

## 1. Project: REDD+ for People and Nature



**2. Summary:** This project seeks to answer two fundamental questions in REDD+: (1) how can REDD+ work at a scale large enough to positively influence climate change, biodiversity and poverty together; and (2) how can indigenous peoples and other local actors be active agents in tropical forest management? Project results include three REDD+ programs at jurisdictional scale being established in each of the world's large rainforest blocks with important innovations in "zero net deforestation" targets, integrated design and local and indigenous management. A learning network shares lessons across continents and is influencing global rules for REDD+ financing.

## 3. Project information:

Period	Three years: July 2010 - June 2013.
Expenditures	NOK 32.9 Million (USD 5.6 M) from Norad and NOK 12.9 M ( USD 2.2) from WWF internal sources = total NOK 45.9 M (USD 7.8). NOK 40M (USD 6.8 M) has been confirmed by Norad to continue activities for the period 2013-15.
Project goal	Ensure effective governance for REDD+ from local to global levels that strongly recognizes biodiversity values and local and indigenous communities' rights.
Target groups	Indigenous and local communities in 3 landscapes and their organisations. Local and national NGOs. Stakeholder groups in landscapes. Government agencies managing REDD processes. Representative organizations for indigenous peoples. International institutions deciding on REDD+ architecture.
Local partners	<u>Peru</u> : Regional indigenous peoples organisation (AIDSESEP), Pan-Amazonian Confederation of Indigenous Peoples (COICA), Regional government, Local university (UniMad), Madre de Dios Federation of IP (FENEMAD), Libelula, Uni del Pacifico, Peru society of environmental law (SPDA). <u>Indonesia</u> : Dayak communities of the Mahakam River basin, BIOMA, Prakarsa Borneo, HOB National Working group, National REDD+ Task Force, UKP4, government of Kutai Barat District and East Kalimantan Province. <u>DRC</u> : Communities of the Mai Ndombe and Ngoyla Mintom areas, DRC Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism.
Activity profile	Pilot/demonstration, capacity building, research, policy/advocacy and technical
Other donors	WWF internal funds + leveraging investments (not counted above) from German IKI, EU ERNTP, Carbon Fund, Forest Investment Program, US-Indonesia Heart of Borneo Debt for Nature Swap.

## 4. Project justification:

This programme develops REDD+ models at jurisdictional scale across three tropical forest landscapes in three continents: (1) *Democratic Republic of Congo*: Mai Ndombe Province, (2) *Indonesia*: Kutai Barat District, East Kalimantan Province, and (3) *Peru*: Madre de Dios Region.

The aim is not only to reduce deforestation, forest degradation and forest related carbon emissions. It will also provide significant benefits to human development in some of the poorest regions on Earth (Millennium Development Goal - MDG 1a and 7a, 7c) and safeguard some of the world's richest environments, essential for human livelihoods (MDG 7b.1) and for the health of our planet.

Work in each of these landscapes will be undertaken at a number of intersecting and mutually reinforcing levels of intervention. At a community level, tools for effective engagement of civil society organisations (CSOs), local populations and indigenous community partners in REDD+ early action project development and land use planning will be developed. At a sub-national or landscape level, WWF will partner with CSOs, local populations and indigenous community groups to demonstrate land use planning that stabilizes the emissions from over 24 million hectares (ha) of forests in the landscapes selected for this programme. Three REDD readiness demonstrations will be developed - for the first time in many of these countries - that benefit communities living in and depending on these forests and that sharpen application of national level REDD strategies and REDD methodologies. Finally, the lessons from community, landscape and national levels will be documented and applied south-south and at the global level to influence participation requirements and deforestation commitments in global REDD mechanisms, institutions and early action financing.



## 5. Results:

### Subnational (Jurisdictional) REDD+ Designs and Institutions

WWF's decision to take a subnational approach that covers large biologically important landscapes linked with national REDD+ systems is being increasingly supported by global practice. The "jurisdictional" approach to REDD+ at the scale of states, districts or provinces allows the risks of deforestation drivers, permanence and leakage to be managed effectively; supports existing forest governance systems; and considers forest management at the scale of ecosystem processes. Initial results show that jurisdictional REDD+ is attractive to forest countries and donors and that the technical design issues can be resolved.

