has the role of bridging and facilitating dialogue between the government and communities, a collaboration that has resulted in improved forest management practices that are locally adaptable and serve as a model for Colombia and the rest of the world (link).

Juan Camilo Guarin/Unsplash

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

During the 2021 transition year, the UN-REDD annual report maintained the 2018-2020 reporting structure against the Warsaw Framework pillars as the last National Programmes were implemented. Moving forward, this work will be captured under Outcome 1 in the Programme's Results Framework 2021-2025.

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGIES OR ACTION PLANS

Over the years, UN-REDD has supported more than 30 countries in the Global South to elaborate national REDD+ strategies or action plans, in line with the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and using participatory policy methods. A total of 26 partner countries have formally endorsed these policies at a ministerial or parliamentary level[1]. UN-REDD support to design and adopt national REDD+ strategies or action plans is a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and in-depth process, including detailed analyses of deforestation drivers, stakeholder engagement, social inclusion methods to integrate and address the rights of indigenous peoples and forest communities and capacity building for institutions, governments and other key stakeholders.

These 26 countries receiving UN-REDD support represent a critical mass for the global movement working to halt tropical deforestation and advance forest solutions to the climate emergency. They represent a global foundation for implementing Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, while providing a solid avenue to channel international pledges for climate finance in the forest and land sector. Some of these countries are the forerunners of climate performance finance from either bilateral REDD+ schemes, the Green Climate Fund or emerging carbon markets. Hence, UN-REDD support to the REDD+ policy fabric of its partner countries has been a catalyst and genuine proof of the REDD+ concept launched in 2008.

In 2021, UN-REDD continued to be instrumental in the consolidation and deployment of national strategies for REDD+. Some examples follow:

▶ setting implementation and monitoring arrangements of various national REDD+ strategies, such as in Chile and Peru;

▶ assisting subnational jurisdictions in the design and adoption of REDD+ strategies, such as in Côte d'Ivoire;

▶ and, enabling countries access to emerging carbon markets to finance their national REDD+ strategies, such as in Costa Rica and Ecuador.

Looking forward, as UN-REDD advances full implementation of its 2021-2025 Strategic Framework, assistance to countries will focus on implementing national REDD+ strategies and action plans, inscribing them in the NDC cycles and mobilizing finance for their full implementation, both investment and performance finance and including carbon markets. The 2021 annual report thus closes a decade of UN-REDD support to countries with national strategies for REDD+ and inaugurates a new decade supporting countries to integrate, implement and enhance their NDC's and forest solutions.

NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS

Until the end of 2021, UN-REDD supported more than 50 countries in the development of robust National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) and assessments, with the goal of developing reliable forest resource information to inform national forest policies, planning and sustainable development. Forest monitoring systems include measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) functions and aim to produce high-quality, reliable data on forests, including forest-carbon estimates that are critical to the battle against climate change. Most countries develop geo-portals, which increase data transparency for the public and for international reporting mechanisms. Through FAO, UN-REDD supports this data generation by assisting countries with mapping-related programming, administration and accuracy assessments of existing national and global products in order to generate country estimates. Similarly, UN-REDD provides technical support to assist with conceptualization, design and deployment of national portals.

The UN-REDD Programme has deployed over 20 portals in countries across three regions and is in the design phase for a few others, including Solomon Islands and Sao Tome and Principe. These will likely be launched in 2022, following consultations with government on data publication. The portals will be maintained in the country by government staff. Training sessions, as well as maintenance trainings, are also planned. At the country level, technical support for this work includes discussing technical options and practical solutions for satellite land monitoring system, supporting country decisions on generation and dissemination of data and supporting domestic momentum towards improved forest monitoring and forest management.

FOREST REFERENCE EMISSION LEVELS/FOREST REFERENCE LEVELS

Until the end of 2021, UN-REDD supported more than half of the countries that submitted a forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (hereafter referred to as reference level) to the UNFCCC. Twenty-nine out of 56 countries received support on the MRV from the NFMS, providing the basis for reference level construction and strategically determining the scale, scope and construction approach for REDD+ activities targeted through national strategies.

All countries that received UN-REDD support in 2021 have submitted a FREL/FRL, with some including Gabon, Ghana,

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1   Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Congo, Uganda and Zambia

Peru and Zambia as recently as January, 2021. Others had technical assessments continue through 2021 including Colombia and Ecuador, in addition to the above mentioned countries. Four countries in this report (Argentina, Gabon, Indonesia and Viet Nam) submitted REDD+ results in 2021, together adding up to 1.16 GtCO2eq. Since most countries have an established reference level, UN-REDD support focused on informing countries of REDD+ Results-based Payment options (Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, Uganda, Viet Nam), resulting in the submission of LEAF proposals by six of these countries (see Forest Solutions Realized section).

SAFEGUARDS AND SAFEGUARD INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Until the end of 2021, the UN-REDD Programme supported 36 developing countries with their approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements through technical assistance or feedback and knowledge exchanges. The following are some highlights of this support:

▶ Twelve countries have reported on how they have addressed and respected REDD+ safeguards, with UN-REDD technical assistance, by submitting summaries of information to the UNFCCC (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mexico, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Viet Nam, Zambia). See figure X1.

▶ Ten countries have put their safeguards information systems (SIS) online[1] (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Mexico, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, and Viet Nam). See figure X2. This key information on safeguards is now shared with the public. Six additional countries have designed their SIS (Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Zambia).

▶ Twenty-two countries improved their capacity for environmental and social management, conducting analyses of non-carbon benefits that could result from the implementation of REDD+, which helped inform the design of REDD+ policies and measures.

▶ Capacities were strengthened to plan and implement safeguards and non-carbon benefits activities.

▶ Collective experience and learnings were documented and shared with countries, and exchanges between countries were facilitated.

Specifically in 2021, key safeguards achievements include:

▶ The launch of SIS in Peru; DRC's SIS webpage was developed; upgrades were made to the systems in Mexico and Chile; and, Uganda's SIS webpage development was initiated.

▶ Progress is underway to elaborate the first summaries of information for DRC and Uganda and the second summaries of information for Mexico and Chile.

▶ Technical support was provided to 11 countries[2] (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, DRC, Ghana, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Congo, Uganda and Viet Nam) to go beyond the Warsaw pillars by conducting analyses of safeguards conformance with the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions' (ART) - The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES).

▶ Six countries (DRC, Ecuador, Ghana, PNG, Uganda and Viet Nam) were supported to access potential results-based finance through support for drafting safeguards sections of countries' proposals to the LEAF Coalition and help during the proposal review process.

[1] A different scope of support was provided by UN-REDD; other support and in-country resources also played a key role.
[2] Support to Colombia, Mexico and Peru started in 2020.

FIGURE 1. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SUMMARIES OF SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION AT THE END OF 2021

Progress on summaries of information
- Second summary submitted
- First summary submitted
- First summary being drafted
- First summary being planned
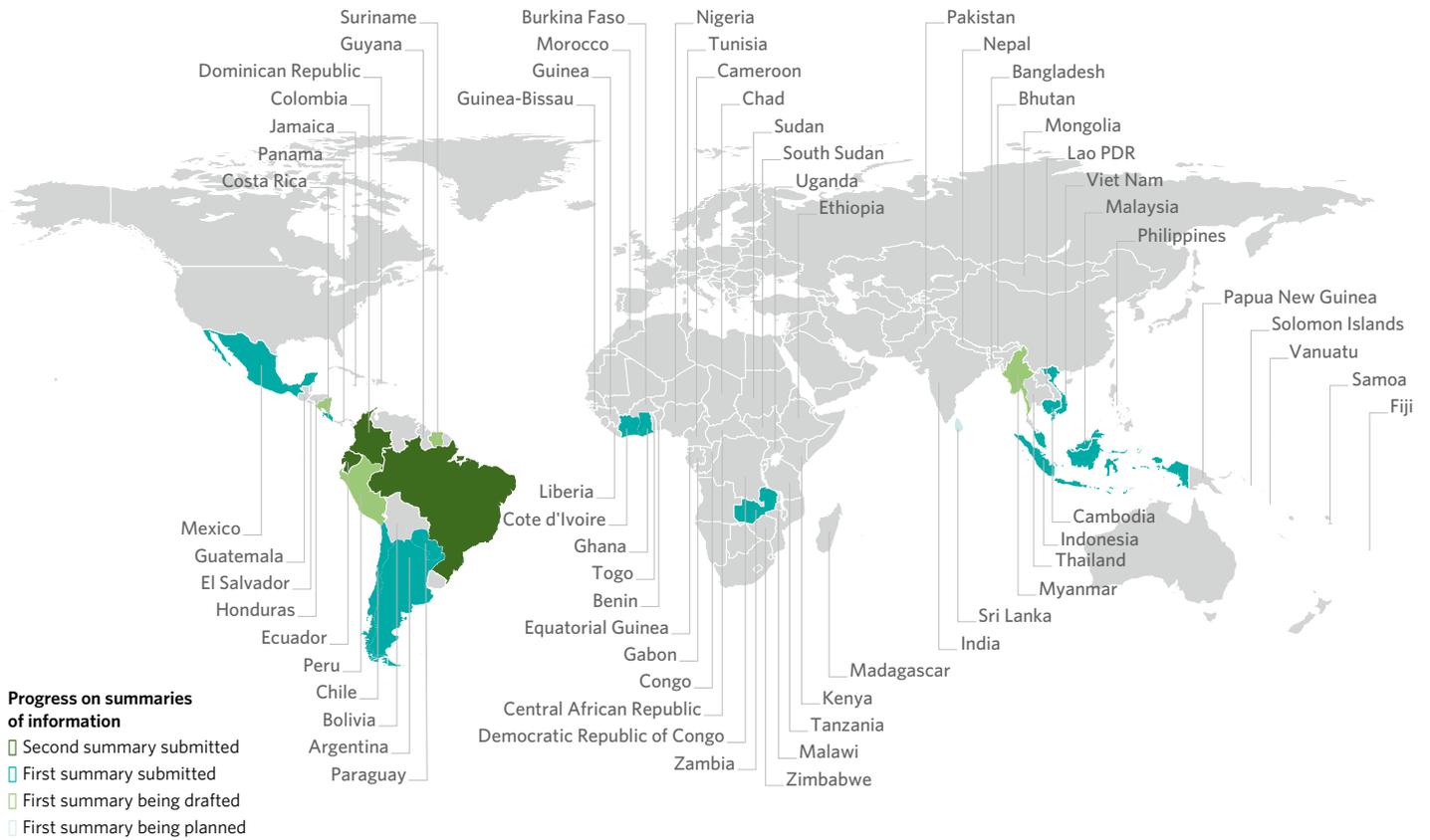
FIGURE 2. GLOBAL PROGRESS ON SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE END OF 2021

SIS progress
- SIS online
- SIS v1.0 designed
- SIS design in process
- SIS design being planned
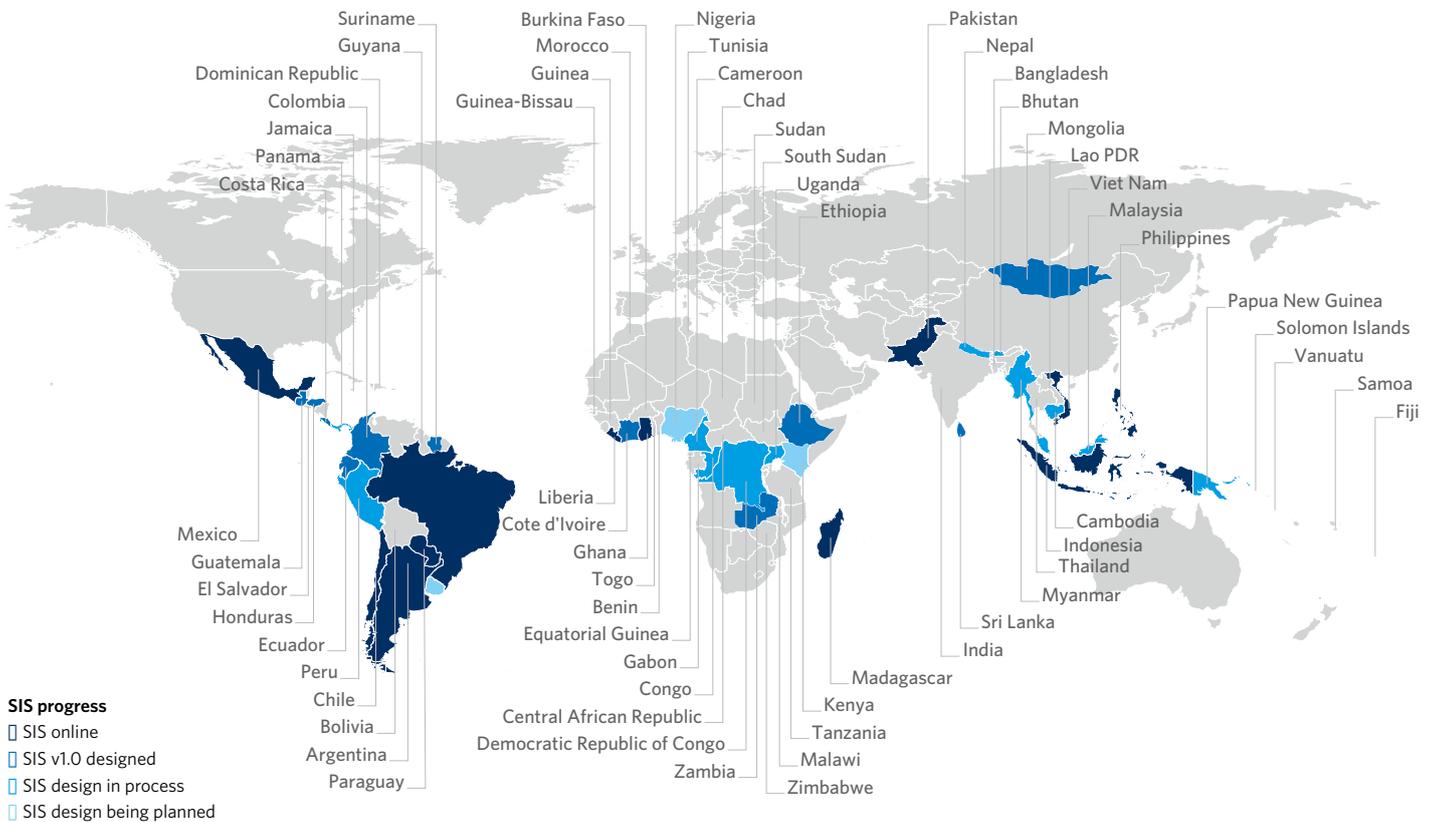
Progress towards REDD+ implementation

FOREST SOLUTIONS REALIZED

As mentioned above, many UN-REDD countries received support on the Warsaw Framework elements:

▶ 16 of the 18 countries in this report have formally endorsed or adopted a national REDD+ strategy or action plan;

▶ 15 of the 18 countries in this report have submitted a summary of information on safeguards to the UNFCCCC;

▶ all countries in this report have submitted a reference level to the UNFCCC;

▶ 10 out of 18 countries in this report submitted REDD+ results in their Technical Annex to the BUR, including the only two African countries that submitted results to the UNFCCC to date;

▶ 3 of the 18 countries submitted REDD+ results to the FCPF Carbon Fund, including Ghana.

With the above Warsaw Framework elements in place, UN-REDD provided additional support to countries to realize forest-based emissions reductions and removals toward the mid-decade target of 1 GtCo2/year. Recognizing that the most significant barrier to the implementation of forest solutions to the climate crisis is access to finance at scale, UN-REDD worked with countries to strengthen elements needed to unlock climate finance, including more stringent environmental and social standards, from public international sources and private sector coalitions and opportunities. UN-REDD invested significant effort in providing technical assistance to countries following the first call for proposals under the LEAF Coalition, applying the ART-TREES standard. Countries were informed of the ART-TREES requirements and in some instances, comparisons between standards and programmes were presented to decide whether ART-TREES would be a standard that meets the country's REDD+ objectives and to help countries

determine if they are capable and willing to meet these high requirements.

UN-REDD provided a broad spectrum of technical assistance to support implementation of actions to increase emissions reductions and removals from the forest sector in line with countries' national REDD+ strategies and action plans. Technical assistance was delivered at national and local levels, to address the agricultural drivers of deforestation through sustainable management of forests and community forestry, but also through new approaches to fire management and enhanced sustainable agriculture commodity supply chains.

On forest management, relevant progress was made in Lower Mekong Region countries, as well as in other regions. Chile, for example, advanced on new forest management and restoration models for key measures of the national REDD+ strategy (ENCCRV), with a focus on engagement of women and improvement of livelihood and quality of life. One such project involved the development of a socio-environmental

investment model for the restoration of 200 hectares of semi-arid lands and enhanced water management in the agricultural communities of Peña Blanca and Cerro Blanco in Ovalle.

UN-REDD supported the operationalization of a new approach to wildfire management in three provinces of Indonesia, capacity building and data collection to advance community forest management in Myanmar, and the development of an implementation roadmap for Colombia's REDD+ Roundtable, including Afro-descendent and local community initiatives.

Through its technical assistance, UN-REDD also supported Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador and Mexico to advance in partnership with the private sector in the development of legal and sustainable commodity supply chains decoupled from deforestation. In 2021, dialogues to advance deforestation-free cacao production and trade between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union were supported. The initiative also facilitated barrier analysis and private sector engagement to promote sustainable use

UN-REDD Programme

in mahogany, charcoal and candelilla value chains in Mexico, and it supported an inter-ministerial agreement for the establishment of a certification scheme for deforestation-free agricultural and livestock production under Ecuador's national Premium and Sustainable brand. Moreover, the Programme held a [Strategic Dialogue on Forests in the context of the Food Systems Summit](#) with the UN-REDD Executive Board in September, 2021, exploring operational entry points for UN-REDD in deforestation-free supply chains and forest positive agriculture.

Lastly, the initiative collaborated in the conceptualization and launch of the [Halting Deforestation and Conversion from Agricultural Commodities](#) coalition. This was launched at the Food Systems Summit 2021 and is aimed at bringing together a broad group of producer and consumer countries, companies and international organizations to reduce and remove the impact of commodity production, market and trade on forests as part of a new model of agricultural production that optimizes food production, enhances rural livelihoods and protects and restores the natural environment.

The initiative contributed to local, national and global efforts to restore degraded lands, in close conjunction with the UN decade on ecosystem restoration, a multi-agency effort led by FAO and UNEP that seeks to build global political momentum for a sustainable future and serves to catalyze the implementation of thousands of restoration initiatives. In Colombia, for example, capacities were strengthened to develop forest restoration methodology, hand in hand with the Global Green Growth Institute and IDEAM, and to engage indigenous peoples in restoration. Challenges, lessons learned and recommendations from the past decade to promote ecological restoration in indigenous territories were captured and integrated into the construction of the National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reserves.

Additionally, the initiative supported the generation of relevant knowledge and cutting edge tools on [integrating forests and landscape restoration into National Forest Monitoring Systems](#) and delivered specific technical assistance for monitoring restoration in collaboration with local entities, such as through the cooperation with GGGI in Colombia. This also produced specific technical knowledge on the use of Breaks for Additive Season and Trend (BFAST) for monitoring restoration, one of the cutting edge methodologies in this domain.

Several countries have received support to improve their activity data for more accurate change assessments and to help them make progress in the quality and scope of such analysis. This support consisted, in some countries, of creating improved change maps for deforestation, degradation and afforestation/reforestation using dense time series analysis (BFAST). This was available in SEPAL in Congo and in other countries such as Côte d'Ivoire where support consisted of designing and implementing a systematic sample-based assessment. For multiple other countries, all available data has been analyzed and explored to support informed decision-making on REDD+ implementation and options to mobilize carbon finance. This included assessing options for countries with High-Forests and Low-Deforestation (HFLD) jurisdictions, such as DRC and PNG. In addition, the concept of foregone removals was explained and, where data allowed, this was calculated for the country as optional inclusion for HFLD. An initial gap assessment against emerging standards was performed for several countries.

FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED

Progress towards achieving the mid-decade target of enabling $5 billion to be mobilised for REDD+ from results-based financing focused on supporting a number of countries re-

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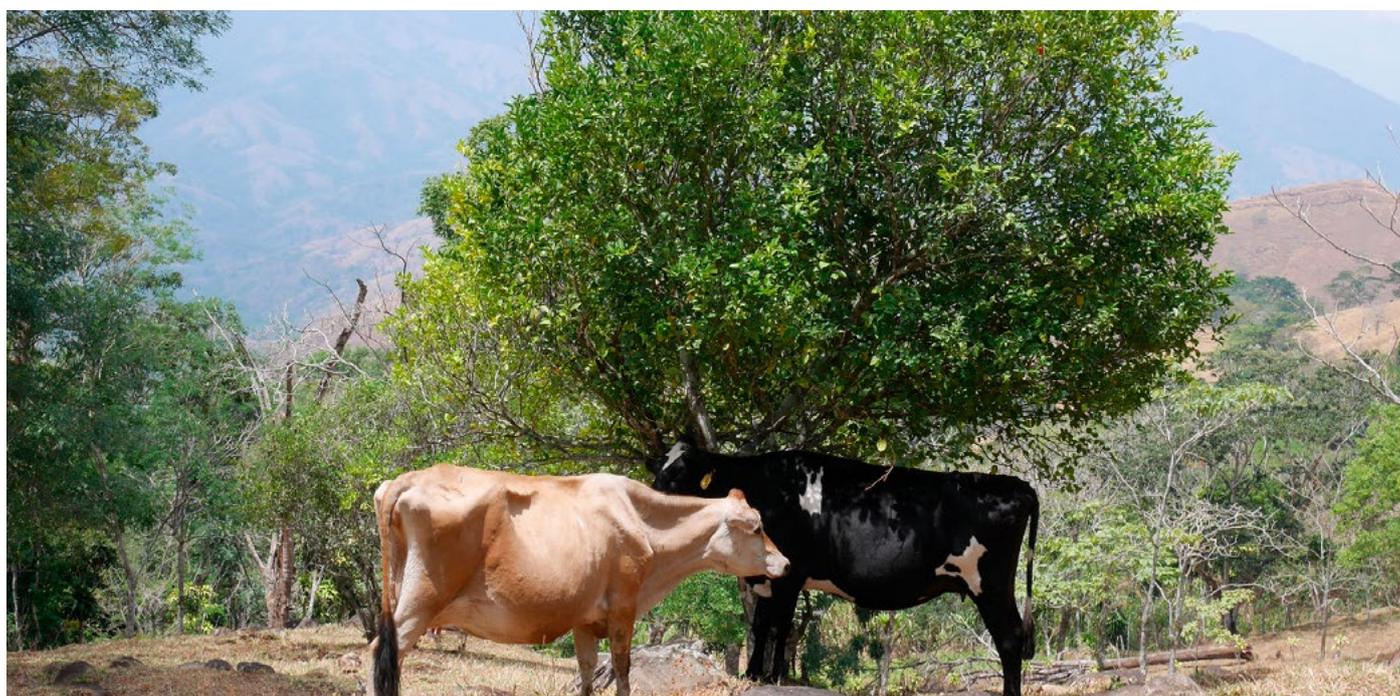
spond to the LEAF Coalition's first call for proposals. Seven countries, including Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Ghana, PNG, Uganda and Viet Nam, were supported to prepare LEAF proposals for anticipated future emissions reductions and/or enhanced removals (ERRs) over the 2022-2026 period. Two submissions apply an HFLD crediting level (PNG and DRC). One hundred percent of countries requesting technical assistance from UN-REDD on LEAF proposals successfully completed the initial technical screening process. More details on this support is provided below under the country descriptions.

Eighty percent (four out of five) of the countries – Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and Viet Nam – are in the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions and have signed Letters of Intent (LoI) with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. These countries are now working towards ART-TREES registration and signing emission reductions purchase agreements (ERPAs). In 2022, the focus of UN-REDD technical assistance in these countries will be to support these LEAF processes with a view to ERPAs being announced at UNFCCC COP27.

PNG, the province of Tshuapa (DRC) and Uganda have each signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Emergent to continue discussions and explore the possibility of future agreements related to ERRs that are validated and verified under ART-TREES. UN-REDD will also continue to technically assist these countries in 2022 with this LEAF opportunity.

In addition to the technical assistance provided to potential LEAF suppliers, UN-REDD continued to support partner countries in accessing results-based finance via the Green Climate Fund. Notably, support was provided to Uganda to produce a draft concept note for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) RBPs for past emission reductions achieved in 2016-2017, valued at $40 million.

FOREST SOLUTIONS ENHANCED

The UN-REDD Programme has been supporting tropical forest countries in integrating and enhancing LULUCF sector actions relating to REDD+ to increase the ambition in their new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This includes support for the inclusion of enhanced or new targets or commitments in the forest sector, improvements in institutional coordination to support the submission of the NDCs, as well as secured finance to enhance NDC mitigation actions in the forest sector.

According to the UNFCCC Synthesis Report (2021), 90 percent of "second generation" NDCs – the 116 new or updated NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC by December, 2020 — include the LULUCF sector, compared to just 76 percent of "first generation" NDCs. Furthermore, 57 percent of these updated or new NDCs refer specifically to forests as a domestic opportunity for reducing emissions. Since 2018, in addition to providing REDD+ technical advice via UNDP's Climate Promise to benefit the 53 countries requesting LULUCF-related support, UN-REDD has supported 20 countries in integrating forest-related activities into their enhanced NDCs.

In the case of Chile, for example, the LULUCF sector is now included in the integration pillar of the country's updated NDC. In the case of the forestry sector, ambition in the form of sectoral commitments has increased. Two new commitments are included, regarding REDD+ and the National Landscape Restoration Plan.

Colombia increased the ambition of its NDC and committed to reducing emissions from deforestation from more than 170,000 hectares in 2020 to less than 100,000 hectares per year by 2025 and to 50,000 hectares per year by 2030.

In the case of Costa Rica, the planned work to accelerate and enhance NDC mitigation actions in the forest and land-use sectors was achieved. In the context of the GCF REDD+ Results-based Payment project, approved in October, 2020 and launched in 2021, nearly $24 million was successfully channeled to support the National Payment for Environmental Services Programme and the National Forest Fire Prevention and Management Programme.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the planned work included consolidation, finalization and submission of the reviewed NDC, with due integration of forest solutions and REDD+ plans. UN-REDD is supporting the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in its official submission of the revised NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat. At the same time, support was provided to the development of the revised NDC implementation plan, with a focus on financing modalities in respect to forest solutions, including consolidation of inputs from different technical working groups and partner institutions, and more importantly, integration of forest solutions and REDD+ plans. For example, with respect to climate change mitigation, the revised NDC includes two unconditional and one conditional forest solution. These forest solutions represent the largest mitigation potential from all sectors.

While progress is being made, as the country examples above help demonstrate, it is also clear that many countries have not yet fully explored the opportunities that REDD+ can bring to the NDC process to facilitate both mitigation and adaptation efforts in the forest sector. This points to the value of ongoing support through UN-REDD to build the linkages between NDCs and REDD+ for the forest sector.

Contribution
to the SDGs

The UN-REDD Programme supports the SDGs agenda in a wide and integrated way. Analysis of the country results, presented in the following section, shows that UN-REDD technical assistance is supporting countries and stakeholders with the realization of at least seven different SGDs.

The ensemble of UN-REDD technical assistance, policy advice and knowledge management serve countries in fully implementing SDG targets, in particular SDG-13 (climate action) and SDG-15 (forest conservation & sustainable management), blending them in a unique way. Hence the recognition of UN-REDD as the UN platform for forest solutions to the climate emergency. For instance, UN-REDD assists countries in integrating forest- and land-based climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (SDG 13.2), improving stakeholder and institutional capacities on climate change mitigation planning and actions (SDGs 13.3 & 13/b) and helping mobilize international climate finance at scale and enabling countries access the Green Climate Fund (SDG 13/a). UN-REDD also promotes the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests across the world, aiming ultimately at halting deforestation (SDGs 15.1 & 15.2) while mobilizing investments and economic incentives to finance sustainable forest management (SDG 15/b).

Yet, UN-REDD also serves SDG 5 (gender equality) with equal intensity by systematically promoting the full and effective participation of women in decision-making (SDG 5.5), as well as women's equal rights to land and natural resources (SDG 5/a). Internal UN-REDD gender mainstreaming tools and policies underpin such efforts across the portfolio. The UN-REDD Programme also supports SDG 16 (inclusive institutions and societies) by supporting the participation of indigenous peoples, forest communities and civil society organizations in national policies and financing schemes for forest governance and climate action (SDG 16.7 & 16.10), as well as by empowering developing countries to participate and inform international climate governance institutions and negotiations (SDG 16.8). UN-REDD also promotes SDG 12 (sustainable trade) by promoting policies and partnerships for deforestation-free commodity chains, encouraging countries and companies to adopt and monitor sustainable production and trade practices (SDG 12.6). UN-REDD also contributes to SDG 1 (fighting poverty) by promoting equal rights to forest lands and resources, notably with regards to indigenous peoples and local communities (SDG 1.4), as well as by mobilizing international climate finance towards developing countries engaged in forest conservation with local communities that are custodians of such forests (SDG 1/a).

Finally, UN-REDD is a prominent force in SDG 17 (partnerships for sustainable development) by stimulating a wide and rich diversity of collaborative arrangements and schemes, including multi-stakeholder policy platforms, institutional alliances and public-private partnerships for forest conservation and climate action. In particular, UN-REDD helps developing countries mobilise and combine financial resources from multiple partners for the national sustainability endeavours (SDG 17.3). UN-REDD also helps with the scoping and building of public-private partnerships for forest solutions to the climate emergency (SDG 17.17). Furthermore, UN-REDD has a robust knowledge management arm that promotes the generation and sharing of knowledge on forest solutions across countries and stakeholders, including through South-South cooperation (SDG 17.6 & 17.16). UN-REDD equally builds capacities in developing countries to support national climate plans towards implementing the SDGs (SDG 17.9), along with enhancing policy and stakeholder coherence for sustainable development, notably through NDC design, implementation and enhancement (SDG 17.14).

UN-REDD Programme

Country results

The following section outlines results across the 16 countries and Lower Mekong region that were actively supported by UN-REDD in 2021 through technical assistance and national programmes. A traffic-light colour code is used to give a snapshot of progress in each country against the two delivery-support mechanisms that the Programme used in 2021, namely technical assistance (TA, comprising technical assistance provided to ongoing national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation) and national programmes (NP).

Each country has identified the type of support received from UN-REDD and the status of implementation. In the case of multiple types of support, each is listed separately. Under the traffic-light system, the implementation status of each type of support is identified as follows:

TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM

Each country has identified the type of support received from UN-REDD and the status of implementation. In the case of multiple types of support, each is listed separately. Under the traffic-light system, the implementation status of each type of support is identified as follows:

Completed: All activities have been completed in 2020; the programme is pending closure or closed.

On track: All activities are under way in accordance with the 2020 annual workplan.

Delayed: Activities have been delayed. The cause of the delay and solutions to ensure the programme's successful completion are briefly outlined in the Challenges and Solutions section.

In order to simplify country updates, the following abbreviations for the pillars of the Warsaw Framework will be used when discussing progress against it:

NS/AP: National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan

FREL/FRL: forest reference emission level/forest reference level

NFMS: national forest monitoring system

SIS: safeguards information system

Completed	On track	Delayed

National Programme	NP
Technical Assistance to REDD+ implementation	TA

CHILE 🟩 NP 🟦 TA

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME

Y-axis: US$ (thousands) — 0, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4,000
X-axis: Oct 2017, Dec 2017, Dec 2018, Dec 2019, Dec 2020, Sep 2021

START DATE ... END DATE

● EXPENDITURE   📍 APPROVED BUDGET

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Chile has started the implementation of the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources (ENCCRV). The GCF RBP project, +Bosques, triggered the implementation phase, building on the lessons learned from pilot activities developed with the support of the UN-REDD Programme. The progress will be consolidated during 2022 with the start of the benefit-sharing system.

FREL/FRL: Progress was achieved in the expansion of the FREL/FRL to regions of Aysén, O'Higgins and Magallanes with the estimation of activity data, including development of density diagrams for certain forest types. Next reporting will be January, 2022, with plans to send updated FREL to the UNFCCC. Chile also advanced construction of its carbon map, allowing the country to estimate the carbon content and flow for specific analysis periods.

NFMS: Chile updated the estimation of uncertainty of land use change maps, adjusted the land use maps 2001-2013, developed density diagrams for estimating degradation by forest type, increased consistency with the GHG Inventory data and developed a methodology for generating biennial maps of change in use.

SIS: Throughout 2021, Chile worked on developing a draft of contents for the second summary of information on safeguards for the period 2018-2021, to be finalized and submitted to the UNFCC in 2022. Continuous improvements to the SIS were made and are available on ENCCRV platform, with updates continuously made to ensure the system is operational for activities during the implementation phase of the ENCCRV.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD National Programme (NP) moved to its closure phase. The final evaluation report concluded:

1. the NP was relevant and pertinent to the country's priorities;

2. the NP has been effective in achieving its results and products;

3. the NP strengthened institutional capacities to meet REDD+ requirements to access RBPs; and,

4. the NP had a significant impact supporting Chile in moving toward the implementation phase through

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access to finance in the GCF pilot programme for REDD+ RBPs. The closing workshop was held virtually on January 19, 2022.

FOREST SOLUTIONS REWARDED

A gap analysis of the ART-TREES v2 MRV and safeguards requirements has been conducted. The document was delivered to CONAF and serves as a good basis for assessing Chile's feasibility and potential to generate ERs under the ART-TREES standard version and identifying actions to solve gap requirements regarding SIS during the Technical Assistance (TA) 2022.

A legal analysis focusing on forest carbon ownership rights was conducted. The study met its main objectives, describing the status quo of Chile's legislation and elements associated with its interpretation and existing arrangements related to carbon rights in light of relevant international schemes and standards. It also identified challenges and opportunities as the country seeks to identify legal solutions to clarify carbon rights and benefits.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

As in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have an impact on the provision of in-country technical assistance. Nevertheless, the country remained engaged with NP activities and TA in 2021, and the program continued to use virtual means to deliver its support.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender equality has been promoted during the activities carried out for the TA 2021. To illustrate, the BDS and the SIS integrate a gender approach. Nevertheless, the final evaluation report of the NP identified the need to better connect the SIS requirements with the guidance to implement ENCCRV's measures as an area of improvement to further promote gender equality in the implementation phase. In addition, a gender evaluation was undertaken to measure and assess the gender approach used within the NP's pilot projects. This analysis and feedback will serve as an important input for updating the ENCCRV (including in the TA 2022), implementing the ENCCRV through the project +Bosques (GCF-FAO) and updating the ENCCRV in 2022.

A step away from scaling up the implementation phase, CONAF has reinforced the capacities of government practitioners and project staff on topics related to activities with indigenous peoples, FPIC process and IP's worldview through technical workshops with the participation of more than 50 professionals from the six regions where ENCCRV is being implemented.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, Chile made progress towards the third phase of REDD+ through the initial implementation of the project +Bosques. Additionally, it is expected that during 2023, funds from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) emissions reduction purchase agreement (ERPA) will be incorporated. As part of the FCPF, novel approaches for aboveground biomass (AGB) mapping are under development for the southern regions of the country with high cloud cover and an assessment of the impact of mega drought in emissions due to degradation will start in 2022.

The LULUCF sector is now included in the integration pillar of the updated NDC. The forestry sector stands out, where ambition regarding sectoral commitments has increased. Two new commitments are included, regarding REDD+ and the National Landscape Restoration Plan. Additionally, CONAF, together with the Ministry of the Environment, is working to include forestry projects in the new offset mechanism for paying taxes under the framework of Law 20,780.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

As a result of the implementation of the ENCCRV, progress is being made to contribute directly to SDGs 13 and 15 and indirectly to SDGs 5, 6, 8 and 12.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011	2014	2016	2017	2021
October Became Partner Country	**November** Approval of targeted support	**July** Approval of NP	**August** Signature of NPD **October** First Fund Transfer for NP	**September** NP End Date

COLOMBIA | ■ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Colombia increased the ambition of its NDC and committed to reducing emissions from deforestation from more than 170,000 hectares in 2020 to less than 100,000 hectares per year by 2025 and to less than 50,000 hectares per year in 2030. Through the use of cooperative approaches of Art. 6.2 of the Paris Agreement, the country could increase its ambition to zero net deforestation by 2030.

FREL/FRL: Colombia finalized the assessment process of the second FREL during 2021, moving forward from the sub-national to the national level. The draft assessment report was prepared and will be published in the Lima REDD+ Information Hub in the first quarter of 2022.

NFMS: During the last quarter of 2021, work was carried out on the formulation of the project, "Management of natural resources through the analysis of information and environmental knowledge." Legal and administrative work sets the stage for the beginning of the forest inventory for the Andean and Caribbean regions in Colombia. Similarly, the stage was set for progress on hydrological issues to improve the quality of the monitoring network in the Middle Valley of the Magdalene. A report was produced on the use of Breaks for Additive Season and Trend (BFAST) for monitoring restoration in the country and collaboration with GGGI on a report on restoration monitoring.

SIS: Colombia submitted its fifth summary of information (SOI) to the UNFCCC, which reports on the period from September, 2019 to October, 2020, with in-country resources and collaboration with REM Vision Amazonia Programme. Recommendations from UN-REDD were shared for the elaboration of the sixth SOI. Progress has been achieved on the development of the self-assessment for the community forestry model, the systematization of the model and the inclusion of the food security component, as well as on actions carried out by the project team on the ground. Capacities of the Cocomasur Afro-descendent community on tenure rights, demarcating and registering local community land were enhanced via implementation of Open Tenure and strengthening of IT resources. The community field teams are continuing work on recording tenure rights to improve governance of natural resources.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized: Technical assistance was provided to support Finagro (Agricultural Development Bank) in the implementation of its Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) to advance its accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In support of this process, the technical assistance team prepared an E&S Environmental and Social policy proposal, which was approved by Finagro's Board of Directors. Significant progress in the implementation of the ESMS was achieved in this reporting period.

Three meetings for the regional REDD+ Roundtable, convened by the government, were facilitated. These spaces contributed to the participatory construction of the Roundtable's roadmap and the previously identified community initiatives. In addition, to optimize the development of indigenous, Afro and local communities' agendas in 2022, an evaluation process of the participation around REDD+ was started.

Challenges, lessons learned and recommendations for the construction of the National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reserves were identified and integrated into the final document, "Inputs for the Construction of a National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reserves." This document reviews the institutional efforts to promote ecological restoration in indigenous territories over the last 10 years, as well as the projects and agreements derived from different spaces such as the Indigenous Minga.

In 2021, the Corporación Nuevo Arco Iris (CNAI) process was delayed, as it was pending a Presidential signature of the Decree. In 2022, this process will be promoted as a space to build indigenous environmental policy and address issues related to forests, climate change and indigenous peoples at national level.

Forest solutions rewarded: Colombia submitted the TREES Concept Note to the ART Secretariat, with support of the UN-REDD Programme. The Concept Note identifies technical gaps, some of which are expected to be included within the 2022 UN-REDD workplan.

The NaturalPaz Project (PBF) was approved and is planned to begin in early 2022, which will allow the generation and extraction of lessons from the field to inform the national agenda in promoting high-integrity voluntary market projects in collective territories.

Forest solutions enhanced: A methodology is being developed to assess the impact of actions to reduce deforestation with actions around conservation agreements and sustainable forest management based on communities. One of the main bottlenecks faced is obtaining information from the different entities that have been working on the actions described above. During the month of January, 2022, the proposed methodology for the development of this evaluation is expected to be complete, allowing for it to be appropriated and implemented by IDEAM.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the provision of technical assistance. In-person meet-

ings were affected in both technical and consultative fora. Virtual platforms were used to deliver activities.
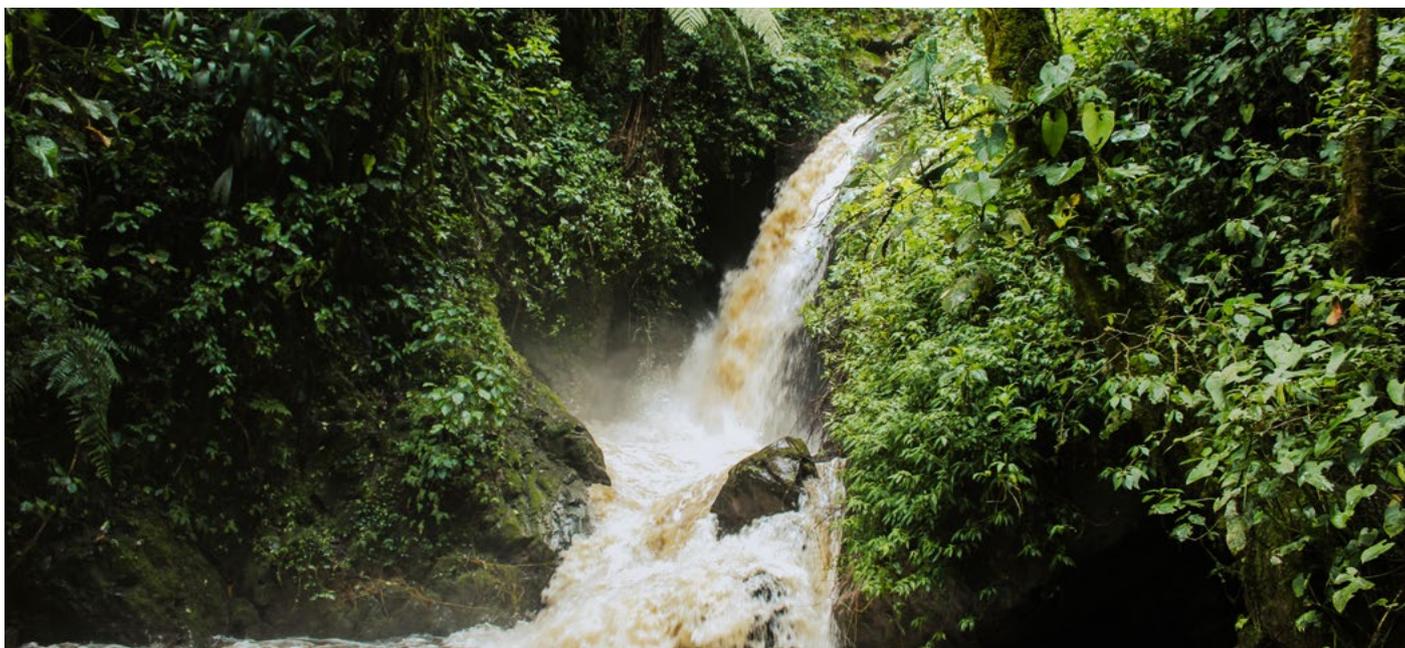
As Colombia advances with multiple carbon market and PPR schemes, the challenges associated with ensuring integrity, avoiding potential conflicts and maintaining the incentives for action at all scales increased. The program has responded to this challenge by supporting the active engagement with government, support for the coordination across platforms and strengthening of participation fora. In addition, the program will address the gaps related to effective nesting of initiatives and related institutional arrangements which will enhance the environmental integrity of results. Long term sustainability of REDD related processes has also been identified as a challenge, with the program responding by adding specific activities to explore options for the financial support of MRV elements. In 2022, efforts will

continue to explore options to ensure sufficient funding for the monitoring system and deepen the engagement with the future government in light of the upcoming elections.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

UN-REDD technical assistance supported the execution of resources directed at the women in the REM Amazon Vision Program through the Women Caregivers of the Amazon Program. Sixty-nine projects, led by women, were approved with an overall investment of $1.5 million, aimed at the protection of traditional knowledge, conservation, community enterprises and the strengthening of organizational capacities in the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía, Putumayo, Amazonas and Vaupés. This contributed to the strengthening of the governance of indigenous peoples from a gender perspective. For the commemoration of the International Women's Day on March 8, UN-REDD assisted in the development

of a podcast, featuring the testimonies of rural women, including their role in the protection of forests and natural resources.

