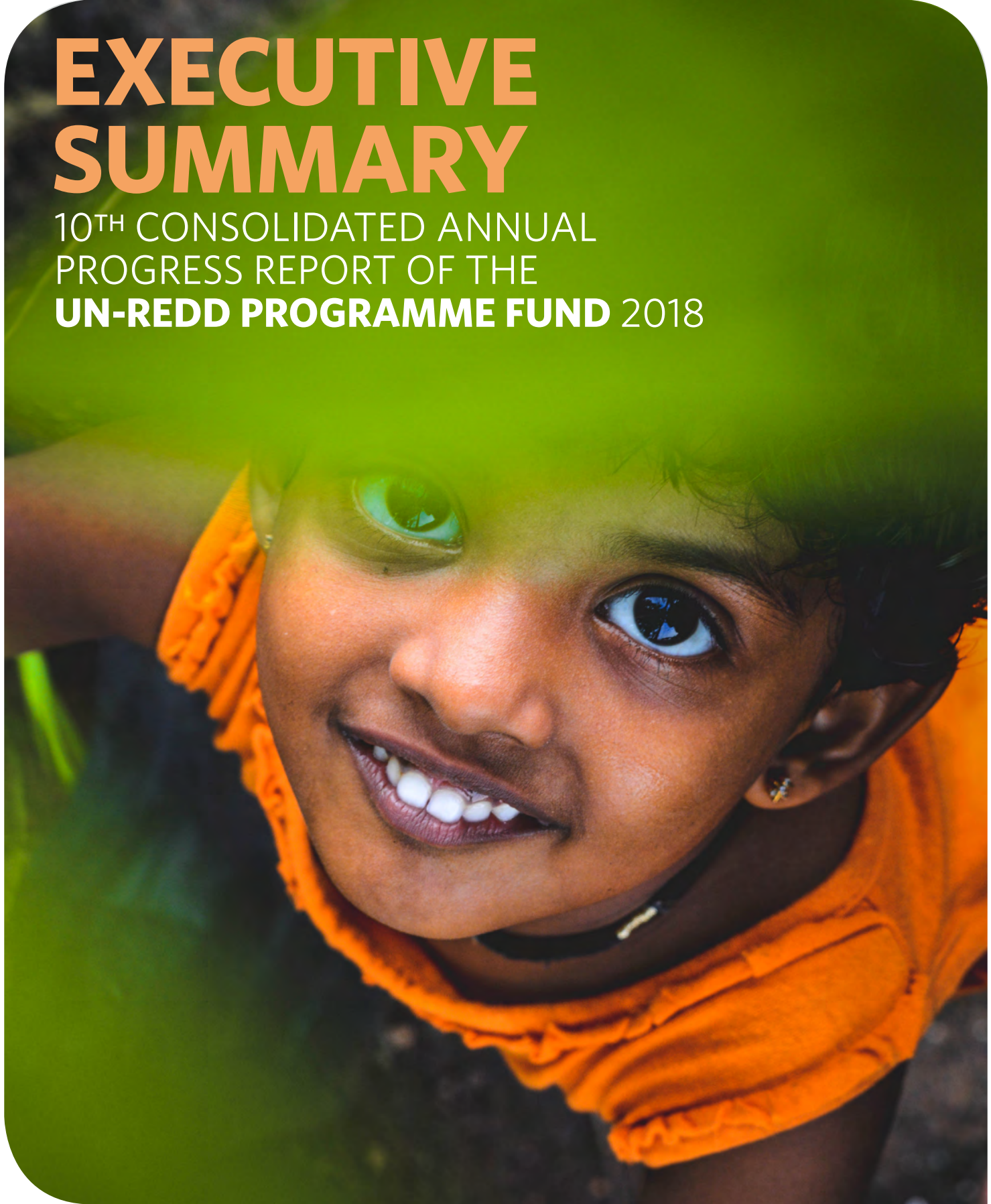


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

10TH CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT OF THE
UN-REDD PROGRAMME FUND 2018



UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Empowered People
Sustainable Solutions



The 2018 Annual Report presents the results of the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) between January and December 2018, in the context of the considerable cumulative accomplishments of its partner countries over the past decade, since the programme's launch in 2008. With partner countries making progress on REDD+ readiness, the UN-REDD Programme has increasingly focused on responding to country demands and needs for technical assistance in implementing REDD+ and supporting commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. As of December 2018, the UN-REDD Programme had enabled 65 partner countries across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to make significant progress on REDD+ readiness and implementation.

