

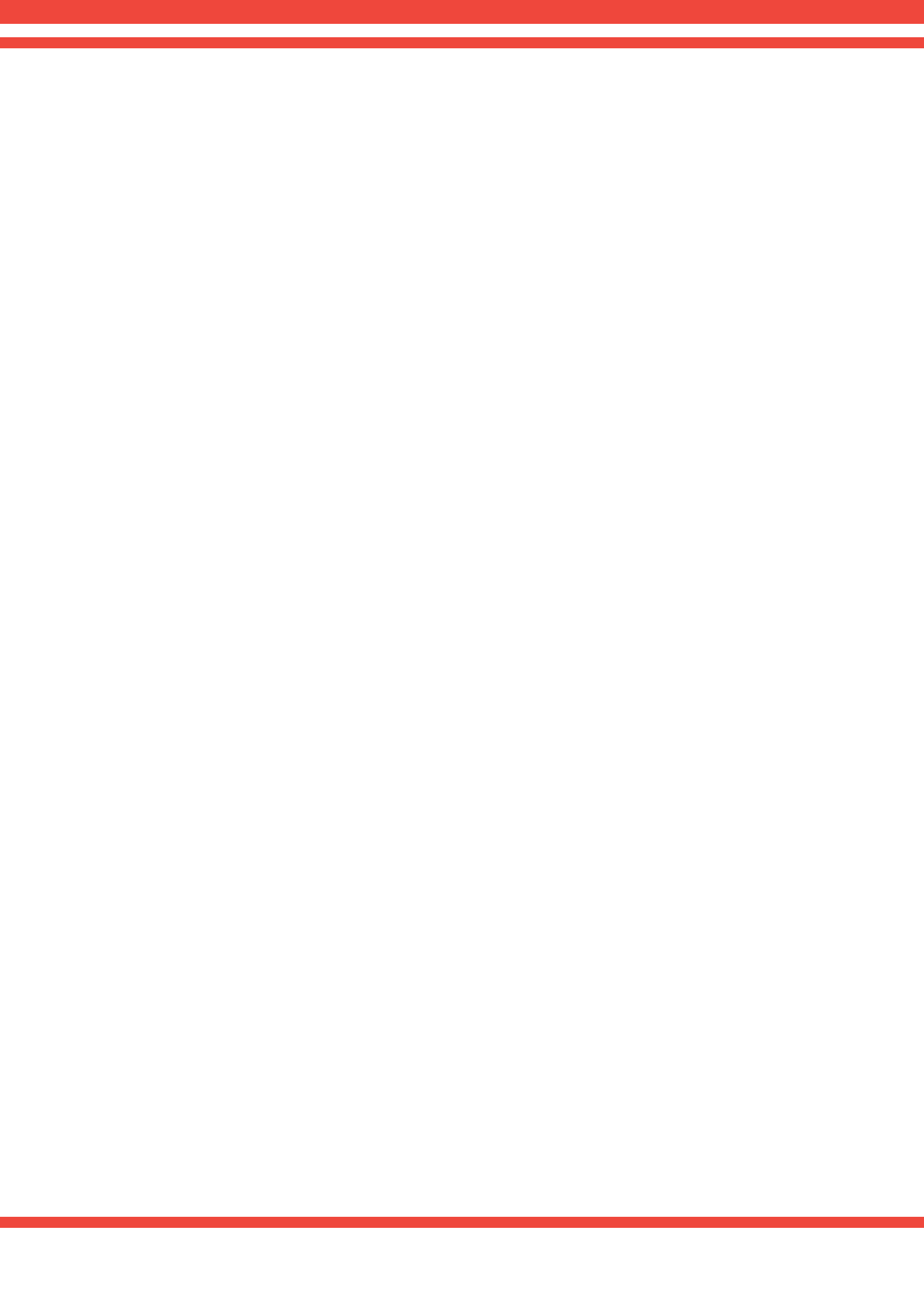


UN-REDD  
PROGRAMME

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Regional Report of the  
Partnership between  
Asia Indigenous Peoples  
Pact and the UN-REDD  
Programme in Bangladesh,  
Myanmar and Viet Nam





# UN-REDD PROGRAMME



The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries. The Programme was launched in 2008 and builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.



The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1988 by indigenous peoples movements as a platform for solidarity and cooperation. AIPP actively promotes and defends indigenous peoples' rights and human rights, sustainable development and management of resources and environment protection. Through more than two decades, it has developed an expertise in grassroots capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnership with indigenous organizations, support NGOs, UN agencies and other institutions. At present, AIPP has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia with 14 National Formations, 15 Sub-national Formations and 18 Local Formations. Of this number, six are Indigenous Women's Organizations and four are Indigenous Youth Organizations.

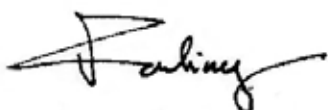
# Acknowledgements

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) would like to express its sincere gratitude to the UN-REDD Programme for the partnership in facilitating and financially supporting indigenous peoples' national preparatory meetings and dialogues in Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Myanmar.

This is the first time that indigenous peoples' representatives of three countries had the opportunity to come together to discuss REDD+ and deliver their concerns and recommendations in the dialogues with government representatives and the UN-REDD Programme representatives. The AIPP would thereby like to acknowledge the openness and willingness of the government and the UN-REDD Programme representatives to dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives. Also, AIPP acknowledges the commitment of the government representatives to support the capacity building of indigenous peoples and to ensure their representation in the relevant REDD+ bodies and technical working groups.

AIPP also welcomes the participation and support of civil society organizations representatives as observers in the dialogues.

Last but not the least, AIPP would like to thank all its partners, namely: The Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM), Viet Nam; the Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT), Myanmar; and the National Coordination Committee (NCC) of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh for their successful organization of the preparatory meetings and dialogues at the national level in coordination with the AIPP.



**Ms. Joan Carling**  
*Secretary General*  
*Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)*

# List of Abbreviations

AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CSDM	The Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas
EM	Ethnic Minorities
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
ILO	International Labour Organization
NCC	National Coordination Committee
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
PEB	Programme Executive Board
POINT	Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, Conservation of Forest Carbon Stocks; Sustainable Management of Forest and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stock.
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
VTIK	Vietnamese Indigenous Knowledge Network

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SECTION 1

# Overview

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Regional Report Of The Partnership  
Between Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact  
and the UN-REDD Programme





*Submitted by:*  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)



*Submitted to:*  
The UN-REDD Programme

1.1.

## Introduction

Thirteen countries in Asia are preparing to get ready for REDD+. While these countries are moving ahead with REDD+ preparation, the awareness raising and capacity building of rights holders and their organizations for policy advocacy is very important. In this context, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), with the support of the UN-REDD Programme, joined hands with its local organizations to promote closer collaboration and cooperation amongst indigenous peoples, and with the UN-REDD Programme and government agencies implementing REDD+ in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

Through partnerships with the Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT) in Myanmar, the Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) in Viet Nam and the National Coordination Committee (NCC) of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh, national dialogues were held between ethnic minorities and the Forest Department in Yangon, Myanmar on 2 May; with the UN-REDD Programme Viet Nam Phase II Programme in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 9 May; and with the Forest Department in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 19 June 2014. Prior to the dialogues, POINT, CSDM and NCC organized a three-day preparatory meeting in Yangon from 29 April-2 May; a two-day preparatory meeting in Hanoi from 7-8 May; and a three-day preparatory meeting in Bangladesh from 16-19 June 2014, respectively. There were 33 indigenous participants in Myanmar, 32 ethnic minority participants in Viet Nam and 50 indigenous participants in Bangladesh.

The national preparatory meetings were vital and very useful in developing a common understanding for indigenous peoples' representatives on REDD+ and related issues, including their rights and entitlement to benefit sharing in REDD+. In Myanmar, the participants agreed to strengthen the existing Indigenous Peoples Forum of Myanmar to monitor the REDD+ process and to form the indigenous peoples working group on REDD+ within the forum, ensuring the participation of representatives from the REDD+ pilot areas. In Viet Nam, indigenous representatives (ethnic minorities) agreed to select two to three focal points from each REDD+ pilot area to provide support and feedback to Ms. Luong Thi Truong, the indigenous representative to the Programme Executive Board (PEB) of the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam. The participants also agreed to expand the existing Vietnamese Indigenous Knowledge Network (VTIK) in order to reach out to more ethnic minorities in the Phase II pilot areas of REDD+. The network now consists of 750 members from 13 provinces. A number of ethnic groups are part of the VTIK, namely: Thai, Tay, Nung, Dao, H'mong and Muong. The CSDM is currently coordinating the VTIK. This network will help maintain regular communication and information sharing on REDD+ issues among indigenous peoples in Viet Nam. Further ethnic minorities' representatives will develop concrete action plans for follow up actions to be supported by the UN-REDD Programme Viet Nam in Phase II of REDD+ implementation. In Bangladesh, the participants agreed that the NCC of indigenous peoples would facilitate the self-selection process of indigenous peoples for the National REDD+ Steering Committee and technical working groups to be formed by the government of Bangladesh. The indigenous representatives also nominated Raja Devasish Roy as REDD+ contact point on behalf of indigenous peoples.

Prior to the meetings, key documents such as the REDD+ Cancun agreement, Joint Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines of the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF, and the UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on FPIC were translated into Burmese and Vietnamese languages and distributed to the participants prior to the events. It was the first time in Bangladesh that key REDD+ documents were translated into their national language.

## 1.2.

# Concerns and Recommendations of Indigenous Peoples

The preparatory meetings of indigenous peoples have been a very valuable platform for indigenous representatives to learn more about REDD+ and its implications to their rights and wellbeing. Further, the dialogue has also enriched their understanding on the initiatives and plans of their respective governments in partnership with the UN-REDD Programme. The self-selected indigenous representatives presented the concerns and recommendations of indigenous peoples to the relevant government agencies working on REDD+ and to the UN-REDD Programme representatives during the dialogues.

### 1.2.1 Myanmar

Indigenous representatives shared the following key concerns and recommendations that culminated from the three days preparatory meeting:

- Ensure the representation of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ Task Force including various technical working groups on REDD+ in Myanmar.
- Develop culturally appropriate information, education and communication materials and capacity building activities for indigenous peoples, especially in the pilot areas.
- Include climate change and REDD+ in the school curriculum.
- Ensure the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the study being conducted on REDD+ issues and recognize and respect their traditional livelihoods.
- Undertake the analysis of the existing policies on shifting cultivation and reform and/or formulate laws and policies to respect, recognize and promote the subsistence livelihoods of indigenous peoples.
- Establish independent grievance mechanisms and provide just compensation, if the human rights of indigenous peoples are violated under REDD+.
- Maintain transparency of finance throughout all the phases of REDD+.

- Respect, protect, fulfill and monitor the rights of indigenous peoples as these are key to addressing illegal logging and at the same time increasing NTFPs, ensuring food security, and enhancing biodiversity and eco-system services.
- There is a gap in the trust between indigenous peoples and the government. The government should initiate trust building process between indigenous peoples and government. This should take place in the national, sub-national and local levels.
- Implement FPIC in the REDD+ Pilot project areas.

