

**AMPLIFYING VOICES, BUILDING SYNERGIES: A
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE FOREST CARBON
PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (FCPF) CAPACITY BUILDING ON
REDD+ FOR FOREST-DEPENDENT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (EAP) AND SOUTH ASIA
REGIONS (SAR) PROJECT**

Workshop Report



**October 2-4, 2018
Prince Palace Hotel, Bangkok**

List of Acronyms

ACMA	Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach
AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
AMAN	Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
CBP	Capacity Building Project
CERDA	Centre of Research & Development in Upland Areas
CF	Community Forest
CIYA	Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTS	Customary Tenure System
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific Region
ELC	Economic Land Concessionaires
ERP	Emission Reduction Program
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FMC	Forest Management Council
FMT	Facility Management Team
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
ICTHER	International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystems Research
ILO69	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, (1989) – International Labour Organization Convention (No. 169)
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPO	Indigenous Peoples Organization
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification for REDD+
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NTFP	Non-timber forest products
PNG	Papua New Guinea
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
RSPN	Royal Society for Protection of Nature
SAR	South Asian Region
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
UN	United Nations
UN-ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNSRIP	UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples
TK	Traditional knowledge

INTRODUCTION

About FCPF

Among the social and environmental safeguards that were agreed under REDD+ is the right of indigenous peoples (IPs) to participate fully and meaningfully in REDD+ related processes and to ensure that the collective rights of IPs as they relate to their lands and territories are safeguarded during REDD+ design and implementation. To facilitate this, IPs requested the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) for an allocation for capacity building activities specifically for IPs. This request was discussed in regional and global dialogues between the IPs and FCPF. As a result, the establishment of a capacity building program for IPs was agreed in Doha, Qatar after the UNFCCC COP18 in 2012. This was then approved by the FCPF Participants Committee as the Capacity Building Program (CBP) of the Readiness Fund on REDD+ for forest-dependent IPs, Southern Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other forest dwellers. The objective of the CBP is to provide beneficiaries with information, knowledge, and awareness on REDD+ to enhance their understanding on REDD+, and to enable them to engage more meaningfully in the design and implementation of REDD+ readiness activities and emission reduction programs. The aim is to support activities that empower and enable these stakeholder groups, to enhance and influence REDD+ development outcomes, and also to strengthen mechanisms for inclusion, accountability, and participation.

The FCPF is a global partnership of governments, donors, private sector, civil society, and IPs focused on REDD+. It is managed by the World Bank with the following objectives: a) assist countries in their REDD+ efforts by providing them with financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit from possible future systems of positive incentives for REDD+; b) pilot a performance-based payment system for REDD+ activities, with a view to ensuring equitable benefit sharing and promoting future large-scale positive incentives for REDD+; c) test ways to sustain or enhance livelihoods of local communities and to conserve biodiversity; and d) disseminate lessons learned.

The CBP has two components, one for IPs and another for Southern CSOs and local communities – each implemented in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific through projects. For IPs in the East Asia-Pacific and South Asia regions, Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), a non-government organization with consultative status to the UN-ECOSOC, was chosen to be the Recipient and implementer of the project. The Facility Management Team (FMT) of the FCPF, housed at the World Bank, acts as the Secretariat of the FCPF, and as such it is responsible for the overall management of the CBP at the global level. At the project level, the World Bank is represented by the Task Team Leader and her team who directly assist Tebtebba in achieving project objectives on an ongoing basis, and ensuring that grant proceeds are used solely for the purposes for which these were granted in accordance to the grant agreement signed between Tebtebba and the World Bank.

The beneficiaries of the project are forest-dependent IPs and their representative organizations and institutions in the ten FCPF eligible countries in Asia and the Pacific namely: Kingdom of Bhutan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of

Indonesia, Nepal, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Vanuatu and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. These countries are eligible to participate in regional learning and exchange activities (activities funded under Component 2 of the project). Of these 10 countries, indigenous organizations/institutions from six countries were eligible to participate in national-level activities (under Component 1 of the project) and have implemented REDD+ capacity building sub-projects for forest-dependent IPs in their respective countries, financed by the project. These countries are Kingdom of Bhutan, Republic of Fiji, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Republic of Vanuatu, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Prior to the implementation of national level activities (Component 1), a Regional Steering Committee (RSC), composed of IP organizations from the eligible FCPF countries in the region, was set up to act as an external advisory body and to ensure transparency. A regional IP network, in this case the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), is represented and serves as the convenor. The RSC reviewed all proposals submitted against the selection criteria and made recommendations to Tebtebba for final approval and funding of national level activities. Tebtebba is responsible for the overall implementation, coordination, grievance management, M&E and reporting of project activities.

About the Regional Workshop

Under Component 2 (Sub-component 2.1: Regional Learning and Exchange), a regional workshop was organized to share knowledge products on REDD+, good practices and lessons learned from implemented capacity building sub-projects and other knowledge generated by the project. The “Amplifying Voices, Building Synergies: A regional workshop on the FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples in EAP and SAR Project” was held at Prince Palace, Bangkok, Thailand on 2 – 4 October 2018 which was organized by Tebtebba. The regional workshop involved indigenous peoples’ organization (IPO) representatives from the Kingdom of Bhutan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Indonesia, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Also among the participants were national government representatives from Kingdom of Bhutan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Republic of Fiji, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Kingdom of Thailand. There were also representatives from donors such as World Bank and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Annex 1 provides the complete list of participants of the regional workshop.

This regional workshop brought together the above participants to facilitate knowledge sharing and to foster south/ south exchange on good lessons learned from implementation of national level activities. The implemented activities have generated notable results which were shared during the regional workshop. Some of the results include: (i) piloting of the Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA) to help inform the future implementation of Vietnam ERP’s benefit sharing mechanism, trained and formed two (2) FPIC/trainors team and provided trainings to cooperative leaders and members on the rights, roles and responsibilities of forest owners, REDD+ and related laws/policies and issues; (ii) in Bhutan, trained community members on integrated watershed management

and community-based forest monitoring, natural resource management and REDD+ readiness in Bhutan, formed a local level REDD+ group, and documented traditional practices on natural resource management (initial); (iii) prepared baseline case studies on perceptions on REDD+, and trained indigenous Fijians on climate change and (iv) conducted a regional Customary Land Tenure analysis to inform the land tenure assessment of Nepal, Fiji and Vietnam, and this regional workshop. Over all, to date, over 4,668 indigenous peoples benefited from capacity building trainings of which 1,918 are women.

Objectives of the Regional Workshop

- To bring together representatives of governments, programmes and indigenous peoples and their organizations involved in REDD+ processes to share their experiences, good practices and lessons learned;
- To identify issues and concerns of indigenous peoples/forest-dependent communities in relation to REDD+ design and implementation;
- To unite on possible ways forward to address the issues and concerns; and
- To discuss briefly the approved Additional Financing.

Opening Session

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajanangri, AIPP/RSC Convenor, Ms. Haddy Jatou Sey, TTL from World Bank, and Mr. Catalino Corpuz from Tebtebba welcomed the workshop participants and provided them with the regional workshop background and objectives. After the delivery of words of welcome, the workshop participants then introduced themselves. Ms. Helen Valdez presented the workshop program and Mr. Raymond de Chavez, deputy director of Tebtebba, introduced the Keynote Speaker.

Keynote Address: Indigenous Peoples and REDD+

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSRIP) and executive director of Tebtebba, delivered the keynote speech for the event where she highlighted the relationship between human rights and climate change.

“What does human rights have to do with climate change? We have to explain over and over again... Rights are very crucial for climate change, especially for forests, because of course that's where many IPs live and they're very dependent on the forests, so if their rights not to be kicked out, not to be removed from those forests, are protected, then they will become a good partner for REDD+.”

As the UNSRIP, she shared some researches she did with research institutions and NGOs to gather evidences that will show how important IPs are in the issue of forests. With the Rights and Resources Initiative and the World Resources Institute, they came up with the report on the relationship of rights and forest protection and conservation. In the said report, it was revealed that in countries where IPs' rights to lands and forests are recognized are usually the places where the forests are better kept compared to others. This parallels the researches done in the Peruvian Amazon and Xingu National Park in Brazil. According to

her, these researches underlined that the active participation of IPs is more efficient and more effective and that with these research-based evidences, IPs can encourage governments to listen to their case.

She then shared her experience in the Global Climate Action Summit organized by Governor Jerry Brown in San Francisco, California where the IPs' role in climate change was given merit as manifested in their expressed commitment to allocate funds for IPs. She considers this as an indication of the growing recognition and support from sectors of the society and that the work started by UNFCCC, FCPF, as well as the dedicated grant mechanism of the World Bank, all these are now bearing fruit as more and more people are believing and really seeing the effects of linking rights with forest protection and REDD+.

In light of the worsening global environmental conditions, however, she believes there are still a lot of work that needs to be done. She pointed out how the rate of deforestation has tremendously increased in recent years and that IPs has a major role to reverse it; however, development aggression, human rights violations, and impunity plagued their ancestral lands and territories and hamper them. Aside from these, IPs are usually seen as obstacles to national development when in fact, they contribute much more by ensuring that their territories and ecosystems are sustained and are protected. Among her numerous recommendations on this matter, she called for further empowerment of IPs and for governments to enter into good faith dialogues with IPs.

“In this meeting you're holding today, it will show exactly what are the positive changes that came about because of the work you're both doing-the IPs and governments together- and what are the challenges that need to be addressed yet. This is about natural resources and the partnerships established between the IPs and the government.”

Open Forum

The open forum focused on the UNSRIP's opinion on the future of REDD+, livelihoods in the context of sustainable development, and importance of collaboration among various sectors of the society towards climate action.

On REDD+, she reiterated how IPs should ramp up REDD+ to mitigate deforestation and enhance forest carbon stocks in light of the rate of global deforestation. She also identified efforts in other areas such as the UNFCCC, CBD, FAO Voluntary Guidelines in Forestry and Fisheries, and SDGs and how these complement the work in climate change action. She said that these efforts should converge at some point where REDD+ is a central piece. In her opinion, entities and instruments deal with the matter in silos and that these need to work together.

As for the livelihoods, she discussed the case of Maasai whose livelihoods used to be mainly focused on charcoal making but through development programs, the women were trained in beadmaking, which triggered a diversion of livelihoods towards a more

sustainable one. She also identified ecotourism as a major economic opportunity for IPs in the context of sustainability and she believes this is a crucial component for REDD+.

Lastly, Ms. Tauli-Corpuz identified the governments and the private sector as two key sectors of the society that need to collaborate with IPs in order to move forward towards climate action. She admitted that experiences of IPs with these sectors had been bad but there is simply no choice but to engage with them. In her opinion, there is a silver lining- governments and the private sector are beginning to realize that there is no other way to move forward but to engage with IPs as well.

