

Experiences with Free, Prior Informed Consent

Zambian Experience

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BACKGROUND

- Zambia has 9 provinces and 73 Districts spreading over an area of **752,614Km²**
- There are 73 tribes all united by the “**One Zambia One Nation**” national motto
- In each of these districts there are different tribes which translates into different culture and traditions
- Hence the approach to each of these areas depends on the traditions and respect for Traditional Chiefs
- The settlement pattern of the villages in the rural areas is not homogenous and reaching these rural areas is a challenge.

The Participatory Approach

- Approach depends on settlement patterns of local communities because some villages are like big compounds/settlements while others are scattered settlements
- First entry point has to be the District administration to explain the objective of any developmental activity, in other cases it may include political party leadership thus increasing the consultation chain
- Secondly, Traditional leadership/Chief is informed about any of engagement of village communities.
- Thirdly, mobilization and awareness of the local communities. Effectiveness and efficiency of this process will be influenced by various factors including logistics, season, culture, national elections etc.

Development of National Joint Programme (NJP) Document under the UN-REDD

- Zambia employed a participatory process to develop the NJP which took about 2 years from February 2009 to December 2010 when it was finally launched.
- The first stakeholder meeting was to raise awareness, link and harmonise REDD to previous and on going national programmes and development frameworks like the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP).
- It was recognised that though REDD was a new international programme under the UNFCCC process some of its elements were already being addressed in the above cited programmes. Therefore required harmonisation to avoid duplication
- The lead agent Forestry Department (and the implementing agency MTENR) was identified and tasked to put together a Technical Committee whose members was identified by the meeting.

Consultative Meetings

- Several stakeholder consultative meetings were held aimed at:
 - Awareness raising and consensus building on UN-REDD Programme
 - Identification of elements and issues to be included and addressed in the document
 - The document was subjected to several stakeholder periodic review meetings to ensure that it was consistent with agreed objectives
 - Final UN-REDD National Joint Programme Document was developed and approved by stakeholders. Document was signed in September 2010.
 - The consultation continued in January 2011 when stakeholder inputs for the annual work plan and budget (for year 2011) were collected.

LESSONS

- A comprehensive consultative process helped to build consensus and ownership among national stakeholders
- There is now a common understanding among stakeholders of the REDD initiatives and its role in UNFCCC process
- Civil Society, Government and Private Sector consider themselves as partners.
- The initial process was lead by government but he implementation will be a multi-stakeholder process.