The government representative Dr. Thaung Naing Oo, Planning and Statistics Division, Deputy Director of the Forest Department acknowledged the concerns and recommendations of indigenous peoples but did not provide any concrete response to these recommendations, as he was not in the position to provide an official response.

## 1.2.2. Viet Nam

The self-selected ethnic minorities representatives presented the following key concerns and recommendations to the UN-REDD Programme representatives:

- Ethnic minority peoples have their own customary governance systems and laws for the management and protection of forests. This should be respected and recognized by REDD+.
- The ethnic minority communities in the ground have not received adequate information on REDD+. So raising awareness and building the capacity of indigenous peoples should be prioritized, especially in the REDD+ pilot areas.
- The full and effective participation of ethnic minorities in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of any plans and policies in REDD+ is essential for REDD+ to succeed.
- REDD+ should protect and improve the traditional livelihoods of ethnic minorities.
- The flow of money in REDD+ should be kept transparent and appropriate measures should be undertaken to protect the REDD+ money from corruption.
- Ethnic minorities have been practicing their customary laws through their own customary institutions for a long time. However, under the existing state's law, the practices of such customary laws can be considered illegal. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should respect ethnic minorities' customary laws and practices.
- The existing mechanisms and policies do not fully meet the needs of the people. For example the government of Viet Nam allocates only limited budget for the protection of forests under Forest Protection Fund. A lot of money can be earned from illegal logging. So people are inclined to engage in illegal logging. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should address this issue.
- Forests allocation to communities has not been done well. Forests are allocated more to individuals or organizations than to local communities. For example in Lam Dong Province, a very small forest area has been allocated to ethnic minorities communities despite the fact that most ethnic minorities peoples live near forests.
- There is a limited number of effective mechanisms to resolve the disputes relating to forest and land. Hence, complaints of those disputes remain unaddressed.

The UN representatives present in the dialogue acknowledged those recommendations and concerns and assured that they are committed to addressing the issues and concerns raised by them, particularly: the capacity building activities for ethnic minorities; implementation of Cancun social and environmental safeguards; respect for their knowledge, rights and customary laws relating to forests; and their full and effective participation throughout the UN-REDD Programme's activities in Viet Nam. This dialogue has provided the entry point for ethnic minorities and the UN-REDD Programme Viet Nam to collaborate and engage in partnership in REDD+ process in Viet Nam. The partnership should undertake a human rights based approach to REDD+ plans, policies and activities. This is necessary for REDD+/ the UN-REDD Programme to be successful in Viet Nam. The dialogue also provided an opportunity for ethnic minorities to network with UN representatives, NGOs and INGOs representatives working in Viet Nam in forest issues.

### 1.2.3. Bangladesh

The indigenous representatives emphasized that any future REDD+ strategy and related land and forest governance, management and use shall be in conformity with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other related international standards and agreements, including Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), ILO Conventions No. 111 (Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation), 107 (Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957) and 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989).

The key recommendations presented by the indigenous peoples' representatives are as follows:

- Ensure representation of indigenous peoples in the national steering committee, stakeholder forum and REDD+ technical working groups.
- Establish a grievance mechanism from local to national levels taking into account the best practices of dispute resolution and provisions of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly Articles 25-30.
- Increase awareness and build capacity of indigenous peoples for their effective engagement in REDD+.
- Sensitize and raise awareness of Government officials from relevant ministries on REDD+, including best practice in terms of forest conservation and management, sustainable use, and the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples and communities.
- Translate relevant UNFCCC and REDD+ documents into national, indigenous and local languages.
- Develop the FPIC guidelines in line with UNDRIP and guidelines of the UN Treaty Bodies.
- Reform laws, policies and programmes relating to forests in partnership with indigenous peoples.
- From the previous experiences with the Department of Forest, particularly with policies related to Social Forestation and Forest Act, indigenous peoples fear that REDD+ can turn into another tool of oppression.
- Forests provide indigenous peoples almost everything they need to survive and thus non-carbon benefits are more important to them than carbon. While implementing REDD+ initiatives in the indigenous inhabited land and forests, indigenous peoples' perspective towards forests and land must be respected.

Mr. Haradhan Banik, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest and Focal Point of the UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh acknowledged the concerns and recommendations of indigenous peoples. Mr. Banik assured that indigenous peoples' representation in different stages of policymaking relating to REDD+ would be ensured. He also expressed that legislation should be reformed in consultation with indigenous peoples. Mr. Banik expressed that the enhancement of biological diversity in the forests would be prioritized and while implementing REDD+, traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples will be adopted for the sustainable management of the forests and natural resources.

### 1.3.

## Next Steps

In Myanmar, POINT shall initiate the scoping of existing networks of indigenous peoples. This is needed to ensure that genuine and committed indigenous persons are represented in the REDD+ Task Force and technical working groups. Also, POINT needs to start consulting with the members of the Indigenous Peoples Forum of Myanmar about the decision to establish an Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD+ within the forum.

In Viet Nam, ethnic minorities' representatives shall come out with a concrete action plan to engage in the UN-REDD Viet Nam Phase II Programme and expand VTIK to Central Vietnam, Highlands and the South regions and operationalize it as an ethnic minorities network on REDD+. Mrs. Luong Thi Truong, the Executive Director of CSDM will follow up with the UN-REDD Programme and facilitate the self-selection of two to three focal points from the six UN-REDD Vietnam Phase II Programme pilot provinces in Viet Nam and propose her own work plan to strengthen her role as the ethnic minorities representative in UN-REDD Vietnam Phase II Programme PEB as well as building her link with the National REDD+ Network.

In Bangladesh, NCC shall continue to facilitate information-sharing and indigenous peoples' activities relating to REDD+. Also, NCC shall facilitate the self-selection of indigenous peoples' representatives from the hills and plains to the REDD+ bodies.

The indigenous participants in all the countries committed to share the knowledge and information they received from the preparatory meetings and the dialogues to their communities. They also recommended sustained support to capacity building and engagement with the local and national government in order for them to effectively articulate and pursue the recognition of their rights and equitable benefits for their important contributions and roles in sustainable forest conservation and management.

Capacity building is a long-term and continuous process. Therefore, the support for indigenous peoples to organize consultations among themselves and prepare for dialogues with policy makers should be continued in the future and, above all, the REDD+ countries in Asia should respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples.



SECTION 2

# Myanmar





*Submitted by:*  
Promotion of Indigenous and Nature Together (POINT)



*Submitted to:*  
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

## 2.1.

# National Preparatory Meeting of Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar

## Executive Summary

The three-day preparatory meeting of indigenous peoples was successful in developing a common understanding of indigenous peoples regarding REDD+ and preparing for future advocacy on their rights and concerns with the government of Myanmar and other relevant actors. This was the first time that indigenous peoples representatives from REDD+ pilot areas as well as from other indigenous communities came together to learn about REDD+ as most of them were not aware of this new programme of the government of Myanmar.

“

The access to forest and continuation of their livelihoods are the main concerns of indigenous peoples in Myanmar with regards to REDD+

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### POINT

The presentations from the UN-REDD Programme representatives and indigenous representatives from Nepal and the Asia region were useful for the participants in getting a clear picture of the REDD+ process and the experiences of indigenous peoples in other REDD+ countries in Asia. These presentations and discussions made the participants feel that they are not alone in the struggle for securing their rights over land and natural resources. REDD+ has created a space for indigenous peoples to discuss their issues related to the forest with policy makers. The access to forest and continuation of their livelihoods are the main concerns of indigenous peoples in Myanmar with regards to REDD+. Further, indigenous peoples in conflict-afflicted areas want peace prior to REDD+ in their respective regions.

Overall, this meeting provided an opportunity and forum for indigenous peoples from different states in Myanmar to come together and discuss their issues and concerns. Participants have agreed to form an Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD+ to be composed primarily of representatives from REDD+ pilot areas and those who are engaged in forests and related issues. However, awareness-raising activities as well as consultations at the community-level with ethnic groups should be done prior to the formation of the Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD+. Finally, the participants collectively drafted their specific recommendations to the government representatives of Myanmar relating to REDD+.

## Objectives of the National Preparatory Meeting

POINT organized a three-day national preparatory meeting of the indigenous peoples from 29 April to 1 May 2014 at Shalom Training Center, Yangon, Myanmar with the participation of 33 indigenous participants (21 Male and 12 Female) from 6 states and 5 regions. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To learn about the indigenous peoples focused programs, plans and activities of the UN-REDD Programme including its implementation of the UN-REDD guidelines on stakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness
- To share experiences and lessons learned from the UN-REDD Programme's engagement with indigenous peoples in other countries in Asia and beyond
- To share opportunities, issues, concerns and recommendations of indigenous peoples with the UN-REDD Programme
- To explore mechanisms and processes for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+ activities of the UN-REDD Programme at the national and regional levels
- To discuss key issues relating to the rights, welfare and participation of indigenous peoples in relation to REDD+ including safeguards, non-carbon benefits and national forest monitoring systems, among others

### ..... DAY 1.....

The preparatory meeting of indigenous peoples started with the opening speech of Mr. U Ohn, representative of Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA). All natural resources are owned by the state. Mr. U Ohn asserted that government should give ownership of natural resources to indigenous peoples. He also shared the basics of climate change and its impacts in Myanmar and other countries in Asia. After the speech, Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min, Director of POINT, explained the objectives of the meeting to the participants. This was followed by the presentation of Ms. Celina Yong, UN-REDD Programme Stakeholder Engagement Specialist on the basic concept of REDD+. Ms. Celina clarified that the UN-REDD Programme is providing technical support to Myanmar in getting ready for REDD+. Myanmar is now in the readiness phase. Indigenous peoples' and relevant stakeholders' participation and contribution are vital in the readiness phase. Therefore, indigenous peoples need to be proactive and explore partnership with the government. Also, the UN-REDD Programme is encouraging REDD+ countries to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the REDD+ process.

