

GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 2.

CREDIBLE, INCLUSIVE NATIONAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS ARE DEVELOPED FOR REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION

ACHIEVEMENTS

Anchored on credible, well informed and inclusive REDD+ governance, the sustained and progressive advocacy and support by the UN-REDD Programme for REDD+ readiness is not only enabling countries to bind together different technical and institutional elements of REDD+ under a unified national strategy but also helping REDD+ able part of the broader national development agenda. Six countries have developed inclusive National REDD+ Strategies (DRC, Ecuador and Paraguay), Roadmap (Bangladesh and Mongolia) or Phase 2 documents (Viet Nam). By integrating gender-sensitive work in their readiness processes, 16 countries across the three regions have laid down important building blocks for gender-sensitive national strategies. Key results include:

- DRC committed to five major REDD+ objectives, including tenure security, land use planning and mainstreaming REDD+ safeguards into the mining sector under its economic governance matrix.
- Mongolia is integrating REDD+ in its Green Development Strategy – ensuring

In Focus

Two regional South-South learning exchange workshops on National Strategies and Action Plans were organized in the LAC and Africa regions. The LAC workshop took place in Quito, Ecuador in July and was attended by 77 multi-sectorial participants (34 per cent women) from 12 out of the 14 LAC UN-REDD Programme Partner Countries plus Brazil. Argentina, Chile and Brazil held additional discussions with government representatives and other stakeholders on ways to engage the private sector – such as the aviation industry – as potential sponsors of REDD+ implementation (reports in [English](#) & [Spanish](#))

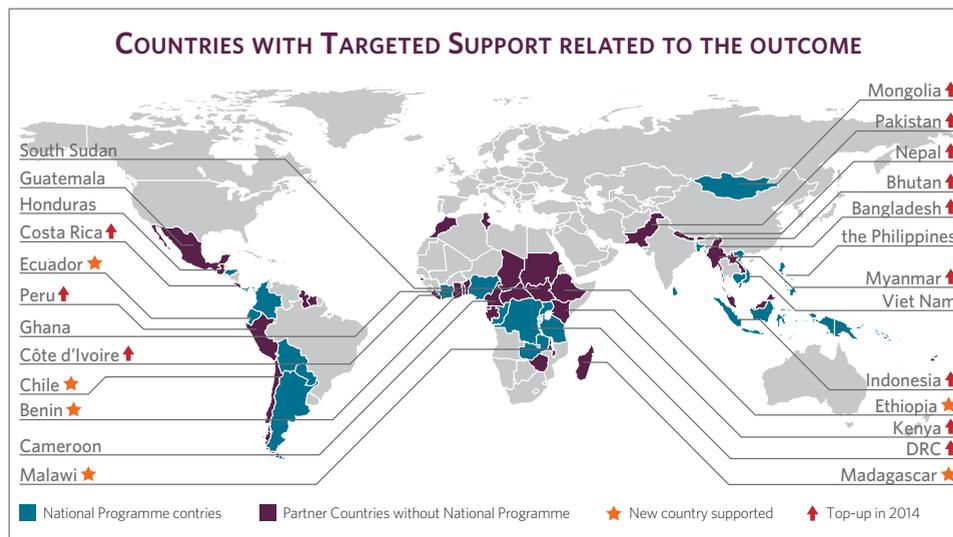
The Africa workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya in October and involved 47 participants (23 per cent women) from 21 out of 26 UN-REDD Programme Partner Countries in Africa, with online participation and exchanges with Ecuador and Mexico to promote cross-regional learning. For example, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Malawi and Nigeria made commitments to progress on National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans, as this is an important pillar of the Warsaw Framework (reports in [English](#) & [French](#)).

coherence with its broader development agenda.

- Viet Nam and Nigeria completed their 1st and Indonesia its 2nd Participatory Governance Assessment, which allowed the countries to establish multi-stakeholder platforms that act as consultative bodies in larger REDD+ processes, as well as to start enacting REDD+ enabling reforms and to develop indicators and feed data into national safeguard approaches and information systems.
- Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Viet Nam

undertook institutional context analyses to inform further support and implementation of REDD+ as a whole or their individual UN-REDD National Programmes specifically.

