

UN-REDD Programme and AFF to hold dual event on REDD+ Results Based Finance, Social Inclusion and Benefits Sharing Mechanisms

Nairobi, 23 October 2023 – Ahead of the 24th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC) in Arusha, the UN-REDD Programme in cooperation with the African Forest Forum (AFF) will hold a two-day pre-event on 27 and 28 October 2023 to support African countries in their understanding of the REDD+ implementation process in relation to safeguards and access to results-based finance.



Over the past several years, African countries have been receiving increasing attention for their key role in advancing forest solutions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, despite the recognition that conservation and preservation of forests are needed to address the climate crisis, financing for forests is far from being sufficient and is slow-moving. Crucially, the production of high-integrity carbon credits that address and respect safeguards in the implementation of REDD+ strategies, could serve as a pathway to unlock the much-needed financing that would be transformative for the continent.

This focus, among other key issues related to long term predictable access to RBPs from public and beyond public donors, as well as associated social dimension, will be discussed by REDD+ national focal points and technical experts during the dual event. It will consist of (i) A Learning Lab on REDD+ Results based Finance on 27th October 2023 and (ii) A Knowledge Exchange on social inclusion and benefits sharing mechanisms in African countries' REDD+ process on 28th October 2023.

The Learning Lab will aim 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. It will enhance 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.

Subsequently, the Knowledge Exchange will offer an expert presentation and an in-depth discussion on social inclusion and mechanisms for sharing REDD+ benefits. Thereafter, it will provide a platform for peer-to-peer exchange between countries on their approaches/experience for promoting stakeholders' engagement and social inclusion, as well as equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.

Representing nine African countries comprising Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, the participants will not only dialogue across different levels of government, but they will also develop concrete action points for their specific local contexts to harness opportunities arising from participating in results-based finance and voluntary carbon markets. Further, ensure REDD+ projects are implemented without causing harm to the communities and existing biodiversity while accruing other environmental and social benefits in support of their NDCs.

Key messages and lessons from the dual event will be synthesized and shared with Directors of Forestry and Wildlife as well as key stakeholders at the 24th Session of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission. This joint pre-event is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) under the auspices of the AFF-UNREDD partnership project titled: *"Strengthening REDD+ implementation in Africa: capitalizing on lessons learned for an evolving environment."*