Ms. Joan Carling, Secretary General of AIPP and Asia IP Expert member to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) gave a presentation on indigenous peoples and REDD+ in Asia. In the beginning, Ms. Joan explained the common features and characteristics of indigenous peoples and also their rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). She presented the regional perspectives of indigenous peoples in REDD+ and shared the key issues and concerns. Indigenous peoples have been sustainably managing the resources their territory encompasses, since generations. Therefore the rights, roles and contributions of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women, should be recognized, respected and fulfilled by the REDD+ countries. Myanmar is now in the first phase of REDD+. Hence, it is important for indigenous peoples to engage in the process from the beginning to make the REDD+

national strategy indigenous-friendly. She also shared the experiences of ethnic minorities with REDD+ in Viet Nam, particularly the FPIC pilots carried out in Lam Dong Province. In a situation where the government is not respecting the rights and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, Ms. Carling suggested that participants engage with other relevant actors in REDD+, such as donors, to put pressure on the government to ensure the effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+ and have their rights and concerns accounted for. The key concerns of indigenous peoples include the state's perspective that the practice of shifting cultivation is key driver of deforestation and forest degradation and reducing the importance/role of forest to carbon stock, among others. It is very important for states to understand indigenous livelihoods systems based on sustainable natural resources management, and to acknowledge and recognize the manifold functions of forests, including the social, cultural and spiritual values. Ms. Carling articulated that REDD+ countries should adopt a human rights based approach to the preparation, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ activities with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa, Asia-Pacific indigenous peoples representative to the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board shared REDD+ experiences of indigenous peoples in Nepal. There are 59 indigenous groups recognized as "Indigenous Nationalities" in Nepal. Ms. Sherpa shared that the sustained advocacy, lobby and networking of indigenous peoples at national and international levels resulted in the space for their representation in the REDD+ Working Group in Nepal. Indigenous peoples are also represented in the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) committee and Emission Reduction Project Idea Note (ERPIN) drafting committee. Citing the experience of Nepal, she encouraged the participants to engage in REDD+ from the beginning to make sure that indigenous peoples rights are not sidelined and their issues and concerns are addressed properly. Indigenous peoples in Nepal have taken leadership roles towards the formation of indigenous peoples' organizations and civil society organization alliances in Nepal for the protection and enhancement of the rights indigenous peoples and local communities. Thus, she suggested the participants to carry out networking and collaborations with civil society organizations and the media and generate their support and solidarity on indigenous peoples' issues.





The experience sharing by Ms. Pasang was followed by a group discussion on the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management and the threats and opportunities of REDD+. All the participants were divided into five groups and each group was given the following questions for discussion:

- What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?
- What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?
- What are the roles indigenous peoples can play in REDD+?

The key points that came out from the group discussion are listed below (See 2.1 Annex 1 for group reports):

- Indigenous women play key role in the preservation, continuation and transfer of traditional knowledge on natural resource management. Therefore, indigenous women should take leadership role while participating in REDD+. This is also because they are skillful in dealing and negotiating with the government and outsiders.
- The protection, fulfillment and monitoring of indigenous peoples rights is the key to addressing illegal logging and at the same time increasing NTFPs, ensuring food security and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- The traditional livelihood of indigenous peoples, for example, shifting cultivation is a way of life of indigenous peoples that has economic, cultural and social values. They rotate this farming from one place to another with sufficient fallow period to allow the land to regenerate woody vegetation. Communities also prepare fire protection path to avoid forest fire. However, the perspectives of government towards shifting cultivation are not positive.
- Government agencies are not aware of the rights of indigenous communities. However, REDD+ has created a space for indigenous peoples to engage with government and discuss rights issues. This is good for communities.
- REDD+ may potentially affect indigenous peoples' culture, livelihoods and spiritual beliefs. Therefore engagement of indigenous peoples in REDD+ is very important from the beginning. At the same time, REDD+ should respect the customary laws of indigenous communities.
- The conflict-affected areas in Myanmar have a good level of remaining forests compared to other areas. This is mainly because development activities and land grabbing in conflict zones is not possible. In this context, land grabbing of forests were avoided.

The group reporting was followed by a presentation from Ms. Daw Khin Moe Kyi of RECOFTC on their capacity building project on REDD+ in Lashi, Lahi and Kanti, Naga areas, Sagaing Region, Myanmar. RECOFTC and WCS are jointly implementing this project with funding support from NORAD. The project is carrying out step-by-step capacity building at national, regional and community level. One of the challenges of the project is difficulties with transportation which makes the activities costly. From this sharing, participants came to know the REDD+ activities being implemented by CSOs in Myanmar.

Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min, Director of POINT shared the experiences of a REDD+ project partnership with indigenous peoples in Myanmar. According to a study conducted by the government, shifting cultivation is one of the drivers of deforestation. Participants reacted to it by saying the finding of the study is not correct and the dissemination of false information like should not continue. Ms. Ei Ei informed participants that there is less

documentation of the good practices of shifting cultivation. Indigenous peoples need to document their sustainable traditional livelihood systems and use this to assert their rights to continue without abuse. Once REDD+ reaches its final phase, it has to be implemented nationally. Currently, the government does not have control over all the states in Myanmar. Therefore the participants flagged that REDD+ may not include the areas controlled by ethnic army groups.

## ..... DAY 2 .....

Day 2 started with the summary of day 1 shared by Mr. Zaw Zaw Tun, from the organization Wan Lark. Ms. Celina Yong, the UN-REDD Programme representative presented on the UN-REDD Guidelines on FPIC and Stakeholder Engagement. Ms. Celina started with a brief history of the UN-REDD Programme. In the UN-REDD Programme, FAO is responsible to provide technical and other assistance for MRV. UNDP focuses on the participation and consultation with indigenous peoples and relevant stakeholders. UNEP focuses on environmental issues, including the green economy. Ms. Celina expressed that in the first place REDD+ countries should facilitate the participation of communities depending on forests in REDD+ process. The UN-REDD Programme guidelines on FPIC are designed in a way that REDD+ countries can adjust them according to their needs and contexts. She explained that through supporting FPIC governments can have good faith consultations with indigenous communities and listen to the voices of the communities.

Ms. Pasang Dolma Sherpa presented an overview of the engagement of indigenous peoples in climate change processes at the international level. Indigenous peoples are now represented in the FCPF of the World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme. Indigenous peoples are also engaging and following the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Indigenous peoples are one of the nine constituencies to the UNFCCC. The UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank hosted FCPF are helping REDD+ countries to get ready for REDD+. The FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme have jointly developed guidelines on stakeholder engagement. The guidelines provide States with guidance on how best to consult and engage with indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities in the REDD+ readiness phase. Indigenous peoples need to monitor the implementation of these guidelines in their respective countries. Ms. Pasang encouraged the participants to prepare and work hard at every stage of REDD+ to voice their issues and concerns. Indigenous peoples need to have strategies for networking and advocacy with civil society organizations and governments respectively. She stressed on the social safeguards of the Cancun agreement particularly regarding the respect for knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

The presentation of Ms. Pasang was followed by a group discussion that came out with questions and recommendations for the dialogue with the government.

## ..... DAY 3 .....

Day 3 started with the recap of day 2. This was followed by a presentation of the successful story of Rakhine Conservation Area (RCA) by Mr. Sayar Min Min Tun. He shared how the community protested against private fishing ships operating around the coastline of Rakhine state as the local fishermen greatly depend on the inshore coastal resources for their livelihoods (see Box 1).

### **Box 1: A Success Story of Rakhine Conservation Area**

In the beginning, private companies were not using powerful boats for fishing. Later, they started using powerful boats and using huge nets for catching fish. The local fishermen use only traditional methods and equipment for fishing. The use of powerful boats and huge nets by private companies deprived the local fishermen from catching fishes. This brought a big problem to the local fishermen. So the RCA together with the local fishermen started their protest against the private companies. About 150 fishermen from Kyaintali and 13 owners of local fisheries joined the protest. The RCA president showed photographic evidence and other proof to the government official visiting the area at that time. The situation was resolved with the creation of a rule that no private fishing boat should cross 100 meters inshore. The fishermen in other parts of the Rakhine coastal area heard about this rule and now they have also started to protect the coastline that they depend on.

The participants were inspired by this experience and, after learning more about their rights in this meeting, they have expressed their commitment to work more with their communities in awareness raising and community mobilization to promote their welfare.

The participants also chose representatives to speak on behalf of them for the dialogue with the government and the UN-REDD Programme of Myanmar scheduled for the following day.



## 2.2.

# Dialogue Between Indigenous Peoples and Government Representatives of Myanmar on REDD+

## Executive Summary

POINT in coordination with the AIPP organized a dialogue on REDD+ between indigenous peoples and government agencies on 2 May 2014 at the Summit Parkview Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar. This is the first time that government representatives have come together for a dialogue with indigenous peoples' representatives. 53 participants including indigenous peoples' representatives, representatives from CBOs, NGOs, INGOs, media and three representatives from the government REDD+ program actively participated in this dialogue. It was encouraging that the government representative stated that the government is committed to implement the Cancun safeguards and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples including the implementation of FPIC in REDD+. The selected representatives of indigenous peoples delivered the issues and recommendations

of indigenous peoples in the dialogue that culminated from the three days preparatory meeting of indigenous peoples. One of the key recommendations was to have more dialogues between government and indigenous peoples for trust building and mutual understanding towards a more effective and successful implementation of REDD+. The indigenous participants recommended that their collective rights be legally recognized and that support should be provided for awareness raising and capacity building of indigenous peoples for them to be able to engage more effectively with the government in relation to the respect and protection of their rights and welfare.

## **The objectives of the dialogue were:**

- To strengthen the collaboration and cooperation among indigenous peoples, the UN-REDD Programme and government agencies
- To develop national and strengthen regional REDD+ networks of indigenous peoples in Asia
- To collectively craft a national action plan as well as recommendations for how indigenous peoples in Myanmar can engage at the regional and global levels , in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme and government agencies

The dialogue kicked off with the welcome speech by Mr. U Ohn representative of Forest Resource Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA). Mr. U Ohn informed the participants that FREDA has created a plantation of approximately 5,000 acres of mangrove forest in the Ayarwaddy delta region and continue to grow in Rakhine and Mon states. He explained how mangrove forests lead to increased fish and crab populations, ultimately improving the food security of the communities. He also encouraged the participants to grow and manage more mangrove forests as this not only increases the food security but also helps to address the climate change and its impacts. He also suggested managing the mangrove forest as community forests. This provides 30 years of forest management to local communities. This type of management has been successful in 2 states, namely Shan and Kachin, and 2 regions, namely Mandalay and Bago. Mr. Uhn recommended the government to draft a law on community forestry recognizing the land tenure of indigenous peoples that will set a strong basis to implement community forestry and at the same time support local communities. Linking community forestry with REDD+, he expressed that community forestry should work together with REDD+ to be successful.

He shared a proverb “Weather relies on forests. If there is no forest, there will be bad weather”. Therefore, he urged the participants to proactively engage in REDD+ from the beginning.

The opening remark was followed by the sharing of the objectives of this dialogue by Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min. Before going into the main session of the dialogue, participants maintained one-minute silence marking the 6th anniversary of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

The dialogue started with the presentation from Dr. Thaug Naing Oo, Deputy Director, Planning and Statistics Division, HQ, Forest Department, MOECF (Ministry of Environment Conservation and Forestry) about REDD+ in Myanmar. Dr. Oo started by expounding the concept of climate change and its impacts in Myanmar. Providing the linkages between greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation and forest degradation, Dr. Oo introduced the REDD+ concept and explained the key five activities under REDD+, namely: reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. He also shared international guidance on REDD+ particularly the Cancun Agreement. He assured the participants that the government is committed to implement the REDD+ social and environmental safeguards, particularly the respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. All REDD+ countries, including Myanmar should address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and REDD+ safeguards. The government of Myanmar carried out consultations in Sagaine, Bago, Shan and Bogalay to discuss the draft REDD+ readiness road map that was developed in 2013.

