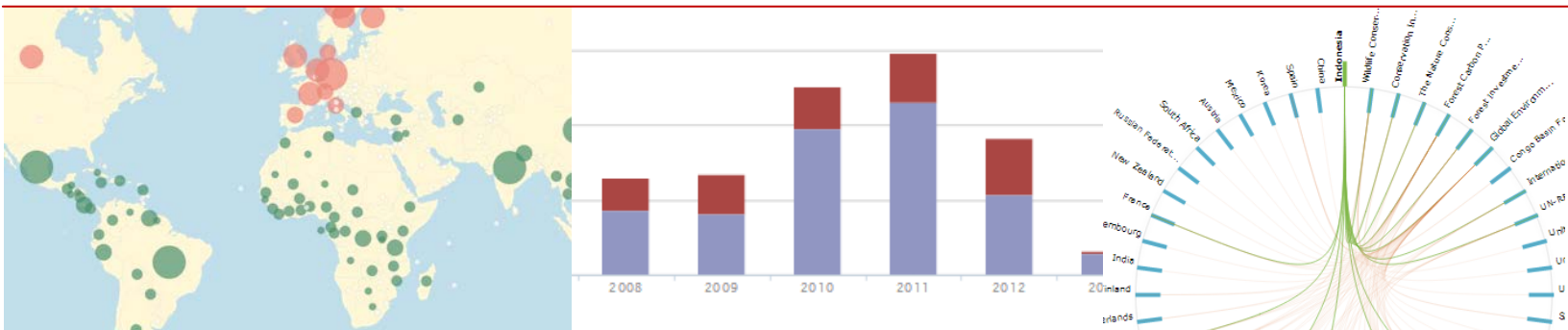


TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC FINANCING FOR REDD+

AN ANALYSIS OF DATA SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE REDD+ PARTNERSHIP TO THE VOLUNTARY REDD+ DATABASE

27 NOVEMBER 2012





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD) is a key provider of information to the global community on public financing for REDD+. The database now holds information reported by 46 Partners (61% of the Partnership) and 14 institutions, including all of the main intergovernmental (IGO) and multilateral institutions involved in funding REDD+ readiness, as well as other international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). No submissions from the private sector have been received to date.

This report presents the first in-depth analysis of data held in the VRD. Results show that **funder countries** have reported a total of almost **US\$6.27 billion in funding for REDD+ between 2006 and 2022**. The **majority** of this financing is in the form of **bilateral grants** which cover **a large geographical range (95 REDD+ countries)**.

There are some issues to consider when interpreting the data. The information in the VRD is currently heavily weighted to funder country and institution reports, and as a result the analyses presented in this report are based on reports from funders to the database. Also, reporting of REDD+ related actions by parties is not consistent owing to the absence of a clear agreement on what constitutes REDD+, and as a result some of the data in the VRD can be and is contested. Nonetheless, the dataset is interesting for this very reason, and in itself provides a platform for discussion around key issues on the delivery of REDD+ by both funder and REDD+ countries.



1. INTRODUCTION

In May 2010, Heads of State and Government, ministers and other representatives from over 50 countries convened at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference hosted by Norway, and launched the “REDD+ Partnership”. This formalised an earlier call by ministers for such a partnership at the International Conference on the Major Forest Basins in Paris in March 2010. Today, the REDD+ Partnership comprises 75 Partner countries, and over 100 affiliated stakeholder institutions. It serves as a platform for the scaling up of REDD+ actions and finance among partners, and for improving effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and coordination of REDD+ initiatives and financial instruments. The Partnership is considered as “interim”, and the expectation by many is that it will be replaced by, or integrated into, a UNFCCC mechanism for REDD+ once it has been established and agreed upon by Parties.

The need for a centralised database to collect information on REDD+ related financing, actions and results was initially voiced at the preparations for the Paris International Conference on the Major Forest Basins in March 2010. This was followed by a first data collection effort and a report for the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference in May 2010. The development of a voluntary REDD+ database for and by the REDD+ Partnership was agreed by Partners in the Partnership’s 2010 Work Programme, with subsequent work by the UN-REDD Programme team leading to the design of a database structure.

Today, the Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD) is a part of the REDD+ Partnership’s ongoing work program, and serves as a key provider of information to the global community on public REDD+ financing reported by Partner countries and institutions to the Partnership. By collecting information on REDD+ financing, the database aims to improve transparency around REDD+, support efforts to identify and analyse gaps and overlaps in REDD+ financing, and help share experiences on REDD+.

This report presents the first in-depth analysis of data held in the VRD as at 8 November 2012, and was undertaken for the REDD+ Partnership by the database management team (hereafter referred to as the ‘VRD Team’), comprised of members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It begins with an overview of the VRD dataset, including data origins and ownership, key database concepts and terms, comparisons with other initiatives tracking REDD+ financing data, and limitations and caveats of the data. A global analysis of REDD+ financing is presented next, which aims to shed light on questions such as: how much REDD+ financing has been reported globally, who is providing the financing, what is the distribution of global financing over time, and what types of actions are being undertaken in REDD+ financing arrangements. Finally, an analysis of the geographical distribution of REDD+ financing follows, including an assessment of the types of reported financing flows across different regions receiving REDD+ funding. The report concludes with a synthesis of the main findings, and consideration of the potential implications of these findings for the REDD+ Partnership and the REDD+ community at large.



2. DATA OVERVIEW

DATA ORIGINS AND OWNERSHIP

The Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD) is a publicly accessible database of REDD+ financing data voluntarily submitted by: governments which are members of the REDD+ Partnership, major multilateral institutions involved in financing REDD+ readiness, and a number of other institutions and organizations involved in REDD+ related actions. A founding principle of the database is that reporters maintain complete ownership of all information submitted, and any data entering the database on behalf of a country or institution is first approved by that country or institution, before it is publicly viewable on the database.

The VRD was initially populated with data submitted by countries and institutions to the 2010 Financing Activities Survey; a data collection effort undertaken by Australia, France and Papua New Guinea during the Paris-Oslo process. A new round of data collection by way of a REDD+ Partnership questionnaire was launched in early 2011. This sought to update and expand upon existing records in the database, and collect additional information on REDD+ financing arrangements in response to Partnership requests to collect data in a form more appropriate for analysis purposes. In 2012, further refinement of the 2011 questionnaire was undertaken in the light of data collection experiences during 2011, and Partnership requests for inclusion of additional types of data, such as information on financial disbursements.

VRD CONCEPTS AND TERMS

A central concept of the VRD is the REDD+ **arrangement**. Almost all information on REDD+ financing in the database is reported by countries and institutions through arrangements. An arrangement is an agreement to undertake REDD+ related actions, involving a funder and a recipient. These are undertaken within a certain timeframe and have an indicative budget. Depending on its role, a reporter can be a funder or recipient in an arrangement. Additionally, a reporter may not always have the same role across different arrangements; a multilateral institution may for example be a recipient in arrangements describing incoming financing from funder countries towards a pooled multilateral fund, and be a funder in arrangements which describe subsequent transfer of this pooled funding to REDD+ countries for REDD+ related actions. Arrangements encompass all possible modalities of REDD+ funding (such as bilateral, multilateral or domestic funds, and funding to NGOs), and may target any of the three phases of the REDD+ process.

Information on financing in a REDD+ arrangement is reported through financial **contributions**, which describe the amount of REDD+ financing that has been committed, allocated or disbursed. Contributions do not distinguish between the three different stages in the flow of REDD+ financing (for example, one party may report contributions which only describe committed funds; another party may report

contributions whose values represent disbursed funds up to 2011, and committed funds thereafter, etc). Information on contributions is organized in calendar years, although in cases where the distribution of contributions across years is not known, a reporter may choose to allocate its total contribution to a single year, or average it out across years.

Although as just noted, contributions don't distinguish between the different stages in the flow of REDD+ financing, more recently the VRD has started to collect information specifically on disbursements (funds that have been released from a funder to a recipient), in order to get a better understanding of the flows of REDD+ financing reported. All financial figures are reported by countries and institutions in millions of USD.

The financial flows captured in the VRD include arrangements which describe **incoming** funding (arrangements reported by REDD+ countries and recipient institutions on funding provided by funder countries or institutions); **outgoing** funding (arrangements reported by funder countries and institutions on funding provided to a REDD+ country or external institution such as a multilateral organization or international NGO), **domestic** funding (arrangements reported by REDD+ countries describing funding that is spent in-country for REDD+), **internal funding with benefits to REDD+ countries** (arrangements reported by funder countries and institutions on funding which is spent in-country or internally in the organization [e.g. for administrative purposes, workshops, and training] but which supports activities for REDD+ countries), and **outgoing funding (unspecified or multiple recipients)** (arrangements reported by funder countries and institutions on funding which is allocated for REDD+ activities but for which there are no details available regarding a recipient [i.e. country or institution], or there are multiple recipients).

DATA LIMITATIONS AND CAVEATS

The data in the VRD present a picture of public REDD+ financing reported to the Partnership. The data do not present a complete picture, however, since reporting to the database is voluntary, reporters do not represent all actors involved in REDD+ finance (e.g. private sector), and the range in years for which reporters are able to report on REDD+ financing varies (e.g. many reporters are unable to specify REDD+ financing for future years).

