



Climate & Development Knowledge Network

## **Reporting for Results-based REDD+**

### About the Reporting for Results-based REDD+ Project

The Reporting for Results-based REDD+ project is a three-year project to build capacity for measuring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enhancement of carbon stocks in agriculture, forest and other land use in 21 tropical and subtropical forest countries.





### About our partnership

The Reporting for Results-based REDD+ project is a joint initiative of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

The CfRN is a non-profit organisation that promotes environmental sustainability while creating opportunities for economic advancement for developing countries with tropical rainforests, including least developed countries. The CfRN works with over 50 forested developing countries and is headquartered in New York, with a technical team based at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.

The CfRN was founded in 2004 by the Heads of State of Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica.

Over the last decade, the Coalition has worked with high-level officials to design

the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank as well as the UN-REDD Programme. This level of engagement was the cornerstone of the success of the Capacity Development for REDD Program which was the predecessor to the RRR+ Project.

CDKN began as a programme of the UK and Dutch governments in 2010, and is evolving into a new, non-profit organisation from 2017 onwards. CDKN combines demand-led research, technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge management to support policy-makers in developing countries to deliver climate-compatible development. With global hubs in Cape Town and London, CDKN also has staff in several more developing countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia.

### About REDD+

REDD+ stands for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and also includes conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It refers to a mechanism developed by countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests, by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands. This provides developing countries with the opportunity to receive results-based payments for actions to conserve and restore forest lands.

> "I take this occasion to commend the team for their excellent work in engaging the local stakeholders and building awareness of the RRR+ project. It was especially encouraging that the team expressed their openness to, where possible, tailor the support offered to best address Guyana's unique circumstances with a view of successfully institutionalising the greenhouse gas inventory process for the Third National Communication (to the UNFCCC) and beyond."

> > - Kandila Ramotar, Climate Change Officer, Office of Climate Change, Government of Guyana

Gail Johnson / Shutterstoc













"Kenya has expressed strong interest to strengthen its capacities to prepare and report on greenhouse gas emissions and removals from the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors (AFOLU). This interest is premised on our understanding that strong in-country capacity to report on emissions and removals to the UNFCCC is critical for access to results-based REDD+ finance, and in supporting our NDC implementation. Our participation in the RRR+ project is therefore geared towards enhancing our technical and institutional capability to prepare and submit a transparent, complete and accurate greenhouse gas inventory to the UNFCCC in support of our local NDC and REDD+ efforts.

The first scoping mission served as a very important opportunity for the RRR+ project experts to meet and exchange information with relevant stakeholders and institutions in charge of greenhouse gas inventories and official reporting. This mission also provided an excellent opportunity to appreciate the prevailing national circumstances, specific capacity gaps within institutions and entry points for capacity strengthening. As result of the interaction, institutional and individual needs were identified to support a more intensive engagement between the RRR+ experts and the country teams responsible for the development of the GHGI and REDD+ Readiness activities.

As the Coordinator of REDD+ activities in the country, I fully appreciate the high level of knowledge and expertise that the CfRN has assembled in support of this effort and fully commit ourselves towards a successful completion of the project."

> - Alfred N. Gichu Head: Climate Change Response Programme, Kenya Forest Service

# Why reporting for results-based REDD+ is important

The Paris Agreement on climate change, signed by 195 governments in December 2015, commits countries to holding average global temperature change at less than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. Governments agreed to significantly cut global greenhouse gas emissions in order to achieve this target.

Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land uses make up around one quarter of all global emissions, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Halting deforestation and speeding up reforestation and afforestation are crucial if the world is to stay within the global temperature limit. The majority of deforestation today occurs in the developing world and current policies, law enforcement and finance flows are inadequate to reverse this trend. REDD+ initiatives can address this crucial gap by helping to unlock finance for forest conservation. REDD+ initiatives are not yet implemented on a large scale for several reasons. One is a lack of systems to accumulate data. Another is capacity: many developing countries have gaps in systems to analyse and accurately report on emissions from agriculture, forest and other land uses. If countries seek to receive results-based finance, they must submit greenhouse gas inventories to the UNFCCC, requiring accurate measuring and reporting.