The Relevance of Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Practices on REDD+ and Climate Change Strategies

Ms. Grace Balawag

Ms. Grace Balawag, member of the Climate Change Team of Tebtebba and IP Observer to the FCPF, cited and discussed specific provisions from a number of agreements relevant to the IPs' traditional knowledge and practices in the context of environment and climate change, which include the following:

- 1992 Earth Summit / Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Principle 22)
- 2012 Rio+20 The Future We Want (49)
- Agenda 21 recognition of IPs as one of the 9 major groups, and as a distinct constituency
- Adoption of IPs' recognition at CBD, CSD/SDGs, UNEP, and UNFCCC
- Paris Agreement (Article 5.2, 7.5, among others)
- UNFCCC COP16/2009 (Cancun Safeguard)

She then talked about the IPs' continuing advocacy work at UNFCCC and at the national level on REDD+ and the Paris Agreement. She also mentioned a number of other actions undertaken in partnership with IPs/LCs, governments, multilateral bodies and other stakeholders.

Open Forum

During the open forum, there was a discussion on various legal instruments available for IPs and how these instruments are reflected or implemented in the national level. One of the highlights of the discussion was Fiji not being a signatory of UNDRIP. Most participants (including the World Bank) did not know this until Fiji participants shared this information in the workshop.

The conversation mainly revolved on the importance of an "enabling environment" where IPs' traditional knowledge is recognized and respected (not only by the government but also among non-IPs in general) as this promotes IPs' full and effective participation in REDD+, which is critical to its success. For Mr. Samin Ngach, to be able to have an enabling environment for IPs, it is necessary to translate legal instruments to local languages and to consider TK when it comes to capacity building activities and government plans. Meanwhile, Dr. Pema Wangda shared how Bhutan created an enabling environment

for local people. According to him, they follow ecosystem-based management two decades ago where the local communities get to manage the resources to develop what they want. He also mentioned that women can be at the helm of this management arrangement.

At the latter part of the discussion, Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri and Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa brought to light the challenges and opportunities for IPs, most especially when it comes to TK. Mr. Rattanakrajangsri identified the negative perception on TK among non-IPs and even the government as a main challenge, most especially when it comes to implementation of projects such as REDD+. Mr. Sherpa, on the other hand, shared some opportunities such as engagement of IPs with scientific communities since there is a growing recognition on indigenous science, which can be instrumental to the cause since this could serve as proof of the legitimacy of TK.

FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples in EAP and SAR Project Updates

Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari

Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari, a World Bank Consultant, highlighted social inclusion as a key principle in FCPF as the project aims to:

- Enhance full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and civil society in REDD+.
- Ensure that social and environmental issues are addressed in REDD+ implementation.
- Ensure that indigenous traditional knowledge is incorporated into REDD design.
- Ensure that indigenous peoples and civil society have adequate knowledge and capacity to engage in national decision-making and program implementation.

She also identified the implementing IPOs and CSOs as well as the beneficiaries in different regions in the Capacity Building Program Phase 2. She then shared how social inclusion has been an integral part of the progress of the project in Africa citing the case of Gasy Youth Up in Madagascar as well as the progress in Latin America and the Caribbean citing the case of ACOFOP in Guatemala.

Towards the end of her presentation, she cited program achievements such as National Focal Points have been able to demonstrate strong endorsement of sub-projects and in some cases have actively participated in activities (e.g. Madagascar) and in some cases, sub-projects have leveraged funding from the national programs (e.g. Bhutan). She also mentioned regional and national workshops as achievements as these have brought together partners to share their experiences and learn from each other.

Open Forum

The main discussion focused on Mr. Ngach's inquiry on why the program is not accessible to Cambodia. Ms. Haddy Jatou Sey explained that when they were designing this program, they decided that countries that have benefited from earlier capacity building program of

the FCPF could no longer apply for this funding to make way for countries that have not benefited in the past. She shared that an organization in Cambodia had benefited from the earlier phase, from 2009 to 2015, so Cambodia is no longer qualified. Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari added that in spite of this, however, Cambodia still benefits from the program through their participation in workshops and other project activities.

Other discussions include Dr. Paris Chuop and Mr. Vaing Samrith's individual sharing on how education can be a key to divert Cambodian youth who live near the forests from their involvement in illegal logging activities to more productive and more professional pursuits. Meanwhile, Ms. Ethel Namuri highlighted that the government of Papua New Guinea has learned that communication and knowledge management is a key area in REDD+ and that the government needs capacity building on this. Finally, Ms. Vu Thi Hien stressed that sub-projects, however small, had been very effective in Vietnam.

Highlights of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Gender Responsive Emissions Reduction Programs

Ms. Ellen Dictaan-Bang-oa, Gender Coordinator, Tebtebba

Based on the workshop, challenges for indigenous women's effective engagement include non-recognition of IPs, lack of indigenous women's institution, lack of access to appropriate and full information, and lack of support services and resources for women. Indigenous women forwarded a number of recommendation towards an indigenous and gender responsive emissions reduction program: 1) Sustain indigenous-responsive resilience; 2) Provide gender-responsive capacity building; 3) Make way for women to take part in governance-related processes, specifically in terms of participation, monitoring, and benefit sharing.

She ended with a call to action: "Stand with us, indigenous women and take these recommendations back home and forward to your own agencies and governments for uptake/ adoption in the ongoing REDD+ and ERP initiatives towards the vision of a sustainable planet and prosperity for all."

Open Forum

Comments and questions dealt with the whole picture of women's empowerment in the context of the program. Mr. Rattanakrajangsri commented that there is an apparent need for more capacity building activities so there should be a capacity-building fund available and more accessible. Consequently, indigenous women should prepare for limitations of funding as well as the specific requirements they need to submit to the World Bank. Ms. Tamara Finau Tabakucoro then commented that the goal of these capacity-building activities is to enable indigenous women to participate better and contribute better towards the program so beyond this, there is a need to put an empowering environment that will enable women to put their capacities in practice. In terms of women's empowerment, Mr. Sherpa shared that women should be able to participate in the decision-making processes and shared the experience of AIPP as an example where six men and six women make up their decision-making body. He also mentioned that indigenous women focus on livelihood.

He shared that 70% of contribution on agriculture is from IP women, which he said is vital to the sustenance of indigenous seeds.

As response to these comments, Ms. Dictaan-Bang-oa emphasized that the workshop is just a small project in the gender window. She also mentioned that the results could be very general as the workshop was exploratory in nature. She added that these findings could also be a reflection of the level of their understanding. Nonetheless, the workshop results indicate how indigenous women want to engage but in reality, cannot. She agreed that indigenous women are concerned on livelihoods, but they are also concerned about gender equality, which means challenging the status quo in indigenous communities. She then posed the question, “There’s livelihood, but who’s deciding? Who’s managing?”

Ms. Sey took the opportunity to comment saying that some recommendations forwarded by the workshop are currently under implementation while some will be taken to the FCPF. She shared the progress of the FCPF in the issue of gender equality. At the global level, she mentioned that an independent evaluation was done on the FCPF program and one of the key recommendations was that the FCPF has not done a very good job on mainstreaming gender issues. Many of the indigenous women in the majority of the 47 FCPF countries have continuously raised the importance of gender inclusion so they listened very carefully and as a result, they drafted a concept note and took it to the donors of the FCPF. The donors said to them, “these recommendations from the evaluation were correct, the voices from the indigenous women that we have been hearing in the past five years are absolutely correct.” They then requested funds so that they can set up a global gender fund similar to this current IP capacity-building program and the donors reacted very positively and provided resources to the FMT. As a result, the gender secretariat has been operational for the past two years. She also disclosed that they are going next week to the Participants’ Committee meeting to request for additional financing from the global fund.

Ms. Sey then explained that most of the activities done through the global gender fund are actually gender analysis in the emissions reduction program areas in several countries. This started in Nepal where a gender analysis was conducted and came up with a gender action plan with specific indicators. They actually identified women-led activities to be incorporated into the ER-P interventions. The government of Nepal reacted very positively and they integrated many of the recommendations from the gender study into the ER program and they included the gender action plan including the indicators as part of the monitoring when the program is going to be implemented. Likewise, the same thing happened in Vietnam and Laos and in the process of doing something similar in Fiji soon. Many of the SESA conducted not only in this region but also in Africa and Latin America have also conducted gender analysis as part of the process. She then admitted “that FCPF has been slow in picking up this issue but now [FCPC is] going very, very fast to catch up. We hope to obtain the additional funding so we will be able to continue to implement this very important program.”

After Ms. Sey’s sharing, the discussion then tackled gender issues and how important it is that women are empowered as they keep traditional knowledge vital for forest protection

and livelihood development, an aspect that is important in REDD+. Ms. Dictaan-Bang-oa then defined indigenous women's empowerment in the context of REDD+ as a holistic empowerment, which means that it encompasses all aspects, from recognition of their rights and identity and roles and contributions up to project implementation. She said that they have been very reiterative of this in the recommendations as these are women's assets that remains untapped.

She retold how the project surfaced gender issues in the community. She shared that for the project, the venue should be in the village itself and the women are in clusters during the consultation so that they are in a familiar setting and they will be more comfortable and confident in expressing themselves. Beyond the communities, they reached out to local authorities to be able to link later into the higher authorities, which worked up to the provincial level. She said that there was a very good experience of sharing of initiatives between the community and the province up to the point that the community themselves mobilized and delineate the forest based on what the law provides. The project facilitated a very good process where indigenous women learned about the policies on the forests and how they can engage in the REDD+ being a forest-focused initiative. Ms. Dictaan-Bang-oa emphasized that indigenous women have big roles in natural resources management.

Ms. Vu Thi Hien wrapped up the discussion with the remarks, “[W]e still have a long way to go to achieve indigenous women's rights. With more involvement in consultations and capacity-building projects... before, they just whisper in the meeting, but now, they speak up.”

Customary tenure systems and REDD+: Ensuring benefits for Indigenous Peoples
Book Launch facilitated by Mr. Raymond de Chavez and remarks from Victoria Tauli-Corpuz

Mr. Raymond de Chavez mentioned that the research is part of the Component 2 of the project. He also explained that this is a CTS analysis meant to inform land tenure assessment of three FCPF countries (i.e. Fiji, Nepal, Vietnam) before he officially launched the book. Mr. de Chavez then called on Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz to present copies of the book. They presented a copy of the book to Mr. Rattanakrajangsri, chairperson of AIPP and convenor of the RSC for the project, for his role in the steering committee. They also provided a copy to Dr. Paris Chuop as representative of the governments who participated in the regional workshop. Finally, they gave to Ms. Sey of the World Bank as the task team leader of the project.

The UNSRIP delivered a short message for the launch. She first thanked the researchers involved in the research and went on to discuss how CTS, one of the big issues of IPs, have been brought to the attention of governments. She retold that even before governments existed, IPs have determined how lands will be used. Unfortunately, when the modern States were formed, they started to impose Western laws on land that are not necessarily the same as and essentially run counter with the CTS. Conflicts arise as IPs and local communities assert the way they manage their lands and govern themselves since time

immemorial. She then identified research and storytelling as methods to present evidences on the effectiveness of CTS and customary governance systems in relation to natural resource protection and sustenance. She said that this research is “our way to tell the stories and also our way to convince others about the importance of such system.”

