



WWF

NEWS

ISSUE 2

2016

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE

CANOPY

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM WWF'S INTERNATIONAL FOREST AND CLIMATE TEAM

Strong Action Agenda needed to support climate ambition

By Josefina Braña Varela and Karen Petersen, WWF Forest and Climate

On April 22, Earth Day, 175 countries signed the Paris Agreement, and 15 countries ratified it, moving the world closer to a more cooperative global climate agenda. The signing of the Paris Agreement is an important moment for reflection. The agreement itself is a remarkable demonstration of global collaboration and compromise, and the aspirations it contains provide a good foundation for the transformative work that lies ahead. What has been accomplished to date is a critical step, providing hope and a necessary anchor of commitment to confront climate change.

Of course, this moment of reflection cannot be a moment of repose. Even collectively, the national commitments outlined in Paris barely take us half way to limiting the global temperature increase to well under 2°C. In that scenario, if all conditional targets are met, a global temperature rise of at least 3°C is predicted, unless we act now to increase ambition.

In addition to transformational actions to phase out fossil fuels, forests must play a key role in our efforts to close the



© Fitz Polking / WWF

emissions gap. Indeed, it will be impossible to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C without addressing emissions from forests and repositioning them as global carbon sinks, in keeping with the environmental integrity of the climate regime. The formal inclusion of forests within the Agreement underscores the need for all parties to take action in the forest sector. We believe that action needs to start now.

It is encouraging that many countries have already indicated their intent to reduce emissions in the forest sector within their national commitments through a wide range of activities.

Yet, reaching the full potential of the forest sector will require countries to set even more ambitious targets. They will also need to think more holistically about how they are going to fulfil those ambitions, by identifying goals that encompass the entire land sector and cross-sectoral interventions.

The successful implementation of existing forest sector targets will also depend on a substantial increase in investments from donors.

.....
CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
.....



WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE
CANOPY
 NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM WWF'S GLOBAL FOREST AND CLIMATE TEAM

CONTACT US

- / wwf
- / wwfforestcarbon
- / forestclimate@wwf.panda.org

Why we are here
 WWF Forest and Climate works to ensure that the conservation of tropical forests as carbon stores is secured by green economic development that benefits people, the climate and biodiversity in transformational ways.
www.panda.org/forestclimate

MEDIA

VIDEO

 **Listening to the Forest in Panama. UN-REDD Programme Active Listening Process**
 During 2014 and 2015 Panama carried out an "active listening" process with key stakeholders on the situation of the forest and the challenges to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation looking at the participatory construction of Panama's National REDD+ Strategy. The dialogue included several key stakeholder groups; including a specific channel for women. This video shows the voices and opinions of women from indigenous, afro-descendant and campesino communities of Panama.

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/Wc2f4Nj7SWo>



FEATURE
STRONG ACTION AGENDA NEEDED TO SUPPORT CLIMATE AMBITION 1

IN THIS ISSUE

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|--|----|
| FOREST AND CLIMATE NEWS | 3 | REDD+ CAPACITY BUILDING | |
| RECENT PUBLICATIONS | 4 | CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY | 6 |
| REDD+ VIEWPOINTS | 14 | SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES | 6 |
| SPECIES HIGHLIGHT: | | WWF CLIMATE CROWD | 6 |
| FRAILAJONES | 15 | ARTICLES | |
| UPCOMING EVENTS | 16 | FOREST MONITORING STRONG DETERRENT TO ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION | 8 |
| REDD+ PEOPLE | | ADVANCING REDD+ IN PRACTICE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING | 9 |
| INTERVIEW WITH KAREN PETERSEN | 10 | PANDAS IN THE WILD | 11 |
| ANNOUNCEMENT | | | |
| CHANGING COMMUNICATION CHANNELS..... | 7 | | |

CANOPY IS ALSO AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY VIA EMAIL.
SUBSCRIBE AT: bit.ly/CNPY-nws

 **Advances in Participatory Process to develop Costa Rica's REDD+ National Strategy**
 This video developed by the Costa Rica's Forest Financing Fund (FONAFIFO) describes the steps, key stakeholders involved, challenges and lessons learned during the participatory process carried out in the country for the creation its National REDD+ Strategy.

WATCH: https://youtu.be/uXnM_vmLx8

 **GECCO Gender & REDD+**
 Every day in their roles as farmers, foresters, fishers, caretakers, and household providers, women use and manage natural resources. Not only does women's equitable participation and representation in REDD+ uphold commitments to women's empowerment and gender equality, it also makes for better development, more effective and efficient climate change solutions, and stronger sustainability and livelihood outcomes. This video highlights the importance of gender in REDD+ efforts.

WATCH: <http://bit.ly/1TKIGKG>

INFOGRAPHICS

Paris Agreement Tracker on the CAIT Climate Data Explorer
 World Resource Institute's CAIT Climate Data Explorer has expanded to include a tracker for Paris Agreement signers and ratifiers, as well as a global emissions calculator based on the latter.

EXPLORE: <http://cait.wri.org/indc/#/ratification>

WWF's Asks for Bonn Intercessional
 What we should do to stay on track from Paris to Marrakech.

DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1WtSEUQ>

FOREST AND CLIMATE NEWS

FORESTS: UNLIKELY HERO OF THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

WWF Forests - Despite their low-tech appearance, forests have some pretty sophisticated operating systems – and if you think you'd be lost without your smartphone, try to imagine a world without forests. Oxygen production, carbon sequestration, a stable climate, rainfall, water purification, provision of timber, fibres, food, fuel and medicines... let's see Siri do all that.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1QBdg4G>

FINANCING A SUSTAINABLE FOREST FUTURE

WWF Forests - A WWF report last year showed that international banks and investors recognize the need to integrate environmental, social and governance issues in their lending and investing practices, and recognize the issues of deforestation and climate change. But the industry – particularly local and regional banks – has a long way to go to “do more good,” rather than simply doing less harm.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1LUQeut>

EU MUST PUT CASCADING USE OF WOOD AT THE HEART OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE BIOENERGY STRATEGY

WWF and Mondi – Using wood more efficiently to meet projected demand for wood-based products in Europe should be at the heart of the European Commission's bioenergy strategy and circular economy, according to a new report.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/2376efk>

WWF LAUNCHES FOREST SOLUTIONS PLATFORM

WWF Forests - Forests are under pressure. We need innovative solutions and urgent action to ensure that they continue to provide critical ecosystem services while meeting the growing demands of humanity. The solutions are amongst us. This platform is designed to create a space for dialogue, learning and sharing different viewpoints so that we can co-create solutions together.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1VT0Hu6>

COLOMBIA IS BETTING ON LEGAL TIMBER

WWF Colombia - Although more than half of the total area of Colombia is covered by natural forests (58.6 million hectares), the loss of natural forest areas is considered an important problem in the country. Illegal timber has an impact on the degradation of forests, and, according to IDEAM, illegal logging in Colombia generates the loss of 140 thousand hectares per year, similar to the size of Bogotá area.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/243Pzz0>

INNOVATIVE SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS SHARED FOR BETTERMENT OF THE PALM OIL INDUSTRY

WWF Indonesia - Stopping deforestation and planting on peat soils, capturing methane during effluent treatment, stopping slash and burn practice by farmers were some of the key solutions discussed during ICOPE 2016.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1SKKvad>

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW FOR CLIMATE ACTION: SPECIFICS, DIRECTION AND SCALE

WWF International – Climate negotiators will have to give substance to important elements of the new global deal on climate change if they want to deliver on their promise to try to keep warming under 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures. The meeting in Bonn, Germany is the first opportunity for governments to add content to key elements of the climate agreement since its adoption in Paris last year.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1VSLWXX>

WWF PROPOSES WAYS TO BOOST THE BRAZILIAN FOREST CODE

WWF Forests - Brazil is not only one of the largest agribusiness producers and exporters in the world, but also contains an extraordinary natural patrimony that is fundamental for the globe in light of our changing climate. This makes Brazil's agricultural and forestry production a natural focus for international consumers, who are ever more attentive to these sectors' environmental impacts.

MORE: <http://bit.ly/1VCNg0P>

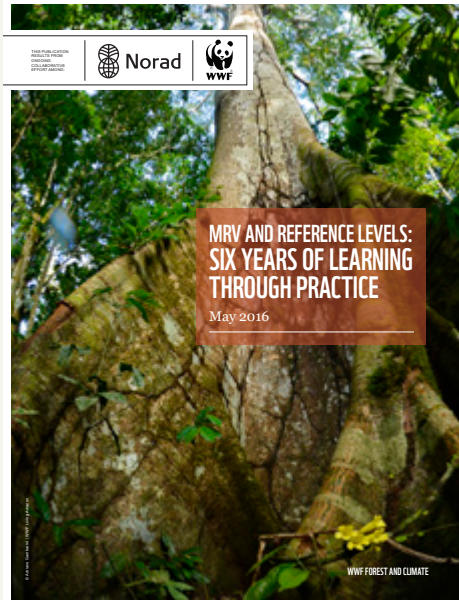
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The community of REDD+ practitioners and experts from around the world grows every day, and WWF's global Forest and Climate team is working to ensure that the capacity-building and informational materials it produces are available to a diverse audience.

MRV AND REFERENCE LEVELS: SIX YEARS OF LEARNING THROUGH PRACTICE

Delivering Reference Emissions Levels (REL) has been a learning by doing experience in which no country (including donor countries) had prior experience of the whole process. WWF carried out a reflective exercise with country teams and government partners, to shed light on major challenges and accomplishments, elaborate advice on good practices and identify gaps, within the context of a learning by doing experience.

.....
DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1TRwuYo>



WWF FOREST SECTOR TRANSFORMATION FY15 ANNUAL REVIEW

In recent months, forests were elevated on the global agenda through their inclusion in the Paris Climate Deal and the endorsement of an ambitious and comprehensive forest target in the Sustainable Development Goals. Now more than ever, the forest sector has the opportunity to play a central role in the transition to a greener, more inclusive, “one planet” economy.

