



WWF

NEWS

ISSUE 4

2013

FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

CANOPY

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM WWF'S INTERNATIONAL FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

EXPECTATIONS FOR REDD+ AT THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING

An interview with Josefina Brana-Varela,
WWF Forest and Climate Programme Policy Director



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Reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is a leading area of consensus within the global climate debate but remains at a crossroads. It has taken longer to finalize than originally anticipated, yet, no other single mechanism has ever before mobilized this scale of political attention and financial resources for tropical forest conservation, nor had the potential for even greater conservation outcomes, as has REDD+. It will be a defining moment for conservation when REDD+ is realized—and if REDD+ treads off its path, it will be, perhaps, one of the greatest lost opportunities for tropical forest conservation in our generation.

As the world prepares for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP 19) in Warsaw, Poland this November, Josefina Brana-Varela, Policy Director for WWF's Forest and Climate Programme reflects on the potential challenges and critical next steps for REDD+ at this pivotal point.

UNFCCC intercessional meetings were held in Bonn, in June, where does REDD+ stand now?

JBV: Coming out of Bonn, we have three negotiation tracks. The discussions under the joint UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)/ Subsidiary Body for Implementation (STI) process could not start in Bonn because the SBI agenda was not adopted. However, discussions under SBSTA moved forward quite a lot, and we actually had some workshops on the COP work programme on finance as well.

In Bonn, the parties produced three REDD+-related decisions that will be forwarded for adoption by parties at the global climate change meeting in Warsaw, including one on national forest monitoring systems, a second related to the time and frequency of the presentation of the summary of information on

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FEATURE

EXPECTATIONS FOR REDD+ AT THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL
CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING 1

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Why we are here

WWF's Forest and Climate Programme works to ensure that the conservation of tropical forests as carbon stores is secured by green economic development that benefits people, the climate and biodiversity in transformational ways.

www.panda.org/forestclimate



CANOPY IS ALSO AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY VIA EMAIL.
SUBSCRIBE AT: bit.ly/CNPY-nws

WWF NEWS

ONLINE REDD+ COMMUNITY REACHES SIX-MONTH MARK, CONTINUES TO GROW



REDD+ Community, the free and open online community and learning platform, has reached the six-month mark and continues to grow as a vibrant resource for REDD+ practitioners around the world.

Launched in April by WWF's Forest and Climate Programme, the community hosts more than 550 members with diverse interests, skills and from more than 50 countries. REDD+ related knowledge is shared through lively member discussions on the REDD+ Conversations area, posted lessons learned, event information, publications, technical tools, news, images and videos—which are added daily to the site by members. The platform has also introduced a new Community of Practice convened on Terrestrial Carbon Accounting, in addition to the Monitoring, Report and Verification Community that was part of the initial platform launch. As REDD+ Community continues to grow, it will become an even greater resource for practitioners around the world and will help REDD+ reach its full potential.

To share your REDD+ information, post REDD+ questions, or to connect with others working on REDD+, visit reddcommunity.org, become a member, and join the global REDD+ conversation.

JOIN AT: www.reddcommunity.org

ONLINE REDD+ COURSES BOOSTED BY WWF REDD+ CASE STUDIES

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The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, Rainforest Alliance and WWF have launched updated versions of three self-paced, free, online courses on climate change and REDD+. As part of the

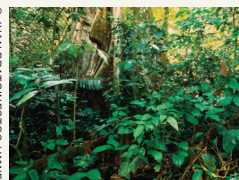
update to these courses, new REDD+ case studies, called *Inspiring Practices*, have been included to introduce course participants to real-life REDD+ experiences and lessons learned.

The three-course curriculum, *Introductory Curriculum on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Conserving and Enhancing Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD+)*, provides an introductory level of understanding on climate change, deforestation, forest degradation and REDD+. In addition to the new WWF content, the updated version of the course also contains new information on REDD+ policy and implementation along with a fresh style and look and improved interactivity.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:
www.conservationtraining.org

TECHNICAL STAFF FROM BOLIVIAN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES VISIT ACRE, BRAZIL TO EXCHANGE INTEGRATED LAND AND FOREST MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCES

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The opportunity for Bolivian environmental experts to exchange experiences with

experts from the state of Acre came at a critical moment, as Bolivia is currently developing its version of REDD+, known as the Joint Mechanism for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change. In addition, Bolivia is seeking to implement its policy on integrated land and forest management. WWF offices in Bolivia and Brazil, with support from WWF-UK and the WWF Living Amazon Initiative, have been instrumental in bringing authorities from Acre and Bolivia together to discuss common areas of concern and potential for future cooperation.