- Bhutan, Kenya, Peru and the Philippines have finalized corruption-risk assessments.
- DRC, Honduras, Guatemala and Kenya have completed and validated the analysis of their legal frameworks for REDD+ through participatory and inclusive processes.
- Cameroon, the Republic of Central Africa, Ghana and Liberia have conducted studies on Forest Laws, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Cameroon also established a multi-stakeholder REDD+ and FLEGT platform, building on a series of national workshops and informal meetings strengthening the linkages between REDD+ and FLEGT processes.
- DRC established a financial structure to manage REDD+ funds according to the priorities of its National Strategy. Cambodia, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ecuador, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam are designing their national REDD+ fund management systems.



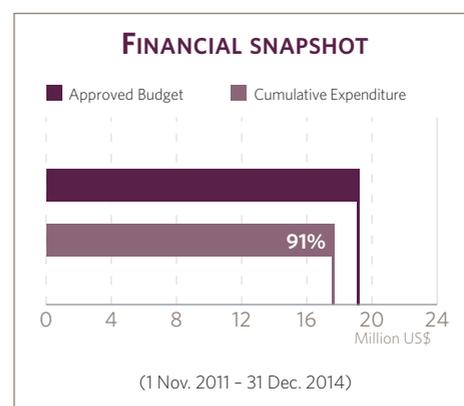
For example, in 2014 alone:

- Nepal finalized its study on “Understanding Drivers and Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Nepal: Potential Policies and Measures for REDD+,” used for the country’s midterm report on its Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment.
- Kenya established its National Task force on Anti-Corruption for REDD+, allowing the country to concretely take forward the recommendations highlighted in its corruption risk assessment. The Task Force agreed on priority anti-corruption actions, such as capacity building, awareness-raising and strengthening existing complaints mechanism and codes of conducts.
- Guatemala, Honduras and Kenya have completed and validated the analysis of their legal frameworks for REDD+ through participatory and inclusive processes. The analyses identified existing gaps and inconsistencies in the legal framework and resulted recommendations for legal reforms, which the countries are planning to undertake in 2015 with support of the Programme.

CHALLENGES

All governance elements (institutional, legal, fiduciary or thematic) feed and inform elements of a national REDD+ strategy or action plans. The challenge lies in supporting countries in *aligning* and *strategically sequencing* the various strands of governance information gained through UN-REDD support *with national REDD+ strategy processes*.

UN-REDD Programme country experiences of developing National Strategy/Action Plans have highlighted the risk of these being seen as mere documents. Efforts are being made towards the strategy or action plans being recognized as a process, so as to avoid potential sub-optimal results regarding country ownership, integration into the broader national development agenda, coherence between the various elements of the readiness process and overall cost-effectiveness. More efficient communication flows and feedback loops between the various UN-REDD Programme work streams contributing to the National Strategy/Action Plan development is one means to ensuring optimal support to Partner Countries in this regard.



LESSONS LEARNED

- The quality of a national REDD+ strategy document is essential. Yet its design process itself is of equal importance and may present an opportunity to build higher-level political support and a broad support base. When possible and suitable (e.g. REDD+ potential), National Strategies/ Action Plans should be integrated into national development objectives and documents, working on the business case of REDD+ for credibility and visibility.
- The national REDD+ strategy design process is also an opportunity to ensure continuous and ‘grounded’ multi-stakeholder dialogue and, as required, improved cross-sectorial dialogue. This can gradually build a consensus and ensure that REDD+ is understood as an opportunity rather than a threat. The development of National Strategy/Action Plan is an iterative process which should follow a pragmatic stepwise approach both in scope and scale while planning for continuous improvement in future cycles.



Mr Alfred N. Gichu, National REDD+ Coordinator and Focal Point of Kenya, is responding to journalists’ questions at a high level public and media launch of the Kenya Task Force on Anti-Corruption for REDD+, November 2014. © UNDP Kenya

LOOKING FORWARD

Priority areas for support repeatedly identified by countries across the regions are the four elements for REDD+ implementation under UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16; and REDD+ financing and engagement with the private sector, especially on commodities supply chains. Supporting countries to progress in a stepwise manner through the UNFCCC process, including on designing and implementing National Strategies/Action Plans, in order to have results-based actions recognized will be key to building confidence in REDD+ ahead of 2020.