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Weather relies on forests.  
If there is no forest, there  
will be bad weather.

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*Burmese Proverb*

The structure of the proposed National REDD+ Task Force was shared with the participants. Dr. Oo also pointed out the REDD+ bodies and technical working groups for the representation of indigenous peoples. He expressed that the government is very open and interested to work together with indigenous peoples and ensure their representation in the relevant bodies and working groups on REDD+.

Dr. Oo accepted that the government has not yet been able to raise awareness on REDD+ to all relevant stakeholders. The lessons learned by the government include the limited institutional and individual capacity to implement national level REDD+, and limited quantitative data and information on major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and underlying causes, among others. He also stated that the government is keen to develop and implement guidelines on FPIC in consultation and collaboration with indigenous peoples' representatives and relevant stakeholders. There was a general understanding among the representatives in the dialogue that REDD+ will succeed only with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. (See 2.2 Annex 1 for the Q&A for this presentation)

In the afternoon session, the designated representatives of indigenous peoples delivered the recommendations to government representatives. The recommendations of indigenous peoples are listed below:

- Indigenous peoples are interested to participate in all aspects of REDD+ that will have impacts on them. We would like to invite resource persons to carry out more awareness-raising activities in our areas.
- To ensure the participation of indigenous peoples and to listen to their voices in REDD+ is very important. It is also government's duty to connect indigenous peoples with the UN-REDD Programme and relevant stakeholders.
- Indigenous peoples should be represented in the national REDD+ Task Force and in every REDD+ technical working group.
- The government should develop information, education and communication materials in forms and manners understandable to indigenous peoples.
- It is appropriate to include REDD+ study in school curricula.
- We welcome the government's plan to stop illegal logging with new laws and regulations. However, the policy reforms and formulation of new laws should be done in consultation with stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples.
- The government should provide appropriate space for indigenous peoples to participate in and contribute to government research related to their traditional land, particularly because shifting cultivation is mentioned as one of the drivers of deforestation in government's research.
- Government should provide extra attention to make sure that indigenous peoples' full and effective participation is guaranteed in REDD+.
- The REDD+ Pilot activities should undertake FPIC in indigenous peoples' language so that communities can understand properly, participate actively and decide collectively about activities.
- Policy reform and the formulation of new policies should be done in consultation with indigenous peoples and relevant stakeholders.
- There should be an independent grievance mechanism in place.

- There is a gap in trust between indigenous peoples and the government. The government should initiate trust building process between indigenous peoples and government. This should take place in the national, sub-national and local levels.

The government representative acknowledged the recommendations but cannot provide any concrete response to these recommendations, as he is not in the position to provide an official response.

The discussion was then opened to the representatives of NGOs. Some of the key issues they presented are listed below:

- The government should address land tenure issues.
- The government should not raise the expectations of communities, while doing the awareness-raising on REDD+.
- All stakeholders should coordinate and work together in REDD+ process.
- Indigenous peoples should be part of the benefit sharing of REDD+. At the moment, it is not clear how that will happen.
- The implementation of FPIC is very important prior to the implementation of any REDD+ activities.

After the dialogue, the indigenous participants held a short meeting. They agreed that they should make use of the existing Indigenous Peoples Forum of Myanmar and establish an Indigenous Peoples Working Group on REDD+ within the forum. AIPP can provide technical support to this working group when needed. Also the participants committed to sharing the lessons they have learned from the preparatory meeting and dialogue with the government. They also requested continuous support to build their capacity to engage and advocate on REDD+ and beyond.



SECTION 3

# Viet Nam





*Submitted by:*

The Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM)



*Submitted to:*

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)



### 3.1.

# Report on The National Preparatory Meeting of Vietnam Ethnic Minorities

## Introduction

The Center for Sustainable Development in the Mountainous Areas (CSDM) signed TOR with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in March 20, 2014 to organize and facilitate national preparatory meeting of ethnic minorities and a national dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam.

## National Preparatory Meeting of Ethnic Minorities

The CSDM organized the national preparatory meeting of ethnic minorities at Parliament Guest House in Hanoi on 7-8 May 2014. Thirty-two ethnic minorities (12 female and 20 male) representing 11 ethnic groups from 11 provinces, including the 6 pilot provinces of the UN-REDD Programme Phase II, actively participated in the meeting. The regional representatives of the UN-REDD Programme, Ms. Celina Yong and representatives of AIPP, Ms. Joan Carling and Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa were also present in the meeting to share their insights on REDD+ and provide guidance to the meeting, wherever necessary (See 3.1 Annex 3 for a list of participants).

The key REDD+ documents such as the REDD+ Cancun Agreement, Joint Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines of the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility; and the UN-REDD Programme's Guidelines on FPIC were translated into Vietnamese and shared to the participants prior to the meeting.

A facilitation team consisting of, the Executive Director of CSDM, Mrs. Vu Thi Hien, the Executive Director of the Center for Research and Development in the Upland Areas (CERDA) and Mrs. Pham Minh Thoa, the National Technical Adviser of the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase II CSDM, was formed to ensure the meeting fulfils the following objectives:

- To raise the awareness of ethnic minorities about the REDD+ process in Viet Nam including the implementation of the guidelines on stakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness

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Without the participation of ethnic minorities, climate change mitigation measures, such as REDD+ will not succeed.

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CSDM

- To share the experiences and lessons learned from the UN-REDD Programme's engagement with ethnic minorities/indigenous peoples in other countries in Asia and beyond
- To discuss on the importance of ethnic minorities for the full and effective participation and their contribution to non-carbon benefits, national forest monitoring systems, REDD+ safeguards and Safeguards Information Systems (SIS)
- To explore mechanisms and processes for the full and effective participation of ethnic minorities in REDD+ activities at the national and regional levels
- To develop strategies and action plans for sub-working groups on ethnic minorities' issues and their engagement in REDD+ as well as cooperation with the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme.

## ..... DAY 1 .....

Mrs. Hien (CERDA) made the first presentation of the meeting where she explained the basic concepts of REDD+; the Cancun social and environmental safeguards; and the seven decisions under the UNFCCC Warsaw framework for REDD+. She also shared information about the REDD+ process in Viet Nam and in other elements of the REDD+. This presentation was followed by the presentation from Mrs. Pham Minh Thoa, the National Technical Adviser of the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase II. Mrs. Thoa briefly presented results and lessons learned of the UN-REDD Programme Phase I that focused on capacity building for the national level and provincial level in Lam Dong - one of the provinces located in the Central Highland Region of Vietnam. She also explained the purposes and expected results of the UN-REDD country programme Phase II and strategies to promote the role and participation of ethnic minorities in the programme. The UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase II includes the six pilot provinces, namely: Lao Cai, Bac Kan, Ha Tinh, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong and Ca Mau. The first and second presentation were useful for the participants in gaining a common understanding on REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme's past and upcoming activities in Viet Nam.

The last presentation of the morning session was from Ms. Celina Yong, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist of the UN-REDD Programme. Ms. Celina shared international UN-REDD Programme activities and the participation of ethnic minorities in REDD+. One participant, Mr. Luong Duc Chom of Hoa Binh Province reiterated that ethnic minorities have been living closely with the forests for a long time. He expressed his concern regarding the lack of clarity on policies related to forests and ethnic minorities. For example the Instruction 364 issued in 1991 on resolving land disputes related to provincial, district and communal administrative boundaries is unclear and this is causing disputes on boundaries. The participants also expressed concern that many ethnic minorities in Viet Nam do not understand REDD+. They expressed the need for immediate actions to increase the awareness of REDD+ by the grassroots people.

The afternoon session began with the presentation from Mrs. Pham Minh Thoa on the indispensable roles of ethnic minorities and the need to strengthen these roles in the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase II as well as mechanisms for promoting their active involvement in the Programme. Then, Mrs. Luong Thi Truong, the Executive Director of CSDM, presented. Mrs. Truong shared with the participants about the seven principles and 25 criteria under the UN-REDD Programme Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC). She also stressed on the social and cultural values that ethnic minorities have with the forest. Forests are rich in biodiversity unlike plantations. Indigenous communities have songs about

forests and peoples. However, there is no song composed showing the relation between plantations and communities. The presentation on SEPC was followed by a presentation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), again by Mrs. Truong. In addition to explaining the key provisions enshrined in the UNDRIP, she also briefly shared the context of ethnic minorities in Viet Nam. Viet Nam has 53 ethnic minority groups with population of approximately 13 million. The awareness of those groups on their rights is very low. Ethnic minority rights in Viet Nam are violated especially by socio-economic development projects such as dam, mining and land related issues. The political situation in Viet Nam hinders them to voice their issues and concerns. For example, ethnic minorities in Viet Nam have never celebrated the World Indigenous Peoples Day. The presentation on ethnic minorities' rights was followed by a group discussion.

The participants were divided into three groups. Each group was given the following three questions:

- What are the roles of ethnic communities in sustainable forest protection and development?
- What are concerns of ethnic minorities with the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam and challenges for their effective participation?
- Identify issues/concerns/topics to present in the dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme

The key points that came out from the group discussion are listed below (See 3.1 Annex 1 for the group reports):

- Ethnic minorities have long been nurturing, managing and depending on their forests. They have their own customary governance system and laws for the management and protection of forests. The traditional knowledge of the communities of forest management and protection is necessary to be transferred to future generations.
- The ethnic minorities and local communities at the grassroots level have not received adequate information on REDD+. The communities are not aware about carbon rights and the actors involved in measurement, reporting, monitoring and verification. The information relating to the benefits and risks of REDD+ to ethnic minorities needs to be communicated in a manner that is understandable to the communities. There is a need for the capacity building of ethnic minorities to effectively participate in REDD+ processes including in the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ activities especially in the pilot areas.
- The participants stressed on the importance of ethnic minorities' engagement in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of any forest related plans and policies. Without the participation of ethnic minorities, climate change mitigation measures, such as REDD+ will not succeed.
- REDD+ should improve the livelihoods of ethnic minorities. The flow of money from REDD+ should be transparent and appropriate measures should be undertaken to protect REDD+ funds from corruption. The unfortunate thing in Viet Nam is that the government allocates only limited budget for the protection of forests. A lot of money can be earned from illegal logging. So it is obvious that people are inclined to engage in illegal logging. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should address this issue.

- Ethnic minorities have been practicing their customary laws in Viet Nam. However, with the existing state's law, the practices under such customary laws can be considered illegal. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should respect ethnic minorities' customary laws and address this problem.
- The lessons learned from phase I of the UN-REDD Programme should be shared with indigenous communities. Also the UN-REDD Programme should share their specific plans for second phase including their plan to effectively engage with ethnic minorities.
- After the group reporting, Mrs. Truong facilitated the selection of three ethnic minority participants to speak on behalf of them in the dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam. The selected indigenous representatives were: Mr. Ong Ya Ti from Lam Dong Province; Mr. Ha Trung Thong from Thai Nguyen Province; and Mr. Luong Duc Chom from Hoa Binh Province. The representatives will develop the recommendations for the dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme based on the results of the group work.
- The last session of Day 1 was the sharing of a summary by Mrs. Truong regarding the workshop for the selection of representatives of ethnic minorities for the PEB of the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam. The ethnic minority participants of that workshop chose Mrs. Luong Thi Truong as their representative to the PEB.



