

KEY MESSAGES

- The Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector can provide up to one third of the emission reductions needed to avoid the most severe consequences of climate change.
- The conservation and sustainable management of forests can lead to significant reductions in emissions, with approximately 3.3 Gt CO₂/year of cost-effective mitigation potential in the tropics alone, representing the most significant opportunity to increase the ambition of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in many tropical forest countries.
- Ninety per cent of NDCs now include the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector in their scope (compared to just 76 per cent of the first NDCs), but only about 26 per cent of NDCs include quantitative mitigation targets, such as hectares reforested, and an even smaller proportion include greenhouse-gas-based targets for the sector.¹
- The UN-REDD Programme has supported 20 tropical forest countries to integrate and enhance LULUCF sector actions relating to REDD+, increasing the ambition of their NDCs, through initiatives such as UNDP's Climate Promise.
- The objectives under REDD+ directly relate to Sustainable Development Goal 13 (climate action) and 15 (life on land). However, sustainable forest management and REDD+ actions deliver noncarbon benefits and contribute to several other SDGs, including Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 1 (no poverty) and Goal 5 (gender equality).

¹ Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement: Revised synthesis report by the Secretariat. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 25 October 2021.

INFO BRIEF

GLOBAL

LINKING REDD+, THE PARIS AGREEMENT, NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: REALIZING THE POTENTIAL OF FORESTS FOR NDC ENHANCEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION



INTRODUCTION

The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) cements the crucial role that forests play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Countries are increasingly recognizing this role, including the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector as part of their mitigation efforts in their new or updated NDCs. The NDCs, which form the backbone of the Paris Agreement, are high-level political commitments made by countries to undertake transformative low-carbon and climate-resilient action and contribute to the global response to climate change.

Ninety per cent of the “second generation” NDCs—new or updated NDCs that were due to be submitted to the UNFCCC by December 2020—include the LULUCF sector within their scope, as compared to just 76 per cent of the “first generation” NDCs submitted. According to the UNFCCC Synthesis Report (2021),² 57 per cent of NDCs refer to forests specifically as a domestic opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The most prevalent policy options highlighted in NDCs were “afforestation, reforestation and revegetation” (52 per cent) and “sustainable forest management” (31 per cent). “Cross-cutting” options (37 per cent) included activities such as expanding national protection systems for forests and wetlands and developing capacity-building plans for institutions responsible for monitoring forest- and land-use change.

Within the “afforestation, reforestation and revegetation” category, countries highlight increasing reforestation rates through public-private partnerships, using endemic tree species that are more resistant to pests and diseases, planting and developing forests, prioritizing production forests, large timber forests and coastal forests and increasing seedling density in forest land to enhance net carbon sequestration. Many countries refer to REDD+ in their NDCs. Specific measures captured under REDD+ include, for example, the expansion of early warning systems for deforestation and the drafting and implementation of zero-deforestation agreements.

² Available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs/ndc-synthesis-report>.

Despite the enhanced role of the LULUCF sector in new and updated NDCs, only about 20 per cent of all NDCs include quantifiable targets for this sector, such as hectares reforested, with less than half of those (about 8 per cent of first generation NDCs) including greenhouse gas-based targets for the sector, or metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This makes it challenging to estimate the true mitigation potential reflected across NDCs. However, global studies estimate that, if fully implemented, the sector could deliver about 25 per cent of planned emission reductions by 2030, based on the first NDCs.^{3,4}

In 2019, UNDP conducted a major survey of countries, focused on NDCs. More than 130 countries responded, providing information on their plans for 2020 with respect to revising national climate plans and current NDC implementation status, as well as critical bottlenecks and success factors. The results of the survey showed that the most common ways in which governments planned to revise their NDCs were through the creation of stronger links with the SDGs and the alignment of their NDCs with development and sectoral plans and targets (e.g., REDD+).⁵ The survey was repeated in 2021, with 122 countries providing responses. The purpose was to provide a global snapshot of the overall progress made across each of the key building blocks for NDC implementation. The report showed that the number of countries that had enhanced their NDCs or intended to do so – by strengthening greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and adaptation goals – rose from 75 countries in 2019 to 178 in 2021, with most countries having abided by the key principle of submitting increasingly ambitious NDCs every five years.⁶

The results of these large-scale surveys help to demonstrate progress that has been made, but it is also clear that many countries have not yet fully explored the opportunities that REDD+ can bring to the NDC process, to facilitate both mitigation

³ The Bonn Challenge and the Paris Agreement: How can forest landscape restoration advance Nationally Determined Contributions? (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Climate Focus, 2017).