.....
DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1SQqB0x>

SIGNIFICANT STORIES: DESIGNING GREEN DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONGO BASIN

Supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, this Forest and Climate Significant Story details the participatory design of a model — an Emissions Reductions Program Document, or ERPD — for green development in the Mai Ndombe Province of the DRC. The ERPD represents a critical first step for the implementation of a national REDD+ strategy in the DRC, and a key test of climate action on the African continent.

.....
DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1ordiG4>

PATTERNS OF TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FOREST LOSS ACROSS A GLOBAL NETWORK OF IMPORTANT SITES FOR BIODIVERSITY

The contribution that remotely sensed satellite imagery could make to biodiversity monitoring is widely recognized, but remains largely unfulfilled at regional and global scales. Here, the authors use a publicly accessible global dataset to quantify forest loss during 2000–2012 across the world’s 7279 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) that support forest bird species, and examine correlates of forest loss.

.....
DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1NUh8hp>



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The community of REDD+ practitioners and experts from around the world grows every day, and WWF's global Forest and Climate team is working to ensure that the capacity-building and informational materials it produces are available to a diverse audience.

EFFECTS OF CONSERVATION POLICY ON CHINA'S FOREST RECOVERY

As part of biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation efforts, many countries, including China, have been implementing large-scale policies to conserve and restore forests. However, little is known about the effectiveness of these policies, and information on China's forest dynamics at the national level has mainly relied on official statistics.

.....
 DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1QBdrgs>

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) AND BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS

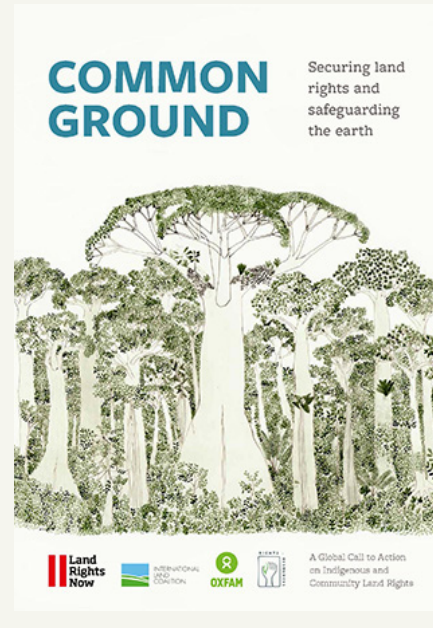
The inclusion of sustainable forest management (SFM) as part of the activities considered under REDD+ has given additional relevance to the question of how to assess the sustainability of SFM practices at large scale. The results we present may be of relevance for countries considering SFM as part of their REDD+ activities and when in need to report on e.g. biodiversity safeguards.

.....
 DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1SMEoiQ>

COMMON GROUND: SECURING LAND RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDING THE EARTH

Up to 2.5 billion people depend on indigenous and community lands, which make up over 50 percent of the land on the planet; they legally own just one-fifth. There is growing evidence of the vital role played by full legal ownership of land by indigenous peoples and local communities in preserving cultural diversity and in combating poverty and hunger, political instability and climate change.

.....
 DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1T5hYt3>



TOWARD QUANTIFICATION OF THE IMPACT OF 21ST-CENTURY DEFORESTATION ON THE EXTINCTION RISK OF TERRESTRIAL VERTEBRATES

Using an open-access 30 m resolution map of tree cover and its change between 2000 and 2012, the extent of forest cover and loss within the distributions of 11,186 forest-dependent amphibians, birds and mammals worldwide was assessed. The analyses illustrate the utility of satellite imagery for global extinction risk assessment and measurement of progress towards international environmental agreement targets.

.....
 DOWNLOAD: <http://bit.ly/1UhJEJC>

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE DISCUSSION PAPER SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) AND BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS

2016

- We assess forest structural heterogeneity and its change via remote sensing.
- We perform biodiversity surveys of 3 fauna groups and vegetation.
- We model composition dissimilarities based on structure and logging intensity.
- We model species richness based on structure dynamics and logging intensity.
- We propose structure dynamics as proxy for assessing management impact on biodiversity at large scale.

Preparation of this discussion paper was led by the WWF Forest and Climate team. Its intention is to provide ideas and suggestions for consideration by interested organizations.
 It does not represent a policy position of WWF.

REDD+ CAPACITY BUILDING

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE LEARNING SESSIONS ARE FREE AND ARE DESIGNED TO LEVERAGE AND SHARE REDD+ KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE. EVERY MONTH, WE INVITE EXPERTS TO PRESENT ON A KEY ISSUE SO THAT REDD+ PRACTITIONERS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THE LATEST INFORMATION RELEVANT TO REDD+.

To watch an archived learning lesson or to register for an upcoming webinar, please visit: bit.ly/REDDlearn.

CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

TNC has developed a practical methodology – known as RIL-C – for measuring and verifying GHG emissions reductions achieved through reduced impact logging practices. Pilot studies have shown that RIL-C can reduce emissions by 20-50 per cent. In this learning session, Gijs Breukink of WWF and Bronson Griscom of TNC will explain the methodology and the strategic importance of climate smart forestry, and how reduced impact logging can help attain climate pledges.

