

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Capacity Building on REDD+ for Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples in East Asia, Pacific and South Asia Regions Project

Minutes 3rd Regional Steering Committee Meeting

30 – 31 January 2020

Furama Silom, Bangkok, Thailand

Objectives of the RSC meeting

- To share the results of the Regional Dialogue and the Global Dialogue
- To update RSC members on Additional Financing Implementation and No Cost Extension, including the Work and Financial Plan of the NCE
- Discuss and recommend ways forward in relation to proposed “Phase 3” of the CB

Attendance¹:

At least five (5) of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) members, who are all males, were present while three (3) of the members, all female, were absent. The IP observer of the region to the FCPF PC was present as well as three (3) members of the Project Management Team (PMT) of Tebtebba.

Agenda²:

The proposed agenda was reviewed and adopted.

Summary of Discussions

Review of the minutes of the 2nd RSC meeting held January 29-30, 2019 in Hanoi

The RSC members should be informed about regional capacity building activities. The Training of Trainers (ToT) on forest carbon accounting is an example. In the 2nd RSC meeting, Cambodia and Indonesia were nominated for the venue and it was requested that more participants will be invited. The difficulty of organizing the training especially the field work part was explained. The tool kit will be shared as soon as the introductory portion is finished. A few hard copies will be printed and soft copies will be available.

One action point agreed during the 2nd RSC meeting was to request the WB to include Cambodia, Nepal and Thailand in Component 1 in the additional financing in case additional financing support cannot be implemented in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea. A letter was sent by the RSC to the TTL but the official response from the WB was not sent directly to them but through Tebtebba. The RSC pointed out that future official communications should be sent through proper channels.

¹ Please see Annex 1

² The meeting agenda is found in Annex 2

Communications has been raised as a problem in one of the RSC meetings and the RSC meeting happens only once a year. It was suggested to have some video calls to fill the gap.

Updates from FCPF countries

Vanuatu: It was shared that the National REDD+ CSO Platform is conducting community awareness raising on (REDD+ (ex: in Tanna) using funds from the government REDD+ readiness. The CSO Platform will complete the activities in March 2020. The national REDD+ readiness was completed December 2019.

Thailand: The completion of the national REDD+ readiness was moved from 2019 to June 30, 2020 due to unfinished project. The national REDD+ strategy is expected to be completed in the next months. The WB was unwilling to support the military government and this caused delay in providing support. Procuring the services of an external consultant was done only around July-Sept 2019. A developed Working Group is part of the strategy which requires a series of consultations. They are inviting some IPS/community leaders who can speak in the consultations. There will be a consultation in Chiang Mai.

One of the main concerns is on safeguards. Proper measures should be in place in the communities but as of now, there have not seen any discussion on this and the workshops are awaited. The government funded 20 communities as pilots for REDD+ Learning Centers.

Nepal: The readiness phase started in 2008 and will be completed June 30, 2020. It is not clear what is happening at present. The ERPA was supposed to be signed in 2017 but is now delayed by 3 years. The Forest Investment Plan/REDD+ strategy was already adopted by the cabinet. The structure includes IP representatives.

The National REDD+ Coordination Committee (NRCC) and Steering Committee include IP representatives but should be nominated by the government. NEFIN questioned this and the government said they would pick from those identified by IPs but the problem is this interpretation is from the person who is currently in the position and who can be changed. The Benefit Sharing Plan and Safeguards Implementation Plan are still to be finalized by the steering committee. The ERPD is with the FCPF Carbon Fund. The basis of negotiation for the ERPA are the two plans. It seems the government is not so much interested in the Carbon Fund because half of the ministry says there is not much forest so not much money from REDD+. However, they are more interested on other climate funds for adaptation.

According to the IP observer, as of January 2020, Nepal is included in the decision review meeting in the coming months.

Cambodia: The readiness phase started in 2008 with the UNDP as the delivery partner. The REDD+ strategy plan, structure and environmental code are developed. There is lack of

information to IP representatives and communities about the implementation, even if there is collaboration between government and CSO (NGO Forum). CIYA was invited to REDD+ trainings but UNDP should coordinate more with IPs.