⁴ The key role of forests in meeting climate targets requires science for credible mitigation (Grassi et al., 2017).

⁵ The Heat Is On: Taking Stock of Global Ambition (UNDP and UNFCCC, 2019). Available at <https://outlook.ndcs.undp.org/>.

⁶ [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDC\) Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition](#) (UNDP, 2021).

and adaptation efforts in the forest sector. This points to the importance of the UN-REDD knowledge management workstream in building the linkages between NDCs and REDD+ and with the Sustainable Development Goals for the forest sector.

METHODOLOGY AND IMPACT

The UN-REDD Programme has been delivering a knowledge management workstream to provide technical analysis and practical knowledge to countries on how to better mainstream their REDD+ efforts and align them with the provisions of the Paris Agreement, particularly with regard to the submission and review of their NDCs and the advancement of the SDGs. The issues considered as part of the workstream are summarized in the present brief. The aim of the support offered in the context of the workstream is to promote synergies between REDD+ and NDCs, while also aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals, through knowledge sharing at the regional and global levels and provision of technical assistance to countries. The present section considers the following key aspects of REDD+, which are supported through UN-REDD, with clear implications for NDCs, including the tracking of NDC progress through the enhanced transparency framework for action and support: (a) national REDD+ strategies/action plans; (b) national forest monitoring systems and measurement, reporting and verification; and (c) REDD+ results-based finance.

NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGIES: REDD+ POLICIES AND MEASURES

A major pillar of REDD+ readiness is the development of national REDD+ strategies, which include specific targets and objectives for the forest sector, an analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and also address land tenure, forest governance and gender issues, as well as safeguards. National REDD+ strategies are developed through a participatory approach built upon cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder engagement, which are critical for the achievement of NDCs and the SDGs.



©UN-REDD Programme

National REDD+ strategies include robust analysis of and consensus on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a given country, enabling a deep understanding of the direct and underlying causes of emissions from the LULUCF sector, and, therefore, which climate mitigation policies and measures to prioritize and enact. Strategies include a national vision and related sectoral and cross-sectoral targets that may be integrated into NDCs. Another core component is the theory of change and related policies and measures that clarify how to turn the LULUCF sector from a source of emissions to an opportunity for sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Lastly, national REDD+ strategies often include an implementation framework that countries can build on for the implementation of their NDCs.

In many developing countries, another important and related factor to consider is that the timeline for the implementation of national REDD+ strategies typically coincides with that for NDCs.

BOX 1. EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY INTO THE NDC AND NDC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: GHANA

Ghana developed and submitted its first NDC to the UNFCCC in September 2015.⁸ The NDC specified a package of five components to meet the policy goal for the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector, titled “Promote sustainable utilization of forest resources through REDD+”:

- Continue 10,000 ha annual reforestation/afforestation of degraded lands
- Double 10,000 ha annual reforestation/afforestation of degraded lands, translating to 20,000 ha on an annual basis
- Support enhancement of forest carbon stocks through 5,000 ha per annum enrichment planting and enforcement of timber felling standards
- 45 per cent emissions reduction through results-based emission reduction programme in cocoa landscape
- Wildfire management in transition and savannah dry lands under Ghana’s national REDD+ strategy, also published in 2015, developed through a multistakeholder process and enjoys high-level political support. The strategy seeks to reduce carbon emissions and restore forests, move towards sustainable agriculture and landscapes, expand platforms for collaboration and economic development and generate innovative, substantial and sustainable economic and noneconomic incentives and benefits to improve the livelihoods of women, men and children.

