

# Regional UN-REDD Asia Pacific Exchange among Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Representatives and Leaders

7 – 8 May 2015, Bangkok

**Lessons in Engagement with UN-REDD Programme - CSO  
and IP Reflection from Sri Lanka**



## Background to CSO and IP engagement with UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

- CSO platform was established in December 10, 2014. Seven member CC was appointed and 2 of them were elected to represent the PEB;
- IPs had own process and established a separate IP forum;
- CSOs had an awareness workshop to educate less informed members.
- CSOs participate in all national level events organized by the PMU
- CC members including PEB representatives participated in all national levels events , discussions
- They have also organized CSO awareness together with the Forest officers in some districts.

## Key achievements from CSO and IP engagement in

### Sri Lanka

- CSO awareness built the capacity to engage in national level forest advocacy and climate change discussions;
- IPs had 8 major concerns which PMU responded to those concerns and linked them to the relevant agencies to resolve them;
- Consultant were able to fine tune the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation study, Institutional analysis, Privates sector engagement study and the CBR+ study based on the long experience of the CSO members in forest advocacy;
- Information was shared through emails and mostly at the national level workshops;
- Gender concerns were fully discussed. However, representation at the CC is not satisfactory (Last year 03;this year 01);
- CSO and IP had a proper recognition at all levels.



## Key challenges from CSO and IP engagement in Sri Lanka

- Communication in English language was a major challenge for both CSOs and the IPs;
- Getting more voices of IP was not possible due to other limitations such as distance and language;
- During the study, it was taken some time to convince the consultant on the negative impacts of the National Physical plan of the previous regime for conservation of forests;
- There was no much disagreement with the other stake holders. However, all stakeholder groups were not on the same page on development issues and conservation efforts including the climate solutions;
- Women's inclusion were considered at all levels. However, getting their voice was not satisfactory;
- Lack of dedicated funds for CSO and IP involvement under the programme was a major impediment for engaging CSOs and educating CSOs and IP communities.

## Emerging Opportunities from CSO and IP engagement in Sri Lanka

- REDD awareness is an opportunity for future forest advocacy at the national and local level;
- CSOs are capable on handling studies on gender and non carbon benefits etc with their long experience in the arena;
- CSOs and Forest officers are now in a better partnership for future forest conservation;
- More recognition of the CSOs and IPs in forest stewardship is a positive development due to the REDD readiness project;
- Upcoming CBR+ project would be a major development to test some REDD safeguards and grounding the REDD concept;

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**Thank You**

