



Voting on REDD

Why and how should we invest in forest governance?

January 2009



Collecting firewood in Um Zibil Forest Reserve, Sudan © Intu Boedhihartono

FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Community logging, Ghana © Edmund Barrow

Introduction

The world is currently negotiating what REDD (*Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation*) will look like, how it will be translated on the ground, and how it will be incorporated into the post-2012 climate change regime. Several countries have already started creating the building blocks for a REDD-ready plan, but the majority still have a long way to go.

Which is why IUCN seized the opportunity to continue the discussions at the World Conservation Congress in October, 2008, with a live “cast your vote” workshop entitled “*What does it take to make REDD a viable proposition? The case for investing in forest governance.*”

The workshop was moderated by British journalist Liz Barclay, and featured two panels of professionals currently working on REDD. As many as 300 participants discussed what has been learned from recent forest governance reform processes, how REDD mechanisms can best make use of these lessons and experiences, and what ingredients are needed for successful REDD recipes. The live voting system empowered participants with a democratic process that made their choices heard. Inputs and reflections on those choices, illustrated by several case studies of REDD preparations from around the world, were provided by the panelists.

The World Bank spends US\$500–600 million on forests each year. Many investments in reducing deforestation haven't worked. What has worked is where the de facto forest owners and managers have the power to make decisions. We need to empower those who manage the resource.

— Gerhard Dieterle
The World Bank

Seeing REDD

Participants acknowledged that deforestation and forest degradation contribute up to 20% of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and that weak forest governance and the marginalization of forest-dependent people are important factors exacerbating forest loss and degradation.

As long as these problems remain unresolved, REDD schemes might inadvertently reinforce corruption, undermine human rights and threaten forest biodiversity. The challenge is getting the REDD recipes right.

Stories from the field: A REDD recipe for Ghana, Africa

Nii Ashie Kotey, Chief Executive, Forestry Commission, Ghana

“Ghana has prepared for REDD by reforming its forest sector to ensure it substantially contributes to the national economy by:

- ▷ Preventing future resource-related conflicts.
- ▷ Attracting high-quality private investment.
- ▷ Creating jobs.
- ▷ Attracting international financial support for conservation.
- ▷ Securing locally and globally important forest biodiversity.
- ▷ Improving the livelihoods of rural communities.
- ▷ Meeting Ghana's obligations under international forest-related treaties and conventions.”

We know from experience that just establishing international financing mechanisms will not stop deforestation. We need to focus on its causes, and on understanding the different political forces.

— Carlos Manuel Rodríguez
Ex-Minister of Environment, Costa Rica

There is a growing knowledge base on forest governance, but it is still incomplete. To be effective, REDD needs good governance. But what is good governance and what is good-enough governance?

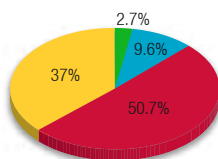
— Frances Seymour
Centre for International Forestry Research

The legal architecture of REDD must be inclusive. The beneficiaries need to be identified. These are local communities, local governments and society as a whole. Common but differentiated responsibilities are needed that recognize realities on the ground. REDD is an intelligence test for humanity.

— Pavan Sukhdev
Global Market Centre, Deutsche Bank

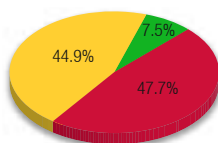
What is the likelihood that REDD will play a significant role in the post-2012 climate change agreement?

- Likely
- 50/50
- Unlikely
- Don't know



As things stand, what is the most likely impact of REDD on forest governance?

- Increased inequality
- Improved transparency, decision making and benefit sharing
- No impact



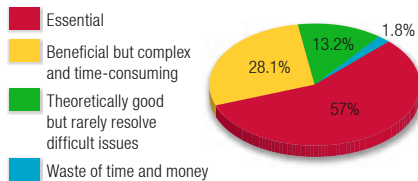
REDD Ink

The future of REDD is still uncertain. The live votes cast during the workshop reflected the sense of urgency surrounding REDD, and the many design decisions still to be agreed upon and implemented. The participants were unsure whether REDD would improve or impair forest governance, and whether it would have a positive or negative impact on equity.

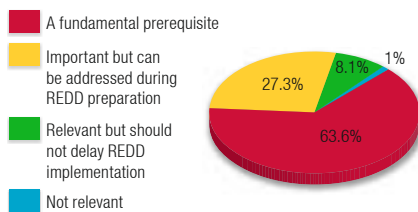
REDDiness

There were ingredients, however, which the participants considered essential in all REDD recipes, and which reflect the position that IUCN has been advocating (see <http://www.iucn.org/what/issues/climate/index.cfm>).

How important are multi-stakeholder dialogues in preparing for REDD?



How important is good forest governance for REDD?



- ▶ The majority of participants agreed that multi-stakeholder dialogues are essential for REDD success.
- ▶ Almost 64% thought that good governance is a fundamental prerequisite for REDD.
- ▶ There was resounding support for forest communities receiving most of the revenue generated from REDD.
- ▶ There was a consensus that donors and international organizations should prioritize support for national processes to reform land use policies, capacity building and institutional strengthening, and, to a lesser degree, REDD methodologies and standard setting, and research and pilot testing.