As a key focus in 2018, the programme continued assisting partner countries in their efforts to complete the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

– a requirement for results-based payments. Adopted in 2013, the framework outlines four areas of REDD+ readiness: National REDD+ Strategies or Action Plans (NS/APs), National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), Forest Reference Emission Levels/Forest Reference Levels (FRELs/FRLs) and Safeguards and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS). With advisory support from UN-REDD, alongside its partners, Colombia completed its National REDD+ Strategy, *Bosques Territorios de Vida*, which also fed into the country's new national development plan. Additional highlights from 2018 include the Republic of the Congo developing its first methodology to determine and map forest degradation, and Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia producing Africa's first summaries of information through consultative multi-stakeholder processes. In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme also helped Mexico, Viet Nam, the Republic of the Congo and Zambia prepare investment plans to enable the financing and implementation of their REDD+ strategies or action plans. With UN-REDD support,

Argentina produced [audiovisuals](#) for the general public to share the main areas of its recently completed National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change, submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) REDD+ Info Hub in December 2018. In Indonesia, UN-REDD played a catalytic role beyond formal workplan activities, supporting work on forests and peatlands linked to the Global Peatlands Initiative, prompting national actions and working to highlight lessons from Indonesia while facilitating South-South knowledge exchange and collaboration among Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo and Peru. These achievements, among others, are outlined in further detail in the report.

Throughout the year, 19 partner countries received customized UN-REDD programme support through national programmes and technical assistance for REDD+ implementation. In addition to 10 national programmes, the UN-REDD Programme started implementing

Partner Countries of the UN-REDD Programme



Thailand joined UN-REDD as partner country in 2018. In addition, support to Cook Islands, Gambia, Kribati, Marshall Islands, Niger, Palau, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tuvalu.

its multi-annual 2018–2020 Technical Assistance to REDD+ Implementation project in nine countries and through six knowledge management areas.

UN-REDD knowledge management support complements its country-level work and is critical to achieving the four pillars of the Warsaw Framework and the goal of REDD+ implementation. The following are some highlights of the programme's knowledge management work. The UN-REDD Programme's knowledge on forest tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples was a catalyst for change in the REDD+ arena in 2018. For example, in Viet Nam, a High-level Ethnic Minority Development Forum was convened for the first time in August 2018 and attended by the Deputy Prime Minister, who recognized the need for specific policy and investment approaches to forest lands and communities of ethnic minorities. As a result of continued support from UN-REDD for a forest and gender knowledge dialogue within the framework of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a collaboration proposal between UN-REDD and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) was discussed, with the aim of launching activities in 2019. In Myanmar, UN-REDD provided expert knowledge and best practice to encourage dialogue on forest conservation and sustainable development with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) that dwell in and control large forest areas. With continued UN-REDD support, Ecuador's forerunner REDD+ programme, PROAmazonía, which has US\$ 62 million in financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), has provisions to ensure that indigenous peoples participate in at least 60 per cent of the programme actions. To support REDD+ countries in undertaking spatial analyses, the UN-REDD Programme has this year developed four new [GIS tutorials](#) (on wind erosion, fire, landslide vulnerability and multiple benefits), which were tested in country working sessions.

In 2018, the UN-REDD Programme's global work on financing and the private sector enabled a new blended finance fund – AGRI3 Fund – to be set up by Ra-

bobank and UN Environment, in association with the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The AGRI3 Fund is intended as a vehicle for ultimately directing US\$ 1 billion in deforestation-free loans to companies and projects in developing countries in order to help countries meet their REDD+ objectives under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The UN-REDD Programme has also been granted formal observer status in the ongoing negotiations in the forthcoming aviation market Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA).

In 2018, UN-REDD furthered synergies and supported the inclusion and enhancement of forest and land-use action as a vital “nature-based solution” towards achieving NDCs and advancing the broader Sustainable Development Agenda. In support of and in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) NDC Support Programme, UN-REDD helped pilot integrated support for NDC implementation, with a focus on Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ecuador, providing country-level stakeholders with inputs and guidance on how to integrate forests into NDCs.

UN-REDD also consolidated its knowledge and technical assistance stream on REDD+ funding mechanisms to help countries organize, mobilize, sequence, channel, coordinate and monitor finance for REDD+ actions. Technical assistance also facilitated Brazil and Ecuador in designing and submitting their first results-based payment proposals on REDD+ to the GCF – scheduled for official submission in 2019. These are the very first programmes to recognize and reward REDD+ implementation under UNFCCC rules, and are likely to have a catalysing effect on other countries advancing their REDD+ processes towards implementation.

Building on its achievements in previous years, in 2018 the programme continued to support 16 countries in advancing the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment principles

into nationally led REDD+ action, at both the national and subnational levels. Steady progress is being made to build our internal capacity for applying a [Gender Marker Rating System](#) to assess and monitor the gender responsiveness of the 2018–2020 Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation Programme.

The policy and institutional support that UN-REDD provides through national programmes, technical advice and knowledge dissemination is helping countries advance their sustainable development agendas, across the spectrum of the Sustainable Development Goals.