

# OSLO REDD EXCHANGE 2016

## Outcome Report



August 2016

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## Executive Summary

The 2016 Oslo REDD Exchange, hosted by the Norwegian government on June 14-15, was attended by 511 participants from 47 countries. The conference aimed to take stock of REDD+ implementation at national level and how the international community could provide support in the post-Paris context, and also to understand the challenges of REDD+ implementation at subnational level and to explore experiences on the ground.

The conference highlighted the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to reach the Paris agreement's goal of reducing global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius. Erna Solberg, the Prime Minister of Norway, addressed the gathering and reaffirmed Norway's continued commitment to REDD+. In addition, the US Secretary of State John Kerry and Erik Solheim, the new Director General of UNEP, addressed the audience.

Under REDD+, governments can receive international payments for reduced emissions. After Paris, every country will have its own national emissions reductions obligations (nationally determined contributions), and in the time to come countries will need to review the role of REDD in that context. It was echoed in most sessions that in order to achieve emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation, this needs to happen in the context of a sustainable development; emissions can be reduced while growing the economy for the benefit of the social development of the people. Governments would have to take the full ownership, but with strong collaborative efforts with the private sector and civil society, in order to succeed.

Strong concerns were expressed, as the prospects for international financing of REDD+ are currently less than expected. It was highlighted that the absence of predictable finance for compensating communities could negatively affect REDD+ at the national level and affect local community engagement. At the same time, cases of successful progress made in reducing deforestation and forest degradation were well documented, including Brazil's unprecedented achievement of reducing deforestation in the Amazon by 70 %.

The main highlights from the conference are as follows:

- It is necessary to succeed with REDD+ to reach the Paris agreement's 1.5-2 degrees goal.
- REDD+ is not only important to mitigate climate change. It also helps to:
  - protect the fundamental "ecological services" that forests provide to humankind: Fresh water, biological diversity, rainfall, protection against nature disasters (flooding, landslides and the impact of extreme winds and heavy rain).

- secure usage, management or property rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and for resolving various land tenure issues.
- It is important to integrate REDD+ into the green growth and investment strategies of national governments, including raising domestic finance for REDD-relevant activities. Governments' ownership and political will is decisive to succeed and maintain success in halting deforestation.
- REDD+ should form part of the national framework for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Public-private partnerships are important to raise finance for REDD+ activities, for compensating communities, and due to the private sector's important role in halting deforestation.
- The growing number of companies' commitments to have zero deforestation in their supply chains will become increasingly important, and underlines the necessity for integrated efforts between governments and companies.
- Multi-stakeholder platform should be created, including all relevant stakeholders (finance, business, indigenous peoples, government and donors), based on experiences from e.g. the energy sector.
- Succeeding with REDD+ requires the cooperation between national level governments/administration, and subnational and local levels, as well as NGOs, local communities, academia and the private sector.
- There are concerns regarding the lack of attention to the gender dimensions of REDD+, especially in the absence of secure land rights for women.
- It is important to secure alternative livelihoods for those currently living from deforestation-related activities, especially to support smallholder farmers and to enhance productivity and diversify livelihoods.
- The concurrence of REDD+ with post-conflict situations demands awareness and 'do no harm approaches'. Given the central role governance aspects have in REDD+, there is also potential for mutual benefits.

## Introduction

Organized by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and hosted by the government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), Oslo REDD Exchange 2016 aimed to take stock of the REDD+ implementation at the national levels and how the international community could provide support in the post-Paris context. Another aim was to understand the challenges of REDD+ implementation at subnational levels and to explore experiences on the ground.

The conference participants presented and discussed the status of implementation of REDD+ in various partner countries, the challenges they face, especially in the absence of a carbon market and unassured finance commitments. However, the participants agreed that the post-Paris momentum should be taken forward and maintained to achieve the goal of emission reductions from forests and land use change through REDD+. The conference also reiterated the importance of private sector actors and public-private partnership in the effective financing of REDD+.

The two-day conference was organized in three plenary sessions and three parallel sessions with four thematic focus areas – thus 12 parallel sessions in total. This report is a summary of the highlights and discussions of the proceedings.

511 representatives of REDD+ from donor governments, civil society, researchers, multilateral organizations and the private sector attended for the conference. The conference was streamed live, and is available on Norad's website: <https://www.norad.no/en/front/events/oslo-redd-exchange-20162/>

## High Level Interventions

### Day 1:

The conference was opened by **Jon Lomøy**, the Director General of Norad. He emphasized the importance of the conference to share experience and lessons and bring forward the REDD+ agenda.

**Erna Solberg, the Prime Minister of Norway**, expressed her satisfaction with the level of ambition of the Paris Agreement on climate change and that it recognizes the important role of tropical forests in achieving this goal. She highlighted that in order to end deforestation, governments need to take leadership and that developing countries should not have to bear the burden of forest protection alone. She underlined that the experience from recent Norwegian bilateral, multilateral and civil society collaborations show that reducing deforestation requires long term investment at scale, and that the efforts of all stakeholders have been necessary to achieve this goal. She confirmed that the Norwegian parliament will ratify the Paris Agreement and that there will be a joint statement between US and Norway on deeper cooperation on forests and climate change.

**Alec Baldwin**, Actor and UNDP Ambassador for Forest Protection, complimented (via video) Norway and other partners for their investments in protecting global forests and the role of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities in this endeavor. He also stressed the importance of saving forests as they are the best natural solution for carbon capture and storage.

**Erik Solheim**, the Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee and Executive Director Elect of UNEP, emphasized the need to combine development and forest protection in a global agenda. He argued that the private sector is a forerunner in this regard and that performance-based payments will be a powerful tool to drive change in this field. Furthermore, he reminded the audience that we are in this together and that only through combined efforts we can be successful.

Finally, **Frances Seymour**, Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development and Chair of the Program Committee expressed her gratitude to the Norwegian government for their persistence on pushing the REDD+ agenda.

## Day 2:

### US Secretary of State John Kerry visits Oslo REDD Exchange

**Vidar Helgesen**, Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment, and **United States Secretary of State John Kerry** signed a joint statement to pursue deeper and more extensive collaboration on forest and climate change. Minister Helgesen furthermore announced that the Norwegian Parliament would ratify the Paris Agreement on the same day.