Nevertheless, there is a high level of reporting from funder countries; 15 out of the 17 funder countries which are members of the Partnership (88%) have reported to the database between 2010 and 2012. Likewise, reports from the major multilateral institutions and specialist programmes funding REDD+ readiness actions (the UN-REDD Programme, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility [FCPF], the Global Environment Facility [GEF], Forest Investment Programme [FIP]) have been submitted to the database.

Where some data are lacking, and where there is much opportunity for improvement in the VRD, is in recipient country reports to the database. To date, 53% of all REDD+ countries which are members of the Partnership have submitted data to the database. Nevertheless, it remains the case that the majority of arrangements reported by funder countries and institutions have no corresponding reports

from recipients. This is the underlying reason for most of the discrepancies between the amounts reported by funders and recipients for multilateral and bilateral REDD+ funding. At the aggregate level, this amounts to discrepancies on the order of billions of dollars. For example, funder countries report US\$ 3.35 billion USD in bilateral funding to REDD+ countries; REDD+ countries have reported US\$ 1.44 billion USD.

Discrepancies between funder and recipient reports can exist for other reasons too. For example, funders and recipients may report on different stages in fund disbursements. Differences in interpretation of what constitutes a financial contribution to REDD+ are not uncommon, such as the appropriate timeframe for REDD+, the activities that can be considered as belonging to REDD+, and whether or not funding for REDD+ needs to be new and additional.

OTHER INITIATIVES TRACKING REDD+ FINANCING DATA

A number of other public tools and initiatives exist alongside the VRD which aim to capture information on global REDD+ financing. In many cases these initiatives are part of a wider effort to collect data on climate financing. The **Fast-start finance module on the UNFCCC Finance Portal** and the **Fast-Start Finance Initiative** both collect information submitted by governments on fast-start finance, including information on REDD+ finance during the fast-start period (2010-2012) where relevant. **Climate Funds Update**, an independent public climate finance data tracking initiative provides information on the scale, flow, and scope of international climate change funds, including funds for REDD+. Initiatives dedicated to tracking information on REDD+ and/or REDD+ financing specifically include the **REDD Countries Database**, which tracks data on REDD+ activities in tropical forest nations (including financing data on REDD+ activities), and the **Forest Trends REDD+ Expenditures Tracking Initiative**, a project tracking the financial flows of REDD+ funding commitments made to thirteen countries. In the data analysis sections that follow, comparisons between amounts reported in the VRD, and those from other databases and initiatives (where the nature of the data allows for comparisons to be made), will be undertaken. More detailed information about these initiatives, and their similarities and differences to the VRD can be found in Table 1 below:

Table 1: initiatives tracking REDD+ financing data

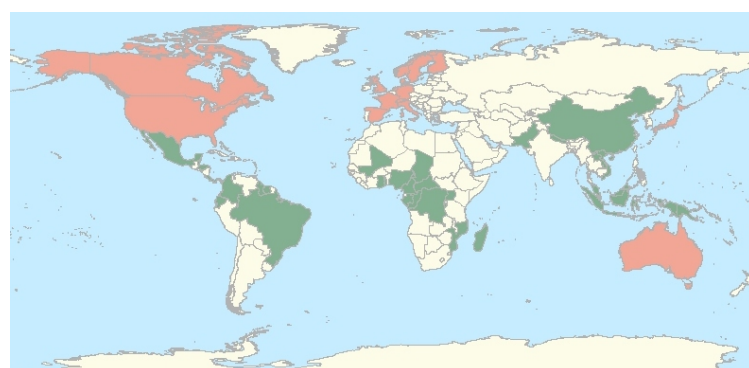
Initiative	Details of Initiative				Notes on comparisons with VRD data
	Reporting	Scope of data collected	Financing data collected	Time frame	
Voluntary REDD+ Database	Data submitted by governments (funder and REDD+ countries), institutions (multilaterals and other institutions such as international and national NGOs)	REDD+ related actions which are defined by the reporting party	Arrangements which specify contributions (committed, allocated and/or disbursed funds) and disbursements	2006 onwards	--
Fast start finance module on the UNFCCC Finance Portal	Data submitted by developed (funder) country governments	Resources provided to achieve commitments under the fast-start period. Country reports may or may not specify financing for REDD+.	Fast-start finance pledges and/or allocations, reported in local currency	2010-2012	There is no standard reporting format across countries (including reporting on REDD+), so financing data are not always comparable
Fast-start Finance Initiative	Data submitted by governments (funders and recipients)	Climate finance. Country reports may or may not specify financing for REDD+.	Fast-start pledges and/or commitments	2010-2012	No standard reporting format across countries (including reporting on RED+), so financing data are not always comparable
Climate Funds Update	Data independently researched, in consultation with fund managers for clarification/validation.	Climate funds (which include REDD+ specific funds).	More comprehensive tracking of the progression of finance for a fund, to include fund-specific pledges, deposits, approvals and disbursements	Cumulative since 2003 (REDD+ data cumulative since - unknown)	It is not possible to compare financing that does not belong to a specific fund (e.g. bilateral forms of assistance to REDD+ countries). In some cases, pledges, deposits, approvals can be collectively compared with contribution amounts in the VRD. The definition of disbursements between the two initiatives is sufficiently similar so as to be comparable.
REDD Countries Database	Data independently researched, in consultation with in-country organizations and/ or government ministries	REDD+ activities on the ground	Financing amounts	Not specified	Focus on REDD+ activities on the ground means that other forms of REDD+ finance are not captured, and therefore are not directly comparable with VRD
Forest Trends REDD+ Expenditures Tracking Initiative	Data independently researched, in consultation with in-country organizations and/ or government ministries	REDD+ funding commitments made to 13 countries	REDD+ pledges, commitments and disbursements	2011	Findings/data yet to be published.



3. DATA ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

The distribution and number of data submissions by Partners and institutions to the database, from initial data submitted to the Financing Activities Survey in 2010, to the most recent submissions in 2012, are presented in figure 1 below. Forty six Partners (61% of the Partnership) have reported to the database to date. These include 15 funder countries plus the European Commission (88% of all Partner countries which are funders) and 31 REDD+ countries (53% of Partners which REDD+ countries). Fourteen institutions have reported data to the database to date, including all of the main intergovernmental (IGO) and multilateral institutions involved in funding REDD+ readiness, as well as international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



Data submissions (2010-2012)

15 Funder countries

31 REDD+ countries

14 institutions

0 private sector entities

Figure 1: Distribution and number of data submissions to the REDD+ Partnership

No submissions from private sector entities have been received to date, and as a result the VRD contains reports describing mostly public financing for REDD+. There are a few reports from Partners and institutions on financial contributions involving private sector entities, but these represent a very small percentage of total REDD+ financing reported by funders and recipients (less than 1% in both cases), and in practice, the VRD has focused on collecting information about public financing for REDD+. Indeed, knowledge of total private sector investments and contributions to REDD+ related actions within the international REDD+ community is limited at present (Lee 2012).

In the interest of presenting a consistent picture of REDD+ financing, the analyses below will be based on reports from **funders** to the database. Comparisons with reports from recipients are not made except in cases where corresponding data from recipients is complete enough for comparisons to be made.

GLOBAL ANALYSIS

HOW MUCH REDD+ FINANCING HAS BEEN REPORTED GLOBALLY?

There is a total of US\$ 5.28 billion in bilateral and multilateral institutional REDD+ financial “contributions” between 2006 and 2022 (figure 2 below). Other funding flows show that there is an additional US\$ 460 million in funding to other institutions, US\$ 145 million in internal funding with benefits to REDD+ countries, and US\$ 384 million in outgoing funding where recipients have not yet been identified, or where there are multiple recipients. Together, this amounts to **almost US\$ 6.27 billion¹ in outgoing and internal funding for REDD+ reported by funder countries²**.

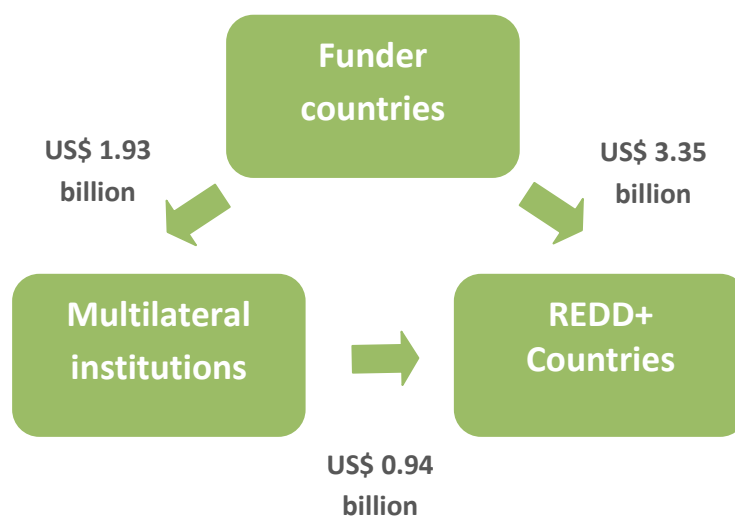


Figure 2: Bilateral and multilateral flows of financing to REDD+ countries as reported the VRD by funding countries and institutions.

Other initiatives have also attempted to identify total amount of REDD+ finance that has been reported through bilateral and multilateral funds. The Climate Funds Update (CFU) has reported that between 2008 and 2011, US\$ 446 million was approved for REDD finance, of which US\$ 252 million has been disbursed (Nakhoda et al. 2011). For the same period, the data in the VRD accounts for a much larger amount of US\$ 2.88 billion. The main reason for this difference appears to be related to sources of funding. Specifically, CFU track multilateral and bilateral funds which are specifically set up with a mechanism to disburse REDD finance, whereas the VRD draws on a much wider source of funding including financing outside these explicit REDD+ mechanisms.

