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REDD+

Online Workshop Series



Key messages

- Deforestation and forest degradation are complex problems with many connected social, economic and environmental challenges. Reversing deforestation can only be addressed through sustainable land-use management and improved social cohesion.
- REDD+ provides incentives to developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.
- Improved efforts are needed to boost confidence in carbon markets as potential sources of finance in Indonesia.
- Multi-level governance and private sector involvement are crucial to success in DRC.
- Vietnam aims to expand REDD+ to mangrove and wetland environmental services.
- Peru reduces deforestation and now includes peatlands in its REDD+ focus.
- Brazil needs a high-level commitment to REDD+ and a major reduction in deforestation in order to meet its climate goals.

Deforestation and forest degradation are major contributors to climate change. They account for 11 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, which is more than the global transportation sector and second only to the energy industry. Forests offer a range of essential services by protecting soil, regulating water and climate, supporting biodiversity and providing nutritious food to local communities. The conservation of these wilderness areas is therefore vital not only to the estimated 1.6 billion people who rely on forests, but also to reduce carbon emissions in the global plan to limit warming of the planet under the **Paris Agreement**.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (**REDD+**) is a voluntary climate change mitigation approach that has been developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It aims to provide incentives to developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve forest carbon stocks, sustainably manage forests and enhance forest carbon stocks. This is implemented through results-based payments (RBP), which are dependent on a country's performance. REDD+ offers environmental, social and economic benefits, while contributing to the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goals**.

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and partners have been implementing a Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (**GCS REDD+**) since 2009. Through research and engagement at international, national, subnational and local levels, CIFOR ensures that policymakers and practitioner communities can access and use the information, analyses and tools needed to design and implement effective, efficient and equitable REDD+ policies.

CIFOR is currently in the third phase of its REDD+ research, focusing on the assessment of policy design and actual impacts of REDD+ policies and measures as a basis to achieving results in the broader context of landscape management, livelihood objectives and equity considerations. Through GCS REDD+, three key challenges have been identified for RBP: what to pay for, how to set reference levels, and who should benefit.

🌀 REDD+ has served as a testing ground for innovative policies on forest conservation and it has also created a global alliance that didn't exist before, with many different actors working toward this common goal.🌀



Amy Duchelle

CIFOR Team Leader, Climate Change, Energy & Low-Carbon Development

Over the past two months, CIFOR and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (**Norad**) have been running a series of online workshops that address the research conducted over the past decade on REDD+ programs in Asian, African and Latin American countries. Discussions provided insights into the current status and impact of REDD+ on the ground, opportunities and challenges for implementing REDD+ policies, the new global and national contexts, as well as policies and practices needed to enhance REDD+ outcomes. The workshop series focused on the effect of RBP on land-use policies and actions in Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Vietnam, Peru and Brazil.

Indonesia

🌀 The issue of payment for results relies on accountability. If you are making efforts to reduce degradation, while your neighbor in another province or country behaves in such a way that it impacts your performance, who is accountable? These are important issues to consider in the governance of results-based payments. 🌀



Robert Nasi
CIFOR Director General

The online **workshop** on Indonesia took place on 27 October 2020. The 17 speakers included CIFOR Director General **Robert Nasi**; **Marianne Johansen**, a counselor on climate change and forests at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta; and **Marc Dumas-Johansen** from the Green Climate Fund. Moderated by CIFOR's Amy Duchelle, **Cynthia Maharani** from the World Resources Institute (Indonesia) and CIFOR's **Levania Santoso**, the speakers covered topics such as Indonesia's REDD+ partnership with Norway, RBP finance and RBP implementation at a subnational level.

Johansen acknowledged Indonesia's transformative efforts, such as social forestry measures and a permanent logging **moratorium**, to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable land use. Results-based payments are for a quantifiable global public good and are not a gift; they are international recognition of a country's sustainability efforts; and they can cause a chain reaction that leverages other funding, particularly in the emerging **carbon market**, she added.

Indonesia will receive USD 56 million from the Norwegian Government as part of the Indonesia-Norway **Letter of Intent** for 11.2 million tCO₂e avoided from reduced deforestation in 2017. It will also obtain USD 103.8 million

from the Green Climate Fund based on 20.3 million tCO₂e emissions avoided during the period 2014–2016.

Arild Angelsen from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences emphasized the importance of creating incentives all along the REDD+ impact chain, including **payments** in advance and after the goals are achieved: "It's better to pay twice and get something than paying once and get nothing." He also stressed the need to focus on carbon, preserve **safeguards**, standardize the period for historical emissions and outsource an independent third-party review for funding.

