



MAKING REDD+ WORK FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

Beyond Durban: REDD+ at a Crossroads

A message from Forest Climate Initiative Leader Bruce Cabarle

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BEYOND DURBAN: REDD+ AT A CROSSROADS

By now you have heard plenty about the failure of governments at the end of last year's UN climate change negotiations in Durban (CoP17) to produce the ambition and courage needed to tackle the extreme weather, droughts and heat waves caused by climate change. While it is hard to find inspiration in salvaging talks to merely continue talking and further delay action, there was some incremental yet important progress on the technicalities of REDD+ regarding sources of finance, reference levels and reporting systems for social and environmental safeguards. All three of these are prerequisites for REDD+ to become a credible mitigation activity to tackle climate change as a global mechanism.

The "Durban Platform" calls for "results-based actions" for all phases of REDD+ implementation and recognizes that different financing sources will be necessary to close the gap between existing "fast start" pledges and the financing needed to make REDD+ effective at a global scale over the long term. These sources may come from a variety of public, private, bilateral, multilateral or alternative sources. The role of market-based approaches to financing (subject to full scale implementation of monitoring, reporting and verification systems) remained on the table but was punted to the 2012 summit in Qatar (CoP18), along with the larger negotiations around governance and capitalization of the "Green Climate Fund."



***Meeting with Antonio (Tony)
La Viña, Chair, REDD+ LCA***

Flexibility was the motif with the decision regarding reference emissions levels (measured in CO₂ units) and reference levels (measured in land area units) even though multiple design parameters for building these systems were agreed to in Durban. Parties reaffirmed that these systems need to be national in scope but can be built in a stepwise fashion, starting at the sub national level, based upon either historical patterns or future projections. Furthermore, many critical accounting decisions regarding data and methodological standards were left in the hands of individual countries, based upon national capabilities and circumstances. The Durban Platform does call for all data sources, protocols and methods to be transparent and encourages peer review. No further progress was made on monitoring, reporting or verification (MRV), as this was deferred to the future under the new negotiation timetable for an eventual "agreement with legal force."

Clearly the longer we wait for action the more forest we lose, the worse the climate change becomes and more livelihoods are upset or threatened. So where do we go from here?



***Meeting with Álvaro García Linera,
Vice President, Bolivia***

First, the world needs an inspiring vision and target for REDD+ to limit warming well below a global goal of 2°C average increase in surface temperature. WWF proposes an ambitious but attainable target of no net greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (ZNDD) by the year 2020. You can read more about this ZNDD target launched at Durban on pages 2 and 8 of this newsletter. Similar ambition is required from industrialized and rapidly industrializing nations to decarbonize their economies as they shoulder a larger responsibility in attaining this global goal.

The onus for courage and ambition post-Durban now shifts to national level implementation of that which has been agreed to, and leadership on innovative approaches on unfinished business. REDD+ will likely make more headway when it is linked to economy-wide efforts to implement low carbon-development

strategies and green economy frameworks because it makes economic and social sense as a sustainable and equitable pathway for countries that harbor significant sources or sinks of carbon in their tropical forests.

Governments still need to lead through North-South cooperation, but more among coalitions of the willing and able to provide leadership. Bilateral and multilateral partnerships have more of an opportunity than ever to demonstrate what can and must be done, if they act decisively, at the pace and scale required by the global challenge.

Public resources could be used creatively to leverage greater participation from the private sector in several ways. Many of the world's extractive industries and forestry/agricultural commodity markets – from producers to manufacturers to traders to distributors to consumers – can be incentivized to drive emissions out their supply chains. Likewise, the market share of “forest friendly” commodity products can be increased, along with “green” fiscal reform and the use of ecosystem service markets where forest carbon -- with social and environmental attributes -- is bundled together with other ecosystem goods and services. Lastly, the expansion of the climate bond mechanism increasingly being used in other areas of climate change mitigation could be expanded to cover REDD+ related investments as a way to accelerate implementation.

So we find ourselves at a crossroads where we need a combination of public and private sector approaches to reduce, halt and reverse the loss of forests so that we can ensure a living planet for our children with food, water and energy for all. Please take some time to read the stories in this newsletter about what WWF is doing to create this future.

