



CSO for SE Asia & Pacific: Cambodia, PNG & Vietnam

**Day 1 Working Group Discussion:
Main Challenges and Opportunities at the
National Level**



1. Emerging changes/impacts



- For the first time, CSO/IPs are able to participate at the highest level of decision making through a formal structure → empowerment and voices are heard
- CSO/IPs now able to provide written inputs through policy briefs
- REDD+ for the first time has involved many different stakeholders
- Demand from CSO and IP to be heard and involved in the REDD+ process
- IPs and CSOs are bringing a wealth of knowledge → umbrella groups (e.g. EFF in PNG) has important role to make REDD+ language more understandable
- CSO participation has increased as a result of engagement in REDD+



2. Key challenges



- High levels of expectation at the local level; many benefits promised: *“save your trees and make money!”*
 - High expectations at national and local levels
 - Need to raise education levels
 - Some CSO/IPs have lost interest in REDD+
- Difficult to get consensus at the grassroots level: multiple messages
- Different levels of understanding of REDD+ among stakeholders
 - Limits / discourages participation
- Lack of channels for sharing information by CSO/IPs
- Lack of financial and technical resources to work with communities and/or for travel to attend relevant events (last-minute planning!)
 - Challenge of sustainability of CSO/IP participation → national budget



2. Key challenges

Vietnamese saying:

“Policies are made in air conditioned rooms”



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“I’m making a decision! Stop confusing me with facts!”

3. How to represent views of constituencies and keep them informed?

- Vietnam:
 - Network platform
 - Newsletter and websites (Facebook)
- PNG:
 - Prepare statement for people with access to email → 2 weeks to respond
 - Pressure government to raise awareness at the local level
- Cambodia:
 - Email, share information before meetings to gather input, afterwards report back to constituents



Thank You

The Non-AC Team!!