The IP Observer (Grace Balawag) suggested the need to ask UNDP (Ms. Celina) on how they are engaging IPs, FPIC and how different is UNDP and WB in terms of delivery partners and draw lessons from this. She also suggested the need for an IP evaluation of REDD+ implementation focusing on full and effective participation (stakeholder engagement) and not only depending on the government report. This is being proposed to UNDP which is now winding up its work and focusing of technical evaluation.

Other initiatives on REDD+

Lakpa Nuri Sherpa also shared AIPP's initiatives in relation to REDD+ implementation in Myanmar and Vietnam. Under a 5-year project funded by NORAD, AIPP mobilized communities in 20 villages in Chin State, Myanmar and Thanh Hoa and Bin Thoa in Vietnam.

Concrete impacts:

- Empowered women in project areas - women's groups in each project area are united and are now part of the Vietnam national level network established in 2019.
- Livelihood support for women – facilitated economic empowerment but there is difficulty in monitoring changes in women's empowerment because this requires longer time to establish baseline data.
- Engagement with local government – good example on how governments should work on the ground with IPs/ethnic minorities.
- Interest of media on the work on the ground.

Lessons

- Community mapping is an important tool but was also a source of conflict like in Myanmar (sacred forest and mountains being claimed by several communities remain unresolved; but still important for them to understand their past). A possible solution is mapping the whole ancestral area and not by villages.
- If you want to change perspectives, there is a need to influence children and youth where change can happen (development of comics on food systems and IK to feed into the curriculum then translated to other languages).

Safeguards Information System

- Vietnam prepared guidelines and submitted SIS which mentions IPs/LCs but not internalized in the content. They said they already have online system where other government agencies can input. Monitoring is weak since the government is sensitive on this.
- Myanmar is still in the process of setting up its SIS. In relation to engagement, there is a network of IPs that was set up. There is a potential for an IP movement to strengthen in the future. One problem in the conflict in some areas such as in Rakhine state, necessitating shifting the project area.

Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue

The achievements shared during the dialogue and recommendations arising were shared by Mr. Raymond de Chavez, member of the PMT. These recommendations were forwarded to the Global Dialogue (see below).

Global Dialogue and PC meeting

The report from the Global Dialogue and highlights of the PC meeting were shared by Ms. Grace Balawag, IP observer of the region to the Participants Committee of the FCPF. Worth noting are the summaries of most important topics identified by participants that need to be addressed in the CBP such as benefit sharing, land tenure, grievance redress mechanism, gender and monitoring, reporting and verification among others.

The recommendations from the Regional Dialogue were carried to the Global Dialogue with additions from the other regions. This highlighted the need to continue the CBP; the program to be inclusive and develop partnerships; support non-carbon benefits and livelihoods; monitoring and safeguards systems; and continued funding (kindly refer to Annex 3).

The PC meeting in November 2019 extended the REDD+ Readiness to December 2022 and approved US\$5M additional capacity building fund for IPs and CSOs to be implemented until December 2022. It is not clear if it is a continuation of the current CBP or a new project.

There is also a committed fund (20M euros) contributed by the Federal Government of Germany for the continuing support of Indigenous Peoples/forest dependent communities/southern CSOs under the Carbon Phase from 2020 to 2025. As recommended from the regional and global dialogues, the program framework and design for implementation shall be determined through consultations with IPs/SCSOs to ensure ownership and social inclusion.

The IP Observer shared also the restructuring at the WB: FCPF and CIF are under the Climate Change Group and the TTLs are no longer part of the FMT but are TTLs for the regions. The FMT, which is also called the FCPF Secretariat, will be calling for regional/global consultations to redefine CBP or a Trust Fund for IPs. (For clarification with Haddy).

It was suggested that the IP Observer should prepare reports of PC decisions relevant to the CBP and share with the RSC members, which are also shared in the FCPF website as the FCPF PA Co-Chairs' summary report. The RSC members should encourage other RSC members to attend (Mina and Nunia) RSC meetings and get updates from them. The Pacific should push for a separate region.

