

Knowledge Session
Designing and Mainstreaming Equitable REDD+ Benefit Sharing Schemes:
Country experiences from Ghana, Mexico and Peru

September Thursday 29th, 2:45 – 4:15 pm
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Participants' Assembly Meeting
Accra, Ghana

Hosted by the IUCN Global Forest Programme

I. Session Summary

Session Importance

Benefit sharing mechanisms are relevant to this Participants Committee and Assembly of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. The R-Package self-assessments which will be presented during the Participants Committee inform on progress from each country on benefit sharing mechanisms. **Nepal**'s presentation includes actions that are addressing previous recommendations related to integrating benefit sharing approaches into the new federal structure; Nepal is currently designing a fair benefit-sharing proposal which will be finalized and implemented in the future as part of their ERP. **Ghana**, which will be presenting in this knowledge session's panel, does a thorough mention of the design of benefit sharing systems, and the plans to finalize and operationalize them in the ERP. **Republic of Congo** is currently developing mechanisms for sharing multiple benefits of REDD+ based on the results of studies which will be complemented by further consultations. **Chile** has also developed land tenure benefit and sharing studies and they are putting in place a Benefit Distribution System. **Vietnam** has piloted benefit-sharing projects in the six pilot provinces of UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase II which included a thorough consultation process with communities; the country acknowledge the need to determine the best application of the existing legal framework applicable to benefit sharing and PES.

Midterm progress reports also address progress on benefit sharing mechanisms. **Cambodia** acknowledges that 'the success of REDD+ in achieving effectiveness, efficiency and equity will depend greatly on the design and implementation of its benefit sharing mechanisms that will operate across multiple levels of governance'. **Nicaragua**'s midterm report explains its plans to build a participatory and inclusive mechanism to ensure transparency in the benefit-sharing mechanism. **Madagascar** will continue with the work of Identifying in a participatory and consultative manner the benefit sharing mechanism.

Session Objective

To share knowledge, experiences and lessons, as well as generate understanding and perspectives on how Ghana, Mexico and Peru are making progress and contributions towards meeting one of key objectives of the FCPF which is *'To pilot a performance-based payment system for Emission Reductions generated from REDD activities, with a view to ensuring equitable benefit sharing and promoting future large scale positive incentives for REDD'*.

More specifically and building on the work that IUCN has been doing in collaboration with governmental agencies and NGOs in three countries including the Forest Commission of Ghana, the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) of Mexico,

and Conservation International and the Ministry of Environment in Peru, this knowledge session will showcase Ghana, Mexico and Peru are approaching and addressing the complexity of designing and mainstreaming equitable and pro-poor oriented benefit sharing and incentive frameworks as mechanisms to catalyse long-term action of forest-dependent communities to reducing deforestation and forest degradation, this within a sustainable livelihood framework of action.

At the end of the session, participants will:

- Have shared experiences, lessons and outcomes from processes for building and mainstreaming livelihood enhancing incentives and benefits for REDD+;
- In that context, awareness of the ways to engage communities and landscape stakeholders in long-term action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

Panelists:

- ❖ Ms. Roselyn Adjei, National REDD+ Secretariat, Ghana
- ❖ Fabiola Navarrete, CONAFOR, Mexico
- ❖ Kenneth Peralta Narío, MINAM, Peru
- ❖ Saadia Bobtoya, IUCN Ghana Office
- ❖ George Akwah, REDD+ Programme Officer, IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme

Moderator: IUCN

II. Structure of the session

The session is an armchair panel discussion, which will be moderated by IUCN. Discussions will also cover cross-cutting dimensions pertinent to benefit sharing and incentives, including gender mainstreaming, multi-stakeholder platforms, empowering and engaging indigenous people, and facilitating the focus of REDD+ discourse on equity and poverty considerations.

The event will start with interventions from Mexico, Ghana, and Peru representatives who will give an overview of the context, focus of the benefit sharing debate and design process in their respective countries (see *Guiding Note for Question 1* in the following section). A facilitated discussion will then follow with two additional rounds of questions, with focus on country vision, experiences, lessons and perspectives with regards to REDD+ benefit sharing design. In the middle of the second half of the session and before the wrap-up final interventions (item 8), an open discussion/exchange between the panel and attendants will ensue.

The session will close with concluding remarks from the panellists and 'take home' messages.

