

# ID-RECCO – the international database on REDD+ projects and programmes

## Unlocking REDD+ project knowledge for informed environmental action

Isabella Rego Monteiro,<sup>1</sup> Jean-Charles Rouge,<sup>2</sup> Christopher Martius<sup>2</sup> and Stibniati Atmadja<sup>3</sup>

### Key messages

- Access to standardized, unbiased information on REDD+ projects is essential to assess project impacts, analyse trends, develop and scale up initiatives, and evaluate investment opportunities. This fosters informed decisions, transparency and collaboration in sustainable forest management and climate action.
- Scientists working in CIFOR-ICRAF's Global Comparative Study on REDD+ have created a publicly accessible database of REDD+ initiatives (ID-RECCO) that offers comprehensive, in-depth information on these projects, while also putting in place checks to ensure data reliability and transparency.
- Stakeholders in the forest carbon sector have identified ID-RECCO as an essential tool for their work, indicating that its many core strengths – comprehensiveness, independence, neutrality and focus on data quality – offer unique value compared to other publicly available resources.
- Beyond aggregating information, ID-RECCO has been instrumental in advancing knowledge-sharing, with a team of CIFOR-ICRAF scientists disseminating insights on REDD+ projects through workshops and seminars, supporting users in deploying data for their research, and offering training.
- Institutionalizing ID-RECCO is crucial to maintain and enhance the impact of REDD+. This tool has successfully supported evidence-based decision-making, as indicated by stakeholder feedback. Ensuring its continuity is therefore essential to strengthen environmental accountability measures, optimize future REDD+ strategies, and enhance their long-term sustainability. This is vital for achieving international climate objectives, promoting sustainable forest management practices, and ensuring equitable livelihood improvements for local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

<sup>1</sup> Independent Consultant

<sup>2</sup> CIFOR-ICRAF

<sup>3</sup> CIFOR-ICRAF/CIRAD

## The importance and challenges of REDD+

REDD+, the UNFCCC's framework for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, represents a global effort to mitigate climate change through the preservation of forest resources. Its scope has gradually expanded to encompass not only the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation, but also the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and the sustainable management of forests (La Viña et al. 2016). The purpose of REDD+ extends beyond mitigating climate change; it also aims to promote co-benefits such as protection and improvement of livelihoods, tenure and gender rights, and biodiversity (Anguila et al. 2014).

Effective implementation of REDD+ depends on stakeholder collaboration across varied policy landscapes, thus involving complexity and challenges. These challenges include establishing reliable systems to measure and verify emissions reductions, clarifying rights to forest carbon, ensuring robust local stakeholder engagement, protection and equitable benefit-sharing, as well as securing sustained funding amidst budgetary and political uncertainties (Aguila et al. 2014).

Another important issue, which has garnered considerable attention in recent years, has been the difficulty of scaling up REDD+ efforts to achieve significant reductions in emissions. Much implementation has relied on small, isolated projects with limited integration into broader public policies. In response to these difficulties, the jurisdictional approach emerged, seeking to unify REDD+ initiatives across entire regions or jurisdictions (Boyd et al. 2018). By addressing the fragmented nature of previous efforts, this approach aims to align local actions with overarching governmental policies and objectives (Boyd et al. 2018), allow for economies of scale in monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and to better account for leakage. These potential advantages have led jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives to attract interest from international donors, governments and private sector entities interested in supporting large-scale conservation and climate mitigation efforts.

Given the complexity of REDD+ initiatives and the array of challenges faced by multiple stakeholders, access to comprehensive and accurate information on individual REDD+ projects, as well as jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives, is essential. Such data enables donors and investors to understand and verify

the environmental and social impacts of their contributions, thereby ensuring sustainable funding for successful initiatives. Additionally, it supports researchers in assessing the effectiveness of diverse conservation strategies. For governments, having precise information aids in understanding REDD+ implementation within their country, which in turn facilitates informed policy-making, and ensures that policies are aligned and responsive to the needs of REDD+ implementation. It also empowers communities and civil society organizations to participate more effectively in the planning and execution of REDD+ projects. Detailed data on REDD+ is therefore critical for enhancing transparency, ensuring accountability, and ultimately driving the overall success of REDD+ efforts on a global scale.

## Support from the GCS REDD+ project

Since 2009, CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (GCS REDD+) has been implemented through four phases, the most recent one between 2021–2024. This programme involved comprehensive research to determine what has worked and what hasn't with REDD+ across 22 countries. Over the years, this research has required constant engagement with government institutions, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples' and local community organizations, research institutions, and the private sector. To support this programme, the International Database on REDD+ projects and programs: *Linking Economics, Carbon and Community* (ID-RECCO) was established in 2014 and has been regularly updated and developed since.