Multistakeholder processes are particularly important. Ghana's government, for example, could not negotiate a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union itself – it had to involve all stakeholders. If REDD processes have broad stakeholder input, they could lead to the required improvements in governance.

— Stewart Maginnis
IUCN

What does it take? Action! The challenge is to get people to see how forests can be valuable while still standing. Sierra Leone and Liberia are both out of war, but a war is now on to survive. Economic incentives and rewards are lacking, so people have to reward themselves. How can we empower these people to manage resources sustainably?

— Tommy Garnett
Environmental Foundation for Africa



Villagers in Papua Province, Indonesia © Intu Boedihartono

Stories from the field: A REDD recipe for Papua Province, Indonesia

Barnabas Suebu, Governor, Papua Province

"Papua is readying itself for REDD by:

- ▶ Creating an enabling environment for long-term, sustainable investment.
- ▶ Recognizing and protecting forest rights.
- ▶ Installing institutional mechanisms to allocate land rationally between forests, agriculture and green energy.
- ▶ Creating economic incentives for sustainable practices, such as links to markets, equitable partnerships and value-added processing.
- ▶ Tackling forest crime."

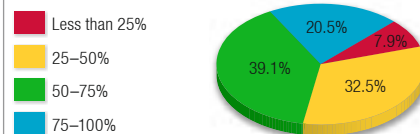
If no effective means exist to ensure that additional finance reaches local communities who depend on forests, then the prospects of changing things on the ground are greatly diminished. That is why IUCN invests heavily in supporting local processes to clarify community rights, strengthen institutional arrangements for fair benefit sharing and improve forest policies and governance.

— Stewart Maginnis
IUCN

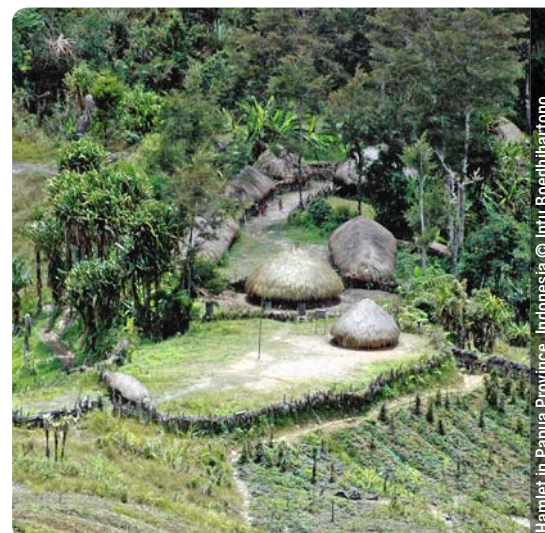
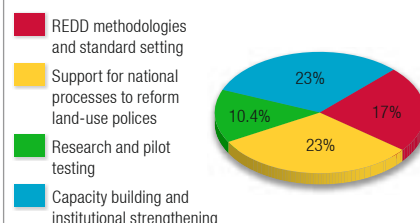
REDD is an opportunity for conservation, but careful design is needed. National authorities should take the initiative in REDD.

— Soledad Blanco
European Commission

What percentage of REDD payments should go directly to forest communities?



Donors & international organizations should prioritize:



Hamlet in Papua Province, Indonesia © Intu Boedihartono



Stories from the field: Improving the REDD recipe in the Brazilian Amazon

Tasso Rezende de Azevedo, Director General, Brazilian Forest Service

"Between 2004 and 2007, Brazil carried out 144 actions at state and federal levels under a national plan to combat deforestation. Overall the plan reduced deforestation by about 60%. Since 2007, however, deforestation has increased, so we have decided to revise the plan. Money is now being channelled into sustainable activities. During this whole process, we have learned that:

- ▷ Plans are expensive. Gazetting a park, for example, is easy, but protecting it isn't. So costs tend to go up.
- ▷ The highest political support is needed at both state and federal levels.
- ▷ Transparency reduces costs.
- ▷ The strength of civil society is key.
- ▷ REDD will never pay for everything that needs to be done, but it will help persuade other decision makers to support us."

Conclusions

Two key conclusions emerged from this workshop. First, REDD can only succeed if it embodies inclusiveness. The participants made it clear that multi-stakeholder processes are a prerequisite for REDD, since one recipe does not fill all and different approaches are needed in different contexts. Second, the participants reiterated that forests are much more than just carbon sticks. They are a lifeline for millions of people around the world for whom equitable benefit sharing, recognition of rights and tenure, and land use policies and incentives must now be harmonized.

The challenge is on to make REDD a viable option by 2012. The negotiations, and the debate, are not over yet.

The votes confirm the emphasis that people put on rights, benefits and harmonization. Together, these account for about 90% of governance problems. REDD is still an unknown. How do we ensure an inclusive dialogue? How do we ensure free, prior and informed consent from indigenous peoples?

— **Victoria Tuali-Corpuz**
Tebtebba Foundation



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Women in Bugarama-Kayanza Province, Burundi © Intu Boedihartono