The purpose of this initial exchange visit was for the Bolivian team to become familiar with the technical and operational aspects of the monitoring and certification systems of Acre's environmental incentives system. This knowledge will contribute to the design of the Bolivian monitoring and certification system.

READ MORE: bit.ly/1gl2Dfl

OTHER NEWS

785,000 HA ZIMBABWE REDD+ PROJECT APPROVED BY VCS AND CCBA

Over the past few decades, deforestation due to issues such as population growth and unsustainable forest management has ravaged the once vast Miombo forest in Zimbabwe. Now, the Kariba REDD+ Project is using carbon finance to protect 785,000 hectares of this important forest that connects four national parks, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site Mana Pools, and several game reserves. Carbon credits from this project certified under Verified Carbon Standard and CCB Standards Gold Level are now available. The conservation of the forest goes hand in hand with the wellbeing of the people of this project. By training locals about raising agricultural productivity, conservation farming and fire reduction, deforestation is prevented, food security is raised, more income generated, and carbon remains stored in the forest.

[READ MORE AT: bit.ly/18MNTdC](http://bit.ly/18MNTdC)

POLAND OUTLINES AMBITIONS FOR 2013 UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

Establishing a pathway to a global emissions reduction deal in 2015 will be the priority for the Polish Presidency at this year's UN climate talks being held November 11–22. Other goals include exploring a pilot phase of new market based mechanisms for emission reduction and clarifying financial commitments from 2013–2020 and post 2020. The organizers say they also want to end the summit with decisions on reducing emissions from forest degradation (REDD), land use and agriculture.

[READ MORE AT: bit.ly/1fPDj6I](http://bit.ly/1fPDj6I)

ETHIOPIA AND NORWAY SIGN REDD+ AGREEMENT

Ethiopia and Norway signed a REDD+ Partnership agreement to support Ethiopia's forest sector and Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy. Agriculture State Minister, Sileshi Getahun and Norwegian Ambassador to Ethiopia Odd Inge Kvalheim signed the agreement

[READ MORE: bit.ly/14qxwm2](http://bit.ly/14qxwm2)

WORLD BANK TO BUY U\$63M IN COSTA RICAN FOREST CARBON CREDITS

The World Bank's Carbon Fund signed a deal in September with the government of Costa Rica to buy up to \$63 million worth of forest-based carbon credits, the bank said. The agreement will allow the Central American country to expand a local programme that pays landowners for conserving forests to an additional area of 340,000 hectares.

[READ MORE AT: bit.ly/1aFr5gs](http://bit.ly/1aFr5gs)

AMAZON RAINFOREST TRIBE SELLS REDD+ CREDITS TO BRAZILIAN COSMETICS GIANT

The Paiter-Surui, a rainforest tribe that in June became the first indigenous group to generate REDD+ credits under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), has now closed their first deal. As reported by Ecosystem Marketplace, Brazilian cosmetics giant Natura Cosméticos has purchased 120,000 tons of carbon offsets from the Surui Forest Carbon Project in Rondônia, Brazil.

[READ MORE AT: bit.ly/13IZYzk](http://bit.ly/13IZYzk)

DRC REDD+ KNOWLEDGE SHARING BENEFITS COMIFAC COUNTRIES

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) released a report on progress in the implementation of the project "Sharing of experience among COMIFAC Countries on REDD+: Pilot Projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)". The report highlights an exchange trip held from 11–17 August 2013, during which participants from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon gathered lessons learned and experiences from REDD+ practitioners in the DRC. The objective of the initiative was to exchange experiences and stimulate learning, share information relevant to international negotiations on REDD+, and build capacity of REDD+ technical experts.

[READ MORE AT: bit.ly/1eiWTfb](http://bit.ly/1eiWTfb)

CREDITS FROM FIRST AFRICAN GOVERNMENT-BACKED REDD+ PROJECT GO ON SALE

Carbon credits generated from protecting thousands of hectares of endangered rainforest in northeastern Madagascar have now been certified for sale in a government-backed REDD+ project.

[READ MORE: bit.ly/14qCLCh](http://bit.ly/14qCLCh)

AFDB APPROVES US \$21.50 MILLION FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION PROJECT IN DRC

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has approved a US \$21.50-million Forest Investment Program (FIP) grant to finance climate change mitigation activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project's goal is to facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as help to reduce poverty.