WATCH: <http://bit.ly/20Pbo3u>

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

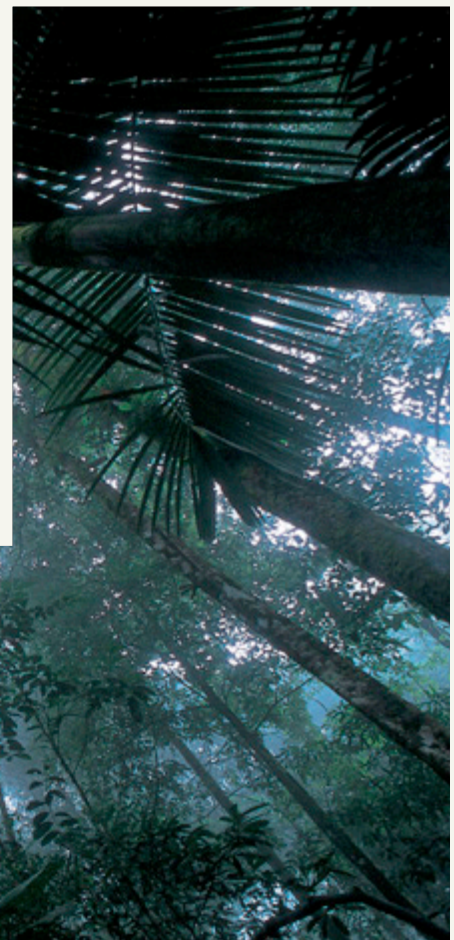
In this learning session, Nienke Stam, of IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative, and Paul Chatterton, of WWF, will explain the findings of the “Little Sustainable Landscapes Book,” which was launched in Paris during COP21, as a jumping off point to explore the topic of sustainable landscapes more broadly. Sustainable management of landscapes is a local and global necessity – but few landscapes around the world are being effectively managed to balance the competing demands of today, let alone those likely to emerge tomorrow.

WATCH: <http://bit.ly/1o8SrGV>

WWF CLIMATE CROWD

Indigenous, local and traditional knowledge systems could be a very useful tool for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing efforts. WWF Climate Crowd is a new initiative to crowdsource information on how these communities are responding and how their responses impact biodiversity. In this learning session, Dr. Nikhil Advani, of WWF will introduce the database and explain its goals and functions.

WATCH: <http://bit.ly/1WqiBEH>



ANNOUNCEMENT

Changing communication channels



© PETER KOOMEN / WWF

In order to keep in better contact with our community in a fast-moving communications environment, WWF's Forest and Climate team will be making some changes to the methods we use to maintain connections and information flows in the next few months. We hope these changes allow you better access to information and easier channels for keeping in touch.

As always, you'll be able to find the most up-to-date information on our [website](#) and our [twitter feed](#), and can email us at forestclimate@wwfus.org with questions.

CANOPY

Forest and Climate's newsletter will be transitioning to an April/October publication schedule. Focusing on two issues per year will allow us to give exciting updates on the progress of our projects across the WWF network, and we'll stay connected with you on a more frequent basis through an augmented REDD+ Digest. This weekly email will expand to include some monthly features that you've come to anticipate in your quarterly Canopy – interviews with

REDD practitioners, species highlights, stories from the field, and upcoming event announcements. Make sure you're subscribed to continue to receive the most recent developments in forest and climate.

REDD+ COMMUNITY WEBSITE

After several years of holding the space for community engagement through the [REDD+ Community pages](#), Forest and Climate will be retiring the website on June 1 and moving the conversation over to the community's twitter account, [@REDDCommunity](#). Since social media is already a source of news, information, and dialogue for so many of us, it seems a more natural fit than the stand-alone site. This also means the website will no longer be sending out weekly emails, so make sure you subscribe to the REDD+ Digest. You can also email us at forestclimate@wwfus.org, if there is an aspect of the community you think is important to the way you receive information and engage with other practitioners. We want to make sure we are making the communications process simpler and

more direct, and your feedback can help us do that better.

REDD+ DIGEST

Our weekly email resource round-up will be getting a monthly injection of Canopy content, and will still feature news and publications from the broader forest and climate community. We're also going to start sending the Digest earlier in the week, so you can be fully informed before the weekend.

FOREST AND CLIMATE YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Our YouTube channel will continue to host archive recordings of our monthly webinar series! If you haven't found your way there yet, it's a great place to enrich your REDD+ knowledge.

STAY CONNECTED:

- [Subscribe to the REDD+ Digest](#) to have news and reports delivered weekly to your inbox
- Follow us on Twitter – [@WWFForestCarbon](#) – for updates every week day
- Join the REDD+ Community conversation by following and tweeting at [@REDDCommunity](#)
- Visit our [YouTube channel](#) for our complete archive of our webinar series
- Email forestclimate@wwfus.org with suggestions for how we can better engage with you

FOREST MONITORING STRONG DETERRENT TO ILLEGAL DEFORESTATION

By Emelin Gasparrini, WWF Forest and Climate

Serving as yet another example, recent news out of Paraguay illustrates how regular forest monitoring not only detects, but can also potentially be a strong preventative measure against illegal deforestation.

