EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

13TH CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE **UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND**

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNDP

UN environment programme

This annual report presents the cumulative results of the UN-REDD Programme up to and including 2021. It builds on, and continues, a progressive series of technical, policy and knowledge achievements at the nexus between climate and forests since the Programme's launch in 2008.

2021 has been a transition year for the UN-REDD Programme, moving from a phase focused on REDD+ readiness and capacity building, to a new phase designed to support massively scaled-up international REDD+ implementation. Looking to the 2030 horizon, the goal of UN-REDD is to help fully realise the mitigation potential of forest solutions to the climate emergency by avoiding carbon emissions and fostering carbon sequestration at levels of at least 5 $GtCO_2e$ per year (as proposed by the 2019 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land and the 2018 UNEP Emissions Gap Report). In pursuing this goal, UN-REDD will employ both proven and innovative approaches that ensure the environmental integrity of carbon emission reductions and enhanced removals, promote social

inclusion in climate policies, contribute to sustainable land management and realise non-carbon benefits – from safeguarding biodiversity to supporting local livelihoods and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

Within the scope of this ambition, in 2021 UN-REDD adopted a new results framework for the period 2021-2025, aiming to support countries to implement and enhance forest solutions to the climate emergency. This results framework positions UN-REDD to assist countries in accessing performance-based finance schemes for REDD+ results, including carbon markets (under Article 6 of the *Paris Agreement*) by supporting them to meet standards of high environmental integrity, to further advance their efforts to deliver results. The results framework was designed based on more than a decade of UN-REDD experience and lessons at the global, country and community levels. It aligns UN-REDD to the major international development undertakings in the forthcoming decade, when the *Paris Agreement* enters full

implementation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be realised.

UN-REDD assistance to partner countries in their efforts to complete the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, a requirement for results-based finance, largely concluded in 2021. Adopted in 2013, the Warsaw Framework outlines four areas of REDD+ readiness: national REDD+ strategies or action plans (NS/AP), national forest monitoring systems (NFMS), forest reference emissions levels/forest reference levels (FREL/FRL), and safeguards information systems (SIS).

Over the years, UN-REDD has supported more than 30 countries in the South to elaborate **NS/AP**, of which 26 have formally endorsed these policies at a ministerial or parliamentary level. UN-REDD has also supported more than 50 countries in developing robust **NFMS**, and around half of the countries that submitted **FREL/FRL** to the UNFCCC, until end of 2021, were supported by UN-REDD, i.e. 29 out of

56 countries. On the **safeguards** front, key achievements in 2021 included the launch of SIS in Peru, the development of DRC's SIS webpage, and upgrades to the systems in Mexico and Chile, bringing the number of countries supported by the Programme, with their approaches to meeting UNFCCC safeguards requirements, to 36.

Despite the disruption and delivery challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many REDD+ countries made significant progress towards REDD+ implementation, in 2021, with UN-REDD Programme support. Throughout the year, 16 partner countries and one region – the Lower Mekong – received customized UN-REDD support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. Country-level work was complemented by knowledge management (KM) and communications support, further extending the reach of the Programme's support to its partner countries and beyond. Highlights of support to countries are presented below for each of the four outcomes of the UN-REDD 2021-2025 Results Framework.

In relation to **Outcome 1. Forest solutions realized**, UN-REDD provided comprehensive support on the Warsaw Framework elements, as highlighted above. This support positioned partner countries to act on emerging financial opportunities, elaborated below, and was further enhanced by support to achieve conformance with safeguards standards such as ART/TREES. Specifically, UN-REDD supported several countries with analysis of available data so they could make an informed decision on whether to submit a proposal to the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition's, following the call announced at Biden's Climate Summit in April 2021; as well as with initial ART-TREES gap assessments and support to populate the capacity building / technical assistance needs in their LEAF proposals.

On **Outcome 2. Forest solutions rewarded**, progress towards achieving the mid-decade target of enabling USD 5 billion to be mobilised for REDD+ from results-based financing, focused on supporting seven countries – Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Ghana, PNG, Uganda and Viet Nam – to prepare LEAF proposals for anticipated future emissions reductions and/or enhanced removals (ERRs) over the 2022-2026 period. 100% of countries requesting technical assistance from UN-REDD on LEAF proposals successfully completed the initial technical screening process. 80% (4 out of five) of the countries – Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana and Viet Nam – are in the first wave of jurisdictions entering purchase agreement discussions, and have signed Letters of Intent (LoI), with LEAF Coalition corporate participants. Based on the forecast ERRs in LEAF proposals, the total potential REDD+ results-based financing that could be achieved over the 2022-2026 period in the countries technically assisted by UN-REDD in 2021, is around USD 1.0-1.2 billion.

