WWF

REPORT

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BUILDING REDD+ FOR PEOPLE & NATURE:

From lessons learned across Indonesia, Peru and the Democratic Republic of Congo to a new vision for REDD+

FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

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PREFACE

WWF-CANON/RICHARD STONEHOUSE

Forests cover one-third of Earth and breathe life into our world, with tropical forests alone producing more than 40 per cent of the world's oxygen. Forests are also the largest storehouse of carbon after oceans, holding 289 gigatonnes of carbon – more than all the carbon in the atmosphere. So it is no surprise that when we cut down or damage our forests, we release huge amounts of carbon emissions that contribute to devastating climate change – enough to equal 20 per cent of annual global emissions, and more than that produced by all the automobiles, trucks, trains, ships and planes in the world combined.

But it is not just our planet that suffers when forests are destroyed. As forests are home to over 80 per cent of terrestrial biodiversity, deforestation of key tropical forests could lead to the loss of as many as 100 species a day. And, with more than 1.6 billion people directly dependent on forests for fuel, housing and nourishment, the fate of our forests may determine our own fate as well.

These challenges can be addressed by *reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, conserving and sustainably managing forests, and enhancing forest carbon stocks* (REDD+). When done right, in a way that safeguards the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, REDD+ can not only benefit the climate, but also biodiversity and local livelihoods, above and beyond other traditional forest conservation initiatives.

It is with this belief that WWF has committed to realizing the conservation and livelihood benefits of REDD+.

As part of this commitment, WWF believes that REDD+ should not only be recognized at the global level, but should also be defined and owned at the national level by tropical forest countries, and at the local level by the very communities that will most directly experience its impact.

This has guided WWF's Forest and Climate strategy and implementation of its REDD+-related activities – from the co-development of the REDD+ Five Guiding Principles (see page 5), which are now helping to set the standard for responsible REDD+, to facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in REDD+ dialogues and decision making.

This has also defined the prominent role of WWF's in-country teams implementing REDD+ related activities across key tropical forest landscapes, and the facilitative role of the global WWF Forest and Climate team in bringing technical guidance and support to those implementing REDD+ on the ground and connecting the in-country work to the global policy arena.

Over the past three years, with the government of Norway's generous financial assistance, WWF has made significant progress in helping tropical forest countries to prepare for REDD+. This has included supporting REDD+ stakeholders of key forest landscapes in Indonesia, Peru and the Democratic Republic of Congo as they develop the knowledge and technical expertise they need to design and test REDD+ strategies. The successes and challenges of these three years are shared here.

This publication goes beyond reporting on this work. It reflects on it. This reflection has identified valuable lessons learned—lessons that can help guide REDD+ efforts in other tropical forest landscapes in ways that support responsible and effective REDD+ strategies and, perhaps most importantly, reinforces the value of REDD+ as not only a conservation tool, but also a development tool.

This connection of REDD+ to development goals is not new, but is crucial to its success now more than ever before. The challenges that tropical forest countries now face require a new vision of REDD+ as a critical tool to support the concept of green economic development. It is this innovative vision for REDD+, which WWF is now working towards, that will link conservation and development efforts in transformational ways that promise to truly benefit our forests, our climate and the millions of people around the world that depend on both for their survival.

Bruce Cabarle
Leader, WWF Forest and Climate Initiative (2010-2013)

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INTRODUCTION

To address climate change, it is critical to reverse tropical deforestation and to drastically reduce forest-based carbon emissions. This publication reports on WWF's forest and climate efforts at the landscape level during the period 2010-2013, as supported by Norad funding.

This work sought to develop models for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) that secure scalable forest ecosystem management while engaging those communities that live in and depend on forests in ways that improve their livelihoods.

The work was carried out across three key tropical forest landscapes encompassing nearly 15.5 million hectares: the Maï-Ndombe region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Kutai Barat District of East Kalimantan Province in Indonesia and the Madre de Dios region of Peru. These landscapes were selected because they face great peril but hold tremendous promise. They represent some of the most threatened tropical forests of the world in three of the five largest rainforest countries on earth and in the three major rainforest blocks: the Amazon, Borneo and Congo Basin – yet they offer the highest potential for carbon emissions reduction. The diversity of social, political, geographical and ecological conditions across these key forest landscapes also presented an opportunity to comprehensively test approaches to REDD+ at scale – to learn from real-world successes and challenges how best to make REDD+ work.

Work in these landscapes was undertaken at intersecting and mutually reinforcing scales of intervention at the community and landscape (or subnational) levels that informed national REDD+ policy – creating an innovative jurisdictional/subnational approach to REDD+. The strength of this approach lies in its ability to effect change in forest blocks large enough to keep ecosystems intact, while operating within government-recognized jurisdictions, such as provinces or districts. This ensures that REDD+ implementation can be managed by or in partnership with existing national and subnational administrations, that it fits into government forestry and economic development planning, and that it happens on a scale large enough to make a difference biologically and socially. From there, jurisdictional/subnational work can be expanded to even larger scales, bolstered by the lessons and support garnered at the jurisdictional/subnational level. This work also endeavoured to link to the global policy and finance level and to foster South-South learning opportunities across landscapes.

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WHAT IS ZERO NET DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION?

WWF defines ZNDD as no net forest loss through deforestation and no net decline in forest quality through degradation. ZNDD provides some flexibility: it is not quite the same as no forest clearing anywhere, under any circumstances. For instance, it recognizes peoples' right to clear some forests for agriculture, or the value in occasionally "trading off" degraded forests to free up other land to restore important biological corridors, provided that biodiversity values and net quantity and quality of forests are maintained.

WWF's Forest and Climate Initiative, now known as the Forest and Climate Programme, led the work, with joint planning and implementation carried out in partnership with local experts and on-the-ground teams from WWF's offices in DRC, Peru and Indonesia, and their partners.

The work focused on three main goals:

Making REDD+ work for indigenous peoples and local communities – Ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities participate effectively and that their rights are addressed in REDD+ initiatives in ways that contribute to poverty reduction and generate lessons and methodologies that inform national and international REDD+ policy.

Developing model zero net deforestation and forest degradation (ZNDD) landscapes – Demonstrate pathways to zero net deforestation that achieve effective management of carbon stocks and other forest conservation values and that deliver benefits to local and indigenous communities and influence development of national REDD+ frameworks.

Influencing international REDD+ policy and funding – Influence international and national commitments, funding arrangements and institutions for REDD+ to ensure recognition of biodiversity conservation and local community development.

To achieve these goals, several strategies were identified and adopted, including:

•Recognized and enacted rights, knowledge, skills, and involvement of indigenous peoples and civil society organizations in REDD+ project development and forest management;

- Effective and accessible carbon monitoring systems;
- Sustainable and participatory land-use planning;
- Scalable REDD+ readiness models;
- Responsible sustainability certification by forest and agricultural enterprises;
- Strengthened protected area systems;
- Real commitments to ZNDD;
- Effective international and national REDD+ funding mechanisms and policies;
- Shared lessons, methods and tools.

This work was guided by the REDD+ Five Guiding Principles – principles that were designed jointly by WWF, Care International and Greenpeace. These principles set a global benchmark for REDD+ success by ensuring that, as part of any REDD+ process, the following five issues are addressed: climate, biodiversity, livelihoods, rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and fair and effective funding.

This report outlines the challenges, achievements, lessons and impacts of this work across the three landscapes. In addition, it reflects on the entirety of the work, identifying key trends and opportunities to scale up and expand aspects of the work for greater impact, and links with global policy and finance.

It also provides a forward-looking perspective for where REDD+ is headed, based on experiences gained from this body of work. The lessons learned in these three landscapes set the stage for the progression of REDD+ toward a concept for a "green economy" – a broader vision for REDD+ that can effectively realize its potential to benefit people and nature in transformational ways.

REDD+ FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. CLIMATE. REDD+ demonstrably contributes to greenhouse gas emission reductions with national goals working toward a global objective.

2. BIODIVERSITY. REDD+ maintains and/or enhances forest biodiversity and ecosystem services.

3. LIVELIHOODS. REDD+ contributes to sustainable and equitable development by strengthening the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.

4. RIGHTS. REDD+ recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

5. FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FUNDING. REDD+ mobilizes immediate, adequate and predictable resources for action in priority forest areas in an equitable, transparent, participatory and coordinated manner.

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PERU

PERU IN NUMBERS

25,000
PLANT SPECIES

1,736
BIRD SPECIES

700
AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES

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44

ETHNIC GROUPS, OF WHICH 42 INHABIT PERU'S AMAZON

68,000,000

HECTARES OF FOREST COVER

STATE OF REDD+ IN PERU

THE RAINFORESTS OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN BLANKET MORE THAN HALF OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRYOF PERU, WHICH BOASTS A LEVEL OF BIODIVERSITY MATCHED BY FEW OTHER PLACES ON EARTH.

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But increasing rates of deforestation and forest degradation threaten these biological riches. About 150,000 hectares of Peruvian forest are lost each year to illegal logging, gold mining and an expanding agricultural frontier –and growing population and development pressures promise to intensify the problem. The government of Peru turned to REDD+ as a possible solution, announcing in 2008 its intention to preserve 54 million hectares of forest and cut its net deforestation rate to zero by the year 2021. It then took steps to build a strategy and framework for REDD+ readiness, including:

- Launching a National Forest Conservation Program for Climate Change Mitigation outlining the nation's conservation goals and supporting the development of sustainable forest management;
- Identifying the recently created Ministry of Environment (MINAM) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) as the government bodies responsible for coordinating with national, subnational, private and public agencies to prepare for REDD+;
- Securing partnerships with WWF, Conservation International, local research institutions and universities, and other organizations to build capacity, strategy and support for Peru's REDD+ readiness;
- Receiving support as a pilot country in the Forest Investment Program (FIP), which seeks to enhance a country's ability to address the underlying causes of its deforestation and forest degradation;
- Partnering with WWF in 2010 to implement a REDD+ programme of work in the Madre de Dios region.

Despite these efforts on the part of national leadership and the global community, REDD+ readiness in Peru faced a number of obstacles, including limited resources and technical capacity to monitor the health of Peruvian forests, lack of involvement of local and indigenous communities in REDD+ decision-making and planning, and significant concerns that REDD+ would not benefit, recognize or respect the rights of indigenous peoples. It was amid these challenges that WWF set out in 2010 to implement a REDD+ programme of work in the Madre de Dios region, an area twice the size of Denmark, nestled in the southern Peruvian Amazon.

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KEY AREAS OF WORK IN MADRE DE DIOS

The Madre de Dios River, a headwater tributary of the Amazon River, flows through a great expanse of low-lying rainforest in the southern Peruvian Amazon. This 8.5-million-hectare span, called the Madre de Dios region, is home to the world's greatest concentration of bird species, several threatened and endangered animal and plant species, and a number of indigenous communities, including some living in voluntary isolation.

The region is crossed by the Inter-Oceanic Highway, which connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans through Peru and Brazil and has brought increased human migration and development to forests already under pressure from agricultural expansion, logging and gold mining. Madre de Dios has also endured political instability, including ongoing change within its regional government, GOREMAD (Gobierno Regional de Madre de Dios).

WWF's REDD+ efforts on the ground in Madre de Dios aimed specifically to address these challenges through an inclusive, integrated approach to REDD+. To accomplish this objective, the programme focused on certain key areas of work:

Technical capacity. Developing local capacities and training sources to implement and sustain REDD+ in Madre de Dios and to put in place an affordable and effective system to measure and monitor regional emissions, deforestation and forest degradation over time

Indigenous peoples and local communities. Engaging and empowering forest-dwelling and indigenous communities so they can participate effectively in developing REDD+ with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

Participatory processes. Inclusion and engagement of the public in REDD+ implementation through community committees and roundtables

Governance. Working with regional government officials to build an infrastructure and support for REDD+

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KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN MADRE DE DIOS

Participation has been central to the Madre de Dios programme of work and its successes. From the beginning, the programme has sought to engage and integrate diverse perspectives, values and knowledge to build the most inclusive and effective approach to REDD+ for this region.

But Madre de Dios is complex: a number of government bodies, from the Madre de Dios regional government (GOREMAD) on the local level to MINAM on the national level, as well as research and conservation organizations, agricultural and farming groups, and forest-dependent local and indigenous communities all have a stake in the outcomes of REDD+ in this region.

WWF has gained recognition as a key supporter of REDD+ implementation in Madre de Dios through its willingness to work across all these sectors, offering valuable technical and capacity building support and forging strong partnerships in a region where consensus building can be difficult.

DIRECT PARTNERS AND ROLES:

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS (UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AMAZÓNICA DE MADRE DE DIOS - UNAMAD, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY - UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS)

Technical support, training and capacity building for implementation of the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (MINAM)

Integration of the Madre de Dios programme of work into the national REDD+ strategy and oversight

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF MADRE DE DIOS (GOREMAD)

Development and implementation of regional conservation and development strategy, including REDD+

Lead for the Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ of Madre de Dios

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS (FENAMAD, AIDESEP, COICA)

Advocacy for land tenure, customary rights and indigenous REDD+; bringing an IPLC perspective to REDD+ dialogue and planning

THE MADRE DE DIOS ROUNDTABLE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND REDD+ (MSAR)

Stakeholder conflict resolution, leadership and technical assistance to support the development of an inclusive regional REDD+ strategy

WWF

Technical advice and capacity building for REDD+ implementation

CIVIL SOCIETY (SPDA, AIDER, IIAP, DRIS)

Establishing legal, economic and technical infrastructure for REDD+

DONORS (NORAD, IDB, EU, SALL FAMILY FOUNDATION)

Supporting investments in relevant, enabling and sectoral activities

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REDD+ TIMELINE IN MADRE DE DIOS

2008

- Peru formally engages in REDD+

2009

- Creation of the REDD+ Technical Consortium to better monitor the region's natural resources

2010

- Madre de Dios inception workshop and validation by stakeholders
- WWF engagement in/establishment of Madre de Dios programme of work
- Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ reactivated to help build a more inclusive dialogue about and policy framework for REDD+
- Strategic alliance with Peru's Toulouse Lautrec Institute forms, resulting in introductory video and other communications materials about REDD+ in Madre de Dios
- Carbon baseline measurements begin
- Collaboration begins with the University of Leeds in the UK to develop biomass estimation methods for Madre de Dios forests

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2011

- First certification programme in Environmental Management and Environmental Services with a specialization in MRV/REDD+ launches through collaboration with the Amazon National University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD)
- Guidelines for cooperation established with new regional government (GOREMAD) president and staff
- Collaborative relationship with the Indigenous Federation of the Madre de Dios River and its Tributaries (FENAMAD) begins
- Forest Investment Plan (FIP) grant to Peru approved by the Climate Investment Fund
- Proposal developed to design and create an autonomous Regional Environmental Authority
- REDD+ regional office established within GOREMAD, and memorandum of understanding between WWF and GOREMAD signed
- Analysis of current land-use practices, future scenarios and action plan for developing zero net deforestation (ZND) in Madre de Dios under way

2012

- Capacity-strengthening programme and community leadership training to support the FPIC process developed with 30 members of five local indigenous communities
- Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable and capacity building plan created with support from WWF
- Regional government of Madre de Dios recognizes the Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ and approves its regulations through a regional ordinance
- Madre de Dios region becomes a member of the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF)
- Madre de Dios deforestation analyses and carbon baseline measurements continue; four scenes processed and forest canopy density analysis completed
- Capacity building workshops held for public officials and decision makers, indigenous peoples, Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ members and other stakeholders
- 35 graduates of the MRV certificate course begin training others in forest carbon measurement and monitoring
- Workshops organized by WWF and the University of Leeds continue to build local MRV capacity and develop a local carbon map
- Discussions begin with Inter-American Development Bank to design US$120 million fund for REDD+

2013

- Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios recognized by GOREMAD through a regional ordinance
- Regional carbon map developed with technical support from the University of Leeds and UNAMAD
- Madre de Dios selected as one of three implementing zones of the Forest Investment Plan, with US$12 million to be invested to reduce deforestation and improve forest management in the region
- Madre de Dios hosts the 2013 meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF)

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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Madre de Dios is home to thousands of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples who have historically had little say in the fate of the forest.