In March, WWF-Paraguay reported the deforestation of 240 hectares of Atlantic Forest in lands that belong to the indigenous Aché people. These rapid changes were detected by two technical experts who conduct regular visual analysis of satellite images, supported by tools from Global Forest Watch. Over a period of four months, approximately 120,000 trees in small, two hectare plots within the 4,700 ha Kue Tuwy community were illegally felled, opening the land for charcoal production and marijuana crops for export to neighbouring countries. These groups are highly organized, and actively protect their crops with armed guards.

According to Oscar Rodas, WWF-Paraguay's Climate Change Manager, a team of forest field monitors had been unable to physically visit the community due to security concerns for six months prior to the discovery. The Aché are part



© MOISES BERTONI FOUNDATION

of a pilot project for participatory forest management, so losing access to a group of external forest field monitors removes a crucial level of support they need to protect their forests from illegal deforestation; presenting a clear example of the inherent connections between human security and environmental protection.

The Aché maintained their traditional nomadic hunting and gathering lifestyle well into the twentieth century, but were resettled onto reservations in the 1970s, only awarded official recognition of and renewed access to their territory in 2000. As such, communities like Kue Tuwy have few resources to protect themselves from armed plot keepers. Active, on-the-ground forest monitoring therefore safeguards their right to maintain the aspects of their traditional lifestyle that survived resettlement, as well as protecting their forests from destruction and degradation.

“Levels of deforestation are very sensitive to the actions and reactions of the

government, here,” says Rodas. “For example, during a four month government transition in 2008, deforestation hit a record high.” That high receded after the transition, once the new government took office and enforcement of environmental law returned to normal levels.

Worryingly, small-plot deforestation is a growing trend in Paraguay, where fertile soils support many crops and surrounding forests act as cover to prevent detection. The Atlantic Forest is second only to the Amazon in terms of biodiversity concentration levels, and the Kue Tuwy community is located along an important bio-corridor. The ecosystem is so important that Itaipú Binacional, the hydropower giant, has been working with WWF-Paraguay to conserve 74,000 ha of Atlantic Forest in the areas where they operate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

ADVANCING REDD+ IN PRACTICE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING

By Maria Fernanda Jaramillo and Emelin Gasparini, WWF Forest and Climate

As an evolving mechanism, REDD+ has grown over the years through trial and error, as people try to put together the complex puzzle pieces that make up this forest and climate work. As we feel our way through the process, it is so important to assess the effectiveness of our actions, to ensure we are maximizing the positive impacts of our work.

However, rushed agendas often leave little time for donors and practitioners to reflect on their REDD+ efforts. Setting aside time and resources for this is rarely included in work plans or budgets. In many cases, work has been done in silos, and the lessons learned from real world efforts have not been shared in a way that helps us take into account real time events or permits us to deliver a “new way to do things.”

The concept of lessons learned is especially useful in a dynamic field like REDD+, where most practitioners – including WWF – are learning by doing. We can learn from efforts that worked as well as those that didn’t. Lessons learned can be used as recommendations for those who want to develop a similar process, or for the same team that has been developing the practice under scrutiny.

We must dedicate resources, both financial and human, to accounting for what we learn each step of the way and how it can help us better navigate the road ahead. Finding ways to help practitioners and donors do this in a more cost effective manner is fundamental to identifying the best practices and to enact the ‘adaptive management’ about which we so often speak.

WWF’s Forest and Climate team endeavours to contribute to that new way to do things through our Knowledge Sharing and Learning (KSL) program, which fosters coordination across the geographies where we work and shares lessons learned with the wider REDD+ community. KSL efforts seek to empower local teams to understand and build the skills to identify, capture, and share lessons learned that promote successful REDD+ initiatives. The KSL team works with, not for, the local teams. Its role is to facilitate the learning process through methodological support and adequate tools that each team can use to fit its unique context and needs.

However, it’s not simply a transfer of information about what others have learned or done; it is the opportunity to reflect collectively on the experience or project that can make the biggest impact.

.....
CONTINUED ON PAGE13
.....



© PAVEL MARTARENA

REDD+ PEOPLE

HARNESSING THE FACTS



COURTESY: PAUL WINTERS

We spoke to **Karen Petersen** from WWF Forest and Climate about her work in research and policy.

What is your role at WWF? What are you currently working on?

I am a program officer on the Forest and Climate team, and my primary focus is to provide research support on topics pertinent to forests and climate policy, especially issues related to REDD+. Among other research tasks, I'm currently working to inform more people about the importance of the INDCs and to create more concrete links between the INDCs and WWF's work. I am also supporting efforts to create a jurisdictional-level analysis to advance reduced deforestation commodity production and improved forest governance.

How did you become interested in conservation work?

My interest in conservation dates to my childhood. Growing up I spent a lot of time outside, camping and hiking, and I come from a conservation-minded family. I am also from the Midwestern US, where most of the natural habitat has been converted almost entirely to corn and soy production. I think that my interest in conservation work is fundamentally linked to knowing that the natural landscape where I grew up has been irreversibly altered. This has given me an acute interest in approaching environmental issues very holistically, to address the actual drivers of land use change.

