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NATIONAL LEVEL SYNERGIES BETWEEN REDD+ AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS: A REVIEW OF CURRENT GUIDANCE AND NATIONAL EFFORTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/21 on Biodiversity and Climate Change the Executive Secretary provides a brief compilation of information relevant to the application of safeguards for biodiversity in the context of REDD+¹. This document on “National level synergies between REDD+ and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans: a review of current guidance and national efforts” provides further information. It was prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) with input from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The paper responds to paragraph 6 of decision XI/19 of the Conference of the Parties, in which it acknowledges the large potential for synergies between REDD+ activities and the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and urges Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to fully implement the relevant provisions and decisions in of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in a coherent and mutually supportive way.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/12/1/Rev.1.

¹ REDD+ is used as a shorthand for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under UNFCCC.

NATIONAL LEVEL SYNERGIES BETWEEN REDD+ AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS: A REVIEW OF CURRENT GUIDANCE AND NATIONAL EFFORTS²

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Climate Change and biodiversity loss are two pressing environmental and development-related challenges in the 21st Century. Deforestation and forest degradation represent a significant contribution to anthropogenic CO₂ emissions, with resulting impacts on global climate change. Land-use change also contributes to biodiversity loss.

4. This note aims to contribute to raising awareness at the national level by exploring the potential synergies and complementarities between actions to achieve REDD+ and those to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as per National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). It reviews possible actions and their associated information needs, as well as information outputs that may promote synergies between REDD+ activities and NBSAPs, and includes five detailed case study examples of countries already exploring potential links between REDD+ and NBSAPs. The case studies have been reviewed and approved by the respective government representatives. The report also draws from experiences presented during two workshops: the Inter-regional Workshop on REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets held in San José, Costa Rica, from 29 to 31 August 2014³, and the Workshop on Synergies between REDD+ and Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans held in Douala, Cameroon, from 7 to 11 July 2014, for Central African countries⁴.

5. The many similarities between activities, information needs and planning requirements of REDD+ activities and NBSAPs mean that there are many potential synergies for the planning and implementation of both. The case studies presented in this report highlight that in many countries and regions there are already appreciable links between REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs. However, the degree to which such correspondences are recognized and built upon is highly variable. Some countries' REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs make explicit reference to the other, while several countries' REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs both highlight the same actions. Furthermore, how actions are implemented under each will determine extent of synergies in objectives as well as the benefits that can be achieved, and the potential costs.

6. As demonstrated by the case studies and emphasized in national feedback during the Inter-regional Workshop on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, communication and coordination are key to achieving synergies. Communication and coordination need to continue to take place between the individuals and organizations making decisions on, planning and implementing REDD+, NBSAPs and related processes (for example, agricultural policies and development plans). Effective, efficient and coherent policies, plans and actions can be supported through communication and co-ordination among and between different levels, from on the ground implementation to national policy decision making.

² This document was written and reviewed by Rebecca Mant, Matea Osti, Judith Walcott, Tania Salvaterra and Valerie Kapos at UNEP-WCMC with input from David Cooper, Catalina Santamaria, Simone Schiele and Leah Mohammed at the Secretariat of the CBD.

³ Biodiversity, forestry and REDD+ experts from eleven countries (Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and Uganda) as well as partner organizations and indigenous and local community representatives participated in this workshop.

⁴ Biodiversity and REDD+ focal points from nine countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe) as well as partner organizations and indigenous and local community representatives participated in this workshop.

7. There are several tools and approaches that can be especially useful for supporting consideration of both REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs in integrated planning. These include: spatial planning that takes into account both objectives; approaches and tools to support the development of safeguards; and approaches and tools to support the development of legal frameworks and enabling policy environments. Where a particular approach or tool is used for supporting REDD+ strategies or NBSAPs, considering the other within their application, and sharing the results, could help to ensure coherence between activities and avoid duplication of efforts.

8. Sharing of experiences among countries and regions is crucial for enabling best practice examples to be followed and lessons to be learned. Understanding how countries have identified and capitalized on options for synergies can support other countries in overcoming similar challenges. For example, the case studies in this report show that even where the REDD+ and NBSAP processes are advancing at different paces in a country, it is still possible to work to support coherent and complementary policy development and implementation that takes account of overlaps in actions, information needs and information outputs.

INTRODUCTION

9. Climate Change and biodiversity loss are two pressing environmental and development-related challenges in the 21st Century. Deforestation and forest degradation represent a significant contribution to anthropogenic CO₂ emissions, with resulting impacts on global climate change, with land-use change estimated to provide a net contribution of around 10 per cent of global emissions.⁵ Land use change also contributes to biodiversity loss in forest ecosystems, mainly through conversion of forested lands for agricultural purposes. These trends are further compounded by climate change, which is expected to lead to further biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

10. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Parties have been discussing the development of an emerging financial mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+). The focus of REDD+ is climate change mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon sequestration by forests; however, it also has the potential to achieve important social and environmental benefits. Yet, depending on how REDD+ activities are developed and implemented, there may also be associated social and environmental risks. In recognition of the risks and benefits of REDD+, Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed to promote and support a set of “Cancun safeguards” for REDD+. If these safeguards are respected and appropriately addressed, REDD+ has the potential to deliver multiple biodiversity and ecosystem service benefits with minimal risks.

11. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Parties have adopted a time-bound global framework for action on biodiversity in the form of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the 2011 – 2020 period, and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.⁶ The 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets fall within five Strategic Goals that range from addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, to enhancing the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Countries are translating these global targets in line with their national circumstances, and have identified priorities through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Some NBSAPs also note how the identified priorities will be implemented, and include approaches to monitoring progress. For example, the Philippines plans to include clear targets, indicators and monitoring partnerships in its revised NBSAP that is currently being developed (see Philippines case study). As a second example, Nepal’s NBSAP (which was finalized in July 2014) contains a section on monitoring, reporting and evaluation that includes details on performance indicators which will be used for selected indicators (including several that relate to REDD+), such as the indicator on the “number of ecosystems and area covered by REDD+ program” for the target “by 2020, at least five percent of the forested ecosystems [are] restored through implementation of REDD+ program”.⁷

⁵ IPCC 2013 Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Available at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>

⁶ CBD Decision X/2, Extra information available at <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

⁷ Government of Nepal 2014 Nepal National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2020. Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Singhadurbar, Kathmandu, Nepal. Available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/np/np-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

12. Similarities between objectives under these two global policy commitments and possibilities for exploring synergies have been recognized at the international policy level. In 2012 at its eleventh meeting, Parties to the CBD adopted CBD Decision XI/19 which acknowledges the large potential for synergies between REDD+ activities (referred to in paragraph 1 of the decision) and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and urges Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to fully implement the relevant provisions and decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in a coherent and mutually supportive way. In 2012 a joint publication by the CBD, UNFCCC and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification⁸ examined potential synergies between the forest-related decisions of the three Rio Conventions, confirming that the policies of these Conventions and their implementation complement each other, and countries that are Parties to all three Conventions have agreed to promote, support and/or encourage the sustainable management of forests as well as the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forest.

13. Some countries are also beginning to move ahead with exploring how synergies might be taken into account in national level planning and implementation efforts (for example, the reference to REDD+ within Nepal's NBSAP, and the other case studies in this report). The potential advantages of exploring synergies are promising: many countries are Parties to both the CBD and UNFCCC, so joint planning for implementation of REDD+ and the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2010 – 2020 could help countries to ensure their approaches to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation are complementary and consistent. Additionally, enhancing coordination between policies has the potential to reduce duplication of efforts, help minimise tradeoffs, and maximise benefits. Finally, efforts on information collection, management and sharing could help improve datasets on forests, biodiversity and other national priorities that can support land-use decisions.

14. Increasing understanding among national decision makers, funding institutions and organizations of these potential complementarities, and sharing relevant experience between countries, also has the potential to support more coherent planning and action.

15. This note aims to contribute to raising awareness at the national level of the potential synergies and complementarities between REDD+ and the NBSAPs in two ways. The first aim is to provide a general review of actions, information needs and information outputs that may promote synergies between REDD+ and NBSAPs. The second aim is to further the national discourse on synergies by providing five detailed case study examples of countries already exploring potential links between actions to achieve REDD+ and those to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as per NBSAPs. The report also draws from experiences presented during two workshops on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets; an inter-regional workshop held in San Jose, Costa Rica, 29 – 31 August 2014, and a Congo Basin regional workshop held in Douala, Cameroon, 7 – 11 July 2014. The Inter-regional workshop brought together about 30 biodiversity, forestry and REDD+ representatives from 11 different countries, as well as two indigenous and local communities representatives from Panama and Costa Rica, 6 representatives from 4 partner organizations, two representatives from UNEP-WCMC and two CBD representatives. The Congo Basin workshop brought together the CBD and UNFCCC focal points of nine member countries of the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC).⁹

16. The key messages agreed at the Inter-regional Workshop on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets held in San Jose, Costa Rica, 29 – 31 August 2014 are:

- (a) Synergies exist between REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Target objectives in many, though not all, cases.
- (b) How actions are implemented under each process will determine extent of synergies as well as the benefits that can be achieved, and the potential costs (e.g. safeguards).

⁸CBD Secretariat, UNCCD Secretariat and UNFCCC Secretariat 2012 The Rio Conventions: Action on Forests. Available at: http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/rio_20_forests_brochure.pdf

⁹ The tenth member country, Rwanda, did not participate in this workshop but rather the Capacity-building Workshop for Southern and Eastern Africa on Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation.

- (c) Clear, consistent and long-term communications between UNFCCC and CBD focal points are necessary to construct a common language and build understanding between the two processes, and to ensure that information gets disseminated to decision-makers.
- (d) Identifying and capitalizing on synergies may be more challenging if (as is often the case) REDD+ and NBSAP processes are advancing at different paces in country.
- (e) Planning for synergies does not necessarily provide a road map for how the actions will be implemented on the ground.
- (f) In order to effectively and efficiently integrate, budget for and implement the identified synergy actions, people implementing both processes at all levels need to be engaged.
- (g) Development of a legal framework and an enabling policy environment can help support integrated actions.
- (h) More information is needed on the applicability and content of relevant safeguards, especially with regard to biological diversity, indigenous peoples and local communities.
- (i) Spatial information can be useful in identifying (and visualizing) challenges, opportunities and trade-offs of decisions at the country level.
- (j) Adequate resources (financial and capacity) are needed if synergies are to be addressed and achieved.
- (k) Communications and outreach to ministries outside of those responsible for REDD+ and NBSAP planning and implementation (e.g. mining, energy, agriculture) are needed to mainstream biodiversity and REDD+ among different ministries, and may be useful in terms of sharing data and information.
- (l) Sharing of experiences and issues/priorities from other regions is useful as countries embark on recognizing and prioritizing synergies in-country.

