



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



WORLD BANK GROUP

Concept Note

Social Inclusion in REDD+ Processes:
Status and Achievements of 10 years' REDD+
Preparation and Implementation

2nd Weilburg Conference



1. Background and Rationale

Sustainability and social inclusion have always been at the forefront of the REDD+ agenda. The FCPF and BMZ, through GIZ and KfW, have been engaging with their recipient countries on issues of social inclusion and sustainability for over eight years through their REDD+ programs. The objective of these efforts has been to achieve the twin goals of sustainable landscape management and pro-poor rural economic and social development. It is with this aim that REDD+ countries have been working on approaches and tools to social inclusion, putting in place effective institutional management arrangements, legal and regulatory frameworks for REDD+ and accessible feedback grievance and redress mechanisms; addressing complex challenges related to land and resource tenure regimes, ensuring equitable benefit distribution, and most importantly establishing effective mechanism for addressing social and environmental risks.

In the last 10 years, REDD+ implementation has advanced significantly. Country governments and the international community put efforts in fostering the participation of Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dwellers (IP/LC), including women in these communities, and IP/LC as traditional stewards of natural forest areas have reinforced their engagement in REDD+ processes: countries have put in place institutional arrangements inclusive of IP/LCs and CSOs as part of that national REDD+ Technical bodies responsible for REDD+ decision making. It is recognized that the active participation of IP/LCs has been essential for many countries to formulate their REDD+ Strategies and get ready for results-based payments. These participatory processes and inclusive governance structures are essential to achieve good forest governance and thus make REDD+ more effective and its results sustainable in the long run. Yet, it is likely that even beyond the forest sector, the achievements made, lessons learned, and practices and relationships established in REDD+ processes have a lasting impact on the political standing of IP/LCs.

In September 2013, 90 people met in Weilburg Castle, Germany, over three days, to discuss what it takes to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in REDD+. Eight key messages and recommendations came out of this meeting. One of the conclusions was that REDD+ can be a catalyst for improved and inclusive dialogue and relationships between IP/LCs and national governments.

Following the conclusions of the first Weilburg conference and the experience gained over 10 years of REDD+ engagement, it is now essential to explore at the second Weilburg conference:

- i) how and to what extent countries have managed to address the issue of social and gender inclusion and environmental sustainability in REDD+ and what still needs to be done; and
- ii) what transformational effects REDD+ processes have had in terms of empowerment of IP/LC/ women and enhanced governance structures and practices in the REDD+ countries.





The Lessons: Country experiences in Readiness and ER programs

FCPF and BMZ engagement with social inclusion and sustainability issues begins early in the REDD+ Readiness process and extends through to the implementation phases. Countries have been engaged in approaches that involve:

- » establishing structures and platforms for inclusive, participatory processes that bring together multiple stakeholders and enable the views, needs, and interests of IP/LCs/women to the attention of national REDD+ authorities, triggering a dialogue on sustainable land use and REDD+ Strategies, R-PPs and ER Programs;
- » addressing the potential social and environmental risks and opportunities associated with the implementation of REDD+ projects, activities, and policies, through Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESAs) and Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMFs), other Risk Management Tools, analytical work and stakeholder participation;
- » elaborating effective and pro-poor benefit sharing arrangements;
- » putting in place grievance redress mechanisms that are effective, transparent and accessible to all stakeholders;
- » including the gender perspective, taking into account and documenting that women are change-agents and environmental managers who influence the development and deployment of sustainable solutions to forests conservation;
- » analyzing land and resource tenure regimes, looking at the national land tenure systems, identifying the regulatory and institutional frameworks for enhancing user and ownership rights to the land and resources of forest communities, notably indigenous peoples and women.

Many lessons can be drawn from this engagement; good practices as well as gaps and needs for enhancement can be identified in order to enhance learning and improve performance on social inclusion aspects in the REDD+ processes.



The Achievements: IP/LC Perspectives – the impact beyond REDD+

Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples, Forest Dwellers and women in these communities have been traditional stewards of natural forest areas, acting as change-agents on sustainable land use in REDD+ processes. Many IP organizations, CSOs, associations and cooperatives have seized new opportunities that REDD+ brought to engage in forest governance platforms, structures and processes that foremost were inexistent or inaccessible to them.

These mostly unprecedented and participatory processes have been challenging and far from perfect. However, at the same time, they have opened up new entry points for sharing perspectives and mutual understanding, and they enable opportunity for continuous learning, building capacities, assuming responsibility and leadership, dialogue and new forms of cooperation between IP/LC, women and government authorities.