Informed by extensive stakeholder consultations, three national and subnational REDD+ programmes are presented in the national REDD+ strategy as being the main areas of focus for REDD+ implementation:

1. The improvement of land use and socioeconomic development in the high forest zone and cocoa-growing areas
2. The addressing of wood harvesting and agricultural practices in transition and savannah zones
3. Policy and legislative reforms to support REDD+ and a sustainable forestry sector

When comparing the AFOLU components of the NDC with the strategic interventions in the national REDD+ strategy, their overall consistency is evident. This is further reinforced by the country’s NDC implementation plan, which includes the specific interventions set out in the national REDD+ strategy.

⁸ Ghana subsequently submitted its [updated first NDC](#) in September 2021.

Additionally, in the process of developing their national strategies or action plans, many developing countries have undertaken scoping exercises to identify investments needed for REDD+ implementation. In some countries, this work has resulted in REDD+ investment plans that complement national REDD+ strategies, elaborating the plan to activate those strategies: budget, estimation of emission reduction potential, packaging of policies and measures into actionable programmes, etc. Such plans are ready to be financed and provide a strong basis for the implementation of the forest component of NDCs.

In some cases, national REDD+ strategies and investment plans had already been prepared or were being developed alongside the intended nationally determined contribution, which, for the majority of countries, became their first NDC. In a number of those cases, REDD+ was, therefore, already presented in the first NDC. For example, in the case of Ghana, the national REDD+ strategy was developed the same year as the NDC submission (2015) and was well reflected in the first NDC.

Unlike Ghana, however, many countries finalized their national REDD+ strategies after intended nationally determined contributions

were submitted. In those cases, specificity and quantification of the role of forests were generally not reflected.

There are, nevertheless, several cases in which new or updated NDCs have since been enhanced to more fully incorporate REDD+. Ecuador was one of the first countries to do so, having enhanced its NDC through REDD+,

to incorporate the elements discussed above. The box below provides a summary of the country's use of Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding to implement the PROAmazonía programme and how this was captured in its NDC. The country's NDC was developed through collaborative efforts between various national institutions led by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and

BOX 2. ACCESSING GREEN CLIMATE FUND FUNDS FOR REDD+ RESULTS AND INTEGRATION INTO A COUNTRY'S NDC: PROAMAZONÍA IN ECUADOR

The deforestation rate in Ecuador was 109,000 ha per year from 2000 to 2009, with over 99 per cent of deforested land being transformed into agricultural areas. The country's REDD+ action plan (2016–2025) addresses the drivers of this deforestation with the aim of reducing gross emissions by at least 20 per cent by 2025 and contributing to reducing the net deforestation rate through REDD+ policies, measures and actions.

In July 2019, Ecuador became the second country to receive financial resources from the Green Climate Fund for having successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation. The investment is being used to co-finance the country's REDD+ action plan until 2025, implemented in synergy with PROAmazonía, the country's integrated programme for forest conservation and sustainable production. PROAmazonía, supported by funds from the Green Climate Fund and the GEF, is a keystone of the country's NDC.

Ecuador submitted its intended nationally determined contribution in 2015. While the intended NDC recognized the impact that activities in the forestry sector and appropriate management of protected areas have on climate change and established plans to improve the work and set objectives and concrete goals, it did not make explicit reference to REDD+. However, the role of REDD+ in meeting the country's NDC progressed in 2018, as part of the first generation NDC. The NDC, which covers the period from 2020 to 2025, indicates that 25.35 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions come from the LULUCF sector and asserts that the reduction of emissions in this sector will contribute substantially to mitigating climate change, while generating additional social and environmental benefits. For the sector, the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is based on comparison with the UNFCCC REDD+ reference level (2000 to 2008). The LULUCF action plan of the NDC is informed by the national REDD+ action plan, and sets the same quantified greenhouse gas target:

- A reduction of at least 25 per cent in gross emissions by 2025, compared to the forest reference emission level for 2000 to 2008

The reference to the national REDD+ action plan as the strategy for reducing deforestation in the entire country reinforces the idea that the action plan is the jurisdictional strategy around which, in practice, all the interventions to be implemented in the country by subnational jurisdictions are to be coordinated. PROAmazonía is explicitly referenced as the key programme supporting NDC implementation. Given that the national REDD+ action plan is essentially the foundation for the LULUCF component of Ecuador's NDC, it follows that this component is based on several years of participatory process and feasibility studies, achieved through the REDD+ readiness process.

