



Coalition for Rainforest Nations



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*"Amongst all the organizations  
evaluated, CfRN stands out because  
of outsized leverage of their presence  
at key international negotiations"*



Founders  
Pledge



# The Coalition of Rainforest Nations

## External Board

**Dr. Geoffrey Heal (Chairman),**  
Professor of Social Enterprise and International  
and Public Affairs, Columbia  
**Mr. Ruben Kraiem,** Senior Counsel, Covington  
**Mr. Mark Grundy,** Managing Director,  
Global Marketing & Communications,  
Rocky Mountain Institute  
**Mr. Cristobal (Tito) Sequeira,**  
Former Minster of Environment, Nicaragua

## Executive Team

**Kevin Conrad,** Executive Director  
**Federica Bietta,** Managing Director  
**Paul Chung,** Funding Director  
**Leo Massia,** Legal & Policy Director  
**Javier Fernandez,** Technical Director

## Auditors

FreedMaxick  
424 Main Street  
Suite 800  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
Phone: (716) 847-2651  
Fax: (716) 847-0069  
<https://www.freedmaxick.com>

## Registered Office

52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 14th floor, suite 1401  
New York, NY 10017  
Telephone: (646) 448-6870  
Facsimile: 212-682-1631  
[info@rainforestcoalition.org](mailto:info@rainforestcoalition.org)  
[www.rainforestcoalition.org](http://www.rainforestcoalition.org)

## Not-for-Profit

The Coalition of Rainforest Nations is a  
501c3 not-for-profit organization in USA.  
In the Netherlands, it is registered with  
PBO-organizations RSIN: 8261.87.316.

Donations are tax-deductible in Canada,  
Germany, The Netherlands and USA

# Participating Countries

## Africa

- Botswana
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Republic of Congo
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa\*
- Sudan
- Uganda
- Zambia

## South America

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Ecuador
- Guyana
- Paraguay
- Suriname
- Uruguay

## Asia

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- China
- India
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Pakistan
- Indonesia
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Vietnam

## Caribbean

- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia

## Central America

- Belize
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama

## Oceania

- Fiji
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu

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# Letter from our Executive Director

## Kevin Conrad

**Next decade marks a critical chapter in the world’s efforts to contain the climate emergency. If we are to have any effect on the scale and numbers of wildfires, hurricanes, and droughts occurring on our fragile planet, we must limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of this decade and become zero-carbon by 2050.**

To do this, we need to implement every climate solution at our disposal: fully decarbonizing our electricity systems and buildings using solar and wind; switching to electric vehicles; and helping industry find cost-effective alternatives to coal, oil, and gas. These techno-economic challenges are huge. And even if we can bring about an energy transition, the emission reductions will still not be enough to align us to the 1.5°C pathway. So, what do we do?

*Tropical rainforests are the critical climate solution.*

We invest in a vital solution to the climate emergency: tropical rainforests.

Rainforests offer the largest—and one of the lowest-cost—emissions reductions of greenhouse gas potential for the planet. Conserving global rainforests and their carbon sinks are essential to solving our greatest climate challenge. Rainforests absorb greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere and creating warming, house thousands of endangered species, and provide livelihoods for indigenous peoples.

2019 was a landmark year for us. After 15 years of relentless work to stop deforestation, our member countries and the Coalition fulfilled their promise to bring *emissions reductions from the planet’s tropical rainforests at a multi-gigaton level*.

Developed country governments, corporations, and citizens can now achieve ambitious carbon neutral goals at a scale unimaginable until recently with the help of REDD+ Paris Agreement-compliant carbon credits. And in the next few years, our countries will bring a pipeline of 1000 million tons or one gigaton of carbon reductions online. That is the reduction equivalent of the amount of carbon that Germany emits every year. More importantly, the scale of the emission reductions gives the world a real chance to tackle the climate emergency.



We have striven for this systemic change to make trees worth more alive than dead since 2004. From the original inspiration of Chief Sir Michael Somare, the then-Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, through years of tough international negotiations to the successful inclusion of our mechanism—*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation* (REDD)—within the *Paris Agreement*, we never lost sight of our goal.

The REDD+ mechanism was developed by our countries under the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* to create financial value for the carbon stored in forests. REDD+ offers incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands. This provided our countries with the opportunity to receive results-based payments for actions to conserve and restore forest lands.

While we were successful in our mission to mandate REDD+ as part of the Paris Agreement four years ago, we still have a massive amount of work to do to support our countries. The initiative has still not yet been implemented at its full potential, and the lack of international funding is our primary challenge. Another impediment is a lack of systems to accumulate data on land management and forests. Many of our countries have gaps in accurate reporting on emissions from agriculture, forest and other land uses, gaps they must resolve before they can receive results-based finance.

*After 15 years of relentless work to stop deforestation, our member countries and the Coalition fulfilled their promise to bring emissions reductions from the planet’s tropical rainforests at a multi-gigaton level*



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To address this disparity, we continued our focus and efforts to support our countries with capacity-building and training this year. The training helped countries create emissions inventories, build skills to measure and report on forest- and land-based emissions, and set them up to receive results-based payments for preserving their rainforests.

The second phase of our three-year project, providing training to 21 member countries, came to a successful end. Our technical teams conducted on-the-ground missions to Belize, Fiji, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Kenya, and Papua New Guinea, and provided online training to Saint Lucia and Dominica. We also held regional workshops in Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia, as well as our second global conference in Milan, Italy.

In December, at the *UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP25)* in Madrid, we launched our carbon credits trading platform and registry system ([www.redd.plus](http://www.redd.plus)) to help directly and track the life-cycle of REDD+ results once they are posted on the UNFCCC Info Hub. Our goal now is to rally the world to finance the end of deforestation as quickly as possible.

Our platform will offer corporations and, in time, individuals an opportunity to play their part to achieve ‘net-zero’ emissions in a low-cost way that provides direct income to our member countries and their local communities while also conserving vital biodiversity.

The REDD.plus registry & exchange provides the only Paris-Agreement-qualified “destination” for REDD+ credits earned by developing countries for preservation of their rainforests. REDD-plus has achieved success already, with more than 8.3 billion tons of CO2e emissions reductions reviewed under the Paris Agreement. However, only 4% of the credits issued have been purchased, mostly by the governments of Norway, Germany and United Kingdom. We will continue to stimulate the market for the international purchase of REDD+ credits to unlock the full potential of this platform.

A big thank you to our partners, *IHS Markit*, who will track issuance, ownership, transfer, and retirement of REDD+ credits compliant with the Paris Agreement. REDD+ Results Units (RRUs) will be available on *CBL Markets*.

We are excited to accelerate our work with our member nations in Africa, South America, and Asia to conserve the planet’s rainforests, and see climate justice and equity prevail. We cannot do that without your support.

Thank you for supporting us in 2019—we hope you will continue to do so next year.



**Kevin Conrad,**  
Special Envoy and Ambassador for  
Environment & Climate Change for  
Papua New Guinea &  
Executive Director,  
Coalition for Rainforest Nations



# Our story so far

A David v Goliath story about taking on the world's biggest governments to save the rainforests—and winning.





Birth of REDD+

In 2004, two bold MBA graduate students at Columbia University, New York—Kevin Conrad of Papua New Guinea and Federica Bietta of Italy—took on a challenge to change the world for the better. Inspired by a call to action by Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Kevin and Federica posed themselves the question of how to conserve the planet’s rainforests and bring equity to people around the world. As they saw it, rainforests only held value when cut down, so developing nations with the most rainforest stock were financially justified in deforestation. How could these two students change that reality?

Their thesis: **make trees worth more alive than dead.** After all, rainforests provide a natural service for free; they absorb carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas primarily responsible for climate change, and stop its release into the atmosphere. Dr. Geoffrey Heal, an economics professor at Columbia University, had written about nature and its role in the marketplace. What if the world attributed a financial value to that natural service? The largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions could then pay for this service provided by the rainforests in countries hardest hit by the effects of climate change, slowing the acceleration of climate change and global inequity.

Kevin and Federica dubbed their effort Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED). As with many paradigm-shifting ideas, people were initially

THE COALITION IS FOUNDED

The Coalition for Rainforest Nations was founded in 2005 by Kevin Conrad, after a speech by Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea at Columbia University, MBA Graduation Ceremony. Federica Bietta joined full-time as managing director in 2006.

skeptical. But Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, an advisor, wasn’t! Neither was the government of Costa Rica, whose tropical forests represented 1% of the planet’s total. That December, after securing the formal support of Costa Rican government, the newfound Coalition travelled to the United Nations Climate Summit in Montreal, Canada, for the opportunity to be heard on a global stage.

Climate Summit, Montreal, Canada, 2005

At the Climate Summit, the Coalition introduced and championed a proposal for a results-based RED mechanism for consideration by the world. This was based on the idea of positive incentives for developing countries to retain their rainforests and seek payments for results of retaining their national rainforest reference levels’ to ‘for results measured against their national rainforest reference levels. This mechanism was tabled by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica.

But industrialized, developing countries who had caused climate change by emitting greenhouse gases over previous decades fought against RED, as would have to reward those countries that hadn’t and whose rainforests absorbed carbon.

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*The inclusion of REDD+ in the Paris Climate Agreement was the culmination of a decade of dedication and work by the Coalition of Rainforest Nation (CfRN), which originated the concept and negotiated it through to a global agreement.*



*“I would ask the United States,  
we ask for your leadership.  
But if for some reason you’re  
not willing to lead, leave it to  
the rest of us.*

*Please get out of the way.”*

*Kevin Conrad, Special Envoy and Ambassador  
for Environment & Climate Change,  
Papua New Guinea at Bali COP, 2007*

### Hero of the Environment

The effort to revalue rainforests came to a head in 2007 at the United Nations Climate Summit in Bali. There was a stalemate between developed and developing countries on agreeing to a global climate action plan—the predecessor of the Paris Agreement. In the final hours of the summit, the United States refused to agree to the plan.