¹ To avoid double counting, outgoing funding reported by multilaterals is not included in totals figures reported.

² This estimate is smaller than estimates for previous years; in 2011, the VRD reported that total funding was just over US\$ 8 billion. The main reason for this decrease is due to the removal of pre-2006 data because it was agreed with funders that no data before 2006 would count as finance for REDD+.

WHAT TYPE OF FUNDING IS PROVIDED?

There are a number of different types of financing that have been reported for REDD+ funding including grants, loans, a mixture of both, or in another form not specified. The REDD+ financing which has been reported to the VRD show that close to 70% is in the form of grant based arrangements either through bilateral or multilateral channels (figure 3). One fifth of the funding has been reported as loans and over half of this is reported in a small number of arrangements prior to the fast-start finance period³ (2010 – 2012).

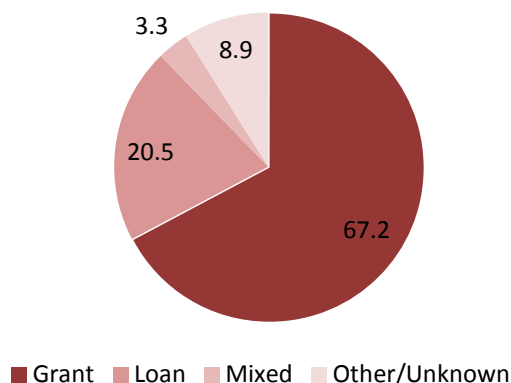


Figure 3: Financial contributions as reported to date by funder countries to REDD+ countries and institutions for the period 2006 to 2022.

³ Through the Copenhagen Accord and subsequently the 2010 Cancun Agreements, developed countries committed to “provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching US\$ 30 billion for the period 2010-2012, with a balanced allocation between mitigation and adaptation”. This has come to be known as the fast-start finance period.

WHO IS PROVIDING THE FUNDING?

Fifteen funder countries, plus the European Commission (EC) have reported arrangements to the VRD. Table 2 shows the total amount for REDD+ finance for each funder, based on information reported to date. The range in years for which countries have reported arrangements varies, and this range can be quite significant in some cases. The United States, for example, have only reported contributions for a single year, 2010, whereas the United Kingdom has reported arrangements for future years up to 2022. Some countries, such as France and Netherlands, have only reported contributions within the fast-start finance period.

It is important to bear in mind these differences between the datasets for each country when considering trends in overall funding. The top five providers of REDD+ finance, as reported to the VRD to date are Japan⁴, Norway, Germany, the UK, and France. Together, these countries represent 67% of total REDD+ financing reported by funder countries.

⁴ Japan has reported a large amount of funding through loans to India and China for the period 2006 to 2009 for sustainable forestry management activities

Table 2: Total amount for REDD+ finance reported by 15 Partnership funder countries and the EC, from 2006 to 2022. The amounts include all funding modalities including bilateral, multilateral, institutional, internal with benefits to REDD+ countries, and funding with unspecified or multiple recipients. Figures are based on information provided to date.

Funder Country	Contributions (millions of USD)	Reporting Periods
Japan	1856	2006 – 2014
Norway	1193	2006 – 2015
Germany	684	2008 - 2020
United Kingdom	458	2008 – 2022
France	374	2010 – 2012
European Commission	300	2009 – 2017
Netherlands	263	2010 – 2012
United States of America	249	2010 only
Australia	241	2007 – 2013
Canada	123	2006 – 2016
Sweden	119	2008 – 2013
Finland	106	2007 – 2015
Denmark	94	2006 – 2017
Spain	73	2008 – 2012
Italy	71	2008 – 2014
Switzerland	62	2008 – 2015

Bilateral Financing for REDD+

Bilateral support to developing countries is by far the largest type of financing modality reported for REDD+. There is some US\$ 3.35 billion in bilateral REDD+ arrangements which have been reported by 14 of the Partnership's 17 funder countries, plus the European Commission. This financing is going to 86 countries, including to 52 of the 58 REDD+ countries which are members of the Partnership. Japan⁵, Norway, Germany and France still feature as top providers of finance (figure 4). The United States, which provides a much higher proportion of its funding through bilateral agreements than in other modalities, is the fifth biggest provider of bilateral support. Together, these five countries provide 84% of all bilateral funding between 2006 and 2022.

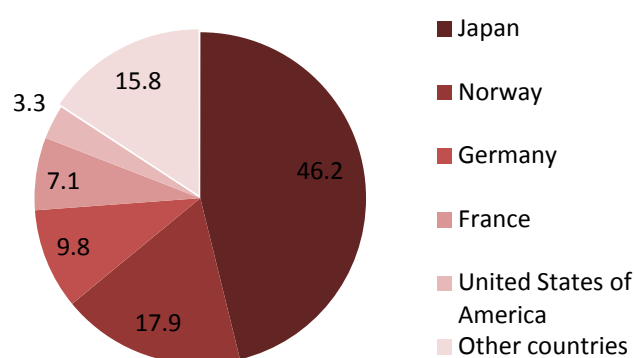


Figure 4: Percentage of bilateral REDD+ funding reported by funder countries for the period 2006 - 2022

⁵ Japan has reported a large amount of funding through loans to India and China for the period 2006 to 2009 for sustainable forestry management activities

Multilateral Financing for REDD+

Multilateral funds also play an important role in financing for REDD+ readiness, and the institutions which have reported to the VRD include the UN-REDD Programme, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Forest Investment Program (FIP), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO) and the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). Funder countries have reported financial contributions to multilateral institutions to the value of US\$ 1.9 billion (figure 5). Some 75% of multilateral funding is channeled through three main funds: GEF, FIP, and the FCPF.

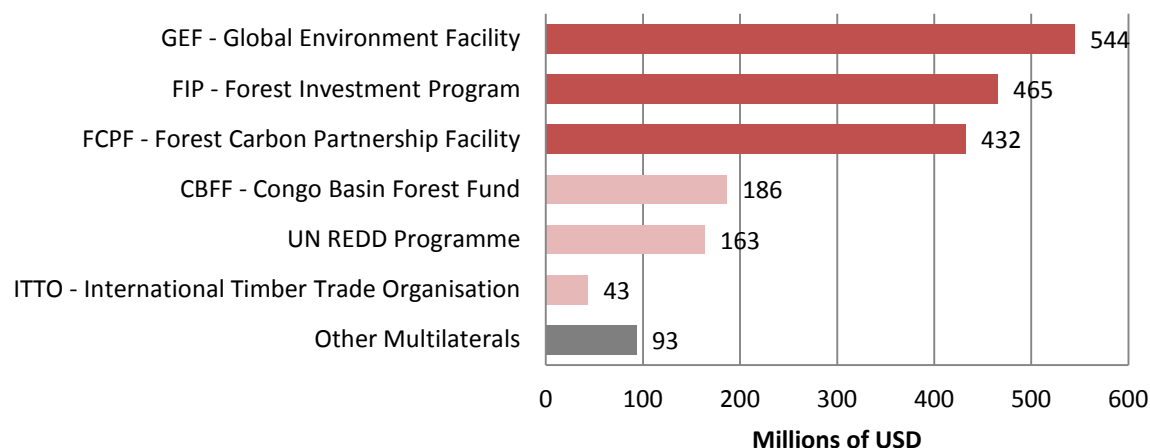


Figure 5: Contributions to multilateral institutions as reported by funder countries for the period 2006 to 2015. Figures are based on information provided to date.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the largest recipient of multilateral REDD+ funding, receiving a total of US\$ 544 million as reported by 11 funder countries. This includes a mixture of contributions to GEF-4 and GEF-5. The GEF itself has reported incoming funding for GEF-5 SFM/REDD+, which it reports could provide up to 1 billion USD, through the US\$ 250 million incentive and the US\$ 750 million STAR allocations. Indeed the GEF has reported its incoming funding on this basis, which amounts to US\$ 1 billion, almost double the amount reported by funding countries. The funding from GEF is targeted to achieve synergistic objectives for sustainable development goals, and the question of what proportion of its total funding is available purely for REDD+ or climate related forest activities, or wider forest activities like community forest management, is one to consider when interpreting funding figures.

Domestic Financing for REDD+

Domestic funding is an important source for REDD+ implementation (Simula 2010); indeed, in a preparatory paper for the REDD+ Partnership, domestic governments were recognized as playing a significant role in financing REDD+ actions (Cranford and Parker 2012). Other studies have also suggested that developing countries themselves consider domestic financing to be significant but difficult to quantify (Lee 2012).

There are currently 12 REDD+ countries which have reported domestic funding to the VRD (table 3). By far the largest contribution to this category of funding is that reported by Mexico, for US\$ 1.38 billion (93.5%). These domestic funds were classified as resources used for activities which aim to reduce deforestation, forest degradation, sustainable forest management, conservation or enhancement of carbon stocks, whether directly or indirectly connected to REDD+ under the UNFCCC.