Some thoughts on the US\$5M and German fund:

- US\$5M: There should be a strong focus on women; cover FCPF countries which did not receive funds from the current CBP financing; include a budget for RSC meetings and monitoring; get information/project document from the TTL

- Include youth and strengthening existing networks; define a communication road map (grassroots to national to global) and decision making; review/improve the sub-grantees selection process
- There should be a process (regional and global dialogue) to gather inputs on the German fund on what IPs want based on experiences with other funds;

FCPF CBP Outputs and NCE

This was shared by the PMTL. The targets of Indicators 1 (participants having a score of 3 and above on REDD+ related topics) and Indicator 5 (percentage of women direct beneficiaries). GTM (Fiji) has not submitted yet the completion report and the final audit report.

Two sub-grantees in Bhutan (RSPN) and Vietnam (Hoa Binh) are being considered to continue their sub-projects under the NCE. To be completed are the printing of the research on forest, side events, printing a few hard copies of the forest carbon accounting tool kit and compilation of soft copies of knowledge materials from Component 2.

Preparatory Regional Workshop for the FCPF CBP in EAP-SAR, September 2015 and the Operations Manual

The review of the agreements and the operations manual was facilitated by Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri and Mr. Raymond De Chavez. Points of focus of the review included eligibility criteria and procedures for the selection for the indigenous peoples' organizations and capacity building activities.

It was pointed out here that the request for capacity building funds was for IPOs but the CBP included CSOs. Tebtebba informed the group that it has not yet decided if it will implement the share of the region from the US\$5M.

Recommendations

A. On the additional US\$5M

A.1 Eligibility:

1. Countries: All the 11 FCPF countries in the region (Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam) should be eligible to apply for Component 1 (sub-grants);
2. Organizations: RSC member organizations should be eligible to apply for Component 1 but to inhibit in the selection/decision on their sub-grant proposal; CSOs should be eligible to apply only when there are no eligible IPOs in the country; Redefine IPOs to include collective resource/land owners involved in customary governance of lands;
3. Activities: All the activities recommended by the Regional Dialogue which were enhanced and affirmed in the Global Dialogue should be eligible for funding (refer to Annex 3);

A.2 Selection Process

4. The selection process for sub-grantees (Component 1) should follow a hybrid approach (both an open call and targeted call). The open call will be employed only in countries where RSC member organizations do not have networks (example: Pakistan). The RSC

members should be involved in the conduct of due diligence of its partners whose project proposals are considered;

B. German Fund

1. IPs to request a dialogue on the program implementation through a letter to be drafted by the IP Observers to the PC. The ERP countries have ERP funds for its own capacity building for IPs so why not focus on other Readiness countries where CBP for IPs is needed most.

C. Regional Steering Committee

1. RSC members should represent their organization in their respective country and not as individual members. They should nominate an alternate who can take on the role of the primary, in case he/she cannot participate/attend.
2. There should be another RSC meeting prior to the implementation of the region's share in the US\$5M.
3. CIYA (Cambodia) should inform the RSC and Tebtebba of the replacement of Mr. Samin Ngach whose term as president will expire.

D. Communications

1. The RSC convenor should be copied in all official communications to the WB on matters of RSC concern but not operational matters.
2. Strengthen communication within RSC and between the RSC and Tebtebba; explore virtual discussions in case face to face meetings are not possible

Ways Forward:

1. RSC and Tebtebba to write the TTL (Haddy) to request information on the additional money (US\$5M) re: eligible countries and activities;
2. RSC to send email to TTL regarding response of Consultant (that was sent to Helen Valdez) to RSC letter and reiterating response through proper channels;
3. Request the German government for a regional consultation to clarify this funding and for IPs to input. Grace to follow-up Joseph re PC Observers letter to GIZ
4. Copy the RSC convenor in official communications with WB on matters of RSC concern
5. Mr. Samin Ngach to inform the RSC and Tebtebba of his replacement.
6. RSC to request UNDP to share updates on REDD+ implementation on the region to include, how they are engaging IPs, FPIC, and request information on their delivery partners for better coordination, among others.