In a session with over 190 countries, CfrN’s Executive Director, Kevin Conrad, who was also acting as the Ambassador and Special Envoy on Climate Change for Papua New Guinea at the time and leading negotiations for rainforest nations, politely said:

*“I would ask the United States, we ask for your leadership, we seek your leadership. But if for some reason you’re not willing to lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way.”*

Applause erupted around the room, and within the day, the lead American representative dropped the objection and said,

### Find out more:

Watch the CNN news report of the UN Climate summit in Bali 2007 [HERE](#)

Read the Time Magazine article [HERE](#)

Kevin Conrad Biog [HERE](#)



*“We will go forward and join  
consensus today.”*

As a result, REDD+, which now included sustainable management of forests, conservation of forest carbon stocks, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, was successfully formalized for the first time within the Bali Global Climate Action Plan. The first substantial decision on REDD+ was adopted, calling for demonstration activities to show how REDD+ would work in practice and be reported



▲ In 2008, Kevin Conrad was named ‘Hero of the Environment’ by TIME Magazine and was awarded the “Champion of the Earth” Policy Award by the UNEP in 2009.



The World Expects

In Copenhagen in 2009, the world finally seemed on a course to achieve a global climate agreement. Many heads of state flew to Denmark on the last days of the Climate Summit, including President Obama of the United States and Premier Wen Jiabo of China. Yet again, the world couldn't agree fully on what to do about the climate emergency.

REDD+ was the only success that year. Rainforest nations were now required to introduce national forest monitoring systems, with elements of measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV). Coalition nations began to prepare national REDD+ strategies, develop domestic capacity, establish forest and forest carbon reference levels, and create a participatory approach with "full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting."

In 2010, a deflated world gathered again to pick up climate talks at the United Nations Summit in Cancun, Mexico and put more pressure on rainforest nations to show accountability. A United Nations decision was made with a request that environmental and social safeguards be introduced for REDD+ and a reiteration of requirements for the national forest monitoring system. These country safeguards would ensure that implementation of REDD+ at the national level did not lead to detrimental effects on the environment or the local population. Rainforest nations were required to provide summaries of information on how these safeguards were implemented.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS REDD+ ACTIVITIES?

The Five "eligible activities" that developing countries may implement to reduce emissions and enhance removals of greenhouse gases are:


- Reducing emissions from deforestation.
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation.
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks.
- Sustainable management of forests.
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

The first activity, which reduces emissions of greenhouse gases, is the activity listed in the original submissions on REDD+ in 2005 by the Coalition. 'Degradation' was added in 2006 at the request of the Congo Basin countries who had by then joined the Coalition. The three remaining activities constitute the '+' in REDD+ and were added in 2007. These include activities 'to remove greenhouse gases' and were requested by India & other Coalition countries.

*"We recognize the crucial role of **reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation** and the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emission by forests and agree on the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through **the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.**"*

*Copenhagen Accord, 2009*





*“Through years of tough international advocacy to the successful inclusion of our mechanism- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) - within the Paris Agreement, we never lost sight of our goal.”*

*Federica Bietta, Managing Director,  
Coalition for Rainforest Nations*



Participants attend a plenary meeting during the World Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21) in Le Bourget, near Paris, France

Breakthrough: The Warsaw Framework for REDD+

Even after the Cancun Summit, the developed countries dragged their feet on REDD+. Many groups found reasons why it wouldn't work and kept blocking progress. Then, in December 2013, the Climate Summit in Warsaw, Poland produced seven decisions on REDD+, known jointly as the "Warsaw Framework on REDD-plus".

These decisions addressed results-based finance for the first time after years of discussion regarding national forest monitoring systems; information on safeguards; technical assessment of reference (emission) levels; modalities for measuring, reporting, and verifying (MRV); and information on addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Eligibility for access to "results-based finance" was finally on the agenda and an overall framework for REDD+ implementation was completed, although many details still needed to be provided.

Success

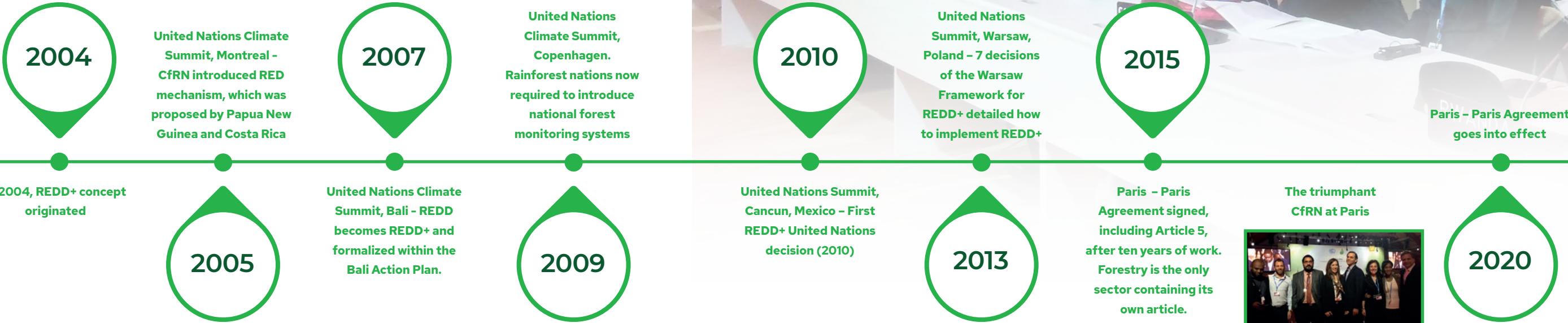
After over a decade of persistence, and with over 50 rainforest countries in support, the Coalition of Rainforest Nations finally succeeded in establishing REDD+ within a global climate agreement between the members of the United Nations. The remaining outstanding decisions on REDD+ were also completed at the Summit. These included decisions on reporting on the safeguards, non-market approaches, and non-carbon benefits; the rulebook on REDD+ was completed. All countries were encouraged to implement and support REDD+ in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. This was part of a broader article that specified that all countries should take action to protect and enhance their greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs, not only their rainforests.

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Paris in December 2015, successfully concluded 10 years of negotiations on the new global climate regime. After many years of intense negotiations that started in Montreal at COP11 in 2004, all Parties adopted the Paris Agreement, which is now the foundation of the global fight against the climate emergency. For the Coalition and REDD+ the next advocacy challenge would be Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

REDD+ IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT

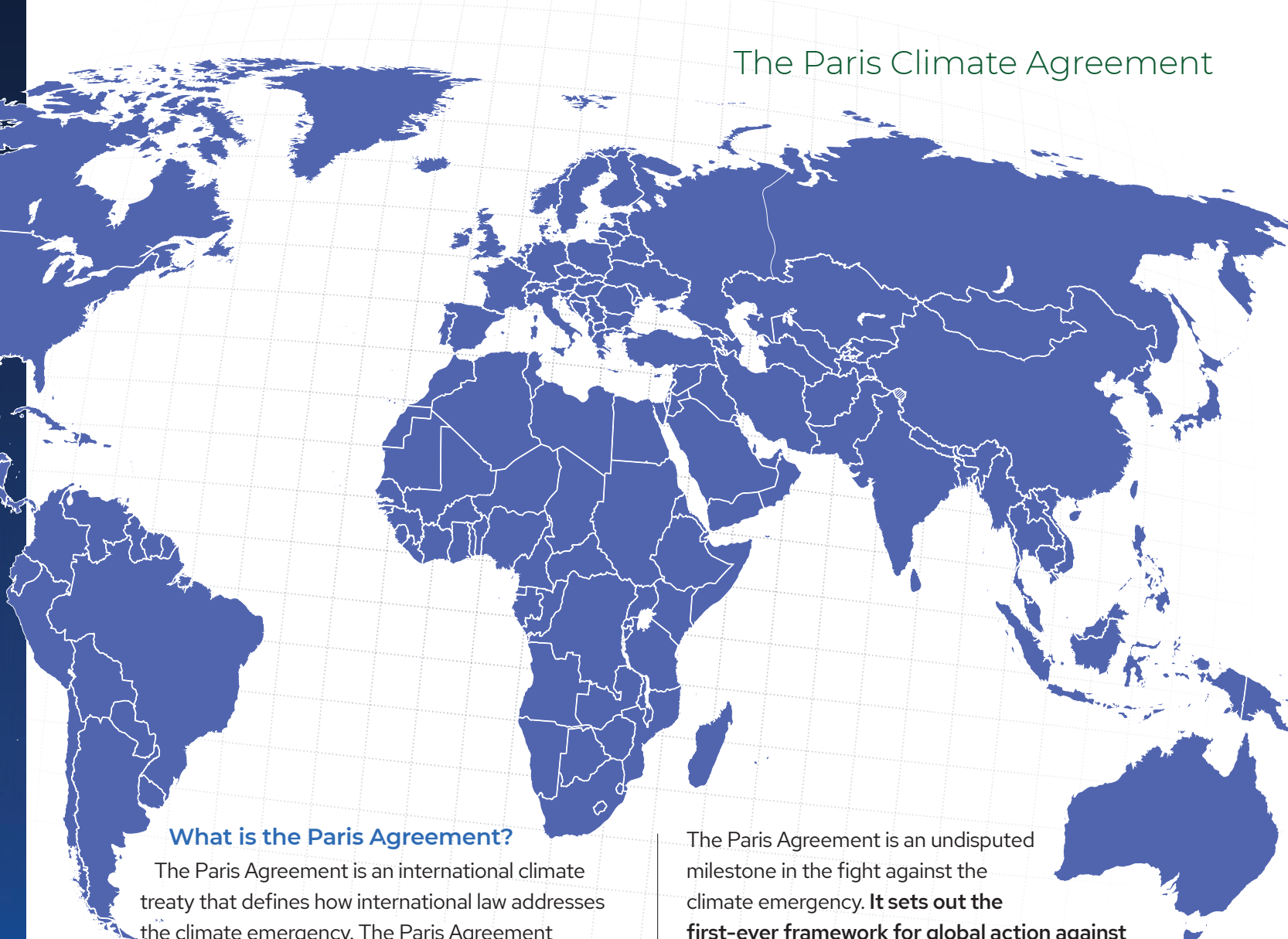
Article 5 of the Paris Agreement invites countries to take action to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests. The article also encourages actions to implement and support, including through results-based payments..."