Research Findings

Mr. James Alim, Member of the Research Team

The following are the key findings of the research that was conducted in Fiji, Nepal, and Vietnam:

- State laws and policies are slowly recognizing customary tenure systems, and REDD+ has contributed in making governments in Fiji, Nepal and Vietnam become more sensitive to the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities. However, there is a need to harmonize some laws which are at times conflicting and confusing especially those with provisions on land and forests tenure and ownership. International instruments like UNDRIP, ILO 169, and the Cancun safeguards, and advocacy and lobby work at the local, national and international arenas (e.g. at the UNFCCC) have proven effective in encouraging governments to respect and recognize the rights of indigenous and ethnic minority groups.
- Customary tenure systems continue to be practiced in the communities despite the implementation of the Western tenure system that encourages individual and private ownership. Chief requirement of this Western tenure system is to have land titles, and land or land user registration certificates that provide the scope of what tenure rights are allowed. This is anathema to the values that guide customary tenure and ownership.
- Indigenous and ethnic minority women, in general, do not have the same rights as the men have under customary tenure systems. They do not get to participate in decision-making processes especially on issues about the land. Interestingly, State laws and policies are becoming more sensitive to rights and issues of indigenous and ethnic minority women, with the inclusion of some provisions that are deemed pro-women.
- REDD+ is starting to make a difference in communities where it is being implemented, even if some of the countries are still in the readiness phase. Just like any pioneering program that has not been tested in the past, it is encountering some issues and problems in its implementation. Expectations are also building up, and for the indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities in the case study areas, foremost is the protection of their rights to tenure and ownership over their lands and forests as well as recognition of their customary practices and knowledge systems.
- Initial experiences in the case study areas suggest that REDD+ is helping indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities assert their rights, encouraging

governments to incorporate these in new laws and policies, and making local and national authorities aware and become more sensitive to their customary rights and practices.

The research shows that a key motivation for indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities to participate in REDD+ programs is the recognition of their customary tenure and knowledge systems especially on their lands and forests. REDD+ is better served if it continues to consider indigenous and ethnic minority peoples as critical and integral partners.

Open Forum

The discussions started with Nepal delegates' (Mr. Gobinda Chhantyal and Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai) comments on the complexity of land issues. Mr. Rai said that governments should abide with the international instruments that they are signatories to. He also pointed out that there is still a long way to go to achieve representation of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ decision-making body at least in Nepal.

Discussions then focused on shifting cultivation. Ms. Mina Susana Setra discussed how the practice has received negative connotation and has been erroneously linked to slash-and-burn, which is different (a copy paste thing done by non-IPs). She also tackled the vilification and criminalization of shifting agriculture and how many Indonesian IPs were charged for practicing their TK. Ms. Balawag, Ms. Setra, and Mr. Sherpa discussed how shifting agriculture practiced by IPs differ from the copy paste version (also known as slash-and-burn) done by migrants in local communities, which only copied the "fire" aspect and nothing else. They discussed the spiritual aspect of the practice and the whole agricultural cycle that revolves around this agricultural arrangement.

Ms. Setra expressed that it is a good research subject, to which the participants agreed. Mr. Sherpa shared that AIPP has already conducted a study on shifting cultivation in Indonesia, Laos, and Bangladesh. AIPP also did another study in Thailand where they found out that the carbon emission is less in shifting cultivation and can sequester more carbon during the fallow period (7-10 years). Ms. Helen Valdez added that IPs do not burn the primary forests and that during fallow years, trees grow and new forests are developed. Ms. Setra emphasized that IPs use just a little portion of their lands for agriculture, which is nothing compared to the large-scale agriculture practiced by companies.

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

Kingdom of Cambodia

Dr. Paris Chuop, Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development

Experiences and Achievements

Dr. Chuop shared that Cambodia's National REDD+ strategy has three strategic objectives where two of these objectives directly involve the local communities including the IPs. Strategic Objective 2 focuses on the strengthening of implementation of sustainable forest

management while Strategic Objective 3 focuses on the mainstreaming of approaches to reduce deforestation, building capacities of and engaging stakeholders. He also discussed the REDD+ institutional arrangements where IPs can be involved through REDD+ Technical Teams (i.e. Safeguards, Benefit Sharing, Demonstration, and MRV) and Consultation Group made up of representatives from various sectors of the society.

In terms of readiness, Cambodia is almost finished, with its target to finish activities by February 2019. Aside from readiness, he mentioned that Cambodia also applied for the REDD+ implementation of Voluntary Carbon Market in its three provinces.

Challenges

Dr. Chuop identified the mindset of local people on natural resources as a main challenge in the work the government tries to do. He explained that this is in the context of livelihoods as local people (IPs included) find it difficult to divert their livelihoods to a more sustainable one. He also mentioned that local people's capacity to participate in the national REDD+ strategy is quite low, which can affect the success of REDD+ in the country.

According to him, the government has also a share of the challenges. For one, coordination and commitment of line agencies and institutions remains challenging mainly due to lack of resources. Financing support to implement Cambodia's national REDD+ strategy remains limited, which hampers the country's progress in relation to the programme.

Recommendations

As a response to the challenges identified, Dr. Chuop recommended that the government should demonstrate the benefits of forest functions/ services (e.g. carbon credit, eco-tourism) to local people. However, beyond demonstration, the government should also be able to provide the benefits of forest functions/ services and alternative job opportunities to local people. In relation to this, there should be capacity building activities implemented on the ground to assist local people towards alternative job or livelihood opportunities. He also mentioned that the education of IP children must be prioritized to raise their capacities. As for REDD+-related recommendations, the government should strengthen the capacity of peoples involved in existing national REDD+ coordination mechanisms and should mobilize financing supports from all sources (e.g. private sector, government, international communities) to be able to implement the national REDD+ strategy.

Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Cambodia in Relation to REDD+ Engagement.

Mr. Vaing Samrith, NGO Forum, Kingdom of Cambodia

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Samrith shared that they were able to conduct various capacity building activities on the REDD+ Project, on FPIC, on MRV, and on GPS among others where about 900 IPs were involved, half of which were women.

Challenges

IPs identified rights violation as the main challenge they face in Cambodia right now as they struggle to grapple with cases of land grabbing and harassment done primarily by economic land concessionaires (ELCs) on rubber and sugar cane, mining exploration, and even hydropower dams. Mr. Samrith also cited rampant illegal logging in indigenous communities.

Recommendations

Mr. Samrith started with the Cambodian IPOs' need for more funding to be able to continue its operations and implement more activities for the benefits of the IPs. He also underlined the importance of collaboration between CSOs and the government as well as with private sectors and other partners for development. He also called for the government to enforce land policies and to respect IPs' right to FPIC. Aside from these, he sees the need for translation of documents to the local languages and for these documents to be contextualized in their localities.

Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA),

Mr. Samin Ngach, CIYA/RSC Member, Kingdom of Cambodia

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Ngach stated that there had been capacity building activities in the indigenous communities aimed to help IPs to understand the concept of REDD+ as well as their rights as stipulated in national and international legal instruments. Aside from this, he mentioned that there had been efforts to document issues faced by IPs on the ground. Moreover, IPs engage with relevant stakeholders in dealing with specific issues.

Challenges

For Mr. Ngach, key challenges include poor implementation of policies that protect IP rights. He also believes that indigenous women still struggle when it comes to participation in REDD+ activities.

Recommendations

Mr. Ngach recommended for more capacity building programs for IPs on understanding REDD+ as well as more information dissemination efforts on national and international laws and policies on IP communities. Finally, he said that IPs should continue working and collaborating with partners such as AIPP.

Open Forum

Dr. Pema Wangda inquired on how Cambodia use the REDD+ readiness support in the protected areas. He also shared that Bhutan does not use the term “indigenous peoples” but the government serves the people in local communities, regardless of the remoteness of their areas, and involves them in the decision-making processes nonetheless.

Mr. Samrith answered Dr. Wanda’s inquiry by saying that in one pilot area of REDD+, 20 villages of indigenous communities secured a financial benefit of not more than US\$10,000, which they can now use for community projects such as infrastructural developments or

scholarships for IP children. Mr. Ngach added that the government has already officially accepted and use the term “indigenous peoples.” In spite of this, however, they still struggle to use the term as well as their rights included in policies that mainly affects them.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chhantyal asked about the mindset of forest-dependent peoples (IPs included) on protected forests/ areas and how IPs handle/ resolve land-related conflicts. For Mr. Chhantyal’s first question, Dr. Chuop responded that the community’s mindset is slowly changing, as they now consider ecotourism as a viable sustainable livelihood option. For example, local people now stopped hunting species (e.g. monkey with white tail, a specie endemic to Cambodia) sought by tourists but rather earn from the tourists visiting and looking for it where they can earn US\$20 per tourist, which can go as much as \$100 per day depending on the number of tourists.

For the second question, Mr. Ngach shared that their traditional resolution and grievance mechanisms are in place and this remains a primary option in land-related conflicts. In cases where these mechanisms cannot handle the conflict given its magnitude, IPs make use of the Cambodian laws and judicial systems.

Finally, Ms. Vu Thi Hien asked how Cambodian IPs can secure benefit from REDD+. Dr. Chuop answered that they have three pilot areas in Cambodia. These pilot areas are essentially demonstration projects where they need to show positive results and document these good practices in order to catch the payment and be able to apply for other related programs as well.

Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)

Ms. Mina Susana Setra, AMAN/RSC Member, Republic of Indonesia

Experiences and Achievements

Through capacity building activities, IPs learned their rights and honed their capacities towards self-determination. However, political realities make it difficult for IPs to realize their rights to land as national and local governments' recognition of these rights vary. Local policies and realities usually do not complement with the national policies and realities and sometimes when they do, it is not for better but for worse.

One example she shared was that AMAN declared support for Jokowi Widodo during the 2014 elections as Widodo promised six commitments for the IPs including the creation of a national law that recognizes and protects IP rights as well as the establishment of an IP task force. These promises, however, remain unfulfilled. This is just among the many struggles IPs face when it comes to the national and local governments in Indonesia.

In spite of governments' shortcomings, IPs, together with partners, still try their best to comply with government policies. She retold their experience in getting national recognition to an IP community's claim to its ancestral land. To be able to do so, however, they needed to get certification from the local government that the land is "clean and clear," which means it has no overlap with other claims and/or licenses as recognized by the local

government. In one community assisted by AMAN, they were able to secure local government's certification that 5 million ha out of the total 9 million ha is already "clean and clear." When they forwarded this data to the national government, however, the national government only certified around 17,000 ha. According to her, this shows how IPs struggle due to politics.

Even with these harsh realities, AMAN persists to stride on and explore other means to assist IPs on acquiring recognition and respect from various sectors of the society. As part of their quest to prove the value of IPs in national development, AMAN partnered with prominent universities and even worked with the government where they estimated the ecological value of IP communities. The research was able to illustrate the potential of indigenous communities and they were able to share this through a press conference.

Challenges

Ms. Setra believes that the challenges faced by the IPs in Indonesia are rooted on the lack of recognition of IP rights (especially right to land) and IP's traditional knowledge. Coupled with lack of political will, laws and policies as well as international legal instruments become implemented improperly. She cited a number of lingering land-related conflicts involving the government as well as the private sector. She also discussed how traditional knowledge such as shifting agriculture become criminalized and have IPs arrested for practicing their culture.