- First jurisdictional REDD+ design in Africa. The [Emission Reduction Programme Idea Note \(ER-PIN\) for Mai Ndombe Province](#) was submitted to the meeting of the FCPF Carbon Fund in Paris on 24 June 2013. This ERP is designed to engage over 300,000 households, halve deforestation across 13 million hectares, reduce GHG emissions by 60 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e and generate US\$60 M in financing to reward reductions. If approved, it will be the largest landscape scale conservation investment in the Congo and the largest REDD+ project in Africa.

The programme addresses key drivers of deforestation and seeks to achieve zero net deforestation preventing the expansion of a significant deforestation front in one of the most biologically important areas of the Congo Basin. It is pro-poor, building on village forest management plans, and pro-economy in creating incentives for investment in low carbon industries. The ER-PIN development process has been highly participatory, including input from hundreds of stakeholders through 16 Thematic Coordination Groups. WWF helped realize this landmark agreement by building technical capacity of local NGOs and government agencies, piloting REDD+ activities and convening stakeholder engagement processes.



This program aims to demonstrate how a jurisdictional REDD+ program might operate in a low governance environment and is influencing national REDD+ frameworks in DRC. It is also helping to shape the global methodology of one of the world's largest climate funds - the FCPF Carbon Fund. *HE Baard Vegar Solhjell, Minister of Environment, Norway on his trip to Mai Ndombe on 15-16 Feb 2013 said "WWF-Norway's colleagues ... are doing very important work here".*

- Sub-national REDD/PES framework and institution in Peru. WWF has been instrumental in helping the Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD) to establish the institutional framework for REDD+ in this 8 million hectare Region. The “Environmental Services & REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios” (MSAR) became operational in October 2010 with over 20 members including FENAMAD, FADEMAD, local NGOs, UNAMAD, FEPROCAMD and local businesses. MSAR is now establishing guidelines for the REDD+ Regional REDD+/PES Strategy.

The “Environmental Management and Sustainable Development Sub-Management Office”, a dedicated agency to manage REDD+ and PES, was established in 2012 under the new GOREMAD Ministry of Forestry with responsibility to formulate strategies on land use, biodiversity, environmental management, environmental services and climate change. WWF has supported this process through [setting carbon baselines](#), building government capacity, and assisting stakeholder engagement.<sup>1</sup>

WWF is now assisting with the Madre de Dios Region and national government to ensure the passage of national REDD+ Strategies to allow access to funds earmarked by the FCPF Carbon Fund and InterAmerican Development Bank for REDD+ in the Madre de Dios. This will be a focus in 2013/FY14.

- REDD+ Action Plan for Kutai Barat District, Indonesia. East Kalimantan Province is emerging as a leader in REDD+ planning at the subnational level in Indonesia. A “[debt for REDD+ swap](#)” announced on 29 September 2011 between the Indonesia and the US Governments will invest USD 28 million in three districts, including the Kutai Barat District, for advancing REDD+ implementation. WWF partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to raise the capital necessary (US \$ 4 million) in order to close the deal between the Indonesian and US Governments.



WWF is a major partner with the Kutai Barat District Government in exploring how the Provincial Low Carbon Development Strategy can be adopted and implemented at the district level. A first step has been to adjust the District 5 Year Forest Plan to address climate related impact. At the June 2013 meeting of the Carbon Fund, the government of Indonesia announced that it would proceed with an ERPIN submission in 2014. Kutai Barat District will be a focus for this first Indonesian submission along with Beru District.

Other outputs in this area include:

- defining subnational carbon reference levels in Peru, Indonesia and DRC;
- National REDD+ roundtables established in DRC and Peru;
- Target of “zero emissions from land use by 2020” enacted in Mexican law, based on WWF advocacy;
- MRV training certificate initiated at the University of Madre de Dios, Peru, with 34 diplomas granted to date.