17. The key messages from the Congo Basin Regional Workshop on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets held in Douala, Cameroon, 7 – 11 July 2014 are:

- (a) The main objective of REDD+ actions is to curb emissions from the forest sector. However, they can also provide synergies with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and contribute to placing countries on more sustainable development pathways based on a green economy.
- (b) Mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectors, policies, projects and programmes is important and could benefit from spatial planning tools to identify data gaps, to strengthen commonalities and minimize overlaps, and to develop multi-resource inventories for various ecoregions and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- (c) Learning from the experience of other countries and regions is valuable. Lessons learned from other workshops, in particular from South America, were useful.
- (d) In the re-design and implementation of NBSAPs, REDD+ activities can be referenced and complemented. NBSAPs can build on activities in national REDD+ strategies, and biodiversity indicators can build on MRV systems and SIS from the REDD+ processes.
- (e) Potential synergies between REDD+ and NBSAP implementation were identified and could be reinforced through spatial analysis of biodiversity and ecosystem services in production forests, in restoration activities, and policies to conserve existing forests through improvement in the management of protected areas systems.
- (f) The contribution of protected areas networks to REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets could require a prior assessment of the state of the existing network in terms of spatial boundaries, legal status, and effectiveness, such as is being done in the Support Programme for the Protected Areas Network (PARAP) project in DRC.
- (g) The challenge of data gaps can be partially addressed through open access data systems, data analysis capacity building, cooperation mechanisms with data-holding centres such as OSFAC (Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale), the building of institutional capacity to develop maps, and coordination among stakeholders for monitoring and evaluation.

- (h) Agriculture was noted as the main cause of forest loss within many central African countries, due to unsustainable practices.
 - a. Intensification of agro-forestry systems can reduce pressures on natural systems as part of a mix of policies, incentives, education and training, and land planning.
 - b. An enabling legal and policy environment that guarantees rights and ownership of forest and tree resources to farmers is critical for effective sustainable management of forest ecosystems.
- (i) Several restoration projects have been carried out in the sub-region. Lessons from past experiences are important in defining suitable actions and identifying success factors and benefits from restoration. The Rapid Restoration Diagnostic Tool from IUCN provides a reference.
- (j) There are multiple economic tools for the management of natural resources that can aid in the redesign and implementation of NBSAPs and the mobilization of resources. The joint ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization)-CBD initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests provide funding for project implementation, in which countries can apply to through ITTO.

I. EXPLORING GENERAL SYNERGIES

A. Synergies between potential actions for achieving REDD+ and NBSAP objectives

18. There are overlaps both at a high level in terms of the broad REDD+ activities and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Matrix 1) as well as the specific actions that may be implemented to achieve set objectives (Matrix 2). The overlaps within any given country will depend on the national context and country priorities; however, the matrixes provide a general overview and potential examples (more details on some individual examples are provided in the case study section of the report). As was highlighted by countries during the Inter-regional workshop, communication between the teams working on the different objectives can support the identification of overlaps within a country. Communication may be useful among and between different levels, ranging from local implementers to national policy makers. Coordination across different ministries and sectors can also support identification of links to the wider policy context. The Philippines provides a good example of how effective and efficient coordination has helped to identify institutional overlaps and increase coherence. In the Philippines the Forest Management Bureau of the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (the focal agency for REDD+) participated in regional and national consultations held to update their NBSAP. Likewise, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (at the time called the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau) participated in REDD+ meetings, and is currently a member of the national Safeguards Technical Working Group.

19. At a high level, various Aichi Biodiversity Targets are relevant to REDD+. Matrix 1 identifies the Targets which hold direct relevance for REDD+ activities (and vice versa), and those which may be relevant subject to the method of implementation. For example, carrying out activities to enhance forest carbon stocks can support threatened species if their habitat is being restored (and help achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 12 and 15). However, the establishment of mono-culture plantations in locations important for threatened non-forest species could negatively impact the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. The nature and scope of actions will determine to what extent any synergies with other objectives can be achieved.

Matrix 1: High level overlap - relevance of REDD+ activities for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

X indicates the clearest and most straightforward links

p represents where there are potential overlaps, but they will depend on the methods of implementation

		Reducing deforestation and degradation	Sustainable management of forests	Conservation of forest carbon stocks	Enhancement of forest carbon stocks (including afforestation and restoration)
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	Target 2 By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	p	p	p	p
Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use	Target 5 By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	X	p	p	
	Target 7 By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.		X		
	Target 9 By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	p	p		p
Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity	Target 11 By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	p	p	X	p
	Target 12 By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	p	p	p	p
Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services	Target 14 By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	p	p	p	p
	Target 15 By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	p		X	X
Strategic Goal: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building	Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	X	X	X	X

20. Under REDD+, any synergies that may be achieved with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will greatly depend on the extent to which the Cancun safeguards (see Annex I) are appropriately addressed. Cancun safeguard (a) recommends that REDD+ actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of relevant international conventions and agreements, which implicitly includes the CBD. Safeguards (c) and (d) note the important role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the success of REDD+. Safeguard (e) addresses biodiversity directly, asking that REDD+ actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and

biological diversity. Importantly, it notes that REDD+ activities are not to be used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits.

21. Many countries are currently developing their national approach to safeguards, which can include the specification of the national definition of natural forest (in relation to safeguard (e)) and identifying relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, in relation to safeguard (d). Countries are required to provide the latest summary of information on how the safeguards have been addressed and respected before results-based finance can be received.

22. In addition to the broad overlaps identified in Matrix 1, it can also be useful to consider how these relate to overlaps in more specific actions that may be undertaken to implement REDD+ and NBSAP objectives. Matrix 2 provides some examples of the types of land management practices that may be implemented under countries' national REDD+ or biodiversity strategies and the options these actions offer to achieve the objectives of REDD+ and NBSAPs. In many cases a certain action may fulfil the objectives of both. It should be noted that the Matrix is not exhaustive (for a more comprehensive overview of types of actions which could be employed to achieve REDD+ and NBSAP objectives, please refer to Annex II).

Matrix 2: Examples of actions that could achieve REDD+ and NBSAP objectives¹⁰

Types of actions	Contribution to achieving REDD+ objectives	Contribution to achieving NBSAP objectives
Improving agricultural practices		
Sustainable agricultural intensification	Demand for agricultural products can be met on a smaller area of land, thus reducing pressure for conversion of forests, and potentially decreasing a driver of land use change.	Can serve as a strategy for managing areas of agriculture sustainably in a manner which conserves biodiversity (in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 7) and could reduce conversion of natural habitat (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5), however intensive farming often requires more irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides, which can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems downstream.
Agroforestry	Could reduce pressure on forests by increasing agricultural productivity as well as tree cover in the agricultural landscape.	Could assist with managing areas of agriculture sustainably, in a manner which conserves biodiversity (Aichi Biodiversity Target 7), reducing conversion of natural habitat (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5), and creating connectivity between natural and modified areas of forest (related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11).
Protection measures		
Creating or expanding protected areas with strict levels of protection (cat I-IV IUCN)	Creating or expanding forest areas which strongly limit human activity may help to protect and maintain biomass carbon stocks; however, adequate measures should be in place to ensure that deforestation pressure is not displaced to other forest areas, or non-forest areas that are of biodiversity importance.	Strictly protected areas play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity, in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (protected areas increased and improved) and creating connectivity between natural and modified areas of forest (related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11). Expanding protected areas also links with Aichi Biodiversity Target 15.
Reducing impacts of extractive use		
Reduced impact logging	Reduced impact logging techniques, such as reducing harvest intensity, careful management of access and removal routes and well-planned directional felling can reduce carbon emissions from logging.	Selectively logged forests provide habitats for forest species, and in many cases are able to retain biodiversity even after severe and repeated logging. Ultimately, how the forest is managed under reduced impact logging will determine biodiversity

¹⁰ Adapted from Kapos, V., Kurz, W. A., Gardner, T., Mansourian, S., Parrotta, J. A., Sasaki, N., & Schmitt, C. B. (2012). Impacts of forest and land management on biodiversity and carbon. In S. Parrotta, J.A., Wildburger, C., Mansourian (Ed.), *Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives. A Global Assessment Report. Prepared by the Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management, and REDD+* (pp. 53–80). Vienna, Austria: IUFRO World Series Volume 31.

		impacts. Reduced impact logging has the potential to contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 (sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry), and is also in line with Target 12 (extinction prevention).
Restoration / reforestation / afforestation		
Assisted natural regeneration	Tree and seed planting can assist with expanding and re-establishing forest cover in deforested or degraded forest areas, enhancing carbon stocks.	Natural regeneration can be an important contribution to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 (and support more biodiversity than in areas reforested with non-native species).
Afforestation / reforestation for wood & fibre production	Can potentially increase carbon stocks. Providing alternative wood and fibre supplies can reduce pressure for deforestation in other areas.	Afforestation might be a risk for biodiversity in the case of planting monocultures, particularly if the previously non-forested area was important for biodiversity. Providing alternative wood and fibre supplies can reduce the pressure on natural forests and contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5.
Landscape-level planning		
Identifying species and areas that need effective protection urgently	Could reduce deforestation in critical areas and ensure the maintenance of remaining carbon stocks and conservation of the ecosystem services provided by these areas.	Conservation of targeted species at the landscape level can lead to reducing conversion to natural habitat (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5), expanding protected areas (Target 11) and reducing extinction (Target 12).

23. As can be seen, many potential synergies and complementarities exist between actions to achieve REDD+ and NBSAP objectives. For example, reduced impact logging is a land management practice which could contribute to the sustainable management of forests as an activity under REDD+, through reducing harvest intensity, careful management of access and removal routes, and well-planned directional felling. Depending on how it is implemented, it could also contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 (sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry) and indirectly to Target 2 (biodiversity values integrated), Target 12 (extinction prevented) and Target 14 (ecosystems and essential services safeguarded). The substantial potential for overlaps highlights the potential benefit to countries of giving careful consideration to how actions may be optimized to achieve both REDD+ and NBSAP objectives during implementation.

24. As a specific example, Costa Rica's NBSAP highlights that incentive programmes, such as its Payment for Environmental Services (PES) programme, have been useful for implementing the objectives of the CBD. The PES programme in Costa Rica, which started in 1997, has been instrumental in restoring and conserving forest cover. Within the PES mechanism, Costa Rica pays the owners of land to conserve forest or allow it to regenerate in return for four key ecosystem services that have been identified: emissions mitigation; protection of hydrological resources; protection of biodiversity; and provision of scenic beauty. The institutional framework set up for the PES mechanism, under the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the National Forest Finance Fund, has facilitated institutional processes for REDD+.