## Aim and methodology

To assess the ID-RECCO database's role in enhancing stakeholder access to comprehensive, transparent REDD+ project data, the Quality for Impact (Q4I) team at CIFOR-ICRAF coordinated an in-depth analysis, resulting in this story of change. Utilizing a theory of change framework, the team assessed the effectiveness and long-term impacts of ID-RECCO data. Evidence around this was collected by an independent consultant through interviews with nine key stakeholders, and a review of academic literature and secondary data.

ID-RECCO's story of change is structured around three key impact pathways which together aim to achieve an effective, science-based REDD+

policy transformation: firstly, by standardizing and aggregating REDD+ project information for broad use, yet with enough detail for specific analyses; secondly, by preserving resource neutrality and implementing thorough quality checks to guarantee data integrity, and thus support evidence-based decisions. And thirdly, by GCS-REDD+ scientists using the database to provide training to students and actors and build capacity in the global forest carbon sector.

## The REDD+ project landscape: A fragmented puzzle

When ID-RECCO was developed in 2014, it was the first large-scale effort to compile data about REDD+ projects into a uniform, easily accessible and transparent platform that was also free of cost to the user. Before its creation, information on these projects had to be pieced together from multiple different sources, including project documents, databases of environmental certifications, carbon registries and academic articles (Simonet 2016). This was not only time-consuming, but also made comparative analysis a potentially daunting task, as each reference differed considerably in terms of the terminologies and metrics used, as well as in the level of detail and transparency provided. Many sources only included projects certified to specific standards, or that had achieved a particular level of visibility or success, leading to a biased picture of activities being carried out on the ground (Simonet 2016).

The fragmented and inconsistent nature of data on REDD+ projects presented potential challenges for stakeholders engaged in climate change mitigation efforts (Simonet 2016). For researchers, this significantly increased the difficulties of evaluating the effectiveness of REDD+ projects and providing evidence-based recommendations. These challenges also impacted policymakers, whose toolset for informed decision-making, efficient resource allocation and strategic planning was limited by insufficient information around the activities being implemented in their countries. Donors and investors, meanwhile, faced uncertainty around the environmental impact of REDD+ projects, and the reliability of claims (Simonet 2016). Overall, these challenges undermined efforts to evaluate, learn from and improve these initiatives, ultimately hampering global efforts towards effective climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management through the REDD+ initiative (Simonet 2016).

## Bridging the gap on REDD+

### The International Database on REDD+ projects (ID-RECCO)

Considering these major gaps in data availability, the International Database on REDD+ projects (ID-RECCO) emerged in 2014 as a tool to tackle these challenges, through collaboration between CIFOR, the Climate Economics Chair (Paris Dauphine University, France), CIRAD (Montpellier, France) and the University of Michigan (United States). Since 2018, ID-RECCO has been hosted and managed by CIFOR-ICRAF.

The creation of the database entailed careful analysis of the main elements typically present in REDD+ projects, uniformization of these concepts, and compilation and triangulation of information from various sources (Simonet 2016). This process yielded a product capable of providing a comprehensive global overview of REDD+ projects, and enabling comparison between specific initiatives through standardized indicators, while still providing enough detailed project information for in-depth analyses, something typically unavailable in other aggregators.

The careful review of each entry also aimed to ensure the reliability of project claims, and to mitigate issues such as double counting and the erroneous inclusion of initiatives that never progressed beyond the planning stage. This was achieved by incorporating markers for data quality, including variables assessing the completeness of information on each project's certification, credit transactions, financing sources, community interventions. Meanwhile the database was intended to be collaborative in nature to enhance its comprehensiveness; stakeholders are invited to submit corrections, new projects or provide information around the termination of existing ones.

As the database's accuracy and comprehensiveness is critical for its success, numerous updates have been carried out since its inception. This has included an in-depth review of multiple publicly available sources, to update the status of existing REDD+ projects, add newly created ones, and triangulate existing information whenever possible. In cases where public information was insufficient to corroborate key aspects of the project, such as its implementation status, project proponents have been contacted directly. Data quality and the completeness of each project is also assessed independently, providing an additional layer of accountability. To date, the database has been

updated in 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022, with the two latest updates being carried out by the CIFOR-ICRAF team. As of October 2022, a total of 624 projects were present in ID-RECCO, with 416 of them being active.