Table 3: Domestic funding as reported by REDD+ countries for the period 2008 to 2016

Region	Contribution (million USD)	Period
Latin America and the Caribbean		
Mexico	1380	2008 to 2012
Costa Rica	52	2009 to 2014
Ecuador	13.7	2008 to 2011
Panama	0.96	2011 to 2013
SUBTOTAL	1446.7	
Asia		
Indonesia	5.6	2008 to 2009
Lao PDR	2.7	2008 to 2012
Malaysia	0.5	2012 to 2013
SUBTOTAL	8.8	
Africa		
Nigeria	3	2008 to 2012
Chad	2.6	2013 to 2015
DRC	2	2008 to 2016
Gabon	1	2010 to 2012
SUBTOTAL	8.6	
Oceania		
Papua New Guinea	12.7	2008 to 2015
SUBTOTAL	12.7	
TOTAL	1476.8	

To date, information on available domestic finance is in general limited, and the VRD is no exception. A very small number of countries in the REDD+ Partnership have reported domestic funding, a much smaller proportion than those who have reported international funding. Domestic financing has also been reported in R-PP budgets for 13 countries with similar, although not identical, geographical coverage (Simula 2010), however the figures are identified specifically for Phase I and the numbers provided are not similar.

The small dataset presented here is in part due to reporter coverage from REDD+ countries; however, in some instances countries may consider international funding to be the focus of the VRD, and therefore choose specifically not to report on domestic funding.

WHO ARE THE TOP TEN REDD+ COUNTRIES RECEIVING FINANCING?

The geographical distribution of REDD+ financing will be discussed in the regional analyses sections that follow, however a glance at the top ten countries receiving REDD+ funding shows that more than 56% of total bilateral and multilateral financing for REDD+ is reported to be received by just 5 countries, including India, Brazil, China, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (figure 6).

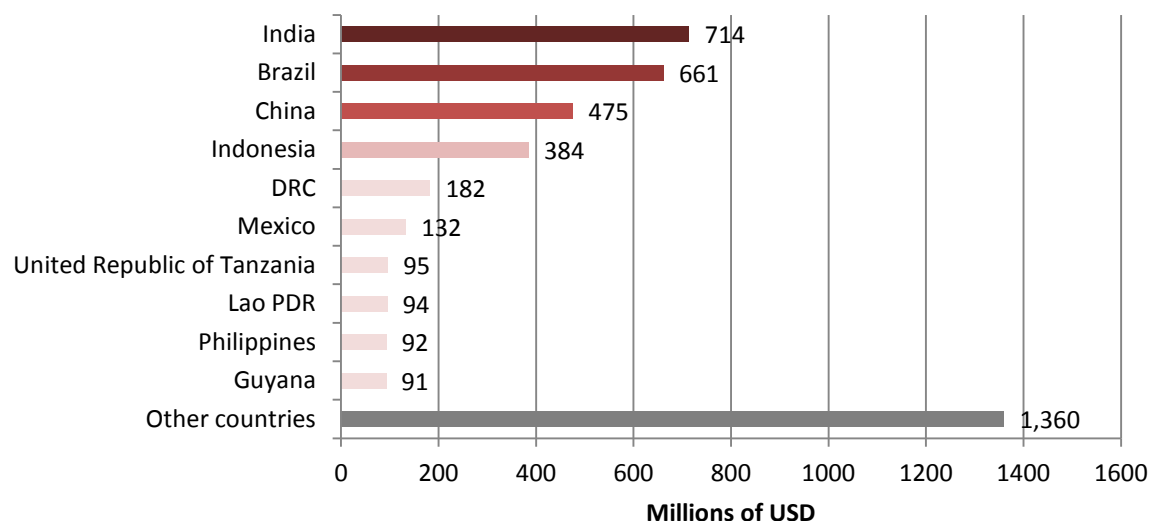


Figure 6: Top ten REDD+ countries receiving funding from the period 2006 to 2022, as reported by funder countries and multilateral institutions. Figures based on information provided to date.

The countries presented here as receiving the most financial support for REDD+, specifically India and China, are not similarly identified in other datasets. Where other datasets seem to follow the same trend is in highlighting Brazil and Indonesia as key recipients of REDD+ support. Climate Funds Update (CFU) highlights Brazil, through the Amazon Fund, as the main receiver of funding in Latin America, with approved funding worth US\$ 143 million between 2008 and 2011, and Indonesia as the main recipient of funding in Asia with approved funding of US\$ 42 million. Similarly, the initiative identifies the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as the main recipient in Africa with some US\$ 66 million approved in the same period.

The reasons for this difference in identified top recipients relate to definitions of what constitutes REDD+ financing (e.g. timing of financing and the type of activities covered), and are explored in more detail in the regional analyses.

HOW MUCH FAST START FINANCE HAS BEEN REPORTED?

Fast-start finance commitments were made through the Copenhagen Accord and subsequently the 2010 Cancun Agreements, in which developed countries committed to “provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching US\$ 30

billion for the period 2010-2012, with a balanced allocation between mitigation and adaptation”. Fast-start finance is intended to support an immediate scaling up of climate change response actions in developing countries, including REDD+. In Copenhagen in 2009, some countries indicated the proportion of their fast-start finance commitments that were to be directed towards REDD+-related actions. Together, these commitments totaled US\$ 3.5 billion in funder country pledges towards REDD+. At the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference in May 2010, the total had risen to US\$4.5 billion.

In 2011, the VRD began collecting information on funder country pledges for REDD+ during the fast-start period. Table 4 below outlines the pledges, arrangements and disbursements contributing to fast-start financing for REDD+ that have been reported by funder countries to date.

The dataset is a good assessment of the fast-start finance provided by the countries listed, however it does not reflect reports from all funder parties. Nonetheless it provides an indication of the current extent of fast-start finance for REDD+. Close to 85% of what countries consider their fast-start pledges have so far been committed in the form of an arrangement with a recipient, of which 65% has been disbursed or will be disbursed before the end of 2012.

Table 4: Pledges, arrangements and disbursements contributing to fast-start financing for REDD+, as reported to the VRD by funder countries in the REDD+ Partnership. Data correct as at 21 November 2012.

Funder	Pledge (million USD)	Arrangements 2010 to 2012 (millions USD)*	Disbursements			Comments
			2010	2011	2012	
Australia	144					Corresponding AUD 146 million, correct exchange rate not yet confirmed. Communication on remaining data ongoing
Belgium	14	14	14			USD 14 million (EUR 10 million – exchange rate 1.4 used) were pledged in FSF for REDD+ in 2010.
Canada		72		41	31.5	Canada has made no formal pledges. All FSF is reported as actual disbursements. Disbursements in 2012 include \$20M to the Congo Basin Forest Fund, \$5M to the FCPF Carbon Fund, \$4.5M to the World Bank BioCarbon Plus Fund, and \$2M for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Canada's financial year ends in March.
Denmark		46				
EC		19.6	5.6	14		Exchange rate 1.4 used. The EC's fast-start pledge is 50 million EUR per annum, divided 50/50 between adaptation and mitigation. REDD+ is included under mitigation; no specific REDD+ earmarking
Finland	None	48	7	20	12.5	Finland has no formal pledges
France	342	373	122	148	103	
Germany	503	388.8				
Italy						Data processing is nearly finalized
Japan	500	718.65		302		Disbursements for the fast-start period cover up to March 2011
Netherlands	21		5	8	8	Regular Dutch support EUR 350 million including EUR 195 for REDD+; Additional Dutch support in scope of Copenhagen Accord EUR 310 million. WB FCPF Readiness Fund EUR 15 million (USD 21 million) is part of regular support. See also www.faststartfinance.org

Norway	1000	986	461	334	51	
Slovenia						
Spain		23.95	18.57	1.32		Spain's fast-start pledge is €375 million in total for adaptation, mitigation, and REDD+; no specific REDD+ earmarking.
Sweden	81.9	71	29	28	14	The Swedish fast start figures for 2010-2012 are reported in the exchange rate for 2010. The figures are preliminary. Sweden will present final fast start figures in spring 2013. Sweden's REDD+ support is delivered via global, regional and bilateral channels, for example the Forest Investment Programme (FIP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), regional and global programmes such as RFGI, PREMI, International NGOs (IIED, RRI, IUCN, AFF) and research institutions (CIFOR, CODESRIA).
Switzerland		34	215	89		Committed to global and regional initiatives, estimate as some of the commitments go beyond 2012.
United Kingdom	493	457.9	191.5	87.2	32	UK financial year ends in March
United States	1000	249				The 249 million USD reported arrangements concern 2010; numbers for 2011 and 2012 not yet available.
TOTAL	4098.9	3476.47	1068.67	770.52	252	

WHAT IS THE TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF REDD+ FINANCING?

The long time horizons that are typical for REDD+ planning, require consideration of trends in committed and allocated funds for REDD+ in the future beyond the FSF period. The distribution of reported REDD+ financing over time shows a trend of funding concentrated in the FSF period (2010 to 2012) (figure 7).

