Coalition for Rainforest Nations

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020

The Coalition of Rainforest Nations

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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

Contents

COVER PHOTO BY TATIANA DE NEVO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Build, Strengthen & Evolve

Despite the global pandemic, our strategic approach: BUILD, STRENGTHEN & EVOLVE provided our guiding principles to boldly tackle the toughest long-term problem in the climate emergency at a global scale. With less than 10 years to halve global emissions and align to a 1.5 degrees C pathway we knew that 2020 was the beginning of a critical decade. The good news was that a 1.5-degree pathway is technically achievable.

But as McKinsey (2020), highlighted last April, "The bad news is that the math is daunting. Such a pathway would require dramatic emissions reductions over the next ten years—starting now." What was crystal clear from the study was that there is no scenario for reaching alignment to a 1.5-degree pathway without global deforestation falling by at least 75 percent or halted completely by 2030.

Three challenging—yet possible—scenarios could limit warming to 1.5°C.

Emissions per source, metric gigatons of CO_2 ($GtCO_2$) in 2016 and 2030

Legend: Industry, Transport, Power, Buildings, Deforestation, Agriculture, CO_2 removal

Scenario A: The decarbonization pace is set by technology readiness, cost-effectiveness, and ease of implementation

Scenario B: Oil fuels transport for longer; reforestation and curbing deforestation abate the additional emissions

Scenario C: Coal and gas generate power for longer; reforestation and curbing deforestation abate the surplus CO_2

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From inception through negotiation into the Paris Climate Agreement, CfRN has always championed the conservation mechanism – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) as the only global solution to halt deforestation. And never has REDD+ been more critically needed than this decade. So, rather than pause for reflection during this year's global crisis - and in spite of a freeze on formal international climate negotiations - we decided to double down on efforts, and:

- strengthened our team with new executive talent,

- Launched the REDD.plus platform and country registries to allow the sale of our countries' carbon reductions as carbon credits

- moved online with in-country technical training services, providing training to more than 100 experts, and

- participated in all virtual negotiating and coordination sessions staged by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

This year I was truly inspired by the effort, resilience, and hope that our team and countries showed despite the pandemic. It is a testament to their commitment to our mission that we had such a great year.

I am excited to share this statement with you.

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

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Celebrating our People

A Conversation with *Eloise Guidi*, Greenhouse Gas Inventory and REDD+ Expert at CfRN

◀ Republic of Congo, 2019: Day trip to Maloukou Trechot with the team: Carine Milandou, Charone Okombi, Lisa Louvouandou, Préféré Milandou et Destin Lockegna.

▶ Gabon, 2020: training on the GHGI with Gabon national experts.

Eloise Guidi started at CfRN in 2017 and is a Greenhouse Gas Inventory and REDD+ expert. She works with CfRN's technical team to help rainforest countries build their capacity for measuring, verifying, and reporting greenhouse gas emissions to UNFCCC. In the last few years, she has worked closely with the Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Guyana, and has also provided support in Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Saint Lucia, and Dominica. In this interview, she talks about what drew her to CfRN and the importance of her work:

Why is CfRN's work urgent?

Our work is key to the success of the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global temperature rise to well below 2°C. As part of the agreement, countries must submit greenhouse gas inventories on a regular basis to track their progress in achieving their emission reductions goals. If we don't know where countries stand in terms of their greenhouse gas emission levels, then they won't be able to create targeted policies to curb the trends and comply with the agreement. CfRN makes sure that rainforest countries are aware of the latest guidelines, decisions, and methods for collecting the best data available to complete their greenhouse gas inventory.

What was your education?

I studied in Switzerland, my home country, at the University of Lausanne and left with a master's degree in environmental science.

What sparked your passion for preserving tropical rainforests in other countries?

Every forest is important and provides unprecedented benefits to local communities and the world. Forests in Europe are well regulated and protected; in Switzerland, you even have to request permission to cut down a tree that is on your own property. But in many tropical countries, land planning is still in its infancy and sparks a lot of conflict. It is not uncommon to see a protected area that also has a mining concession or a logging concession on it. Only by monitoring forests will developing countries be able to understand forest cover loss and create better land planning systems.

"I love to learn about new cultures and ways of addressing these important issues with incredible experts from all over the world."

Republic of Congo, 2019: On the bus from Brazzaville ▼
to Kinele with the full team

Ghana 2018: This was a joint mission with experts from DRC ▶
and Ghana. On the last day we visited of the Cocoa farm close
to Accra. In the picture: Remi Mangani, Arsene Byaene

What was your first mission?

In my first mission abroad, I visited three countries in three weeks as part of my training. We went to Panama, the Dominican Republic and then Guyana. I was really excited and a little nervous before I left. It was an intense trip, but very enjoyable, as we gathered many insights into how we could help.

What do you love about your job?

I wanted to play my part in fighting the climate emergency while learning about the world and its cultures. This job allows me to do both, and I learn new things all the time. I am not an authority on the Congo-Basin forests or the Gabonese agricultural system, but when I work with national experts, we're able to exchange knowledge. They explain how their agriculture and forestry system works, and in return, I show them how best they can present this information so that they are compliant with the Paris Agreement. Since 2017, I have worked with some of the smartest people in the Caribbean and Africa within a wide range of government departments, indigenous communities, and other not-for-profit organizations and development agencies. All the people I work with in these countries are passionate about what they do and give everything they have to this effort.

How do you measure land use and land use change emissions?

To estimate land use and land use change emissions or removals, you need two key elements: emissions factors and activity data. The emissions factors are the sources of carbon present in a land use, like living biomass, soil or dead wood. The activity data is the area of each land use (forest, cropland, grassland, etc.) and the changes between one land use to the other. We use satellite imagery to interpret how much of the country is forest, how much is cropland, etc., and we track changes over a number of years. Until recently, cost and limited software options prohibited access to high resolution satellite images. Now, high-quality data sets are much more accessible. They help countries produce accurate estimates about how land is being used and what changes occur over time. With these images, we are able to determine the year of the land use change, which helps us produce more accurate emissions estimates.

What challenges do you face?

Access to good data is the number one challenge. Government agencies or research groups may not have the right data because other agencies or

"CfRN is unique in that we offer a country-centred approach to our service, basing training on where countries currently are and what they need."

◄◄ Womenday 2019: I was asked to moderate a debate between 4 professional women on Women'sday 2019 during our stay in Kintele.

◄ Meeting of the COMIFAC experts in Libreville Gabon, Picture of all the women experts present at the meeting.

▼ 'Family' picture during Milan's Global Workshop.

⬇ Team brainstorming during retreat in Franciacorta, Italy.

ministries hold them. There is often a disconnect between agencies collecting the data and those that submit them to the UNFCCC. Also, there are instances where data are available but not in the right format or quantity for the reporting period. Finally, in many cases, the data are simply not yet available. Sometimes, countries may have one- or two-years' worth of data, whereas we need a series of more years for Paris Agreement compliance. Collecting new information can take months, even years.

How is CfRN different from other organizations that offer technical training?

CfRN is unique in that we offer a country-centered approach to our service, basing training on where countries currently are, what they need, and the available capacity, which can vary. Some countries have experienced teams and may only need support with quality assurance, whereas others need technical training and capacity building for carrying out emissions estimations. We enter into a

"We need more people doing this work, and there is so much to do."

country relationship with a clear goal, but operate with full flexibility in how we reach that goal. We have foundational training materials and steps to follow, but in most situations, we adjust and adapt our services to what that country needs. In Gabon, we recently supported the national team in the preparation of their Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGi), whereas in the Republic of Congo we are collecting new data on land use and land use change to update the country's inventory. Since we work extensively with many experts in the southern hemisphere, we also proactively create and strengthen regional networks between countries. We provide them with opportunities to share their experience and knowledge. We call our approach 'a south-south exchange'.

What is it like for a woman working in climate and forest conservation?

My experience has always been positive. At CfRN, our technical team is all-female. It's also great to see so many women occupy high positions within the environmental ministries and agencies of the countries we work with. For example, in the Republic of Congo, the government takes a strong position on promoting women to leadership positions. Currently, both the minister of the environment and the minister of forestry are women. The country also

celebrates International Women's Day as a major event each year. Saying that, overall action is slow, but I am hopeful this will improve over time.

What would you say to a prospective donor who is thinking about supporting CfRN?

Many rainforest countries are committed to reaching their Paris Agreement goals, but unlike developed countries, they need support with technology and capacity building before they can make informed policy decisions. A major focus of CfRN's work is improving the capacity of a country to collect, measure, and verify data. That's what your generous contributions go towards.

The first step is to understand where a country can best make carbon emission reductions. In the developed world, emissions come predominantly from industry, the power sector, buildings, and transport. In rainforest countries, emissions come from loss of forests. Land use change–when forests are cut down for timber or farmland–is the biggest emitter. By preparing accurate and complete greenhouse gas inventories, countries can determine which sector will have the most impact on their national carbon footprint and make better decisions surrounding their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.

What would you say to a young person who wanted to follow in your footsteps?

Join us! The job is amazing, and you will really make a difference in the world. We need more people doing this work, and there is so much to do! You get to conduct research and work with experts from different regions and expertise areas to find important solutions. The field is growing so much that you get the chance to make your mark and provide your own valuable contribution. We have a lot of freedom to provide input into what others are trying to build.

"The job is amazing, and you will really make a difference in the world."

Country Profile
Belize
& REDD+

When Belize signed on to the Paris Agreement in April 2016, it committed to prepare, communicate, and maintain nationally determined contributions (NDCs) towards the achievement of the long-term goals of the Agreement. In preparing its NDC, Belize identified REDD+ as a mitigation activity.

