

REDD+ in Asia-Pacific: Are capacity building services meeting countries' needs?



Jim Stephenson RECOFTC - Durban, 1st December 2011

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



Why is this assessment needed?

1. Capacity building is at the heart of the REDD+ readiness process
2. \$100-200m invested and progress made in capacity building programs in the last 3+ years
3. Little is known of the competencies of capacity building 'service providers' in Asia Pacific

QUESTION: Are they meeting REDD+ capacity building needs?

“There are many good people from universities, research institutes, and government agencies who know very well about issues related to REDD+. The problem is each party is running by its own, so we do not know exactly what capacities building services are being provided.”

Participant in Indonesia workshop

The objectives of this assessment

Identify and assess:

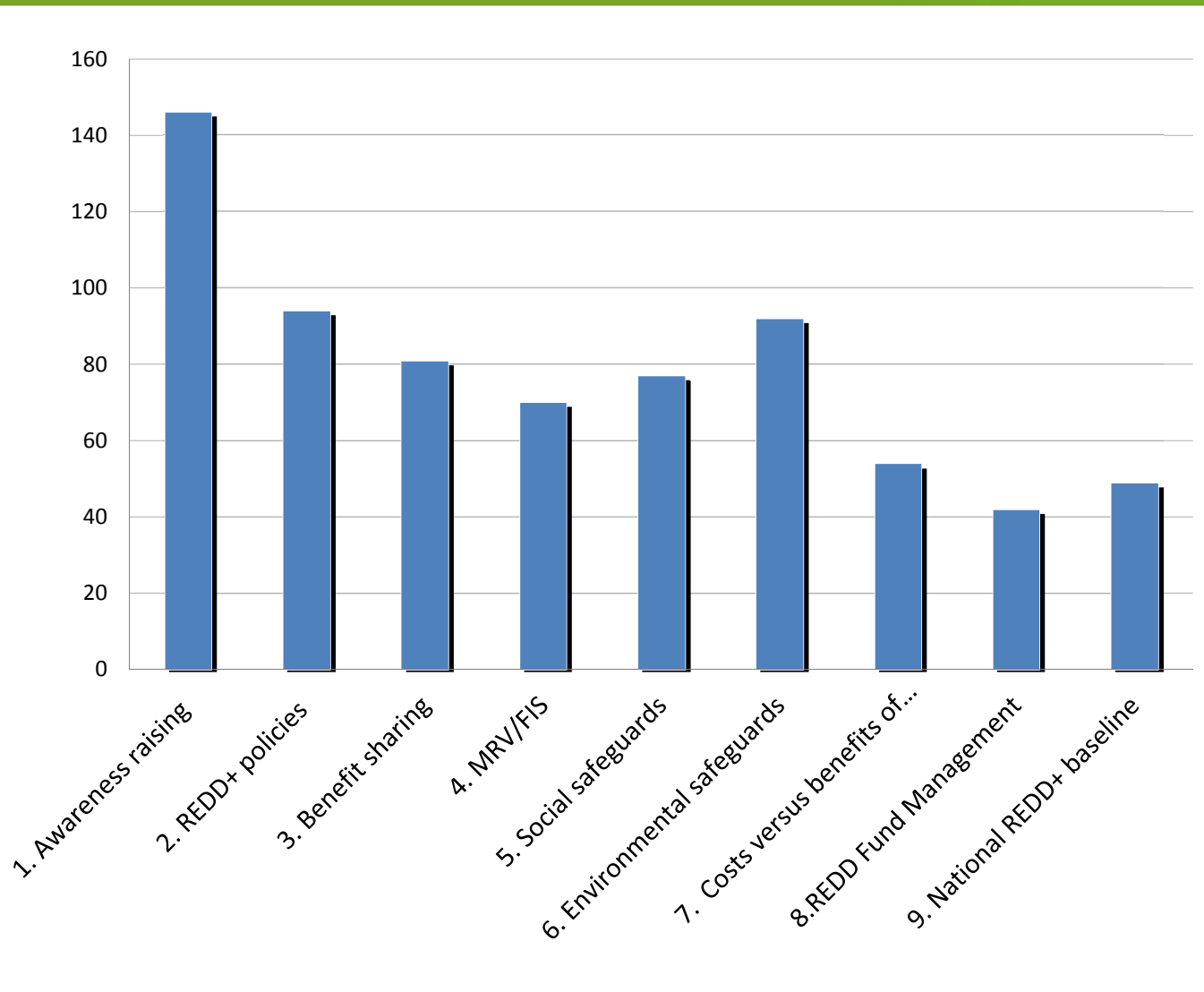
- REDD+ readiness service providers in focal countries: **Cambodia, Indonesia, The Philippines and Viet Nam**
- Long-list of service providers and their activity according to nine capacity building themes
- Main objectives, competencies, types and quality of services offered by short-listed service providers
- Gaps in capacity building services in relation to country needs