Bruce Cabarle

Leader, WWF Forest & Climate Initiative

WWF REDD+ OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION AT CoP17

November 30



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While there was some agreement that all drivers of deforestation (local, national, international) need to be addressed, SBSTA 35 did not exercise its mandate to address deforestation drivers in developing countries. WWF's lobby platform was presented at a side event co-hosted by Union of Concerned Scientists, “**Drivers of Deforestation Today,**” The event, which also included speakers from Greenpeace, Union of Concerned Scientists, WRI and EIA, was a examination of drivers of deforestation and REDD+, and the role of governments in addressing the global drivers of deforestation.

December 4



Lunched alongside the REDD+ Partnership meeting in Durban, Chapter 3 of the WWF's Living Forests Report, "Forests and Climate: REDD+ at a Crossroads", examines the consequences for the climate and future carbon emissions of the various scenarios under WWF's Zero Net Deforestation and Degradation (ZNDD) target. For more information visit **WWF's Living Forests Report** on the FCI website.

December 7

Innovative options for financing forest conservation, such as forest bonds, could leverage private-sector finance to scale up existing funding pledges from the public sector to address the financing gap for REDD+. **The Next Generation of Low-Carbon Financial Instruments**, a Durban side event hosted by IETA, looked at a new breed of green financial products that are being developed or proposed globally. WWF's Bruce Cabarle presented WWF's "Unlocking Forest Bonds" concept on the panel.



WWF hosted a side event on **Food, Water and Energy for All** to discuss lessons from WWF's work in Africa. The event covered work on forestry, agriculture, land use, marine ecosystems, freshwater, and energy access. WWF's Bruce Cabarle and Flory Botomba spoke on the panel.

December 8

WWF's Jim Leape spoke on the panel for **REDD+ as a pathway to green development: Emerging insights from Indonesia's collaborative initiative in Kalimantan** (Borneo) together with the head of Indonesia's delegation, Pak Kuntoro and high ranking representatives from Government of Norway, Globe International and UNEP.



Part of our delegation took a few hours off to join thousands of citizens from around the world in [a march through the streets of Durban](#) to make a public statement to negotiators and global leaders that delaying action on climate change is unacceptable. Check out the [photos from the march](#) and read more about the [day of action](#).



Seven central African countries (Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, RoC, Rwanda) and 8 partner countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, UK, US, EU Commission) signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent for the Congo Basin**. The Declaration seeks to stimulate progress on REDD+ activities in the Congo Basin by “drawing existing institutions and initiatives to support the development and implementation of national REDD+ strategies.” The Declaration sends a positive signal to the region, especially given the high level input provided by Minister of Forestry Henri Djombo (RoC), Minister of Environment Erik Solheim and other high level speeches by 3 more Central African countries and 7 partner countries. WWF issued a media statement commenting on the Declaration.

REDD+ IN CONTEXT

Indonesia

A renewed commitment to meeting the terms of the Indonesia-Norway agreement funding the establishment of a working REDD+ infrastructure.

After six months of planning following President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's September 2011 decree, Indonesia's second REDD+ Task Force (TF2) has laid out an ambitious timeline for finalizing and implementing a national REDD+ strategy by the expiration of their mandate in December 2012. Under the direction of chairman Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, TF2 is overseeing ten working groups focused on key areas of REDD+ implementation, such as:

- Establishing a new institutional framework, including: a national REDD+ agency; an institutional funding instrument; and an independent MRV system.
- Creating and improving current legal and regulatory structures.
- Addressing the working culture within pertinent areas of the current bureaucracy.
- Ensuring the integrity of community and stakeholder participation.

The Strategy—which is linked with Indonesia's policy target of a 26% overall emissions reduction by 2020—has been submitted to the President and is undergoing administrative and legal review. Once the Strategy has been mainstreamed into the 2013 budget, TF2 expects to have a national action plan submitted and approved by September. Strategic Working Group leader Dr. Mubariq Ahmad points out that this plan goes beyond simple quantitative targeting, guided by the critical questions of what change is necessary; what impedes that change; what preconditions must be created to effect it; and what benefits communities will derive from their participation. The timeline calls for the funding institution to be in place by April, allowing Indonesia's REDD+ Trust Fund to be launched by August in time for the activation of the national REDD+ agency no later than October.