Meeting adjourned 12:05 noon, January 31, 2020

ANNEX 1: Attendance Sheet

Present:

1. Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangri, AIPP, Thailand
2. Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, AIPP, Thailand
3. Mr. Tunga Bhadra Rai, NEFIN, Nepal
4. Mr. Samin Ngach, CIYA, Cambodia
5. Mr. Laisiasa Sakita, VANGO, Vanuatu
6. Ms. Grace Balawag, IP Observer to FCPF PC
7. Mr. Catalino (Bong) Corpuz, PMT Tebtebba
8. Mr. Raymond de Chavez, PMT, Tebtebba
9. Ms. Helen Valdez

Absent:

1. Ms. Nunia Thomas-Moko, Nature Fiji, Fiji
2. Ms. Loung Thi Troung, CSDM, Vietnam
3. Ms. Mina Susana Setra, AMAN, Indonesia

ANNEX 2: Agenda

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) as a convener of the Asia Regional Steering Committee (RSC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Capacity Building Fund Project in East Asia, Pacific and South Asia Regions for Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples is conducting a two-day meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 30-31 January 2020, hosted by Tebtebba, as Recipient Organization.

The composition of the RSC includes; Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangri of AIPP from Thailand; Samin Ngach of Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association (CIYA) from Cambodia; Mina Setra of Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) from Indonesia; Tunga Rai of Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) from Nepal; Loung Thi Troung of Centre for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) from Vietnam and Nunia Thomas-Moko of NATURE FIJI Mareqeti Viti from Fiji and Lai Sakita of Vanuatu Association of NGOs from Vanuatu.

The objectives of the RSC meeting are:

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- Discuss and recommend ways forward in relation to proposed “Phase 3” of the CBP

Date/Time	Activity	Organization / Person responsible
DAY 1, 30 January 2020, Tuesday		
9:00 am – 9: 15 am	Welcome	Tebtebba

9:15 am – 10:00 am	Review of the minutes of the RSC meeting, 29-30 Jan 2019, Hanoi, Vietnam	Mr. Kittisak Rattankrajangsri Chairperson Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Convenor, RSC
10:00 am – 10:15 am	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
10:15 am – 12:00 noon	Key updates on REDD+ implementation: (With Open Forum) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuato • Thailand • Nepal • Cambodia • Other REDD+ countries 	RSC Lai Sakita, Vanuatu Organization of NGOs Kittisak Rattanajangsri, AIPP Tunga Bhadra Rai, Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities Samin Ngach, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1:30 am – 2:00 pm	Sharing of the results of the Regional Dialogue for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples, Other Forest Dwellers and Southern CSOs in the Asia-Pacific Region, 16-20 September 2019	Tebtebba
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Open Forum	
2:30 pm – 3:00 noon	Sharing of the results of the Global Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Southern CSOs, 7-9 November 2019	Grace Balawag, Tebtebba IP Observer to the FCPF Participants Committee
3:00 noon – 3:30 pm	Open Forum	
3:30 pm- 3:45 pm	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Update on Additional Financing implementation and Discussion of the NCE, including the Work and Financial Plan of the additional financing	Ms. Helen Valdez Project Management Team Leader Tebtebba
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Open Forum	
DAY 2, 30 January 2019, Wednesday		
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Recap of Day 1	

9:15 am – 9:45 am	Sharing of “Phase 3”/Extension of the CBP	Tebtebba
9:45 am – 10:15 am	Open Forum	
10:15 am – 10:30 am	COFFEE/TEA BREAK	
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Review of the agreements during the Preparatory Regional Workshop for the FCPF CBP in EA-SAR, 13-14 Sept 2015, Bangkok, Thailand	AIPP
11:00 am – 12:45 noon	Discussions, Recommendations and Ways Forward	AIPP
12:45 noon – 1:00 pm	Closing	Mr. Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri

ANNEX 3: Participants Recommendations at the Global Dialogue

Capacity Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to build capacity on REDD+ Readiness and ERPs with clear, fair, transparent and effective implementation, especially on safeguards, gender action, land/forest tenure rights, MRV and benefit-sharing plans with consideration of traditional knowledge, customary practices, alternative livelihoods and technical skills; and with inclusion of training of trainers from IPs, CSOs, LCs, women and land resource owners (including vulnerable groups). 2. Need for building capacity on administrative, organizational, communication skills of CSO/IP/LC/women’s organizations at all levels, including support for groups at the design stage to strengthen, develop and submit proposals for access to finance and put in place systems for effective management and reporting. 3. Expand climate change-related topics for curricula in the education sector. Give priority to South-South cooperation when external expertise is required during ERP implementation. 4. Specific recommendations for governments: Include resources for effective implementation of capacity building activities in the operational budgets of the ERP and incorporate budget for CSO/IP/LC/women’s programming inNDCs.
Inclusion and Partnership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. IPs, CSOs, local communities, other forest-dependent communities, land/resource-owners, women, and youth should be active partners in the implementation and independent monitoring of ERPs, and not passive beneficiaries. 6. ERP action/implementation plans should be culturally and intergenerationally appropriate, gender responsive and locally understood. 7. Enhance partnerships of IPs/land-resource-owners, CSOs, LCs, vulnerable groups, other marginalized sectors, including women, with government institutions/authorities (including non-forest sectors) and private sector for a successful implementation of the ERP and the FCPF CBP. 8. Ensure all REDD+-countries are represented in the FCPF CBP program, and ensure all jurisdictions within these countries are covered.
Non-Carbon Benefits and Livelihood Support for both	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Enhance traditional and alternative livelihoods, including value chain of products and services, using the required financial and technical support under the ERP activities for IPs, LCs, CSOs, land/resource owners and users, and forest dependent communities including protections for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. 10. Ensure effective participation of IPs, CSOs, LCs and land/resource owners and users in the

Readiness and ERP Implementation	implementation of landuse mapping to ensure that the forest/land tenure and user rights are clarified and allocated as basis for equitable benefit-sharing.
Monitoring and Safeguards Systems	<p>11. IPs, ethnic minorities, CSOs, local communities, women, land/resource-owners/users and other forest-dependent communities should be effectively consulted with, engaged and participate in the process of REDD+ Readiness and ERP implementation and monitoring. This includes the development of IPs, LCs and gender-specific indicators, including the community-based monitoring of indigenous forests, implementation of social and environmental safeguards, transparency and timely access to information (in a culturally appropriate manner), and Benefit Sharing Plans (BSPs) and Gender Action Plans (GAPs).</p> <p>12. Ensure effective implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the development of country specific guidelines, culturally appropriate, gender responsive and easily accessible grievance redress mechanisms.</p> <p>13. Respect customary/traditional practices on grievance redress mechanism and governance systems, including customary FPIC frameworks.</p> <p>14. Engage in-country safeguards experts, including indigenous and women experts, and not limited to INGO to ensure positive results for safeguards implementation and monitoring; and avoid negative impacts of Readiness and ERPs.</p> <p>15. Enhance support for community-based forest and safeguard monitoring in ER programs and the implementation of the national REDD+ strategies and ensure incorporation of community-based monitoring in national forest monitoring systems, Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) and Safeguard Information Systems (SIS).</p>
Funding	<p>16. Ensure continuity of regional IOs and increase funding allocations to expand the capacity building program through 2025 for the benefit of IPs, CSOs, local communities, land/resource-owners and other forest-dependent communities. Have a separate recipient for the Pacific Region under the CBP.</p> <p>17. The design of a next phase of CBP must be undertaken with robust consultation of IPs and CSOs both in content, form and delivery structure, including defining the priority activities to be undertaken.</p> <p>18. Enhance coordination/collaboration with existing national, bilateral and multilateral initiatives, including IP/CSO initiatives, to strengthen impact, expand coverage and achieve sustainability.</p> <p>19. Dedicate specific funding streams for women and youth capacity building, leadership development and participation in REDD+ processes, including for the implementation of gender action plans and participation in ERPs.</p> <p>20. Convene donor roundtables to enhance resource mobilization for capacity building initiatives regionally and globally.</p>