### Making REDD+ Work for Indigenous People and Local Communities

- Promoting COICA’s “Amazon Indigenous REDD+”. Indigenous groups are the largest single forestholder in the Amazon region – and therefore in the world. COICA, the umbrella agency for indigenous groups across the Amazon, has argued strongly, with WWF support, to establish a unique treatment of indigenous groups in regards to REDD+ mechanisms as developed in Latin America. A technical proposal was presenting at COP 17 in Durban, the Bonn SBSTA in June 2012, at COP 18 in Doha and at the World Conservation Congress in September 2012. Further work is now underway to determine mechanisms by which an indigenous REDD+ effort world work and to test these in at least two countries.
- Best practices for socially-sound REDD+. The involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities has been a consistent theme. The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee was supported to develop their proposals for REDD+ Accountability Mechanisms for UNFCCC COP17 in Durban, and to produce a publication on interests and priorities of African Indigenous Peoples with regard to REDD+. A workshop on a “Rights-based Approaches to REDD+” in Lima, Peru in 2012 was organized in collaboration with the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights Network. Best practice guidance has been completed on “Community Tenure and



<sup>1</sup> [Independent NICFI evaluators in 2012](#) stated that “the nested approach to REDD+ that is promoted by WWF is considered to be the most appropriate model for REDD+ implementation in Peru by the national government and their work on this is highly valued by the regional government”.

REDD+”, “FPIC and REDD+” and “Equitable Benefit-sharing in REDD+”. And WWF participated in the CCBA/CARE REDD+ SES initiative and helped revise their Principles with regard to local communities and indigenous peoples objectives. WWF played a leading role in supporting the governments of DRC and Cameroon to develop FPIC guidelines.

- Community microzoning in the Congo. WWF has assisted communities in the DRC to develop forest management plans that will become the basis for payments on performance at a community level with the Mai Ndombe ERPIN. More than 100 communities covering over 1 million hectares of land have started on community forest management planning. 17 management plans have been completed accounting for almost 160,000 hectares of this area. Not only will these plans provide the basis for reward payments for emission reductions, but they will be recognised as formal descriptions of forest rights under the National REDD+ Strategy – thereby giving communities in DRC some of the first such recognition of tenure<sup>2</sup>.
- Dayak forests protected, Borneo - WWF has facilitated the first case of reclassification of a 30,000 hectares forest area from an industrial concession to a community watershed protection zone, allowing the local Dayak community to install a water pumping station, establish incense wood plantations and manage the forests for non-timber products, as well as initiate the process of producing certified timber. This potentially sets a precedent for exercising local rights under a new national civil code.

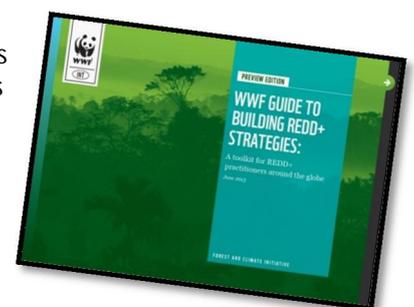


Other outputs include: Assistance and training provided on social safeguards elements in national policy in Cameroon, Mexico and Peru<sup>3</sup>. WWF also assisted the development of the Joint Declaration of REDD+ Intent for Congo Basin signed by 7 central African countries and 8 partner countries at the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban. The Declaration addresses key issues such as drivers of deforestations, linkages to green economy, establish MRV systems including for safeguards, promote land-use planning and zoning. However further work is needed on generating political will coupled with concrete actions and a process for implementation.

### Influencing regional and global REDD+ frameworks

Based on the experience above, WWF has developed a range of outputs on policy, regional agreements and methodological approaches to REDD.