Country Profile
Belize

Background

Known for its abundant natural resources and biodiversity, Belize is home to vast tropical forests. In fact, Belize has the highest forest cover in both Central America and the Caribbean. However, between 1980 and 2010, Belize lost one fifth of its forest cover to deforestation.

While over 60% of Belize's land surface is still covered by forest, some 20% of the country's land is covered by cultivated land (agriculture) and human settlements. Belize had a 2018 Forest Landscape Integrity Index mean score of 6.15/10, ranking it 85th globally out of 172 countries.

Savanna, scrubland and wetland constitute the remainder of Belize's land cover. Important mangrove ecosystems are also represented across Belize's landscape. Four terrestrial ecoregions lie within the country's borders: Petén-Veracruz moist forests, Belizian pine forests, Belizean Coast mangroves, and Belizean Reef mangroves.

Belize is a leader in protecting biodiversity and natural resources. According to the World Database on Protected Areas, 37% of Belize's land territory falls under some form of official protection, giving Belize one of the most extensive systems of terrestrial protected areas in the Americas.

The Belize Forest Department

Belize has become a role model for other countries in the region and globally for institutionalizing the capacity-building process for the REDD+ mechanism. Their lessons learnt have been widely disseminated across the region, helping other countries, like Saint Lucia and Dominica to improve their data collection, processing, and reporting. The Belize forestry team often gives presentations to both regional and global workshops.

The Belize Forest Department oversees the sustainable management of Belize's forest resources. The Forest Department is a leading example of a modern, committed government agency with a well-trained, accountable and professional staff that coordinates resources for the sustainable management of Belize' natural resources. Their efforts contribute to the achievement of local, regional, and global goals for present and future generations. The collection of activity data is critical for the preparation of the NDCs, Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGi), and the national Forest Reference (Emission) Level (FRL) report. The FRL undergoes a rigorous revision process by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and enables countries to participate in the results-based payment for REDD+.

Between 1980 and 2010, Belize lost one fifth of its forest cover to deforestation.

◀ Assessing felling gap in the field — at Chiquibul Forest Reserve.

From top – The Cockscomb Basin Wildlife ▶
Sanctuary is one of the premier sites for jaguar preservation in the world.

Scarlet macaws are native to Central and northern South America.

Country Profile **Belize**

Species

Belize has a rich variety of wildlife because of its unique position between North and South America and a wide range of climates and habitats for plant and animal life. Belize's low human population and approximately 22,970 square kilometers (8,867 sq mi) of undistributed land make for an ideal home for the more than 5,000 species of plants and hundreds of species of animals, including armadillos, snakes, and monkeys. The Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary is a nature reserve in south-central Belize established to protect the forests, fauna, and watersheds of an approximately 400 km^2 (150 sq mi) area of the eastern slopes of the Maya Mountains. The reserve was founded in 1990 as the first wilderness sanctuary for the jaguar and is one of the premier sites for jaguar preservation in the world.

Our Work with Belize

CfRN works with Belize on mapping and measuring its forests as well as supporting on all submissions for UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism. In 2020, Belize completed a land use assessment cycle 2000 to 2018, using Collect Earth. The study identified all land use and land use changes,

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0.359m
Population (Million)

23
Land Area (1000 sq.km)

1.8$.Bln
GDP

59.9%
% Forest Area

0.4%
Deforestation avg. annual %, 2000-2015

36.7%
Terrestrial protected areas – % of total land area

including damage and disturbance to forests by fires, logging, and hurricanes. This information was key to updating Belize's national greenhouse gas inventory, which is part of both its commitments to UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism and the Paris Agreement.

CfRN supported Belize's work with its capacity-building foundational platform. The platform helps countries harmonize data for reporting Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector and the greenhouse gas inventory, so that national forest conservations targets, called Forest Reference Level Emissions (FREL/FRL) can be set. Belize submitted its 2000-2015 baselines in 2020, including a modified version. This modified version included comments and suggestions from the UNFCCC Technical Assessment team, which improved the quality of the report. Later in the year, Belize submitted its REDD+ Technical Annex, which included the REDD+ verified carbon reductions from 2016-2018. Currently the country is finalizing the UNFCCC Technical Assessment.

To learn more about Belize submissions to UNFCCC REDD+, check out the
REDD+ hub

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www.www.rainforestcoalition.org

CfRN helps 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

2020
A year in review

Country Impact

In 2020, as part of UNFCCC requirements for Results-Based REDD+, the following countries completed and submitted their Forest Reference Emissions Levels (FRELS) and Bi-ennial Update Reports (BUR).

Forest Reference Emissions Levels:
1. Belize: Submitted FREL Jan 2020, modified FREL Aug 2020
2. Ghana: Submitted FREL Jan 2021

Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GHGi)

Belize: Updated GHGi, ready for submission 1BUR 2020

Saint Lucia: GHGi ready for submission 1BUR 2020

Dominica: GHG ready for submission 1BUR 2020

Why Technical Training is Critical for Countries?

Rainforest nations contribution to the abatement of GHG emissions is key to achieve the Paris Agreement 1.5C goal. For these nations to receive payments for rainforest protection under UNFCCC and Paris Agreement REDD+, they must first create a solid and robust system to monitor forest cover and to account for reduction of emissions and/or increase of removals. National REDD+ strategies or action plans are to be adopted to guide REDD+ implementation and produce emissions reductions or removals. In this endeavor, rainforest nations have also committed to respect agreed safeguards, including the rights of local communities and indigenous people.

Rainforest nations REDD+ activities are independently reviewed by the UNFCCC. Once approved, the results on emissions reductions 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. The CfRN technical team provides highly specialized capacity-building services to our countries, under its Reporting for Results-based REDD+ Actions (RRR+) project.


▲ **(From top) REDD+ Training & Resources. CfRN and Fiji Climate Change Division Weekly Check-in.**

CfRN & Ghana Forestry Commission - Virtual FRELs training sessions.

In-Country Capacity Building

Despite covid-19 travel restrictions, CfRN continued to provide RRR+ countries with immediate and critical training and capacity-building services in measuring greenhouse gas inventories and forest reference levels. CfRN's technical team quickly adapted to the changes posed by the pandemic and developed a full online training service and resource portal for our countries. In June, we rolled out our online resource site, called REDD+ Training & Resources, where we offered up-to-date articles, news, webinars, training materials to enable continuous learning for our experts to take advantage of during lockdowns. The site had immediate impact. Our technical team offered regularly scheduled communications to support our rainforest nation partners, providing daily, weekly and bi-weekly virtual calls, so that our in-country teams felt we were consistently by their sides. In addition to keeping an open line of communication, continuous virtual training and workshops were implemented in order to meet our reporting deadlines.

In total, we provided online training to more than 100 experts in Bolivia, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji and others on Reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and worked with countries on a variety of capacity-building areas. This training ranged from the development of the GHG inventory AFOLU section to the preparation of National Inventory Reports; from the submission of Forest Reference Emissions Levels to the development of the Technical Annex with REDD+ Results; from trainings on the Paris Agreement reporting requirements to sessions on access to finance and payments for REDD+ results.
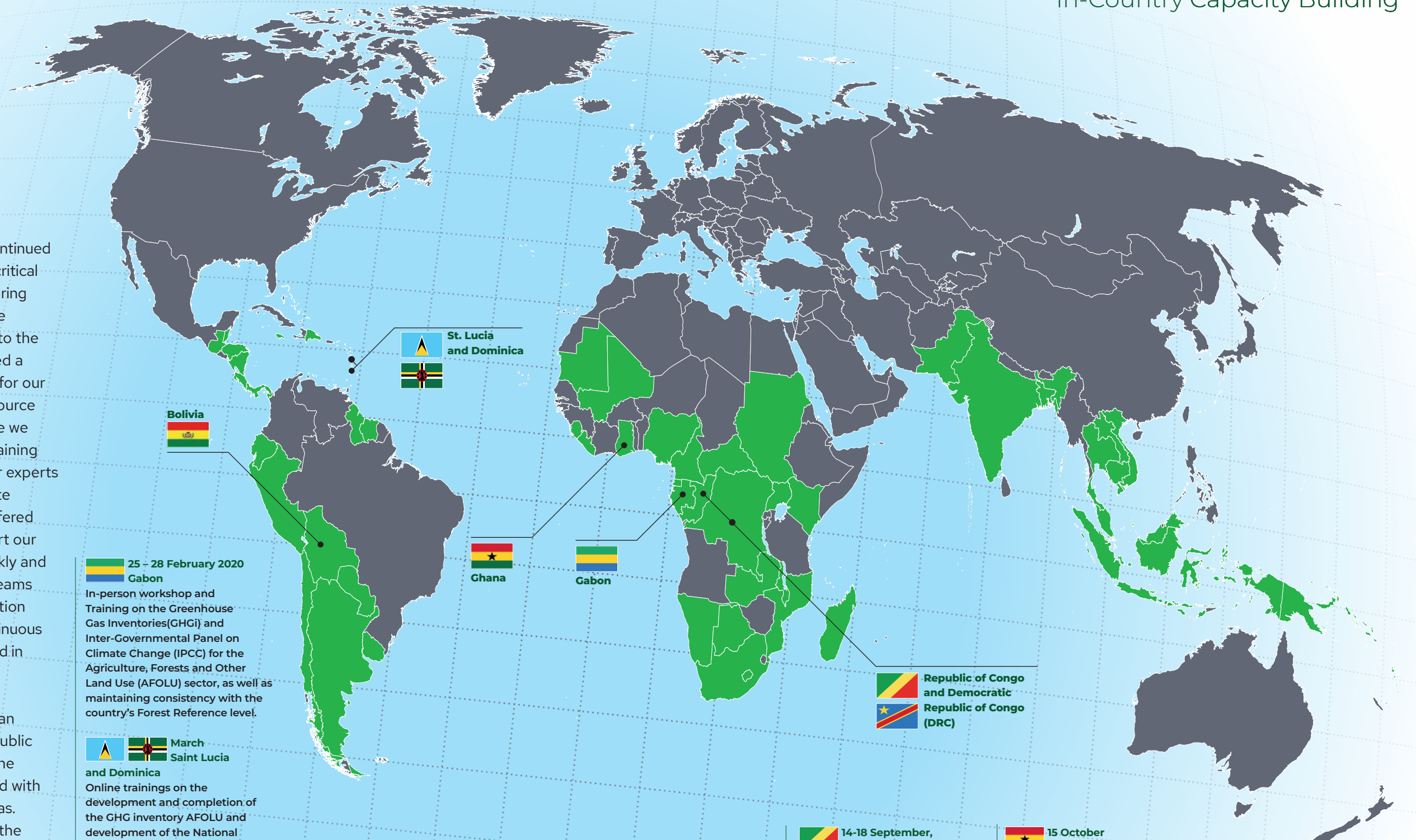
St. Lucia and Dominica