25. Another example is protected areas, as highlighted in the case studies section of this report. Uganda, Cameroon and the Philippines all make reference to protected areas both within their NBSAPs and REDD+ strategies. Cameroon's Readiness Preparation Proposal states that an option for reducing deforestation and degradation is "strengthening the efficacy of management of protected areas", which relates to their revised NBSAP national target 11, that by 2020 at least 30 per cent of the national territory is under effectively and equitably managed protected areas. In the Philippines, the national REDD+ strategy makes reference to the importance of protected areas as a potential aspect of REDD+ policy; however, it does not specifically reference the country's approach to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as the REDD+ strategy was finalized before the revision of the country's NBSAP. The revisions of their NBSAP is, however, expected to include the strengthening of the protected areas system, highlighting that potential overlaps can exist even when a country's REDD+ and NBSAP processes are progressing at different rates.

26. Participants in the Inter-regional workshop also highlighted the importance of not just having high level plans and policies for synergies, but also specific plans and roadmaps for how the actions will be implemented on the ground. Recording which, and how, actions are being carried out, alongside their impact on the ground, may help provide information on whether synergies are being realized. It is also important to note that it is possible to identify overlap in actions and carry out on the ground work to support synergies even where national policies do not explicitly refer to synergies. For example, although Viet Nam’s National REDD+ Strategy does not identify specific links to biodiversity policies and strategies, several projects have been undertaken in recent years which address the relationship between REDD+ activities and biodiversity conservation.

27. How specific actions are implemented will determine extent of synergies as well as the benefits that can be achieved, and the potential costs. A range of resources exist which can support different actions, including in assessing the impact they will have depending on how they are implemented and understanding how they relate to safeguards. Annex II provides examples of some potential resources on the different actions and section B highlights overlaps in potential information needs for planning and decision making for synergistic actions on REDD+ and NBSAPs. In order to design and implement actions in ways that achieve multiple objectives adequate resources (financial and capacity) are needed.

B. Synergies between information needs for planning and decision making for REDD+ and NBSAPs

28. Both REDD+ and NBSAPs require significant information inputs during the planning and implementation stages. These relate to the range of processes which can be undertaken, at the local and national (technical and decision making) levels, as part of planning and implementation, and a range of tools exist for supporting their development. Additionally, information on how REDD+ and NBSAPs are being implemented and their impacts can support adaptive management and evaluations of the processes. Types of information needs can include spatially explicit information inputs (such as data on forest cover and extent, pressures on forest and biodiversity, and priority ecosystem services), as well as information on existing policies and national institutional structures, know-how and capacities. There is potential for considerable overlap in the information that can support implementation of both REDD+ strategies and national targets within NBSAPs.

29. Identification of these potential overlaps could reduce duplications of effort and could help maintain consistency in policy development (e.g. by ensuring that the same current land use databases are used rather than conflicting ones). Matrix 3 provides examples of the different types of information needs that are typically useful. It is important to note that the matrix is not exhaustive, and each country will have information needs which are unique to its own national circumstances.

Matrix 3: Examples of information needs for REDD+ and NBSAPs during the planning and implementation stages

Information	Examples of REDD+ needs	Examples of NBSAP needs
Relevant policies, laws and regulations	Information on policies, laws and regulations of relevance to forests and land use. In particular, information on current environmental and biodiversity policies can be useful for developing the national approach to the REDD+ safeguards.	Information on policies, laws and regulations of relevance to biodiversity, including for national targets on reforming incentives (Aichi Biodiversity Target 3), can support understanding of whether new policies are needed, and the extent to which the role of biodiversity and valuing ecosystem services has been integrated into sectors that depend on these services.
Relevant stakeholders and options for engagement	Stakeholder engagement is important throughout development and implementation of REDD+ strategies. Information on forest-dependent communities and engagement of local and indigenous communities is particularly important.	Stakeholder engagement is also important throughout CBD implementation, and many of the same stakeholders will need to be considered (including forest-dependent communities). Community-based data collection approaches on biodiversity could provide useful information.

Land tenure and governance	Information on tenure is important for developing land management policies both for REDD+ and the CBD.	
Local institutions and governance structures	Both REDD+ and NBSAPs have to be implemented within the context of national institutions and governance structures; therefore, an understanding of the relevant organizations, their scientific and technological capacities, needs and responsibilities is likely to be useful to both.	
The location, needs and knowledge of local and indigenous communities	Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, is an important part of REDD+ safeguards, and local and indigenous communities can play an important role in managing forests.	Understanding the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable is important for developing NBSAPs and biodiversity policies that address the Aichi targets. The CBD also recognizes the role of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
Locations of forest ecosystems	To identify locations where REDD+ actions could be implemented.	Understanding the locations of all ecosystems including (but not limited to) forests is likely to help assess where different policies related to NBSAPs are most relevant. Shifts in habitats are also relevant.
Changes in forest carbon stocks (through remote sensing and forest biomass carbon data collected in the field)	Information on changes in forest carbon stocks may be needed for results-based payments for REDD+. Information useful especially when reference levels and MRV approaches have been defined.	Information on biomass carbon and species located in different areas can support understanding of the distribution of different ecosystems within a country.
Historical rates and location of land-use conversion	For REDD+, historical rates of land-use conversion (in particular deforestation) can help set baselines and identify drivers of deforestation.	Information on historical rates and locations of land-use conversion can help identify drivers of biodiversity loss.
Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (e.g. timber extraction, expanding agriculture)	Information on drivers of deforestation is needed for developing policies to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.	Information on drivers of biodiversity loss is important for developing strategies and plans to conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity, and to reduce the drivers of loss. Information on pressures on forests is one part of this information.
Biodiversity and biological resources and the relationship between them and human well-being in the country (e.g. information on contribution of ecosystem services to GDP, health, etc.)	Information on biodiversity and ecosystem services and where they are most important can help with planning for multiple benefits from REDD+ and ensure the long-term sustainability of REDD+ as a mechanism to reduce emissions.	Information on biodiversity and ecosystem services locations, extent and vulnerability is needed for developing strategies to conserve, restore and sustainably use them.
Protected areas (location, equitable and effective management and landscape integration)	Increasing the effectiveness of protected areas can be a relevant policy under REDD+.	Increasing the effectiveness and extent of protected areas as well as ensuring diverse and equitable management of them as part of national targets (Aichi Biodiversity Target 11) and NBSAPs requires information on their current state and pressures on them.
Forest concessions and	Decreasing the impact of timber extraction can be an important	Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into forestry practices is important for the

management practices	component of REDD+ in the context of carbon stock maintenance.	sustainable management of forests (Aichi Target 7).
Financial and economic variables	Both REDD+ and NBSAPs need to take account of opportunity and implementation costs and trade-offs associated with different courses of policy action and activities, to inform decision-making at the national level.	

30. Many tools and processes exist for generating, analyzing and using such information as presented in Matrix 3, and which can support the identification of information gaps. Spatial analysis tools can assist countries in gathering and using spatial information to explore and identify where the location of actions under REDD+ or NBSAPs may also complement or further promote their commitments under the other (see Annex III for more details, illustrated with an example from the Philippines). During the Inter-regional Workshop, El Salvador emphasized that harmonizing the objectives of different ministries has been identified as a way to ensure better spatial planning. This has been supported by the fact that the CBD focal point is also the person who has led the development of the countries REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal.

31. Other types of tools assist countries with reviewing and analyzing policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) related to REDD+ and / or biodiversity conservation. For example, the UN-REDD Programme Benefits and Risks Tool (BeRT) assists countries with the review and gap analysis of their PLRs in relation to the Cancun safeguards, which may also provide relevant information on biodiversity policy (and gaps) for NBSAPs. Using and referring to the same policies laws and regulations in developing both processes can be important for coherence. For example, during the preparations for the Inter-regional Workshop, Bhutan highlighted the importance of using existing government plans and programmes to build on strategies for REDD+ and the NBSAP, and outlined how both the REDD+ strategy and the NBSAP are based on the country’s national five-year plan document (an approved national planning document) and existing environmental policies.

32. The information, tools and processes outlined above can be relevant for planning and development of both REDD+ and NBSAPs. They can also support the evaluation of what activities are being undertaken and the provision of information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected. If the same social, environmental and economic indicators are used for both REDD+ and NBSAPs, this may help avoid duplication of efforts in generating this information. Much of the information useful for both REDD+ and NBSAPs may already be available within a country; however, gathering this information from the different sources and collecting new information could require additional resources. It is also important to verify information in the field and with local populations. Coordination between ministries and relevant teams in collecting the information and analyzing it could increase efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts. In particular, it could be useful to draw on information being produced by one process to meet the needs of the other process, as outlined in the following section. Once information has been collected, it is important that it is shared among all relevant stakeholders, from those involved in on-the-ground implementation to national policy makers.

C. Synergies between information outputs for planning and decision-making for REDD+ and NBSAPs

33. In addition to overlaps in the information needed, it is also possible that information generated from REDD+ or NBSAPs processes may be relevant to the other process, even where it is meeting a different objective. Communication between focal points is important for enabling information flow. The two tables below outline examples of information needs related to REDD+ strategies (Table 1) and NBSAPs (Table 2), which may be of relevance to the other process.

Table 1: Examples of REDD+ information needs of relevance to NBSAPs

REDD+ information needs	Relevance to NBSAPs
National forest inventories (e.g. extent of natural forest, forest fragmentation, forest degradation)	National forest inventories can provide information on which tree species are present and the abundance of different species, as well as information on processes and activities occurring within forests (such as fires, which may cause forest degradation, or the collection or use of non-timber forest products to support local livelihoods). This information could provide inputs for NBSAP biodiversity indicators (national level) and also for the global indicative

	indicators of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
Reference emissions levels	Reference levels are likely to include information on future changes in deforestation pressures, including land-use change, and may provide information on shifting habitats, changing life cycles or the development of new physical traits.
Safeguard information systems (information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected)	Likely to draw on already available resources, but may provide a useful summary of biodiversity policies.
Information on REDD+ activities being undertaken	Important for understanding ongoing REDD+ processes within countries and establishing potential links to NBSAP implementation.
Maps may be generated as part of spatial planning for REDD+	Maps used for REDD+ (such as those that show the location of forest and forest pressures) can also be used for NBSAP planning (see Box 3).