CIFOR's **Moira Moeliono** described the shifting perceptions of performance-based payments in Indonesia, with many actors seeing them as a government responsibility. She advocated a strong regulatory framework and improved efforts to boost confidence in carbon markets as potential sources of finance. Carbon finance was also discussed by **Dharsono Hartono** from PT. RMU in the context of the **Katingan Mentaya Project**.

Other presentations covered gender and climate finance (CIFOR's **Stibniati Atmadja**), subnational forest reference emission levels (CIFOR's **Daniel Murdiyaso**), monitoring tools for multi-stakeholder forums (Professor **Daddy Ruhiyat** and CIFOR's **Nining Liswanti**), and RBP within nationally determined contributions (**Sonny Mumbunan** of the University of Indonesia).

🌀 The climate crisis is still here and it urgently needs to be resolved. Nature itself, especially the remaining rainforest, is an essential part of the solution. 🌀



Marianne Johansen
Royal Norwegian Embassy, Jakarta



Democratic Republic of Congo



In DRC, deforestation is correlated with poverty, and this aspect should be part of any discussion aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.



Hilde Dahl
Norad

The DRC REDD+ [webinar](#) took place on 12 November 2020. Moderated by [Denis Sonwa](#), a CIFOR senior scientist, the event examined why little progress has been made on deforestation and land degradation despite the central African country's commitment to REDD+ over the past decade. As [reported by Forests News](#) in November, DRC's rate of emissions from forest loss continues to be among the highest in the Congo Basin due to unsustainable logging, fuelwood collection, agricultural expansion and mining.

The annual deforestation rate in DRC is estimated at around 0.3 percent for the period 2000–2015, according to Sonwa.

DRC has signed 29 international conventions and promulgated more than 40 national laws, decrees and ordinances relating to environmental protection. The country's REDD+ strategy will be revised in 2022 to address implementation opportunities and challenges experienced from 2009 to 2020.

Nine speakers participated in the online workshop, which included remarks from [Benjamin Toirambe Bamoninga](#), secretary-general for the environment at the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development; and [Hilde Dahl](#), a senior advisor for Norad.

[Hassan Assani Ongala](#), a national REDD+ coordinator at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, emphasized that it is difficult and premature to measure the impact of all REDD+ investments in DRC with regard to poverty and emissions reduction. However, where there have been investments in the [project intervention](#) areas, the communities have diversified their sources of income even if their living conditions have yet to improve.

Participants heard how REDD+ still faces difficulties fitting within DRC's government agenda, while attempts to involve the private sector have mainly focused on the potential of companies to earn twice as much under REDD+ as their current business model. However, financing remains a problem due to the cost of reducing emissions.

As highlighted by Victor Kabengele from DRC's REDD+ National Fund ([FONAREDD](#)), the amount of money offered by the World Bank's [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility](#) – USD 5 per ton – to remunerate the [Mai-Ndombe](#) program is far too low. To ensure the reduction of one ton of CO₂ in the forest sector, a range of USD 30 to USD 40 per ton is required.

In other sessions, Félicien Kengoum of Cameroon-based consulting firm [BrightWay](#) stressed the importance of participation by non-state actors in REDD+ events and the urgent challenge of multi-level governance. "To date, the role of the provinces in the context of REDD+ has been limited, with the central government remaining at the center of decision-making [processes](#)."

[Seraphine Ntumba](#), a gender officer for the forest conservation group Centre d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Forêts Tropicales (CAGDFT), highlighted [community forestry](#) as an effective solution for empowering local communities in the fight against climate change through access to land and resources.

Capacity building was also seen as key to participation as DRC needs support with maintaining existing trees while [planting](#) new ones as a REDD+ country.

It's less difficult to say we are going to plant billions of trees. Then we must see [which trees](#), where, who is going to plant them and how they will stay in the ground when we plant them.



Paolo Cerutti
CIFOR



Vietnam

🌀 The most innovative breakthrough is how we involve different social groups of actors in our forestry through PFES, and this should still be considered as our future priority, particularly how to expand and sustain the scheme.🌀



Ha Cong Tuan
Vice Minister, MARD

Vietnam is currently developing its Forestry Development Strategy 2021–2030, with an eye to 2050. A key objective of the new strategy is to align national priorities with global forestry outlooks and international commitments, as well as developing innovative sustainable financing mechanisms for the forestry sector.

Since 2010, CIFOR has worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (**MARD**), civil society organizations, scientific communities and practitioners to co-produce new data, tools, information and analysis – and to inform policy makers. This includes supporting MARD in designing, implementing and monitoring national Payments for Forest Environmental Services (PFES).

