



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Introduction: Consultation, Participation & Communication for REDD Readiness

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FMT

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Detailed presentation on C& P is available in workshop folders

Specific objectives:

- Establish a channel through which beneficiaries can access information and participate in the design and implementation of REDD activities
- Improve the quality of decision-making processes by giving voice to and capturing the experiences of civil society organizations, forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dweller communities
- Encourage the development of regulatory frameworks that are socially inclusive, transparent
- Strive towards equitable outcomes of REDD policies and activities, and increase the chances that forest-dependent IPs & other forest dwellers benefit from the revenues from REDD
- Support improvements in forest governance



Why Consultation and Participation?

500 million people directly depend on forest resources for their livelihoods

1.8 billion people (1.3 in the tropics) earn part of their sub-sistence from forests and trees

Forest plays an important role in reducing vulnerability of livelihoods



300 million people (including 100 million indigenous peoples) live within forest massifs

Forest can sequester carbon from the atmosphere helping to mitigate climate change

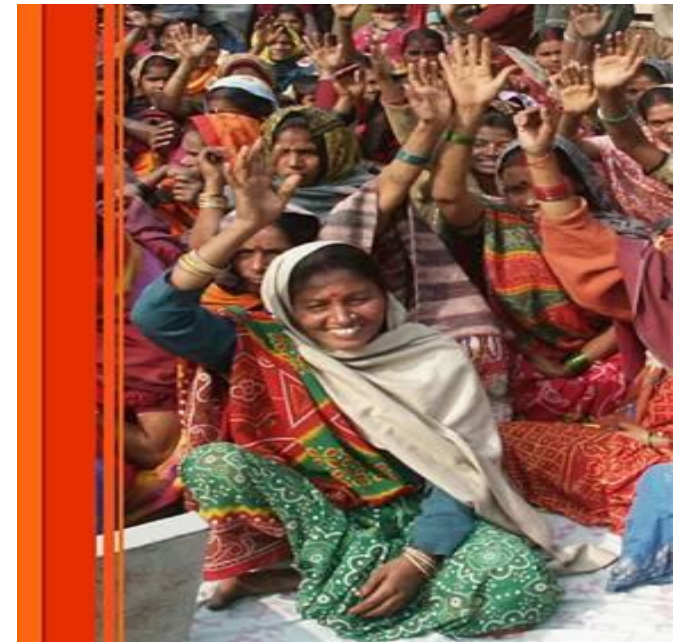
Up to 20% of the GHG come from deforestation and forest degradation in tropics/subtropics

Forests (biomass and soil) stock between 430-540 Pg of carbon. Maintaining these reservoirs is key

Forests hold 80% of global biodiversity

Why Consultation and Participation is Important for Forest Dependent IPs and other Forest Dwellers

- Historically stewards of the forest
- Indigenous knowledge systems
- Land tenure and carbon ownership
- Forest governance
- Equitable benefit sharing
- Need for sustainability



Benefits of Consultation and Participation?

- **Relevance:** Improving the validity and relevance of REDD+ readiness actions
- **Ownership:** Increasing ownership of the REDD+ strategy will increase chance of its acceptance and implementation
- **Accountability:** Improving forest governance, increasing accountability.
- **Relationships:** Constructively avoiding and managing conflicts, building new relationships



Spectrum of Consultation communication & Participation – all three stages are required at different stages in REDD+ readiness

Degree of participation

High



Low

Type of participation	Role of stakeholder
Full Engagement	Decision maker and key actor in formulating ideas and implementing them.
Consulting	To provide feedback on ideas.
Informing	To receive information through communication strategies.

Overarching Principles of Consultation & Participation



Consultations should:

- Facilitate **access to information**
- Facilitate **meaningful participation** at all levels
- Facilitate **dialogue, exchange of information and consensus building**
- Recognize diverse stakeholders and **strengthen the voice of vulnerable groups** - especially Indigenous Peoples and forest dwellers
- **Link to planning** and decision-making processes
- Allow stakeholders **access to grievance redress mechanisms**

Key considerations in Consultation and Participation Process

1. What is the overall goal of the consultative process?

- Share goals with stakeholders (short term and long term)
- Clearly state what the consultations are meant for. Consultations will not always result in consensus or solutions even though we are seeking for it

2. What is the purpose of a consultative session/meetings? Is it to..

- Inform stakeholders
- Receive feedback on specific option/s
- Get views on an issue
- Prioritize issues
- Others

Key considerations in Consultation and Participation Process

3. Always ask

- Are there stakeholders with common interests/ concerns?
- Look for commonalities
- In addition to other considerations, what may be a more cost effective consultative method?
- Who is best placed to facilitate consultations?