CfRN Timeline





# The Paris Climate Agreement and the Importance of Articles 5 and 6 for REDD+



## What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is an international climate treaty that defines how international law addresses the climate emergency. The Paris Agreement represents elements of previous climate actions plans and agreements within the UNFCCC. Unlike the Kyoto Protocol, which established legally binding reduction commitments for developed countries, the core of the new agreement puts forth a voluntary approach agreed upon by all heads of state and government in 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Each country commits to developing strategies for voluntary greenhouse gas reductions, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs), rather than top-down mandated emissions reduction targets, as was the case with the Kyoto Protocol. Specifically, the Paris Agreement confers upon national governments the freedom to determine, at their own discretion, their level of ambition to contribute towards the fight against climate change.

The Paris Agreement is an undisputed milestone in the fight against the climate emergency. **It sets out the first-ever framework for global action against greenhouse gas emissions from both developed and developing countries.** The years to come will determine whether the structure and rules of the new treaty form a workable framework to tackle the climate emergency, and keep the global temperature well below **2 degrees** Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to **1.5 degrees** Celsius..

One of the first challenges facing the Agreement will be how to strengthen the nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) of the countries or Parties, as the combined effect of current commitments is not sufficient to hold global temperature rise below 2°C.

The implementation rules, or 'Rule Book', of the Paris Agreement were adopted in 2018 in Katowice, Poland



Heads of delegations at the 2015 United Nations  
Climate Change Conference (COP21), which led to  
the signing of the Paris Agreement.

**REDD+ in the Paris Agreement – Article 5**

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) is the innovative concept introduced by CfrN at COP11 in 2005. Through negotiations led by the Coalition, it is now an implementation mechanism recognized by the Paris Agreement. REDD+ is also viewed as one of the pillars of low-carbon development strategies for countries who depend on rainforests as a major component of their economy.

The Paris Agreement includes a dedicated article on the contribution of forests to mitigating climate change. Article 5 refers to the contribution of the conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases in general.

1. Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, including forests.

2. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.

The current version of Paragraph 2 encourages Parties to implement and support REDD+. It is therefore now the duty and commitment of all rainforest nations to give REDD+ the necessary relevance by supporting its implementation in line with all UNFCCC decisions.

*The outstanding question remains as to whether or not country efforts will be sufficient to respond to the climate emergency in time.*

Article 5, Paragraph 2 also clearly formalizes the architecture of the REDD+ mechanism and all methodological details and guidance adopted under the UNFCCC up to Paris.

A reference to REDD+ is also included in Decision 1/CP.21, notably in paragraph 55, that “Recognizes the importance of adequate and predictable financial resources, including for results-based payments, as appropriate, for the implementation of REDD+; while reaffirming the importance of non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches; encouraging the coordination of support from, inter alia, public and private, bilateral and multilateral sources, such as the Green Climate Fund, and alternative sources in accordance with relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties.

The implementation of REDD+ activities in developing countries at the national level still varies in many respects and depends strongly on national circumstances. What is certain is that all countries must follow the set of principles and requirements established at international level under the UNFCCC process and now defined by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.





◀ U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, with his two-year-old granddaughter Isabelle Dobbs-Higginson on his lap, signs the COP21 Climate Change Agreement on behalf of the United States during a ceremony on Earth Day, April 22, 2016, at the U.N. General Assembly Hall in New York, N.Y.

### The Importance of Article 6

Following the example set by the Kyoto Protocol to respond to the climate emergency through a market-based approach, the Paris Agreement recalls concepts in Article 6 on cooperative approaches.

**CfRN is working to continue to ensure that the REDD+ mechanism remains an option for Parties choosing to exercise relevant elements of Article 6.**

#### Specifically:

**Article 6.2** provides for an accounting framework using cooperative approaches between Parties for the international transfer of mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) to achieve the respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Coalition has been negotiating to ensure that the transfer of units derived under REDD+ are included in this cooperation scheme.

For the Coalition, REDD+ implementation responds perfectly to Article 6.3 stipulating that the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes to achieve NDCs under this Agreement shall be voluntary and authorized by participating Parties.

**Article 6.4** establishes a central mechanism to trade credits from emissions reductions generated through specific projects.

**Article 6.8** establishes a work program for non-market approaches such as applying taxes to discourage emissions.

The Coalition is committed to seeing that the rulebook for the implementation of Article 6 is well-designed as the benefits of a carbon market underpin the Paris Agreement. This work is critical as half of countries' NDCs (approximately 31% of global emissions) include the use of carbon markets.

Article 6 will encourage public and private finance and catalyze REDD+ activity in rainforest countries. Simply put, it would encourage rainforest conservation at an adequate scale. Increased mitigation would lead to greater ambition.

To ensure Article 6 is implemented properly, the Coalition is focused on establishing the REDD+ plus trading platform to preserve environmental integrity and avoid any sort of double counting of emissions reductions.

We are working to ensure that the operationalized accounting system recognizes emissions reductions claimed by one Party in all international transactions. The negotiations also attend to the use of "corresponding adjustments" to avoid double counting. These adjustments calls for a Party to increase its level of emission reductions in its NDC to make up for the fact that it sold some emissions to another country.

In Katowice (COP24) and Madrid (COP25), Parties could not agree on several key elements of Article 6 infrastructure and the issue was pushed to COP26 in Glasgow, UK. We are working towards a consensus on Article 6 in the climate negotiations, and hope that the urgency of the climate crisis spurs Parties into action during at COP26

*A ground-breaking element: the forest sector with REDD+ is the only sector that has clear rules to be implemented and has been defined under a clear mechanism. No other sector benefits from such clarity and explicit reference in the Paris Agreement.*





# The Wonder of Papua New Guinea's Rainforests

► The men of the Huli tribe in Tari area of Papua New Guinea in traditional clothes and face paint.

▼ View of cleared hillside for agriculture in rainforest on Mount Hegen, Papua New Guinea.



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Papua New Guinea's rainforests cover over 77% of the country, making it one of the most extensively forested countries in the world. The rainforests are one of the most naturally rich and diverse of any in the world, containing a remarkable 5% of the world's biodiversity in just 1% of its area. The lowland forests have been ranked among the world's most ecologically distinctive forest regions. Collectively the country's forests contain 190 species of mammals, with marsupials such as the Tree Kangaroo, possums, wallabies and rodents dominating the mammal species (of which over 80% are native to PNG), 750 bird species (of which over 50% are native to PNG), 300 species of reptile, like the geckos, legless lizards, dragon lizards and monitor lizards, and 110 species of snakes, including sea snakes, tree snakes, pythons and (more rarely) poisonous front-fanged snakes such as the death adder and taipans.

▼ Green tree python



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Over 97% of the rainforests are owned by indigenous communities and administered in accordance with their customs. Communities have relied on the nature to generate their livelihoods. The ecosystem services forests provide help to maintain access to water and suitable agricultural land for PNG's predominantly rural population as well as helping to protect key infrastructure, people and crops from flash flooding and landslides.

*Over 97% of the  
rainforests are  
owned by indigenous  
communities and  
administered in  
accordance with  
their customs.*





# A year in review

Helping Rainforest governments, communities and peoples responsibly manage their rainforests through:

**In-Country Capacity Building:** Offering rigorous technical training to aid rainforest countries in developing national greenhouse gas inventories

**Policy Support:** Helping countries shape strong policy to fight deforestation and increase forest cover

**Direct Finance:** Helping finance flow directly to indigenous communities for their Paris Agreement-compliant carbon reductions



