

WISE REDD+ Kenya joins partners to draft Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) Roadmap

The WISE REDD+ Kenya Team, made up of the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and East African Wildlife Society joined the National REDD+ Coordination Office (NRCO) and the [Kenya Forest Service](#) (KFS) to hold a workshop on the draft Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) Roadmap for REDD+ on 21st and 22nd May 2014. The draft Roadmap was previously developed by NRCO and KFS in collaboration with REDD+ stakeholders. The workshop included a wide range of stakeholders including KFS, [Kenya Wildlife Service](#) (KWS), indigenous Sengwer and Elmolo people, pastoralists, community forest associations, civil society organizations and the private sector involved in REDD+ in the country.



The Roadmap was presented, and at each different stage of discussion SESA, participants raised concerns and made comments. Although the validation exercise was appreciated by stakeholders, the main concern raised was that there is no agreed upon REDD+ strategy in the country, despite proposed activities in various reports and studies. Participants proposed to compile different strategies and pilot them based on recommendations from the technical working group.



WISE REDD+ presented to FIP Dedicated Grant Mechanism steering committee

Conservation International hosted a meeting for the global steering committee

of the [Forest Investment Program's \(FIP\) Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#) at the end of September; WISE REDD+ Project Director Luis Barquin gave a presentation to the steering committee on stakeholder engagement in REDD+, including the WISE REDD+ project.

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About WISE REDD+:

WISE REDD+ is a project funded by the US Department of State with the objective of supporting national governments' outreach to stakeholders in five countries (Costa Rica, Kenya, Peru, Suriname and Vanuatu) in REDD+. In order to do this, the project convenes government, civil society, indigenous peoples and local stakeholders in each country to exchange technical assistance and capacity building to strengthen participation and build transparent and effective forest governance for REDD+.

Climate capacity building in Peru

Identifying indigenous training needs on climate change and REDD+ in Atalaya, Ucayali

On April 28th and 29th, Helvetas conducted a workshop in Atalaya, Ucayali to develop a training plan for indigenous communities living along the Atalaya-Puerto Ocopa Road.



59 participants (46 men and 13 women), representing 12 Ashénika communities of the Atalaya and Satipo Regions, as well as CORPIAA and [OSINFOR](#), attended the workshop.

The workshop included an assessment of knowledge on climate change and REDD+, and introduction to forests and their contribution to climate change mitigation, identification of training needs, and development of a work plan and next steps.

CI supports training led by president of San Martín Indigenous Federations

On July 23th, Tito Nugkuag Kajip, president of CODEPISAM (an organization that represents all indigenous federations in San Martín) led a training in Moyobamba, San Martín on climate change, the role of forests, and the history of the Conference of the Parties, with support from CI.

The workshop's main objective was to strengthen the capacities of the region's top indigenous leaders. Fourteen indigenous leaders from the following groups attended: CODEPISAM, FEPIKRESAM, FERISHAM, FECONAKID, FEPIKBHSAM, FERIAAM and CEPKA.

Prior to the workshop, CI and the indigenous facilitators met to plan the event. During the morning session, indigenous participants were paired in groups of two and a topic was assigned. Topics included climate change, the role of forests, REDD+ and PNCB (the National Forest Protection Program), and the history of the Conference of the Parties. During the afternoon, groups worked on their presentation materials.

At the workshop, indigenous participants presented on these topics, with support from CI staff. The workshop goals were met and even exceeded participants' expectations. Those involved were especially curious about the history of the Conference of the Parties and its mission and many of them will participate in COP 20, in Lima, Peru.

Vision building workshop held with REDD+ Technical Committee in Vanuatu

A half-day vision building workshop was held on 18 July, 2014 in Port Vila with members of the Vanuatu REDD+ Technical Committee (TC). Fourteen members, representing 11 organizations, attended the meeting.

At the beginning of the workshop, each participant was asked to complete a self-assessment form on their knowledge of climate change and REDD+. Participants rated their comfort level explaining topics such as the causes of climate change, the forest carbon cycle, the role of their organizations in REDD+ Readiness, and risks and benefits associated with REDD+. The results showed that participants were relatively comfortable with explaining climate change but less comfortable with explaining the REDD+ and the Readiness process in Vanuatu.

Anjali Nelson from Live and Learn gave two presentations; the first used materials from Conservation International and Live & Learn

to provide a refresher on climate change and the development of REDD+. The second presentation went into more detail about the FCPF process and how the R-PP is organized.

TC members participated in an activity to determine their roles within the Readiness process. The majority of the participants identified that their organization's role is to help the work of REDD+, rather than to lead it or advise it; none said that REDD+ was not relevant to their organization.

