

Guidelines for Consultation

Group 3

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What is Consultation

- Consultation is a process, and it should not only be initiated by UN-REDD or the government but should be initiated from the local level as well
- There is evidence that when there is a participatory process, it is very successful – so this is what we have to ensure.

Consultation Action Plan to ensure full and effective engagement on every level and ensure a two-way information flow

1. Map stakeholders on the national, provincial/state level, local, and community level.
 - Composition very important - should be multiple parties involved in REDD: IP organizations, government, CSOs, etc
 - Note on inviting government: sensitize government officials, for example, of the long-term benefits of REDD etc, before inviting them and only when there is their buy-in, they can be invited to participate. In Africa, there needs to be this personal touch of first interfacing with the government officials. (Example: Cross River State in Nigeria – the Governor is interested in REDD, in agroforestry, etc, so he is committed personally and that is why the process is moving forward)
 - Ensure that information from the international level reaches the provincial level
2. Identify issues that can be a part of the plan/policies for REDD on the national level
3. Organize stakeholders' consultative forum (it would be different for each of the 4 levels) to develop a comprehensive Consultation and Participation Plan
4. Ensure that respect for the rights of indigenous peoples is part of the plan
5. Draft plan/policies/program circulated to all the mapped stakeholders and produced in local languages or presented in another accessible format (TV, radio, etc) and place the document on the Internet

Cross-Cutting Issues

1. Build ownership and developing relationships with stakeholders for the implementation of actions and reducing potential for future conflict.
2. Ensure technical feedback and input throughout the process, at every step

Consultation Action Plan continued...

7. Invite technical feedback on the draft plan/programme
8. Empower and build the capacity of stakeholders to implement activities, monitor and enforce the implementation of activities, and to communicate how activities on the ground are affecting them
9. Carry out the Consultation plan designed at the forum
10. Analyze and disseminate the results

Note:

- This is a generic action plan that should be customized to the national context
- Refer to the Consultation and Participation Plan developed for Viet Nam and based on the Joint Operational Guidance

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How to ensure that information reaches the local level

1. Create a task force during the Stakeholder forum to oversee this process
 - Composition: designated authorities from the communities, gender balanced, culturally and spiritually balanced (for example, Christian, Muslim, etc., leaders)
2. Organize town hall/village meetings
3. Produce and distribute documents in local language
4. Use drama, radio, audio-visuals for the local level, or other appropriate tools of communication
5. Establish REDD information/resources centers in REDD designated communities
6. Organize trainings on REDD and how to engage on the local level as part of the FPIC process: explain what is FPIC, and what is REDD in as culturally appropriate way as possible

Standards/indicators

- Inclusiveness – gender, age, IP, etc.
- Indicators
 - gender composition
 - Language
 - number of consultations
 - outcomes of the meeting
 - number of capacity building on REDD/FPIC
 - number of review/feedback sessions after consultation at every level

More on Consultation...

- Scope of issues to be consulted upon for national readiness activities, at all levels
 - a. Concerns about REDD: land tenure, indigenous peoples rights, how communities would benefit etc.)
 - b. Concerns about FPIC
 - c. Willingness of the community and government to adopt REDD programmes
- Who is responsible for conducting consultations at each level?
 - a. The UN-REDD Programme; NGOs, IP organizations, national and provincial government
- What relationship does the consultation process have to the national readiness process? How to ensure that it is effective and informs readiness activities? (that was a difficult question)
 - a. Gives room for participatory decision-making
 - b. Broadens the scope of understanding, stakeholders can engage

More on Consultation...

- When must consultation take place during the national readiness process?
And/or for implementation of UN-REDD Programme activities?
 - a. At every stage – before, during, and after
 - b. Consultation is an ongoing, continuous process
- How will the cost of consultation be covered?
 - a. By the national, provincial, and local government
 - b. By the UN-REDD Programme and other development agencies
- How will consultations at the national/provincial/local level be rolled out?
 - a. By developing a comprehensive action plan