Recommendations

Ms. Setra discussed a number of recommendations to the government, the private sector, and the IPs themselves. For the government, she calls for the recognition and protection of IP rights and ensure that national policies uphold and respect international agreements signed by the government. The government should also keep dialogues with IPs open and emphasized that agrarian reform should recognize IPs' right to land. In relation to this, companies' land banking should be released back to the communities.

For IPs, she encourages IPs to map their territories, explore new strategies to keep the integrity of their ancestral lands and territories, and expand cooperation and partnership with potential partners and various sectors of the society. She also sees that IP participation in dialogues as another opportunity that IPs can tap. Lastly, she identified the use and promotion of research results in the community. To be able to do so, however, there is a need to translate these papers in popular languages.

Open Forum

Mr. Le Quang Thong and Mr. Ngach expressed their appreciation of the research undertaken by AMAN. As a response, Ms. Setra mentioned that AMAN did it with three prominent universities in Indonesia so scientists were involved in the process. She said that they have also worked with the government. After the study, they conducted a press conference in Jakarta where members of the parliament and the government attended. She said that everyone was excited, welcoming, and were surprised with the result. She commented that the problem with the governments is that they tend to deal with economic development mainly in the macroeconomic level, that they do not consider the potential

available in the microeconomic level (i.e. in the community). The research results hold this argument, that in each community, the biodiversity has value (assigned by scientists who have the way to evaluate in a very technical manner). The value they found out through the study did not consider carbon so she said that the economic value of indigenous communities can go higher than their evaluation. She also mentioned that the research has also triggered other governments to do the same as they have already received requests for their assistance to help them do their own.

Mr. Sohail Babar Warraich and Mr. Riaz Ahmad inquired about the extent of rights the community has when it comes to forests. Ms. Setra shared that IPs never owned the forests legally given that since the Republic of Indonesia was formed, all forests were owned by the government. In spite of this, however, IPs keep on telling the government that they were already in their territories long before the Indonesian government materialized. She pointed out that the recognition process takes time. She expressed her frustration in the fact that changing things in paper is easy, but in the ground, it is hard. There is a silver lining, however, she retold a story that happened when the constitutional court recognized their customary forests. “When we got the constitutional court ruling recognizing the customary forests, many IP communities put up signs in the forests saying, ‘according to the constitutional court ruling no. 35, this is a customary forest, not State forest.’ It made the IPs more confident, IPs start [re]claiming their territories.”

REDD+ Readiness and Indigenous Peoples in Nepal

Mr. Gobinda Chhantyal & Tunga Bhadra Rai (RSC Member), NEFIN, Nepal

Experience and Achievements

Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai discussed how REDD+ means different to various IP groups as they have diverse forest types. He then retold Nepal government's history with REDD+ through the presentation of its roadmap. He enumerated the achievements Nepal attained through the readiness fund (e.g. National REDD+ Strategy, SESA, and MRV) as well as through the carbon fund (e.g. ERPD). He also mentioned that Nepal has began working on REDD+ pilot areas in the country where there are large tropical forests. He added that outside FCPF, there are other funds and tracks that complement FCPF initiatives (e.g. Forest Investment Program under Climate Investment Fund and activities under Global Environment Facility). Mr Rai explained how difficult it is for IPs to raise their concerns in REDD+ as most members of the decision-making body are government institutions. CSOs and IPs both struggle to prove why their voices should be heard. NEFIN was able to be a part of the decision making of REDD+ (i.e. Apex Body), an achievement in the procedural or process level as decisions made by the body is implemented. Another achievement is that the National REDD+ strategy has recognized IPs as one of the key stakeholders in REDD+. Outside the decision-making structures, IPs and IPOs also engage in dialogues and alliances in the aim to raise their voice and concerns.

Challenges

For Mr. Gobinda Chhantyal, IPs still struggle in the policy level and the community level. In the policy level, IPs try to lobby their concerns and eventually have these reflected in

new legislations and call the government to implement national and international legal instruments in favor of the IPs. In the community level, they are now facing hydropower projects among other forms of development aggressions.

There are still huge gaps in terms of awareness and capacities of IPs to engage with government entities and delivery partners as IPs usually lack the access to information. These gaps are critical to the full and effective participation of IPs most especially because they are not well-involved and not even well-represented in the decision-making processes of REDD+.

Aside from these, the lack of recognition and respect of IP rights remain a main challenge. Various sectors of the society hold a stereotypical mindset that human rights defenders are hindrance to national development.

Recommendations

To address the identified gaps, there should be more awareness and capacity building activities for IPs on their rights and on the programme. There should also be consistent advocacy for the recognition and respect on IP rights.

Given the struggles IPs face, they should continue to work with the government and other partners for development.

Open Forum

When Mr. Narayan Ghalley inquired on what makes the situation of IPs in Nepal different, Mr. Rai responded that Nepal was never colonized by other countries but they were internally colonized by non-IPs. According to him, in the context of Nepal, IP definition is linked with political power sharing, it is about who holds power and land.

Mr. Ghalley also asked about NEFIN's efforts to solve problems faced by the IPs. Mr. Rai answered that the organization had been working with many sectors of the society to lobby and advocate IP concerns. In response to Mr. Ghalley's inquiry on NEFIN's view on the future of REDD+ in Nepal, Mr. Rai shared a positive outlook since they see high carbon and non-carbon value in their forests. He also mentioned that the government sees the value in the mountains where the IPs are- the biodiversity it holds and its potential in both carbon and non-carbon benefits.

Ms. Tabakaucoro and Ms. Setra asked about the carbon emission of Nepal and other climate-related programs and funding available to the country. Mr. Rai responded that Nepal's carbon emission is very insignificant and that there are other climate-related financing accessible to Nepal. He also talked about how the government of Nepal is now focusing on hydropower projects, citing the controversial 216MW hydropower project their government is trying to take on. He said that hydropower projects pose social and environmental effects to IPs.

Ms. Grace Balawag took the floor and emphasized how "transformative partnerships" helped IPs in their advocacy. She highlighted the importance of collaboration by saying,

“We cannot successfully do this if we are not really consciously working with stakeholders who can provide support for us... [O]ur goals in maximizing REDD+ and other programs: to amplify our voices and amplify our other initiatives.”

Ms. Sey agreed with Ms. Balawag’s remarks and retold how the World Bank has been successful in collaborating with the Nepal government in the context of the facilitation of the process. She mentioned that she had been in Nepal for three years to negotiate with the government, which ultimately resulted to the signed agreement. Unfortunately, there has been problems with the implementation. Mr. Rai articulated how CSOs and IPs expressed their need for resources and capacity building in different fora and other formal discussions. Although there are available funds and there had already been an agreement to allow its use, he expressed his frustration that they do not know what happened to the fund and they were still not able to use it. Ms. Sey reiterated what she said earlier– that the money is already sitting in the government since the agreement was signed. She advised that relevant stakeholders should raise that these are agreed upon and is in the project paper so the government should facilitate the release of the funds.

REDD+ in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mr. Sohail Babar Warraich, Ministry of Climate Change

Experiences and Achievements

The Pakistani government had conducted REDD+ activities through the help of foreign consultants. All stakeholders of REDD+ (including NGOs, CSOs, local communities, and IPs) were involved in all the REDD+ readiness activities. Through REDD+ activities, IPs were able to take part in workshops/ trainings as members of the thematic working group (country-level trainings) and as members of the community (community-level trainings). Women representation was also ensured.

Challenges

Mr. Warraich identified political turfing in the local level as a major hindrance on the roll-out of the national-level decisions and priorities. According to him, this makes their work more difficult as it strains the implementation process.

He also cited a specific case where a consultant involved committed plagiarism on the report submitted to the government. The consultant's report was found to be 70% plagiarized so they requested that the whole process should be done again.

Aside from these, Mr. Warraich identified grazing as one of the primary causes of deforestation and land degradation. He also singled out timber mafia as among the main drivers of deforestation in Pakistan's forests.

Recommendations

Based on their experience on working with local communities, it is recommended that local people should be able to secure revenue from the forests they take care of. This does not only empower them but also make them more involved in the process of forest protection.

Another recommendation Mr. Warraich forwarded is the translation of reports and other forms of information into local languages to make these more accessible and more useful for the local people.

IPs and Pakistan on REDD+

Mr. Riaz Ahmad

Experiences and Achievements

Mr Riaz Ahmad shared the IPs' struggle to gain recognition as key stakeholder in forest protection and climate action. He said that it has taken them so long but in the process, they learned to come together and build alliances with partners. Today, they do not only join local and national dialogues but even in international proceedings as well. IPs are now able to create their own organizations to serve their communities.

Challenges

Mr. Ahmad cited the delay of implementation of REDD+ program activities as the main challenge in the success of REDD+ in Pakistan. He also said that REDD+ mechanisms can be too technical and complicated for stakeholders including the IPs, which also limits their participation in the program.

He mentioned the lack of clarity on the definition of IPs in the country, which makes it difficult for them to gain respect and recognition of their rights as IPs. He also pinpointed the social, cultural, and bureaucratic system and attitude that plagues institutions, both in the government side and the IP governance side, which inhibits full and effective participation of indigenous community members in the decision-making process. Aside from these, he also identified self-interest and deficit of trust as key challenges.

Recommendations

Mr. Ahmad enumerated several recommendations in response to the challenges. First, he called for the Pakistani government to adopt the UN's definition of IPs. Second, he advised to simplify REDD+ mechanisms or at least make it more accessible to IPs. Lastly, he said that REDD+ program activities should just start as IPs are ready and open to learn and contribute towards its success.

Open Forum

When asked about the representation of IPs in the decision-making processes, Mr. Warraich enumerated various opportunities for IPs (e.g. Green Task Force) although he was not able to substantiate how exactly IPs can maximize these opportunities.

Mr. Ngach asked Mr. Ahmad to discuss more about the project delay he talked about in his presentation. Mr. Ahmad pointed out that the experiences have been rich and there have been many learnings in past phases so he believes that the project should commence soon as there are matters that can only be learned as the project goes and that the communities are already ready and excited to take part and contribute.

Overview of REDD+ in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Ms. Ethel Namuri, Communications Manager, Climate Change & Development Authority

Experiences and Achievements

Ms. Ethel Namuri provided a snapshot of PNG government's progress in the context of REDD+ through a timeline. She discussed PNG's National REDD+ Strategy, which covers a 10-year time frame. Under their National REDD+ Strategy, the PNG government worked with multiple partners on the ground including landowners (where IPs are included). The government was also able to bring all stakeholders together every month as Technical Working Committee (TWC) where issues are presented and discussed. Aside from this, the government conducted consultations and information dissemination about the REDD+ programme in all of the 22 provinces.

She highlighted that all communications by the government is done through an FPIC process among all relevant stakeholders. Still in the communication aspect, the government follows clear guidelines for dissemination of public information and protection of sensitive information relating to climate change.

Aside from those, she shared that they were able to develop educational materials on REDD+ (e.g. fact sheets, posters, newsletters, website) and made these available to stakeholders to guide them throughout the decision-making processes.