The WISE REDD+ Vision Building Workshop and Technical Committee are contributing to increasing interest and buy in from the range of stakeholders. The question of coordinating grants in the future was raised and discussed. WISE REDD+ Vanuatu is well-positioned to address these gaps through improving effective stakeholder engagement.

WISE REDD+ Costa Rica presents at workshop on national REDD+ strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ricardo Ulate (WISE REDD+ Costa Rica lead) participated in a workshop held in Quito, Ecuador entitled “[South-South Exchange – Interagency Workshop on National REDD+ Strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean Region](#).” The workshop was hosted by the Ministry of the Environment in Ecuador and provided a space for the exchange of experiences between partner countries regarding REDD+ national strategies and action plans. The workshop hosted a live webcast with broad participation. During day two of the event, Ricardo spoke on the need for defining and developing an institutional framework for REDD+, based on the experience of Costa Rica on the implementation of an action plan and REDD+ strategy.

Payment for Ecosystem Services – small land owner meeting

In Costa Rica, the WISE REDD+ team organized an introductory dialogue with small land owners to raise and address questions regarding the distribution of benefits from REDD+. The group identified several obstacles to the existing Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) framework, both legal and operational, and are calling for a more simplified, accessible and inclusive mechanism. Beyond this, the group identified aspects of forestry law that can be changed and recommended to lessen land tenure requirements needed for receiving PES resources.

Dialogues on state-owned land

In Costa Rica, in addition to the National System of Protected Areas, various public entities hold land for different purposes. In many cases, this land is not being considered as part of the national REDD+ strategy. This meeting provided the space to begin a process to produce a national inventory of those lands in order to have a more objective baseline on the volume and uses of land which are in the hands of the government of Costa Rica. The potential contribution of such an inventory for achieving REDD+ goals and targets was also considered.

What does gender have to do with REDD+?

Men's and women's unique roles, responsibilities and rights shape how they interact with their environment and the knowledge they have of forests. These characteristics also determine the various uses of forest products and needs that men and women have in terms of forest conservation.

Recognizing and understanding these considerations are crucial to ensuring good stakeholder engagement, and integrating gender into REDD+ can:

- Improve efficiency by reducing transaction costs;
- Make your projects more effective; and
- Ensure permanence

Too often, however, gender differences are not well-understood or considered in REDD+ policies. As a result, the efficiency, efficacy and sustainability of your project are jeopardized.

In the next edition, we will discuss strategies for better understanding these differences.

For more information, check out these documents from the UN-REDD Programme:

[The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+.](#)

[Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+.](#)

CI, VIDS, VSG collaborate to establish Suriname project steering committee

In Suriname, CI has implemented several stakeholder meetings with indigenous and tribal communities in order to raise awareness on WISE REDD+. The active participation of these stakeholder groups has been immensely important to establish the Project Steering Committee and Capacity Building Committee, the technical bodies of the project.

Three key meetings were conducted with the [Indigenous Traditional Authority of Suriname \(VIDS\)](#), the Association of Saamaka Traditional Authorities (VSG), as well as the REDD+ focal points, community organizations and village authorities, representing all 10 indigenous and Maroon tribes of Suriname. As a result of these meetings, CI saw the opportunity to improve understanding and increase participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in WISE REDD+ by collaborating with VIDS & VSG as indigenous and Maroon consultation experts.

On August 26, after negotiations, this collaborative partnership was made official with a consultancy agreement among all parties; a collective approach was agreed upon for these traditional organizations. The collaboration between CI, VIDS & VSG is an important step forward in crafting a platform that will enable a more productive relationship with forest people in creating a healthy and sustainable Suriname.



Regional SESA workshops held in Kenya

The WISE REDD+ Kenya team has initiated regional workshops to identify platforms and issue areas related to SESA and to increase stakeholder engagement in REDD. In order to cover a wider range, we are using a “cluster” in that we invite several counties at once to participate in a central place. Five regions have been selected: Mau, Central highlands, Cherangani/Mt Elgon, Coast and North Counties.

These five regions were selected based criteria such as a high potential for REDD+ projects, a diversity of REDD+ issues as such as settlement, resource use, land/forest tenure, and indigenous rights. The first consultations were conducted in Eldoret (23-24th July 2014) representing Cherangani/Mt Elgon and Mombasa (12-13th August 2014) representing coast region. The main concern for Mau stakeholders is regarding social safeguards and grievance mechanisms, governance, gender, incentives and available incentives. For the coastal region, key issues are land and resource tenure, benefit sharing, governance, gender mainstreaming, corruption, incentives, safeguards and awareness creation and capacity building on REDD+.



United States SBSTA presentation features WISE REDD+

WISE REDD+ was included as one of the examples of US-supported non-market approaches to financing REDD+ at the [SBSTA 40](#) In-session Expert Meeting on Matters Relating to Non-market Approaches to Support the Implementation of the Activities in [Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70](#).



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