

Concept Note for Support to Community-Based REDD+

Experience shows that community-based organizations and local civil society groups are often the primary organizing bodies and normative institutions in rural regions and if REDD+ activities are to have relevance and traction with the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, funding of community-based activities must be given due consideration. Local level interventions present a distinct opportunity to tap into the capacity and local knowledge of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities. Such approaches have the added advantages of versatility, flexibility and rapidity, and of being low-cost laboratories for getting REDD+ approaches right. Community-based approaches can complement national REDD+ action, and successful activities and best practice can be scaled up to the national level.

Indigenous peoples and local communities are essential to the success of REDD+ given that they have for centuries played historical and cultural roles in the sustainable management of forests, which often lie within their ancestral and customary lands. Inadequate mechanisms for equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples, forest-dependent communities and marginalized populations such as women and the poor in natural resource management and land use decisions have the potential to compromise the delivery of local, national and global benefits and the long-term sustainability of REDD+ investments.

Consultations with, and feedback from, indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities have consistently reflected strong concern over potential negative consequences that REDD+ activities could have for local rights, lands and livelihoods if incorrectly designed or deployed. To address these concerns, REDD+ safeguards were agreed by UNFCCC Parties, and the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) have developed joint guidelines to ensure communities' rights are protected in REDD+ activities. While much of the responsibility for ensuring the implementation of these safeguards and guidelines will lie with national governments, the UN-REDD Programme and other bodies can help build the capacity of communities to play a role in meeting these standards. The UN-REDD Support to National REDD+ Action already provides technical support and guidance to countries on issues related to governance, safeguards and stakeholder engagement. And with the help of this proposed initiative, called 'Support to Community-Based REDD+' (CBR+), it can go even further in supporting grassroots action on REDD+.

The recent Country Needs Assessment (CNA), jointly conducted by the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF, supports the advent of CBR+ by pointing to an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of community groups and local NGOs to participate in REDD+ strategies, as well as demand for REDD+ pilot projects to create testing and learning opportunities¹. The CNA further highlighted the importance of piloting safeguards and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and other ways to create interest in REDD+ and value for local communities².

¹ See for example the following extracts from the Joint FCPF & UN-REDD Programme Country Needs Assessment:

"For the benefit sharing, consultation and participation process, 86 per cent of the countries required procedures for stakeholder consultations, 73 per cent required capacity to improve information dissemination to stakeholders, 48 per cent required assessment of previous experiences related to REDD+, and 46 per cent required implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms;"

"In all countries visited, particularly in Africa and Asia, there was an urgent need to strengthen local NGOs and community groups and improve their capacities to participate in REDD+ alongside decentralized government institutions."

² "The sub-component on safeguards was also an area of high priority, particularly by Asian and Latin American countries. This is also linked to the observed increase of REDD+ funding going to consultations in Latin America because of

Through CBR+, UN-REDD can support communities themselves to initiate activities, build capacities, exchange information, pilot methodologies, develop models of representation and participation, and implement their visions for REDD+ in alignment with national REDD+ policies, goals and objectives. Indeed, many indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities are already developing local approaches to REDD+ in the context of holistic rural development frameworks. Decades of experience of FAO, UNEP, UNDP and the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) have shown that community-based action, initiated and carried out by local organizations, has an impressive record of successfully delivering development results at the local level³. This vast experience has also uniquely positioned the UN-REDD Programme to innovate in important ways in the space of community-based grants.

The utility of this approach has also been recognized by other major donors and agencies involved in REDD+, with whom CBR+ will collaborate closely. For example, the FCPF, the Forest Investment Program (FIP), the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) and the EU FAO Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Programme have all developed grant mechanisms targeted at community stakeholders in a move to galvanize action at the local-level in the countries supported by these initiatives.

