

1. Title/Heading.

UN-REDD: Supporting countries with complex policy and institutional reforms to scale up climate actions and ambitions on sustainable land and forest management, conservation and restoration.

2. Context and rationale.

The UN-REDD Programme is a 10-years old **UN partnership** that supports Nature-Based Solutions on the forest-climate nexus at national, decentralised and local levels. UN-REDD, which is undergoing its review for the post-2020 horizon, thus stands ready to be one of the UN **support platforms** to advance the outcomes of the Climate Summit. The purpose of this note is to provide some highlights on the Programme's experience, achievements and support modalities to showcase a support mechanism that will be available for the outcomes of the Climate Summit on forests and climate.

Scaling up climate action, and achieving significant emission reductions by 2030, is more pressing than ever. Despite **forests** having emerged as a **key solution** to the climate crisis through the crucial role they play in terms of emission reductions, removals as well as adaptation, there is a need to increase the ambition to bridge the existing gap between commitments and the scale of required efforts to avert catastrophic climate change.

Reducing emissions from agriculture, forests and land use, as well as removing massive amounts of carbon from the atmosphere – in part through restoration and reforestation - is a critical part of the **required response**. While forests and other land based options may be included in emerging climate finance mechanisms, there are risks and technical challenges that need careful attention and innovative approaches to be addressed successfully.

Among the approaches, REDD+ stands out as a **transformational approach** to structure and implement nature-based solutions and has notable international support as per UNFCCC provisions and the Paris Agreement (Art. 5 = REDD+). While many countries have advanced in their REDD+ policies and started their implementation, land-based mitigation actions still need to be incorporated in national development and climate action plans, including NDCs, as well as mainstreaming it across sectors and levels of government.

While there are many initiatives and projects underway, major efforts are needed to **scale-up action**, including accelerated learning, diffusion and mobilization of finance for REDD+ and other land based mitigation options.

3. An overview of the contribution.

Over the past **10 years**, the UN-REDD Programme has supported the preparation and implementation of measured, reported and verified REDD+ actions to the mitigation of climate change as well as the provision of additional benefits, in full alignment with UNFCCC agreements and provisions.

As a knowledge and technical solutions platform on the forest-climate nexus, UN-REDD has provided tailored capacity building support through sharing of expertise, common approaches, analyses, methodologies, tools, data, best practices and facilitated South-South knowledge sharing.

The wealth of experience gained in this process, along with the extensive geographical scope, **convening power**, and neutrality of the **UN**, and the UN-REDD agencies in particular, can assist countries to implement and scale up REDD+ and related landscape-based solutions included in their national commitments as well as increasing ambition.

A particular approach of the Programme is to become **a catalyst of transformation**, a programme that accelerates innovations, thus helping articulate and deploy the global mandate on forest-based solutions for climate change.

4. How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

REDD+ is inherently based on living natural systems, addressing the underlying drivers of forest loss, promoting food production systems and development options that are compatible with the conservation of natural forests.

5. How might the contribution support climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years. They may include:

- **Reduction in carbon emission and carbon capture (GTonnes)**
- **Increasing climate resilience**
- **Social impact (job increase; poverty reduction; Just transition, etc.)**
- **Net economic impact (total in US\$; how was it achieved?)**
- **Impact on realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (in particular SDGs 1,2,6,12,13,14,15,16)**
- **Food security**
- **Minimising species extinction and ecological losses and fostering an increase of biodiversity.**

The Programme and its partner agencies can support the efforts of its **65 partner countries** to implement nature-based solutions, which encompasses some 40% of the identified potential in Nature-Based Solutions¹.

Through the design of REDD+ actions in line with safeguards, REDD+ interventions support and are consistent the conservation of biological diversity, natural forests and their ecosystem services as well as to enhance other social and environmental benefits.

6. Which countries and organisations are involved in the contribution?

UN-REDD is one of the largest international programmes on the climate-forest nexus, with three core UN agencies, [65 partner countries](#) spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, and various donors. Indigenous peoples and civil society organisations are key stakeholders, including their participation in the national and international governance mechanisms of its activities. The Programme has an accumulated budget of over US\$300 million since 2008, comprising national programmes, community programmes, technical advice and global knowledge management.