In the 2022 update, the size of the database grew, and its variables and structure were significantly updated to keep up with emerging issues. A new database was created for jurisdictional REDD+ programmes, reflecting the increased interest in this approach, while filling the gap for a neutral source on these initiatives that could address common challenges like double counting and methodological inconsistencies.

The ongoing management and maintenance of the database, as well as the process of updating it, has demanded significant time and effort from CIFOR-ICRAF staff. As the number and complexity of REDD+ projects have increased over time, the quality and number of staff dedicated to updating and maintaining the ID-RECCO database have also increased. When it started in 2015, the database was designed and populated by Gabriela Simonet during her doctoral studies<sup>4</sup>.

In the latest update, two CIFOR-ICRAF researchers have played a crucial role in the operationalization of ID-RECCO, managing its content, training and supervising interns, providing technical support to users, and disseminating related findings. Each researcher involved in ID-RECCO has experience conducting REDD+ research since 2009, thus contributing deep knowledge on how REDD+ projects function and have evolved throughout the years. In 2023 two web developers led the update of the ID-RECCO website after eight years of service, ensuring its continued relevance, reliability and effectiveness.

**The database structure and its proposed value-add**

Unlike most resources that aim to provide information on initiatives in the voluntary carbon markets, ID-RECCO offers a comprehensive and nuanced overview of various aspects of these projects. The database is organized into nine sections (see Figure 1), each capturing essential aspects of the interventions (Simonet and Seyller 2015). It includes fundamental information on interventions, like project type, location and stakeholders involved

(including project developers, implementing partners and funding sources). It also provides details on carbon trade aspects, such as carbon certification, credits sold, buyer names and the accounting baseline used. Information on community interventions and associated co-benefits is also available.

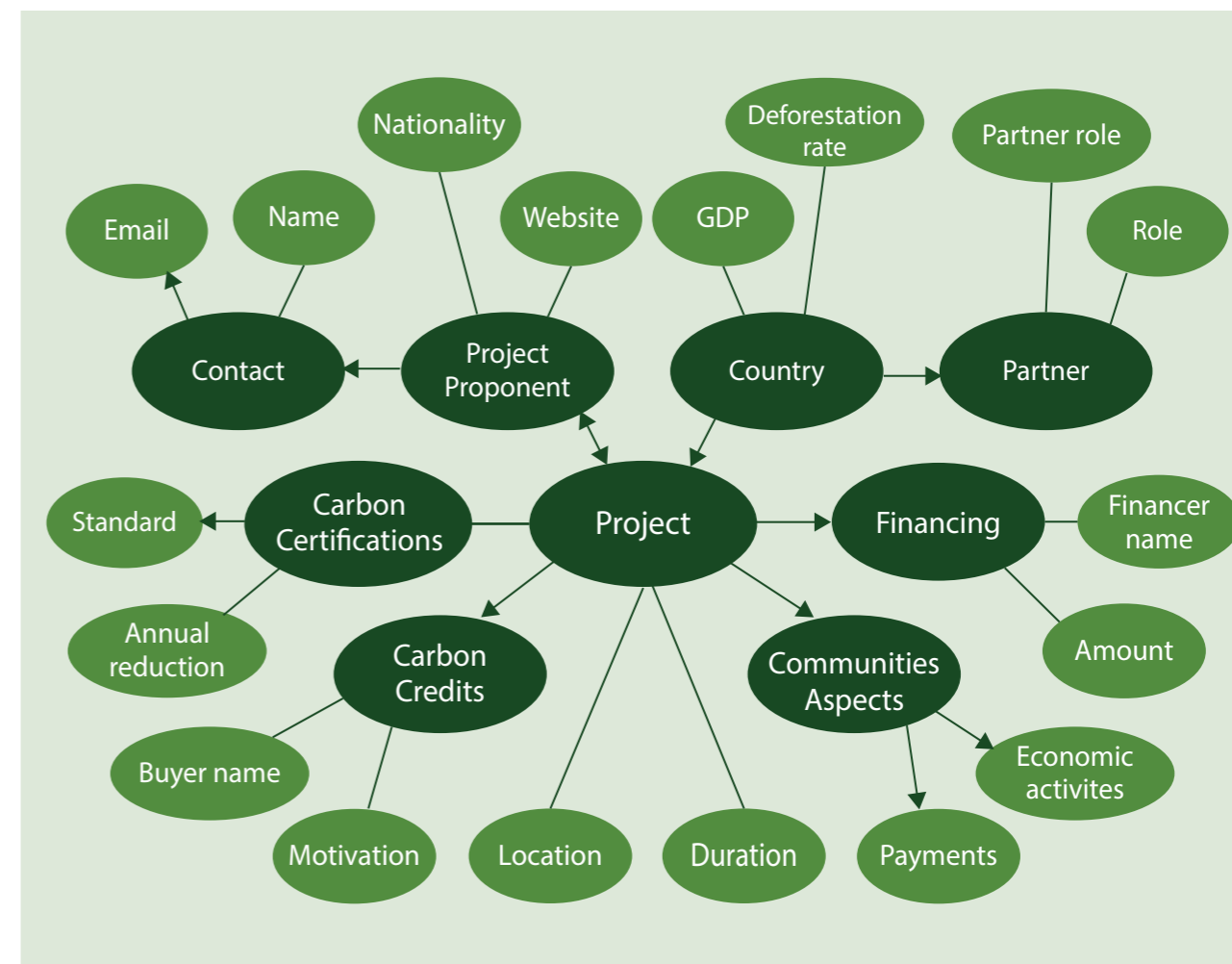
When compared to other information sources on REDD+ projects, ID-RECCO stands out for several reasons. Project reports from standard registries, while detailed, tend to be voluminous and time-consuming to navigate. Maps meanwhile provide good geographical data but lack comprehensive project-specific information (Simonet and Seyller 2015). Finally, other aggregation databases often overlook the finer details of interventions, frequently focusing on the carbon trade side exclusively.