Secretary Kerry reminded the audience that climate change is a defining challenge to our generation and emphasized the important role of the world's forests to keep global warming below 2 degrees. The Paris Agreement was a critical milestone and he congratulated the Norwegian parliament for its decision to ratify the agreement and its efforts on REDD+. Kerry reported that the United States has committed to ratify the agreement this year and encouraged other states to join. He emphasized that the Paris Agreement is also a signal to the marketplace, particularly the energy market. He proposed that the solution to climate change is energy policy and a shift to clean alternative renewable energy. When private sector and governments work together this transformation can happen. Finally, the Secretary of State pledged the strongest possible support of the US for actions that will safeguard health and our planet for future generations.

## PLENARY AND PARALLEL SESSIONS

### Plenary Session 1: REDD+ Post-Paris: National implementation

**Objective:** To gather ministerial-level officials and other high-level speakers from forest-rich developing countries to discuss implementation of REDD+ at national and sub-national levels in light of the agreement reached in Paris at COP21. The panel focused on past, current, and likely future challenges in initiating and sustaining the transformational changes required for achieving REDD+ objectives, the roles of different stakeholder groups, and support needed from international partnerships and alliances. The panel paid attention to the broad implications of the Paris agreement for REDD+ – including INDCs, accounting, transparency, market-based mechanisms, and finance – from the perspective of government leaders and other stakeholders from REDD+ countries.

**Moderator:** **Frances Seymour**, Center for Global Development

#### Panelists:

- **Shiferaw Teklemariam**, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Ethiopia
- **Paula Caballero**, Senior Director for Environment and Natural Resources, World Bank Group
- **Nazir Foad**, Head of Peat Restoration Agency, Indonesia
- **Abdon Nababan**, Secretary General of AMAN (Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of The Archipelago) Indonesia
- **Pablo Vieira Samper**, Vice Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

### Summary

The plenary session emphasized that the national level has a decisive role in implementing the Paris Agreement. Several key points came to the fore that affect national strategies:

*More collaboration among partners is necessary.* Collaboration among the different stakeholders and particularly public-private partnerships will help to realize the new climate agreement in the national contexts. The realization of national plans rely on popular mobilization, stakeholder participation and engagement of the private sector. The experience of implementing REDD+ in Indonesia, showed that in order to maintain REDD+ momentum across political transitions the government, private sector and civil society need to engage to find a consistent approach to deforestation commitments.

*Solving national land and forest-related conflicts is essential to implementing REDD+. Land and forest areas are particularly affected by environmental conflicts. Conflict destabilizes affected regions and communities and enables illegal activities such as mining or timber trafficking. Poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities in general are drivers of deforestation in these areas. Countries in transition to peace need to provide the affected communities in the forest regions with job opportunities, health and education to avoid these environmental conflicts and allow economic growth in a sustainable way. In Colombia, REDD+ is a fundamental mechanism to promote sustainable use of forest in post-conflict areas and contribute to pursuing a green growth strategy and to achieving the three main pillars of the national development plan: education, equity and peace.*

*REDD+ can act as a bridge to discuss the rights of indigenous peoples (IPs) on a global level. The protection of forests go hand in hand with the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. REDD+ is a new mechanism to indigenous peoples, but forest protection is historically part of their way of life. REDD+ supports the implementation of recognized constitutional rights of IPs by bringing the issues to the global level. It thereby creates a space to have dialogue with governments on how to make the rights of indigenous people and their crucial role for forest protection visible within the national administrative systems.*

*Climate and development objectives need to be aligned. Forests are at the core of development and crucial for eradicating poverty. The World Bank Forest Action Plan for instance recognizes the role of forests to achieve development objectives. Sustainable forest management and the engagement with other sectors such as transport, agriculture, energy or mining are key to understanding forests as embedded in productive landscapes and the co-benefits of investments. Prioritizing climate-smart agriculture and the alignment of climate and development finance are necessary to move away from fragmentation and focus on the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This approach is important to meet the sustainable development goals through the preservation of forests and minimization of the ecological costs of investments.*

## **Plenary Session 2: REDD+ Post-Paris: International partnerships and alliances**

**Objective:** To gather ministerial-level officials and other high-level speakers from donor countries and global policy arenas to discuss how international alliances and partnerships can support national-level implementation of REDD+ in forest-rich countries. The panel reflected on how official climate finance, private sector initiatives, and global civil society networks have contributed to the progress of REDD+ to date, and the prospects for enhanced collaboration in the post-Paris context. The panel included attention to the broad implications of the Paris agreement for REDD+ – including INDCs,

accounting, transparency, market-based mechanisms, and finance – from the perspective of government leaders from donor countries and other stakeholders participating in global policy arenas.

**Moderator: Dominic Waughrey**, World Economic Forum

**Panelists:**

- **Thomas Silberhorn**, Parliamentary State Secretary, Germany
- **Hindou Ibrahim**, Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
- **Jonathan Horrell**, Mondelez
- **Naoko Ishii**, CEO of Global Environment Facility
- **Victor Manuel Noriega Reategui**, Governor, San Martin, Peru

## Summary

*Political will, stakeholder coordination and bringing in the private sector are crucial.* Strong political will is going to be important to move the agenda forward in forest rich countries, both nationally and internationally. This includes efficient partnerships between donors, partner countries, NGOs, and the private sector in order to coordinate finance and efforts. The agenda is too large to be solved with public finance only. There is therefore a need also to bring in the private sector. Panelists argued that we need multi-stakeholder platforms to do this, including finance, business, indigenous peoples, governments and donors. This is happening already in many sectors, such as in the energy sector and in developing sustainable supply chains. The idea of a 'P6' (Production, Protection, Private-Public-Partnership and Peoples) framework was presented as an approach for identifying gaps and weaknesses in supply chain platforms that programs and mechanisms, such as the GEF and REDD+, can bolster.

The example of Peru's fight against drug trafficking shows that bringing multiple stakeholders together, and providing them with alternative livelihoods, can provide sustainable solutions. There is also need to improve the technical capacities of local people to increase production. This was particularly emphasized by the private sector representative, who pointed towards interesting development trends within the cocoa sector. New emerging markets for cocoa combined with a flat productivity rate of the crop can create huge challenges related to the expansion of cocoa into new forest areas. Establishing multiple stakeholder platforms for developing sustainable supply chains was re-emphasized as a key approach.

*Creating new narratives, while rejecting some of the 'old' ones.* One of the new narratives in the post-2015 agenda is the value of securing the health of our Global Commons (GC), such as water resources, climate and forests. Panelists remarked that without addressing this there will be no sustainable development. It is also important that we acknowledge the role of forests as productive systems, not only as carbon sinks. Forests

are key for poor peoples' livelihoods. If we do not address this in a sustainable way, it is not going to be profitable in the long run.

