



WWF

FACTSHEET

2015

## WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

### REDD+ Inspiring Practices

# CREATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND REDD+ ROUNDTABLE OF MADRE DE DIOS

#### SNAPSHOT

##### What

- » The formation of the Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios (MSAR), a space for discussion, participation and cooperative work between the regional government, civil society, and local and indigenous communities of Madre de Dios.

##### Who

- » Civil society organizations, including local and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- » Representatives of local and indigenous communities
- » Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD)
- » WWF Peru

##### Where

Madre de Dios Region,  
Peruvian Amazon

##### When

2010–ongoing

##### Project Team

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#### SUMMARY

This Inspiring Practice focuses on the formation and action of the Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios, a region of the Peruvian Amazon. This process aimed to create a participatory space for technical advancement and discussion, in order to strengthen environmental governance in a region facing serious threats to its vast and extensive biodiversity. The resulting roundtable, known as MSAR for its acronym in Spanish, succeeded in fostering greater transparency and participation in the local dialogue about REDD+. Because of this process, the regional government, civil society, local and indigenous communities, forest users and other stakeholders in Madre de Dios have an institutionalized forum in which they can exchange ideas and work together toward a sustainable future for the region.

#### CONTEXT

The region known as Madre de Dios spans more than 8 million hectares of forest, including numerous protected natural areas and extensive territories belonging to indigenous peoples. Madre de Dios lies in the Amazon rainforest and is considered the biodiversity capital of Peru, as it boasts a vast variety of flora and fauna and the highest concentration of bird species in the world. In addition, it is home to vast and healthy intact forest stands with carbon stocks approaching 400 million tons.

Despite the great riches this region holds, it faces growing threats from alluvial gold mining, unsustainable development of agriculture and livestock production, increasing migration, and poorly planned urban expansion. These have contributed to an alarming rise in rates of deforestation and forest degradation, accelerated in the

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past decade by the construction of an interoceanic highway through the region. In order to measure the impact of this forest loss and find ways to respond, the regional government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD) formed a Technical Consortium on REDD+ in 2008. However, due to a number of technical and institutional challenges, the Consortium (later known as the REDD+ Roundtable) failed to meet its objectives and was relegated to a less active role in REDD+ efforts across the region.

In 2010, WWF recognized the need to coordinate REDD+ efforts between the government and local communities, and sought to reactivate the REDD+ Roundtable. The goal was to establish a space for dialogue, participation and capacity building, so that all the key stakeholders of REDD+ in the region could more effectively work together. At the same time, it became clear that the best way to incentivize the forest's preservation and stem deforestation was to combine REDD+ efforts with efforts at valuating environmental or ecosystem services. As a result, the reactivated roundtable broadened its objectives, renaming itself the Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios (MSAR) and functioning as a means toward the end of a green economy in Madre de Dios.

#### EXPECTED CHANGES

- Achieve the technical and institutional conditions necessary to implement REDD+ mechanisms in Madre de Dios by 2020
- Support and strengthen a space for work and dialogue about REDD+ and RIA Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ that is transparent and participatory, and that is institutionalized with clear, responsible rules
- Position the regional government in environmental issues
- Build capacities to develop effective environmental governance
- Foster the participation of key stakeholders—including the government, civil society, forest users, and grassroots organizations representing women, indigenous peoples and other traditionally marginalized groups—in the development of a regional REDD+ strategy.
- Support the design of a system for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) that is participatory and equipped with tools adapted to decision-making on the regional level.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

**2008:** The Regional Government of Madre de Dios forms the Consortium on REDD+, bringing together representatives of civil society groups, the private sector and international organizations to better monitor the region's natural resources. The Consortium works for over two years, but does not ultimately meet expectations due to a lack of local capacity and communication challenges among technical teams.

**2010:** WWF initiates work on REDD+ in Madre de Dios and recognizes the need to facilitate coordination and communication between the government, civil society and local communities. With the support of these stakeholders, WWF calls for the reactivation of the REDD+ Roundtable, which is renamed the Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios (MSAR).