ID-RECCO's strength lies in its neutrality, as many of the alternative sources are created by stakeholders directly involved in the voluntary carbon markets or hold fewer neutral stances than CIFOR in the matter. Second, the methodology for its construction goes beyond publicly available sources, thus ensuring inclusion of the most comprehensive data available, as well as involving a verification process to ensure accuracy and reliability. Because ID-RECCO covers aspects often neglected by other sources, such as detailed community-level interventions and insights into the developers and implementing partners involved in each project, it is an indispensable tool for anyone looking for detailed and reliable information on carbon market projects beyond the commercial perspective.

**Actionable knowledge: Leveraging REDD+ project information to empower stakeholders in climate action**

Given its aims to enhance knowledge around REDD+ projects and provide comprehensive, transparent and neutral information, ID-RECCO has always emphasized the importance of dissemination. Major focus has therefore been placed on sharing the scientific evidence generated through ID-RECCO with an international community of academics and practitioners, exposing new stakeholders to the tool, and ensuring they have the necessary support to use it.

Analyses based on information in the database have therefore been shared by CIFOR-ICRAF staff via international events (e.g., Global Landscapes Forum, SBSTA, International Climate Finance Workshop), and Science Policy Dialogue and Science Week



**Figure 1. The database structure**  
Source: Adapted from Simonet and Seyller 2015

meetings, with a reach of researchers, students, environmental NGOs and local stakeholders in REDD+ projects and programmes in Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Peru. Participants expressed in an online survey that learning about the novel data source was a highlight of these meetings for them, and that it could be a useful tool for their own research. Meeting attendees also indicated that it helped them to learn about existing REDD+ projects in their countries as well as the representativeness of their nations in total REDD+ financing at global level. Some participants went onto download the database following such events.

Information dissemination to practitioners has not been limited to staff directly contributing to the database. During an interview, one CIFOR-ICRAF Senior Associate indicated that they routinely referred policymakers and journalists to the database if they were interested in deepening their knowledge on REDD+ in their countries or globally. Continuous technical support

has been offered to ID-RECCO users by the database manager, a CIFOR-ICRAF scientist with 12 years of experience in the subject. This has ensured downloaders have a smooth experience navigating the resource, expert guidance to accurately interpret the data, and a better understanding of the context they are analysing. This direct contact between the database manager and end-users also enables a feedback cycle, crucial for continuous improvement of the tool.

More in-depth training has also been given to future forest professionals, in the form of engaging student interns during the creation, maintenance and various revisions of the database. This provides intensive capacity building, direct knowledge transfer from CIFOR-ICRAF scientists, and the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of voluntary carbon markets through practical work. Since its inception, three interns and one master's student have been involved in the process.

<sup>4</sup> Simonet G. 2016. La gestion des forêts tropicales comme levier d'atténuation du changement climatique: L'expérience des 'projets REDD+'. Paris: AgroParisTech-ENGREF

## Expected impact pathways

Due to its comprehensiveness, data quality, transparency and reliability, coupled with the GCS REDD+ team's commitment to actively support stakeholders in enhancing their understanding of REDD+, the ID-RECCO database is poised to catalyze significant change. This section outlines CIFOR-ICRAF's expectations that ID-RECCO will empower forest carbon stakeholders in their efforts. A more detailed description of these expected impact pathways is presented in the Theory of Change (Figure 2).