## ..... DAY 2 .....

The second day started with a presentation by Mrs. Luong Thi Truong on FPIC. The principle of FPIC, entitlement of ethnic minorities to FPIC, features of FPIC, and its process were explained to the participants. This presentation was followed by the sharing of information on the REDD+ pilot project of CERDA in Thai Nguyen province by Mrs. Hien. Ms. Joan Carling, Secretary General of AIPP shared the overview of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples in Asia and their issues, concerns, challenges and recommendations on REDD+.

The regional sharing was followed by a presentation on VTIK. The VTIK was established in July 2007 in Mai Chau District, Hoa Binh Province. In the beginning, there was only 32 people from seven provinces where most ethnic Thai people live, namely: Son La, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Hoa Binh and Yen Bai provinces. The members of the network have increased to 750. Besides the Thai ethnic group, the network now also includes Tay, Nung, Dao, H'mong and Muong ethnic groups. The participants discussed the potential of the VTIK to act as a REDD+ network for ethnic minorities. Finally, there was a consensus reached to use VTIK for the sharing of information and issues on REDD+. For this, VTIK has to expand its target areas, especially pilot areas of the UN-REDD Programme including Central Vietnam, Highlands and the South. The ethnic minority representatives also agreed to select one to two focal persons from each of the REDD+ pilot provinces. These focal persons will be responsible for sharing the issues and concerns of the ethnic minorities with Mrs. Truong.

The participants also discussed on the potential candidates to serve as alternate to Mrs. Truong in the PEB. Ethnic minorities have struggled very hard with CSOs to obtain a dedicated space for representation so that indigenous representatives can speak on behalf of their constituencies. Therefore, there was a general support and understanding from the participants regarding the need to have an ethnic minority person to be the alternate of Mrs. Truong. However, the selection process could not be concluded as the representatives present in the meeting could not identify a potential ethnic minority representative. The main reason for this is because local government authorities need to be informed and consulted by their constituents if they take part in national bodies or mechanisms. Thus, indigenous representatives in the meeting do not feel comfortable being identified as alternate due to this requirement.

In the last session of day 2, participants had a group discussion on building an action plan for VTIK from June 2014 to December 2015. The participants identified 15 activities to promote the full and effective participation of ethnic minorities in the UN-REDD Programme as well as REDD+ and community-based-forest protection in general, and to enhance monitoring the implementation of social and environmental safeguards for ethnic minorities. Participants agreed that based on these strategic actions, CSDM and Mrs. Truong will make detailed action plans and proposals as early as possible (See 3.1 Annex 2 for VTIK's action plan ).

CSDM provided the participants with a number of reference materials on REDD+. Some of the materials were produced by AIPP. CSDM translated and localized those materials from English to Vietnamese and EM languages.



### 3.2.

# Report on the Dialogue between Vietnam Ethnic Minorities' Representatives and the UN-REDD Programme

The dialogue between ethnic minorities' representatives and the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam was held on 9 May 2014 at Fortuna Hotel in Hanoi, back to back with the national preparatory meeting. The objectives of the dialogue were:

- To strengthen the collaboration and cooperation among ethnic minorities, the UN-REDD Viet Nam and the government agencies
- To share opportunities, issues, concerns and recommendations of ethnic minorities to the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam
- To share the strategy and action plan of ethnic minorities peoples engagement in the UN-REDD Vietnam.

There were 54 participants including ethnic minorities representatives, representatives of the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam, representatives of UNDP Viet Nam, and representatives of international and national NGOs in the dialogue. To provide a context of the dialogue to the participants, Mrs. Luong Thi Truong, CSDM, provided the results of the preparatory meeting of ethnic minorities' representatives that was held before this dialogue.

The reporting of the summary was followed by the presentation of Mr. Hoang Viet Dung, representative of the UN-REDD Programme Phase II. Mr. Dung introduced the UN-REDD Programme policy on engagement with the ethnic minorities in the National REDD+ process and the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme Phase 2. He stressed on the social safeguards of the Cancun Agreement, particularly the respect for rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples; and their full and effective participation in REDD+. He gave comprehensive details on the types of activities that ethnic minorities can participate in and the forms and mode of participation. Ethnic minorities can make suggestions or recommendations to local governments directly or indirectly through their legal representatives, however, they need to cooperate closely with provincial Ethnic Committees.

This presentation from the UN-REDD Programme representative was followed by a presentation of issues, concerns and recommendation of ethnic minorities to the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam. In the preparatory meeting, participants have identified three representatives to speak on behalf of the ethnic minorities.

Mr. Ong Ya Ti, ethnic minority representative, Commune People's Committee of Da Sar, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province, spoke on the role of ethnic minorities' communities in sustainable forest protection and development and the difficulties and obstacles they face in participating effectively in the UN-REDD Programme. The key points are highlighted below:

## The Role of Ethnic Minorities (EM) in Sustainable Forest Protection and Development

- The EM communities have been managing, protecting and depending on their forest for a long time.
- EM communities are the direct beneficiaries of forest resources. They live close to the forests and their livelihoods are dependent on forests. If forest resources are not used sustainably and if forest protection and development are not carried out properly, forest resources will soon be depleted and EM communities will be the ones to suffer the most.
- EM communities are always ready to fight and sacrifice for the protection of the forests.
- EM people use their traditional knowledge, customs and traditions in sustainable forest protection and development. For example, community forests, ghost forests and sacred forests are protected well. Under the state's law, the practices of ethnic communities based on their customary laws can be considered illegal. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should respect indigenous peoples' customary laws and address this problem

## The Role of Communities in the UN-REDD Programme: views of Ethnic Minorities

- Communities are crucial to the success of REDD+ in Viet Nam.
- Communities should be given sufficient information in languages they understand. The information should be simple and understandable to the communities. It is up to the communities to decide whether they want to participate in REDD+ or not.
- Communities may need capacity building while participating in REDD+. This should be met based on the needs and requirements of the participating communities.

## Current Difficulties of EM communities in the engagement with the UN-REDD Programme

- Land allocation to communities has not been carried out well. Forests are allocated to individuals or organizations instead of EM communities. For example in Lam Dong Province, land is not allocated to EM despite the fact that most EM peoples live near forests.
- Access to information and policy mechanisms is weak/lacking.
- There is no mechanism to resolve the disputes relating to forest and land. Hence, complaints of those disputes remain unaddressed.
- EM communities are forced to stay far away from the core area of special use forests.



- Many forests belonging to communities now belong to State Forest Protection Management Boards and private companies. Some people are allocated forests in only short-term basis (yearly).
- Many people do not have clear understanding of the REDD+ process and about the UN-REDD Programme in Viet Nam.
- The existing mechanisms and policies do not meet the needs of the people. For example the government of Viet Nam allocates only limited budget for the protection of forests under Forest Protection Fund. A lot of money can be earned from illegal logging. So people are inclined to engage in illegal logging. REDD+ process in Viet Nam should address this issue.
- Lack of consensus of governments at all levels (e.g., even local governments are concerned about the Programme).

Mr. Ha Trung Thong, ethnic minority representative, Cay Troi village, Binh Long Commune presented a list of 13 questions that needed to be clarified by the UN-REDD Programme. The majority of the questions were related to the ethnic minorities' rights, their engagement in REDD+, benefit sharing mechanisms and the benefits REDD+ will bring to communities, and policy feedback system in REDD+, among others (see 3.1 Annex 1 for the preparatory meeting report which presents the list of questions). Mrs. Thoa and Mrs. Loan (UNDP Viet Nam) responded accordingly by expressing their due recognition on the valid concerns of ethnic minorities posed by Mr. Ha Trung.

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Through this dialogue, ethnic minorities of Viet Nam have officially affirmed their decisive roles in the success of forest management and protection in general and REDD+ in particular

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Mrs. Luong Thi Truong

*CSDM*

Mr. Luong Duc Chom presented the results of the preparatory meetings to have REDD+ network for ethnic minorities, which are highlighted below:

- The VTIK was established in July 2007 in Mai Chau District, Hoa Binh Province. In the beginning, there were only 32 people from seven provinces where most Thai people live, namely: Son La, Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Hoa Binh and Yen Bai provinces.
- The members of the network have now increased to 750 from 13 provinces. Besides the Thai ethnic group, the network now also includes Tay, Nung, Dao, H'mong and Muong ethnic groups.
- Realizing the potential of VTIK, indigenous representatives discussed and agreed to maintain and expand VTIK and use it to facilitate the engagement of ethnic minorities in REDD+ in general and the UN-REDD Programme Phase II in particular.
- Indigenous representatives suggested VTIK to also expand its operational scope to forest protection and development focusing on ethnic minority issues. They felt the network should have specific action plans that could contribute and help Mrs. Truong to raise the voices of communities at all levels. Ultimately, participants identified 15 activities for the period June 2014 to December 2015 as VTIK action plan (See 3.2 Annex 2 of the preparatory meeting report for the action plan of VTIK). Participants agreed that based on this, CSDM and Mrs. Truong will make detailed action plans and proposals as early as possible.
- The fact that Mrs. Truong was selected to be the representatives of EM peoples in the Steering Committee of the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme is a favorable condition for EM communities to access the Programme and benefit from it.

## Recommendations of VTIK network to the UN-REDD Programme

- The UN-REDD Programme should provide technical assistance to Mrs. Truong to facilitate the selection of two to three focal points from each of the six UN-REDD pilot provinces and set up contact channels to get the updated information and feedback from ethnic minorities from the six provinces. These focal points will assist Mrs. Truong to actively play the role of ethnic minorities' representative in the PEB of the programme.
- The UN-REDD Programme should consider providing some support to the VTIK to implement some activities to strengthen the roles of ethnic minorities in REDD+. Examples include support for awareness-raising in the six pilot provinces of UN-REDD Vietnam, compiling success stories of using traditional knowledge, and customary laws to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation..
- Mobilize resources for securing the rights and benefits of ethnic minorities in REDD+ and for awareness-raising and capacity building of the communities through VTIK, particularly in the REDD+ pilot areas.