Finally, the Task Force is finishing a workplan for testing the incipient institutions through a comprehensive pilot project in Central Kalimantan province. The project is expected to begin in earnest with the completion of ongoing baseline mapping and the institution of the independent MRV program in June. The C-Kal pilot will expand through the end of the year, supported by focused local capacity building. TF2 is also supporting smaller projects in eight other priority provinces, calling for baseline mapping as well as the completion of provincial strategy and action plans.

The Task Force and the teams it supports are all aware of the challenges this project faces. Enacting the Strategy cleanly under the decentralized government structure of the country's revised civil code will be no small feat. Additionally, it will have to be aligned carefully with the country's new master economic development plan. And as always, answering regional and especially community questions ("What's in it for me?") will remain crucial. Still, forests have never had such high-level attention here, and TF2 hopes the dedicated and concerted efforts of its teams will allow Indonesia to take full advantage of this unprecedented opportunity to make meaningful and lasting change.

Building change from the ground up in Kutai Barat

Such broad, national work is not an end in itself. Its goal is an institutional and legal structure that can reach down to reinforce and secure the scores of REDD+ efforts being realized on the ground every day in Indonesia. In Kutai Barat, a district in the East Kalimantan province on Borneo, FCI is working to put ownership of REDD+ where it belongs: in the hands of local communities. The second-largest province in Indonesia, East Kalimantan also faces the country's second-highest rate of deforestation. The agreement with Norway funding Indonesia's renewed national REDD+ efforts calls for 50,000 ha of forest in this critical province to be converted to Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). WWF has already identified 75,000ha for conversion in Kutai Barat district alone.

Baseline information for carbon accounting is critical to the task. To that end, WWF Kutai Barat has joined with local experts from Mulawarman University in a study establishing almost two dozen permanent plots on lands across a wide variety of forest cover types and land tenure arrangements. At the same time, technical and operational guidance from WWF has led to the establishment of several agroforestry plots and nurseries for the cultivation of such NTFPs as latex, fruits, and agarwood. Local villagers are already running the nurseries' planting, harvesting, and other daily operations—even bringing together other community members to share ideas on how best to manage the land and resources under their care.

WWF Kutai Barat's local Indonesian staff brings an experience and perspective critical for making change through the complex tangle of national and regional government, local customs and traditions at play. With this advantage, WWF is seeing success in securing the transfer of these lands' administration from mining and timber concession holders to local communities, all while working with district government to reclassify the CCAs into protected areas.

In partnership with these communities, WWF is working to formalize this intensely local focus, bringing together government, donor, academic and civil society groups to establish guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Last April, WWF conducted a workshop on village forests with the local forestry council (DKD) and Mulawarman University to establish operational guidelines for FPIC. As a result, a cooperative agreement was signed with the support of local government, community groups, NGOs and the private sector. The following month, 75 people in the Kutai Barat village of Linggang Melapeh participated in an FPIC meeting in which they agreed to allow carbon monitoring and accounting activities in their forest area and even committed to participating in those activities. Other public FPIC consultations are being held in villages throughout the district.

Researching a carbon accounting baseline; designing a conservation scheme complete with functioning sustainable use economies; securing the rights of local communities to benefit from their care and management of the forest: these activities aim to furnish local communities with a working forest conservation structure. Rather than see the natural capital of their lands lost to logging and agricultural encroachment, communities will instead be able to operate these CCAs within a community-based resource management system that allows them to reap the continued benefits these intact forest areas can provide.

Nepal

WWF is currently formulating a landscape-level forest carbon strategy for Nepal under the sustainable landscapes portion of the \$30 million **Hariyo Ban** program funded by USAID. This strategy will concentrate on the importance of clearly defining mechanisms for benefit sharing as well as measuring, reporting, and verifying meaningful emissions reductions. To this end, WWF is working to finalize the strategy later this year, and will continue to engage and collaborate with program partners, the Government of Nepal, and local communities.