READ MORE: bit.ly/1bvW1my

INDONESIA ESTABLISHES REDD+ AGENCY TO TACKLE DEFORESTATION

Indonesia has established an agency to implement the country's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) programme. The REDD+ agency, established by a decree from President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, is a ministry-level body that will coordinate a national REDD+ strategy between various ministries that influence and control land-use policy across the sprawling archipelago. The agency will also oversee the measuring, reporting and verification of emissions reductions as part of a billion dollar agreement signed with Norway in 2010. Norway is compensating Indonesia on a performance-basis for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.

READ MORE: bit.ly/1bvW1my

"REDD+ IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE INDIGENOUS WORLD AND THE NON-INDIGENOUS WORLD, SO IT'S AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO BEGIN THIS PROCESS. IT CREATES A VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM CAN RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF STANDING FORESTS, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE CAN BE REWARDED FOR PRESERVING THEM. UNTIL NOW, COMPANIES HAVE LOOKED AT RAINFOREST PRESERVATION AS SOMETHING THEY DO TO BE NICE, OR AS PHILANTHROPY. NATURA RECOGNIZES THAT CARBON NEUTRALITY ISN'T JUST A GESTURE, IT'S AN OBLIGATION, AND IT'S ONE WE ALL HAVE. REDD+ MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR COMPANIES TO MEET THAT OBLIGATION, AND FOR US TO BECOME PROVIDERS OF AN ECOSYSTEM SERVICE."

CHIEF ALMIR NARAYAMOGA SURUI, OF THE PAITER-SURUÍ TRIBE IN BRAZIL'S AMAZON. BRAZILIAN COSMETICS GIANT NATURA COSMÉTICOS HAS PURCHASED 120,000 TONS OF CARBON OFFSETS FROM THE SURUI FOREST CARBON PROJECT IN RONDÔNIA, BRAZIL.

MEDIA



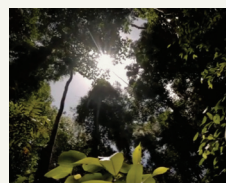
VIDEO

Anti-Corruption for REDD+ by UN-REDD Programme

This video produced by the UN-REDD Programme demonstrates the importance of transparency and accountability to the success of REDD+.

It seeks to raise awareness and encourage collaboration among anti-corruption practitioners, climate change/REDD+ experts, civil society and private sector partners.

WATCH: (English) bit.ly/1aqzPHa
(French) bit.ly/16MNZCa
(Spanish) bit.ly/19p7yxv



VIDEO

Suriname REDD+

This video illustrates the process in Suriname to develop a REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal

(R-PP), which was submitted to the World Bank-supported Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in February 2013. The video highlights the Suriname government's "We are the forest and the forest is us" slogan, and its efforts to preserve the country's 94% forest coverage through a multi-stakeholder process that includes indigenous peoples, government, institutions and NGOs.

WATCH: bit.ly/18UBa63



VIDEO

REDD+ in Ghana: Promoting a pro-poor approach

This documentary produced by the IUCN highlights how Ghana's

efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) are addressing climate change and the needs of the poor.

WATCH: bit.ly/18IGGbE

RECENT PUBLICATIONS



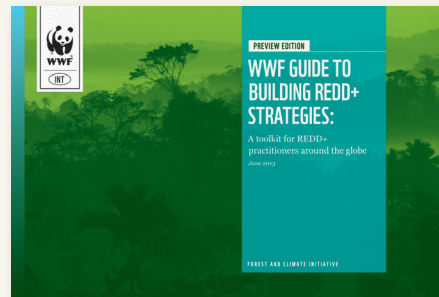
REDD+ INSPIRING PRACTICE

Developing an emissions reduction programme idea note in the Democratic Republic of Congo

This *Inspiring Practice* follows the development of an emissions reduction programme idea note (ER-PIN) for a large-scale jurisdictional REDD+ programme across the future Mai-Ndombe Province of the DRC. The process involved diverse stakeholders, including members of the central government, provincial government officials, private sector representatives and members of national and international civil society organizations.

WWF's REDD+ Inspiring Practices are designed to share REDD+ lessons learned, so that they may be replicated by others for their own REDD+ related work.

DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE AT: bit.ly/19kTgQ2



COMING SOON

New Edition of WWF Guide to Building REDD+ Strategies

This updated guide will provide REDD+ practitioners with the information they need to develop national and subnational REDD+ strategies. Building upon the preview edition released in May, this guide draws on the experiences of WWF's international REDD+ project teams and their partners, the latest literature on REDD+ practices and emerging REDD+ best practices around the world. The new version features additional chapters on stakeholder engagement and REDD+ registries, new REDD+ country profiles, an expanded glossary and an updated resource section.

This publication will be available by November as a download at: bit.ly/WWF-REDDpubs

DOWNLOAD THE PREVIEW: bit.ly/REDDguide

BUILDING REDD+ FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

A review of three years of REDD+ capacity building

This report looks back on three years of WWF's Norad-supported REDD+ work across the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Peru and outlines plans for the future of WWF's work in these priority landscapes. The report highlights the WWF Forest and Climate Programme team's high-level strategic objective and overall perspective on challenges, successes, experiences and lessons learned. It also explores how to build on this work to help REDD+ reach its full potential in the years to come.

This publication will be available by November as a download at: bit.ly/WWF-REDDpubs

REDD+ CAPACITY BUILDING

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME'S LEARNING SESSIONS ARE FREE AND DESIGNED TO LEVERAGE AND SHARE REDD+ KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE. EVERY MONTH, WE INVITE A REDD+ EXPERT TO PRESENT ON A KEY ISSUE, SO THAT REDD+ PRACTITIONERS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THE LATEST INFORMATION RELATED TO REDD+.

To watch an archived Learning Session or to register for an upcoming webinar, please visit: bit.ly/REDDlearn

LEARNING SESSION 15: REDD+ AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In this learning session, Matea Osti, Programme Officer for Climate Change and Biodiversity at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, will discuss the interplay of REDD+ and biodiversity conservation on behalf of the UN-REDD Programme.

Her presentation will cover the opportunities and risks for biodiversity from REDD+, and how safeguards for biodiversity and ecosystem services may be incorporated into national-level REDD+ planning and implementation, in line with the latest agreements under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Examples of work undertaken in this realm by REDD+ countries in

collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme will be presented including work on spatial analysis to inform decisions on REDD+ and biodiversity conservation.

A Q+A session will follow the presentation.

REGISTER FOR THIS FREE WEBINAR:

bit.ly/15cD6pF

VIEW ARCHIVE OF THIS WEBINAR:

bit.ly/REDDwebinars

LEARNING SESSION 14: A FRAMEWORK FOR DEFINING AND MONITORING FOREST DEGRADATION

Dr. Ian Thompson, a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, discusses his recent co-authored publication, *An Operational Framework for Defining and Monitoring Forest Degradation*. The work was conducted with an international group as requested by the Collaborative Partnership in Forests, which includes several United Nations organizations, such as FAO, CBD, and UNFF. In this paper, the co-authors suggest that degradation must be measured against multiple criteria that represent the various ways by which a forest can be considered as degraded.

This presentation helps REDD+ practitioners, and those working on MRV in particular, learn more about the importance of also measuring degradation against baseline conditions, and highlights five basic criteria that relate to the drivers of degradation, loss of ecosystem

services, and sustainable management. The key indicators include: productivity, biodiversity, unusual disturbances, protective functions, and carbon storage, and several indicators for each are proposed.

VIEW ARCHIVE OF THIS WEBINAR:

bit.ly/REDDwebinars

LEARNING SESSION 13: IMPLEMENTING REDD+ AT A NATIONAL SCALE

Peter Iversen discusses complications of and potential solutions for implementing REDD+ at a national scale. His presentation covers some of the issues countries and project developers should be aware of in order to avoid REDD+ projects becoming barriers for moving to national level REDD+ implementation. This is based on his 10 years of experience in the UNFCCC process as a negotiator and his work in Cambodia for the UN-REDD programme.

VIEW ARCHIVE OF THIS WEBINAR:

bit.ly/REDDwebinars

REDD+ NATIONS

CARBON MAP AND MODEL PROJECT LAUNCHED IN SUPPORT OF REDD+ INITIATIVES IN DRC

Kinshasa, DRC – The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has officially launched its Carbon Map and Model Project, a €6-million programme designed to support forest monitoring initiatives and the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in ways that benefit local livelihoods. The project was launched at a two-day workshop, held in September, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature, and Tourism (MECNT) and WWF. It is funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Nuclear Security, through the KfW Development Bank.

