Introduction to the UN-REDD Programme and Approach to Safeguards

Dialogue between Indigenous Peoples representatives from Asia-Pacific and the UN-REDD Programme

Bangkok, 31 August 2012

Clea Paz and Gaya Sriskanthan, UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme

- The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

- Established in 2008 by the FAO, UNDP and UNEP

- A response to Bali Action Plan call for REDD+ instrument in post-2012 climate change agreement

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Partner Countries

- **44 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean**

- 7 partner countries receiving support to National Programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region:
  - Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, PNG, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Vietnam
- Other partner countries in the region:
  - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan

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The UN-REDD Programme: Two Levels of Support

National Support

- Support development and implementation of country-led REDD+ strategies

- Strong focus on country ownership and Indigenous Peoples' & civil society involvement

International Support

- Focus on capacity building, MRV and monitoring, stakeholder engagement, governance and multiple benefits of REDD+

- Building awareness and consensus about the importance of REDD+ in post-2012 climate

Both levels working in close partnership with the FCPF and FIP, among other partners

The UN-REDD Programme's Approach to Social and Environmental Safeguards

- The Cancun safeguards provide the basis for all safeguards-related work to address two specific needs:

    1. Addressing social and environmental issues in UN-REDD National Programmes and other UN-REDD funded activities
    2. Supporting countries in developing national approaches to safeguards in line with the UNFCCC

- Primarily this has been in the form of technical support through the development of tools and guidance, including the Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC).

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Cancun Safeguards and Indigenous Peoples

(c) Respect for the <u>knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities</u>, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(d) The <u>full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders</u>, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;

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The UN-REDD Programme's Approach to Safeguards – Guiding Principles

Support provided will:

- Highlight the importance of safeguards for national REDD+ systems to ensure that potential negative impacts are assessed, identified and managed

- Provide guidance as to how the potential multiple benefits of REDD+ can be enhanced and optimized

- Reflect the UN-REDD Programme's responsibility to UN conventions, treaties and declarations

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Existing and Planned Safeguard Tools

The following are UN-REDD tools that exist or are being developed that are relevant to safeguards work:

- The SEPC (welcomed as a guiding framework at PB 8)
- The draft Benefits and Risk Tool (BeRT), a decision support tool that is designed for identifying Benefits and Risks within National REDD+ Programmes or strategies
- The draft UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (to be released Oct 2012)
- The Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness (UN-REDD & FCPF)
- Participatory Governance Assessments (PGAs) (pilots being carried out)
- Guidelines for monitoring the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and ecosystem services (draft)
- The annotated guide to useful resources for monitoring the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity and ecosystem services (draft)
- Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance
- Guidance on Forest Governance Data Collection (in development) (related to SIS)
- Guidance on Establishing National-Level Grievance Mechanisms (in development)
- The National Programme Handbook (in press)

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Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC)

The SEPC provides a guiding framework:

- In the formulation of national UN-REDD programmes
- In the review, both internal and independent, of national programme documents
- In the application of the planning, monitoring and reporting framework that guides national programme
- Implementation
- Will also support countries in developing national approaches to REDD+ safeguards in line with UNFCCC

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SEPC – contd.

- – Reflect a human-rights based approach to programming
- – Uphold UN conventions, treaties and declarations
- – Apply UN agencies' policies and procedures
- – Principles are overarching statements about desired outcomes
- – Criteria are conditions that would need to be met by UN-REDD Programme funded activities to contribute to the achievement of the principle
- – Three principles on social issues, one on social and environmental policy coherence and three on environmental issues

- • Status:
- – Finalized and being implemented

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Benefit and Risk Tool (BeRT)

- Objective:
  - A tool to help apply the SEPC

  - Elaborates a series of questions under each criterion to assist in the identification of issues to be addressed

  - BeRT will be further developed to support other applications of the SEPC

- Status:
  - Currently being refined and revised.