ID-RECCO supports academics to generate scientific evidence by providing a direct source of data on existing REDD+ projects. The database allows researchers to gain comprehensive insights into the status of REDD+ implementation, as well as conduct direct analyses. For those planning their own data collection, ID-RECCO can also support users to find new references, obtain information on project locations, and access implementer contact details. Meanwhile, direct engagement with students and other users builds the capacity of a new generation of forest carbon professionals.

Project developers can derive significant benefits from ID-RECCO by leveraging its comprehensive repository of project data to identify potential collaboration and financing opportunities. They can use detailed information from other projects to strategically design new activities that attract partners and investors looking to support initiatives with proven models of success. By facilitating a comparison of their projects with others in the same region or globally, ID-RECCO also allows developers to benchmark performance, adopt best practices, address gaps and enhance overall project effectiveness.

The database offers governments a valuable tool to strengthen decision-making around REDD+ initiatives, as often a transparent, easily accessible listing of projects in their own countries is not available. By providing detailed insights into the impacts, geographical distribution and entities behind REDD+ projects, along with their carbon trading activities, it enables governments to assess the benefits and risks of these projects more accurately and supports the development of targeted policies and investments.

Investors can benefit from the information in ID-RECCO, as it supports them to make more informed investment decisions by identifying the

main REDD+ projects and players in a country or region, and comparing the projects against different performance benchmarks, such as carbon quality, and environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria.

Similarly, by accessing detailed project data within ID-RECCO, donors can conduct thorough assessments of the effectiveness and impact of REDD+ activities. This can help track the progress of projects they have funded and identify opportunities for scaling up successful interventions. This information can facilitate strategic decision-making by providing insights into the geographical distribution of REDD+ projects and the actors involved, allowing donors to target their investments to where they can make the most significant impact.

For civil society organizations and journalists, ID-RECCO provides invaluable insights into the dynamics of REDD+ initiatives, enhancing transparency and accountability. Through the database, these groups can identify which entities are implementing REDD+ projects in which countries and the extent of carbon credits being traded, facilitating a deeper understanding among general public audiences of the carbon market landscape and its key players. The database sheds light on the social dimensions of REDD+ projects, highlighting areas where improvements are needed, such as implementing safeguards, enhancing the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, ensuring fair benefit sharing, and clarifying land tenure issues. This information empowers civil society organizations to advocate for more equitable and inclusive REDD+ practices, while journalists can leverage the data to inform and engage the public on the existing challenges of REDD+.

## The change

In its first nine years, ID-RECCO has made a significant impact. Between February 2018 and June 2023, the website attracted a diverse audience of 41,697 users scattered across 195 countries, with 62.2% of them residing in Annex I countries, predominantly in the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. The database also reached many academics and practitioners in the Global South, with Brazil, Indonesia, India and Kenya being particularly well-represented. As such, the database has significantly contributed to access to evidence and data, helping bolster research and decision-making in non-Annex I countries.

ID-RECCO has been important in facilitating the work of early-career academics and practitioners, with 61% of visitors being under the age of 35. In addition to those exploring the data directly through the website, as of February 2023, ID-RECCO had been downloaded 2,236 times. Among these downloaders, 1,420 disclosed their affiliations, with approximately 39% of them being linked to universities or research centres, and with others being independent students, or belonging to the private sector and non-profit organizations.

The database has also proven to support the generating of scientific evidence on REDD+ projects. In total it features in 84 publications, including 30 that have used ID-RECCO for data analysis. The remaining 54 publications have cited the database, commonly using it to provide readers with a big-picture view of REDD+ projects at the global or regional level, and to highlight the general trends that the paper is focusing on. A Principal Scientist at the European Forest Institute and Senior Associate at CIFOR-ICRAF, for instance, indicated using it as “a measure of the total population of REDD+ projects”. Similarly, a Professor and Department Head at North Carolina State University used the database “for context when working with specific initiatives [...] as it helps place them against all other initiatives in the Global South, [...] as well as for data analysis”. During an interview, this Professor mentioned that, in their opinion, “there is no comparable source of information” as other sources “cover narrower slices [of the total population of REDD+ projects] and sometimes are not consolidated”. They also pointed to an important aspect of transparency and neutrality, claiming that the database has “retained its reputation of being a neutral aggregator of information on the carbon offset space”. Lastly, an Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at the London School of Economics presented the database as being “a public good”, despite not having used it for their research yet.

