

Contribution to the SDGs



The policy and institutional support that UN-REDD provides through national programmes, technical advice and knowledge dissemination is helping countries advance their sustainable development agendas, across the spectrum of the SDGs.

Regarding the intersection between climate and forests, UN-REDD work has a direct and systemic influence on SDG 13 – “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” – and SDG 15 – “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests...”. The various

national strategies, investment plans, NFMS, SIS, cooperation agreements and partnerships, and financial arrangements that UN-REDD countries develop, adopt and implement are directly advancing many of the SDGs, and in particular SDGs 13 and 15, with notable contributions across the following targets:

TABLE 1. EXAMPLES OF UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS TO SDG 13 (CLIMATE ACTION) AND SDG 15 (LIFE ON LAND) AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL IN 2018

SDG TARGETS - BRIEF DESCRIPTION		EXAMPLES OF UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2018
13.2	Mainstream climate issues in national policy	<p>UN-REDD policy advice on National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan development includes mainstreaming climate issues in national policy by identifying and strengthening linkages with existing forest policy frameworks, national development plans and climate change mitigation commitments (NDCs).</p> <p>UN-REDD helped the Latin-American Parliament (Parlatino) prepare a draft climate change law within its Agricultural Commission that will guide many countries in the region to conciliate the forest-farm-climate linkages.</p>
13.3	Human and institutional capacity-building on climate change mitigation	Each of the nine UN-REDD national programmes has been directly contributing to this SDG target in multiple ways, such as: technical assessment on deforestation drivers, forest monitoring capacities, SIS and multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue and engagement. The REDD+ Academy and the diverse South-South regional exchanges are also directly serving countries in this SDG target area.
13.B	Climate planning and capacity in least developed countries	This support has been systemic, i.e. UN-REDD support for national strategies, investment plans, NDC reviews, MRV design, FRLs and SIS, among other planning tools and outcomes.
15.1	Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular forests, and in line with obligations under international agreements	<p>Support in this area is transversal to the whole UN-REDD Programme portfolio of activities. The inter-agency team supports countries to meet international obligations under UNFCCC, notably the provisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. For example, in 2018, the UN-REDD Programme supported Peru to analyse land-use legislation, focusing on the administrative acts/permits that authorize land-use changes for forest areas, such as for mining, expansion of agricultural lands and infrastructure. The harmonization of land-use planning frameworks is vital to the REDD+ priorities and NDC targets in the AFOLU sectors in regions of Peru.</p> <p>Lately, and based on the experience gained from the work on safeguards, there has been increased interest in enabling international transactions of mitigation outcomes. For this growing area, which can have significant impacts, the UN-REDD Programme is providing advice on the social and environmental integrity of potential transactions, including in sectors outside the Paris Agreement (aviation).</p>
15.2	Sustainable management of forests and halting deforestation	<p>UN-REDD directly contributes to this SDG target through supporting countries to achieve REDD+ readiness (UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+). This provides countries with national strategies for sustainable forest use and conservation, as well as the means to monitor advances and ensure that social and environmental safeguards are respected. UN-REDD also facilitates access to financial flows from both public and private sources.</p> <p>For example, guidance on sustainable forest management in Benishangul-Gumuz Regional State and the drylands of Ethiopia was finalized during 2018 with support from the UN-REDD Programme.</p>

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15.A	Mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use ecosystems	<p>The UN-REDD knowledge components on “financing and the private sector” and “REDD+ funding mechanisms” guided many countries to mobilize financial resources for sustainable forest management and for reducing deforestation. As part of its global work on private financing for REDD+, UN-REDD continued to support and expand the Tropical Landscape Finance Facility (TLFF) in Indonesia and established a new fund with Rabobank (AGRI3 Fund) to mobilize US\$1 billion in financing for sustainable commodity production and forest conservation. A similar facility will be established in India and partners are exploring setting up another one in Côte d’Ivoire. UN-REDD is also involved in formative discussions on the future aviation market (CORSIA) and contributing to enable the environmental integrity of such forest offsets. In the area of private-sector financing, UN-REDD is exploring opportunities compatible with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for investment in REDD activities and transactions between private companies and countries.</p> <p>UN-REDD has helped many countries prepare investment plans (see section on ‘Progress towards REDD+ implementation’ above), which are standard requirements for REDD+ finance. It also provided key technical advice to several countries – e.g. Brazil, Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru – to enable them to access, unlock or implement financing sources, such as the GCF, bilateral results-based finance, private-sector pledges and CAFI.</p>
15.B	Provide incentives to advance management, conservation and restoration of forests	UN-REDD has helped design and test incentive mechanisms (payments for ecosystem services) that can open up avenues for REDD+ action and financing, in countries such as Chile and Côte d’Ivoire.