4. Check risk of over consultation as the process progresses

- Consultation fatigue can set in easily
- Risk of creating unfulfilled expectations



5. Consultative process can evolve over time

- Consultation and Participation plan is not set in stone
- It is a guide and should have the flexibility to adapt

Key considerations in Consultation and Participation Process

6. Maintain distinction between 'Consultation' and 'Communication'

- Generating awareness and dissemination of information is NOT 'Consultation' but 'Communication', YET
- Communication is critical for an effective consultative process
- Aim for strategic communications focusing on the development of two-way channels for enhanced stakeholder dialogue, reporting and transparency

7. Keep track of process, documentation

- Maintain notes/ minutes/ etc.
- Helps to avoid repetition
- Establish feedback loops



Key considerations in Consultation and Participation Process

8. Countries should seek to apply international good practice on C&P

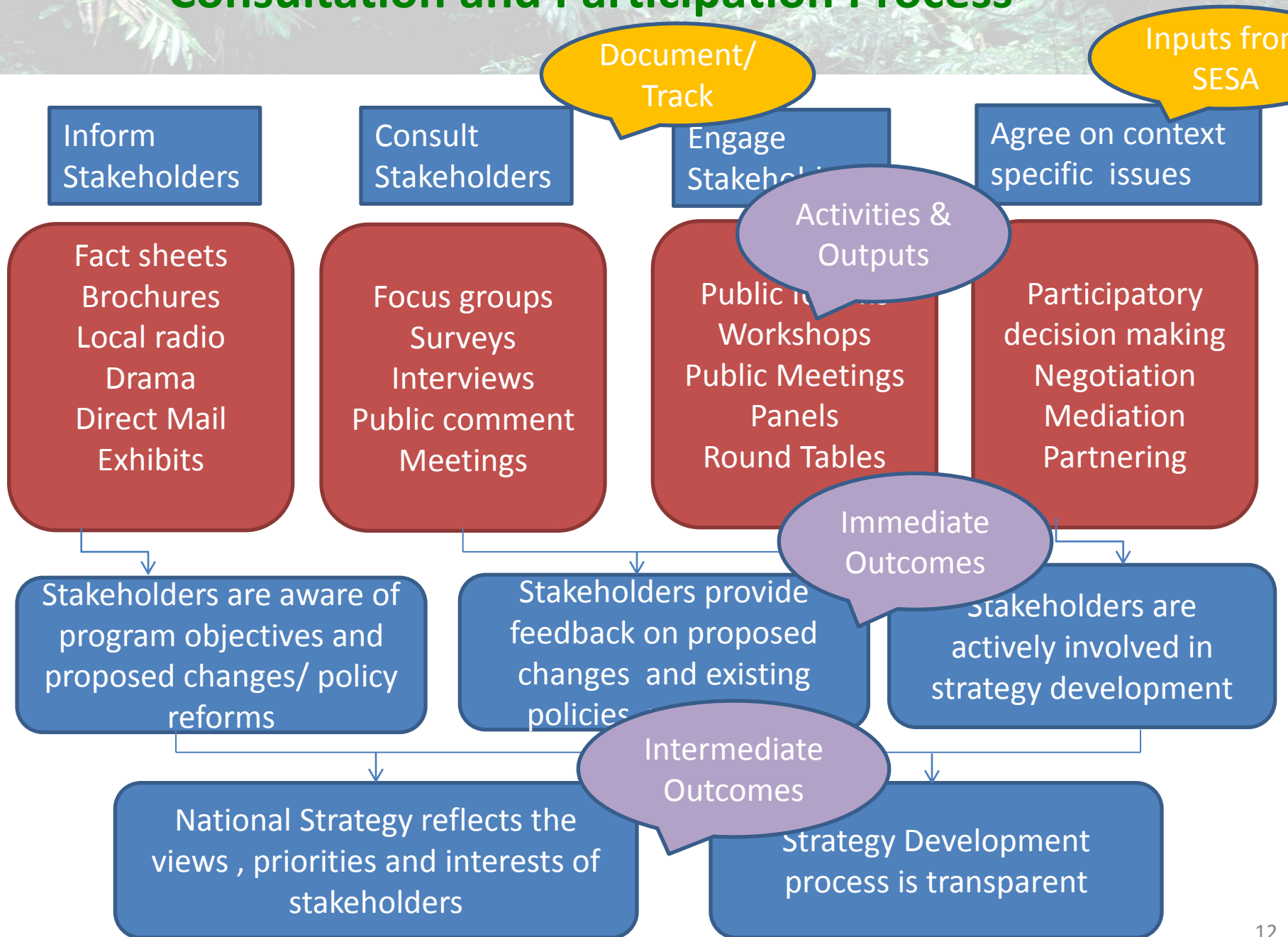
- Cancun Safeguards
- the joint Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines,
- CCBA REDD+ SES

9. From an institutional perspective stakeholder engagement is about:

- Responsive and adaptive management
- Informed decision making (and therefore greater probability of success with implementation)
- Increased credibility
- Building trust



Consultation and Participation Process



Some commonly expressed challenges of participatory and consultation processes.

- **Cost.**
- **Time.**
- **Unpredictability of outcomes.**
- **Often does not apply easily to hierarchical cultures.**
- **Powerful can feel threatened by participation.**