Through the ID-RECCO project's internship programme, a significant contribution has been made towards nurturing a new generation of forest carbon professionals. In interviews, former interns highlighted the career development impacts of their involvement in updating the database. These impacts resulted from a combination of mentoring, facilitation of professional networking, theoretical knowledge acquisition on REDD+ and practical experience with REDD+ projects, tailored to each student's pre-existing knowledge. One former intern recalled “I was able to have a deeper understanding

### Box 1. The next generation of forest carbon researchers

Although the former research assistants involved in ID-RECCO have since moved out of academia, they indicated a continued interest in involvement and benefit-sharing to be “very critical for the analysis [to assess] if the communities were fully involved in the project.” She emphasized that “ID-RECCO has gone a step further to provide an analysis of these projects [...] and what is really happening on the ground,” a level of detail she couldn't find in other sources.

of REDD+ implementation, [...] key understanding on how the local communities are involved, [...] and also an understanding of which companies are buying this carbon”. The interviewed students highlighted developing skills like data management, detail orientation and priority setting, which proved useful in their current positions.

Project developers, meanwhile, recounted using ID-RECCO as a tool to compare their own project to those of competitors, to inform the design of new REDD+ projects by gaining inspiration from existing ones, and to foster opportunities for collaboration. As an example, one mentioned the advantages of having access to detailed information about other projects: “we can enrich our company, [...] understand strong and weak points in our projects [...] compare the project performance to other projects or be inspired by them”. The two project developers that shared their experience with us, one of them a former intern, reported using ID-RECCO in conjunction with information from standard registries. However, both actors identified ID-RECCO as having specific advantages. Namely, that of easily allowing to filter projects by their implementation status and other characteristics: “in [the standard registry used] maybe the project is expired, and they don't take it down [...] in ID-RECCO, I can see the status”. A project developer participating in our online survey noted that the utility of ID-RECCO stems from it being a “long-running source of information” and providing “some specific technical information that other sources do not provide (which are focused more on commercial or supply related data)”.

Other actors also found ID-RECCO useful for certain aspects of their work. Two journalists interviewed used the database to gain general knowledge on REDD+ projects for their articles. One highlighted its practical

