

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



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Report of the Seventh Executive Board Meeting

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SEVENTH
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (EB-7)

17 October 2023

Virtual meeting

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Introduction

1. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) held its Seventh Executive Board Meeting on October 17th through a virtual format (Zoom platform). All Board representatives attended the meeting.
2. The meeting was chaired by Tim Clairs, Principal Policy & Technical Advisor of UNDP's Climate and Forests Team. The meeting was attended by 33 participants (see Annex 1). All documents and presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme [website](#).

Opening

3. The Chair provided welcoming remarks recognising the 15 years of the UN-REDD Programme. He highlighted the aim of the Board meeting to review progress as well as provide guidance on how the UN-REDD Programme can be most helpful in continuing to support countries in 2024, which will be another important year for the forest and climate agenda (see agenda in Annex 2).

Agenda Item 1: UN-REDD Progress and 2023 Highlights

4. The Chair opened the session noting its objective to provide an update on the overall progress of the Programme since the last Board meeting, including highlights of achievements in 2023, building on the [2023 Semi Annual Progress Update](#) previously shared with the Board.
5. The UN-REDD Secretariat Programme Officer provided a framing summary of the UN-REDD 2025 Results Framework, operational modalities and financial status (see PPT [here](#), slides 3-6), underlining the heightened urgency to deliver the Programme's outcomes in the context of the climate emergency. The Programme's four interrelated outcomes function as a virtuous cycle, with the Programme focussed on supporting scaled up implementation and mobilisation of finance within the remaining two years of the current results framework. This is underpinned by UN-REDD's robust approach to operational planning, exemplified by the annual workplan update and reporting processes, Executive Board meetings and intersessional engagement. The Programme's commitment to transparency and accountability is exemplified through the financial information available in the [MPTF-O portal](#). The Secretariat also recognised the enlarged donor base, welcoming the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom as new donors to the Programme.
6. The FAO Senior Forestry Officer shared highlights of UN-REDD 2023 delivery, noting the expansion of breadth and depth of the Programme on many fronts (see PPT [here](#), slides 7-11). In 2023, UN-

REDD has actively supported 24 partner countries in the four areas of the Programme's results framework, including responding to increased country demands on issues such as MRV options for nesting and forest degradation; assisting countries to meet the requirements of the ART-TREES standard and to access results-based finance through LEAF; and to assess and enhance NDC mitigation actions from the forest and land use sectors. Three new initiatives have been launched in 2023, the African Forest Forum partnership, the REDD+ Academy 3.0 and the Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests (AIM4F) initiative, complementing existing initiatives on ASEAN Social Forestry and Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region.

7. The Programme's significant work on advocacy, communication and knowledge management was also noted, including south-south knowledge exchanges, high-level advocacy and COP28 plans, and connecting with the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP).
8. The Chair thanked the speakers for their presentations and invited questions and general feedback.

Feedback and guidance from the Board

9. The Executive Board welcomed the progress achieved by the Programme and the value it provides at the global and country level, including towards results-based payments for more countries, as reported during the meeting and in the background documents, including the [2022 annual report](#) and the [2023 semi-annual progress update](#).
10. Board representatives highlighted the importance of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, stressing the need to ensure that implementation of Article 5 should not be undermined by a focus on Article 6, and encouraging the UN-REDD Programme to continue dialogue on this matter.
11. The demand for increased UN-REDD support in ensuring involvement of the forest sector in NDCs was also raised. The concept of high forest, low deforestation (HFLD) was also signaled as an area that deserved additional analysis and work to ensure that REDD+ results-based finance not only rewards jurisdictions with low deforestation rates but also recognizes areas being conserved historically.
12. Pointing to the UN-REDD initiatives on Social Forestry in ASEAN and the African Forest Forum partnership as examples of UN-REDD 'leaving no one behind', the Board highlighted the Programme's unique contribution of being able to draw from community level experience as bottom-up approach to strengthen safeguards, finance and thinking for adaptation. Board

members expressed interest in the REDD+ Academy initiative, its curriculum development and participation in the learning labs for REDD+ practitioners.

13. A suggestion made by a donor representative to organise a discussion among donors on synergies and coordination after the Board meeting was supported by other donors. The Chair encouraged the dialogue between representatives beyond Board meetings, in any way deemed appropriate, indicating that the Secretariat is available to support such dialogues as required.
14. The Chair thanked the Board for their valuable inputs assuring their feedback will be captured and put to good use by the Programme.