My interest in conservation was also heavily influenced by the time I spent working as an environmental Peace Corps volunteer in Peru and Honduras. In both countries I worked with farming communities in the buffer zones of protected areas, learning first-hand about many of the issues affecting global forests and forest-dependent communities. My work in these countries has been extremely influential in the work I am doing now with WWF.

What is the most exciting thing you've worked on during your time at WWF?

As dry as it sounds, I really enjoyed analysing and writing a report on the forest sector within the INDCs. It was fascinating to get a glimpse of what developing countries are planning to do to combat climate change. There is a lot of potential work countries can do together moving forward to increase ambition and also to create mutually beneficial relationships for conservation, which I think is exciting. While the main purpose of the INDCs is to identify climate change mitigation strategies, many of the potential mitigation activities in the forest sector could also benefit things like biodiversity and sustainable development.

As you were analysing the INDCs, did you notice any trends in what countries are planning?

One of the things we evaluated was the type of targets that countries set within their INDCs. We found that reforestation targets were by far the most common, followed by targets to maintain and increase forest cover and to expand the distribution of improved cook stoves. The trend we observed within the INDCs suggests that there is a need for more countries to include additional targets focused on the protection and

sustainable management of intact forests. There is also a need to improve the ability to measure the climate mitigation potential of things like agroforestry and reduced-impact logging, which could encourage more countries to set targets related to those activities.

What do you think is the biggest obstacle to be overcome in terms of global climate policy?

Climate change is such a multi-faceted problem, that it's difficult to narrow it down to just one obstacle. I would say that one of the biggest hurdles is mobilizing sufficient climate finance from developed countries in order to successfully implement policies like REDD+. The Paris Agreement is a great step in the right direction, so hopefully it will become a strong foundation for donor and developing countries to work together. However, I think another major obstacle will be reigning in emissions from things that are either not included within the Paris Agreement, like aviation emissions, or that are extremely difficult to influence, like lifestyle choices.

PANDAS IN THE WILD

In March, two members of the Forest and Climate team were invited by the Environmental Science Program at George Mason University to give a special seminar for their graduate students on REDD+ as a means to advance broader conservation agendas.

Josefina Braña Varela, Senior Director, and Kristina Van Dexter, Senior Specialist, gave a comprehensive presentation on REDD+, covering a range of topics from the international through the community level:

- The conceptual development of REDD+ through the establishment of the Warsaw Framework to the Paris Agreement;
- How REDD+ is being developed at the national level in the countries where we work, along with some of the key

challenges encountered and the need to promote REDD+ from an integrated land management approach;

- Country specific examples of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, private sector engagement, and community approaches.

After the presentation, Josefina and Kristina fielded follow-up questions from students on the implementation of REDD+ and the role of local communities.

Collaboration with universities is an important aspect of WWF's forest and climate work, in terms of project implementation, and scientific and educational advancement. As an organization that bases its work on applied sciences, we strive to be a link between the academic realm and practitioners all over the world. Through our wide network of academic institutions and community organizations, WWF connects the best science to the most recent data and developments on the ground in order to facilitate smarter and more just conservation strategies.



PHOTO OF, AND COURTESY BY: JOSEFINA BRAÑA VARELA



PHOTO OF, AND COURTESY BY: KRISTINA VAN DEXTER

BY WEHWALT (OWN WORK) [CC BY 4.0 (HTTP://CREATIVECOMMONS.ORG/LICENSING/4.0)] / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Similarly, the private sector must support these efforts with investments in deforestation-free supply chains, sustainable forest management, and reforestation and restoration efforts. As illustrated by commitments announced under the New York Declaration on Forests, and more recently during COP21, the private sector is becoming an increasingly willing partner in those efforts to transition to a deforestation free world.

In Paris, countries agreed on collective goals and adopted an agreement that seeks high ambition, but the pathway to get there is uncertain. We need to connect all of those in the forefront of climate action, to better move towards the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