PARTNERSHIPS

Colombia's capacities to develop forest restoration methodology were strengthened in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute and IDEAM. As part of the development of the impact assessment methodology for the Community-Based Forestry programme and the Conservation Agreements, exchange of information was promoted with Vision Amazonia Programme, the *Office National des Forêts* ONF Andina and others.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The activities developed contribute indirectly to achieve some advances of SDGs 5, 8, 12, 13 and 15.

TIMELINE	WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)			PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)		
2010	**2013**	**2014**		**2017**	**2018**	**2019-2021**
August Became Partner Country	**February** Approval of targeted support **June** Policy Board approval of NP	**August** • Signature of NPD • First Fund Transfer for NP **September** Approval of regional CNA incl. Colombia		**June** • Approval of 2018-2020 TA for REDD+ Implementation	**June** • NP End Date • NP Final Evaluation	TA for REDD+ Implementation (continued)

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REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO   ■ TA
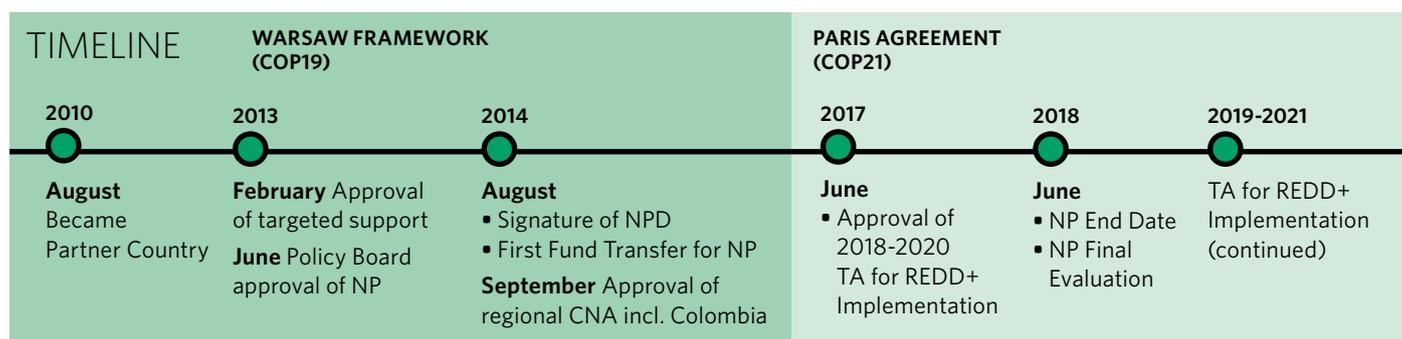
PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: In 2021, Congo strengthened its national strategy adopted in 2017 by signing an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA 2020-2024, 41 MUSD) for a jurisdictional program in the Likouala Sangha departments with the Carbon Fund of the World Bank; as well as by accessing REDD+ implementation focused on agroforestry and wood-energy projects (GCF, IFAD, CAFI, 37.5 MUSD).

FREL/FRL: Activity data was updated, but the submission of the FREL has been put on hold in agreement with national coordination to match carbon standards most likely to provide RBPs.

NFMS: The full GHG inventory of the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector was conducted in 2021, bringing together the NFMS technical team and the group of experts reporting for the Third National communication. Building on the existing expertise available at CNIAF, Congo has managed to secure a dedicated two-year project with the [Central African Forest Initiative](#) (CAFI) to operationalize its NFMS, including annual updates of activity data, degradation and restoration monitoring.

SIS: Congo made progress on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and developed a quick gap analysis against the ART-TREES v2 safeguards requirements. Work towards the preparation of a summary of information has yet to begin in the country.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized: In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme, in partnership with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN), supported the national team in charge of the AFOLU reporting for the Third National communication. The team managed to complete a complex and extensive activity data collection exercise for the GHG inventory of the AFOLU sector. The collection was carried out over three months, with bi-weekly technical inputs from UN-REDD.

In the first quarter of the year, Congo finalized its first monitoring map of deforestation, degradation and gains for the period 2016-2018 using the BFAST algorithm available in SEPAL.

Support provided to Congo has allowed for the updating of emissions and emission reductions calculations, combining both measurement of deforestation and forest degradation. A set of preliminary calculations were carried out to estimate emission trends for different jurisdictions under the LEAF initiative.

Further updates leveraging newly available NICFI imagery will be carried out in early 2022 as an essential input for the carbon finance scoping exercise planned within the NFMS institutionalization project proposed to CAFI.

In light of the ART-TREES requirement, carbon rights have been analysed for Congo and assessment results have been used to inform a global study on carbon rights. Results were published by the UN-REDD Programme (covering at least 18 countries from Africa, Latin America and Asia). A gap analysis against the ART-TREES v2 safeguards requirements has been conducted. The document is available and can serve as a good basis for future potential concept note submissions by the country to the ART Secretariat. The results will be further used as input for the carbon finance scoping exercise planned within the NFMS institutionalization project proposed to CAFI.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In 2021, national REDD+ coordination was seriously understaffed, with the retirement and replacement of the coordinator. As a result, the work stream was affected by the lack of responsiveness and staffing from the national counterpart. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic continued creating enormous challenges for delivery of technical

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assistance. No missions to the country could be undertaken. Remote delivery of trainings and workshops further increased difficulties concerning partner engagement. The UN-REDD team has shifted their *modus operandi* towards online interaction to deliver progress.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
Gender equality was strongly emphasised during activities carried out in 2021, and more importantly in the REDD+ preparedness and implementation project that recently started (PREFOREST GCF).

PARTNERSHIPS
In 2021, Congo made significant progress towards REDD+ implementation by accessing finance for a full GCF project (PREFOREST), co-financed by IFAD and CAFI (PROREP project) with a new partnership with Groupe de Recherche et d'Échange Technologique (GRET). The geospatial data and maps used for the formulation of these two projects were produced by the national MRV unit of CNIAF with UN-REDD technical support.

The SYNA-MNV project, initiated with CAFI funding, was developed with direct inputs from the World Bank ER program team, ensuring strong coordination and consistency between programs dealing with REDD+ in Congo.

LINKAGES TO SDGS
The continued development of the NFMS and the progress towards the SIS all relate to SDG 15 and the sustainable management of forest resources. Through the PROREP and PREFOREST projects, Congo will specifically advance on SDG 15.3.1, amongst other SDG indicators, in the coming years.

COSTA RICA

■ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Costa Rica has completed all the Warsaw Pillars and reported its first REDD+ results to the UNFCCC in its BUR REDD+ Technical Annex (link here) in 2019.

NS/AP: Building upon decades of experience implementing a pioneer system for Payments for Environmental Services (PES)[2], Costa Rica's National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD) and its corresponding implementation plan were developed during the readiness phase. This, in turn, was built on the policies and measures (PAMs) that the government has been implementing since the 1990s. The institutional framework comprises the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the following ascribed institutions: the National Fund for Forest Financing (FONAFIFO), the National System for Conservation Areas (SINAC), the National Forestry Office (ONF) and the Executive Decree No 37352 which details provisions for the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism in Costa Rica. FONAFIFO, with its REDD+ Secretariat, is the national institution in charge of coordinating the implementation of the ENAREDD.

FREL/FRL: Costa Rica presented its FREL to the UNFCCC in January, 2016, with a modified submission responding to the comments of the technical assessment team presented in May, 2016 (link here). The technical assessment report was produced by the UNFCCC in April, 2017 (link here).

NFMS: Costa Rica's National Forest Monitoring System is part of a broader land, land-use change and ecosystems monitoring system called Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de la Cobertura y Uso de la Tierra y Ecosistemas (SIMOCUTE). It was created to track land use change and compile the activity data needed for MRV, following a stepwise approach to monitor the implementation of forest and land-use policies and measures and tracking if results are actually achieved. The system aims to provide periodic information on forest resources for official reports on forest emissions to be submitted to REDD+ Result-based Payments programs, including the REDD+ Annex of the BUR and monitoring reports of Emission Reduction Programs such as the FCPF Carbon Fund, ART/TREES and VCS JNR.

SIS: Costa Rica has submitted its first summary of information (SOI) to the UNFCCC, which includes a complete analysis of the national circumstances for REDD+ in the country, the safeguards processes developed with the FCPF support (described in the section above), the national approach and national interpretation for safeguards, the proposal for operationalizing the SIS and a description on how Cancun safeguards were applied in the results period. The SOI describes how Costa Rica's specific legal and policy framework has been applied throughout the preparation phase and early efforts related to the National REDD + Strategy, constituting evidence of how the country has respected safeguards to date.

Costa Rica's safeguards information system (SIS), described in the SOI, was designed based on a stepwise approach and building heavily upon the strong environmental and social framework developed for the FCPF Carbon Fund and the GCF RBPs. It is based on continuous learning and improvement, and progress in implementation will be reported in the next summaries of safeguards information.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Progress and results achieved in relation to the major deliverables of the UN-REDD Technical Assistance in 2021 are presented below.

Forest solutions realized: UN-REDD provided inputs according to the requirements of the specific MRV of Costa Rica for the Collect Earth Desktop tool. Also, UN-REDD provided outstanding support in the development and implementation of methodologies

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for the monitoring of non-carbon benefits for the 2018-2019 period in the context of the first monitoring report of the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) which was submitted in June, 2021. Costa Rica's ground-breaking report on the non-carbon benefits of the implementation of the FCPF ER Programme has now become the global standard for reporting on non-carbon benefits at a jurisdictional scale.

Forest solutions rewarded: In July, 2021, Costa Rica submitted a proposal to the LEAF Coalition. This initiative aims to kick-off what is expected to become one of the largest ever public-private efforts to help protect tropical forests by purchasing high-quality carbon credits from tropical country national or sub-national governments. Those credits will be certified under the The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard (TREES) and registered under the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART), programs created with the support of the Norwegian Government's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Costa Rica's proposal successfully completed an initial technical screening process, led by a panel of technical experts. Costa Rica recently signed a Letter of Intent at COP26 and will be in the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants.

Furthermore, Costa Rica has engaged in discussion for the sale of TREES credits to buyers outside of the LEAF coalition for earlier vintages from 2017 and has signed another LOI with Emergent for this purpose. Costa Rica is now seeking buyers for remaining REDD+ which are expected to be generated in 2022.

Finally, following the approval of the Costa Rica TREES Concept Note in late 2021, work advanced on the preparation of the TREES registration document and the first monitoring report which was submitted to the ART Secretariat in Jan-

uary, 2022. These reports will undergo independent third-party validation and verification in 2022, positioning Costa Rica as one of the leaders in the process of generating TREES units.

Forest solutions enhanced: For the GCF REDD+ Results-based Payment project, which started in 2021, nearly $24 million was successfully channeled to support the National Payment for Environmental Services Programme and the National Forest Fire Prevention and Management Programme. From September to November, 2021, these two programmes have undergone an independent technical audit to assess their effectiveness. This detailed technical verification process, which included an extensive desk review and field visit using robust statistical methods, concluded that the PES and Forest Fires management programmes achieved the following results in 2021:

▶ 239,190 hectares were under forest protection within the Payment for Environmental Services Program benefiting 4,192 forest landowners including 1,102 women and 2,263 smallholders.

▶ 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 women and 200,601 trees planted in districts with a very low Social Development Index (SDI).

▶ 98 percent of forest fires were managed at the local level as early action is key to limiting the damage of fire events as reflected in international best practice.

▶ Fire breaks and other containment measures were designed and implemented to limit the impact of fires on forests and moorlands, hence the associated GHG emissions.

The UN-REDD TA also helped foster knowledge management and South-

South cooperation on REDD+ performance finance through a Latin American virtual exchange held in 2021.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The main challenge faced by Costa Rica in 2021 related to its ambitions to uphold the highest environmental integrity as it engaged in carbon markets.

Firstly, while Costa Rica is seeking support for implementing its NDCs and open to participating in carbon markets, it is clear that in order to have the privilege to be associated with a high integrity seller like Costa Rica, a buyer must display the same high level of environmental integrity. This implies that any transaction with Costa Rica must adhere to the San Jose Principles for High Ambition and Integrity in International Carbon Markets. Costa Rica considers that these principles should be applied to voluntary market transactions, making it very challenging to find buyers and leading Costa Rica to refuse to sell to certain buyers, particularly private companies involved in the oil & gas sector. Participation in the LEAF Coalition and commitments to purchase early vintage ERs made by the Emergent Forest Finance Accelerator are helping to solve this serious challenge for the time being.

Secondly, Costa Rica faces important challenges in terms of collecting clear proof of ownership of ERs. The country is undertaking an expensive and time-consuming processes through which rural landowners cede their rights to the government in exchange for payments. With payments received from the GCF for results achieved in 2014 and 2015, Costa Rica is working to fill these gaps to allow for its registration by the end of 2021. It is likely that by then, only about 55 percent of the total results will meet legal requirements. A key challenge for Costa Rica to generate TREES units is the demonstration of proof of ownership over emission reductions. No clear solution was identified to this problem which will require substantive work in 2022.

Finally, Costa Rica wants to provide evidence of the generation of the significant non-carbon benefits associated with the implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy. These are benefits for local communities, biodiversity and water resources. They must be carefully monitored and reported. The outstanding support provided by UN-REDD in this field has set a global benchmark for reporting on non-carbon benefits under the FCPF and provides a solid basis to support Costa Rica's objectives.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

As part of its National REDD+ Strategy, Costa Rica has been implementing and continuously improving its PES Program through the National Forestry Financing Fund (FONAFIFO). This program recognizes four environmental services namely: mitigation of GHG, protection of water resources, protection of biodiversity and scenic beauty. The primary focus of the PES program is conservation, reforestation and sustainable forest management benefiting small and medium holders. The initial monitoring and reporting tended to focus predominantly on ensuring contract compliance with no alterations to the land uses in areas of conservation, reforestation or sustainable forest management (i.e. that land cover remained untouched).

Recently, in an effort to give more participation to marginalized groups, the PES program has undergone several modifications. In terms of gender, and as a result of the Gender Action Plan of the National REDD+ Strategy, in the qualification scoring matrix for entry into the PES, more points are given to women landowners in the selection of potential beneficiaries. This resulted in an increase in women's participation in the program in 2021, with more than 1,102 women currently registered. In addition, Costa Rica's LEAF proposal integrated gender elements into the use of proceeds, NDC alignment and safeguards discussions.

As part of the results of the consultations carried out in the framework of the National REDD+ Strategy, there were

positive changes made to the Payment for Ecosystems Services in indigenous peoples' territories. This served to further promote the active participation of indigenous peoples through:

▶ assembly agreements, required to decide on the use of the resources received under the PES contract, which favors transparency and accountability;

▶ a decrease in transaction costs with areas of contracts renewed no longer requiring the independent verification of the regent;

▶ an increase of the area per PES contract in indigenous territories;

▶ and, respect for autonomy or cosmovision, allowing two percent of the area under contract to be used for ancestral uses.

These modifications will be further strengthened with the finalization and implementation of the indigenous peoples plan in the context of the GCF REDD+ RBPs project in 2022 which will introduce new and additional measures to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

PARTNERSHIPS

Costa Rica is already engaged in REDD+ RBP initiatives from both market and non-market sources. First, in late 2020, the country signed an Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for up to 12MtCO2. A first monitoring report was submitted in June, 2021 and the issuance and transfer of the first FCPF ERs was expected by the end of 2021. Costa Rica also provided a groundbreaking report on the non-carbon benefits of the implementation of the FCPF ER Programme, with support from UN-REDD. This has now become the global standard for reporting on non-carbon benefits at a jurisdictional scale.

Second, in October, 2020, Costa Rica received approval from the Green Cli-

mate Fund for a $54 million REDD+ RBP proposal to the GCF for emission reductions achieved in 2014 and 2015. In the context of this GCF project, in February, 2021, the Government of Costa Rica and UNDP signed a Technical Support Services agreement to design and implement a diversified strategy to access REDD+ Results-based Payments from market and non-market sources. This support is fully integrated with the UN-REDD Technical Assistance for LEAF and ART-TREES, as well as with the ongoing FCPF work under the umbrella of the National REDD+ Secretariat's workplan for 2021.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy contributed, and will continue to contribute, to numerous Sustainable Development Goals beyond the obvious contribution to SDG 13.

SDG 1. By supporting PES in indigenous territories, the RBPs program makes an important contribution to the reduction of poverty. The 2011 census found that indigenous peoples living on their lands are the poorest population in the country. The PES is the only cash transfer programme of the Costa Rican government targeting indigenous peoples. In the context of the COVID-19 recovery phase, it offers a rapid and cost-effective way to provide basic needs like food and shelter, a means to recover and rebuild after the crisis and protection from future shocks.

SDG 5. The project will make a significant contribution to achieving gender equality by adopting a series of measures which include direct cash transfers to women through the PES, capacity building and engaging women in decision-making processes in a more robust manner. The Gender Action Plan provides a detailed description of these measures.

SDG 15. By supporting the national Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme, the project will make a large contribution to the protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and to the sustainable management of forests.

COTE D'IVOIRE ■ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The National REDD+ Strategy (2017) and the subsequent REDD+ Investment Plan (2019) informed the ongoing NDC review process in which UN-REDD agencies play key advisory roles. An initial draft of the NDC revision, in which forest solutions have a prominent place, has been established and shared with stakeholders.

FREL/FRL: The submission of the revised and updated version of the FREL has been put on hold, in agreement with national coordination, to match carbon standards that are most likely to provide RBPs.

NFMS: In a partnership with the GEF CBIT-Forest project, the different components of the NFMS, established under the UN-REDD Programme, have been assessed through several consultations, increasing visibility of the NFMS among national and international stakeholders. The NFMS has initiated the first systematic inventory of activity data for the GHG inventory under the AFOLU sector.

SIS: Côte d'Ivoire produced its first SOI in 2019, collected data to feed the database in 2020 and in 2021, supported the design of the webpage and collected data for a potential next SOI.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION
Forest solutions realized. As mentioned above, the scheduled revision and submission of the activity data and FREL have been put on hold, in agreement with the national coordination to match carbon standards that are most likely to provide RBPs. The MRV system specifically extended the analysis of land cover change to the entire AFOLU sector, including sampling design, auxiliary data to augment robustness of classification and development of interpretation key, and engaged in the first systematic campaign to update activity data for the GHG inventory to be finalized

in early 2022. This activity enables the leveraging of high-resolution Planetscope data made available through the NICFI program and actively involves post-graduate students from the University Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

Building on successful experiences from the implementation of zero-deforestation agricultural production jurisdictional approaches in the regions of Cavally and Belier, UN-REDD supported the dialogue process between the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and the European Union on deforestation-free cocoa production and trade and sharing groundbreaking lessons learned from the field. Similarly, UN-REDD supported the capacity building of the ARCI (Association of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire) on REDD+ jurisdictional approaches and the mobilization of funding to address deforestation from agricultural production within the framework of the political dialogue between the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union.

UN-REDD equally supported the Ministry of Forests to develop a national action plan for sustainable cocoa production and agroforestry called White Book for Sustainable Cocoa Production. This was later used as a foundation for

discussions with the European Union.

Forest solutions rewarded. Continuous technical support has been provided to the SEP-REDD in drafting and submitting the decree regulating REDD+ investments to the Government, focusing on ER rights considerations. The UN-REDD technical team was part of the national legal taskforce that met virtually on several occasions to discuss the contents of the draft decree and to provide technical support through a presentation highlighting the relevance of regulating carbon rights to enhance REDD+ climate finance.

In addition, as part of the UN-REDD Programme workplan in 2021, UN-REDD collaborated with the law firm, White & Case, in analysing legal and carbon rights contexts in 19 countries. This included generating relevant information to be reflected in technical publications in 2022 and serving to assist future carbon financing schemes for the forest sector. The country's legal reports are based on a desk review of existing legal and institutional frameworks to determine the ownership of the forest carbon rights and the identification of a potential REDD+ emissions reductions administrator and/or potential REDD+ RBPs beneficiaries. The legal reports, with updated legal information, will

inform a global comparative study on carbon rights to be published by the UN-REDD Programme. In 2021, a blog was published in the UN-REDD portal aimed at explain the implications of carbon rights, available here.

Several technical sessions were held with the national coordination to discuss opportunities to access carbon finance regarding the ART-TREES carbon standard.

Forest solutions enhanced. UN-REDD is supporting the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for a timely official submission of the revised NDC to UNFCCC Secretariat. UN-REDD is supporting the development of the revised NDC implementation plan with a focus on financing modalities in respect to forest solutions, including consolidation of inputs from different technical working groups and partner institutions and more importantly, integration of forest solutions and REDD+ plans. For example, in respect to climate change mitigation, the revised NDC includes two unconditional forest solutions (M35: reduce deforestation rate by 70 percent from 2015 baseline by 2030; M36: convert 1 million hectares of land into forests by 2030) and one conditional forest solution (M37: convert 300,000 hectares of land into forests by 2030). These forest solutions represent the largest mitigation potential (-34.65% for unconditional and -150.18% for both) from all sectors.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Similar to the year prior, the continued COVID-19 pandemic continued to disrupt national and field processes throughout 2021, as well as the ability of the UN-REDD Programme to provide timely and qualitative technical assistance to the country. No in-country missions were carried out by the programme. Nevertheless, the country remained active in its endeavours, and UN-REDD used digital means and in-country experts to keep the above-mentioned streams active. Adding to this challenge, the national coordinator was dismissed at end of 2021 and has not yet been replaced.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The safeguards information gathered in 2021 included inputs on UNFCCC and REDD+ commitments to gender equality, including information about the criterion for gender equitable decision-making, as well as its corresponding indicator as per the REDD+ framework that includes procedures to ensure the effective participation in decision-making and equitable benefits sharing between men and women. In addition, gender-disaggregated information was presented where available.

The development of integrated forest-cocoa jurisdictional strategies in the Cavally and Bélier regions, which is partially supported by a GCFTF project, included gender mainstreaming efforts that built on UN-REDD gender knowl

edge and methods. Rural women and women's organizations were among the key stakeholders who contributed to such jurisdictional strategies. The socially inclusive model was praised by regional governments and by civic and community stakeholders alike, and knowledge products to disseminate the approach are underway.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD works in partnership with different organizations, entities and country partners, including the EU-REDD Facility, the GCFTF initiative, the World Bank, the GCF, the Cocoa & Forest Initiative, among others. UN-REDD provides tailored technical assistance to help the country in their policy commitments (e.g. NDCs), mobilize partners and finance and test innovations and pilot initiatives.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The ensemble of work on the cocoa-forest nexus, including deforestation-free farming, economically sound agroforestry models and forest-ecosystem restoration plans has helped the country advance substantially in several SDGs in an integrated manner, including SDG 12, 13, 15 and 17. Through the PROMIRE project activities, as well as the ERP jurisdictional program, Côte d'Ivoire will significantly advance on SDG 15.3.1.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011
June Became Partner Country

2012
November Approval of targeted support (1st)

2013
December Approval of targeted support (2nd)

2014
July Policy Board approval of NP
August Approval of targeted support (3rd)
October Approval of regional CNA incl. Cote d'Ivoire
November Signature of NPD
December First Fund Transfer for NP

2015
January Approval of targeted support (4th) (part of regional support for West Africa

2017
June Approval of 2018-2020 TA for REDD+ Implementation

2018
April NP End Date
December NP Final Evaluation

2019-2021
TA for REDD+ Implementation (continued)

UN-REDD Programme

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: DRC has committed to reducing forest loss across the country through REDD+ since 2009 and is one of the pilot countries that benefitted from international funds to embark on the readiness phase. The National REDD+ Strategy was adopted in 2012 and the National Investment Framework in 2015. Since then, DRC has received funding to implement REDD+ actions articulated around 7 pillars in the NS/AP.

FREL/FRL: The FREL was submitted to UNFCCC in 2018, covering the period 2000-2014. Data was updated by the TA and extended to 2014-2018. The data was used for the volume estimation of emission reductions under the LEAF proposal. DRC is currently finalizing the 2018-2020 estimates and now includes deforestation and degradation.

NFMS: In 2012, DRC became the first sub-Saharan African country to build a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). In 2017-2021, FAO supported the updated version of the NFMS with CAFI financial support. This is now operational. The NFMS finalized the National Forest Inventory in 2021 and produces updated activity data on a bi-annual basis.

SIS: Since 2015, DRC has defined its national social and environmental standards in full compliance with the Cancun agreements and the frameworks related to international regulations, but the country has not finalized safeguards elements. In 2021, UN-REDD supported the country in completing two key safeguards elements under the UNFCCC, namely the safeguards information system (SIS) and the first summary of information (SOI).

DRC has developed its SIS website and will strengthen its system by continuing the work initiated in 2021 to develop the SIS database. Also, the elaboration of its first SOI has started and will be completed during the first half of 2022. Both advances were supported by work conducted in collaboration with several country institutions and stakeholders to gather detailed information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized. DRC was not part of the 2021 inception process, but some requests were made to the UN-REDD Programme later on. This is an illustrative example of the new operational modalities within UN-REDD to respond to opportunities, to the extent possible. Main outputs included the development of the SIS webpage, draft of summary of information and data collection to feed the SIS database. UN-REDD conducted a comprehensive review of ongoing UNDP investment programmes for REDD+ under FONAREDD that are financed by CAFI in order to identify the main challenges to performance

delivery. Then, the review defined the technical assistance potentially needed to address issues identified. The review suggested concrete recommendations as a foundation to further improve the performance delivery going forward. Along the same line, UN-REDD provided advisory support to the FONAREDD Technical Committee for the design, effective implementation, monitoring and reporting of ongoing and new investment programmes.

Forest solutions rewarded. UN-REDD supported DRC to prepare a TREES Concept Note for past emissions reductions (2017-2021) with a focus in Tshuapa Province. The concept note was submitted to the ART Secretariat in December, 2021 and approved early in January, 2022. See ART (apx.com). Technical support was also provided on carbon, legal and safeguards elements, including:

- a review of the forest legal and institutional framework focusing on the nature and allocation of carbon rights and legal title to REDD+ results, taking into consideration forest tenure aspects and ad hoc

secondary instruments recently adopted;

- a draft of section 6 of the ART-TREES Concept Note taking into account inputs formulated by the national counterparts;

- a country legal report analyzing ERs rights, authored by the law firm, White & Case, in the context of collaborative work developed with the UN-REDD Secretariat.

The country has also performed a safeguards assessment of ART-TREES requirements. Additional discussions engaging country stakeholders will take place to update the assessment.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, few missions were organized by the UN-REDD team in DRC. Institutional arrangements and leadership on the REDD+ mechanism remains unclear, especially with regards to coordination, government ownership and opportunities for high-integrity carbon markets. The taskforce established helped put institutions together to deliver on specific tasks. DRC benefits from substantial investments from CAFI which keep the government and partners working, while notable reforms and field activities are underway to protect forests and consolidate a REDD+ pathway.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Under the leadership of the Vice Prime Minister in charge of Environment (VPM – MEDD), DRC established a taskforce with different actors, including CSO representatives, to deliver on a LEAF proposal. Through the taskforce, DRC conducted two stakeholder consultations to gather inputs and to validate the proposal before its submission. This taskforce has been involved in a series of consultations throughout the development of safeguards elements. In addition, through the Comite Technique de Pilotage, DRC organised consultations to approve and validate data and reports produced through MRV and NFMS activities.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD benefited from the partnership with the Ministry of Environment and FONAREDD through the taskforce established by the VPM-MEDD. FONAREDD played an important role in coordinating closely with the UN-REDD team and all members of the taskforce and also provided information building on the existing projects and programmes being implemented on the ground.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The REDD+ activities contribute directly to achieving SDGs 13 and 15, with linkage to other SDGs such as poverty reduction, health and well-being, gender equity, hunger alleviation and improving institutions.

UN-REDD Programme

ECUADOR

■ **TA**

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Ecuador has been a leader in all three phases of REDD+. Ecuador is the second country in the world, after Brazil, to complete the readiness process, fulfilling all the requirements to receive RBPs for REDD+, as set out in the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework. In its 2016 BUR, Ecuador reported emission reductions of more than 28 MtCO2 over the period 2008-2014.

The country's safeguards information system continues to be in operation and gradual improvements are being incorporated. After submitting the first and second summary of safeguards information in 2017 and 2019 respectively to the UNFCCC, Ecuador is working on its third safeguards report which will be submitted in 2022.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized. During 2021, following the support provided by the Climate Promise Initiative, financial REDD+ options for the country were mapped. For that purpose, a national analysis was undertaken to assess the feasibility to meet The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard (TREES). UN-REDD technical assistance examined gaps, mapped the technical support needed and provided technical advice. Also, technical support regarding the forest and carbon monitoring dimensions for ART-TREES and the safeguards elements was provided by UN-REDD.

During the second half of 2021, UN-REDD support culminated in the development and submission of a concept note to achieve certification under TREES. This concept note was registered under the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Program which was created with the support of the Norwegian Government's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). This allowed for the registration of Ecuador's programme on the ART Registry (Programme ART 109).

Forest solutions rewarded. With support received from UN-REDD, Ecuador submitted a proposal to the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance (LEAF) Coalition in July, 2021. Ecuador's proposal successfully completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of technical experts. As a result, Ecuador signed a Letter of Intent at COP26 which opens the door for the country to be among the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions with LEAF Coalition corporate participants in 2022.

Forest solutions enhanced. Support has also been provided on the deployment of the new national trading brand, Ecuador: Premium & Sustainable, in which deforestation-free value chains are a pillar. This process was launched in late 2019, with support from the PROAmazonia programme and with a UNDP-Lavazza partnership on deforestation-free coffee. This process continued in 2021 with the signing of

an inter-ministerial agreement between Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Water, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and its Agency for the Regulation and Control of Phytosanitary and Animal Health (Agrocalidad). This agreement will pave the way for implementing a Deforestation-Free Certification for Agricultural and Livestock Production. This groundbreaking agreement links the visions of these government agencies and integrates their environmental policies and regulations with the aim of strengthening the productive chain for the commercialization of high-quality sustainable products with full participation from producers and private companies.

The agreement sets the national definition of deforestation-free production and mandates the development of technical regulations for its certification, as well as incorporates this model into the agricultural and livestock sector. The certification will allow deforestation-free products to enter specialty markets that demand quality, environmental and social integrity and avoid the deforestation of primary forests and the expansion of the agricultural frontier, all of which promote the well-being of producers and communities.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Ecuador's potential for an ART-TREES submission was assessed during 2021. Two key technical challenges have been identified:

▶ the ability of the country to assess an inclusion of emissions from forest degradation, as required by TREES;

▶ the approach to register ERs for the years that Ecuador already received RBPs.

Beyond these technical challenges, there is a need to strengthen the National Forest Monitoring System

Azzedine Rouichi/Unsplash

(NFMS). UN-REDD is currently engaged in discussions with the government to identify the avenues to strengthen the NFMS.

Beyond the critical issues faced by the NFMS, some legal, political and financial challenges have been identified. Article 74 of the Constitution of the Republic, which establishes that environmental services will not be subject to ownership or transactions, may affect the country's ability to meet the TREES requirement to demonstrate proof of ownership, as well as negotiations with LEAF buyers seeking to acquire title to emission reductions. But this will be addressed in 2022 as an ERPA is being crafted and negotiated.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The TREES Concept Note and the LEAF proposal have integrated gender elements into proceeds, NDC alignment and safeguards discussions. Regarding support provided on the deployment of the Ecuador: Premium & Sustainable brand strategy and work on deforestation-free value chains, one of the pillars is the empowerment of women. Therefore, training was carried out with field operators from the Farmer Field Schools (ECAs) on three commodities (coffee, cocoa, and livestock) to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender approach. The ECAs have a specific session for gender and climate change issues. They also saw a high-level of participation from women: 38 percent in the livestock ECA, 24 percent in the coffee and cocoa ECA and 24 percent attended the training related to palm. Also, in September, 2021, virtual training sessions were given by a group of coffee experts from the Italian company, Lavazza, to 50 producers and technicians from six Amazonian provinces ensuring gender balance (25 men and 25 women) to strengthen capacities on sensory analysis, logistics and market trends.

Concerning the work of commercial agreements, the aim has been to ensure the participation of women as direct producers and as active participants in the commercialization of international markets. The first 3.8 tons of fine aroma organic cocoa, belonging to the Association of Small Organic Agricultural Exporters of the South of the Ecuadorian Amazon (APEOSAE), was sold to the Belgian company, SILVA CACAO, with a benefit to 11 female and 27 male cocoa farmers entering a new market niche with a high growth potential.

In 2021, UN-REDD actively supported the engagement of local organizations and communities of the Ecuadorian Amazon in the implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan.

UN-REDD organized numerous knowledge transfer activities for local agricultural producers and cooperatives, including indigenous peoples' cooperatives, strengthening productivity and establishing commercial alliances to enter international specialty markets for more sustainable products. These local producer associations include the Federation of Small Organic Agricultural Exporters of the Southern Ecuadorian Amazon (APEOSAE), Association of Coffee Growers of the Mayo River Basin (ACRIM), Aromas del Sur Cocoa and Derivatives Production Association (ASO-PROMAS) and the Agro-Artisan Association of Ecological Producers (APECAP).

PARTNERSHIPS

All initiatives supporting Ecuador are coordinated under the umbrella of the National REDD+ Action Plan which was launched in 2016, following years of analyses and consultation with support from the UN-REDD Programme.

In 2016, the GCF approved a $41 million grant to finance its implementation, the first time that the GCF approved a REDD+ phase 2 project grant for REDD+, which totals $84 million including co-finance. In terms of REDD+ performance finance (phase 3), Ecuador signed an agreement with the KFW REM in 2019, with the German and Norwegian Governments providing $11 million Euros and $50 million USD respectively in RBPs for the reduction of emissions from deforestation from 2015-2019. An additional agreement now covering the years 2020-2021 has been reached with Norway. In 2019, Ecuador also received approval for $18.5 million from the international community (GCF) in the form of RBPs for REDD+.

Furthermore, to generate demand for the Premium and Sustainable brand at the regional, national and international level, Ecuador's PROAmazonia is working in partnership with the European Forest Institute (EFI) and international private companies such as Lavazza, Olam, UNOCACE, ECOLAC and Latitud 0.

UN-REDD actively monitored the political transition as new authorities came to power in Ecuador in 2021. This involved numerous virtual meetings by regional and global advisors from the three UN-REDD agencies, as well as regular interactions by country office staff.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The implementation of the National REDD+ Action Plan contributed, and will continue to contribute, to numerous Sustainable Development Goals beyond the obvious contribution to SDG 13.

SDG 1. By supporting Socio-Bosque, as well as numerous activities in indigenous territories, UN-REDD makes an important contribution to the reduction of poverty. Socio-Bosque and Water Funds are important government programmes targeting indigenous peoples, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 recovery phase. Both these programmes offer the potential for a rapid and cost-effective way to provide basic needs like food and shelter, a means to recover and rebuild after the crisis, and protection from future shocks.

SDG 12. Ecuador's inter-ministerial agreement on Deforestation-Free Certification for Agricultural and Livestock Production represents a significant milestone by a pioneer REDD+ country to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 15. By supporting the conservation of the biodiverse Ecuadorian Amazon forest, UN-REDD made a large contribution to the protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and to the sustainable management of forests.

GHANA

TA
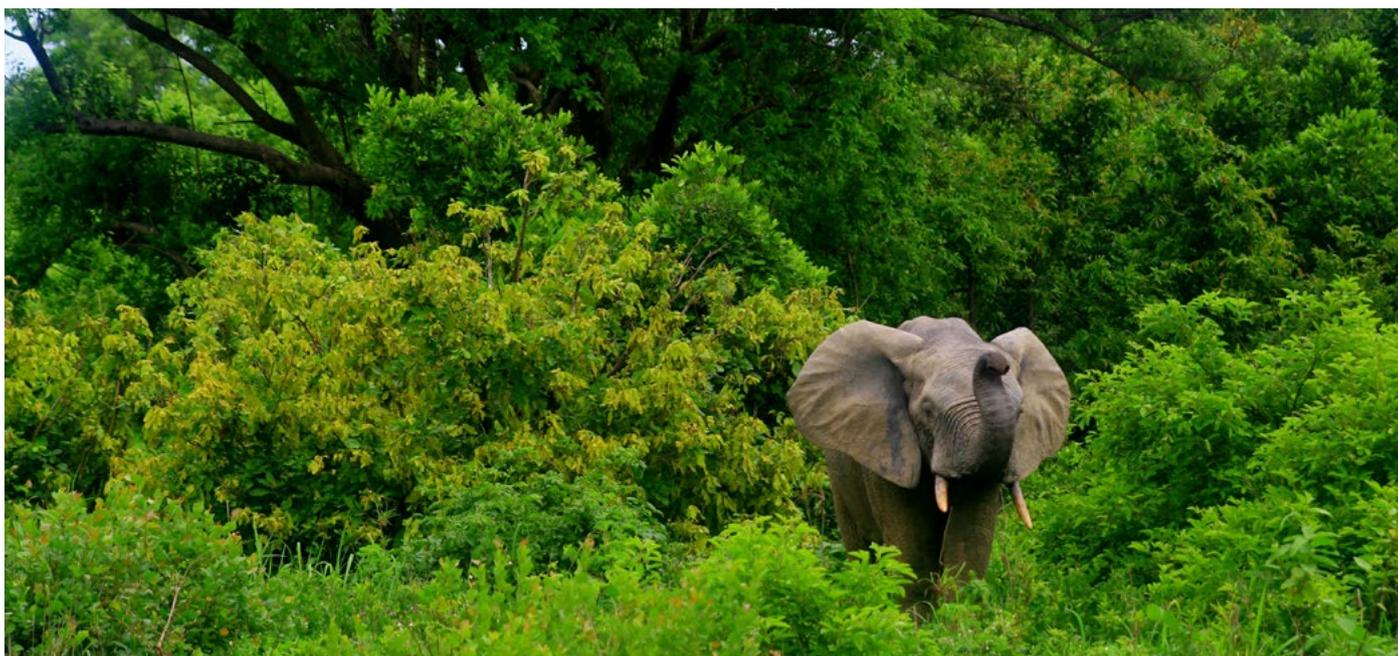
PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Ghana's REDD+ implementation efforts are guided by its National REDD+ Strategy (2016) and its Nationally Determined Contribution (2017). Ghana's REDD+ Strategy has been designed to meet the requirements of the Warsaw Framework on REDD+ and other decisions of the UNFCCC. In developing the National REDD+ Strategy, significant attention has been paid to national circumstances and developmental aspirations. The process also considered major national policies, including the national climate change policy (2013) and the revised forest and wildlife policy of Ghana (2012). This strategy is envisaged as a 20-year working document and is subject to periodic review as new ideas and enhanced understanding of REDD+ emerge from research and on-the-ground implementation of REDD+ activities in Ghana.

FREL/FRL: UN-REDD provided support to the in-country technical team in operating the Collect Earth/Open Foris tool. Moreover, Ghana revised its sub-national Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) and Forest Reference Level (FRL) Report in 2021, with support from the World Bank. Ghana

also received technical guidance in upscaling the methodologies for developing sub-national FRL to the national level from the Coalition for Rainforest Nations. The updated version is a step further on completeness and on the use of the sample approach for all activity data compared to partial use of country data mixed with other proxies and global datasets, as used in the 2017 submission.

NFMS: Ghana set up a REDD+ Monitoring Hub and submitted its First Monitoring Report to the Carbon Fund in 2021, with results for the second half of 2019. An initial transaction with the Carbon Fund is expected to be carried out in 2022. Ghana has reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation quite significantly against the 2005-2014 reference level.

SIS: The progress experienced in the past years, namely Ghana's approach to safeguards, the country's submission of its first summary of information to the UNFCCC and the development of the country's safeguards information system (SIS) web platform can be accessed here. This information was considered and used as a basis for drafting the safeguards sections of both the LEAF proposal and the TREES

Concept Note. An assessment of the safeguards requirements of TREES was also conducted; it allowed identifying progress and evidence for demonstrating conformance with certain TREES safeguards indicators, as well as determining gaps and further information needed to show conformance with other TREES safeguards indicators.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions rewarded. Preliminary calculations indicate that Ghana may also have significantly reduced emissions against a TREES-compliant reference level. Supported by UN-REDD, Ghana submitted a proposal to the LEAF Coalition in 2021 and successfully completed an initial technical screening process led by a panel of technical experts. It was selected as one of the forerunners to engage with the LEAF Coalition. A Letter of Intent was negotiated and signed in Glasgow with Emergent, the LEAF financial representative, during COP26 in November, 2021. Ghana has also submitted a TREES Concept Note and has designated a jurisdictional area for LEAF engagement. Other partners already engaged with the Forestry Commission (FC) are interested in developing large-scale mitigation programmes in the ecozones designated in the National REDD+ Strategy.

Julianna Corbett/Unsplash

Specific activities included:

▶ National activity data has been collected and support has been provided in its analysis. The classification protocol (QA/QC) was revised and made compliant with TREES requirements. Impact of the revised sample size is also being explored.

▶ Gap assessment of TREES safeguard indicators was performed and included as areas for capacity building in the LEAF proposal.

▶ Scale for the LEAF proposal was established beyond GCFRP landscape. The safeguards web portal still needs to be populated as efforts were redirected to support TREES gap assessment to meet LEAF's safeguards requirements.

▶ Detailed estimates of expected volume of carbon credits were delivered both for TREES submission (2017-2021), as well as for the LEAF proposal (2022-2026). LEAF proposal drafting assistance provided.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the UN-REDD team was unable to organize missions in Ghana, but was able to effectively engage with the Forestry Commission and its Directorate of Climate Change to assist in delivering its LEAF proposal to Emergent, a significant achievement for Ghana.