THE OBJECTIVES

CBR+ will catalyze REDD+ readiness from the ground up, bringing resources and capacity to communities, empowering them to engage in national REDD+ activities and pilot important REDD+ methodologies and approaches. Specifically, CBR+ will:

- Activate and support community-based action and build capacities to improve equitability and effectiveness in the implementation of REDD+ readiness;
- Support countries to implement the UNFCCC safeguards and UN-REDD Guidelines to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, civil society and marginalized groups such as women and the poor in REDD+;
- Ensure critical links and improved coordination between community grants within the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation focal areas of the SGP and national REDD+ activities under the UN-REDD Programme, thereby multiplying potential impacts and results;
- Support learning and sharing of lessons drawn from community-based experiences in support of REDD+.

THE APPROACH

CBR+ will be a joint initiative of the UN-REDD Programme and SGP to direct funds towards community-level projects that will align with existing national REDD+ approaches, including National Programme approaches, national REDD+ strategies and/or national readiness processes, depending on the country (although CBR+ will be piloted in countries with UN-REDD National Programmes). Building upon the growing collaboration between the UN-REDD Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), CBR+ will be co-financed equally by the UN-REDD Programme and SGP, leveraging the respective operational and technical expertise of these two programmes to efficiently support the implementation of REDD+ activities at the local level. To reduce entry costs and avoid reinventing a disbursement mechanism where a successful model already exists, CBR+ proposes building on SGP's wealth of local experience, by leveraging SGP funds alongside UN-REDD Programme funds to contribute to national and global REDD+ objectives more systematically.

Grants would be capped at US\$50,000, have a duration of one to three years, and support activities to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, improve the definition of land use rights, explore mechanisms for benefit sharing, and advance the implementation of safeguards for REDD+, among others. Preference will be given

indigenous peoples' participation and ownership of forest lands. Likewise, Asian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) stressed the need to pilot the implementation of safeguards, as well as free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) principles"

³ [Joint Evaluation of the GEF Small Grants Programme](#), 2008

to investments in 'no regrets' activities that would be beneficial regardless of the speed at which REDD+ progresses.

Activities will also be undertaken to raise the awareness of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities of CBR+ and build their capacity to contribute effectively to its implementation. Such training and capacity-building can be integrated into CBR+ small grant project proposals. SGP has a wealth of experience in building the capacity of grant applicants, while the UN-REDD Programme can provide technical expertise on REDD+ issues to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities in CBR+.

Building on existing approaches and mechanisms in a coordinated way: Community-level grants for activities related to REDD+ are currently available and being programmed under SGP, which has a very well-established national level infrastructure and 20 years of experience working with communities through the more than 14,500 community-based projects it has funded in 125 developing countries. CBR+ will build on the UN-REDD Programme's National Programmes, technical expertise and partnerships with key national REDD+ actors; and the SGP's effective modality to deliver funding and a range of services directly to the local level, through an established, decentralized governance mechanisms operating across 125 United Nations Country Offices, which guarantees the highest levels of international fiduciary accountability. Through CBR+, SGP funds would be channelled to community projects that are aligned with national REDD+ processes (e.g. UN-REDD National Programmes), allowing stakeholders to experiment with and test REDD+ approaches. The UN-REDD Programme would co-finance grants, facilitate global- and national-level coordination, and support knowledge management and dissemination activities. In order to prepare SGP staff for CBR+ implementation, training in REDD+ will be provided for the staff that will support CBR+ in country.

A coherent approach that aligns community grants with national and global REDD+ priorities:

The choice of projects to be funded will be guided by each country's CBR+ Strategy, which will be developed by the CBR+ National Steering Committee (see p.4 for further details) through participatory national workshops, and will form a component of the country's SGP Strategy. Country CBR+ strategies will be formulated to ensure the alignment of CBR+ activities with National Programme objectives and strategies, prioritizing activities thematically and geographically so that projects are selected according to a coherent framework. Thus activities will contribute to well-defined goals and priorities, and atomization of efforts will be minimized.