With the support of PROAmazonía, the NDC implementation plans for the LULUCF and agriculture sectors are also being developed. PROAmazonía is playing a major role, not only with respect to the content of the NDC, but also as a driving force for the implementation of the NDC on the ground.

Livestock, the National Institute of Statistics and Census and the National Secretariat for Planning and Development, and with the support of UN-REDD, including targeted support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In order to develop a robust NDC with respect to the AFOLU sector, Ecuador used the knowledge gained during the implementation of its UN-REDD National Programme and targeted support. This technical basis was key in order to develop the reference scenario and mitigation activities for the sector.

Other countries have made these enhancements more recently and elected to reflect the finalization and endorsement of the REDD+ strategies in their new or updated NDCs.

Looking to Kenya, for example, although the country's first NDC recognized the major contribution of forests to emissions and included the AFOLU sector in its scope, it made no specific reference to REDD+. Moreover, the NDC stated that the global land-use data approach used to develop the NDC led to significant uncertainty in the business as usual and mitigation potential estimates for the LULUCF sector. Harnessing the opportunity to draw on REDD+ progress made since that time, the country's updated NDC refers explicitly to the enhancement of REDD+ activities

and includes REDD+ in the set of sectoral policies referred to as supporting implementation of its climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. On the data side, the updated NDC was informed by a more detailed and robust assessment of mitigation and adaptation measures, in-depth analysis and improved information and data, including the most recently available national greenhouse gas inventory supplemented by the best available data from various official sources and reports.

In the case of Cambodia, this potential for enhancement was explicitly recognized in the first NDC, with an explanation that while the LULUCF sector was included more generally in the initial NDC, a precise list of actions and greenhouse gas effects would be updated after finalization of the REDD+ strategy. Cambodia submitted its updated NDC in 2020, delivering on its stated intention to enhance the focus on REDD+, with the support of the Climate Promise. The country transitioned from sectoral targets to an economy-wide target, aimed at raising its mitigation ambition to a 42 per cent reduction in 2030 compared with business as usual. This includes an AFOLU sector target to halve the deforestation rate by 2030. UNDP supported Cambodia in its modelling efforts, leading to the inclusion of this ambitious quantitative target that addresses

BOX 3. CLIMATE PROMISE: HELPING COUNTRIES MEET THEIR CLIMATE GOALS

The UNDP Climate Promise was launched during the 2019 Climate Action Summit with the objective of supporting any developing country wishing to enhance its NDC in the lead-up to the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. By leveraging the UNDP country office network on the ground in 170 countries and territories, an extensive climate change portfolio and global policy expertise, UNDP was able to offer support to 120 countries around the world, making the initiative the world's largest source of support in relation to the NDC revision process. The support offering is underpinned by quality criteria focused on the core principles of inclusion and ownership, robustness and feasibility in NDC design. Recognizing the collaborative principles of the NDC Partnership, the Climate Promise has been working with over 35 partners to coordinate technical and financial NDC revision support to countries – including UNEP and FAO for nature-based solutions and agriculture, forest and land use, respectively. The initiative is funded by core donors including the European Union, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden.⁹

⁹ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition.

BOX 4. THE CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY: BUILDING GLOBAL CAPACITY TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY IN THE FOREST SECTOR

The FAO global project entitled “Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)” is a two-year project financed by the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency trust fund of the Global Environment Facility. The global project will strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to collect, analyse and disseminate forest-related data. It will also support countries in meeting the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) requirements of the Paris Agreement and provide information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs.

the largest source of emissions in line with the national REDD+ strategy. The revised NDC is clearly more robust and comprehensive.

NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEMS AND MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION

National forest monitoring systems (NFMS) and related measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) activities compose another key pillar of REDD+ which can contribute significantly to the NDC enhancement process and, in particular, to reporting on NDC progress as part of the biennial transparency reports to be submitted in 2024 and beyond, in the context of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). Under the Paris Agreement, each Party will report on the progress made towards achieving its NDC, in addition to submitting an annual national greenhouse gas inventory report. Previously, developed and developing countries had reported using different systems with different levels of detail. From December 2024 onwards, all parties will have common reporting requirements (with flexibility provisions embedded). Reporting on NDC progress under the ETF will help to increase understanding of collective global progress towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The greenhouse gas-based estimates contained in the NDC for the forest sector may be improved given the ongoing forest reference emission

level (FREL) and MRV advancements that have been achieved through REDD+ readiness efforts. With the support of UN-REDD, REDD+ countries have developed or substantially improved their own national data on greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks for the forest sector. In many developing countries, national REDD+ data for the forest sector are more sophisticated and include more data points than the LULUCF sector greenhouse gas inventory submitted as part of their national communications or biennial update reports to UNFCCC. Therefore, national forest monitoring system and FREL development, carried out as part of REDD+ readiness efforts, has enabled many countries to include an unprecedented level of detail in their LULUCF emissions and removals profiles.

However, for many countries, forest sector data have not been fully integrated into the NDC process. The inclusion of a description of the assumptions and the methodological basis applied, particularly the baselines or reference levels, is particularly important for the land sector and could be enhanced by integrating REDD+ data. Even if it is not mentioned directly in the NDC itself, it becomes particularly relevant to ensure that the reporting on NDC progress in the biennial transparency reports builds on REDD+ data in those countries where such data are available.

BOX 5. REDD+ MONITORING AS A FOUNDATION FOR NDC AMBITION AND TRANSPARENCY: SURINAME'S SECOND GENERATION NDC

Suriname's updated NDC focuses on four key areas, namely, forests, electricity, agriculture and transport. The country is committed to maintaining 93 per cent forest cover but requires significant international support to conserve this valuable resource in perpetuity.

In the updated NDC, Suriname quantified its previous commitment to increase the percentage of forests and wetlands under protection, giving a figure of at least 17 per cent of the terrestrial area by 2030 (unconditional target).

Additionally, Suriname quantified references to the drivers of deforestation, identifying mining (71 per cent), infrastructure (15 per cent), urbanization (4 per cent), agriculture and pasture (4 per cent) and burning (3 per cent) as the main drivers of deforestation in the country. The data were drawn from the readiness phase of the national REDD+ process.

The updated NDC included reference to the 2018 forest reference emissions level submitted to UNFCCC, under methodological approaches for estimating anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals for the NDC.

Suriname was able to build upon progress on its REDD+ national forest monitoring system¹⁰ to deliver the enhanced NDC. In December 2016, Suriname launched its national land monitoring system through a geoportal known as "GONINI".¹¹ This portal includes broader land-use monitoring and land-cover maps and information about mangroves and protected areas. The country's national forest monitoring system is integrated into GONINI and consists of six components:

- (a) A satellite land monitoring system;
- (b) Near real-time monitoring;
- (c) A sustainable forestry information system;
- (d) Community-based forest monitoring;
- (e) A national forest inventory;
- (f) Reporting.

Having this type of comprehensive land use monitoring system will facilitate the country's efforts to track NDC progress under the ETF.

¹⁰ More information is available at www.surinameredd.org/en/reddplus-suriname/national-forest-monitoring-system/.

¹¹ More information is available at www.gonini.org/.

Setting up and/or improving systems and processes for national forest monitoring systems and MRV is also important in the context of the ETF under the Paris Agreement. There is a significant opportunity to strengthen the robustness of NDCs by mapping complementarities and potential contradictions between the national data used for NDCs and the data used for REDD+ submissions. This information can be the basis for improving the information elements that facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding in relation to the forest sector.

Suriname is an example of a REDD+ country that has already submitted its updated NDC, with enhancements reflecting REDD+ readiness efforts. For example, the existing stakeholder engagement platforms that were established under the REDD+ readiness process were used to raise awareness of the NDC among all stakeholders, including indigenous and tribal peoples. On the technical side and as discussed

further in box 5, the NDC built on the national forest monitoring system for REDD+, which will also contribute to the data and information needs for reporting under the ETF .

