

# REDD+ Partnership Voluntary REDD+ Database Progress Report 9 April 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 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, followed by a first data collection effort and a report for 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 of a database structure. Database development and management is currently 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.



**Figure 1: The Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD). Visit <http://reddplusdatabase.org/>**

As of 9 April 2011, data inputs had been received from 24 REDD+ countries (of 54 in the REDD+



Partnership) receiving financing, 15 donor countries (of 17 in the REDD+ Partnership), as well as 11 organisations/multilateral institutions. The data includes that from the initial *REDD+ Financing and Activities Survey* exercise conducted by Australia, France and Papua New Guinea in early 2010, as well as subsequent submissions from countries and institutions providing new data, or updates to existing data since the 2010 survey. A revised questionnaire was launched in mid March 2011.

2011 is a priority year for further developments of the VRD, with substantial improvements in functionality underway during the first half of the year. This progress report outlines developments in the database development, including the data collection, as well as the proposed next steps. It is intended to serve as input for discussion at the Partnership meeting in Bangkok on 10 April 2011.

## 2. Developments in data collection and database system

### 2a. Data acquisition – new questionnaire

#### *Revised questionnaire*

Under the guidance of Partnership co-Chairs, the VRD team has created a revised *REDD+ Partnership Questionnaire for Financing, Actions and Results*, disseminated in March 2011 to all 71 Partner countries and over 100 registered stakeholders. The questionnaire has been created in response to Partnership requests for additional work on: clarifying and assuring the quality of data submitted to the VRD, gathering new data from new respondents, updating existing information, and collecting information in a form more appropriate for analysis purposes (e.g. financing gaps and overlaps analyses). As of 9 April 2011, 14 questionnaire responses (or equivalent updates) had been received from 10 REDD+ countries, 4 donor countries and 3 institutions.

Major new aspects of the 2011 questionnaire include more comprehensive questions on REDD+ financing and more detailed guidance to fill in the report.

These changes are intended to address requests that have been made by database users, and provide better support for future analyses. The new data gathered will also enable more dynamic user interaction with the database (e.g. through graphical display of data – see section 4).

#### **Submitting data**

In addition to the data collection rounds called by co-Chairs, the VRD accepts submissions and updates from countries and institutions on their REDD+ efforts at any time. Please email [vrd@reddpluspartnership.org](mailto:vrd@reddpluspartnership.org) for more information.



## 2b. Data collection and entry principles

The VRD team aims to address issues identified and raised by the Partnership resulting from experiences in data publishing and use during 2010. The following issues are being addressed during data collection, quality assurance and entry, such as:

**Responder coverage and completeness:** a key task is to maximize the number of Partner countries and REDD+ initiatives included in the REDD+ reporting process, and to help respondents submit information that is as complete as possible.

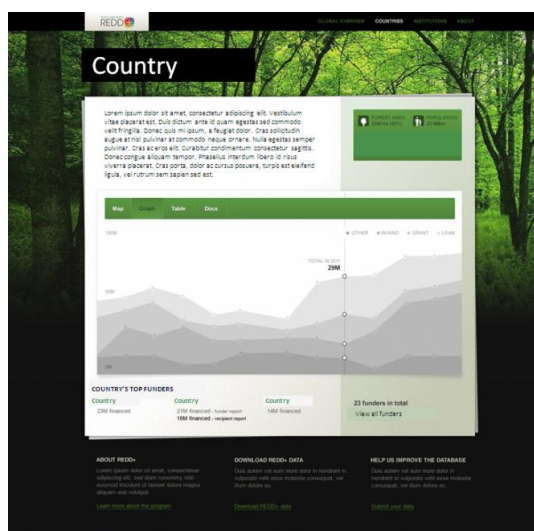
**Data ownership:** The country/institutional focal point has full ownership of the data. All changes to the data are made in close collaboration with the country/institutional focal point, and the final say is the hands of that focal point.

**Data quality:** Checking the database for errors is an important part of the VRD team's work in collaboration with the involved country/institutional focal points.

## 2c. New user interface – how data can be summarized and displayed

The VRD team has been developing options for a new user interface. These include improved query and search options, summary statistics and graphical presentation of data. Options for the following features are currently being developed and evaluated:

- An improved website layout structure consisting of pages for summary statistics, and country/institution views of the data (see figure 2 for country view example)
- Access to summary statistics, graphs, maps where relevant, and lists of arrangements for each page
- Options to view funding totals, statistics and graphs as reported by *funders*, and as reported by *recipients*.<sup>1</sup>
- A separate page for each arrangement, with more detailed information than is currently available
- Options to visualize data together with supplementary information from other sources (for example, using data from United Nations Statistics Division (or other official global sources) to view funding received as a function of: total forest cover, population density (people/ha), GDP per capita etc)



<sup>1</sup> For good reasons, REDD+ funding reported by funders and by recipients can differ. Users will be able to select desired reporting groups



### 3. Overview of current data

While the VRD is a project in progress and new data are continuously being entered. This section provides an overview with some illustrations of the dataset as of 9 April 2011 when a total of **39 countries** and **12 institutions** had submitted data. Country submissions include **24 REDD+ countries** receiving funds and **15 donor countries** (*Annex 1*).

So far, the March 2011 questionnaire has yielded submissions from **4 donor countries**, **10 REDD+ countries**; and **3 institutions**. Several countries have indicated that they will be providing responses throughout April 2011, and a follow up process with Partners will be initiated by the VRD team at around the same time. At the time of writing, the majority of these new submissions were being processed by the VRD team, and are yet to be entered into the database.

