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| **Workshop Report** |
| Participatory Governance Assessment  **NATIONAL CONSULTATION**  **RESULTS OF PGA FOR REDD+ AND FOREST GOVERNANCE DATA COLLECTION**  29 October 2012. Jakarta, Indonesia |
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Table of Contents

[Background 3](#_Toc344990521)

[Objectives 4](#_Toc344990522)

[Participants 5](#_Toc344990523)

[Key issues addressed and discussed during the workshop 6](#_Toc344990524)

[Opening remarks 6](#_Toc344990525)

[Discussion 7](#_Toc344990526)

[Closing remarks 8](#_Toc344990527)

[Follow-up 9](#_Toc344990528)

## Background

The President of the Republic of Indonesia has committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by 26%, or up to 41% with international support by 2020. Emission reduction from the forestry and peat land sector is expected to contribute with a majority of the total emission reduction.

One of the root causes that hinder REDD+ implementation is weak forest governance and law enforcement along with several other causes which are closely related to governance issues. Therefore, apart from the technical forestry aspect, the success of the REDD+ preparation and implementation phase is highly dependent on the ability to address and resolve a number of issues related to forest and peat land governance issues in Indonesia. That is also in line with the agreement reached at the UNFCCC at the COP 16 Cancun, Mexico where it was decided that all states participating in REDD+ needed to develop a safeguard information mechanism and strengthen forest and peat land governance while respecting the sovereignty of each state.

Weak governance in natural resources management is the consequence of a number of interrelated factors. Governance issues and shortcomings are frequently encountered, such as the lack of law enforcement, social marginalisation, non-transparent decision making, abuse of legislative, judicative and executive powers, absence of bureaucratic accountability, arbitrary policies, unfair allocation of resources, and widespread corruption. More specifically, the issue of participation and the content of regulations of law are inconsistent with problems in the field or contrary to other development goals, accountability, how implementation of regulation does not meet expectations, conflicting laws and regulations etc. Good governance is recognized by the respect for legal certainty, transparency and free flow of information, significant citizen participation, equity, high level of accountability, effective public resources management, and control over corruption.

Through REDD+ readiness efforts, technically solid and credible baseline data on Indonesia’s preparedness level in implementing REDD+ scheme (in terms of governance aspects) to relevant stakeholders is sought through a Participatory Governance Assessment for REDD+, and efforts to serve as a monitoring instrument for the three pillars of forest governance and peat land management in Indonesia are made. The result of the assessment will lead to a process emphasizing the involvement and benefits of REDD+ implementation particularly for the indigenous community, women’s groups and forest dependent people. Finally, the result of the assessment will be used as the basis on which to formulate a roadmap to improve REDD+ governance in Indonesia. This governance data will also serve as a basis and supporting evidence in both policy making (by government) and in advocacy and lobbying (for civil society actors)

Using a set of forest governance and REDD+ indicators, developed jointly through consultation with various stakeholders, data collection was performed at the central level, provincial, and district. Data was collected using several methods from June 2012 up to early October 2012 by LP3ES (Indonesian Institute for Social Economic Research Education and Information). Currently, data has been collected from 31 locations and is presented in a report, requiring feedback from the main stakeholders at the assessment locations before it can be used as a forest governance and REDD+ assessment material.

## Objectives

The workshop in Jakarta was organized around the following objectives:

1. To present the data collection report to the main stakeholders as a form of participatory forest governance and PGA REDD+ assessment
2. To gather input, comments, and recommendations for improvement regarding the draft data collection report prepared by LP3ES before it is used as a material for formulating forest and the REDD+ governance index
3. To discuss the development of an integrated data system which can be used to monitor forest governance and REDD+ periodically

In order to achieve this, stakeholders were informed of the results from the data collection from each assessment location. They were additionally informed of how the current data will meet the previously set targets of the forest governance and REDD+ assessment.

The underlying reason for the aforehanded information was that all participants were able to read up on in advanced regarding issues in which they had no or weak knowledge within.

## Participants

The event was attended by the main stakeholders of forest governance and REDD+ in Indonesia at the central, provincial, and district level, particularly it was attended by those from the assessment locations.

* Participants from the central level comprised several directorates at Ministry of Forestry, Bappenas, Public Works, Civil Society Organisations, forest business associations, and local and indigenous community organisations
* Participants from the province level comprised representatives from the forestry agency, Civil Society Organisations, indigenous community organisations, and land-based business associations
* Participants from the district level comprised representatives from the forestry agency, Civil Society Organisations, together with indigenous and local organisations

The total number of participants exceeded 100, with a majority from the sub-national level. This was according to the planned outcome and is positively regarded upon by the hosts.

Additionally, members from the Expert panel, UNDP Indonesia, UN-REDD Global Programme, National Programme Indonesia, and data collectors also attended the workshop.

## Key issues addressed and discussed during the workshop

### Opening remarks

The opening speech was held by Deputy Country Director Mr. Stephen Rodriques. He mentioned background facts and history behind the PGA indicators and in what way they would help the world tackling the forest climate mitigation.

It was mentioned that the PGA framework has been developed through hard work and will be implemented as to improve good forest governance, primarily within Indonesia’s REDD+ efforts. Not only will the assessment assist in the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, it will give the opportunity for Indigenous peoples to achieve legal right for the forest they live in. Mr. Rodriques emphasized that this minority often has difficulties in understanding the complex legal system due to tradition and several other factors. That is why the people behind PGA are proud to help the Indigenous peoples of Indonesia.

