UN-REDD Programme 2019 Annual Report

Foreword

Today we stand at a crossroads. As the latest World Meteorological Organization data shows,[1] 2019 concludes a decade of unprecedented global heat, melting ice and rising sea levels caused by human activities. Accelerating and scaling up climate action, as well as protecting and restoring major ecosystems, particularly forests, is paramount. Projected pathways, consistent with limiting average global warming to 1.5°C, send a clear message: we need to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050.[2] If not, we risk failing our young people and future generations who deserve to inherit a healthy and prosperous planet.

Year 2020 must set the agenda for demonstrating robust climate action in the decade ahead. Building on the momentum generated around nature-based solutions by the 2019 Climate Action Summit convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 2020 provides an unprecedented opportunity to chart a new course for nature, and exponentially accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis as part of the COVID-19 recovery response. In 2020, more than ever, we need to understand that by investing in nature, we invest in our health, climate, well-being and the future of the planet.

This is also the year that the Paris Agreement will be reassessed, marking the first time since its adoption that countries will come together to evaluate progress in its implementation. Current national climate targets under the Paris Agreement – nationally determined contributions (NDC) – are inadequate to put humankind on a safe and sustainable path to climate neutrality by 2050. What's more, greenhouse gas emissions have been on the rise since the landmark agreement was reached in 2015. Action on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), which is a major part of the solution to the climate crisis, is lacking or is poorly addressed in NDC targets around the world. In light of the 2020 global NDC review and upgrade process, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) is working intensively to correct this policy gap, but that work will need to continue and expand over the coming years, as the 2030 horizon approaches. The revisions of Nationally Determined Contributions will also need to incorporate post COVID-19 economic recovery agendas across the forest and agriculture sectors in order to increase ambition and ensure commitments.

Consequently, the work of UN-REDD has never been more relevant. Since its inception in 2008, UN-REDD has been a vanguard initiative on climate and forests, becoming a flagship United Nations partnership for delivering on the Paris Agreement and a dedicated promoter of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in forested countries. UN-REDD is the largest international provider of REDD+ readiness assistance in terms of funding, expertise and geographical scope.

At the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-25), the three heads of the United Nations partner entities of UN-REDD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), highlighted the importance of UN-REDD as a platform that continues to exemplify REDD+ as a successful instrument that is able and ready to deliver concrete nature-based solutions to the climate crisis. As the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Achim Steiner, declared at COP-25, "REDD+ is a 'ready to go' nature-based solution. The UN-REDD Programme provides a platform for the UN to support countries to raise their nature-based NDC ambition." Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, underlined that "for transformational change to happen we must tackle food security, agriculture and forestry together, and scaling-up solutions is key. UN-REDD is an example of work being done with a wide range of partners that could be scaled up". The Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen, concluded that "the good news is that there is much greater awareness about the state of our forests than ever before and when we build leadership in one place, we will witness a race to the top to save our planet's forests." Nature-based solutions are crucial, not

only because they can deliver up to one third of the reductions needed in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, but also because they have benefits that go beyond climate action, notably strengthening the resilience of local communities and conserving biodiversity.

For more than a decade, UN-REDD has demonstrated the power of "working as one" within the United Nations to enable countries to transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation and demonstrated results. For instance, UN-REDD provided knowledge and technical assistance to the first four countries – Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay – to prepare, appraise and submit their REDD+ payment proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in full alignment with the provisions of UNFCCC on REDD+, resulting in the channelling of approximately $230 million of climate finance to those countries.

Bold and widespread action must be taken now to safeguard our forests and avert a climate disaster. We will succeed by working together: reconnecting people and nature to implement the Paris Agreement effectively, thereby securing a sustainable future for all. The Programme will continue to build on the best practice approaches, innovations and complementary experience of its three partner entities to deliver as "One United Nations", providing the network of technical experts and the convening capacity that has underpinned the success of UN-REDD since its inception. As we head toward the future, concerted initiatives, such as the UN-REDD Programme, will play an instrumental role in laying out a solid foundation for a post-COVID-19 economic recovery that addresses deforestation and climate change.

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[1] https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/2019-concludes-decade-of-exceptional-global-heat-and-high-impact-weather
[2] https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/

Executive summary

This annual report presents the results of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) through 2019, building on and continuing a progressive series of policy, institutional and knowledge achievements in countries and across the world at the nexus between climate and forests since its launch in 2008. As UN-REDD partner countries are making ever greater progress in preparing for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), UN-REDD is increasingly focused on responding to country demand for technical assistance to implement REDD+ and access results-based payments for REDD+ and, ultimately, to realize commitments under the Paris Agreement. As of December 2019, UN-REDD had enabled its 65 partner countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, 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 information systems (SIS).

Bangladesh, Honduras and Mongolia all finalized national REDD+ strategies or action plans in 2019, bringing to 28 the number of countries that have adopted, with UN-REDD support, strategic policy frameworks to institutionalize forest solutions to climate change. To date, UN-REDD has provided support to 45 countries in developing NFMS. In 2019, UN-REDD supported Viet Nam and Zambia to undertake testing and training with Open Foris, facilitating satellite and ground data processing. Benefitting from UN-REDD knowledge materials, Argentina, Bangladesh, Nigeria and the Solomon Islands submitted their FRELs/FRLs to the UNFCCC secretariat in early 2019 while Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico finalized their FRELs/FRLs for submission in early 2020. Seven countries made progress in the design and operation of their SIS at a national level in 2019. Argentina, Chile and Paraguay put their SIS online, thus facilitating access to information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected in those countries. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia developed test versions of their SIS platforms and will make them available online in 2020. Colombia finalized the design of its SIS, and Myanmar moved forward in the design of its system.

Throughout the year, 14 partner countries received customized UN-REDD support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. In addition to supporting seven national programmes, UN-REDD continued to deliver its multiannual 2018–2020 technical assistance to REDD+ implementation projects in nine countries and six knowledge management areas.

UN-REDD knowledge management support complements its country-level work and is critical to the achievement of the four pillars of 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, mobilized and offered knowledge to craft innovative funding arrangements in support of implementing REDD+ actions in five countries. Building on over a decade's worth of knowledge, while supporting countries to put in place the required institutional, policy and financial arrangements for REDD+, in 2019 the Programme provided intensive support to Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay to access REDD+ results-based payments from the GCF. These first countries to receive such performance-based finance from the GCF, accessed a combined total of $230 million.

Further, UN-REDD 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 that Governments can develop and embed in national

REDD+ strategies. In 2019, UN-REDD contributed to a number of business cases at country level, including from Costa Rica to Viet Nam.

Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire and Viet Nam benefited from UN-REDD knowledge on landscape approaches and planning, applying spatial planning to REDD+ implementation within their national contexts. As countries look ahead to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, those types of analyses can also help in the identification of areas with potential for forest restoration that can help secure a range of benefits.

UN-REDD continued to be active in raising the profile of issues such as securing land tenure, mainstreaming indigenous rights and promoting social inclusion in REDD+ policy and actions in 2019. Highlights from 2019 include: collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat to launch an inception process for the new Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform; the generation of global knowledge and provision of support to expert dialogues on forest governance, tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples as key to unlocking the full climate mitigation potential of REDD+; and the deployment of critical UN-REDD knowledge on forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples, and associated elements, in several countries.

UN-REDD 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 the national and subnational 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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a theme that has achieved notable traction following the Climate Action 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 SDGs.

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

National REDD+ strategies or action plans

Since 2008, UN-REDD has supported 34 countries to advance national REDD+ strategies or action plans in line with the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. A total of 28 countries have finalized and adopted these strategic policies for nature-based emissions reductions. As a result of this catalytic support, partner countries are now actively implementing frameworks to reduce emissions from the forest sector, with Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay all receiving results-based payments for emissions reductions.

In 2019, UN-REDD provided dedicated advice and support to Bangladesh, Honduras, Mongolia and Myanmar in their efforts to define, analyse, consult and adopt their national strategies or action plans for REDD+. In addition, UN-REDD provided support to Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Peru and Zambia to test sustainable forest management approaches and prepare investment plans to enable the financing and implementation of their REDD+ strategies or action plans (see details below in the section on progress towards REDD+ implementation). In 2019, with UN-REDD support:

- **Bangladesh** finalized its national REDD+ strategy. Following a period of public comment and a series of consultations with ethnic minorities in 2018, Bangladesh held a first national consultation on the strategy in February 2019, focusing on institutional arrangements and coordination, followed by target-setting workshops in April and a national workshop in May 2019. The final validation workshop for the strategy was held on 29 June 2019.
- **Honduras** finalized its national REDD+ strategy, including a funding strategy, the strategic social assessment report and its corresponding environmental and social management framework. During the preparation process, the policies, actions and measures of the strategy were socialized by different sectorial stakeholders who are linked to the strategy's land-use and climate change thematic areas.
- **Mongolia** prepared its national REDD+ strategy along with an action plan, results framework and impact assessment. The strategy was approved by the Ministry for the Environment in September 2019.
- **Myanmar** produced a final draft of its national REDD+ strategy, based on a series of more than 50 consultation events that included representatives of both federal government and ethnic armed organizations, as well as of non-government stakeholders. The updated strategy was presented to participants at a national validation workshop in September 2019 and is in the process of being officially approved.

During REDD+ strategy or action plan development, UN-REDD supports countries to undertake an in-depth analysis of deforestation drivers, applying a participatory approach with stakeholder engagement and the inclusion of the rights of indigenous peoples and forest communities, and embedding capacity-building for Governments and other key stakeholders for REDD+ actions. National strategies or action plans for REDD+ include measures to integrate social and environmental safeguards, in particular transparent governance and gender mainstreaming. UN-REDD also supports the integration of such strategies and actions plans into the land-use and forest sector components of NDCs for climate change mitigation, as well as defining clear paths to ensure that national REDD+ strategies contribute to the SDGs.

National forest monitoring systems

Forest monitoring that is tailored to specific countries enables national and local forest policymaking with up-to-date, reliable, transparent and easily accessible information.

Over the last 12 years, capacity development supported by UN-REDD has given rise to unprecedented transparency in terms of country-level forest data, providing countries with the ability to meet international reporting requirements for REDD+ under the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

Since its inception, UN-REDD has supported 45 countries in developing NFMS through national programmes, targeted support or technical assistance strengthening the NFMS pillars of satellite land monitoring systems (SLMS), national forest inventories (NFI), and greenhouse gas inventories.

UN-REDD materials and open-source software were used in 2019 to support the elaboration of NFIs in Bangladesh, Georgia, Honduras, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Sudan, Uganda and Viet Nam, as well as NFI pilots in Cambodia and Myanmar.

The Programme provided technical support for maintaining and developing forest monitoring information systems during 2019 in Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia, while in Colombia the Programme updated the road map for NFI implementation. For improved dissemination of NFMS information in a transparent way, UN-REDD supported the construction of operational web platforms for Liberia and Sudan. An additional 22 countries have developed and launched operational web platforms for transparently disseminating NFMS information. A total of 18 countries have received direct technical support and have implemented NFIs since UN-REDD began its work, significantly strengthening forest data for national and international needs.

UN-REDD provided support to ground and satellite and data processing through the [Open Foris](#) suite of free open-source software tools, with over 20,000 country downloads and installations from 2012 to date. Testing of and training in the Open Foris tools has been carried out with UN-REDD technical assistance in Viet Nam and Zambia. In addition, steady progress has been achieved in the conversion of Open Foris tools into a new cloud-based system. These efforts, made possible by contributions from UN-REDD, will better serve NFMS and related capacities for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV). The new cloud-based system is scheduled to be released in 2020.

Forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels

Following 10 years of UN-REDD support, national forest emissions data are more transparent and of a higher quality than ever before.

The Programme has been crucial in providing technical assistance and capacity-building for FREL development, which has had an impact far beyond the submission of FRELs to the UNFCCC secretariat. The data gathering enables countries to better address the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, and provides important input for policy and decision-making.

Of the 50 countries that had submitted FRELs/ FRLs to the UNFCCC secretariat by January 2020, around 60 per cent (29 countries) had received UN-REDD support. UN-REDD material was used to support Argentina, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Solomon Islands in 2018, all of which subsequently submitted their FRELs/FRLs to the UNFCCC secretariat in early 2019.

The support of the Programme, either through direct work under the Programme in 2019 or building on previously provided assistance, also enabled five countries – Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico – to finalize their FRELs/FRLs for submission in early 2020.

Several countries received support to assess and report REDD+ results to the UNFCCC secretariat (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Papua New Guinea). This support was provided through

methodological work and consultations with a range of stakeholders from Government ministries, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector. The Programme built in-country capacity and understanding of FRELs/FRLs through training on the UNFCCC requirements and information on the policy and technical implications of FREL/FRL construction. The critical value of FRELs/FRLs is that they allow countries to publicly demonstrate and be rewarded for REDD+ results. To date, REDD+ results have been submitted by a total of 10 countries around the world, 4 of which have received support from UN-REDD to prepare and submit their REDD+ results, helping them to gain international recognition and mobilize financial rewards.

As countries continue to make progress against the pillars of the Warsaw Framework, technical assistance and capacity-building on FRELs/FRLs remain fundamental components of UN-REDD. The support of the Programme responds to countries' changing circumstances, and as they move closer to receiving results-based payments, more work has been carried out in 2019 on managing emission reductions at different scales. In Cambodia, Indonesia and Zambia, the Programme contributed strategic advice on how to bring together forest monitoring systems, registries for mitigation activities and applicable regulations in a coherent system for managing REDD+ emission reductions.

UN-REDD also supported the improvement of FRELs for Colombia and Mexico; both countries will submit their improved FRELs in early 2020. Indonesia received support on nesting and considering strategies to reconcile REDD+ at multiple scales. With UN-REDD support, several countries are moving beyond the REDD+ readiness phase. UN-REDD also supported Viet Nam in the elaboration of the REDD+ technical annex to the biennial update report (BUR), the submission of which is planned in 2020.

Safeguards and safeguard information systems

Since its creation, UN-REDD has supported, directly (through technical assistance) or indirectly (through technical feedback and knowledge exchange) 36 partner countries with their approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements for REDD+. The key achievements in that regard for 2019 are presented below:

- Ten countries made progress in the reporting of safeguards. Argentina, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay and Zambia finalized and submitted their first summaries of information to the UNFCCC secretariat. Viet Nam submitted its first summary of information to the UNFCCC secretariat in January 2019. Colombia finalized its third summary of information and drafted its fourth. Three countries made progress in drafting their first summaries, namely Honduras, Myanmar and Peru; with Myanmar finalizing the report, which is currently under review. The global progress achieved on summaries of information by the end of 2019 is presented in figure X1.
- Compared to the previous year, seven countries made progress in the design and operation of their SIS at the national level. Argentina, Chile and Paraguay put their SIS online, thus facilitating access to information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected in those countries, and to details of other elements of their approaches to safeguards. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia developed test versions of their SIS platforms and will make them available online in 2020. Colombia finalized the design of its SIS, and Myanmar made progress in the design of its system. Figure X2 presents global SIS progress at the end of 2019.
- Knowledge was shared on SIS in a South-East Asia subregional exchange, which focused on moving from SIS design to SIS operation. Representatives of Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam participated in the event.

- Technical and communications materials on REDD+ safeguards were developed, including an [infographic](#) and the drafts of two technical briefs on SIS operation and the production of summaries of information.
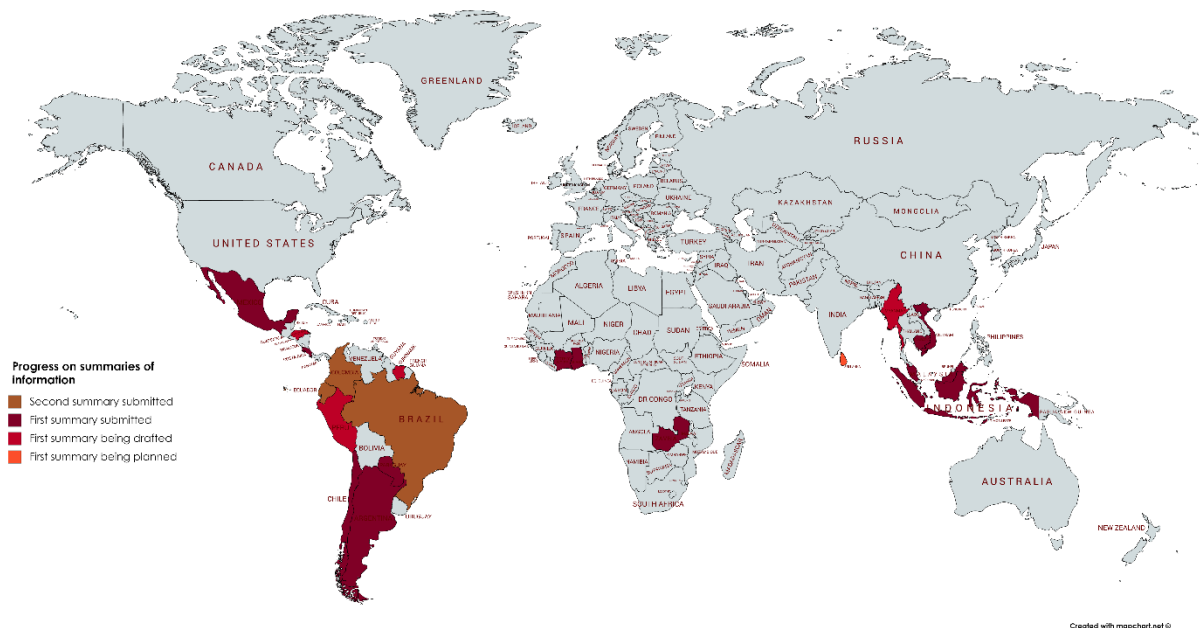