The project will support REDD+ demonstration activities, along with a quantitative assessment of carbon stocks and emissions in the largest forest of the Congo Basin—a cornerstone requirement of the DRC's proposed REDD+ programme—by providing a national forest carbon map. In addition, WWF together with the project's German partner, the GFA Consulting Group, will evaluate and develop selected REDD+ mitigation activities in the soon-to-be-established Mai-Ndombe province.



These activities will form a crucial component of the jurisdictional REDD+ programme being proposed by the DRC's national REDD+ coordinating body, CN-REDD. At stake are US\$60 million in payments from what could soon become the largest forest emissions reduction programme in Africa—currently under approval review by the Carbon Fund of the World-Bank-managed Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Deforestation rates in the country are still low compared to those observed in other tropical forests in the region, though they are accelerating, noted Victor Kabengele wa Kadilu, national REDD+ coordinator for the DRC. With REDD+, DRC has the opportunity to both alleviate the effects of climate change and invest in poverty reduction efforts, like those being proposed by GFA Consulting Group, that will significantly decrease deforestation pressures.

“DRC is losing forest and in the next few years there will be a crisis unless we act now,” said Kadilu.

At the workshop, Kadilu laid out a two-year work schedule for activities aimed at collecting field plots and the development of forest management plans. The production of the national forest carbon map is being led by WWF and the DRC government in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders, including the Department des Inventaires et Aménagement Forestier (DIAF), the Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Central, the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, and other organizations that are collecting data in field plot sites. This data will then be integrated with very high-resolution Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data from an airplane-based sensor flown by Southern Mapping Company, and combined with satellite imagery to produce a national biomass map.

The national biomass map “will be extremely detailed at the level of seeing small rivers and individual tree canopies,” said Dr. Sassan Saatchi, a scientist with the University of California, Los Angeles who will be leading the LiDAR and satellite processing work. The map will then be used to produce the national carbon map—providing carbon estimates for every one-hectare area of forest. This will then be used by government officials to eventually monetize the country’s unique forest value for sustainable development investments, and payments for environmental services, such as through REDD+.

The project also unites several major actors, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, which has been working closely with DIAF to develop the country’s first national forest inventory and deforestation statistics, through a system known as Terra Congo. As part of this effort, Congolese technicians are being trained to enable the DRC government to use the map to monitor, report and verify annual emissions data, and share this information with the international climate community.

“We have been waiting for this for a long time,” said Sebastian Malele, head of DIAF, in welcoming the launch of the project. “We have moved along with our forest inventory in the past several years, and LiDAR is the essential part we need now to complete the REDD monitoring process.”

Joachim Schnurr of GFA Consulting added that, “There needs to be integrity in the calculation of emissions, as well as rigorous standards that attract buyers and also provide incentive payments to stakeholders implemented in a way that doesn’t leave them waiting for two or three years.”

According to Schnurr, four types of REDD+ activities are possible in Mai-Ndombe to reduce emissions from deforestation and provide compensation for performance. These include improved forest management; the establishment of conservation concessions; the reduction of unsustainable shifting agriculture; and improved grazing management.

“Some of these can exist as standalone projects,” Schnurr added.

To support capacity building efforts, the project is sponsoring trainings, as well as graduate fellowships to enable Congolese students to pursue higher education in REDD+ related issues, forestry, and remote sensing.

Malele closed the workshop and thanked stakeholders for their participation by saying, “We have intelligently formulated our recommendations for the efficient execution of the project and now we are excited to see the project succeed.”

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WWF's international Forest and Climate Programme collects and shares key REDD+ lessons learned from around the globe to help build REDD+ capacities, here are snapshots of the most recent of these. Visit bit.ly/REDDlearn for more REDD+ lessons and other learning tools.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

WWF's work to collaboratively develop an Emissions Reduction Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) for a large-scale jurisdictional REDD+ programme across the future Mai-Ndombe Province of the DRC faced several challenges including diverse stakeholder voices, government capacity and increasing local participation.

From this experience, the following lessons were learned:

- **Activities need to be officially recognized by the government to facilitate scaling them up.** The first draft of WWF's integrated REDD+ programme for Mai-Ndombe was shared with the national REDD+ agency, CN-REDD, at an early stage. The FIP and the ER-PIN are among the subnational programmes that will be implemented in Mai-Ndombe as a result.
- **Define clear leadership, roles and responsibilities for each group at the start of the ER-PIN process.** There should be leaders for the different work streams related to the ER-PIN drafting process and an understanding of how decision making will work. By starting with a clear understanding of roles and a simple, flexible management

structure, the process will run more smoothly. Strong but transparent leadership by the government is ideal, which in some cases might require increased government capacity dedicated to the ER-PIN process.