In November 2020, CIFOR ran **five workshops** on Vietnam as part of its REDD+ series, with help from co-organizers Nong Lam University, Nguyen Tat Thanh University and Vietnam National Forestry University. The topics included the Vietnam Forestry Development Strategy for the coming decade, payments for mangrove environmental services, sustainable wetland management, and the impact of payments for forest environmental services over the past 12 years. Supported by CIFOR's **Pham Thu Thuy**, the event opened with a speech by **Ha Cong Tuan**, vice minister at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The event emphasized the importance of the Vietnam Forest Protection and Development Fund (**VNFF**), the government's focal point in directing the implementation of PFES. According to Nguyen Chien Cuong, a VNFF senior official, PFES contributed 28 percent of total investment in the forestry sector in 2019. CIFOR research in four studied sites in Vietnam showed how such payments can lift people out of poverty by boosting household incomes.

Pham Hong Luong, the director of Cat Tien National Park, said, on average, PFES contributes up to 52 percent of total household income in his area, helping local communities and people who participate in protecting forests.

The government of Vietnam is requesting the support of international and national scientists in providing more analysis to expand the PFES scheme with mangrove and wetland environmental services, according to Le Van Thanh, vice director at VNFF.

Stakeholders in all workshops concluded that there was a need to link and strengthen policy, science and practice in order to design and implement evidence-based decision making.

🌀 Due to weak monitoring and evaluation, more rigorous assessment of PFES impact on the quantity and quality of forest environmental services is still required.🌀



Pham Thu Thuy
CIFOR



Peru

REDD+ is complex and dynamic, and its processes constantly force us to build and test hypotheses. Knowledge is key.



Gustavo Suarez de Freitas

Country representative for the Earth Innovation Institute

Almost 60 percent of the national territory of Peru corresponds to forest areas, and it is estimated that 46 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in the country comes from deforestation. Globally, REDD+ has positioned itself as one of the most popular strategies for mitigating climate change, and **Peru** has been no exception. Around the world, more than 400 REDD+ projects have been implemented, and, although there is no official public registry, Peru has approximately 30 REDD+ projects.

The **four-day** workshop series on Peru attracted more than 1000 attendees and included about 30 speakers, with presentations from CIFOR scientists such as **Anne Larson**, **Peter Cronkleton** and Kristell Hergoualch. One of the main topics was on multi-stakeholder forums (MSFs), focusing on the development of a **reflective learning tool** (called "How are we doing?") that helps participants to identify and reflect on the strengths, challenges and opportunities of their forums.

We worked on the development of this tool (...) which brings together the diversity and singularity of each territory, to see if our protected area management committees are representative, legitimate and include the most vulnerable groups.



Marco Arenas

Head of the Functional Operational Unit for Participatory Management of the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERANAP).

Participants heard that there had been a reduction in deforestation in REDD+ sites in Peru, with evidence of socioeconomic benefits in only some of them. Land tenure remains a problem for REDD+ implementation, and more attention needs to be paid to gender within this context. Yet the country has been a pioneer when it comes to engagement with multiple REDD+ actors, according to Larson.

ICRAF's **Valentina Robiglio** presented DriveNet, a methodology to analyze in a participatory way the causes and mechanisms of deforestation, while **Daniela Requena** and Veronique **Tracy** from the University of Wageningen (Netherlands) called for Peruvian peatlands to be included and prioritized in REDD+ programs, a point now being addressed by the Peruvian government.

Generating evidence that guides policies to stop deforestation is something that CIFOR has been supporting, and that evidence is key for effective and efficient public policies, but for this to be efficient and effective we need space for collaboration and participation, like the experiences that have been presented here today.



Milagros Sandoval

Director of greenhouse gas mitigation at Peru's Ministry of the Environment

The webinar series also presented ongoing research that seeks to contribute to GHG and REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) **accounting** in Peru. The focus was specifically on the inclusion of peatlands in REDD+, the quantification of changes in carbon stocks related to forest recovery and disturbances, and the integration of large-scale, open-access biomass maps into conservation efforts.

The workshops had among its speakers officials of Peru's Ministry of the Environment (**MINAM**), the National Forestry Service (**SERFOR**) and the Royal Embassy of Norway.

The inclusion of peatlands in REDD+ and the increased transparency in the accounting framework showcase Peru's willingness to move forward with REDD+.



Kristell Hergoualch

CIFOR senior scientist.



Brazil

Deforestation is at the basis of Brazil's NDCs. Without a very big reduction, especially in the Amazon states, there is no way that Brazil can reach its climate goals.

Raoni Rajão

Brazil succeeded in reducing Amazonian deforestation by around 80 percent from 2004 to 2012 due to a series of public policies as well as private and sectoral measures. The **Amazon Fund** – established by the Brazilian government in 2008 with funding from Norway and Germany to protect Amazonian forests – was the largest climate pay-for-performance mechanism ever created.

