

REDD+ Partnership Voluntary REDD+ Database Progress Report 27 September 2011

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1. Introduction

The Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD) is a key provider of information to the global community on REDD+ financing, actions and results. The objectives of the database are to improve transparency and coordination around REDD+, support efforts to identify and analyse gaps and overlaps in REDD+ financing, and help share experiences on REDD+ between Partners and with other stakeholders.

The need for a VRD was initially voiced at the preparations for the *Paris International Conference on the Major Forest Basins* in March 2010, which was followed by a first data collection effort and a report to the *Oslo Climate and Forest Conference* in May 2010. The development of the VRD was agreed in the 2010 Work Program by Partners in the REDD+ Partnership, with subsequent work by the UN-REDD Programme team leading to the design and implementation of a database structure. Database development and management is being carried out by a team from FAO and UNEP-WCMC as part of the REDD+ Partnership Secretariat Services (FMT/PT), under the guidance of co-Chairs and Partners.

The new interface for the VRD database was launched on 1 July 2011. Since the last meeting in Bonn, there has been further processing of the March 2011 questionnaire responses; including interactions with Partners to address discrepancies in the responses received. Planning has also commenced on the 2012 activities.



2. New interface

Interface development

The new graphical VRD interface was launched on 1 July 2011 at <http://www.reddplusdatabase.org>. The improved site offers access to maps, graphs and summary statistics on REDD+ financing reported, as well as detailed information on individual arrangements between countries and institutions.

There are three entry points to the data; the first (default) is the **overview** section, which presents a map of funds committed to countries, an interactive graph of REDD+ financing through time, and a master list of all arrangements in the database. It must be noted that the data submitted to VRD is still incomplete (not all countries have reported, or there are discrepancies in data), but efforts are made to provide more complete and quality assured data to reduce discrepancies as far as possible, in order to provide a more accurate picture at Durban. Users have the option of viewing summaries as reported by funders, or as reported by recipients throughout the site. The other entry points, **countries** or **institutions**, allow access to similar statistics, graphs and maps, specific to the country or institution in question (see Figure 1 and 2 below for Costa Rica country example).



Figure 2: REDD+ funding for Costa Rica, as reported by Costa Rica, over time.





Figure 1: Costa Rica home page, with map demonstrating flow of funding, as reported by Costa Rica

The VRD Team is currently addressing the glitches and making improvements to the site. Options for further development of the interface in 2012 will be explored, following feedback from the Partnership on the interface priorities.



VRD user demographics

Since the launch of the new interface on 1 July 2011, the VRD site has attracted more than 2000 visits from 1,303 unique visitors in more than 100 countries (data correct as of 9 Sep 2011; see Figure 3).

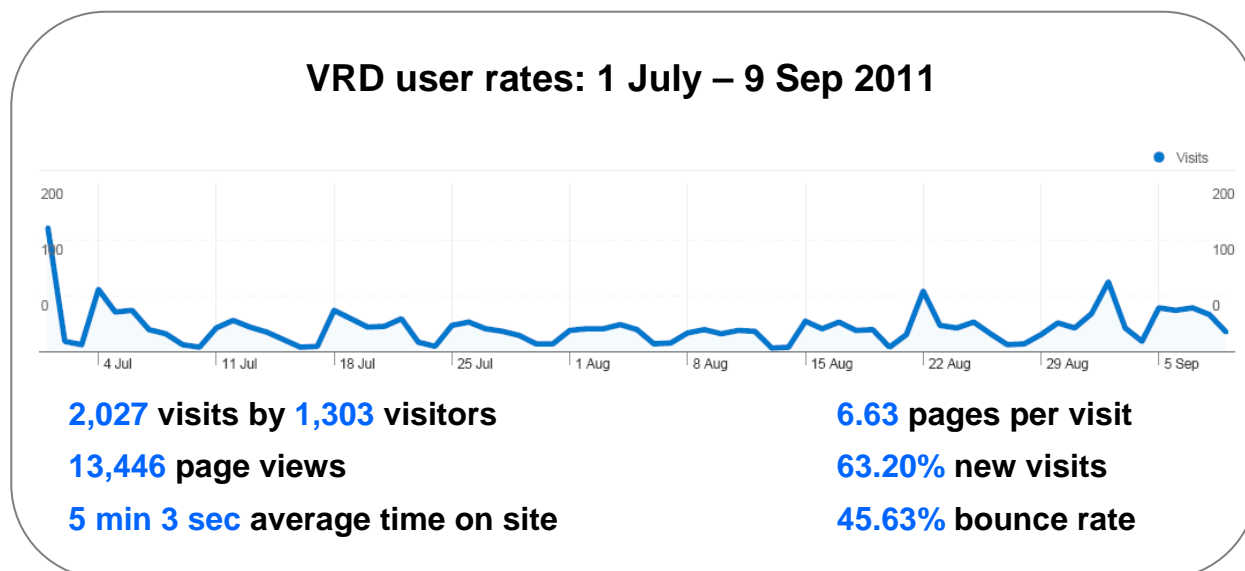


Figure 3: VRD user rates since 1 July 2011 Launch (Source: Google Analytics)

Users visited the site for an average of 5 minutes, accessing 6.63 pages per visit on average. Almost two thirds of all visits were new visits. More than one third of all visits were “direct traffic” visits; 47% were visits from referring sites, and 19% were visits from search engines such as Google.