Agenda Item 2. UN-REDD 2024 Outlook

15. The Chair opened the second session noting that its objective was to look forward to 2024, and within that scope to start thinking about strategic planning for the next phase of UN-REDD.
16. The UNEP Programme Management Officer introduced the 2024 outlook (see PPT [here](#), slides 12-16), noting that Programme is currently engaged in the 2024 work planning update exercise, and will provide an updated work plan for the Board's perusal early next year. Specific country deliverables are therefore not yet available, although a significant continuation of strategic priorities from 2023 is anticipated, and some key strategic directions for 2024 can clearly be identified for the country technical assistance portfolio, global and regional knowledge management, and overarching advocacy campaigns. These include technical assistance for results-based finance, and nested jurisdictional accounting. Geographical scope will include a concerted focus on front-runner countries looking to secure private sector results-based finance, adding countries to the current portfolio such as Bolivia and Ethiopia, and exploring interest and opportunities for Brazil to join the Programme.
17. A strategic focus for the Programme's advocacy, communications and knowledge management work in 2024 will be the ongoing high-level advocacy campaign to build consensus between demand and supply on forest carbon price and requirements for high-integrity emissions reductions. South-south knowledge exchange will be elevated to the next level through new initiatives launched in 2023: REDD+ Academy 3.0 and the Africa Forest Forum partnership.
18. The UN-REDD Secretariat Programme Officer provided an update on three upcoming milestones for 2024 (see PPT [here](#), slide 17). The rotation of Board membership will be activated in 2024, whereby the current alternate will rotate to serve as a member, and a new alternate will be self-

selected by each constituency. The Secretariat will continue this conversation with the Board members in the coming months, and support the self-selection process as needed.

19. Looking beyond the current UN-REDD 2021-2025 phase, the Secretariat also pointed to the strategic planning to be undertaken with the Board in 2024 to define how the Programme can best serve for the second half of the decade, in order to achieve the 2030 goal – forest’s mitigation contribution to the Paris Agreement fully realised.
20. This strategic planning effort will be complemented by continued resource mobilisation efforts to ensure sustainable resources for the longer term, so the programme can respond to the evolving demand and needs of partners.
21. The Chair thanked the presenters for framing the dialogue and invited reactions and feedback.

Feedback and guidance from the Board

22. On the technical assistance priorities for 2024, the strategic direction was well received, in particular, the importance of supporting countries to access results-based payments, of linking country-level achievements with the regional work and the global advocacy for increased synergies and cross-fertilization, and interest in the global and regional capacity building activities.
23. There was also interest in thinking about how UN-REDD should relate to the FCLP going forward, in terms of how to connect UN-REDD support to the same countries in FCLP, and in terms of the call put out by FCLP for additional technical assistance facilities.
24. On the strategic priorities for the next phase of the Programme, Board representatives signalled a number of important areas for UN-REDD support to countries:
 - a. aligning finance flows;
 - b. ways to assess and identify options to enhance the cost effectiveness of REDD policies and measures;
 - c. mobilizing additional upfront finance;
 - d. providing neutral advice on the various methodologies of different results-based finance schemes to help countries make their choices;
 - e. options to advance towards the 'mutual recognition' between national methodologies and international standards;
 - f. accessing results-based payments for REDD+ and payment for results under Article 5;
 - g. undertaking a review on REDD+ implementation at subnational level;

- h. contributing to the development of supply side definitions of high integrity and bridging the understanding on the term as well as roadmaps towards a common notion of high integrity;
 - i. analysis of options to capture the full valuation of forests and developing strategic long-term roadmap to manage forests for carbon and non-carbon benefits.
25. The Board stressed the need to keep the focus on support to indigenous people, ensure compliance with safeguards, including the non-carbon aspects and important groups like women and youth, and creating financial systems for indigenous people as direct partners. The continued role that UN-REDD should play in supporting civil society was emphasized, particularly the importance of linking governments with local communities and the comparative advantage of UN-REDD in this area. The Board stressed the importance of the REDD+ Academy as a tool to strengthen capacities also of indigenous people, local communities, and civil society.
26. A Board representative proposed to undertake a UN-REDD Programme survey to inform the next phase of UN-REDD, and how to deal with some issues of three UN agencies working in concert, with speed, while supporting countries on different work streams and with diverse criteria. An appraisal or mid-term assessment to inform the UN-REDD post-2025 strategic planning process was also mentioned by the Board.

Closing

27. The Chair thanked the Board for the substantive feedback and noted that this will guide the direction of the UN-REDD Programme in 2024 and beyond. The inputs provided by the Board will, on the one hand feed into the 2024 updated workplan for technical assistance – which UN-REDD will share with the Board early next year, and on the other hand, the longer-term feedback will influence the Programme’s strategic thinking for the phase 2025-2030 – to which we will return to in due course to discuss with the Board during 2024. The Chair then closed the virtual EB meeting.