REDD+ RESULTS-BASED FINANCE

There are several cases in which results-based payments are or will be applied in initial NDC implementation efforts, primarily through the Green Climate Fund. During the first phase of the Fund's pilot programme on results-based payments for REDD+, eight countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and Paraguay) received \$496 million for 102 Mt CO₂ emissions reductions in the forest sector between 2014 and 2018. Countries receiving REDD+ results-based payments must reinvest the proceeds in activities in line with their current or future NDCs, their REDD+ strategies, or low-carbon development plans, as detailed in the terms of reference for the programme. In the countries listed above, REDD+ results-based



©UN-REDD Programme

payments are being reinvested in implementing a national REDD+ strategy or action plan, strengthening sustainable forest and land-use management policies, paying for ecosystem services and implementing social forestry initiatives to deliver even greater emissions reductions and improved livelihoods. As the national REDD+ strategy often serves as the basis for the LULUCF component of a REDD+ country's NDC (as described in the cases of Ghana and Ecuador, above, and Chile, below), it follows that results-based finance for REDD+ is an important source of funds for supporting the implementation of the conditional LULUCF NDC components.

To date, investment in forests and other LULUCF sector emissions reductions has fallen short. Climate finance provided for forest-related mitigation represents between 0.5 and 5 per cent of the investment that is needed to harness the full mitigation potential of the forest sector. Readiness efforts towards results-based payments have provided a foundation to build on for

those developing countries that are interested in opportunities to access carbon market finance, which presents an important source of investment to potentially contribute to NDC implementation, together with other sources of public sector REDD+ finance.

A more recent example of a source of results-based payments and market-based finance for REDD+ action in the context of NDCs is [the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance \(LEAF\) Coalition](#), a voluntary global coalition bringing together the private sector and governments to provide finance for tropical and subtropical forest conservation. The LEAF Coalition requires proceeds from the sale of verified emission reductions to be utilized by the host (supplier) country to further its priorities consistent with achieving its NDC and sustainable economic development, with priority given to forest protection and forest restoration, including its REDD+ strategy or action plan. Final purchase agreements with buyers will be contingent on the host country providing a high-level investment



©UN-REDD Programme

BOX 6. ACCESSING GREEN CLIMATE FUND FUNDING FOR REDD+ RESULTS AND INTEGRATION INTO A COUNTRY'S NDC: CHILE

Chile has received a total of \$63.7 million in results-based payments from GCF. The National Forestry Corporation will invest those funds in the implementation of 10 measures established under the [National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources \(ENCCRV\)](#), targeting 25,000 ha of forested areas and other land. The measures will involve sustainable forest management, restoration, reforestation and afforestation activities in the five administrative regions that span from Maule to Los Lagos, with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing greenhouse gas removals while respecting environmental and social safeguards and ensuring a gender-sensitive and inclusive approach. The expected climate benefit of these activities is expected to be the removal of around 256,000 tons of CO₂ per year, from 2020 to 2030. These emissions reductions and removals will be achieved through the implementation of sustainable forest management activities over 17,853 ha and restoration activities over 7,688 ha during the six years of the project's implementation.

The project provides a good case for complementarity and coherence by blending Green Climate Fund investments with other ongoing initiatives to support Chile implement its ENCCRV, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Carbon Fund. The preparation of the National Strategy and the achievement of the emission reductions for which results-based payments were received were fully aligned with the country's [NDC](#), with the National Strategy proposed as a public policy instrument developed to comply with the national commitments made in the NDC. The specific contribution of the forest sector to the NDC involves the sustainable management and recovery of 100,000 ha of forest, which is conditional on the extension of Decree-Law 701 and the adoption of a new native forest recovery and forestry promotion law. The NDC also includes the afforestation of 100,000 ha of mainly native species, subject to the adoption of the new law. Owing to the limited availability of resources for supporting the implementation phase of the National Strategy, REDD+ results-based payments will be fully used for its implementation. In addition, it is expected to trigger public-private financing that has a greater environmental impact and results in social development projects. Consequently, the use of the results-based payments received by Chile from the GCF i.e., the "use of proceeds", will contribute to the achievement of the National Strategy's overall objective and the country's NDC.¹²

12 FP120: Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016 (Chile and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Decision B.24/09. 4 Dec. 2019).

framework that demonstrates how proceeds will be deployed in line with these requirements.