As a United Nations partnership committed to the entire Sustainable Development Agenda, the UN-REDD Programme offers technical and policy advice in a strategic and integrated way to connect the SDGs. In effect, the wide range of policy, institutional and

cross-sectoral work that UN-REDD promotes in countries – as described in this report – enables a transformational and inclusive approach to REDD+ that renders service across the Sustainable Development Agenda, thereby contributing to a range of SDGs and SDG targets.

Table 2 below provides a glimpse of the broad relevance of UN-REDD work across the Sustainable Development Agenda (beyond SDGs 13 and 15), with selected examples from country work and knowledge management.

TABLE 2. UN-REDD CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGS IN BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES (BEYOND SDGS 13 AND 15)

SDG TARGET – BRIEF DESCRIPTION		UN-REDD CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED EXAMPLES)
1.4	Promote equal rights to economic and natural resources among all men and women, and in particular, vulnerable population groups such as indigenous peoples and forest communities	In Viet Nam, UN-REDD has supported partnerships for natural, forest-based economic models between women and men from ethnic minorities and private companies for traditional herbal medicinal products – this fosters the sustainable management of forests as well as empowering ethnic minorities to enhance their livelihoods, in terms of both income and access to markets.
1.B	Promote gender-sensitive development strategies	<p>As part of Colombia’s National REDD+ Strategy, a gender report was prepared and socialized among stakeholders, providing concrete recommendations and entry points for gender action within existing and future REDD+ actions and processes.</p> <p>The Republic of the Congo’s REDD+ Investment Plan integrates a gender approach, with a minimum quota of 30 per cent women coordinating its implementation and women-specific agricultural development projects, and financial arrangements will be developed to provide women with direct access to material and financial support.</p>

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2.4	Promote resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems	<p>The UN-REDD Programme continued providing support to the TLFF in Indonesia, through which sustainable commodity production is helping local communities and preserving forest ecosystems. A similar facility to be launched in India will follow the same objectives. UN-REDD has also partnered with international banking institutions to extend financial support for deforestation-free agriculture to Brazil.</p> <p>UN-REDD helped develop a deforestation-free jurisdictional approach for the Central Highlands in Viet Nam, with a focus on mobilizing finance to introduce deforestation-free practices in the coffee supply chain.</p> <p>The UN-REDD Programme provided technical expertise for the inclusion and elaboration of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forest management in the Republic of the Congo's REDD+ Investment Plan. This support was catalytic in the preparation of GCF proposals for the country, which aim to secure financing for reducing pressure on forests from small-scale agriculture and fuelwood collection.</p>
4.7	Education for sustainable development	<p>The REDD+ Academy, now an online training platform sustained by UN-REDD, is active and hugely popular, with over 1,000 people enrolled in one of its two programmes: Fundamentals on REDD+ and Advancing on REDD+.</p>
5.5	Women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in political and public life	<p>Thanks to proactive advice and advocacy from UN-REDD, in Honduras women accounted for 47 per cent of the participants in stakeholder engagement efforts with indigenous peoples and local communities. These efforts focused on deliberations about deforestation drivers and land tenure issues.</p>
5.A	Give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land, and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources	<p>In the Republic of the Congo, the country's REDD+ Investment Plan notes that agricultural development projects shall serve to set up women-specific support initiatives and will have a minimum quota (30 per cent) for women's participation. This national policy document also states that financial arrangements will be developed in such a way as to ensure that women have direct access to material and financial support.</p>
7.2	Promote renewable energy	<p>As charcoal is a key source of energy among many rural and poor urban populations, the National REDD+ Strategies and Investment Plans that UN-REDD is facilitating incorporate policy and investment options for sustainable fuelwood production and the expansion of renewable energy systems (e.g. in DRC and Kenya).</p>
8.4	Support measures towards decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation (deforestation)	<p>UN-REDD helped develop tools and approaches for countries in Africa to incorporate multiple benefits, a green economy and green investment into REDD+ planning. UN-REDD provided technical assistance to Liberia, DRC and Ethiopia to support the integration of REDD+ into the countries' national land-use planning and development efforts, recommend viable options for monitoring environmental performance in commodity concessions and scope out private investment opportunities that support REDD+ objectives.</p>
10.2	Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all	<p>UN-REDD provides a wide range of partner countries and stakeholders with advice, knowledge, facilitation processes and tried and tested practices to promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including their political, tenure and natural-resource rights. This knowledge-based support comprises participatory policy platforms, legal and institutional instruments such as protocols for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs), and approaches to integrate the perspectives and proposals of indigenous peoples in investment programmes. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme generates and disseminates knowledge on the responsible governance of land and forest tenure, and how this is critical for simultaneously broadening REDD+ results and advancing indigenous and community rights.</p>