Table 2: Examples of NBSAP information needs of relevance to REDD+

Information needs for NBSAP implementation	Relevance to REDD+
Summary of biodiversity-related policies	Helpful for REDD+ planning, as biodiversity-related policies include reference to forest-related policies.
Status and trends of national biodiversity and biological resources	Helpful for REDD+ planning and implementation in the context of multiple (social and environmental) benefits of REDD+ and environmental safeguards.
Information on drivers of biodiversity loss	Some drivers of biodiversity loss are also drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
Information on protected areas (including extent, management effectiveness and connectivity)	Knowledge of extent and management of existing Protected Areas are important information inputs when considering the conservation of forest carbon stocks as a potential REDD+ activity.
Indicators for biodiversity and ecosystem services	Can assist with provision of information related to safeguards under REDD+ and NCB.
National species inventories (also for endemic and threatened species)	May include inventories of forest biodiversity.
Maps may be generated as part of spatial planning for NBSAPs	Maps used for NBSAPs (such those with information on the location of forest ecosystems, biodiversity and other ecosystem services) can also be used for REDD+ planning, including planning for multiple benefits of REDD+ (see Box 3).

34. For example, national forest inventories can be carried out within REDD+ to support assessments of emissions from the forest sector, but can also provide information on tree species present and activities within forests that could help understand the location of threatened species and the pressures on them. The Mexican government is currently developing a National Forest Inventory, which will serve as a tool for monitoring forest resources and for planning for REDD+ and biodiversity conservation. The development of the Inventory with REDD+ and biodiversity conservation in mind is envisioned to optimize limited resources in-country, share common databases, accelerate implementation processes, minimize costs and maximize results. The development of a system that can serve multiple uses is supported by the fact that the National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR, which is the main government agency working on REDD+), is working together with the National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO, which is the government focal point for biodiversity).

35. As a second example, several countries are currently undertaking processes to develop REDD+ safeguard information systems. For example, in Costa Rica there are plans for the REDD+ safeguard information system (SIS) to be linked to the National System of Environmental Information (SINIA), and for information to be shared for the development of biodiversity indicators.

II. CASE STUDIES

36. This section presents case studies of five countries that have started to explore national-level synergies between REDD+ and national targets for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets set in Strategies and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs): Cameroon, Uganda, Philippines, Viet Nam and Colombia. The experiences highlighted are intended to outline the many ways in which policy processes that make use of synergies have taken place in different countries, and how different models of management have been applied depending on countries' national circumstances. They may contain useful learning points for other countries in developing and implementing their REDD+ Strategies and NBSAPs. In particular, for countries at the early stages of developing their REDD+ strategies or NBSAPs, consideration of synergies is especially useful to help ensure coordination throughout the process.

37. Information is included on the development of countries' REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs, including the extent to which there are specific links or overlaps. Countries' experiences in exploring synergies between REDD+ and NBSAPs from an institutional perspective are also outlined, as well as tools, data and methodologies that have been employed to explore synergies. Government representatives and focal points from the CBD and / or REDD+ have been consulted during the development of the case studies, and have reviewed and approved the case studies presented in this report.

A. Africa

1. Cameroon

Introduction

38. Cameroon has been engaged in REDD+ since 2006, and supports the voluntary engagement of non-Annex I countries in REDD+ negotiations. It ratified both the CBD and the UNFCCC in 1994. As of September 2014, it is the only country in Central Africa to have submitted a revised NBSAP, and its REDD+ Strategy is currently in the process of development and is expected to be finalized in 2015. The REDD+ Strategy is expected to provide a response framework of critical importance to the implementation of the NBSAPs in forest ecosystems.

REDD+ strategy

39. Cameroon's REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in 2013. The FCPF agreed support of 3.6 million USD to develop and implement the REDD+ strategy.¹¹ The R-PP highlights that Cameroon anticipates that REDD+ will help achieve the sustainable development objective established by the government in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) for its 2035 vision. The R-PP also reviews the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the country, and sets out the potential strategies that could be implemented to tackle deforestation and forest degradation in each of the country's 5 agro-ecological zones.¹² These include agricultural policies (such as integration of agriculture and livestock farming and monitoring measures), energy policies (such as improved furnaces and hearths, planting for energy purposes and alternative energy), and forestry policies (such as reduced impact logging, improvement of material yield, strengthening of the management of protected areas, afforestation and restoration and management of forestry).

40. The Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is in charge of REDD+ and, according to the R-PP, will work with the other ministries to integrate REDD+ into the country's development strategy.¹ A steering committee, presided by the Minister of Environment with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) as vice-chair, has been set up as the decision-making body on REDD+ at the national level with the aim to monitor and orient the process. A REDD+ Technical Secretariat has also been established as part of MINEPDED and is responsible for implementing the REDD+ readiness process at the regional and departmental level.

¹¹ Source: <http://theredddesk.org/countries/cameroon>

¹² Cameroon R-PP (September 2012)

41. Plans for a series of consultations on the REDD+ strategy are also set out in the R-PP including highlighting the importance of indigenous people in the process.

NBSAP

42. Currently, Cameroon is the only country in Central Africa that has submitted a revised NBSAP (NBSAP II 2012). The revised NBSAP identifies the causes and consequences of the loss of biodiversity, and establishes the link between biodiversity, development and poverty alleviation¹³. It focuses on “providing priorities to strengthen the current endeavours to bring about an accelerated development that is sustainable and minimizes the loss of biodiversity”, and proposes goals to be achieved by 2020.

Synergies between REDD+ Strategy and NBSAP

43. Both Cameroon’s REDD+ R-PP and NBSAP recognise the potential link between climate change mitigation actions and biodiversity, and refer to one another. The REDD+ R-PP explicitly states the country’s NBSAP is a strategic document relevant to REDD+ development, although it does not provide further details of potential links. Cameroon’s NBSAP explicitly mentions REDD+ as one demonstration of the country’s commitment to preserving ecosystem services, and as being relevant to three of the national targets defined in the NBSAP. National Targets identified by the government of Cameroon in its NBSAP that are relevant to REDD+ include:

- (a) *Target 15: By 2020, the establishment and implementation of mechanisms for the payments for ecosystem services, including carbon stocks, should generate increased revenue.* This target seeks to ensure that national level compensation mechanisms benefit from efforts made within the conservation framework. The recent adoption of a National REDD RPP provides the orientation for a national framework to ensure that benefits are generated from ecosystem services. The response calls for mechanisms for the payment of carbon stocks and REDD+ to be put in place with pilots initiatives in the ecosystems generating income for its wide beneficiaries; and the promotion and encouragement of additional voluntary payment mechanisms for utilization of biological and genetic resources by the business sector.
- (b) *Target 10: ecosystems and human well-being are significantly reduced through ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures.* Climate change and climate variation are negatively impacting on ecosystems and consequently on the wellbeing of the populations that depend on ecosystem resources for their livelihoods. Therefore actions need to be put in place that reduce the negative impacts of climate change and climate variation and enable affected communities to effectively adapt to climate change and climate variation through sustainable agricultural and livestock practices, integrated freshwater catchment management, and afforestation/reforestation programmes. The future REDD+ mechanism envisaged in Target 15 is also a major strategy to reduce GHG emissions as they address the direct and indirect causes of deforestation and degradation.
- (c) *Target 19: By 2020, the capacity of key actors should be built and gender mainstreaming carried out for the effective implementation of the biodiversity targets.* This target addresses the concerns for cross cutting issues of training, capacity building and gender. It seeks to ensure that training and capacity building of key stakeholders is integrated in the biodiversity programs and projects as a guarantee for a more dynamic and effective role in the realisation of the defined Strategic Goals and Targets by the year 2020. Target groups should include actors from Coordination organs set up at the level of the Focal Institution, key production sectors, decentralized regional and local authorities and private sector coordination structures, NGO networks, leaders of indigenous and local community organizations. For an integral dimension in biodiversity planning, implementation and monitoring, it is urgent to provide for the generation of information and development of tools for outreach and mainstreaming on gender. This calls for the collection and generation of information on how biodiversity planning, implementation and monitoring affect gender differentiated needs of men and women and impact livelihoods, the

¹³ Republic of Cameroon 2012, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – Version II – MINEPDED

development and application of tools for outreach and mainstreaming of gender, the effective mainstreaming of gender into major national and sector policy instruments, laws and programs related to biodiversity and using opportunities of land and forest reforms, REDD+ strategy development and regulatory instruments including ABS.

44. Additionally, there are many other less explicit links between the two strategies. Both the NBSAP and R-PP mention protected areas strategies (although neither document recognises this potential link). The R-PP states that one option for reducing deforestation and degradation is “strengthening the efficacy of management of protected areas” and that “this option will allow the co-benefits related to the conservation of biodiversity to be strengthened”. National Target 11 of the NBSAP states that by 2020, at least 30 per cent of the national territory, taking into consideration “ecosystem representativeness” is under effectively and equitably managed protected areas.

45. Similarly, the R-PP recognises that strategies for reducing pressure from the use of wood to meet energy needs is one of the major potential future REDD+ strategy components in Cameroon, as fuel wood collection is one of the primary drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The NBSAP has as its ‘ecosystem specific target’ 6 that: “by 2020 the use of alternative energy should have increased and significantly reduced pressure on fuel wood”. This target seeks to provide a response to the increase in demographic trend with corresponding demands for fuel wood especially in urban cities. Intervention actions should focus on promoting the use of alternative energy adapted to tropical wooded savannah ecosystem and promoting the development of local technologies on alternative energy.

46. Both the REDD+ R-PP and the NBSAP recognise the need for information to assess the achievement of the desired objectives. As there is substantial overlap in some of these objectives, the need for an information system that incorporates multiple benefits, impacts, governance and guarantees highlighted in the REDD+ R-PP may overlap with the need for monitoring and evaluation to assess the achievements of the national targets set out in the NBSAP.

Institutional synergies

47. There is political will in Cameroon to include environmental issues and sustainable development and use of natural resources in the national development plans³ as well as broad-based stakeholder and civil society engagement in the development of the REDD+ strategy. This has helped to ensure that Cameroon’s NBSAP and R-PP do acknowledge the role of each other. Currently, Cameroon’s NBSAP includes more explicit consideration of the potential links and synergies between the two policies. During the NBSAP revision process, the REDD+ Focal Point was a member of the MINEPDED Internal Coordination Committee, the Biodiversity National Steering Committee, and the Finalisation Committee for the NBSAP II document. The CBD Focal Point was not explicitly included as a part of discussions on REDD+.