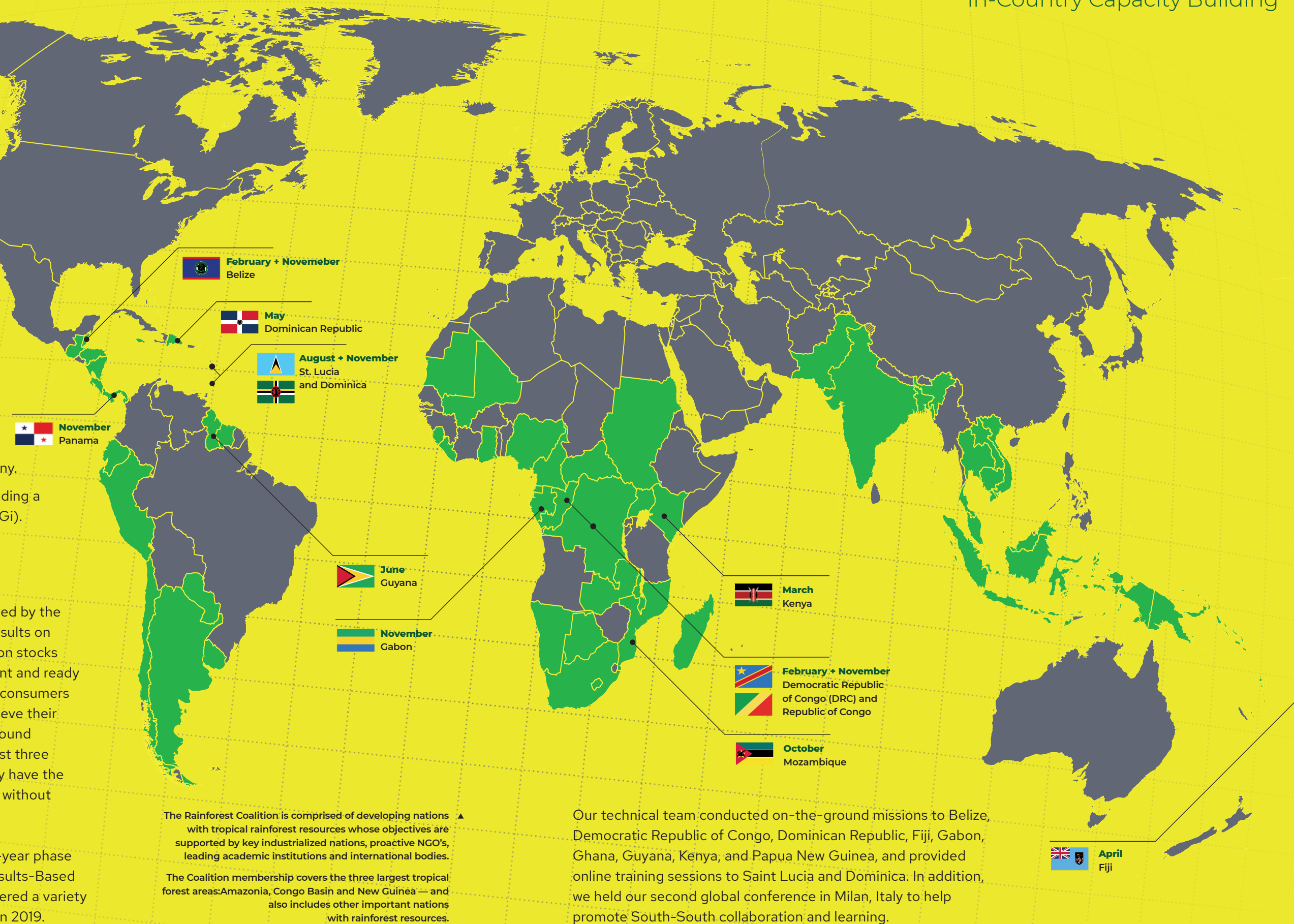
# In-Country Capacity Building

For tropical rainforest nations to receive payments for rainforest protection under REDD+, they must first create:

- A national forest reference level or forest reference emission level, which must be consistent with data used for greenhouse gas (GHG) evaluation.
- Emission reduction or removal results, if any.
- A national forest monitoring system (including a national greenhouse gas inventory, or GHGi).
- A national REDD+ strategy or action plan.
- An information system for safeguards.

All these elements are independently reviewed by the UNFCCC. After following these steps, the results on emission reduction or enhancement of carbon stocks will be considered Paris Agreement-compliant and ready for purchase by countries, corporations and consumers to help offset their carbon footprints or achieve their carbon-neutral goals. We provide on-the-ground technical support to our countries for the first three elements, as many countries do not currently have the infrastructure to support accurate reporting without assistance.

2019 marks the conclusion of the first three-year phase of our capacity-building project, entitled Results-Based REDD+ actions—or RRR+ for short. RRR+ offered a variety of training services to 21 member countries in 2019.



The Rainforest Coalition is comprised of developing nations with tropical rainforest resources whose objectives are supported by key industrialized nations, proactive NGO's, leading academic institutions and international bodies.

The Coalition membership covers the three largest tropical forest areas: Amazonia, Congo Basin and New Guinea — and also includes other important nations with rainforest resources.

Our technical team conducted on-the-ground missions to Belize, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, and Papua New Guinea, and provided online training sessions to Saint Lucia and Dominica. In addition, we held our second global conference in Milan, Italy to help promote South-South collaboration and learning.



# Our Goal

The goal of this RRR+ phase is to make sure that countries possess the technical and institutional capability to prepare greenhouse gas inventories in the forestry and agriculture sector and forest reference emissions levels, which are the basis for any reporting to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. During the program, each country’s technical specialists from agencies, ministries, and other governmental departments takes part in tailored training sessions and received bespoke technical assistance to develop their understanding and proficiency in GHG emissions inventories, in line with methods and guidelines from the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*, the international authority on reporting emissions and carbon stocks.

The program also aids rainforest nations on the fulfilment of the REDD+ reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, notably the preparation of National Communications, Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and REDD+ Technical Annexes (TA) to the BUR.

Each country has a different timeline and starting point in the preparation of their inventories, as well as specific plans for their submission to the UNFCCC. Therefore, the project’s primary challenge was to adapt its support to every country’s circumstances, timeline, and reporting goals.

We provide three categories of support – full, advanced, and light touch – depending on the type and magnitude of support needed.

*21 rainforest country forestry teams and agencies received technical training in Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Forest Reference Emissions Levels between 2016-2019 through our Results-based REDD+ actions project*

- **Full support countries:** Countries who need additional capacity, requiring support in every aspect of GHG inventories: *Belize, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Panama, and Uganda*
- **Advanced support countries:** Countries with existing basic GHG inventory reporting capacities, which show potential to transition to independent reporting capacity: *DRC, Ghana, Guyana, and Papua New Guinea*
- **Light touch support countries:** Countries that have expressed demand for support, and which may in the future transition to full countries: *Dominica, Gabon, Pakistan, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Vanuatu, Vietnam.*

# Country Missions

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Republic of Congo

 At the end of February, our technical team conducted a joint mission to both Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville). The mission’s goal was to strengthen the cooperation between experts from both countries and and it emphasized the preparation of greenhouse gas inventories.

This second part of the mission, held in Kintele, Congo, offered training to the newly appointed agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) team, for the preparation of the third GHGi to be included in the first Biennial Update Report (BUR).

This third mission to Congo was designed to help national experts to get acquainted with the use of the 2006 IPCC guidelines and estimating emissions and removals for 2000-2016 consistent with the 2017 REDD+ forest reference level (FREL) submitted to UNFCCC. The outcome of the session was a draft GHGi.



◀ (From top) Participants to the workshop held in Kintele. Participants from the DRC Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture, and University of Marian Ngouabi, attending the workshop. Field trip to Maloukou Trechot.





Participants, including Alfred Gichu, Head of the Climate Change Response Program at Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and national REDD+ coordinator, of the training in Nairobi



Belize

Our technical team also traveled to Belize in February to offer training to Belize’s Forest Department and Climate Change Office on enhancing understanding of Belize requirements under the Paris Agreement, the GHGi cycle, and consistency between GHGis and REDD+ reporting. National experts were trained on the use of the RRR+ Foundational Platform for the estimations of GHG emissions and removals, and on the construction of the national Forest Reference Emission Level, submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2020.



Kenya

At the end of March, the team conducted a mission to Nairobi, Kenya to focus on enhancing the institutional capacity of the AFOLU GHGi team to compile Kenya’s AFOLU GHGi for the nation’s first BUR in consistency with REDD+ forest reference level. The outcome of this session was a draft GHGi for the AFOLU sector. Alfred Gichu, Head of the Climate Change Response Program at Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and National REDD+ coordinator, led the Kenyan team.




An armed ranger keeps watch over the Kakamega Forest Reserve in Western Kenya where deforestation is a serious problem.







Fiji

 In April, the Coalition team hosted a joint mission between the Fiji AFOLU sector working group and Papua New Guinea’s Climate Change Development Authority (CCDA) in Suva to further strengthen capacity within the AFOLU sector. This joint mission followed the work completed during the second country mission to Fiji the previous year, and focused on improving the GHG inventory developed for Fiji’s third national communication.


This joint mission allowed for South-South knowledge exchange about key aspects of sustainable GHG inventory management system development, including best practices for institutional arrangements, data collection, calculations, and REDD+ measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV).



Representatives from the PNG Climate Change and Development Authority attended the workshop.



Dominican Republic

 At the end of May, our team travelled to the Dominican Republic. The aim of this mission was to enhance understanding of institutional arrangements to prepare a GHGi through meetings with high-level government officials of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

In June, our team also conducted bespoke training for the Dominican Republic’s national experts to enhance technical capacity to prepare the GHGi through data collection using the satellite mapping tool Open Foris – Collect Earth. Delegates from the Dominican Republic’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources attended the training, held at CfRN headquarters in New York City.




ALAMY



[www.rainforestcoalition.org](http://www.rainforestcoalition.org)



Guyana

 In June, the CfRN team visited Guyana to meet with relevant national technical officers, stakeholders, and institutions in charge of collecting data, processing data, and reporting to the UNFCCC.

The mission focused on enhancing knowledge on UNFCCC reporting requirements and IPCC guidelines and on proving support for clarification on technical issues related to activity data, emission factors, QC/QA procedures, documentation, IPCC guideline, and reporting transparency and consistency.



- ▲ Participants attending the training in Guyana
- ◀ Aerial view of Alluvial Gold Mine in the rainforest, Guyana





ALAMY



## Saint Lucia



In August, CfRN conducted two missions in the Caribbean, notably to Saint Lucia and Dominica. The purpose of the Saint Lucia mission was to assist the national team in building capacity and increasing knowledge about the tools available for GHGi preparation and reporting requirements.