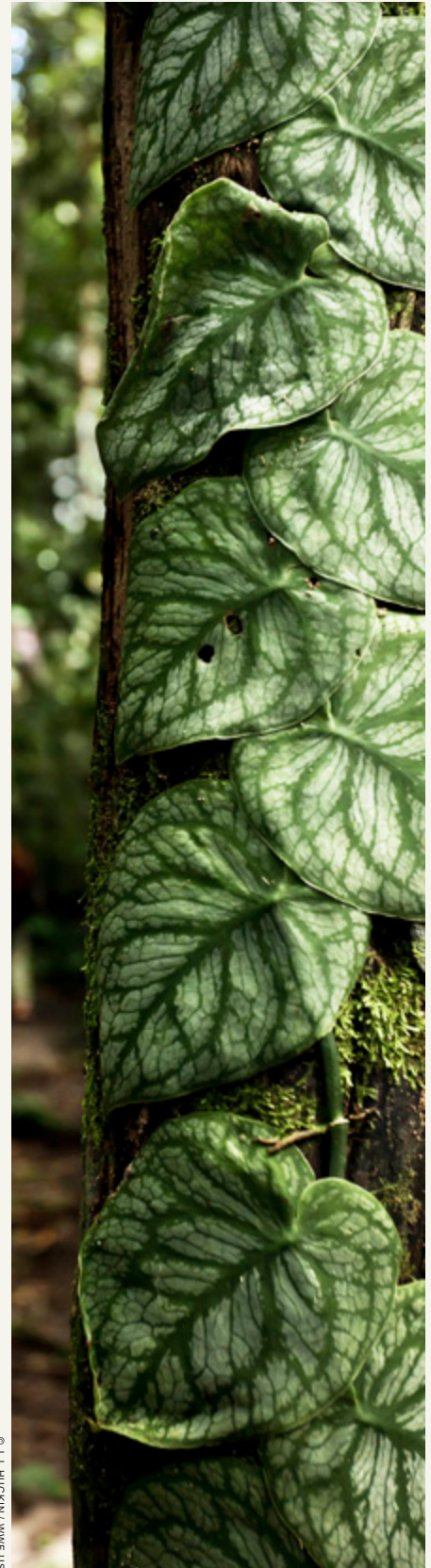
These connections need to be made through the Action Agenda, so it becomes a vehicle to catalyse the collaboration between developed and developing countries, and state and non-state actors. In the face of global climate change, efforts must not be made in isolation but in concert, to allow us to amplify our impact. We need to find ways to incentivize governments to do more, and to remove barriers to accomplishing the highest possible ambition. Given the joint actions of donor and forest countries, and the more recent engagement of the private sector in deforestation-free pledges, REDD+ constitutes a sound and important example of how these collaborative partnerships can work.

Discussions concerning the engagement of non-state actors in the implementation of the new climate regime and the continuation of the Action Agenda are already underway. In the margins of the signing of the Paris Agreement in New York, during a high-level meeting regarding the Action

Agenda, participants identified forests and land as a priority area as countries move forward in building the new climate regime, along with energy and finance. These discussions have also identified the need to magnify the engagement from multiple stakeholders across sectors, establish criteria to ensure we are promoting the gold standard of climate action – big, transformative, accountable, inclusive, and science based actions – and create a system that allows us to assess and track progress to understand if our actions are making the difference or not.

Any measure of success coming out of Paris will be dependent upon immediately increasing action in the forest sector, but forests cannot be an excuse for inaction in other sectors. Bolstering pre-2020 climate action is imperative for preventing the worst impacts of climate change and is the only way to achieve a least-cost scenario.

Once 55 countries representing 55% of emissions have signed and ratified the Agreement, it can enter into force – even before 2020. Speedy realization of the Paris Agreement would be a powerful symbol of the need to expedite ambitious climate action. But we cannot wait to act. Whenever it enters into force, the Paris Agreement should not preclude additional swift and increasingly ambitious climate action, but instead serves as a reminder of the work that is yet to be done and that must begin now.



© J.L. HIXSON / FTI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

This is a challenge that cannot be tackled with one single project. However, the human, logistical and financial resources provided by one project can be a great starting point to catalyse action throughout an entire organization. When the knowledge sharing process becomes part of the organizational cycle in the same way that monitoring and evaluation processes already are, the organization and its efforts will be more effective.

We can't, and shouldn't, wait until the end of a grant to reflect on what we've learned. We endeavour to contribute to a community-wide culture of learning by publishing our [Inspiring Practices](#), holding a monthly webinar series, and sharing news and developments from across the community through emails and social media. Building that greater community of learning will help us all make our interventions more effective, and link our work to global trends and innovations.



© PAUL BETTINGS / WWF-CANADA

DID YOU KNOW?

5 Tips for MRV From MRV and Reference Levels: Six Years of Learning through Practice

- It's all about transparency:** Transparency is the cornerstone of the MRV process – no matter what the uncertainty levels, methods used, or proposed approaches, full transparency is essential for honest deals to be brokered. Transparency is the only way honest and constructive assessment is possible for parties to come to reasonable agreements. Only through transparency will safeguards be upheld.
- MRV is a national endeavour:** Compartmentalizing the MRV process can generate a scenario in which incompatibilities among datasets and processes could be cause for major disputes. Ideally, unique National MRV systems with frameworks that allow for the participation of the national community, independent of ethnicity or type, will be established. Sound strategies aimed at building a critical mass of enabled MRV users are essential to accomplish such a goal.
- Sustainability is paramount:** Capacity building needs to focus on sustainability, as opposed to delivery of results or products. The best capacity building strategies are those that are long term oriented, designed in-house, and seek to strengthen internal knowledge of management procedures, methodologies, and processes. Over-dependence on consultants to deliver results, instead of providing training, undermines the long-term sustainability of any MRV process.
- Reference levels are a data informed political decision:** No matter the technical aspects of a reference level, it is a political decision. Once historical emissions data are delivered, the way the data are used is a political choice that incorporates other datasets, assumptions, timelines and criteria that countries use to define their reference levels. Reference levels should answer to country circumstances *while maintaining climate integrity*.
- We are all learning how to do verification:** The verification process is a learning experience for all involved stakeholders (verifiers, countries, etc.), so it is important to incorporate an iterative process for improvement. Verifiers need to learn from REDD+ countries at the same time as they provide positive constructive feedback and suggestions to deal with issues in need of fixing.