Bolivia

Ghana

Gabon

Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

25 – 28 February 2020 Gabon
In-person workshop and Training on the Greenhouse Gas Inventories(GHGi) and Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for the Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, as well as maintaining consistency with the country's Forest Reference level.

March Saint Lucia and Dominica
Online trainings on the development and completion of the GHG inventory AFOLU and development of the National Inventory Report (NIR)

18 May to 13 August Gabon
10 Online trainings and discussions took place on GHGI preparation

22 June Democratic People's Republic of Congo (DRC)
Online training on preparing the REDD+ Technical Annex

10-12 August Bolivia
Workshop on CfRN support and REDD+ Measurements, Reporting and Verification (MRV) international requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

8 and 22 July and 9 September, Fiji
Online training on REDD+ and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and consistency with the GHGi

26 August
REDNGEI workshop GHG inventories and REDD+: consistency on climate change reporting in developing countries

14-18 September, Republic of Congo
Workshop on the introduction to Collect Earth online and development of CEO protocol

16 and 30 September and 14 and 28 October, Fiji
Online training: Uncertainty assessment, key category analysis, time series consistency, quality assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC), Reporting

15 October (average two online trainings per week), Ghana
Online trainings on the development and completion of the GHG inventory AFOLU and development of the FREL

3, 8 and 14 December Democratic People's Republic of Congo (DRC)
Online training on the REDD+ results and access to finance

11, 14, 17 and 21 December Gabon
Online training and discussion on FRL

Pristine primary forest dominates the ▶
landscape in this aerial shot of the
Cockscomb Basin, Belize.

Belize

Country timeline	National Inventory Report for inclusion in the 4th national communication (2020) REDD+ Technical Annex to the Biennial Update Report (BUR) (To be confirmed)
Main activities in 2020	1. Submission of Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) to UNFCCC. Training team on FREL UNFCCC Technical Assessment 2. Training on National Inventory Report for Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (IR AFOLU) for inclusion in the Fourth national communication 3. New Greenhouse Gas Inventory cycle started with new data collection

CfRN activities

During 2018 and 2019, CfRN supported Belize team in developing the GHG Inventory and the FREL from scratch. The focus of 2018 was data collection which led to the 2019 focus of data processing. As a result of CfRN's support, Belize successfully submitted the FREL to the UNFCCC in January 2020. CfRN accompanied Belize in the Technical Assessment (TA) process throughout the whole 2020.

In addition, CfRN assisted Belize in the preparation of the National Inventory Report for Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (IR AFOLU) for inclusion in the Fourth national communication and in starting the new Greenhouse Gas Inventory cycle started with new data collection. New forest data from 2018 and 2019 were collected in 2020 to form the basis for the new reporting.

Regarding the training on FREL Technical Assessment, due to Covid-19, CfRN re-organized the original in-country mission as a virtual training session. The training covered National Reorting to UNFCCC, application of the 2006 IPCC guidelines and Forest Reference Level and the Reporting for Results-Based REDD+.

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Bolivia

Country timeline	Development of new Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (2021)
Main activities in 2020	1. Checklist on Institutional Arrangements 2. Workshop on the consolidation of the Measuring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) of Greenhouse Gases under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

CfRN activities

During 2020, Bolivia joined the Reporting for Results-based REDD+ (RRR+) project and receive capacity building support on the REDD+ and MRV reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. This cooperation with Bolivia is particularly notable opportunity for RRR+ as the country had not been very active on data collection and reporting of their greenhouse gases through a national inventory prior to the training.

At first, CfRN helped to clarify the role and tasks of the institutions involved in the GHG inventory and data collection process and offered an intense training on the REDD+ MRV international requirements. During the training national experts were updated on the reporting requirements for developing countries under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the timeline to carry out the report, including flexibility in light of national capacities and the review of the 2006 IPCC guidelines, and the steps required to complete the GHG inventory for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector.

After the workshop, several subsequent meetings were held with the national team to discuss next steps regarding the update of the GHG inventory and explore available data in the country.

Republic of Congo

Country timeline	Third National Communication First Biennial Update Report by 2022 New Forest Emissions Reference level / Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) (to be confirmed)
Main activities in 2020	1. Support in collecting new data for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) 2. Reporting Requirements under the new Transparency Framework Agreement

◄ Government team from Congo

CfRN activities

Since 2020 Congo has been working on the Third National Communication, submission planned 2021. Support on the GHG inventory from CfRN has been ongoing since 2018 and lately focused on improving Accuracy, Completeness and Consistency of Land Use and Land Use Change Data through a series of activities to collect and refine national data in this sector. The goal is to produce an enhanced GHG inventory for inclusion in the first Biennial Update Report and the new Forest Reference level.

In 2020, to help provide the required expertise and support, CfRN lead a unique constellation of agency partners, including the US Forest Service (USFS) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The following activities were completed:

- Workshop on the mapping tool Collect Earth Online and discussion on the implementation of a national procedure to collect data

- Developing a national protocol on data collection for the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector followed by 45 days of data collection using Collect Earth Online

- Reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement enhanced transparency framework

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Syndicate forest. a primary tropical forest in ▶
Morne Diablotin National Park, in Dominica,
Eastern Caribbean.

Dominica

Country timeline	Greenhouse Gas inventory Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and National Inventory Report (NIR) for inclusion in 3rd National Communication (NC) (2021)
Main activities in 2020	1. Training and support in the development and completion of the GHG inventory AFOLU 2. Training and support in the development and completion of the NIR AFOLU for inclusion in the 3rd National Communication

CfRN activities

In a country where the national datasets for supporting the estimation of GHG emissions and removals from the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector were almost lacking, in 2019, CfRN started to build technical capacity of Dominican experts for collecting land use and land use change data using the Collect Earth mapping tool.

Following the data collection, CfRN led a technical training program to build capacity and increase knowledge about the tools available for AFOLU. The end result of the training program was the established a national team capable to develop of the GHG inventory in the AFOLU sector for inclusion in the National Communications (NCs) and/or Biennial Update Reports (BURs), as well as the REDD+ Forest Reference Emission Level.

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Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Country timeline	First Biennial Update Report with REDD+ Technical Annex for 2021 Fourth National Communication by 2022
Main activities in 2020	1. Support on national legislation on climate change 2. Training on REDD+ Reporting and Green Climate Fund (GCF) Process [completed] 3. Quality assurance of GHG inventory AFOLU 4. Quality assurance of REDD+ Technical Annex

CfRN activities

CfRN support to DRC on the National GHG Inventory and the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) has been ongoing since 2017. In 2018 the country submitted its first FREL and to ensure consistency between the FREL/FRL and the national GHG inventory, national experts under the Plateforme Technique de Concertation (PTC) decided to adapt the data of the FREL/FRL to the GHG inventory. The work was done during 2019, delaying the submission of the BUR. In 2020, the country decided to add a REDD+ Technical Annex to the BUR to ensure the accuracy of this document. The plan is now to submit a BUR with the REDD+ TA and a consistent GHG inventory to the 2018 FREL/FRL by the end of 2021.

In 2020, support and training was also provided on the process to access REDD+ results-based payments, in particular on modalities and opportunities to access to the REDD.plus platform.

◀ Okapi Wildlife reserve

◀ The endangered Fiji Banded Iguana.

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Fiji

Country timeline	Forest Reference Level (FRL) by end of 2021
Main activities in 2020	1. Training on REDD+ and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) 2. Training on Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use sector (AFOLU) 3. Development on Institutional Arrangements and Data Availability Checklist

CfRN activities

The original plan for Phase II of the RRR+ project was to complete the training cycle on emissions inventory issues as well as an update of the greenhouse gas inventory (GHGi) in order to submit the FREL to the UNFCCC by January 2021. Despite covid travel restrictions, CfRN completed and delivered its online training cycle on time.

Plans for updating the GHG Inventory for the Biennial Update Report were still in progress and required additional work in 2021. In the first phase of the project, the main finding was the need to improve and update the activity data. So, this became the primary activity for CfRN's technical team.

Several working sessions were also held with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Forestry to organize and update the inventory of GHG emissions from the LULUCF sector. Work was also completed to establish a technical work team to update their inventory.

CfRN's technical team focussed on the checklist for the evaluation of the available data on activity data and emission factors.