Nine main capacity building themes

1. Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination
2. REDD+ Policies and Measures
3. Benefit sharing
4. Monitoring reporting and verification (MRV)/ Information systems (IS)
5. Social safeguards
6. Environmental safeguards
7. Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+
8. REDD+ fund management
9. Developing the national REDD+ baseline

Number of service providers addressing capacity building themes



Key strengths

Capacity building themes where service provision is highest and speeding up REDD+ readiness progress

1. Awareness-raising

- 88% of the organizations reported activities in this area. However, services have focused on policymakers, NGOs and academia
- Some leading service providers use video (e.g. animated films), television and radio to raise public awareness
- Local-level awareness raising focused on communities living near existing or planned REDD+ pilot projects and pilot districts

Key strengths contd...

2. REDD+ policymaking

- Progress in the capacity of local and national organizations, although international consultancies and NGOs still dominant
- % of organizations capacity-building for policy making varies considerably (e.g. 77% of the service providers in Viet Nam vs only 36% in Cambodia)

3. Environmental safeguards

- More than half of organizations provide services for focusing on environmental safeguards
- *Opportunity missed?* The knowledge built on environmental safeguards in the conservation sector is not being transmitted to the wider capacity building community



Key gaps & recommendations to address these gaps

- Capacity-building themes where service provision is lowest and potentially holding back REDD+ readiness
- To address these gaps we came up with actions to strengthen capacity building



Key gap 1

Insufficient attention to awareness raising in the media and in local or tribal languages

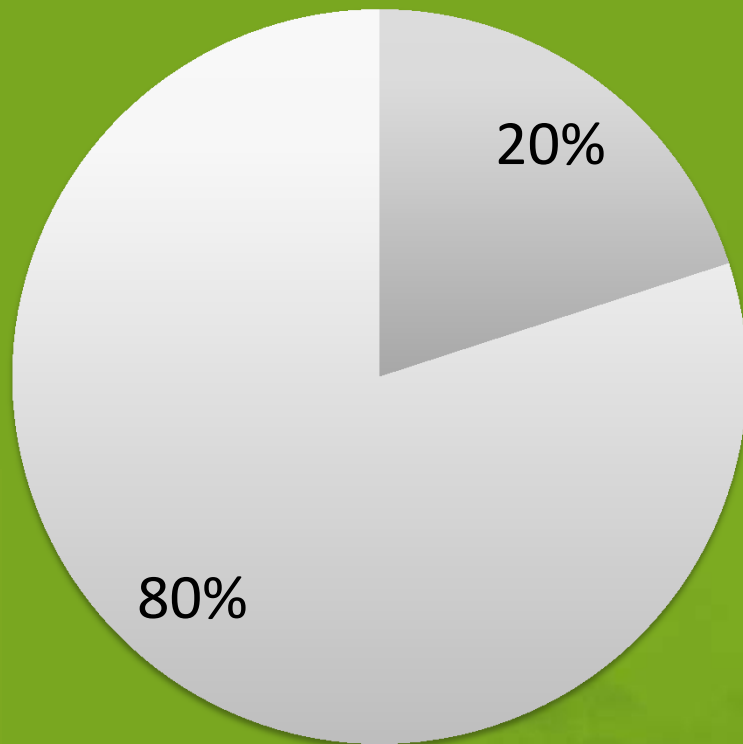
- Only half of service providers delivered services in local or tribal languages
- REDD+ terminology is not well defined in national, let alone local and tribal languages, confusion over what REDD+ means
- Exacerbated by poor media understanding of the concept of REDD+ especially at the sub-national and grass-roots level