The framework has full support from the UN-REDD Global Programme which is regarded as very positive and motivates everyone that is involved. It was continued with the fact that there is a scenario of increasing sea level which would cause significant parts of the Indonesian archipelago to fall victim to the sea. To finalize the opening session, the Deputy Director hoped for fruitful discussions regarding the preliminary results from the PGA exercise.

Achmad Santosa from UKP4 and the REDD+ Task Force continued the opening session with saying that the goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved if a number of issues related to governance can be handled well and quickly. In order to do this it is important to stress why REDD+ and forest governance is so important, much of this can be found in the book “Moving Forward with Forest Governance”. A big step in the right direction is to develop a single map that is linked to governance reform efforts, something that has been requested for a long time. This map will cover areas such as governance processes limits, peat land maps and spatial planning and is estimated to be ready in the end of 2013.

The Ministry of Forestry is very much experienced when it comes to illegal logging, says the representative Dr. Hadi Dariyanto. The work with this started taking off after the World Summit in 1990 and has increased ever since. They are now creating a system of sustainable development and he emphasizes that forest governance is an important element in the democratization of governance. He is proud that the Indonesian economy is doing so well, even if deforestation is declining which was thought to slow down the economy. An explanation for the recent growth is the increased prices of commodities such as rubber, cocoa, and oil, which Indonesia is a large exporter of.

### Discussion

Representatives from each of the locations were invited to speak and address their input to the PGA expert panel and others in the audience one at the time. The representatives provided important aspects and perspectives and described how PGA would assist them in the home region. During this session, numerous vital feedbacks were received and recurrent topics involved anti-corruption and illegal logging.

Several proposals were submitted from the representatives in order to improve the work regarding the indicators to help forest governance. The data collection made by LP3ES was described in detail for the goal of having the audience understand the assessment through a holistic perspective. The collection consists of the preparation stage, the implementation stage, and the reporting process stage. LP3ES faced some difficulties such as non-technical aspects, level of awareness of the indigenous peoples, data availability, and various technical aspects.

There was also a summarization of four costs of poor forest governance:

1. Ecological costs. Loss of ecosystem and value of forests
2. Economic costs. Loss of state revenue in form of tax evasion
3. Social costs. Presence of human displacement, violence and social conflicts
4. Political costs. Corruption that results in loss in credibility of the government

The representatives also added input regarding sustainable development and forest governance, which was taken seriously by the audience. How to further improve the indicators was suggested and it was questioned what would happen during a moratorium.

Others would have liked to have seen further invites to policy makers; examples of these include the House of Representatives and the Regional Head.

Since there is a difference between regions, it was important to find the critical indicators for each region, something that was successfully done. It also seemed like further improvement in a reformation of the Ministry of Forestry was not impossible.

### Closing remarks

The governance of the rainforest of Indonesia is still very much centralized. In order for PGA to process against this, much effort is still to be done. To strengthen regional autonomy within forest communities to be more operational can be achieved with the joint forces of various stakeholders. This consultative meeting proved that good interaction between stakeholders do exist and it is along these lines key stakeholders would like to continue their work.

It is believed by the hosts that it is crucial for the government and business sector to meet representatives from Indigenous peoples throughout Indonesia in order to hear their stories and perspectives to attain their perspectives and get a realistic picture as basis for their respective work.

With Nigeria, Vietnam, and Ecuador as other PGA pilot countries, Indonesia is the country that has advanced the most and it has gone to the state where representatives have visited Vietnam in order to share the Indonesian experience. Another visit, to Ecuador, will also be happening within the near future with the goal of demonstrating how PGA has been implemented and how political and sensitive governance issues can be dealt with in order to gain some progress addressing governance issues.

There is a practical guide under development that has as target to teach other countries how they can conduct PGA in an efficient and comprehensive approach. Experience from Indonesia on obtaining governance data in a participatory manner will be reflected as examples throughout this upcoming guide Impressive amount of work has been undertaken during the consultative meeting and this has rocketed the PGA forward as the inputs and comments will be incorporated in the final version. The meeting also demonstrated that both Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government actors used the opportunity of the workshop to make their opinions and views heard, which reflects the participatory approach of the PGA in Indonesia thus far. It is also fair to say that the stakeholders who participated in this meeting.

A key factor determining the relevance of the PGA in Indonesia ultimately is how the PGA data is being used both by the government but also civil society actors at large.

Additionally, it will be important to map the capacity of different stakeholders to utilize the PGA data and conduct trainings thereafter. Of equal importance is to have an institution to take on board the further updating of PGA data at a regular basis, based on the indicator set and the data collection methods agreed by stakeholders. This work will continue in 2013, as the interest for further updates on governance data is determined as relevant and in demand by the stakeholders involved to date.

## Follow-up

The workshop aimed at validating the data, and certainly contributions from stakeholders in this meeting pointed to data from the different locations which were altered or improved since data had been collected, and also pointed to other sources of data which might be worth checking to get data which reflects the reality on the ground. Efforts will be made as soon as evidence is in place to rectify and update missing or incorrect information.

Further, through discussions in this meeting, the following points were discussed as important steps to follow-up further:

* To determine which institution, agency, or actor that is going to institutionalize the data based on the indicator frame work
* To ensure that the data is properly used since it is a unique governance data which is being conducted by REDD+ (a capacity needs assessment will be carried out next year as a step towards this to determine the need for trainings and further awareness raising)
* The importance to continue and develop PGA in order for it not to become a pile of papers in the corner

Annexes

ToR and Final agenda

*PGA\_National\_Consultative\_Meeting\_29\_Oct\_2012\_ToR.docx*

Participants list

*PGA\_National\_Consultative\_Meeting\_29\_Oct\_2012\_Participants\_List.pdf*