

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

Government Reflection from SRI LANKA



Background to Stakeholder Engagement in UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

Status of the Programme to date:

Sri Lanka UN-REDD Programme
commenced its implementation in
September 2013

Background to Stakeholder Engagement in UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

Highlights:

- Programme Executive Board (PEB),
- Indigenous Peoples Forum (IPF),
- Civil Society Organization (CSO) Platform and
- MRV & NP&S Task Forces
- Private sector Forum

Background to Stakeholder Engagement in UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

Rationale:

REDD+ in Sri Lanka recognizes the importance of stakeholders commitment & participation; hence their involvement will help the country to design and come up with a clear strategy

Background to Stakeholder Engagement in UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

Process: Continuous Dialogue

Informal and Formal Meetings, Workshops etc:

- **Constant Engagement** of respective stakeholders separately and collectively in **raising awareness, briefing on the emerging trends and informing the findings** of the studies and seeking their opinions

Background to Stakeholder Engagement in UN-REDD Programme in Sri Lanka

- **Facilitating separate meetings** to take their own decisions on the readiness phase activities based on the approved work plan;
- **Representation at the PEB** which is the highest body of the programme which takes decisions.

Key achievements from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

How has engaging with CSO and IP representatives, and other key stakeholders' assisted REDD+ in the country ?

Sharing their views and expressing their opinions at various workshops/meetings

Key achievements from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

What areas have the CSO and IP representatives contributed to, specifically in relation to the national programme, and national REDD+ process, as well as broader national goals, e.g., drivers study, national REDD+ strategy etc;?

Institutional review, D&D study, Private sector study and CBR+CP development.

Key achievements from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

How gender consideration and women's inclusion are integrated in the process ?

It is rather slow but the process is getting rejuvenated; UN-REDD targeted support has been received for a Gender study

Key achievements from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

How differences in expectations are addressed ?

By discussions, negotiations and through consensus building and aligning with the REDD+ objectives and within the national development agenda of the country

Key challenges from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- **Communication and Awareness**
- **The workshops at national level held in English and free expression was curtailed to some extent;** - At all possible occasions communication in Sinhala was encouraged as most were comfortable with it.

Key challenges from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- **IP representations at national events were limited to the PEB meeting held quarterly;**

Currently there is no direct solution for it since the distance of travelling from six different locations is very difficult and they are reluctant to spend nights in Colombo & Hotels

Key challenges from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

The level of operations of members of the CSO platform varies from national, provincial to Local;

Number of awareness programmes were conducted to build the capacity to contribute to national programmes

Key challenges from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- **Divergent views of stakeholders exist;** with separate and collective groupings these has been addressed and gradually these will be sorted out, the countries road map & strategy for REDD+ will be collectively agreed and deliberations are planned.

Key challenges from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- **Gender concerns:**

Plans are underway to improve the current status

Emerging Opportunities from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- Many of the CSO Platform membership gradually taking up to performing the national tasks on REDD+ and other environment issues**
- A strong participation of the CSO Platform membership with very constructive inputs to enrich some of the completed studies**

Emerging Opportunities from Stakeholder Engagement in Sri Lanka

- At District level the CSOs and the Forest officers are jointly planning the awareness workshops for CSO/CBOs
- Informal discussions with gender groups
- The already short-listed 15 CBR+ grant proposals include more than 80 percent of the CSO Platform members; Indicate that they are in line with REDD+

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Thank You