**2010-2011:** Through a series of monthly meetings, MSAR creates a diverse and participatory forum that unites representatives of the regional government, Amazon National University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD), chestnut pickers and traders, forest concessionaires, agricultural producers, and the region's indigenous communities. Participants share information and work together, building their capacities and forming new collaboration and trust. That trust proves particularly important for the region's indigenous communities, which distrusted REDD+ and saw themselves as voiceless in the national REDD+ process.

**June 2011:** With the assistance and support of WWF and MSAR, the indigenous communities of Madre de Dios propose the formation of an Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable.

**2012:** MSAR advances its work on technical, legal, institutional, financial and social/environmental issues. In August, it holds the first regional workshop on social and environmental safeguards in Madre de Dios.

**2013:** GOREMAD recognizes MSAR through a presidential resolution.

## STAKEHOLDERS

### DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN,  
MAKE DECISIONS, AND RECEIVE BENEFITS

- WWF
- The members of the Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios (MSAR)

### STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

PROVIDE MATERIAL, HUMAN,  
AND OTHER RESOURCES

- Ministry of the Environment (MINAM)
- Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD)
- Interregional Amazon Consortium (CIAM)
- The Peru Forest Sector Initiative (PFSI)
- Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD)



**TODAY PARTICIPANTS SHARE INFORMATION AND RECOGNIZE THAT, DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENT INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS, ALL ARE WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD MAINTAINING THE FORESTS OF MADRE DE DIOS.**

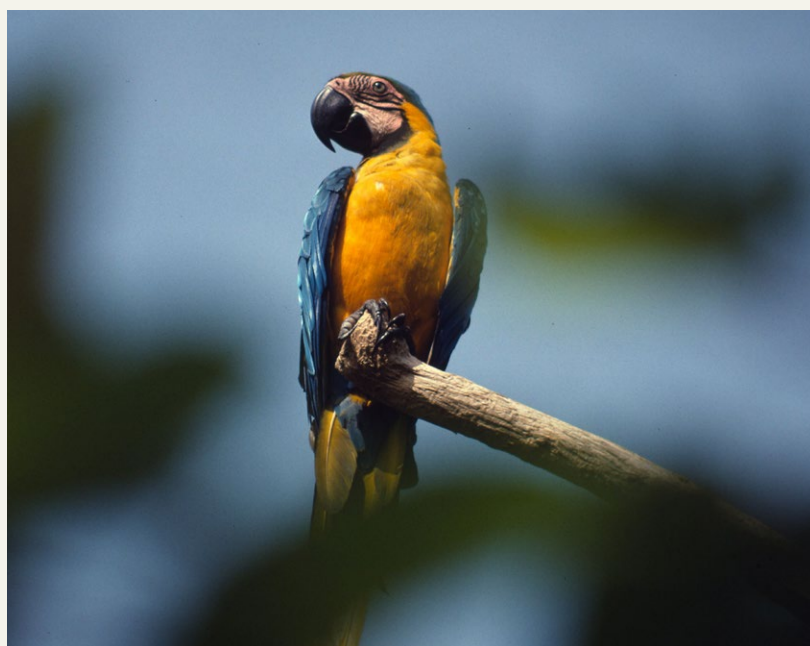
**2013:** MSAR collaborates on the participatory design of a road map for REDD+ in Madre de Dios. It also establishes a carbon baseline to facilitate natural resources monitoring and planning. A forest biomass and carbon map is completed and presented through the joint efforts of the biomass technical committee within MSAR, headed by WWF-Peru, along with experts, government institutions, universities, grassroots associations, private institutions and NGOs.

**2014:** In April, the Regional Authority on Forests and the Environment is formed, an achievement backed by MSAR and initiated by the Peru Forest Sector Initiative, the Consejo Interregional Amazónico (a regional coordination board, CIAM for its acronym in Spanish), and the technical support and facilitation provided by WWF.