*Land tenure and rights are key.* Clarifying tenure issues is important for achieving sustainability within REDD+. Examples from Africa were used to exemplify this. Here, most land is formally controlled by the government and the relationship between formal and customary laws are unclear. This needs to be clarified, and anchored in laws and regulations. If you do not have clear tenure and rights to the land and resources, it is not clear what you need to protect. The role and rights of women was further emphasized. For indigenous peoples and local communities this is not about money, it is about life.

## **Parallel Session 1 A: Brazil: Can REDD+ contribute to sustaining the miracle into a second decade?**

**Objective:** To explore the potential for transformational change in land-use systems, and how different stakeholders, policy approaches, and financing streams can come together to achieve reductions in emissions from deforestation, with particular reference to the case of Brazil.

**Moderator: Tasso Azevedo** – Coordinator, SEEG Network and MapBiomass; former Director General of the Brazilian Forestry Service

### **Panelists:**

- **Carlos Rittl**, Climate Observatory
- **Adriana Ramos**, Instituto Socioambiental
- **Alberto Tavares**, CEO of Environmental Services Development Company of Acre
- **Roberto Waack**, Chairman of Amata
- **Thelma Krug**, Ministry of the Environment, Brazil

## **Summary**

The discussion focused on Brazil's achievements in reducing deforestation and how this can be sustained in the long run. The federal government of Brazil has promulgated a National REDD+ Strategy (NSREDD). How this can be linked with the sub-national levels (state-level) is still unclear. The following main points were raised and discussed.

*Aiming for zero illegal deforestation.* Brazil has achieved a dramatic reduction in deforestation over the last decade. How can this miracle be sustained and how can a 'second miracle', that is, zero illegal deforestation, be achieved by 2020? This is indeed the challenge Brazil is facing now and especially with the new political situation. To achieve this Brazil needs governments and instruments that are good, and a good Forest Action Plan, which includes the *cerrado* (savanna ecosystem). While deforestation in the Amazon has been decreasing dramatically, deforestation in the *cerrado* has been

increasing. The Forest Action plan is now being revised in consultation with civil society, the Ministry and other stakeholders.

*Compensation for legal deforestation to achieve zero deforestation by 2030.* The rate of deforestation is still quite high in Brazil. The aim is to move to zero deforestation – both legal and illegal deforestation will be stopped by 2030. Compensation will be paid to farmers for not cutting down their legal forests. The drivers of deforestation will be addressed, while at the same time the whole landscape will be considered as a whole unit and follow a different type of land use pattern. The national REDD+ strategy will be linked to other activities as pointed out by the Ministry of Environment, Brazil.

*REDD+ has to be part of a larger policy strategy to achieve the SDGs.* REDD+ is not a panacea for all ills. It has to be associated with other activities and financing need to be done at the national level as well. The Ministry of Finance is working on the carbon market, carbon financing etc. REDD+ should be seen as a public policy that shows a lot of progress by the end of this year. The academia, private sector, civil society and policy makers must join together in order to achieve this.

*No other policy alternatives.* The mainstream economic growth model is pursued by Brazil. Alternative models of development are not considered or discussed. This is a major challenge for achieving zero deforestation. Civil society organizations have to be included in policy-making arenas. There is a strong pressure to change environmental legislations, which could be detrimental. There have been discussions on removing the territorial rights of indigenous peoples. This is not conducive for REDD+ or reducing deforestation. The indigenous territories have to be demarcated; there should be legislation to implement the green economy. More civil society actors should take part in policy-making processes to devise appropriate strategies.

*Livelihood diversification for small holders:* to diversify livelihoods and reduce forest dependence for economic activities. The economic agenda needs to be consolidated, financial incentives are needed, conservation of protected areas and community cooperatives need to be established. The indigenous communities have to be in partnership with NGOs. Programs for livelihood diversification are important to reduce deforestation. The flow of financing should be steady to sustain the programs. Resources are fundamental to consolidating the gains made so far.

## **Parallel Session 1 B: Indonesia: Can business-as-usual deforestation be confronted and reversed?**

**Objective:** To explore the potential for transformational change in land-use systems, and how different stakeholders, policy approaches, and financing streams can come together to achieve reductions in emissions from deforestation, with particular reference to the case of Indonesia.

**Moderator: Rezal Kusumaatmadja** – P.T. Rimba Makmur Utama; Katingan REDD+ project in Central Kalimantan

**Panelists:**

- **Nazir Foad**, Head, Peat Restoration Agency
- **Nur Masripatin**, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- **Mina Setra**, AMAN (Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of The Archipelago)
- **Tony Wenas**, President Director in APRIL Group
- **Alex Noerdin**, Governor, South Sumatera

## Summary

Since Indonesia in 2009 voluntarily committed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the forces of continued business-as-usual practices have resisted the change. The 2015 forest fires when more than 2 million hectares of forest were burned, has been the worst setback to date. Since the debate of how to reduce deforestation globally and in Indonesia started back in 2007, the agenda and focus of how it can be done has evolved on paper. But how can we now translate these commitments into real action on the ground?

*Challenges to reduce deforestation in Indonesia are still massive:* There are many challenges ahead for Indonesia in order to turning the negative trend. These include, inter alia, developing a coherence between national and subnational processes, capacity building of local communities, addressing governance issues, and ensuring that the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected. As expressed by one of the panelists: “We all know that the issue of rights has to be dealt with before we can do other things. Why then don’t we do anything about it?” There is also a need to develop more positive examples of how things can be done differently in different contexts. In addition, lack of enforcement capacities and clear sanctions are major challenges. The option of returning concession land to the communities was positively discussed amongst the participants. It was emphasized, however, that more knowledge is needed about how to do this in practice. More positive government incentives are also necessary in order to move the industry further in the right direction, for instance in relation to peatland and other ecosystems restoration. Here, more knowledge about different mechanisms and approaches is needed. Further, it is important that all stakeholders are involved and have a voice in these processes through multi-stakeholder platforms. However, lack of trust due to violations of the rights of IP and local communities in the past, is often a challenge in moving these processes forward.

