

## Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ (PGAs) – June 2013

### Why are we piloting the PGAs?

The Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+ (PGA) is a truly inclusive process involving different stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector and academia with the view to analyse the current state of governance and produce robust and credible governance information as the first step to improve identified governance weaknesses and shortcomings identified.

The PGA serves many purposes in a country's national REDD+ process depending on which stakeholder group is using the governance data.

From a government perspective, the PGA results provides robust evidence which can feed into and **support government's policy-making, planning and strategies** at national and sub-national levels and as such act as a **starting point for governance reform**. With regular updates of the PGA data it will also be possible to **track progress or regression**. Lastly, the comprehensiveness of governance data available through the PGA process will also lend itself to **feed into the national Safeguards Information System**, which countries in turn will report back to UNFCCC.

From a civil society perspective, the robust

governance data available through the PGA process offers valuable evidence to their **lobbying and advocacy**, as well as a **monitoring tool** to ultimately hold decisions makers to account.

### What is the added value of a participatory approach?

Through the piloting of the PGAs, the UN-REDD Programme has noted the following benefits associated with producing governance data in an inclusive manner:

**Legitimacy:** When stakeholders have been involved in deciding on main steps and components of the process they place trust in the actual process of obtaining the data and deem the actual findings and recommendations legitimate and accurate.

**Ownership:** With meaningful engagement from the onset, stakeholders also develop an ownership to the data itself and to follow up the recommendations as opposed to recommendations being presented from external entities.

**Relevant data produced:** Stakeholders involved are also part of the target audience for the PGA data being produced – and by jointly determining the scope of the PGA one ensures that the data being produced is actually in demand and seen as relevant by different stakeholders.

**Comprehensiveness of data:** a more complete vision of reality is made available when the realities, contexts and perspectives of different stakeholders are taken into account. This provides a better evidence base for more effective policy-making and governance reform.

### Building on an existing approach to governance assessments

The PGA approach builds both on the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre's



knowledge of and experience with conducting governance assessments in a wide range of sectors and themes (such as anti-corruption, justice and public service delivery), as well as FAO's expertise in data collection in the forestry sector.

### Where: current PGA pilots

The following countries are currently conducting PGA pilots; Indonesia, Ecuador, Nigeria and Vietnam with support from the UN-REDD Programme.





**“Strengthening citizen voice and the engagement of civil society, along with traditional forms of support to develop state systems and institutions, is critical to responsive governance mechanisms.”**

*Source: Fostering Social Accountability, UNDP Guidance note 2011*

### How are the PGAs implemented?

The PGA report provides through extensive stakeholder consultations, contributions and inputs:

- 1: Preparations;** this step includes analysing the stakeholder landscape and identifying relevant stakeholders for the PGA process, as well as looking ahead to determine who are the end-users of the PGA report, how results will be communicated to reach all intended target audiences, as well as identifying possible national institutions which in the long-run will be collecting and updating the PGA data at regular intervals, as well as be responsible for the information-sharing.
- 2: Design and joint decisions;** this component includes convening of relevant stakeholders to introduce stakeholders to the benefits, relevance and limitations of the PGA process and results, starting to analyse the governance situation, as well as preparing for joint decisions and agreements on how to best structure the PGA (whom to contribute when and how); the geographical scope of the PGA; which governance issues to prioritize; and lastly a roadmap with relevant milestones relevant to the country context for the PGA process.
- 3: Data collection and analysis;** this phase of the PGA involves stakeholders' agreement on an indicator set based on the agreed governance priorities; choice of data collection methods; and lastly validation and analysis of data once collected.
- 4: Communication of results and use of data;** this phase will require dissemination of key findings and recommendations to stakeholders at all levels; use of data and recommendations as reference in planning, advocacy and decision-making; and possibly into national



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