

PROGRESS MADE IN CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN R-PP FOR GHANA

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Outline of Presentation

- Introduction
- Objectives of Consultation and Participation
- Principles of Consultation and Participation
- Highlights and outcomes of activities so far
- Key questions that have emerged
- Some Challenges
- A critique of work done so far
- Concluding Remarks

Introduction

- REDD+ Discussions in Ghana
- Other Initiatives
 - VPA
 - NFP
 - GFP
 - NLBI
 - CAN
 - NREG
- This presentation

Objectives of C & P

- Involvement of all stakeholders in decision making on REDD issues
- Participatory approach in decision making
- Collective Ownership
- Cooperation and commitment in the implementation and management of the entire process
- Involvement in the implementation process
- General awareness raising

What to Consult on

- What REDD+ is (basic information sharing)
- Incentives from REDD+
- Land use rights and Land tenure systems
- Forest Governance
- Benefit sharing schemes
- REDD projects and activities

Principles of C & P

1. Process to be incremental, building on earlier initiatives
2. Inclusive: Consult stakeholders affected, implementers & other interested parties.
3. Respect peoples' institutions and structures: no rep designated by the central power
4. Consultation takes time, resources - constant feedback, capacity before you consult

Principles of C & P

5. Communication strategy: tailor made information should be accessible to enable participation
6. Evaluation of the process (by multiple levels and parties)
7. Participatory determination of the goals and focus (and it can continually evolve too)
8. Grievance and conflict management process should be included

Highlights of activities done

World Bank Mission May 11th – 15th

- Objective
 - To reach agreement among key local partners and development partners on a coordinated work plan leading to the development of Ghana's R-pp
- Outcomes
 - Framework of actions to develop the R-pp within Ghana and a draft consultation and participation plan for R-pp development.

GFP Forest Sector People's Diagnostic Study – 4th – 12th June

– Objectives:

- Information sharing through presentations and Q & A session on REDD+
- Prioritised forestry sector issues relevant to REDD+

– Outcomes:

- Carried out successfully at 4 zonal centres
- Zonal level priorities of REDD+ activities
- Compilation of key questions from the zonal centres

REDD+ Workshops 7th to 16th July

- Activities done
 - 3 zonal workshops + Validation workshop in Accra
- Objectives:
 - Validate draft C & P Plan for R-pp Development
 - Hold discussions on REDD+ and how it can compliment other activities (& initiatives in Ghana)
 - Identify an overall framework of options for REDD in Ghana

Outcomes of REDD+ Workshops

- C & P Plan not fully validated: participants did not receive information sufficiently in advance.
- Comments were received with regard to:
 - institutions
 - Processes
- Considerable information has been provided on REDD+
- Due to complexity & uncertainties involved, more elaborate process of information sharing and capacity building is needed
- Framework of potential REDD+ activities identified
 - Activities have been subjected to expert assessments
 - Prioritisation will be carried out to...
 - Provide the basis of the R-pp strategy

Other Activities

- Mapping of stakeholders
- Establishment of multi-stakeholder steering committee (NRSC)
- NRSC has held 3 meetings so far
- Antecedents to the NRSC
 - REDD Technical Committee
 - Governing body (Steering Committee)

Next Steps

- Revision of draft R-pp based on comments from Working Groups
- Distribution of revised R-pp to wider stakeholder groups
- Validation Workshop
- Revision of R-pp following workshop
- Submission of R-pp to FCPF

Key questions that have emerged

- Would REDD+ not hamper development?
- How relevant is REDD+ compared with other efforts at addressing Climate Change?
- What activities can be included in REDD+?
- How do we synergise REDD+ with other forestry sector initiatives?
- What is Ghana's position on REDD+?
- How do we ensure that communities benefit?

A critique of the process so far

- General perception of a rushed process
- Working to a pre-determined time table does not allow for adequate consultation & participation
- Tele-guided process; ad hoc meetings that are not adequately prepared for
- Inadequate time for consultation as set out in the agreed principles of C & P
- Centralised consultation schedule – no resources for intra-stakeholder group consultation or feedback

Some Challenges

- The lack of clarity on the whole REDD process
- The absence of definite commitments in terms of benefits
- The multi-sectoral nature of REDD+ presents some institutional challenges
- Issues of land tenure and benefit sharing present challenges
- How to fully discuss REDD+ without raising undue expectations amongst stakeholders
- How to achieve synergy between REDD and the other numerous initiatives in Ghana

Concluding Remarks

- Some national initiatives are in place to address issues of REDD+ already
- Need for harmonisation and synergising these with REDD+ process
- Some level of awareness created about REDD+
- Interesting moves to mainstream REDD & Climate Change issues
- But given the uncertainties and complexities, more effective consultation is required