*Positive developments and trends.* Since the 2015 forest fires, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) has initiated further institutional changes, including the establishment of an Agency for Peatland Restoration (APR) and a moratorium on all further expansion

of palm oil plantations into peatlands. Seeing the moratorium being enforced has somehow shocked the private sector, and the APR aims at restoring about 2 million hectares of peatlands within the next five years. Lately there has also been some positive movements amongst key stakeholders. Some claimed that Indonesia has even reached a 'tipping point', where the large private actors within the palm oil and pulp-and-paper industry are changing approaches towards 'zero-deforestation' practices. The technical assistance provided through international collaboration and bilateral agreements with other countries, such as Norway has contributed to the further strengthening of the Indonesian efforts, and continued international pressure on Indonesia is important for continued progress.

## **Parallel Session 1 C: REDD+ in the Green Economy: Transforming the forest sector in Ethiopia and Liberia**

**Objective:** To show how REDD+ and forests can be integrated in green economy development. For many countries, and in particular for the least developed, REDD+ will only make sense if it is a part of a political narrative on economic growth, operating closely with other climate change mitigation and adaptation goals and programs.

**Moderator: Selam Kidane Abebe**, Legal Advisor to the Africa Group of negotiators for UNFCCC

### **Panelists:**

- **Minister Shiferaw Teklemarian**, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Ethiopia
- **Hon. Harrison S. Karnwea**, Head of Forest Development Agency, Liberia
- **Yitebitu Moges**, National REDD+ Coordinator in Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, Ethiopia
- **Dr. Simon Lord**, Chief Sustainability Office, Sime Darby
- **Mulugeta Kassaye**, Farm Africa

### **Summary**

The session focused on the experiences from Ethiopia and Liberia on how to achieve forest protection within a green economy. Ethiopia has developed an ambitious climate-resilient green economy strategy and Liberia implemented sustainable management of natural resources. In these contexts, the role of different stakeholders, policy incentives and the international community was debated.

*The forest sector is important for the development of a green economy. Countries like Ethiopia will only be able to meet their NDCs when addressing the greenhouse gas emissions of the forest sector. Green growth can be achieved by taking an economy wide*

approach and a focus on the forest sector and addressing the emissions of other related sectors such as energy, tourism and agriculture.

*The private sector is crucial to establish deforestation-free value chains.* The experience and resources of the private sector are necessary to achieve this objective. In Liberia, a major driver of deforestation is unsustainable subsistence agriculture. Therefore, in the palm oil sector the private sector supports communities to establish valuable smallholder plantations to address this problem. There is a need to extend this approach to other sectors and effectively work with communities.

*Need to leverage funding for REDD+ and provide economic and technological capacity to developing countries.* Developing countries need support in investment from developed countries to pursue a green growth strategy. In Ethiopia, a challenge to the implementation of REDD+ is low capacity and small international investments, which limits scope and level of intervention. Market mechanisms are not enough to implement REDD+ projects, but other funding resources are also necessary.

*Communities need to have incentives to make REDD+ projects successful.* The needs of the communities affected by deforestation have to be addressed properly. Deforestation projects need to create new opportunities for communities rather than constraining livelihoods. Benefit sharing mechanism should make sure that REDD+ benefits are invested back to the community to develop more sustainable livelihoods and make forests a sustainable economic resource for the community. In addition, the rights of the communities need to be recognized by the private sector. However, there are difficulties to strike a balance between the company's and the communities' benefits.

## **Parallel Session 2 A: Domestic and international options for results-based finance: Reasons for optimism?**

**Objective:** To understand the current state-of-play with respect to the current availability and future prospects for generating significant results-based finance from REDD+ from public and private international sources, as well as the potential for mobilizing domestic resources.

**Moderator:** **Smita Nakhoda**, Overseas Development Institute

### **Panelists:**

- **Christiane Ehringhaus**, KfW REDD Early Movers program
- **Swapan Mehra**, Iora Ecological Solutions, India; adviser to Indian Finance Commission
- **Michael Wolosin**, Climate Advisers
- **Tao Wang**, Director of Mitigation and Adaptation, Green Climate Fund

## Summary

The discussions in this session were focused on how the landscape of REDD+ finance is changing with the endorsement of REDD+ in the global climate agreement in Paris.

*How to make private sector investments in REDD+ politically attractive?* Panelists pointed to several possibilities for innovation. (1) result-based financing should be delinked from investments in low carbon projects, (2) results-based finance require innovation in the approach, not just in the types of projects that are funded (3) Project based finance may be a better option than result-based finance (4) Better governance is key in most countries.

*The importance of mobilizing domestic state finance.* The Indian Finance Commission has been allocating funds for states based on the forest area maintained since 2002. This has been a major incentive for states to manage the forests and undertake forest conservation. The budget amounts to about 174 USD per ha of standing forests. This finance is not tied to any forest related investments. It is left to the discretion of the states. However, the states have to manage the forests according to the Forest Work Plans. It took 14 years to turn a small grant to significant financing of states. The national commitment is very strong. States are not competing with each other for the finance but just trying to increase and maintain their forests. Strong monitoring exists. The Indian case shows that leveraging of domestic finance is very important and then gaps can be filled by international sources.

*Green Climate Fund (GCF):* This is an important new institution that provides finance to green investments, and for operationalizing REDD+ financing. Hopefully, in the future more comprehensive funding will be provided to sustain investments. There is a dedicated private sector component in GCF. Last year GCF committed 150 million USD to a wide range of activities.

*Common understanding of REDD+ important:* Currently there is no common understanding of result-based financing at the international level. Programs are tailor made for each country and are flexible in design and implementation. There are 60+ countries in the pipeline, but countries that are ready for results-based REDD+ implementation are quite limited which poses a big challenge. Bilateral agreements are often signed, but then negotiations change in another direction. Negotiations at the international level and crafting projects at the local level are complex issues.

*REDD+ visions and policies vs implementability:* concerns were raised regarding the implementability of REDD+. There are great visions of large new institutions, great projects etc., but on the ground it is a very complex reality. It might be better to start working with existing institutions rather than introducing new ones.

## Parallel Session 2B: REDD+ and Peace Processes: How can they be mutually supportive?

**Objective:** To explore (i) how to ensure reduced deforestation in a post-conflict scenario, (ii) how REDD+ can be effective in a post-conflict scenario and (iii) how to ensure that REDD+ is conflict-sensitive.

**Background:** Many high forested countries, and many of NICFI partner countries are to some degree fragile states, or at different stages of conflict/ post-conflict. Revenues from timber and other natural resources often play an important role in the conflicts. A better understanding of post-conflict dynamics and the connections between conflict and natural resource management may help REDD+ programs succeed in difficult surroundings, and may ensure that REDD+ programs do not hamper fragile peace processes.

