

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ (PGAs)

FAST FACTS - OCTOBER 2011

Why are we piloting the PGAs?

The Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+ (PGAs) will through consultative and inclusive processes contribute to the **development of national systems providing relevant information on how “safeguards are promoted, addressed and respected”** as recommended in the Cancun Negotiation Text – paragraphs 69 and 71 d.

Beyond the sharing of information for increased transparency, we are also providing capacity-building and training for **governments to provide relevant, reliable and timely information, as well as civil society to act upon the information provided** in order to hold their governments to account.

Building on an existing approach to governance assessments

The PGA approach builds both on the UNDP/ Oslo Governance Centre’s knowledge and experience within the field of conducting governance assessment in a wide range of sectors and themes

(such as anti-corruption, justice and gender issues) as well as FAO’s experience in data collection and monitoring in the forest sector by relating this combined expertise to relevant issues within REDD+.

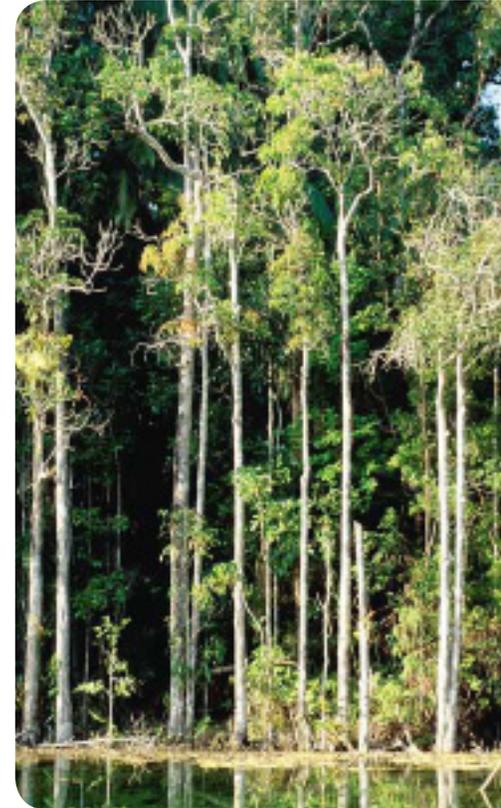
What is the added value of a participatory approach?

The PGA approach is predicated on inclusive and meaningful participation from the very start of the pilot process. PGAs have to be initiated, implemented and sustained by national actors.

By including different views and voices throughout the pilot process, the information-sharing is based on what is seen as **relevant information** for the ones who will be making use of this information in the long run.

The process of an inclusive and participatory assessment therefore creates the much needed **ownership** and **national, local, capacity for a sustained effort to both demand and provide relevant information.**

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



When and where will the PGAs be piloted?

The UN-REDD Programme initiated two pilots during the spring of 2011 - one in **Indonesia** and one in **Nigeria**. Currently, preparations for two more pilots are undertaken in **Vietnam** and **Ecuador**.

Based on the experience and lessons learned from these four pilots, training material and Guidance Notes will be produced for further PGAs for REDD+.



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is an endeavour to create an incentive for developing forested countries to protect, better manage and wisely use their forest resources, thus contributing to the global fight against climate change. It rests on the effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in standing forests. “REDD+” goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. In the long term, payments for verified emission reductions and removals, either market or fund based, provide an incentive for REDD+ countries to further invest in low-carbon development and a healthier, greener tomorrow.



How are the PGAs rolled out?

Although the PGA approach is not building on a prescriptive framework on how to conduct governance assessments, but rather is a flexible and practical tool adaptable to the country context, the following four main components are involved in the implementation of the PGA pilots.

“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.

1: Identifying and convening relevant stakeholders and participants

This includes identifying and convening participants representing the government, civil society, local forest and indigenous peoples' communities, and sometimes media and academia, to explore the possibilities for a management structure for the PGA relevant for the national context. This builds on existing and emerging national REDD+ readiness institutions and processes.

2: Defining the scope – deciding on indicators for prioritized areas of concentration

Once the participants have been identified and the management structure is in place, prioritization on areas of relevance (such as Human Rights, anti-corruption, coordination among ministries, forest law enforcement, sustainable forest management, transparency on REDD+ funding and expenditure, revenue distribution, legislation and land tenure issues) will be discussed. Realizing that the

PGAs cannot cover all governance issues related to REDD+, and to get a clear idea on what type of information is in demand by the stakeholders, this inclusive prioritization is key to in the longer run provide and make accessible relevant information.

Based on this prioritization of issues and areas, the participants will agree on a framework of indicators. Parallel to the development of indicators, an informed discussion will also be needed on how the necessary data will be collected and by whom, including an assessment of existing data sources and the identification of potential data gaps. The regular information-sharing and communication of these targets, relevant indicators and data collection methods will facilitate an increased level of transparency on the prioritized areas.

3: Analysis of governance structures and systems to inform recommendations for policy reform

The participants will also analyze the current governance structures and systems in place to identify shortcomings and obstacles to democratic governance as well as opportunities for improvements. This analysis, together with the component below, forms the basis for recommendations for policy reform and changes to facilitate improvements in relevant governance structures and systems.

4: Training and capacity development – targeting both the demand and supply side of accountability

This involves building capacity of non-state actors and government officials to both provide and demand relevant information and status on the agreed indicators from the participatory governance assessment process, including on data collection channels and methods. Focusing on both the supply and demand side of accountability may facilitate that information on the REDD+ progress, based on the agreed indicators, eventually is easily accessible and perceived as credible and relevant.

Training of non-state actors will focus on how to demand relevant information, but also on how to hold government to account should the information indicate shortcomings in reaching agreed targets. Capacity development of state actors will involve how relevant and updated information best can be shared and communicated.

Contact details:

For more information on the PGA for REDD+ approach, please contact Tina Hageberg by phone: +47 22 12 16 06 or e-mail: tina.hageberg@undp.org