The UN-REDD Programme representatives took the recommendations that came out from the preparatory meeting positively. At the end of the dialogue, Mrs. Truong provided a summary of the results of the preparatory meeting of ethnic minorities and dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme by highlighting the following points:

- The meeting provided a good platform for 32 ethnic minorities' representatives of 11 ethnic groups from 14 provinces across Viet Nam to come together and develop common understanding on REDD+ and related issues and concerns particularly with the UN-REDD Programme. The representatives discussed and ironed out their differences and finally came out with recommendations to table to the UN-REDD Programme in the dialogue. In addition, this meeting has facilitated the process for ethnic minorities to remain organized and ready to assert their right to participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ processes, plans and programmes.
- The participants reaffirmed Mrs. Truong's role as ethnic minorities' representative in the PEB of the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam. In order assist Mrs. Truong, representatives contemplated and reached a consensus to expand VTIK to other ethnic groups, especially those in Central Viet Nam, Highland and the south including the UN-REDD Pilot provinces, and to use it as their network for REDD+. The backstopping to the network will be provided by the CSDM. Also, the decision to select two to three focal points from each of the REDD+ pilot provinces will help Mrs. Truong to timely intervene in the PEB meetings about ground issues and recommend the PEB to act on those issues.
- This is the first time the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme, UNDP Viet Nam had a dialogued with ethnic minorities' representatives and their networks from different mountainous provinces of Viet Nam. The ethnic minorities presented their recommendations to the UN-REDD Programme that culminated from the two day preparatory meeting. The UN representatives in the dialogue acknowledged those recommendations and assured them that they are committed to addressing the issues and concerns raised by them, particularly the capacity building activities for ethnic minorities; implementation of Cancun social and environmental safeguards; respect for their knowledge, rights and customary laws relating to forests; and their full and effective participation throughout the UN-REDD Programme's activities in Viet Nam.
- On the other hand, it was a good opportunity for the UN agencies working on REDD+ to meet the ethnic minorities from several provinces and listen to the realities on the ground. This dialogue has provided an entry point for ethnic minorities and the UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme to collaborate and engage in partnership in REDD+ processes in Viet Nam. The partnership should undertake a human rights based approach to REDD+ plans, policies and activities. This is necessary for the REDD/UN-REDD Programme to be successful in Viet Nam.
- The dialogue also provided an opportunity for ethnic minorities to network with UN representatives and NGOs and INGOs representatives working in Viet Nam in forest issues.

At the end of the dialogue, Mrs. Truong said, "Through this dialogue, ethnic minorities of Viet Nam have officially affirmed their decisive roles in the success of forest management and protection in general and REDD+ in particular".



SECTION 4

# Bangladesh



*Submitted by:*

The National Coordination Committee of Indigenous Peoples, Bangladesh



*Submitted to:*

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

## 4.1.

# National Consultation with Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples On REDD+ and Indigenous Peoples' Rights

## Background

With the support from the UN-REDD Programme, a three-day national consultation on REDD+ and the rights of indigenous peoples of Bangladesh was held from 16-19 June 2014 at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Dhaka. This was followed by a dialogue between representatives of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh and the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest including the representative of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the presence of the UN-REDD Programme representative in Bangladesh. The consultation and dialogue were co-organized by the AIPP and the NCC of Indigenous Peoples<sup>1</sup>, in consultation with the UN-REDD Programme, the Bangladesh Forest Department and UNDP Bangladesh.

The objectives of the three-day consultation and dialogue were:

- To create awareness among indigenous peoples' representatives about REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme, the initiatives by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB), and rights and responsibilities of indigenous peoples
- To outline a strategy to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the REDD+ initiatives of the government
- To create a platform for both indigenous peoples' representatives and the relevant government bodies, the Department of Forest in particular, in order to engage in regular dialogues regarding REDD+ and other environment and climate change issues.

A total number of 50 indigenous representatives (11 female, 39 male) participated in the consultation. In the first half of the three-day consultation, the participants were introduced to the basics of REDD+ and climate change, the role of the government and current status of REDD+ readiness in Bangladesh, Cancun safeguards and the rights of indigenous peoples, and experiences of other Asian countries in REDD+. The second half was dedicated to form strategies to ensure indigenous peoples engagement in the broader national REDD+ programme, which led to the formulation of a position paper at the end of the consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> Mainly composed of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity, Bangladesh Land and Forest Rights Movement, Maleya Foundation, Kapaeeng Foundation and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.



The consultation commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Sanjib Drong, Secretary General, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum. He highlighted that indigenous peoples have always been protectors of the land, forest and environment. It is unfortunate that their ways of living are sometimes identified as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. He maintained that the lands and forests are central to their culture and their main source of food, medicine and materials for livelihood purposes. They have the knowledge to manage land and forests sustainably, which has been passed through generations. He stated that indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge should be recognized and that policy makers should consult them when developing new forest and environmental policies.

## Climate Change, REDD+ and REDD+ Readiness in Bangladesh

Mr. Alamgir Hossain, Programme Analyst (Environment) of UNDP delivered a session on "Climate Change, REDD+ and Bangladesh's Readiness". Fundamental issues related to climate change, basics of REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme, the status of Bangladesh in relation to REDD+ readiness, and the overall status of the UN-REDD Programme were the central points of information sharing and discussion. He introduced the participants to elementary concepts and terminologies of climate change and REDD+. He discussed how forests work as carbon pools, how market mechanisms function, and the seven technical elements of REDD+. In order to be able to implement REDD+ properly, a country requires sufficient technical, institutional, social and economic capacity in REDD+ through REDD+ readiness programmes. Mr. Alamgir outlined the REDD+ readiness process in Bangladesh, starting from 2010 till 2014. Through this process, the government aims to develop a national strategy for REDD+ in order to protect its remaining forests, enhance carbon stocks and to improve local livelihoods and biodiversity.

The participants raised a few questions for clarification. The queries were centered on market mechanisms in REDD+, how they will function, who will benefit from them and what the risks are for indigenous peoples. The participants also expressed concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples. They fear that REDD+ might become a tool of further exploitation if proper legislation and institutions are not in place. They have experienced exploitation by different development programmes in the past, particularly by programmes seemingly aimed to promote and protect forest and biodiversity. Indigenous peoples' representatives also asserted that a comprehensive definition of 'forest' should be reached. This is because many corrupt government officials use the vague characterization of forest provided by the Department of Forest to convert indigenous peoples' cultivable lands into 'forest' for their personal benefit. In response, Mr. Alamgir said that the government is expected to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in every stage of the national REDD+ mechanism so that all concerns are raised in time. However, he reminded that Bangladesh is still in its initial stages of REDD+ readiness for which the government will require support and participation in order to develop an inclusive REDD+ mechanism.



## Cancun Safeguards and their relevance to Indigenous Peoples

The second session was conducted by Ms. Celina Yong, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, UN-REDD Programme, on the “Cancun Safeguards and their relevance to Indigenous Peoples”. She introduced the 7 safeguards of the Cancun Agreement. Mentioning the concerns raised by the participants after Mr. Alamgir’s session, she noted that the social safeguards of the Cancun Agreement, particularly respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities and the full and effective participation of stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples and local communities, are most relevant to indigenous peoples in protecting their rights and ensuring meaningful participation in the REDD+ mechanism. She also added that selecting proper representatives in the decision-making bodies in the national REDD+ mechanism is extremely important for indigenous peoples.

“

...indigenous peoples’ traditional livelihoods based on natural resources are not drivers of deforestation or forest degradation as generally portrayed by governments...

”

Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa

*Climate Change, Coordinator of Climate Change  
Partnership with Indigenous Peoples,*

## Bangladesh REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal

Mr. Haradhan Banik, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests and the UN-REDD Programme National Focal Point, made a presentation on the REDD+ readiness status of Bangladesh. He provided an overview of the REDD+ readiness process in Bangladesh from 2011 until now. The readiness preparation began with the creation of a national steering committee in 2011. After series of consultation workshops with different stakeholders a roadmap was finalized in 2012 and approved by the steering committee. In 2013, a REDD+ readiness preparation proposal was developed and submitted to the UN-REDD Programme, which was revised and resubmitted in June 2014. Mr. Banik presented a framework for the results of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and the proposed management structure. He also pointed out the spaces in the proposed management structure where indigenous peoples can be represented.

In several cases government legislation has displaced and marginalized indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities. So the participants expressed their fear of losing their land in the name of new programmes or legislation. Mr. Banik assured that indigenous peoples' representation in different stages of policymaking relating to REDD+ would be carried out. He also expressed that legislation should be reformed in consultation with indigenous peoples, in order to prevent utilization of legislation against indigenous peoples by corrupt officials.

The discussion on Day 1 ended with the speech by Mr. Sudatta Tanchangya, member of NCC and Member Secretary of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Network on Climate Change and Biodiversity (BIPNet-CCBD). Summarizing the discussion, Mr. Tanchangya affirmed that past experiences of forest-dependent communities with the Department of Forest had led to mistrust and fear. He recommended to set-up a forest forum comprising members of the Department of Forest and representatives of forest-dependent communities so that they can meet on a regular basis in order to resolve existing disputes in a timely manner and prevent similar incidents in future.

## ..... DAY 2 .....

### International and National Laws and Policies on Land and Forest Relating to Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh

In the first session of the Day-2 of the consultation, Mr. Goutam Kumar Chakma, member, Regional Council discussed on laws and enactments pertaining to the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), land, forest, governance and national constitution beginning from the Colonial period. Laws of 1865, 1878, 1927, Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, East Bengal Tenancy Act of 1950 and other relevant legislations were covered in his presentation. He elaborated on the general acts and special acts relevant to indigenous peoples from both the CHT and plains in protecting their land and forest rights. He mentioned that indigenous peoples can resort to legal procedures in court if their rights under these acts are violated. Proper implementation of these existing protective mechanisms for indigenous peoples should be taken into serious consideration while developing national policies on REDD+.

### Indigenous Peoples and REDD+ in Asia

Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Climate Change, Coordinator of Climate Change Partnership with Indigenous Peoples, shared the experiences of indigenous peoples in REDD+ countries in Asia. He informed the participants that Bangladesh is the third most vulnerable country to adverse climate change impacts in the world. He shared the major issues and concerns of indigenous peoples in REDD+. Mr. Nuri also elaborated on the indigenous perspectives of non-carbon benefits by stressing the multiple functions of forests for indigenous peoples. To indigenous peoples the social, cultural, spiritual and environmental value of forests are more important than the economic value of carbon, as expressed by many indigenous peoples communities. Indigenous peoples have been sustainably managing their forests with their traditional knowledge for hundreds of years. He stressed that indigenous peoples' traditional livelihoods based on natural resources are not drivers of deforestation or forest degradation as generally portrayed by governments.

“

The concept of REDD+  
is still vague to  
indigenous peoples

”

NCC Bangladesh

In order to build the capacity of the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh and their institutions to constructively engage in the REDD+ process, he recommended developing culturally appropriate education materials in national and local languages, and to make them accessible to all relevant stakeholders. He also emphasized the importance of the Cancun Safeguards implementation to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in all stages of REDD+ in line with the principle of FPIC. Citing the examples from other REDD+ countries in Asia such as in Nepal, Viet Nam and Cambodia, he reminded that, in protecting indigenous peoples rights in REDD+, there are no other alternatives than to engage with governments and other relevant actors, and establish partnership within the framework of respecting human rights and promoting sustainable development.