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Gabon

Country timeline	Joint first Biennial Update Report/3rd National Communication by April 2021 Forest Reference Level (FRL) by end 2020
Main activities in 2020	1. Support on national legislation on climate change (outcome 1) 2. Support in the development of the GHG inventory (outcome 2) 3. Quality assurance for the FREL/FRL (outcome 2)

CfRN activities

Since September 2019, after the signing of the Gabon-Norway agreement, the country has been working diligently on the preparation and submission of its first Forest Reference level (FREL/FRL). The country also restructured the internal setup for reporting to the UNFCCC, giving the mandate to the Conseil National Climat (CNC). The CNC is now in charge of submitting the Third National communication and the first Biennial Update Report (BUR). At the same time, the preparation of the FREL/FRL requires the collection of new land use and land use change data to ensure a full and consistent time series that would provide an accurate report. Data was gathered with support from CfRN team. Under CfRN guidance, CNC decided to postpone the submission of the third National Communication to include the new data and the use of the 2006 IPCC guidelines. The goal is now to present a GHG inventory fully consistent with the FREL/FRL.

◀ CfRN REDD+ technical expert, Eloise Guidi (center) with the Gabon climate team

The Critically endangered ▶
African Elephant in Ghana

Ghana

Country timeline	Submission of Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) to UNFCCC by January 2021
Main activities in 2020	Training and support in the development of the FREL

CfRN activities

As part of the country engagement for Reporting for Results-Based REDD+, CfRN and Ghana committed to a joint work program to achieve the following goals:

⌐ Evaluate national activity data and emissions factor, with CfRN's technical team providing technical advice for data collection and GHG calculations

⌐ Develop Ghana's National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

⌐ From the National GHG Inventory, extract the forest related information for Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) and submit to UNFCCC in January 2021

⌐ Provide necessary information to update the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), where needed.

CfRN and Ghana engaged in a series of meetings to assess available data.

As a result of close cooperation with CfRN, Ghana successfully submitted its FREL report in 2021

GHANA'S NATIONAL FOREST REFERENCE LEVEL

2001 - 2015
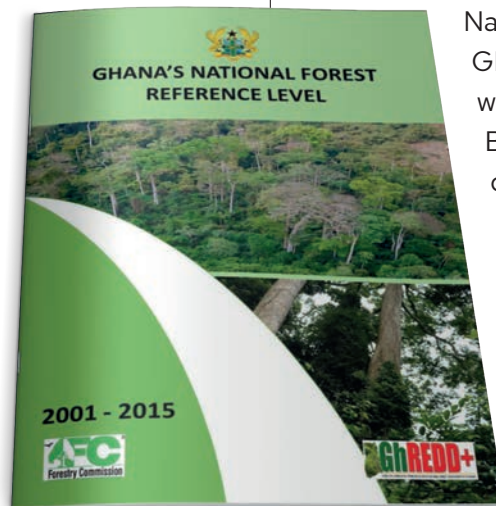
Mozambique

Country timeline	Submission of 2nd National Communication and 1st Biennial Update Report 2020
Main activities in 2020	Quality assurance Biennial Update Report

CfRN activities

A technical analysis of Mozambique's 2019 GHG Inventory for Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) took in February 2020 by UNFCCC experts. Mozambique's team was informed that their GHGi was mostly in adherence with the UNFCCC reporting guidelines though gaps and improvements were identified and shared with the country for further discussion and for the development of action plans. Mozambique shared the draft of its First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) for quality assurance (QA) with CfRN. The newly appointed national Forest Director expressed an interest in engaging collaboratively with CfRN for the next four years. A meeting was organized with Mozambique's team to identify immediate actions that CfRN could develop, including its National Communication, BUR1 and GHGi. Future activities consistent with Phase II of Reporting Results-Based REDD+ Project will also be discussed in meetings in 2021.

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Saint Lucia

| Country timeline	Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGi) for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and National Inventory Report for inclusion in Biennial Update Report (BUR) 1 (2021) Forest Reference Level for submission in January 2021
Main activities in 2020	1. Training and support in the development and completion of the GHG inventory AFOLU for inclusion in BUR1 2. Training and support in the development and completion of the NIR AFOLU for inclusion in BUR1 3. Training and support in the development and completion of the Forest Reference Emissions Level

CfRN activities

National datasets supporting a higher-tier estimation of the emissions and removals from the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector (in agreement with latest guidance by the IPCC) were lacking. CfRN provided training and capacity building to Saint Lucia for collecting land use and land use change data using the Collect Earth Tool mapping tool. This took place in a joint mission with Dominica, Panama and Belize at the end of 2019, and was followed by different stages of quality control during the first weeks of 2020.
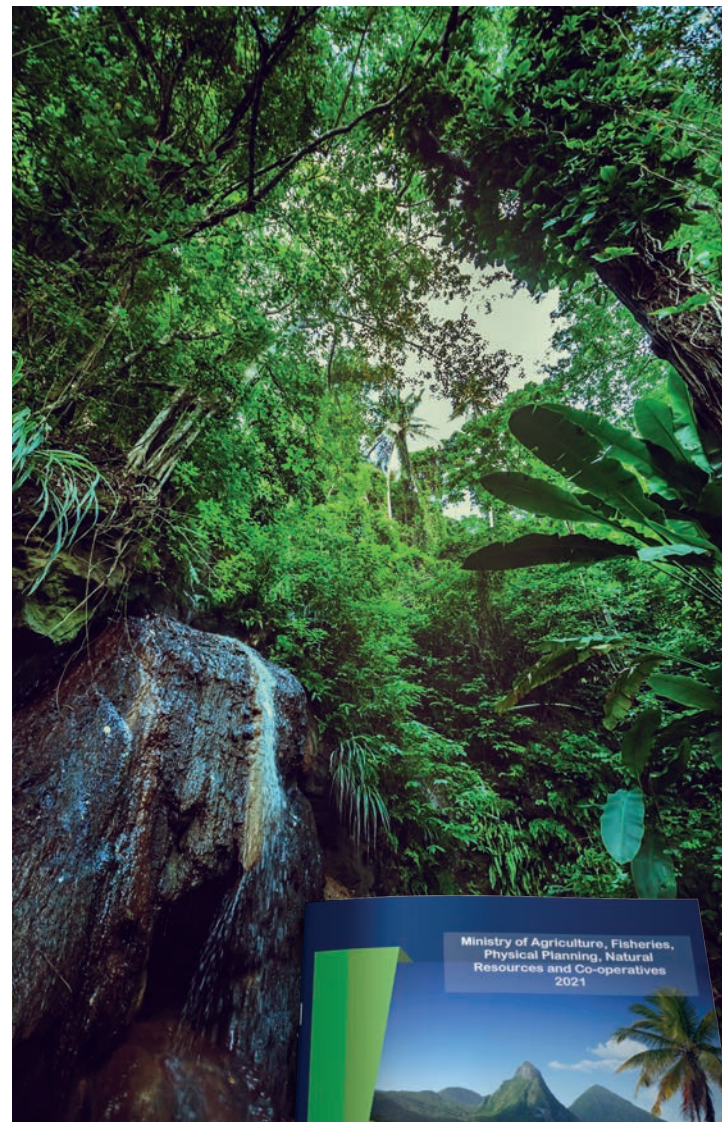
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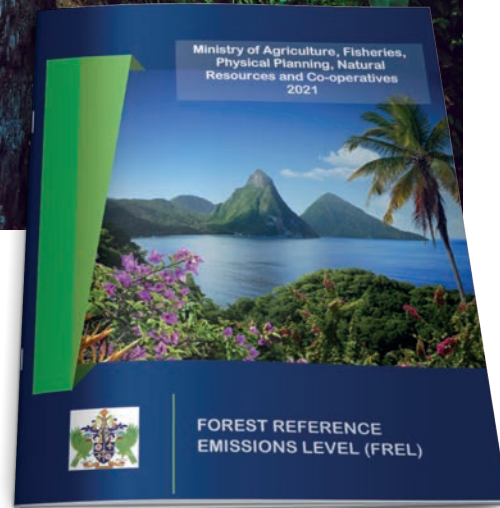
CfRN created bespoke training material to build national capacity. It included specific manuals,working documents, and directed, comms advice.

To-date, the GHG inventory has been finalized and is under Quality Control. This, along with the NIR will be incorporated in the first BUR.

REDD+ Training & Resources Hub

One early challenge that we faced during the pandemic was how to continue providing crucial technical training and capacity-building services despite international travel restrictions. So, in the summer, we initiated a project to move all our in-country training services online. A big thank you to all those who helped us during this period.

At the end of 2020, we launched the Reporting for Results-Based REDD+ (RRR+) Resource Hub. This new proprietary software helps provide crucial training and capacity-building services in measuring greenhouse gas inventories and forest reference levels. Offering articles, news, webinars, workshops, and training materials, the RRR+ Resource Hub platform will enable continuous learning, round the clock and irrespective of time zone. The software is only available to our rainforest country partners.

Features

24-hour access to an extensive selection of resources pertaining to our RRR+ Capacity Building Initiative, including:

- The International Climate Change Regime: UNFCCC Paris Agreement

- REDD+ Measurements, Reporting, Verification

- Nationally Determined Contributions and REDD+

- Reporting to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement

- South-South Knowledge Exchanges
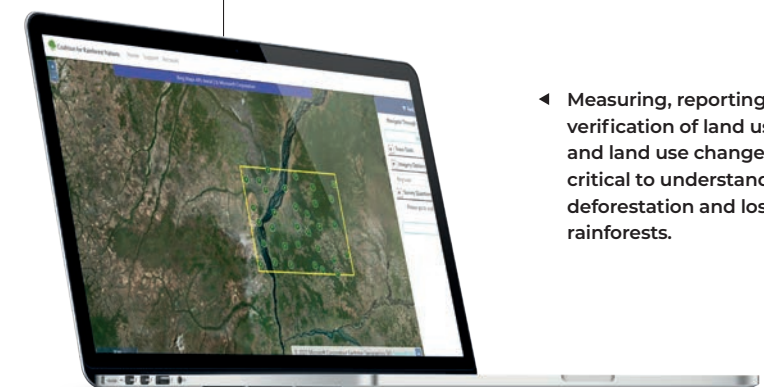
◄ Measuring, reporting, and verification of land use and land use change are critical to understanding deforestation and loss of rainforests.

