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# **Regional UNREDD Asia Pacific Exchange among Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Representative and Leaders 7 – 8 May, 2015, Bangkok**

**Day 1, Session 2: Lessons in Engagement  
with UN-REDD Programme – CSO and IP  
Reflections from Papua New Guinea**



1. Introduction
2. Key achievements
3. Key Challenges
4. Emerging Opportunities



## Background of PNG

- 7 million plus people and 800 plus languages.
- Total Land Area 46 mill ha
- 29 mill ha (63) Forested area, holds 7% of biodiversity.
- 97% of Land (and forests) owned by customary land owners (resource owners)

CSOs are an integral part of REDD+ Process, therefore play a key role both at the policy and implementation levels in PNG.

- CSOs are Closer to the people (IPs or LOs) and resources therefore are the main connecting points between government and other partners such as UN-REDD,
- CSOs/NGOs involved in the CC/REDD process since inception, and therefore recognized by the government through ongoing recognition for improved consultations which leads to full participation of CSOs/IPs or Los as we call them
- **A major part of the TWGs as well as the UN - REDD PEB, contributing to both technical and Policy discussions on REDD+ , apart from our continuous monitoring of government actions with respect to the REDD+ Process,**
- Well-organized in networking with other NGO partners who work with communities in rural areas (IPs) hence are able to represent their views through the REDD+ process, e.g, Eco-Forestry Forum is a membership organization comprising over 15 members and partner organizations working with communities throughout PNG.
- Church and CSO Partnership for development in existence with the government based on the recognized roles of the churches and CSOs.

# Key achievements from CSO & IP/LO engagement

- Part of the TWGs set up by the government, sit on the UN-REDD PEB and, the National Forest Board (NFB) as Chair & and other policy related working groups relating to environment and forestry
- Contribute to REDD+ Policies, making decisions together on how REDD+ is implemented in PNG considering views of the marginalized groups such as IPs, women and children.
- Intensive REDD+ Awareness by Eco-forestry Forum, but more needs to be done.
- Two pilot projects with the **participation of** local communities (IPs) – Suau and April Salumei.
- FPIC Guidelines completed with full CSO/IP/LO input
- Social and Environmental Safeguards development - **participation**
- Pushing for a fair and inclusive BSDS

Although there is high level of collaboration, challenges do exist including;

- CSOs' activeness depends on donor funding, especially NGOs. This is a threat to consistency in our input.
- Address REDD+ and drivers of deforestation is sometimes considered contradictory – REDD+ and SABLs and large scale logging.
- Defining the ownership of carbon is still debatable.
- Lack of proper mechanism to address disagreements or access to justice on time is a challenge.
- Gender and women's inclusion face challenge at the community, when our cultures place them outside of proper decision making process. This is an issue of perception which we have to deal with.

For PNG, REDD+ is an opportunity to correct past mistakes, improve overall governance, and ensure benefits translate to improve livelihood of IPs, women and children and the often marginalized groups.

- This will be an opportunity for more CSO recognition and participation in both technical and policy levels.
- Also opportunity to develop mechanisms whereby information is shared, disagreements addressed and decisions are made on key issues of deforestation etc.

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# Thank you

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