Ghana has made great strides in implementing its REDD+ Strategy and has a large portfolio of projects and programmes. However, the national agencies have limited ability to advance in a timely manner on new opportunities like LEAF. A mix of targeted and well-organized virtual meetings provided the information required to help Ghana successfully submit a proposal to LEAF and sign an LoI at the time of the Glasgow Climate Change Conference in late 2021.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Ghana has developed a National Gender Policy (2015) and a Gender and REDD+ Roadmap (2011). As work in 2021 focused on specific parameters for proposal development, a specific gender plan was not yet developed, however this will be required going forward in order to identify gender explicit actions. This will be a requirement for any programme implementation going forward. For example, Ghana has developed a Gender Action Plan for the Gender Action Plan for the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project.

Stakeholder engagement was limited to the national institutions.

The ART-TREES programme area will be larger than the GCFRP, and stakeholder engagement for the additional areas will need to be undertaken. This activity can replicate the tested approach in Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) and lead up to the signature of agreements to implement activities.

Discussion with stakeholders in existing and additional HIAs will need to include a review of the benefit-sharing plan in relation to its applicability for LEAF. In this manner, Ghana will build on substantive past efforts to ensure that a socially inclusive approach will be undertaken to develop the implementation and benefit-sharing plans under LEAF.

PARTNERSHIPS

The work carried out in 2021 benefited from the GCFRP project that is being implemented with funding from the World Bank. The GCFRP is expressly relevant as the LEAF area includes the High Forest Zone in GCFRP. Ghana has built on this project for the proposal submitted to the LEAF Coalition in the following ways: the stakeholder engagement structures and approach through Hotspot Intervention Areas, institutional framework, the national safeguards framework, forest monitoring and the recently crafted benefit-sharing plan.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

Implementation of Ghana's REDD+ Strategy and the development of partnerships, such as with the LEAF Coalition, are designed to ensure positive impacts with respect to institutional strengthening and policy implementation, community benefits and ecosystem protection, restoration and resilience.

Yoel Winkler/Unsplash

INDONESIA | ⬛ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Indonesia's National REDD+ Strategy was released in 2012. It is included in the updated NDC submitted in July, 2021 which reflects its progress beyond the previous NDC from 2016 in four areas:

▶ enhanced ambition on adaptation;

▶ enhanced clarity on mitigation by adopting the Paris Agreement (although the actual targets remain only slightly increased);

▶ national context that relates the existing conditions (especially the COVID-19 pandemic), along with national development goals for the period of 2020-2024 and indicative pathways towards Indonesia's long-term vision for 2045 and the Long-Term Strategy on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Development 2050 which is much more ambitious;

▶ translating the Paris Agreement Rule Book into Indonesia's context

in elaborated chapters on the transparency framework at the national level (National Registry System as the backbone of transparency framework) and the means of implementation (finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building).

FREL/FRL: The second FREL document covering 2006-2020 is the national reference for RBP 2021 and includes deforestation, forest degradation, peat degradation and enhancement. Each province will be assigned emission reduction targets (sub-national FREL). The BPDLH, known Indonesia Environment Fund , will be a primary channel to distribute the performance-based money to the provinces that have good emission results. Based on the first FREL. The country's REDD+ achievement within the period of 2013-2017 has been reported in the Technical Annex of the 2nd Biennial Update Report submitted in 2018. There it stated emission reductions of 244.9 M ton CO2e or in average 48.9 M ton CO2e annually. A National Registration System has been established based on the MOEF Minister Regulation No.71/2017

regarding Implementation National Registry System for Climate Change.

NFMS: Indonesia continued to improve its NFMS with capacity development supported by UN-REDD, including workshops on the latest forest mapping tools from FAO called Earthmap and high-resolution daily satellite imagery from Planet Labs for improving measurement and reporting on deforestation, degradation and forest fires. FAO successfully completed a project that was initiated by UN-REDD but funded separately for $1.6 million by Norway. The Innovative Peat Restoration Information and Monitoring System (PRIMS) completed reporting in 2021.

Two new tools were developed and Indonesian capacity developed. Innovative FAO SEPAL open-source satellite data processing modules were created to produce vegetation-cover change maps and estimates of soil moisture across peatland landscapes and to assess land cover changes and progress of restoration impacts. These new products enable estimates of soil moisture over millions of hectares that was not possible before. In addition, a user-friendly tool for quickly estimating Indonesian GHG emissions from land-use changes was developed to support land managers and planners in evaluating management options and in assessing the impacts of various alternative choices in peatlands landscapes. This was developed in 2018-20 and published in 2021 (links here for manuals, videos).

In 2021, FAO also started a new project funded by Norway to help Indonesia redesign the National Forest Inventory and monitoring system that was developed and facilitated through initial funding by UN-REDD. The TA work has supported MoEF, BRGM and other agencies in using high-resolution data and multi-date time series imagery, contributing to GoI's work for an updated NDC in 2021.

SIS: Indonesia's REDD+ safeguards information system (SIS) was legally enshrined in 2017.

Forest solutions realized.
This work area included:

▶ continued capacity building for the International Tropical Peat Center (ITPC) to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing with Western Pacific countries, the two Congo's and countries in the Amazon basin and Andes uplands;

▶ operationalization of the "Cluster Approach" to wildfire management in three provinces: Riau, South Sumatra and Central Kalimantan, in collaboration with the Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs;

▶ and, technical assistance to BPDLH to develop innovative blended finance solutions to enable the GoI to accelerate its REDD+ achievement meeting targets.

UN-REDD collaborated with the World Bank to provide technical inputs for two Executive Director's Regulations for the Indonesian Environment Fund (IEF, previously BLU BPDLH), guidelines for REDD+ funds disbursement (enacted), as well as the soon-to-be enacted Guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards framework.

Forest solutions rewarded.
This work area included:

▶ Technical assistance provided to BPDLH, MOEF and relevant jurisdictions to assess opportunities from international carbon markets based on upcoming carbon pricing legalization (from mid-2021 onwards).

▶ UN-REDD is also working to generate blended finance support for an agroforestry bamboo-based initiative in Eastern Indonesia through a combination of a GEF grant and TLFF impact investments in a bamboo fibre board factory.

▶ With the Presidential Regulation on Economic Value of Carbon endorsed in October, 2021, UN-REDD is supporting IEF to clarify roles and responsibilities for implementation. Complementary to this technical assistance was a debrief to IEF on the key outcomes and remaining challenges for Article 6 in the wake of COP26 and implications for the Government of Indonesia. In parallel, UN-REDD is also engaging with IEF and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to develop market and non-market-based instruments for the forestry sector based on post-COP26 outcomes.

Forest solutions enhanced. Support for the NDC implementation roadmap is ongoing in agreement with UNDP's Climate Promise support.

UN-REDD started work on identifying urgent gaps in emissions reporting that will enhance climate change reporting with good discussions with CIFOR on combining their mangrove plot data with FAO satellite data for improved activity to improve emission estimates.

Consultations on Indonesia's participation in a new UN-REDD Social Forestry ASEAN Initiative, *Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in ASEAN countries,* funded by Switzerland were held with both MoEF-Social Forestry and the Director-General (DG) for Social Forestry and Environment Partnership in late 2021. The DG was supportive of the proposed deliverables and project outline, and it was agreed that the coordination of activities will be through the MoEF DG for Social Forestry (DG SF) with further consultation with the DG for Climate change to be finalized in 2022.

To help fill an important area of high uncertainty in GHG emissions from peatlands, UN-REDD participated in the delivery of two events including one with the Indonesian Vice-Minister for Environment and Forests and international participation through the Global Peatlands Initiative in February and

March (online summaries here). Among the important conclusions was that wet and healthy peatlands are the only sustainable pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fires and peatland degradation and to prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
The biggest challenge faced by Indonesia during 2021 was again caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel ban, office closures and lockdowns. Solutions used by the UN country team included increased use of online meetings and sharing documents with Indonesian partners. This has worked in many cases, although is not always possible to replace in-person meetings for some training or meetings.

Furthermore, the process of formally renewing of the engagement of the UN-REDD Programme with the Ministry – as requested by the MOEF in August 2021 – has resulted in temporary pausing TA planning and implementation. A formal letter has been sent by the Head of the UN-REDD Programme to the Secretary General of the MOEF to confirm Indonesia's participation in the Global 2022-2025 Technical Assistance Multiyear Plan. Upon receipt of a response, TA planning and implementation will resume to normal.

UN-REDD continued the assessment of Indonesia's Fire Danger Rating Systems (FDRS) and review of fire EFs and prepared draft reports. Changes in staff, restructuring of MoEF staff and difficulties with communication and meetings due to COVID-19 have slowed progress, with the presentation of the FDRS and fire Emission Factor work anticipated in 2022.

The termination of the Norway Indonesian's Letter of Intent in 2021 by Indonesia has currently stopped the RBPs from Norway, but other RBP funds are continuing through GCF, World Bank and other voluntary and private schemes. The government is still actively pursuing wider private sector involvement through carbon finance regulations.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

There has been positive progress on the involvement of youth, women and indigenous peoples in the community-led fire brigades initiative. Safeguards considerations, including on gender and social inclusion, have also been incorporated in the development of IEF's soon-to-be enacted Guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards framework.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD is advancing partnerships with the private sector, facilitated by UNEP through TLFF partners, Agri3 facility and Rabobank, to accelerate investment mobilization for national level REDD+ policy outcomes.

Excellent partnerships continue with KEMITRAAN, the leading Indonesia CSO, for governance reform and the IPB University for Fire Risk System improvement, as well as with the Bamboo Environmental Foundation on agroforestry.

Continued collaboration was built with the NASA fire project, by providing support through FAO's SEPAL using high-res satellite data for Indonesian analysis and sharing info with ACIAR Peat-fire project. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, important relationships have been established and maintained through online meetings with partners and government agencies, and technical data collection and analysis is underway

and will continue in the post-pandemic future.

Finally, UN-REDD continues to partner with the World Bank through UNDP to coordinate support for IEF to meet its international fiduciary and operational standards.

LINKAGES TO THE SDGS

Linkages to the various SDGs are as follows: SDG 13 through IEF for REDD+ results-based finance and MRV improvements; SDG 1 through improved livelihood options; SDG 3 through less fires and smoke and improvements to food security; and SDG 17 through joint training and strengthening the International Tropical Peatland Center.

UN-REDD Programme

MEXICO

■ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Mexico's National REDD+ Strategy has been operational since 2017 with aimed implementation towards improved territorial governance until 2030. UN-REDD continuously provides technical inputs to Mexico's National Forest Commission *(Comisión Nacional Forestal o*r CONAFOR) towards the strategy's implementation.

FREL/FRL: Mexico submitted the final FREL to the UNFCCC and expects to finalize the assessment report in early 2022. A full version of the REDD+ Technical Annex was prepared and is expected to be submitted to the Convention in 2022.

NFMS: Mexico's NFMS is operating effectively and has increased its capacity to report on land use change at the state level. At the same time, the sustainability of the system remains a challenge, leading to the exploration of opportunities to contain costs and improve overall efficiency.

SIS: Mexico has made continuous improvements in its safeguards approach, including updating its SIS, integrating the Safeguards Care Plan Tool and enabling more streamlined and effective reporting from the state level on risk and impact management. In addition, Mexico has started to prepare initial planning and analysis for updating its second summary of safeguards information.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION
Forest solutions realized. Technical recommendations to involve private sector actors in key supply chains for sustainable production models have been provided. Within the mahogany, charcoal and candelilla value chains, support was provided to reduce barriers to sustainable use.

The NFMS has been strengthened through application of FAO's assessment tool and improved access to Open Foris Arena. The performance of various temporal analysis algorithms (BFAST, LandTrendr and CCDC) and spectral

indices (NDVI, DNFI and NDMI) was systematically tested in three pilot areas, leading to recommendations for the use of future protocols.

Technical support and inputs have been provided for Mexico to strengthen the National Safeguards System. This includes continuous improvements to the SIS, with integration of further information and tools on risk management (Safeguards Care Plan Tool), to help facilitate reporting from the state level. While the development of the second Summary of Information was planned and initially discussed, the report will be finalized in 2022.

Technical support and analysis for assessing potential participation in international carbon markets (ART-TREES) has been carried out, including analysis of gaps related to safeguards conformance.

Technical support and inputs on developing communication and training materials on safeguards were provided.

Gabriel Tovar/Unsplash
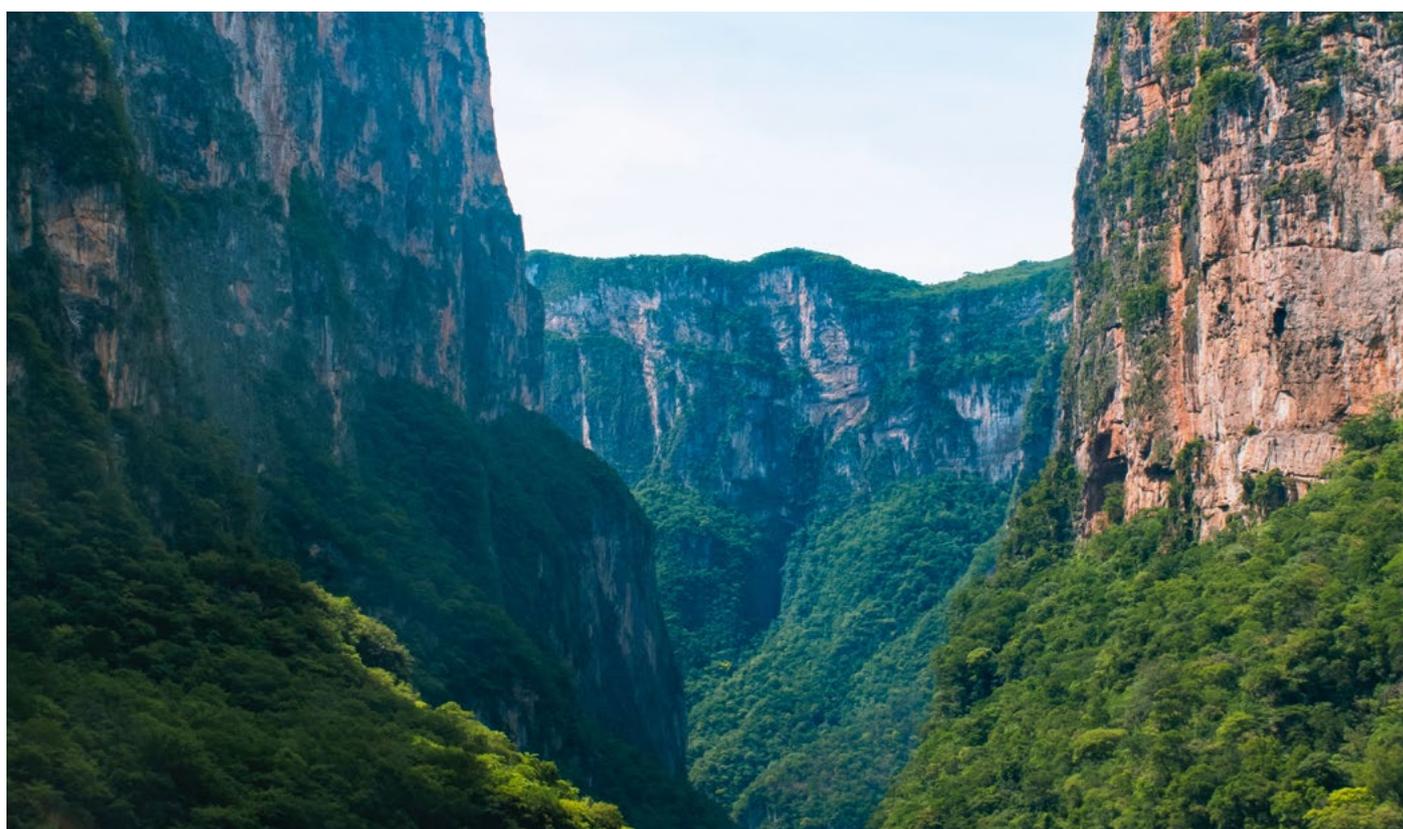
This included reporting and analyzing information from the state-level, participation in a safeguards training workshop with Mexican states, as well as the review of materials for the updated SIS website.

Forest solutions rewarded. Recommendations to enhance environmental integrity of REDD+ results and facilitate access to carbon finance were delivered through an assessment of Mexican states' conformity with ART-TREES. The systematic analysis of the standard's requirements indicates high levels of conformance in Mexico, including the members of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF-TF). As reflected in the draft REDD+ Technical Annex, Mexico achieved significant results between 2017 and 2019. The country shows continued interest in exploring options to access carbon finance.

While two jurisdictions in Mexico (Jalisco, Quintana Roo) submitted proposals to the LEAF Coalition, technical and legal recommendations on carbon rights and benefit sharing arrangements were stalled due to the pending legal reform. The need to enable transferability of ERs to third parties and corresponding benefit-sharing arrangements under market-based approaches further stresses the value of advancing legal reforms to provide clarity on the rights over emission reductions (ERs). Progress on the required reform bill, however, is still pending in Congress and expected in 2022.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
While COVID-19 had a continued restrictive impact on meetings, UN-REDD maintained progress by using online platforms for technical support. Still, the REDD+ Technical Annex, as well as the second summary of safeguards information needed to be rescheduled, partly due to COVID disruptions, to 2022.

CONAFOR continues to experience budget reductions, which further reduced operational capacities. Furthermore, CONAFOR underwent a series of institutional changes that particularly impacted the work on sustainable value chains and private sector engagement. UN-REDD, together with CONAFOR, was able to connect these activities to the 2022-2025 planning framework and address deforestation-free value chains from an integrated approach.

The approval of the reformed Sustainable Forest Management Bill is still pending, with impacts on the legal clarity for carbon rights and accessing corresponding finance streams.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
Gender equality is a key component of Mexico's safeguards information system. As such, the tool developed to facilitate reporting across levels of government explicitly includes gender considerations in its design, application, as well as corresponding capacity building measures.

PARTNERSHIPS
Synergies with the work under the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCFT-TF) continued in 2021, particularly through GCFTF country coordination on LEAF submissions (Jalisco, Quintana Roo), as well as with the beginning of the GCFTF's innovation funding projects (Jalisco, Yucatán). Further synergies could be forged with the work under the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI), launched in 2021, and active contribution by CONAFOR as well as states in the Initiative's governance body.

LINKAGES TO SDGS
The activities developed contribute indirectly to achieve some advances of SDGs 5, 8, 12, 13 and 15.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2009	2014	2015	2017	2019-2021
December Became Partner Country	**August** Approval of targeted support (1st) **September** Approval of regional CNA, including Mexico	**December** Approval of targeted support (2nd)	**June** Approval of 2018-2020 TA for REDD+ Implementation	TA for REDD+ Implementation (continued)
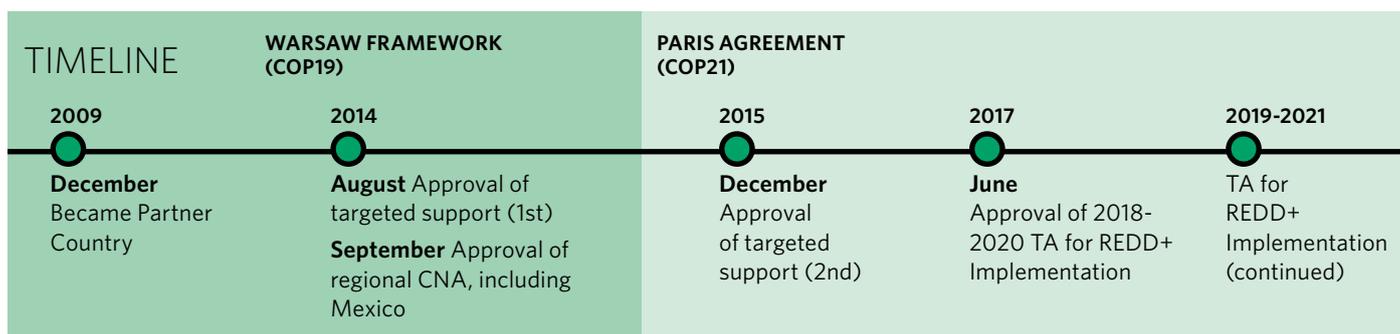
MYANMAR ▮ TA

The Government of Myanmar has made significant advancements against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including the completion of the National REDD+ Strategy development through an inclusive and gender-responsive stakeholder engagement process. Much of the achievements and lessons learned are the result of dedicated work carried out under the UN-REDD National Programme which ended in November, 2020.

In addition to the ongoing instability induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the political situation that emerged in February, 2021 made it impossible to realistically plan for the implementation of new TA activities. In line with the document, *"Myanmar United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Engagement in Current Context,"* no engagement with the de facto government counterpart was possible, which had an impact on the planning and implementation of the 2021 TA. However, the country team continued with planned activities under the two initiatives mentioned above to the best extent possible, relying on remote support and international and national consultancies.

The UN-REDD country team considers UN-REDD support of paramount importance to build on and continue the successful work carried out in previous years. The country team will continue to reassess the situation to identify windows of opportunity for planning a re-entry in 2022.

In addition to regular TA, Myanmar is a beneficiary of two additional UN-REDD initiatives launched in 2020: Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Forest Governance in the Lower Mekong Region (LMR) and Integrating Mangroves into REDD+ Implementation in Myanmar. The latter, even with adjusted activities, managed to achieve progress as outlined in a dedicated section below. An online workshop about promoting

legal and sustainable timber production in community forests for supply to SMEs was organized on December 16, 2021 as a country-level follow-up to the regional SFT-LMR workshop. The session focused on sharing experiences and challenges faced by timber smallholders and community forests in Myanmar.

The UN-REDD LMR Myanmar team has been providing inputs to RECOFTC, as they are developing a curriculum for local and national stakeholders to support sustainable forest management and legal trade of forest products in the context of international and national certification mechanisms. They are also helping to plan the pilot training at the local level in Kachin State.