Application of tools, data and methodologies to explore synergies

48. In July 2014 the Government of Cameroon participated in a workshop on synergies between REDD+ and NBSAPs in Doula, Cameroon.¹⁴ The event was organized by UNEP-WCMC, the CBD, and the Commission for Central African Forests (COMIFAC) under the REDD-PAC project. One of the objectives of the workshop was to explore the potential for spatial analysis to contribute to joint planning of international commitments on forests, in particular the CBD and REDD+ under the UNFCCC. Following the workshop, the Government of Cameroon is considering including spatial components in any subsequent revision of their NBSAP.

¹⁴ Workshop presentations are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CBWECD-2014-08>

2. Uganda

Introduction

49. Uganda ratified both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1993. The country has been involved in the REDD+ development process since 2008, and is currently developing a REDD+ Strategy. The importance of biodiversity has long been recognized by the government, which has made significant progress in putting in place policies, laws and institutional frameworks on the conservation and management of biodiversity.

REDD+ strategy

50. Uganda's REDD Preparedness Proposal (R-PP) was developed by the REDD+ National Focal Point (with support from the R-PP Secretariat) in collaboration with the REDD-Plus Working Group with participation of a wide range of stakeholders. It was approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in June 2011, and approved for implementation in May 2012.

51. In July 2013 the country signed a Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement with the World Bank, as well as a grant agreement with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) to support the design and development of systems for national forest monitoring and information on safeguards. The Readiness Preparation Grant will facilitate Uganda in reaching a number of objectives and priority actions in the implementation of its REDD+ readiness. The objectives of the Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement are:

- (a) To develop and elaborate on Strategies and actions for addressing the direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Uganda.
- (b) To develop practices for sustainable forest management and conservation.
- (c) To define processes for stakeholder engagement in implementing Uganda's REDD-Plus Strategy.
- (d) To develop tools and methodologies for measuring, reporting and verifying the aspects and effects of REDD-Plus Strategy.
- (e) To develop system for assessing key social and environmental risks and potential impacts of REDD-Plus Strategy options and implementation framework.
- (f) To develop system for estimating the historic forest cover change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and uptake from deforestation and forest degradation and the other REDD-Plus activities and making projections of emissions in future.
- (g) To strengthen national and institutional capacities for implementing Uganda's REDD-Plus Strategy.

52. The priority actions of the Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement are:

- (a) Support to the functioning of the REDD Focal Point / FSSD.
- (b) Support to the supervisions and coordination structures.
- (c) Defining institutional arrangements for implementing Uganda's REDD-Plus Strategy.
- (d) Developing policy, legal and operational procedures and guidelines for REDD-Plus implementation.
- (e) Capacity building for REDD-Plus implementation
- (f) Defining strategies and actions for addressing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon stock.
- (g) Developing a national forest reference emissions level and/or forest reference level including future scenarios.
- (h) Developing a national forest monitoring system to measure, report and verify Uganda's REDD-Plus options.
- (i) Developing framework for assessing key social and environment risks and potential impacts of REDD-Plus Strategy options and implementation framework.
- (j) Preparation of REDD-Plus Strategy for Uganda.

NBSAP

53. Uganda developed its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP1) in 2002. The process was managed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), which is the institution coordinating the implementation of the CBD in Uganda. The NBSAP had an initial implementation period of 10 years, with a major review after 5 years. The first review should have taken place in 2007, but this was not done due to lack of financial resources. The second review has been done simultaneously with the formulation of the second generation NBSAP (NBSAP2).

54. In line with the decisions of COP 10 on NBSAP review, Uganda has initiated the preparation of NBSAP2. The revised and updated NBSAP brings on board key developments and emerging issues which have taken place since the first NBSAP was prepared in 2002. Among these are: development of the national biodiversity targets within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; alignment of the vision, goal and objectives of NBSAP2 to the vision, mission and strategic goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; the addition of two new strategic objectives in NBSAP2 to cater for resource mobilization and biotechnology and biosafety; and incorporation of new and emerging issues.

Synergies between REDD+ Strategy and NBSAP

55. The country's draft NBSAP makes explicit reference to REDD+: the national biodiversity target (equivalent to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5) refers to "the rate of loss of all natural habitats including forests, is at least halved or brought close to zero, and degradation and defragmentation is significantly reduced"; and the national target equivalent to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 states that "by 2018, biodiversity issues are fully integrated into the National REDD+ program".

56. Implementation of NBSAP2 needs to be harmonized as far as possible with that of the two sister Rio Conventions and other relevant international multilateral agreements. The common thematic areas for synergies between Rio Conventions, as identified in NBSAP2 are:

- (a) The CEPA Strategy, which is relevant to all multi-lateral environmental agreements.
- (b) Support sustainable land management (SLM) practices that conserve agro-biodiversity (CCD).
- (c) Pioneer a holistic and inclusive approach to law enforcement (focusing on intelligence, interception and prosecution) with regard to poaching and illegal trade in wildlife (CITES).
- (d) Create synergies between the different multilateral Environmental Conventions.
- (e) Implement climate change mitigation and adaptation for biodiversity conservation (CCD and UNFCCC).
- (f) Wetland ecosystems providing essential services are being sustainably managed, and where necessary restored, taking into account environmental, economic and social needs (Ramsar Convention).
- (g) Knowledge, science and research which is relevant to all multi-lateral environmental agreements Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement.

57. At the same time, Uganda's R-PP states that the country's obligations to the CBD will be emphasized within its REDD+ strategy. Specific mention of the links are not made, but multiple components of the R-PP suggest complementarities with the NBSAP, and one of the priority actions for implementation during the 2012-2014 period is "developing a framework for assessing key social and environment risks and potential impacts of REDD-Plus Strategy options and implementation framework". The R-PP also states that "much of Uganda's biodiversity is concentrated in the nation's forests" and that "it is important to design REDD-Plus strategies which would conserve (and restore) these prime forests in Protected Area".

58. Another, specific overlap in Uganda's NBSAP and REDD+ strategy is the role of protected areas. One of the key outcome indicators of the NBSAP national target 3.1, that by 2020, at least 17 per cent of the protected areas in Uganda are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems for socio-economic benefit of the population, is to "support alternative livelihood options for community adjacent to PAs". This is very similar to the suggested strategy in the REDD+ R-PP of strengthening partnerships with Communities as neighbours to protected forest area.

59. The report to the CBD states main challenges in the past have included securing financing for biodiversity conservation actions, carrying out biodiversity inventories and managing biodiversity outside protected areas. It also highlights that REDD+ is a potential source of financing for payments for ecosystem services, although this role is not described in the R-PP. The R-PP does set out that developing and testing-pilot procedures for monitoring of co-benefits of REDD-Plus implementation may be part of developing a REDD+ strategy and this could overlap with the monitoring needed for the CBD.

Institutional synergies

60. The REDD+ focal point and CBD focal point both operate within the Ministry of Water and Environment, though they come from different agencies of government (the REDD+ focal point is situated in the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the CBD focal point is situated in the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)). The REDD+ Focal Point provided input during the NBSAP2 development process. The CBD Focal Point was a member of the REDD+ Steering Committee and the REDD+ Working Group during the Readiness Preparation Proposal process. The CBD Focal Point will also continue to provide technical input to and be informed by the REDD+ process through providing support to various REDD+ Steering Committees, National Technical Committees and other themed taskforces.

Application of tools, data and methodologies to explore synergies

Uganda has recently held a workshop and developed a report on “planning for multiple benefits from REDD+ in Uganda: exploring synergies with the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets” as part of the REDD-PAC project, funded by the German government’s International Climate Initiative.

B. Asia

1. Philippines

Introduction

61. The Philippines ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1993 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994, and formally started a national REDD+ process in 2010. Through the development of its various strategies and policies under these two conventions, the Philippines has made a clear effort to integrate its sectoral policies in recognition of the linkages between actions to conserve biodiversity, mitigate against climate change, and adapt to its impacts. The sections below outline the development of the REDD+ Strategy and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), including how the two policies recognise specific links between each other. The Philippine experience in exploring synergies between the two processes from an institutional perspective is also outlined.

REDD+ strategy

62. The Philippines National REDD-Plus Strategy¹⁵ (PNRPS) was developed between 2009 and 2010, and its implementation period set for 2010-2020. The PNRPS is integrated into the Philippines’ climate policy and included in the country’s National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) and National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011-2028, as well as in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. The impact areas/priorities of the PNRPS include reduced forest degradation and deforestation, poverty alleviation and rural development, biodiversity conservation and improved governance. There is also a strong component in the PNRPS for sustainable financing of REDD+ readiness actions and of long-term REDD+ implementation, capacity building and developing of a measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) system. Key PNRPS achievements during 2011-2013¹⁶ include:

- (a) Involvement of civil society organisations.
- (b) Conducting of ‘Roadshows’ and orientation of field officials as part of the communication plan of the PNRPS and to promote REDD+.
- (c) Development of the Philippine REDD Plus Safeguards Proposed Framework and Guidelines.

¹⁵ DENR & CoDe REDD-plus Philippines (2010). The Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy

¹⁶ Source: http://www.un-redd.org/Key_results_achievements_Philippines/tabid/106627/Default.aspx

- (d) Integration of land use classes based on IPCC Protocols and re-measurement of tracts (MRV).
- (e) Establishment of three demonstrations sites with partner organizations.
- (f) Rehabilitation of 628,000 hectares of degraded watersheds and mangrove areas through the National Greening Program.¹⁷

NBSAP

63. The Philippines' NBSAP was first completed in 1997 and then revised in 2002 (4th National report to the CBD (2009)¹⁸ refers to 2002 NBSAP). Within the 2002 NBSAP, the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities (PBCP) strategies and actions were defined. The PCBP were reinforced in 2006 with the definition of 128 (terrestrial) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) is currently in the process of being revised, and is the product of a series of regional and national stakeholder consultations. The Plan is expected to include clear targets, indicators, and monitoring partnerships, with associated timelines, agencies responsible and projected costs of action defined. It is expected to be completed by December 2014. The PBSAP is briefly introduced in Chapter 3 of the 5th National Report to be submitted to the CBD prior to CBD COP 12 in Korea this October 2014. The updated PBSAP will be accompanied by specific action plans and frameworks (see Box 7).

64. The main strategy to protect biodiversity in the Philippines is through the implementation of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) law¹⁹ and also other forms of governance mechanisms such as through the Indigenous Community Conserved Areas and Local Conservation Areas and Critical Habitats for threatened animals and plants. Action plans and frameworks of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP):

- (a) An Action Plan to raise awareness on biological diversity, more specifically to communicate elements of the NBSAP that could contribute to gaining support from relevant decision makers.
- (b) A plan for fully implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, including increased protection and landscape/seascape connectivity.
- (c) An Action Plan to prevent extinctions of globally threatened species.
- (d) A plan for strengthening ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, including the restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems.
- (e) An Action Plan to identify cost estimates necessary to accomplish each target or action, identify different funding sources and negotiate financing mechanisms including but not limited to budget advocacy and sustainable financing schemes for protected area management to effectively implement the NBSAP.
- (f) A Framework Agreement among key institutions on information sharing that contributes to national reporting and the monitoring of the status of Philippine biodiversity with a view of sustaining the provision of up-to-date information for regular national reporting.
- (g) Reporting and Monitoring Framework.