The training focused on the Paris Agreement's new transparency requirements as well as the best practice examples for the setting of a national inventory system. The goal is to prepare Saint Lucia to submit its BUR and FREL/FRL to the UNFCCC in 2020/2021.

During the training, a technical discussion with 18 national experts from various government agencies took place on data collection and the use of Collect Earth. Furthermore, best practices and lessons learnt by other CfRN countries like Belize and Panama were shared with the view to enhance South-South knowledge.



- ▲ Technical sessions on Collect Earth campaign held in Saint Lucia
- ◀ Construction machinery clearing areas of the rainforest, St Lucia



## Dominica



After Saint Lucia, the CfRN team visited Dominica and provided the same training to national experts working in the AFOLU sector. As in the case of Saint Lucia, the goal of the Dominica training was to prepare its experts to respond to the REDD+ reporting requirements of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

National experts from Forestry, Agriculture and National Statistics participated in this workshop and CfRN trained the Dominica Forest Management Unit in collecting data for the land use and land use change using the Collect Earth tool.



- ▲ Technical sessions on Collect Earth campaign held in Dominica





Mozambique

 In October, the CfRN team offered a one-week training to Mozambique’s national experts to enhance their understanding of institutional arrangements and reporting requirements under the new transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement.

National experts from National Directorate for the Environment (DINAB), National Forest Directorate (DINAF), REDD+ Technical Unit (UT-REDD) and the University of Eduardo Mondlane participated to the training.



St.Lucia, Belize, Dominica, Panama

 In November, CfRN

conducted a final joint-mission to the Caribbean, visiting Saint Lucia and Dominica. The purpose of this mission was to increase knowledge about GHG tools and IPCC guidelines to be used for inventory preparation. Saint Lucian and Dominican experts worked on the calculations for the establishment of the GHG inventory AFOLU and the FREL.

Specific focus was given to collecting activity data through Collect Earth, where experts from Belize and Panama led a South-South exchange for the assessment of land use and land use changes following the IPCC methods.



Mushroom grower in his field of anthuriums, deep in the rainforest. Dominica. Caribbean



ALAMY





### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)


 Also, in November, our team spent two weeks in Kinshasa for the official launch of the 4th National Communication of DRC. The Minister and the relevant stakeholders presented the timeline and objective for this report. The team also attended the monthly Coordination Platform meeting of REDD+ stakeholders (PTC). This meeting allowed the GHGI team to present the last result of the inventory and the improvements planned for the next iteration.

With the support of the Coalition and United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization, DRC organized a joint mission with Cameroon in Kinshasa the same week. The joint mission aimed for the two countries to share their results for their respective BUR and find solution to improve Institutional Arrangements for the next iterations.

The outcome was a full review of the Greenhouse gas inventory for the first BUR. Launch of the fourth National Communication with 40 participants from 27 institutions in all sectors present. Director of Sustainable Development opened the workshop. South-south exchange with Cameroon experts.



### Gabon

 The CfRN team’s final mission of the year took place in November in Libreville, Gabon—for a three-day meeting aimed at improving understanding on the current GHGi reporting process and supporting Gabon’s goal for REDD+ implementation. The outcome of the mission was to develop a plan to support Gabon in the preparation a GHGi fully consistent with the FREL, to be submitted to the UNFCCC in 2020.

The meeting were attended by participants involved in the AFOLU sector, including the National Climate Council (Conseil National Climat) in charge of reporting under the UNFCCC, as well as the Gabonese Space Observation Agency (AGEOS), National Park Agency (ANPN), National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CENAREST), Sustainable Forestry Management Africa, Olam Gabon, Network of Civil Society Organizations for the Green Economy in Central Africa (ROSCEVAC), Investment Company for Tropical Agriculture (SIAT), and officers from the Ministry of Water and Forests and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing and Food.



The Italian Research Institute(FEEM), Milan, Italy. ►  
(Inset) Norad and Panama delegation during the Certificates ceremony - Emilio Sempres, Minister of Environment, Panama and Lars Andreas Lunde, Director, NORAD.

## Regional Workshop

 The 2019 CfRN regional workshop, held in May, brought together two light-touch countries—Dominica and Saint Lucia—as well as Mozambique. The objective of the workshop was to share information and experiences on preparation and reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. In particular, the workshop focused on increasing knowledge about a new set of tools, such as national inventory reports, that can be used by countries for the preparation of the inventories and required documentation for UNFCCC.

By participating in the regional workshop, country delegations were given the opportunity to enhance their technical capability to prepare and submit inventories to the UNFCCC via National Communications (NCs) and/or BURs as well as FRELs. Best practices and lessons learnt in the field of reporting were shared among countries to enhance South-South knowledge.

*By participating in the regional workshop, country delegations were given the opportunity to enhance their technical capability to prepare and submit inventories to the UNFCCC*

## Global Conference

Our global conference, held in Milan, Italy in May 2019, co-hosted with the Italian Research Institute, **FEEM**, gathered fourteen countries: Belize, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Guyana, Liberia, Mozambique, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Uganda, Saint Lucia, and Dominica, which all received support under the three-year project.



Over 30 high-level country officials, decision makers and focal points, and technical experts attended the event, which focused on best practices, challenges, needs and methods for sustainable GHGi reporting that is currently applied in other countries. The conference also covered resource mobilization processes, institutional arrangements, and cross-ministerial cooperation on reporting. NORAD leadership attended the meeting and presided the ceremony for the release of the certificates to all RRR+ project countries.





# Results

Building capacity and ensuring sustainability in developing countries isn't simple, due to the need for advanced skills, the duplication of support programs, initiatives not applying UNFCCC and IPCC guidance, and the turnover of governmental staff. In spite of all of this, our project has built real and measurable capacity so far.

We delivered critical foundational building blocks – training materials, improved expertise, completed GHGis, and finalized UNFCCC reports and documents upon which each country can incrementally improve in order to achieve REDD+ results.

# Performance

Our performance was assessed based on the number of rainforest countries that subsequently produced inventories and included them in a National Communication, Biennial Update Report (BUR), Forest Reference Emission Level, and/or REDD+ Technical Annex to the BUR to the UNFCCC. A mid-term independent review was conducted in June 2018 by China Africa Advisory (CAA), commissioned by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Finally, an independent group of advisors from IPCC assessed the program, which exceeded its targets.

The project was funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD) through the UK Department of International Development (DIFID) and implemented by the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and PwC on behalf of the Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Later, Ernst & Young and KPMG International provided project delivery and financial management support and contributed to knowledge management and learning activities.

# Looking Ahead

We accomplished a great deal in 2019, yet much work remains. Though the iterative nature of these processes means they often cannot be achieved fully in a short-term period, each step represents tangible progress and becomes a building block for subsequent steps. Given the stepwise approach approved for REDD+ under the UNFCCC, even advanced countries require ongoing support to continue refining the quality of their data and reporting. We plan to continue our RRR+ project for the next four years, leveraging our work in countries already supported to additional countries completing their inventories.



# Policy Support

## Background

The Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) is a party grouping recognized under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Since its foundation in 2004, CfRN has focused its work on the conceptualization, definition, finalization, and implementation of the REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Since COP11, CfRN has been instrumental not only in initiating the agenda under the UNFCCC, but also in advancing the REDD+ mechanism in the UNFCCC negotiations through a steady progression of achievements, including:

- The Bali Action Plan
- The Copenhagen Accord
- The Cancun Agreements
- The Paris Agreement (Article 5)

Over the past 15 years, the CfRN has achieved significant influence within international policy related to tropical forests and the climate emergency, and has also generated significant international political will to:

- support REDD+ initiatives and dramatically expand REDD+ reach;
- secure significant milestones within international climate negotiations;
- catalyze international mechanisms for analysis, capacity, and technology;
- and piloted related policy, such as World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the UN-REDD Program.

As a result, REDD+ has become the most internationally recognized, economically viable, and immediate mitigating agent of climate change.

The introduction of the REDD+ concept into the climate negotiations and the launch of the international advocacy work of the Coalition has inspired many countries to join the initiative. Countries from the Congo basin like the Democratic People’s Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Cameroon were instrumental in the launch of the REDD+ mechanism. They were followed by other Coalition countries, such as Uganda, Ghana, Guyana, Fiji, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, and many others.

In the early years, the organization was superbly guided by Papua New Guinea, under the leadership of the then-Prime Minister, Michael Somare; after which a two-year chairmanship tenure respecting the different geographical zones of the Coalition was introduced. After Papua New Guinea, the chairmanship was held by Panama and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2019, Papua New Guinea assumed the chairmanship once again.

*Forestry is the only sector with a dedicated article in the Paris Agreement, thanks to CfRN’s work.*







50th Session of the  
Subsidiary Bodies, Bonn,  
Germany, 17-27 June 2019

During the June session, Parties focused on the remaining elements that were not concluded at COP24, Katowice, Poland the previous year. These were mainly details surrounding the new transparency framework for action and support, and the implementation rules on the Article 6 mechanisms.

During the June session, CfRN countries and the CfRN Secretariat worked to quickly finalize the Paris Agreement “rulebook” to allow Parties to focus on its implementation. CfRN reiterated the agreement from COP24 that all rules on transparency and NDC accounting should be designed in a manner that respect the existing guidance for REDD+, ensure environmental integrity, and robust accounting.

