

# **UN-REDD Programme Africa regional exchange on country approaches to safeguards**

## **Civil Society perspectives on REDD+ Safeguards**

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# CSO participation in UN-REDD process in Zambia

Civil Society movements in Zambia have actively participated in UN-REDD Readiness process. A strong partnership with the National UN-REDD Facilitation Unit has made this possible.

Four CSO Networks representing a wide range of NGOs, CBOs and FBOs are actively engaged in UN-REDD+ events. They are;

## **i. Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN)**

- UN-REDD+ Zambia CSO Focal Point
- 50 members (NGOs, CBOs, FBOs)
- Coordinating CSO Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation interventions
- Creating platforms for CSOs participation in global climate change discourse

## **ii. Zambia Alliance for Agro-ecology and Bio-diversity Conservation (ZAABC)**

- 12 members (NGOs)
- Spearheading a 'GMO FREE ZAMBIA' campaign
- Reviewing and providing proposals for strengthening Biosafety regulations
- Studying and providing checks on emerging regional seed harmonisation laws

## **iii. Community-Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Forum**

- 50+ members (NGOs, CBOs)
- Promoting community-based natural resources management programmes
- Advocate for effective community participation in formulation of natural resources management regulations

#### **iv. Participatory Ecological Land-Use Management (PELUM) Association Zambia**

- 32 members (NGOs, CBOs, FBOs)
- Promoting Ecological Land-use Management practices for Small-scale farmers
- Providing knowledge and experience sharing platforms for smart Land-use practices
- There are in all 12 PELUM country chapters in Africa (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Ethiopia, Swaziland)

# REDD+ and Civil Society engagement

- Full and effective stakeholder engagement has been recognised as an indispensable priority for REDD+ for a number of reasons;
- UNFCCC decisions have consistently called for parties to ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the design and implementation of REDD+
- There has been a strong demand for meaningful stakeholder engagement from donors, civil society and REDD+ countries alike since the early days of conceptualizing REDD+
- Due to National reforms REDD+ often demands, the success in any country depends on partnerships and buy-in across a large swath of government, society, business and institutions.
- Stakeholder engagement is not merely a UN-REDD Programme Strategic approach, it is about integrating the views of the different actors that are concerned by REDD+ and also to craft partnerships, consensus and inclusive and gender sensitive policies that will make REDD+ transformational, attainable and enduring.

- It is in accordance with the guiding principle of the Programme that rights including that of local communities and indigenous people are respected under applicable international law.
- Since 2008 the UN-REDD Programme has contributed to the widespread recognition of stakeholder engagement as a central feature of REDD+ readiness. In addition, the Programme's work has served to:
  - i) build trust and partnerships between governments and non-governmental stakeholders;
  - ii) sensitize governments on the importance of stakeholder engagement;
  - iii) help IPs and civil society to structure themselves for improved engagement;
  - iv) create multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms; and
  - v) put delicate issues on the global REDD+ agenda, such as rights to land and natural resources, and FPIC. The Programme has also helped to translate stakeholder concerns and protests into recommendations and solutions.

# Country level approach to safeguards

The country level approach to safeguards comprises two core work streams:

- i. Identifying and, if necessary, strengthening the policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) that address the Cancun safeguards;
- ii. Developing Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) as required under the UNFCCC.

**Civil society participation in both work streams is key so as to bridge information gap between policy developers and local communities and indigenous people**



# Safeguards strategic areas – CSO perspective

- Land tenure: pro-local communities and indigenous people tenure system in context of REDD+
- Appropriate legislation that protect the interest of local communities and indigenous people
- Multi-stakeholder participation at every level of REDD+ process
- User-rights approach - customary ownership rights and the rights of indigenous and local communities;
- Harmonisation of relevant National laws in the context of REDD+
- Gender equity approach

# UN-REDD+ Safeguards: Environmental and Social benefits

- One of the basic motivations for governments and stakeholders to become engaged in REDD+ is the potential to achieve social and environmental benefits that go beyond climate change mitigation.
- Many countries include the achievement of additional benefits among the objectives of their REDD+ policy documents, often referring to biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services (e.g water regulation and soil retention), ecosystem resilience, support to local livelihoods, the cultural and spiritual values of forests, and poverty reduction.
- These additional benefits can make REDD+ efforts more sustainable in the long-term, lend greater momentum and political will to REDD+ efforts, and by contributing to other existing goals, reduce overall costs for governments.

- Under the UNFCCC, the Cancun safeguards ask countries to promote and support the use of REDD+ actions to enhance '*other social and environmental benefits*'. Parties have further recognized the importance of non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability of REDD+. It is also appreciated that the delivery of additional benefits by REDD+ can also contribute to globally agreed policy.

# The safeguards in the Cancun Agreements and civil society concerns

## Consistency with objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;

### CSO concerns:

- Local communities' and indigenous people's livelihoods sources may be threatened as national programmes do not often provide secure forest and land rights
- Fear of displacements due to lack of inequitable and secure land tenure leading to human rights abuses and conflicts
- International conventions and agreements though ratified are not often domesticated and enshrined in national legislations

## **Transparent and effective national forest governance structures;**

### CSO concern:

The structures do not often reach sub-district level as a result forest dependent local communities, indigenous people and other stakeholders have no access to information and are left out decision making

## **Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities;**

### CSO concern:

The concentration on modern science-based approaches will compromise long tested indigenous knowledge and coping strategies of forest-dependent local communities and indigenous people

**The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities;**

CSO concern:

Centralised national forest governance systems do not promote and support the full, effective and transparent participation of local communities and indigenous people and other relevant stakeholders

**Conservation of natural forests and biological diversity and enhancement of other social and environmental benefits;**

CSO concern:

-There is a threat that mitigation (market mechanism and carbon sequestration) may override adaptation (non carbon benefits)

## **Actions to address the risks of reversals;**

### CSO concern:

Mechanisms for monitoring and reporting may not be transparent and robust enough and may not be applicable at all levels (international, national and sub-national)

## **Actions to reduce the displacement of emissions;**

### CSO concern:

Developed countries may see REDD+ as a window through which they can escape from emission reduction commitments hence may not support the actions

***ASANTE SANA!!!!!!***