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Forests in a Changing Climate:
A Sourcebook for Integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes

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This publication should be referenced as follows:

UNEP (2014) Forests in a Changing Climate: A Sourcebook for Integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

Design/layout/printing

Picture Editor: Suzannah Goss

Design and Layout: Jennifer Odallo/UNON

Cover Design: Catherine Kimeu/UNON

Printing: UNON Publishing Services Section – ISO 14001:2004-certified

Cover photos ©: (Above) Primary forest in Gede Pangrango, Indonesia – Ricky Martin/CIFOR
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ISBN number: 978-92-807-3392-1

Job number: DEP/1807/NA

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

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Foreword

Tackling the issues of climate change requires a wide array of expertise and innovative ideas as well as an understanding of both the policy elements and the scientific facts related to the most challenging phenomenon of our time. Despite the overwhelming attention to climate change, it is still a relatively new field of study and it is constantly evolving based on the latest scientific findings, international agreements, national commitments and the realities on the ground.

One important element of the climate change mitigation discussions is the role of forests and specifically the internationally-agreed activities for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation while promoting conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). REDD+ encapsulates many of the challenges and opportunities for addressing climate change and the need for increasing expertise in order to do so. For REDD+ programmes to be successfully devised in countries, technical understanding is needed on carbon accounting, national forest inventories, spatial planning and biodiversity. In addition, there is a need for addressing environmental governance, cross-sectorial policies and legal reforms, and stakeholder participation. Some elements are very specific to REDD+ such as the social and environmental safeguards outlined in the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (2010), and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ implementation (2013), while others are about a larger paradigm shift in national development strategies, which is not limited to REDD+ or forests but rather address issues related to the transition to an inclusive Green Economy.

This sourcebook is designed to give an overview of the key topics related to forests and climate change, under the overarching and evolving REDD+ narrative; with the purpose of facilitating the integration of this new knowledge domain into academic programmes. The sourcebook provides detailed references for further study in each module, and can be used comprehensively or with a focus on a specific topic of interest or relevance for the course of study.

From a pedagogical point of view, *Forests in a Changing Climate* is aimed at university professors and graduate students from different academic disciplines (forestry, public policy, environmental science, economics, etc.) interested in teaching a course or conducting a lecture on REDD+. The content of the book is largely based on the knowledge generated by the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme). Members of UNEP's Global Universities Partnership on Environment and