- Simplifying REDD+. WWF launched the [5 Guiding Principles on REDD+](#) with Care and Greenpeace at the opening conference of the Interim REDD+ Partnership in Oslo in May 2010. These set out a simple set of standards and indicator for making REDD+ work for people and nature. The 5 Principles have been adopted as an organizing framework and set of indicators of the DRC ERPIN.
- Achieving Zero Net Deforestation. The “[WWF Living Forest Report – Chapter 3](#)” developed with IIASA, shows that a balance in carbon emissions from the world’s forests can be achieved technically by the year 2020. The blockages are largely political. This report was launched during UNFCCC COP17 in Durban and has influenced REDD+ target setting of the government of Mexico.
- REDD+ Learning. One of the most significant outputs has been the establishment of a rich [REDD+ Learning](#) system. Products include a range of Case Studies, “Inspiring Practices”, Learning Videos, newsletters, guides and toolkits and an open platform for REDD+ discussion –[reddcommunity.org/](#). In addition, south-south learning exchanges have proven powerful tools to strengthen practice and help innovation.
- WWF Guide to Building REDD+ Strategies -- A toolkit for REDD+ practitioners around the globe. This [guide](#) released in May 2013 provides REDD+ practitioners with the information needed to develop national and subnational REDD+ strategies. It draws on the experiences of WWF’s REDD+ teams and their partners, the latest literature on REDD+ practices and emerging REDD+ best practices around the world.



<sup>2</sup> The [NICFI Evaluation](#) noted, “one of the chiefs, without being asked, proudly brought out the map of the village territory that was facilitated and printed by WWF. This is a sign of pride and shows that the village chief felt strengthened and supported by the project”.

<sup>3</sup> NICFI evaluation: “The work of WWF has contributed to the development of Guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent”.

## 6. Learning experiences:

1. Importance of a south-south focused learning system. South-south learning was built into the project design from the start with inception workshops in each region that were attended by project leads from other continents. Workshops on thematic issues were also held to bring together people from across the landscapes and countries to share experiences; and the learning program helped to document stories and share lessons. It was important to develop a system that fostered exchange of lessons that were being developed in the forest countries, and to encourage discussion, support and experimentation between forest countries.
2. REDD at scale requires careful, skilled facilitation. An integrated approach to forest management at jurisdictional scale requires a high degree of coordination and facilitation to ensure that all stakeholders are fairly represented. It also requires dedicated technical expertise on MRV, reference levels, social safeguards, institutional structuring and financing. Investment in an experienced facilitators and teams at subnational level is essential as these must carry the process.
3. Work across levels from the start. Design interventions from the start with an adequately nested approach is crucial for the success. It is important to ensure that national, landscape and local level work fit together and that one does not get out of sync with the other. It has proven very difficult to retro fit action at one level if it is not developed in line with work at another level.
4. Two worlds of carbon monitoring. The REDD+ policy world and the MRV technicians have differing perceptions of monitoring. For the politicians, monitoring is measuring whatever lets us track forest cover and its health (without any interpretation). Interpretation belongs to the reporting component. For technicians, monitoring includes translation of data into meaningful information about forest cover changes and its assessment against management objectives so decisions can be made.
5. REDD+ can be a lever for tenure improvements. Community planning in DRC has proven extremely valuable for communities in defining their forest use and agricultural plans. But more importantly, these forest management plans stand to be adopted within the jurisdictional and national REDD+ program as evidence of forest use rights (the first recognition of such in this region). They also place communities in a leading position to monitor change and confirm reward payments. Similar efforts are allowing Dayak communities in Borneo to have community forest areas recognized.
6. Early rewards. Ensuring clear benefits for “pilot” communities on and delivering these is important continuous community trust and support.
7. Community empowerment, community pace. Knowing the needs and aspirations of communities in relation to their land should be the first step of any community engagement process; having communities lead their own visioning is important. In DRC, community planning has been undertaken with separate input to the overall village plan by women, youth and men to ensure than all voices are heard and that forest management plans represent the full range of uses and users.
8. KISS. Simplifying complex issues is a prerequisite to working with the communities AND with government (e.g. spatial information and maps; developing simple and meaningful indicators, understandable processes).