## Open Discussion

The presentation of Mr. Sherpa was followed by an open discussion on indigenous peoples' participation in the proposed national REDD+ management structure. The proposals of participants are listed below:

1. **Genuine indigenous peoples (IP) representatives for the National REDD+ Steering Committee can be selected by electing representatives from the following IP inhabited regions:**
  - 1 representative from Greater Mymensingh,
  - 1 from North Bengal,
  - 1 from Sundarban,
  - 3 from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) (1 from Regional Council (RC), 1 from Hill District Council (HDC), 1 from traditional institution),
  - 1 from Sylhet,
  - 1 from Coastal area.
2. **If representation from each region is not possible, at least one IP representative from both CHT and the plains land must be included in the steering committee.**
3. **Strong efforts should be put in place to keep as many indigenous peoples' representatives as possible in the Stakeholders' Forum.**
4. **IP representation should also be ensured in the various REDD+ Technical Working groups.**
5. **Mobilize funding support for capacity building of IP resource persons, activists, workers and trainers.**
6. **Incorporation of traditional laws in the grievance mechanism for resolving disputes in the land and territories of IPs.**

## Discussion on Risks and Opportunities in REDD+

In the open discussion at the end of Day 2, indigenous peoples' representatives highlighted the following risks and opportunities in REDD+:

### Risks in REDD+

1. The concept of REDD+ is still vague to indigenous peoples. They need to be familiarized with all aspects of REDD+ prior to their engagement in the decision making process.
2. Given the previous experiences with the Department of Forest, particularly with policies related to Social Forestry Rules and the Forest Act, indigenous peoples fear that REDD+ could turn out to be another tool of oppression.
3. There is a power imbalance between the indigenous peoples and the Department of Forest. Despite of the GoB's commitment to enforce the Cancun Safeguards, there is no guarantee that the government will seriously consider incorporating IP representatives' recommendations into policy formulation and implementation relating to REDD+.
4. Plantations for increasing carbon sinks may escalate incidences of land grabbing of indigenous peoples lands by powerful and rich elites.

### Opportunities

1. REDD+ can enhance non-carbon benefits of lands and forests.
2. REDD+ can become an opportunity to establish indigenous values in relation to sustainable management of forests, land and natural resources and can lead to recognition of traditional knowledge of IPs.

### Recommendations

1. The definition and difference between forests and plantations should be made clear in policy and programme documents.
2. Beneficiaries of REDD+ activities should be clearly identified before implementation.
3. Indigenous peoples' rights to land and forests, in accordance with ILO C107, C169 and UNDRIP, should be fully recognized in the policy documents of REDD+ programmes in Bangladesh.
4. Law and policy makers should be sensitized on IPs' perspectives towards land and forests.

After the open discussion, a team was created by consensus for drafting a position paper on REDD+. The team had 10 members, namely; Mr. Raja Devasish Roy, Mr. Sudatta Bikash Tangchangya, Mr. Mangal Kumar Chakma, Mr. Biplob Chakma, Ms. Jhuma Dewan, Ms. Uchacha-A Chak, Mr. Jidison Pradhan, Mr. Ganesh Soren, Juam Lian Amlai Bawm, and Mr. Paiching Mong Marma (documentation). It was decided that the position paper would be based on the recommendations provided by all the participants during the first 2 days of the 3-day consultation workshop.

## ..... DAY 3 .....

A draft position paper, prepared by the Drafting Committee was presented to all the participants. In the first half of the third day of the consultation, the participants discussed the contents and structure of the draft position paper. They provided several suggestions that can be included in the position paper. In the second half of the day, the position paper was finalized under the leadership of Mr. Raja Devasish Roy. (See 4.1 Annex 1 for indigenous peoples' statement.)

During the discussions on the draft position paper, an important decision regarding follow up activities on REDD+ was made with the consent of all IP representatives. The participants agreed that the NCC of this national consultation should continue to facilitate the representation of indigenous peoples and implementation of possible REDD+ activities in the future. The indigenous representatives also nominated Mr. Raja Devasish Roy as REDD+ contact point on behalf of indigenous peoples in Bangladesh.

The participants decided that the position paper would be read out by Mr. Sudatta Bikash Tanchangya, Member, NCC & Member Secretary, BIPNet-CCBD, at the beginning of the dialogue with the government, scheduled to be held on the next day, with some supplementary questions and statements by others.

## 4.2.

# Report On Dialogue Between Indigenous Peoples and Bangladesh Government Representatives

The NCC organized a national REDD+ dialogue between indigenous peoples representatives and the government representatives on 19 June 2014. The indigenous peoples presentation for the dialogue was based on the result of the national consultation including the indigenous peoples' statement (See 4.1 Annex 1).

Ms. Uchacha-A Chak, member of NCC and Research Coordinator of Maleya Foundation, facilitated the overall programme. Raja Devasish Roy, the Convenor of NCC, moderated the dialogue. Mr. Haradhan Banik, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest and Focal Point of the UN-REDD Programme in Bangladesh; Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director of UNDP; Ms. Salma Akhtar Jahan, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts; and Ms. Celina Yong of the UN-REDD Programme Asia-Pacific Regional Office participated in the dialogue. Members of the Parliament, namely Raja Saching Prue Chowdhury, Mong Circle Chief and Mr. Ushaton Talukdar participated in the dialogue as special guests and chief guest respectively.

The dialogue commenced with the welcome address of Mr. Jidison Pradhan, member of NCC. He thanked the government representatives for their willingness to engage with the indigenous peoples' representatives. He stated that climate change is a global threat and indigenous peoples of Bangladesh give full support to the government initiatives to engage in REDD+ to combat climate change and foster sustainable development in the country. However, the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh seek for the respect of their rights, identities, traditions and cultures to be reflected in the policies and implementation of activities related to REDD+.

“

**...capacity building and awareness raising activities for indigenous representatives are essential in order to create a resource pool of indigenous peoples on REDD+.**

”

**Mr. Kyaba Mong Marma**

*Upazila Chairman, Thanchi, Bandarban*

Mr. Sudatta Bikash Tanchangya, Member, NCC & Member Secretary, BIPNet-CCBD; presented the indigenous peoples' statement to the invited guests. In accordance with the position paper several supplementary statements were made by Mr. Lalit C. Chakma, Executive member, Maleya Foundation; Mr. Kyaba Mong Marma, Upazila Chairman, Thanchi, Bandarban; Mr. Pyching Mong Marma, Maleya Foundation; and Mr. Ajay Mree, member, BIPNet-CCBD.

Mr. Lalit C. Chakma suggested there should be at least two indigenous peoples' representatives from the plains and two from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region. He said that a grievance mechanism should take into account the customary laws, which are in force in the indigenous peoples' communities. Mr. Kyaba Mong Marma maintained that capacity building and awareness raising activities for indigenous representatives are essential in order to create a resource pool of indigenous peoples on REDD+. Awareness raising workshops and seminars should be arranged at the local level for which support from both the government and non-government agencies is crucial. According to Mr. Pyching Mong, forests provide indigenous peoples almost everything they need to survive and thus non-carbon benefits are more important to them. While implementing REDD+ initiatives in the indigenous inhabited lands and forests, indigenous peoples' perspective towards forests and land must be reflected. Mr. Ajay Mree reiterated the indigenous peoples' demand to reform the Forest Act, Wildlife Protection and Preservation Act of 2013 and the Social Forestry Rules prior to implementation of REDD+ in Bangladesh. He asserted that in the Forest Act, environment, education and health policies, rights of indigenous peoples should be incorporated.

Mr. Haradhan Banik, the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest and Focal Point of the UN-REDD Programme Bangladesh responded that the government would take measures to meet the prerequisites as to funding to arrange a Training of Trainers (ToT) in order to build the capacity of the indigenous peoples around the





country on REDD+. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) would design the FPIC guidelines in consultation with and participation of indigenous peoples' in consideration to the different and specific environmental and cultural contexts of the plain land and CHT. He affirmed that the most debated laws and policies such as the Social Forestry Rules and Forest Act would be reformed in accordance with the outcome of investigation of the allegations made. In terms of indigenous peoples' participation in decisions making on REDD+, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and CHT Regional Council had been included in the National Steering Committee and the Department of Forest would consider integrating more indigenous peoples' representatives in the committee. In response to the concern of 'marketization of forest land', Mr. Banik mentioned, the enhancement of biological diversity in the forests would be prioritized and while implementing REDD+, traditional knowledge of the forest-dependent communities will be adopted for the sustainable management of the forests and natural resources.

Referring to a visit to a Village Common Forest in Rangamati, Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director of UNDP said that he learned the importance of forests in the lives of indigenous peoples. To him, the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making bodies of REDD+ can be considered as fundamental rights. Likewise, the partnership with indigenous peoples by the government will benefit the government through the shared knowledge of forest and natural resource management. Since the key objective of REDD+ is to protect and promote remaining forests, the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, the Department of Forest and indigenous peoples should work jointly to attain that goal. Establishment of a forest forum incorporating legitimate representatives of all forest dependent indigenous and non-indigenous communities can provide a common platform in this regard.

Raja Saching Prue Chowdhury of Mong Circle Chief drew attention to the aspiration of indigenous peoples that REDD+ should reflect indigenous peoples' rights and appropriate measures must be taken to protect the indigenous peoples from any exploitative policies.

Ms. Celina Yong, the Stakeholder Engagement Specialist for the UN-REDD Programme stated that although Bangladesh is in its preliminary stage of REDD+ readiness, the consultations and dialogues of the government with different stakeholders including indigenous peoples are phenomenal development. REDD+ is a very new programme and concerns surrounding the programme are valid. Therefore, the relevant government bodies and all the stakeholders have to learn together about REDD+ and work together for its proper execution. In doing so, more dialogues and consultations are essential.

Ms. Salma Akhter Jahan, Joint Secretary, MoCHTA mentioned that climate change affects forest dependent communities most. Yet, the focus of discussions and seminars relating to climate change usually do not include the issues and concerns of indigenous peoples. The Ministry of CHT Affairs has been active in creating awareness about climate change related issues among indigenous peoples and the mainstream communities. She said any law or policy with possible impact on indigenous peoples should be developed in consultation and with the participation of indigenous peoples and based on a clear understanding between the government and them. MoCHTA is well aware of the significance of consultation and participation. She urges other relevant ministries and government bodies to cooperate for the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples.

The chief guest Mr. Ushaton Talukdar, Member of Parliament, highlighted the enactment of the CHT Accord as the fundamental prerequisite for the execution of REDD+ in Chittagong Hill Tracts. He pointed out that since the colonial period to the present day, the process of formulating laws and policies in Bangladesh has been top-down. The people at the grassroots level have never been consulted. Hence, the policymakers have neglected the risks of policies having adverse impact on indigenous peoples. The same applies to the laws and policies related to indigenous peoples, leading to distrust and fear. Therefore, in order to restore the confidence of indigenous peoples towards the government, and to protect forests and the ecosystems surrounding the forests, it should be ensured that policymakers hear indigenous peoples' voices.