Recommendation 1

- Create simplified 'press friendly' information materials, design training for key journalists
- Focus on radio and television programming
- Use local examples in REDD+ training programs

Key gap 2

Lack of capacity building services to natural resource industries



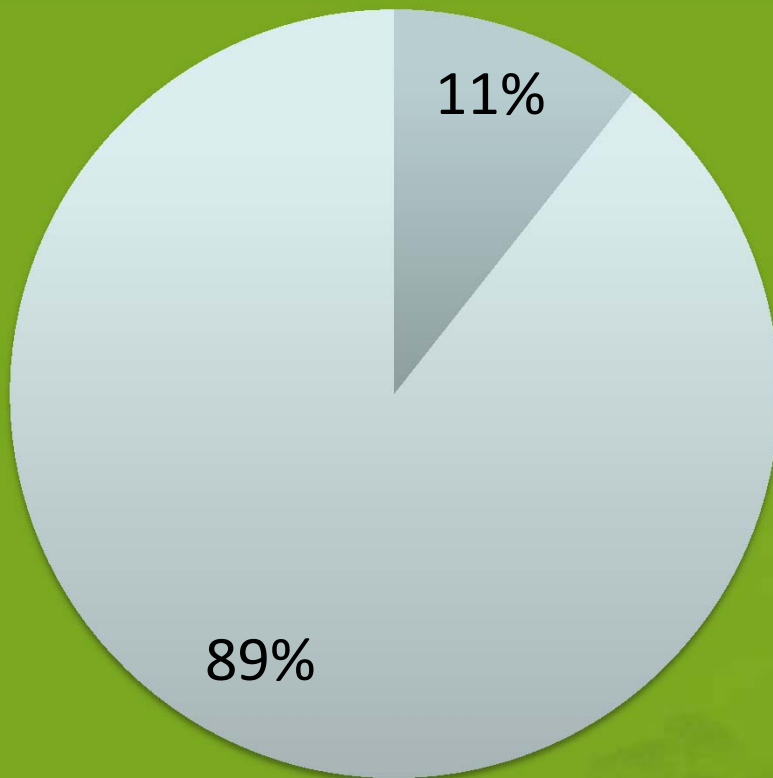
- Service providers capacity building with the natural resource industry
- Service providers not capacity building with the natural resource industry

Recommendation 2

- Targeted REDD+ awareness campaign aimed at industry roundtables, groups and companies that already show leadership on REDD+
- Encourage the sector to participate at a greater scale in national REDD+ planning processes
- Provide technical assistance to industry to help take REDD+ into account in land-use planning and supply chains

Key gap 3

Inadequate support for REDD+ fund management



- Service providers capacity building for REDD+ fund management
- Service providers not capacity building for REDD+ fund management

Recommendation 3

- **Build capacity of departments of finance and relevant REDD agencies to manage trust fund structures in a transparent manner**
- **These funds could follow existing donor trust fund models, or revolving funds**
- **Financial management capacity building for national and local NGOs receiving and managing private REDD+ finance**

Key gap 4

Not enough organizations engaged in establishing national REDD+ baselines

21

4

Just 4 service providers have experience in REDD+ baselines in Cambodia, compared to 21 for awareness raising

Recommendation 4

- Capacity building support to national governments and NGOs in accessing and analyzing remote sensing data for establishing historical deforestation rates
- Train government, national/local NGOs and community trainers in:
 - The ‘ground-truthing’ of remote sensing data
 - Socio-economic analysis to provide reliable business as usual and REDD+ scenarios
 - Cross-referencing data from forest bio-carbon inventories, with remote sensing and sample-plot data



Conclusions

- Alongside awareness raising, progress has been made in capacity building for REDD+ policy development and environmental safeguards in Asia-Pacific **but.....**
- Without further attention paid to addressing key gaps, the objectives of national REDD+ plans will **not** be met within the intended timeframes



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**Full policy brief to download from
www.recoftc.org**

Thank you!

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