Participatory selection of recipients of community grants: CBR+ will make use of the well-established and highly successful SGP mechanism of multi-stakeholder National Steering Committees (NSC) which are set up to facilitate the grant-making process in countries where SGP operates. These NSCs include representatives from government, indigenous peoples, civil society and the UN that review and approve project proposals for funding⁴. For matters related to CBR+, these NSCs will be expanded to include representatives of government, IP, CSO, technical expertise and the UN-REDD Programme⁵ from the national REDD+ taskforce or committee, as well as those with social/gender expertise. Guided by the criteria outlined in the country's CBR+ strategy, the CBR+ NSC will select eligible projects that will contribute to local, national and global needs in REDD+ readiness.

Building on early action at the local level: CBR+ will support and encourage countries to move ahead with the implementation of REDD+ approaches and methodologies by achieving early successes on the ground at the local level, for example, through community-led action in key REDD+ areas such those listed above, as well as in free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), conflict resolution, and participatory monitoring, where the operationalization of these approaches can be strengthened, scaled up and lessons transferred to other countries. These actions should be linked to the national REDD+ strategy or national readiness process, or in the case of CBR+ pilot countries, the National Programme.

⁴ See Annex 1 for more information

⁵ To avoid the over-representation of UN agencies on the CBR+ NSC, the agency (or agencies) sitting on the committee will represent all three UN-REDD agencies and review proposals with other in-country agencies to ensure that the views of all UN-REDD agencies are represented in committee meetings.

Systematic knowledge management: A systematic goal of CBR+ will be the generation of knowledge about what works and what doesn't in local level applications of REDD+. With this in mind, each project will be designed to produce clear lessons derived from assessment of project impacts, with results and learning coordinated and documented, generating a repository of information on the outcomes of CBR+-funded projects. For example, a case study of each project will produce information and knowledge that will be disseminated throughout a network of CBR+ communities, as well as through UN-REDD and SGP global networks. Analyses of project portfolios will be undertaken and provided to relevant policy makers from the forestry, environment, finance, and rural development sectors. Case studies and portfolio analyses will also be made available on the UN-REDD website, and disseminated throughout the network of CBR+ communities, as well as throughout the SGP global network of 125 Country Programmes. Learning will be supported by local to global level knowledge exchanges and periodic knowledge products, and linked to existing knowledge platforms⁶.

Scaling up action towards long-term sustainability: CBR+ will focus on six pilot countries during the first year of operation, with a regional spread between UN-REDD Programme regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean). Learning and progress after year 1 will be used to scale up to additional countries over years 2 and 3. It is envisioned that once processes and mechanisms have been developed and piloted, CBR+ would be mainstreamed into the overall national REDD+ frameworks. Scaling up will also be supported in geographic terms involving a landscape approach and replication of successful activities within and outside countries. Scaling up can also take the form of improving national policy and planning through sharing of lessons learned, appropriate approaches, and innovative methodologies resulting from CBR+ projects. CBR+ will therefore integrate within each community project elements of communications and knowledge management as well as support for stand-alone activities such as networking across countries and between countries among CBR+ communities.

MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT

CBR+ National Steering Committees (NSCs): CBR+ NSCs will be the primary bodies responsible for the governance and quality assurance of CBR+ at the national level. CBR+ NSCs will consist of the existing SGP National Steering Committee, supplemented by representatives from the national REDD+ steering committee or taskforce (in the case of the pilot countries, these will be representatives of the National Programme steering committee), including government, IP, CSO, and UN-REDD Programme representatives⁷ as well as additional technical expertise where necessary.⁸ The CBR+ NSC will be responsible for the drafting of country CBR+ strategies (informed by participatory national workshops), assuring their alignment with UN-REDD National Programme objectives and strategies. The CBR+ NSC will also be responsible for the selection of grantees, guided by country CBR+ strategies.

SGP NSCs are already in place, and are generally composed of 8-15 representatives of IPs, CSOs, government, academia, donors and UN agencies, with a majority of non-governmental stakeholders. These meet according to need, averaging once every month or two.

SGP National Coordinators (NC): are already in place and will provide technical assistance to community organizations to identify and prepare projects for funding. The NC presents a portfolio of proposals to the NSC for review and approval. The NC also monitors project implementation and supports community organizations to resolve problems of implementation.