MYANMAR MANGROVES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In the aftermath of the coup that took place in February, 2021, the UN-REDD team undertook a critical analysis of the UN-REDD Mangroves Technical Assistance (TA), in line with UNCT Engagement Principles. The assessment included the continuation, revision or halt of work delivery. Based on the result of the analysis, UN-REDD prepared an activity matrix, outlining the activities to be paused or continued and proposed alternative activities to be pursued. A progress update note was provided to the Executive Board in September, 2021. (See annex to the report of the Session 1 of the UN-REDD Executive Board meeting held on September 1, 2021.)

UN-REDD Programme

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The inability to engage with the de facto authorities significantly reduced progress in this area, however, preliminary work was done for the development a REDD+ Action Plan with the Karen National Union (KNU) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) respectively.

FREL/FRL: Significant spatial analysis was carried out to produce mangrove extent and mangrove condition/degradation maps. This will constitute the core of the activity data to be used for updating and improving the latest version of the Country's FREL (submitted in 2019). This is preparatory work that can only be finalized once the political situation improves and direct contact with the Forestry Department can be re-established.

NFMS: Due to the political situation and the COVID-19 pandemic, no field work was possible. The analysis of data from cluster plots in mangrove areas for an estimate of emission factors will be carried out in the first quarter of 2022. A preliminary report on data analysis of the National Forest Inventory in mangrove plots was undertaken, with work to be finalized in 2022.

SIS: A draft guidance package on how to apply Myanmar's national safeguards approach at the sub-national level has been produced and shared with project partners and selected experts for initial feedback. This package includes a guidance document and a set of checklists, aimed at helping CSOs, NGOs and other civil society REDD+ planners and implementers to plan, design and implement socially and environmentally sustainable REDD+ actions in line with the safeguards.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized. After a revision of the Results Framework, significant effort was placed on Community Forests, Community Forest Enterprises and Community Protected Areas (Output 4 of the Mangroves TA). Community forest work in selected sites in the Ayeyarwady region began by delivering capacity building sessions in partnership with the Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-Conservation Network (MERN). Similar activities were planned for Southeast Myanmar (Tanintharyi region and Mon state). Activities included: selection of potential Community Forest Areas; collection of secondary data for Mangrove species and stocks for each CF; collection of secondary data for socio-economic conditions for each CFUG; and, awareness raising plan and material for CFs with an emphasis on mangrove management and conservation. In addition, preliminary work was done for the development a REDD+ Action Plan with the Karen National Union (KNU) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) respectively.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Implementation challenges were highlighted in the introductory section. In addition to the political situation, travel limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that missions to and within the country were suspended, forcing a restructuring of the delivery modalities. As such, discussions and outreach were shifted to web-based tools. A partial solution to the extreme challenges includes an increased focus on activities at the community level, without engagement with the de facto authorities, as per UN Country Team guidance.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Keeping in mind the caveats indicated in the introduction, and the related challenges for the implementation on the ground, the Mangroves Initiative in Myanmar dedicated significant resources towards social inclusion in 2021, reorienting part of the planned actions specifically towards strengthening capacities of local communities.

PARTNERSHIPS

Key collaboration was established with other key initiatives, such as the FAO-GEF's, Sustainable cropland and forest management in priority agro-ecosystems of Myanmar and the FAO-Government of Finland's, Myanmar NFI with a Human Rights Based Approach. Due to donor regulations in response to national circumstances, the two projects were put on hold or terminated. The partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nation (IUCN) led to the core of the work on safeguards. Close collaboration is currently ongoing with MERN for activities at the community level.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The activities of the Mangroves Initiative, through the conservation and sustainable management of mangroves ecosystems, provide a key pathway to achieve progress across several SDGs. Among the goals most relevant to mangrove conservation are: SDG 14, 15, 13, 9 and 5. Through novel systems, including monitoring and sustainable forest management in mangrove areas, advances in supporting sustainable livelihoods, reducing social inequalities and supporting gender equity can be achieved.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | ■ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: PNG has identified several REDD+ target interventions with an aim to enhancing forest management and legality, actions that support key stakeholder groups in priority areas to take direct action to undertake climate and conservation and to ensure further development of PNG's REDD+ architecture and monitoring capacity.

FREL/FRL: PNG submitted its Forest Reference Level (FRL) to the UNFCCC in 2017. The first Biennial Update Report (BUR), including REDD+ Technical Annex, was submitted in 2019. PNG aims to submit a second FRL/FREL to the UNFCCC in 2022.

NFMS: The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) consists of remote sensing-based assessments (point sampling and wall-to-wall mapping), field inventories and a web GIS-based platform with public access, as fully described in the FRL, BUR and other government publications.

SIS: PNG submitted the summary of information (SOI) of the safeguards information system (SIS) in 2020. Work is ongoing on adherence to the safeguards requirements of the ART-TREES standard and in strengthening safeguards and legal aspects.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions rewarded. Work is ongoing to access carbon finance through leading carbon standards, notably ART-TREES. In 2021, through technical assistance from the UN-REDD Programme, a capacity assessment concerning gaps and needs for support was conducted to meet ART-TREES requirements, estimate ART-TREES expected volumes of ERs and to summarize safeguards information and processes currently available in the PNG for adherence to the safeguards requirements of the ART-TREES standard. The PNG government submitted an expression of interest for proposals from the LEAF Coalition, in addition to addressing requests for clarification and signing the MoU with the LEAF Coalition. Work is ongoing to draft the TREES Concept Note.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Periodic lockdowns due to COVID-19 have impacted the TA 2021 implementation; no missions to the country were undertaken. The UN-REDD team modus operandi shifted to online interaction, and key face-to-face meetings have been organized, when possible, to progress some key discussions.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Work is ongoing to develop a benefit-sharing framework and to process the transferring ownership of emissions.

In 2021, a safeguards workshop was held in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, with the objective of gauging feedback on four key draft safeguards guidelines (FPIC, GRM, benefit-sharing and REDD+ guidelines) to further inform their respective policies. There were 52 participants, of which there were 14 women and 38 men, including Clans Women's representatives, the REDD+ core team, provincial and village representatives. The participants also discussed the identification of existing measures to promote the rights and interests of customary landowners and local communities, particularly from the experiences of two VCS projects in New Ireland Province (NIHT) and East New Britain (BEST community project). Similar stakeholder consultation workshops planned for the Highlands, Southern and Momase regions will continue in 2022 through a GCF Readiness project.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD closely collaborates with the GCF Readiness Project, Readiness for registry and nesting system to facilitate climate-related investments in agriculture, forest and land use (AFOLU) sector in Papua New Guinea, to progress on REDD+.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

SDGs 13, 15 and 17, in particular through support of the GCF Readiness project.

UN-REDD Programme

PERU 🟢 NP 🟦 TA

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE, NATIONAL PROGRAMME

EXPENDITURE   **APPROVED BUDGET**
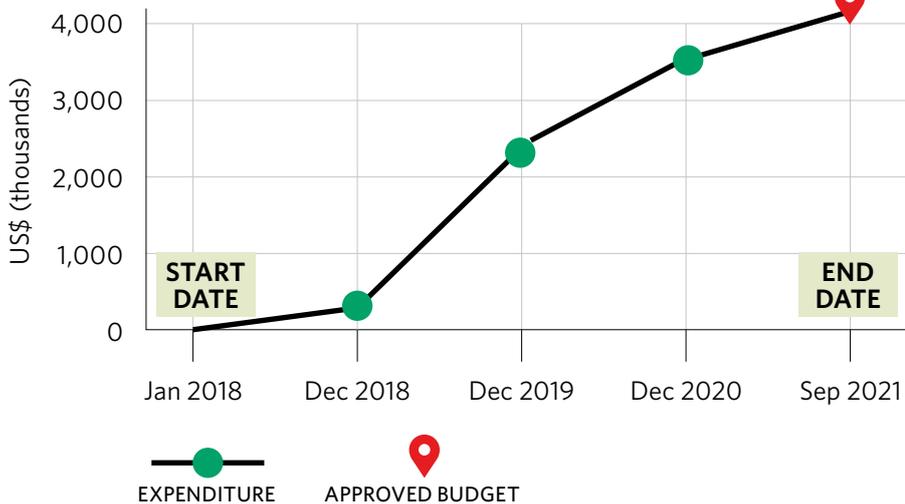
PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: A monitoring framework with joint indicators was developed for Peru's National REDD+ Strategy (Estrategia Nacional de Bosques y Cambio Climático, 2016) and the Joint Declaration of Intent between Norway, Germany, the UK and USA signed a new addendum (more details in partnership section). MINAM released its guidelines to identify and classify REDD+ activities as a step to register and identify any REDD related activity developed in the country (link here).

FREL/FRL: Peru has advanced in developing a second FREL for the Amazon biome, including gross deforestation and using a different and enhanced methodology from the first FREL through a sampling grid using stratified area estimations. The new document was submitted to the UNFCCC in February, 2021. The submission contained details of the methodological approach fully supported by UN-REDD. The Technical Assessment Report (TAR) is expected to be published by the UNFCCC in April, 2022.

NFMS: Peru received training on the use of SEPAL and new imagery (Planet); both will be used to monitor and assess land use change dynamics in the Amazon biome. This is part of an effort that includes initiatives that focus on the development of institutionalized forest monitoring systems that enhance the quality of results. Further, legal recommendations concerning the institutionalization of the NFMS and the strengthening of measuring and reporting emissions reductions and implications for nesting were prepared and presented to MINAM for broader consultation.

SIS: Peru published its first summary of safeguards information in early 2020, covering the 2012-2019 period. Pilot versions of the Peru's SIS, the Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC), which will complement safeguards monitoring through citizen participation, were developed and launched at the end of 2021. Peru intends to use the MIS to manage mitigation measures required for entry to voluntary carbon markets. These processes were in-

formed by strong participation through the multi-stakeholder Safeguards Technical Sub-committee, which held regular meetings to review, discuss and provide inputs on, and validate, technical advances on safeguards. In addition, guidelines for the identification and classification of REDD+ actions were prepared, with safeguards compliance as an essential element.

These soon to be achieved milestones are the culmination of a long and robust process that involved civil society, regional governments, indigenous peoples, different sectors and academia. The Technical Sub-committee on Safeguards has reviewed and contributed to the documents and tools for the safeguards pillar.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

The UN-REDD National Programme (NP) entered the closing phase in 2021. The final assessment report concluded the NP, despite the difficulties generated by changes in government, the pandemic and unexpected technical needs, demonstrated resilience and proved efficient during project implementation. This, in part, was due to an adequate coordination process between the project team, MINAM and UN-REDD agencies, which formed a technical cadre that could adequately respond to dynamic and unexpected challenges, successfully concluding the Programme.

Forest solutions rewarded. The technical assistance provided in 2021 was included in the framework for Outcome 2 of the UN-REDD Results Framework. A gap analysis was conducted against the MRV and safeguard requirements as outlined in ART-TREES 2.0. The document is available and serves as a basis for assessing Peru's feasibility and potential to generate ERs under the ART-TREES standard and for identifying actions to address gaps related to safeguards conformance during the TA 2022. A Concept Note was delivered to

the ART Secretariat at the end of 2021, allowing for Peru to progress to the second stage - preparation of the TREES registration document.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

As in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the provision of in-country technical assistance in 2021. Nevertheless, the country remained engaged with the activities of the NP and the TA 2021, and the Programme continued to use virtual means to deliver its support where feasible. Close coordination between UN-REDD agencies and MINAM was fundamental to conclude the activities planned for the UN-REDD National Programme and TA 2021.

Some of the challenges encountered and solutions identified are summarized below. The consolidation of the national forest monitoring system, aiming to have a robust, transparent and harmonized system, including subnational information, to monitor, report and demonstrate forest-based emission reductions according to UNFCCC provisions and international best practice can be challenging. A key element is to harmonize the methodologies used in

the geobosques platform and the one used to report to the UNFCCC (GHG – I, FREL, REDD tech annex). Resources from national budget need to be secured and continued support from donors will be needed to improve reporting on emissions/removals for generating reports to the UNFCCC. In the short term the UN-REDD TA will work to support this process and provide the necessary technical advice for Peru. The TA 2021 builds on previous UN-REDD National Programme support which has provided tools to institutionalize the NFMS of Peru.

Carbon accounting and avoiding double counting: many REDD projects are currently implemented across the country and Peru needs to develop a coherent accounting framework that puts environmental integrity to the forefront by avoiding double counting /issuance of ER. A solution identified is the nesting allocation tool, which will allocate baselines to projects based on the latest FREL by using deforestation risk assessment criteria. The baseline will be allocated by regions and any project aimed to generate and register ER will necessarily use the allocation tool for its corresponding region. The TA 2021

and UN-REDD NP, by supporting the FREL development and the nesting tool development along with other cooperation entities, have facilitated this process and are continuing the provision of technical support with the TA 2022. All these process have to be carried out in close participation with the affected stakeholders. MINAM has presented to the general public the REDD guidelines which contain the rulebook for assigning ER to the different initiatives and projects. By coordinating closely with these identified stakeholders, it will be ensured that the full participation of affected stakeholders is ensured.

There is also a challenge in ensuring that Peru's Safeguards Information Module (MIS) and Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC) are fully operational, particularly across different scales of REDD+ implementation. Further UN-REDD support will be needed to help pilot the MIS and the MAC at the regional levels, and to ensure that fully functioning and operational systems are in place, with protocols to collect, analyse, and periodically report information on safeguards to the UNFCCC, as well as different donors and funders and civil society, among others. Peru also aims to

work on continuous improvements for the interpretation and conceptualization of the Cancun safeguards in the national context, as well as unifying safeguards reporting for interventions related to climate change and forests.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

To address the gender approach, the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGCC) was developed, which has a chapter related to priority gender actions in the areas of forests and climate change.

The Framework Law on Climate Change (LMCC) and its regulations have included a consultation process with indigenous peoples. The LMCC integrates the National Gender Equality Policy and the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan. The concept of comprehensive climate change management includes participatory, transparent and inclusive planning for the design, execution, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and dissemination of policies, strategies,

plans, programmes and projects. These aim to reduce the vulnerability of a country against the effects of climate change, while reducing emissions and increasing GHG removals. Considering intercultural, gender and intergenerational approaches, they were developed under a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and multi-level consultation process. Article 12 of the Law includes the obligation to respect and guarantee access to, and dissemination of, information on climate change. It also serves to guarantee spaces for citizen participation and indigenous or native peoples through their organizational representatives at the national, regional and local levels. This is carried out based on the principles and approaches established in Articles 2 and 3 of the LMCC, with a focus on gender, cultural and linguistic relevance, in accordance with current national and international regulations.

The pilot version of Peru's MIS also included an approach to rights, gender equality and interculturality. In addition,

the gap analysis conducted against ART-TREES 2.0 safeguards requirements analyzed specific gender elements, including the rights established by the Peruvian state to equality and non-discrimination based on gender.

PARTNERSHIPS

In May, 2021 the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) addendum was signed between Peru, Norway, the UK and the USA. In this addendum, Norway restated its intention to contribute up to $45 million annually in the period 2022-2025, subject to the delivery of verified reductions in Peru's emissions from deforestation and forest degradation certified by the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

Peru's continued progress on implementing REDD+ actions contributes directly to SDGs 13 and 15 and indirectly to SDGs 5, 6, 8 and 12.

TIMELINE

WARSAW FRAMEWORK (COP19)

PARIS AGREEMENT (COP21)

2011	2012	2014	2015	2017	2018	2021
June Became Partner Country	**June** Approval of targeted support (1st)	**October** Approval of targeted support (2nd)	**November** Policy Board approval of NP	**June** Approval of 2018-2020 TA for REDD+ Implementation **December** Signature of NPD	**January** First Fund Transfer for NP	**September** NP End Date

Omri Cohen/Unsplash

UGANDA | ■ TA
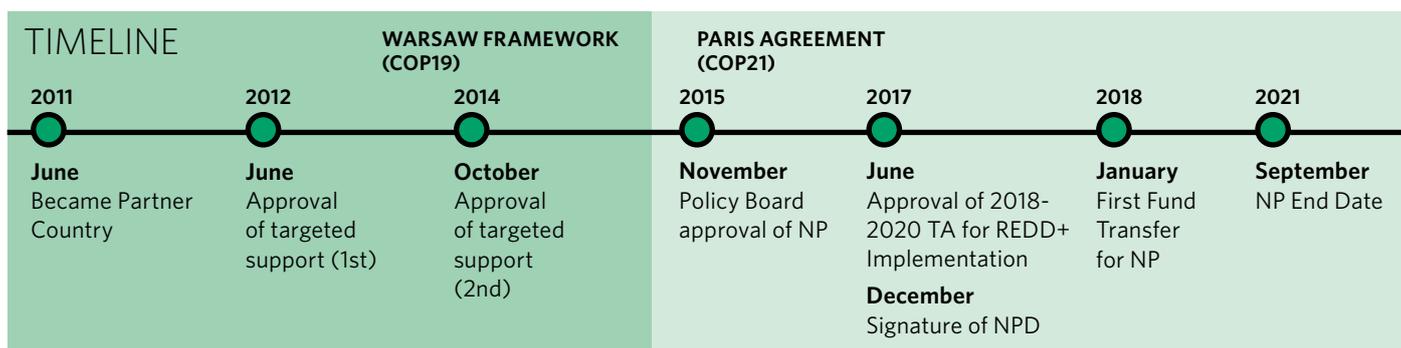
PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: The national REDD+ mechanism started in 2008 when the country became a participant of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) after approval of the Forest Carbon Partnership Readiness Plan Idea Note (ER-PIN). Since 2013, with grants from FCPF, Austria Development Cooperation (ADC) and the UN-REDD National Programme, the Government of Uganda embarked on implementing a REDD+ Readiness phase. Thanks to this, Uganda has now several elements of the Warsaw Framework in place such as the National REDD+ Strategy which was completed in 2017.

FREL/FRL: In 2021, a new, dense, time-series algorithm was tested and gave promising results for assessing deforestation, and potentially degradation and enhancement. The NFMS may integrate this in the future to improve accuracy.

NFMS: The FREL was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2018, followed by a BUR and REDD+ Technical Annex in 2020, including REDD+ results for reducing deforestation for the years 2016 and 2017.

SIS: Uganda has made progress on its safeguards information system (SIS) and the elaboration of its first summary of information (SOI). Uganda has developed a draft version of its SIS webpage; it is under review and feedback. Also, a draft template to guide the process for collecting data and information on REDD+ has been prepared. The country's first SOI was drafted with support from the World Bank and received feedback from UN-REDD. The report is in the final review stages.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forests solutions realized. In 2021, UN-REDD TA support included the development and design of a SIS webpage, together with templates and recommendations for data collection. This work will be completed in Q1 2022.

Forests solutions rewarded. The main outputs under this outcome were the submission of a proposal to the LEAF Coalition for emission reductions in the 2022-2026 period and the development of a RBPs Concept Note to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for results achieved in 2016 and 2017 and submitted to UNFCCC in 2020. To achieve these milestones, UN-REDD approximated emissions for the reference period 2017-2021 to generate detailed estimates of expected volume of carbon credits which helped in LEAF proposal drafting.

UN-REDD conducted a detailed gap analysis against the ART-TREES safeguards requirements and identified actions for filling gaps for conformance to ART-TREES requirements. Additional discussions, engaging country stakeholders, will take place to update the assessment.

UN-REDD supported the country with its strategies for carbon finance by evaluating several carbon standards (ART-TREES) and carbon finance opportunities (i.e., LEAF and GCF-RBP) and formulating strategic recommendations. UN-REDD also supported dialogues between LEAF corporate buyers and government following LEAF proposal submission.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, few missions were organized by the UN-REDD team in Uganda. One mission was organized to follow the implementation of safeguards activities, LEAF and GCF-RBP submission and discuss with national counterparts the strategic priorities to access carbon finance.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Uganda established a technical working group with different actors (including CSO representatives and local communities) to deliver on the LEAF proposal. Uganda conducted two stakeholder consultations to gather inputs and validate the LEAF proposal before its submission.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD work carried out in 2021 benefited from the partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and the National REDD+ Focal Point. The Focal Point, within the MWE, played an important role in coordinating closely with the UN-REDD team and all members within the working group to provide content and consolidating inputs. In addition, UN-REDD established a partnership with the World Bank and agreed on the efforts to bring in private sector actors to scale up investment from buyers from targeted REDD+ programmes (notably the Elgon and Albertine Rift regions under the World Bank investment programme). This includes forest restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The REDD+ activities, including safeguards, NDC implementation, RBP and MRV, contribute directly to achieving SDG 13 and 15, with linkage to other SDGs such as poverty reduction, health and well-being, gender equity, hunger alleviation and improving institutions.

VIETNAM ◼ TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

Viet Nam achieved REDD+ Readiness early on, with support from developing partners including the UN-REDD Programme's National Programme for Viet Nam. Since then, the REDD+ Strategy (National REDD+ Action Programme), approved in 2017, has been under implementation and is expected to undergo updating of its Annex Policies and Measures for the next decade. Viet Nam has also undergone submission and revision of the FRL and completion of a NFMIS that incorporates information on safeguards.

In 2021, Viet Nam submitted its MRV results through its 3rd Biennial Update Report and Technical annex on REDD+ and is undergoing the technical assessment process under the UNFCCC. According to the available MRV data against the FRL, Viet Nam has made significant progress that may be rewarded through RBPs.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest solutions realized. Anticipated deliverables related to the project, Integrated Sustainable Landscape Management through Deforestation-free Jurisdiction, in Lam Dong and Dak Nong and broader engagement with potential actors faced prolonged delays due to a new ODA decree with a complex national and sub-national approval process. This has been recognized by development partners as the main bottleneck to start the implementation for several other projects.