**Moderator:** **Kerstin Canby**, Director Forest Trends and Finance, Forest Trends

### Panelists:

- **Pablo Viera Samper**, Vice Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia
- **Silas Siakor**, Goldman Award for the Environment Winner, Liberia
- **Saw Frankie Abreu**, Trip Net, civil society, Karen state, Myanmar
- **Art Blundell**, former Chair UN Panel of Experts on Liberia

## Summary

*The global overview.* Twenty-one REDD+ countries have peace-keeping forces within their territories. The links between REDD+ and peace processes are hence obvious. In these countries violence is more frequent, and the risks for REDD+ implementation higher. For REDD+ to avoid becoming a trigger for more violence and conflict, it needs to take a 'do no harm' approach. REDD Readiness also includes many governance processes that have clear synergies with governance needed for the implementation of peace agreements/peace building.

*The post-conflict drivers of deforestation and degradation.* In post-conflict countries, the pressure for development is often high. Countries often opt for quick-fix income solutions by releasing large numbers of timber concessions. This has, to a certain degree, been the case in Myanmar, where the national government has released numerous concessions to foreign companies without taking the overlapping demands and interests of different stakeholders into account. In post-conflict situations there are often also many 'spoilers' who have been taking economic advantage of the conflict situation.

These actors often have personal interests in returning the country to an unstable condition. Moreover, you tend to have larger number of displaced communities that are to return to their land as part of the post-conflict process, risking further encroachment of the forest. There is also a risk for escalation of conflict unless the local population is included in the process.

*REDD+ and peace- a win-win solution?* While REDD+ should not be overloaded with objectives, there is still a great potential for REDD+ to contribute positively in the process. Colombia is an example of a country that has been able to build trust and alternative livelihoods to populations in post-conflict areas. This has both reduced the level of conflict and the pressure on the environment and natural resources. REDD+ is hence viewed as a win-win solution for both reducing the level of conflict and address climate change issues. In Liberia, REDD+ is also building on many of the positive processes of the past. Through multi-stakeholder processes people have been able to express their interests and concerns. Meeting communities' expectations is, however, a great challenge, and ex-combatants are often the most impressionable in case there is a sense of the government not delivering development.

*Moving forward.* In the future, do no harm should be key for all REDD+ implementation in post-conflict areas. But there is also great potential for mutual re-enforcement between the two. It will be important to also involve the private sector more actively in activities inside of conflict areas. There is also a need to generate a market and develop an infrastructure to deal with the products from alternative livelihood activities. Traditional land use and practices have a lot of potential, but clarifying the rights to land and resources is a challenge in post-conflict areas. Building capacities so that people move away from illegal and destructive activities will also be important. It is also crucial to include the aspects of environment and management of natural resources in peace agreements. In conclusion, making peace and managing forests are both complex issues, but through collaborative processes and trust-building, there is potential for mutual reinforcements between the two processes.

## **Parallel Session 2C: Advancing Indigenous Peoples Rights through REDD+**

**Objectives:** To (i) explore how REDD+ can be used to advance the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and (ii) identify critical gaps in the existing REDD+ architecture relevant to IP and local community rights and to reducing the risk of conflict at all levels;

**Moderator:** [Joan Carling](#), Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

**Panelists:**

- **Per Fredrik Pharo**, Special Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment
- **Abdon Nababan**, Secretary General of AMAN (Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of The Archipelago) Indonesia
- **Clemencia Herrera**, Indigenous Leader, Org. of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC)
- **Laura George**, Amerindian Peoples Association, Guyana

## Summary

The rainforest is home to approximately 60 million IPs. Climate change reduces the opportunities for their communities and their territories are exposed to illegal logging and mining activities. , Recognizing the rights of indigenous people is an effective way to protect these forests and stop deforestation. The session particularly debated how recognition mechanisms, land tenure issues and REDD+ play a role in this.

*Need for constitutional recognition of IP rights to implement REDD+.* It is crucial to recognize the rights of IPs in national mechanisms, because it shows how serious a government is about implementing REDD+. This shows in, for instance, to what degree social and environmental safeguards on transparency, participation, tenure clarification and environmental integrity, are addressed and respected. The protection of constitutional rights go hand in hand with the safeguard mechanism in REDD+. However, the limitation of some legislation is that it does not recognize collective rights but just individual land rights. Hence, national legislation needs to be reformed and connected to relevant global conventions on the rights of IPs. It is particularly imperative to include women, recognize their rights and include them in education programs.

*Political will is needed to realize already existing positive developments related to indigenous peoples and forest governance.* Political will is still missing as regards respecting indigenous peoples' rights. In Colombia's constitution, for instance, the rights of IPs are recognized but in order to push the government's engagement, it would be necessary to further coordinate with the ministry and make them accountable for IP's rights. When there are no institutions in the government really in charge of IPs' rights, implementation is still faulty.

*Coordination among key institutions is necessary to ensure policy coherence.* A single entity cannot make REDD+ work, but cooperation among different parties is crucial. For effective engagement in decision-making bodies there need to be institutional mechanisms in place. A dedicated government agency for indigenous peoples within the national governance structure would help to further coordinate and advance indigenous peoples' rights. Similarly a platform where stakeholders and rights-holders come together to discuss Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and tenure issues can help.

*Investment in land tenure is an effective climate mechanism and key to achieving REDD+. Tenure is the shortest way to REDD+ and this needs financial support. Investments in tenure rights for indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities to defend, protect and manage tropical forests are among the most effective ways to mitigate climate change. Norway therefore stands ready to support clarification of tenure in tropical forest countries which are key to reduce emissions from forests and land use change, through existing and emerging financing mechanisms, noting that finance may not represent the main bottleneck but rather political will and initiative. There is a similar need to invest in measures to map the territories of IPs as a foundation for realizing tenure in the first place.*

## **Parallel Session 3A: REDD+ in the Mayan region of Mexico: Can subnational programs be effectively linked with national results?**

**Objectives:** The panel explored the challenges in integrating subnational jurisdictional REDD+ programs within national frameworks, including legal and regulatory options, MRV, accounting and registries, institutional arrangements, financial flow, and mechanisms for benefits distribution. It provided examples from REDD+ arrangements in México with a focus on the Yucatan Peninsula and Chiapas and how these states are leading the path for bottom-up innovations in their country.