- **An inclusive and transparent process is important to build stakeholder trust and consensus.** Ensuring an inclusive and transparent process from the start is important in building trust among the key stakeholders to find a middle ground for building a REDD+ programme that benefits the people, landscape and country.
- **Third-party facilitation may make the process more efficient and effective.** Having a third-party facilitator can assist in ensuring that all stakeholder views and priorities are considered, and reduce the chance of any one stakeholder dominating the dialogue.
- **Establish alliances with private sector actors.** Private sector actors worked closely with WWF on the ER-PIN development, and by collaborating and understanding each side's approach and desired role from the beginning, potential conflicts about roles and responsibilities can be mitigated.
- **Empower targeted stakeholders to participate fully in the ER-PIN process.** WWF supported the ER-PIN process through both human and financial resources, but also focused on empowering and strengthening governments, local WWF staff, CSOs and other stakeholders to fully participate in the development process.
- **Be prepared with flexible capacity on the ground.** Having additional, flexible capacity of staff, consultants and resources in the local offices where the ER-PIN work is being done will help the process move more quickly and efficiently.
- **Seek early technical guidance from the FCPF Secretariat.** Given the tentative state of guidance from the Carbon Fund, seeking early technical guidance from the FCPF Secretariat is valuable.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: bit.ly/12IET7L

Reporting by Alison Minarcik, Intern, WWF Forest and Climate Programme



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REDD+ SPECIES

AFRICAN FOREST ELEPHANT

Common Name

Forest elephant

Scientific name

Loxodonta africana cyclotis

Location

Equatorial forests of central and western Africa

Population

< 100,000

Status

Endangered

African forest elephants are found in the equatorial forests of central and western Africa, increasingly pushed onto fragmented land due to deforestation. The forest elephant is continuously threatened by illegal hunting for meat and ivory, habitat loss and human-elephant conflict. Without conservation actions, forest elephants may become locally extinct in some parts of Africa within 50 years.

Forest elephants live in small family units of less than ten individuals. This elephant is smaller than other subspecies, darker in color, and has straighter tusks that point downward. Tusks, which are large modified incisors that grow throughout an elephant's lifetime, occur in both males and females and are used in fights and for marking, feeding and digging.

WWF's Forest and Climate Programme is working with colleagues from WWF-DRC to conserve and manage critical forest habitat and to increase public support for elephant as part of WWF's efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).



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FEATURE *(Continued)*



safeguards, and the third on drivers of deforestation. The discussions on the ways and means to deliver results based payments and about the financial architecture also advanced.

What will be some of the top REDD+ related issues at the global climate change meeting in Warsaw?

JBV: Hopefully parties will be able to make real moves forward on some of the most important pending issues—reference levels and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV). I am also optimistic that the parties will focus on finishing up discussions on reference levels and MRV guidance, with an eye on the ‘V’ (verification) in particular. Also, I am hopeful that they will finalize the methodological package for REDD+ which will allow parties to start discussions on other pending issues such as payments for results-based actions.

Results-based finance will also be a huge topic not only for this climate change meeting but also for the road ahead. Working out a solution for results-based finance is a discussion we haven’t yet had and we need to have that conversation to keep the momentum on REDD+. We need to be able to show that REDD+ can move forward and reach the next phase.

How do you think the global climate change meeting in November will impact the role REDD+ plays within the broader climate architecture?

JBV: Until now, REDD+ has been able to advance as a somewhat isolated topic, and has moved ahead faster than some of the other convention discussions. However, we have reached a point where REDD+ needs to be embedded in the broader climate architecture. Some of the decisions made in other parts of the convention impact REDD+, and we

need to be sure that REDD+ design is consistent across the convention, in particular when it comes to nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and MRV, as well as with the discussions on the finance group and on the Green Climate Fund. REDD+ needs to be linked with these other decisions to ensure consistency and feasibility. If parties can manage to finalize the methodological package at this year’s climate change meeting, it will send a very strong message that we can work together in a multilateral setting to win the battle against climate change.

What do you think will be the biggest challenges for REDD+ at this year’s global climate change meeting?