A study is ongoing and expected to deliver recommendations to promote timber supply chains that limit the impact of tree plantations on natural forests. This is based on the review and analysis of forest and land use and drivers of land conversion and forest degradation, with focus on smallholders and small and medium enterprises.

Technical advice from the Programme resulted in the conceptualization of a project proposal for submission to the LEAF Coalition, its acceptance and the eventual signing of a Letter of Intent between Viet Nam and Emergent.

A gap assessment was conducted specifically against the ART-TREES standards and requirements, including on carbon accounting (MRV), safeguards and legal arrangements. The process assisted Viet Nam in the submission and acceptance of a Concept Note to ART-TREES and the identification of strategic recommendations for Viet Nam to access RBPs through the LEAF Coalition.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

With the timely launch of the LEAF Coalition's Call for Proposal and Viet Nam's confirmed interest, the focus of UN-REDD TA support shifted significantly to meet deadlines and requirements. As a result, other areas of work met delays. By the end of 2021, most activities were substantively delivered, but with several remaining actions to bring to conclusion.

The new ODA decree contributed to significant delays for some of the deliverables, but noteworthy are ongoing political efforts carried out by in-country UN-REDD agencies to support its finalization and resolution.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender considerations are being incorporated into the study on timber supply chains' impact on plantations, such as assessing the supply chains' engagement of women.

Building on the lessons and gender analysis from UN-REDD Programme support, the EU-funded project in the Central Highlands incorporated gender indicators in its results framework, as well as ensured relevant project activities reflect gender considerations.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN-REDD is providing support to the government, ensuring that the government widely consults stakeholders, including REDD+ partners. This has been particularly important in the process for the LEAF proposal development. In addition, UN-REDD is working in coordination with JICA, the main provider of technical support in REDD+ and the agency proposed to take on the accredited agency role under the GCF RBPs. UN-REDD continues to coordinate with partners under the EU-funded project for the Central Highlands.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

Viet Nam is a partner in the NDC support programme and in the partnership for the 2030 Agenda. Results from the Programme are expected to contribute to the achievement of the country's objectives in relation to SDGs 5, 13 and 15, among others.

Doan Tuan/Unsplash

ZAMBIA

TA

PROGRESS AGAINST THE WARSAW FRAMEWORK

NS/AP: Zambia's REDD+ implementation efforts are guided by the National REDD+ Strategy, first prepared in 2014 and launched in 2017.

NFMS: In 2021, the NFMS was upgraded in the context of the FREL update. Using the NICFI dataset, the collection of activity data was brought in line with the latest methodological approaches, enhancing accuracy while facilitating ongoing monitoring. Emission factors were recalculated through a new analysis of results from the National Forest Inventory (Integrated Land Use Assessment Phase II).

FREL/FRL: In 2021, Zambia submitted an updated forest reference emissions level (FREL) to the UNFCCC. It underwent technical assessment and was published on the UNFCCC webpage towards the end of the year. The new FREL includes improved activity data and emission factors. It also updates the reference period and breaks out estimates by province.

SIS and summary of safeguards information: Safeguards information has been gathered and compiled for strengthening Zambia's safeguards information system (SIS). This information can contribute to the development of a second summary of safeguards information. The process of data gathering for the SIS encompassed the elaboration of a template for collecting safeguards information, the identification of key institutions and stakeholders that supported the process as information providers, the development of capacity building sessions targeting these information providers (through workshops, bilateral meetings and online meetings), the compilation and analysis of safeguards information provided by different institutions and stakeholders and the review and validation of this information by members of the Safeguards Technical Working Group and additional focal points from institutions that were information providers.

REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

Forest Solutions Realized. Zambia now has an updated FREL (see above). It will provide the basis for tracking progress in implementing the REDD+ strategy, while underpinning Zambia's efforts to access carbon finance.

The strengthened NFMS meets the technical requirements of the current carbon standards for jurisdictional REDD+, both regarding activity data and emission factors (see above).

The Forestry Department's remote sensing team is undergoing training to produce district-level forest change maps. These maps complement data products for international reporting and could support communication with stakeholders and forest management at the decentralized level.

Jeremy Boley/Unsplash

Forest Solutions Rewarded. An ongoing carbon finance scoping will provide the Forestry Department with the fact-base to consider engagement in current carbon finance opportunities. Emissions calculations for 2019-2020 and estimation of emission reductions was undertaken. This enables evaluating several carbon standards (ART-TREES, JNR) and carbon finance opportunities (LEAF, GCF, VCM) and formulating strategic recommendations.

Zambia has advanced its work to access additional funding for REDD+ implementation and brought a Green Climate Fund proposal to the Concept Note stage. The project proposal targets reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Zambia's Northwestern Province in support of nationally-determined contribution implementation and for RBPs.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The Zambian Forestry Department is stretched in terms of human resources and time availability, affecting how they contribute to the development of REDD+ work. Moreover, in 2021, COVID-19 continued creating challenges for the delivery of technical assistance; no missions to the country could be undertaken. Remote delivery of trainings and workshops further increased difficulty concerning partner engagement. The UN-REDD team has shifted its modus operandi towards online interactions and has, despite great difficulties, been able to deliver progress.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender equality is a guiding principle when organizing capacity development interventions. When organizing workshops, the Programme routinely tracks gender indicators. The Ministry of Gender was identified and contributed as an information provider for the work conducted to gather safeguards information for Zambia's SIS. Also, information was gathered on the following key concern, *B6: Supporting gender equality*, which is an element of the country's approach to address and respect the Cancun Safeguard B.

The ongoing formulation of a GCF project in the Northwestern Province has provided an opportunity to examine Zambia's gender situation in depth. An assessment has been undertaken and a gender action plan has been designed to promote gender equality in future project implementation.

PARTNERSHIPS

The UN-REDD Programme's work is closely coordinated with other REDD+ initiatives. During 2021, the UN-REDD Programme continued closely coordinating with the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscapes Programme (ZIFL-P) in Eastern Province, as well as with a nascent jurisdictional REDD+ programme, being developed as a GCF project.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The completion of the FREL, the continued development of the NFMS and progress towards the SIS all relate to SDG 15.

LOWER MEKONG REGION | ■ TA

The UN-REDD Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region (SFT-LMR) is a new initiative that addresses forest crime through improved governance in the Lower Mekong region. 2021 saw substantive progress on most outputs of the project's logical framework approach, after the inception phase that ended in November, 2020.

Regional dialogue and analysis. One of the initiative's expected outputs is to underline how the forestry sector in the region is changing and to identify opportunities for its further transformation through the use of data and knowledge from multiple sources. The key trends emerging from analysis identified through the Regional Dialogue, held in December, 2021, depict a region experiencing exceptional wood industry growth, led by Viet Nam and Thailand's furniture and sawnwood industries and exports. The remaining three countries – Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar – are emerging from a period of forest exploitation, with indications for a potential transition towards a sustainable forest sector if forest and trade governance challenges can be successfully addressed. Since 2017, exports of the prized rosewood from these three countries to China has taken a major plunge, and Lao PDR, in particular, is working with the SFT-LMR Initiative to prepare a

scientific basis for assessing a sustainable threshold for any future rosewood harvests and exports – a Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Verification of timber legality and sustainability and smallholder engagement. Natural forests in the region are off limits for commercial harvests and are only permitted for limited local consumption. In this respect, wood industry growth in Viet Nam and Thailand is based on plantation timber of both domestic and foreign origin, as well as extra-regional imports. Correspondingly, promotion of a plantation-based industry is a priority for the sourcing countries of the region. With the support of the SFT-LMR Initiative in Cambodia and Lao PDR, dialogue between supply chain actors and the government has been initiated and trainings delivered for developing mechanisms and capacity to support the verification of the legality and sustainability of such timber.

In all Lower Mekong countries, smallholders are at the heart of timber production; it is essential to ensure that any mechanism of forest trade governance engages and accommodates smallholders. In 2021, under the Initiative, community-based groups in Viet Nam piloted a

stepwise approach to forest certification. This stepwise approach accommodates timber sourced through verified sources into certified supply chains as controlled wood sources. Smallholders that have one step in the door of the sustainable supply chain, therefore have stronger incentive and resources to take the next step of investing in full certification. Another area of work in 2021 was the development of training approaches and materials to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to stakeholders working with such community groups, and to community groups themselves, on how to provide timber that meets the standards of legality and forest certification.

Strengthening data and monitoring. Lower Mekong countries are making progress in strengthening information and monitoring systems related to social and environmental trends in forests. The Initiative has supported assessments in 2021, covering diverse aspects of information systems, including the status of land and forest tenure information in Lao PDR, opportunities to link the development of the National Forest Monitoring System and safeguards information system (SIS) in Thailand and potential upgrades of the SIS in Viet Nam. Discussions with Cambodian and Myanmar counterparts and stakeholders have prioritised the piloting of monitoring and data collection approaches in 2022, looking at biodiversity, ecosystem services and safeguards in four provinces in Cambodia and community forestry in Myanmar. In addition, the initiative has compiled a repository of useful global and regional datasets, platforms and tools to support governments and other actors to access and use data on trends in the forest sector.

Behavioural change campaigns. From encouraging people to report illegal logging and trade in the Lower Mekong Region and China, to inspiring a shift to sustainable wood purchasing habits, behavioural change campaigns play an important role. Changing behaviour can

H Ng Nguy/Unsplash

be a difficult, complex process requiring strategic and targeted interventions. In 2021, the Initiative began in-depth consultations with project stakeholders in Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar and China, resulting in the identification of tailored communications needs and interventions for each country. Five of the communications campaigns will address issues around the production and supply of illegal timber such as increasing the reporting of illegal wood trade in forest communities in Lao PDR, raising awareness on legal wood in Myanmar, promoting sustainable practices in rosewood harvesting in Thailand and Cambodia and enforcing stricter regulations to ensure sustainability of trade across the borders of Viet Nam. To tackle the issue of illegal trade at its source, a communications campaign in China will focus on reducing demand for protected woods, such as rosewood, and bringing to the forefront of public concern the illegal wood trade and how it affects our lives and societies. A polling company has been procured to conduct a baseline survey which will be used to segment key audiences and to measure the outcome of the campaigns.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Given the implications of COVID-related constraints to the project, and the shortened project duration due to the delayed start up, a one year, no-cost extension was requested and approved by the Executive Board in August, 2021, extending the Initiative's lifetime to a total of two years and 5 months, until the end of 2022.

Political turmoil in Myanmar all but removed the country from activities in the first half of 2021. In the second half of 2021, the Initiative sought out approaches to work on community forestry as a priority issue that does not engage directly with the government. In 2022, under the Initiative, communities will benefit from delivery of training and improved forest management and harvesting planning.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Initiative throughout most of 2021. While globally there was respite, countries in the region experienced the full swing of pandemic-related restrictions and went into varying forms of lockdown. Cross-border, and some in-country, travel was cancelled and replaced with online meetings. While this resulted positively in some ways, for a number of topics, such as bilateral and multilateral dialogues, and some trainings where in-person interaction is essential, delays and compromises resulted.

The slow engagement with China is another area that was impacted by COVID-19. By the end of 2021, a number of specific activities engaging with China were identified and started, including those with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Global Green Supply Chain (GGSC) via the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Had physical travel been permissible, more dynamic and expedited dialogue and the identification of partners and areas of work would likely have resulted.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Gender balance and women's participation were measured and promoted in all meetings. Women's participation was recorded at 44 percent at the regional dialogue held in late 2021 and at between 20 percent and 50 percent at subsequent national workshops. Women's participation in events and trainings and their active engagement continues to be promoted, including in activities conducted by partners. Strategies to better engage women at the national and local level will be developed, in particular for capacity development activities. Work to strengthen information or monitoring systems in LMR countries related to forests is taking into account the availability of information on gender and social inclusion and examining, for example, how gender and participation information has been integrated to date and suggesting improvements.

Partnerships have been cultivated with a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in the region (see partnerships section). Barriers to

smallholder and community access to legal and sustainable forest product value chains have been identified and a capacity development program designed, to be piloted for both smallholders and communities, as well as national stakeholders in 2022. The initiative also aims to improve financing for smallholders undertaking sustainable timber production models and small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

PARTNERSHIPS

The initiative works closely with the governments of the Lower Mekong countries (with the exception of Myanmar), forestry agencies and stakeholder partners operating in each country. Key partners now engaged formally with the Initiative include the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). This partnership will be used to identify innovative sustainable models for timber production and trade for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). With FSC, networks will be fostered between demand and supply sides of certified wood products markets, particularly between China and the Lower Mekong countries. With the ITTO, the focus will be placed on regional forest trade statistics and trends, as well as the GGSC (see challenges and solutions section). These add to the partners already engaged by the Initiative including RECOFTC. With RECOFTC, the initiative is building national capacities and enabling community-based groups and smallholders to access legal and sustainable forest product value chains. The initiative is also working with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) to support sustainable forest management through the development and strengthening of forest management standards and promotion of compliance with legal requirements. The partnership with CITES Secretariat supports CITES implementation and addresses ongoing compliance processes under CITES.

LINKAGES TO SDGS

The activities above will allow LMR countries to report progress against SDGs 12, 13 and 15 in a consistent and coordinated manner.

Knowledge management results

KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO SCALE UP REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION IS CAPTURED, MANAGED AND DISSEMINATED TO ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION.

UN-REDD and its partners, from governments to IPLCs and the private sector, continued its knowledge management and communication activities online, running global and regional digital exchanges, webinars and workshops, while ensuring gender equity and inclusiveness. Among them:

▶ A two-day virtual regional knowledge exchange in Latin America made use of the collaboration platform SparkBlue to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and good practices from the first pilot phase of the Global Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ RBPs. To prepare the participants for the live sessions, innovative on-demand video knowledge products were created by UN-REDD experts, and by Ecuador and Chile and shared prior to the exchange. Outcomes included recommendations for the second phase of GCF REDD+ RBPs.

▶ Also in Latin America, UN-REDD, together with the Green Gigaton Challenge (GGC) partnership, facilitated a virtual, trilingual panel at the Global Landscapes Forum

Amazonia focusing on the partnerships needed across the Amazon to obtain tropical forest protection at scale.

▶ A South-South exchange was held on indigenous rights (FPIC) in forest affairs between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Suriname.

▶ Three webinars in AP, Africa and LAC shared knowledge about the Open Tenure tool.

▶ A high-level event, Forests are too precious to lose: halting deforestation and enhancing biodiversity, at the European Development Days brought attention to the forest and nature nexus.

To build capacity and share good practices among partner countries, a series of nine info briefs were produced on landscape approach and planning, forest tenure, indigenous peoples' rights, financing and private sector, forest monitoring systems and MRV, linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs, REDD+ funding mechanisms, safeguards, and gender. Methodological tools, analytical briefs and reports were made available to countries to assist them in compiling, assessing and connecting data and

information on their forest solutions to the climate emergency. These knowledge products supported countries in a wide range of policy and finance processes for REDD+, including their NDC reviews, their LULUCF assessments, forest tenure and forest monitoring systems, as well as their ability to appraise and access carbon market for high-integrity jurisdictional approaches. A digital report on progress and updates in UN-REDD's Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region project was published on the UN-REDD website and disseminated widely. It features nine stories highlighting key learnings of Phase 1 and an outlook for 2022.

UN-REDD continued its storytelling strategy of highlighting the key role of forests in the green recovery, featuring regional and global stories on national progress on REDD+, indigenous approaches to forest monitoring, local forest communities' empowerment, among others. Knowledge and country-based lessons on REDD+ were shared through 61 blog posts, often in several languages, through the quarterly REDD+ Resource newsletter which now has over 11,000 subscribers and the reimagined bi-monthly REDD+ Round-Up newsletter, with regional or thematic foci. The blog posts were seen by 120,000 visitors to the website.

UN-REDD Programme

The year 2021 also marked the overhaul of UN-REDD's [website,](link) including its document repository, the Programme's knowledge management core. This was done with an aim to strengthen capacity development across agencies and serving partner countries, as well as other REDD+ actors with lessons learned and proven good practices. The new UN-REDD website also features microsites dedicated to the Sustainable Forest Trade in the [Lower Mekong Region](link) project and the [Better with Forests](link) awareness raising campaign which is tailored to a lay audience.

COLLECTIVE POLITICAL AND SOCIETAL SUPPORT TO NBS INCREASED

UN-REDD continued to garner collective political and societal support for forest-based solutions through various activities online. Among them:

▶ A [side event at UNFCCC COP26 on scaling up forest finance](link) with Eve Bazaiba, Vice Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malik Amin Aslam, Minister for Climate Change in Pakistan, Andrea Meza, Environment and Energy Minister of Costa Rica and Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP.

▶ A webinar series with Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries called "Halting [deforestation: approaches and tools for forest-positive commodity value chains."](link)

▶ A webinar in Asia Pacific on forest action in support of Building Back Better with panellists from ASEAN, India, Indonesia, Nepal and WWF.

▶ A high-level event called "A Green Gigaton of ambitions: forest solutions to the climate, biodiversity and health crises" at UNEA-5.1 with over 400 participants and speakers from the governments of Norway and Costa Rica and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

UN-REDD supported the global momentum on forest positive agriculture through partnerships with different country partners and organizations such as the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA), Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU). Technical dialogues and interagency exchanges contributed to the conceptualization and establishment of the Food System Summit coalition, "Halting deforestation and conversion from agriculture commodities." Events promoted forest-positive agriculture and shared knowledge, including at the European Development Days and Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

In support of international and regional indigenous peoples' networks on issues related to the forest-climate-territory nexus, UN-REDD contributed to the 5th session of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, with a focus on channelling indigenous knowledge into national climate policy processes like REDD+ investment plans and NDC reviews. In addition, collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) continued to assist indigenous peoples in examining the degree of integration of indigenous rights and knowledge in the NDCs of 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, including recommendations to make NDCs more inclusive and rights-oriented. This work also informs the works of the UNFCCC LCIP Platform. In addition, indigenous peoples' representatives were supported to participate and contribute to UNFCCC COP26.

Event-driven social media campaigns, compelling social videos and ongoing interactive engagement with diverse audiences brought the UN-REDD Programme's social media following to more than 73,000. The UN-REDD UN-FCCC COP26 side event social media assets reached over 2 million people. A series of short social videos produced for a lay audience, under the hashtag #BetterWithForests, demonstrated the carbon and non-carbon benefits of forests for people and planet.

DIGITAL COOPERATION AND FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES DEPLOYED TO ACCELERATE AND ENHANCE NBS

In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme continued the development and deployment of digital tools to enhance support to partner countries. The [Open Foris](link) (OF) initiative to support multi-purpose forest inventories, data processing and dissemination of results was further developed and OpenForis Arena, a web-based platform, was launched. Open Foris tools have been applied in the forest sector, particularly in NFIs, in more than 20 countries, including in Zambia, Vietnam and Argentina.

In a pilot project in Colombia, UN-REDD compiled and assessed lessons and approaches for the digital participation of indigenous peoples in policy and institutional processes to further socially-inclusive digital cooperation and virtual engagement, especially targeting indigenous peoples, local communities and youth. UN-REDD also [surveyed](link) the effect of COVID-19 on the participation of women and men in REDD+ and identified ways to promote the equitable and active participation of women and men in the post-COVID era of co-operation.

UN-REDD, in collaboration with partners, is developing a new tool to assess distant drivers of deforestation using a database that connects the land footprint of agricultural and forest production to final consumption of these products through trade flows.

The methodology of the work on forest products was published in a [blog](link). In 2021, the compilation and processing of several datasets from FAOSTAT to elaborate the national input-output tables was completed. Further work will continue in 2022 towards the finalization of the database and dissemination of the tool.

Gender

In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme continued to support 12 partner countries and one region[3] in advancing their efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles into their REDD+ action, particularly on REDD+ implementation and Results-based Payment efforts. Within this context, the gender approach of the Programme was informed by the findings and results (published in March, 2021) of the December, 2020 UN-REDD gender survey which explored and identified ways to further promote the equitable and active participation of women and men in the COVID era of co-operation.

This support ranged from promoting women's active and equitable involvement in REDD+ efforts, including in REDD+ pilot projects, value chains and Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programmes to monitoring the effectiveness of these efforts. Some key examples of progress and efforts carried out in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean region are presented here. In an example from Colombia, resources were directed to women of the REM (REDD Early Movers) Amazon Vision Program through the women caregivers associated with that programme, in which 69 projects focused on protecting traditional knowledge, conservation, community enterprises and strengthening of organizational capacities were approved. In Ecuador, the first batch of 3.8 tons of fine aroma organic cocoa belonging to the Association of Small Organic Agricultural Exporters of the South of the Ecuadorian Amazon (APEOSAE) was sold to the Belgian company, SILVA CACAO, benefiting 38 (11 women, 27 men) cocoa farmers, providing them access a new market niche with a high growth potential. In Costa Rica, women's participation in the PES programme increased in 2021, with over 1,102 women currently registered in the programme. In the Lower Mekong Region, efforts were undertaken to strengthen monitoring systems related to forests in include

data on gender and social inclusion. In Chile, a gender evaluation assessed the effectiveness of the gender approach used within the REDD+ pilot projects, the results of which will inform the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources, to be updated in 2022, and its implementation through the project +Bosques (GCF-funded).

Various efforts to support REDD+ safeguards information systems (SIS) and reporting also integrated a gender perspective. In Côte d'Ivoire, safeguards information on gender-equitable decision making was collected, and in Zambia the Ministry of Gender was identified and contributed as an information provider to the work on gathering safeguards information for Zambia's SIS.