**Moderator:** [Rosa Ma Vidal](#), Governors' Climate and Forests Fund.

### **Panelists:**

- [Rane G. Cortez](#), Chief of Party. Mexico REDD Program
- [Jorge Fernandez](#), CONAFOR, Manager of Planning and Evaluation
- [Ricardo Hernandez Sanchez](#), Secretary of Forestry. Chiapas State
- [Efraim Acosta Lugo](#), Programs Director Pronatura Peninsula de Yucatan A.C. & GCF-Task Force Coordinator in the Yucatan Peninsula
- [Werner L. Kornexl](#), World Bank

## **Summary**

The importance of sub-national jurisdictional programs in the implementation of REDD+, especially in the Mayan region of Mexico, was the main theme of discussion.

*Mexico: A successful case?* Mexico has been committed to REDD+ since COP16 and there has been 15 years of investments in Mexico by the World Bank (WB). There has been large investments, community payments and social investment complementing a program. Institutional strengthening has been very important. It was important to work

with the Mexican Government and the delivery mechanism was part of the government structure. Therefore, Mexico is a model for successful engagement of the state in implementation of REDD+. This is a programmatic approach that the WB tries to replicate in the rest of the world. In Mexico 80% of the forests are owned by communities. This allows Mexico to be successful.

*Linking community to national level:* There has been a true partnership between national, state and local levels, which has been key to its success. In addition, state policies have been aligned with national goals.

*Joint efforts of universities, civil society, state and national actors:* This has been important for producing and sharing knowledge, to organize training programs for local level actors including community. All stakeholders participate to identify the best elements. Resources are shared among them. The federal and municipal governments also worked on the same platform with the community and civil society. A policy plan is now almost ready and Yucatan is now well prepared for results based payments.

*Political commitment is important:* Mexico has a political commitment to REDD+ and wants to develop integrated management of territory, identify sustainable agricultural activities, jobs, income diversification and preserve ecosystems.

*Dialogue with local communities:* Chiapas is actively building a system of dialogue with local communities, academia, local and federal governments, State Forest Council, Forest development Institutions etc. Chiapas has a pluralistic open platform. There is a vision document complementing the national REDD+ Strategy paper. The state strategy is aligned with the national strategy and the Forest strategy.

*Participation of IPs:* Ensuring participation of IPs still seems to be an issue. However, the discussants pointed out that there are ample space for their participation, especially in discussions regarding benefit sharing. The law is quite clear in Mexico. The owners of the forest also own the carbon. 100% of the payments will be delivered to the states that achieve emission reduction.

## **Parallel Session 3 B: East Kalimantan, Indonesia: What are the prospects for transformational change in land-use?**

**Objective:** To (i) explore how a high forest cover, land-use intensive subnational economy can be transformed into a prosperous, sustainable, low-deforestation economy. More specifically, the sessions aimed to pinpoint what each segment (government, companies, civil society) need to contribute with, in order to succeed with the twofold goal: Growing the economy for the benefit of the people, while protecting remaining forests and peat. (ii) Establish a platform for determining how to take these pledges forward.

**Moderator: Timothy Jessup**, Global Green Growth Institute

## Panelists:

- **Riza Indra Riadi**, Province of East Kalimantan
- **Herlina Hartanto**, The Nature Conservancy, Indonesia
- **Daddy Ruhiyat**, Head of the provincial climate change council (DD PI)
- **Aida Greenbury**, Sustainability Director, Asia Pulp and Paper (APP)
- **Tiza Mafira**, Analyst, Climate Policy Initiative

## Special audience member:

- **Cornelis Cornelis**, Governor, Provincial Government of West Kalimantan, Indonesia

## Summary

75% of East Kalimantan's economy is land use-intensive, with 7 million hectares of forest lost to deforestation over the last decade, but it still has some 50 % forest cover. East Kalimantan has developed plans for a new model of development aiming at zero burning of forest and peat, and shows a strong commitment to green growth to be used at the provincial and sub-provincial levels to rehabilitate its forests and bring economic transformation.

*Technical and social processes need to go hand in hand.* When local communities are involved in decision-making processes, through e.g. "social forestry" programmes, communities have a greater deal of ownership to the forest. Carbon funds should not only be used to lower carbon emissions, but their contribution to local communities need to be considered such as through safeguards and strengthening of monitoring. In East Kalimantan, social problems are caused through migration and this challenge can be addressed by providing job opportunities for these migrants on plantations in the region.

*Fiscal policies can set incentives for green economic growth.* Current fiscal policies have not discouraged regional and local administrations to expand land use. Rather, regional governments have received revenues from companies' production in their region – although the central government remains with the lion's share of such revenues. Fiscal policies can be targeted to incentivize reduced deforestation. They can also be used to generate financing of emissions reduction activities upfront, if designed wisely, and if there is sufficient will to enter into a green development path.

*Civil society needs to be included in green growth strategies to make them successful.* Green growth is also embraced by forest dependent communities at the village level and there is support for land-use development. Yet, green growth only improves well-being when the communities are involved in decision-making processes and held accountable to decide themselves which area of the village will be protected and which one

developed. Since the government has brought together different stakeholders at the jurisdictional level to debate how to strengthen conservation efforts and improve sustainable production, civil society has supported the government in its green growth compact. Yet, trust and the possibility of having an open dialogue is still a main challenge to these types of processes.

*Companies need to collaborate and work at a landscape level when creating more sustainable business models.* Some companies like APP ended deforestation in 2013 across their supply chain. To pursue a zero deforestation policy with different stakeholders it is necessary to improve plantation management accordingly. Companies need to look beyond their own plantations and collaborate at a landscape level on protection areas and engage with local communities. The varied level of education of contractors in the different forest areas is an ongoing challenge, which needs to be addressed.

## **Parallel Session 3 C: Mai Ndombe, DRC: Progressing toward payment for performance**

**Objective:** To explore progress towards emission reduction programmes in Africa using Mai Ndombe in DRC as an example.

**Moderator:** **Peter A Minang**, World Agroforestry Centre-ICRAF

### **Panelists:**

- **Flory Batamba**, WWF DRC
- **Ellysar Baroudy**, BioCarbon Fund, World Bank Group
- **Jeremy Freund**, Wildlife Works Carbon
- **Victor Kabangele Wa Kadilu**, MECNT (Gov. of DRC) and National REDD Coordinator

## **Summary**

Overcoming communication problems has been a main challenge. People had to understand what the programme was all about, and become convinced that the focus is on improving their livelihoods. Transparency is key here, and there should be no hidden agendas. The potential role of independent observers was positively discussed amongst the panelists. There are also other elements that need to be in place, such as elaborate and detailed plans for benefit-sharing.