⁶ E.g. the UN-REDD workspace, the [Equator Initiative Case Study Database](#) and the [UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism](#)

⁷ To avoid the over-representation of UN agencies on the CBR+ NSC, the agency (or agencies) sitting on the committee will represent all three UN-REDD agencies and review proposals with other in-country agencies to ensure that the views of all UN-REDD agencies are represented in committee meetings.

⁸ Depending on country situation and presence of other relevant grant-making mechanisms, the feasibility of including representatives of these grant mechanisms (e.g. FCPF, FIP, FFF, EU-FAO FLEGT) on the CBR+ NSC could be explored.

Country CBR+ Strategies:

Selection of grantees will be carried out in accordance with each country's CBR+ Strategy. This strategy will be a component of each country's SGP strategy and will be developed by the CBR+ NSC through participatory national workshops. The CBR+ Strategy will guide both the CBR+ NSC in its selection of grantees, and communities in their drafting of proposals. CBR+ strategies will ensure that CBR+ activities are aligned with national REDD+ processes (UN-REDD National Programmes in the case of the pilot phase), and complement community-based rural development frameworks where they exist. Thus CBR+ strategies will be important in ensuring coherence between CBR+ projects. CBR+ strategies could potentially be developed so as to promote landscape- or catchment-based approaches as appropriate.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is proposed that CBR+ be financed initially through the allocation of \$4 million from the UN-REDD Programme, to be matched by \$4 million in co-financing from SGP. CBR+ will multiply funds already available for stakeholder engagement and REDD+ activities through the SGP and ensure they align with National Programme approaches.

There are three major components of fund allocation in the implementation of CBR+:

Grants: These are the funds directly accessed by communities (and depending on the strategy agreed by stakeholders within the country, to support NGOs/CSOs) for CBR+ projects directly benefiting communities. The large majority of CBR+ funds will be designated for grant funding to local level projects that address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, improve the definition of land rights, explore mechanisms for benefit sharing, and advance the implementation of safeguards for REDD+. Funds may also support awareness raising and information sharing, capacity building, network and institution building, policy advocacy, mainstreaming and scaling up (see Table 1). Grants will be used to leverage and complement multilateral investments by UN-REDD, FCFP and FIP, and potentially other relevant grant-making mechanisms, whenever possible. Training and capacity-building of communities to implement CBR+ activities can also be integrated into CBR+ small grant project proposals. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be available with grant duration of one to three years.

Technical non-grant: This refers to critical support activities for grant projects and includes team visits to potential partner communities, consultations, workshops and trainings to build awareness and basic capacity including on proposal development and writing, and for monitoring and evaluation (in complementation with project participatory M&E). This component also includes communications and portfolio level knowledge management and activities related to supporting scaling up through expanded coverage, replication or mainstreaming as well as through policy advocacy. Examples of technical non-grant support that would be required under CBR+ include:

- Facilitation of national processes to develop national CBR+ strategies: Funds will be used to facilitate national processes to guide CBR+ activities to ensure the maximum positive gains to national REDD+ processes and National Programmes. National and sub-national workshops will be supported to develop clear national CBR+ strategies that would guide grant-making.
- Knowledge Management: The UN-REDD Programme will provide a knowledge management function for CBR+ which will include the synthesis of lessons learned, the development of communications products and tools, and the dissemination of communication outputs. Case studies and portfolio analyses of CBR+ projects will be made available on the UN-REDD Programme website.
- Learning Exchanges: In order to promote learning and exchange among communities, countries and regions, it is envisioned that South-South exchanges to review and share lessons emerging from CBR+ activities will be supported. It is proposed that collaboration with Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), which pursues similar aims with regard to knowledge management and sharing, be explored.

Management: This includes the staff needed, at country and global level, for activities including supervision and oversight. The management of small grants, in particular when prioritized for poor and vulnerable communities, is labour-intensive, requiring proactive visits to potential grantees as well as regular backstopping in the implementation phase. Staff work is also needed to ensure proper financial management, report on progress, for communication and knowledge management at the portfolio level, for scaling up and to help draw in other co-financing partners. SGP country staff (National Coordinators and Programme Assistants) as well as members of the SGP NSCs will provide a substantial portion of this management work as part of SGP's matching contribution to the CBR+ joint initiative. There will be a need, however, for additional staff support from UN-REDD particularly where REDD+ technical expertise or coordination at national level with government are required. For the allocation of staff time and support from SGP and UN-REDD, it is envisioned that a full-time coordinator be assigned and appropriately funded.