Policy Support
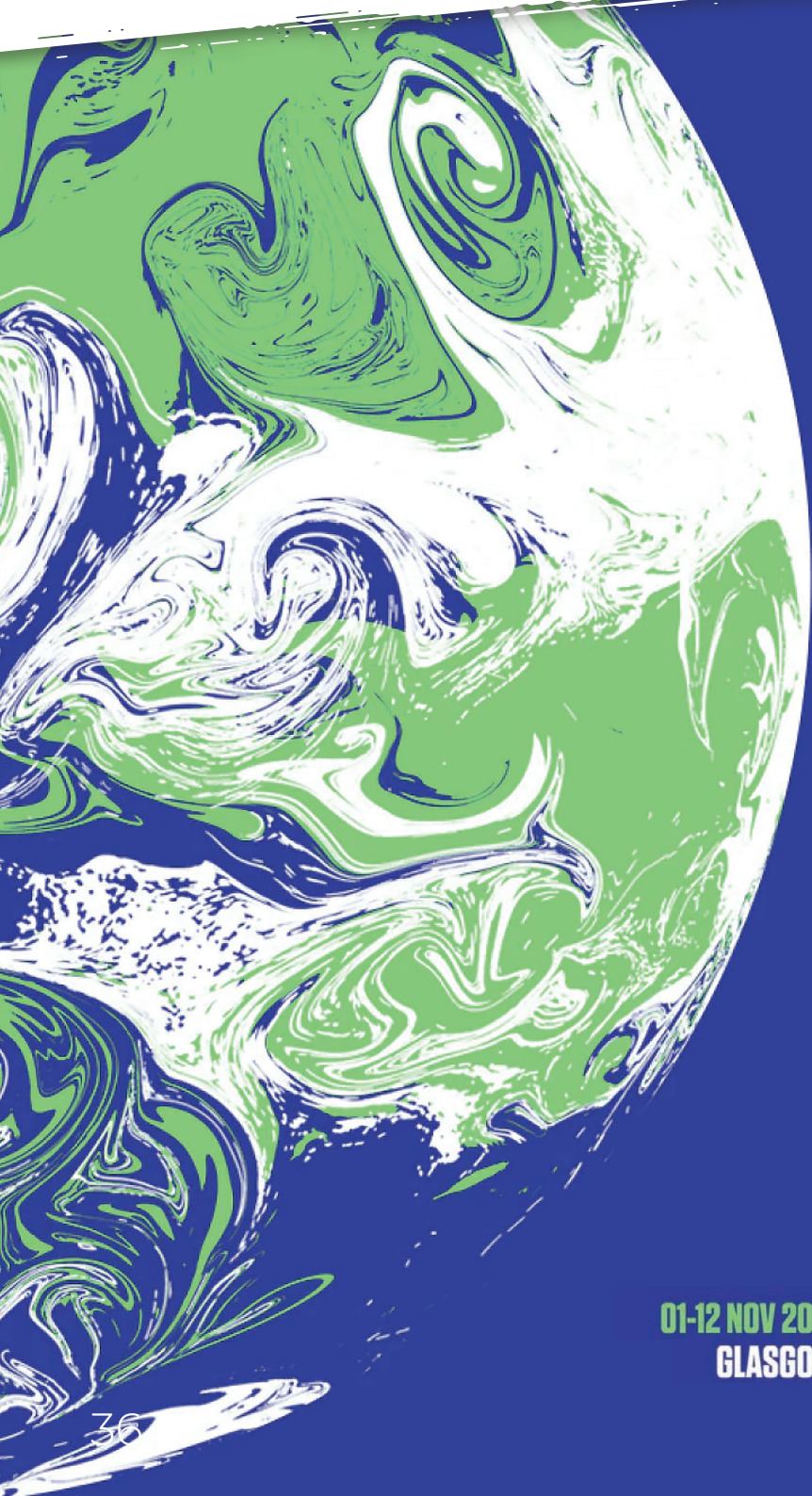
Despite the postponement of formal negotiations on the Paris Agreement until the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2021, we participated in all virtual negotiating and coordination sessions staged by the UNFCCC during the pandemic. The CfRN Secretariat contributed to and exchanged views on Article 6 and its transparency under the Paris Agreement. We provided guidance on the scheduling of the subsidiary bodies' meetings in the lead up to COP26. In September, the CfRN secretariat participated on behalf of all its member countries in joint consultations with the COP25 Presidency, COP26 incoming-Presidency, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Information (SBI) to plan the work ahead on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Other key UNFCCC virtual activities in which we participated included the Climate Dialogues (November 2020), which were designed as a substitute meeting in place of COP26. Summaries of all these meetings were circulated amongst our countries.

01-12 NOV 2021
GLASGOW **COP26**

Low Carbon Development Path toward 2020 Agenda

In October, virtual G77 meetings were held under the chairmanship of Guyana. CfRN executive director, Kevin Conrad was asked to speak to the assembled countries on nature-based solutions and the importance to tropical rainforests. This is what he had to say:

" Thank you, Ms. Gardner. Let me also thank HE Uddin and HE Mendes Mazano for their excellent insights.

Effective land management (forest, agriculture, soils) could sequester more than 100% of current annual CO2 emissions. Let me say that again ...

Before I get started on that, let me first thank our good friends in Guyana for leading the G77 and initiating this important event ... and profiling the important role of eco-systems.

Let me also thank the Secretary General, H.E. Antonio Guterres, and Executive Secretary, H.E. Patricia Espinoza, for their leadership and vision.

Presidents, Ministers and Excellencies, as many of us have mentioned today, forests, agriculture and land are critical contributions by the G77 toward future below 1.5 degrees.

The IPCC estimates that our unsustainable land practices may be currently contributing about

25%

of total carbon emissions and

44%

of global methane releases.

Hear this, to meet our climate goals, our forests, agriculture, and soils can and must lead the way.

The IPCC estimates that our unstainable land practices may be currently contributing about 25% of total carbon emissions and 44% of global methane releases.

Reframed, however, land may provide 100% of our necessary solution .... But only for a limited time. As we all know, natural systems have limits.

Don't get me wrong. We must transition to 100% carbon-neutral energy. Scaling up renewable energy is fundamental to climate stability.

However, here is the point, by combining the necessary transition to renewable energy, and other emissions-free energy, along with full implementation of the REDD+ mechanism and regenerative agriculture, we can ensure a future below 1.5 degrees.

Of course, it won't be easy, but it is possible.

The world at large is beginning to understand this.

Sir David Attenborough recently released 'A life on our plant', what he calls his witness statement. Sir David argues that by rewilding our world, we can both defeat climate change and reverse biodiversity loss.

At the same time, a documentary called 'Kiss the ground' highlights that soils are critical to a stable climate future.

According to a study by the Rodale Institute, "if we converted all global crop lands and pastures to regenerative agriculture, we could sequester more that 100% of current annual CO$_2$ emissions."

Distinguished delegates, the G77 can lead the way … underpinned by sufficient and predicable financial support. Full implementation of the REDD+ mechanism and regenerative agriculture does not need to wait for technology.

In the context of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the

REDD+ MECHANISM

is the only tool that is complete, and

DELIVERING!

⁶ The technology of "how not to cut a tree" is very well known.

⁶ Humanity has been growing food using natural systems for 200,000 years.

This sustainable approach ensures food security for our people. It provides sustainable livelihoods for our rural communities.

In the context of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the REDD+ mechanism is the only tool that is complete. And it is delivering! Over 8 gigatons of REDD+ results already and we are just getting started.

Of great concern, current financial support is woefully insufficient and unpredictable.

Colleagues, as humans, we have figured out how to sell $1.2 trillion in soft drinks annually … sugar water.

At the same time, we have invented financial systems that currently oversee more $100 trillion.

⁶ Private wealth: $33 trillion.

⁶ Pension funds: $32 trillion

⁶ Insurance companies: $25 trillion

⁶ Mutual Funds: $25 trillion

It's a simple point. To say that we as society cannot figure out how to raise something on the scale of $1 trillion annually to defeat climate change is ridiculous. We can, we must.

Reliance on public funds, however, will never lead to success. We must harness the global economy. However, we must be thoughtful!

Technology is important, but not a panacea. For example, there is a muddleheaded fixation today on technology-based removals. The extractive pressures on our natural resources that would be necessary to sufficiently scale such machinery is unsustainable. The full costs are astronomical. Think about it. Presidents, minsters, excellencies, we know what to do. We know how to do it.

⁶ To save the plant, protect forests.

⁶ To save the plant, regenerate our soils.

We know our future hangs in the balance.

The full implementation of the REDD+ mechanism and a global return to regenerative agriculture can be scaled globally … today. For this reason, the CfRN has launched the REDD.plus Platform. Visit www.redd.plus

Distinguished excellencies, we have the next 10 years to significantly bend the curve. Together, we can achieve a climate future below 1.5 degrees.

Thank you.