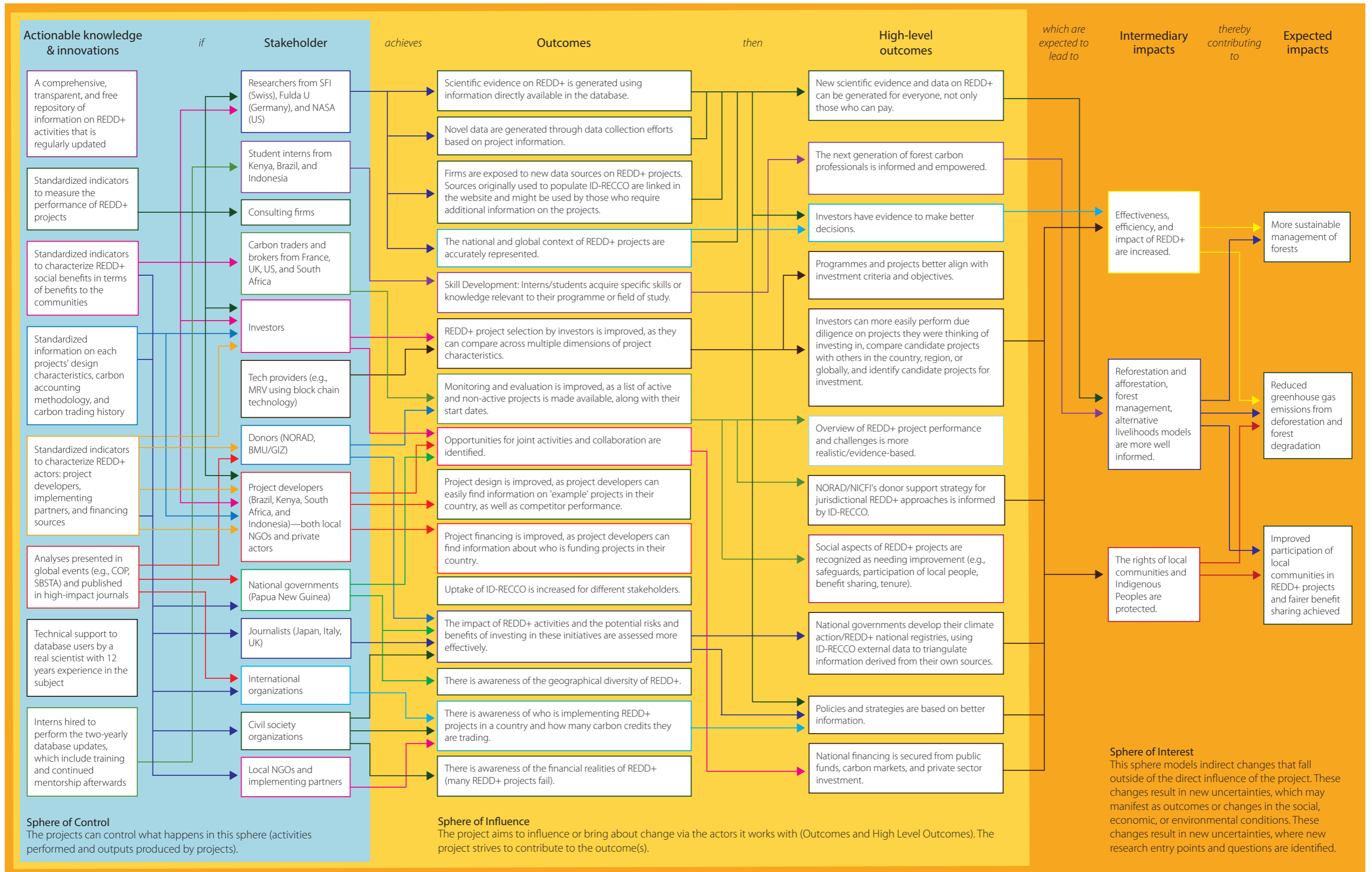


Figure 2. Theory of Change

Source: Authors' illustration

## Box 2. Taking stock of forest carbon projects in the DRC

When an NGO staff member took over the responsibility of stocktaking REDD+ and conservation projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), she encountered the challenge of piecing together coherent information from disparate sources. Previous data collection efforts by former staff member provided a fragmented and likely outdated picture, relying on a mix of informal networks, a database on community land rights, and standard registries.

She turned to ID-RECCO as a comprehensive starting point to bridge these gaps. By integrating ID-RECCO's insights with local intelligence from focal points and on-the-ground partners, she embarked on a meticulous process of updating their database. This approach not only provided a clearer overview of projects in the DRC, but also equipped her with the knowledge needed to conduct more targeted inquiries with local collaborators in key provinces for her work: *"I used it as an entry point to do further research and contact experts [...] it has been a great repository to get a sense of what is going on in the DRC".* Her experience underscores the utility of ID-RECCO as a unique repository for understanding the landscape of REDD+ initiatives in the DRC, enabling more informed and effective engagement with partners and project implementers.

utility for their investigative work, stating, *"I used the database on REDD+ projects to find out which projects were officially under the REDD+ umbrella as part of research for this story that I wrote".*

There is also evidence of donors using ID-RECCO, both directly and indirectly. An advisor to the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) highlighted utilizing the database *"to learn what type of activities are being funded by other donors in the field of forestry and REDD+, especially when there are overlaps in certain region [...] or when big jurisdictional REDD+ initiatives were being planned, because then adjustment and nesting questions would play a role".* They have also indicated that *"it is good to have websites that document REDD+ projects from an independent perspective".*

In the past, NORAD/NICFI co-conceived and contributed to a paper<sup>5</sup> which used evidence from ID-RECCO to inform their support strategy for jurisdictional REDD+. Projects sourced from ID-RECCO have also been included in a database connected to the Nature-based Solutions Evidence Project by the International Climate Finance of the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)<sup>6</sup>. Out of 2,934 projects in this database, 146 are extracted from ID-RECCO, showing that it is regarded as a valuable source of information for Annex I countries.

Overall, consulted stakeholders considered ID-RECCO to represent a significant advancement in the standardization and accessibility of REDD+ data, complementing other sources of information with reliable, complete and easily digestible data. They also highlighted ID-RECCO's unique value in striking a delicate balance between rigor and detail, enabling them to obtain detailed insights into numerous projects, gain a clearer picture of their context, prioritize their research efforts effectively, and save time when deciding which projects to analyse more in-depth. This balance ensures forest carbon actors can navigate project details effectively, while knowing that the information they are consulting is also reliable.