Reference Levels & Payments for REDD+: Lessons Learned from the Guyana-Norway Agreement

Pablo Gutman (Pablo.Gutman@wwfus.org) and

Naikoa Aguilar-Amuchastegui (Naikoa.Aguilar-Amuchastegui@wwfus.org)

A “reference level” (RL) or “reference emissions level” (REL) is a benchmark or baseline against which the world, a country, or a region can measure its future progress (or lack thereof) in reducing emissions and sequestering carbon. Over the past several years, there have been varying proposals, both within and alongside the UNFCCC, regarding the establishment of such reference levels for forest-related emissions (REDD+). This debate is complicated by the fact there is no consensus among various REDD+ parties on the definition of the RL/REL. Furthermore, the discussion on reference levels has been intertwined with the issue of compensating developing countries for their REDD+ achievements.

Thus far, little thought has been given to the costs of paying for the conservation of carbon stocks. These costs are difficult to categorize into top-down opportunity cost estimates or bottom-up abatement costs calculations because in the end they are not cost-driven payments but reward-driven payments. For example, the recent and quite complete review of REDD+ financing gaps and overlaps by M. Simula (2010) omits any discussion of forest stock conservation payments. Still, payments for forest stock conservation may end up being an important addition to the REDD+ bill in the short and medium terms. This discussion suggests that how to pay for the conservation of forest stocks surely deserves more study.

This discussion has accelerated due to the COP16 Cancun Agreement inviting developing countries to prepare their RLs and/or RELs and requesting SBSTA (the UNFCCC technical advisory body) to develop modalities for RL and REL, presented at COP17 in November 2011.¹ More recently, the March 2011 Guyana–Norway agreement has moved the discussion on reference levels from theory to practice, demonstrating how bilateral partnerships are progressing as the international REDD+ mechanism is under development.¹ Different from payments for emission reductions, which could come from offset markets, payments for forest conservation are bound to be, for a considerable time, the responsibility of governments, as is the case in the Guyana–Norway agreement. This conclusion puts in question the common presumption that in a not-so-distant future REDD+ payments will be driven by private buyers’ demand for carbon offsets.

A possible way forward could be the creation of a Forest Stabilization Fund (or a window in the Green Climate Fund) that would receive several streams of resources. In its inception, this fund could be mostly supported by public money (as is now the case for Norway in the Guyana–Norway agreement). In the long term, a levy on REDD market transactions and/or other sources of climate financing could be included, transitioning the Forest Stabilization Fund toward a self-sustained “redistribution scheme” of the combined incentives or stock-and-flow type.

“Reference Levels and Payments for REDD+: Lessons from the Recent Guyana–Norway Agreement” discusses the various definitions proposed for REDD+ RLs and RELs and asserts that a RL to track REDD+ progress is not necessarily the same as a reward or crediting line and that the two concepts can and should be separated. The analysis assesses several proposals of RLs/RELs to track REDD+ progress, as well as several schemes to reward REDD+ countries. The report refers to the recent Guyana–Norway agreement to discuss how these REDD+ reward schemes could be implemented on the ground and concludes with lessons regarding the establishment of RLs and the future of REDD+ financing.

This is a joint technical report of two ongoing WWF projects: “Institutions and Funding Arrangements for REDD+” and “Building MRV Capacity and Tools for REDD+.” These projects are part of a larger three-year WWF program titled “REDD+ for People and Nature,” which supports local-level REDD+ activities in three countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, and Peru) and technical developments in several REDD+-related thematic areas, including the two mentioned above.

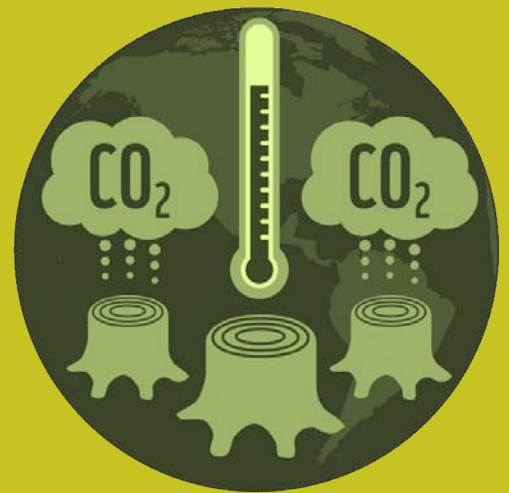
REDD+ NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Tools for a REDD+ Reality