Figure X1. Global progress on summaries of safeguards information at the close of 2019
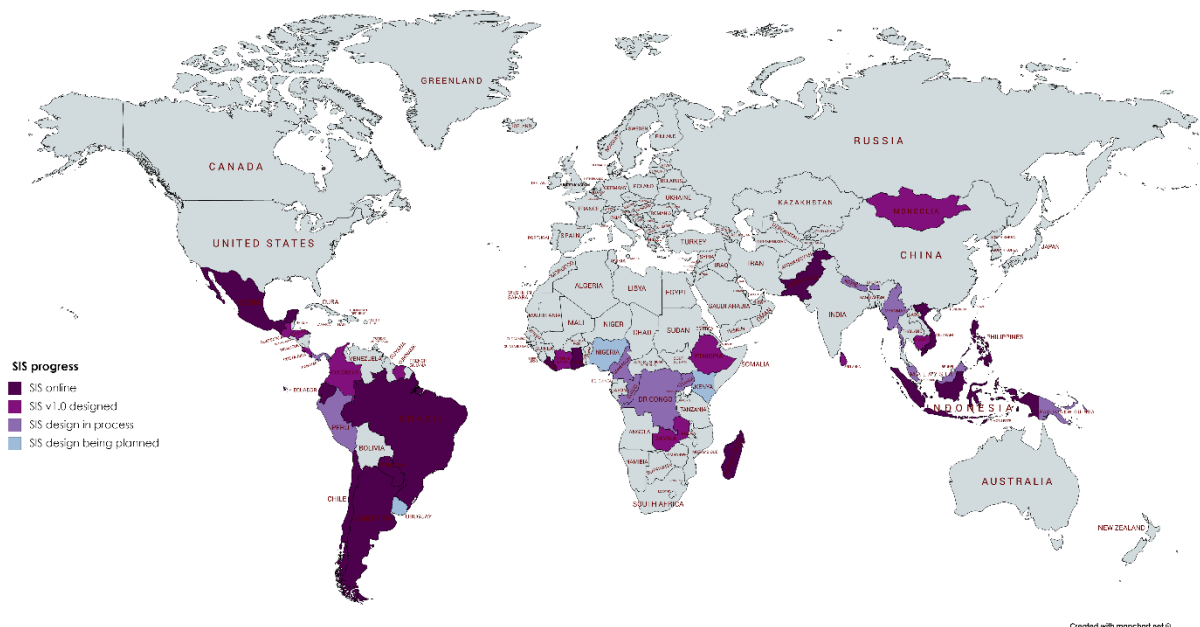

Figure X2. Global progress on safeguards information systems at the close of 2019

Progress towards REDD+ implementation

During 2019, UN-REDD supported countries along the REDD+ implementation spectrum, more broadly than ever, up to the stage of mobilizing payments for demonstrated REDD+ results. In particular, UN-REDD provided knowledge and technical assistance to the first four countries – Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay – to prepare, appraise and submit their REDD+ payments proposals to the GCF, in full alignment with the provisions on REDD+ of UNFCCC. The GCF Board agreed to pay these pioneer countries more than $228 million for their REDD+ results in past years. To ensure the long-term viability and impact of REDD+ in those countries, the use of results-based payments, as detailed in their GCF proposals, aligns to national policy, addresses and respects UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards, and is integrated into the national finance frameworks for REDD+, which UN-REDD has helped to build over the years. Further details can be found in the section of the present report on UN-REDD knowledge management results under the subsection on REDD+ funding mechanisms. Thus, UN-REDD knowledge and advisory skills contributed tangibly to the fulfilment of article 5 of the Paris Agreement, helping to prove that REDD+ is an effective avenue for addressing the climate and deforestation crises.

During 2019, many countries undertook a wide range of actions to implement their REDD+ policies and measures, frequently asking for UN-REDD knowledge and advisory support. Such requests included support for pilot initiatives, national REDD+ financing strategies, investment programmes, jurisdictional approaches, the above-mentioned processing of results-based payment programmes and scoping deforestation-free commodity supply chains. A few illustrative examples of country implementation with UN-REDD engagement are described below.

- **Chile** conducted a successful analysis of its technical annex on REDD+ results and met the GCF eligibility criteria to access REDD+ results-based payments. With FAO as the accredited entity, a GCF REDD+ results-based payments funding proposal was submitted and approved by the GCF Board in November 2019 for $63.6 million to support the implementation of the national strategy on climate change and vegetation resources (ENCCRV). Through the UN-REDD national programme, Chile tested four new incentive approaches to address drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Coquimbo, Metropolitan, Araucania and Magallanes regions. The results of these pilot approaches will inform the implementation of the GCF results-based payments project.

- **Colombia** mainstreamed REDD+ actions into key national institutions, including the national fund for financing the agriculture and livestock sectors (FINAGRO) and various national development banks, thereby aligning public finance with REDD+ goals. In a unique negotiation process with indigenous peoples, Colombia incorporated the core elements of the national REDD+ strategy into the national development plan, which was endorsed by the Parliament and which will govern the current presidential term (2019–2022). This case was presented by UN-REDD at the Global Landscapes Forum in June as an example of the influence of inclusive REDD+ policy. In addition, a model for community forest management activities is being implemented in a number of regions to enhance the value chains for timber, cacao, coffee, vanilla and honey.

- The **Congo** drafted a strong core investment programme for REDD+, for GCF financing. It focuses on reducing pressure on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection. The proposal, along with CAFI support, will serve the country in implementing the national REDD+ strategy and investment plan.

- **Indonesia** has taken significant action to achieve more sustainable peatland management at the national level and is inspiring others to act globally through multilateral and South-South

collaboration linked to the Global Peatlands Initiative (in which Indonesia is a partner with the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru). In 2019, UN-REDD held a successful awareness-raising tour of Indonesian peatlands for the South-East Asian media that generated powerful stories about peatlands and climate change.

- **Mexico** made progress on a finance strategy and road map for the forestry sector. In addition, the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) undertook a critical survey of financial intermediaries to better understand the barriers to accessing finance in the forest sector. Thereafter, the country's Forest Law was revised to include options for economic incentives for forest conservation (forest bonds or "bono forestal"), as well as issues and provisions related to benefit-sharing, in order to halt the granting of agricultural subsidies in deforested areas or for activities that promote deforestation.

- **Myanmar**, which recently adopted a national REDD+ strategy through an inclusive stakeholder process, began designing a REDD+ investment plan to enable the Government and partners to take priority actions. Ways of engaging ethnic armed organizations in rebel areas in REDD+ implementation were also scoped.

- **Paraguay** presented a proposal for REDD+ results-based payments to the GCF pilot programme in an example of "Delivery as one United Nations". UNEP is the accredited entity for the $72 million proposal, while implementation will be undertaken by the three UN-REDD partner entities: FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP. UNDP will build upon the support provided for the development of Paraguay's national strategy on forests for sustainable growth and will assist in the implementation of the strategy's policies and measures. FAO will support the improvement of the country's NFMS. It will also assist in the application of rigorous methodologies to assess, quantify, monitor, report and verify emission reductions at the national level. UNEP will support the implementation of incentives to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. It will also help to enhance social and environmental safeguards, and engage in communications and awareness-raising efforts. Having worked together for nearly a decade under the "Delivering as one" initiative, United Nations entities have demonstrated the power of that approach in providing Paraguay with access to significant international resources to implement its national strategy on forests for sustainable growth and achieve the mitigation goals set out in the country's NDC.

- **Peru** made progress in developing the implementation framework for its national strategy on forests and climate change, including the establishment of stakeholder participation and institutional coordination mechanisms to facilitate REDD+ implementation. Progress was also achieved on the definition of a nesting approach, as part of the process to harmonize REDD+ implementation schemes at the national level, taking into consideration a dialogue that Peru has initiated with voluntary market REDD+ project developers.

- **Zambia** advanced efforts to secure additional funding for REDD+ implementation via the GCF and continued to work on designing the country's approach to nesting subnational REDD+ efforts and carbon credit projects.

As mentioned earlier, UN-REDD provided support to a number of countries in closing the circle of REDD+ implementation, namely securing payments for REDD+ results that were generated and demonstrated to be in compliance with the UNFCCC REDD+ provisions. Successful results-based payment proposals were presented by Brazil and Ecuador, and awards of $96 million and $18.5 million, respectively, were made by the GCF.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

UN-REDD is widely and purposefully contributing to achieving the SDGs, not only the more obvious goals on climate action (SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts) and sustainable forest management (SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss), but also more broadly across the whole spectrum of the SDGs.

The different national strategies, investment plans, NFMS, deforestation-free commodity-chain partnerships and financial arrangements for the sustainable governance of lands and forests that countries develop, adopt and implement, with technical assistance and policy advice from UN-REDD, are allowing countries to address issues pertaining to rural livelihoods (SDG 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere), to promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), to tackle energy issues related to charcoal use and sustainable alternatives (SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), to foster responsible production and trade (SDG 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and to build inclusive governance institutions (SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). In addition, the robust social inclusion approaches that are integrated into UN-REDD support, from stakeholder engagement to gender mainstreaming and to attention to the rights of indigenous peoples, enhance progress at the national level on gender equality (SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and political inclusion (SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries). Lastly, UN-REDD, which across 2019 has been recognized as the United Nations platform for forest solutions to the climate emergency, is a convener, nurturing innovative and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the sustainable governance of forests (SDG 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).

In 2019, UN-REDD has been active across diverse fronts that contribute widely to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while fostering inner synergies, including with regard to the following SDG targets:

- Supporting measures towards decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (target 8.4)
- Empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all (target 10.2) by promoting multi-stakeholder dialogues, engagement and partnerships
- Encouraging official development assistance and financial flows, in particular to least developed countries (target 10.B)
- Encouraging the private sector to adopt sustainable practices (target 12.6)
- Broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (target 16.8)
- Mobilizing additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources (target 17.3)
- Offering international support for implementing capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all SDGs, including through South-South cooperation (target 17.9)

Country-specific examples of how UN-REDD support is advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are found throughout the present report. Notable cases from 2019 are highlighted below.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the policy and financing work on the nexus between cocoa and forests supported by UN-REDD, coupled with REDD+ pilot initiatives on the ground and the emerging jurisdictional approaches, serve as a catalyst for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. These efforts uniquely integrate several SDGs, notably with regard to sustainable farming (SDG 12), protecting and restoring forests (SDG 15), making the country a recognized force in global climate mitigation (SDG 13) and underpinning public-private partnerships for sustainable production and trade (SDGs 12 and 17).

Direct contributions to SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 15 (life on land) are intrinsic to the national REDD+ strategy of Honduras, which prioritizes actions that give rise to co-benefits beyond just mitigating climate change, such as biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. The institutionalization of NFMS within the Government also contributes to SDG target 15.9. Furthermore, Honduras is actively working to ensure the full and effective participation of women in its national REDD+ strategy, as well as defining actions that are gender-sensitive, thus aligning with SDG 5 (gender equality).

In **Myanmar**, the focus on engagement with ethnic minorities continues to contribute to progress on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). The National Ceasefire Agreement calls for cooperation between the Government and ethnic armed organizations on environmental conservation, but there have been no examples of such cooperation as yet. Given that REDD+ in Myanmar will operate at the national level, the endorsement of specific REDD+ actions by the Government and ethnic armed organizations is essential. REDD+ in Myanmar will also contribute to SDG target 15.2 – by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Country results

The following section outlines results across the 14 countries that were actively supported by UN-REDD in 2019 through technical assistance and national programmes. A "traffic light" colour code is used to give a snapshot of progress in each country against the two delivery-support mechanisms the Programme used in 2019, namely technical assistance (TA, comprising technical assistance provided to ongoing national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation) and national programmes (NP).

Traffic light system: Each country has identified the type of support received from UN-REDD and the status of implementation. In the case of multiple types of support, each is listed separately. Under the traffic light system, the implementation status of each type of support is identified as follows:

Completed: All activities have been completed in 2019; the programme is pending closure or closed.

On track: All activities are under way in accordance with the 2019 annual workplan.

Delayed: Activities have been delayed. The cause of the delay and solutions to ensure the programme's successful completion are briefly outlined in the "Challenges and solutions" section.

In order to simplify country updates, the following abbreviations for the pillars of the Warsaw Framework will be used when discussing progress against the Framework:

NS/AP: National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan

FREL/FRL: Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level

NFMS: National Forest Monitoring System(s)

SIS: Safeguard Information System(s)

Argentina

NP	**Completed**

NS/AP: The national action plan on forests and climate change (NAPFCC) of Argentina was published in January at the REDD+ Info Hub. The national action plan is considered to be the country's NDC instrument to address the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector commitment. It was developed based on a deforestation and forest degradation assessment and following a participatory process.

NFMS: 2019 was particularly relevant for the enhancement of the NFMS of the native forests of Argentina. Thanks to the continuous support of UN-REDD, the country consolidated and further boosted progress with regard to the key pillars of the system:
1. Management unit of the forest assessment system.
2. Deforestation early warning system.
3. Second national inventory of native forests.
4. National forest statistics programme.

FREL/FRL: FREL for deforestation at the subnational level (four forest regions, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of Argentinian forests) was finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in January 2019. The FREL reported is 101,141,848 tCO_2eq for the historical period 2002–2013. The UNFCCC technical assessment was completed satisfactorily, and the technical assessment report was published in November 2019.

SIS: Argentina made important progress in its national safeguards approach, completing key safeguards requirements under UNFCCC. The national safeguards interpretation and the SIS design document were finalized and the SIS was made available online. The summary, reporting on how safeguards have been addressed and respected in the period 2014–2019, was submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. A toolkit for NAPFCC implementation was developed, with guidance on participation; free, prior and informed consent; gender; and planning for social and environmental benefits.

REDD+ implementation
While the UN-REDD national programme focused on the readiness phase and therefore did not implement REDD+ actions on the ground, it provided support to the country in identifying, calculating and reporting to the secretariat of UNFCCC emissions reductions achieved through other means. Argentina remains committed to implementing actions aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing carbon stocks, the country is continuing REDD+ work through the implementation of an Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) project and is exploring options to secure results-based payments through GCF.

Challenges and solutions
The main challenges in 2019 were electoral activity and a change of Government. The authorities asked UN-REDD not to organize any high-level workshops or meetings as of July 2019. As a result, the closure of public activities prevented the sharing of several important results, such as the SIS, summary of information and the technical annex of the BUR, which were finalized between September and November 2019. The change of Government in December 2019 also resulted in the rescheduling to the first quarter of 2020 of visits by the UN-REDD technical advisors aimed at informing the new authorities about REDD+ issues.

Gender and social inclusion
A draft assessment to integrate gender considerations for the implementation of the NAPFCC of Argentina was developed. This assessment included specific discussions on gender dynamics around REDD+. A tool to integrate gender considerations for NAPFCC implementation was developed in 2019,

together with guidance for public servants on how to implement free, prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples, with a view of applying it through REDD+ implementation. These two instruments are part of a set of tools that form the REDD+ SIS of Argentina.

Partnerships

The UN-REDD national programme is being implemented in coordination with the country's FCPF readiness project. Interaction between the two initiatives is ensuring that efforts are not duplicated, as well as identifying potential complementarities and areas for follow up by the FCPF project once the UN-REDD national programme is closed.

Linkages to SDGs

The UN-REDD national programme of Argentina responds directly to SDG 13 (climate action), while SDG 15 (life on land) is intrinsic to the NAPFCC, which prioritizes actions that give rise to co-benefits beyond just mitigating climate change, such as biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. The strengthening of NFMS also contributes to SDG target 15.9. Aligning with SDG 5 (gender equality), UN-REDD is actively working to ensure the full and effective participation of women in the country's REDD+ process.

Bangladesh

NP	Completed

NS/AP: The national REDD+ strategy document of Bangladesh was completed in 2019. The first national consultation on the strategy was held in February 2019, focusing on institutional arrangements and coordination, and was followed by target-setting workshops in April and a national workshop in May 2019. The final validation workshop for the strategy was held on 29 June 2019.

FREL/FRL: A revised version of the FRL was submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in January 2019, having been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. UN-REDD supported Government counterparts in the technical assessment process, by means of technical training and consultations, up to the closure of the national programme in June 2019.

NFMS: Following its launch in December 2018, the Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS)and its modules were reviewed, maintained and updated during 2019 by the Bangladesh Forest Department with technical support from UN-REDD. A data sharing policy for the Bangladesh Forest Department was approved by the Ministry in June 2019.

Challenges and solutions

The recommendations arising from a one-week stocktaking mission undertaken in March 2018 were submitted, along with a no-cost extension request, in April 2018, to extend the Programme to June 2019, taking into account the delayed initiation of activities and the lack of a mid-term review. However, these recommendations were not officially communicated to the national project steering committee until December 2018, and many were therefore not acted upon. Prominent recommendations referred to a budget revision, regular meetings of the UN-REDD Executive Board and accelerated actions on the national REDD+ strategy. Formal approval of the budget revision was secured from the Ministry in January 2019, two Programme Executive Board meetings were convened in February and June 2019, respectively, to support the timely conclusion of the strategy, with input

from an additional international expert who was recruited to support the review and finalization of the strategy.

Gender and social inclusion

The national programme engaged a gender expert for eight regional consultations on policies and measures to ensure that gender concerns were mainstreamed, with the results of those consultations being reflected in the national REDD+ strategy.

The national programme designed a consultation process that ensured the active participation of indigenous peoples and civil society organizations in the process to develop the policies and measures. This process was based on the participation of national indigenous people and civil society representatives who were selected by their constituencies to engage with the Programme Executive Board. Indigenous peoples were widely represented during the validation of the national REDD+ strategy, which also includes measures to ensure their continual engagement in future phases of REDD+.

Partnerships

UN-REDD support continued to be coordinated alongside the Bangladesh NFI project of USAID. The national programme provided support to the Investment Plan Preparation Project team of the World Bank Forest Investment Programme, as well as inputs to the development of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project proposal on the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency and the country proposal for the readiness window of the GCF.

Linkages to SDGs

The national programme contributes to SDG indicator 13 b, by building capacity for climate change-related planning and management. The BFIS supports the provision and transparency of information required to adapt planning processes to the impacts of climate change and to mitigate emissions related to Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU); the REDD+ strategy development process provides a policy framework for these planning processes, and the FRL provides a benchmark against which the effectiveness of plans can be assessed.