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10.B	Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, in particular to least developed countries and African nations	<p>UN-REDD technical assistance in Côte d'Ivoire is underpinning the institutional mechanisms to access, coordinate, connect and implement official development assistance (ODA) and climate finance. In addition, it is helping mobilize private-sector co-financing (for GCF investments) and private-sector partnerships (e.g. Cocoa & Forests Initiative).</p> <p>The South-South cooperation between Côte d'Ivoire and Costa Rica has resulted in a programme document that translates areas of cooperation between the two countries into concrete activities. This US\$ 500,000 programme is mobilizing resources from the World Bank, the private sector and other donors.</p> <p>In Ethiopia, UN-REDD supported the Government to develop the Institutional Strengthening for Forest Sector Development project, focused on the forest sector's capacity at the strategic and operational levels and on creating an enabling environment for strong forest-sector delivery. The project has US\$ 15 million in funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).</p> <p>Through policy dialogue, UN-REDD facilitated the mobilization of US\$ 4 million from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to support Kenya's REDD Readiness process. These resources will support development of a National REDD+ Strategy and a national SIS, as well as facilitating county governments to develop a framework guide on sustainable management of forest resources.</p>
11.4	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	In Honduras, UN-REDD assistance is helping national stakeholders design a 'cultural safeguard' for forest and REDD+ actions to complement the Cancun safeguards on REDD+.
12.6	Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices	<p>As part of its global work on private-sector financing, UN-REDD has made available innovative sources of financing through partnerships with the private sector. These include the AGR13 Fund, the TLFF and similar initiatives being launched in India and Africa. UN-REDD is also active in the current negotiations regarding the aviation market and discussions on investment in REDD+ activities and transactions between private companies and countries under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>In Viet Nam, 2018 saw progress in engagement with private-sector actors, including on the development of responsible investment guidelines, forest certification and engagement with industry commodity groups including rubber, coffee and cashews, towards deforestation-free sustainable investments.</p>
16.3	Equal access to justice for all	UN-REDD is using the REDD+ processes in countries such as Viet Nam and Myanmar to help design and institutionalize GRMs, which are critical instruments for indigenous peoples and local communities to defend their rights.
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions	<p>Integration of a multi-stakeholder participation platform is an integral part of UN-REDD technical advice for National REDD+ Strategy development and implementation, including policy advice on legal and institutional instruments, such as protocols for FPIC and GRMs.</p> <p>The UN-REDD Programme has collaborated with various initiatives on FLEGT in the cases of Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia and Viet Nam, as previously mentioned in the report.</p>
16.7	Inclusive and participatory decision-making	The participatory policy dialogue process on forests and REDD+ in Colombia has become a model for inclusive and participatory decision-making, with impacts beyond its expected boundaries (see the SDG 17.9 row further down in this table and the Colombia section in this report).
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	<p>United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)</p> <p>GCF/Implementation Plan Policy</p> <p>UNFCCC Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Platform</p>

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17.3	Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	<p>UN-REDD is providing technical assistance to several countries to enable them to access, channel and implement a wide range of climate finance to fund their PAMs for REDD+ or to participate in results-based finance: GCF (e.g. Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador), private investments (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay), finance facilities (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia and soon, India). In addition, as a spinoff of UN-REDD activities, the Government of Costa Rica is submitting a proposal on sustainable cattle farming and ecosystem conservation to the GCF.</p>
17.9	International support for implementing capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all SDGs, including through South-South cooperation	<p>UN-REDD uses South-South cooperation as a primary mechanism to exchange knowledge, accelerate progress and catalyse ambitious results, and to foster long-term commitments to reducing deforestation and forest degradation. In Colombia, UN-REDD support for policy-dialogue platforms between indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples and the Government has informed both the national forest policy and the new national development plan, recognizing UN-REDD as a catalyst for multi-stakeholder efforts towards the Sustainable Development Agenda.</p> <p>Work by the UN-REDD Programme in Indonesia helped to inspire and enable South-South cooperation between key tropical peatland countries. Indonesia's experiences and its willingness to share its knowledge on peatlands management helped inform discussions globally and resulted in the Brazzaville Declaration – a commitment by the Republic of the Congo, DRC and Indonesia to work together, with support from Global Peatlands Initiative partners, for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of peatlands.</p> <p>A South-South partnership between Ghana and Ecuador has been established based on successful knowledge exchange, with the participation of high-level government officials, civil society and private-sector representatives. The partnership focuses on building the capacity of Ecuador and Ghana for REDD+ implementation, leveraging investment and greening domestic investments for REDD+.</p> <p>UN-REDD supported the triangular cooperation between Ghana and Korea with the Development Solutions Partnership (DSP) programme, providing Ghana with US\$ 75,000 for sustainable forest management, which will facilitate a longer-term framework for technical cooperation covering the forest sector. The DSP builds on existing cocoa programmes in Ghana.</p>