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**Participatory Forest Monitoring (PFM) in  
National Forest Monitoring Systems  
(NFMS)  
in the context of REDD+**

**5<sup>th</sup> Regional UN-REDD Lessons Learned Workshop  
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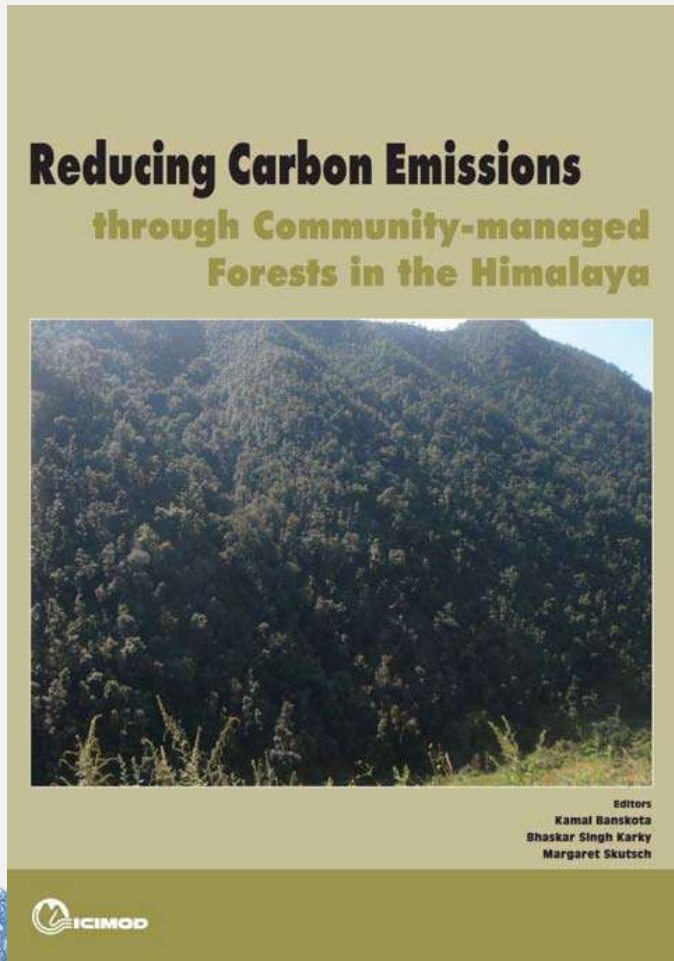


# What role for PFM?

In NFMS – Monitoring and MRV for REDD+  
A question often raised by representatives  
of Indigenous Peoples and Local  
Communities



# Can IPs/LCs perform a role in M&MRV for REDD+?



Wrong  
question

## What is the motivation for IPs/LCs to perform a role in M&MRV?

- For all forest managers: the more information the better
  - To improve and implement management strategies
  - To improve knowledge of the value of their rights and resources
  - To ensure level playing field in negotiating over access, sale, use of land or products
- Monetary benefits from ‘carbon rights’?
  - No direct link between forest carbon stocks and REDD+ ‘benefits’
  - Information on carbon stocks in IP territory does not necessarily have relevance in negotiations over claiming or withholding benefits





# Difference between MRV in REDD+, and forestry VCM projects



- Revenues from voluntary carbon market PROJECTS depend on performance in terms of carbon stocks
- Clear boundaries, geographically-defined area
- More accurate data = more accurate knowledge of potential revenues
- Project-specific 'baseline' is required
- Approved methodology for measurement, which anyone (IPs) can implement – training required, and external verification
- Cost of data collection is high, particularly for REDD projects – forestry VCM projects are rare
- None of the above is directly relevant for NATIONAL REDD+ PROGRAMMES

## national REDD+ Programme

- To assess national performance in terms of GHG emission reduction, against a national FR(E)L
- To deliver a (verified) national report of this performance to UNFCCC. In a future international REDD+ mechanism, results-based incentives/payments (RBPs) will only be disbursed against this national report
- National government bears the risk of failing to meet desired levels of performance – IPs and other local stakeholders do not bear the risk