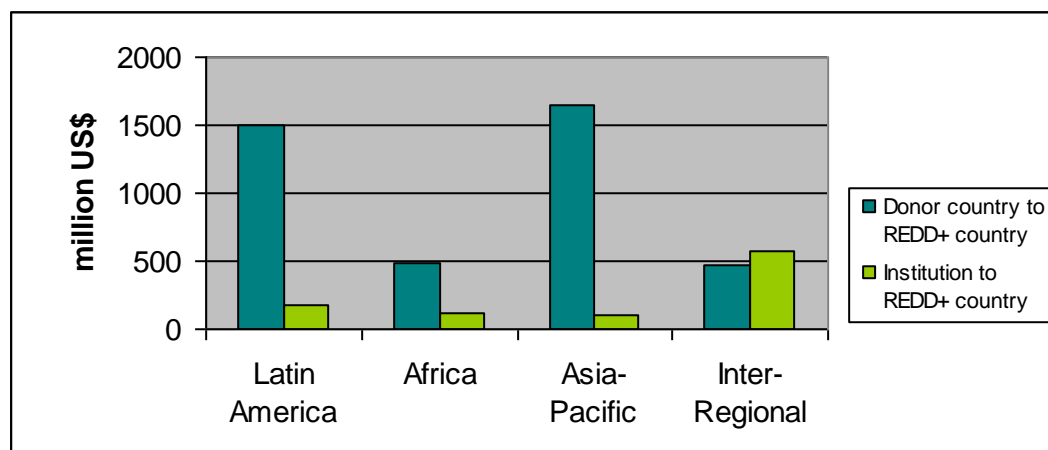
As of 9 April 2011, the database held 437 arrangements, when reports from both funders and recipients are combined. **Donor countries have reported US\$4.1 billion going directly to REDD+ countries, and US\$3.6 billion** being directed to institutions (e.g. multilaterals) to support REDD+ initiatives in countries. **Recipient countries have reported US\$0.6 billion coming both from donor countries and institutions** (table 1). Out of the REDD+ funding going directly to REDD+ countries, as reported by donor countries and institutions, the highest proportions go to Latin America and the Asia-Pacific regions (figure 3).

**Table 1. Total amounts reported as of 9 April 2011 for REDD+ arrangements between donor countries, REDD+ countries and institutions**

Arrangement type	Amounts (billion US\$) as reported by:		
	Donor countries	REDD+ Countries	Institutions
Donor country → REDD+ country	4.1	0.4	<i>n.appl.</i>
Donor country → Institution	3.6	<i>n.appl.</i>	0.0
Institution → REDD+ country	<i>n.appl.</i>	0.2	1.0

In its current design, the database allows both funders and recipients to separately report on the same arrangement. This promotes transparency by allowing the figures for a given arrangement to be compared. However, **about 91 percent of the arrangements have been reported by funders**. One reason is that, data are lacking or incomplete for many REDD+ countries. Differences in time periods or scope of arrangements applied in the reporting may also distort the picture. Caution should therefore be raised that data must be thoroughly analyzed before comparisons or conclusions are made.





**Figure 3. Total amounts going directly to REDD+ countries, as reported by donor countries and institutions. Note that some reports are inter-regional, including REDD+ countries in several regions.**



## 4. Next steps

The following next steps have been identified for the second quarter of 2011:

- **Data acquisition:** Data received from the 2011 *REDD+ Partnership Questionnaire for Financing, Actions and Results*, as well as from subsequent submissions and updates, will feed into an updated progress report to be presented to the next Partnership meeting.
- **New user interface:** The Partnership meeting in Bangkok will serve as an opportunity for consultation with Partners on options for the user interface, including summary statistics, graphs and maps. The new user interface is planned to be presented to the Partnership at the next meeting in June 2011.

## 5. Future directions

As described in the concept note approved by the co-chairs in September 2010, the objectives of the Voluntary REDD+ database are to:

1. Improve transparency around REDD+ financing, actions and results
2. Support analyses of REDD+ financing and actions
3. Help share REDD+ experiences.

Related to the first objective, good progress is made on the REDD+ financing side, with increasing and improving information on REDD+ arrangements. In the future, as time and funds allow, the development of action and results data will be an important feature. Initial considerations have been made in the design of the VRD to date, allowing this functionality to be included. Further work must be done on the concepts and reporting process for actions and results.

Related to the second objective, the database is already providing inputs to finance analyses. Fulfilling this objective will above all require reinforced efforts to achieve completeness in reporting, including information on additional financing requirements, so that the VRD becomes the authoritative global source of information on REDD+ financing and arrangements.

The third objective is very important. As the database and its contents are improving, the active sharing of information can be accelerated with the help of partners that engage in REDD+ knowledge management. This will also be an avenue to seek enhanced feedback to the database content and to engage a wider REDD+ community to share knowledge and experiences.





**Annex 1. Countries and institutions that have submitted information**

<b>REDD+ Recipient Countries</b>	<b>REDD+ Donor Countries</b>	<b>Organisations / Multilateral Institutions</b>
Belize	Australia	Amigos do Protocolo de Kyoto
Brazil	Canada	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Cameroon	Denmark	Conservation International (CI)
Central African Republic	Finland	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
Chad	France	Forest Investment Program (FIP)
Congo (DRC)	Germany	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Costa Rica	Italy	International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO)
Ecuador	Japan	Pact Inc.
Gabon	The Netherlands	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Ghana	Norway	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme)
Guyana	Spain	World Conservation Society (WCS)
Honduras	Sweden	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Indonesia	Switzerland	
Laos	United Kingdom	
Madagascar	United States	
Mali		
Mexico		
Mozambique		
Nigeria		
Pakistan		
Papua New Guinea		
Rwanda		
Togo		
Uganda		

