



# UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

## UN-REDD Programme

*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) endeavours to create incentives for poor forested countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change.*

**The UN-REDD Programme builds on the convening power and expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Guided by principles of country ownership and leadership, the Programme provides technical advice on ways to address deforestation and forest degradation, methods and tools for measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and forest carbon flows; promotes REDD financing; facilitates consultations among relevant stakeholders; and seeks to build consensus and knowledge about REDD at the international level.**

### Why this Initiative?

- Healthy, well managed forests are essential to the survival of our societies: they are home to millions of species of plants, animals and insects, and protect soils and watersheds from erosion. They act as carbon stores, absorbing greenhouse gases and preventing their release into the atmosphere. Maintaining forest ecosystems can help to increase our resilience to climate change.
- REDD is increasingly likely to be included in a post-2012 climate agreement, yet many questions remain unanswered. How will the REDD mechanism link to existing national development strategies? How can forest communities and indigenous peoples participate in the design, monitoring and evaluation of national REDD programmes? How will REDD be funded, and how will countries ensure that benefits are distributed equitably among all those who manage the forests? Finally, how will the amount of carbon stored and sequestered as a result of REDD be monitored?
- The UN-REDD Programme was created to assist developing countries to answer such questions

and help them get ready to participate in a future REDD mechanism. Through its nine initial country programme activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the Programme supports the capacity of national governments to prepare and implement national REDD strategies with the active involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

### Objectives

- The UN-REDD Programme supports in-country processes for REDD readiness and contributes to the development of national REDD strategies. Guided by principles of country ownership and leadership, the Programme provides technical advice on ways to address deforestation and forest degradation, methods and tools for measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and forest carbon flows. It promotes REDD financing as an opportunity to develop low-carbon growth and helps countries access financial and technical support. It promotes and facilitates broad-ranging consultations among stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, and helps establish linkages with existing national programmes in the areas of governance, development, poverty reduction, food security and natural resource management.
- At the international level, the UN-REDD Programme seeks to build consensus and knowledge about REDD and raise awareness about the importance of including a REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate

change agreement. It also provides opportunities for dialogue among governments, civil society organizations and technical experts, to ensure that REDD efforts are science-based and take into account the views and needs of all stakeholders.

## Activities

- The UN-REDD Programme brings together technical teams from around the world to develop common approaches, analyses and guidelines on issues such as measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon emissions and flows, remote sensing, and greenhouse gas inventories. It provides guidance on how best to design and implement REDD, to ensure that forests continue to provide multiple benefits for livelihoods and biodiversity to societies while storing carbon at the same time. Other areas of work include national forest assessments and monitoring of in-country policy and institutional change.
- The Programme documents, analyzes and disseminates successes and key challenges emerging from its activities, and provides numerous face-to-face opportunities for learning and sharing of experience.

## Partnerships

- The UN-REDD Programme works in close coordination with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Program (FIP) both at the international level—

harmonizing normative frameworks and organizing joint events—and at the national level, where joint missions and sharing of information result in coordinated support interventions. The Programme also works with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), donors, civil society, non-governmental organizations and academia.

## Moving forward

- The UN-REDD Programme is governed by a Policy Board composed of representatives from partner countries, donors, civil society, indigenous people and FAO, UNDP and UNEP.
- The UN-REDD Programme has recently welcomed five new countries, in addition to its nine initial pilot countries and a third donor, Spain, following Norway and Denmark.

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### CEB climate change action framework

Five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas have been identified in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system:

#### Focus areas

- Adaptation
- Technology transfer
- ➔ **Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)**
- Financing mitigation and adaptation action
- Capacity-building

#### Cross-cutting areas

- Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
- Supporting global, regional and national action
- Climate-neutral UN
- Public awareness-raising

<http://www.unsystemceb.org/climatechange/cop15>

<http://www.un.org/climatechange>