Additionally, LEAF proposals from Costa Rica, Ghana, PNG, Uganda, Viet Nam and Ecuador integrated gender elements into various topics. Similarly, through the safeguards roundtable between the UN-REDD Programme and ART Secretariat, the UN-REDD Programme provided guidance and suggestions for how a gender approach could be integrated into the ART-TREES safeguards guidance document. Many of these suggestions were taken on board and are integrated into the August, 2021 version of the safeguards guidance document.

In October, 2021, in the week leading up to COP26, the Programme brought together diverse actors – from government ministries to NGOs – to discuss how they are supporting efforts to integrate gender into climate-forest finance to promote the transformative change needed to successfully fight climate change. This well attended online event demonstrated that engaging actors fully and equitably across all genders is necessary for effective, lasting and inclusive climate-forest actions, as they are all strong agents of change, with unique and complementary knowledge and skills that are necessary for sustainable REDD+ action.

Furthermore, in 2021, using the UN-REDD Gender Marker, the cumulative Gender Marker results for the 2018-2020 TA programme were analysed and calculated. Under the UN-REDD 2018-2020 TA Programme, UN-REDD almost achieved its ambitious target of having 50 percent of its 55 outputs receive the highest gender rating of GEN 2. It is worthy to note that, when compared to the baseline (2017), almost an additional 20 percent of outputs successfully increased their gender-responsiveness and achieved a GEN2 rating over the 2018-2020 period. The Gender Marker ratings for 2021 outputs are being assessed and will be contrasted with results from previous years.

The Programme also developed a social media campaign for International Women's Day highlighting efforts under the Programme that show the key role women play in the conservation of forests and REDD+. As well, the UN social media campaign for the International Day of Forests highlighted the vital role women play in the conservation of forests.

The UN-REDD Gender and REDD+ Info Brief was also published (English and Spanish). In addition, a gender perspective continued to be integrated into other draft UN-REDD Info Briefs, including on indigenous peoples and local communities, land tenure and linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs.

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3   Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Mexico, PNG, Uganda, Viet Nam, Zambia, Lower Mekong Region

Financial
reporting

Definitions

Allocation
Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.

Approved project/programme
A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.

Contributor commitment
Amount(s) committed by a donor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.

Contributor deposit
Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.

Delivery rate
The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a participating organization against the net funded amount.

Indirect support costs
A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the participating organizations. UNDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost

Net funded amount
Amount transferred to a participating organization, less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a participating organization.

Participating organization
A UN organization or other inter-governmental organization that is an implementing partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.

Project expenditure
The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all participating organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each participating organization follows for donor reporting.

Project financial closure
A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.

Project operational closure
A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which the participating organization(s) received funding have been completed.

Project start date
Date of transfer of first instalment from the MPTF Office to the participating organization.

Total approved budget
This represents the cumulative allocations approved by the Steering Committee.

US dollar amount
The financial data in the report is recorded in US dollars. Due to rounding, totals may not exactly match the sum of the recorded elements.

Introduction

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund** isprepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs-with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annualconsolidatedfinancialreports,aswellas regularfinancialstatements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 and provides financial data on progress-made in the implementation of projects of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/CCF00

2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **UN-REDD Programme Fund** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2021**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address: https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00

1. SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

As of 31 December **2021**, **7** contributors deposited US$**350, 482,970** and US$**3,369,635** was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US$ **353,852,605**. Of this amount, US$ **336,449,011** has been net funded to **3** Participating Organizations, of which US$ 324,853,578 has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amountsto US$**3,238,913**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources,uses,andbalance of the **UNREDDP rogramme Fund** as of 31 December 2021.

TABLE 1 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN US DOLLARS)

	ANNUAL 2020	ANNUAL 2021	CUMULATIVE
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Contributions from donors	16,423,417	16,736,428	350,482,970
Sub-total Contributions	16,423,417	16,736,428	350,482,970
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	29,487	11,296	2,666,626
Interest Income received from Participating Organizations	30,407	56,076	703,009
TOTAL: SOURCES OF FUNDS	16,483,310	16,803,800	353,852,605
USE OF FUNDS			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	5,932,275	15,241,343	339,797,903
Refunds received from Participating Organizations	(962,239)	(1,101,814)	(3,348,892)
Net Funded Amount	4,970,036	14,139,530	336,449,011
Administrative Agent Fees	149,982	167,364	3,238,913
Bank Charges	96	77	12,568
Other Expenditures	14,252	0	265,917
TOTAL: USES OF FUNDS	**5,134,365**	**14,306,971**	**339,966,408**
CHANGE IN FUND CASH BALANCE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT	11,348,945	2,496,829	13,886,197
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	40,423	11,389,368	
CLOSING FUND BALANCE (31 DECEMBER)	**11,389,368**	**13,886,197**	**13,886,197**
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	4,970,036	14,139,530	336,449,011
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	14,651,772	15,311,950	324,853,578
BALANCE OF FUNDS WITH PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	**(9,681,736)**	**(1,172,420)**	**11,595,433**

2. PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December **2021**.

The **UN-REDD Programme Fund** is currently being financed by **7** contributors, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December **2021** and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond **2021**.

TABLE 2. CONTRIBUTIONS, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN US DOLLARS)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC- 2020 DEPOSITS	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021 DEPOSITS	TOTAL DEPOSITS
Government of Denmark	9,898,183	9,898,183	-	9,898,183
European Union	26,591,660	26,591,660	-	26,591,660
Government of Japan	3,046,138	3,046,138	-	3,046,138
Government of Luxembourg	2,674,100	2,674,100	-	2,674,100
Government of Norway	301,868,300	285,658,564	15,646,430	301,304,994
Government of Spain	5,492,939	5,492,939	-	5,492,939
Government of Switzerland	1,474,957	384,959	1,089,998	1,474,957
GRAND TOTAL	**351,046,277**	**333,746,542**	**16,736,428**	**350,482,970**

3. INTEREST EARNED

Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the AdministrativeAgent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December **2021**, Fund earned interest amounts to US$ **2,666,626**.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US $**703,009**, bringing the cumulative interest received to US$ **3,369,635**. Details are provided in the table below.

TABLE 3. SOURCES OF INTEREST AND INVESTMENT INCOME, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN US DOLLARS)

INTEREST EARNED	PRIOR YEARS ASOF31-DEC-2020	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021	TOTAL
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	2,655,330	11,296	2,666,626
Total: Fund Earned Interest	2,655,330	11,296	2,666,626
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION			
FAO	177,615	56,076	233,692
UNDP	421,882	0	421,882
UNEP	47,435	0	47,435
TOTAL: AGENCY EARNED INTEREST	646,933	56,076	703,009
GRAND TOTAL	3,302,262	67,372	3,369,635

4. TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2021, the AA has transferred US$ 339,797,903 to 3 Participating Organizations (see list below).

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

TABLE 4. TRANSFER, REFUND, AND NET FUNDED AMOUNT BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION (IN US DOLLARS)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PRIOR YEARS ASOF31-DEC-2020			CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021			TOTAL		
	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED	TRANSFERS	REFUNDS	NET FUNDED
FAO	119,430,805	(687,102)	118,743,703	6,140,422	(68,297)	6,072,125	125,571,227	(755,398)	124,815,828
UNDP	124,347,090	(1,131,268)	123,215,822	4,496,636	(873)	4,495,763	128,843,726	(1,132,142)	127,711,585
UNEP	80,778,664	(428,708)	80,349,956	4,604,286	(1,032,644)	3,571,642	85,382,950	(1,461,352)	83,921,598
GRAND TOTAL	**324,556,559**	**(2,247,078)**	**322,309,481**	**15,241,343**	**(1,101,814)**	**14,139,530**	**339,797,903**	**(3,348,892)**	**336,449,011**

5. EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL DELIVERY RATES

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2021 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at https://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/CCF00.

5.1 EXPENDITURE REPORTED BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

In 2021, US$ 14,139,530 was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US$15,311,950 was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US$ 336,449,011 and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US$ 324,853,578. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of 96.55 percent.

TABLE 5.1 NET FUNDED AMOUNT AND REPORTED EXPENDITURES BY PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2021 (IN US DOLLARS)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZA-TION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT		EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %	
			PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021	CUMULATIVE	
FAO	125,571,227	124,815,828	115,639,941	6,138,104	121,778,045	97.57
UNDP	131,031,877	127,711,585	116,247,442	5,663,757	121,911,198	95.46
UNEP	85,382,950	83,921,598	77,654,245	3,510,090	81,164,335	96.71
GRAND TOTAL	**341,986,054**	**336,449,011**	**309,541,628**	**15,311,950**	**324,853,578**	**96.55**

5.2. EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT

The net funded amounts,expenditures reported and the financial delivery rates by project and Participating Organization.

TABLE 5.2 EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT, GROUPED BY COUNTRY

COUNTRY/PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE		PARTICIPATING ORGANIZA-TION	TOTAL APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
CONGO (THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE)						
00071391	AppuiONU-REDD au Plan de préparation sur la REDD (R-PP) de la RDC (ONU- REDD/DRC/Phase 2	FAO	2,926,450	2,907,355	2,907,355	100.00
00071391	AppuiONU-REDD au Plan de préparation sur la REDD (R-PP) de la RDC (ONU- REDD/DRC/Phase 2	UNDP	3,110,690	3,103,899	3,103,899	100.00
00071391	AppuiONU-REDD au Plan de préparation sur la REDD (R-PP) de la RDC (ONU- REDD/DRC/Phase 2	UNEP	1,346,060	1,130,560	1,130,560	100.00
GLOBAL AND INTER REGIONAL						
00070986	UN-REDD Programme -International Support Functions	FAO	4,358,875	4,344,292	4,344,292	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD Programme -International Support Functions	UNDP	4,679,302	4,665,011	4,665,011	100.00
00070986	UN-REDD Programme -International Support Functions	UNEP	6,856,866	6,856,866	6,856,866	100.00
00103359	UNREDD-Delivering National Programmes Readiness (2017-2020)	FAO	5,466,848	5,466,848	5,468,902	100.04
00103359	UNREDD-Delivering National Programmes Readiness (2017-2020)	UNDP	5,425,556	5,425,556	3,814,234	70.30
00103359	UNREDD-Delivering National Programmes Readiness (2017-2020)	UNEP	2,876,553	2,876,553	2,876,553	100.00
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Services - UNREDD Programme (2017-2020)	FAO	622,500	622,500	437,121	70.22
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Services - UNREDD Programme	UNDP	1,602,841	1,602,841	1,011,031	63.08
00103784	Direct Cost for Secretariat Services - UNREDD Programme	UNEP	4,136,005	4,136,005	3,433,689	83.02

00103785	AFRICA-Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	FAO	3,301,404	3,301,404	3,275,690	99.22
00103785	AFRICA-Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNDP	2,464,702	2,464,702	2,263,864	91.85
00103785	AFRICA-Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNEP	1,458,510	1,458,510	1,458,510	100.00
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance(TA) to REDD+ Implementation	FAO	9,259,756	9,259,756	7,332,741	79.19
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance (TA)t o REDD+ Implementation	UNDP	3,204,655	3,204,655	2,855,041	89.09
00103786	ASIA - Technical Assistance(TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNEP	3,501,129	3,501,129	2,291,435	65.45
00103787	LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean) - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	FAO	2,778,558	2,778,558	2,756,767	99.22
00103787	LAC (Latin America and the Caribbe- an) - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNDP	4,958,936	4,958,935	4,904,472	98.90
00103787	LAC (Latin America and the Caribbe- an) - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNEP	1,707,245	1,707,245	1,701,803	99.68
00103788	KM & Global Coor- dination - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	FAO	2,891,727	2,891,727	2,882,850	99.69
00103788	KM & Global Coor- dination - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNDP	5,194,298	5,194,298	4,999,947	96.26
00103788	KM & Global Coor- dination - Technical Assistance (TA) to REDD+ Implementation	UNEP	7,013,901	7,013,901	7,013,901	100.00
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest Solutions Realized	FAO	1,395,280	1,395,280	967,176	69.32
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest solutions Realized	UNDP	1,298,140	1,298,140	341,141	26.28
00125683	Outcome 1: Forest solutions Realized	UNEP	327,783	327,783	201,552	61.49
00125684	Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Rewarded	FAO	661,367	661,367	470,673	71.17

00125684	Outcome 2: Forest Solutions Rewarded	UNDP	833,449	833,449	307,548	36.90
00125684	Outcome 2: Forest	UNEP	755,707	755,707	481,199	63.68

SOLUTIONS REWARDED						
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions Enhanced	FAO	623,168	623,168	376,017	60.34
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions Enhanced	UNDP	489,659	489,659	142,083	29.02
00125685	Outcome 3: Forest Solutions Enhanced	UNEP	183,738	183,738	128,404	69.88
00125686	Outcome 4: Global knowledge Management	FAO	325,355	325,355	283,917	87.26
00125686	Outcome 4: Global knowledge Management	UNDP	931,030	931,030	270,651	29.07
00125686	Outcome 4: Global knowledge Management	UNEP	1,383,553	1,383,553	1,332,565	96.31

INDONESIA						
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	FAO	1,498,000	1,391,426	1,391,426	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNDP	2,996,000	2,938,677	2,938,677	100.00
00073509	UN-REDD Indonesia	UNEP	1,150,250	1,072,285	1,072,285	100.00

VIETNAM						
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	FAO	1,690,814	1,673,426	1,673,426	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNDP	2,501,128	2,489,254	2,489,254	100.00
00072449	UN-REDD Vietnam	UNEP	192,814	192,375	192,375	100.00

CATEGORY	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020	EXPENDITURES CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMME COST TOTAL	
Supplies, Commodities, Equipment and Transport (Old)	1,256,408	-	1,256,408	0.41
Personnel (Old)	23,105,695	-	23,105,695	7.61
Training of Counterparts (Old)	3,596,995	-	3,596,995	1.18
Contracts (Old)	6,914,797	-	6,914,797	2.28
Other direct costs (Old)	2,110,598	-	2,110,598	0.69
Staff & Personnel Cost	128,406,429	9,742,485	138,148,914	45.49
Supplies, commodities and materials	2,437,628	80,115	2,517,743	0.83
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	3,544,924	32,939	3,577,863	1.18
Contractual Services Expenses	33,522,908	1,298,169	34,821,077	11.47
Travel	26,511,600	43,159	26,554,759	8.74
Transfers and Grants	34,823,437	2,539,865	37,363,301	12.30
General Operating	23,153,259	575,198	23,728,457	7.81
Programme CostsTotal	289,384,678	14,311,929	303,696,607	100.00
[1]Indirect Support Costs Total	20,156,950	1,000,021	21,156,971	6.97
GRAND TOTAL	**309,541,628**	**15,311,950**	**324,853,578**	

[1] **Indirect Support Costs** charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted up front or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.

6. COST RECOVERY

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2021, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent(AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contributionfor the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period **US$ 167,364** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2021**, **US$ 3,238,913** has been charged in AA- fees.

- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In thecurrentreportingperiod **US$ 1,000,021** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to **US$ 21,156,971** as of 31 December 2021.

7. ACCOUNTABILITYAND TRANSPARENCY

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway(https://mptf.undp.org). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structur eand key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

Looking ahead

The global political landscape for forests and climate has never been more favorable. The Glasgow COP, at the end of the year, shone a spotlight on forests contributions to combating climate change and keeping the 1.5°C target alive. The conference yielded a number of milestone commitments[4] and about 80 percent of the signatories to the Paris Agreement signed the $12 billion Declaration on Forests and Land Use, representing sufficient critical mass to accelerate the realization of forests' contribution to climate change mitigation, adaptation and delivery of the SDGs by 2030.

In 2022, the Programme will continue to build strong partnerships to scale up and connect country ambition and action with massively scaled up finance. No one constituency alone can hope to achieve the transformative systemic change needed to turn the tide on deforestation. Partnerships need to be forged and strengthened between donors and forest countries and between buyers, sellers and other parties along the forest carbon value chain, most notably IPLCs, crucial guardians of tropical forests.

As explored in the UN-REDD Executive Board's Strategic Dialogue on financing large-scale forests conservation and restoration, in September, 2021, such partnerships will need to cater to a diversity of forest country ambitions and capacities, with a corresponding spectrum of demand-side finance modalities – from upfront investments to results-based incentives. UN-REDD

will help convene a phased approach to bring a diverse pipeline of supply to meet a range of results-based finance opportunities, from public-only payments to private sector market approaches of higher ambition. Such public and private forest-climate finance will also be needed to drive stepwise improvements in the quality of forest-based mitigation results to be rewarded with commensurate improvements in predictability and volume of financing.

The vast majority of the upfront finance needed to halt deforestation needs to target more sustainable, deforestation-free approaches to food production. The challenges of food system transformation and halting deforestation were also discussed, in the context of the UN Food System Summit, at an another UN-REDD Executive Board Strategic Dialogue. As a follow-up to this dialogue, the Programme is now developing region-specific projects[5], as well as a global dashboard of entry points[6] to better convey the role of UN-

REDD in supporting forest countries and in-country stakeholders to achieve deforestation-free commodity chains.

Another crucial area from the Glasgow climate summit is the support to IPLCs, as reflected in the COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement. The Programme will continue to help governments implement a wide range of policy instruments and good practice guidance for IPLC engagement and inclusion in forest solutions, as well as help empower IPLCs to participate in, and benefit from, climate finance for forest solutions. The UN-REDD initiative on community-based REDD+ (CBR+) is equally ready to jump start a new phase, connecting the IPLC agenda with NDCs, as soon as donor financing is made available.

The year 2022 thus presents UN-REDD with a powerful opportunity to advance forest and climate agendas and impact as we travel the road from Glasgow to Sharm el-Sheikh[7]. COP26 generated a critical mass of political will, backed by growing public and private financial commitments. Climate champions are energized across society, from youth leadership in the global north to the indigenous peoples of the global south. UN-REDD stands ready and equipped to join hands across constituencies and help make the COP26 forest declarations and pledges an unequivocal success.

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4   Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use; Global Forest Finance Pledge (US$12 billion of public climate finance to 2025); COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement (US$1.7 billion of financing to 2025); Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue; and LEAF Coalition mobilizing US$1 billion of results-based finance for reduce deforestation.

5   For example, Phase II of the 'Sustainable Forest Trade in The Lower Mekong Region' project, which considers expanding in scope to accommodate key agricultural commodities in the region.

6   1) Convening multi-stakeholder dialogues; 2) capacitating governments, companies and communities; 3) financing deforestation-free commodities; 4) monitoring private sector initiatives; and 5) reforming policies.

7   With a series of crucial milestone events to build political momentum along the way: UN Environmental Assembly 5.2, International Day of Forests, CBD COP15, World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, XV World Forestry Congress, G7 Meeting, Stockholm+50, World Environment Day, G20 Meeting.

UN-REDD Programme

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFD French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)

ART Architecture for REDD+ Transactions

BLU BPDLH Environmental Fund Management Agency *(Badan Layanan Umum Badan Pengelola Dana Lingkungan Hidup)*

BUR Biennial Update Report

CFM community forestry management

CAFI Central African Forest Initiative

CIFOR Center for International Forestry Research

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna

CONAF National Forest Corporation (Corporación Nacional Forestal)

CONAFOR National Forest Commission (Comisión Nacional Forestal)

COP conference of the parties

CSO civil society organization

Danida Danish International Development Agency

DSN PT Dharma Satya Nusantara Tbk

EAO ethnic armed organizations

ENCCRV National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources
(Estrategia Nacional de Cambio Climático y Recursos Vegetacionales)

ERPA emissions reduction purchase agreement

FAO United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

FCPF Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

FENACREP National Federation of Savings and Loans Cooperatives
(Federación Nacional de Cooperativas de Ahorro y Crédito del Perú)

FINAGRO Financing Fund for the Agriculture Sector (Fondo para el Financiamiento del Sector Agropecuario)

FONDESAM Amazon Development Fund (Fondo de Desarrollo Amazónico)

FLEGT Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

FREL Forest reference emissions level

FRL Forest reference level

FSC Forest Stewardship Council

GCF Green Climate Fund

GCF SAP-REDD+ Green Climate Fund Simplified Approvals Process for REDD+

GCF TF Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force

GGC Green Gigaton Challenge

GGSC Global Green Supply Chain

GHG Freenhouse gas

GtCO2e Gigatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

IDEAM Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies *(Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales)*

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ITTO International Tropical Timber Organization

JD Joint Declaration of Intent

JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

LULUCF land use, land-use change and forestry

NAP National Action Plan

NDC Nationally Determined Contribution

NDPE No Deforestation No Peat No Exploitation

NFI national forest inventory

NFMS national forest monitoring system

NGO non-governmental organization

NICFI Norway's International Forest and Climate Initiative

NIEC National Indigenous Environmental Commission

NP national programme

NS/AP National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans

Abbreviations and Acronyms

MRV measurement, reporting and verification

MtCO2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

NbS nature-based solution

Norad Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

PES payments for ecosystem services

PLANT Paris Agreement LULUCF and NDC Tool

PLR policy, legal and regulatory

RBPs results-based payments

REDD+ reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

RENARE National Registry for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
(Registro Nacional de Reducción de Emisiones de Gases Efecto Invernadero)

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SEPAL System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing, and Analysis for Land Monitoring

SFT-LMR Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region

SIS safeguard information systems

SLMS satellite land-monitoring systems

SMEs small and medium-sized enterprises

TLFF Tropical Landscape Finance Facility

TREES The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard

UN-REDD United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

USFS United States Forest Service

WWF World Wildlife Fund

ZIFL-P Zambia Integrated Forest Landscapes Programme

UN-REDD
P R O G R A M M E