WWF Living Forests Report: REDD+ at a Crossroads

Rod Taylor, Bruce Cabarle, Paul Chatterton, Nigel Dudley, Michael Obersteiner, Kirsten Schuyt, Gerald Steindlegger, Sue Stolton, WWF, Gland, Switzerland, November 2011 | Forests, carbon emissions, and climate change are inextricably linked. Developed in conjunction with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the new Living Forests Model explores four possible scenarios to determine the emissions and climate impacts of further delays—or complete inaction—in achieving zero net deforestation and forest degradation (ZNDD). These scenarios illustrate the costs of increasingly severe climate change, diminished capacity for mitigating it, and reduced resiliency against its effects.

ZNDD by 2020 is essential—and it is possible without critical repercussions on food, energy, and biodiversity. REDD+ offers the most complete and feasible set of tools for achieving this goal while helping marginalized forest communities around the world lift themselves out of insecurity and poverty. And yet for all its promise, REDD+ today is at a crossroads. Two critical components are needed if REDD+ is to be applied at the scale and pace needed to achieve ZNDD by 2020. **An inspiring vision**—bolstered by clear, ambitious, and measurable global emissions reduction targets—is a vital step towards limiting global temperature rise. Crucially, REDD+ must have **predictable and adequate financing** now. ZNDD can only be achieved with a major and immediate scaling up of investments in maintaining tropical forests.



World Bank BioCarbon Fund Offers Lessons Learned

World Bank, 6 March 2012 | The World Bank launched a new report titled “The BioCarbon Fund Experience: Insights from Afforestation/Reforestation Clean Development Mechanism Projects” sharing lessons learned from the Fund’s 10-year history of funding afforestation/reforestation projects under the CDM. Lessons applicable to non-CDM mechanisms like REDD+ include:

- **Careful consideration of credits:** A simple approach to non-permanence in carbon crediting is needed to avoid the confidence issues undermining the timely cash flows a project needs to start and prosper. LULUCF credits must be fungible with other market-tradable carbon assets.
- **Synergy:** Properly constructed forest carbon projects can contribute to biodiversity conservation, aiding in climate change adaptation by increasing the resilience of communities and the local environment. True, commercial projects centred on fast-growth tree species generate more carbon reduction in a given time and do provide secondary economic opportunities. However, a broader scope of land uses qualifying for credits is a valuable opportunity for realizing vital co-benefits.
- **Capacity and complexity:** Land eligibility and emissions accounting rules must be strict in order to maintain the market’s confidence in credits generated therein, but accounting and monitoring methodologies must be kept as simple and consistent as possible. Critically, building local capacity for project development and MRV will reduce time-consuming and expensive overreliance on external authorities and consultants. And in complementary, biodiversity-centred projects, there is no more knowledgeable authority for monitoring changes in local biomass and activity-shifting than local peoples. Financing for project developers must be secure and front-loaded. Risk in such land-based projects is relatively well understood and can be accounted for with sufficient resources. Investing in local capacity—and removing regulatory and financial burdens to local participation—will help manage that risk and ensure carbon permanence. Such solutions, solidified institutionally in public-private partnerships, will help ensure the benefits that drive farmer’s participation in forest carbon projects.