On Article 6, CfRN argued that:

- the level of accuracy and robustness of the transparency rules agreed in Katowice be maintained;
- **Article 6.2** rules be based on a robust accounting system ensuring the highest environmental integrity;
- and **Article 6.4** should be designed in a manner to meet all environmental integrity standards established under the Paris Agreement rules, and Parties should determine the time needed to achieve that result.

◀ Papua New Guinea minister taking the CfRN chairmanships from DRC Minister, with CfRN Secretariat and Coalition country members in the picture.

*In the early years, the organization was superbly guided by Papua New Guinea, under the leadership of the then-Prime Minister, Michael Somare; after which a two-year chairmanship tenure respecting the different geographical zones of the Coalition was introduced.*



A Look Back at 2019

In 2019, CfRN countries supported a variety of activities within the UNFCCC process, including:

- Preparing draft interventions and group statements from the floor,
- Representing the constituency in meetings with subsidiary body heads, UNFCCC Secretariat leadership, including the COP Presidency, and led bi-laterals with other Parties together with the country CfRN co-chair

Furthermore, the CfRN Secretariat coordinated activities contributing to domestic policy developments and capacity building on the implementation of the Paris Agreement within rainforest nations.

The CfRN Secretariat participated in the following UNFCCC sessions:

- 50th session of the subsidiary bodies (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technologic Advice [SBSTA] and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation [SBI]), and was held in Bonn, Germany from June 17th-27th.
- Annual Global Climate Summit, or Conference of the Parties (COP 25) and the 51st session of the subsidiary bodies held in Madrid, Spain from December 2nd to 13th.

CfRN focused on several items in the agenda to ensure the interest of the group was well-reflected in all the relevant decisions on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Our main focus was on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which details how countries can reduce emissions and fulfil their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) using international markets and market-based mechanisms. Currently, the rules for this Article remain unresolved, and represent the last piece of the new climate agreement to be finalized. The CfRN Secretariat leadership worked with its chair countries, Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo (June) and later Papua New Guinea (December) and other country members to ensure that REDD+ is fully represented in the Article 6 negotiations and latest texts.

On Article 6, Coalition countries drove the position that internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) or REDD+ results should be measured in terms of tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and that robust environmental integrity and the avoidance of double counting can only be achieved if built upon a strong set of rules on monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV), as well as accounting based on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance.





## UN Climate Change Conference, Madrid, Spain, 2-13 December 2019

The main objective of COP25 was to conclude the negotiations on the Paris Agreement implementation rules and to stimulate enhancing ambition in the updates and/or new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

COP25 was held after new scientific evidence had been published, notably the IPCC special report on 1.5° and the latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2019), which highlighted the urgency of transitioning to 1.5°C pathway.

Overall, the outcome of COP25 was disappointing. For many items, including the rules around Article 6, Parties decided to apply *Rule 16* of the UNFCCC Rules of Procedures, which states clear expression of the lack of agreement on both substance and process.

At the sessions, the Coalition team continued their focus on several items in the agenda of the negotiations to ensure the interests of rainforest countries were well reflected in all the relevant decisions on the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

### THE CLOCK IS RUNNING...

The sessions were held in Madrid, Spain after the cancellation by original hosts, Chile, and were amongst the longest running in history with delegates concluding negotiations 44 hours later than scheduled.

Among those items, priority was given to the main elements left unresolved from the previous year's summit (COP24) in Katowice, Poland with implications for countries implementing REDD+ activities. That is to say:

- NDCs and mitigation
- Article 6 and various approaches
- Transparency
- Finance
- Negotiations on key items were not resolved in the first week of COP25, so in the second week high level consultations were held by the Presidency. Those consultations were conducted by Ministers and member of COP25 presidency. Conclusions on Article 6 were therefore delayed until COP26, Glasgow, UK, 2020.

The remaining sticking points on Article 6 that are scheduled for negotiation at COP26 are:

- Corresponding adjustments
- Adaptation finance Art. 6.2
- Share of proceeds
- Carryover of units generated pre-2020 and post-2020

*COP25 was held after new scientific evidence had been published, notably the IPCC special report on 1.5° and the latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report (2019), which highlighted the urgency of transitioning to 1.5°C pathway.*

ISTOCK



Kevin Conrad and Federica Bietta meeting with former Prime Minister and now Vice President of the Senate

# Country Missions

## Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Gabon



In November, the CfRN management team visited Ghana, DRC and Gabon for high-level policy support to those countries on the next steps to be undertaken to access to REDD+ finance and ensure REDD+ results are of the highest quality.

In Ghana, the CfRN senior management met with the Minister of Forest and high officials of REDD+ implementation in Ghana, including representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Ghana Forestry Commission, the Ministry of Finance, and the National REDD+ coordinator. A high-level round table was held to assess Ghana progress towards achieving REDD+ results and requirements to secure financial payments for them.

The objective of the mission was to foster collaboration around the development of tools to scale up private sector direct investment to support in REDD+ actions and results. CfRN provided guidance and assistance to Ghana on the type of institutional arrangements and legislation needed to introduce the mechanisms that would attract REDD+ results-based payments.



During this mission, we spent most of our time on the following topics:

- High-level engagement on the REDD.plus platform (fund, registry, and trading) to enable private sector investments to support REDD.plus results;
- Finalization of a plan to provide capacity building for the technical team to manage Ghana's respective REDD.plus registry and trading platform;
- Finalization a plan to assist Ghana to complete and present UNFCCC results, in line with UNFCCC decisions.

CfRN senior management, Kevin Conrad and Federica Bietta, met with the president of the Senate prior to this meeting to consult on and propose the creation of dedicated legislation to allow DRC to access direct funding without intermediaries.

CfRN senior management also visited DRC in Kinshasa in November to meet with senior-level officials and advance REDD+ implementation. These meetings included one with Claude Nyamugabo Bazibuhe, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.

CfRN stressed that international mandates of the Paris Agreement should be translated into national legislation, and that finances not only come from technical and financial partners but also from national budgets voted on by Parliament.

### GABON'S NATIONAL PARKS

During the Gabon mission, CfRN senior management visited one of the Parks created by Gabon under a presidential decree to increase the country's protected areas. As a result of this national park, Gabon has greatly decreased its rate of deforestation while protecting and increasing its elephant numbers, creating revenue from tourism and a sustainable quality of life for the communities.



In Kinshasa, Samy Badibanga (currently Vice-President of the Senate of DRC and former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2016 - May 2017) oversaw the launch of a day of information on the climate emergency, organized by CfRN. The purpose of the day was to create awareness among deputies and senators on the effects of climate change and how to play an effective role during their legislature, so that they can adopt laws that will promote education and communication.

On November 8, the President of the Senate launched the "Climate Change Awareness Day" for parliamentarians, in Kinshasa, at the Palais du People.


His speech began by listing the titles of the participants, including Kevin Conrad, Executive Director of the Coalition for Rainforest. He then thanked the president of DRC for his engagement with the UN and for ratcheting up the country's National Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement. The speech continued with an introduction to the importance of forests in DRC and the key role the country needs to play in the global fight against climate change, as the second-largest holder of tropical forests worldwide.

After DRC, CfRN's senior management visited Gabon to provide high level policy support to assist Gabon in accessing REDD+ finance.

During this mission, the team met with Gabon's Minister of Water and Forestry, Lee White, and other senior officials in the country to foster collaboration around the development of tools to scale up private sector investment to support in REDD+ actions and result. During the mission, CfRN provided guidance and assistance to Gabon on the type of institutional arrangements and legislation needed to introduce the mechanisms that will attract REDD+ results-based payments. In addition, CfRN discussed Gabon's goals on REDD+ and in particular the agreement with Norway for results-based payments.

- In particular, the CfRN team provided clarity on:
- High-level engagement on the REDD.plus platform to enable private sector investments on REDD+;
  - Capacity building program for the REDD.plus registry and trading platform.
  - Planning for full CfRN support to assist Gabon in preparing its GHGi while building national capacity
  - Development of a plan to support the creation and review of the Gabon National Reference Level.



A photograph of a dense tropical forest with a thick layer of mist or low clouds hanging between the tree canopies. A single, tall tree with a wide, spreading canopy stands out prominently in the center of the frame. The lighting is soft, suggesting early morning or late afternoon.

*“I would like to congratulate CfRN on the successful implementation of the Reporting for Results-Based REDD+ in Ghana. The work, jointly undertaken by my team of technicians, has dramatically impacted our practice in building a domestic Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector and in fulfilling Ghana’s reporting obligations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.”*

*H. E. Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afrivie,  
Chief Executive Officer Forestry Commission of Ghana*



# Direct Finance:

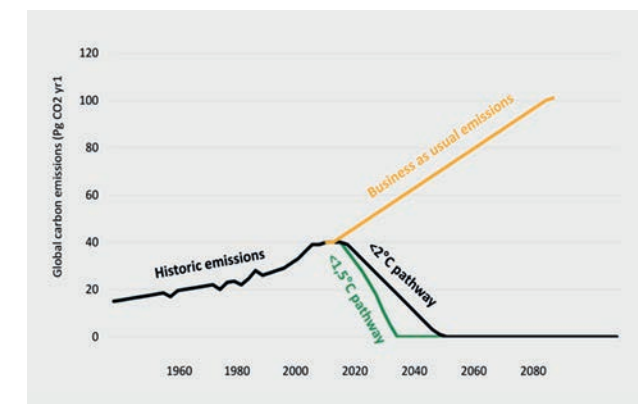
Helping finance flow directly to indigenous communities for their Paris Agreement-compliant carbon reductions

**The Coalition for Rainforest Nations is to unite the world in tackling the climate emergency, and 2019 was a landmark year for that. After 15 years of relentless work to stop deforestation, the Coalition and its member countries fulfilled their promise to bring the largest, most cost-effective climate solution to the world: Emissions reductions from the planet's tropical rainforests at a multi-gigaton level.**

With the help of REDD+ Paris Agreement-compliant carbon credits, developed country governments, corporations, and citizens can now achieve ambitious carbon neutral goals at a scale unimaginable until recently. And in the next few years, our countries will bring a pipeline of 1 billion tons, or one gigaton, of carbon reductions online. That is the reduction equivalent of the amount of carbon that Germany emits every year. More importantly, the scale of the emission reductions gives the world a real chance to tackle the climate emergency by aligning to a 1.5°C temperature pathway by 2030.