LESSONS LEARNED

Key lessons have been learned through the UN-REDD experience, as well as through several complementary initiatives and programmes, particularly the Climate Promise and the Capacity building Initiative for Transparency.

The forest and land-use sector, which offers significant potential for scaling up ambition in NDCs, has unique characteristics that must be carefully considered when integrating REDD+ into NDCs. These characteristics include the sector's highly dynamic nature, the fact that the impact of climate change is already being felt, and the risk of reversals and emissions displacement. The unique aspects of the sector have overarching and cross-cutting effects on the six factors identified below.

Evolving UNFCCC landscape: The UNFCCC landscape is constantly evolving, and it is vital to adapt and improve over time. The recent finalization of the "Paris Rulebook" demonstrates this clearly. Analysis and interpretation are currently under way to identify the implications of key aspects of the Rulebook for forests and REDD+, in particular, Article 6 and the final elements of the ETF.

In-country coordination: National coordination on data collection and reporting under UNFCCC (and other conventions) can be challenging and sometimes leads to duplication of efforts. Creating or strengthening relevant existing interministerial coordination bodies at the institutional level can help overcome this challenge, including leveraging those already established for REDD+, where applicable. Cross-sectoral coordination is a challenge but will be key to achieve NDC targets and goals for the LULUCF sector.

Finance: Finance related to climate action, NDCs and REDD+ is a critical component in achieving successful climate change mitigation action below 2°C. The conditional components of NDCs are complex and the level of finance required to support the achievement of current conditional

NDC targets has not yet been delivered.

Nonetheless, linking REDD+ climate finance (e.g., Green Climate Fund results-based payments) to climate mitigation implementation programmes can facilitate countries' NDC ambition related to the land-use sector.

Measurement, reporting and verification and monitoring: Although much progress has been made in the field of measurement, reporting and verification and monitoring for REDD+, this is not yet prevalent in the broader land-use sector. In seeking to include and scale up the potential of the LULUCF sector for more ambitious NDCs, it will be important for countries to build upon existing MRV and monitoring systems. REDD+ MRV and national forest monitoring systems can be a good starting point as these can potentially be expanded to include wider measurement, reporting and verification and monitoring for the land-use sector.

Social and environmental safeguards: Social and environmental safeguards are a central pillar for the implementation of REDD+. Countries engaged in REDD+ have invested, learned and progressed considerably in promoting and supporting social and environmental safeguards for the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures. The integration of REDD+ and the forest and land-use sectors in NDCs should build on existing processes and experiences in countries that are engaged in REDD+.

SUSTAINABILITY

Parties to UNFCCC were requested to submit second generation NDCs by 2020 and every five years thereafter (e.g., by 2020, 2025 and 2030). A total of 116 new or updated NDCs have been communicated by 143 Parties and recorded in the UNFCCC interim NDC registry as at 12 October 2021. The Climate Promise has supported the majority of developing countries in submitting new or updated NDCs, including 53 countries (out of a total of 110) that had requested LULUCF-related support through the programme. In many of these countries, REDD+ is being integrated as a key means of enhancing ambition. The next phase of the Climate Promise aims to help countries move from pledge to impact. UNDP, together with partners, will scale



©UN-REDD Programme

up support in at least 100 countries to help them use their NDCs as sovereign plans for investment in key drivers of sustainable development, such as energy, water, nature-based solutions, forests and agriculture. UNDP will bring together its extensive infrastructure, networks and substantive offers to provide comprehensive support in the area of NDC implementation. By leveraging its strengths at the global, regional and country levels, it will help deliver NDCs and transition towards net-zero emissions and climate-resilient development pathways.

With this work embedded in the Climate Promise and being carried out in coordination with other related NDC support initiatives, such as the NDC Partnership, and given that the UN-REDD Programme is committed to supporting countries in enhancing the ambition and implementation of forest-related NDC components until 2025, there is a sustained route to amplify the impact of this area of work.