## Conclusion and lessons learned

This story of change highlights CIFOR-ICRAF efforts to enhance the understanding and management of REDD+ projects through building up and maintaining a carefully managed, informative, neutral independent global database on REDD+ projects. It has supported diverse stakeholders in their work, with three main elements driving its contribution to change:

### Standardization and accessibility of comprehensive REDD+ data

ID-RECCO has significantly advanced stakeholders' understanding and analytical capabilities around REDD+ projects by providing a standardized, accessible and comprehensive repository. The

<sup>5</sup> <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac5669>

<sup>6</sup> Nature-based Solutions Triple Win Toolkit (2021)

platform has become instrumental in enabling diverse stakeholders, including academics, policymakers and project developers, to conduct both broad and detailed analyses of REDD+ initiatives. By offering a global perspective enriched with project-specific details, ID-RECCO facilitates not just academic research but also informed policy-making and advancements in REDD+ project development.

## Capacity building in the forest carbon sector

ID-RECCO has played a pivotal role in enhancing the capabilities of international actors and expanding their toolbox. By leveraging ID-RECCO's findings at various stakeholder events, including policy dialogue meetings, the initiative has significantly contributed to knowledge transfer within the international forest carbon community. CIFOR scientists' dissemination efforts have also established ID-RECCO as a viable and valuable alternative to traditional information sources, sparking the interest of many attendees. The continued user support provided has expanded the database's reach and bolstered its role in global knowledge dissemination. ID-RECCO has also fostered the professional development of the next generation of forest carbon professionals, equipping many students with practical knowledge on REDD+ projects, preparing them to engage in international debates and contribute to global efforts in forest carbon management.

## Strengthening neutrality and ensuring data integrity

ID-RECCO's adherence to neutrality and stringent quality checks ensures the reliability and objectivity of REDD+ data, empowering stakeholders to base their decisions on verified information. This not only increases the availability of trusted information in the carbon offset space, but also supports the integrity of research, policy formulation and project development within the REDD+ framework. Many stakeholders have highlighted that this aspect of ID-RECCO constitutes a major source of added value. Some expressed their wish for CIFOR to invest even more in this comparative advantage of the database, by also recording information on whether the project claims had been checked by an independent researcher in a peer-reviewed study.

Given the significant impact and role that ID-RECCO has played in advancing global evidence on REDD+ projects, ensuring its continuity is crucial. In interviews, stakeholders expressed a strong

demand for the platform's neutral, reliable and comprehensive data. Overall, the significant value of ID-RECCO is evidenced by over 2,000 downloads and 84 publications referencing it. This extensive usage demonstrates the critical information gap that the database fills. To ensure this vital resource not only continues but also expands its reach, it is imperative to secure robust institutional support and continued funding. This is a crucial step towards sustaining and amplifying the impact of ID-RECCO in the global environmental landscape.

## Acknowledgements

This research is part of CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+ ([www.cifor.org/gcs](http://www.cifor.org/gcs)). The funding partners that have supported this research include the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the European Commission (EC), the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (UKAID), and the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA), with financial support from the donors contributing to the CGIAR Fund.

## References

- Aguila P, Agustavia M, Anandadas A, Angelsen A, Aryani R, Astri P, Atmadja S, Awono A, Kim R, Barreau E, et al. 2014. REDD+ on the ground. A case book of subnational initiatives across the globe. <https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.2577.5687>
- Boyd, W, Stickler, C, Duchelle, AE, Seymour, F, Nepstad, D, Bahar, NHA, Rodriguez-Ward, D. 2018. Jurisdictional approaches to REDD+ and low emissions development: Progress and prospects. Working Paper. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <https://www.wri.org/research/ending-tropical-deforestation-jurisdictional-approaches-redd-and-low-emissions-development>
- La Viña AG, de Leon A, Barrer RR. 2016. History and future of REDD+ in the UNFCCC: Issues and challenges. In: Research Handbook on REDD-Plus and International Law. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781783478316.00013>

Simonet G. 2016. La gestion des forêts tropicales comme levier d'atténuation du changement climatique : L'expérience des 'projets REDD+'. Paris: AgroParisTech-ENGREF. <https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/6006>

Simonet G, Seyller C. 2015. ID-RECCO, A new collaborative work tool to improve knowledge on redd+ projects: Sources, methodology and data. Working Papers 1508. Chaire Economie du Climat. <https://ideas.repec.org/p/cec/wpaper/1508.html>



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Supported by:

Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection



based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag

[cifor-icraf.org](http://cifor-icraf.org)

[cifor-icraf.org/gcs](http://cifor-icraf.org/gcs)

## CIFOR-ICRAF

The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) harnesses the power of trees, forests and agroforestry landscapes to shift the trajectories of three global issues – biodiversity, climate change and food security – supported by our work on equity and value chains. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.