REDD+ & Biodiversity

A framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes

Toby A. Gardner, Neil D. Burgess (WWF-US), Naikoa Aguilar-Amuchastegui (WWF-US, Forest & Climate Initiative), Jos Barlow, Erika Berenguer, Tom Clements, Finn Danielsen, Joice Ferreira, Wendy Foden, Valerie Kapos, Saiful M. Khan, Alexander C. Lees, Luke Parry, Rosa Maria Roman-Cuesta, Christine B. Schmitt, Niels Strange, Ida Theilade, Ima C. G.Vieira, Accepted copy in press in Biological Conservation, 2012 | The UNFCCC mechanism for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in developing countries (REDD+) represents an unprecedented opportunity for the conservation of forest biodiversity. Nevertheless, there are widespread concerns surrounding the possibility of negative environmental outcomes if biodiversity is not given adequate consideration throughout the REDD+ process. The authors propose a general framework for incorporating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes based on well-established ecological principles and experiences. First, they identify how biodiversity distribution and threat data, together with data on biodiversity responses to forest change and management, can be readily incorporated into the strategic planning process for REDD+ in order to identify priority areas and activities for investment that will deliver returns for both carbon and biodiversity. Second, the authors propose that assessments of changes in biodiversity following REDD+ implementation could be greatly facilitated by paralleling, where possible, the existing IPCC architecture for assessing carbon emissions. A three-tiered approach is proposed for biodiversity assessment, where lower tiers can provide a realistic starting point for countries with fewer data and lower technical capacities. Planning and assessment of biodiversity safeguards for REDD+ need not overburden an already encumbered UNFCCC process. Immediate progress is already possible for a large number of developing countries, and a gradual, phased approach to implementation would minimise risks and facilitate the protection of additional biodiversity benefits from REDD+ activities. Greater levels of coordination between the UNFCCC and CBD, as well as other agencies and stakeholder groups interested in forest conservation are needed if biodiversity safeguards are to be fully adopted and implemented.

Biodiversity safeguard for REDD+ in the UNFCCC and the CBD: Analysis of Data and Observation Systems for the Conservation of Natural Forests and Biological Diversity

Günter Mitlacher, (WWF Germany) Andrea Kraljevic, WWF, Berlin, 30 September 2011 | As deforestation rates, and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions, continuously rose in developing countries, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) welcomed a simple mechanism that would create positive incentives in avoiding deforestation and thus contribute to the mitigation of global greenhouse gas emissions. However, since then, many stakeholders have expressed concerns regarding the conservation of biodiversity, partially because REDD+ has become “tremendously ambitious during its short history, while many of the accompanying technical, political and institutional challenges still remain unsolved” (Pistorius et al, 2010). Currently, the UNFCCC is considering how to develop an information system on how safeguards are being addressed when implementing REDD+ activities at the national or project level. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is also developing advice on how to address biodiversity properly in REDD+ activities.

This analysis focuses specifically on the biodiversity safeguard and reviews:

- What conservation based data and information is currently available to address the biodiversity safeguard for REDD+?
- Who holds the data?
- At what scale is data available?
- What data and information is particularly necessary to assess biodiversity status and change over time in terms of a monitoring system for the biodiversity safeguard?

SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF REDD+

Conservation Initiative on Human Rights (CIHR) Workshop on Rights-Based Approaches to REDD+

From January 24-26, WWF, in collaboration with other members of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights consortium, organized a workshop on Rights-based Approaches to REDD+ in Lima, Peru. CIHR member organizations include BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, IUCN, The Nature conservancy, Wetlands International, Wildlife conservation Society and WWF. WWF is currently acting as CIHR's Secretariat. Participants from WWF included representatives from the FCI/RPAN Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and REDD+ project (WWF Rights and Livelihoods program), WWF-Peru, WWF Amazon initiative, WWF-Colombia and FCI Learning initiative. The workshop focused on key rights and governance issues in REDD+ including participation in REDD+ national and sub-national programs, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), land and resource tenure, and equitable sharing of benefits. Representatives from conservation NGOs, indigenous peoples' organizations, social development institutions and donor organizations learned about emerging best practices and challenges and options to strengthen future work. Participants shared experiences on practical efforts to date to integrate community safeguards and benefits in REDD+ readiness and pilot activities, and identified opportunities for collective efforts to promote rights-based approaches to REDD+ at national, regional and international levels. WWF's Rights and Livelihoods Program is building capacity and providing technical guidance on these issues in Peru by providing technical assistance on FPIC standards in Madre de Dios and through ongoing work supporting WWF Peru's relationship with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA), in particular options for financial mechanisms to implement an 'Indigenous REDD+' paradigm. In addition, WWF is supporting the Amazon Program proposal on assessing the value and contribution of indigenous lands and territories to climate change mitigation and national welfare based on environmental services.