For the technical non-grant and the grants components, SGP and UN-REDD will work on the principle of matching cash and in-kind resources, drawing on the comparative advantage of each program in the provision of needed resources. As for financial management and monitoring, CBR+ grants would be disbursed in accordance with SGP's Standard Operational Guidelines which guide the strategic grant-making and governance of the programme. SGP also has a harmonized monitoring and evaluation policy. Financial management will also be guided by SGP's detailed Standard Operating Procedures⁹.

CBR+ GRANTS

Activities will involve indigenous peoples or other forest-dependent communities, and be truly innovative and transformative, informing policy and methodologies that can influence and shape REDD+ more broadly. Activities will also be firmly anchored in the goal of contributing to REDD+ in order to ensure that they support the rights of IP and local community stakeholders, and capitalize on the opportunities for IP and local communities to contribute to the success of REDD+.

Activities funded by CBR+ grants should:

- Align with the country CBR+ strategy, and thus with national REDD+ processes (e.g. the National Programme)
- Enhance local level capacity for REDD+
- Provide local insights into national REDD+ processes
- Demonstrate best practice to promote transformation
- Address a number of drivers/ REDD+ goals at the same time (i.e. scale is important)
- Have relevance all the way to the policy/macro level
- Be "no-regrets" activities that have beneficial impacts regardless of the speed at which REDD+ progresses

Eligible activities

Community capacity building for REDD+:

- Building networks of communities and improving organizational capacity to engage (e.g. supporting communities to network, prepare and organize for FPIC)
- Supporting communities to develop materials to communicate REDD+ concepts and issues that can be used at the community level (e.g. written materials, radio, theatre in local languages)
- Training and capacity-building of communities to design and implement CBR+ activities can be funded if need be through facilitative "planning grant" funding, so that the awareness level and capacity of the community is built up first to the level where they can do the final design of the project themselves.
- Capacity building in legal frameworks and rights (e.g. interpretations of forest/climate change/REDD+ law)
- Capacity building of community leaders and representatives who will be involved in national REDD+ decision making to (a) participate and (b) feed information back to communities
- Providing communities with access to legal or technical expertise

⁹ [SGP Standard Operating Procedures](#)

- Facilitating local dialogues
- Organizational strengthening e.g. training of trainers on REDD+
- Facilitating exchanges of experience between communities
- Training on safeguards

Testing tools and approaches:

- Testing benefit sharing mechanisms in the field
- Participatory mapping exercises (e.g. demonstrating cost-effective micro-mapping methods)
- Developing local conflict resolution mechanisms
- Facilitating communities' participation in participatory forest monitoring
- Improved land-use management/livelihoods
- Models of community forest management (e.g. based on participatory mapping)
- Pilot initiatives in community forestry (in cases where it contributes to addressing deforestation)
- Recording and applying traditional knowledge and practices to forest management
- Designing landscape-based approaches to development at the local level
- Pilot initiatives to test FPIC
- Pilot initiatives to design methodologies for safeguards (e.g. community monitoring of forest safeguard issues)

Ineligible activities

- Funding of payment- or credit-based REDD+ pilot projects (although grants could support community participation in guiding such processes e.g. through capacity building or training)
- Equipment, cars, infrastructure (e.g. schools, bridges) etc. (unless these can be properly justified).
- Projects strictly for private sector
- Projects that don't link to the macro level policy/national systems
- Ecotourism
- Extensions of ongoing projects
- International travel

Table 1: Examples of CBR+ Contributions to Phases I and II of REDD+

Although CBR+ will be piloted in countries with National Programmes, it is envisioned that it will later be expanded to countries at varying stages of REDD+. The following table illustrates how CBR+ could contribute value at different stages of REDD+ development.