*MRV and FREL.* The programme has faced challenges in establishing a forest reference emission level and a system for measuring, reporting and verification of emissions from deforestation and degradation. The area is vast, covering 13 million hectares, of which 9

million are forestland. Cloud cover is also frequent and infrastructure is poorly developed. With innovative solutions, it was, however, possible to solve the challenges. In terms of costs, Landsat images were used to measure land use change. These are freely available, and have frequent image repeat rates. As part of the jurisdictional approach of the programme, there is a need to account for leakage of emissions to neighbouring areas.

*Multi-stakeholder collaboration.* Effective partnerships has been very important for the success of the program. Bringing in multiple sources of funding has been key, including support from various donors and the private sector. These include bilateral donors, FIP, KfW, and GEF, and Mai Ndombe could potentially be one of the first examples of performance-based carbon payments at scale through the FCPF CF. The government has established a basket-fund to facilitate the management and coordination of funds from multiple donors and actors. The great variety of activities and funding sources makes Mai Ndombe an interesting model for sustainability and ‘smart funding’ approaches.

## **Parallel Session 4 A: Lessons from place-based initiatives: Finance, tenure, gender, and linkages to national programs**

**Objective:** To explore the landscape of REDD+ project globally and draw on specific examples for lessons that can help move REDD+ implementation forward.

**Moderator:** **Andy White**, Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)

### **Panelists:**

- **Amy Duchelle**, CIFOR
- **Mike Koschinsky**, Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project and Wildlife Works Carbon
- **Jorge Torres**, Ministry of Environment, Peru
- **Ly Thi Minh Hai**, SNV Vietnam
- **Isilda Nhantumbo**, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

## **Summary**

This session focused on research outcomes from REDD+ projects in various stages of implementation in different countries. The challenges of implementation at the local level and the consequences for communities were also discussed.

*Place-based initiatives/ projects seem to be essential for laboratories from which to learn: especially in a context where we know that there is not yet a market for REDD+. The very nature of projects however militate against sustainability, as projects are short-term and the incentives may be aligned in the wrong direction.*

*CIFOR Global Comparative Study on REDD+:* This study is funded by Norway and is conducted at national, subnational and local levels. The findings show that there is so far very little private sector funding, as a carbon market is not yet operational. In the project areas studied, no performance-based payments have been made to the local communities, as there is insecurity at project level whether they can be sustained. Local governments are bearing the costs in the absence of a carbon market. There is great heterogeneity among the project groups studied, with large differences in opportunity costs between different stakeholders, including women.

*It is important to support small holders:* There are great differences among projects with regard to addressing drivers, carbon rights, tenure and gender. IIED studies show that in Mozambique smallholders engage in deforestation for their livelihoods. Hence, productivity enhancement support is important to reduce incentives for expanding agriculture to forest areas.

*Carbon rights and benefit sharing:* In Kenya, in only 23% of the projects do people believe that they will receive carbon rights. There is no clarification regarding how benefits will be shared with local people. The carbon rights are still vested with the government.

*Place-based initiatives are not successful when not done collectively:* it has to be coordinated with the national framework. Synergies are important in the implementation of REDD+. Jorge Torres from Peru used the analogy of the composition of a football team to characterise the need for coordination and synergies between different REDD+ actors, including the private sector, place-based initiatives and the public sector, as well as between law enforcement and financial incentives.

*Thinking out of the box is important:* private sector involvement is important even though it is often criticised. It is important that the private sector works with primary producers such as cocoa and coffee growers in order to reduce deforestation.

*Monitoring is important:* In Vietnam studies show that participatory monitoring is an important element in preventing deforestation. Lessons learned from project level are brought to the subnational and national levels. NGOs play a crucial role in piloting REDD+ on the ground, generating policy lessons for national REDD+ strategy development.

*Recognition of customary rights are crucial for success:* In the Mai Ndombe project area in DRC, customary rights are acknowledged. Legal agreements have been signed with the local government and national government. Projects are more successful when they enjoy the support of the sub-national and national government. Wildlife Works sees REDD+ essentially as a means to the end of making wildlife work for people, or as a proxy for biological diversity, community development and other values that are in themselves difficult to measure.

*Sustainable Rural Development is more than REDD+:* The problem with projects is that they have a more short-term focus. Activities have to be long-term to gain support of local communities and achieve sustainable development.

*Gender in REDD+:* Women are often not sufficiently included in REDD+ consultations and activities. This has consequences for benefit sharing, as women are often not considered as having rights in the forests vis-à-vis men. It is important to consider gender at national, subnational levels and local levels.

*Absence of reliable funding is a threat to the success of REDD+:* In many project areas, payments have not been made in order to not raise false expectations for the communities. This can erode people's trust in REDD+.

*The importance of independent research and independent monitoring* was emphasised by all panel members.

## **Parallel Session 4 B: Jurisdictional implementation of supply chain commitments**

**Objective:** To analyse the potential for establishing jurisdictional implementation of supply chain commitments, and discuss the opportunities for global and local companies to engage in partnerships with governments and civil society in tropical regions as a mean to accelerate the achievement of results in reducing deforestation.

**Moderator:** Daniel Nepstad, Earth Innovation Institute

### **Panelists:**

- **Tan Lin**, Executive President, Hopeful Group. China Soy Industries
- **Melissa Miners**, Global Advocacy, Unilever
- **Jussi Vitonen**, Director of the FLEGT & REDD Facilities, European Forest Institute
- **Elaine Corsini**, Technical Adviser, Office of Strategic Affairs, Brazil

## **Summary**

*It is necessary to prove the business case of a sustainable supply chain approach.* It is important to convince the people within the supply chain of commitment to jurisdictional pledges. It is a challenge that sustainability is not always in line with commercial objectives. To show how this approach can save money in the long-term, the work with smallholders can be intensified and the middleman is cut out. While it is not yet completely clear how this can be put into practice, the involvement of different stakeholders and particularly NGOs in the process is a first step.

*Transparency is key to stop illegal logging activities.* Good multi-stakeholder processes help to define what are legal and illegal activities. This is related to collecting and providing data about local practices and context at a national level. Mechanisms need to be created to make these information publicly available, because then it will be legally binding and effective.

