REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND REDD

AFRICA REGION

Lessons
Important considerations regarding the UN REDD Programme:
• What is important is the involvement and consultation of Indigenous People’s (IP) at all levels from inception to implementation and observation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DECRIPS).
• DECRIPS is important with the emerging issue of climate change.

Concerns
• There is the problem of corruption/poor governance in the African governments.
• Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to be observed at all levels of REDD.
• The introductions of biofuels that are planned to be introduced especially in pastoralists lands because these lands are deem to be marginal (or no mans lands), is a threat to IPs lands.
• Lack of supportive legal frameworks.

What shall be done
• Lobby the UN REDD Programme and African governments on the implementation so that IP’s are involved from the onset.
• Consultation: IP’s need to be involved and informed about the REDD at all levels from design, conception to implementation.

Additional Principles
• The UN-REDD should have a human rights based approach. They should use DECRIPS as a basis and also;
• The African Charter.
• ILO 169.
• World Bank OP 4.10.
• Consider customary laws, norms and practices.
• Other related instruments which support IPs.
• Pastoral and forest land recharge areas should be respected.
• Experience with other forest-financed related activities to inform African countries have experienced problems with other financing activities because they interfered with forest biodiversity especially with the introduction of monoculture.
• The World Bank and foreign funded monoculture projects: Before the start of the project FPIC and consultation of IP’s was non-existent e.g. indigenous trees were cut and replaced with exotic tree species.
• New agreements that governments have with private investors that allow for multilateral logging.
ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Indigenous Peoples

- Consultation and participation of IPs in REDD discussions in countries that recognize FPIC by law.
- Consultation and participation of all relevant stakeholders in REDD discussion in countries that don’t recognize FPIC.
- There should be a sub-national body to be set up to decentralize REDD processes.
- Establish an independent committee that reviews all REDD related complaints at both national and regional level.
- IP WG to be set up at national and regional level.
- Assign an IP coordinating body that would deal with the global bodies.
- UN to run trainings of the UNDRIP on IP communities, civic society as well as for government agencies.
- UN should set up facilities and funds that IPs can access but at the same time, IPs should establish their own funds for capacity building.

Making the UN REDD work
Mechanisms at national level consultations
- Capacity building: Need to empower the communities and raise awareness on redd/REDD issues through the media and other learning materials (e.g. community and national radios) to assist them to participate effectively.
- Formation of REDD network and national focal point at country and regional levels to lobby and present demands to governments organizations.
- Ensure there is broad representation of IP’s with gender considerations.
- Informing others on other drivers of deforestation.

How to ensure legitimate representation in consultations?
- Identification of genuine IP representatives.
- Gender considerations.

Monitoring REDD/UN-REDD to see if its working
- Training IP’s, community leaders, train the trainers on REDD to ensure evaluation and monitoring is done.
- Monitor what government is doing on REDD.

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1 Cambodia, Canada, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
Recourse if IP’s and Civil Society Organizations are undermined

• Develop compliance guidelines.
• REDD should have a complaints department/committee within it to ensure IP’s rights are observed.
• Funding should be pegged on compliance performance and IP’s rights.

Role for UN REDD

• Use their systems and IP’s representatives to facilitate the dialogue with the governments.
• To set up a start-up fund for IP’s, Civil Society Organization’s specifically for capacity building and communication activities.
• Enhance the flow of information.

LATIN AMERICAN REGION

Principle
For the effective implementation of REDD it should be subject to the guidelines of the UN Declaration of the rights of indigenous peoples, ILO convention 169, as well as other relevant instruments in the national and international framework.

Strategy
• Coordinate with the UN agencies and specialized bodies like CBD, UNFCCC, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, GEF, FPCI, UNDP and others that are considered relevant for the purpose of implementing direct and articulated action on climate change and indigenous peoples.
• Establishment of a group of indigenous experts on climate change and traditional knowledge within the UNFCCC.
• Influence the discussions on REDD at the national, regional, and international level through case studies, field research and information dissemination and others.
• Develop a legal framework and consultation mechanisms for indigenous peoples based on free, prior informed consent.
• Create capacities in all structures of involvement at the local, national, regional and international level in order to act with responsibility.
• Seek synergy between CBD and UNFCCC for the protection of knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples.
• Evaluate the legal situation of indigenous territories before the implementation of REDD initiatives.
Common themes from regional workshops and country presentations

UNDRIP AS OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE

For the effective implementation of REDD, it should follow a human rights-based approach, and be subject to the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO convention 169, World Bank OP 4.10, as well as other relevant instruments in the national, regional and international frameworks.

STRATEGY
Legitimate and equitable representation

• Ensure there is broad representation of IPs including gender considerations.

• Identify genuine IPs representatives, institutions.

Consultation mechanisms

• IPs need to be involved and informed about REDD issues and observation of the UNDRIP at all levels, from conception and design to implementation.

• Develop a legal framework and consultation mechanisms for Indigenous peoples based on free, prior informed consent.
• Undertake consultation and ensure participation of IPs and local communities in REDD discussions. In countries that do not yet recognize their IPs, ensure consultation and participation of all relevant stakeholders, pending implementation of UNDRIP.

Recognition of traditional territories

• Establish supportive legal frameworks to ensure IPs rights are respected, including consideration of customary laws, norms and practices.

• Evaluate the legal situation of land tenure and recognition of
indigenous territories before the implementation of redd initiatives.

National and Regional Coordination

- Form an Indigenous REDD network/working group, and Indigenous national focal points at country and regional levels to lobby and present demands to governments and international organizations.

- Lobby REDD programmes and governments on the implementation of REDD to ensure that IPs are involved from the outset.

- Take REDD to the community level, by establishing sub-national
processes and mechanisms to decentralize REDD, including benefit sharing.

International coordination/Recommendations to International organizations

• Seek synergy between CBD and UNFCCC for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovation and practices of indigenous peoples.

• Coordinate with the UN agencies and specialized bodies like CBD, UNFCCC, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF, GEF, FCPF, UNDP and others that are considered relevant for the purpose of implementing
direct and articulated action on climate change and indigenous peoples.

- Establish a group of indigenous experts on climate change and traditional knowledge within the UNFCCC.

- Request UN bodies involved in REDD to facilitate the dialogue with governments and enhance the flow of information.

- Request UN-REDD to train IP communities, civil society and government agencies on the UNDRIP.

Information dissemination
• Influence the discussions on redd at the national, regional, and international level through case studies, field research and information dissemination.

Capacity building

• Empower Indigenous communities and raise awareness on redd/REDD issues through the media and other learning materials (e.g. community and national radio), to assist them to participate effectively.

• UN should dedicate specific facilities and funds that IPs can access.

• In parallel, funds should be established that are under IPs
management, direction and control.

• Inform all stakeholders about drivers of deforestation.

• Develop structures to engage at all levels, and build their capacity to act responsibly and effectively.

Monitoring and Review

• Monitor what governments are doing on REDD.

• UN-REDD Programme and other donors should establish an independent committee that reviews REDD-related complaints at both national and regional level.

• Train IPs, community leaders and undertake train-the-trainer initiatives on issues relevant to
REDD to ensure evaluation and monitoring is undertaken.

**Compliance and recourse**

- UN-REDD Programme and other donors should develop compliance guidelines.

- Tie funding to compliance and observance of IP rights.