Recommendations

Ms. Namuri recommended that the PNG government be capacitated so it can go beyond information dissemination.

Open Forum

The discussion mainly focused on Mr. Ngach's inquiry about the communication aspect of the work done by the PNG government, on how effective they have been on sharing information to the community people. Ms. Namuri responded with the explanation of their "holistic approach" where they involve key stakeholders during consultations/discussions on the ground during the nationwide consultation, where they completed all the 22 provinces. Aside from this, they also gave out pamphlets and talked to people. To ensure that they understand the information, the pamphlets and the dialogues were conducted in two common languages. In terms of challenges, however, Ms. Namuri disclosed that communication remains a challenge in PNG as there remains a need to build the capacity within the government so it can disseminate information to IPs so they can understand what the government is doing.

Other discussion included PNG's active participation in REDD+ since its inception and how IPs cannot be neglected in the process as IPs are owners and inhabitants of forests. There was also a discussion on how IPs struggle to protect the forests and how the government responds to the issues on the ground.

Indigenous Peoples Engagement in REDD+ Implementation in the Kingdom of Thailand

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, AIPP/RSC Convenor

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri shared the experience in one of the pilot communities on how they were able to secure benefits from REDD+. In Muang Ang Village located in Inthanon National Park in Chiang Mai, the community was able to set up greenhouses for organic agriculture. Through this development, they were able to set a specific area for livelihood and dedicated the land they saved to be forests.

Aside from livelihood-related interventions, local communities (specifically, IPs and IP leaders) also received a series of capacity building activities on the REDD+ programme and climate action in general and in particular carbon measurement. AIPP developed learning materials for IPs and conducted trainings and exchange visits with partner organizations all over Asia.

He also discussed how IPs were able to participate in REDD+ design through their involvement in the R-PP and Technical Working Groups and even in the monitoring of REDD+ pilot projects.

Challenges

Limitations identified in the case of Thailand include lack of resources specifically allocated for IP consultation and participation and lack of sufficient information sharing, which hamper full and effective IP participation.

Recommendations

The main recommendation forwarded by Mr. Rattanakrajangsri is that the IPs should be able to exercise full and effective participation in REDD+.

Open Forum

Mr. Rattanakrajangsri was asked to explain more about the full and effective participation of IPs in REDD+ that he is talking about in his presentation. According to him, this can only be achieved if the IPs have access to information, resources, and capacity building activities to be able to participate in all levels of decision-making processes.

Ms. Setra shared how Indonesia follows the Western style of protection of forests, specifically the declaration of national parks and the strict policy of having no person inside these parks, which results to conflicts with indigenous peoples who are in the area. She also emphasized the lack of communication among the agencies involved in the conservation or protection of such areas, which also produces additional struggles for indigenous peoples given the conflicting policies and/ or protection schemes. She asked how Thailand manages national parks and how they manage conflicts. Mr. Rattanakrajangsri responded with, "it depends on the area" before he cited an example in Chiang Mai, where the government and the local communities implement a joint management approach in the protected area. He said that the government and the locals

were able to reach a clear agreement about the use of selected areas of the forest on the condition that they do not encroach on the national forest and that they protect it from outsiders. He, however, stressed that there had been conflict between the parties and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. highland people, lowland people) before the agreement was reached. He then brought up the Karen people and how they were driven away from their forests, which serves as a perfect example on land- and/or forest-related conflict in Thailand that results to local peoples challenging (and even suing) the government.

National REDD+ Programme of the Republic of Fiji

Ms. Reama T. Naco, Communications Officer, REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forests

Experiences and Achievements

With the assistance of the World Bank, Fiji is currently putting together its ER-PD. Fiji is also currently conducting studies on benefit-sharing and carbon rights assessment. Aside from these, the government ensures that CSOs are involved in REDD+ communications and awareness working group. As part of the efforts on awareness building, the REDD+ Unit of Fiji works on the translation of awareness materials to the iTaukei language.

Beyond awareness building, the government plans to hold a Training of Trainers involving CSOs in different districts of Fiji so they can become REDD+ facilitators who can carry out REDD+ awareness (focused on FPIC & Safeguards) activities in the local level.

Ms. Reama Naco also talked about the Emalu pilot site where a number of REDD+ activities had already been implemented. Among these activities are workshops and trainings, gender-sensitive FPIC-process, participative land use planning, socio-economic and environmental surveys, alternative livelihood projects, and monitoring & evaluation processes. Results from this pilot site will influence not only the REDD+ implementation but also national laws and policies of Fiji.

Challenges

According to Ms. Naco, there seems to be a lack of policy coherence in the legal instruments of Fiji. This is also reflected in the competing priorities of stakeholders (especially those that are part of TWGs).

Recommendations

Arrangements must be established to empower and enable CSOs and IPs to effectively participate in REDD+. Aside from this, various sectors of the society must work together and collaborate towards climate action.

Fiji REDD+ Pilot Site - Emalu (Draubuta Village, Navosa)

Mr. Ilaitia Yavadua Leitabu, Emalu, Navosa

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Ilaitia Yavadua Leitabu's discussion revolved around the Emalu pilot site and the developments that took place in the area from 2012 to date. He cited the following

achievements: 1) REDD+ lease; 2) Accomplishment of grassland biomass and stratification report (USP; Isaac Round); 3) Confirmation of land plan for Draubuta area; 4) Documented land use planning approaches such as stakeholder approach; 5) Implementation of the land use plan; and 6) Lease consultation and demarcation. He highlighted how the local communities were consulted and involved in the process of attaining these achievements.

Meanwhile, in terms of the REDD+ project activities implemented in the area, there had been trainings for community members on agriculture development, beekeeping (including bee box harvesting and honey selling), nursery management, and field surveying. Concepts and importance of alternative and sustainable livelihoods were highlighted during these trainings.

Men, women, and youth of Navosa were trained on planting techniques and maintenance of demonstration plantings plots. There were also trainings specifically for women on environmental responsibility and waste craft. All these capacity building activities were geared towards the empowerment of IPs towards self-reliance most especially in terms of sustainable livelihoods.

Challenges

Mr. Leitabu identified only one challenge in the project implementation, which is the inaccessibility of roads into the villages.

Building capacity for Fiji's Forest Dependent Indigenous Men and Women to Actively Participate in the Fiji REDD+ Readiness Program Sub-Project

Ms. Tamara Finau Tabakaucoro, Chairperson, Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board

Experiences and Achievements

As part of the advocacy on building capacity for Fiji's forest-dependent indigenous men and women to actively participate in the Fiji REDD+ Readiness Program, there had been a series of activities implemented by the organization. For instance, there had been awareness building activities on IP rights and IPs' obligations under the National REDD+ Policy, Climate Change Policy, and the ERP. In relation to IP capacities, the National Indigenous Women's Group was able to communicate about REDD+ in the local and national level. IP men and women were able to fully participate in the CSO platform where they voice their concerns.

Under the sub-project, a baseline survey on the public's perception on REDD+ was conducted in two pilot sites for ER-P, which involved more than 700 respondents. Soqosoqo Project team with inputs from REDD+ Steering Committee translated the questionnaire in the vernacular language. Survey responses indicated social, economic, and livelihood status of respondents, knowledge and awareness of REDD+ and climate change, plus concerns on infrastructure, access to markets, security, health issues, and laws on

certain resources. As a result of the survey, training workshops were held in the two pilot sites to improve awareness and knowledge of REDD+ and climate change.

Challenges

Challenges that surfaced from the survey included lack of cooperation and unity in villages, financial hardship, women being discouraged to speak out, poor leadership, high transport cost, and too many visits by government officials and other stakeholders that took time of the villagers.

Meanwhile, for project implementation, Ms. Tabakaucoro identified transport as a major challenge. This is due to the large area that the project needed to cover, not to mention the poor terrain and that these two sites are located in two different islands. She commented that the scope and exercise was perhaps ambitious, raising the question of appropriate project resourcing. Aside from this, she also shared that two major partners were not able to deliver because of competing priorities.

Recommendations

Ms. Tabakaucoro recommended that the program should focus on involving iTaukei people in ER-P and other programs rather than just looking at IPs as only focus of research.

She also mentioned that agriculture and forestry officials must actively work with land owners in order to maximize the use of their land.

Instead of tree planting, she also pointed out that attention could be given to fruit-bearing tree crops and food crop plantations in villages. In the process of doing so, she calls for assistance for women in villages to take part in this as this will contribute to emission reduction and non-carbon benefits such as food security, health, wellness, and well-being and perhaps create a culture of happiness (like how it is in Bhutan).

REDD+: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Kingdom of Bhutan

Dr. Pema Wangda, Chief Forestry Officer/Head of REDD+ Secretariat, Department of Forests & Park Services

Experiences and Achievements

Dr. Pema Wangda explained how inclusiveness has been a guiding principle for the government of Bhutan in the conduct of REDD+ activities. In his explanation, he identified specific measures the government has taken to demonstrate inclusiveness among its constituents such as stakeholder and engagement guidelines, requirement of female participation in workshop/trainings, and the use of existing mechanism of forest management such as community forestry (CF) and non-wood forestry group (NWFG). For him, this inclusiveness has been useful in reaching rural communities and made these communities more comfortable working with them.

Under their REDD+ Strategy & Action Plan, they were able to conduct 20 district-level and 24-local level consultations where 2,542 representatives were involved, 919 of which are female. Through partnership with Tarayana Foundation, there had also been capacity building activities in at least 58 villages.

Capacity Building on REDD+ Readiness for Forest Dependent Communities-Buli, Zhemgang Sub-Project

Mr. Narayan Ghalley, Royal Society for Protection of Nature

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Narayan Ghalley shared that their National REDD+ Readiness Awareness program has involved 1448 community members (913 females & 515 males). They also conducted workshops and seminars where 60 participants attended 3 major REDD+ national workshops while 20 community members participated in sustainable forest management study tours. There were also around 300 community forests (CF) members who were trained on REDD+ readiness and sustainable natural resource management. Aside from these, RSPN was able to create a local-level REDD+ group and developed their REDD+ action plan/strategy, and accomplished a report of traditional knowledge on farming and natural resource management.

Challenges

Mr. Ghalley identified time as a crucial factor in their conduct of REDD+ activities as the project timeline was relatively short and coincided with the typhoon season and the election period as well, which had been challenging for project implementers.

He also explained how the technical aspect of REDD+ has been a challenge not only to project beneficiaries whose literacy are low but also on the part of the implementers who need to deliver the technical trainings in a way that beneficiaries should understand.

Recommendations

Mr. Ghalley mentioned that there is a need for a rigorous consultation with communities while developing or planning for REDD+ strategy. He also said that there should be incentives and support for rural people in forest management through the REDD+ initiative. He called for CSOs' continued support in complementing government efforts. Lastly, he recommended that REDD+ safeguards be properly conveyed to the communities.

Experiences of Zhemgang District, Bhutan

Mr. Dorji Wangchuk, Nagkor Gewog

Experiences and Achievements

Through working with relevant REDD+ project stakeholders, they were able to accomplish the following: (1) they developed the first local REDD+ working group at Buli, (2) in partnership with RSPN, they were able to conduct REDD+ workshops and seminars where 216 households were involved, and (3) they created awareness on REDD+ and its associated benefits to community people.