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Safeguard Information Systems (SIS)

- Objectives:
  - Help countries to implement the UNFCCC decisions on systems of information for safeguards
  - Develop approaches to help countries to assess their existing systems that may already fulfill some of the functions of a REDD+ SIS
  - Support to country programmes on SIS, including targeted support activities

- Status:
  - Early stages of development

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Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+

Objective:

– Produce relevant, reliable and timely governance data which can contribute to national information systems through participatory and inclusive processes – with inputs and involvement from stakeholders both at the national and sub-national levels

– This information may be used to lobby for improvements and to hold governments to account by civil society actors, and can also be used for planning and policy making by government (such as the REDD+ Task Force in Indonesia on corruption issues)

Status:

– Pilots initiated in **Nigeria** and **Indonesia** and **Viet Nam**, and a road map for the PGA process is currently being developed in **Ecuador** with inputs from civil society actors, indigenous peoples, government actors and the private sector

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UN-REDD's support to prevent corruption in REDD+

- Objectives and activities:

  - Raising awareness (e.g., regional trainings, videos and print materials)
  - Understanding specific risks (e.g., assessments through PGAs or REDD+ corruption risk assessments, Institutional context analysis – who has what powers, how do different actors relate to one another)
  - Tackling those risks (e.g., capacity development plans, incentives to prevent corruption, tools to monitor and report corruption)
  - Fostering partnerships (e.g., between IP/civil society organizations, Between national REDD+ teams and anti corruption agencies, commissions or units)
  - Sharing information with relevant organizations on enforcement issues

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UNDP Work on Compliance and Grievance

This have two key functions:

1. A **compliance review** process to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with UNDP policies, procedures and project-specific commitments (e.g., Common Approach) related to environmental and social safeguards; and

2. A **grievance process** that ensures individuals and communities affected by UNDP projects have access to appropriate dispute resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related disputes

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UNDP Work on Compliance and Grievance – contd.

- Progress and status:
  - A broad consultation on the proposed design of the mechanism was launched in April 2012 and will conclude in June 2012
  - Results of the consultation will be incorporated into the proposed design of the mechanism
  - The interim mechanism will be applied in 2012/2013 for UNDP's REDD+ projects, funded by FCPF; and UNDP's GEF projects starting in 2014
  - The proposal for the UNDP-wide permanent mechanism will undergo additional consultation and internal review, vetting and revision before being finalized and submitted for approval by UNDP senior management for implementation

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FCPF/UN-REDD Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines

- Objectives:
  - To support effective stakeholder engagement with a focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples

- Contains guidance on:
  - Importance of IPs and other forest-dependent communities
  - Relevant FCPF and UN-REDD Programme Policies
  - Principles for Effective Stakeholder Engagement
  - Practical Steps for Carrying out Effective Consultations
  - Annexes: Relevant WB & UN Policies and other Resources & Tools

- Status:
  - Revised version now finalized and being implemented

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Representation of IPs Required by UN-REDD: Global Level

UN-REDD Policy Board:
- Composed of participating countries, donors, agencies, Indigenous Peoples, CSOs & observers
- Decisions made by consensus among members
- Indigenous peoples to be represented fully

Current representation of Indigenous Peoples:
- One full member (Chair of UNPFII)
- Three observers (one from each region), selected by the regional caucuses of the UNPFII

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Representation of IPs Required by UN-REDD: National Level

Key national mechanisms and processes:

- IPs to be represented on National REDD+ Steering Committees or equivalent bodies
- Validation process of National Programmes to include IP representatives
- National Programme Consultation and Participation Plan should be developed that effectively involves indigenous peoples
- Right to FPIC to be upheld for policies and activities that may have an impact on the rights of IPs

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Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- Objectives:
  - Outline a normative, policy and operational framework to seek FPIC

- Contains a normative, policy and operational framework to seek FPIC
  - Definitions of the elements of FPIC
  - UN-REDD Programme Policy on applying FPIC
  - Operational framework for seeking FPIC

- Status :
  - Pilot activities being carried out; Guidelines will be finalized Oct 2012
  - Will develop and compile supporting tools (e.g., Human Rights Impact Assessment; participatory mapping)

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Thank you!

Note: We will provide participants access to all presentations from this meeting and available documents referred to in this presentation