The national programme also contributes to SDG indicator 15.2 (indicator 15.2.1) by promoting the sustainable management of forests, restoration of degraded forests and increase in afforestation in Bangladesh, through the development and institutionalization of the national REDD+ strategy.

Chile

NP	On track

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/AP: Several measures of the national REDD+ strategy (ENCCRV) were assessed for implementation through the field testing of new sustainable models for forest management that can be replicated and scaled up.

FREL/FRL: The first REDD+ technical annex was revised by the UNFCCC secretariat. REDD+ emission reductions were confirmed.

NFMS: Progress was made in the integration and harmonization of the cadastre and evaluation of vegetation resources of Chile project, the national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, the NFI and the wood energy inventory.

SIS: An operational module is currently under development, including the design of the national modules and indicators.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD and other international cooperation funds, including FCPF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and GEF, collaborated during 2019 to support Chile to mobilize $63.3 million from GCF for REDD+ results obtained in the period 2014–2016. Those resources will be channelled to support six regions in the country (Maule, Biobío, Ñuble, Araucanía, Los Ríos and Los Lagos), where native species will be planted across 7,688 hectares, a total of 4,271 hectares of native forest that have disappeared or been degraded will be restored, sustainable management will be implemented across 9,738 hectares of native forest, and silvicultural preventive actions will be promoted across 3,888 hectares.

With UN-REDD support, the implementation of four new models of forest management continued to test novel approaches to sustainable forest management and ecological restoration in diverse landscapes of the Coquimbo, Metropolitan, Araucanía and Magallanes regions. The results of these pilot initiatives will inform the implementation of the REDD+ strategy at the regional level and eventually at the national scale.

Challenges and solutions

Chile's national programme encountered challenges relating to social inclusion and safeguard implementation in 2019. To overcome those challenges, UN-REDD supported the establishment of a permanent participatory process that was free, informed and respectful, and that incorporated all the cultural aspects relevant to the communities concerned. Steps were also taken to incorporate the traditional activities of women in the ecological restoration processes. In order to ensure the appropriate inclusion of safeguards in the implementation of activities, UN-REDD provided technical backstopping on environmental and social safeguards. In addition, significant effort was made to disseminate and raise awareness of the tools set out in the ENCCRV for environmental and social frameworks.

Gender and social inclusion

The Chile national programme made progress on several fronts with regard to gender and social inclusion in 2019. A major achievement relating to the implementation of pilot approaches for forest management was the incorporation of farming women from the Ovalle commune in the process of ecological restoration in Cerro Blanco. A group of women were included in the formulation and design of the project and were offered scheduling flexibility during the implementation phase so as to mitigate the effect of their absence from their household, thereby reducing the risk of them abandoning the project. The hill where they worked was once known as the "Hill of shame". Today, thanks to their efforts, the community now calls it the "Hill of hope". As a result of this success, Chile is working on ways to replicate and scale up this experience and promote financial incentives for women to participate in environmental restoration processes.

The implementation of pilot approaches for sustainable forest management included workshops and meetings with traditional authorities to address relevant cultural aspects that were prioritized by communities in the actions taking place in their areas. One important achievement was the participatory process led by the Quinquén community resulting in the design of a payment for ecosystem services scheme, which is expected to be implemented in 2020.

Partnerships

Thanks to the contribution from UN-REDD, Chile is eligible for results-based payments. The National Forest Corporation (CONAF) made progress in building capacities to seek international financing to implement the ENCCRV. The country's results-based payments phase is expected to begin in 2021 with GCF funds, comprising payment for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions generated during the

period 2014–2016, and continue thereafter in 2023 with funds from the FCPF Emissions Reductions Payment Agreement, comprising payment for such reductions in 2018.

Linkages to SDGs

Implementation of the ENCCRV contributes directly to SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land) and indirectly to SDGs 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and work for all) and 12 (sustainable consumption and production).

Colombia

TA	**On track**

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NFMS: With the support of UN-REDD, Colombia completed the analysis of the second technical annex for REDD+ in compliance with UNFCCC requirements.
UN-REDD and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), through the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative, facilitated a South-South exchange on lessons learned and best practices with Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Panama.
The Programme also updated the road map for the implementation of the NFI in the country.

FREL/FRL: The country finalized its first national FREL, with technical support from UN-REDD, as well as the submission of the second technical annex of REDD+.
SIS: With the support of UN-REDD, Colombia finalized its third summary of safeguards information and drafted its fourth, which is currently under review. The Programme trained new officials on previous safeguards processes.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD trained key directors from the Colombian fund for financing the agriculture and livestock sectors (FINAGRO) in the review of their forest products and incentives portfolio, and facilitated an exchange with other national development banks in the region to strengthen their knowledge and capacities, thereby enabling them to adapt their products to finance REDD+ activities.

The Programme implemented community forest management activities, enhancing social capital and developing value chains for specific products in various districts throughout the country (Antioquia, Cauca, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, Chocó, Tolima, Putumayo, Huila).

Thanks to a partnership with WWF, a South-South dialogue was convened with representatives of the afrodescendant, indigenous and peasant communities of 11 countries from the region to strengthen their capacities and share experiences, best practices and lessons learned on diversified agroforestry systems (cacao, coffee, vanilla and honey).

With the support of UN-REDD, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), developed a road map for all the participatory community monitoring work related to REDD+. IDEAM also received technical support at the fourth annual seminar on forest cover monitoring – a national seminar with the participation of international panellists. Communication and dissemination materials were produced for all REDD+ activities, leading to improved knowledge management among stakeholders.

Challenges and solutions

Changes in Government focal points delayed the delivery of technical assistance to Colombia. Country visits were combined with capacity-building directed to new personnel to address the challenges identified.

The limited availability of some of the country focal points changed the focus of the activities agreed upon under the UN-REDD technical assistance. The Programme made repeated follow-ups with the local authorities to address this challenge.

The new officials of the national entities perceived the technical assistance as isolated support from the United Nations entities involved in UN-REDD. The Programme has actively engaged focal points to address this challenge.

Gender and social inclusion

Gender equity was analysed in the Heart of the Amazonia Programme, in particular the important roles of women and men in the processes of conservation and preservation, the use and management of forests and jungles and raising awareness among the Programme's stakeholders. Subsequently, the country generated the first results of the implementation of the technical assistance model for community forest management in the framework of the REDD+ national strategy (ENREDD+). Several initiatives to implement this model were carried out specifically within peasant, indigenous and afrodescendant communities. Two reports presenting the results of community-based forest management efforts, including the gender approach, were published.

At the national level, with UN-REDD support, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development convened the fourth national REDD+ platform meeting (mesa nacional REDD+) in January 2019. Capacity development was provided throughout the year to indigenous peoples' organizations – the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC) and the Organization of the Indigenous Towns of the Colombian Amazonia (OPIAC) – on the joint declaration of intent between the Government of Colombia and the Governments of Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (JDI), the REDD+ implementation framework and climate finance. With UN-REDD support, the permanent national REDD+ platform, established by indigenous peoples' organizations and the Government of Colombia, agreed to design a national environmental commission for indigenous peoples with the mandate to deal with forest and deforestation issues in indigenous territories. This represents a milestone in the implementation of the national development plan, and a critical platform for implementing the national REDD+ strategy.

The Programme produced a video highlighting community monitoring carried out by an Afrodescendant community in the north of Chocó to empower local communities and to promote the importance of forest monitoring.

Partnerships

On community monitoring, UN-REDD worked with IDEAM, civil society organizations and other institutions, including WWF, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Fondo Acción, Fundación Natura, and Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible, in developing joint planning and activities. FAO signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to support the implementation of community forest management together with other partners. The Programme generated crucial information that was used to build the capacities of the autonomous regional authorities, communities and other stakeholders.

Technical assistance to Colombia contributed to SDG 5 (gender equality), specifically to target 5.A, which stresses the importance of giving women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of natural resources. Activities contributed directly to SDG 13 (climate action), to targets 13.2 to integrate climate change measures into national policies and 13.3 to improve awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, as well as to SDG 15 (life on land), in particular target 15.2 by promoting the sustainable management of forests, halting deforestation and restoration of degraded forests.

Congo

TA	**On track**

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

In 2019, UN-REDD provided support to the Congo with the consolidation of the NFMS and the FREL revision. Building on the technical know-how developed for the FREL construction, the Congo finalized and validated its change map for the period 2014–2016 with technical support from UN-REDD. The map served as a basis for negotiating its deforestation cap in the letter of intention to the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), showing real strengthening of the MRV capacities of the National Centre for Forest Inventory and Zoning (CNIAF).

The country also geared up in terms of technology, by adopting cloud-computing solutions for monitoring forest perturbations and deriving high-resolution deforestation and degradation maps for the period 2016–2018 for the Likouala department. The methodology will be replicated and extended at the national level to include degradation as a REDD+ activity in the revised FREL, to be finalized in 2020.

In 2019, the Programme improved the country's capacities for monitoring forest emissions, especially those related to forest degradation, and inventory data analysis, thereby greatly improving its reporting data set. This will enable the country to submit its first BUR by 2020, which will include a technical annex of REDD+ results.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD supported the finalization of a GCF full proposal (with FAO as the accredited entity) that was due for submission in January 2020, which aims to secure financing for the REDD+ investment plan for reducing pressure on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection.

The proposal is fully aligned with the national REDD+ investment plan and should allow the country to achieve economic diversification alongside low-emission climate resilience development and to position itself as a strategic partner and a leading figure in global action addressing climate change.

Challenges and solutions

Changes in the country's REDD+ coordination unit and uncertainty over its future funding resulted in delays in the national validation and approval of UN-REDD products in 2019. UN-REDD is working to support the mobilization of resources, from sources such as GCF and CAFI, to support the National System of Agricultural and Forestry Innovation (SNIAF) and maintain the country's normative REDD+ activities.

Gender and social inclusion

UN-REDD in the Congo actively encourages the involvement of female experts and participants at all stages of REDD+ readiness and implementation.

The Consultation Framework for Congolese Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples (CACO-REDD), which is key to the REDD+ process in the country, was established by representatives of civil society organizations and indigenous people to coordinate their engagement in REDD+ in the country. CACO-REDD members were invited to and consulted during the kick-off meetings and consultations on UN-REDD activities. However, most of the work supported by UN-REDD in 2019 was at the institutional level, resulting in limited direct engagement with indigenous peoples, who are mostly located in one remote region of the country.

Partnerships

REDD+ partners in the Congo enjoy fruitful collaboration thanks to the long-established coordination between UN-REDD, FCPF, l'Agence française de développement (AFD), CAFI and the European Forest Institute's EU REDD Facility. Face-to-face coordination meetings are held regularly among partners during missions at the national level, or, alternatively, meetings are held via videoconference. The number of joint projects between partners is testament to the strength of these partnerships, including, for example, the FCPF emissions reduction programme, which builds on collaboration between the World Bank, AFD and UN-REDD. The FCPF readiness fund and UN-REDD have developed joint workplans over the years in support of REDD+ coordination.

Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD supports the Congo in achieving SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on land) by supporting the country's transition from REDD+ readiness to implementation.

Côte d'Ivoire

TA	On track

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/AP: With technical advice and financial support provided by UN-REDD over recent years, Côte d'Ivoire has achieved the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. The national REDD+ strategy, which was adopted by the Government in 2017, was translated into an investment plan in 2019, and was retained as the base for the NDC review process planned worldwide for 2020.

FREL/FRL: The FREL, which had been submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2017, was appraised with a view to producing and submitting a new, enhanced version in 2020.

NFMS: With regard to the NFMS, which is already functional, in 2019 UN-REDD helped the country develop the methodology for the assessment of emission factors from fire and to cover forest degradation. This new NFMS methodology will soon be tested to produce a revised FREL in 2020.

SIS: Finally, in 2019 the country finalized and submitted its first summary of safeguards information.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD technical assistance is particularly timely and instrumental at present as Côte d'Ivoire is making the transition to REDD+ implementation. In 2019, UN-REDD helped the country to make progress on a series of policy, institutional, technical, partnership, legal and field arrangements. For instance, discussions were held with the GCF secretariat regarding the financing of the forerunner programme of the national REDD+ investment framework, which focuses on zero-deforestation agriculture by connecting cocoa production with reducing deforestation and promoting forest restoration. This investment programme also engages with private companies through the Cocoa and Forest Initiative.

UN-REDD also provided support in the form of progress in community-level REDD+ pilot initiatives, which are yielding valuable lessons and inspiring stakeholders, and supported the advancement of decentralized, jurisdictional approaches to REDD+. UN-REDD is ensuring the alignment of these subnational processes with the national REDD+ strategy and its policy framework. The UN-REDD collaborating agencies have also provided support to cocoa companies, such as Mondelez, to develop an action framework within the cocoa and forests initiative in collaboration with the Government.

Regarding the NFMS, which is a key pillar to demonstrate progress and enable public-private partnerships for REDD+, the country developed a methodology for the assessment of emission factors from fire (which was validated nationally) and also a methodology for the assessment of forest degradation (with advances in terms of definitions, indicators, institutional arrangements and protocols). These methodological advancements will enable the country to revise and enhance the FREL in 2020, which will be critical for the mobilization of international climate finance and the engagement of the private sector, as well as for the NDC review process.

In addition, a new national Forest Code was finalized and adopted in 2019 (law no. 675/2019). In order to implement the Forest Code, UN-REDD assisted the Ministry of Water and Forests to formulate a series of draft regulatory texts as well as with a review of an investment portfolio for the country that will be presented at a donor round table in 2020. The legal review by UN-REDD was substantial, covering more than ten legal texts. In total, 23 legal texts will be adopted, and thus the UN-REDD technical assistance will continue in the same vein throughout 2020.

UN-REDD support in 2019 was also instrumental in the design, testing and review of the structure of the country's SIS platform. Côte d'Ivoire improved its matrix for the national interpretation of UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards by incorporating elements of the World Bank and GCF safeguards frameworks. The design of the financial mechanism is advancing, with some feasibility studies ongoing in addition to the dialogues on a cocoa-forest economic and financing model that would reconcile production, trade and conservation goals.

UN-REDD provided additional support to the Ministry of Water and Forests, including through a South-South cooperation initiative with the Government of Costa Rica comprising a high-level mission and a joint action plan, as well as by building an investment portfolio to be finalized and submitted to a donor round table in early 2020.

Challenges and solutions

The major challenge faced by Côte d'Ivoire is the coordination of the different sectors, investments and partners – public and private alike – in order to advance substantially and coherently along the cocoa-forest nexus, decoupling cocoa production from deforestation and integrating forest restoration at scale. Consolidating a cross-sectoral dynamic around cocoa and forests, and crafting robust public-private partnerships, are arduous tasks which also require reliable international funding. Looking forward, a great opportunity lies ahead in 2020 as Côte d'Ivoire revises its NDC to integrate the scope and ambition of the REDD+ agenda, with support from the UN-REDD collaborating agencies.

Gender and social inclusion

As stated in the first summary of safeguards information submitted by Côte d'Ivoire to the UNFCCC secretariat, the country is drafting a manual on gender-based approaches to REDD+, which will become part of the criteria for designing, appraising and monitoring REDD+ actions and investments. Moreover, all the relevant efforts pertaining to cocoa and forests that are under way aim at empowering farmers and communities to enhance their production and incomes, while safeguarding the local forests and natural resources, including through agroforestry practices and forest restoration

endeavours. Although it is a very inclusive agenda at the grassroots level, funding – beyond that provided for pilot projects – has been scarce.

Partnerships

UN-REDD has played a catalytic role in private sector engagement in the Côte d'Ivoire REDD+ process. Economic models on sustainable cocoa production developed by UN-REDD professionals, together with the UNEP Finance Initiative team, have received wide approval among stakeholders (agribusiness, government and non-governmental organizations) and a data collection effort is under way to improve the economic models and expand them to account for other value chains. In 2019, the "1 for 20" partnership was created to mobilize private investment to implement the economic models, finance smallholders and improve forest cover in the country. Managed from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the "1 for 20" partnership is a collaboration between the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Coffee Cocoa Council. It is supported jointly by professionals from UN-REDD, the UNEP Finance Initiative and the EU REDD Facility. In November 2019, a two-day consultation event was held in Abidjan with over 120 participants from private companies, financial institutions (e.g., BNP Paribas, Advans), Government institutions, civil society and international organizations. The event was aimed at clarifying the need and opportunities for financing agroforestry and developing value chains for agroforestry and forest products from new models to restore the Ivorian forest. Overall, the engagement of the private sector remains dynamic, notably through the international Cocoa and Forests Initiative and the Sustainable Trade Initiative. GCF organized an Africa dialogue on REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire, with UN-REDD sharing its lessons learned in one of the keynote interventions. The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force – a subnational collaboration between states and provinces in various countries – also engaged in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019 with two capacity-building and strategy-building projects on jurisdictional approaches to REDD+.

Linkages to SDGs

The policy and financing work on the cocoa-forest nexus in Côte d'Ivoire, coupled with the REDD+ pilot initiatives on the ground and the emerging jurisdictional approaches, is a catalyst of the 2030 Agenda. These efforts have a unique ability to fulfil several SDGs, notably with regard to sustainable farming (SDG 12), protecting and restoring forests (SDG 15), making the country a recognized force in global climate mitigation (SDG 13) and underpinning public-private partnerships for sustainable production and trade (SDGs 12 and 17).

Honduras

NP	Completed

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/AP: In 2019, Honduras finalized its national REDD+ strategy (EN-REDD+) and socialized the strategy's policies, actions and measures with REDD+ stakeholders. To facilitate implementation and responsible monitoring of EN-REDD, a technical profile was developed for a Climate Change Management and Monitoring Unit to operate under the National Directorate of Climate Change.

FREL: The process of collecting inputs for the FREL was completed and is currently being validated for subsequent formalization. The FREL was also updated for the five REDD + activities, to allow Honduras to be evaluated based on performance and contribution to the mitigation of climate change through action related to forests and subsequently access mechanisms for results-based payments.