Aside from these, they had also been involved in local-level stakeholder consultation workshops and study tours to promising community forest group with 18 members from Buli CF.

Challenges

With inadequate literacy among the community people, project implementers had a difficult time in explaining the program to them. Migration has also been a key challenge given that only elderly people were left at the village. Mr. Wangchuk also identified the community's expectation for tangible benefits as one of the challenges they faced on the ground.

Recommendations

Mr. Wangchuk recommended the conduct of more capacity building and livelihood-enhancement activities such as product diversification and community-based tourism as an alternative livelihood.

Open Forum

The questions raised revolved around illiteracy and the local leaders in Bhutan. Mr. Ahmad inquired about illiteracy as a challenge in Bhutan. Dr. Wangda shared that illiteracy in Bhutan comes in two forms: English illiteracy and local language illiteracy. He explained that majority of the people still suffers from the former but have been able to cope with the latter since more and more Bhutanese can now access education (at least until high school).

Ms. Vu Thi Hien asked about how leaders assume position in the community and the incentives they acquire from the government. Bhutan delegates explained that local leaders, who can be male or female, are democratically elected. Their term lasts for around five years. They are well-paid since they are expected to deliver good services to the community they serve.

Capacity Building for REDD+ in Rural Bhutan Sub-Project

Mr. Jamyang Phuntsho, Tarayana Foundation

Experiences and Achievements

Mr. Jamyang Phuntso highlighted the consultation meetings as one of the achievements of Tarayana Foundation in REDD+ as it is involved with a large number of community members. Beyond consultation, they were able to conduct workshops and trainings on watershed management, livelihood enhancement, and traditional knowledge documentation with about 1,200 people, 508 of which are women and 141 of which are young people.

Challenges

To Mr. Phuntso, the delay in project delivery has been a challenge for them as it affected the communities' expectations on REDD+. He also cited the unapproved activities as challenge since these could have enhanced the capacities of the community members.

Finally, he identified the remoteness of sites, as a major challenge in project implementation.

Experiences of Pemagatshel District

Ms. Karma Yangchen

Experiences and Achievements

In the case of Pemagatshel District, Ms. Karma Yangchen shared that there had been plantation activities as well as capacity building activities that involved the local people. Workshops and trainings on watershed management and community-based forest monitoring involved a significant number of community members.

Challenges

Ms. Yangchen identified natural resource-related issues as key challenges in her district. For instance, the lack of water sources and the need for more timber harvesting to make houses pose a challenge as community members expect something to be done regarding these.

Open Forum

Mr. Rai asked a question regarding the consideration of intellectual property rights aspect in the documentation of traditional knowledge. Mr. Phuntso explained that Tarayana Foundation has been working closely with these areas so the communities trust them and, in turn, Tarayana Foundation makes sure that the knowledge they gather from the local peoples are only used for legitimate purposes that works for the local communities' benefit (e.g. documentation of traditions, culture, livelihoods). He also expressed that this might be something they can seriously look into in the future.

Mr. Rai also commented on the demands for building houses as mentioned by Ms. Wangchen. He shared that there had been studies that found out that using woods in building houses can be more environment and climate friendly compared to other materials (materials out of mining for example). He pointed out that it is important to see how IPs look at these things and educate people (IPs and non-IPs alike) on how we use something from the forest but we regenerate it. Mr. Phuntso agreed and added that there are a lot of legal systems involved in harvesting wood from forests in Bhutan. For CFs, local peoples can get what they need on the condition that they replenish it.

On the other hand, Mr. Ngach inquired on shifting cultivation in Bhutan. Mr. Phuntso shared that shifting cultivation was made illegal and the communities were educated on the legal implications of doing so. With penalties and other legal consequences, people became wary and the practice decreased over time.

Lastly, Mr. Samrith wanted to learn more on why Bhutan prioritized building houses for the people. Mr. Phuntso retold the story on how Bhutan's Queen Mother in 1988 did a tour to all the districts of Bhutan and sat down with community peoples and asked what they really need for their lives. The Queen Mother then thought about how to make the people

aspire to be self-reliant. She came up with the idea that if people have their own houses, they will work harder to fill the empty space in their houses. This can drive them not only to purchase material things but also to have a wider and long-term mindset such as cleanliness of immediate surrounding, and sanitation of the self in relation to the cleanliness outside which can lead to ideas on health and wellness.

Capacity building for the ethnic communities to be ready to actively participate in REDD+ as an independent stakeholder through their legal entities Sub-Project

Mr. Ha Trung Thong, Hoa Binh Cooperative on Agriculture, Forestry & Environment, Thai Nguyen Province, and Ms. Vu Thi Hien, Centre for Research & Development in Upland Areas, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Experiences and Achievements

They were able to engage with four communes in the Thai Nguyen province and one commune in Thanh Hoa province. Through the FCPF-funded sub-project, they accomplished the following: (1) established two FPIC teams (one in each province); (2) conducted REDD+ readiness capacity-building activities for cooperative leaders and community forest owners (self-governing groups) as well as for the FPIC teams and for the ethnic minorities themselves (with women participation highly considered); and (3) advocated 19 policy recommendations to help ethnic minorities maximize their benefit from REDD+.

Challenges

Level of participation and commitment has been a major challenge on the ground, most especially in the initial phases, as community members thought that REDD+-related activities will be like the village meetings they usually have where someone will just read a document to them in a very top-down approach. Another major factor at play is the villagers had been accustomed to getting paid when attending training courses from the government so the project implementers had a hard time leveling off their expectations on REDD+-related activities.

They also identified the low knowledge level of community members and relatively short project duration as challenges as these had been a major consideration in project implementation. Lastly, women participation had been a challenging task since they were usually busy with employment and livelihood arrangements.

Promoting collaborative approaches in forest management to reduce carbon emissions among forest-dependent households and forest management enterprises in Northern Central Coastal Region of Vietnam Sub-Project

Mr. Le Quang Thong, International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystems Research (ICTHER), Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Experiences and Achievements

Through the sub-project, there were several village meetings and discussions on Adaptive Collaborative Management Approach (ACMA), Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), and Forest Management Council (FMC) that involved a number of ethnic groups on the ground. There were also workshops and trainings on the REDD+ project.

Challenges

The natural condition of the site has been a major challenge as these are mostly remote and not easily accessible. Another challenge they faced on the ground was the diversity of ethnic groups living in the areas. Having different views and opinions on matters made it hard to build consensus.

Level of literacy and language were also among barriers as these hampered the communication aspect of the project. Community members found it hard to understand certain concepts and ideas while project implementers had a difficult time to send their messages across.

Recommendations

In his opinion, trainings should remain a key activity, as this is where community members learn the most. However, there should be enough consideration on the knowledge level and the languages spoken and understood by the participants. In the conduct of these trainings (and REDD+-related activities in general), project implementers should understand local people and community and their constraints in the locality.

There should also be spaces where IPs can raise their concerns and be heard. He called for the government to provide such spaces and hear out what the IPs have to say. More importantly, he recommended that the government should not discriminate ethnic groups.

Open Forum

Ms. Grace Balawag shared that she had an opportunity to review ERPD of Vietnam, during the Carbon Fund Meeting. She said that ACMA is still a proposed mechanism under the ERPD for Vietnam and she commented that it is “business as usual.” She pointed out that when it comes to development of plantations, ACMA is basically the same as the previous plantation programs of Vietnam where there is the risk of clearing up natural forests for the plantations. She warned that this should be planned very well so that it will not be an environmental concern or risk given that they could still continue with the usual plantation in natural forests. She also shared the experience of some of the communities where they needed to clear up the monocrop plantations to reintroduce indigenous species of trees and plants in light of the drying up of watershed and other water sources because of that.

In terms of the benefits, Ms. Balawag shared that she requested for the redefining the benefits the indigenous communities can secure from ACMA. For instance, this should be beyond the paid labor for participation in the implementation. She said that she emphasized that participation should not just be through paid labor; ethnic minorities should be part of the whole processes from planning until implementation to have ownership of the forest management. Before she ended, she said that there should be more dynamic changes and

transformations in terms of how we define plantation development (is it the monocrop again or does it already consider the indigenous species).

Ms. Vu Thi Hien asked about the difference between ACMA and the way the government implements the existing system, programs, and policies (i.e. the government spends a lot of money for forest protection). She explained that in the current system, there is not much participation of ethnic minorities, which according to her is the core of the issue. Mr. Le QuangThong responded that the difference is that the ethnic minorities can have better and stronger role in this as forest managers, they have a say on the management and the plan as they can take part in the committee. He added that they can also contribute ideas before decision-making and they know their benefits and how benefit sharing works. Ethnic minorities who are forest managers also have the opportunity to be members of FMC in the future. Additional budget was also given to local government, which they can use to invest on small activities in relation to forest management.

Mr. Ahmad seconded Ms. Hien's point on the need for full and effective participation of IPs and ethnic minorities when it comes to decision-making processes. He expressed his appreciation for the research ICTHER conducted since it demonstrated respect and trust with their research participants (i.e. ethnic minorities).

Ms. Balawag added that there is a need to strengthen the collective tenure rights of the ethnic minorities in communes in relation to forests. They should have the right and at the same time they should be able to manage the forests.

Mr. Thong then identified measures to strengthen the rights of the ethnic minorities and IPs, which include good relationship between IP forest owners and other people in the local community, legal knowledge and improved capacities of ethnic minorities and IPs, and the continuous act of voicing out their concerns on platforms available and accessible to them.

Mr. Ngach stressed that IPs should have the rights to own and manage their lands and forests. He also shared their experience in Cambodia, specifically how NGOs working directly with the IPs and the conduct of capacity building activities have been instrumental in the empowerment of IPs. He also discussed how good relations and coordination with local governments have helped them in their activities and even in their advocacies.

In response to the points raised by the participants, Ms. Kin Yii Yong (Celine) shared some opportunities that Vietnam can maximize. She mentioned that the Land Law is currently under review, with open consultations. She said that this is as good as any opportunity to have CTS updated and considered in the new law. She believes there will be opportunities for consultation so Vietnamese delegates should keep an ear out and get involved in upcoming discussions. Aside from the Land Law, she also talked about the Planning Law that was adopted by the National Assembly in December last year. She said that since this adoption is still on its first year, the National Assembly are still on the lookout for existing pilots and experiences and opportunities so they can develop guideline and policy directives. She added that there are interesting pilots ongoing in Lao Cai and Lam Dong in terms of integrated land use planning. According to her, there are already discussions building on existing REDD+ work in terms of where TK of ethnic minorities come in and

how these TK can be used, what are the challenges, and how to further clarify CTS. All these discussions are ongoing right now so she advised that the Vietnamese delegates be strategic and not miss these opportunities in order to shape discussion for REDD+ and the ethnic minorities of Vietnam.

FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-Dependent IPs in EAP and SAR Project: Summary of Progress to Date

Ms. Helen Valdez, Project Management Team, Tebtebba Foundation

Ms. Helen Valdez reiterated the project details including its objectives, the eligible countries for the project as well as the qualified countries for Component 1 (sub-granting) given the selection criteria agreed with the World Bank, the project components and corresponding expected outcomes, and the project implementation arrangements among others. She also discussed the process on how the beneficiary organizations for Component 1 was selected, the summary of fund allocation and the status of budget releases among the sub-grantees.

She present the target outcomes and the actual results accomplished by the project as of September 30, 2018:

- Target Outcome #1: Share of target beneficiaries with knowledge score of 3 or more on REDD+ and related issues (Target: 80%). The actual result is around 69%.
- Target Outcome #2: National knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages (Target: 6). The actual result is 104
- Target Outcome #3: Regional knowledge exchange products disseminated in appropriate languages (Target: 2). The actual result is 2, which are the CTS research and this regional workshop.
- Target Outcome #4: Meetings held between IP representatives and national REDD+ decision making entities (Target: 12). The actual result is 15 meetings.
- Target Outcome #5: Direct project beneficiaries reached (Target: 400), of which (Target: 50%) are female. The actual result reached 4,668 direct beneficiaries but only around 41% women.

Ms. Valdez also discussed the project expenses, which showed that there are still funds yet to be disbursed. She explained that these funds are for the expenses yet to be reconciled and audited.

In conclusion, the project is successful as it met, in some cases even surpassed its targets (Indicator 2 or national knowledge exchange products; Indicator 3 or regional knowledge sharing; Indicator 4 or meetings of IP representatives with national REDD+ decision makers; and partly indicator 5 on the number of direct beneficiaries). In the additional financing, extra efforts should be exerted to increase the participation of women in sub-project activities. Their multiple role as women, most especially as IP women, should be taken into consideration in planning and implementation.

For indicator 1 or share of participants whose perceptions their knowledge have increased their after participating in capacity building activities, management teams of sub-projects and the facilitators should make sure that participants understood very well how to accomplish the feedback forms. This may improve the outcome of this indicator.

Towards the end of her presentation, Ms. Valdez presented direct quotations from the participants themselves (she realized that these are all women) that reflect the outcomes achieved by the project beyond the results framework:

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Nga of Thanh Hoa, Vietnam said “Now I understand that a citizen has rights, if someone says ‘you do not have rights’, I will respond and say that I have rights and will speak out to explain my rights to him or her” after a training.
- An 18 year old female training participant in Fiji, Asenaca Rusawale, wrote in her evaluation form “The training upgrades mentality of people in the community about the provisions for life from the environment and the ecosystem.”
- Ms. Tshering Yangsom of Buli, Zhemgang District, Bhutan after participating in the training said “benefited and related to our life.”

WAYS FORWARD

Since the workshop participants agreed that collaboration between IPs and the governments is key to climate change action, they zeroed in on the most critical aspect of this collaboration: the effective participation of IPs. For the ways forward, the participants were divided into groups to discuss mainly what effective IP participation means to them, what they think the government can do to create an environment that enables effective IP participation, and how IPs can maximize the opportunities available to them.

East Asia Group (Vietnam and Cambodia)

Governments can create an enabling environment for effective participation of IPs mainly through the strong implementation of existing policies and development of laws and policies that are indigenous- and gender-responsive and ensure that all communities actively participate in the creation of these policies. To allow participation, IPs need to achieve self-governance and self-determination to a certain extent in terms of decision-making and participation in the project development. Women and elders must also be able to take part and be heard in the discussion.

For them, IPs can maximize existing opportunities through strengthening cooperation with the government and being more involved in REDD+ activities such as monitoring, meeting, and capacity building activities. They also noted that IPs should know their rights so they can use it as part of their capacities.

Pacific Group (Fiji)

They identified a number of measures the government can take in order to create an enabling environment for effective IP participation through the formulation of policies to facilitate and maximize IP participation and the removal of gender-discriminatory practices

especially in traditional land tenure arrangements. They have also identified the implementation of activities that build the IPs' capacity to implement REDD+ programs to the extent that they are recognized as implementers and give them the opportunity to do so. Lastly, they call for the recognition of various forest users and to regulate their activities accordingly in order to protect the forest.

Meanwhile, they cited several points on how IPs can maximize existing opportunities mainly through self-determination and self-reliance to the point that they are not too dependent on government and donors. They suggested that IPs should set up a body/platform where they can express their concerns through dialogues and position papers. The platform can also help them tackle their issues and build their knowledge and capacities as IPs. Related to this platform is their suggestion to use and enhance existing indigenous based mechanisms in implementation programs (e.g. the use of familial relationships to facilitate discussion on sensitive issues but they also noted that they should also be aware of its limitations). They also encouraged IPs to participate in researches, most especially those that explore sustainable agricultural and land management practices. In terms of livelihood, they mentioned that IPs should explore non-extractive and non-destructive forest-based sources of income.

As part of self-determination, IPs should be able to identify and maximize the use of existing government mechanism that allow for their full and effective participation. Aside from this, they think IPs should recognize the various forest users that exist and ensure their active participation in the discussions around forest use as well. Forest users should recognize the limitation of the forest/land as a resource and know their responsibilities to ensure that it is protected and maintained.

South Asia Group (Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan)

Full and effective IP participation means that IPs have platforms or forms of representations (gender-inclusive) where they can “express their thoughts freely without hesitations” and they are heard. Aside from this, IPs should be able to take part in the planning and decision-making processes.

For them, the government can create an environment that enables effective IP participation through stakeholder mapping where the roles and rights of IPs are recognized. More than recognition, the government should allow them to “exercise their power” as it is “decentralized” to them.

They believe that IPs/ forest people/ ethnic minorities can maximize existing opportunities through compliance with national and international legal instruments that uphold their collective rights and through series of dialogue with relevant stakeholders on matters that concern the community.

Government Group (Pakistan, Bhutan, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji)

The government representatives defined the government as “the body either political or non-political that controls and runs the system of the State including people” and “As the

Central Agency in coordination and planning and inclusive of all local communities for their livelihoods.” For the government to enable effective participation, it should adopt a holistic approach, which means that it involves all stakeholders, which includes the government agencies, NGOs, private sector, and IPs/ forest peoples/ ethnic minorities.

For them, an environment that enables effective participation recognizes the rights of people as key stakeholders and their stake on matters that concern them. This means that they are involved in all levels of decision-making processes from programme design to its implementation and even up to its monitoring and evaluation. Beyond involvement, there should be continued support to IPs in the form of continuing education/ training and capacity building activities.

Briefing on the Additional Financing of the Project

by Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari, World Bank Consultant

Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari retold how additional financing for the project came to be. The rationale for it was the high demand for sub-projects and the limited funding offered so far by the FCPF led IP and civil society representatives to submit a request for additional financing to the FCPF. The request was approved on the 23rd PC meeting in Washington DC in 2017. In August 2018, the World Bank signed an additional financing agreement with Tebtebba for US\$651,163, increasing the total project cost to US\$1,141,913. The agreement also extended the project’s closing date by 14 months to December 31, 2019 to accommodate the additional activities financed.

Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari presented the key principles of the extension period is to have the same project structure, same objective, with scaled-up results. The idea is to increase the targets of the indicators. Another is to enhance engagement in the ER Program areas: prioritizing countries which are designing ERPs, namely Vietnam and Fiji. Moreover, other participating countries will receive smaller amounts of additional funding to provide additional training on key REDD+ subjects.

She specified the activities to be financed by the additional financing, which include the following:

- For Component 1: National Capacity Building and Awareness Raising
Gender analysis in the ERP area in Fiji with the aim to mainstream gender in the ERPD interventions in the future and to develop a gender action plan. The piloting of ACMA in Vietnam is also included among the activities. This ACMA will be the second one prepared for Vietnam, with the first one currently being piloted by ICHTER in Trung Ly commune in Thanh Hoah Province. Lastly, there are also trainings in Bhutan, Fiji, and Vanuatu on benefit sharing mechanisms and carbon accounting for REDD+ beneficiary communities’ representatives.
- For Component 2: Regional Exchange and Sharing of Lessons Learned

The additional financing will pay for regional training of trainers on carbon accounting for IP organizations in countries that are designing their ERPs and a research on policies on IPs and traditional forest management practices in Bhutan, Fiji and Vanuatu.

- For Component 3: Management, M&E and Reporting
The additional financing will also finance the project management during the extended project period and additional resources for RSC meetings.

Open Forum

Participants expressed their excitement for the additional financing to the point that they asked about the possibility of submitting proposals and how the process will be. The WB team clarified that there will be no call for new sub-project proposals. For the activities included in the additional financing, however, they reminded that these activities should be completed by June 30, 2019 to give Tebtebba ample amount of time to complete the project report before 2020.

WORKSHOP RESULTS

Synthesis of Challenges

Drawing from the rich experiences of the participants on the ground, the following challenges have surfaced:

- Respect of IP rights from non-IPs remains a challenge. Various sectors of the society still hold a stereotypical mindset that human rights defenders are hindrance to national development.
- Recognition of IP rights remains limited and traditional knowledge remains almost untapped. IPs continue to advocate for these in the national and international level given the poor implementation of policies that are supposed to protect the welfare of the IPs. There is also the lack of policy coherence as reflected in conflicting provisions of policies.
- Language and illiteracy are major barriers towards full understanding of REDD+ as this can be too technical and might require resource persons and/or measures to make it more understandable and relatable to the communities. This also transcends to legal documents and other relevant materials that IPs could have used in their favor only if they could understand these.
- IP participation remains limited in dialogues and decision-making processes with their voices remain unheeded.
- Indigenous women still struggle to participate not only in REDD+-related activities but also in the decision-making processes in general.
- In terms of project implementation, time has been a crucial factor. This encompasses the length of project duration from conception to implementation as well as the timing of the project (e.g. Bhutan sub-project coincided with busy election period and ravaging typhoon season).
- Aside from time, participants also identified natural conditions of the project areas (e.g. natural terrain, remoteness) as challenges in project implementation. This,

coupled with factors such as poor condition of roads, can seriously affect project implementation.

- Participants also identified the lack of resources specifically allocated for IP consultation and participation and lack of sufficient information sharing, which hamper full and effective IP participation.

Synthesis of Lessons Learned

There was a multitude of lessons learned shared by the regional workshop participants, which include the following:

- The role of the government remains critical, as they should be the main partner of IPs towards their self-determined development. Reports from the government representatives highlighted the need for more inclusive approach towards implementation of projects in indigenous communities.
- The role of CSOs and IPOs cannot also be understated. Through them, IPs were able to maximize their engagement with FCPF and REDD+ as they were involved in capacity building activities. Many communities are now capacitated and are ready to engage with programs such as REDD+ and implement projects on their own. However, there are still a lot of communities waiting for capacity building programs and alternative livelihood projects.
- REDD+ can be an opportunity for diversion of livelihoods towards sustainability. Ecotourism was also seen as a viable sustainable livelihood option.
- FCPF and REDD+ can also be helpful in conserving age-old traditional knowledge associated with environment conservation.
- Communication is critical in the project as information dissemination can also empower IP communities towards knowing their rights and making informed decisions. In relation to information dissemination, there is a need for documents and research results translation for the IPs to be able to digest documents themselves unlike having it disseminated in a top-down approach.
- Researches and knowledge exchange can serve as opportunities for IPs and IPOs to build their capacities as well as their networks.
- Full IP participation can only be achieved if the IPs have access to resources, information, and capacity building activities to be able to participate in all levels of decision-making processes.
- IPs, governments, CSOs, private sectors, and other partners need to collaborate, as the only way to go about climate action is together. Establishment of alliances with relevant stakeholders benefit the IP communities as they find partners for their advocacies.
- The IPs' and IPOs' engagement with FCPF and REDD+ has replenished their hopes and ignited their drive to work together as a community.