Synergies between the PNRPS and the PBSAP:

65. Both the PNRPS and the 4th report to the CBD recognise links between biodiversity and REDD+. The 4th report to the CBD recognises REDD+ as one of the mechanisms to address climate change issues. The PBSAP which is currently in development intends to include reference to REDD+, especially in its target on restoration.

¹⁷More information on the Philippines National Greening programme is available at: <http://ngp.denr.gov.ph/>

¹⁸ Source: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/nbsap/nbsapcbw-seasi-01/other/nbsapcbw-seasi-01-ph-en.pdf>

¹⁹ Lasco R., Mallari N., Pulhin F., Florece A., Rico E., Baliton R., Urquiola J. 2013. Lessons from early REDD+ experiences in the Philippines. *International Journal of Forestry Research*

66. The PNRPS makes reference to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. There is no direct mention of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets since the PNRPS was developed and finalized before the country's biodiversity conservation priorities in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were identified. However, one of the priorities of the PNRPS is biodiversity conservation, and one of its key strategies is undertaking "watershed, natural ecosystem and landscape-level approaches to REDD+ development in order to ensure multiple benefits". The PNRPS also highlights the importance of protected areas for REDD+ policy in the Philippines and in the new PBSAP it is expected that strengthening protected areas system will be a priority.

Institutional synergies

67. There have been several processes and projects undertaken within the Philippines; institutional context to support coordination between these two objectives. During the development of the PBSAP, the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (the focal agency on REDD+) participated in regional and national PBSAP updating consultations. The FMB is also a member of the Project Steering Committee and Technical Working Group for updating of the PBSAP. Likewise, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (at the time called the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau) participated in PNRPS development, and is currently a member of the Safeguards Technical Working Group.

Application of tools, data and methodologies to explore synergies

68. In 2013, the Philippines undertook a project with REDD-PAC, a project funded by the German Government's International Climate Initiative (ICI). The project involved a workshop bringing together members of the Philippine Department for Environment and Natural Resources, to explore how spatial data could be used by national decision makers to inform where REDD+ could also help to meet the Philippines' biodiversity conservation targets under the CBD. The outcomes of the workshop are currently being integrated into a report which is due for publication in late 2014. As a result of this work, some of the maps produced during the workshop and which feature in the report are likely be integrated into the country's PBSAP (for an example map, please see Box 3 on spatial mapping for exploring synergies, page 14).

2. Viet Nam

Introduction

69. Viet Nam ratified both the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994. It formally developed a national REDD+ process in 2010, though REDD+ readiness efforts have been in place since 2007. In recent years Viet Nam has emerged as one of Asia's leading countries engaging in REDD+ at the national level in anticipation of a future international REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC. The Government has undertaken processes which seek to address and integrate climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation together.

REDD+ strategy

70. REDD+ is an important component of Viet Nam's climate change mitigation efforts and is central to the National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS). The National Action Programme on REDD+ 2011-2020 is the main framework for REDD+ implementation and was approved in 2012.²⁰ The REDD+ programme is being supported by the FCPF and the UN REDD Programme and Viet Nam is the first country in the world to enter Phase II of REDD+.

71. The country took a "nested" approach to implementing REDD+, meaning that the REDD+ "projects and/or sub national programs are integrated into higher level accounting. That is, accounting for overall emission reductions and removals (ERRs) from REDD+ activities occurs at the national level, as well as at the level of nested sub national programs and/or projects within the national system".²¹

²⁰ Source: <http://theredddesk.org/countries/vietnam/>

²¹ To XP, O'Sullivan R, Olander J, Hawkins S, Hung PQ, Kitamura N (2012). REDD+ in Vietnam: Integrating National and Subnational Approaches. Forest Trends Association and Climate Focus.

72. Viet Nam has a REDD+ coordinating agency – VNFOREST, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) – and an established REDD+ Working Group, with national and international partners, clearly reflecting the importance given to sovereignty in the implementation of REDD+. However, current institutional arrangements reveal some challenges for the success of new initiatives, including for local governments to have the structures in place to successfully manage the large sums provided by donors to implement and pilot REDD+.²²

NBSAP

73. Viet Nam recently revised its third NBSAP in 2013, titled *National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, vision to 2030*, with the following main objectives: conservation of important natural ecosystems and endangered, rare and precious species, and preservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, all in a manner which contributes to the development of the green economy and responds to climate change.²³ The Strategy also has a significant focus on protected areas, aiming to: improve the quality and increase the area of protected natural ecosystems; reform and strengthen institutional arrangements; develop sustainable financing and benefit sharing; and encourage participation of communities in protected area management.²⁴

Synergies between REDD+ Strategy and NBSAP

74. The National REDD+ Strategy states that conservation may have an important role in the REDD+ strategy. However, it does not identify specific links to biodiversity conservation or biodiversity policies and strategies.

75. Viet Nam's National Biodiversity Strategy does explicitly take REDD+ into account in its Target Group 5, which focuses on implementation of forest regeneration programmes, applying appropriate methods and approaches to biodiversity, carbon storage and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The components under this Target Group include integrating biodiversity conservation targets into the implementation of the national action plan for REDD+; mapping areas of high biodiversity value in the REDD + programme; promoting the use of native species for forest enrichment and restoration in the framework of REDD+; and reducing the risks to biodiversity through implementing REDD+ in a way which strictly complies with social and environmental security mechanisms. There is also reference to the sharing of information about the national action plan on REDD+, to contribute to achieving the goals of biodiversity conservation and adaptation to climate change.

76. In its Fifth National Report to the CBD, Viet Nam detailed the linkages between its National Biodiversity Strategy and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and included information on how the reducing risks to biodiversity from REDD+ component of Target Group 5 links to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 3: “By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions”.

Institutional synergies

77. Some key processes have been undertaken within the Vietnamese institutional context to support coordination between REDD+ and NBSAP objectives. During the development of the NBSAP, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) which was responsible for drafting the document, cooperated closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), which is the focal point institution for REDD+ planning and implementation in the country. There have also been some efforts under the REDD+ process to cooperate with MONRE.

²² CIFOR (2012) The context of REDD+ in Vietnam

²³ Vietnam's fifth national report to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Reporting period: 2009-2013. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/vn/vn-nr-05-en.pdf>

²⁴ Source: http://asia-parks.org/pdf/wg3/APC-WG6-27_Nhan%20Hoang.pdf

Application of tools, data and methodologies to explore synergies

78. Viet Nam has undertaken several projects in recent years which have addressed the relationship and complementarities between REDD+ and biodiversity conservation. For example, starting in 2010, a project funded by the German International Climate Initiative (ICI) is being implemented by the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in Viet Nam. SNV is working with relevant stakeholders in Viet Nam from the district to the national level to develop a scheme for integrating biodiversity as an additional dimension to REDD+ strategies and monitoring systems. A report and policy guidance brief on international measures to promote high biodiversity REDD+ in Viet Nam was published in 2012²⁵. Another project funded by ICI in 2013 and implemented by SNV, UNEP-WCMC and the Government of Viet Nam, undertook spatial analyses to explore potential benefits and risks from REDD+ in Viet Nam. The maps resulting from the analysis work were later compiled into a report.²⁶

79. A project being funded by UNDP, which is providing technical assistance to the Government of Viet Nam in the implementation of its NBSAP, includes two provincial pilot programmes on integrating biodiversity into provincial land-use plans. In the future, projects such as these could serve as a bridge between the country's NBSAP and REDD+ processes.

C. Latin America

1. Colombia

Introduction

80. Colombia ratified both the CBD and UNFCCC in 1994. The country finalized its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal in 2013, although it has been undertaking work on REDD+ since 2009. It is currently drafting its revised NBSAP, which is intended to be a policy for managing changes in biodiversity and ensuring the resilience of the country's socio-economic systems to future climate uncertainty. Both REDD+ and biodiversity conservation will be identified as cross-cutting issues in the country's 2014 – 2018 National Development Plan.

REDD+ strategy

81. REDD+ is one of the strategies included in Colombia's national development plan 2010-2014 to address climate change (together with the Colombian strategy for low carbon development, the national climate change adaptation plan, and the financial strategy to safeguard against natural disasters). The country initiated its REDD+ Readiness and Preparation Proposal in 2011. Formulating and implementing the activities related to the R-PP is estimated to take place between 2013 and 2017.

82. The final R-PP (version 8.0²⁷) was released by the Colombian government in 30 September 2013. The R-PP includes detail about REDD+ implementation on multiple fronts, including: consolidation of the national MRV system, development of reference levels, REDD+ strategy options, development of an environmental and social management framework, establishment of a system to provide information on how safeguards are addressed and respected; participation and capacity building of indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombians and other local communities; and institutional arrangements for REDD+, among others.

83. The REDD+ strategy is being developed within the frameworks of the FCPF and the UN-REDD programs, and has the support of GIZ, USAID and other donors. In parallel, a regional initiative "Amazon Vision" is being designed for REDD+ implementation in the Amazon region, including by a results-based payments mechanism

²⁵Swan S. and McNally R. (2011) High-Biodiversity REDD+ Operationalising Safeguards and Delivering Environmental Co-benefits, SNV Viet Nam, Available at: http://www.snvworld.org/files/publications/hb_redd_safeguards.pdf

²⁶ Mant, R., Swan, S., Anh, H.V., Phuong, V.T., Thanh, L.V., Son, V.T., Bertzky, M., Ravilious, C., Thorley, J., Trumper, K., Miles, L. (2013) Mapping the potential for REDD+ to deliver biodiversity conservation in Viet Nam: a preliminary analysis. Prepared by UNEPWCMC, Cambridge, UK; and SNV, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam Available at: [http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/234/original/VN_Report_En_Low_Res_Amended_\(2\).pdf?1407763614](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/234/original/VN_Report_En_Low_Res_Amended_(2).pdf?1407763614)

²⁷Colombia's REDD+ Preparation Proposal 2013. (accessed 01/07/2014) Available from: http://www.minambiente.gov.co/documentos/DocumentosBiodiversidad/bosques/redd/documentos_interes/021013_r_pp_redd_v_8.0.pdf

NBSAP

84. Colombia ratified the CBD in 1994 and is currently updating its NBSAP (latest one from 2008).²⁸ Two main documents are relevant to biodiversity conservation are the national policy for integrated management of biodiversity and its ecosystem services (PNGIBSE) and the 5th national report to the CBD.

85. According to the country's 5th national report to the CBD, the new topics in the revised NBSAP include the recognition of the interdependency between the ecological, social and economic systems. The new NBSAP intends to be a policy for managing changes in biodiversity and ensure the socio-economic systems are resilient to future climate uncertainty.

Synergies between REDD+ Strategy and NBSAP

86. The REDD+ plan takes into account biodiversity and explicitly mentions the Convention on Biological Diversity. Specifically the R-PP states the need for "... the national REDD+ strategy to be coherent with other environmental policies directed to an adequate management of biodiversity and natural resources". The R-PP also highlights that one of the priority actions for Colombia's REDD+ implementation framework is to characterize the REDD+ safeguards taking into account the CBD objectives and CBD safeguards for REDD+ and determining the guidelines that should be considered to maintain communities' rights, biological diversity and forest ecosystems. In a recent 2014 workshop organised by the CBD on ecosystem conservation and restoration for South America, the country mentioned the need to improve the compilation, quality and frequency of information on integrating multiple goals. The country also pointed to the need for support for gathering information on forest degradation (including both spatial and field data) and for strengthening monitoring and early warning systems.

Institutional synergies

87. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for Colombia's REDD+ and NBSAP development. This has helped to ensure that REDD+ representatives are being included in and informing the development of the NBSAP process. Likewise, input is being received from the CBD focal point as the REDD+ process continues to develop.

Application of tools, data and methodologies to explore synergies

88. In the context of further developing its National Development Plan 2014 – 2018, Colombia is currently identifying cross-cutting issues which can feed this agenda. Both REDD+ and biodiversity conservation (and the complementarities between them) will hopefully be selected for inclusion.

CONCLUSIONS

89. The case-studies and examples presented in this report highlight that there are potential synergies between actions to achieve REDD+ and those to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets as per NBSAPs, which countries are already starting to address. Sharing of experiences among countries and regions is useful for enabling best practice examples to be followed and lessons to be learned.

90. There are significant overlaps between the activities, information needs and planning requirements for REDD+ and NBSAPs objectives, and therefore there are many potential synergies between the two. For example, the Government of Mexico is currently developing a National Forest Inventory which will serve as a tool for monitoring forest resources and for planning for REDD+ and biodiversity conservation. However, as participants to the Inter-regional Workshop highlighted, resources (financial and capacity) are needed if such synergies are to be addressed and achieved.

91. Many countries are already explicitly mentioning REDD+ within their NBSAPs and vice versa. For example, Uganda's draft NBSAP makes explicit reference to REDD+ (the national biodiversity target equivalent to Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 states that "by 2018, biodiversity issues are fully integrated into the National

²⁸ Colombia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Available from: <http://www.minambiente.gov.co//contenido/contenido.aspx?catID=1100&conID=3351> (accessed 01/07/2014)

REDD+ program”) and Uganda’s REDD+ Preparation Proposal states that the country’s obligations to the CBD will be emphasized within its REDD+ strategy.

92. Beyond explicit cross-referencing, the same activities form part of both the REDD+ strategies and NBSAPs of individual countries. For example Uganda, Cameroon and the Philippines all refer to the role of protected areas within both their NBSAPs and REDD+ strategies. Such objectives can exist in common even when a country’s REDD+ and NBSAP processes are progressing at different rates. In the Philippines, for example, the national REDD+ strategy includes the role of protected areas in REDD+, but does not refer specifically to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as the strategy was finalised before the revision of the country’s NBSAP. The revised NBSAP is expected to include strengthening the protected areas system amongst its objectives.

93. How specific actions are implemented will determine the extent of synergies between objectives, as well as the benefits that can be achieved, and the potential costs. Participants of the workshops highlighted the importance of having, in addition to high level plans and policies for synergies, specific plans and roadmaps for how the actions will be implemented on the ground. It was also noted that it is possible to identify overlaps in actions and carry out on-the-ground work to support synergies even where national policies do not explicitly refer to synergies. For example, although Viet Nam’s National REDD+ Strategy does not identify specific links to biodiversity policies and strategies several projects have been undertaken in recent years that address the relationship between REDD+ and biodiversity conservation.

94. As highlighted by countries during the workshops, supporting effective, efficient and coherent policies, plans and actions requires communication and coordination between the people and organizations making decisions on, planning and implementing REDD+, NBSAPs, and related processes, at different levels. The Philippines provides a good example of effective and efficient coordination that has helped to identify overlaps and increase coherence between REDD+ and NBSAP actors and actions: the Forest Management Bureau of the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (the focal agency on REDD+) participated in regional and national NBSAP updating consultations. Likewise the Biodiversity Management Bureau (at the time called the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau) participated in the REDD+ strategy development and is currently a member of the REDD+ Safeguards Technical working Group.

95. Effective planning and implementation of REDD+ and NBSAPs require significant information inputs, including but not limited, to information on the drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss, current forest extent and locations, and existing policy laws and regulations. Much of this information is useful to both REDD+ and NBSAPs. The many existing tools and processes for generating, analyzing and applying such information can support integrated planning. For example, spatial information and spatial analysis can be especially useful in planning for both REDD+ and NBSAPs.

96. Furthermore, sharing of information needed for, and generated from, such approaches can also support coherent planning and avoid duplication of efforts. For example, national forest inventories can be carried out for REDD+ to support assessments of emissions from the forest sector but can also provide information on tree species present and activities within forests, which could help in understanding the location of threatened species and the pressures on them. The Government of Mexico is currently developing a National Forest Inventory which will serve as a tool for monitoring forest resources, and as a tool for synergistic planning for REDD+ and biodiversity conservation. However, several participants at the regional workshop highlighted that resources (financial and human capacity) may be needed if such synergies are to be achieved.

*Annex I***Box 3:** REDD+ safeguards identified in Appendix I of UNFCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1: Decision 1/CP.16:

When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- (a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
- (e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;
- (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

Annex II

Types of actions	Options for achieving REDD+ objectives	Options for achieving NBSAP objectives	Examples of useful resources
Improving agricultural practice			
Sustainable agricultural intensification	Demand for agricultural products can be met on a smaller area of land, thus reducing pressure for conversion of forests, and potentially decreasing a driver of land use change	Can serve as a strategy for managing areas of agriculture sustainably in a manner which conserves biodiversity in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 7; however intensive farming often requires more irrigation, fertilisers and pesticides, which can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems downstream	<p>FAO 2011 Building bridges between REDD+ and sustainable agriculture: Addressing agriculture's role as a driver of deforestation Available at: http://www.fao.org/climatechange/29723-0c174581f92a9d71a125c30981e7b42fb.pdf</p> <p>FAO 2013 Climate-smart agriculture Sourcebook. Available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3325e.pdf</p>
Agroforestry	Could reduce pressure on forests by increasing agricultural productivity as well as tree cover in the agricultural landscape.	Could assist with managing areas of agriculture sustainably in a manner which conserves biodiversity (Aichi Biodiversity Target 7), reducing conversion of natural habitat (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5), and creating connectivity between natural and modified areas of forest (related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11).	<p>Ewers et al (2009). Do increases in agricultural yield spare land for nature? http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2009.01849.x/abstract</p> <p>Belair C., Ichikawa K., Wong B.Y., and Mulongoy K.L. (Editors) (2010) Sustainable use of biological diversity in socio-ecological production landscapes. Background to the 'Satoyama Initiative for the benefits of biodiversity and human wellbeing'. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal. Technical Series no. 52.</p>
Sustainable shifting cultivation	Increasing the fallow phase, improving fallow management and/or reducing time under production can improve the recovery of biomass in sites cleared for shifting cultivation	Increasing the fallow phase, improving fallow management and/or reducing time under production can improve the recovery of biodiversity as well as biomass in sites cleared for shifting cultivation, thus contributing to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 (managing areas of agriculture in a sustainable manner which conserves biodiversity)	
Fire control	Reducing forest fires is important for biomass carbon management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	Strategies which reduce forest fires could be beneficial to biodiversity in helping to avoid reduced tree species composition, and loss of faunal biodiversity of high conservation concern, relevant to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 (reducing rate of loss of all natural habitats), 7 (managing agricultural areas sustainably), and 12 (extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and conservation status improved and sustained)	

Protection measures			
Creating or expanding protected areas	Could reduce deforestation and other pressures on forests	Could assist with reducing the rate of loss of habitats important for biodiversity (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5), as well as achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11.	<p>Scharlemann, J. P., Kapos, V., Campbell, A., Lysenko, I., Burgess, N. D., Hansen, M. C., Gibbs H.K., Dickson B. and Miles, L. (2010). Securing tropical forest carbon: the contribution of protected areas to REDD. <i>Oryx</i>, 44(03), 352-357.</p> <p>Ervin, J., K. J. Mulongoy, K. Lawrence, E. Game, D. Sheppard, P. Bridgewater, G. Bennett, S.B. Gidda and P. Bos. 2010. Making Protected Areas Relevant: A guide to integrating protected areas into wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies. CBD Technical Series No. 44. Montreal, Canada: Convention on Biological Diversity, 94pp</p> <p>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD Guidelines). http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf</p>
Creating or expanding protected areas with strict levels of protection (cat I-IV IUCN)	Creating or expanding forest areas which strongly limit human activity may help to protect and maintain biomass carbon stocks; however, adequate measures should be in place to ensure that deforestation pressure is not displaced to other forest areas	Strictly protected areas play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity, in line with Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes)	
Creating or expanding protected areas aimed at sustainable resource use (categories V and VI IUCN)	Carbon impacts are likely to be range depending on the kind of management practices employed.	Can contribute to Aichi target 11 and potentially target x on sustainable use.	
Increasing management effectiveness of protected areas	Increasing the management effectiveness of protected areas can help reduce the risk of carbon stock losses, and enhance carbon sequestration of forests.	Protected areas which are more effectively managed can contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 (Protected areas increased and improved). Protected areas which are more effectively managed can also contribute to reducing natural habitat loss (Target 5); reducing extinction of known threatened species and improving their conservation status (Target 12) and restoring and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems (Target 15).	

Reducing impacts of extractive use			
Reduced impact logging	Reduced impact logging techniques, such as reducing harvest intensity, careful management of access and removal routes and well-planned directional felling can reduce carbon emissions from logging.	Selectively logged forests provide habitat for forest species and in many cases are able to retain biodiversity even after severe and repeated logging. Ultimately, how forest is managed under reduced impact logging will determine biodiversity impact. Reduced impact logging has the potential to contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 (by 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity),	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2009). Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods: A Good Practice Guide. http://www.cbd.int/development/doc/cbd-good-practice-guide-forestry-booklet-web-en.pdf
Sustainable extraction of NTFPs	Sustainably exploiting NTFPs can help reduce deforestation by increasing the value of standing forests and providing alternative sources of income. It can also help reduce deforestation and forest degradation caused by extraction of NTFPs.	Strategies to sustainably extract NTFPs would benefit the conservation of NTFP species and of other species present in the same habitat (contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 and 14).	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD Guidelines). http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf
Sustainable hunting/Hunting regulation	Hunters can cause significant forest degradation directly and animals have a key role in various essential ecosystems processes (such as seed dispersal). Hunting regulations can therefore contribute to reducing forest degradation.	Reducing over-exploitation of game-animals in forests will contribute to biodiversity conservation and to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. It will also allow the development of sustainable livelihoods for local communities and ensure long-term conservation impacts.	

Restoration / reforestation / afforestation			
Assisted natural regeneration	Tree and seed planting can assist with expanding and re-establish forest cover in deforested or degraded forest areas. Enhancement of the carbon stocks.	The benefits for biodiversity might not be immediate in the short-term, nonetheless, in the long term it can be an important contribution to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 15 (and support more biodiversity than areas re-forested with non-native species).	Doswald, N., Osti, M., Miles, L. 2010. Methods for assessing and monitoring change in the ecosystem-derived benefits of afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration. Multiple Benefits Series 6. Prepared on behalf of the UN-REDD Programme. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge.
Afforestation/ reforestation for wood & fibre production	Can potentially increase carbon stocks. Providing alternative wood and fibre supplies can reduce pressure for deforestation in other areas	There might be a risk for biodiversity due to planting monocultures, particularly if the previously non forested area was important for biodiversity. Providing alternative wood and fibre supplies can reduce the pressure on natural forests and contribute to Aichi target 5.	Miles, L., Kapos, V., Dunning, E. 2010. Ecosystem services from new and restored forests: tool development. Multiple Benefits Series 5. Prepared on behalf of the UN-REDD Programme. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.
Reforestation for biodiversity and ES	Increasing tree cover and carbon stocks in areas where reforestation took place.	Dependant on reforestation techniques used and condition of the ecosystem. Benefits for biodiversity conservation and for conservation of the ecosystem services provided by the forested area.	World Resources Institute 2011 Global Assessment of Opportunities for Restoration of Forests and Landscapes Final Report to UNEP WCMC
Rehabilitation of critical and damaged habitats and ecosystems	Increasing tree cover and recovery of the carbon stocks.	Dependant on techniques used. Benefits for biodiversity conservation accordingly to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15.	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2011). Contribution of Ecosystem Restoration to the Objectives of the CBD and a Healthy Planet for All People. Abstracts of Posters Presented at the 15th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 7-11 November 2011, Montreal, Canada. Technical Series No. 62. Montreal, SCBD, 116 pages

Landscape scale planning			
Identifying species and areas that need effective protection urgently	Could reduce deforestation in critical areas and ensure the maintenance of remaining carbon stocks and conservation of the ecosystem services provided by these areas.	Conservation of remaining biodiversity in these areas (Aichi Biodiversity Target 5).	Ash et al (2010). Ecosystems and human well-being: a manual for assessment practitioners. http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/109/original/EcosystemsHumanWellbeing.pdf?1398679213
Evaluating current land use in function of environmental impact zoning of land in function of options sustainable use	Can help determine priority areas for a REDD+ action and aid with better directing funds to more relevant areas. Could reduce deforestation and forest degradation by identifying areas important for conservation.	Can contribute to biodiversity conservation by planning to sustainable land use in certain areas.	Bowles-Newark et al (2014). Incorporating and utilising spatial data and mapping for NBSAPs: Guidance to support NBSAP Practitioners. http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/209/original/01_IncorporatingSpatialDataandMappingforNBSAPs_Main.pdf?1399971609 Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004). The Ecosystem Approach, (CBD Guidelines). http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/ea-text-en.pdf

General resources:

TESSA - Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment

Miles et al (2014). Benefits and Risks Tool (BeRT)

Ravilious et al (2014). Integrating Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and their impact on people, into REDD+ decision making: A manual for the UN-REDD spatial planning GIS toolbox (Training Material)

Bowles-Newark et al (2014). Incorporating and utilising spatial data and mapping for NBSAPs: Guidance to support NBSAP Practitioners.

http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/209/original/01_IncorporatingSpatialDataandMappingforNBSAPs_Main.pdf?1399971609

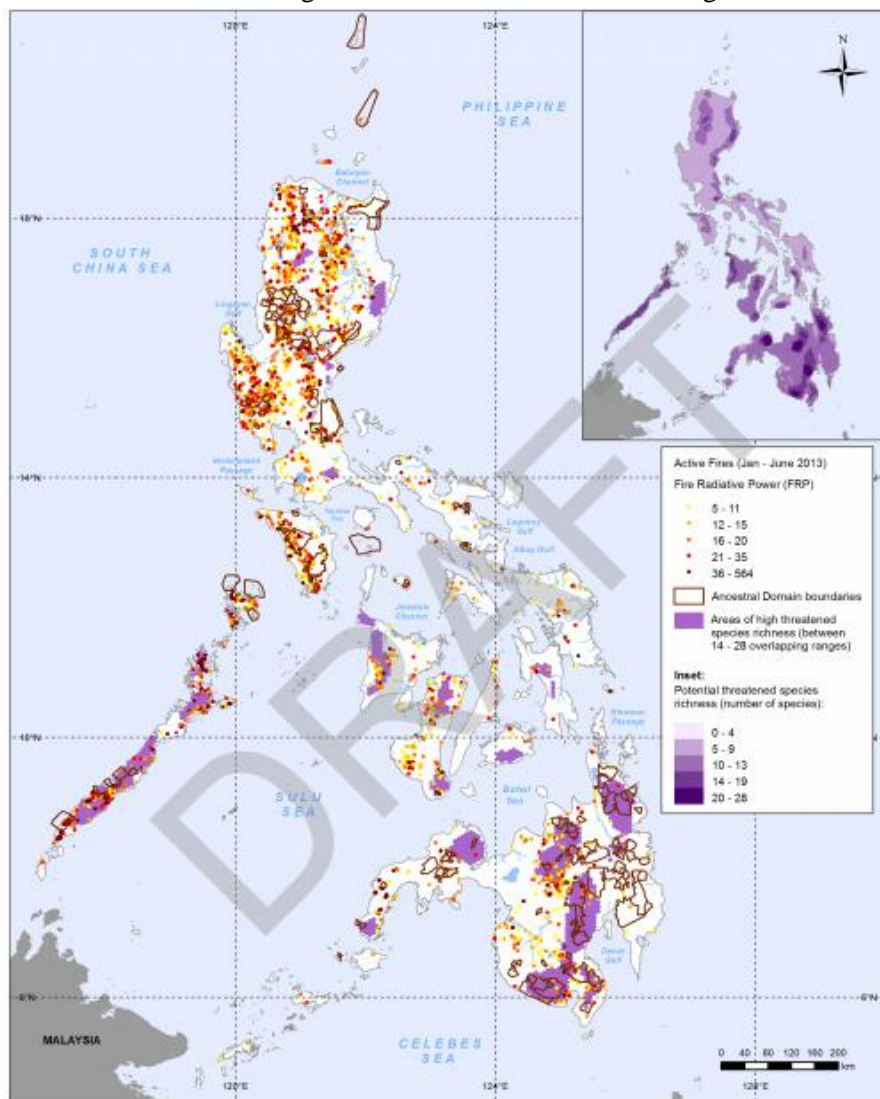
Secades et al (2014). Earth Observation for Biodiversity Monitoring: A review of current approaches and future opportunities for tracking progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-72-en.pdf>

Annex III: The role of spatial analysis in exploring synergies between REDD+ and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Maps can serve as useful tools in the decision-making process, as they can support spatial planning, provide a useful way to gather, store and communicate information, and identify spatial patterns. They can cover a wide variety of information, including on land cover, land use, biodiversity, ecosystem services, pressures on biodiversity and forests, and economic information. They can inform policy and decision-making by assessing spatial patterns and analysing trade-offs of locating activities in different areas. They can also be used for considering future scenarios. Through maps and spatial analysis, national priorities can be identified which allow for strategic targeting of resources. In relation to REDD+ and a country’s commitments under the CBD, they can serve as a useful tool for exploring where actions under one process may also complement or further promote a country’s commitments under the other.

For example, maps have been used to examine the relationship between REDD+ actions and Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 (related to preventing the extinction of known threatened species) in the Philippines. Map 1 shows the distribution of areas of high threatened species richness in relation to fire occurrence between January and June 2013. Forest fires are an important consideration under any future national REDD+ mechanism. Strategies which aim to prevent forest fire under REDD+ will help guarantee the permanence of carbon stocks, reduce risks associated with forest regeneration and sustainable management of forest projects, as well as help protect biodiversity and the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.

Considering the location of fires in relation to threatened species can identify areas where controlling fires is particularly important in relation to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. The map also shows the boundaries of the Ancestral Domains (Philippines Constitution Article XII), recognising the role of Indigenous Peoples in the conservation of threatened biodiversity. As the example shows, exploring the relationship between a range of spatial parameters can help identify areas which have the potential to achieve multiple benefits relating to both REDD+ and NBSAPs. The most appropriate spatial information to include will depend on which actions are being considered.



Map 1: Distribution of areas of high threatened species richness based on species ranges (mammals, amphibians and reptiles) and Ancestral Domains in relation fire occurrence (January to June 2013).

Methods and data sources:
 Ranges of 152 species (not including birds) which are 'Critically Endangered', 'Endangered' and 'vulnerable' (according to the IUCN Red List 2013) were loaded onto a 60km² hexagon grid covering the Philippines, where data was available. This analysis was undertaken in Quantum GIS, using the QMarscan plugin to generate the hexagon grid across the country and then count how many species ranges intersected with those hexagons (Tobler White, 2013). Cellscan plugin for Quantum GIS. Anapoco Information Systems Inc. <http://anapoco.info/systems.com>
Threatened species: IUCN 2013, IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, version 2012.2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org> (Species information downloaded October 2013), spatial species range data April 2013. The top two classes from the inset map have been used to represent areas of high potential threatened species richness on the main map.
Ancestral domains: Ancestral Domains Office of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines, October 2013.
Active fires: MODIS Active Fire Product, Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS), Active fires January - June 2013. Fire Radiative Power depicts the pixel-integrated fire radiative