Capacity Building

Capacity-building of indigenous and local communities and their organizations is widely recognized as a key foundation for securing the opportunities that REDD+ may provide and addressing its risks, contributing to more equitable and sustainable REDD+ initiatives. Capacity-building helps to support a number of priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to REDD+. These include:

- To understand climate change, its impacts, mitigation and adaptation, what is REDD+, and the potential benefits and risks of REDD+ initiatives.
- To participate fully and effectively in development of REDD+ programs/strategies at multiple levels (village, sub-national, national, international).
- To decide whether or not to participate in REDD+ activities, in keeping with rights to free, prior, informed consent.
- To manage activities that will generate reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation.
- To benefit from REDD+, especially through increased capacity to negotiate an equitable share of the benefits from REDD+.
- To monitor results of REDD+ activities, as part of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of REDD+ climate, social and biodiversity impacts.

As WWF programs engage with communities and their organizations to introduce information on REDD+ and build capacity for peoples' participation in development of REDD+ programs – in field areas as well as at sub national and national levels – this resource guide seeks to:

- Share information and links to existing capacity-building materials, especially those developed by and/or for indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Provide information on international indigenous networks and support groups that are working on training of trainers and other capacity-building initiatives, and may offer opportunities for partnership; and
- Identify initial lessons and recommendations for WWF programs engaging in capacity-building activities with indigenous peoples and local communities.

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Free, prior, informed consent of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities is widely recognized as a key foundation for securing the opportunities that REDD+ may provide and addressing its risks, contributing to more equitable, effective and sustainable REDD+ initiatives. FPIC is the principle that indigenous peoples have a right to give or withhold consent to actions that will affect them, especially actions affecting their traditional lands, territories and natural resources. WWF's Statement of Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to FPIC from governments on projects affecting their customary lands and resources, and states that WWF will not promote or support interventions affecting customary lands and resources that have not received FPIC. FPIC is highly relevant to REDD+ because REDD+ will involve changes in forest use that can affect the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities. FPIC enables communities to safeguard their rights and interests, and also shape REDD+ initiatives to support communities in ways that will contribute to successful outcomes. While WWF will not act as proponent of REDD+ projects, FPIC remains relevant to other roles WWF may play such as capacity-building, project initiating and informing the development of REDD+ policy frameworks.

WWF is also facilitating the development of FPIC guidelines in DRC. WWF conducted a workshop on FPIC guidelines in which 20 National Civil Society Organisations working with indigenous people and local communities learned about FPIC. The workshop included a field mission was to test the process and learn lessons from local communities. As a result, a draft of FPIC guidelines was produced for circulation to all stakeholders before being review for validation by the DRC national government.

Valuable lessons for REDD+ have been learned from FPIC awareness building, including the practical challenges to effective implementation of FPIC. A number of recent publications and current processes seek to address these, including through development of practical guidelines and procedures. [Free Prior and Informed Consent: Guidelines and Resources](#), a WWF working paper, distils some of these practical guidelines into guiding principles and procedures for WWF programs working on REDD+ to ensure that rights to FPIC are respected and supported. The paper also provides an annotated compilation of additional, more in-depth resource materials on which programs can draw.

The UN-REDD Programme recently released its draft Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The aim of the Guidelines is to outline a normative, policy and operational framework for UN-REDD Programme partner countries to seek FPIC, as and when appropriate, as determined by the Programme partner country in consultation with relevant rights-holders. The Guidelines also provide definitions of the underlying elements of FPIC and information on grievance and accountability. The Guidelines were developed through a consultative process with indigenous peoples and civil society representatives via a series of regional consultations held between June 2010 and January 2011 in the 3 regions where the UN-REDD Programme is active: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. During these consultations, participants developed definitions and processes to operationalize FPIC for the UN-REDD Programme. The Guidelines are available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

To learn more about how the FCI is addressing social issues and REDD+ [download our factsheet](#) on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and REDD+ or contact Jenny Springer (jenny.springer@wwfus.org), Director of WWF's Rights & Livelihoods Program and Lead on the FCI's cross-cutting work on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and REDD+.

FOREST & CLIMATE INITIATIVE MARCH 2012



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