Visits to the Database originated from a total of 103 countries and 436 cities (Figures 4 & 5). The top 10 countries for visits were: the United Kingdom, United States, Italy, Germany, India, Brazil, Norway, Indonesia, Canada and Australia, which together accounted for 66% of all visits.

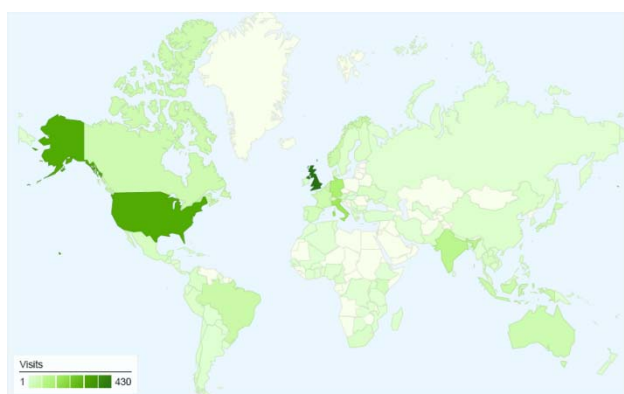


Figure 4: Global distribution of visits by country (Source: Google Analytics)



Figure 5: Global distribution of visits by city (Source: Google Analytics)



Processing and finalisation of 2011 questionnaires

As of 22 September 2011, the VRD Team had received a total of **34** questionnaire responses to the 2011 *REDD+ Partnership Questionnaire for Financing, Actions and Results*, comprised of **10** submissions from donor countries; **17** from REDD+ countries and **7** from institutions. All questionnaires responses have undergone or are currently undergoing a process of review and quality control by the VRD Team. At the time of writing, **18** questionnaire responses had been finalised, with resulting data entered into the database. **7** questionnaire responses have been partially entered into the Database (see Annex 1).

This means that data entry has yet to begin for approximately one quarter of 2011 submissions. Some of the reasons behind delays in finalisation have included: long questionnaire processing times during periods of high questionnaire response inflow or for questionnaires with many arrangements, sometimes lengthy communication process between VRD Team and VRD country and institution focal points to obtain clarifications, and difficulty by some countries and institutions in providing information to the level of detail requested in arrangement fields (this applies particularly to annualisation of contributions). The VRD team is presently putting measures in place to improve its communication with VRD country and institution focal points, and reduce the length of time between questionnaire submission and finalisation.

Countries and institutions currently listed in the Database

The Database presently holds information for 90 countries; 15 REDD+ funder countries and 75 REDD+ recipient countries. This number reflects both countries which have reported to the VRD since its creation (43 countries), and countries which have been included in the Database a result of being involved in arrangements reported by other parties (47 countries). Almost the entire REDD+ Partnership membership (90% of all Partners) is included in the Database.

The Database includes 64 institutions; 7 REDD+ funder institutions, 48 REDD+ recipient institutions, and 9 institutions that are classified as both funders and recipients of REDD+ (e.g. GEF, which receives funding from donor countries and then channels these funds for REDD+ related work in REDD+ recipient countries).

Annex 1 gives a listing of all countries and institutions about which there is information in the Database, including their role (REDD+ funder, recipient or both), and whether or not they have reported information to the VRD.

4. Addressing discrepancies

Addressing and working to resolve discrepancies between funder and recipient reporting of REDD+ financing was identified as an important activity for the VRD Team at the Partnership meeting in Bonn in June 2011.

There can be several reasons for differences in amounts of funding reported by funders and recipients. At one end of the spectrum, only one party may report on the arrangement. In other cases, underlying causes for discrepancies include: disagreements about whether the reported arrangement is a contribution to REDD+, differences in the amount and timing of finance involved, reporting on different stages in fund disbursement, reporting on different types of funds, time lags in reporting, and exchange rate fluctuations.



Throughout 2011, the VRD Team has been putting in place the following measures to help address the issue of discrepancies in the Database:

- Where relevant, the new questionnaire disseminated to countries and institutions in March 2011 was accompanied by a PDF listing all arrangements reported for the country or institution in question, including arrangements reported by others. A request was made for respondents to report on arrangements reported by others involving their country/institution. In instances where a country/institution did not want to report on an arrangement, they were requested to state their reasons for not reporting.

Although initially the inclusion of PDFs alongside the new questionnaire led to some confusion about reporting on arrangements, subsequent communication between the VRD Team and country/institution focal points was undertaken to clarify reasons for any missing arrangements. It is therefore the case that all Partners and stakeholders who have finalised questionnaire responses in 2011 have considered discrepancies in their reporting to the Database.

- Alongside these efforts, the VRD is also working to address the discrepancies in the data reported, and is presently engaging with the relevant parties in order to resolve these.

Improving the quality and structure of the data in the VRD has been one of the top priorities for the VRD Team during 2011. The VRD Team will continue to prioritise addressing discrepancies with Partners and stakeholders, to ensure that data in the Database are internally consistent, and useful for analysis and decision-making at the broader level.

One option to address the discrepancies is joint reporting by partners involved in the same arrangement and this will be encouraged by the VRD team. If partners wish capacity building / training on the use of the database this could be organised along the REDD+ partnership meetings).

5. Way forward

The VRD team has agreed with co-chairs that the focus in the short term is on donor financing (not private sector or domestic financing and not on actions and results); and on collecting information about fast start pledges and arrangements. The VRD team shall continue to finalise the input of the March 2011 questionnaire responses into the database while equally ensuring that that better quality reports are submitted by liaising with focal points to ensure that the questionnaire is well understood.

The team will liaise with focal points of Partner countries that are still to submit responses to the 2011 questionnaire to encourage them to participate in the exercise.

Addressing discrepancies between responses by funders and recipients shall remain a top priority. The team intends to do so in various ways, including through the encouragement of joint reporting as well as capacity building workshops.

The team has provided a glossary of 'fast start pledges', 'arrangements' and other relevant terms and is working to further clarify these and other VRD related terms.

The team is also seeking opportunities to build synergies with other initiatives on REDD+ financing tracking that are being undertaken by other institutions. Dialogue is on-going for example with the Global Canopy Programme (REDD Desk platform) and Forest Trends.



Annex 1: Countries and institutions listed in the VRD

Countries/institutions in **bold** have submitted information to the VRD between 2010 and 2011. Non-bold indicates countries/institutions about which there is information in the database, as reported by others.

REDD+ recipient countries		REDD+ Funder Countries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Albania - Algeria - Argentina - Azerbaijan - Bangladesh - Belize - Benin - Bolivia - Brazil - Brunei - Burkina Faso - Burundi - Cambodia - Cameroon - Central African Republic - Chad - Chile - China - Colombia - Congo (DRC) - Congo (Republic) - Costa Rica - Côte d'Ivoire - Dominican Republic - Ecuador - El Salvador - Equatorial Guinea - Ethiopia - Fiji - Gabon - Ghana - Guatemala - Guinea-Bissau - Guyana - Honduras - India - Indonesia - Kenya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laos - Lebanon - Liberia - Madagascar - Malawi - Malaysia - Mali - Mexico - Morocco - Mozambique - Myanmar - Nepal - Nicaragua - Nigeria - Pakistan - Panama - Papua New Guinea - Paraguay - Peru - Philippines - Russian Federation - Rwanda - São Tomé and Príncipe - Senegal - Singapore - Solomon Islands - Sudan - Suriname - Thailand - Togo - Tunisia - Uganda - United Republic of Tanzania - Vanuatu - Venezuela - Viet Nam - Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia Canada Denmark Finland France Germany Italy Japan The Netherlands Norway Spain Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom United States of America
75 (28)		15(15)



REDD+ recipient institutions	REDD+ funder institutions	REDD+ funder and recipient institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African Forest Forum (AFF) - Amazon Conservation Association - Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) - Amigos do Protocolo de Kyoto - Association of Southeast Asian Nations Social Forestry Network (ASFN) - Ayuda, Intercambio y Desarrollo (AIDA) - Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) - Center for International Policy (CIP) - Centre for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) - Centre for Development and Environment (SUM) - Centre Tecnologic Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC) - Clinton Foundation - Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) - Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI) - Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) - Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) - Environmental Investigation Agency - Fauna & Flora International - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Forest Peoples Programme - Forest Trends - Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD) - Geoscience Australia - Global Canopy Programme - GEF African Sustainable Forestry Fund - Global Witness - Group on Earth Observations (GEO) - International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) - International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) - International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - International Work Group for Indigenous Peoples (IWGIA) - Norges Naturvernforbund / Regnskogsfondet - Norsk Romsenter - Overseas Development Institute (ODI) - Rainforest Alliance - Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) - Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) - Snøball Film - Solidaridad Internacional - Tebtebba Foundation - The Samdhana Institute - The Woods Hole Research Center - Transparency International - Universidad de Córdoba - Utviklingsfondet - World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) - World Resource Institute (WRI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Commission (EC) - Moore and Packard Foundation - Pact Inc. - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - World Bank - World Wildlife Fund (WWF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) - Conservation International (CI) - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) - Forest Investment Program (FIP) - Global Environment Facility (GEF) - International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) - World Conservation Society (WCS)
48(3)	8(3)	9(8)