In December, we launched a beta version of our **REDD+ carbon credits trading platform**, called REDD.plus, during a COP event in Madrid. The platform will offer countries and corporations the ability to purchase Paris Agreement-compliant carbon credits from the entire inventory of a country's national rainforests and achieve carbon neutral or reduction goals.

Under the UN Climate Convention, the REDD+ mechanism helps developing countries earn REDD+ results from reducing deforestation and degradation, conserving rainforests, or reforesting

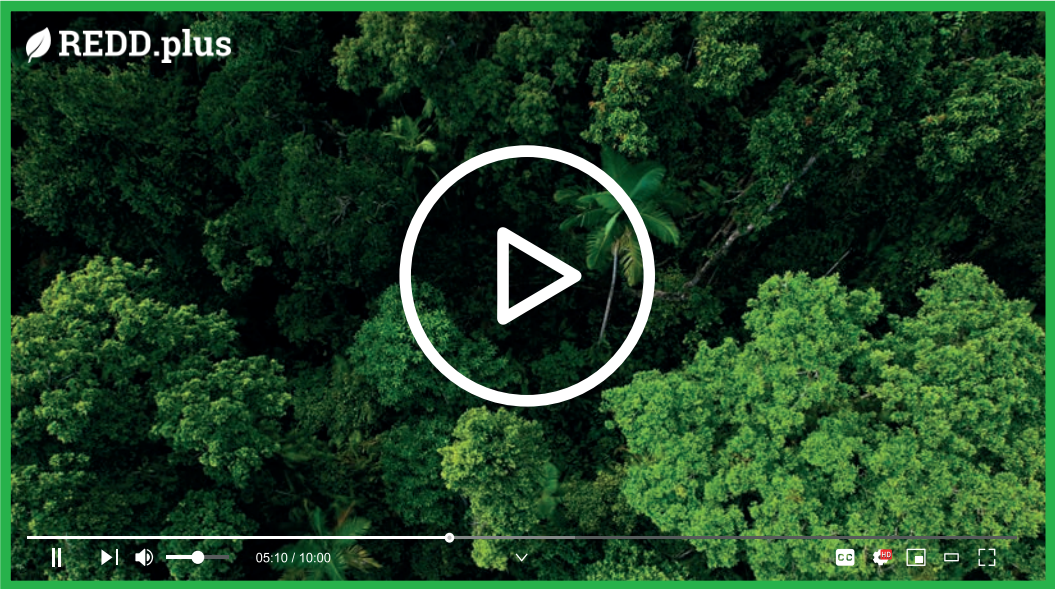


degraded areas on a national scale. The UNFCCC has set a high bar under the REDD+ mechanism, and are the only approvers of REDD+ results, which are measured in tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The REDD+ Mechanism tracks the carbon reduction results from countries, which are then converted into "REDD+ Result Units" or RRU carbon credits. Countries can generate RRU credits by committing to sustainable actions with results verified by UNFCCC. The platform then tracks each carbon credit, avoids double counting, and records tracking between international registries.

***"The REDD.plus online trading platform will be underpinned by national GHG inventories and independent auditing" said Patrice Lefeu, Partner at Ernst & Young. "It will allow anyone to become truly carbon neutral with a click."***





◀ The REDD.Plus Platform explained in their video.

REDD.plus is unique, as it is the first platform to provide a central registry and exchange for these REDD+ results and credits. It enables lifecycle tracking and reporting of REDD+ results, including emissions reductions and removals approved under the Paris Agreement. The registry and exchange platform is also unique, as carbon credits represent rainforest carbon credits from an entire country’s rainforests.

The REDD.plus Registry is operated by **IHS Markit**, designed to track ownership and the lifecycle of REDD+ credits compliant with the Paris Agreement. REDD+ units will be available on **CBL Markets** next year, and the **REDD.plus Platform** will integrate with other exchanges.

Ease of Purchase

Prior to launch, countries and companies who wanted to purchase REDD+ credits had to wade through a lengthy process and multiple intermediaries before they could purchase. Nonetheless REDD.+ achieved initial success with more than 8.5 billion tons of CO2e emissions reductions supplied and reviewed under the Paris Agreement. These countries have produced verified emissions REDD+ results based on the Paris Agreement.

On aggregate, these countries emissions reductions represent over 8.5 gigatons, and have been achieved by reducing deforestation and increase carbon stock (replanting trees) in the past 10 years. However, as of today, only 4% of the reductions have been paid for. With the REDD.plus trading platform, we aim to change this.

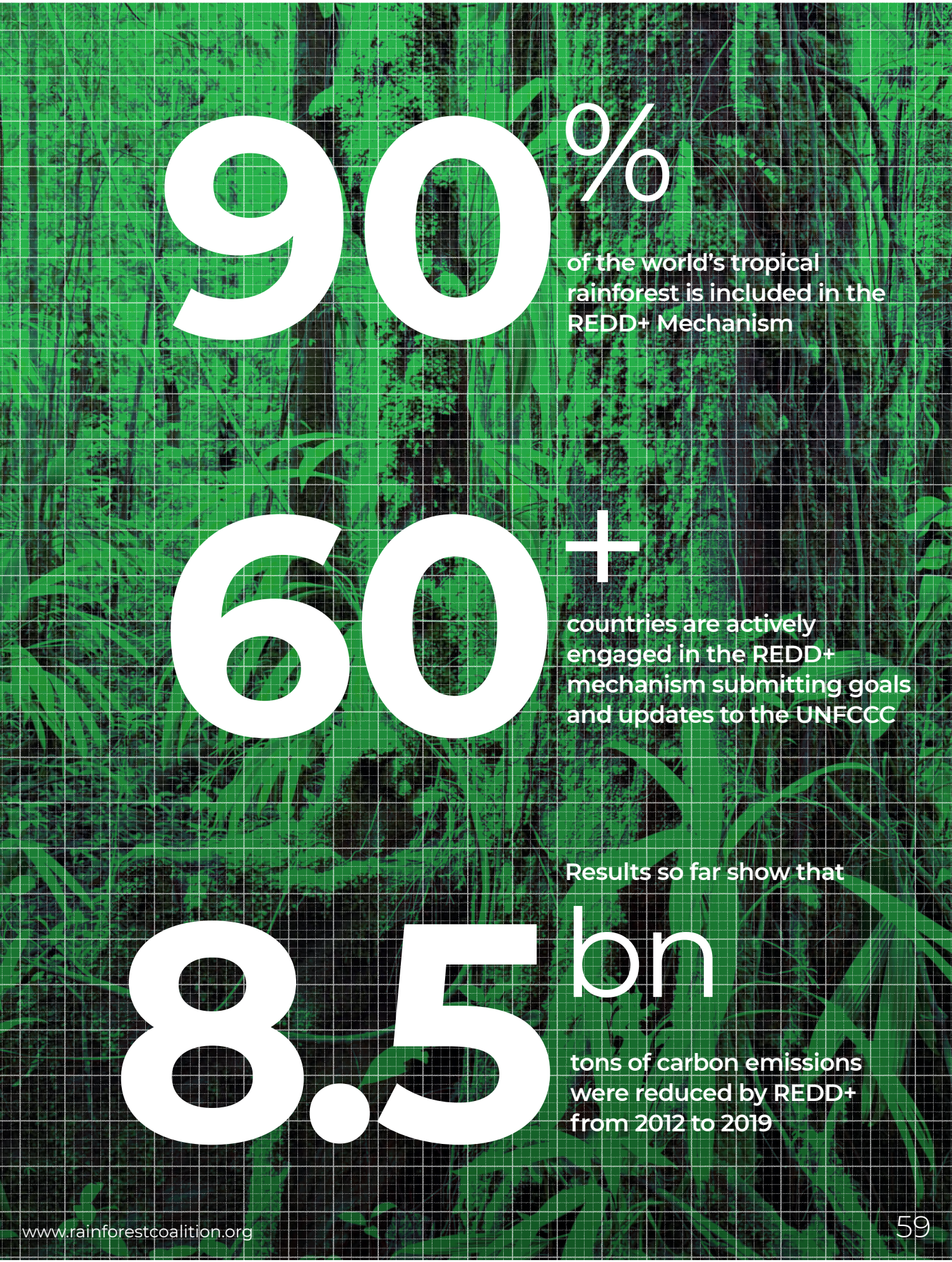
Looking ahead

Starting in late 2020, new carbon credits will be coming online with nine gigatons from the rainforests of Papua New Guinea. After that, we expect a 1 billion-ton pipeline of Paris Agreement-compliant credits to become available for purchase over the next few years from: Ghana, Democratic People’s Republic of Congo, Uganda, Belize, Fiji, Republic of Congo, Ecuador, and Indonesia, to name a few.

Find out more:

Country verified emissions REDD+ results based on the Paris Agreement [HERE](#)

Visit the REDD.plus platform [HERE](#)





# Spotlight: The Congo Basin Forest

◀ Sangha River. Morning fog on the African river Sangha. Congo

The Congo Basin is the second-largest tropical rainforest in the world, with almost two million square kilometers of humid forest- an area about the size of Mexico. Including secondary and savanna forest, the area equals about three million square kilometers, almost half the size of the continental United States. The Basin is defined by the watershed of the Congo River, located primarily in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with smaller portions in Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea.