NFMS: The National Institute for Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife established decree 002-2019 to formalize the information system for forest management and monitoring (SIGMOF) as the official information platform of the Institute and of Honduras. A capacity-building workshop was conducted for the technical staff of the Institute and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (MiAmbiente+) to ensure proper management of the SIGMOF. The official launch of the SIGMOF and of the map of forest cover for 2018 took place in November 2019.

SIS: The National Committee of Environmental and Social Safeguards of Honduras (CONASASH) carried out dissemination and validation processes for the design and preparation of the SIS, the national focus of safeguards, the consulting protocol methodology of the REDD+ project, the grievance mechanism and conflict management mechanism of the REDD strategy of Honduras (MQRMC), and the cultural safeguards, with the engagement of multiple indigenous organizations, such as the Board of the Lenca Indigenous Peoples Unit of Honduras, the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras, and the School for Equality and Empowerment of Rural Women.

REDD+ implementation

Honduras undertook many activities and established important guidelines in preparation for REDD+ implementation processes in 2019, including the following documents: EN-REDD+, strategic social evaluation report, environmental and social management framework, analysis of the perceptions of the causes of deforestation, economic analysis of actions for the restoration of productive landscapes in Honduras, national programme for the recovery of goods and services of degraded ecosystems, first summary of safeguards information, cultural safeguards, gender equality and environment strategy, action plan for gender inclusion, guide for the incorporation of the gender perspective in the development of environmental projects, and FRELs.

Challenges and solutions

Institutional changes in the Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mining took place in 2019, causing some delays in the validation processes related to REDD+. To overcome the challenge of those changes, the national programme proposed the establishment of a Climate Change Management and Monitoring Unit under the National Directorate of Climate Change, with the responsibility of carrying out periodic monitoring of climate change mitigation and adaptation indicators in order to comply with international commitments. In order to ensure effective implementation of REDD+ in Honduras, greater coordination is needed to link all the relevant institutions to the Climate Change Management and Monitoring Unit. The establishment of a REDD+ Coordinating Unit, under the National Directorate of Climate Change/MiAmbiente+, is therefore proposed to coordinate and monitor all the actions of REDD+ implementation.

Gender and social inclusion

In terms of stakeholder participation, in order to ensure full and effective participation with a gender-responsive approach, under the leadership of MiAmbiente+ and with the support and coordination of the National Women's Institute, the College of Forest Engineers of Honduras and the management network of the broadleaved forest of Honduras, the following instruments were launched: a gender and environment equality strategy, an action plan for gender inclusion, and a guide for the incorporation of the gender perspective in the development of environmental projects.

As a result of those efforts, an institutional workshop was held to promote the empowerment of gender actions targeting the technical staff in all the units of MiAmbiente+, as well as all the staff working on projects being implemented by the project coordination office of MiAmbiente+ and the National Women's Institute.

Moreover, the REDD+ project interventions were all highly participatory, with indigenous peoples actively participating in the SIS socialization and validation workshops, as well as the cultural safeguard and its mechanism of complaints, claims and conflict management.

Partnerships

As requested by the Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mining and with the support of the National Directorate of Climate Change, a proposal will be prepared for GCF for the funding of two pilot projects arising from work on REDD+. In addition, through the GEF project CONECTA+, a pilot project will be executed to implement the Warsaw Framework locally and with a strong gender focus. In addition, a letter of agreement was signed between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNDP for the elaboration of the national programme for the conservation of terrestrial ecosystems, to be finalized in February 2020.

Linkages to SDGs

The national programme is directly related to SDG 13 (climate action). SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 15 (life on land) are intrinsic to the national REDD+ strategy, which prioritizes action that produces co-benefits beyond mitigating climate change, such as biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation. The institutionalization of the NFMS within the National Institute for Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife also contributes to SDG target 15.9. Furthermore, the full and effective participation of women in the project is being actively worked on, as is defining actions that are gender-sensitive, thus aligning with SDG 5 (gender equality).

Indonesia

TA	On track

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

In 2019, Indonesia underwent a successful technical assessment of its BUR technical annex, containing REDD+ results. Based on those results, Indonesia submitted a GCF REDD+ results-based payments funding proposal, with UNDP as the accredited entity. In addition, UN-REDD has been supporting Indonesia's progress from readiness to achieving an agreement for results-based payments with Norway for the first time in 2019.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD has continued to work on developing capacity on high-level aspects, such as FREL, through a regional FREL knowledge exchange workshop, and providing technical advice and options for the subnational disaggregation of FREL results. In 2019, UN-REDD supported the completion of a national assessment of forest cover and forest cover changes, which was carried out by 37 staff from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry over the course of a week using the FAO Collect Earth Online tool, with 18,000 samples collected, providing an example of rapid MRV and accuracy assessment that can assist in calculating emission reductions from deforestation.

With UN-REDD support, Indonesia has been mainstreaming sustainable peatland management nationally, and inspiring others to act globally through multilateral and South-South collaboration linked to the Global Peatlands Initiative. Indonesia, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru are partners of the International Tropical Peatlands Centre.

Challenges and solutions

Local elections to elect regional heads across the country in 2020 may result in delays in or deferral of the institutionalization of integrated fire management at the subnational level. The Minister of Finance's Decree No. 779/KMK.O5/2019 on the establishment of the Environmental Fund Management Body was released in October 2019. The Body is not, however, expected to be fully staffed and operational until 2020.

Gender and social inclusion

UN-REDD ensures that at least 30 per cent of participants in its interventions are women, including with regard to fire risk systems, NFMS and community-based fire brigade training. At least 30 per cent of participants in fire cluster management are women.

Gender analysis produced for UN-REDD for the period 2010–2012 informed the development of the gender assessment and action plan for the GCF REDD+ results-based payments funding proposal. Lessons learned from UN-REDD experience with regard to indigenous peoples and civil society engagement over the same period informed the environmental and social assessment of the GCF REDD+ results-based payments funding proposal.

Moreover, the participation of local communities and indigenous groups was replicated during alternative livelihood interventions and the fire cluster formulation, as highlighted during a joint media visit by UN-REDD, the Centre for International Forestry Research and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Partnerships

UN-REDD and the Centre for International Forestry Research collaborated on media coverage of UN-REDD results and the work of the International Tropical Peatlands Centre. A webinar and successful study tour for 12 South-East Asian journalists on REDD+ actions and the importance of peatlands significantly raised awareness of REDD+ and the role of forests and peatlands as natural climate solutions, including through a number of newspaper and TV articles.

UN-REDD strengthened its technical support to the Peatland Restoration Agency for the assessment of degraded small peat islands in Riau.

FAO has worked with the World Bank FCPF and BioCarbon Fund on the consistency of REDD+ approaches. UNDP is coordinating closely with the Embassy of Norway and the World Bank to ensure that the Environmental Fund Management Body will meet international fiduciary and operational standards.

Linkages to SDGs

Progress was made towards the SDGs, in particular SDG 13 (climate action), with the establishment of the Environmental Fund Management Body for Indonesia.

Mexico

TA	On track

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

FREL/FRL: UN-REDD provided technical support to update Mexico's FREL/FRL, which is due to be submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in early 2020. The activity data were improved with associated

uncertainties assessed. The new FREL/FRL covers the period 2007–2016, and the country is seeking to receive results-based payments for 2017 and 2018.

SIS: In 2019, Mexico developed a series of tools to support safeguard implementation at the state and national levels. UN-REDD published a series of nine thematic flyers to support the implementation at the state level of REDD+ safeguards, with guidance on how to collect relevant information for the national SIS.

UN-REDD supported Mexico to understand safeguards requirements for results-based payments proposals under GCF and ways of using existing safeguards' processes to help meet those requirements. These inputs were possible thanks to the experience of UN-REDD collaborating agencies as accredited entities of approved GCF results-based payments project proposals.

REDD+ implementation

Building on REDD+ finance workshops conducted in 2018, and following discussions with the new CONAFOR authorities, a mapping exercise on REDD+ financing opportunities was updated. A draft of the country's REDD+ finance strategy was prepared, which will need to be updated before endorsement, and a road map for developing the revised version has been drafted. At the subnational level, options for financing REDD+ implementation through markets in the state of Jalisco were analysed and are under consideration. UN-REDD also facilitated and strengthened collaboration with the Mexican initiative of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force.

UN-REDD supported CONAFOR to survey financial intermediaries to better understand the barriers to the forest sector accessing finance. In addition, support was provided to revise the country's Forest Law with respect to options for economic incentives for forest conservation (forest bonds or "bono forestal") and issues related to benefit-sharing.

Challenges and solutions

Due to a change in administration in December 2018, CONAFOR has concentrated its efforts in assisting with the national review of federal programmes. For this reason, some UN-REDD technical assistance activities, such as the improvement of the Virtual Centre of Excellence in Forest Monitoring as the regional NFMS repository, have been postponed until 2020.
There have also been substantial budget cuts by the Federal Government to the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and CONAFOR, resulting in changes and a reduction of personnel, which has reduced the country's capacity to implement the technical assistance activities. In addition, due to limited financial resources, the implementation of the South-South cooperation workplan was at risk. The REDD+ compass regional needs assessment undertaken in 2018, under the Mesoamerican Strategy on Environmental Sustainability, enabled regional partners to identify MRV gaps and alternative ways to address them.

Gender and social inclusion

A flyer entitled "Gender equality: Tools for the implementation of REDD+ in Mexico" was prepared as part of a series of tools to support the application of REDD+ safeguards at the state-level; its publication is foreseen in early 2020. The national REDD+ strategy (ENAREDD+) includes a range of guidance and lines of action that seek to promote gender equality, particularly in reference to participation and addressing discrimination.

Moreover, the existing methodology for the development of state safeguard plans was reviewed and updated. State representatives discussed the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders as well as the process to develop and implement a plan, and its key content. A number of recommendations were also made to promote the active participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the State's safeguards systems and related REDD+ activities.

Partnerships

South-South collaboration with the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, the World Bank and SilvaCarbon enabled the continued improvement of the NFMS through the use of the FAO System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) tools at the subnational level. Best practices for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation were shared at a regional workshop held from 29 to 31 October 2019 in Guadalajara, Mexico. UN-REDD collaborated with GIZ and SEMARNAT to analyse options to maximize the role of the forestry sector in the Mexican carbon market.

Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD in Mexico is directly contributing to SDGs 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land) by supporting the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy of Mexico, and contributes indirectly to SDGs 1 (no poverty) and 5 (gender equality) through the safeguards work.

Mongolia

NP	Completed

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

The national REDD+ strategy of Mongolia, has been prepared together with an action plan (AP), a results framework and an impact assessment. The strategy was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in September 2019. Activities under the Mongolia UN-REDD national programme pertaining to the NFMS and FRL were completed in 2018. Mongolia provided a response to the UNFCCC FRL technical assessment report in February 2019, and the UNFCCC secretariat published the report on the UNFCCC web platform in April 2019. Following the earlier preparation of a national safeguards framework document and SIS design, an excel version of the SIS database structure has been developed with relevant indicators for potential integration into an online database hosted by the Environment Information Centre.

Challenges and solutions

As a result of earlier delays in finalizing a national REDD+ strategy, known in Mongolia as the REDD+ national programme, a no-cost extension up to July 2019 was requested and approved by the UN-REDD Executive Board to cover the completion of the REDD+ national programme as well as the development of a narrative action plan and corresponding results template. These documents have been submitted to the Government by the national REDD+ focal point for further endorsement and institutionalization.

Gender and social inclusion

Building on the gender and social Inclusion report that was completed in 2018, actions were taken to ensure that gender considerations and indicators were included in the REDD+ national programme.

Moreover, the Forest and Sustainable Development Council, a civil society organization forum initially supported through UN-REDD, has been officially registered as a legal entity. The FDSC played a key role providing consolidated civil society inputs into the national REDD+ processes.

Partnerships

UN-REDD collaborated with the Forest Research and Development Centre of the Ministry of Environment and GIZ on Mongolia's first comprehensive and multi-purpose NFI, complementing an

inventory of well-stocked forests supported by GIZ with information on poorly-stocked forests in 2018 through UN-REDD.

The results achieved and capacities built by UN-REDD, in particular the NFMS activity data (AD), are leveraged through a GEF-Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency project that works on enhanced transparency in AFOLU sectors, with the land agency (ALAMGC) evaluating the use of Collect Earth – a free and open source application for land monitoring developed by FAO – for a national land-use assessment.

Linkages to SDGs

The work on REDD+ contributes to SDG 15 (life on land), and specifically target 15.2 (By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally). Through REDD+, Mongolia has identified what the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are on its territory and what policies and measures should be put into place to address those drivers, established an FRL and NFMS to track emissions reductions and to ensure that social and environmental safeguards are in place during implementation. Cumulatively, they provide the means and data to accomplish SDG 15 (life on land).

Myanmar

NP	**On track**
TA	**On track**

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/AP: In recognition of the specific context in Myanmar with respect to conflict, civil society and indigenous peoples' groups, the Myanmar UN-REDD national programme has invested significant amounts of time and resources on issues of conflict sensitivity, in particular in relation to issues such as consultations on the draft national REDD+ strategy, the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) principle, the design of an SIS and a grievance redress mechanism. The importance of these issues in the Myanmar context has been recognized from the initial stages of the national programme development. As recognized in the UN-REDD Secretariat's review of the national programme document in 2016:

 "*During the preparation process of the national programme, the IP and CSO representatives of the Asia-Pacific constituency have fielded a mission to support their peers in Myanmar in a dialogue with government focused on strengthened role of forest-dependent people and ethnic minorities in the REDD+ process. These contributions as well as those from other consultative platforms have been incorporated into the design of both the roadmap and the national programme, resulting in highly participatory designs and set of priorities.*"

A specific strategy was prepared to guide consultations with ethnic stakeholders and particularly with ethnic armed organizations. Over 50 consultation events have been held on the development of the Myanmar national REDD+ strategy in 2019 alone, including with representatives of the federal government and ethnic armed organizations, as well as non-government stakeholders. The updated version of the strategy was presented at a national validation workshop in September 2019 and the process of official approval is under way. Work began in 2019 on the development of a national REDD+ investment plan. Options to engage ethnic armed organizations in REDD+ implementation were also scoped out during the fourth quarter of 2019.

The national REDD+ strategy and the national rules for environmental impact assessment are anticipated to be the first two official Myanmar government documents to include explicit commitment to the principle of FPIC (both were in draft form at the end of 2019). In accordance with the understanding of FPIC in the context of REDD+ strategy development and implementation, the national approach to FPIC was initiated after the interventions to which consent will need to be sought have been identified (i.e. after the REDD+ strategy has been finalised). The national programme accordingly held a national consultation on FPIC in November 2019, developed a draft approach to ensuring FPIC in implementation of Myanmar's national REDD+ strategy in December 2019 and will finalise this approach in consultation with national stakeholders in 2020. Explicit reference is made in the draft approach to the need for specific considerations to FPIC in the context of ethnic armed organizations.

FREL/FRL: After the completion of the technical assessment process with the UNFCCC secretariat, the revised FRL document was uploaded to the UNFCCC website in January 2019. The national programme continues to support the Government on the development of subsequent FRLs, as more and improved data on forest carbon pools become available and contribute to NDC development.

NFMS: The development and testing of NFI design, sampling and data collection approaches were finalized during 2019, including the estimation design and data analysis approaches.
The SLMS has been extended to formally include sample-based land assessment techniques, complementary to the standard wall-to-wall approaches. The uploading of NFMS data started in the fourth quarter of 2019 and will continue into 2020.

Capabilities for emission factor reporting from forests with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) tier 3 level and activity data reporting for land-use change with IPCC approach 2 are now established in Myanmar.

SIS: Following the finalization of a review of Myanmar forest management and land-use policies, laws and regulations, a national safeguards clarification was published, a draft national safeguards approach document was reviewed and submitted for endorsement to the REDD+ task force, and the final draft SIS design document was shared with stakeholders. In 2019, information needs were identified, relevant information systems and sources were assessed, and an information structure (including draft indicators) developed. Discussion on the operationalization of the SIS is ongoing. The final draft summary of information was prepared with the support of summary drafting group members and consultation with stakeholders and was submitted to Forest Department in December 2019.

REDD+ implementation
Options for management of REDD+ finance – both investment finance and results-based payments – were developed and presented to the technical working group on drivers and strategy, and endorsed by the REDD+ task force.

In June 2019, UN-REDD submitted to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation a proposal for integrating mangroves into REDD+ implementation in Myanmar. Comments from the Agency were received by the UN-REDD secretariat in September 2019 and the proposal was resubmitted in December 2019.

Challenges and solutions
The consultation process with ethnic armed organizations, necessary to ensure that the national REDD+ strategy had broad acceptance by the largest possible pool of stakeholders, and in consideration of the complex and dynamic political situation in Myanmar, proved to be more

extensive and required higher than anticipated investment of national programme resources. In recognition of the evolving conflict and political situation in Myanmar since the national programme document was signed, the REDD+ strategy consultation process required an additional US$99,000, which necessitated budget revision and exploration of co-financing options from in-country sources. The initial approach to the development of the REDD+ investment plan anticipated information on deforestation rates at subnational scales which was not available. Alternative approaches have been presented to stakeholders for consideration in order to ensure that this output is completed within the time frame.

Gender and social inclusion

Acting on the briefing note on gender gaps and recommendations prepared by the REDD+ task force secretariat in 2018, actions have been taken to strengthen gender inclusion within the engagement processes of the national programme. Initial consultations on the national strategy in 2017 averaged 21 per cent women's participation; during 2019, this figure reached 42 per cent. Additional efforts are required, however, to increase women's participation in the Myanmar REDD+ task force; of the 14 seats available, only 2 are occupied by women and no seat is reserved for a representative from a women's and/or gender-focused organization. There is also an opportunity to increase women's participation in the technical working group on stakeholder engagement and safeguards, where just 27 per cent of members are women (4 women, 11 men).

With respect to social inclusion, Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT), an indigenous peoples' organization, and Myanmar Environmental Rehabilitation-Conservation Network (MERN), a national civil society organization, continue to represent their constituencies in the Programme's Executive Board, and other such organizations continue to participate actively through the technical working groups. Further, ethnic armed organizations remain key stakeholders in the Myanmar REDD+ national programme, since the decision has been made that REDD+ will be implemented at the national scale, and significant areas of forests are under the control of such organizations. By the end of 2019, a total of 16 consultation events had been held with ethnic armed organizations or, where such organizations are still considered "unlawful associations", with representative organizations.