Annex 1: List of Participants

		Name / Title	Country, Agency or Constituency	EB Designation
1	Mr.	Rijatahiana Haingomanantsoa Head of Department, REDD+ Strategy Development	Madagascar	Member Africa
2	Ms.	Roselyn Fosuah Adjei Director, Climate Change, National REDD+ Coordinator, Forestry Commission	Ghana	Alternate Africa
3	Mr.	Shankar Adhikari Under Secretary, REDD Implementation Centre, Ministry of Forests and Environment	Nepal	Member AP
4	Ms.	Laksmi Dhewanthi Director General of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia	Alternate AP
5	Ms.	Yulia Suryanti Director of Climate Change Mitigation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia	Alternate AP
6	Ms.	María Teresa Becerra Head, International Affairs Office, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS)	Colombia	Member LAC
7	Mr.	Jerson Leonardo Gonzalez Umaña International Affairs Office, MADS	Colombia	Member LAC
8	Mr.	Rubén Dario Guerrero Useda Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, MADS	Colombia	Member LAC
9	Ms.	Constanza Troppa Manager of Forest and Xerophytic Ecosystem Conservation, National Forestry Corporation (CONAF)	Chile	Alternate LAC
10	Ms.	Dolores 'Lola' Cabnal Red de mujeres indígenas sobre Biodiversidad de América Latina y El Caribe (RMIB-LAC) Área de Incidencia, Asociación Ak'Tenamit	Indigenous Peoples Organization	Permanent Observer
11	Mr.	Gustavo Sanchez Valle President of Directive Council, Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales (Red MOCAF)	Civil Society Organization/Local Communities	Permanent Observer
12	Mr.	David Ganz Executive Director The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)	Civil Society Organization (CSO)	Alternate Observer
13	Mr.	Leif John Fosse Senior Adviser, Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)	Norway	Member
14	Ms.	Vania Dietrichson Adviser, Department for Climate and Environment, Section for Forests, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)	Norway	Member
15	Mr.	Keith Anderson Forest and Climate Policy Advisor, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Forest Division	Switzerland	Member

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16	Mr.	Pierre-André Cordey Deputy Head, Climate, DRR, Environment Section Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Switzerland	Member
17	Ms.	Lindsay Mansfield Senior Policy Adviser, LEAF, International Forests Unit (ESNZ and FCDO)	United Kingdom	Member
18	Ms.	Fiona Stringer Senior Programme Manager & Policy Advisor, REDD+ Team, International Forests Unit (ESNZ and FCDO)	United Kingdom	Member
19	Ms.	Ayumi Ono Assistant Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency	Japan	Alternate
20	Ms.	Woori Lee Assistant Director, Global Forest Resources Division, Korea Forest Service	Korea	Alternate
21	Mr.	Soo-hwan Kim Programme Officer, Global Forest Resources Division, Korea Forest Service	Korea	Alternate
22	Mr.	Tim Clairs Principal Policy & Technical Advisor Climate and Forests, Climate Hub	UNDP (Chair)	Member
23	Mr.	Josep Garí Senior Policy Advisor	UNDP	Alternate
24	Ms.	Elsbeth Halverson Programmes and Partnerships Advisor	UNDP	Alternate
25	Ms.	Serena Fortuna Senior Forestry Officer, REDD+ Team Leader	FAO	Alternate
26	Mr.	José Carlos Fernández International Consultant on REDD+ Policy and Economics	FAO	Alternate
27	Mr.	Gabriel Labbate Global Team Leader, UN-REDD Head, Climate Mitigation Unit	UNEP	Alternate
28	Mr.	Steven Swan Programme Management Officer	UNEP	Alternate
29	Ms.	Assia Sidibe Pooled Funds Advisor, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office	MPTF	Ex-Officio
30	Ms.	Bertha Ormeno Portfolio Manager, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office	MPTF	Ex-Officio
31	Mr.	Mario Boccucci Head of UN-REDD Secretariat	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
32	Ms.	Mihaela Secieru Programme Management Officer	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat
33	Mr.	Chandra Manalu Programme Management Officer	UN-REDD Secretariat	Secretariat

Annex 2: Agenda

Time	Session
13:30	Logging in (starts at 13:30 CET). Official start of the meeting is 14:00 CET.
14:00	Welcome and introduction from the Chair of the Board (Mr. Tim Clairs, Principal Policy & Technical Advisor, Climate & Forests, UNDP)
14:05	<p>Part 1: <u>UN-REDD Progress and 2023 Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on cumulative UN-REDD progress, including 2023 highlights (Ms. Mihaela Secrieru & Ms. Serena Fortuna) • Feedback and discussion with the Board • Wrap-up
14:55	<p>Part 2: <u>UN-REDD 2024 Outlook</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on UN-REDD outlook to 2024, including EB rotation (Mr. Steven Swan & Ms. Mihaela Secrieru) • Feedback and discussion with the Board • Wrap-up
15:40	Summary and concluding thoughts (Mr. Clairs)
15:45	Meeting close