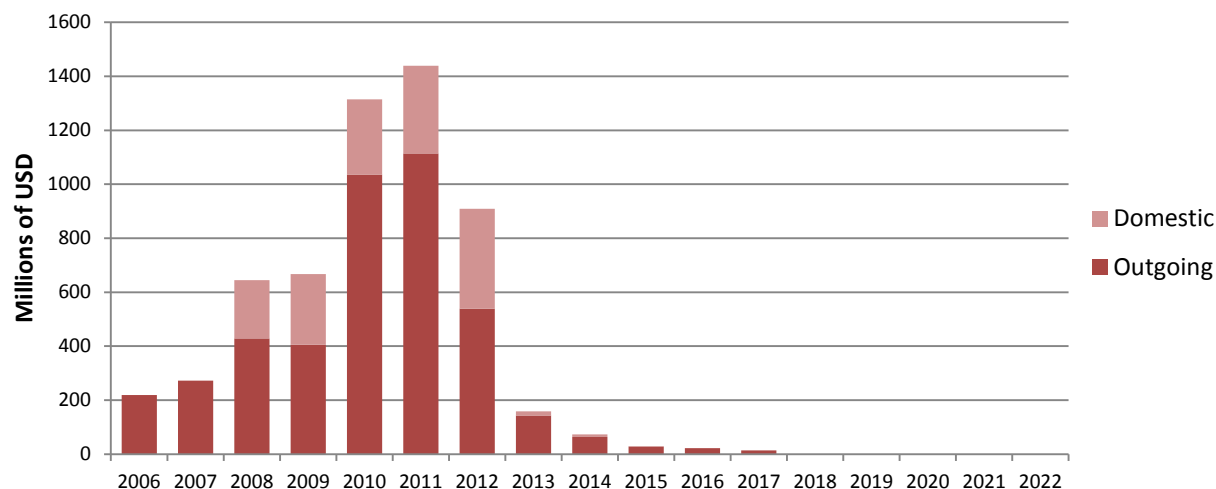


Figure 7: Total outgoing and domestic annual financial contributions to REDD+ countries over time (2006 - 2022), as reported by funders. Figures are based on information provided to date.

Interpretation of the trend in figure 7 requires understanding of the data represented therein. Whilst figure 7 shows that to date there is a reduced amount of reported funding for REDD+ activities beyond the fast-start finance period, this is, in part, a function of how data is reported to the VRD rather than necessarily a clear indication of a significant reduction in support for REDD+ in future years. The VRD aims to capture temporal information for REDD+ funding, however collecting such information can be difficult, for a number reasons. One reason is some funder countries can only report funding up to the current year. Furthermore, funding that in fact covers several years is sometimes reported as taking place in a single year. It can therefore be difficult to capture future funding trends.

WHAT TYPE OF REDD+ ACTIONS ARE BEING FUNDED?

International public financing is funding a number of different actions in support of the planning and implementation of REDD+ strategies in over 90 countries. There are thirteen categories of REDD+ actions identified in the VRD, which were developed in reference to the Analysis of REDD+ financing gaps and overlaps report (Simula 2010).

It is not possible to analyse the financial support towards each action. This is because multiple actions can be reported for a single arrangement, and these can include actions that are not considered the

focus of a project but that are nevertheless a component or added benefit. It is however possible to at least have an understanding of the frequency of occurrence of each category.

The largest percentage of arrangements reported an element of Capacity building and local awareness activities, as shown in figure 8. This is perhaps not surprising given that the category itself is particularly relevant to phases I and II. It is notable that social and environmental benefits is the second highest category and is applicable to a little over 50% of arrangements. It is conceivable that this type of action is considered an additional component for many arrangements which have other project goals. Other top activities involved in REDD+ projects which may be expected include REDD strategy and other policy preparations, demonstration and pilot activities and stakeholder consultations and engagement. Again all of these are potentially broad enough in scope to be applied to many arrangements without necessarily being the core focus of projects.

Conversely, there are some actions that might be expected to have higher occurrence such as actions around MRV. Given the importance of REDD+ countries establishing robust and transparent forest monitoring systems, and also that development of monitoring systems constitute the largest component in country R-PPs (Simula 2010), it may seem surprising that this category is only applicable to approximately 20% of arrangements reported, and one might expect to see this represented in a larger proportion of projects. Again, it should be understood that this trend does not necessarily reflect the volume of funding provided for MRV, and it is possible that fewer different types of actions are considered to contribute to MRV and consequently it is reported only in those instances where arrangements have this particular focus.

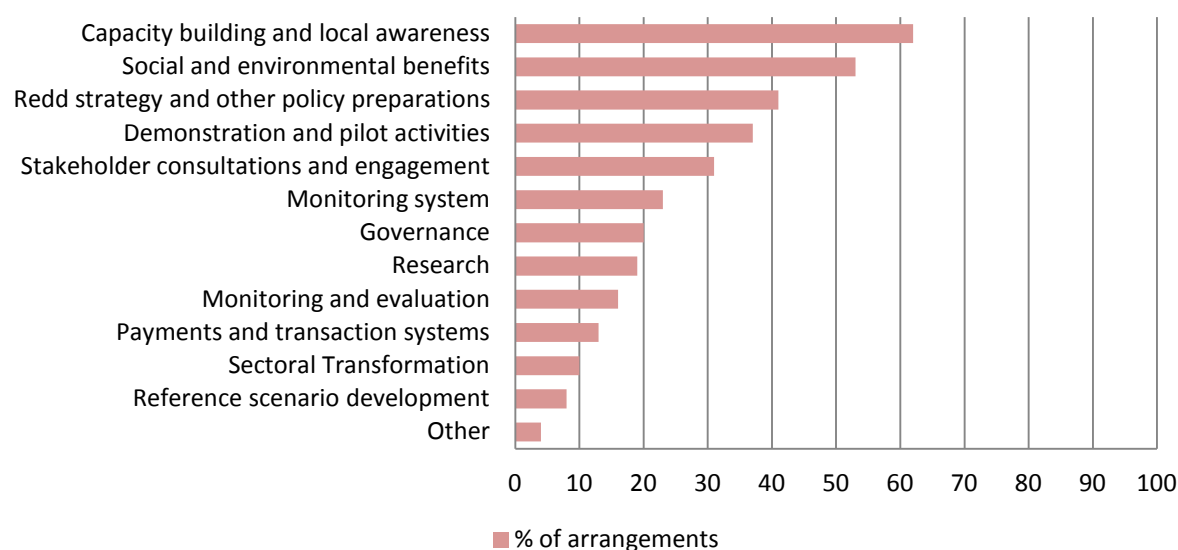


Figure 8: The types of actions that are specified in arrangements, as reported by funders. This is not a comprehensive list as actions have not been reported for all arrangements (presently, 740 out of the 1020 arrangements reported by funders include information about actions to be undertaken). Arrangements can specify more than one action, so the total number of actions is greater than the number of arrangements. The purpose of this graph is to demonstrate the types of actions being recorded in arrangements; it does not show how much finance is going to different action categories.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

WHAT IS THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF REDD+ FINANCING?

Better understanding of the regional distribution of REDD+ financing can help inform geographic gaps and overlaps in REDD+ financing, and subsequent funding needs for REDD+ activities across regions. Reports from funder countries and institutions indicate that funding for REDD+ is being directed to 95 REDD+ countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania, as represented in figure 9 below.

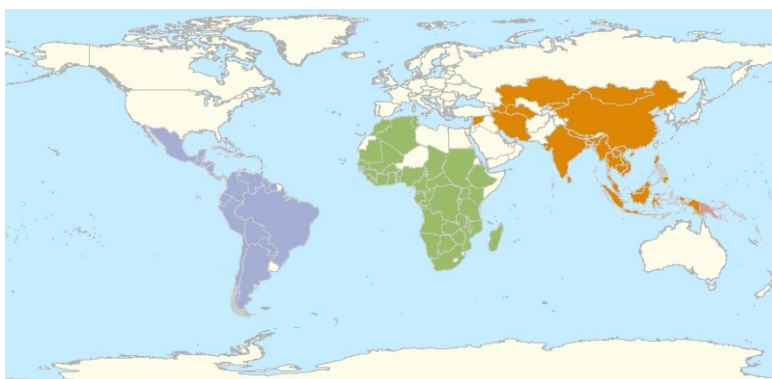


Figure 9: REDD+ countries listed as recipients in arrangements reported from funder countries and institutions

The distribution of REDD+ financing is not equal across all regions. The region reported as receiving the most REDD+ financing through financial contributions is Asia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and lastly, Oceania (figure 10). It should be noted that much of the REDD+ financing reported for Asia can be attributed to loans being reported to a few countries in Asia for years prior to 2010, described in more detail in the Asia regional analysis section below.

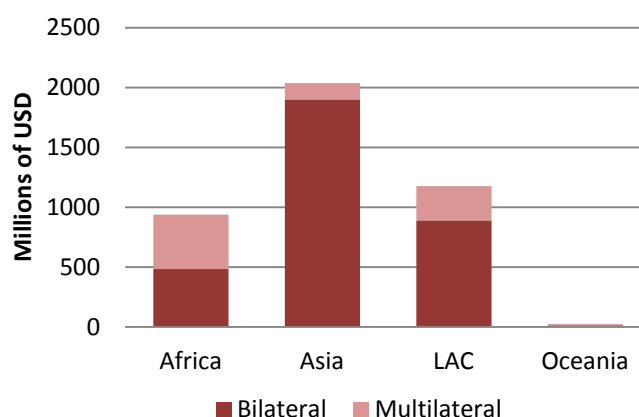


Figure 10: Regional distribution of bilateral and multilateral financial contributions to REDD+ countries, as reported by funders.

The following sections describe the major sources and targets, flows, and types of REDD+ financing in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania.