JBV: I think the biggest challenge at this year’s meeting will be reaching agreement on the verification issue. This is one of the most important points of divergence in the discussions. So, if

parties can come up with a solution, some kind of middle ground, whether it's the international consultation process adopted for REDD+ with a technical annex, or something different, that will be a huge accomplishment. That issue is one of the last missing pieces to allow parties to focus on the discussions regarding the finance package. Discussions on results-based finance represent a challenge in the sense that parties will need to advance discussions and to agree on some elements of the financial mechanism without prejudging other discussions taking place such as those on the Green Climate Fund.

What would be a best case scenario for REDD+ coming out of this year's climate change meeting?

JBV: The best case scenario this year would be that the parties finalize the design elements, in particular, coming to agreement on the process of verification of REDD+ results. In addition, I would like to see the developed countries show their commitment to this work by advancing the discussions of the financial architecture of REDD+.

What are you working towards for the global climate change meeting in Lima, Peru in 2014?

JBV: I'm working toward the 2014 global climate change meeting in Lima on two levels. On one level, I'm providing policy inputs and aiming to influence decision makers in the UNFCCC to make REDD+ a reality as a mechanism that promotes environmental integrity and also provides the right incentives for people on the ground to choose forest conservation. On another level, I'm also collaborating with WWF-Peru in strengthening REDD+ capacities in advance of the meeting, and to advance the REDD+ agenda on the ground in

collaboration with the Peruvian government. I'm confident that we can make an impact there and make the 2014 global climate change meeting a success for REDD+.

You have been attending global climate change meetings for four years now, first as part of the Mexican delegation, and for the first time this year with WWF, what has been the biggest change or trend you've noticed over the years?

JBV: Over the past four years I have seen REDD+ lose a bit of attention. After the 2009 climate change meeting in Copenhagen, all eyes were on REDD+, and in general I think people were more optimistic about the environment. As we have progressed and moved into the realities of commitments and requirements, it has become more challenging to come to an agreement among parties. That said, I am still very confident about the future of REDD+ and think we have made substantial progress. Personally, transitioning from the government side to the non-governmental side has been both challenging and interesting for me. When you are representing the government you have different responsibilities because you are part of the decision making, so that has been an adjustment for me. Now that I am supporting REDD+ from a different angle, I enjoy working on issues "from the outside in" and I like that our advocacy work provides so much flexibility and a wide range of ways for us to help move negotiations forward.

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LEARN MORE ABOUT WWF'S EFFORTS AT UNFCCC MEETINGS: bit.ly/185Kkyl
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Reporting by Breen Byrnes, Communications and Learning Programme Officer, WWF Forest and Climate Programme

"IF PARTIES CAN MANAGE TO FINALIZE THE METHODOLOGICAL PACKAGE AT THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING, IT WILL SEND A VERY STRONG MESSAGE THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN A MULTI-LATERAL SETTING TO WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE."

REDD+ EXPERT

INTERVIEW WITH PABLO GUTMAN, WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME LEADER

Pablo Gutman is WWF's Senior Director of Environmental Economics and Leader of WWF's international Forest and Climate Programme. In this role, he guides WWF's efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

What is your background?

PG: I am trained as an economist and studied in both my native Argentina, where I have a degree in Political Economy from the University of Buenos Aires, and in the UK where I earned an MSc. in Environmental Economics from the University of London. I have been working for 40 years on issues that straddle environment and development, which is a very complex combination. In short, I try to solve environmental challenges in ways that benefit both people and nature. I have worked at WWF-US for 13 years in the policy area, looking mostly at the economic issues of conservation such as payment for ecosystem services (PES), climate change, renewable energy, forests and more recently REDD+. Prior to joining the WWF-US office, I worked with academic institutions, financial organizations, development agencies and governments in more than two dozen countries around the world.



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How did you get involved in REDD+ work?

PG: I have been working in economics and conservation for four decades, so about five years ago when REDD+ became an area of WWF work, it was natural fit for me. Several of my ongoing project areas related to climate change, PES, and financing for biodiversity conservation have overlaps with REDD+, so my participation made absolute sense. I was among the first recruited to join the team of WWF people focusing on REDD+, and have been deeply involved ever since.

What role does economics play in REDD+?

PG: An incredibly important one. REDD+ is an opportunity to bring significant economic resources to forest conservation. So while forest conservation is a very old and well-established idea and has been practiced for many years, REDD+ may be able to bring the substantial resources and political will to make it happen on a global scale. These two things, resources and political will, are absolutely essential for the success of REDD+ in the future.