These groups stand to lose a great deal if deforestation and degradation continue to claim the region's rainforests, but they also stand to contribute a great deal to the forest's protection. WWF's REDD+ efforts in Madre de Dios have recognized the vital role of IPLCs from the outset, working to both strengthen the capacities and tap the powerful insights and perspectives of IPLCs to create a REDD+ strategy that benefits and empowers them.

Amid unresolved questions around land tenure and unrecognized customary land rights (rights to land use based on traditions or customs), IPLC communities have expressed distrust of the REDD+ process. WWF has worked closely with indigenous community members, as well as the Indigenous Federation of the Madre de Dios River and its Tributaries (FENAMAD) and the Coordinating Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin (COICA), to develop a capacity-strengthening programme that will foster broader and more informed IPLC participation in the REDD+ process.

Through technical assistance and training, WWF has also supported the growing movement toward an Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ – an approach to REDD+ that respects and guarantees the needs, rights, vision and knowledge of indigenous peoples, and that values the cultural and other services forests provide for indigenous communities. This collaboration has culminated in the establishment of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios, which promises to give IPLCs a more powerful voice in the development of regional and national REDD+ policies that recognize the cultural values of forests and respect local and indigenous rights to the land. As a signal of this growing support, the government of Peru will assign US$14.5 million in financial resources from its Forest Investment Program (FIP) funding to tackle land tenure problems within indigenous territories, promote community-based forest management and foster forest governance among indigenous people's organizations and communities throughout the country.

IPLCs also took an active role in the development of strategies for benefit sharing and payment for environmental services, in particular regarding ideas to develop non-carbon benefits – such as biodiversity conservation or watershed protection – and non-market-based approaches.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

WWF's programme of work in Madre de Dios has achieved many important milestones:

- **Local capacities strengthened**
  The creation of the first MRV/REDD+ certificate programme in collaboration with the Amazon National University of Madre de Dios equips a growing base of individuals within government, civil society, local communities and indigenous groups with the technical tools to understand and advocate for REDD+. Short courses and training modules for biomass calculation and carbon monitoring have also been developed for farmers and governmental technicians.

- **Local communities and indigenous peoples engaged for FPIC**
  Outreach to and collaboration with local forest-dependent and indigenous communities, including the communities of Palma Real, Puerto Arturo and Sonene, has built a better understanding of the REDD+ process to support free, prior and informed consent, or FPIC, while also empowering indigenous organizations to address the subject and assume greater involvement in developing a proposal for an Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ implementation.

- **Indigenous communities claim a voice**
  Representatives from local indigenous communities have formed the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios to inform and influence the development of regional REDD+ strategies. This roundtable, created with the support of WWF, has been recognized by the Madre de Dios regional government and has spurred the selection of the Madre de Dios region as a pilot site for implementation of Amazonian Indigenous REDD+.

- **Indigenous vision for REDD+ shared with the international community**
  A proposal for implementation of Amazonian Indigenous REDD+, in which the Indigenous Federation of the Madre de Dios River and its Tributaries (FENAMAD) took part, has brought issues of land use, tenure, independent carbon dealer monitoring, early safeguards and holistic management of natural resources into the international dialogue about REDD+.

- **REDD+ participation process renewed**
  The Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+, which was formed in 2009 but had not actively focused on REDD+ issues, has been reactivated and has quickly become a key regional REDD+ actor. Its monthly meetings have brought together local farmers, businesses, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders to discuss and provide inputs for the further development and implementation of a participatory REDD+ regional strategy. In addition, despite political changes and instability, the roundtable has promoted the continuity of the process and technical work. The roundtable has been recognized and institutionalized by the Madre de Dios regional government and has played a prominent role in the development of regional strategies for climate change and REDD+ and in the improvement of environmental governance. Its efforts have led to concrete results, including the development of a governance structure and multi-year work plan, the building of a regional REDD+ baseline, and the creation of technical, legal, institutional, financial and social working groups.

- **Participatory consensus realized for a Regional Environmental Authority**
  A proposal to create and implement an autonomous Regional Environmental Authority in Madre de Dios was developed through participatory processes supported by WWF, which provided technical support and assistance. The proposal and the entity it would create represent a great opportunity to strengthen regional environmental management and to foster effective yet dynamic governance, which is crucial to combat climate change.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS CONT.

Local government committed to REDD+

The Madre de Dios regional government has supported building capacities and readiness for REDD+ with the creation of an environmental management and sustainable development office, the reorganization of its natural resources directorate, and the potential establishment of an autonomous Regional Environmental Authority. WWF's efforts in Madre de Dios have also motivated the regional government to review and re-envision its land planning, climate change strategy and development plans.

Forest cover monitoring under way

A technical committee comprising local government and civil society stakeholders has developed an early warning system to detect land cover and temperature changes, including a virtual tool enabling online updates. The website for this work is currently under construction and being tested (www.mrvperu.com).

Regional carbon map delivered

With technical support and hands-on training from WWF and the University of Leeds, local government, technical specialists from the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+, and community members created a regional forest carbon map that analyzed more than 600 vegetation plots. This collaborative process will also serve as the basis for producing a historical deforestation map.

Continuity maintained despite political changes

The political changes that have happened since the start of the project (including two presidents, three ministers of the environment, three regional presidents and five natural resources managers) were a huge challenge for REDD+ implementation. Despite these changes, the regional government of Madre de Dios remains well-positioned in REDD+ leadership thanks to the backing of the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ and continuous technical support from WWF.

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CHALLENGES

Although REDD+ efforts in Madre de Dios have made great strides, they have faced significant challenges as well:

- Political instability and change within the Madre de Dios regional government delayed the REDD+ process, limiting the government's participation in the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ and slowing the development of an autonomous Regional Environmental Authority and other key steps in REDD+ implementation.
- Stakeholders of REDD+ implementation in the Madre de Dios region differ in their worldviews and perspectives, so decision-making and consensus building take time.
- Engaging indigenous peoples in REDD+ has been difficult and requires more involvement from the Indigenous Federation of the Madre de Dios River and its Tributaries (FENAMAD) and other partners than has been possible to date.
- Limited funding has curtailed some elements of the Madre de Dios programme of work, including efforts to strengthen Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ in the region.
- The Madre de Dios region lacks sufficient individuals trained in the technical aspects of REDD+ and sees frequent changes to technical staff within the regional government. This has made capacity-building efforts more time- and resource-consuming than may have been planned.
- There is a need for improved communication and outreach strategies to involve more community stakeholders, and specifically forest-dwelling stakeholders, in the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+ and other participatory processes.
- It has been a tremendous achievement to help community voices be heard; ensuring that these voices are not overpowered as more organizations and groups become involved in the region's REDD+ work is vital but challenging.
- The national-level REDD+ programme lags behind the Madre de Dios programme and its achievements and efforts.
- Artisanal and small-scale gold mining activities in the Amazon river basin of Peru continue to flourish, and they represent serious threats to areas of important value for conservation and to water sources throughout the region.

LESSONS LEARNED

The challenges and successes of WWF's REDD+ efforts in Madre de Dios have revealed a number of important lessons learned:

- Local communities need to understand REDD+ to move forward. Stakeholders in Madre de Dios were able to effectively participate in planning and decision-making when they were informed about the technical aspects of REDD+ and the health of the forest. Creating capacity-building resources, such as the MRV/REDD+ certificate programme, and ensuring access to those resources was key to the project's success and critical to the community's ability to take action.

- An informed local population can create resilience for a region and its REDD+ efforts. Political instability and a high turnover rate within the regional government hindered REDD+ implementation in Madre de Dios. Strengthening capacities to create a critical mass of trained professionals and technicians who live and work locally and making capacity building a continuous, lasting process can offset this instability and keep knowledge in the region.

- Involvement of local governments in REDD+ discussions is important, as they can build closer relationships with local stakeholders. Their involvement can promote coherence at different governmental levels and help establish coordination mechanisms between them, because REDD+ implementation also depends on local stakeholders that are far away from city and national-level policy decisions.

- For REDD+ to succeed, it must be built collaboratively, engaging all relevant stakeholders and not just the most vulnerable ones. Initial efforts in Madre de Dios focused on working with vulnerable groups (such as indigenous communities), and this in the long term resulted in lack of engagement of other sectors, including mining and agriculture. To forge a truly participative REDD+ process, it is important to identify roles, strategies and ways to incentivize broad participation from the start. Encouraging dialogues about differing viewpoints and setting clear goals and expectations fosters greater understanding between participating groups and greater ownership of REDD+ success.

- Intercultural participation adds value, legitimacy and sustainability to the traditional REDD+ approach. Working closely with indigenous communities in Madre de Dios to address their concerns about REDD+ and to support the development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal enriched WWF's efforts with traditional knowledge and cultural value. This more holistic approach led to increased dialogues and new alliances with donors and, if scaled up, could yield a REDD+ that is more sustainable on environmental, social, cultural and political levels.

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"BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT IMPLEMENTING THE REDD+ MECHANISM IN THIS REGION IS CLOSELY TIED TO POLICY DECISIONS, AND THUS IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE RELEVANT INFORMATION TO NEGOTIATE PROPERLY. OUR COLLABORATIONS AND TRAININGS HELD WITH WWF HELP ENSURE THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT INFORMATION TO MAKE REDD+ WORK."

OLIVER LIAO, GIS SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF MADRE DE DIOS (GOREMAD)

NEXT STEPS FOR REDD+ IN PERU

Equipped with new capacities and community engagement for a truly participatory REDD+ process, the Madre de Dios region and Peru as a whole are looking to the future and taking steps to build nationwide readiness. These include:

CREATE a Regional Environmental Authority to integrate regional REDD+ initiatives and inform a national strategy, and ensure it is operational, endorsed and fully funded moving forward

EXPAND capacity-building efforts to build a critical mass of community members trained to implement REDD+ and MRV

DESIGN a Green Development Plan for Madre de Dios that protects natural resources and local livelihoods

COMPLETE reference levels for Madre de Dios and secure approval for these by national and regional governments as a contribution to the development of an effective payment-for-performance system

ESTABLISH a regional MRV system within a dedicated government unit and ensure that reference levels for MRV are submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by national and regional governments

LAUNCH a registry for GHG emissions from different sources designed for and contributing to regional accounting and the MRV/REDD+ certificate programme

DEEPEN trust and forge stronger partnerships with indigenous communities to realize an Amazonian Indigenous REDD+

FACILITATE communication of regional successes to foster understanding of and involvement in REDD+ regionally and nationally

ADDRESS both industrial and non-industrial drivers of deforestation and identify alternatives

STRENGTHEN the Safeguards Commission of the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+

INCREASE areas under improved production and management standards in the Amazon Basin

BOLSTER linkages between lessons learned in Madre de Dios and national policies

POSITION Madre de Dios as a leader among members of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force, a subnational collaboration between 19 states and provinces in several countries that seeks to advance jurisdictional/subnational programmes for reducing emissions from deforestation

"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".

INDEPENDENT NICFI EVALUATORS (2012)

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INDONESI

BORNEO IN NUMBERS

15,000
FLOWERING PLANT SPECIES

3,000
TREE SPECIES

211
TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS INCLUDING THE ENDANGERED ORANGUTAN

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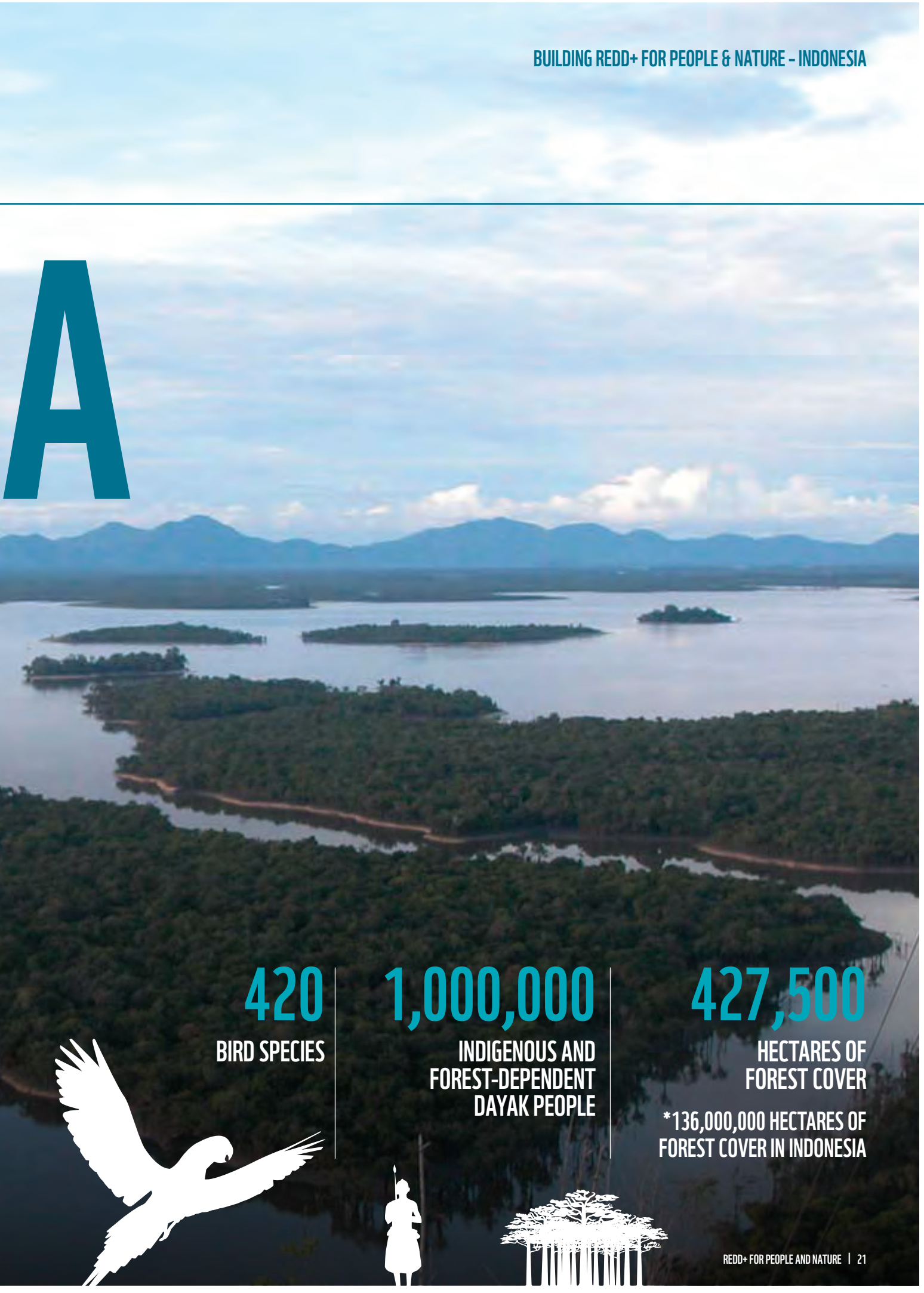

A

420
BIRD SPECIES

1,000,000
INDIGENOUS AND FOREST-DEPENDENT DAYAK PEOPLE

427,500
HECTARES OF FOREST COVER

*136,000,000 HECTARES OF FOREST COVER IN INDONESIA

STATE OF REDD+ IN INDONESIA

THE ISLAND OF BORNEO – THE THIRD-LARGEST ISLAND ON EARTH, AND PART OF THE NATIONS OF INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND BRUNEI – HOLDS AT ITS HEART SOME OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST TROPICAL RAINFORESTS.

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These forests have teemed with life for millions of years, but they now face new and devastating pressures. Indonesia alone is losing 1.17 million hectares of forest per year to unsustainable logging, mining and the spread of oil palm plantations, and the nation now ranks as one of the top producers of greenhouse gas emissions on the planet.