*Forest areas need to be preserved and developed at the same time.* In the Mato Grosso area in Brazil, it was a main strategy to attract investments and make it a case for green investment. The combination of policies and incentives such as the forest law helped to stop illegal logging activities and enabled to attract investment and include people in getting the benefits of the forests. There are still certain challenges to involve small producers in preservation and development strategies, since they are not fully aware of the different tools.

*The production and consumption side need to understand each other better.* There is a need to work on a mechanism to better combine the whole supply chain, so that each part can benefit. Industry is demand-driven and there is a lack of understanding how consumers are responsible for the deforestation associated with production abroad. The case of the Brazilian soy industry shows that the jurisdictional approach can help, but the push for zero deforestation can similarly put pressure on farmers since compliance is expensive. Hence, a similar change on the consumer side and consideration whether consumers are willing to pay a premium for a sustainable product is necessary.

## **Parallel 4 C: Practical Tools for Monitoring and Implementation**

**Objective:** This section focused on bringing together practitioners to reflect on the conditions that are necessary to ensure that new data and technology tools support improved decision-making for forests and engender innovative partnerships (community-NGO-government-private sector) to use data to solve problems.

**Moderator:** [Rachael Petersen](#), Global Forest Watch, World Resources Institute

### **Panelists:**

- [Tasso Azevedo](#) – Coordinator, SEEG Network and MapBiomass; former Director General of the Brazilian Forestry Service
- [Nirarta “Koni” Samadhi](#), WRI Indonesia
- [Pradeepa Bholanath](#), Chair of Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana
- [Rhett Butler](#), Mongabay

## Summary

Over the past years, there has been a tremendous development in technology and availability of data. The discussion centred around what is needed to link this information into action, to embed technology into decision-making processes and structures, and improve the capacities to utilize the information.

*The Brazilian experience.* At the outset of the Brazilian ‘miracle’, the idea of free satellite images was very new. At that time there was a need for a system that could be of use in practical implementation of the plan to reduce deforestation in the country. This spurred an internal debate of what the potential use of the new system that was developed could be. The decision was made to make all maps and deforestation numbers available and downloadable to the public. The main message from the Brazil experience is that we should not hide information but make it available for the public for their consideration and verification.

*The Guyana experience.* The Guyana case has demonstrated that with political will and external support, it is possible to establish a credible monitoring system within a relative short time. There was a particularly need to establish a platform for integrating various data sources available, and to establish a responsible institution for doing this. The system was developed gradually, starting with only one indicator advancing towards a more complicated and coherent framework of six reporting indicators. For Guyana, it was challenging to make data available to the public since it was subject to third party verification in relation to the release of results-based payments.

*The Indonesia experience.* The 2015 forest fires in Indonesia demonstrated a gap between available information and action on the ground. In the wake of the fires, it was difficult to provide contextual data from the ground that could be used to prosecute the guilty. There is hence a need to develop a system that can provide this contextual information to be synchronized with the land use maps. This can only be done by involving as many actors as possible on the ground.

*The role of the media.* The role of the media is to increase transparency. The new tools and data available has been useful to improve this work and to independently verify data.

*Trends and developments.* A challenge today is that there are many parallel systems belonging to various stakeholders. What is needed is a system that enables us to choose the right platforms. There are also potential new tools and technologies other than mapping that can help in monitoring and ground truthing trends and developments inside of forest landscapes. These include for example timber tracking systems, camera traps and systems for capturing sounds inside of the forest.

## Plenary Session 3: The Way Forward

**Objective:** To gather ministerial-level officials and other high-level speakers from countries implementing or supporting REDD+ to reflect on the way forward in light of the December Paris agreement and discussions held at the 2016 Oslo REDD Exchange. Panelists were asked to identify and comment on key next steps for national and sub-national implementation of REDD+ in forest-rich countries, as well as the highest priorities for support through international alliances and partnerships.

**Moderator:** **Frances Seymour**, Center for Global Development

### Panelists:

- **Raphael Trotman**, Minister of Natural Resources, Guyana
- **Lars Løvold**, Executive Director, Rainforest Foundation, Norway
- **Jonathan Pershing**, US Climate Change Envoy
- **Joenia B Carvalho (Wapichana)**, Roraima Indigenous Council in Brazil

## Summary

*The status and future of REDD+.* The greatest achievement of REDD+ so far has been putting the issue of tropical deforestation high up on the political agenda, and for the wide recognition of the fact that without the protection of forests there will not be a sustainable future. For this, there is a need for different and new development models for the forest rich countries. There are some quick-wins available, particularly related to political decision-making. Clarifying tenure is one of these issues. Results-based payments is about rewarding progress, and we should move attention towards other factors than 'carbon'. In Guyana and Brazil, political leadership has been one of the key factors for successful REDD+ implementation. The Paris agenda was much about how there is now need to make real changes. The recognition of a new bottom-up structure of commitments through the National Determined Contributions was a manifestation of this acknowledgement. The importance of maintaining forests is easy for people to relate to, and is likely to be high on the agenda, regardless of who is in power in various countries.

*The US-Norway declaration.* Jonathan Pershing, the US Climate Envoy, elaborated upon the US-Norway Joint Declaration. The agreement recognizes the important role the forestry sector has in combating climate change. It also speaks to the importance of bringing the private sector into these processes. Further, the agreement represents a continuation and reinforcement of a number of specific areas on which the US and Norway already collaborate. These include supporting countries in developing forest inventories and MRV systems, making the business case for investments in sustainable supply chains, sustainable land use and issues related to illegal logging, trade and leakage.

*Recognizing the rights of IPs.* Despite the progress made in Brazil in terms of reducing the rate of forest cover loss, there is still a lack of measures to truly protect the rights of IPs. There is a need for clear mechanisms for the recognition of these rights, including to land and autonomous access to financial resources. The IPs should not only be considered as 'spectators' or stakeholders, but as active participants in REDD+. Only by the recognition of this truly effective implementation will be possible. There is also a need to move away from the utilitarian use of IP groups by external conservation organizations. The long-term sustainability of what we want to address depends on a strong civil society and indigenous movements.

## **Close**

In his closing remarks Vidar Helgesen, the Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment, emphasized that he was proud and humbled by the lessons learned from the REDD+ experiences. REDD+ gives a sense of community and the extension of that community is important for the success of REDD+. Importantly, the participation of local communities and women are crucial for protecting forests.

The Director General of Norad, Jon Lomøy, thanked the participants for their vital contributions during the conference. He also highlighted the efforts made by the project team responsible for organizing the Oslo REDD Exchange 2016 and thanked them for making it a successful and fruitful event.