

Public seminar

Facing the realities of corruption and REDD+

1.30 – 4.00pm, 15th June 2012
Bergen Resource Centre for International Development
Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen

NOTE TO PANELISTS

Dear all,

This is a background note for the public seminar on REDD+ and corruption, to be held at the Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen, on the 15th of June. We are extremely grateful for your participation at this event and we think we have a very strong panel.

This note is intended to give you some further information on what the focus of the event will be, how we will arrange the presentations and responses, and what we hope will be the outcome.

1. What is the U4 REDD Integrity Project?

The U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre assists donor practitioners in more effectively addressing corruption challenges through their development support. U4 offers relevant anti-corruption material, including our own applied research through an extensive web based resource centre. U4 also runs in-country and online trainings on anti-corruption measures and strategies for our Partner Agencies and their counterparts. Finally, a Helpdesk service providing expert answers to the most pressing questions faced by development practitioners in the field is also available through our website.

U4 is operated by the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI), Bergen, Norway - a private social science research foundation working on issues of development and human rights. U4 presently works with eight development Partner Agencies: Norad (Norway), DFID (UK), CIDA (Canada), GIZ (Germany), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Finland), Sida (Sweden), BTC (Belgium), AusAID (Australia).

U4's project on REDD+ and corruption, referred to as the "REDD Integrity" project, began in late 2011 and will run until late 2014. The overall objective of

this work is to provide new thinking and evidence to strengthen current approaches dealing with corruption that affect the outcomes of REDD+ activities in developing countries. As with all U4 work, the primary audience is the staff of U4 Partner Agencies and the publications and knowledge is intended to be useful for those involved in preparing for and implementing REDD+. This means the project will provide critical insights that will be relevant to donor practitioners; how they can understand, monitor and improve the impact of their work related to REDD+ on governance and corruption at the national and international level. Although funded by Norway, the project is not restricted to Norway's role in REDD+, rather it will consider other bilateral and multilateral donors as well.

A core feature of this project will be in-depth research at a country level. U4's methodology will emphasize participatory research, with U4 project staff working closely with national, regional and international experts and stakeholders, including through commissioning pieces of research and writing. The project will provide a series of publications, including shorter 'U4 Briefs', as well as 'U4 Issue Papers'. A small number of case study countries will be considered in greater depth, and the findings from these case studies will be compiled into a longer report towards the end of the project. U4 will convene and contribute to seminars and conferences throughout the project, with this public seminar representing an important early contribution.

Aled Williams and André Standing lead the U4 project on REDD Integrity.

2. What are the aims of this seminar?

This public seminar aims to bring together a diverse range of experts including from international organisations and the research community at the country level to discuss the challenges posed by corruption and criminality in REDD+ and to consider what responses are being taken by the international community. Specifically, the seminar will consider the following interrelated questions:

- What are the risks posed by corruption and criminality to the success of REDD+?
- Will REDD+ generate new forms of corruption and criminality in implementing countries, and can it be a force for improving forest governance and accountability?
- What is being done to respond to these risks at the international and national levels?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of these responses?
- What are the priorities for the international development community?

Clearly it would be beyond the scope of the seminar to consider all anti-corruption efforts and the experience of all REDD+ implementing countries. So we will focus on:

- A) The emerging LEAF project led by Interpol, UNEP GRID Arendal and NORAD.
- B) Anti-corruption efforts by UNDP /UN-REDD
- C) The anti-corruption work being undertaken or supported by Norway

D) Country level experiences in Indonesia, Philippines, Tanzania and Guyana.

3. What is the format of the seminar?

The public seminar will start at 1.30pm on Friday the 15th of June, and will run to 4.00pm. We will then provide refreshments after the seminar to ensure that participants can interact further.

The public seminar will be organized to ensure that there is extensive discussion and questions from the floor. To achieve this we will limit the number of longer presentations and use several of the panelists as respondents; we want to avoid front-loading the seminar with long PowerPoint presentations, and we will ensure that the majority of the seminar will be interactive discussions between the panelists and among the audience.

The panel will consist of the following people:

Christian Nelleman: United Nations Environment Programme, Grid Arendal.

Ahmad Dermawan: Center for International Forestry Research, Indonesia.

Grizelda Mayo-Anda: Environmental Legal Assistance Centre, Philippines.

Lars Ekman: Norad, Oslo.

Estelle Fach, United Nations Development Programme, UN-REDD, Geneva

Davyth Stewart, Head of Interpol's Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests project, Lyon.

The proposed format for the seminar is to divide it into two main sessions. Each session will start with two longer presentations (each 10 minutes), then 5 minute responses from the remainder of the panel and then open question time.

The agenda for the meeting is therefore as follows:

Welcome and introduction by U4: (André Standing): (10 minutes)

This will provide a brief introduction to the work of U4 and our REDD Integrity Project. It will then introduce aims and format of the seminar and introduce the panelists.

Andre will be the moderator for the remainder of the seminar.

Part 1: Understanding the corruption threat to REDD+ (1. hour 10 minutes)

This session will consider the relationship between corruption and REDD+; what are the threats posed by different forms of corruption to REDD+ and how might REDD+ introduce new corruption problems. The session could also consider how REDD+ may have a positive impact on governance and reducing corruption in the forest sector.

1. Introductory presentations: (20 minutes – 10 minutes each)

- Ahmad Dermawan (10 minutes)
- Davyth Stewart /or Chris Nellemann (10 minutes)

2. Responses from the panel (20 minutes - 5 minutes each)

3. Open question time (30 minutes)

Part 2: Responding to the challenge: (1 hour 10 minutes)

In this session we will be considering anti-corruption policies, with two examples: the LEAF project and the work by UNDP. We want to discuss what is being done, what are the challenges to these efforts and what are the priorities going forward.

1. Introductory presentations (20 minutes – 10 minutes each)

- LEAF project – either Davyth Stewart or Chris Nellemann?
- UNDP work - Estelle Fach

2. Respondents from the panel (20 minutes - 5 minutes each)

3. Open question time. (30 minutes)

Conclusion

4. What are the expected outcomes?

First, we hope that the meeting will provide a good opportunity for the participants and panelists to critically reflect on the theme of corruption and anti-corruption policies for REDD+. For U4 this will be an extremely useful opportunity to engage experts and practitioners on this issue, which will then help us develop the project further.

We also hope that this meeting will provide an opportunity for the panelists and U4 to discuss potential collaboration and sharing of information. We will get the panelists together after the seminar for 20 minutes to take this conversation forward.

U4 will provide a summary of the seminar as a publication on its REDD Integrity website.