Stage of REDD+	CBR+ Objectives	Examples of CBR+ Activities	Expected Results
REDD+ PHASE I – Preparation and Readiness			
Initiation of REDD+ Readiness: Preparation of R-PP document and/or national REDD+ strategy, and early consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews of issues related to the rights, engagement and safeguards of indigenous peoples, local communities and marginalized groups including women and the poor • Initial consultations with indigenous peoples and civil society to draft and validate the final R-PP or REDD+ strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial capacity building activities for key national and sub-national stakeholders carried out by indigenous peoples/CSO groups • Reviews of national and local tenure and land rights issues by indigenous peoples and civil society organizations for inclusion in national R-PP documents • Organization of sub-national consultations on the R-PP, FPIC or other REDD+ processes • Training of trainers in REDD+ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous peoples and civil society stakeholders will be equipped with an adequate understanding of REDD+ issues and will participate effectively in early consultation activities. • R-PP documents will include analyses of key rights-based issues, including risks and opportunities from REDD+ that reflect broad stakeholder perspectives • R-PP will more effectively incorporate stakeholder

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building networks of communities and improving organizational capacity to engage 	<p>perspectives and concerns and be more likely to be endorsed and supported by stakeholders in the R-PP implementation phase</p>
REDD+ Readiness activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive capacity building and consultations with forest dependent stakeholders, including marginalized populations Participatory development of key REDD+ policies and measures such as: safeguards, fair and equitable benefit distribution systems, forest and carbon monitoring systems, grievance systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building activities for indigenous peoples, local communities, NGOs and marginalized populations to understand REDD+ and associated issues Community-led pilot activities to trial and refine REDD+ approaches at the community level such as: participatory forest monitoring activities; FPIC and benefit distribution pilots; development of sustainable livelihood alternatives; ancestral domain and rights mapping, land and land use claims and recognition of rights. Building networks of communities and improving organizational capacity to engage Development of materials that can be used at local level to communicate REDD+ concepts and issues. Development of local conflict resolution mechanisms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key stakeholders will be able to participate more effectively in REDD+ based on a better knowledge of associated issues Development of ground-tested methodologies to implement REDD+ at the community level that can be linked to national REDD+ systems and transferred/scaled up Provision of community-led technical input into the development of key national REDD+ policies and measures
REDD+ PHASE 2 – Implementation of national REDD+ strategies			
Implementation of policies and measures proposed in national REDD+ strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory implementation of REDD+ policies and measures relating to safeguards, benefit distribution systems, forest and carbon monitoring systems, grievance systems Implementation of REDD+ demonstration activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous peoples and civil society involvement in the implementation or monitoring, reporting and verification of relevant policies such as safeguard information systems, benefit distribution systems, forest and carbon monitoring systems, FPIC, and grievance systems Pilot initiatives in community forest management that address drivers of deforestation; improved land-use management; alternative livelihoods. Community-led demonstration activities such as: participatory management methodologies to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Models of stakeholder-led REDD+ can inform policies and practice and support effective REDD+ implementation

		protect forests and avoid deforestation.	
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Example of a potential grant activity: Indigenous peoples-led REDD+ in Mexico

The GEF SGP-supported U'yool'ché A.C. project began in 2006 with the interest of indigenous communities in developing carbon sequestration techniques in the Mayan Zone.

The project aims to generate an alternative way to finance forest conservation activities by exploring carbon finance, and to generate methodologies to expand such an approach throughout the Corridor region of Sian Ka'an – Calakmul. Grants from the SGP supported the creation of a participatory management methodology to preserve the forest, avoid deforestation and contribute to the carbon credit certification process. The project demonstrates how local communities can engage in REDD+, providing an example that could be replicated and scaled up by other local communities.