Building for Success

Investing in talent is critical to completing our mission – and ensuring that REDD+ becomes a global success in this critical decade. We began the process of capacity-building within CfRN by making three strategic hires within finance, marketing and communications, and project management.

In April, **Michael Mitchell** joined as senior project manager. Michael brings 15 years of experience initiating and delivering results and effective change for a wide range of industries. At the Coalition, Michael focuses on project management of experts as well as systematizing capacity-building and training for rainforest countries.

In September, **Mark Grundy** joined as managing director of global marketing & communications. Mark brings two decades of experience in marketing and communications within energy, environment and climate on both sides of the Atlantic. He supported CfRN as a client with Edelman Public Relations for the Copenhagen Climate Summit (COP) 2009, where he executed a successful global media campaign for REDD+, supporting CfRN's effort on the Copenhagen Accord. He then spent 10 years with mission-driven renewable energy not-for-profit organizations, Rocky Mountain Institute and Sir Richard Branson's Carbon War Room.

Finally, **Paul DeNoon** joined as director of policy. Paul boasts a 28-year finance career at Alliance Bernstein where he was a senior vice president and fixed-income portfolio manager. During his tenure Paul built the firm's emerging market debt and multi-sector fixed income products, having direct oversight of some $60billion of client assets.

Direct Finance:

In 2020, CfRN continued to build out its multi-faceted REDD+ platform, which aims to help rainforest nations and their stakeholders finance successful conservation action, called UNFCCC REDD+ results, through their conversion to carbon credits.
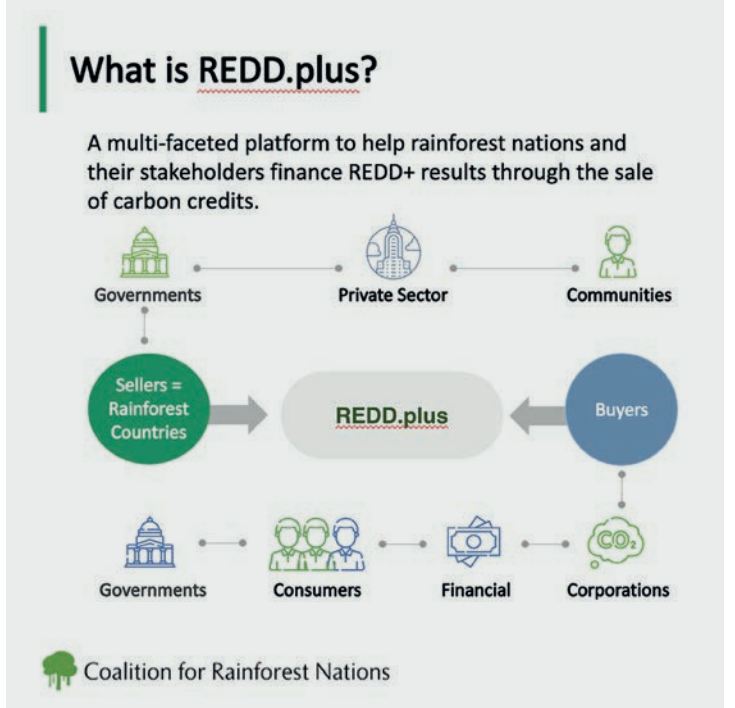
We secured a commitment from our first country; the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG) for the sale of carbon reductions as forest carbon credits. Papua New Guinea's carbon reductions will become the first nationally issued REDD+ forestry carbon credits to go on sale to corporations and consumers.

The credits come from rainforest conservation efforts over a thirteen-year period which successfully slowed the pace of deforestation, and brought annual deforestation levels down to an annual average of 0.5%, according to a report published by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As a result of these efforts, UNFCCC verified 9 million metric tonnes of carbon reductions. The results were posted on UNFCCC REDD+ Information Hub along with four other prerequisites to UNFCCC REDD+ verification:

- National REDD+ Strategy
- National Forest Reference Level
- National Forest Monitoring System
- Safeguards Information Summary.

We are planning a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PNG's Climate Change and Development Authority and REDD.plus, managed by CfRN, so that the credits can go on sale in 2021.

Finally, our policy team has been engaging and providing input, on an informal basis, on behalf of rainforest nations with the Taskforce for Scaling

What is REDD.plus?

A multi-faceted platform to help rainforest nations and their stakeholders finance REDD+ results through the sale of carbon credits.

Coalition for Rainforest Nations

Voluntary Carbon Markets. Launched by Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance Advisor to UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson for COP26, the Taskforce is working to build consensus on how best to scale up voluntary carbon markets and finally, present a blueprint of actionable solutions. Our position is that any revitalized market must be linked to the Paris Agreement and the global carbon budget.

Any revitalized (carbon) market must be linked to the Paris Agreement and the global carbon budget.

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REDD.plus

A 3-in-1 Platform

REDD.plus Sales Platform

Buying REDD+ Result Units lets people pay for emissions that they can't reduce while supporting developing nations that preserve their rainforests. It allows everyone to take action to fight the climate emergency. Every $11 will buy one ton of reduced carbon emissions and preserve two rainforest trees. The global sales platform will allow real time purchases of forestry carbon credits, called REDD+ Result Units (RRUs), by individuals or companies. We hope that the platform will help raise awareness about a country's conservation efforts and results.

REDD.plus Registry

CfRN also partnered with Markit - an information services company - to design and build national registries for all our countries. Once a country joins REDD.plus, they gain access to and ownership of their national registries which they can then upload their carbon reductions to and convert to REDD+ Results Units. Each time a company or individual makes a purchase, the carbon credits will be retired automatically and deducted from the registry amount of the supplier.

REDD.plus Exchange

Finally, CfRN partnered with CBL Markets - a global exchange providing access to multiple energy, environmental, and other soft commodities – to build an online trading exchange for countries and buyers to conduct large transactions directly. Once registered and approved, buyers will be able to work directly with countries to bid and purchase carbon credits.
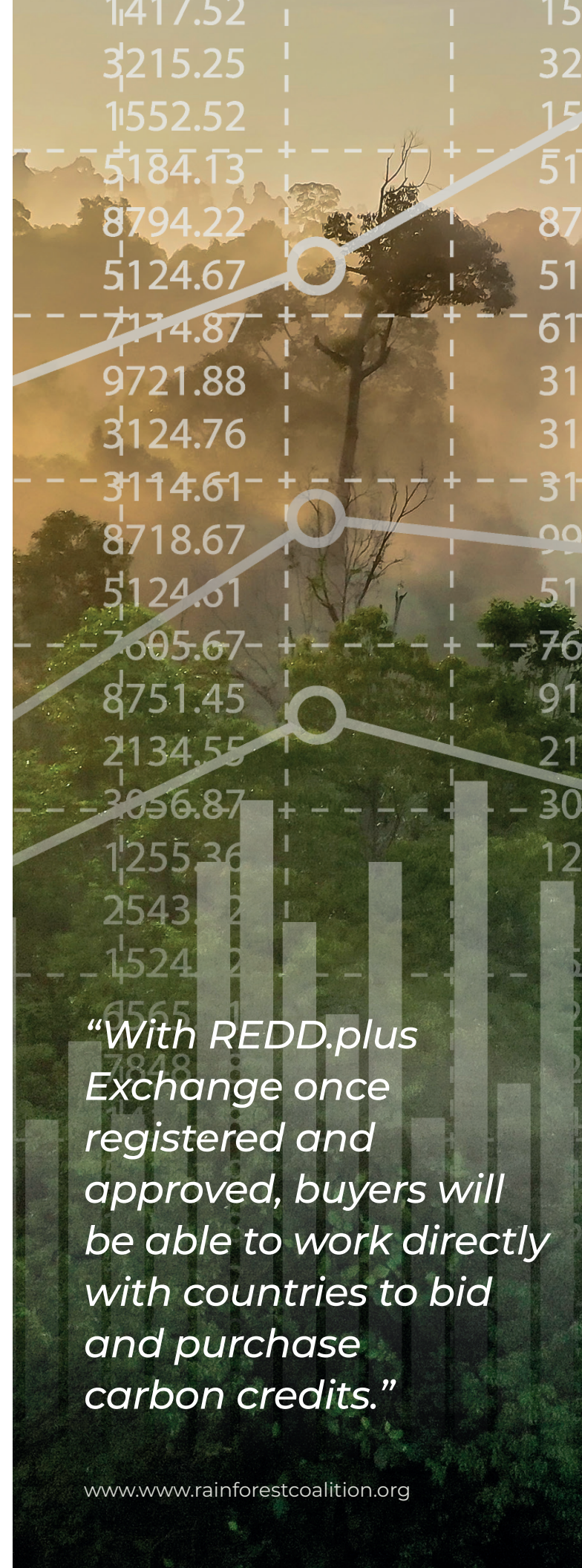
"With REDD.plus Exchange once registered and approved, buyers will be able to work directly with countries to bid and purchase carbon credits."

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA TURNS CORNER ON DEFORESTATION

- Deforestation: Between 2000-2013, Papua New Guinea saw an average loss of 0.5% of its national rainforest annually or 197,000 hectares of forest. The highest annual deforestation figures came in 2013 with a loss of 39,676 hectares. Loss was primarily due to conversion of forests to croplands for both non-commercial agricultural needs of its population (63%) as well as commercial agriculture (30%).

- Degradation of remaining rainforests, primarily for commercial logging was also a major concern. Peaking in 2012 with 240,000 hectares, government action led to steadily declining degradation from 2013 onwards. 2014 and 2015 showed a marked decline in deforestation in both drivers.