CONCLUSION

As countries continue to update their NDCs, advance in NDC implementation and prepare to track NDC progress, they are learning valuable lessons through their experiences in REDD+ readiness and implementation, as summarized above. Key elements include consistency in the use of databases and forest-related data and methodologies for the preparation of different national reports under UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. In addition, REDD+ offers clear evidence of the importance of enhanced participatory processes that involve cross-sectoral national stakeholders, including both policymakers and technicians. It is vital to ensure that such processes adopt a gender-sensitive and socially inclusive approach, wherein gender-responsive and socially inclusive multi-stakeholder consultations are undertaken with a wide range of State and non-State parties, including women's and youth organizations, indigenous peoples' groups and others.¹³ Another main takeaway is that a robust, multipurpose national forest monitoring system will not only contribute to tracking mitigation actions defined under REDD+ strategies, but will also allow tracking of progress in the context of the enhanced transparency framework.

Although there is clear potential to solidify synergies between REDD+ and NDCs, this is

not without its challenges. Within countries, the teams working on the NDC and REDD+ are often from different ministries or different sections of the same ministry, which may hinder a coordinated approach. With most REDD+ countries having finalized their national REDD+ strategies and other REDD+ readiness elements, recently submitted new or updated NDCs and now considering the finalized elements of the enhanced transparency framework, this is the right time to foster interministerial connections in the context of both NDC implementation and reporting on NDC progress. Benefits for countries include increased robustness and credibility of their NDCs and maximized opportunities for international financial support through the establishment of clear targets and activities that are bolstered by highly participatory processes and aligned with social and environmental safeguards. UN-REDD is primed to support countries in addressing these coordination challenges and fostering linkages across sectors and ministries.

Not only can REDD+ enhance NDC ambition and implementation in the forest sector, but considerations and lessons learned from REDD+ implementation can also help to inform technical guidance, dialogue and initiatives related to the broader range of nature-based solutions in NDCs, therefore contributing to realizing the full potential of nature to achieve global climate goals, as recognized in the Glasgow Climate Pact.

13 See www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-equality-in-national-climate-action--planning-for-gender-.html

CONTACT

Kimberly Todd
Technical Specialist, Climate and Forests
United Nations Development Programme
kimberly.todd@undp.org

WEBSITES AND OTHER KEY RESOURCES

- FAO CBIT-Forest: www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/#:~:text=The%20project%20Building%20global%20capacity,and%20contributing%20to%20tackling%20climate
- FAO Climate Change: www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/ndcs/en/
- UNDP Climate Promise: www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/climatepromise.html
- NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package: <https://ndcpartnership.org/caep>
- NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal: <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal>
- NDC Enhancement: Opportunities in the Forest and Land-use Sector (World Resources Institute, 2019). Available at www.wri.org/publication/ndc-enhancement-opportunities-forest-and-land-use-sector
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Global Outlook Report 2021: The State of Climate Ambition. (UNDP, 2021). Available at www.undp.org/publications/nationally-determined-contributions-ndc-global-outlook-report-2021-state-climate
- Enhancing Forest Targets and Measures in Nationally Determined Contributions. (World Wildlife Fund for Nature, 2020). Available at https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/forests_and_ndcs_v4.pdf
- Aligning NDCs and SDGs: Lessons Learned and Practical Guidance (UNDP, 2017). Available at www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Climate%20and%20Disaster%20Resilience/FINAL_NDC-SDG-9Nov.pdf
- Nature-based Solutions for NDCs, Pathway Framework (UNDP, 2019). Available at www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/impact-and-learning/library/nature-based-solutions-for-ndcs-pathway-framework.html
- Considerations for Integrating Nature-based Solutions in NDCs: Illustrating the Potential through REDD+ (UNDP, 2021). Available at <https://www.undp.org/publications/consideration-integrating-nature-based-solutions-nationally-determined-contributions>

UN-REDD PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN
environment
programme

The United Nations Collaborative Programme
on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

UN-REDD PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

International Environment House,
11-13 Chemin des Anémones,
CH-1219 Châtelaine,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Email: un-redd@un-redd.org
Website: www.un-redd.org
Workspace: www.unredd.net