# Who implements the three MRV pillars?

- SLMS – centrally-managed database of remote sensing images and analysis. No obvious role for forest managers or rights holders.
- GHG-I – calculated at national level. No obvious role for forest managers or rights holders
- NFI – a national network of sample plots, covering as many different forest types (strata) and management regimes as is practical
  - Consistent methodology nationwide
  - National government is accountable for NFI accuracy, not forest owners or IPs



# Work within the NFI

- Conclusions of NFI (as part of the MRV system) must be verified before RBPs can be disbursed
- Field workers must therefore be well-trained and reliable
- Governments and CSOs/IPs may come to an arrangement for local people to be trained in, and work on, NFI data collection
- Remuneration from government for this work would be based on services provided, not on amount of carbon stock measured
- No independent measurements, outside of NFI, have any inherent value in this system



# Links between MRV and RBPs



- Design of MRV will depend on country circumstances and other elements of REDD+ strategy:
  - Forest governance system
  - Policies and measures that will address drivers
  - System for distributing results-based payments in-country
- Results-based payment received against the national report may be required to cover:
  - Costs of planning and implementing policies and measures
  - Costs of NFMS (Monitoring and MRV)
  - Costs of distribution of resources ('benefit distribution')

## Option 1

- Distribute RBP according to the locations where emission reductions (or removals by sinks) occur
- A series of ‘nested’ accounts (e.g. provincial, district, community level) needs to be set up, like a network of VCM projects
- This would NOT be part of the national MRV system for REDD+; but a ‘benefit sharing’ system
- Each sub-national account would produce an independent report against which to claim a portion of national REDD+ RBPs

# Option 1: Considerations

- Sub-national accounts not necessarily subject to international verification – standards may be less demanding than VCM. Local communities/IPs could arrange with govt to measure/report on own territories.
- BUT
  - National government would also be distributing the risk of failing to meet targets: the risk of implementing actions but receiving no RBPs
  - Cost of system increases with complexity (nested levels, verification), reducing portion of RBPs available for implementing policies and measures
  - Forest carbon stock still has no inherent value – only the net change – this has equity implications: different rewards for the same work



## Option 2

- Distribute according to the activities (policies and measures/ REDD+ actions) implemented
- Forest owners/rights holders negotiate agreements with government to implement particular activities within their territories – FPIC
- Agreements include:
  - How/when to transfer RBPs to forest owners
  - Evidence of activity implementation and impact
- Gathering data on activity implementation and impact – MONITORING function of NFMS

# Local communities' role in the Monitoring Function of NFMS for REDD+



- Monitoring, as opposed to MRV function, is crucial to establishing what particular activities (policies/measures) are effective at addressing drivers of DD
- Includes a wide range of variables:
  - Basic forest inventory
  - Management activity records
  - Use and sale of forest products and services
  - Social, economic and biodiversity indicators
- Primary responsibility for collecting much of this information falls to forest rights-holders
- Role of local people through PFM is potentially important





# Local communities' role in Safeguard Information Systems (SIS)



- All REDD+ participant countries required to set up a SIS, and provide information to the UNFCCC on how it operates.
- No MRV provisions for SIS in the Cancun Agreements – system is a matter for national-level negotiation
- Role of PFM in data collection for these systems may be crucial in many countries



# Summary points



- Accountability and risk for reporting will rest with national governments alone
- Nothing to prevent local communities from having a role in MRV for REDD+, subject to national-level agreement
- Forest carbon stock measurements independent of NFI cannot be used to claim RBP under REDD+. So IP efforts to establish accurate carbon stock data for their territories may not be very useful
- Local people (IPs/LCs) could have practical role within national MRV system as trained forest technicians employed within NFI, subject to national-level agreement
- System for distributing RBPs may use nested forest carbon accounts. If local people agree to this, they would also accept a transfer of risk from national government
- Monitoring function of NFMS, and a national SIS, may both rely largely on information generated by PFM



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**Thank You**

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