On **Outcome 3. Forest solutions enhanced**, UN-REDD has been supporting countries to integrate and enhance LULUCF sector actions relating to REDD+, to increase the ambition in their new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This includes support: for the inclusion of enhanced or new targets or commitments in the forest sector; to improve the institutional coordination to support the submission of the NDCs, as well as to secure finance to enhanced NDC mitigation actions in the forest sector. With UN-REDD support, Chile, Colombia, and Cote d'Ivoire integrated enhanced quantitative forest and REDD+ related targets in their NDCs in 2021 and Costa Rica is accelerating achievement of its forest sector NDC mitigation targets through implementation of the results-based payment for REDD+ from the GCF.

Outcome 4. Connecting actors and knowledge for forest solutions: To further deliver on Outcomes 1-3 and to serve its many partner countries,

UN-REDD continued work on capturing, managing and disseminating knowledge on how to scale up REDD+ implementation to accelerate climate action included, among others: a virtual [regional knowledge exchange](#) where UN-REDD partner countries from Latin America shared lessons learned and good practices from the first pilot phase of Green Climate Fund (GCF) results-based payments (RBPs); a virtual, trilingual panel at the [Global Landscapes Forum Amazonia](#); a South-South exchange between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Suriname on indigenous rights in forest affairs; and webinars on Open Tenure tool. Moreover, 10 info briefs were produced summarising the Programme's knowledge and good practices on [landscape approach and planning,](#) [forest tenure,](#) [indigenous peoples' rights,](#) [financing and private sector,](#) [forest monitoring systems and MRV,](#) [linking REDD+, the Paris Agreement, NDCs and the SDGs,](#) [REDD+ funding mechanisms,](#) [safeguards,](#) and [gender.](#)

UN-REDD continued to garner collective political and societal support for forest-based solutions through various online activities, including: [an event on scaling up forest finance at UNFCCC COP26;](#) knowledge generation and dissemination on [forest-positive agriculture and halting deforestation;](#) contributing to the 5th session of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, and collaboration with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact.

The UN-REDD Programme continued the development and deployment of digital tools to enhance countries' support. The [Open Foris](#) initiative to support multi-purpose forest inventories, data processing and dissemination of results, was further developed and Openforis Arena (a web-based platform) was launched in 2021. In support of socially inclusive digital cooperation and virtual engagement, UN-REDD compiled and assessed lessons and approaches for the digital participation of indigenous peoples in policy and institutional processes in Colombia, which represents a pilot initiative of UN-REDD to

scope best practice for inclusive digital participation of indigenous peoples and rural communities.

In 2021, the UN-REDD Programme continued to support partner countries in advancing their efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment principles into their REDD+ actions, particularly on REDD+ implementation and RBP efforts. Within this context, the gender approach of the Programme was informed by the findings and results of the 2020 UN-REDD gender survey, which explored and identified ways to further promote the equitable and active participation of women and men in the COVID era of co-operation. Furthermore, the 2018-

2020 UN-REDD Gender Marker ratings were analysed, showing that UN-REDD almost achieved its ambitious target of having 50% of its 55 outputs receive the highest gender rating.

The Glasgow CoP, at the end of the year, shone a spotlight on forests contributions to combating climate change and keeping 1.5°C alive. The conference yielded a number of milestone commitments and 80% of the signatories to the Paris Agreement signed a US$12-billion Declaration on Forests and Land Use. 2022 presents UN-REDD with a powerful opportunity to advance the forest and climate agenda and impact as we travel the road from Glasgow to Sharm el-Sheikh.

The Programme will make concrete progress to build strong partnerships to scale up and connect country ambition and action with massively scaled up finance. Strategic priorities for UN-REDD in 2022 include: convening stakeholder involved in bringing a diverse pipeline of REDD+ results to meet a range of results-based finance opportunities; sustainable, deforestation-free approaches to commodity supply chains; and support to government-led IPLC processes and platforms. UN-REDD stands ready and equipped to join hands across constituencies and help make the CoP26 forest declarations and pledges an unequivocal success.