VIEWPOINTS

On Cooperation

“COLLECTIVE ACTION IS KEY. FORESTS WON’T BE SAVED IF ONE COMPANY QUITS FOREST CLEARING AND ANOTHER STEPS IN TO TAKE ITS PLACE.”

– Rod Taylor, Director of WWF’s Global Forest Programme

On Non-Carbon Benefits

“FORESTS ARE NOT JUST ABOUT TREES AND BIODIVERSITY, IT’S OUR IDENTITY, CULTURE, OUR LIVES.”

– Mina Setra, AMAN - The Indigenous Peoples’ Alliance of The Archipelago

On Rights

“WE HAVE TO INVEST IN AND EMPOWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO PROTECT OUR FORESTS.”

– Alec Baldwin

On International Agreements

“LET US BE CLEAR: WE ARE SEEING A RAPIDLY WARMING WORLD, WITH A DESTABILIZING CLIMATE. DECISIVE ACTION CAN GET US OFF THIS PATH, BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE.”

– Samantha Smith, Leader of WWF’s Global Climate and Energy Initiative

On Ambition

“WE MUST RAISE THE LEVEL OF AMBITION EVEN FURTHER. WE MUST TAKE URGENT AND BOLD STEPS TO MAKE THIS TRANSFORMATION HAPPEN.”

– Mogens Lyketoft, President of the UN General Assembly.

On Getting to Work

“TODAY, AS WE THINK OF THE HARD WORK AHEAD, I AM REMINDED OF NELSON MANDELA’S VERY SIMPLE WORDS: ‘IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT IS DONE.’ WHILE IT ISN’T DONE YET, TODAY WE ARE ON THE MARCH.”

– John Kerry, US Secretary of State.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The benefits of forest monitoring systems are diverse, and are felt on the ground as well as in the policy arena. They help us understand deforestation trends – like those in Paraguay – and to identify and characterize the drivers of forest loss to inform policy making and enforcement strategies. They produce information that can be analysed and used to raise awareness about the size of the problem. And, crucially, they help communities and governments understand the extent and status of their forests, and inform better decision making, forest management, and planning processes.

Satellite monitoring tracks destruction, and can prompt a response to destroy illegal crops, but is most effective at preventing illegal deforestation when complemented with on-the-ground programs and government action. And it can be strengthened further by empowering communities to get involved in the monitoring process. Forests are vital to a healthy climate, and are also hosts to numerous indigenous cultures and about 80% of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity. Forest monitoring is a clear way for governments to take action to protect the natural places that are so important to global climate health.



© MOISES BERTONI FOUNDATION

REDD+ SPECIES

FRAILEJONES

Common Name:

Frailejón, or Frailejones

Scientific Name:

Espletia (genus)

Location:

Primarily Colombia, Ecuador,
and Venezuela

Status:

Varies by species

Frailejones are found only in the páramos of the northern South American Andes.

Fire-resistant and adapted to low temperatures and high humidity, frailejones are distributed between 1,800 m elevation and the lower limit of the glaciers (4,700 m).

Many of the species are dominant in their local páramos, sometimes representing more than 40% of the plant cover. However, few are found in more than one páramo location due to the archipelagic nature of the ecosystem and unfavourable conditions below certain levels of elevation.

Most *Espeletiinae* species are of critical ecological importance because they contribute to regulating the hydrologic cycle, produce most of the biomass in these ecosystems, prevent soil erosion, and have key associations with more than 125 animal species. However, several species are at risk. In Colombia, 36 species are listed as threatened, 16 as endangered, and seven as critically endangered.

Much of the páramo has also been significantly altered by human activity, especially wood cutting and burning to promote better grazing. Altered rain patterns and rising temperatures due to climate change, which are often exacerbated by cyclical occurrences like El Niño, also put pressure on páramo ecosystems, pushing them into higher altitude levels or perilously drying them out.

Read more:

espeletia.org or journal.frontiersin.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 4, 2016

Washington, DC

DEFORESTATION FORUM: HOW BUSINESS CAN TACKLE DEFORESTATION

<http://bit.ly/1Tx8h9Q>

JUNE 8 - 10, 2016

Batumi, Georgia

8TH ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

<http://bit.ly/1TmmpzS>

JUNE 14 - 15, 2016

Oslo, Norway

OSLO REDD EXCHANGE 2016

<http://bit.ly/26v0vEm>

JUNE 28 - 30, 2016

Kigali, Rwanda

AFRICA CARBON FORUM - 2016

<http://bit.ly/1ruPdA2>

JULY 4 - 8, 2016

Acre, Brazil

NGP STUDY TOUR

<http://bit.ly/1VCLg8O>

Photos and graphics © WWF or used with permission.
Text available under a Creative Commons licence.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>www.panda.org/forestclimate</p> |
|---|--|

© WWF Registered Trademark Owner © 1986, WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), Gland, Switzerland