Potential Countries for CBR+ Pilot Phase:

The first pilot phase of CBR+ will be limited UN-REDD National Programmes countries with SGP country programmes. These countries are:

Africa: DRC, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia

Asia-Pacific: Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

Latin American and the Caribbean: Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay

Criteria for selecting initial pilot countries:

- UN-REDD National Programme countries
- An established SGP Programme that SGP deems to have the capacity to absorb the additional workload and distribute additional funds
- Regional spread – 2 countries per region

As CBR+ develops, it is envisioned that the range of participating countries could expand to include:

- A range of countries in different phases of REDD+ development (see Table 1 above); and
- If possible, at least one country with either FCPF or FIP presence as well as a UN-REDD Programme.
- Countries without UN-REDD National Programme but with ongoing national REDD+ process as evidenced by at least one of the following:
 - A functioning national REDD+ coordinating mechanism;
 - A history of carrying out REDD+ dialogues, events, activities etc.;
 - Evidence of analytical work on REDD+ in the country; or
 - Political commitment to REDD+.

ANNEX I

Background on the GEF Small Grants Programme

For two decades, the SGP has been working with communities around the world to combat the most critical environmental problems supporting more than 14,500 community-based projects in 125 countries, including 39 of the partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme. SGP has invested over \$450 million and leveraged a similar level of financing since its creation 20 years ago. The main focal areas of the programme are climate change abatement and adaptation, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants, and prevention of land degradation.

The SGP has successfully demonstrated that supporting communities in their efforts to achieve more sustainable livelihoods is crucial in bringing change and achieving global environmental benefits. It is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed if local people are involved and there are direct community benefits and ownership. The SGP's experience shows that with small amounts of funding, members of local communities can undertake activities that will make a significant difference in their lives and environments, with global benefits, in contrast with top-down, expert-reliant development interventions.

The SGP has developed impressive national-level infrastructure to support grant-making processes in country. All SGP country programmes have a voluntary National Steering Committee (NSC), which is the central element of SGP and provides the major substantive contribution to and oversight of the programme. The NSC is comprised of a majority of civil society organizations, as well as representatives of the government, UN, academia, indigenous peoples' organizations, the private sector and the media. The NSC considers whether proposals for grants are feasible and meet SGP criteria, and what kind of technical support is needed for implementation. It is also responsible for the final approval of grants, undertaking monitoring and evaluation visits to the projects, providing advice, ensuring proper monitoring and evaluation, helping extract, share and replicate successful SGP projects and practice and promoting SGP at the national and international level. For more information visit: <http://www.sgp.undp.org/>

Background on the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP. The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes in 46 partner countries, spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, in two ways: (i) direct support to the design and implementation of UN-REDD National Programmes; and (ii) complementary support to national REDD+ action through common approaches, analyses, methodologies, tools, data and best practices. By January 2013, total funding for these two streams of support to countries totaled more than US\$160 million.

The UN-REDD Programme has a strong history of supporting the participation and inclusion of civil society, indigenous peoples and other community-level stakeholders in REDD+. Acknowledging the crucial importance of these actors from the outset, since its inception in 2008 the UN-REDD Programme has ensured the participation of indigenous peoples and civil society representatives in its governing body, and has implemented a dedicated work area on stakeholder engagement. Working directly with countries to ensure effective practices for inclusion and engagement in national REDD+ activities as well as developing principles, standards and guidelines at the global level, the UN-REDD Programme has contributed to building mechanisms for stakeholder engagement in countries as well as shaping global thought on important issues such as social and environmental safeguards for REDD+, and free, prior and informed consent.

The UN-REDD Programme has a strong country level presence, with regional and country staff supporting REDD+ actions on the ground. This includes direct support to develop REDD+ strategies, policies and activities in 16 countries receiving direct financial support through the UN-REDD Programme, as well as technical support to an additional 28 partner countries. The UN-REDD Programme has strong working relationships with key REDD+ governmental and non-governmental actors, and would facilitate the connection between CBR+ and the wider REDD+ policy and operational environment in countries. This will support CBR+ to fulfill its goals of connecting to a more coherent framework of action that can leverage greater results and ensure that activities can be transferred and scaled up, as well as support the effective sharing of knowledge between countries via the UN-REDD Programme's strong regional and international structures. For more information visit: <http://www.un-redd.org>