Breakdown of the session:

1. Moderator opens the event – 2 mins
 - o Welcome and event introduction
 - o Introduction of panellists
2. First round of questions - 15 mins, 5 mins per panellist, 3 panellists
(See Guiding Question 1 and Guiding Note for Question 1 in next section)
General presentation from countries - Focus on context, status, progress and challenges with the design and deployment REDD+ benefit and incentive schemes in Ghana, Mexico and Peru.

3. Second round of facilitated panel questions - 15 mins, 3 mins per answer plus 3 mins of moderator's comments. 4 panellists
(Please see Guiding Questions 2 in next section)
The moderator will prompt each country panellist to give an overview of and reflection on how cross-cutting issues such as equity, community rights and livelihood, gender and Indigenous People, etc. are approached and solved in the benefit sharing design process
4. Presentation – 10 mins
Overview of IUCN and partners experience with and contribution to the design and mainstreaming of equitable and pro-poor oriented REDD+ benefit and incentive schemes in support of REDD+ strategies in Ghana, Mexico and Peru, (10 minutes)
5. Open floor to questions from the audience – 12 mins
6. Third round of facilitated panel questions - 15 mins, 3 mins per answer plus 3 mins of moderator's comments. 4 panellists
(See Guiding Questions below 3)
These questions will focus on the ongoing process and emerging policy and institutional mechanisms that each country is enabling to ensure effective delivery of benefits and incentives to communities and the poor
7. Open floor to questions from the audience – 12 mins
8. Final Reflections - 8 mins, 2 per panellist
Focusing on livelihood enhancing incentives for community engagement in reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Focus i) what is the take home message for the panellists; ii) each panellists perceived prospects benefit and incentive frameworks for REDD+ overall, and their country in particular.
9. Summary and closure of the session – 3 mins

III. Guiding Questions for Panel Discussion

1st Round of Questions: General for all three countries.

Guiding Question 1: What are the **Current Status** and the **Main Focus** of REDD+ benefit sharing design in your country's REDD+ strategy.

Guiding note for Question 1: It would be of great value of interventions of panellists under this question ALSO address the following dimensions:

- The focus of and key issues/challenges with the benefit sharing design process in your;
- The way ANY or EACH of the following cross-cutting issues are approached and addressed in the process to design benefit sharing in your country:
 - The definition, nature and scope of benefits in the country;
 - Tenure rights, poverty, and livelihood;
 - Equity;
 - Gender;
 - Indigenous people

2nd Round of Questions: Focused question by country

Focus on the EMERGING and AGREED policy and institutional mechanisms to clarify and secure community rights, and to guarantee that tangible multiple benefits will be channelled to communities. The topic that will be aimed to be covered is ‘What are the emerging and/or agreed options for equitable REDD+ benefit sharing in your country?’

Question 2.1 (Ghana):

- What are the main options for equitable and pro-poor benefit and incentive schemes under discussions presently in Ghana?
- What is the current status regarding final institutional decision making?

Question 2.2 (Mexico):

- What are the main options for equitable and pro-poor benefit and incentive schemes under discussions presently in Mexico?
- One of the outcomes of the collaboration with IUCN is the elaboration of an Action Plan for the materialization of the proposed legal reforms pertinent to benefit sharing. This Action Plan is based on two studies on i) options of benefit sharing schemes, and ii) identification of necessary reforms for a successful benefit sharing strategy. **Which are the necessary reforms identified by the Mexican government in order to ensure an adequate mechanisms of benefit sharing?**

Question 2.3 (Peru):

- What are the main options for equitable and pro-poor benefit and incentive schemes under discussions presently in Peru?
- The collaboration between IUCN, CI-Peru and the Government has enabled implementation of several activities under Conservation Agreements which i) takes into account communities' interests, ii) builds on the current legal framework applicable to benefit sharing schemes and iii) on the results of complementary studies that support the final choice of a benefit sharing option.
 - How has Peru been taking into account these types Conservation Agreements model for the design of benefit sharing schemes at the national level?

3rd Round questions: Focus on next steps and perspectives for deployment of equitable benefit sharing frameworks in the three countries

Ghana: What are the next/remaining steps and perspectives with Ghana's validation and institutionalization of adequate and equitable benefit sharing frameworks?

Mexico: What are the next steps to undertake in order to move forward with respect to the definition of the benefit sharing mechanisms in Mexico?

Peru: The San Martin region where the project was developed is the first region in the country where the safeguards process for REDD+ was developed. How the experience of the Shampuyacu community from the project contributed and informed that safeguards process?

