Implementation of Joint Stakeholder Guidelines: Experiences of Indigenous Peoples in Asia

Joan Carling
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Context

- ♦ 6 FCPF countries
 - 1. Nepal
 - 2. Indonesia
 - 3. Vietnam
 - 4. Cambodia,
 - 5. Laos
 - 6. Thailand
- National preparatory meetings in each country and shared in the regional meeting held on the 25th of Sep 2012

I. Awareness raising and information dissemination

- Insufficient materials for awareness about REDD+ and its implications to indigenous peoples that hinders full and effective an engagement along with government and other REDD+ actors
- Educational materials produced and disseminated are largely on Climate Change and REDD+, and not on RIGHTS and implications of REDD+ to IPs
- Information provided are not in a language and form understood by the community and is insufficient
- There was a commitment for support to awareness raising but it has not yet been provided to date
- ♦ There has also been an observed lack of understanding among relevant government agencies on REDD+ and concerns of IPs
- Lack of awareness of the Joint Stakeholders Guidelines by IPs, governments and NGOs (not translated in national languages)

II. Consultations

- Lack of information dissemination prior to consultations conducted for the IPs to be able to understand fully what the consultation is for, the agenda and expected outcomes
- No proper documentation of consultations shared to indigenous peoples
- ♦ In some IP communities, there were no public consultations processes but rather only the socialization of SESA and FCPF, MRV, FIP, Demonstration Area etc by government agencies

II. Consultations

- Effective consultations provided in the joint guideline is yet to be implemented properly and fully—outreach, communications, consultative mechanisms
- In consultations conducted (Indonesia, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand) some of the key issues and concerns of indigenous peoples such as recognition of indigenous peoples as distinct peoples with collective rights, land tenure remains are being set aside
- Mechanisms for sustained engagements is yet to be set up in number of countries
- Indigenous Peoples organizations and communications needs support to build their capacity to engage fully and effectively (knowledge of REDD+, IP rights, relevant bodies, mechanisms and processes, etc)

III. Representation

- → Some countries do not have representation of IPs in national REDD+ structures (Vietnam, Lao)— lack recognition as distinct peoples with collective rights
- ♦ Views of IP representatives are often not given the needed attention or accounted for ie formulation of strategies in addressing drivers of deforestation, land tenure, gender consideration etc
- Lack of proper structures and mechanisms to ensure representation/ participation of lps at the national and local levels relating to REDD+
- Lack of recognition to customary institutions in selecting representatives of indigenous peoples at the local level
- self-selected representation are recognized in Indonesia,
 Nepal and Cambodia

IV. Grievance mechanism at the local level

Lack of operational and effective grievance mechanisms at the local level

♦ Cases for the grievance mechanism include lack of information/information disclosure, conduct of inclusive consultations, terms of benefit sharing, prohibition of livelihoods, violation of land tenure rights, among others

General observations

- Progress has been made in terms of representation and acknowledgement of the need to do consultations with indigenous peoples
- ♦ The substance and conduct of consultations still needs a lot of improvement
- ♦ Acknowledgement and recognition of IP identities and rights remains a major challenge
- ♦ Capacities of indigenous peoples to fully engage effectively needs to be strengthened

General observations

- ♦ Governments needs capacity building to understand IP issues and rights and to engage with indigenous peoples
- UNREDD is more visible in producing information materials and pushing for stakeholders engagement of governments including with indigenous peoples
- ♦ THE JOINT STAKEHOLDERS GUIDELINES NEEDS TO BE UPDATED TO OPERATIONALIZE THE CANCUN AGREEMENT- RESPECT FOR RIGHTS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF IP; FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF IPs

Thank you