IP/LC/gender CSOs can shed light on the impacts of REDD+ approaches and practices of social inclusion that might radiate beyond REDD+, focusing on the co-benefits of improved governance and empowerment of IP/LC representation, including:

- » recognition, hearing and understanding of IP/LC and gender-inclusive perspectives;
- » established structures and practices of dialogue that have built trust and led or could lead to a fruitful cooperation with government agencies;
- » empowerment through enhanced technical, organizational and political capacities and progress on gender equity;
- » understanding and acting upon the challenges and necessities regarding traditional land tenure regimes and claims.

Success stories, critical reflections and good practices can be identified, discussed and disseminated in order to celebrate milestones and inspire each other as well as other sectors.

2. Objective and Expected Outcomes

The overall goal of the conference is to bring together a representative group of IP/LC/CSOs, REDD+ countries and donors, to share knowledge and experiences on country specific examples of preparing and operationalizing the implementation of REDD+ from a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner. Government and CSO representatives will present and share their approaches to various issues including land tenure assessments, benefit sharing arrangements, grievance redress mechanisms, social and environmental risk management as well as cross-cutting issues such as stakeholder engagement, gender and poverty reduction. IP/LC/CSOs will give insights on their perspectives what REDD+ social inclusion instruments and practice have brought to them beyond a mere inclusion in REDD+ discussions, and country governments share their view on transformational processes and relevant policy and regulatory frameworks as well as institutional and management arrangements.

The expected outcomes include:

- » Enhanced knowledge among REDD+ countries on social inclusion aspects of the preparation and implementation of ER programs, including increased awareness about social and environmental risks;
- » Increased understanding of the impacts and radiant power of social inclusion in ER programs beyond REDD+;
- » A report/summary on practical guidelines, good practices and approaches to social inclusion and sustainability in ER programs and beyond.

3. Methodology

The event will be held in a participatory manner. A combination of participatory approaches such as group exercises, simulation games, panel discussions, presentations, etc. will be utilized to enhance learning and maximize interactive participation. Two experienced facilitators will be hired to work with the team in designing the methodologies to be used.

In order to enable peer-to-peer learning and ensure thematic relevance to all regions, inputs from REDD+ countries from all stages in readiness will be included in the program, covering experiences in the following thematic areas:

- » Social and Environmental Risk Management;
- » Land Rights and Land Tenure Assessment;
- » Benefit-sharing Mechanisms;
- » Grievance Redress Mechanisms;
- » Stakeholder Engagement;
- » Gender Inclusion;
- » Poverty Reduction.

IP/LC/CSO as well as government representatives will be delivering their experiences and views on progress, gaps and achievements in these thematic areas, enabling critical discussions and joint celebrations. Tools and guidelines to measure Good Forest Governance could be introduced in this context.

Choreography and methodologies will ensure that discussions spin towards a joint reflection on the achievements working on social inclusion somewhat abstracted from REDD+, which will stay and radiate beyond REDD+ horizons.

4. Target group

The active participants of this event will include approximately 70 individuals, plus around 20 participants from donor institutions and delivery partners; the list will be drawn from:

- » Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dwellers (IP/LC – Indigenous Peoples and local communities living in forests depending on forest resources for their livelihoods);
- » Organizations and individuals representing gender considerations in REDD;
- » FCPF REDD+ country government representatives;
- » Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including NGOs (i.e. civil society organizations or NGOs that have experience and expertise in REDD or represent interests that are likely to benefit from or be affected by REDD);
- » Delivery Partner Institutions of FCPF and other Partners.



Timing and Duration

The conference will be held on November 27-29, 2018 (two and a half days), arrival on 26 November, departure on late 29 or 30 November.

Venue

The Castle of Weilburg, Germany.

Working language

Working language is English; translation services will be available in French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Facilitation

A team of two facilitators will accompany the event in preparation and implementation phase:

Mr. Peter O'Hara and **Ms. Susanne Willner**

Organization

The event is jointly being organized by GIZ and FCPF. **Ute Sonntag** (ute.sonntag@giz.de, **GIZ**) and **Haddy JK. Sey** (hsey@worldbank.org, **WB/FCPF**) have assumed the co-leadership, in close coordination with their respective teams. For information on logistics, a logistics note will follow in due course.



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