AFRICA



The largest forest areas are represented by the Democratic Republic of the Cong (DRC), Sudan, Angola, Zambia and Mozambique, which together account for more than half of all forest area in the region (55%). However, the region continues to see a net loss of forest area (FAO 2010), with some countries in particular reporting significant net losses, including Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe (FAO 2011).

Seventeen funder countries and institutions have reported **arrangements involving 41 REDD+ Partnership countries** in Africa. These arrangements have a combined value of **US\$ 948.6 million of REDD+ financing** for the region, for the period 2006 to 2017.

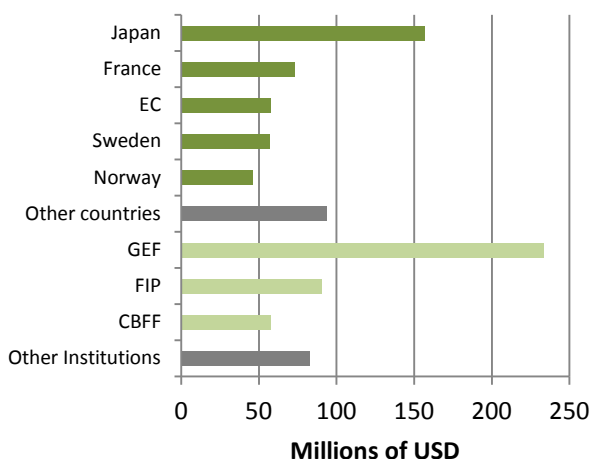
Bilateral financial support for countries in Africa has been reported by 12 funder countries and has a combined value of **US\$ 484.5 million**, a little over half of the total funding reported for the region. 71% of this funding is reported by four funder countries including Japan (US\$ 156.5 million), France (US\$ 73.2 million USD), the European Commission (US\$ 57.5 million), and Sweden (US\$ 57.1 million).

Multilateral funding to support REDD+ activities has a reported value of **US\$ 453 million** and comprises contributions from six multilateral institutions and/or programmes. The main source of this financing is that reported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the period 2007 to 2012 and is distributed between 30 REDD+ countries in the region.

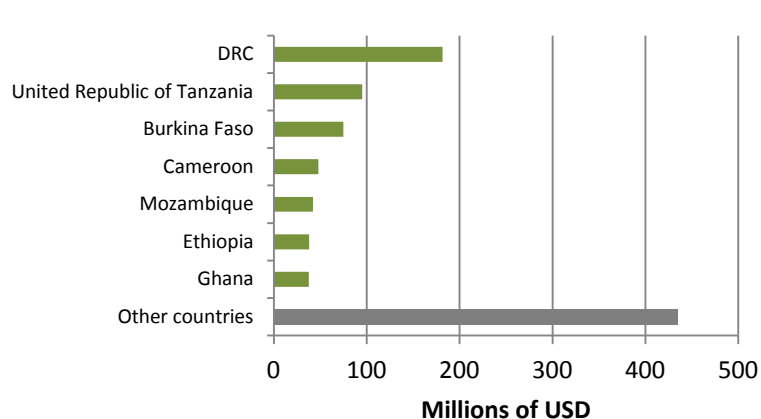
In addition to the larger bilateral and multilateral funding streams to REDD+ countries, a small proportion of funding to the African region is provided both by NGOs (US\$ 11.1 million) and through **domestic funding** arrangements as reported by Chad, Gabon and Nigeria (US\$ 6.6 million). Furthermore, US\$ 123.1 million of funding has been reported to 23 institutions within Africa.

AFRICA AT A GLANCE

MAIN FUNDERS OF REDD+



MAIN RECIPIENTS OF REDD+



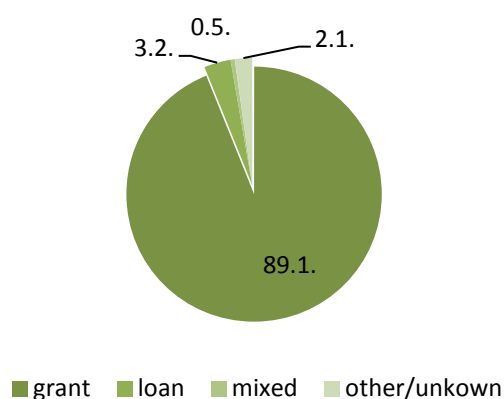
The **geographical distribution** of financing in the region show that the lion's share of funding is reported for REDD+ activities occurring in countries in **Western and Central Africa** (US\$ 610.5 million or 64% of the regional total). In this sub-region, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is reported to receive by far the largest amount of funding, US\$ 181.8 million, of which close to 70% is through multilateral grants. The next highest receiving country in this sub region is Burkina Faso which receives US\$ 74.7 million, almost half of which is funding through the Forest Investment Program for REDD+ strategy development. Countries in **East and Southern Africa** are reported to receive some US\$ 282.6 million (or 30% of the regional total) as reported by funders. Moreover, funders have reported one third of this funding to the United Republic of Tanzania largely in the form of bilateral grants. The smallest amount of funding is reported for countries in **North Africa**, with Morocco receiving the largest amount of REDD+ funding, although at US\$ 28.9 million this is dwarfed by other areas of Africa.

The **type of REDD+ funding** in Africa, as reported by funders, is for the most part (almost 90%) provided in the form of grants, be it through bilateral or multilateral channels. This trend is indeed visible in countries in Western and Central, and East and Southern Africa, where arrangements reported to the database are between 90 and 95% grant-based. Where this trend is less obvious is for the small proportion of arrangements reported to countries in North Africa. Whilst the majority of arrangements are bilateral grants, Japan provided 70% of funding to this sub-region in the form of loans.

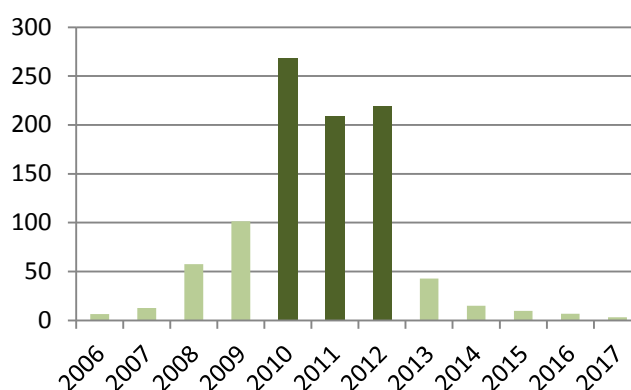
The **temporal distribution of REDD+ funding** reported for Africa shows that the vast majority of funding is reported within the fast start finance (FSF) period (US\$ 695.5 million, or 73%). There is an increase in reported funding from 2008 in the years proceeding the FSF period reaching approximately US\$ 100 million in 2009. The figure more than doubles for the beginning of FSF and remains above US\$ 200 million during each subsequent year in the FSF period, before reducing quite drastically to below US\$ 50 million from 2013 onwards. To date, only relatively low levels of finance have been reported to the VRD in the form of arrangements for years after 2012.

AFRICA AT A GLANCE

REDD+ FINANCING TYPES



REDD+ FINANCING THROUGH TIME





ASIA



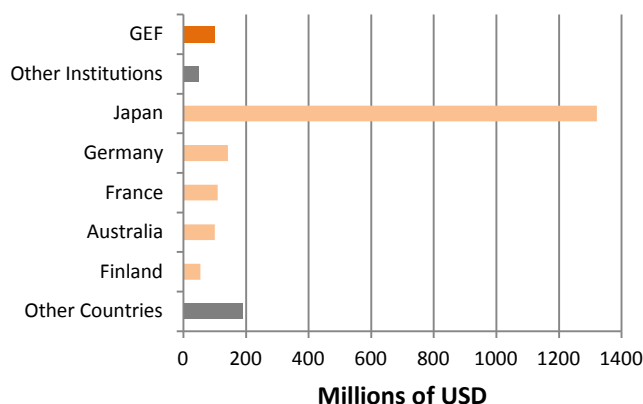
Asia contains many forest-rich countries and has approximately 16% of the world's forest cover. Some countries in Asia have experienced high deforestation rates over the last decade, although the region as a whole reported a net gain of forest area between 2000 and 2010, primarily due to afforestation in China (FAO 2010). Asia therefore is recognized as a region well placed to carry out REDD+ activities and indeed several countries have received attention through both the UN-REDD Programme and other international mechanisms.

Twenty funder countries and institutions have reported some **US\$ 2.07 billion in financing to 24 REDD+ countries across Asia**, covering the period from 2006 to 2017. The majority of this financing, **US\$ 1.9 billion**, or 92.7%, is in the form of **bilateral arrangements** with the main contributors including Japan (US\$ 1.3 billion), Germany (US\$ 142.6 million), France (US\$ 110 million) and Australia (US\$ 100 million). It might be expected that Norway would be featured as one of the main contributors to REDD+ in Asia, given the US\$ 1 billion agreed in the Letter of Intent between Norway and Indonesia to reduce emissions from deforestation, however whilst the US\$ 1 billion pledge has been reported Norway only reports contributions for arrangements as disbursed funds, which amounts to 32.33 million USD.