In areas under control of ethnic armed organizations, discussions were begun in 2019 on the development of ethnic armed organizations REDD+ action plans to complement the national REDD+ strategy, in recognition of the fact that, regardless of their participation in REDD+ strategy consultations, for political reasons ethnic armed organizations may not be able to formally commit to implement a strategy which is under the legal and operational leadership of the Government of Myanmar. These discussions, which will affect the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy in a large proportion of natural forest area, will continue during 2020.

Partnerships

The improvement of the SLMS has been supported by the Myanmar UN-REDD national programme in partnership with the SERVIR-Mekong programme, and the web-based geoportal for the NFMS will be hosted on the OneMap platform.

Linkages to SDGs

The focus on engagement with ethnic minorities continues to contribute to progress on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) in Myanmar. The National Ceasefire Agreement calls for cooperation between the Union Government and ethnic armed organizations on environmental conservation, but there have been no examples of such cooperation as yet. Given that REDD+ in Myanmar will operate at the national level, the endorsement of specific REDD+ actions by the Union Government and ethnic armed organizations is essential. REDD+ in Myanmar will also contribute to SDG target 15.2 (By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of

forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally).

Peru

TA	On track	
NP		**Delayed**

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/APs: In 2019, UN-REDD support focused on assisting the Government to set up a framework to implement the national strategy on forests and climate change (ENBCC) of Peru. This included: (i) five participatory workshops on action plans to facilitate the implementation of Peru´s ENBCC; (ii) definition of the role of community-based forest management technical units to strengthen local forest governance; (iii) development of a capacity-building programme on climate change, forests, ENBCC and NDCs; (iv) identification of prioritized policies, actions and measures at the regional level towards the implementation of the country's ENBCC/REDD+/NDC; and (v) identification of opportunities to develop an investment portfolio that contributes to the implementation of the country's ENBCC/REDD+/NDC.

NFMS: Technical support was provided to 12 indigenous peoples' organizations to improve their capacity to integrate the indigenous-MRV approach into the NFMS of Peru. This capacity-building exercise was conducted based on needs identified in 2018. A technical subcommittee for the integration of the indigenous-MRV approach into the NFMS was set up, and a road map was approved. Pilot community-based forest monitoring efforts started in 48 communities in the Peruvian Amazon.

FREL/FRL: A technical subcommittee set up to guide the integration of degradation data into the Peru FREL started assessing potential methodologies. Technical capacities were enhanced at the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) and the National Forest and Wild Fauna Service (SERFOR) through four technical workshops to develop methodologies with the application of tools such as Google Earth Engine and SEPAL, to estimate emissions from forest degradation and secondary forests. A webinar to exchange experiences on the integration of degradation data into the FREL was developed, with participants from Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru.

SIS: Progress was achieved on different elements of the national safeguards approach, including refining the national safeguards interpretation, consolidating the process to define REDD+ actions, and developing an advanced draft of the summary of information, all of which are being used to inform the SIS design.

REDD+ implementation

UN-REDD contributed to advancing the following elements of REDD+ implementation: contribution of technical inputs (review of governance structure and analysis of commitments by Peru to reduce deforestation) to forest policy instruments; contribution to the final design of the project that will execute the phase II funding of the joint declaration of intent between Peru, Norway and Germany (JDI); provision of guidance for national discussions on zero-deforestation agriculture; development of an annotated template for JDI phase II deliverable (b); provision of inputs to define a common monitoring and reporting framework for the country's ENBCC and the JDI; and for the definition of a REDD+ national financial structure.

The process to develop a grievance and recourse mechanism for Peru received technical inputs that were informed by an analysis of the example of the San Martin regional government´s system for attending to citizen' enquiries. The definition of a nesting approach received technical inputs using an open dialogue with voluntary market REDD+ project developers. In addition, an annotated template for the REDD+ technical annex was provided to MINAM, and technical inputs were provided on the technical approach of the Peruvian FREL. Technical support was provided to improve the greenhouse gas inventory and to use spatial modelling for REDD+ planning to help prioritize actions and areas for REDD+ implementation, including through a webinar, meetings and discussions with the Government and the national subcommittee on degradation.

Regarding private sector engagement, technical assistance was provided to the National Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Peru (FENACREP) on sustainable commodity production. Two events were organized for the managers of key cooperatives with a high operational footprint in the agricultural sector on sustainable finance as it is related to commodity production. Analysis was initiated to identify key gaps in sustainable finance as it relates to agricultural financing for both banks and non-bank financial institutions.

Challenges and solutions
Most challenges encountered in 2019 related to the evolving dynamic of priorities and political views on forests and climate change in Peru, including: (i) the need for permanent adjustment of technical assistance priorities; (ii) delays in the release of inputs from the Government that are necessary for delivery; (iii) delays in planned activities caused by changes in focal points in Government entities and changes of indigenous leaders.

Regular interaction with Government counterparts resulted in the timely adjustment of priorities and approaches to accommodate delivery. The Government of Peru, in coordination with UN-REDD advisors and interested stakeholders, drafted a workplan for technical assistance in 2020, taking into consideration the evolving dynamics described above, including the continuation of some lines of work from 2019 to 2020.

Gender and social inclusion
The gender responsive elements that were integrated in the design of the Peru national programme have been implemented. In addition to capturing sex-disaggregated data for all consultation and capacity-building events and dialogues, specific actions were undertaken to secure the balanced participation of men and women and to promote an environment that facilitates the participation of women. For example, at meetings in the Amazon to discuss agendas and plans to implement the Peruvian ENBCC or to design the capacity-building programme on REDD+ and the ENBCC, priority was given to women to provide their views, in addition to offering additional preparatory spaces for women prior to dialogues and participatory meetings.
When selecting communities to pilot the community-based forest management technical units, priority was given to units that included women, and dialogues among women representatives were promoted to present their experiences and encourage their participation. Capacity-building and communication materials included specific examples and sections on gender. The gender focal points at MINAM and the UNDP country office have been actively participating in the implementation of national programme actions mentioned above.

The intention of the Government of Peru to maintain an open dialogue with relevant stakeholders was reinforced. The space defined for that purpose, named "Dialoguemos", was used as the main platform to discuss issues related to the support of UN-REDD. The UN-REDD national programme of Peru continued to make efforts to ensure the participation of relevant stakeholders in the

implementation of its activities. At least 3 outputs of the national programme are specifically targeted to work with indigenous peoples.

Partnerships

The delivery of UN-REDD technical assistance provided an opportunity to continue promoting synergies among all the interrelated forest and climate change initiatives in Peru while ensuring their alignment with the ENBCC and JDI objectives. Among the main initiatives and programmes that are complementary to the Peruvian national programme actions are the FCPF readiness programme, the USAID forest programme, and the GEF Amazon Sustainable Landscape Programme. The work of the GCFTF in the Peruvian Amazon was taken into account when supporting sub-national governments to prioritize policies, actions and measures for the implementation of the ENBCC.

Linkages to SDGs

UN-REDD contributed to SDG 5 (gender equality) through efforts to ensure the effective participation and engagement of women in all the participatory processes and dialogue spaces promoted by the national programme, and in capacity-building events. It contributed to SDG 13 (climate action) through the actions related to developing and adjusting national and subnational multi-stakeholder platform agendas and subnational government prioritization of policies, actions and measures, as well as through the enhancement of data management to assess forest degradation emissions. It also contributed to SDG 15 (life on land) through the work on promoting the creation of community-based forest management technical units, capacity-building for indigenous communities on forest monitoring and reporting, and supporting the implementation of the JDI financial resources.

Viet Nam

TA	On track

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

The work by Viet Nam on the Warsaw Framework pillars was completed in 2018, thanks to UN-REDD Phase II. In 2019, the Government undertook actions for MRV. Based on the preliminary findings of the Government's MRV, which indicated positive results, preparations are under way to apply for results-based payments from the GCF pilot scheme.

The country's current focus is the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures as outlined in the national REDD+ action programme and the related investment plan. With assistance from UN-REDD, a framework has been developed to monitor the impacts of REDD+ implementation at the provincial and national levels, and monitoring approaches have been considered.

The country submitted its first summary of safeguards information to the UNFCCC secretariat in January 2019. In 2019, UN-REDD and the Institute on Forest Ecology and Environment organized a subregional exchange on SIS, entitled "Moving from design to operation". The exchange focused on country-to-country learning between Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam on SIS information structure and sharing, the development of indicators, database design and online platforms.

REDD+ implementation

The monitoring and evaluation framework for monitoring the impacts of implementing the REDD+ policies and measures, identifies key indicators and means of verification, disaggregating data by gender where appropriate. As of 2019, the main indicators for which data are present focus on forest resources, applying data generated from the national Forest Resources Monitoring System (FRMS).

UN-REDD engaged in the discussions on GCF results-based payments, and has provided recommendations to the Government on options for accessing these funds, in terms of estimating results and, in particular, in terms of reporting on uncertainty estimation both for its reference level and for results.

UN-REDD supported the development of a web-based interface on results from the monitoring and evaluation framework. The Programme's technical assistance also supported the uptake of knowledge and experience on the use of spatial planning approaches and results across sectors, which has led to the development of a European Union-funded project on a deforestation-free jurisdictional approach for the Central Highlands.

Challenges and solutions

The FRMS has been deployed nationally since 2018 to generate data for monitoring REDD+. As of 2019, the Government is resolving technical glitches in the system to synchronize data inputs from subnational to central level.
An issue that remains for the Government is how to reconcile FRMS data with what is considered the official forest dataset. Technically, this can be resolved with the understanding that the two datasets co-exist and should be used for different purposes, but this needs to be endorsed by Government, which to date has not happened.

The Government's initiative to conduct MRV is under way. The timing is important in terms of Viet Nam being included in the GCF results-based payments pilot scheme. As Viet Nam's early submission of its FRL meant that it did not include the uncertainty assessments that are required by GCF, the Programme's proposal is that this be reported through the BUR.

Gender and social inclusion

The monitoring and evaluation framework disaggregates data by gender wherever appropriate. The European Union-funded project's concept note integrates gender considerations and will be acted upon at the project document development stage. The Government institutions dealing with REDD+ continue to be gender-balanced. In that regard, the State Steering Committee Office on Sustainable Forest Development and REDD+ has four staff members, of whom at least two are women. The above-mentioned monitoring and evaluation framework contains indicators that track impacts on ethnic minorities, which should contribute to better policy decisions and improved implementation with positive outcomes for forest-dependent ethnic minorities. The European Union-funded project in the Central Highlands identifies ethnic minorities as both beneficiaries and co-implementers of the project.

Partnerships

UN-REDD continues to coordinate its work with the main ongoing REDD+ initiatives in the country: FCPF readiness and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sustainable natural resources management project. JICA is the anticipated accredited entity for the country's GCF results-based payments funding proposal and the UN-REDD collaborating agencies will contribute to the formulation and eventual implementation of the project according to their comparative advantages: FAO input on MRV and experience with a results-based payments project in Chile, UNEP on the safeguards aspect and UNDP from its related experience in Brazil and Ecuador. UNDP leads the above-mentioned European Union-funded project with a consortium of partners: the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, UNEP, the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, the Sustainable Trade Initiative and the European Forest Institute.

Viet Nam is a partner in the NDC support programme and the partnership for the 2030 Agenda. Results from the Programme are expected to contribute to the achievement of the country's objectives in relation to SDGs 5 (gender equality), 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land), among others.

Zambia

TA	**On track**

Progress against the Warsaw Framework

NS/AP: In 2019, REDD+ implementation efforts in Zambia were guided by the national REDD+ strategy. UN-REDD provided support for fundraising and strengthening the necessary country systems to implement REDD+. With the support of the Programme, the country completed its national REDD+ strategy in 2014, which was launched in 2017, and, in late 2017, it presented to national stakeholders its national REDD+ strategy investment plan, which had been developed with support from UN-REDD.

FREL/FRL: During 2019, Zambia worked towards updating its FREL with improved activity data and emission factors. The final updated submission is planned for 2020.

NFMS: In 2019, UN-REDD played a crucial role in the coordination of international agencies with relevant presence in the country (United States Forest Service, FCPF) and other stakeholders for the delivery of coherent and robust technical support on the use of the NFMS, which was launched in 2017.

SIS: UN-REDD supported the country in the development of its first summary of information on safeguards, drafted in 2018, which was approved and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2019, making Zambia the first African country to submit that report.

The report proposed the implementation of an SIS website and database produced and reviewed by the members of the national safeguards technical working group and other representatives of key institutions. The country advanced with the development of the test version, which is currently under review.

REDD+ implementation

The national REDD+ strategy and the REDD+ investment plan are guiding efforts for REDD+ implementation, notably through the development and ongoing review of a set of more detailed concept notes for REDD+ investments.

In 2019, UN-REDD worked on the mobilization of resources, specifically to assist the country to acquire additional funding for REDD+ implementation from the GCF Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) of GCF. The project proposal targets "Reducing greenhouse-gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Zambia's North-Western Province in support to nationally-determined contribution implementation and for results-based payments". UN-REDD is closely aligning its ongoing work to update activity data and emission factors with the requirements of the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Programme, which is expected to build an integrated NFMS that would deliver estimates for historical emissions, activity data and emission factors, consistent across several levels. UN-REDD will ensure consistency between the benefit-sharing plan for the Northern Province, developed in the context of the GCF SAP REDD+ project, with the benefit-sharing plan being developed by the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Programme for the Eastern Province.

In 2019, with the support of UN-REDD, the Zambian Forestry Department continued its work on designing an approach to nesting subnational REDD+ efforts and carbon credit projects. The scope of

a draft statutory instrument on carbon management, which would regulate carbon ownership and benefit sharing, is being discussed at the country-level.

Challenges and solutions

During 2019, the delivery of UN-REDD technical assistance decelerated due to the shortage of human resources in the Zambian Forestry Department, and a few activities have been slightly postponed. The FREL update, which began in 2019, will continue and be finalized in 2020.

Gender and social inclusion

Gender equality is a guiding principle when organizing capacity development interventions as part of UN-REDD.

The composition of the national safeguards technical working group includes various stakeholders, representing Government and civil society institutions, and constitutes a platform for participation with both female and male voices. The working group has provided support and inputs, and has reviewed and validated all the safeguards processes in 2019.

Moreover, the country's first summary of information on safeguards resulted from an analytical and participatory process involving diverse stakeholders: key Government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and existing REDD+ projects.

Partnerships

UN-REDD work was closely coordinated with other REDD+ initiatives in the country, especially at the subnational level. Most notably, during 2019 the country developed the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscapes Programme in Eastern Province for results-based funding by the BioCarbon Fund.

Linkages to SDGs

The completion of the FREL, the launch of the NFMS, and the progress achieved towards the SIS contribute to SDG 15 (life on land).

Knowledge management results

Landscape approaches and planning

Integrated landscape approaches can play a key role in the reduction of deforestation by balancing trade-offs between agricultural productivity and the protection of forest ecosystems. UN-REDD contributes to advancing the state of knowledge on transformational change in landscapes and technical knowledge on spatial planning.

In 2019, UN-REDD led high-level discourse on transformational change in the forest and agriculture sector through events at the **Global Landscapes Forum in Kyoto, Japan, the Global Landscapes Forum in Bonn, Germany,** and during the **Climate Action Summit 2019** through the high-level event on momentum for nature-based solutions to climate change. These events emphasized how inclusive landscape approaches can facilitate the transformational change that is needed at the intersection of agriculture and forestry. During the high-level United Nations leadership dialogue on "Turning the tide on deforestation", at the **twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,** the Director-General of FAO highlighted solutions to deforestation. At **the twenty-fifth session,** the Programme organized discussions on the roles of different types of forests in natural landscapes, including mangroves, to tackle the climate emergency.

Transformational change in the forest and land-use sector implies that countries redefine planned development pathways to minimize forest loss and acknowledge the rights of forest-dependent people. During 2019, **collaborative research** analysed the triggers, drivers and barriers to transformational change of REDD+ in the context of a broader landscape, as well as ways of measuring such change. Three case studies are in development, to be finalized in 2020, that examine how UN-REDD partner countries that are engaging with the GCF conceptualize transformational change in the forest and land-use sector, and what they identify as triggers, drivers and barriers to change.

Increasingly, countries are using cross-sectoral land-use planning to reinforce linkages between agriculture and forests; for example, in **Colombia**, through South-South dialogue on diversified agroforestry systems, and in **Chile**, with restoration activities in the framework of the national programme, which boosted Government actions towards the restoration of additional areas. Without losing the focus on efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation as key actions in the fight to reduce emissions, these actions are strong steps in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

As spatial planning is a core tenet of many landscape approaches, UN-REDD is also facilitating the uptake of knowledge and experience on its use for REDD+, building on earlier UN-REDD work. In **Viet Nam**, lessons from integrated land-use planning for provincial REDD+ action plans have informed the development of a project on deforestation free jurisdictions in Lam Dong and Dak Nong, and the development of a national REDD+ monitoring and evaluation framework. In **Argentina**, support has been provided to the National Directorate of Environmental Planning to map areas of environmental significance nationwide; discussions are ongoing on how to build on UN-REDD work on non-carbon benefits to achieve results-based payments for REDD+. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, plans are being made to bring REDD+ spatial planning lessons into the cocoa sector. A series of blogs on these topics were developed. Within the framework of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, these types of analyses can help countries to identify areas with potential for forest restoration to secure a range of additional benefits.

As well as work with policymakers, in order to demonstrate the value of spatial approaches UN-REDD has continued to support the technicians who are asked to undertake these analyses. New GIS tutorials were released in 2019 on: 1) mapping multiple benefits; 2) assessing the importance of forests for landslide mitigation and for reducing wind erosion; 3) and processing fire data to identify potential pressures on forests. These have been downloaded more than 40 times and have been catalytic for other initiatives, including the Development Corridors Partnership project in East Africa, and the Oil for Development project in Myanmar. A **GIS newsletter** was created to share experiences and news on spatial analyses in the context of REDD+; more than 80 GIS practitioners worldwide have already subscribed. A web story was published to highlight UN-REDD support provided to more than 20 developing countries in the past 10 years to plan for and implement REDD+ to achieve additional benefits, from soil erosion control, to biodiversity conservation and support for livelihoods. An infographic showing indicative steps used to develop spatial analysis for REDD+ decision-making was developed.

Forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples

Throughout 2019, UN-REDD was active in raising the profile of securing tenure rights, mainstreaming indigenous rights and promoting social inclusion in REDD+ policy and actions. Major highlights of these efforts were:
  (i)   Collaboration with the launch and inception process of the new UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;

(ii)   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+, for example through the Global Landscapes Forum and the "REDD+ and forest governance" knowledge hub/discussion group;

(iii)   Deployment of key UN-REDD knowledge on forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples, and associated elements, in several countries: see impact stories on Colombia, Myanmar, Paraguay and Peru in this report

Specifically on **tenure systems, governance and REDD+**, UN-REDD raised the global profile of securing tenure rights – including collective tenure rights - contributing to a growing coalition of partners (along with the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Tenure Facility and others) and stressing the key role of forest tenure and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples as part of a human rights-based approach. At the Climate Action Summit's Nature's Climate Hub, UN-REDD launched the information brief "Collective tenure rights: Realizing the potential for REDD+ and sustainable development". Expert dialogues on forest governance, tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples in the context of REDD+ were disseminated through the UN-REDD supported "REDD+ and forest governance discussion hub", which continued growing, reaching 850 members from 98 countries, and included the active engagement of a variety of partners, from RRI to McGill University.

In **deploying knowledge in support to specific countries**, following current priorities and demands, the role of UN-REDD progressed from analysis and assessment of tenure regimes to relevant technical inputs in the context of climate investment strategies, new large-scale funding proposals (e.g., the Congo, Equatorial Guinea), key information on REDD+ legal issues, carbon emission reduction rights/legal titling (e.g., Chile, Mexico) and related linkages with national laws, and benefit-sharing mechanisms (Zambia, including collaboration with the World Bank FCPF nesting approach). This key work is helping to position countries to attract the resources needed to implement tenure reform as part of their national REDD+ programmes and NDCs, or – such as the example of Chile - helping countries to lay a stronger foundation to access and receive key REDD+ results-based payments.

UN-REDD continued to provide key legal technical support to countries, helping them enact legal reforms and drafting legal instruments to advance REDD+ implementation (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico). Advice on indigenous peoples' forestry rights (Panama), and institutionalizing NFMS legal arrangements (Peru, Honduras) was also provided, with notable rights dimensions.

The UN-REDD experience in **community forestry and community monitoring** in Latin America over past years was further disseminated through intense and fruitful South-South cooperation, including local communities and indigenous peoples from different countries in the region.

Concerning **multi-stakeholder engagement, democratic governance and indigenous peoples' rights in REDD+ action**, UN-REDD supported the inception and launch of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform in diverse ways. For instance, UN-REDD mobilized selected indigenous leaders who are experienced in REDD+ and financed their participation in the Platform's inception meetings. UN-REDD also engaged with the UNFCCC secretariat and the Platform itself to provide best practices to manage this new initiative, particularly with regard to bringing local indigenous knowledge to global policy arenas. UN-REDD coalesced a detailed response to a request from the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its fiftieth session on lessons and opportunities for partnership support to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, including experiences and entry points for 12 countries around the world. UN-REDD also collaborated with the International Indigenous Women's Forum, providing training and advice for mainstreaming gender in forest processes.

UN-REDD was active in a **special rights conference of the Global Landscapes Forum**, held in Bonn in June 2019. In particular, UN-REDD generated spaces for indigenous and forest community stakeholders to share their experiences and make their voices heard on issues related to the climate-forest-landscape nexus. UN-REDD also disseminated knowledge and lessons on how to integrate tenure, the rights of indigenous peoples and gender equality in forest and REDD+ actions ([blog](#)). At the Forum – with major participation from the international indigenous peoples' caucus to the UNFCCC, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, as well as members and partners of the new UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform – UN-REDD hosted the "[Making climate action inclusive](#)" event, jointly with indigenous organizations and indigenous-rights partners, which included a dozen high-level and technical speakers, from indigenous leaders to Government officials and development practitioners. It served to share knowledge on best practices for inclusive policy processes in the climate-land-forest interface. In addition, UN-REDD was offered one of the slots at the special [Earth Speakers](#) session, which served to highlight how indigenous knowledge can be a catalyst of policy reforms, with specific references to UN-REDD supported processes in Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo over recent years.

Finally, UN-REDD helped design and consult a new phase for the **Community-based REDD+ Initiative**. This included convening stakeholder discussions during the Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and global stakeholder consultations, and defining a partnership approach with the Tenure Facility. In addition to community grants, the proposed Community-based REDD+ Initiative has two new goals: to serve the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and to promote the participation of indigenous peoples in country NDC processes. This new phase of the Initiative received support from the UN-REDD Executive Board in 2019 and hopes to secure funding in 2020.

Several **knowledge products and communication pieces** were released during 2019; including:

- [Reflecting on the linkages between REDD+, forest tenure and indigenous peoples' rights](#)
- [Indigenous peoples and local communities, a recognized puzzle piece for climate crisis solution](#)
- [Community-based REDD+ projects in Iko Esai (Nigeria](#))
- [Supporting Cambodian women in the sustainable management of forests](#)
- [Indigenous voices, a policy spark to protect the world's forests](#)
- [Community REDD+ action in Nigeria (video)](#)
- [Advancing indigenous peoples' land rights in Peru along the national REDD+ process (video)](#)]

In addition, several guidance and knowledge products on gender equality were released, including:

- [Asia-Pacific gender equality dispatch dedicated to REDD+](#) (including gender and REDD+ cases in four countries of the region)
- [Marking progress on gender](#)
- French version of [the UN-REDD methodological brief](#)
- [Information note on gender marker](#)
- a [checklist on gender responsive workshops](#) (in English, French and Spanish)

Financing and the private sector

There is a growing interest on the part of businesses in tackling emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation. UN-REDD work on financing and the private sector is focused on building the business case for more sustainable ways of producing soft commodities, especially by 'decoupling' production from deforestation, as well as identifying what kinds of policies and measures

Governments can develop and embed, for instance in national REDD+ strategies. In 2019, UN-REDD contributed to a number of business cases at the country level and novel partnerships with impact investors, and provided support to countries in raising results-based payments:

- Two UN-REDD partner countries that received support with business case analysis
  - **Costa Rica (business case on livestock)**: A business case analysis was developed for the adoption of sustainable production practices in beef and dual-purpose farms in Costa Rica. The report is accompanied by an economic model to assess the potential economic and environmental performance of different practices. The model was developed to support both the Livestock Development Corporation, a non-State public actor, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to document the performance of the practices promoted under the national low-carbon development strategy, which includes the integration of trees into beef and dual-purpose farms.
  - **Viet Nam (business case study on Robusta coffee)**: The analysis focused on assessing the economic viability of interventions that will support smallholder livelihood development in order to assess the potential for attracting investment capital for cultivation improvements. Intercropping was identified as a model that would generate immediate improvements in the coffee business, while also improving livelihoods for smallholders. However, positive returns cannot be realized until after the replanting phase, leading to an income gap. The size of the investment gap depends on the price of coffee and cost of conversion, and represents a significant barrier to conversion for poorer households. These initial findings and the analytical tool for assessing the economic impact of cultivation decisions on the smallholder over a 25-year period, were presented to Central Economic Committee and the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development in October 2019. Both the findings and the tool were well received and their potential for informing policymakers was raised by the Institute.

- **Best practice cases on public-private partnerships** to promote increased investments in deforestation-free productive activities.
  - The [Dutch Government and Rabobank announced anchor investments in the AGRI3 Fund](#), enabling it to become operational and act as a much-needed vehicle to "de-risk" private finance for banks and (impact) investors looking to finance sustainable agriculture and/or forestry activities. The fund has net-positive targets for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from land use, as well as protecting and restoring forests. The engagement between the Dutch Government as public financier, as well as Rabobank and other AGRI3 consortium members, intensified in 2019, culminating in the launch at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in 2020. The fund will focus specifically on sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia.
  - The &Green Fund, a blended finance impact investment fund focused on forest protection and tropical forest commodities, [announced in 2019 that it was investing $23.75 million](#) in sustainable, deforestation-free rubber production in Indonesia. The investment funds PT Royal Lestari Utama (RLU), an Indonesian joint venture of the French tire manufacturer Michelin and the Indonesian Barito Pacific Group. The &Green Fund will make the investment through the purchase of notes issued by the Tropical Landscapes Finance Facility. This deal is especially relevant given the lack of investor demand to buy long-dated bonds in the sustainable land-use domain given the limited track record and (perceived) high risks.
  - A new blended facility – called the ["Responsible Commodities Facility"](#) - was launched at the London Stock Exchange in July 2019, aimed at financing deforestation-free and conversion-free soy. Given the extensive clearing of Cerrado vegetation in Brazil, these kinds of novel partnerships between public and private entities can act as a model for others to follow suit. Once launched, the bond's use of proceeds will be used to finance Brazilian farmers that

adhere to the Brazilian Forest Code as well as prioritize the use of degraded land for soy production (as opposed to clearing more native vegetation).

o A paper was presented at the Global Landscapes Forum in Luxembourg on 30 November 2019 about what is preventing successful pilot studies in deforestation-free commodities production from being scaled up.

Forest monitoring systems and measurement, reporting and verification

Since 2008, UN-REDD has supported the development of a variety of technical solutions to assist countries in REDD+ MRV and for transparency in REDD+ efforts. These tools include the free and open-source Open Foris suite maintained under UN-REDD. Open Foris enables countries to design and host NFI databases (Collect), enable efficient field data collection (Collect Mobile), and analyse (Calc). It also includes tools for collecting activity data with the help of Collect Earth and Collect Earth Online. With the help of these tools, countries can provide information on NFI and FRL/FREL reporting to the UNFCCC secretariat.

The Open Foris suite contains a cloud-based solution for accessing space data and applying remote-sensing processing chains under SEPAL. A new version, SEPAL 2.1 (launched in 2019) – with improved functionality for mosaic creation of optical and radar data – continued to achieve great success. By December 2019, it had over 3,000 active users in more than 170 countries. In addition, UN-REDD developed a new practical R/Shiny application for forest inventory design. These tools have greatly helped countries in (re)designing forest resources and change detection assessments.
The latest addition to the Open Foris toolkit is "Collect Earth Online", which was built in collaboration with NASA-Servir and FAO. It was upgraded in terms of data for visual interpretation, with high resolution and high cadence satellite imagery available for eight countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

In 2019, UN-REDD organized Open Foris, allometric modelling and other MRV training events in the Bahamas (remotely), Cambodia, Liberia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia, as well as at FAO headquarters in Rome. The Open Foris suite was also presented at the FAO Digital Services Portfolio for the Digital Agriculture Transformation Seminar in June 2019. UN-REDD also provided active online technical support to several countries via e-mail, Skype and the Open Foris community site. A total of 150 users' questions were received and answered via the Open Foris website in 2019.

The Programme continued transparent online NFMS web portal development by starting the construction of the Liberia and Sudan portals. A one-week training course was provided for the staff of the Bhutanese Forestry Department and remote support for portal upgrade and further development was given extensively to Bhutan, Suriname and Uganda.

UN-REDD continued combining the existing Open Foris tools into a cloud-based application that will better serve NFMS and their related capacities for MRV. The new system is planned to be operational by mid-2020.

A review was undertaken of lessons learned from countries, mostly in Latin America, that have made progress in the legal and institutional arrangements for their NFMS. The publication, planned for the first quarter of 2020, provides relevant examples to assist other countries in strengthening their legal and institutional arrangements to establish NFMS.

Highlights of achievements in 2019:

- In July 2019, *Science* magazine published a paper entitled, "The global tree restoration potential" where Open Foris tools were applied.
- Open Foris tools were applied in the world's first global drylands assessment on trees and forests, launched by FAO in December 2019 at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The adoption and use of Open Foris and SEPAL for forest monitoring has exceeded all expectations and its impact on country reporting to the UNFCCC secretariat is a significant improvement in comparison to previous years, particularly in terms of easier access to remote sensing data and processing tools when countries collect their activity data.
- Open Foris Collect Online and SEPAL platform, as a part of Open Foris tools, now enable licensed users to access high resolution Planet Labs daily data in eight countries.

Activity data assessments using Open Foris tools were completed in Thailand, Uganda and Zambia.

Linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and SDGs

UN-REDD co-led and delivered several technical discussion and briefing sessions on nature-based solutions in the context of NDCs over the course of 2019. Core messaging on the critical role of REDD+ at the heart of nature-based solutions for climate change was built, disseminated and amplified across these events, to enable countries and stakeholders to better orient their policy efforts:

- In June 2019, UN-REDD partnered with The Nature Conservancy to deliver a breakout session, entitled *Including Nature in NDCs – supporting effective design and implementation of enhanced NDCs,* at the Global NDC Conference 2019. The event communicated the importance of nature-based solutions as a systemic approach to implement NDCs, for both mitigation and adaptation, and offered strategic guidance.

- During the Climate Action Summit 2019, UN-REDD supported a knowledge event on *Integrating Nature-based Solutions in the NDCs to Enhance Ambition and Impact*. This served to build the case on the contribution of nature-based solutions to deliver on the climate mitigation and adaptation goals in countries, and how this needs to be captured accurately in NDCs. REDD+ was highlighted as a prominent example of a nature-based solution with high mitigation potential, while some countries shared their experiences and challenges on integrating REDD+ into their NDCs and NDC implementation plans.

- UN-REDD played a leading knowledge and advisory role during the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2019, structuring the nature-based solutions thematic block in close cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat and the six supporting organizations of this regional forum. A key product was a nature-based solutions thematic block outcome report. Additionally, UN-REDD supported the nature-based solutions track in the Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2019.

- UN-REDD provided substantive inputs to the strategic direction and workplan of the NDC partnership thematic working group on agriculture, forestry and other land use through staff participation in the working group in 2019.

UN-REDD played a major role contributing to the visibility of forests in the context of NDCs and SDGs at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, organizing or contributing the following high-level events:

- UN-REDD organized the official SDG 15 side event with the United Nations University and the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The event showcased cooperation among United Nations entities to address climate issues through the lens of SDG 15 (life on land) and the 2030 Agenda.
- UN-REDD participated on an interactive panel at the event convened by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests on *Realizing Forest-based Climate Actions: Global Forest Goals, SDGs and the Paris Agreement.* The event stressed the important role of forests to enhance and implement NDCs and achieve the SDGs. It highlighted the important role of partnerships at the global and country scales, including UN-REDD partnerships, and strengthened the commitment of United Nations entities and other institutions within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to partner in support of countries in the context of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.
- Finally, UN-REDD supported the development of the high-level United Nations leadership dialogue, *Turning the Tide on Deforestation,* with participation by the heads of all the UN-REDD partners, as well as of the UNFCCC secretariat, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and GEF. The event stressed the need to implement the existing REDD+ framework to reduce deforestation effectively and raise the ambition in relation to NDCs. The successes of the UN-REDD partnerships shared by the Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Steiner, clearly indicated that UN-REDD can provide a platform for the United Nations to support countries to raise their nature-based NDC ambitions.

Beyond this series of high-profile events over the course of 2019, UN-REDD supported substantive contributions to several guidance documents and technical papers related to enhancing NDCs, and the role of REDD+ as a key nature-based solution for NDC enhancement. These included the UNDP *Pathway for Increasing Nature-based Solutions in the Nationally Determined Contributions: A seven-step approach for national Governments to integrate or enhance nature-based solutions in their NDCs*, which provides a framework for Governments to identify potential nature-based solutions with the aim of enhancing their climate mitigation and adaptation actions as well as the WRI/UNDP *Guide to Strengthening National Climate Action Plans by 2020* and the accompanying forest sector module, *NDC Enhancement: Opportunities in the Forest and Land-use Sector*.

REDD+ funding mechanisms

In 2019, UN-REDD consolidated its knowledge and technical assistance stream on REDD+ funding mechanisms, with concrete efforts to help countries organize, mobilize, sequence, channel, co-ordinate and monitor finance for REDD+. This support took the form of technical advice on a range of issues, from finance for policy reforms to incentive schemes and investment programmes, and from private-sector finance to results-based payments, depending on the opportunities, needs, circumstances and priorities of each country. The focus of technical advice and knowledge generation under this output was to connect funding (public and private, domestic and international) with national strategies, policies and safeguard measures.

During the year, UN-REDD generated, mobilized, and offered knowledge to craft innovative funding arrangements in support of implementing REDD+ actions in five countries. Most notably, UN-REDD provided intense support to four countries - **Brazil, Chile, Ecuador** and **Paraguay** - to access REDD+ results-based payments from the GCF, for a combined total of $228.6 million. UN-REDD also

provided technical support to national entities in **Ecuador** and **Honduras** to achieve GCF accreditation.

In addition, UN-REDD supported a number of exercises to distil and codify knowledge related to REDD+ funding mechanisms and results-based payments. UN-REDD hosted a webinar to share information regarding **the** GCF results-based payments proposal of Brazil with civil society organizations and observers, and presented lessons learned from the **Brazil** results-based payments proposal at the GCF REDD+ talks in Songdo, Republic of Korea, in February 2019. UN-REDD also briefed African countries on approaches and challenges for REDD+ results-based payments during the GCF Africa REDD+ workshop, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August 2019. UN-REDD technical advice also informed detailed comments to the mid-term review of the GCF pilot programme for REDD+ results-based payments.

In 2019, UN-REDD also provided support **to Costa Rica, Mexico and Paraguay** to access REDD+ results-based payments from market sources, as these countries had already developed strategies to access REDD+ results-based payments from a variety of market and non-market sources.