Brazil has fulfilled all requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to access results-based payments, and in 2019, the Green Climate Fund **committed to pay** Brazil USD 96.5 million for forest-based emissions reductions in 2014–2015. The states of Acre and Mato Grosso have already received results-based payments from the REDD+ **Early Movers** program of Germany and the UK, and other Amazonian states are in the process of consolidating jurisdictional REDD+ programs.

Further development of the national REDD+ strategy is a considerable challenge for Brazil, as the current national political rhetoric does not consider fighting and controlling deforestation and climate change as government priorities, according to CIFOR **research** published this year, with funding from Norad.

The REDD+ workshop on Brazil **took place** on 17 December and featured more than a dozen speakers. With a focus on subnational REDD+ programs, the event was opened by Amy Duchelle (CIFOR), Andrew Miccolis (ICRAF) and **Carlos Aragon**, Brazil coordinator for the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force.

Norad's Livia Kramer delivered a speech on Norway's investments in forests and climate in Brazil, including an amount of USD 1.2 billion for the Amazon Fund. She emphasized the importance of financial incentives for REDD+ policy implementation in forest countries, and stressed the need for high-level prioritization of such policies in order to have a significant effect on reducing deforestation.

Participants covered a range of topics, including strategies to reduce deforestation at the state level in Brazil (presented by **Raoni Rajão** from the Federal University of Minas Gerais), tools to support subnational REDD+ strategies (WWF's Ana Carolina Crisostomo and Monica de los Rios from the Earth Innovation Institute), the role of multi-stakeholder forums in Acre and Mato Grosso (**Jazmin Gonzales Tovar** from the University of Florida), REDD+ jurisdictional approaches in Pará State (**Frederico Brandão** from World Agroforestry), links between REDD+ and land environment registries (Carolina Gueiros from University of Oxford). The presentations were followed by a summary with highlights (Teresa Moreira from TNC) and comments from government representatives of Pará (Andrea Coelho), Mato Grosso (Mauricio Moleiro Philipp) and Acre (Érico Barboza).

The Amazon states are very large, so it is important to regionalize the commitments. The process of decentralizing environmental management has already started, but it still requires a lot of attention.

Ana Carolina Crisostomo



Participants

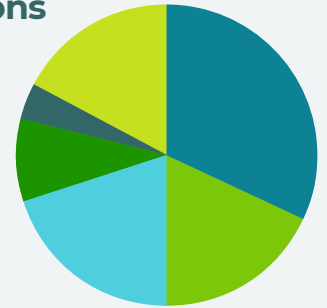
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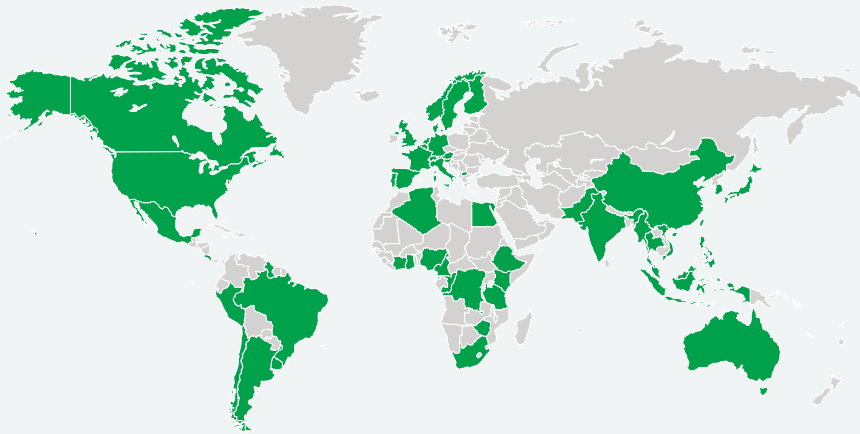
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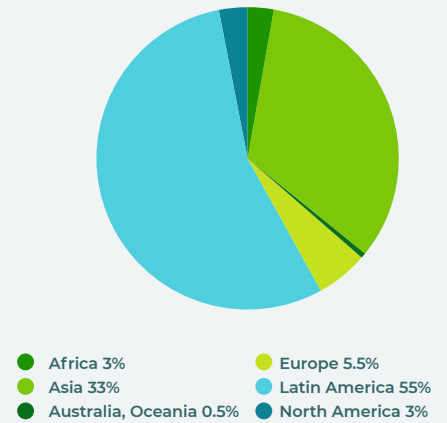
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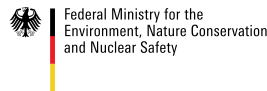
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