Synthesis of Recommendations

As responses to the challenges identified and the lessons learned, the following recommendations were drawn:

- In light of the numerous human rights violations IPs face, IPs and IPOs should continue to advocate for the recognition of their rights and identities as IPs to further their cause.
- IPs and IPOs should exploit the platforms and spaces available and accessible to them to bring to light their issues and concerns. They should relentlessly engage with dialogues and consultations.
- The government should be more sensitive and inclusive when it comes to IPs' concerns and create an enabling environment by involving them in all levels of decision-making processes. The government should provide assistance to IP communities to make them educated on the policies and programs of the government that they can maximize.
- Governments and IPOs can both learn from capacity building activities on information dissemination and knowledge management as these entities work closely with the IP communities.
- Beyond capacity building activities, there should be arrangements put in place to empower and enable women to use their capacities.
- FCPF and REDD+ should be sensitive of and recognize the significance of TK and CTS in climate action.
- IPs and IPOs should maximize the use of researches as evidences on the effectiveness of their TK and CTS in general.
- In response to the language barrier and illiteracy, community activities should be conducted in the vernacular language and there should be initiatives to translate relevant documents (e.g. legal instruments, researches, project documents) in common languages.
- In the conduct of FCPF- and REDD+-related activities in general, project implementers should not only understand the local people and community and their constraints on the locality but also put these into consideration in the project implementation.
- IPs should be more involved and more articulate of their concerns in REDD+ activities.

Workshop Impact Assessment

Guided by the Workshop Concept Note, the regional workshop was able to accomplish the following:

- It has brought together 20 representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from Fiji, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan together with six national government representatives from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Thailand, Bhutan, and Pakistan.
- These IPO representatives and government representatives were able to disseminate their experiences, good practices, challenges, lessons learned, and even recommendations for the project.
- IPO and government representatives were able to exchange knowledge through the regional workshop. The government heeded what the IPOs has to say and the IPOs listened to the government reports in return. They were able to discuss their

concerns together and learn from each other with mutual respect as reflected in the absence of major disagreements unlike how it has been in previous talks.

- Issues and concerns of IPs/ forest-dependent communities in relation to REDD+ design and implementation surfaced from the country presentations and open fora.
- Regional workshop participants were able to unite on possible ways forward they identified to address certain issues and concerns.
- World Bank was able to discuss the approved Additional Financing for the Project and the participants were able to inquire on this as well.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Name	Country	Details
1. Mr. Dr. Pema Wangda	Bhutan	Chief Forestry Officer/Head of REDD+ Secretariat, Watershed Management Division, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (Thimpu, Bhutan)
2. Mr. Narayan Ghalley	Bhutan	Project Officer, Royal Society for Protection of Nature (Thimpu, Bhutan)
3. Mr. Dorji Wangchuk	Bhutan	Member of the local REDD+ group, Gup Nangkor Gewog (Zhemgang District)
4. Mr. Jamyang Phuntsho	Bhutan	Project Officer, Tarayana Foundation (Thimpu, Bhutan)
5. Ms. Karma Yangchen	Bhutan	Pemagatshel District
6. Dr. Paris Chuop	Cambodia	Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development
7. Mr. Vaing Samrith	Cambodia	NGO Forum
8. Mr. Samin Ngach	Cambodia	President, CIYA
9. Ms. Reama T. Naco	Fiji	Communication Officer, REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forests
10. Ms. Tamara Finau Tabakaucoro	Fiji	President, Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board (Suva, Fiji)
11. Mr. Ilaitia Leitabu	Fiji	Emalu, Navosa District
12. Ms. Nunia Teresa Thomas	Fiji	Nature Fiji
13. Ms. Mina Susana Setra	Indonesia	AMAN
14. Mr. Gobinda Chhantyal	Nepal	Vice Chairperson, NEFIN
15. Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai	Nepal	NEFIN
16. Mr. Sohail Babar Warraich	Pakistan	Section Chief (Forests), Ministry of Climate Change (Government of Pakistan)
17. Mr. Riaz Ahmad	Pakistan	c/o Sustainable Development Policy Institute
18. Ms. Ethel Namuri	Papua New Guinea	Communications Manager, Climate Change and Development Authority
19. Mr. James Alim	Philippines	CTS Researcher
20. Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz	Philippines	UN Special Rapporteur for the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, Tebtebba
21. Ms. Grace Balawag	Philippines	Tebtebba

22. Ms. Eleanor Dictaan-Bang-oa	Philippines	Tebtebba
23. Mr. Catalino Corpuz Jr.	Philippines	Tebtebba
24. Mr. Raymond de Chavez	Philippines	Tebtebba
25. Ms. Helen Valdez	Philippines	Tebtebba
26. Ms. Lea Patugad	Philippines	Tebtebba
27. Ms. Odencia Paleng	Philippines	Tebtebba
28. Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri	Thailand	Chair, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
29. <u>Ms.</u> Sutthatip Chormaci	Thailand	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
30. Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa	Nepal	AIPP
31. Mr. Ha Trung Thong	Vietnam	Director, Hoa Binh Cooperative
32. Mr. Le Quang Thong	Vietnam	Project Coordinator, International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystems Research (ICTHER)
33. Ms. Luong Thi Truong	Vietnam	Executive Director, CSDM
34. Ms. Vu Thi Hien	Vietnam	Executive Director, CERDA
35. Mr. Nguyen Chien Cuong	Vietnam	Interpreter
36. Ms. Haddy Jatou Sey	World Bank	Task Team Leader
37. Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari	World Bank	Consultant
38. Ms. Kin Yii Yong (Celine)	UNDP	UNDP

Annex 2: Program

Schedule	Topic/Format	Facilitator/Resource Person
October 1, 2018		Arrival
Day 1: October 2, 2018		Facilitator: Tebtebba
08:00-09:00	Registration	Secretariat
09:00-09:05	Opening Prayer	
09:05-09:15	Words of Welcome	Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajanangri, AIPP/RSC Convenor; Ms. Haddy Jatou Sey, Task Team Leader, World Bank; and Tebtebba
09:15-10:00	Introduction of Participants	
10:00-10:15	Presentation of the Program	
10:15-10:30	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:30-11:00	Keynote: Indigenous Peoples and REDD+	Ms. Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Tebtebba's Executive Director and UNSRRIP
11:00-11:30	Open Forum	
11:30-12:00	Relevance of Traditional Knowledge and Practices to Climate Change and REDD+ Strategies	Ms. Grace Balawag Climate Change Team, Tebtebba and IP Observer to the FCPF
12:00-12:20	Open Forum	
12:20-01:20	Lunch Break	
01:20-01:50	Updates on the FCPF	Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari Consultant, World Bank
01:50-02:10	Open Forum	
02:10-02:40	Highlights of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Gender Responsive Emissions Reduction Programs	Ms. Ellen Dictaan-Bang-oa Gender Coordinator, Tebtebba
02:40-03:00	Open Forum	
03:00-03:30	Customary Tenure Systems and REDD+: Ensuring Benefits for Indigenous Peoples	Mr. James Alim, Researcher
03:30-3:50	Open Forum inclusive of coffee/tea break	
03:50-04:40	Country Presentations (please see guide on presentations at the end of the document) Panel 1: Cambodia and Indonesia	Cambodia: Dr. Paris Chuop, Deputy Secretary General, National Council for Sustainable Development; and Mr. Vaing Samrith, NGO Forum Indonesia: Ms. Mina Susana Setra, AMAN/RSC Member
04:40-05:00	Open Forum	
Day 2: October 3, 2018		Facilitator: Regional Steering Committee Members
08:30-08:40	Recap of Day 1	
08:40-09:30	Country Presentations continued.... Panel 2: Nepal and Pakistan	Nepal: Mr. Gobinda Chhantyal/Tunga Bhadra Rai (RSC Member), NEFIN Pakistan: Mr. Sohail Babar Warraich, Ministry of Climate Change and Mr. Riaz Ahmad
09:30-09:50	Open Forum	
09:50-10:05	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:05-11:00	Country Presentations continued.... Panel 3: Papua New Guinea and Thailand	Papua New Guinea: Ms. Ethel Namuri, Communications Manager, Climate Change & Development Authority

		Thailand: Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact/RSC Convenor
11:00-11:20	Open Forum	
11:20-12:00	Country Presentations continued.... Panel 4: Fiji	Ms. Reama T. Naco, Communications Officer REDD+ Unit, Ministry of Forests; Ms. Finau Tabakucoro, Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei Trust Board; & Mr. Ilaitia Yavadua Leitabu, Emalu, Navosa
12:00-12:20	Open Forum	
12:20-01:20	Lunch Break	
01:20-02:30	Country Presentations continued.... Panel 5: Bhutan	Dr. Pema Wangda, Chief Forestry Officer/Head of REDD+ Secretariat, Department of Forests & Park Services; Mr. Narayan Ghalley, Royal Society for Protection of Nature; Mr. Dorji Wangchuk, Nagkor Gewog, Zhemgang District; Mr. Jamyang Phuntsho, Tarayana Foundation; and Ms. Karma Yangchen, Pemagatshel District
02:30-03:00	Open Forum	
03:00-03:15	Coffee/Tea Break	
03:15-04:00	Country Presentations continued.... Panel 6: Vietnam	Mr. Ha Trung Thong, Hoa Binh Cooperative, Thai Nguyen Province; Ms. Vu Thi Hien, Center for Research & Development; and Mr. Le Quang Thong, International Center for Tropical Highland Ecosystems Research
04:00-04:15	Open forum	
Day 3: October 4, 2018		Facilitator: Tebtebba
08:30-08:40	Recap of Day 2	
08:40-09:00	FCPF Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples in EAP and SAR Project	Tebtebba
09:00-09:20	Open Forum	
09:20-10:30	Workshop: Recommendations on Ways Forward	
10:30-10:45	Coffee/Tea Break	
10:45-12:30	Presentation of workshop results including Q and A	Workshop Groups
12:30-01:30	Lunch Break	
01:30-02:30	Response: FCPF Additional Financing of the Project Opportunities for Cambodia and PNG	Ms. Ayala Peled Ben Ari Consultant, World Bank and Ms. Kin Yii Yong, UNDP
03:30-04:00	Recap of activity and other pending matters/matters for coordination inclusive of snacks	
04:00	Closing	
October 5, 2018		Departure

Annex 3: Country Presentations by Government and IPO Representatives.

Copies of the presentations can also be accessed through Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=18iSsRzLsHK90oyVylYDZ9wYJcy7JaQrZ>