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**Concept Note: UN-REDD Programme side event at 14th World Forestry Congress**

Date: Tuesday, 8 September 2015 from 18:15 to 19:30

Location: 14th World Forestry Congress (Hall 4D)

Event Title: “Looking Forward: REDD+ post-2015”

Event

Description: A side event on the role of forests and a mechanism to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to fight climate change and realize sustainable development post-2015. The 2016-2020 role and strategy of the UN-REDD Programme will be highlighted as a tool to realize this potential. This will also be discussed in the context of new UNFCCC guidance on REDD+ (Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and June 2015 Bonn SBSTA decisions), growing momentum for REDD+ and growing and more diversified forest country REDD+ capacity development needs.

This event falls under the Congress topic “The future of REDD+”, which is under the sub-theme “Forests as buffers against environmental change”, under the main theme of the congress of “Building Resilience with Forests”.

Panel: *Moderator*: TBC -- Mario Boccucci, Head of UN-REDD Programme Secretariat

*UN:* Mette Løyche Wilkie (UNEP – Director,Division of Environmental Policy Implementation); Eduardo Mansur (FAO -- ‎Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division).

*Donnor Country:* TBC

*Forest Country:* Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Indonesia (Ibu Novia Widyaningtyas: Head of REDD+ Sub-Directorate, Directorate for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry)

*IP/CSO*: Joseph Goko Mutangah, Member UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Target

Audience: Stakeholders from the REDD+, sustainable development, and landscape/forest communities who are attending the World Forestry Congress. The audience will include WFC attendees including high-level officials from UN-REDD Programme partner countries, developed countries, the United Nations system, representatives of CSOs and IPs, and members of the media and academia. Approximately 150 participants are expected.

Political

Context: Support for Forests as a climate change mitigation tool has expanded significantly following the development of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ by Parties to the UNFCCC, the endorsement of the New York Declaration on Forests by dozens of world leaders at the September 2014 Climate Summit, and recent agreements on REDD+ at the Bonn SBSTA meeting in June 2015. Sixty-three developing nations are now UN-REDD Programme country partners, signalling an up-swell in demand for REDD+ support. In response to this momentum and to meet the advancing needs of developing countries to align with the progression of REDD+, the UN-REDD Programme has developed a strengthened 2016-2020 strategy.

Key

Messaging:

* Forests are now overwhelmingly acknowledged as fundamental to fighting climate change.
* Major steps were taken at COP19 to develop the framework for REDD+ (Warsaw Framework for REDD+) and at the June 2015 Bonn SBSTA meeting – creating the guidance necessary for countries to move one step closer to realizing results-based payments for results-based actions related to reducing forest emissions
* Dozens of leaders from governments, the private sector, NGOs, CSOs/IPs and others have signed the New York Declaration on Forests – showing the strongest global momentum to date on this issue.
* REDD+ is a catalyst to sustainable development.
* In response to the above, the UN-REDD Programme is strengthening delivery of REDD+ related support to developing countries, through a new 2016-2020 Strategy that will prioritize:
  + Build capacity of developing countries to deliver REDD+ results-based actions and realize results-based payments
  + Address country needs to meet the UNFCCC REDD+ requirements and guidance
  + Expand Knowledge Management base and South-South cooperation
  + UN delivering as one

Panel

Format: The moderator will welcome attendees and introduce panellists. Other panel members will give five-minute speeches each. The format for each panel member’s speech is to begin with their agency or country perspective on REDD+ as a climate change mitigation tool, then to relate this back to the UN-REDD Programme and its strengthened 2016-2020 strategy and role, and how this will help support countries to deliver REDD+. Mario Boccucci will also provide an introduction to the UN-REDD Programme 2016-2020 Strategic Framework.

Interventions from select countries or other partners may be heard from the floor.

A Q&A session with audience and panel members will then follow, if time allows.

The moderator will then deliver short closing remarks.

Technical

Setup of

Room: The standard room set up includes theatre seating for delegates, podium, head table, screen, data projector, laptop, laser pointer and 2 roving microphones for questions and answers.

PowerPoint: There will be no PowerPoint presentations displayed during this side event. Though, there will be a single slide on display throughout the side event that carries the side event title. Point person for this is TBD, will need to provide the slide on a usb drive to the room technician upon arrival for this to be displayed.

Audio: Two floating microphones will be made available. TBD, person to be designated to be on the floor with the microphones as needed during the floor interventions and Q&A session.

Translations: Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish and French.

Catering: There will be no catering for this event.

Shipping of

Information

Materials: As a paper-free event, there will not be large quantities of printed materials available. Rather, a small number of executive summaries of the 2016-2020 Strategy will be made available along with a very small number of UN-REDD Programme five-year reports, and attendees will be directed to the UN-REDD Programme WFC web page to access related documents.

Promotion: The event will be promoted in the August/September and October/November editions of the UN-REDD Programme newsletter, in the Programme’s REDD+ Weekly Round Up, to REDD+ focal points through an invitation, a flyer will be produced for colleagues to use to promote the event on-site at the WFC, through posting on the forest and climate IISD email list serves, through the Programme’s website, across the Programme’s social media channels, and available FAO Communications Staff on site Durban will provide some limited media relations support where possible. Agency communications teams (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) will also need to promote the event through their various communications channels. The event will also be promoted at the WFC during the morning media briefing by the FAO communications team. Outreach for country participation will be done by Mirey Atallah of the UN-REDD Programme.