In **Paraguay**, UN-REDD technical assistance served to advance an innovative collaboration between the country and the Dutch Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO) in an initiative that will provide a $240 million concessional credit line for cattle ranchers and soy farmers to invest in climate-resilient and deforestation-free practices. Farmers are often hesitant to do so, as such practices require long-term financing, which is expensive. FMO therefore aims to address this market failure by providing farmers with concessional loans that will enable them to invest in these practices. The loans will be conditional on a no-deforestation commitment by farmers. In Ecuador, UN-REDD technical assistance supported the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding with Lavazza S.p.A creating a novel partnership between the country and Lavazza to pilot the world's first production and marketing of "deforestation-free" coffee.

Cross-cutting knowledge management and communications

In 2019, significant political attention was focused on nature-based solutions for climate and sustainable development, from the Climate Action Summit to the high-level United Nations leadership dialogue on "Turning the tide on deforestation", where heads of United Nations entities issued a strong call to turn the tide on deforestation, including Mr. Steiner, UNDP Administrator, who declared that "UN-REDD is a key platform to support countries on forests as an important nature-based solution to raise ambition in the NDCs."

By organizing a series of successful side events at major conferences throughout 2019, UN-REDD positioned itself as a leading voice on forests within the nature-based solutions movement. It held two interactive events at the Climate Action Summit on "Catalyzing Forest Solutions to the Climate Emergency" and "Inclusive Forest Action for the Climate Crisis: Mainstreaming Gender and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities"; side events at the Global Landscapes Forum editions in Kyoto, Japan; Bonn, Germany; and Accra, Ghana. This dynamic momentum was sustained through December 2019 at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the official United Nations side event on SDG 15 (life on land) in partnership with UNESCO and the United Nations University. To increase its advocacy clout and to support the growing movement for nature, UN-REDD joined the Nature4Climate (N4C) coalition.

To further illustrate the significant impact of forests on both the planet and people, UN-REDD engaged in human-focused storytelling all year long. It produced 11 multimedia stories across Asia, Africa and Latin America, featuring the voices of women, youth and indigenous peoples. These diverse and

powerful stories came from the UN-REDD partner countries of Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia. Nine of them were compiled and launched on a new dedicated visual storytelling website that blended text with photos, graphics and videos.

In 2019, the UN-REDD social media reach grew significantly to 45,700 followers due to an ambitious engagement strategy and the launch of its Instagram channel to promote visually-rich storytelling to a wider audience. The UN-REDD global advocacy video, "Forests are the Fastest and Cheapest Climate Solution" was launched at the Climate Action Summit as part of its #BetterWithForests campaign and was watched over 250,000 times in its first week.

Thanks to regional media training courses organized by UN-REDD, the number of media mentions surpassed previous years. These included training with six major news outlets in Kenya and training held in partnership with CIFOR for 11 journalists from across South-East Asia in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

UN-REDD organized a number of knowledge events. These included a knowledge exchange between Colombia and Mexico on forest finance products, and a regional exchange between Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam on safeguards. In addition, the use of regional webinars allowed conversations to continue beyond physical events, such as a series of virtual exchanges among national development banks in Latin America. Global webinars were held on topics such as spatial information and REDD+ planning tools and tenure rights with more than 300 people registered for each one.

These knowledge and country-based lessons on REDD+ were shared via the quarterly *REDD+ Resource* newsletter, which now has 10,000 subscribers, as well as through the new bi-monthly REDD+ *Round-Ups*, with regional or thematic focuses. A further 62 knowledge products (from info briefs to infographics to technical reports) were developed and made accessible online via the Workspace, the UN-REDD knowledge management backbone that makes over 13,000 documents available.

Lastly, 2019 was a year of innovation when it came to promoting the uptake of knowledge management and communications through non-traditional formats and channels, as a result of which the first-ever digital version of the UN-REDD Annual Report was launched. In order to better engage with young people, UN-REDD partnered with the International Forestry Students' Association to vlog and share their perspectives on forests from the Climate Action Summit and the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Finally, to ensure the wider uptake of UN-REDD compelling content, and in line with the broader United Nations system reform, UN-REDD increasingly liaised with the communications teams at the offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinator within its partner countries.

Gender

Expanding on its gender successes of previous years, UN-REDD assisted 14 countries[1] in breaking down gender barriers and inequalities, and integrating 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 the national and subnational levels.

To help illustrate the breadth of these results, a number of country-specific examples are given below.

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[1] Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia.

In Myanmar, acting on the 2018 findings of the gender and REDD+ analysis, concrete actions were taken to strengthen the gender-responsiveness of the country's engagement processes, whereby women's participation in consultations on the national REDD+ strategy increased from 21 per cent in 2017 to 42 per cent in 2019. Addressing findings from its 2018 gender analysis on REDD+ policies, actions and measures, Bangladesh engaged a gender expert in regional consultations on policies and measures in order to ensure the incorporation of a gender approach.

At the national level, a gender approach was integrated into the Honduran draft national REDD+ strategy, including in its main objective statement, and support is currently being provided to integrate a gender perspective into the policies and organizational management of the Honduran Bank for Production and Housing (BANHPROVI). In addition, a draft technical guide was developed to integrate gender considerations into the implementation of the Argentinian national action plan on forests and climate change, as well as to inform its REDD+ SIS.

Efforts to foster REDD+ action at the subnational level in Peru resulted in the equitable and meaningful engagement of women and representation of their interests in community-based forest management technical committees. In Mexico, a flyer on "Gender equality: Tools for the implementation of REDD+" was published as part of a series of tools to support the application of REDD+ safeguards at the State-level.

In 2019, through its efforts in promoting women's equitable involvement in capacity-building efforts, workshops, events and training, the Programme also successfully registered an increase in women's participation in every region. Thus, based on data from 25 workshops, women represented 47.5 per cent of participants in Africa (a 7.5 per cent increase from 2018), 36.5 per cent in Asia and the Pacific (a 3.8 per cent increase from 2018) and 51 per cent in Latin America (a 4.7 per cent increase from 2018).

At the global level, UN-REDD participated in a panel discussion on the traditional knowledge of indigenous women during the International Indigenous Women's Forum's Global Leadership School in New York.

Furthermore, in its efforts to support its partner countries to meaningfully integrate a gender perspective into their policy and institutional commitments for REDD+, UN-REDD drafted a simple and concise "Checklist for gender-responsive workshops" (available in English, French and Spanish). An information brief detailing the scale, criteria and application of the UN-REDD gender marker rating system was also developed. In addition, Spanish and French translations of the UN-REDD methodological brief on gender are also now available.

Financial reporting

[*Financial report provided by the MPTF separately and available here. Will be included in the designed version of this report*]

Looking ahead

Building back better for people and forests

2020 is a pivotal year for nature and for people. The intersecting threats presented by the climate crisis and COVID-19 present a daunting challenge, as well as an unprecedented opportunity to chart a new societal course in which humankind truly cares for nature. Forest solutions are central to both climate and biodiversity, with a key role in accelerating action and ambition to address the climate crisis and improve rural livelihoods in the coming decade.

COVID-19 is impacting the scale and scope of key milestones throughout the "Super Year for Nature 2020". The twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC has been postponed until 2021. As such, our structures and systems must be sufficiently flexible and agile to adapt to a rapidly changing global landscape. In this regard, efforts will be focused on tracking the impact of COVID-19 on key milestones and adjusting the objectives that have been set for 2020 accordingly. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has witnessed robust leadership and cooperation at unprecedented speed and scales. As we forge ahead, the global collective response to COVID-19 provides a powerful example of the kind of commitment and investment that is required for climate and forest solutions in the years ahead.

UN-REDD can leverage its unique advocacy role by pushing the forest agenda to the fore of global consciousness and by tabling evidence and experience that scaling up and accelerating action is possible thanks to a critical mass of partners who have the economic and political leverage to push through the key milestones to achieve the transformations that are needed.

UN-REDD post-2020

As we turn to the new decade – a decade that is critical for consolidating the 2030 Agenda and addressing the climate crisis – the urgency of action to tackle deforestation remains high on the agenda of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has called for scaling up action across the United Nations on turning the tide on deforestation. In response, UN-REDD, as the United Nations flagship programme on forests and climate, is committed to significantly elevating global ambition with the aim of helping countries and stakeholders to implement articles 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement, including enhancing NDCs and their implementation, and mobilizing international finance for forest solutions to the climate crisis.

Accordingly, UN-REDD intends to catalyse country delivery of forest solutions, which have the potential to provide around 20 per cent of the required global climate response, as well as to help countries to tap into novel climate finance and mobilize commensurate REDD+ result-based payments.

In the next decade, UN-REDD will focus its efforts on supporting Governments, the private sector and other stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance removals from forest and land-use sectors through three interrelated approaches: innovation, connection and action.

The Programme will advance global innovation around REDD+ implementation and financing for forests by operating as a "spark hub", fostering innovative partnerships to resolve global demand and supply challenges for REDD+. Learning and momentum for action will be accelerated by deploying the convening power of the United Nations system to create connections and bring together political leaders, the private sector and civil society around forest mitigation solutions. The Programme will also provide technical assistance and policy advice through a mix of tools and technologies, long-term

commitments and targeted interventions, to catalyse forest action at the national and subnational scales.

An agile Programme, adhering to the principles of **flexibility**, **scale** and **speed** of operations, will need to respond to highly complex challenges and changing opportunities. A renewed UN-REDD will benefit from a focused research and development phase prior to commencing implementation in 2021. Consequently, the Programme is investing in 2020 as an inception year for the new phase. Opportunities and demand at the country and global levels will be mapped and a multi-donor resource diversification and mobilization strategy will be integral to the 2020 inception year.

Concluding remarks

With the Secretary-General's historic Climate Action Summit, 2019 marked a turning point whereby nature-based solutions are now recognized as legitimate and essential climate change mitigation measures, necessary to keeping global temperature rise below the Paris Agreement target of 2 degrees Celsius. It is now acknowledged that [forests](#) alone can provide a massive mitigation potential of over 5 $GtCO_2eq$ per year by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and large-scale carbon removal through sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration ([REDD+](#)). Further, REDD+ is now recognized as an effective climate mitigation strategy for NDCs to the Paris Agreement, which is especially important to increasing the ambition of developing countries' climate commitments. Currently, mitigation measures contained in NDCs are inadequate to bridge the emissions gap to reach the Paris Agreement target by 2030. For a 2 degree Celsius limit to warming, the total emissions gap from current conditional NDCs is 13 $GtCO_2eq$ by 2030; for a 1.5 degrees Celsius limit, the gap is 29 $GtCO_2eq$. Strongly increased forest action is therefore a critical measure to remove CO_2 from the atmosphere, at scale, to close the emissions gap prior to 2030.

The year 2019 also marked the first year that country-led forest emissions reductions have been effectively recognized for financial rewards, within the framework of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including REDD+ payments from the GCF. The Fund inaugurated its pilot REDD+ payments scheme with the approval of the first REDD+ results-based payments for Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay.

Novel carbon market mechanisms, suitable for forest solutions, in line with the provisions of article 6 of the Paris Agreement, were operationalized in 2019, including the adoption of the [California Tropical Forest Standard and](#) the development of the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART), with [The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard](#) (TREES). In view of these developments and opportunities for forest solutions, UN-REDD is adjusting its strategy to better serve countries, financiers and in-country stakeholders to participate effectively in these novel market mechanisms that will unfold during the early years of the new decade.

As forest solutions gain political traction, coupled with a wider range of emerging financial mechanisms that recognize and incentivize them, UN-REDD becomes more valuable to, and valued by, countries trying to take action and navigate the evolving institutional, technical and financial landscape. By leveraging the knowledge and technical capacity that FAO, UNDP and UNEP have gained over a decade of "Delivering as one", UN-REDD can effectively help partner countries to reduce deforestation at scale and access financial rewards for the associated emissions reductions. As REDD+ transitions from its proof-of-concept stage, in which UN-REDD was an instrumental partner, to full-

scale implementation and results-based financing, UN-REDD is already formulating its strategy for the period 2021–2030, which will be presented to its governing bodies for adoption in 2020.

Bold action must be taken urgently to safeguard our forests and avert a climate disaster. We will only succeed by working together: reconnecting people and nature to implement the Paris Agreement effectively and secure a sustainable future for all. UN-REDD will continue operating in the vanguard of forest solutions, building on and sharing widely best practices, fostering innovation and replicating efforts at scale. Its strength lies in the complementary skills and experience of its three collaborating agencies working and delivering as "One United Nations", deploying its team of technical experts and policy advisors on the ground across the world, offering the convening capacity of the United Nations that has underpinned the success of UN-REDD since its inception.

Annex 1: Impact stories

[*These 10 stories will be inserted throughout the report in the designed version*]

Incorporating gender into forest and climate action:
Lessons learned from a decade of REDD+

For over a decade, UN-REDD has supported countries that integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into REDD+ actions with the aim of ensuring that women, men and young people can equitably and meaningfully engage and participate in, and benefit from, more sustainable, national REDD+ processes and actions. However, given the social, economic and cultural inequalities and legal impediments that exist, women continue to experience exclusion, particularly those from marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples. This limits their ability to fully participate in, contribute to and benefit from REDD+. In response, deliberate and meaningful efforts are being made to ensure that REDD+ actions are inclusive, fair and gender-responsive, both in policy and in practice.

Moving from commitments to credible action on the ground, UN-REDD has worked hand in hand with women's groups, indigenous peoples, communities, and government and civil society organizations to develop practical solutions to support women in their active role in REDD+ as traditional guardians of the forest. In 2019, this support focused on identifying and breaking down gender barriers and changing perceptions to ensure the fair and active participation of women in REDD+.

For example, efforts were made in Peru to increase women's participation in community-based forest surveillance committees. Data was collected to assess the catalytic factors that made women's participation in the committees possible. This information provided an accurate picture of the realities on the ground and allowed for improvements and gender-responsive actions to be identified, as well as opportunities for good practices.

Similarly, in Chile, UN-REDD support helped to ensure women's involvement in pilot projects for forest management. For example, as part of ecological restoration activities within the Ovalle commune, a group of women was included in the formulation and design of the project. They decided to offer scheduling flexibility during the implementation phase so their absence from home was less problematic. This, in turn, increased their capacity to engage fully. Before these efforts began, the area where they worked was known as the "Hill of shame", whereas the community now calls it the "Hill of hope."

These experiences have helped to inform and improve the gender approach of UN-REDD across the regions. In addition, UN-REDD documented key good practices and lessons learned from the Asia-Pacific region in 2019 in order to inform other gender efforts being undertaken within REDD+ and to share the experiences that have resulted from the Programme's gender work in the region. The following country case studies on gender and REDD+ are available online here.

- Cambodia - Changing the institutional culture through a national REDD+ gender group
- Papua New Guinea - Ensuring that women have a say: Putting gender at the heart of free, prior and informed consent
- Sri Lanka - Making civil society inclusion in REDD+ count for women
- Viet Nam - Unlocking the entrepreneurial power of indigenous women to protect forests

UN-REDD has integrated these experiences into its work in order to ensure that women, men and young people all have a seat at the negotiating table and an equal voice in REDD+ design, implementation and decision-making. This has had a positive impact both on forests and on forest-dependent communities, bolstering environmental conservation and rural economic development, and enhancing livelihoods for all.

A new era in forest management in Myanmar

Guided by REDD+, a new era of forest management is unfolding in Myanmar. In a country where deforestation and forest degradation account for some 80 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, protecting forests is more important than ever. In 2010, Myanmar had the third highest annual rate of deforestation after Brazil and Indonesia, according to a report by FAO. In the face of this environmental challenge, the Government of Myanmar is committed to REDD+, and, since 2016, the country has been elaborating its national REDD+ strategy with technical support from UN-REDD.

"REDD+ is very important for us because Myanmar is very sensitive to climate change," says Ohn Win, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar. "We need to protect our forests in order to protect our future."

In 2019, Myanmar marked a milestone in its REDD+ journey when it presented its national REDD+ strategy to diverse stakeholders for validation at a two-day workshop attended by nearly 200 participants in its capital city Nay Pyi Taw. The workshop was the culmination of a long and arduous two-year process during which 50 consultations were conducted across the country, spanning diverse sectors, including with government departments, line ministries, expert review committees, ethnic groups, ethnic armed organizations, civil society and indigenous peoples organizations.

"If we are to collectively conserve and sustainably manage our forests, we must overcome our history and establish an era of trust," says Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation of Myanmar. "It is an exciting time as we move towards a new era of forest management in Myanmar."

Myanmar's national REDD+ programme has created an invaluable forum for the Government to engage with groups it would not ordinarily interact with. "This is the first time that such a process has happened in Myanmar," says Naw Ei Ei Min, director of POINT, an indigenous organization that works to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are protected during the REDD+ process. "The forestry department is the first Government agency to discuss indigenous peoples' rights. By engaging in REDD+, we are engaging in our country's peace process."

The degree of difficulty of drafting the country's national REDD+ strategy with so many diverse, and at times competing, voices and amid its ongoing internal conflict, should not be minimized. As noted by workshop participant, Sonny Mahinder, General Secretary of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front: "Before 2013, I was in the jungle fighting against the military. Since then, I've become involved in the ongoing peace process. Our country is facing problems with deforestation. Everybody needs to work on fighting climate change, not only as a country, but also as individuals. REDD+ allows us to work together."

Greening the Viet Nam coffee supply chain

Globally, we drink more than 500 billion cups of coffee each year, yet most consumers don't know that while 67 per cent of the world's coffee is grown in Latin America, Viet Nam is the world's second largest coffee producer, producing 1.8 million tons in 2018.
The Central Highlands region produces 95 per cent of Vietnamese coffee, with the majority grown by smallholder farmers like Cil Mup Ha Thoan and his wife, Ro Ong K'Son. They have five children and have been growing coffee for 10 years in a region where forests cover 80 per cent of the land and the majority of the population belongs to the K'Ho ethnic minority group. "We earn decent money by growing coffee. We can pay for our food, electricity and water bills. We can pay the tuition for our children," says Cil Mup Ha Thoan.