- Reforestation and forest rehabilitation activities: Conversely, efforts to enhance forest cover through reforestation and forest rehabilitation activities were limited, despite ambitious goals set out within Papua New Guinea's Vision 2050 to establish 800,000 hectares of forest plantation by the middle of this century.

Aerial photo of the coast of New Guinea with jungles and deforestation

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▲ (From top) The REDD+ Carbon Credits Sales Platform, REDD.plus Registry, REDD.plus Exchange

What Makes UNFCCC REDD+ carbon credits high quality?

Certificate of REDD+ Results Units

Despite the poor reputation that project-based REDD+ has earned over the past decade, REDD+ carbon reductions from tropical rainforests remain the critical climate solution without which our climate goals will not be possible. The great news is that UNFCCC-verified emissions reductions from a country's conservation efforts will soon be converted into carbon credits and accessible to all.

Key Benefits

6 **Scale & Rigor:** The UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism, which is mandated in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, created a financial value for the carbon absorbed by rainforests and offers performance-based payments for national conservation efforts that have been proven. Despite little public awareness, the REDD+ Mechanism has already delivered over 9 billion UNFCCC verified emissions reductions some of which have been purchased by developed countries like Norway and Germany.

6 **Carbon Credits that Count!** UNFCCC REDD+ activities are part of a country's overall greenhouse gas inventory under the Paris Agreement, which means retirements can be seamlessly integrated into a country's nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This provides the accounting transparency to ensure that emissions reductions are not double counted and make corporate purchases of carbon credits directly relevant to country efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

6 **The Global Standard:** The guidelines for MRV (measurement, reporting and verification) of emissions reductions under the REDD+ mechanism are created by one standard setter - the UNFCCC, formalized in the Paris Agreement, and approved by 192 countries.

6 **Climate Equity:** The REDD.plus platform provides a cost-effective way for retiring entities to purchase emissions reductions directly from rainforest nations and confidently know that their payment is going directly to those who created the outcome.

6 **No Emissions Leakage:** REDD+ Results can only be generated if there is a net reduction of emissions on a national scale. This eliminates the risk found in subnational, jurisdictional, and project programs where deforestation can be 'leaked' or displaced outside the boundaries of the program.

6 **Ongoing "Belt-tightening":** REDD+ is part of the Paris Agreement which means that countries are obliged to improve the robustness and ambition to reach global carbon neutrality before 2050.

6 **Role of Governments and National Action:** Success in preserving and restoring rainforest requires clarity and enforcement of land-tenure and land-use regulations. Simply put, good government policies are critical to saving rainforests, with the authority and responsibility for forests vested locally.

REDD+ Results can only be generated if there is a net reduction of emissions on a national scale. This eliminates the risk found in subnational, jurisdictional, and project programs where deforestation can be 'leaked' or displaced outside the boundaries of the program.

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Country Profile
Gabon

With 88% forest cover, Gabon holds a special status as a High-Forest, Low-Deforestation (HFLD) country with the second-highest percentage forest cover in the world (after Suriname). The government of Gabon has demonstrated strong leadership and action to protect its forests.

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Gabon is forging that path with its Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) to increase economic growth

Background

Gabon is a country on the west coast of Central Africa. Located on the equator, Gabon is bordered by Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, Cameroon to the north, the Republic of the Congo on the east and south, and the Gulf of Guinea to the west. It has an area of nearly 270,000 square kilometers (100,000 sq mi) and its population is estimated at 1.7 million people. Its capital and largest city is Libreville. Gabon generally has an equatorial climate with an extensive system of rainforests,

with 89.3% of its land area forested. There are three distinct regions: the coastal plains (ranging between 20 and 300 km from the ocean's shore), the mountains (the Cristal Mountains to the northeast of Libreville, the Chaillu Massif in the center), and the savanna in the east. The coastal plains form a large section of the World Wildlife Fund's Atlantic Equatorial coastal forests ecoregion and contain patches of Central African mangroves especially on the Muni River estuary on the border with Equatorial Guinea.

Gabon Timeline

1996 Gabon adopted its first forest policy to increase the forestry sector's contribution to economic and social development.

2001 A new Forest Code was signed into law requiring logging companies to undertake sustainable management of their concessions, to employ low impact harvesting techniques, to lengthen

harvest rotation to at least 20 years, and to submit 30-year management plans for forest concessions. The Code also prescribed that by 2009, 75% of raw logs would be processed in Gabon prior to export.

2002 President Omar Bongo Ondimba designated roughly 10% of the nation's territory to be part of its national park system (with 13 parks in total), one of the largest allocations

Participants in the CfRN training session at the National Climate Council in Libreville

of nature parkland in the world. The National Agency for National Parks manages Gabon's national park system.

2009 Gabon was still far from reaching its wood processing goal, so President Ali Bongo Ondimba halted all export of raw logs and required that 100% of timber be processed in country. These restrictions started to come into effect in 2010 and were fully implemented in 2011. This radical measure was intended to generate more value-add and jobs on national territory, but also contributed to professionalizing the sector and to a significant drop in total wood production, thereby reducing emissions.

2018 The Gabonese President announced that all logging concessions must be FSC certified by 2022.

1.7m
Population (Million)

258
Land Area
(1000 sq.km)

14.3$.Bln
GDP

89.3%
% Forest Area

-0.3%
Deforestation avg. annual %, 2000-2015

20.5%
Terrestrial protected areas – % of total land area

Grey parrot of Gabon ▶

Summary

Gabon's forests store high levels of carbon, host exceptional biodiversity, provide resources and livelihoods for rural populations, and regulate rainfall and mitigate climate change at the national, regional and global level. Gabon's Forest Reference Level (FRL) serves as a benchmark for assessing the country's performance in implementing the five REDD+ activities. Gabon had a 2018 Forest Landscape Integrity Index mean score of 9.07/10, ranking it 9th globally out of 172 countries.

Gabon is forging that path with its Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) to increase economic growth and become an emerging economy through sustainable policies and actions, while conserving its natural ecosystems and contributing to global climate efforts.

Our Work with Gabon

Since September 2019, after the signing of the Gabon-Norway agreement, CfRN has been supporting Gabon in the preparation and submission of its first forest conservation targets, called Forest Reference level

COUNTRY TIMELINE	Joint first Biennial Update Report (BUR) /3rd National Communication (2021) Forest Reference level (2021)
MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2020	Support on national legislation on climate change Support in the development of the Greenhouse Gas inventory (Quality assurance for the Forest Reference Emissions Level/Forest Reference Level)

(FREL/FRL). The preparation of the FREL/FRL required the collection of new land use and land use change data to ensure a full and consistent time series that would provide an accurate report.

In addition, Gabon is currently building a legal framework under the new Climate Change law. The new regulatory framework is set to modify existing legislation on environmental protection to better adapt to the new reality created by the Paris Agreement. This law will consider requirements under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism and provide guidance on how the country will implement future climate policies to reduce its emissions in coming years. Support has been provided by CfRN to Gabon national experts on the

draft law. The country will undergo a further round of comments before finalizing the process. In addition, CfRN support is aimed at ensuring any new legislation or modification of existing legislation is in line with the REDD+ Measuring, Reporting and Verification requirements under the UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism and the Paris Agreement.

The country is also preparing a joint report for the first Biennial Update Report and third National Communication. This joint report will contain the GHG inventory, in which the AFOLU sector will be fully consistent with the FREL/FRL. Submission of this report is planned for 2021.

To learn more about Belize submissions to UNFCCC REDD+, check out **REDD+ Hub**

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African forest elephant grazing in the dense forest in Gabon at Loango National Park ▶
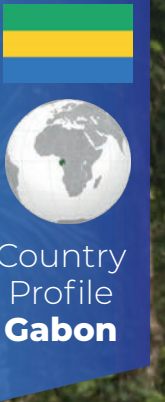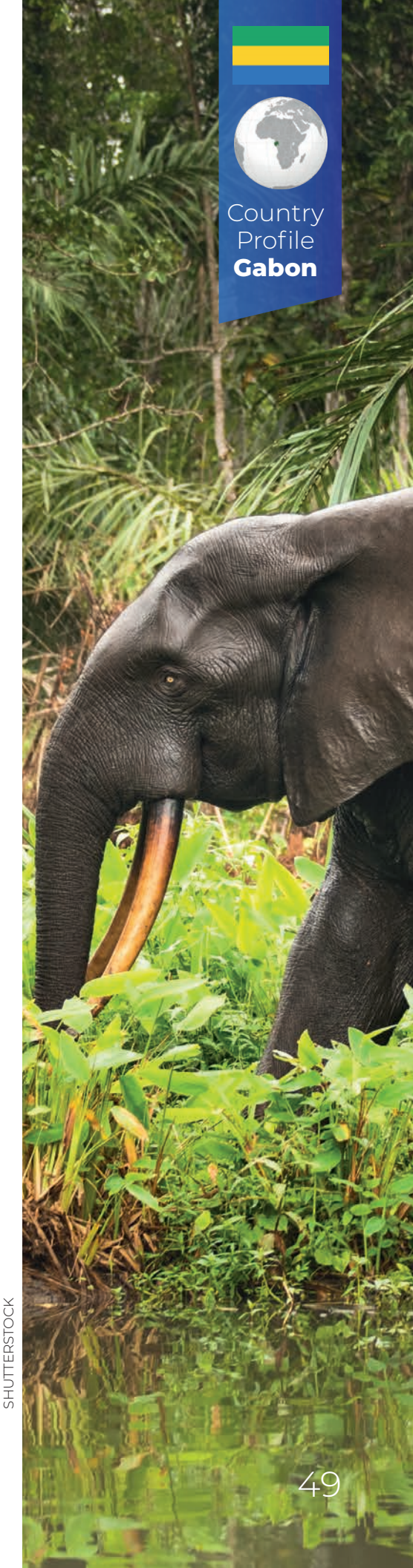
Mission to Nairobi, Kenya, February, 2020. Capacity building on GHG inventory in the transport sector organized by UNEP for African experts.