**2014:** MSAR remains active, and serves as a model of collaborative, participatory work between the regional government and civil society for other independent roundtables: a technical roundtable, a roundtable on biodiversity, a roundtable on forest conservation, and a roundtable for chestnut pickers and traders.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- REDD+ has evolved into a means for attaining a green economy in Madre de Dios. This approach has included a development plan for the region, which has been identified as a priority area and selected by the national government and international partners to receive support for its implementation of policies based on sustainable use of resources.
- There is now greater understanding among all the participants of MSAR. Before, REDD+ processes were viewed with suspicion and marked by a lack of transparency, participation and coordination. Today MSAR participants share information and recognize that, despite their different individual interests, all are working together toward maintaining the forests of Madre de Dios.
- Community members now have opportunities to express their desires and doubts about REDD+ and to take part in decision-making through the MSAR voting process. This fosters local buy-in, greater technical capacity and increased financial support for REDD+ projects in the region.
- Several significant technical milestones were reached thanks to the collaboration among members of MSAR, and between MSAR and other organizations. The participants worked together to select and apply the appropriate technical tools to study deforestation in Madre de Dios, and were able to develop a forest carbon map for the region.
- A Regional Authority on Forests and the Environment was established, with the function of planning, managing, administering, controlling, budgeting for and overseeing environmental matters in the region. This represents a restructuring of the regional government to strengthen environmental governance in Madre de Dios.





## CHALLENGES

- MSAR has made important advances, but because many of those advances are highly technical in nature, it is difficult to communicate their significance. It is necessary to implement a better communications strategy to share MSAR achievements with all sectors of society. Improving communication about the possibilities of REDD+ would foster greater trust and participation among all stakeholders in the region.
- Participatory processes are slower and costlier. This has limited MSAR in its ability to reach all the communities and sectors of the public that would be affected by REDD+.
- Political instability hinders the work of MSAR and the progress of REDD+ in the region. High turnover and frequent change within the regional government force MSAR to repeatedly start over in its efforts to build capacities and forge partnerships.
- Coordination between REDD+ processes at the national and regional levels is weak. The achievements and dialogues around REDD+ in Madre de Dios predate much of the work done on the national level. This has resulted in a lack of recognition of the regional work on the national level and a lack of alignment between efforts on both scales. Closely coordinating regional and national REDD+ processes would eliminate conflicts and strengthen efforts across all levels.



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## OUR VISION

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.

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**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.  
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## LESSONS LEARNED

- **Investing in participatory processes is critical to effect lasting change.** Creating a forum like MSAR takes more time and investment, but it gives way to dialogues that are more inclusive, multifaceted and conducive to capacity-building, all of which better prepares stakeholders to guide the implementation of REDD+ and improve environmental governance in a region facing significant threats. This, in turn, creates the appropriate conditions for the REDD+ process to remain under the direction of the community itself, and to be truly sustainable as a result.
- **Clear communication is key for REDD+ processes to be both inclusive and effective.** When WWF began its work in Madre de Dios, it recognized immediately the lack of communication and coordination at all levels: between the government and local communities, especially indigenous communities; between organizations involved in REDD+ efforts; between these organizations and the regional government and local communities; and between the REDD+ process at the regional level and discussions about REDD+ at the national level. Through the dialogues that MSAR has fostered, that communication has improved, but it is just beginning. Improving access to information and feedback between these different levels and scales of action would strengthen all stakeholders involved in REDD+, and it would give REDD+ a better chance at success. It is also critical to make that communication simpler and easier to understand so that community members—whose stake in REDD+ is greatest and who stand to benefit from it the most—can gain a better grasp of MSAR achievements and what they mean for the community.

- **REDD+ is a means to an end.** In Madre de Dios, REDD+ is serving as a medium for building capacities, participatory processes and environmental governance. The creation of MSAR and the other REDD+-related processes under way in the region are part of a larger movement that is empowering indigenous peoples and local communities, transforming the relationship between the regional government and the people, and giving rise to a vision for sustainable development that protects the forests of Madre de Dios.



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