**Upcoming initiative: a REDD+ Sourcebook for graduate curriculum**

UNEP’s Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) in collaboration with UN-REDD are developing a REDD+ sourcebook called *Forests in a changing climate*, a tool that will facilitate the integration of REDD+ concepts and approaches into multi-disciplinary higher education programmes.

The objectives of this forthcoming initiative are:

* To provide guidance on curriculum development and integration of REDD+ concepts and methods into relevant postgraduate programmes in Universities, building in particular on UN-REDD’s body of knowledge and experience in developing countries.
* To facilitate the access of universities to REDD+ materials available in UN-REDD in particular that may be useful to their postgraduate programmes in related fields such as forestry, agro-forestry, climate change, environmental science, public policy, economics, etc.
* To engage university networks as strategic platforms and centres of excellence for mainstreaming REDD+ education, research, development and outreach to a large numbers of actors, and to build, through university education systems, a professional capacity and leadership needed for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

EETU brings its experience in producing sourcebooks on environmental and sustainability issues and a wide network of Universities in developing countries (in particular many UN-REDD pilot countries) for the realization and uptake of this sourcebook.

Conceived as a tool for university professors and students to aid in curriculum development and education in universities, the sourcebook will be structured around a series of exemplar modules covering the different aspects of REDD+. This will give university professors and students coming from different academic disciplines (forestry, public policy, environmental science, economics, legal studies, agronomy, etc.) a great degree of flexibility and creativity in the way they approach this topic. The sourcebook will also be a useful resources for disseminating knowledge on REDD+ in UN-REDD pilot countries (through, for instance, the summer “REDD+ universities” piloted in DRC and Nigeria).

The sourcebook will comprise between 10 and 15 modules ranging, for instance, from the issue of causes of deforestation and forest degradation to REDD+ safeguards and issues related to the costs of REDD+. A tentative list of 12 modules has been established and is now open for discussion (see attached document for the list of proposed modules with expected learning outcomes). When possible, the sourcebook will build on, and refer to, existing training materials and resources available on REDD+ (e.g. CIFOR products; FAO specific training materials on MRV) while drawing on the unique body of knowledge and experience accumulated in the UN-REDD Programme, in particular through its work in pilot countries.

Each module (3 to 8 pages) will be structured around the following sections: (1) fundamental issues, (2) tools and methodologies, (3) case studies, (4) promising research issues and (5) a list of references.

EETU/UNEP is therefore welcoming your views and comments on this upcoming initiative, and we also encourage those who would like to engage at different stages in the development of the sourcebook content (for a specific module for instance) to get in touch with us. Terms of reference for a consultant to develop the sourcebook content are enclosed and we are looking for recommendations on suitable candidates (by 16 July 2012). Please send reactions to this blog to EETU [chris.magero@unep.org](mailto:chris.magero@unep.org) and UNEP [DEPI.intern78@unep.org](mailto:DEPI.intern78@unep.org). We will be enriching this blog as the project advances.