The Reporting for Results-based REDD+ project will assist countries to create the emissions inventories, build their skills to measure and report on forest- and land-based emissions in the long term and help set them up to receive results-based REDD+ payments.

#### WHAT ELSE CAN RESULTS-BASED REDD+ OFFER?

Forest conservation and restoration is one of the most cost-effective measures available for mitigating climate change. It will be an important route for countries to meet their national commitments (Nationally Determined Contributions) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As well as tackling the source of climate change, wise agricultural stewardship and restoration of forest and farming lands has the benefit of helping people adapt to climate change impacts, too. For example, a wellforested watershed can temper the effects of heavy rainfall and curb flooding and erosion, enhancing access to freshwater and improving livelihoods.

## Who will benefit from the project

The Reporting for Results-based REDD+ project principally supports technical specialists who are responsible for measuring their countries' greenhouse gas emissions and carbon stocks in agriculture, forest and other land uses.

Many of these specialists work for government agencies: national governments are the bodies responsible for reporting this information to the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (UNFCCC). However, we recognise that to measure and report well on the climate impacts of land and forest use, it takes individuals and institutions from across the public and private sectors, as well as the cooperation of communities in forest countries.

For that reason, the project warmly invites the participation of civil society organisations, businesses, investors, local and subnational governments and line ministries, researchers and academics in its workshops and outreach activities. The governments responsible for REDD+ reporting welcome the broader involvement of these groups. Likewise, the evidence on land- and forest-based emissions and carbon stocks that is produced and updated in the 21 project countries will be relevant to development organisations, local and subnational government planners, businesses, media and researchers. All these groups will benefit from understanding more about trends in forest and land use cover in their respective countries. They will also learn, from this project, about some of the drivers of these forest and land use trends.

The information, analysis, and opportunities for discussion provided by the Reporting for Results-based REDD+ project will provide a springboard for these stakeholders to understand how they can contribute to global climate goals, unlock REDD+ finance for their countries, share learning with other forest countries and work together for the benefit of local communities and their countries, as well as for global society. "Transitioning to a low-carbon economy will only be possible with stronger capacity for the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions and their respective monitoring, reporting and verification. This is essential for delivering Panama's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The training that the Environment Ministry team has received from the RRR+ project not only improved their technical capacity, it has also allowed us to accelerate the process of finalising the Third National Communication to the UNFCCC. Thank you for the support."

> – **Rosilena Lindo,** Government of Panama



"The RRR+ technical experts' visit to Panama established the basis for a very interesting partnership for the development of our National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, specifically in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector. The evaluation that the team carried out on the technical data for the Inventory was also interesting. This project is critical for building the capacity of the Environment Ministry technical team. The training demonstrated the vulnerability of our data and supported us to implement a methodology to strengthen the data, which we have done in continuous communication with the training team."

> - Marcial Arias, Government of Panama

#### **Our** activities

During the three-year programme, 2017-2019, technical specialists will take part in **training programmes** that are **tailored** to their needs. By the end, they will expect to be proficient in the methods endorsed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international authority on reporting emissions and carbon stocks.

They will be able to produce more technically **robust inventories** of greenhouse gas emissions from forest and land use in their countries. They will also have assessed how to strengthen the institutions, systems and processes for reporting land-based emissions.

Participating countries will have received support to report their greenhouse gas emissions and removals to the UNFCCC via the official process: the **National Communication and Biennial Update Report** cycles. Participants from selected countries will also have had the chance to exchange their first-hand knowledge and experience with specialists from other forest nations – enabling them to share **best practices** and strategies for **overcoming challenges** with accessing data.

CDKN and CfRN are both dedicated to **gender equality** and **women's empowerment**, and will seek to promote women's equal participation in the project and their access to decision-making roles. The inclusion of different gender perspectives and skills in technical trainings is crucial in order to achieve more equitable, representative and sustainable institutional arrangements to manage natural resources.





## How you can get involved

If you are working in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors in one of the project's focal countries – or on climate change policy and reporting generally – please contact us to discuss how we can work together.

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