Learning Lab on REDD+ Results based Finance – 27ᵗʰ October 2023

Knowledge Exchange on social inclusion and benefits sharing mechanisms in African countries' REDD+ process – 28ᵗʰ October 2023

Events package in the context of the 24ᵗʰ Session of
the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)
30ᵗʰ October – 3ʳᵈ November 2023
Arusha, Tanzania

This package of events is delivered through the partnership between the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) and the African Forest Forum (AFF). The partnership seeks to advance REDD+ implementation within countries in Africa. The two events consist of the Learning Lab on REDD+ Results-based Finance and the Regional Exchange on Social Inclusion and Benefits Sharing Mechanisms.

The Learning Lab on REDD+ Results based Finance

Date and time: **Friday, 27ᵗʰ October 2023, 8:30 – 17:30**
Location: Palace Hotel Boma/Makongoro Road, Arusha, Tanzania, P.O. Box 372

African countries are a crucial part of the forest solutions (mitigation, adaptation, and resilience) towards achieving the Paris agreement goal. Nevertheless, despite the recognition that conserving and preserving forests is needed to address the climate crisis, financing for forests is far from being sufficient and is slow-moving.

On the one hand, countries still face challenges in obtaining *upfront financing* for their REDD+ preparation and implementation to support policy and on-the-ground actions that yield mitigation results, prior to accessing REDD+ results-based payments. On the other hand, the level of *results-based finance (RBF),* which is ex-post and received once investments are provided and results demonstrated, either in the form of payments (*results-based payments*) or via *carbon markets* remains also below African countries' expectations and needs.

There are limited long term predictable options for countries to access RBPs from public and beyond public donors, some examples are the Green Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ results-based payment pilot[1], the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility-Carbon Fund (FCPF-CF) and more recently the Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition.

---

[1] A complementary financing window will be considered by the GCF Board in the upcoming B.37. "Proposal on the financing of results-based payments for REDD+".

Some important progress could also be made through carbon markets where the conversion of emissions reductions or removals from projects, once achieved and certified, into REDD+ carbon credits are traded either in the voluntary or compliance markets. Nonetheless to mention that carbon markets cooperation may also be enhanced in the context of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Also, as project level REDD+ initiatives consolidate, the *nesting* of these projects into jurisdictions (sub-national or national level) has emerged as an alternative to avoid or mitigate negative risks while helping to scale up environmental and social positive impacts in contribution to National Determined Contributions (NDCs) commitments.

In this context, as REDD+ finance continues consolidating, there is a need for higher demand for *high integrity [1] emissions reduction results* generated with strong emphasis on social and environmental safeguards and measured, reported and verified carbon accounting - as key condition for further scale up.

The Learning Lab aims to equip technical practitioners in African countries with a comprehensive understanding of results-based finance, including carbon markets, along with an overview of underlying standards and financial opportunities. Participants will gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with participating in results-based finance and carbon markets. This knowledge will help countries strategically enhance and scale up their forest-based climate action to support their NDCs.

Event objectives

- Equip technical practitioners in African countries with a comprehensive understanding of REDD+ finance types and sources.

- Support participating country representatives to achieve a holistic grasp of international results-based finance, including carbon markets, along with an overview of underlying standards and financial opportunities.

- Share experiences, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges on efforts to leverage finance from various sources for accessing REDD+ Results based Finance.

Event outcomes

- Contribute to increase the understanding of REDD+ Results based Finance among participating country representatives.

- Produce a document that captures and summarizes experiences, challenges, and opportunities that countries will identify in relation to accessing to RBF.

- Identify and highlight opportunities to technically support countries to engage in RBF.

---

[1] High integrity refers to emissions reductions generated with strong compliance to social and environmental safeguards, and measured, reported and verified following international best practice in carbon accounting (United Nations Environment Programme (2022). Making good on the Glasgow Climate Pact: a call to action to achieve one gigaton of emissions reductions from forests by 2025. Nairobi).
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/41131/Glasgow_climate_pact.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker
2023 Africa Learning Lab **Friday 27th October 2023**		
08:30-09:00	**Arrival and Registration**	
09:00-09:15	Welcome to the Learning Lab and Knowledge Exchange	Gabriela Flores, Finance Programme Officer, UNEP Prof Suzana Augustino, Chair of AFF members Forum, **Moderated by** Daphine Gitonga, Head of Knowledge Management and Communication, AFF
09:15-09:30	Participants' expectations about the Learning Lab	Sekai Ngarize, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP
09:30-11:00	**Keynote 1**: Understanding Results based Finance [RBF] in the context of REDD+ Finance. Followed by interactive discussion	Gabriela Flores, Finance Programme Officer, UNEP Sekai Ngarize, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP Kamran Hussain, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP
11:00-11:30	**Coffee break**	
11:30-13:00	**Keynote 2**: How the voluntary carbon market (VCM) provides opportunities for governments to access RBF. Followed by **group exercise**	Gabriela Flores, Finance Programme Officer, UNEP Kamran Hussain, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP
13:00-14:15	**Group photo and Networking Lunch**	
14:15-15:45	**Panel**: Exploring jurisdictional REDD+ RBF opportunities: the World Bank and The Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition Meeting link: https://zoom.us/j/91937726195 Meeting ID: 919 3772 6195 Followed by **Questions and answers** to the panel.	Anne de Valence, Director of Origination, Africa, LEAF Andres Espejo, Climate Change Specialist, World Bank **Moderated by** Gabriela Flores, Finance Programme Officer, UNEP
15:45-16:15	**Coffee Break**	
16:15-17:30	Bring the group back together and Closing Summary	Kamran Hussain, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP Sekai Ngarize, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP

Knowledge Exchange on social inclusion and benefits sharing mechanisms in African countries' REDD+ process

Date and time: Saturday, 28th October 2023, 08:30 – 16:30
Location*: Palace Hotel, Boma/Makongoro Road, Arusha, Tanzania, P.O.Box 372*

One of the key prerequisites for countries to access the REDD+ finance regardless of funding sources and markets targeted is a set of social and environmental measures in place to reduce and mitigate potential risks and promote co-benefits associated with the implementation of activities that lead to mitigation outcomes.

Social dimensions of REDD+ seek to ensure that forest-related projects and jurisdictional programmes, at least, do not harm the environment or communities, especially the most vulnerable groups such as poor, minority groups, indigenous people, or local communities. This is important because of the intricate ways that interventions in the forest and land use sector affect people, livelihoods, and the environment.

Moreover, the growing demand for high integrity carbon credits that could potentially attract higher price is also associated with the clear definition of the extent to which the actions leading to results are effectively embedded in core international standards related to human rights, rights of Indigenous People and local communities, equity, inclusive participation, and governance, among others. Also, the demand side would like that the benefits generated by REDD+ really contribute sustainably to the improvement of living conditions of local populations and better management of the environment.

REDD+ countries have developed their approaches to safeguards based on their national circumstances, by integrating the requirements under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the Cancun Safeguards as well as other safeguards policies and procedures from various entities providing funding for the three REDD+ phases: readiness, implementation, and result-based payments. It is therefore important to understand and promote knowledge exchanges to reflect on how these countries' experiences were designed, being implemented and how the results contribute to sustainable development impacts within their REDD+ activities, including on improving stakeholders' livelihoods, benefit-sharing, respect and protection of rights, social inclusion among others.

Participants will be first briefed on how these key elements, namely social inclusion and benefits sharing, are considered in the safeguards' requirements in different standards for REDD+ projects and programmes. The discussion will be enriched by the presentation of countries' experiences and learnings. The exchange will end with the identification of best practices and lessons learned.

Event objectives

The main objective of the regional exchange is to facilitate the peer-to-peer exchange between countries on their approaches/experience to ensure stakeholders' engagement and social inclusion, as well as equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.

Event outcomes

At the end of the event, information on challenges and success factors for effective social inclusion and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms will be documented and will serve as basis for future actions aiming at promoting stakeholders buy-in and involvement for successful and sustainable REDD+ outcomes.

Agenda

2023 Africa Regional Exchange Saturday, 28th October 2023		
Time	**Activity**	**Speaker**
08:30-09:00	Brief **recap**, key messages from learning lab on "REDD+ Results based Finance" and introduction to the regional exchange workshop	Sekai Ngarize, REDD+ Technical Advisor, UNEP Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer, AFF
08:50-09:00	Participants' expectations about the Regional Exchange	**Moderated by** Daphine Gitonga, Head of Knowledge Management and Communication, AFF
09:00-09:30	**Plenary**: Overview on social inclusion and mechanisms for sharing REDD+ benefits (carbon and non-carbon): - *Social inclusion*: approaches for stakeholders mapping and engagement; policy level guidance and challenges. - *Benefit-sharing mechanisms*: carbon and non-carbon, monetary and non-monetary benefits, identification and prioritization of beneficiaries, mechanisms for sharing benefits. - Analysis of social inclusion and benefit sharing mechanisms in different REDD+ standards.	Vincent Oeba Principal Scientist Forest and climate change Expert, **Moderated by** Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer, AFF
09:30-10:00	Interactive **discussion and experience sharing** among participants on: • social inclusion, and • benefits sharing mechanisms	All participants **Moderated by** Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer, AFF
10:00-10:30	**Coffee Break**	
10:30-12:45	**Plenary**: Countries' experiences on key challenges and success factors for i) robust social inclusion processes and for ii) equitable benefit sharing mechanisms (20 min per country). DRC, Zambia, Ghana, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, other countries' experiences	Countries' representatives **Moderated by** Marie Louise Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer AFF
12:45-13:00	**Questions and answers** on the plenary	All participants
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00-15:30	**Groupwork** on best practices, lessons learned and key messages on social inclusion and benefit sharing for REDD+ in Africa	All participants **Moderated by** Vincent Oeba Forestry and Climate Change Expert
15:30-16:00	Feedback from groupwork	Group Rapporteurs
16:00-16:30	Way forward and closing	Avana-Tientcheu, Senior Programme Officer AFF