Since 2007, Indonesia has taken significant steps to reduce emissions and protect its forests and people, including:

- Signing the Heart of Borneo Declaration, a WWF-initiated agreement that commits Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei to conserving 22 million hectares of rainforest through a network of protected areas and sustainably managed forests;
- Pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 per cent by 2020, or up to 41 per cent if afforded international assistance;
- Developing national climate change and REDD+ strategies and building partnerships with WWF, the UN and other organizations that can support these large-scale efforts;
- Decreeing that local communities can manage their own forests through Hutan Desa, a village forest agreement within the nation's legal forest framework recognized by the Ministry of Forestry.

For REDD+ to succeed in Indonesia, it must compete with other highly profitable land uses in the region, be supported by the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of forest-dependent communities, and enable these communities to take control, responsibility and advantage of their natural resources. WWF set out in 2010 to implement a subnational REDD+ programme of work in Kutai Barat, a 3.2-million-hectare district in the western part of the East Kalimantan province of Indonesia, on the island of Borneo, that would aim to meet each of these requirements.

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KEY AREAS OF WORK IN KUTAI BARAT

In the heart of Borneo, along the winding upper stretches of the Mahakam River, the sparsely populated district of Kutai Barat still holds 2.4 million hectares of contiguous tropical forest. A rich diversity of plants and wildlife and 167,000 people call this expanse of ancient rainforest home.

But proposed palm oil plantations, small-scale rubber plantations and mining for coal drive deforestation in the district, threatening its forests. In the face of this imminent threat, WWF's efforts focused on certain key areas of work:

Addressing drivers of deforestation. Identifying these and offering socioeconomic alternatives

Technical capacity. Developing local capacities and safeguards to implement and sustain REDD+ in Kutai Barat

Participatory processes. Inclusion and engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in REDD+ implementation through community designation and management of protected areas and efforts to foster free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

Land tenure and livelihoods. Securing land rights and developing benefit-sharing mechanisms so forest-managing communities are protected and compensated

Governance. Working with local, regional and national government to build an infrastructure and support for REDD+

Finance. Ensuring the ability of the project to continue, given that its focus is long term

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KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN KUTAI BARAT

Kutai Barat is a complex region where many government initiatives, social and economic needs, and local traditions and customs come into play.

To forge an inclusive, sustainable vision for REDD+ in this landscape, WWF's programme of work in Kutai Barat aimed to bring together the region's stakeholders – government authorities and officials, academic and civil society groups, the private sector, and indigenous peoples and local communities – to foster communication, collaboration and participatory action.

WWF, a long-time partner and supporter of REDD+ processes in Indonesia, brought to this effort the experience and perspective to understand the complex tangle of forces shaping the region's future, and to influence national REDD+ strategies with the capacity building and knowledge sharing it is working to create in Kutai Barat. A key result in this process was an agreement to proceed with developing the Kutai Barat REDD+ Action Plan, which would define actions by all players to address deforestation in the district and secure financing to reward reductions in emissions.

DIRECT PARTNERS AND ROLES:

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS (MULAWARMAN UNIVERSITY, CSF, ICRAF, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, KYOTO UNIVERSITY)

Technical training and capacity building for implementation of biodiversity safeguards, reference emission levels and reference levels, and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP (MINISTRY OF FORESTRY, UKP4/REDD+ TASK FORCE)

Integration of the Kutai Barat programme of work into the national REDD+ strategy and oversight

KUTAI BARAT GOVERNMENT

Integration and approval of land-use plans and conflict resolution

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Development and implementation of village-level land-use plans and forest management; bringing IPLC perspective to REDD+ dialogue and planning

LEGAL LOGGING COMPANIES (RATAH TIMBER)

Biodiversity safeguard development, forest certification and shifting toward reduced impact logging

WWF

Technical advice and capacity building for REDD+ implementation

CIVIL SOCIETY (PRAKARSA BORNEO BIOMA, EAST KALIMANTAN REDD WORKING GROUP)

Establishing legal, economic and technical infrastructure for REDD+

DONORS (NORAD, TFCA, EU)

Supporting investments in relevant, enabling and sectoral activities

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REDD+ TIMELINE IN KUTAI BARAT

2007

- Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei sign the WWF-initiated Heart of Borneo Declaration
- Indonesia develops National Action Plan to Address Climate Change, engaging the nation in REDD+

2008

- Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry decrees that local communities can manage their own forests through Hutan Desa, a village forest agreement within the nation's legal forest framework
- Memorandum of Understanding established between WWF-Indonesia and Kutai Barat district for implementing sustainable development and conservation in Kutai Barat

2010

- Indonesia places two-year moratorium on new logging concessions

2011

- Kutai Barat inception workshop and planning session
- WWF engagement in/establishment of Kutai Barat programme of work
- Sensitization of local government authorities, NGOs and community groups to REDD+ and Hutan Desa
- Hutan Desa accepted by Kutai Barat authorities; more than 100,000 hectares of new village forest and community plantation forest proposed to Ministry of Forestry
- 52,000 hectares, distributed in 20 villages over nine subdistricts, approved as Hutan Desa areas
- Carbon accounting and baseline development begins in collaboration with Mulawarman University
- Community carbon measurement and monitoring methodology selected in partnership with ICARF, CIFOR and the University of Copenhagen under the IREDD project
- Data inventory and analysis of current and future scenarios for zero net deforestation (ZND) completed in Kutai Barat
- Participative community zoning begins through workshops and meetings, including a one-day workshop on FPIC and carbon accounting in the village of Linggang Melapeh attended by 75 villagers
- Villagers of Long Pahangai I and II engage in micro-hydropower development, setting up a mechanism for payment and establishing a community group elected through a participatory process to operate and maintain the power plant
- Indonesian and US governments sign debt-for-nature swap agreement resulting in US$28.5 million investment to help protect Borneo's forests, with Kutai Barat as one of the three priority districts

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2012

- National REDD+ Strategy launched by the REDD+ Task Force
- Kutai Barat government and WWF-Indonesia agree to formulate programme plan for reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation and peat land – the REDD+ Action Plan
- WWF partners with Kyoto University and Ratah Timber Company to begin biodiversity safeguards research
- Ecotourism study conducted encompassing seven subdistricts in Kutai Barat, resulting in a multi-stakeholder district workshop for ecotourism development
- Participatory village-level land-use planning in the villages of Batu Majang and Penarung yields 3D maps of customary uses and traditional land-tenure systems
- Capacity building of indigenous peoples and local communities empowers villages of Long Pahangai, Linggang Melapeh, Long Tuyo' and Long Isun to seek legal recognition for community conservation areas and management activities through village regulations; six draft regulations approved and adopted
- Assessment of FPIC in the villages of Linggang Melapeh, Batu Majang and Long Pahangai deepens understanding of FPIC and leads to development of district FPIC workshops
- Field testing of zero net deforestation conservation value mapping (CVM) tool completed, resulting in the identification of areas with high and low conservation values and the production of a draft CVM implementation report
- Kutai Barat initiative presented in regional, national and international REDD+ forums
- 25 government officials trained in carbon modelling, economic analysis and reference levels for Kutai Barat Green Economy initiative
- Indonesian government approves proposal to split Kutai Barat district, creating new district of Mahakam Ulu

2013

- Kutai Barat Green Economy initiative recognized as example of jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ approach by National REDD+ Task Force
- Kutai Barat district recognizes 40 hectares for community conservation area in indigenous Linggang Melapeh village
- 450,000 hectares released from Sumalindo Unit II logging company concession for Batu Majang community conservation area not designated by community members or through Hutan Desa
- Biodiversity safeguards developed and undergoing pilot testing in Ratah Timber concession area
- Kutai Barat proposed to be assessed for eligibility for Carbon Fund investment through district-level ER-PIN

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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The Dayak people of Kutai Barat represent several different ethnic groups and speak different languages, but they share a heritage and history of sustainable land use.

WWF's REDD+ programme of work in Kutai Barat has sought to gain recognition of this traditional knowledge and protection of the customary tenure systems and rights that support it. It has also sought to build new capacities – including technical capacities, understanding of the legal and policy issues affecting land use, and the knowledge needed for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) – to increase the engagement and influence of IPLCs in REDD+ implementation processes.

In Kutai Barat, WWF's efforts focused on participatory zoning – an inclusive process in which stakeholders take part in the process to determine and designate the uses of land – and the establishment of community conservation areas and village forests. WWF drew on Indonesia's forest legal framework to develop and foster support for community forestry models, known as Hutan Desa and Hutan Rakyat, whereby community groups can designate their own protected areas and use and manage resources within their forests. Through community trainings and workshops, WWF helped several villages throughout the district develop their own three-dimensional land-use maps and plans, identify potential community forests, partner with concession holders to secure recognition of designated areas and engage in participatory carbon measurement and monitoring.

To date, at least five villages have drafted regulations asserting their rights to manage and benefit from local natural resources, and 54,000 hectares have been set aside for community forests and conservation areas. Another 20,000 hectares are currently being considered for this designation.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

WWF's programme of work in Kutai Barat has realized several significant achievements:

- **Participatory microzoning and community land-use planning**
  Villagers have strengthened their capacities to identify traditional and current land uses, collaboratively zone their land for customary use and socioeconomic benefit, and designate areas for community management or protection. Three villages, including the communities of Batu Majang and Penarung, have developed three-dimensional land-use maps and plans; at least five – the villages of Long Pahangai, Linggang Melapeh, Long Tuyo' and Long Isun – have drafted regulations to assert and gain government recognition for their planned use of natural resources. Through this, the foundation has been established for communities to improve their land tenure and local governance, and to take a more active role in REDD+ implementation and sustainable development.

- **Community forests established and recognized**
  The community forestry models Hutan Desa and Hutan Rakyat, whereby community groups can use and manage their forests within the nation's legal forest framework, gained government recognition and acceptance, allowing communities to manage their own forests. As a result, many Kutai Barat communities – including the villages of Laham, Long Merah, Long Huray, Lendian Liang Nayuq, Besiq, Noha Silat and Long Tuyoq, and the subdistrict of Bentian Besar – have applied for recognition of their lands through Hutan Desa. To date, Kutai Barat communities have proposed 69,000 hectares of forest to become village forests and community plantation forests, and 49,000 have been validated and approved.

- **Timber companies release land for community conservation**
  WWF engaged with timber companies in Kutai Barat to reduce the impact of their logging operations on the region's forests. Through an agreement with Ratah Timber, which was successfully FSC-certified in 2013, WWF developed permanent sampling plots to enable carbon accounting and guidelines for biodiversity safeguards that are currently being pilot tested on the company's concession. Additional engagement with industry resulted in the Sumalindo Unit II logging company releasing 450,000 hectares from its concession for community conservation purposes.

- **Biodiversity safeguards and innovative tools put into use**
  The research-based biodiversity safeguards developed in collaboration with Ratah Timber and the Kyoto University offer quantitative data, reference levels and methodologies for assessing impacts from logging activities and appropriate safeguards for use in other national and international REDD+ efforts. The project was also used as a PRISAI – national REDD+ safeguard – trial in Kutai Barat collaboratively by WWF and the national REDD+ task force. WWF's efforts also resulted in innovative approaches to setting reference levels, including models that allow comparison of the impacts of different land management decisions.

- **FPIC fostered**
  FPIC activities and creative capacity-building approaches – which ranged from community meetings to a twice-weekly radio talk show – mean communities are now more engaged in REDD+ and more informed and empowered to make decisions about the process.

- **Socioeconomic alternatives identified**
  WWF is helping Kutai Barat villagers develop alternative and sustainable sources of income, such as community-managed micro-hydropower stations, ecotourism initiatives, and the cultivation of sustainable yet profitable crops. In the settlement of Long Pahangai, this work has resulted in the development of community-run micro-hydropower that includes a mechanism for payment, a network to maintain the power plant and a management structure soon to be legalized through village regulation. Additional villages are also being surveyed for their micro-hydropower capabilities. In the community of Batu Majang, a training session on the inoculation of agarwood trees increased capacities among 18 villagers from nine different villages to cultivate agarwood trees for their commercially valuable resin. An ecotourism

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS CONT.

study conducted with the assistance of the Indonesian Ecotourism Centre resulted in recommendations for the district's ecotourism programme and the development of a district workshop that drew participants from local and national government.

- **Technical capacities delivered-** District government officials and local community members received hands-on, in-the-field technical training to measure and monitor land use, forest cover, carbon stocks and reference emission levels, and ongoing studies are gathering data on the biodiversity and socioeconomic aspects of REDD+.

- **A plan for action in development** Local government and stakeholders have come to an agreement to develop a REDD+ Action Plan for the Kutai Barat district.

- **Increased financing** Given the success of its REDD+ readiness efforts in Kutai Barat and elsewhere, Indonesia has been selected as one of eight pilot countries to be supported under the FIP. Kutai Barat has also been selected for assessment of its eligibility for Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) funding. In addition, WWF and its partners have negotiated a US$28.5 million debt-for-nature swap between the United States and Indonesia that will support "green" economic growth in three critical districts, including Kutai Barat.

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CHALLENGES

REDD+ readiness efforts in Kutai Barat have achieved significant success, but they have also confronted major challenges:

- Indonesia's national REDD+ system has been in flux with a new national REDD+ agency only finally announced in September 2013. This delay held up national REDD+ financing and prevented the finalization of clear guidelines for jurisdictional/subnational REDD+.
- The rapid pace of land use change and development for palm oil and other extractive activities in the region makes it difficult for REDD+ efforts to keep up and may continue to escalate until adequate governance, finance, benefit-sharing mechanisms and private-sector incentives are put in place.
- Frequent political conflicts and changes, such as the decision to divide Kutai Barat into two districts in late 2012, have at times hindered decision-making on REDD+ policies and frameworks and could jeopardize implementation processes.
- The lack of capacity and geographical remoteness of the region's local and indigenous communities slowed progress.
- Land tenure and recognition of customary rights remain problematic in Kutai Barat. Securing licenses and approvals for community forests takes time because the Ministry of Forestry does not yet see community forest management as an effective approach to increasing sustainability in the forestry sector.
- Conflicts between indigenous groups have made it more difficult to sensitize authorities about land tenure and protect customary rights. Because different tribal groups have different views on and systems of land ownership, it is difficult to develop land use plans that respect all traditional uses and satisfy everyone. Such conflicts have delayed the process of designating and proposing community forests and conservation areas.
- Certain elements of REDD+, such as FPIC and a benefit-distribution mechanism, are new in Indonesia and in Indonesia's legal system, and scepticism about these elements remains strong among stakeholders. Sharing knowledge about REDD+ to build understanding and trust in stakeholders of different backgrounds and levels of understanding has been difficult.
- With so many stakeholders, conservation initiatives and conflicting needs in play in Kutai Barat, there is a need for additional support and more clearly defined goals.

LESSONS LEARNED

Some key lessons have emerged from WWF's REDD+ programme of work in Kutai Barat, including:

- Engaging stakeholders of various groups and with various interests requires trust. Dedicating the time, commitment and specialized attention necessary to build trust facilitates the communication and acceptance of ideas about REDD+ and conservation. Taking time to build trust with local governments and in district villages was critical to the successes of WWF's efforts in Kutai Barat.

- Strong partnerships and political astuteness enable you to be part of all levels of the REDD+ dialogue. The establishment of good partnerships between WWF and the Kutai Barat district government, as well as between WWF and the government of Indonesia, secured support for WWF's efforts and provided WWF with the opportunity to influence district and national policies. These partnerships were strengthened by ensuring that political leaders have good and accurate information and by framing REDD+ processes as a way to solve their problems.

- Participatory tools strengthen local communities' ability to provide for their own livelihoods. Hands-on, field-based training in carbon accounting and land-use planning did more than equip communities to measure and monitor emissions – it illuminated the connection between the community's landscape and its livelihood and created a forum where community members could discuss that connection. This empowered and equipped communities to engage more effectively with the government and private sector, which in turn reduces marginalization and can stop forest encroachment.

- REDD+ is a means to an end, not an end in itself. In Indonesia, where the web of conservation initiatives, stakeholder needs and pressures on forests is complex, setting priorities and placing REDD+ within a larger context is critical. Here and elsewhere, it is important to come to see REDD+ as a tool to be used in service of a broader sustainable development plan, one that requires integration with many other activities and approaches to succeed. In this context, REDD+ very much supports national ambitions for low-carbon development and a green economy.

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NEXT STEPS FOR REDD+IN INDONESIA

Kutai Barat and Indonesia still face considerable challenges, but both remain committed to sustainability and will now move forward with new REDD+ readiness capacities in place. Planned next steps include:

LAUNCH the REDD+ Action Plan for Kutai Barat and incorporate it into the district emission reduction action plan (RAD GRK), sustainable land-use strategy, forestry strategy and national REDD+ policy, aligning it to the Provincial REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan

ESTABLISH an institution to lead REDD+ development in East Kalimantan in collaboration with national leadership

SECURE financial support to implement the REDD+ Action Plan, and endorsement of and mandate for a district-level institution to govern this implementation

STRENGTHEN the active participation of civil societies, particularly IPLCs and other key stakeholders of REDD+ in the region

CLARIFY benefit-sharing mechanisms and legal framework for land-use tenure, recognition of community forests and rights of IPLCs

EXPAND Hutan Desa and Hutan Rakyat to include more community forests and conservation areas

FOSTER sustainable development, land-use planning and appropriate regulations through a combined jurisdictional/subnational landscape REDD+ strategy for Kutai Barat and the newly formed Mahakam Ulu district

ADDRESS drivers of deforestation with implementation of a monitoring system for land use enforcement, and with the development of alternatives that can provide sustainable livelihoods

FACILITATE private-sector engagement with appropriate incentives

BUILD relationships with other groups also working on REDD+ to avoid duplication or competition and instead ensure the success of REDD+ on the ground

INTEGRATE initiatives and mechanisms that work on the district level into national policies and strategies

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLI

DRC IN NUMBERS

10,000
PLANT SPECIES

1,000
BIRD SPECIES

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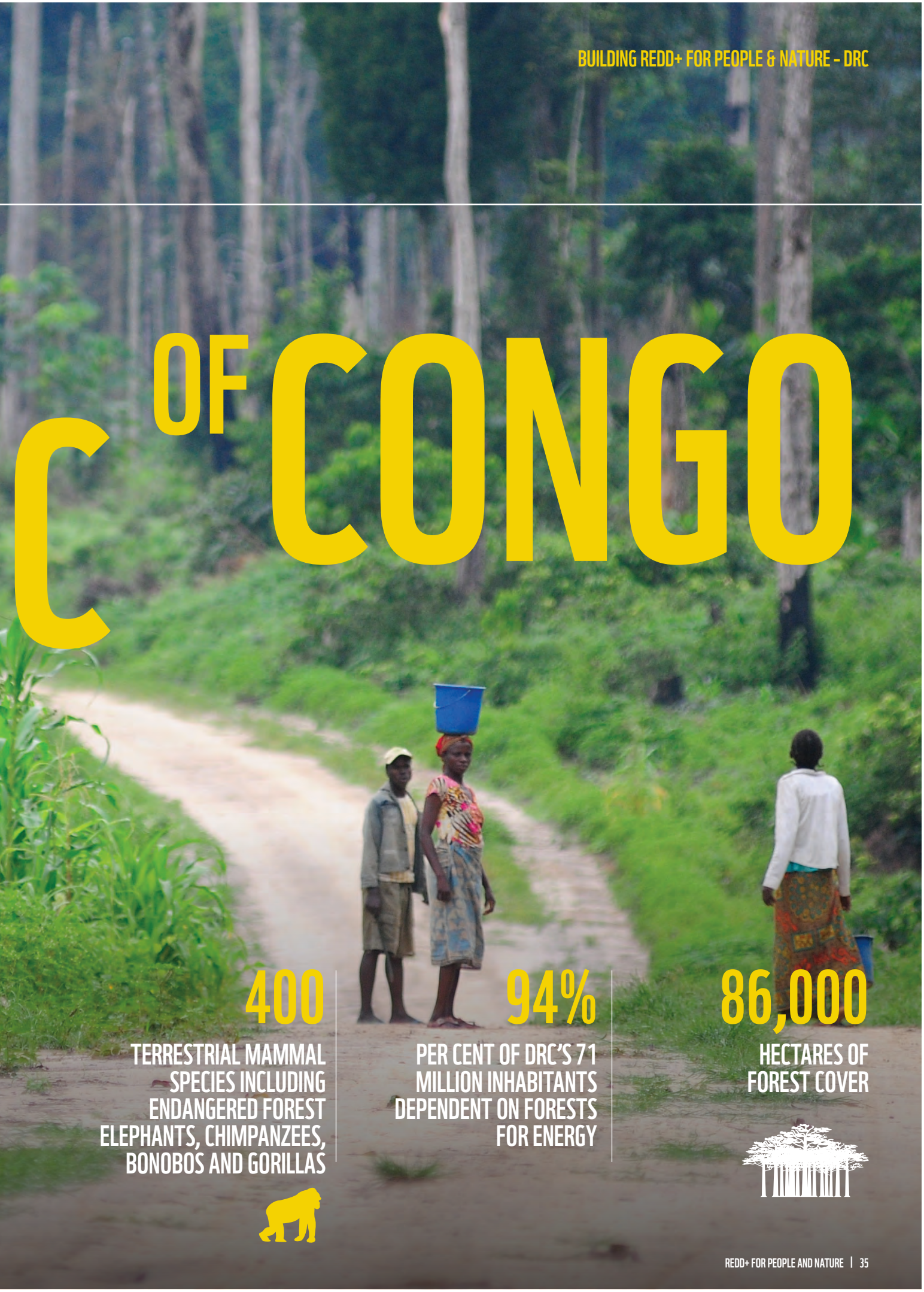
C OF CONGO



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TERRESTRIAL MAMMAL SPECIES INCLUDING ENDANGERED FOREST ELEPHANTS, CHIMPANZEES, BONOBOS AND GORILLAS

94%

PER CENT OF DRC'S 71 MILLION INHABITANTS DEPENDENT ON FORESTS FOR ENERGY

86,000

HECTARES OF FOREST COVER

STATE OF REDD+ IN DRC

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO SPRAWLS ACROSS MUCH OF CENTRAL AFRICA, SPANNING AN AREA GREATER THAN THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, SPAIN, GERMANY, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRIA COMBINED.

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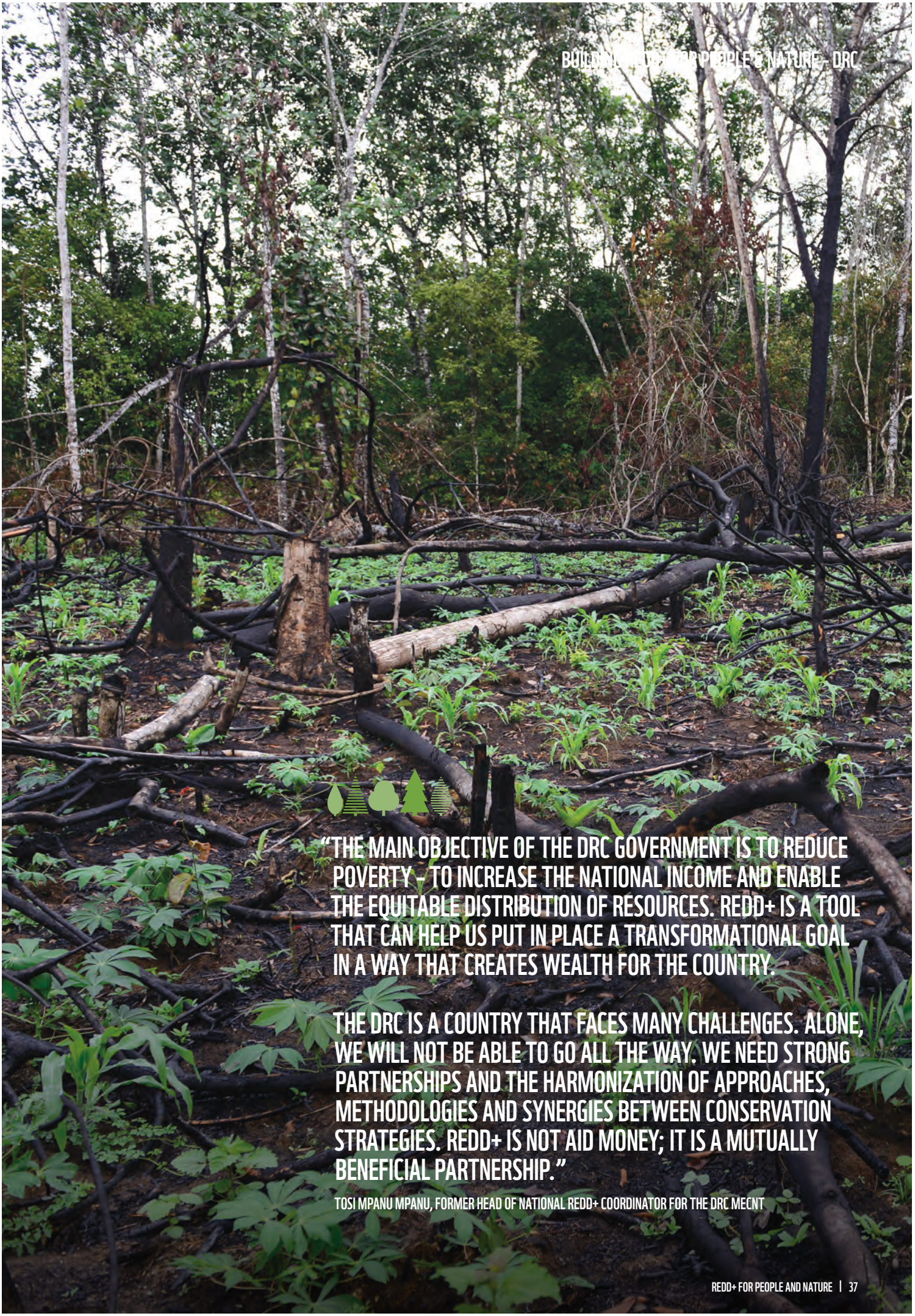
It is one of six countries that form the Congo Basin – a tropical rainforest so vast in scale and rich in biodiversity that it's called the Green Heart of Africa – and one of the hardest-hit by deforestation. Although the DRC retains extensive forest cover, deforestation is increasing due to slash-and-burn agriculture and exploitation for timber and fuel, ranking it among the top 10 countries in the world in forest cover loss.

The government of the DRC looked to REDD+ to turn the tide of this loss. Since 2009, the DRC has been engaged with REDD+ at the local, national and international levels, and has achieved a number of important milestones along the way:

- Becoming the first country in the Congo Basin with an approved REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in early 2010;
- Establishing a REDD+ National Committee of 14 members – seven from government and seven from civil society – as well as an Inter-ministerial REDD+ Committee to ensure participation in the REDD+ process across sectors.

To succeed, REDD+ efforts in the DRC had to address the nation's conflicting needs and maintain the fullest range of values within its forests – including economic productivity, energy and sustenance – while also conserving biodiversity and reducing harmful carbon emissions. This was the goal of WWF's programme of work, initiated in 2010, to implement a large-scale, integrated REDD+ programme of work in the DRC's Maï-Ndombe district.



"THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE DRC GOVERNMENT IS TO REDUCE POVERTY – TO INCREASE THE NATIONAL INCOME AND ENABLE THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES. REDD+ IS A TOOL THAT CAN HELP US PUT IN PLACE A TRANSFORMATIONAL GOAL IN A WAY THAT CREATES WEALTH FOR THE COUNTRY.

THE DRC IS A COUNTRY THAT FACES MANY CHALLENGES. ALONE, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GO ALL THE WAY. WE NEED STRONG PARTNERSHIPS AND THE HARMONIZATION OF APPROACHES, METHODOLOGIES AND SYNERGIES BETWEEN CONSERVATION STRATEGIES. REDD+ IS NOT AID MONEY; IT IS A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP."

TOSI MPANU MPANU, FORMER HEAD OF NATIONAL REDD+ COORDINATOR FOR THE DRC MECNT

© WWF/JULIE PUDLOWSKI

KEY AREAS OF WORK IN MAÏ-NDOMBE

The 13-million-hectare landscape of Maï-Ndombe encompasses savannahs, peat-rich "swamp" forests, and tropical and gallery forests that provide critical habitat for the endangered bonobo (Pan paniscus), a great ape species found wild nowhere else on Earth. Residents of the few towns and villages in the region practice traditional lifestyles based on hunting, fishing and collecting forest products.

Shifting demands for agriculture, firewood collection and charcoal production for local and regional markets are impacting forests in Maï-Ndombe, and plans for large-scale agriculture and mineral and timber extraction in the region promise to intensify pressures on the landscape. In response, WWF's efforts focused on certain key areas of work:

Commitments. Expressed in policy agreements and in measurable, publically announced local, regional and national targets

Zoning. Focused on conserving the most threatened forests and working with those most able to deliver effective forest protection

Participatory processes. Inclusion and engagement of the public in all levels of the development and implementation of REDD+ in the DRC, including the establishment of land tenure

Addressing drivers of deforestation. Identifying these and offering socioeconomic alternatives

Technical capacity. Developing the national and local capacities needed to implement REDD+

Governance. Working with local, territorial and national officials to establish a legal framework and support for REDD+

Finance. Ensuring the ability of the project to continue, given that its focus is long term

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KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS IN MAÏ-NDOMBE

An integrated and inclusive approach was critical to the success of WWF's programme of work in Maï-Ndombe, and it was a focus of WWF's efforts from the outset.

In 2010, WWF launched engagement in Maï-Ndombe by bringing together all of the area's major stakeholders and partners to create a common vision for REDD+ work in the region. By fostering a participatory process that incorporated different perspectives and knowledge from both the top down and the bottom up, WWF was able to build effective community engagement in REDD+ in Maï-Ndombe.

As a recognized key partner and supporter of REDD+ processes in the DRC, WWF has been able to provide advice and guidance to local, national and international stakeholders concerning REDD+ in Maï-Ndombe. However, WWF would not be able to play this valuable role if not for the strength of its partnerships.

DIRECT PARTNERS AND ROLES:

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND AGENCIES (MECNT, CN-REDD)
Linkage of local and national stakeholders, oversight, and integration of the Maï-Ndombe programme of work into the national REDD+ strategy

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND
Interim fiduciary management of the National REDD+ Fund

UN-REDD
Technical advice on programme design and implementation of the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system

WWF
Technical support in programme design and implementation of local land-use planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL COMMITTEES
Integration and approval of land-use plans and conflict resolution

CUSTOMARY AUTHORITIES AND LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
Implementation of village-level land-use plans and adoption of alternative livelihood strategies

AGRICULTURAL AND LEGAL LOGGING COMPANIES (NOVACEL, SOGENAC, SODEFOR)
Implementation of agricultural/agroforestry alternatives, bushfire control, forest certification and shifting toward reduced impact logging

CIVIL SOCIETY (GTCR, RRN, CEDEN, ISCO CONGO, HANNS SEIDEL, CHURCHES, NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL NGOS)
Information, education and communication; oversight of and support to enabling activities

DONORS (FIP, KFW, CBFF, USAID-CARPE, NORAD, AFD)
Already supporting investments in relevant, enabling and sectoral activities

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
Bringing IPLC perspective to REDD+ dialogue and planning

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REDD+ TIMELINE IN MAÏ-NDOMBE

2009

- DRC formally engaged in REDD+

2010

- Maï-Ndombe inception workshop and validation by stakeholders
- DRC government presentation of Maï-Ndombe integrated approach to UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in Cancun
- WWF launches its Maï-Ndombe programme of work
- Sensitization of provincial authorities on REDD+ and climate change
- The orientation document of the Maï-Ndombe integrated REDD+ programme at the district level presented during COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico

2011

- Microzoning of 15 pilot communities in the Bolobo Territory achieved – more than 750 men and women participate in the process
- Subnational-level studies on drivers of deforestation prepared by the University of Louvain; feasibility studies on community forest
- Launch of National Forestry Assessment
- Public consultation on REDD+ at REDD+ Summer University
- Country FPIC guidelines completed and approved by CN-REDD
- Official recognition of Maï-Ndombe as a Forest Investment Program (FIP) pilot site
- Financial and organizational structure of subnational REDD+ established
- Data inventory for zero net deforestation (ZND) under way; analysis of current status and future ZND scenarios completed
- Participative community zoning agreed upon as the main enabling activity for REDD+ in DRC
- Maï-Ndombe initiative presented at DRC/USAID-CARPE official side event at UNFCCC Durban meeting

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2012

- 22 community representatives trained on computers to collect and record data for MRV
- Draft presentation of DRC's Emissions Reductions Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) in Santa Marta, Colombia
- More than 1,000 IPLCs from five territories sensitized on climate change by trained national and local civil society organizations
- Community MRV methodology developed and shared in Maï-Ndombe; estimation of carbon stocks undertaken
- Community Management Planning Framework to help communities develop plans to achieve ZNDD completed and field-tested in the Mpelu community
- Regional REDD+ workshop for Congo Basin held using Maï-Ndombe as case study
- Final ER-PIN developed building on successes of Maï-Ndombe efforts, proposing to reach 300,000 households across 12 million hectares and to sustainably halve the deforestation rate
- English version of the joint WWF and Government of DRC Case Study of an Integrated Approach to REDD+ Readiness in Maï-Ndombe officially presented at the DRC side event at UNFCCC COP 18 in Doha by DRC's Minister of the Environment, Conservation of Nature, and Tourism

2013

- ER-PIN for the first African jurisdictional nested REDD+ programme submitted to the FCPF Carbon Fund; an FIP investment of US$15 million secured
- French and Spanish versions of the case study of an integrated approach to REDD+ readiness in Maï-Ndombe produced

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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The inclusion of forest-dependent communities is essential to any forest conservation effort, and it was a key to the success of WWF's REDD+ efforts in Maï-Ndombe.

WWF centred its overall Maï-Ndombe REDD+ strategy on participatory zoning and recognition of customary rights, and this led to a programme of work in which IPLCs played a prominent role, particularly in the implementation of activities such as forest conservation, reforestation and protection against man-made savannah fire.

Using participatory zoning as a tool, WWF worked with 750 members of the Bateke Nord Chefferie community in the Bolobo Territory of Maï-Ndombe to increase their voice and influence on land-use policy, with a particular focus on those groups that are currently marginalized. In other Maï-Ndombe communities, such as Nkala village, participatory zoning resolved long-standing conflicts by establishing shared understanding of land zones and use. WWF also provided training for community-based monitoring and measuring of carbon stocks, with the aim of supporting improved livelihoods and capacities and greater engagement of communities in the REDD+ process.

By equipping IPLCs with new understanding and tools for collaboration, high-level technical capacities, and information about the policy, legal and contractual issues that may affect their land use and other rights, WWF helped support transparent decision-making processes and foster informed, active participation by the very communities that stand to benefit the most from REDD+.

"(LAND-USE MAPPING) HAS HELPED REDUCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN VILLAGES, AS NOW EVERYONE KNOWS AND AGREES WHERE THE BOUNDARIES ARE AND WHAT THE USE OF THE LAND IS. NOW WE HAVE PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS. IT HELPS US KNOW WHERE THE SACRED FOREST IS. IT IS A GREAT IMPROVEMENT FOR US; BEFORE WE USED TO CUT DOWN THE FOREST ANYWHERE. I WILL TELL FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT, WITHOUT THE FOREST, YOU WILL BE WITHOUT LIFE."

CHIEF MAMBE NGONO, NKALA VILLAGE

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

Significant achievements have already been realized by WWF's programme of work in Maï-Ndombe:

- **Integrated and participatory process established**
  The project inception workshop realized shared validation of the project by local, provincial, national and international stakeholders, bringing together stakeholders at the local level, in Malebo, for the first time.

- **First jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ approach in Africa launched**
  Stakeholders agreed to work at a jurisdictional/subnational level using an approach that incorporated a number of different emission reduction methodologies (subsequently dubbed the "Integrated Approach"). This became the first experiment in jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ in Africa.

- **Technical capacities on MRV delivered**
  National-level experts and local community members received hands-on technical training to measure and monitor land use and forest cover. Also, newly developed studies provided Maï-Ndombe communities with the technical tools needed for them to make more informed decisions in relation to their natural resources, community forest management, the drivers of deforestation, and the financial and organizational structure of the Bolobo Territory.

- **Rehabilitation of basic socio-economic infrastructure under way**
  Alternatives, such as investment in cassava mills and sustainable fishing, that generate income for local villages were explored and have reduced the impact on forests from deforestation caused by the local timber trade.

- **Participatory microzoning of community land – a model for recognition of forest tenure**
  IPLC rights were improved through the process of participatory microzoning and creation of community management plans for 18 communities covering an area of 150,000 hectares. This has led to improved land tenure and stronger local governance, and fostered the benefit-sharing process and the sustainable planning of forest use. As a result, participatory zoning and community land tenure have now been recognized by major donors, such as the World Bank, as the main methodology for REDD+ implementation in the DRC.

- **Increased financing for emissions reduction**
  Given the success of the DRC's ongoing REDD+ readiness efforts, including the Maï-Ndombe programme of work, the country has been selected as one of eight pilot countries to be supported under the FIP and has secured an FIP investment of US$15 million. The DRC's Emissions Reductions Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) was reviewed in June 2013 and has brought the nation one step closer to unlocking up to US$60 million in payments for REDD+ and creating the largest forest emissions reduction programme in Africa.

- **Local committees established**
  These help people manage natural resources and land and build local capacity on REDD+ and climate change.

- **Drivers of deforestation identified**
  Key technical studies have determined the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation.

- **FPIC**
  FPIC guidelines were developed in a participatory manner, validated by the REDD+ National Committee of the DRC, and are currently being used in five provinces by national CSOs and private-sector groups.

- **Launch of the National Forestry Assessment**
  The assessment is helping identify key stakeholders and contributions.

- **REDD+ Registry and deforestation reporting system**
  The DRC has established its first national registry for REDD+ and is exploring options to use cell phone text messaging technology for the public to participate in deforestation reporting and verification – a world first.

- **Knowledge shared internationally**
  The DRC REDD+ work has been presented at three successive COPs – Cancun, Durban and Doha – while a WWF Case Study of DRC REDD+ was launched at COP18 in Doha by the Minister of the Environment and is now available in English, French and Spanish.

"REDD+ EMPOWERS VULNERABLE GROUPS SUCH AS THE ELDERLY, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN. BEFORE CONSULTING COMMITTEES WERE SET UP IN MAÏ-NDOMBE TO DISCUSS REDD+ RELATED ISSUES, THESE GROUPS HAD NO SAY ON ISSUES RELATED TO COMMUNITY LAND."

FLORY BOTAMBA ESOMBO, WWF-DRC REDD+ PROJECT MANAGER AND FOCAL POINT

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CHALLENGES

While WWF's programme of work in Maï-Ndombe has achieved significant success, it has also faced several challenges:

- REDD+ is a new topic in the DRC, and it has been important to involve stakeholders at multiple levels of the decision-making process, which has led to decisions taking longer than may have been planned.
- Sites are difficult to access, and traveling is costly and time consuming.
- Valuable time was lost during the elections in 2011 and the period of civil unrest that followed.
- Process was slowed down by staff changes in the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature, and Tourism.
- The conflicting needs of the DRC and the lure of highly profitable extractive activities – for example, illegal logging, which continues with the complicity of some local traditional authorities – remain a problem. This makes preparation for REDD+ difficult.
- Some government structures have low capacity to implement the process.
- There is a need to ensure that the principles of FPIC are truly understood and implemented in a meaningful way by government and not regarded simply as a "check box" to be ticked off a list after a minimal effort.
- There is a need for additional field projects to facilitate information exchange with communities.
- The DRC does not have satellite image technology and lacks trained individuals to carry out technical work, such as determining reference levels of deforestation.

A rescued bonobo at Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo. More information at: www.friendsofbonobos.org.

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LESSONS LEARNED

The successes and challenges of WWF's efforts in Maï-Ndombe have helped in realizing key lessons learned, including:

- **Local communities need to be sensitized prior to being asked to take action.** Working closely with the national REDD+ authority on a communication strategy regarding IPLCs before taking any field action helped enable a clear understanding of the vision for all parties and fostered FPIC. But FPIC is not just an informational tool, particularly at the beginning of a programme of work – it is also a tool to build trustful, close relationships and community buy-in, which are essential to participatory, collaborative action.

- **Participative land-use mapping is the first step toward securing community land tenure to stop deforestation.** Maps empower communities in land tenure issues and the identification of land rights by confirming land limits that need to be approved by all neighbouring communities. This minimized conflicts between communities and facilitated land management.

- **For REDD+ success, it is essential to scale up activities and link the local with national and global needs.** Initial engagement needs to be at the appropriate level. In the DRC, WWF and CN-REDD initially tried to engage at the international and national levels and later found that it was much more effective to work at the more local/community level and scale up from there. Establishing good partnerships early on and promoting the early integration of stakeholders from different sectors were key first steps.

- **When working at the community level, it is important to have a close relationship with both the people and local authorities.** All stakeholders are important to advance REDD+ processes in the community, but they must be approached appropriately. It is essential to understand the local culture and respect existing bonds and forms of communication.

- **Targeted stakeholders need to be empowered so they can take the lead on the REDD+ process.** This helps create stakeholder ownership. In Maï-Ndombe, this has involved training on climate change and REDD+ principles, with trainees going on to train local associations and local authorities to sensitize IPLCs. Stakeholder ownership creates shared visions and objectives for the process, resulting in shared successes.

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"WE NEED TO PUT COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF THE REDD+ PROCESS IN THE DRC. THE MAIN DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION ARE LINKED TO COMMUNITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR DEPENDENCE ON FOREST RESOURCES TO SURVIVE DAY TO DAY. THIS PROJECT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES AND GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AND MANAGE THEIR OWN RESOURCES."

BRUNO PERODEAU, WWF-DRC CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

NEXT STEPS FOR REDD+IN THE DRC

With new REDD+ readiness capacities in place, the DRC is now starting on plans to launch the demonstration (investment) phase of its REDD+ implementation strategy, in advance of the anticipated 2020 delivery of an official REDD+ mechanism. Next steps for this include:

DEVELOP a comprehensive emissions reduction programme;

NEGOTIATE an Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) and also ensure that subnational funding mechanisms are in place;

ENSURE harmonization with other sectors and clarify a nested vs. a jurisdictional/subnational approach;

FINALIZE macrozoning and microzoning in the region;

IMPLEMENT a system of payment for ecosystem services (PES) program that supports ZND and an integrated land-use plan;

CLARIFY tax/fiscal incentives and legal anchorage of land use tenure, recognition, collective rights, etc.;

SET UP community forests and/or community-protected areas;

ADDRESS both industrial and non-industrial drivers of deforestation;

FACILITATE private-sector engagement with appropriate incentives and mechanism.

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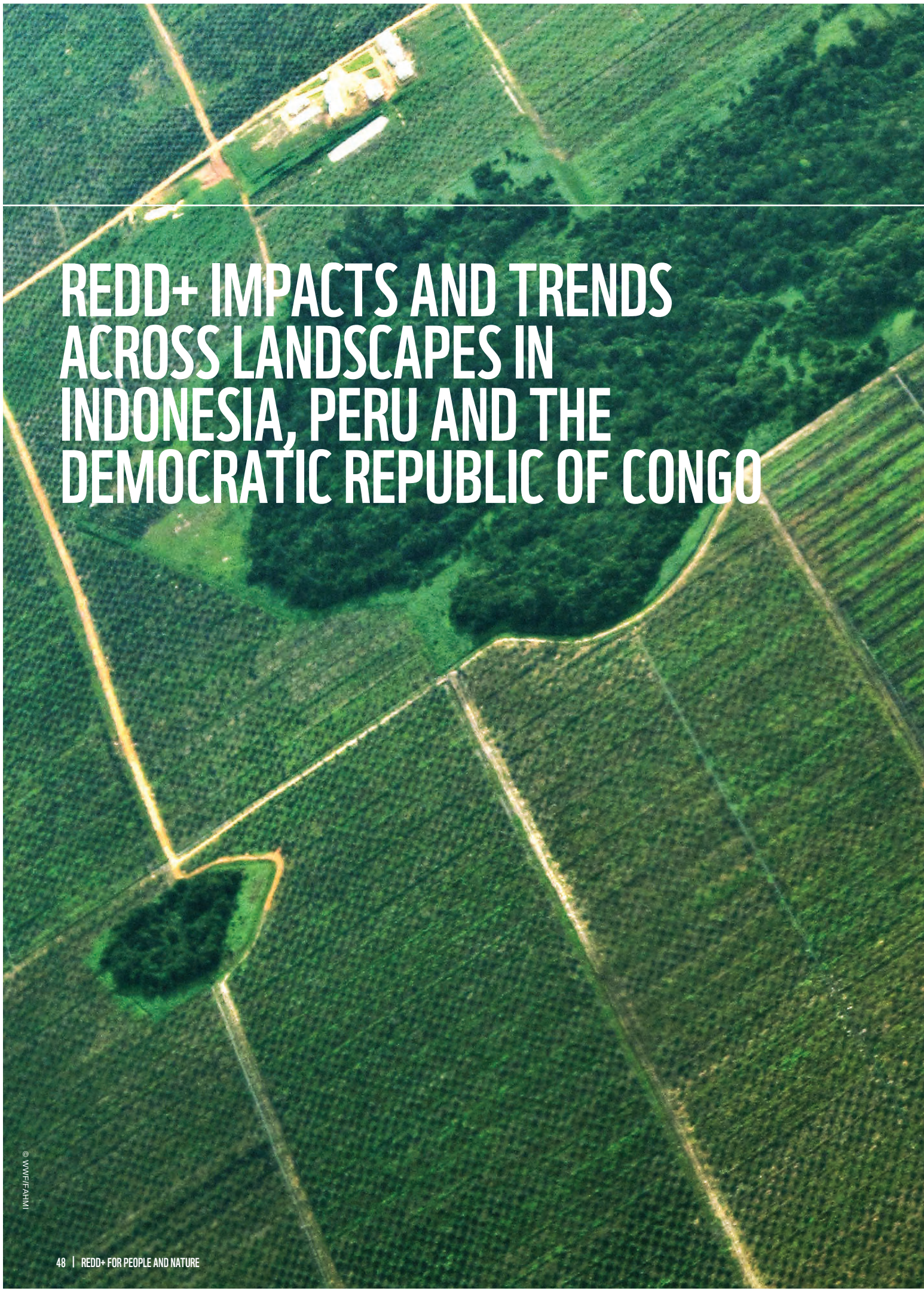

REDD+ IMPACTS AND TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES IN INDONESIA, PERU AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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IMPACTS & TRENDS

WWF REDD+ PROGRAMME OF WORK: IMPACTS

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Understanding the possibilities and challenges of REDD+ is essential if we are to safeguard the world's richest environments, the human livelihoods of those who depend on them, and the health of the planet as a whole.

WWF's work in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo endeavoured to test these possibilities in three of the most biologically diverse places on Earth. Through this work, WWF has demonstrated pilots for REDD+ at scale that are based on the participation of indigenous and local communities, are officially recognized by governments, are influencing national REDD+ policies, are demonstrating pathways to zero net deforestation (ZND) and are leveraging significant co-investments by the national and local governments that host them, and by international donors. Across three distinct landscapes, these efforts have resulted in:

- First-time recognition for community and indigenous rights to natural resources and the creation of an Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal;
- Nested jurisdictional/subnational collaboration to prepare and submit the DRC's ER-PIN, the first attempt at jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ on the African continent;
- Establishment of national and regional REDD+ roundtables that bring together local community members, indigenous groups, civil society members and other stakeholders, and enable them to inform regional and national policies;
- Participatory development of social and biodiversity safeguards, MRV methodologies and subnational carbon reference levels;
- Innovation of new tools and strategies to help communities work toward ZND;
- Initiation of regional and national REDD+ strategies and action plans shaped by lessons learned from practical, on-the-ground REDD+ work;
- A basis for benefit-sharing and poverty-reducing mechanisms, rooted in microzoning, participatory land-use planning, community forest management and other enabling activities that strengthen land tenure, rights and livelihoods of IPLCs;
- Strengthened FPIC fostering, technical capacity building and knowledge-sharing opportunities;
- Increased international-level support for continued and scaled-up efforts.

These are significant impacts and achievements, and they demonstrate the powerful potential of REDD+ to yield real benefits for local people and nature, if led by experienced partners and committed communities in an inclusive, integrated and participatory way.

TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO REDD+

WWF's programme of work in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo set out to make participatory REDD+ possible – to create capacities and opportunities for many different voices to be heard. Through community committees, workshops and trainings, regional and national roundtables, and other venues for dialogue between stakeholders, WWF's efforts brought a wide range of people, interests and points of view together to forge a shared vision for REDD+ in each region. This participatory approach has:

- Created or, in the case of Peru's Madre de Dios region, reactivated roundtables where different stakeholders can find common ground and consensus, and then help shape regional or national REDD+ strategies with their findings;
- Built capacity among IPLCs, civil society and community groups, and local NGOs to assume an active role in REDD+ planning and implementation, with an eye toward "training trainers" – fostering a domino effect through which newly sensitized stakeholders can share their knowledge with their own communities;
- Led to recognition and support of previously marginalized stakeholders and interests by local, regional and/or national government authorities;
- Empowered community members to engage with each other, with regional and national governments, and with the private sector in new, more effective ways.

As participatory processes unfolded across the three landscapes in this programme of work, they revealed certain key lessons learned:

- **Effective participation begins with identifying community leaders who create dynamic processes and generate spaces for community dialogue.** Leaders should have confidence, recognition and respect, and be valued by the community. They should also be able to speak in their own language and a Western language and be able to open spaces for participation of vulnerable groups.
- **It is important to recognize that there are distinct levels (local, regional, etc.) of participation with distinct needs and objectives.** It is necessary to create distinct, appropriate spaces of capacity building and participation to prepare each level to effectively achieve its own objective – which requires time and resources.
- **It is critical to clearly define objectives for participation and then link participants to the resources they need.** For a successful participatory process, it is necessary to define timelines, responsibilities, resources and the tangible outcomes expected to result from participation. By starting with a clear understanding of roles and expectations, the process will run more smoothly and productively.
- **In a participatory process, stakeholders need to define their views clearly but also be flexible to adapt to the group's needs.** Stakeholders in a participative process need to know what they want and at the same time be flexible and willing to make necessary changes if the situation demands them. Every process has difficulties, but it is important to look for alternatives to overcome these or choose a different path to find a solution if it benefits the group and the process to do so.
- **An inclusive and transparent process is important to build stakeholder trust and consensus in participative processes.** Ensuring an inclusive and transparent process from the start is necessary to build trust among the key stakeholders and to find a middle ground for building a REDD+ mechanism that benefits the people, the landscape and the country as a whole.

Participatory processes – and the capacity building they require – empower individuals and communities by expanding their knowledge about the social, environmental and economic forces shaping their lives and landscapes. WWF's efforts illustrated that participation is not a discrete event, but a constant process before, during and after REDD+ implementation – an approach that can respond to and become part of a community's way of life, with powerful and positive consequences.

TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: COMMUNITY-BASED MICROZONING AND MAPPING

Across the three landscapes in WWF's programme of work, participatory microzoning and mapping proved to be effective and empowering tools to build buy-in among forest-dependent communities. The process of coming together to define customary uses of the land and goals for the management of its natural resources fostered dialogue between stakeholders and created new capacities, partnerships and possibilities. These include:

- Improved land tenure and local governance, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where 15 communities now have maps and where participatory zoning has been recognized as the main methodology for REDD+ implementation;
- The development of innovative tools to identify and protect both planned and existing land uses, such as the three-dimensional maps and village regulations formed by communities in Indonesia's Kutai Barat district;
- Strengthened recognition and capacity to engage with governments and the private sector to designate areas for traditional uses, sustainable development or conservation, as in the case of Indonesia's Hutan Desa and Hutan Rakyat community forestry models and emerging agreements with locally operating logging companies.

LESSONS LEARNED

The successes and challenges of these participatory mapping andw zoning efforts suggest several key lessons learned:

- **Communities need to map areas to protect against outside pressures.** Participatory microzoning and mapping can help gain recognition and support for a community's claims to the land, particularly if these activities are linked to or exist within government frameworks or policies. When communities strengthen their land tenure in this way, they can engage with government authorities and the private sector with greater empowerment, effectiveness and influence.
- **Linking community mapping and tenure clarification to agreed-upon benefits helps reduce potential for conflicts.** By fostering dialogue about customary land uses within and between communities, participatory microzoning and mapping can illuminate potential conflicts early on. These activities can also provide a forum for reducing and resolving conflicts, if communities are made aware of potential social and economic benefits from the start and collaboratively plan to manage for those benefits.
- **Land regulation and management need to take account of multiple values.** Involving communities in planning and managing for a forest's multiple values – livelihood values, cultural or social values, biodiversity and ecological values – will build additional capacities, greater understanding and more holistic and resilient REDD+ processes.

Despite social/cultural, economic, political and geographical differences between Peru, Indonesia and the DRC, communities in each country found benefits in participatory microzoning and mapping. These processes offer a methodology for examining and addressing conflicts between communities, strengthening land tenure and livelihoods, and forming the basis for future benefit-sharing mechanisms.

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TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: FPIC, IPLCS AND CO-BENEFITS OF REDD+

In Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the major achievement of WWF's work with indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) has been the development of a more holistic and inclusive vision for REDD+. Across landscapes, WWF has worked to promote, support and link efforts at all levels – local, national and international – that address FPIC, indigenous and community rights, livelihoods issues, and low-carbon development strategies. These activities have:

- Helped build knowledge to enhance indigenous and local communities' informed participation and full consultation and consent in landscape-level REDD+ activities;
- Strengthened IPLC rights and abilities by equipping them to map, manage and monitor their own resources, to pursue alternative livelihood and income sources, and to more effectively engage with government authorities and the private sector;
- Supported the development of indigenous peoples' own proposals regarding REDD+, including a proposal for Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ that has been presented in international fora, such as the September 2012 World Conservation Congress and COP18 in Doha in December 2012;
- Built partnerships and coalitions around IPLC rights-based approaches to REDD+ that have more influence and impact than any one organization could have working alone;
- Influenced the development of national and international safeguards standards and FPIC frameworks, thus changing the "rules of the game" for REDD+ engagement with IPLCs globally;
- Developed accessible materials – including policy-relevant briefs, analytical and informational publications, presentations, and workshops – on REDD+ social issues that provide practical guidance and enable two-way connections between policy and practice.

LESSONS LEARNED

Such achievements would not have been possible without taking time to build capacities, mutual understanding and trust with IPLCs. Through this process, some key lessons emerged:

- **REDD+ is built with respect.** REDD+ implementation cannot work without the trust, buy-in and understanding of the indigenous peoples and local communities that depend on key forest landscapes, and respect is the first step toward these three enabling conditions. Grounding capacity building and participatory processes in respect for the different cultures and worldviews that IPLCs represent and for the concerns and challenges they face leads to better outcomes, and it creates a relationship that fosters FPIC, empowerment and lasting change.
- **FPIC** is a process aimed at developing relationships, not projects. Fostering FPIC is larger than any one activity or programme of work – it is a process geared toward developing lasting relationships between communities, and between WWF and IPLCs. An important component of the process is building trust, which can last longer and make a greater impact than any individual initiative.
- **For global conservation NGOs, such as WWF, and for successful and integrated REDD+ implementation, inclusive participation must involve supporting indigenous views of the REDD+ process.** A solid partnership between WWF and indigenous organizations requires identifying those areas where a consensus and mutual interest exist and where an alliance is mutually beneficial. This is not always an easy exercise, but it allows for more effective collaboration and can lead to more successful outcomes.

TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES:
FPIC, IPLCS AND CO-BENEFITS OF REDD+ CONT.

- **The intercultural and gradual development of a proposal, vision or plan enhances its legitimacy and sustainability and more effectively drives change.** Combining cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge builds personal engagement, participation and trust, while also fostering innovation. The intercultural development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal, for example, melded traditional knowledge with scientific and technical approaches – an innovative combination that empowered indigenous communities and also yielded a stronger, more holistic and dynamic vision for REDD+.

Across all three landscapes, building respect and trust with IPLCs was identified as the critical first step toward making climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation work for communities.

Supporting indigenous views of the REDD+ process, addressing concerns about benefit-sharing and poverty-reducing mechanisms, and empowering IPLCs with knowledge about their own rights, land tenure and potential influence on REDD+ led to stronger results – results that demonstrate the need for rights-based approaches in any truly equitable and sustainable REDD+ implementation.

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TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: ZERO NET DEFORESTATION LANDSCAPES

Across three key forest landscapes, WWF's programme of work sought to discover and demonstrate pathways to zero net deforestation (ZND) that achieve effective, sustainable management of forests and benefits for forest-dwelling communities. WWF's ZND-focused efforts in Peru, Indonesia and the DRC were cross-cutting and supportive, and served to create tools and conditions that enabled progress toward ZND in each landscape. They include:

- The development of a new methodological tool, the Community Management Planning Framework, that facilitates fully participatory land management planning. This tool was field-tested in Maï-Ndombe's Mpelu village, where it resulted in a management plan drafted by representatives of all social groups (elders, men, women and youth) within the community that secured ownership and sustainable management options to stop deforestation and forest degradation on community lands;
- The creation of a Conservation Value Mapping tool, field-tested in Indonesia's Kutai Barat district, that aids the identification of areas with high and low conservation values. The resulting maps were used to influence governmental decisions on land allocation and REDD+ strategies through identification of potential sites for community conservation areas, land swaps for shifting palm oil production into degraded lands, and improved forest management practices;
- The production of a platform for accessing and sharing tools, training modules, and lessons learned to build stakeholders' understanding and capacity in moving toward ZND.

LESSONS LEARNED

These ZND-focused efforts revealed some significant key lessons learned:

- **Knowing the needs and aspirations of communities in relation to their land should be the first step of any community engagement process.** Encouraging communities to explore and express their landscape values is critical – the success of land management, zoning and other participatory processes, including targeting and achieving ZND, will depend on the establishment of this initial vision.
- **Communities sometimes need help to forge their own vision.** Even if they have developed considerable capacities to understand their forests and the forces that affect them, community members may not be able to identify all external threats. This is an area where organizations like WWF and its partners can contribute valuable expertise and help build community trust.
- **Ensuring clear benefits for communities and delivering on them is important.** ZND can be a complex concept, so it is crucial to translate it into specific, practical actions with measurable benefits. Defining these benefits in a transparent and participatory way and ensuring that they are delivered are necessary steps to create community trust and support.

WWF's ZND-focused efforts encountered many challenges during this programme of work – most significantly, political instability in the key landscapes and the communications difficulties and delays that followed. Nevertheless, it achieved strong results and made measurable contributions to the whole of WWF's work in Peru, Indonesia and the DRC – and, through its knowledge-sharing platform, to REDD+ practitioners everywhere.

TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: BUILDING TECHNICAL CAPACITIES

Understanding a forest's past, present and future health is one of the most important aspects of REDD+. Without methods to assess and quantify how much carbon trees can absorb – the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of emissions reductions using remote sensing and ground-based data – there can be no verified validation of the impact of REDD+ on a landscape, and no trust in the process.

WWF's programme of work in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo has focused on building technical capacities so communities can take part in and eventually take control of the MRV process, and it has made significant progress in this area. Community members and local MRV teams have:

- Developed regional carbon maps, deforestation data and reference emission levels that meet international standards and will help inform regional and/or national REDD+ strategies;
- Built stakeholder engagement in and ownership of MRV and the information it can yield, as in Peru's Madre de Dios region, where participatory processes selected the methodology for developing a regional forest carbon map in which local community members can vote on and validate results;
- Established collaborations with academic institution and leading tool developers to jointly develop tools and capacities that support effective, affordable and community-accessible MRV systems;
- Created their own resources for sustained technical capacity building and cross-learning, such as the MRV/REDD+ certification programme developed by the Amazon National University of Madre de Dios;
- Become members of regional and national taskforces and committees charged with designing and implementing MRV systems and reference levels on a larger scale;
- Participated in regional and global forums to share experiences and know-how acquired during their MRV- and reference levels-related activities.

The MRV methodologies developed in these three key landscapes are currently regarded as a reference by other MRV practitioners and implementers at a global scale. This has positioned WWF and its team members on the ground as major stakeholders, consultants and coordinators in national and international discussions, providing expertise and guidance on MRV issues to geospatial agencies, donors and governments worldwide.

LESSONS LEARNED

WWF's technical capacity-building efforts have resulted in many important lessons learned:

- **MRV tools need to be flexible, accessible and appropriate for the context.** Technical tools must be developed taking the local situation, local technicians and local capacities into consideration. No single standard or approach for MRV will suit the needs of all countries, regions or communities, because each setting enters the process with its own unique set of technical capacities, social and political realities, and geographic conditions. Even if they are effective, tools that are not appropriate for a specific community or its context will hinder the work and the community's engagement with the technical capacity-building process.
- **It is vital to have a minimum level of local capacity for a truly participative technical process.** This is especially relevant when there are scientific or technical discussions about complex subjects that may cause confusion, such as MRV. Defining concrete plans and objectives and moving forward is easier once the right technical capacities are in place, and is greatly facilitated if there is a trained and informed critical mass in the region, such as that created by the MRV/REDD+ certificate programme developed in Peru's Madre de Dios region.

- **Consistent, sustainable, long-term local capacity building is critical for a resilient REDD+ process.** Political overturn or instability can destroy progress and threaten the REDD+ process if there is no strong local base of technical capacity and if capacities come primarily from abroad. Establishing systems that ensure long-term local capacity building, such as the Madre de Dios region's MRV/REDD+ certificate programme, can create continuity and constancy in the REDD+ process even in the face of frequent political change.

- **MRV is not just about precision and accuracy – it is about legitimacy.** Because it can be used to shape political policies and lend legitimacy to high-level decisions about land use, MRV is not just a technical process. It is also a political process, one that is supported by data. Therefore, data must be used in a transparent way and obtained via means that are considered legitimate and verifiable by all stakeholders.

Whether on the ground in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, or through publications or online media, building technical capacities has proven to have far-reaching consequences. Technical knowledge and tools can provide communities with improved livelihoods and greater ownership of the REDD+ process, and they can ensure REDD+ happens in a legitimate, transparent way.

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TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING

As WWF's efforts in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo have evolved and unfolded, they have revealed many key and unexpected lessons. These lessons have deepened WWF's understanding of what REDD+ means on the ground – what its strengths and limitations are and what factors can help or hinder its success.

From the start of this programme of work, WWF has sought to reach beyond itself and share this knowledge with the world, to empower other conservation organizations, REDD+ practitioners and local communities to inform and influence the international dialogue about and practice of REDD+. To that end, WWF developed a number of novel and well-received strategies to capture and share lessons learned as they emerged from efforts in each of these key forest landscapes. These strategies include:

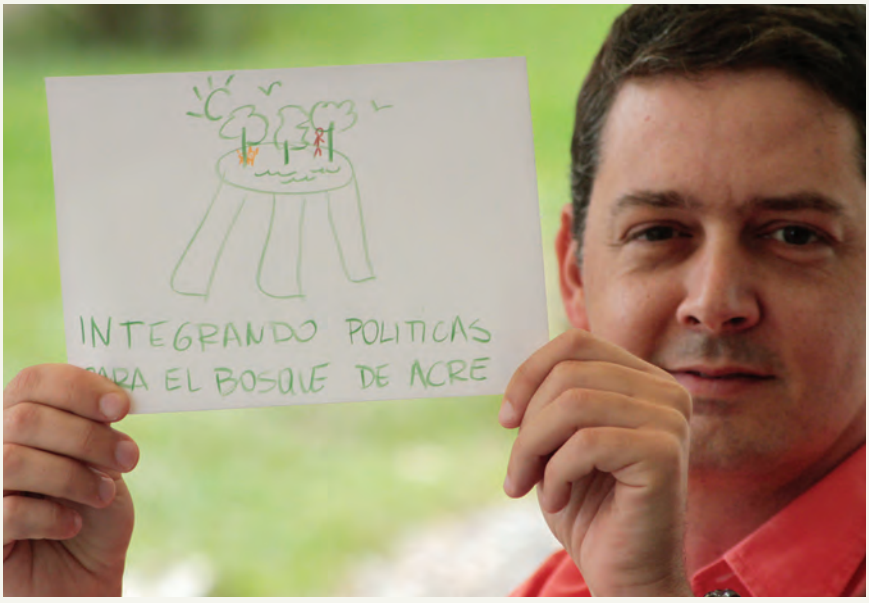
- A new online learning and community-building platform, called the REDD+ Community and available at http://www.reddcommunity.org, that is free and open to REDD+ practitioners representing governments, non-profits, community organizations, multi-national organizations, development organizations, businesses, and other sectors, to enable technical capacity building and knowledge sharing across a broad swath of the REDD+ community. Less than a year after its launch, this online community already claims 448 users from more than 50 countries around the world;

- The "Inspiring Practices" series, which has compiled more than 38 lessons learned around the world into manuals, online factsheets, and CDs for MRV and REDD+ practitioners everywhere, even in remote areas without high-speed Internet access;

- A series of monthly online Learning Sessions, free monthly webinars that feature REDD+ experts presenting on a key issue so that REDD+ practitioners around the globe can have access to the latest information related to REDD+. These presentations are then archived and made available as videos for easy viewing both on panda.org and on WWF's Forest and Climate YouTube channel, and have to date been viewed more than 2,350 times;

- Substantial publications, such as REDD+ for People and Nature: a case study of an integrated approach to REDD+ in the DRC and the WWF Guide to Building REDD+ Strategies, made available to the international REDD+ community in multiple languages to reach large audiences of key influencers, including government officials, REDD+ practitioners, indigenous communities, and international policymakers.

As REDD+ practitioners all over the world are learning by doing, these tools provide a hub for capacity-building resources, technical information and guidance that can facilitate South-South knowledge sharing and cross-learning to support the success of their initiatives.



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TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: JURISDICTIONAL/SUBNATIONAL REDD+

In Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, WWF's programme of work followed a jurisdictional/subnational approach to REDD+. At its heart, this approach is about recognizing that REDD+ must begin on a meaningful scale – that it cannot be implemented from the top down on a national level in countries with complex realities, conflicting needs, and limited government and technical capacities, but that it cannot survive in the form of small, isolated projects either.

Jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ instead works on sizeable, subnational landscapes, at a number of intersecting and mutually reinforcing scales of intervention, with a focus on building capacities, safeguards and engagement for REDD+ from the bottom up. With this approach, REDD+ can be implemented and tested on a scale that is biologically meaningful, because it can contain intact ecosystems, and socially and politically meaningful, because it aligns with recognized jurisdictions, such as government-designated provinces, departments or districts. At this scale, REDD+ can be effectively managed by or with existing national and subnational administrations to conserve some of the world's most important landscapes.

On the ground, this has meant:

- At the **community** level, empowering civil society organizations and local and indigenous forest-dependent peoples to engage with the REDD+ process, develop capacities to manage their own natural resources and improve their livelihoods, and have a greater voice in REDD+ initiatives. This was accomplished through:
  - Community-level technical capacity-building efforts, such as MRV trainings across the three landscapes and the MRV/REDD+ certificate programme in Madre de Dios;
  - Strengthened local and indigenous customary rights and land tenure, as manifested in indigenous REDD+ development in Madre de Dios, planning for community forestry in Kutai Barat, and participatory mapping and microzoning initiatives in Maï-Ndombe and Kutai Barat.
- At the **subnational** level, developing mechanisms and fora that foster dialogue and cross-learning between community members/civil society organizations and regional or subnational governments and initiatives. Engagement across these levels has resulted in:
  - Formalized participative processes, such as the establishment of the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD+, now institutionalized by the Madre de Dios regional government, and the regionally recognized Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable;
  - Utilizing regional models and legal frameworks, as in the use of village regulations and community forest designations recognized by the Kutai Barat district government to protect community-developed microzoning and land management;
  - Newly formed partnerships between communities, the private sector (for example, logging companies operating in Kutai Barat) and regional/district governments that bridge local-regional gaps.

TRENDS ACROSS LANDSCAPES: JURISDICTIONAL/SUBNATIONAL REDD+ CONT.

- At the **national** and **global** levels, drawing on lessons learned and methodologies developed at the community and subnational levels to determine parameters for national-level REDD+ strategies and to help shape global-level REDD+ mechanisms, institutions and financing. Outcomes of this process include:
  - Recognition of the Kutai Barat Green Economy Initiative by Indonesia's National REDD+ Task Force and FCPF;
  - National-level validation and multi-province implementation of FPIC guidelines that were developed in a participatory manner in Maï-Ndombe;
  - The successful submission of an ER-PIN by the DRC, which demonstrated effective cooperation between community and regional efforts in Maï-Ndombe and the national government.

These connections across local, subnational and national levels of intervention and participation have also revealed key lessons for jurisdictional/subnational work:

- **Building successful public policies is achieved by integrating two approaches: top down and bottom up.** To be effective and successful, REDD+ has to work nationally but also on the level of individual communities and landholders. This is the goal of jurisdictional/subnational REDD+ efforts – to build capacities and to learn and apply key lessons at every level, because every level is essential. In local areas, there is important knowledge that can feed into subnational or national levels, while political will at the national level can drive important changes at the local or subnational levels. Integrating these approaches yields more successful policies and strategies.
- **Efforts at the community, subnational and national levels must be compatible and coordinated throughout the REDD+ process.** Successful REDD+ work demands compatibility and unity across levels of engagement. Ensuring that stakeholders at each level are involved at an early stage and that activities are recognized from the top down and the bottom up facilitates scale-up later on. Lack of coordination between the local and national levels hindered efforts in Peru's Madre de Dios region, for example, while close coordination in the DRC's Maï-Ndombe region led to positive outcomes on all levels of engagement.
- Flexibility and simplicity are key. REDD+ efforts require linkages across multiple levels, each of which are complex and may undergo significant change during the programme of work. This complexity extends from legal and governance issues to the technical requirements of forest data gathering and MRV. That means REDD+ must be simple and flexible as well as comprehensive so that it can adapt to the complexity and change at each level of its engagement over time.

Three years after the initiation of WWF's programme of work across these three key forest landscapes, a consensus appears to be growing toward implementing REDD+ on a jurisdictional/subnational scale. Many supporters and beneficiaries of REDD+ implementation efforts – from the World Bank Carbon Fund to large forest countries such as Brazil and Indonesia – are taking an approach that gives preference to work at state, province or district levels, in recognition of the unique advantages that work on this scale can afford.

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OPPORTUNITIES TO SCALE UP REDD+ AND DEVELOP NEW REDD+ INITIATIVES

WWF's REDD+ programme of work in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo has provided convincing models at a landscape level that are informing national and international approaches to REDD+ policy, finance and participation. The successes and challenges of this work have revealed potential pathways for delivering a REDD+ process that benefits people and nature in meaningful, lasting ways.

Now WWF is poised to bring this work into a new phase, one that will seek to realize its potential by continuing and consolidating existing landscape-level efforts, multiplying these efforts through implementations in additional landscapes, and applying lessons learned.

Continuation and consolidation will involve further development of the work under way in the key forest landscapes of Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe, to include:

- Supporting indigenous REDD+ implementation and continuing to build capacities around related issues of land tenure, FPIC and IPLC rights;
- Finalizing community- and landscape-level land-use plans based on participatory micro- and macrozoning;
- Developing and introducing mechanisms for stable and predictable finance based on measured emission reductions, sustainable production incentives and benefit-sharing schemes;
- Fostering policy changes and institutional arrangements that will further strengthen forest governance in each region;
- Ensuring that landscape-level and national REDD+ efforts are more closely coordinated or "nested" for optimal influence and effectiveness;
- Integrating REDD+ efforts into larger land-use and economic development plans and strategies.

Developing additional REDD+ initiatives will involve undertaking similar landscape-level work in three other forest landscapes: the Amazonian forests of Guyana and the Putumayo department of Colombia, and the Ngoyla Mintom rainforest of southern Cameroon.

Efforts in Guyana will centre on an approximately 400,000-hectare landscape of mountains, rivers and rainforests that is home to a multitude of indigenous communities. In Colombia's Putumayo department, work will focus on a 2.6-million-hectare region reaching from lowland rainforests into the upper Andes that is under threat from rising rates of deforestation and forest degradation. In the more than 900,000-hectare Ngoyla Mintom landscape, WWF's REDD+ efforts will face pressures from the poaching and bushmeat trade, illegal logging and mining activities, and expanding agriculture.

Like Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe, these three additional strategic landscapes differ immensely in their cultural, economic, political and geographic contexts. They offer the opportunity to test the models and lessons learned to date in three unique and complex settings, and the promise of new lessons, discoveries and strategies that may inform and inspire REDD+ work worldwide.

Scaling up of REDD+ will involve multiple approaches. WWF will contribute to the development of national REDD+ frameworks and policies by strengthening coordination or "nesting" between local, landscape-level actions and national efforts – the laws, policies, regulations, standards and enforcement measures that can protect a REDD+ programme once it is in place.

In parallel, WWF will support regional, multi-country REDD+ agreements, such as the Joint Declaration of Intent on REDD+ in the Congo Basin, that align approaches across countries in a region. Such agreements can facilitate capacity building, create knowledge-sharing opportunities, and strengthen funding structures. WWF is also working to expand its REDD+ policy research agenda to influence national, regional and international policy, with the goal of fostering a global consensus on REDD+. The outcome of this agenda – a scientifically tested body of knowledge drawn from the lessons learned in landscape-level REDD+ efforts – will help anchor international policy debates in the realities of REDD+ on the ground so that a richer, more effective dialogue may develop.

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POLICY AND FINANCE: CONNECTING THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL

One of the fundamental goals of WWF's efforts in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo was to influence international REDD+ policy and funding structures – to foster international and national commitments, funding arrangements, capacities and institutions that can ensure recognition of and support for biodiversity conservation and low-carbon community development well into the future.

This is especially important in the absence of a global consensus about REDD+. Since the start of WWF's programme of work in these three key forest landscapes, international negotiations have failed to deliver an agreement on global REDD+ policies and mechanisms, and the REDD+ arena has become increasingly fragmented. A consensus about REDD+ is necessary if this mechanism is to deliver on its tremendous potential to provide the full range of economic, political, social/cultural and environmental benefits that forest countries require – and that consensus must be rooted in on-the-ground realities.

The achievements in Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe point the way to a consensus. Efforts in these key landscapes have initiated the models and frameworks for and demonstrated some of the essential elements of an integrated, equitable and effective REDD+ mechanism. These efforts have also included significant first steps toward securing international support and funding for continued and scaled-up REDD+ preparation and implementation, which have led to:

- The delivery of the Democratic Republic of Congo's ER-PIN, the first attempt at jurisdictional REDD+ on the African continent, with the capacity to unlock up to US$60 million in payments for REDD+ and to impact 300,000 households across 12 million hectares while sustainably halving the nation's deforestation rate;

- DRC's selection as one of eight pilot countries to be supported under the FIP, with an FIP investment of US$15 million;

- The Norad-led development and endorsement by the DRC of the Congo Basin Declaration, which calls for intensified REDD+ in the Congo Basin through donor country commitments to mobilizing technical and financial support and forest country commitments to sustainable development, while addressing the drivers of deforestation and supporting increased forest governance and participatory land-use planning;

- The development of Peru's proposals to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the World Bank BioCarbon Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank, primarily to support REDD+ processes in Madre de Dios;

- The negotiation of a US$28.5 million debt-for-nature swap between the United States and Indonesia that will support "green" economic growth in three critical districts, including Kutai Barat;

- Capacity building across the three landscapes to learn the "rules of the game" – the most effective approaches for developing and presenting ideas to the international community – for accessing funds.

But the connection between WWF's local work in these three key forest landscapes and global REDD+ policy and finance is not limited to funding commitments. It is also about sharing knowledge and deepening the international dialogue about how to make REDD+ work. To that end, WWF and its partners on the ground in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo have made additional important contributions, including:

- **Establishing** the REDD+ Five Guiding Principles, which, designed by WWF, CARE International and Greenpeace in May 2010, set simple standards and indicators to help ensure REDD+ works for people and nature;

- **Producing** key technical capacity-building publications, including the *WWF Guide to Building REDD+ Strategies: A toolkit for REDD+ practitioners around the globe*, that provide a blueprint for developing national or subnational REDD+ strategies and offer REDD+ practitioners worldwide a major resource for building local and national capacity on REDD+ issues;

- **Collaborating** with WWF's international Forest and Climate policy experts and WWF offices around the globe to ensure that

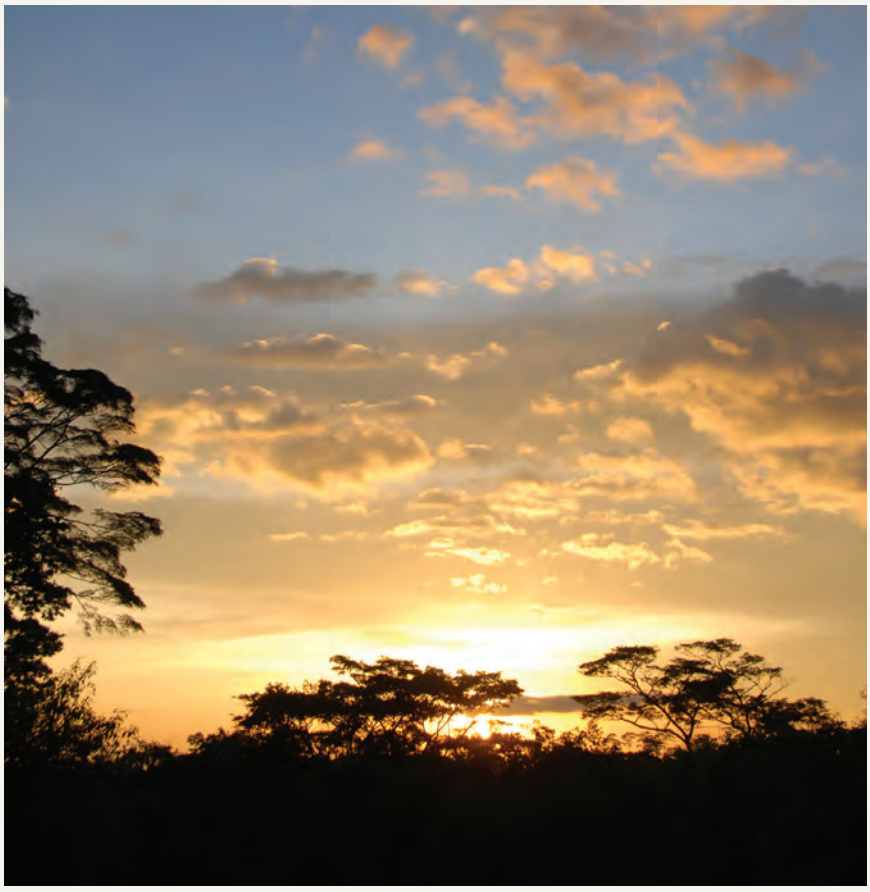
lessons learned on key topics in REDD+ at the subnational level inform national and international policy;

- **Providing** key technical and strategic support – including training, workshops, consulting, drafting and reviewing REDD+ documents and proposals – to WWF national offices and local partners for the development of national and subnational REDD+ strategies in the DRC, Indonesia and Peru;

- **Supporting** regional and WWF engagement with international REDD+ stakeholders (UNFCCC, FCPF, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank) to advance REDD+.

These contributions offer the international community – from REDD+ practitioners on the ground to high-level leaders and decision-makers – key technical and informational tools to inform, influence and enhance the dialogue on and implementation of REDD+. In partnership with globally recognized research institutions, WWF is continuing this work to create a REDD+ policy research agenda focused on collecting, scientifically testing and sharing lessons from real REDD+ efforts and the stakeholders who take part in them.

The resulting body of knowledge will serve to promote and facilitate South-South knowledge exchange and sharing, and to inspire national systems while testing national policy approaches. It will also provide much-needed guidance to global policymakers on key interdisciplinary REDD+ policy issues, such as reference levels, social and biodiversity safeguards, deforestation drivers, results-based finance and finance sources. As REDD+ processes in Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe continue and evolve, and as the models developed there are proliferated to other equally complex and critical landscapes, this body of knowledge and its incorporation into international debates will grow – supporting the future establishment of a globally functioning and endorsed REDD+ mechanism with clear targets and guidance.



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CONCLUSION: LOOKING FORWARD

WWF began its programme of work in Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo in search of answers. In three distinct and richly biodiverse landscapes, WWF set out to learn how to fight climate change and protect the world's most ecologically valuable forests while ensuring benefits for the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. The intent was to reveal through the successes and challenges of these efforts on the ground how to deliver a REDD+ that truly benefits people and nature.

Three years later, the work under way in these three forest countries is doing much more than providing answers. It is transforming communities and ideas. Once-marginalized groups are finding new empowerment and influence. Individuals and communities across three landscapes are gaining new skills, income and educational opportunities, and knowledge about their social and economic rights. Governments are recognizing the forest rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, in some cases for the first time. National strategies and policies are growing out of fully inclusive participative processes and lessons learned from local realities. Stakeholders with conflicting views and interests are coming together to find common ground and taking action together to achieve shared goals.

In the remote rainforests of Indonesia's Kutai Barat district, villagers are now drafting regulations to designate, conserve and manage the lands on which they and their families have relied for generations. Kutai Barat communities are exploring the use of alternative energy sources, including hydropower, to reduce their emissions and improve their own livelihoods. They are forming unprecedented partnerships with local logging companies and government authorities, and gaining newfound recognition in the process. Amazonian indigenous groups in Peru's Madre de Dios region are claiming a voice in their nation's REDD+ processes and presenting an innovative indigenous vision for REDD+ to the world. The region's university is pioneering its own MRV and REDD+ certificate programme, which is training a new generation of local forestry experts to sustainably manage forests and carbon accounting systems into the future. Communities in the vast landscape of DRC's Maï-Ndombe are working together to help revise the internationally reviewed ER-PIN that grew from their efforts. They have acquired the technical skills to measure and monitor their own forest cover and to make informed decisions about managing their lands. In Maï-Ndombe's Nkala village, Chief Mambe Ngono can now proudly tell visitors to his village that the land-use and zoning maps he and his neighbours created have brought new peace to his community.

In each of these landscapes, challenges remain: trees are still being felled, carbon emissions continue, and the pace of deforestation has not slowed sufficiently to stem the tide of forest loss. There is still much work to be done. But transformational change has begun. Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe all demonstrate levels of community engagement and buy-in, mechanisms for rights recognition and protection, and commitments to sustainable, low-carbon development that simply were not there before. The implications of such a shift are tremendous and far-reaching.

The new capacities and enabling conditions developed during this programme of work have laid the foundation for continued and scaled-up REDD+ processes in these three landscapes, and they have revealed critical lessons for regional and national REDD+ strategies within these countries and elsewhere in the world. The successes and challenges encountered here point the way to effective REDD+ mechanisms that could yield benefits for people and nature at significant scales. Perhaps most importantly, they also highlight the emerging role of REDD+.

The international community of policymakers, donors, REDD+ practitioners and conservation organizations – including WWF – has long regarded REDD+ as an end in itself, a solution to be applied in the planet's major rainforests to conserve biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change for the global good. But WWF's efforts on the ground in Peru, Indonesia and the DRC have shown that REDD+ is not a solution, but a tool. It plays a critical role in building the solution, and it cannot exist in isolation.

To achieve meaningful emissions reductions, community engagement and benefit, national and global influence, and a lasting impact,

REDD+ must be seen and implemented as a means to the end of sustainable development, which encompasses multiple facets of society. REDD+ must be integrated into broader participatory land-use planning that addresses agricultural impacts, extractive industries, forest management and other activities that can hinder or foster forest protection. It must address the underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and become part of forest governance policies. It must be embedded in economic planning, such as low carbon development or green growth strategies, as an investment supporting wider development objectives and poverty reduction. Put simply, REDD+ must serve the community, region or country where it is implemented in many areas – improving biodiversity, livelihoods, human rights and governance – and it must reward performance in each area. Only then can REDD+ effect the change the world needs.

Rethinking REDD+ as a means to a greater end is revolutionary, and it demands a new approach to conservation. As WWF looks to the future, it is changing its strategies and developing a new vision drawn from the lessons of its past and ongoing work. WWF and its partners on the ground will work to ensure that the REDD+ models demonstrated in Peru, Indonesia and the DRC are developed and proliferated within the broader frameworks of integrated land use, low carbon development and green growth at the national level, with strengthened connections to global policies on REDD+. These larger frameworks and links will be fundamental to the success of any global climate change agreement or action.

This new vision for REDD+ is complemented by a new awareness that traditional "project" designs and conservation models may not meet the challenges of the dynamic and complex contexts in which REDD+ is unfolding. WWF recognizes that future efforts will in fact be learning systems where practitioners and stakeholders in the field are testing and designing REDD+ as they go, building with their lessons learned a model for what will work in the future. Learning, capturing and sharing lessons, and creating new capacities and processes amid complexity and change, will be critical in this new phase of REDD+ work.

This is a defining moment for REDD+. If it remains on the right road, this mechanism could yield the greatest opportunity for forest conservation and poverty reduction in the tropical world that we have yet seen.
It could combat climate change by reducing the second-largest source of global carbon emissions, enable the sustainable management of the world's remaining tropical forests, and open a new door to sustainable growth and economic benefit for forest-dependent communities. The lessons learned in Madre de Dios, Kutai Barat and Maï-Ndombe have shed new light on what that right road is. Armed with a new understanding and vision, we can take more confident steps toward getting REDD+ right for the health of the planet and all its people.

WWF'S EFFORTS ON THE GROUND IN PERU, INDONESIA AND THE DRC HAVE SHOWN THAT REDD+ IS NOT A SOLUTION, BUT A TOOL. IT PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN BUILDING THE SOLUTION, AND IT CANNOT EXIST IN ISOLATION.

THIS IS A DEFINING MOMENT FOR REDD+. IF IT REMAINS ON THE RIGHT ROAD, THIS MECHANISM COULD YIELD THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY FOR FOREST CONSERVATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE TROPICAL WORLD THAT WE HAVE YET SEEN.

WWF REDD+ RESOURCES

These WWF REDD+ resources were developed either directly or supported by WWF's Norad-funded programme of REDD+ work.

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

MRV

Science Solutions to Policy Challenges for evolving REDD+ MRV requirements: report from a multi-stakeholder workshop (in press)

Assessing risks to forest cover and carbon stocks: A review of tools and approaches to compare business-as-usual to REDD+ scenarios, 2013
bit.ly/138zC4E

Analysis of Waveform Lidar Data Using Shape-Based Metrics, 2013
bit.ly/1fivBo5

A framework for integrating biodiversity concerns into national REDD+ programmes, 2012
bit.ly/18GBmep

From project based to nested REDD+: Monitoring, reporting and verifying (MRV) standards for carbon accounting, 2012
bit.ly/117WvbP

Reference Levels and Payments for REDD+: Lessons from the recent Guyana-Norway Agreement, 2012
bit.ly/12fgQzz

Developing the tools to make REDD+ work, 2011
bit.ly/10xCGem

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/HUMAN RIGHTS

Community Tenure and REDD+, 2012
bit.ly/13fywXl

Capacity Building Materials on REDD+ for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, 2011
bit.ly/15fj1Qn

Free, Prior, Informed Consent & REDD+: Guidelines and Resources, 2011
bit.ly/16LKhnM

Factsheet: Indigenous People, Local Communities and REDD+, 2011
bit.ly/115AYh1

PROJECT STANDARDS

Forest Carbon Standards: A WWF Assessment Guide, 2010
bit.ly/12LFL8G

FINANCE

Unlocking Forest Bonds, 2011
bit.ly/16sZ0HC

NATIONAL/REGIONAL REDD+

REDD+ Country Profiles, 2013
bit.ly/1dqN5Lp

Bolivia – bit.ly/12mlAAN
Cameroon – bit.ly/172hy2f
Democratic Republic of Congo – bit.ly/180KrZI
Peru – bit.ly/1cjRy4H
Vietnam – bit.ly/1d2VuJd

REDD+ for People and Nature: A case study of an integrated approach to REDD+ readiness in Maï-Ndombe, DRC, 2012 (also available in Spanish and French)
bit.ly/1auB8mp

REDD+ Developments in the Guianas, 2012
bit.ly/18wvgdp

Factsheet: REDD+ in Laos Xe Pian, 2012
bit.ly/11uSZdz

Développement d'un Programme REDD+ intégré sur le territoire de Bolobo, RDC – Réflexions sur la structure organisationnelle et financière, 2012
bit.ly/18wvlNZ

Promoviendo REDD+ para el desarrollo sostenible de Madre de Dios, 2012
bit.ly/16mKDYh

Profile: Maintaining the Green Heart of Africa's forests for people and the planet, 2011
bit.ly/130yMum

Profile: Maintaining the Heart of Borneo's forests for people and the planet, 2011
bit.ly/142AnO2

Profile: Maintaining the Amazon's forests for people and the planet, 2011
bit.ly/12LG9Ef

Lessons from REDD+ Preparedness in Colombia, Guyana, Indonesia and Peru (linking WWF FCI past and new programmes), 2010
bit.ly/11mR1pA

Multiplier and Distributive Effects of large-Scale REDD+ Policies in Mexico, 2010
bit.ly/18qkAzr

POLICY BRIEFS

WWF REDD+ Expectations for UNFCCC, Bonn Meeting, 2013
bit.ly/1d2TXCJ

WWF Expectations for UNFCCC, Bonn Meeting, 2013
bit.ly/180IU63

WWF REDD+ Expectations for UNFCCC-COP18, 2012
bit.ly/10ExTVc

WWF REDD+ MRV External Brief for UNFCCC COP18, 2012
bit.ly/19jelw8

WWF REDD+ Reference Level External Brief for UNFCCC COP18, 2012
bit.ly/16mJJLA

WWF REDD+ Finance External Brief for UNFCCC COP18, 2012
bit.ly/18wuwon

WWF Expectations for the UNFCCC Bangkok Meeting, 2012
bit.ly/12LF1jS

WWF Expectations for UNFCCC, Bonn Meeting, 2012
bit.ly/1532648

UNFCCC SUBMISSIONS

WWF Submission to AWG LCA: Finance, 2012
bit.ly/12LF7YS

WWF Submission to SBSTA: Views on robust, transparent national forest monitoring systems for REDD+, 2012
bit.ly/17mikcP

Climate Action Network (including WWF's input): CAN-International submission on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, 2012
bit.ly/18YG2J4

WWF Submission to SBSTA: Methodological guidance for activities relating to REDD+ (safeguards & RL/REL), 2011
bit.ly/117WnJF

OTHER

Supporting materials from Building REDD+ Reference Levels: International workshop co-hosted by WWF and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, 2013
bit.ly/11bhMwX

Supporting materials from Terrestrial Carbon Accounting Certificate programme, developed in partnership with Tropical Forest Group, UC San Diego – Sustainability Solutions Institute, and WWF, 2013
bit.ly/18HZDNx

Living Forest Report, Chapter 3 – Forest & Climate & ZNDD 2020, 2012
bit.ly/eHux1W

REDD+ Five Guiding Principles
bit.ly/18wvEby

More WWF REDD+ related publications available here:
bit.ly/16mKTGX

REDD+ LEARNING TOOLS

REDD+ Community: A free, open online knowledge sharing and community platform for REDD+ practitioners around the world
reddcommunity.org

REDD+ Learning Sessions: An archive of free webinar presentations given monthly by REDD+ experts on key issues
bit.ly/13WO8AY

REDD+ Inspiring Practices: Inspiring Practices capture the valuable knowledge and experiences from REDD+ efforts that can help improve, replicate and scale up REDD+ work around the globe
reddcommunity.org/inspiring-practices

REDD+ Inspiring Practice: Developing an Emissions Reduction Programme Idea Note in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 2013
bit.ly/1bvTIgf

REDD+ Inspiring Practice: Development of the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Proposal, 2013 (also available in French/ Spanish)
bit.ly/11mRfNj

RESOURCES CONT.

REDD+ Inspiring Practice: Fostering Participation and Cross-Cultural Dialogue, 2013 (also available in French/Spanish)
bit.ly/117XjNW

REDD+ Inspiring Practice: Mapping Madre de Dios, 2013 (also available in French/Spanish)
bit.ly/13fzrqC

From the Tree of Practices to the Forest of Knowledge: A guide to identifying, capturing, sharing and communicating REDD+ Inspiring Practices, 2013
bit.ly/18wvUaN

REDD+ Learning Video: Engaging forest stewards in REDD+ dialogues, 2013 (also available in Spanish)
bit.ly/117XsB8

Access all WWF REDD+ learning tools at: bit.ly/11062Of

REDD+ NEWS

REDD+ Resource Digest: a weekly email round-up of REDD+ news and information from around the world representing varying perspectives, available free to subscribers
conta.cc/Zc1ZSp

Canopy: FCP's quarterly newsletter that provides the latest news and information on WWF's REDD+ related activities, available free to subscribers
conta.cc/Zc1ZSp

Access archive of all issues of these publications at: conta.cc/Zc1ZSp

Subscribe to these electronic publications at: bit.ly/11uUbh4

More REDD+ news and info at Forest and Climate News: bit.ly/15fkLZK

VIDEOS

Video: REDD+ in DRC – Local Action, Global Impact
bit.ly/15fkOoy

Video: REDD+ for People and Nature – Maï-Ndombe, DRC
bit.ly/13fzUJk

REDD+ Learning Video: Engaging forest stewards in REDD+ dialogues (also available in Spanish)
bit.ly/117XsB8

Access all WWF REDD+ related videos at www.youtube.com/wwfforestclimate

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WWF Forest and Climate website
www.panda.org/forestclimate

Forest and Climate Priorities
bit.ly/142BCww

Forest Climate Activities and Projects
bit.ly/1106qfF

WWF Forest and Climate Twitter feed
www.twitter.com/wwfforestcarbon

REDD+ Community Twitter feed
www.twitter.com/REDDCommunity

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WWF

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Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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