7. How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?

The overall approach of the Programme is one of an inclusive process of consultations and discussions with all stakeholders from the global to the national levels. The Programme's Executive Board includes representatives of Partner countries, indigenous peoples, civil society organisations, donor countries and UN organisations.

8. Where can the contribution be put into action?

For over 10 years, the Programme has supported national efforts to design, implement and safeguard policies and measures for REDD+ results-based actions than can be measured reported and verified. UN-REDD has also developed and deployed knowledge on a number of frontier issues for REDD+, from sustainable landscapes to promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, and from national financing innovations to aligning private-sector investments to national targets for sustainable development.

9. How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?

¹ This includes the estimates from FAO projections based on deforestation and removals as well as the estimates from the paper on Natural Climate Solutions.

The Programme collaborates with other REDD+ initiatives and related organizations, including the FCPF, the BioCarbon Fund, the Forest Investment Programme, the REDD Early Movers, Green Climate Fund, Central African Forest Initiative and others.

In addition, other initiatives like subnational jurisdictional approaches to REDD+, forest restoration initiatives, zero deforestation commitments as well as emerging climate finance and markets have also become increasingly relevant for the Programme.

The Programme works through inclusive, rights-based approaches, engaging with stakeholders from the global to the national level, including indigenous peoples, civil society organisations as well as national governments, all of which are counterparts of the Programme and integral part of its governance arrangements, with the overall goal of ensuring that the evolving REDD+ landscape leads to consistent, safeguarded actions with greater scale and ambition.

10. Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Summit workstreams (industry transition; energy transition; climate finance and carbon pricing; infrastructure, cities and local action; resilience and adaptation; youth and citizen mobilization; social and political drivers; mitigation strategy)?

The initiative seeks to de-risk investment by other private and public funds through information to producers, investors and communities, coupling private investments with technical assistance, continuous engagement with relevant actors to assess and reduce political risk, support the design of economic instruments to incentivize private investment. The initiative can potentially contribute to the workstreams on resilience and adaptation, industry transition, cities, finance, social and political drivers and mitigation strategy.

11. How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?

The contribution takes into account the lessons learned from 10 years of work with countries. By connecting on the ground action with policy implementation and institutional arrangements, the Programme can help countries deliver REDD+ results on a broad set of activities, including restoration and avoided deforestation that can be linked to emerging payment /offsetting schemes. In doing so, it aims to work in collaboration with other initiatives by, for instance, serving as implementing partner, undertaking joint initiatives and coordinating delivery.

12. What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?

The UN-REDD Programme Executive Board has general oversight for the Programme, taking decisions on the allocation of the UN-REDD Programme resources. The Programme

also has an Integrated Results and Monitoring Framework which serves as a management tool to support the implementation and oversight functions of the UN-REDD Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation program.

Moreover, one of the core UN agencies of the UN-REDD Programme – FAO – has a worldwide leadership on national forest monitoring systems, which are critical to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of policies and partnerships for a sustainable forest-land-climate nexus.

13. What is the communication strategy?

UN-REDD has the privilege of producing, engaging with and gathering a rich diversity of knowledge, practices and innovations on forest-based solutions to the climate crisis. The UN-REDD Programme has a global communications team that fosters the rapid dissemination and availability of such knowledge by using different communication means and platforms, so to better scale-up climate solutions. This is compounded by the fact that the technical team of the UN-REDD Programme regularly visits countries and participates in technical meetings with governments and practitioners, thus communicating such knowledge in situ and in ways that help transition policy into practice.

Knowledge management is understood within the UN-REDD Programme as a systematic approach to support knowledge to flow effectively and efficiently to achieve agreed objectives. It is a set of tools, processes and methods that facilitate the conditions for people to efficiently create, capture, share, adapt and use knowledge to achieve their goals. It includes communications and knowledge platforms accessible to stakeholders (www.unredd.net)

14. What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named).

The UN-REDD Programme is precisely undergoing an internal review, along the UN reform and to be ready for the post-2020 climate agenda (which the UNSG Climate Summit will contribute to). The new UN-REDD (from 2020) is expected to be a dynamic UN platform that helps countries fine-tune, organise and deploy their forest-based solutions to the climate crisis, aiming to becoming a forerunner partner for implementing the outcomes of the UNSG Climate Summit.

For further information contact UN-REDD Secretariat at un-redd@un-redd.org.