

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11TH CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT OF THE **UN-REDD PROGRAMME**
FUND 2019



UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN
environment
programme

This Annual Report presents the results of the UN-REDD Programme through the year 2019, which continues a progressive series of policy, institutional and knowledge achievements in countries and across the world in the climate & forest nexus since the Programme's launch in 2008. As UN-REDD partner countries are making ever greater progress to get ready for REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme is increasingly focused on responding to country demand for technical assistance to implement REDD+ and access results-based payments for REDD+ and, ultimately, realise commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. As of December 2019, the UN-REDD Programme had enabled its 65 partner countries across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to access knowledge and make significant progress towards adopting and implementing REDD+ actions.

In 2019, a key focus of the Programme remained assisting partner countries in their efforts to complete the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, a requirement for results-based payments. Adopted in 2013, the Framework outlines four areas of REDD+ readiness: National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs), National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), Forest Reference Emissions Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FREL/FRLs), and Safeguards and Safeguards Information Systems (SIS).

This year, Bangladesh, Honduras, and Mongolia finalized National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans, bringing the total to 28 countries that have adopted, with UN-REDD support, strategic policy frameworks to institutionalize forest solutions to climate change. To date, UN-REDD has supported 45 countries in developing National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS). In 2019, UN-REDD supported Viet Nam and Zambia to undertake testing and train-

ing with [Open Foris](#), facilitating satellite and ground data processing. Benefitting from UN-REDD Programme knowledge materials, Argentina, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Solomon Islands submitted their FRELs/FRLs to UNFCCC in early 2019 and enabled Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico to finalize their FRELs/FRLs for submission in early 2020. Seven countries advanced in the design and operation of their Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) at a national level in 2019. [Argentina](#), [Chile](#) and [Paraguay](#) put their SIS online, thus facilitating the access to information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected. In addition, Cote d'Ivoire and Zambia developed test versions of their SIS platforms and will upload them online in 2020. Colombia finalized the design of its SIS, and Myanmar advanced the design of its system.

Throughout the year, 14 partner countries received customized UN-REDD Programme support through National

Countries associated with UN-REDD Programme



In addition, support to Cook Islands, Gambia, Kribati, Marshall Islands, Niger, Palau, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tongo and Tuvalu.

Programmes and technical assistance to REDD+ implementation. In addition to seven National Programmes, the UN-REDD Programme continued to deliver its multiannual 2018–2020 technical assistance to REDD+ implementation project in nine countries and six knowledge management areas.

UN-REDD's knowledge management support complements its country-level work and is critical to the achievement of the four pillars under the Warsaw Framework and the goal of REDD+ implementation. Below are some highlights of the Programme's knowledge management work from 2019. Most notably, UN-REDD generated, mobilised and offered knowledge to craft innovative funding arrangements in support of implementing REDD+ actions in five countries. Building on over a decade of knowledge built, while supporting countries to put in place the institutional, policy and financial arrangements for REDD+, the Programme provided intense support to Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay in 2019 to access REDD+ results-based payments from the Green Climate Fund. These first countries to receive such performance-based finance from the GCF, accessed a combined total of USD 230 million.

Further, UN-REDD's financing and private sector work focused on building the business case for more sustainable

ways to produce soft commodities, decoupling them from deforestation, as well as identifying the kinds of policies and measures governments can develop and embed in National REDD+ Strategies. In 2019, the UN-REDD Programme contributed to a number of business cases at country-level including from Costa Rica to Viet Nam.

Viet Nam, Argentina and Cote d'Ivoire benefitted from UN-REDD's knowledge on landscape approaches and planning, applying spatial planning to REDD+ implementation within their national contexts. As countries look ahead to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, these types of analyses can also help them identify areas with potential for forest restoration that can help secure a range of multiple benefits.

UN-REDD continued to be active raising the profile of securing land tenure, mainstreaming indigenous rights and promoting social inclusion in REDD+ policy and actions in 2019. Highlights from 2019 include: collaboration with UNFCCC to launch and inception process of the new Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform (LCIP Platform); generation of global knowledge and support to expert dialogues on forest governance, tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples as key to unlock the full climate mitigation potential for REDD+; and, deployment of key UN-REDD knowledge on forest tenure and

the rights of indigenous peoples, and associated elements, in several countries.

The UN-REDD Programme also provided assistance to 14 countries to break down gender barriers and inequalities and integrate gender equality and women's empowerment activities into nationally-led REDD+ action. In many cases, this work involved moving from policy to practice, producing positive and tangible outcomes and impacts at national and sub-national levels.

UN-REDD furthered synergies and supported the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land use action as part of nature-based solutions in NDCs and the broader SDG agenda, a theme that has achieved notable traction following the Secretary General's Climate Summit.

The policy and institutional support that UN-REDD provided through its National Programmes, technical advice and knowledge dissemination served countries to advance their sustainable development agendas, not only with respect to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), but also across the spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals.