REDDX GLOBAL NETWORK...

REDDX Initiative

Over US$7.3 billion has been pledged to support REDD+ readiness in the run up to 2015. Despite high-level multilateral and bilateral financial commitments, information remains limited on exactly how much of this money is actually flowing to the national level initiatives, what types of REDD+ activities are supported, and which organizations are managing and actually implementing REDD+ on the ground.

Forest Trends, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety’s International Climate Initiative (ICI), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Skoll Foundation, and the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), is tracking REDD+ finance to determine:

• Actual commitments and disbursements of REDD+ finance;
• Timelines between when funds are committed and actually disbursed;
• The types of organizations receiving and implementing the REDD+ activities;
• Types of activities supported by the current financial commitments.

Through this initiative, Forest Trends provides information that allows governments and additional REDD+ stakeholders to understand the financial flows associated with REDD+ financing to better assess gaps and needs against national REDD+ strategies.

PARTNERS IN FOREST FINANCE TRACKING

The REDDX Network

Forest Trends works in partnership with local in-country civil society groups and with national REDD+ government Focal Points across Latin and South America, Africa and Asia-Pacific. Together, we deliver a comprehensive national inventory of REDD+ financial commitments, disbursements, and REDD+ activities while also building transparency and accountability in the mechanisms through which REDD+ finance is delivered.

Launched in 2011, the REDDX initiative began piloting data collection in four countries: Ghana, Vietnam, Ecuador, and Brazil. Over the past two years, the REDDX network has significantly grown in scope and now includes partnerships with civil society organizations in fourteen different countries.

The network provides an invaluable opportunity to participate in regional and global knowledge transfer through international partner trainings and workshops and by sharing experiences and lessons learned.

The following brochure introduces our REDDX global network and the partners tracking forest finance.

Forest Trends

Forest Trends’ mission is to maintain, restore, and enhance forests and connected natural ecosystems, which provide life-sustaining processes, by promoting incentives stemming from a broad range of ecosystem services and products. Specifically, Forest Trends seeks to catalyze the development of integrated carbon, water, and biodiversity incentives that deliver real conservation outcomes and benefits to local communities and other stewards of our natural resources.

Forest Trends analyzes strategic market and policy issues, catalyzes connections between producers, communities and investors, and develops new financial tools to help markets work for conservation and people.
Forest Trends is working in thirteen countries to track REDD+ finance from donors to in-country recipients to REDD+ projects on the ground. Use REDDX to track REDD expenditures by selecting a country on the map.

NATURE CONSERVATION RESEARCH CENTRE
NCRC

PARTNER MAP 2013
The Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM)

In 2004, The Institute for Conservation and Sustainable Development of Amazonas (IDESAM) was established in the State of Amazonas, Brazil. Working from its headquarter offices in Manaus, IDESAM seeks to promote the sustainable use of the natural resources in the Amazon, and search for alternative methods to environmental conservation, social development, and climate change mitigation. The organization’s current projects include: developing small-scale forest management plans, managing agroforestry systems and community based tourism.

With a larger REDD+ financial portfolio than many other countries, IDESAM believes the REDDX project is a great resource for Brazil, and vital to understanding where money is going, and identifying what projects are underfinanced, or require additional resources. In the process, the organization is also identifying the most efficient mechanisms for financial transfers of payments. It is hoped that these examples of effective mechanisms will eventually be implemented at a larger scale, allowing for faster rates of disbursement, a steady flow of funding, and ultimately the increased impact and success of REDD+ climate activities.

Fundación Natura

Fundación Natura is a Colombian NGO dedicated to the conservation and management of the biodiversity to generate social, economic and environmental benefits, which ultimately contribute to sustainable development. Over the past 30 years Fundacion Natura has researched alternative methods around conservation and preserving biodiversity ranging from initial work in protected areas to the organization’s current focus on innovative market-based mechanisms and economic incentives for the conservation of private lands.

Fundación Natura believes REDD+ is a crucial policy that will contribute to the preservation of forest ecosystems, while simultaneously enhancing livelihoods in local communities. However, the implementation of REDD+ in Colombia remains a challenge, as it requires strengthening local capacity to understand, develop, and manage these projects. Thus, Fundación Natura is currently working with government agencies to develop technical and scientific capacities; co-creating capacity-building strategies with Afro-Colombian communities, and working with small holders in the Andes to employ activities that both reduce deforestation and generate greater household income. Fundación Natura realizes that tracking REDD+ financing is key to understanding global funding sources and attracting additional donors to support on-the-ground projects.

At the national level, Fundación Natura hopes that the REDDX initiative will also increase transparency and ultimately inform the development of a national monitoring scheme.
Ecuador

EcoDecisión

Founded in 1995, EcoDecisión is a socially-oriented private company dedicated to developing new ways to finance conservation, and provide benefits for nature and its stewards. EcoDecisión is a pioneer in the emerging ecosystem services markets of climate change mitigation, water source protection and biodiversity conservation. Based in Quito, Ecuador, EcoDecisión is a social enterprise that works with a broad array of clients and partners, including international and national non-governmental organizations, businesses, and government institutions throughout Latin America.

EcoDecisión works on carbon-related projects and policies, and has provided policy advice, capacity-building, and training on climate and forest carbon to a range of stakeholders since 1996. Through the Katoomba Incubator, a joint initiative with Forest Trends, the company supported innovative forest carbon projects in Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Ghana, Uganda and Honduras, including two currently validated under the leading voluntary market standards. In Ecuador, EcoDecisión leads detailed assessments of forest carbon offset potential with indigenous partners including the Achuar, Cofán and Chachi peoples, enabling them to make informed decisions about engaging within carbon markets.

Today, in partnership with the REDDX initiative and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment, the company is helping provide the only comprehensive data set offering a panoramic and publicly available view of REDD+ finance in Ecuador.

Guyana

Conservation International

Conservation International’s Guyana country office was established in 1996, with the mandate of supporting the Guyanese government in conserving the country’s tropical rainforests. CI-Guyana works with a range of partners—from the national government to indigenous groups, multinational corporations, community and local leaders, academia, and NGOs—to design and implement natural resource management approaches to preserve both biological and cultural diversity, contributing to a healthier environment and long-term sustainable development.

Historically low levels of deforestation place Guyana in a unique position to actively address climate change and conservation through participation in REDD+. Since 2009, the country has been receiving funding from donors such as the IDB, the German Development Bank, and the Norwegian government. CI-Guyana believes that the success and sustainability of REDD+ will ultimately rely not only on the contributions provided by these types of donor governments and multilateral institutions, but also upon private sector funding. Currently, CI-Guyana is developing a private sector engagement strategy that will be informed by the findings of the REDDX initiative.

“Guyana’s participation in the REDDX project will reinforce our country’s commitment to transparency and accountability in the implementation of REDD+, while also supporting complementary initiatives such as the Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT), and Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM).”

—Dianne Balraj, Environmental Policy Coordinator
Centro Mario Molina (CMM)

Centro Mario Molina (CMM) carries out science policy studies related to climate change issues with the aim of impacting public policies in Mexico and in Latin America. The CMM team utilizes interdisciplinary approaches that go beyond simple research and data collection by providing evidence to decision makers and promoting consensus-building among multi-stakeholder engagements.

By making up-to-date financing information available, tracking relevant actors, and providing a forum for data sharing and validation, CMM and REDDX are directly improving the overall transparency of REDD+ financing processes in Mexico. CMM also views data/information tracking as an opportunity to analyze the geographical distribution of REDD+ funding in Mexico by integrating REDDX data with other, relevant variables. The goal is that such an approach will aid in further evaluation of funding allocation and identifying gaps and needs.

Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)

As one of the leading conservation NGOs in Peru, SPDA’s work focuses on incorporating an environmental element into all development policies and laws in order to attain a just and sustainable society. Since 1986, the organization has sought to promote responsible citizenship through respect for nature.

REDDX is an important tool in SPDA’s efforts to improve REDD+ related laws and policies in Peru. The national government and several conservation NGOs have been receiving funds for REDD+ for some years now. At the same time, the private sector has been quite active in providing investment for initial REDD+ projects in Peru. Yet despite these early actions, financing remains opaque. SPDA believes that REDDX will help measure the success of REDD+ money actually reaching the ground.

“REDDX is helping fill a crucial information gap by painting a more accurate picture of when, where, what and how forest carbon money is being spent.”

—Pablo Peña, Environmental Law and Policy Advisor
The Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF) was established by a group of professionals, prominent individuals, scholars, and community leaders, in order to strengthen and promote networking among different institutions involved in the conservation of forest resources and biodiversity in Ethiopia. ECFF strives to be a leading civil society organization in research, education, communication. Through its projects, the organization seeks to contribute to poverty alleviation and social equity by promoting livelihood alternatives, and facilitate a joint discussion forum, opening policy dialogue within Ethiopia.

As the newest REDDX partner organization, ECFF is receiving methodological training from the wider network partners and is in the process of starting data collection having already identified and mapped major donors. Prior to joining the REDDX initiative, ECFF participated in several feasibility studies and helped prepare PDDs for projects such as the Yayu REDD+ Project and the Bale Mountains Eco-Region REDD+ Project.

Based on the campus of the University of Kinshasa, ERAIFT is devoted to the integrated management of tropical forests and lands in Sub-Saharan Africa. The school focuses on providing high quality post-graduate training to a new generation of conservation and development practitioners. ERAIFT believes that an intensive field-based curriculum will allow students to manage increasingly complex situations in the field, and thus improve both the living conditions of the population and the quality of the biophysical environment.

Meeting the demands of sustainable development remains a primary concern of ERAIFT, and is the driving force behind the organization’s interest in monitoring the finances allocated for REDD+. ERAIFT believes that if implemented correctly, REDD+ has the potential to provide equitable economic growth, while reducing impacts on the environment. As outlined in the national readiness strategy, REDD+ should contribute to the fair distribution of income. The monitoring of REDD+ funding via the REDDX initiative will serve to reinforce this policy.
Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC)

Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) is driven by a core philosophy that conservation in Africa is best pursued in a context where there are economic and cultural incentives to its implementation. In other words, conservation should emerge from local cultural belief systems and must have tangible economic returns for those living in the immediate area. Based in Accra, Ghana, and founded in 1996, NCRC gained international recognition for developing rural ecotourism and community protected areas. However, since 2008 NCRC has sought to position itself at the forefront of climate change issues, and is now a continental leader in REDD+ and Climate Smart Agriculture, having provided early encouragement and guidance to the 1st generation of REDD+ projects and programs in West Africa, and increasingly in East Africa.

As one of the original organizations to engage with Forest Trends on tracking REDD+ financial flows, NCRC began collecting data for an initial scoping study in 2010. These early results were used to inform the development of the larger, global REDD+ Expenditures Tracking project. To date, NCRC has tracked REDD+ expenditures from 2009 to the present. Ghana’s REDD+ Secretariat gives strong support to this project, and is now officially partnering with NCRC to gather data and analyze results.

Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS)

Skills and Agricultural Development Services (SADS) is an environmental organization pioneering programs to provide for the payment of ecosystems services in Liberia. Since 2004, its activities have been directed towards environmental education, scientific research, the facilitation of conservation, social justice and respect for human rights. SADS has a strong focus on local empowerment, using participatory approaches to engage rural populations in identifying assets and needs, and ultimately promote sustainable community development.

SADS believes that REDDX is the first step to ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability in the sustainable management of Liberia’s forest resources. The REDDX data collection process is helping to understand and map key stakeholders, players and donors contributing to the REDD+ activities; thus making it easier to develop future engagement strategies. With limited funding flowing to REDD+ activities, the REDDX program is also serving to highlight areas for Liberia’s governmental intervention.

“Prior to the implementation of REDDX, the Government had limited information on REDD+ players in Liberia. Working with the Forest Trends team, we were able to identify key national and international donors. The impacts of this information will now be felt not only by government, but by all stakeholders, even those on the ground.”

—Peter Mulbah, Executive Director of SADS
Local Consultant

Forest Trends works with Erneus Kaijage on REDDX data collection in Tanzania. Erneus worked for 5 years as Program Manager for the William J. Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) in Tanzania, where his core roles included provision of technical assistance to the government in the designing and establishment of the National Carbon Accounting System as a backbone of the national MRV system for REDD+. He also led the national dialogues and processes for planning and development of the safeguards information system, a key requirement under the Cancun REDD+ architecture. Besides REDD+ program, Erneus also led the renewable energy and solid waste projects as part of the portfolio at CCI.

Prior to CCI, Erneus served as a consultant in a number of local and international organizations including World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, CARE International, WWF-New Zealand and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI). Professionally Erneus is an environmental scientist with MSc degree in environmental studies specialized on community forestry management. He also holds a certificate in Community Based Adaptation and Mitigation from IIED-UK and a certificate on Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change and Energy Programmes from the African Centre for Gender and Development, Addis Ababa.

REDDX in Tanzania

As a medium forest country with 33.5% of its entire land area still under forest cover, Tanzania expects to secure significant funding from various funding streams designed to operationalize REDD+ mechanism. In preparation for this, Tanzania has been one of the first countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop a national REDD+ strategy and is currently in the process of finalizing the national REDD Fund. The objectives of national REDD+ are expected to monitor and administer all funds directed towards REDD+ in the country.

REDDX is thus a timely initiative that stands to make a significant contribution to the national REDD Fund once operational. Data collected through REDDX will provide a solid baseline for the national REDD Fund and it is for this reason that the government of Tanzania warmly welcomes and supports this initiative.

Pelangi Indonesia

Yayasan Spektrum Pelangi, or Pelangi Indonesia, has focused on promoting policies in the field of climate change, transportation, energy and forestry since its establishment in 1992. The organization is currently working towards mainstreaming effective natural resource management practices in order to aid governments and other actors in adapting to climate change mitigation. Utilizing a framework of sustainable community development, Pelangi Indonesia also engages stakeholders in the analysis and evaluation of the benefits from financial compensation for environmental services, tourism, carbon sequestration, and forest certification.

In an effort to reduce its emissions by 26% by 2020, the Indonesian government has turned to the implementation of REDD+ program and policies. REDD+ development and implementation require a substantive amount of financial support. Thus, Pelangi believes that REDDX will not only help the government understand the amount of funding required to effectively implement REDD+ in Indonesia, but also assist in creating synergy with the different REDD+ actors in-country. Additionally, such data will reveal how transparent, effective and accountable Indonesia is in managing its REDD+ related funds, hopefully increasing the country’s credibility and garnering greater support from the international community.
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US-based non-profit organization that has been dedicated to conserving the earth’s biodiversity since its establishment in 1898. Its efforts are concentrated in many of the world’s developing countries where biological diversity is greatest and pressure on nature is most intense. In fact, WCS was the first international conservation organization to work in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and has had a full-time presence since the late 1980s. The goals of the PNG program are to promote the sustainable use and rehabilitation of terrestrial and coastal marine ecosystems and to identify and implement measures to address the effects of climate change. This approach aims to safeguard biodiversity, livelihoods, cultural heritage, and user rights of Papua New Guineans, by focusing on generating and promoting knowledge and building capacity, supporting adaptive management practices and empowering communities to manage their natural resources under customary ownership.

Over the past decade, WCS has begun to explore Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) as a way to better link biodiversity conservation and human wellbeing, including REDD+ initiatives. The PNG program’s current work on REDD+ includes monitoring and evaluation, socio-economic assessment, national planning for reference emission levels, revenue distribution, and stakeholder consultation. It is hoped that REDDX initiative provide the conceptual framework and methodology needed to understand and track the current and future financial flows in PNG, enabling WCS to tailor its work to this market environment as it emerges.

“The REDDX initiative is helping formalize our relationship with government institutions such as the OCCD and PNGFA. Through the global network of partners we have the opportunity to learn from other nations regarding how REDD finance is being used and capture valuable lessons on how best to implement activities at the national and project level in PNG.”

—Ezra Neale, REDD+ and Climate Change Program Manager

Forest Trends - Vietnam

Forest Trends currently employs two consultants who are working with the REDDX initiative to track REDD+ forest financing in the country. Phuc Xuan To provides both expert local knowledge and networks in the Mekong region as well as a globally respected skill sets in issues related to REDD+, illegal logging and associated trade, benefits sharing, biodiversity offsets and other land use issues. His counterpart, Quang Viet Dang holds a PhD from the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany, where he specialized in land use economics. His dissertation focused on the relationship between humankind and the natural environment. Both contribute to Forest Trends’ work on forest production, timber trade flows, and legal frameworks as these relate to the REDD+ and FLEGT VPA initiatives.

Vietnam has witnessed an increase in the number of REDD+ projects over the past two years and has noted rapidly growing and diversifying financial portfolio. Through the REDDX initiative, Phuc and Quang are working in collaboration with the National REDD Focal Point to provide the national government with accurate, up-to-date statistics regarding REDD+ financial arrangements. Using this annual data, the government as well as civil society organizations will be able to monitor the implementation of REDD+ projects, ensuring that they are done in accordance with the country’s National REDD Strategy.