



SUCCESS STORIES

JOINING FORCES FOR TACKLING DIFFICULT GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES IN INDONESIA

Indonesia is working with the UN-REDD Programme to conduct an inclusive Participatory Governance Assessment that is paving the way to robust stakeholder engagement in REDD+.



The Initiative

Indonesia's PGA assessment seeks to produce relevant and accessible governance information regularly for a dual purpose: to feed into national safeguard information systems, and to be used actively by government and civil society to undertake necessary reforms. Indonesia was the first of four PGA pilots; the others have been conducted in Ecuador, Nigeria and Viet Nam. As early as May 2011, a mapping of civil society and government actors led to agreement on a collaborative effort to tackle priority governance challenges specific to REDD+ in Indonesia.

The Challenge

Discussions about governance issues are often sensitive and always passionate, as they relate to who holds power and information. Actors from diverse backgrounds, from national and local civil society organizations to different government agencies and ministries and the private sector rarely sit together to understand – let alone solve - governance challenges. Meetings bringing diverse stakeholders together to discuss governance issues for REDD+, whether they are initial discussions in a UN office or large national kick-off processes, inevitably see comments arising about the participation, transparency, legitimacy of certain stakeholders, their representation and their unspoken interests.

This was no different initially in Indonesia, a country that requested targeted support from the UN-REDD Programme to conduct a Participatory Governance Assessment (PGA) for REDD+.

The stakes were high and the discussions in-depth. Government and civil society actors at the national and provincial levels (from Aceh, Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi, Papua and West Papua) worked jointly to reach agreement on which key issues to consider and prioritize.

This robust group of stakeholders agreed that the PGA needed to cover and collect data on key governance issues of law and policy frameworks. The group also agreed that capacity building was needed for REDD+ actors to plan, implement and be involved in REDD+ efforts in Indonesia, as well as in implementation aspects in cross-cutting areas of spatial and forestry planning, rights regulation (with a particular emphasis on indigenous peoples), forest management and control and oversight of the REDD+ infrastructure.

Concretely, this means that Indonesia will assess and monitor, for example, the frequency with which local media broadcasts information about the preparation and implementation of REDD+, to get a sense of access to information. They will assess the effectiveness and application of integrity and expertise requirements in the hiring and promotion of staff (especially for strategic positions), to avoid cronyism and nepotism. Indonesia's PGA will also look at the effectiveness of coordination among the law enforcement apparatus in handling criminal cases related to forestry.

By April of 2012, Indonesian stakeholders had developed an indicator framework based on the chosen key governance areas and a data-collection tool. Data collected at the sub-national and national levels is now expected to be validated by affected stakeholders at the end of September.

The Impact

Stakeholders involved from the design stage of Indonesia's PGA assessment now have trust in the data and results, and feel ownership in the process. Indeed, because they have had a real voice and decision-making power in developing the methodology, civil society actors see this governance information as legitimate – based on facts and evidence rather than propaganda - and are already planning to use the governance data for advocacy. Similarly, the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight (UKP4)/ REDD+ Taskforce agreed formally to receive the final results of the participatory governance assessment project as reference for policy decision-making processes on REDD+ governance safeguards.

Indonesia's PGA has already provided a new space for frequent dialogue, opening unprecedented lines of communication about governance issues for REDD+. A recurring lesson learned about participatory governance assessments is that the participatory establishment of governance data and indicators enhances social accountability, which positively impacts development efforts.

The ability of the UN-REDD Programme to include a diversity of stakeholders in a full and effective manner is also reflected in other support from the UN-REDD Programme. In depth conversations about anti-corruption, for example, have taken place through regional events that brought together, for the first time, a number of national stakeholders needed to tackle the issues. These unprecedented dialogues led to, for example, the decision of Kenya's Bureau for Ethics and Anti-Corruption to hire an expert to follow climate finance issues. These dialogues have also led to the Philippines' choosing to examine its REDD+ strategy to extract vulnerabilities to corruption. In Peru, the country is assessing corruption risks in REDD+, leading in the region as the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to do so.

Bringing to bear the expertise of UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre, FAO's forest governance data collection, and UNDP's Global Programme for Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness and Civil Society Unit, the UN-REDD Programme is facilitating complex dialogues towards pragmatic, effective and sustainable solutions.



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