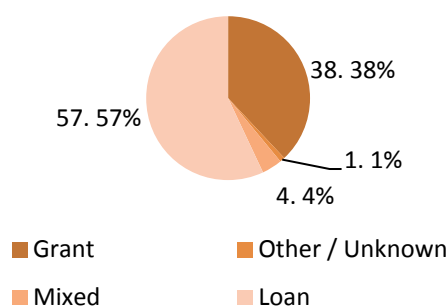
REDD+ financing reported by **multilateral** institutions to Asian countries represents **6.6% (US\$ 136.7 million) of the total funding** reported to the database for the region. By far the largest multilateral contribution to the region is from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which has a reported total of just over US\$ 100 million to Asia for the period 2007 to 2012, spread across 14 REDD+ countries. Financing from other sources is minimal, but includes domestic funding of US\$ 8.9 million from mostly Indonesia (64%), with the remaining amount reported by Lao PDR and Malaysia. A very small number of arrangements involving NGOs have also been reported.

ASIA AT A GLANCE

MAIN FUNDERS OF REDD+



REDD+ FINANCING TYPES



The trends in **geographical distribution** of reported REDD+ finance in Asia show that the majority of funding is directed to South and South East Asia, with the exception of China. Indeed, the top three countries reported to be receiving the majority of REDD+ finance are India, China, and Indonesia, which receive 75% of total funding reported for the region. A further 16% is directed to Lao PDR (US\$ 93.5 million), the Philippines (US\$ 91.7 million), Viet Nam (US\$ 80.9 million), and Nepal (US\$ 77.8 million). The remaining 9% of reported funding is allocated throughout South and South East Asia, and, Western and Central Asia.

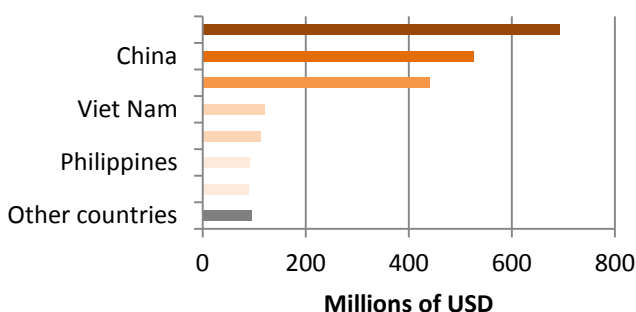
Regarding total **volume of funding** to individual nations and the **type of funding** provided, India has the largest amount of reported finance, some US\$ 713.5 million. However, whilst India receives the most REDD+ funding in Asia, less than 4% of this is in the form of grants, or within the fast-start finance period. Indeed some 52% of funding reported for India is bilateral finance from Japan largely in the form of loans from 2006 onwards for continuous efforts on sustainable forestry management. Similarly, China, which is reported to receive the second largest share of REDD+ funding in Asia (US\$ 475 million as reported by funders), has received a substantial amount of its funding in the form of loans from Japan during the 2006 to 2009 period.

The two large loans to India and China contribute greatly to the high percentage, some 58%, of total reported funding to the region which is in the form of loans. This trend of high loan percentage in fact deviates from what is reported for most REDD+ country figures for this region. With the exception of the loans to China and India, REDD+ financing to the region is largely provided in the form of grants through bilateral arrangements.

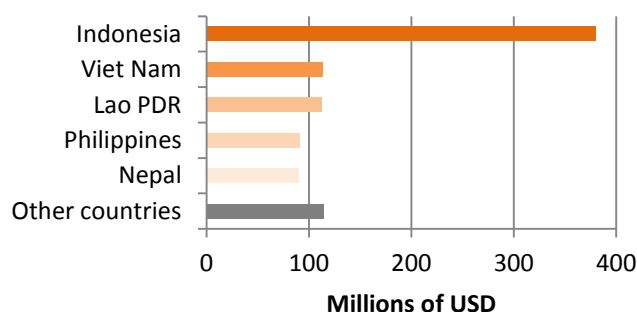
If loans to Asia are excluded in order to analyze the main funding types in the region, the geographical distribution of REDD+ financing is different. Grant based funding to Asia is US\$ 903.32 million. The top five countries in the region receiving grant based REDD+ financing include Indonesia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Philippines, and Nepal, which accounts for almost 85% of grant funding for the region.

ASIA AT A GLANCE

MAIN RECIPIENTS OF ALL TYPES OF FINANCING



MAIN RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS



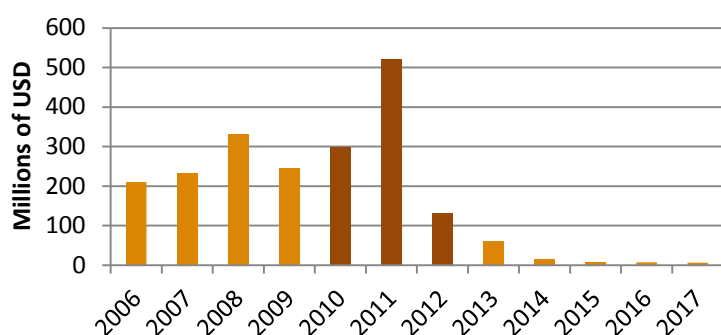
With this in mind, **Indonesia** is identified as the **top recipient of funding through bilateral grants** in Asia. Funder countries have reported US\$ 346.4 million in bilateral funding to Indonesia, of which 79% are grants. The country also receives the **largest proportion of multilateral finance** in the region, with funders including the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO), and the UN REDD Programme reporting a total of US\$ 27.6 million. Indonesia has also reported a further US\$ 80 million from the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

The **temporal distribution of REDD+ funding** reported for Asia, unlike the trend seen in Africa, has less than 50% of reported funding for the fast start finance (FSF) period (US\$ 952.1 million or 46%), and consequently the increase in funding for the FSF period is not as striking. A large measure of this is due to large amounts of funding through loans reported by Japan for the period 2006 to 2009.

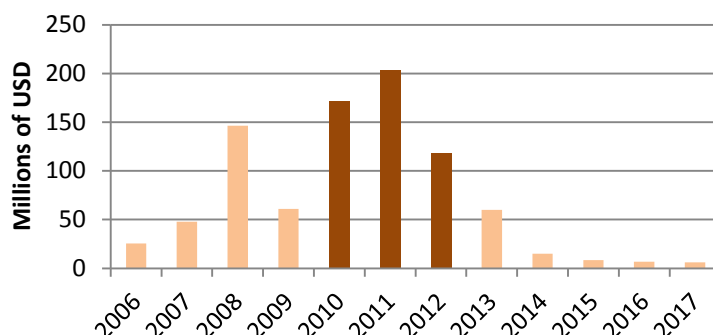
When analyses of financing through time consider only grant based REDD+ finance, the trend is different. With the exception of the spike in finance in 2008, due to the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership which is a financial commitment by Australia for US\$ 100 million, the majority of reported funding based on information provided to date is concentrated in the FSF period, with grants of close to US\$ 500 million having been reported.

ASIA AT A GLANCE

ALL TYPES OF REDD+ FINANCING THROUGH TIME



FINANCING FROM REDD+ GRANTS THROUGH TIME





LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is home to significant areas of forest; the Amazon Basin contains the greatest expanse of tropical rainforest in the world, and is found in nine countries in the region, including Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. In recent decades, the region has experienced relatively high rates of deforestation, mostly due to conversion of land to agriculture, exploitation of forest land for industrial purposes, fuel-wood extraction, and forest fires (FAO 2012).

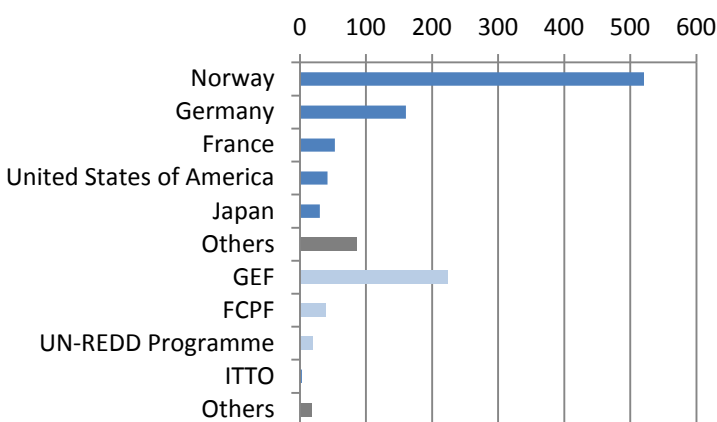
Thirteen funder countries and six funder institutions have reported **arrangements involving 17 REDD+ Partnership countries and 6 other countries** in Latin America and the Caribbean. These arrangements have a combined value of **US\$1.19 billion for REDD+ related actions** in the region, for the period 2006 to 2020.

The majority of financing reported to the database by funders to the LAC region is **bilateral** (US\$ 891 million, or 75% of all funding reported for LAC), with top funders including Norway, Germany, France, the United States and Japan. Norway's disbursements to Brazil for verified reductions in emissions from deforestation under the **Amazon Fund** between 2009 and 2011 (US\$ 436 million) account for 37% of all sources of funding going to the LAC region, and almost half (49%) of all bilateral funding. It should be noted that Norway has pledged up to US\$1 billion USD to Brazil under the Amazon Fund up to 2015, but only disbursements have been entered into the VRD to date.