What are the Forest and Climate Programme's REDD+ goals for the coming years?

PG: Our Forest and Climate Programme team has a very ambitious goal of zero net emissions from deforestation and degradation by 2020. That overarching goal motivates our work, and REDD+ could be an important contributor to that. However, at this point in the game it's clear that REDD+ can be a piece of the zero net emissions puzzle, but that it can't be the only piece. So in addition to our work on getting REDD+ right, we are also looking at how REDD+ can support other climate change and forest conservation solutions. The overall WWF goal for REDD+ is to help make it happen in a way that is fast, big and responsive to the biodiversity and social values of the organization.

What are some of the challenges REDD+ faces?

PG: As with any global initiative, there are many challenges. One of our biggest hurdles is making sure that REDD+ becomes part of a global climate change agreement by 2015. The other challenge we face in moving REDD+ forward is making sure we have a portfolio of good examples that demonstrate how REDD+ can happen on the ground, and how it can benefit local communities, countries and the environment. As we get closer to 2015, we need to be able to show policymakers at the international level that REDD+ works in real life situations and brings real, positive results.

What is the most important thing you have learned from your REDD+ experience?

PG: The most important thing I have learned is that teamwork is absolutely vital! Making sure that countries take ownership of the work, and that all of us working in REDD+ can collaborate, are other must haves for success. Finally, I have seen that REDD+ can't happen alone, but needs to be integrated with other conservation and economic programmes. As we move forward, we should continue to strike a balance between being inspirational about what REDD+ can do and being realistic about the potential bumps in the road ahead.

What are you most excited about for REDD+ in the future?

PG: I think that so far, REDD+ has brought unparalleled attention, interest and focus to forest conservation. We need to seize this chance to protect forests on a global scale while collaborating with people who live in and depend on the forest for their livelihoods. I think we can do this, but we have a very clear window of opportunity—from today until 2015 and from 2015 until 2020—to do this important work. If we don't do it now, we may not get the chance again for generations.

Do you have any final words to share?

PG: The WWF Forest and Climate Programme is a team player, and we want to partner with you. Whether you are a forest dweller, you are one of the causes of deforestation, or you are one of the solutions—let's work on REDD+ together.

Reporting by Breen Byrnes, Communications and Learning Programme Officer, WWF Forest and Climate Programme

"I THINK THAT THUS FAR, REDD+ HAS BROUGHT UNPARALLELED ATTENTION, INTEREST AND FOCUS TO FOREST CONSERVATION. WE NEED TO SEIZE THIS CHANCE TO PROTECT FORESTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE WHILE COLLABORATING WITH PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN AND DEPEND ON THE FOREST FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS. I THINK WE CAN DO THIS, BUT WE HAVE A VERY CLEAR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY—FROM TODAY UNTIL 2015 AND FROM 2015 UNTIL 2020—TO DO THIS IMPORTANT WORK. IF WE DON'T DO IT NOW, WE MAY NOT GET THE CHANCE AGAIN FOR GENERATIONS."

PABLO GUTMAN, FCP LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS

8–11 OCTOBER 2013
PALANGKARAYA, INDONESIA
REDD+ PARTNERSHIP MEETING
INFO: bit.ly/1fjiEKK

29–30 OCTOBER 2013
OSLO, NORWAY
OSLO REDD+ EXCHANGE
INFO: bit.ly/16TULF5

16–17 NOVEMBER 2013
WARSAW, POLAND
GLOBAL LANDSCAPES FORUM
INFO: bit.ly/12PSM3Y

15–18 OCTOBER 2013
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
AFRICA CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2013
INFO: bit.ly/1939nCo

5–7 NOVEMBER 2013
WASHINGTON, DC
45TH GEF COUNCIL MEETING
INFO: bit.ly/14bkrtG

9–13 DECEMBER 2013
ROVANIEMI, FINLAND
EUROPEAN FOREST WEEK
INFO: bit.ly/142PiOk

21–22 OCTOBER 2013
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
THIRD GLOBAL GREEN GROWTH FORUM
INFO: bit.ly/187FXSi

11–22 NOVEMBER 2013
WARSAW, POLAND
UNFCCC COP 19
INFO: bit.ly/16TECQ0

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	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>www.panda.org/forestclimate</p>
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