With the export revenue of Viet Nam alone totalling more than $3.5 billion in 2018, coffee plays an important role in the region's socioeconomic development. But that development has come at a cost. Maintaining high levels of productivity has generated a series of environmental challenges, including deforestation and ecosystem degradation. "The forest is the main thing we have to be concerned about. The second is soil and the third is water conservation," says Hao Duc Bui, an agronomist expert in the Central Highlands working for the Sustainable Trade Initiative. "Farmers increasingly need more land for cultivation, so they cut down trees. We need to prevent that."

In pursuit of REDD+, Viet Nam is instituting new land-use planning processes and moving towards deforestation-free, sustainable landscapes, with the Central Highlands at the forefront of efforts to conserve natural forests and biodiversity while sustaining agricultural production. Coffee producers in the Central Highlands face multiple challenges, including aging farms that need to be replanted, drought, debt incurred to pay for fertilizer and falling world coffee prices.

UN-REDD has been working with partners to scale up alternative cultivation practices that can support the long-term sustainability of the coffee sector. The Sustainable Trade Initiative is currently implementing a programme in the Central Highlands that supports coffee farmers in becoming more climate-resilient and cost-efficient while also improving their livelihoods. One component of the programme is training for farmers like Cil and Ro. Training includes lessons on soil regeneration, irrigation, pest control and farming techniques. They also encourage the use of agroforestry and intercropping to diversify incomes and reduce the impact of coffee price fluctuation.

For smallholders, converting to climate-resilient models can provide economic benefits. However, the conversion requires a substantial capital investment, making it financially challenging for poorer households. Together with a consortium of partner organizations, including UNDP, the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, the Sustainable Trade Initiative and the European Forest Institute, UN-REDD is now working to establish a zero-deforestation jurisdiction for commodity cultivation in the Central Highlands. The work includes fostering partnerships and developing financial systems that can channel the investment capital required for the conversion to more resilient agricultural production models. The aim is to help green the coffee supply chain of Viet Nam, one bean at a time, while increasing farmers' livelihoods.

Safeguarding the biodiversity of Papua New Guinea

The island of New Guinea is home to the world's third largest rainforest after the Amazon and the Congo Basin. Papua New Guinea lies in the eastern part of the Island, while the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua lie in the western part. With five per cent of the world's biodiversity in just one per cent of its surface area, the forests of Papua New Guinea are ecological goldmines that are home to more than 20,000 species of plants, 191 species of mammals, 750 bird species, 300 species of reptiles and 198 species of amphibians. Yet despite the treasures they store, the country's forests are poorly understood scientifically. In addition, although they are relatively well-conserved, the forests of Papua New Guinea are facing increasing pressure from resource extraction through logging and clearing for agriculture.

To address these challenges, UN-REDD, FAO and the European Union have been providing support for the country's first-ever multi-purpose NFI since 2014. This ambitious initiative has enabled local scientists to gather important data on the country's flora, fauna and carbon stock, in order to accurately estimate greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

"What makes the NFI in Papua New Guinea unique is that we have a comprehensive biodiversity component, in addition to the usual tree enumeration and measurement," says Abe Hitofumi, FAO Chief Technical Advisor for the NFI project in Papua New Guinea. The project does not focus only on trees, but on the whole ecological network of interactions through soil, botany and zoology.

Kipiro Damas is on the NFI botany team. He says, "My job as a botanist is to look at the plants and give them specific scientific names. Because of a lack of funding, we never had a good opportunity to go around the country to collect information on all the plants. Now with this NFI project, we have the opportunity to go to places we were unable to go. This is great for us."

Grace Luke, a young scientist working with the NFI project says that she is proud of being a biologist. "I get to know everything in the forest. It's a good job because you protect the rainforest for the next generation."

The Papua New Guinea national REDD+ programme started in 2011, with field assessments for its NFI commencing in 2017. Over the years, the older staff in the Papua New Guinea Forest Authority began training younger staff like Redley Opasa, a post-graduate student who recently received a scholarship from the NFI project to research and analyse forest data.

"I'm blessed to be a part of this project," he says. "The thing I enjoy most about being part of the NFI survey is the chance to go around my country and discover our undisturbed forests. I have learned to really appreciate Papua New Guinea's rich biodiversity."

The aim of the NFI project is to protect the country's forests; with better data, better policies can be put into place to protect those forests. *"REDD+ provides that pathway for us. It is a mechanism where we can achieve transformational change within the country, achieve our development aspirations, but in a sustainable way,"* says Terence Barambi, Manager of the REDD+ Branch of the Climate Change and Development Authority in Papua New Guinea.

Mapping forest degradation in Uganda

The lush tropical jungles, rainforests, savannahs, lakes and rivers of Uganda are home to an astonishing array of biodiversity. As well as supporting wildlife, which is vital for the country's heritage and tourism industry, the forest resources of Uganda are essential to the local population's livelihoods. However, these valuable forest resources are disappearing rapidly, at a rate of 135,200 hectares annually. If this continues, most of the country's forests will disappear in the coming century.

It is therefore essential to obtain forest resource information for effective policymaking, reporting, planning and sustainable management, all of which are critical in combating climate change. The [National Forestry Authority of Uganda](#) has been working to develop reliable forest resource information using satellite land monitoring systems, managed by the remote sensing/geographical information system (GIS) unit, comprising a small, specialized team within the Authority. With the support of UN-REDD, this unit is now considered one of the most strategic within the Authority, providing support in mapping, reporting and data production for various projects across the country, including a FAO/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) wood fuel assessment project that is designed to map land area changes around refugee settlements.

Compared to deforestation, forest degradation is harder to detect and quantify. However, in the summer of 2019, the remote sensing/GIS unit took on the challenging task of assessing forest degradation across Uganda for the first time in its history. With the help of the innovative FAO [SEPAL platform](#), the first estimates of forest degradation have recently been generated. SEPAL reports and photographic evidence indicate a high rate of deforestation and forest degradation in the Bugoma

Central Forest Reserve, a 41,000-hectare protected area that is home to significant biodiversity, but that is facing growing human pressure from a nearby refugee settlement.

"Ugandan people depend on forests and trees for cooking, heating and eating," says Edward Senyonjo, National Forestry Authority Coordinator of NFIs. "This is why we should guide the local communities to better manage their forest resources, to avoid degradation and deforestation and to improve sustainability."

John Diisi, National Forest Authority Remote Sensing Lab Coordinator, says, "Mapping is key in addressing forest deforestation in Uganda since you cannot manage what you don't know. The level of degradation determines where our intervention is more urgent and what areas need more protection or restoration."

Diisi was part of the team that worked on the Authority's report from June to August 2019. With technical expertise provided by FAO, the report covers data and trends for the period 2016–2019 that will support policymaking and management decisions to protect the Bugoma ecosystem. This marks an important strategic step towards the sustainable management of Ugandan forests. As the first-ever forest degradation report produced in the country, it lays the foundation for similar work to be done in the future in other parts of Uganda.

Protecting forests and local communities through land titling in Peru

Peru is home to one of the world's largest tropical forests, surpassed only by those in Brazil, the Congo and Indonesia. Forests occupy more than half of the country's territory, with the largest area being in the Amazon. Peruvian forests are home to a great diversity of species and provide goods and services that are fundamental to the country's development and to the well-being of its inhabitants, especially the indigenous peoples. But **every year, between 118,000 and 177,000 hectares of the country's natural forests are destroyed.** Without proper land titling and zoning, forests in indigenous communities are being further threatened and risk disappearing rapidly.

The Awajún people live in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest, near the border with Ecuador. Currently, they possess titled community lands in four regions: Amazonas, Cajamarca, Loreto and San Martin. Land titling of indigenous peoples' territories is one of the REDD+ pilot measures being implemented through a bilateral agreement between Peru and Norway. Trained indigenous technicians have made this work at the community level possible, as they possess both the technical knowledge to implement the process, and the trust of their communities.

"The titling of our community lands has been an important step to better protect our territories and our forests," says Oswaldo Juep Danduck, who grew up in the Awajun community of San Martin. "I am happy I was able to support this rather difficult process in several communities."

Danduck was one of 325 indigenous technicians trained in REDD+ processes and sustainable forest management by UN-REDD. His REDD+ training not only enabled him to provide advisory and technical assistance to the indigenous communities of San Martin, but also to share his knowledge on climate change and its impact on livelihoods and forests. There were some significant hurdles to overcome, as some titles overlapped with titles from other communities; certain areas were already defined as forest concessions; and other areas were occupied by outsiders. Although forests are very important to indigenous peoples in the region, every community member has their own interests and economic needs that can sometimes lead to logging or selling parts of the land.

"Even though our lands are titled, there is still a long way to go," says Danduck. "We are working on zoning the territory and creating a plan for the future to manage our territory well and ensure our people, as a community, make good use of it."

"Forests are everything to indigenous peoples," he says. ''The forest contains our ancestral indigenous knowledge. Our medicine, our cosmovision, our food, how we live, our crafts, how we dress. All is to be found in the forest."

Supporting sustainable cattle ranching in Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a pioneer when it comes to forest conversation, sustainable development and climate leadership. But despite the fact that 30 per cent of the country is protected, unsustainable cattle ranching and agriculture continue to exert pressure on forests. In the national REDD+ strategy of Costa Rica, cattle ranching was identified as one of the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. With over 1.5 million hectares of pasture across the country, transforming this sector thus holds important mitigation potential for combating climate change.

To render farming practices more sustainable and to improve the livelihoods of farmers, UN-REDD has been supporting the Government of Costa Rica in the transition to low-carbon activities, including collaboration with the private and financial sectors to develop more sustainable cattle ranching through access to finance.

One of the cooperatives that has improved its environmental performance in the livestock sector by converting to sustainable techniques is Coope-Puriscal. It has more than 2,200 members, including Marvin Jiménez, a fourth-generation smallholder farmer and cattle rancher.

"I've been living in the region of Puriscal in Costa Rica since I was born, but now, we really notice the changes in the climate. The sun burns much harder," says Jiménez. "When the cooperative organized meetings to talk about climate change, we used to have doubts about what they said. Now, we are suffering the consequences."

A predominantly rural region in Costa Rica, Puriscal has many microenterprises and small farmers who struggle to obtain credit from traditional banks. **"Many producers do not qualify for access to the banking system,"** says Geovanni Sánchez Salazar, manager of Coope-Puriscal. "For example, when a farmer wants to access credit, he will be asked for a pay slip, but smallholder farmers cannot provide this type of document. In other cases, banks ask farmers to send a project proposal, but those are difficult to do, take too much time and farmers give up. The added value of what we can bring to farmers as a cooperative is not only in the low interest rates the farmers can now obtain, but in the conditions, paperwork, accompaniment and technical assistance that we can offer them."

With the support of UN-REDD, the cooperative is now accredited by the development banking system of Costa Rica, enabling them to access capital at lower costs. "Coope-Puriscal has given us access to finance and technical knowledge, allowing us to invest in better cattle ranching practices. Cattle ranching used to lead to deforestation, but now we practice it differently. We keep the trees and plant even more," says Jiménez.

Financing the activities of smallholder farmers in Puriscal has increased not only the environmental sustainability of their activities, but also their incomes. Slowly, young people who left for the big cities are now coming back home. "We learned that it's not that youth don't want to work the farms, but rather the lack of opportunities that makes them move to the cities," says Salazar. "Now, with the credits, we see how opportunities can multiply within a family."

#vlogging4forests: youth advocating for forests using the latest in video tech

Oluwaseun Adekugbe is 25-year-old forestry student at the Federal University of Technology of Akure in Nigeria and a member of the International Forestry Students' Association. Studying forestry was not an obvious choice for Adekugbe, and her family and friends criticized her preference for a career in a field that was neither important, nor able to provide a secure source of income.

"People in Nigeria still have very limited information about the importance of forests," she said. "They do not valorize forests. They just see them as a means to make a living, not as something you need to protect. But we all see the changes. When I was a child, I travelled to the village of my grandparents during the holidays and I loved spending time in nature and in the forest. I remember how nice the weather was, how nice it was to rest in the shade, but now the forests in their village are almost gone."

Passionate about forests, she decided to take up forestry studies, despite the criticism, and to acquire the necessary skills to become a knowledge broker in the interface between forestry and climate change. When she heard about the opportunity to vlog for forests with UN-REDD, she started her first vlog immediately.

"I feel a strong need to share simple stories that will increase people's knowledge on the importance of forests," says Oluwaseun Adekugbe. "Since people tend to believe what they see more than what they hear, vlogging is a good way to raise awareness."

As young people increasingly take the lead in climate action, UN-REDD has joined forces with the International Forestry Students' Association to give students a platform to share their views, ideas and stories on forest protection. In December 2019, youth vloggers attended the fifteenth Conference of Youth and the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Madrid to immerse themselves in discussions on nature-based solutions and forests and to share information through their own personal perspectives using the hashtag #vlogging4forests.

"Participating in COY and COP was an amazing experience for me," says Adekugbe. "I met so many people from all over the world. It was amazing to see how many young people are engaged in advocating for climate change. I learned a lot about forests and how they can contribute to the fight against climate change, and I received a lot of positive feedback from family and friends. Vlogs can tell you many things in simple ways. Through vlogging, we can get people's attention while also protecting the forests. I would like to continue raising my voice and vlog for forests and get more youth involved."

UN-REDD will continue working with youth vloggers in 2020 as part of a broader youth engagement strategy. All vlogs are posted on the [International Forestry Students' Association's YouTube channel](#).

Using improved technology to safeguard indigenous knowledge

Paraguay is home to the second largest forest ecosystem in South America and to many indigenous communities who depend on the forest for their livelihoods. But the region has one of the highest rates of deforestation in the world, with roughly 20 per cent of the Gran Chaco forest converted to farmland or grazing land since 1985.

"Our forests give us food, shelter, materials to build our houses and medicinal plants to cure the members of our community," says Cornelia Flores, the indigenous and spiritual leader of Isla Jovai Teju, one of the Mbya Guarani communities in Caagazu, Paraguay. "I plant trees and make sure we

maintain the medicinal plants so as to preserve our ancestral indigenous knowledge that is slowly getting lost as the forests disappear."

Flores is concerned about the youth in her community, particularly their dependence on mobile phones and their lack of knowledge about local plants and forests. But Rumilda Fernández, a young indigenous forest technician from the same community, says her smartphone can serve for far more than just entertainment. "My phone is also my tool to monitor the forest," she says. "I took several training sessions and am now proud to be able to use my phone to support the community by monitoring the forest."

Fernández is one of the indigenous youth to benefit from a series of trainings that began in Paraguay in 2017 with the goal of strengthening local capacity for community-monitoring and natural resource management in four Mbya Guaranies communities. She was trained by indigenous technicians from Panama, a team from FAO and other partner institutions from Paraguay on topics like GIS, mapping, natural resources management and the use of mobile applications.

Rafael Valdespino, an indigenous technician from Panama, has been part of the capacity-development programme on community forest monitoring since 2015. After attending several training courses, he is now an instructor and travels to other countries to share his experience through South-South exchanges organized by UN-REDD. "I was born in the forest," he says. "My grandfather and my father taught me about the forest, the plants and how to protect and take care of them. Combining ancestral knowledge with new technologies has made me a stronger protector of our indigenous forests."

Valdespino believes training other indigenous youth is an important step in motivating them to actively engage in protecting the forest. At these exchanges, a sense of common purpose arises.

"I learned a lot from the exchanges we had with the indigenous technicians from Panama," says Fernández. "It is so inspiring to see what they were able to accomplish. We learned from what they are doing, but it also gave us hope to know they also had setbacks. We learned things are not going to change in one day, that it is a process, sometimes a long one. That really motivated me and the other youth to persevere, to continue on our paths. I hope more communities in Paraguay will be able to benefit from these trainings."

Financing the transition to agroforestry for the cocoa industry of Côte d'Ivoire

Bamba Ibrahim is a 35-year-old cocoa farmer in Agboville, Côte d'Ivoire. He grew up in a family of cocoa farmers and has been farming full-time since he was 15. Today, his cocoa beans are worth less than they were a few years ago, as the price of cocoa has dropped. "Of course, I wish I had more land so I could plant more cocoa and make more income," he says.

The chocolate industry is one of the largest in the world, with an annual retail market value of approximately $100 billion. West Africa accounts for 70 per cent of global cocoa production, supplied by smallholder farmers like Ibrahim. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana are the largest producers, and in Côte d'Ivoire, cocoa production and trade represent 40 per cent of export revenues, employing eight million people - almost one third of the country's population.

Over the years, extensive cultivation practices have led to the ever-increasing expansion of cocoa areas, deterioration of soil quality and decreasing crop yields. This has resulted in large-scale deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire, with over 80 per cent of the country's forests now gone.

There are many options that could ensure sustainability while increasing yields, namely climate-smart agriculture, soil conservation practices, and the promotion of agroforestry to ensure shade-grown

cocoa production and soil rehabilitation. But how to streamline these solutions is intimately linked to knowledge dissemination and the availability of financing.

"The UN-REDD Programme has helped bring the different partners together to set up mechanisms that will enable small farmers to access finance," says Kouamé Ahoulou Ernest, Coordinator of the national REDD+ secretariat. "The UN-REDD Programme is helping build sustainable cocoa production by engaging the private sector and technical partners and by encouraging farmers to use high-quality seedlings and the right agroforestry techniques to take care of their plantations."

"We have introduced agroforestry in some pilot projects," says Jean Paul Aka, a national sustainable land-use finance specialist. "But if we want to scale up, we need to help farmers working outside cooperatives to access finance, in order for them to convert to agroforestry, buy seeds and bridge the revenue gap while waiting for the new plants to bear cocoa fruits. That's what we're working on."

One challenge for smallholders is the need to possess a land title in order to qualify for a bank loan. Obtaining a title costs about $1,400 per hectare, a sum that not many farmers can afford. UN-REDD has therefore started to bring together cooperatives, cocoa producers, supply chain businesses, traders, the forestry sector, the fruit sector and the national and international banks in the hope of developing a mechanism to help these farmers access finance for titling. This means the world to smallholders like Ibrahim, who has never been able to even taste chocolate due to the prohibitive price. "For the money I would have to spend on a bar of chocolate I can buy a bag of rice to feed a family of seven people," he says.