In the picture experts from: Morocco, South Africa, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Janvier(Gabon)

Celebrating our People

"I get to do what I love. I educate people and provide them with the tools to adapt and become more resilient to climate change."

Mission in Douala, Cameroon. It focused on the validation of the COMIFAC forest inventory guidance prepared by JIACA.

Capacity building on GHG inventory in the transport sector organized by UNEP for African experts, In the picture trainers from GiZ with one participant from Zambia and Janvier

A Conversation with *Janvier Kevin Ndong Nzogho,* National GHG inventory coordinator of Gabon

Janvier Kevin Ndong Nzogho is the national coordinator of Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GHGi) at Gabon government's advisory body on climate change, the National Climate Council (CNC). This is his 5th year in his current role and the second year with the council. He helps Gabon gather data and submit climate reports to the UNFCCC, so that Gabon follows the Paris Agreement. Here he talks about the importance of his work, and his experience working with CfRN

What do you do?

As the national coordinator of Greenhouse Gas Inventories, I have many duties. I develop critically important climate reports about Gabon's greenhouse gas emission levels and climate strategies to UNFCCC. I also lead on the national methodology for greenhouse gas inventories and develop and monitor Gabon's national inventory system and the database. The database provides all national data and information for the reports to be submitted to the Paris Agreement. Finally, I am also the technical focal point between the national teams developing Gabon's Forest Reference Level and all communications with UNFCCC.

Visit of an agricultural experimentation site in the North of Gabon for the count of Green Future International. ▼

What do you love most about your job?

I love my job because I enjoy learning new things, facing new challenges, and meeting people. The most satisfying thing about my job is that I get to do what I love. I educate people and provide them with the tools to adapt and become more resilient to climate change.

What brought you into this line of work? How did you get into the position?

My passion for the environment. As a child, I loved learning about the environment, especially growing plants. In the last year of school, I decided to go into agriculture, and studied rural sociology and climate change. After my studies, I worked as a consultant for the General Directorate of the Environment in the Ministry of Forests. My focus was on greenhouse gas inventories for agriculture.

What is the effect that climate change is having on your country?

Climate change is affecting Gabon's climate. We no longer know when the dry season or rainy season will arrive. Over the past ten years the seasons have become highly erratic and

"Climate change is affecting Gabon's climate. We no longer know when the dry season or rainy season will arrive."

unpredictable, especially in the provinces of Ogooué (Port-Gentil,) the Estuary (Libreville), and Woleu-Ntem (Bitam) which are the regions I visit the most often.

Why should people care about tropical rainforests?

Tropical rainforests play a big role in the balancing the global climate through their carbon sequestration. They also provide essential natural services to humans, like purifying water, and provide habitats for wildlife and plants. Personally, forests provide me with a sense of tranquillity, peace of mind, and promote a healthy well-being. The more we devastate the forests, the more we will lose the benefits that forests and their ecosystems offer us.

What was your first mission?

I have been on several field missions, but the one that sticks in my mind the most was a forest project in the town of Lastourville. The purpose of the mission was to calculate the carbon stock of the forest concession for the National Climate Council. For me, it was the first time that I had had

to do allometric equations. I learned the theory during my studies, and the mission allowed me to put theory into practice.

What is the impact of your job?

Many young people are still unaware of the opportunities that climate and sustainable development offer. At the CNC, we train university students and educate staff from government institutions and agencies. The training includes knowledge-sharing and technology, like using software to calculate greenhouse gas inventories. Currently, we are in the process of carrying out a six-month climate modelling course for students and other stakeholders.

What challenges do you face in doing your job?

In Gabon, we do not have enough climate change experts to do the work. In many cases, we have to re-train people from other fields, and try to raise awareness about the urgency of climate change.

What would you say to a new country that was thinking about working with CfRN for the first time?

Personally, I find CfRN very effective, especially in terms of the speed and efficiency with which they complete their work. I would highly recommend them to any organization, especially, those facing a tight deadline for submission to the UNFCCC. I would also say that CfRN is very well-organized.

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CfRN Statement of Financial Position 2020

ASSETS	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
Cash	416,899	1,366,197
Contributions receivable	990,357	1,050,932
Grants receivable	1,439,083	–
Other receivables	–	–
Due from related party	23,952	23,952
Restricted assets – grants	–	–
Advances – travel	20,500	–
Property and equipment, net	4,152	2,476
Security deposits	88,251	88,251
Intangible asset	70,000	–
Investments	1,771,544	–
Total Assets	$ 4,824,738	$ 2,531,808

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	12/31/2020	12/31/2019
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	209,848	392,934
Payments	1,999	11,136
Accrued payroll liabilities	1,490	22,940
Deferred rent	14,637	14,637
Deferred grant revenue	–	37,170
Restricted liabilities – grants	–	–
Total Current Liabilities	$ 227,974	$ 478,817

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	12/31/2020	% of total revenue	12/31/2019	% of total revenue
Grant Revenue	1,555,907	30%	2,449,327	58%
Contribution Revenue	3,321,798	63%	1,785,342	42%
Other revenue	149,416	3%	–	–
Investment income	222,128	4%	–	–
Total Support and Revenue	$ 5,249,249	100%	$ 4,234,669	100%

EXPENSES	12/31/2020	% of total revenue	12/31/2019	% of total revenue
Program	2,401,403	85%	2,133,338	86%
Management and General	430,805	15%	346,559	14%
Total Expenses	$ 2,832,208		$ 2,479,897	100%

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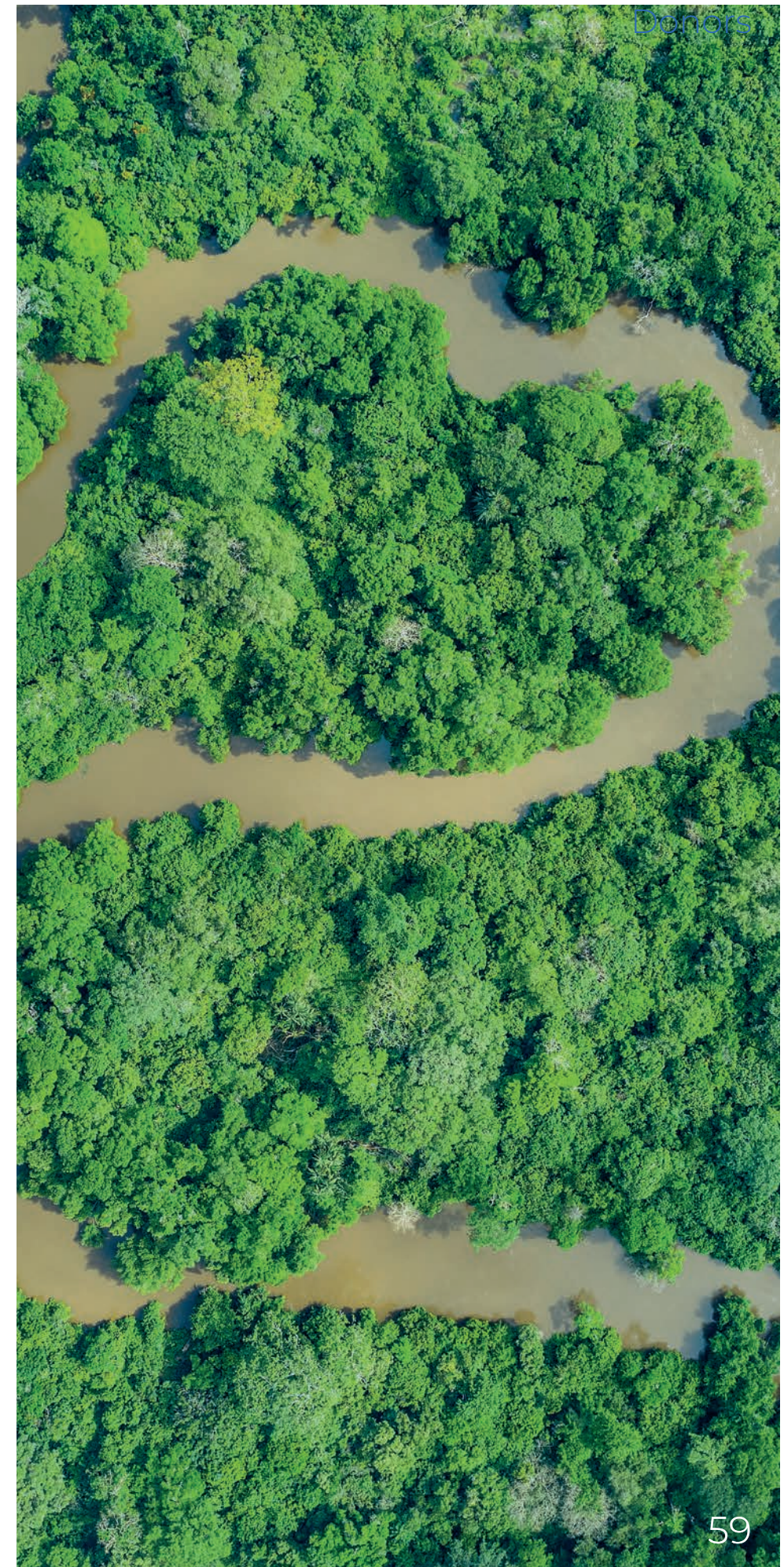
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