The Congo Basin is home to mountain gorillas, lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, and forest elephants, as well as approximately 1,000 species of birds. The basin is also home to 75 million people and 150 distinct ethnic groups, many of whom still practice a traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

Overall, the Congo Basin contains relatively intact forest, although mining, commercial logging, charcoal fuel wood harvesting, and bush meat hunting are significant threats. Violence and minimal foreign investment have prevented large scale forest conversion in most areas, but future economic development threatens many forest areas.



*The area equals about three million square kilometers, almost half the size of the continental United States.*



◀ A woman from a tribe of pygmies in the forest. Dzanga-Sangha Forest Reserve, Central African Republic



# CfRN Statement of Financial Position 2019

ASSETS	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Cash	1,366,197	75,302
Contributions receivable	1,050,932	7,915
Grants receivable	-	496,830
Other receivables	-	38,105
Due from related party	23,952	-
Restricted assets - grants	-	21,691
Property and equipment, net	2,476	1,348
Security deposits	88,251	88,251
Total Assets	\$ 2,531,808	\$ 729,442

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	12/31/2019	12/31/2018
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	392,934	178,374
Payments	11,136	70,976
Accrued payroll liabilities	22,940	51,784
Deferred rent	14,637	14,637
Deferred grant revenue	37,170	-
Restricted liabilities - grants	-	115,452
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 478,817	\$ 431,223

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	12/31/2019	% of total revenue	12/31/2018	% of total revenue
Grant Revenue	2,449,327	58%	1,862,089	93%
Contribution Revenue	1,785,342	42%	132,421	7%
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 4,234,669	100%	\$ 1,994,510	100%

EXPENSES	12/31/2019	% of total revenue	12/31/2018	% of total revenue
Program	2,133,338	86%	1,594,193	81%
Management and General	346,559	14%	378,560	19%
Total Expenses	\$ 2,479,897	100%	\$ 1,972,753	100%



Thank  
you  
to all our  
donors

The Founders Pledge has concluded that the Coalition for Rainforest Nations is one of the most impactful charities in the environmental space.

*“Amongst all the organizations evaluated, CfRN stands out because of the outsized leverage of their presence at key international negotiations..*

*As an example, they were instrumental in securing an agreement on forestry in the Paris Agreement in 2015”.*

Please follow this link to find the full Founders Pledge Report here:  
[Founders-Pledge-Climate-Change-Report.pdf](#)

And this link to find a short summary of the Founders Pledge Report here:  
<https://founderspledge.com/stories/climate-change-executive-summary>





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# Glossary Terms

- **CfRN** – Coalition for Rainforest Nations
- **UNFCCC** – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **IPCC** – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- **REDD+** – Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
- **COP** – Conference of the Parties
- **GHG** – greenhouse gas
- **RRR+** – Reporting for Results-Based REDD+
- **GHGi** – greenhouse gas inventory
- **AFOLU** – agriculture, forestry, and other land use
- **FREL** – forest reference level
- **MRV** – measurement, reporting, and verification
- **BUR** – biennial update report
- **RRU** – REDD+ Results Units



# Our Countries

Africa	Government Website
 Botswana	<a href="https://www.gov.bw/">https://www.gov.bw/</a>
 Cameroon	<a href="https://www.prc.cm/en/">https://www.prc.cm/en/</a>
 Central African Republic	<a href="https://www.rca-gouv.net/">https://www.rca-gouv.net/</a>
 Democratic Republic of Congo	<a href="http://portal.drc.gov.bt/drc/">http://portal.drc.gov.bt/drc/</a>
 Equatorial Guinea	<a href="https://www.guineaecuatorialpress.com/?lang=en">https://www.guineaecuatorialpress.com/?lang=en</a>
 Gabon	<a href="http://www.gouvernement.ga/">http://www.gouvernement.ga/</a>
 Ghana	<a href="https://www.ghana.gov.gh/">https://www.ghana.gov.gh/</a>
 Kenya	<a href="https://kenyaembassydc.org/">https://kenyaembassydc.org/</a>
 Lesotho	<a href="https://www.gov.ls/">https://www.gov.ls/</a>
 Liberia	<a href="https://eliberia.gov.lr/">https://eliberia.gov.lr/</a>
 Madagascar	<a href="http://www.presidence.gov.mg/">http://www.presidence.gov.mg/</a>
 Malawi	<a href="https://www.malawi.gov.mw/">https://www.malawi.gov.mw/</a>
 Mali	<a href="http://justice.gouv.ml/#/mjm/accueil">http://justice.gouv.ml/#/mjm/accueil</a>
 Mozambique	<a href="https://www.un.int/mozambique/">https://www.un.int/mozambique/</a>
 Namibia	<a href="https://www.un.int/namibia/namibia/government">https://www.un.int/namibia/namibia/government</a>
 Nigeria	<a href="http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php?page=government">http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/index.php?page=government</a>
 Republic of Congo	<a href="https://landportal.org/organization/government-democratic-republic-congo">https://landportal.org/organization/government-democratic-republic-congo</a>
 Sierra Leone	<a href="http://www.sierra-leone.org/government-websites.html">http://www.sierra-leone.org/government-websites.html</a>
 South Africa*	<a href="https://www.gov.za">https://www.gov.za</a>
 Sudan	<a href="http://www.sudan.gov.sd/index.php/en/">http://www.sudan.gov.sd/index.php/en/</a>
 Uganda	<a href="https://www.gou.go.ug/">https://www.gou.go.ug/</a>
 Zambia	<a href="https://www.zambiaembassy.org/page/government">https://www.zambiaembassy.org/page/government</a>

South America	Government Website
 Argentina	<a href="https://www.argentina.gob.ar/">https://www.argentina.gob.ar/</a>
 Bolivia	<a href="https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/bolivia/government">https://globaledge.msu.edu/countries/bolivia/government</a>
 Brazil	<a href="http://www.brazil.gov.br">http://www.brazil.gov.br</a>
 Ecuador	<a href="https://www.presidencia.gob.ec/">https://www.presidencia.gob.ec/</a>
 Guyana	<a href="https://dpi.gov.gy/">https://dpi.gov.gy/</a>
 Paraguay	<a href="https://www.paraguay.gov.py/">https://www.paraguay.gov.py/</a>
 Suriname	<a href="http://www.gov.sr/">http://www.gov.sr/</a>
 Uruguay	<a href="https://www.gub.uy/">https://www.gub.uy/</a>

Asia	Government Website
 Bangladesh	<a href="https://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/index.php?lang=en">https://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/index.php?lang=en</a>
 Cambodia	<a href="http://www.cambodia.org/facts/">http://www.cambodia.org/facts/</a>
 China	<a href="https://www.gov.cn/english/">https://www.gov.cn/english/</a>
 India	<a href="https://www.india.gov.in/">https://www.india.gov.in/</a>
 Lao PDR	<a href="http://www.mofa.gov.la/">http://www.mofa.gov.la/</a>
 Malaysia	<a href="https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/">https://www.malaysia.gov.my/portal/</a>
 Pakistan	<a href="http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/">http://www.pakistan.gov.pk/</a>
 Republic of Indonesia	<a href="http://www.indonesia.cz/the-government-of-the-republic-of-indonesia/">http://www.indonesia.cz/the-government-of-the-republic-of-indonesia/</a>
 Singapore	<a href="https://www.gov.sg/">https://www.gov.sg/</a>
 Thailand	<a href="https://www.thaigov.go.th/">https://www.thaigov.go.th/</a>
 Vietnam	<a href="http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English">http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English</a>

Caribbean	Government Website
 Dominica	<a href="https://dominica.gov.dm/">https://dominica.gov.dm/</a>
 Dominican Republic	<a href="https://www.dominicanrepublic.com/government/">https://www.dominicanrepublic.com/government/</a>
 Jamaica	<a href="https://www.gov.jm/">https://www.gov.jm/</a>
 Saint Lucia	<a href="http://www.govt.lc/">http://www.govt.lc/</a>

Central America	Government Website
 Belize	<a href="https://www.belize.gov.bz/">https://www.belize.gov.bz/</a>
 Costa Rica	<a href="http://www.costarica-embassy.org/index.php?q=node/70">http://www.costarica-embassy.org/index.php?q=node/70</a>
 Guatemala	<a href="https://www.guatemala.gob.gt/">https://www.guatemala.gob.gt/</a>
 Honduras	<a href="https://presidencia.gob.hn/">https://presidencia.gob.hn/</a>
 Nicaragua	<a href="https://ni.usembassy.gov/business/getting-started-nicaragua/nicaragua-websites/">https://ni.usembassy.gov/business/getting-started-nicaragua/nicaragua-websites/</a>
 Panama	<a href="https://www.presidencia.gob.pa/en">https://www.presidencia.gob.pa/en</a>

Oceania	Government Website
 Fiji	<a href="https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Home">https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Home</a>
 Papua New Guinea	<a href="http://www.nefc.gov.pg/links/png-government.html">http://www.nefc.gov.pg/links/png-government.html</a> <a href="https://www.pm.gov.pg/">https://www.pm.gov.pg/</a>
 Samoa	<a href="https://www.samoagovt.ws/">https://www.samoagovt.ws/</a>
 Solomon Islands	<a href="https://solomons.gov.sb/">https://solomons.gov.sb/</a>
 Vanuatu	<a href="https://www.gov.vu/">https://www.gov.vu/</a>





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