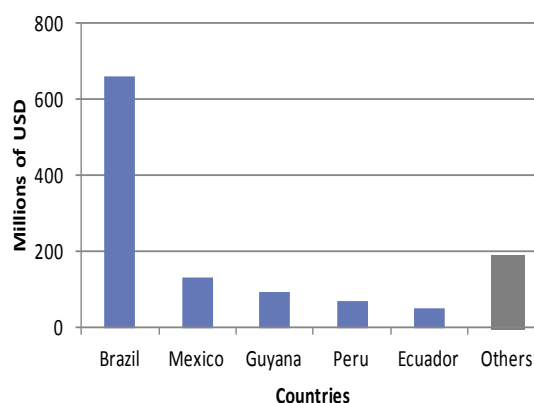
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT A GLANCE

MAIN FUNDERS OF REDD+

Millions of USD



MAIN RECIPIENTS OF REDD+



Multilateral funding for REDD+ in the LAC region stands at US\$ 284 million, and has been reported by four multilateral institutions and/or programmes, and two NGOs. The majority of reported funding originates from the Global Environment Facility (US\$ 223 million), for years 2007 to 2012, and to 15 REDD+ countries in the region. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility has also reported as contributing to the region, with US\$ 39 million being provided to 15 REDD+ countries over seven years (2009-2015). In addition to the major bilateral and multilateral flows of finance, some funding has been reported by NGOs (US\$ 16.4 million from Conservation International and the Wildlife Conservation Society).

Four countries have reported on **domestic funding** in Latin America; Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, and Panama, totaling US\$ 1.45 billion of in-country financing for REDD+. Mexico has reported US\$ 1.38 billion worth of in-country resources used for activities aiming to reduce deforestation, forest degradation, sustainable forest management, and conservation or enhancement of forest carbon stocks, from 2008 to 2012.

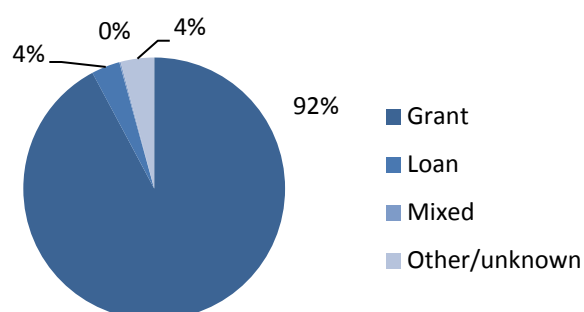
The **geographical distribution** of financing in the region indicates that the majority of funding is going to countries in South America, in particular countries which contain parts of the Amazon rainforest. Total contributions to Amazon rainforest countries adds up to US\$ 943 million, or 79% of total funding reported by funders to the LAC region. A further US\$ 132 million is reported as going to Mexico in North America, US\$ 68 million to countries in Central America, and US\$17 million to countries in the Caribbean.

Almost all of the funding being reported for the LAC region is being provided in the form of **grants** (US\$ 1.1 billion, or 92%), through bilateral and multilateral channels. A further US\$ 2 million is a combination of different finance types (e.g. grants and loans), and US\$ 49 million worth of finance is undefined or other.

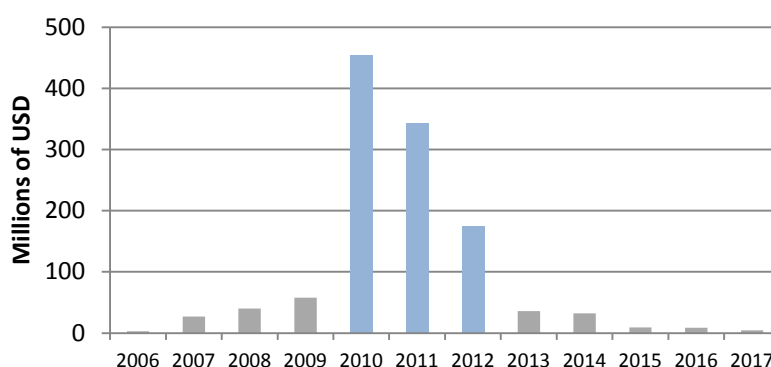
The **temporal distribution of REDD+ funding** reported for Latin America and the Caribbean shows that the vast majority of reported funding has been listed during the fast-start period (US\$ 972 million; 82%), with financing peaking in 2010 at US\$ 454 million.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT A GLANCE

REDD+ FINANCING TYPES



REDD+ FINANCING THROUGH TIME





OCEANIA



Oceania does not contain a large proportion of the world's forest; however, the forests in this region are very high in endemic biodiversity. In recent decades, deforestation has been on an upwards trend in Oceania, mostly due to pressures associated with increasing population size, conversion of forest land to other uses (e.g. agriculture), and more intensive exploitation of forests (Woinarski 2010).

Three funder countries (Germany, Australia, and Japan) and three funder institutions (UN-REDD Programme, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and the Wildlife Conservation Society) have reported **arrangements involving four REDD+ Partnership countries (Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Fiji) and one other country in Oceania (Samoa)**. These arrangements have a combined value of **US\$ 24 million for REDD+ related actions** in the region, for the period 2008 to 2015. Papua New Guinea is reported to be receiving the most financing in the region (US\$ 11 million).

The proportion of **bilateral versus multilateral** financing reported to the database by funders to Oceania is roughly **equal** (US\$ 12 million coming from bilateral sources, and US\$ 11 million coming from multilateral sources).

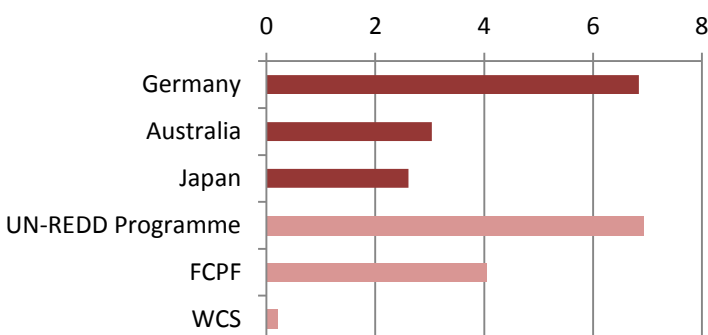
Domestic financing has been reported by one REDD+ country; Papua New Guinea, on US\$ 13 million being spent in-country for REDD+ related actions.

The **majority (73%) of Oceania's financial contributions** are listed during the **fast-start period (2010-2012)**, with 2010 being the year with the largest contribution amount (US\$ 10 million).

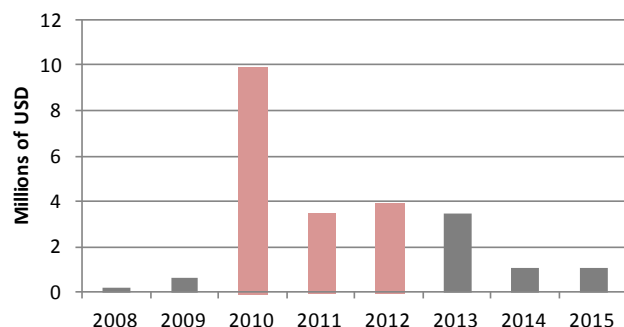
OCEANIA AT A GLANCE

MAIN FUNDERS OF REDD+

Millions of USD



FINANCING THROUGH TIME





CONCLUSIONS

The information collected through the VRD from the REDD+ Partnership countries and institutions provides an insight into the REDD+ financing landscape. Emerging trends suggest that commitments in public financing are providing a large geographical coverage (95 REDD+ countries) in mobilizing international efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Overall, the volume and distribution of reported financing shows some differences when compared to reports from other initiatives where the information is available for comparison. The trends show that large amounts of funding are being directed towards regions which are known to account for a significant proportion of global emissions from tropical deforestation. Specifically, Latin America and South East Asia are identified as recipients of high volumes of funding, and in particular Brazil and Indonesia, which are also featured as the largest recipients by other initiatives (Nakhouda et al. 2011). West and Central, and parts of East and Southern Africa, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Republic of Tanzania, which have both been engaged in REDD+ activities through their national programmes, are also identified as recipients of high volumes of funding.

Response by funder countries to the fast-start-finance period is visible, with the largest volume of funding reported in the period 2010 to 2012. To date, significantly less financing has been reported in the form of arrangements for the post-2012 period; however, this is in part due to the way data is reported to the VRD rather than a clear indication of reduced support for REDD+ in the future.

In addition to the recognised challenges of tracking climate change finance such as multiple funding stages and time variant exchange rates, there are additional challenges associated with the VRD. The VRD, unlike other initiatives, has the ambition to attempt to collect information from both funder and recipient countries and institutions. This information, where collected, is undoubtedly valuable, however it inevitably introduces the potential for discrepancies in reporting. Currently, the coverage of information in the VRD is to date heavily weighted to funder country and institution reports. Whilst the data provided is perfectly valid, the VRD has the potential to provide the REDD+ community with a much greater understanding of REDD+ funding flows, both domestic and international. To this end, the VRD team are continually working with Partner countries to improve the responder coverage, particularly from REDD+ countries.

There are further issues to consider and these will be based on the articulation of a future work plan for the REDD+ Partnership. The VRD does not attempt to tackle the question of 'new or additional' funding beyond Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). Furthermore, consistency in reporting of REDD+ finance is an important issue in terms of both time frames and actions, e.g. the extent to which forestry

funding can be classified as REDD+. This is a recognised issue which requires further consideration (Watson 2012). The VRD provides some guidance to countries and institutions on what constitutes REDD+ financing but does not impose strict criteria. A reporting entity is able to provide information based on their national or institutional criteria for REDD+, which can vary enormously from reporter to reporter. Nevertheless, the data in the VRD provides a platform for discussion around key issues on the delivery of REDD+ by both funder and REDD+ countries.



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