The Secretary General of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Mr. Sanjeeb Drang, believes that the precondition for working collectively to pursue a common goal is to exchange perspectives through regular interactions. He thanked all the organizers and the invited guests for turning the dialogue to a successful event and urged to continue this practice toward issues even beyond REDD+.

# Annex



## 2.1 Annex 1: Group Presentations

### Group 1

What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?

- Indigenous communities work together for sustainable forest management.
- Indigenous peoples have good practices in shifting cultivation. Indigenous peoples do not cut big trees but cut only the branches so that the big trees will last long and sustainable use of fuel wood is maintained.
- Communities are also interested in community forestry/social forestry and fuel wood plantation.

What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?

- It is likely that REDD+ will support communities' food security with increased biodiversity. However, the increase in number of wildlife might create risks to communities.
- There will be enhanced watershed areas and increased biodiversity such as more fish and birds.
- Better ecosystem for better living.
- Land ownership problems are likely to increase.

What are the roles indigenous peoples can play in REDD+?

- Indigenous women can take part in reforestation by doing plantation forestry. They can also share and transfer knowledge on sustainable forest management to future generations. Women can contribute by engaging in the REDD+ process.
- They can have better systems for the use of fuel wood.
- Indigenous communities can gather and share information relating to REDD+.
- Indigenous peoples can monitor and inform illegal logging and if needed take action against illegal activities.

### Group 2

What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?

- By using traditional knowledge indigenous peoples cut trees and manage forests sustainably. They cut only branches of the trees and not the trunk.
- Some local communities are conserving forest together with the Forest Department such as in community forestry.
- Promote awareness on the important of forest to youth.
- Planting trees in their vicinity.
- Leaving big trees when preparing fields for shifting cultivation.
- Protect forests from fire.

### What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?

- Increased income of local communities with forest conservation.
- Securing indigenous peoples rights.
- Improvement of ecosystem services.
- Indigenous peoples can help to monitor and take action against illegal extraction of natural resources in their environment.
- There may be changes in belief systems or traditional customs.
- Problems can arise with the business sector or opportunists.
- Can be harmful to the communities if the incentive provided is only in the form of cash.

### What are the roles indigenous peoples can play in REDD+?

- Indigenous women have certain knowledge and understanding of their natural resources. This can be helpful for REDD+.
- Non-timber forest products are essential for indigenous peoples to use as medicines and fulfill household's consumption.

## Group 3

### What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?

- There is restriction on cutting trees in areas, which is about one mile distance from the watershed areas.
- Restriction of cutting trees where the occurrence of land slide is likely.
- Plantation of trees in shifting cultivation areas.
- Protection of forest fire by creating fire protection path.
- Establishment of community forestry.

### What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?

- Can reduce carbon emissions.
- Improve climate and weather.
- Can have negative impacts on livelihoods whose income depends on forest products.
- Can benefit only to government and cronies and indigenous peoples might have difficulties accessing forest areas.
- Protect from natural disaster.
- REDD+ can create a space to discuss indigenous peoples rights and also stop companies from illegal logging in forests with no permission.
- Can empower communities by initiating discussions on their rights.
- Can achieve community development in REDD+ areas.

#### What are the roles indigenous peoples can play in REDD+?

- Reduce fuel wood use.
- Increase plantation of native trees.
- Increase indigenous women's participation in environmental conservation.

### Group 4

#### What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?

- Indigenous peoples can form groups to increase awareness among their communities on REDD+.
- Indigenous peoples have traditional knowledge to conserve watershed areas.
- Indigenous peoples do not cut big trees. They cut only certain parts of the trees.
- Communities practice shifting cultivation in different places.

#### What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?

- Indigenous peoples can play an important role in forest conservation.
- Improve watershed areas and increase income of indigenous peoples.
- Increase access to forest products (medicines, household needs and fuel wood).
- Government's acknowledgement of indigenous peoples rights.

#### What are the roles indigenous peoples can play in REDD+?

- Will benefit each other by conserving forest and gain benefits from forests as biodiversity increases.

### Group 5

#### What are the roles of indigenous peoples in sustainable forest management?

- In the Karen state, forest management is sustainable because people engage in plantation of coffee, durian and pineapple under big trees as agro forestry. In addition, some of the areas in Karen state are conflict-affected areas and thus there is limited logging and forests are still healthy and intact.
- Indigenous peoples' farming is also organic.
- Communities only cut trees for household needs and not for commercial logging.
- Communities also ban logging in village vicinity.

## What are the potential impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples?

- Good water sources for plantation with better forest condition.
- Can access to forest products.
- Indigenous women can weave using the forest products.
- Better land tenure of indigenous peoples.
- Destruction of IP culture under REDD+ program is likely.
- Limitation in the access to forest.
- Conflicts between two authorities.
- Conflicts over land tenure and land ownership.
- Land grabbing by government at any time.
- Influence of private sector especially cronies in REDD+ program.

## 2.1 Annex 2: List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization	Gender	Phone Number	Email, Address	Ethnicity
1	U Lin Shing Pm	UN Habital	M	09-400300479	ling.shin.pm22@gmail.com	Chin
2	Mg Houng Mar	UN Habital	M	09-442001627	zawilay11@gmail.com	Chin
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15	Lage Hting Nan	Mura Group	M	09-36067901	l.htaingnan@gmail.com	Kachin
16	Dr Saw San Min	Paku Batist Mission	M	09-33532196	-	Kayin
17	Saw Myo Nyi Nyi	Bago-West	M	09-250567824	soyomo@gmail.com	Kayin
18	Ei Phyu Sin	RCA(Rakhine Costal Region Conservation Association)	F	09-8515503	-	Rakhine
19	Thet Moe Win	Magawaddy social Network	M	09-250240755	bgbg@gmail.com	Rakhine
20	Saw Has k Bru Win	Dae Loh Kloe	M	09-421088243	hsamoo255@gmail.com	Kayin
21	Naw April	Meikwe Myanmar Network	F	09-8595848	maungmaung@gmail.com	Kayin

No.	Name	Organization	Gender	Phone Number	Email, Address	Ethnicity
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23	Saw Kan Chit	Bago Yoma	M	-	-	Kayin
24	Saw Junip	Sa Gabaw		09-255813869		Kayin
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27	Nang Zar War	MEMO	F	09-428146068	-	PaOh
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33	Saw Kyaw Sein	-		09-31701847	-	Kayin
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## 2.2. Annex 1: List of questions, comments and answers

### 1. Has the government chosen locations to start REDD+ activities?

A. There are four REDD+ sites of the government of Myanmar. They are:

- Taungoo, Bago Yoma
- Myaughtzar, Western Bago
- Tharyarwaddy
- Hillside Shan state

### 2. Myanmar is a REDD+ country. What are the rules, regulations, assigning roles and delegation that have taken place in the country?

A. Currently, the Forest Department is trying hard to prepare for REDD+. In the Forest Department, there are only 15,000 staff. The Forest Department is doing its best. However, there are many things yet to be done.

### 3. How do you work on REDD+ from the local to the national level?

A. All the REDD+ countries in Asia are getting ready for REDD+. The REDD+ sites are focusing more on the deforestation areas. The country also needs the support of the donors. Piloting can be done in the local level and then we can tie the experience of local to the national level.

### 4. How did you meet with local ethnic groups for discussion during REDD+ Roadmap program?

A: We need to first negotiate at the local level. In the context of Myanmar, REDD+ roadmap preparation was done well. Consultations were conducted with the relevant stakeholders. The consultations invited the representatives of NGOs and government. The regional level consultations were carried out in Bago, Irrawaddy, Shan, Sagaing and Taungoo. The national level workshop was done in Nay Pyi Taw.

### 5. How is the Forest department going to work together with other ministry departments?

A. The strategy to work with department of other ministries including NGOs representatives has been drafted.

6. In Myanmar, there is no law or policy providing rights for ethnic groups. Indigenous peoples have landownership based on their culture. However, the existing land law of the government and ethnic group practices of land ownership are different. This should be addressed, as the government is getting ready for REDD+.

### 7. What are the government's plans for FPIC?

A. The government of Myanmar does not have experience in FPIC until now. However, there are UN-REDD Programme guidelines on FPIC which Myanmar can adapt based on its context.

### 8. Will the government follow UNDRIP?

A. The government should follow the UNDRIP as Myanmar has adopted it. Bolivia has adopted the provisions of UNDRIP into its national law.

## 9. How can we access information on REDD+?

A. The information can be provided by MOECAAF. However, there are not many people that know about REDD+. So it is better to contact the main office of MOECAAF.

## 10. What is the action taken against illegal logging? How can communities participate in controlling these illegal activities?

A. The government is working on reforestation. Also Illegal logging has reduced starting March 2014. We also take action against illegal loggers with better rules and regulation

## 2.2. Annex 2: List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization	Gender	Ethnicity	Place
1	Zaw Zaw Htun	Wan-Lark	M	Rakhine	Site-Tway, Rakhine
2	Dr. Saw San Min	Baptist Mission	M	Karen	Mawchi, Kayar
3	Saw Hsar Ka Brew Shee	Baptist Mission	M	Karen	Mawchi, Kayar
4	Min Thein Zan	Arakan Youth Network	M	Rakhine	Site-Tway, Rakhine
5	Min Min Tun	Rakhine Conservation Association	M	Rakhine	Kyeintali-Gwa, Rakhine
6	Saw Myo Nyi Nyi	Tharyarwaddy, Karen Environment Network	M	Karen	Tharyarwaddy, Bago
7	Naw April	Meikswa Myanmar	F	Karen	Lashio, Shan
8	Thet Moe Win	Mayyawaddy Social Network	M	Rakhine	Maygawaddy
9	Sai Kyaw Than Oo	Shan Zu	M	Shan	Kahcin, Moegaung
10	Saw Noi Khai Kham	Ecodev	M	Kachin	HoHko-PutarO
11	Saw Hsar Ka Brew Win	Dae Loh Kloe	M	Karen	Taunggoo
12	Naw Eh Hser Moo	Dae Loh Kloe	F	Karen	Taunggoo
13	Saw Solomon Htoo	Dawei Youth	M	Karen	Dawei, Tannintharyi
14	Saw Hay Htoo	Bago Yoma Care	M	Karen	Natalin, Bago
15	Ngw-Tar	LNDP	M	Lisu	Waing Maw, Kachin
16	Saw Taw Lu	Bago Yoma Care	M	Karen	Natalin, Bago
17	Saw Nyan Htoo	Bago Yoma Care	M	Karen	Kayin Hsin Hswe, Bago
18	Saw Kan Chit	Bago Yoma Care	M	Karen	Kayin Hsin Hswe, Bago
19	Saw George	Sa Gakaw	M	Gheba	Leiktho, Bago
20	Naw Chit Pandai	Takapaw	F	Karen	Dawei, Tannintharyi
21	Ei Phyu Sin	Rakhine Conservation Association	F	Rakhine	ThanDwe, Rakhine
22	Laje Thing Nan	Kachin CF leader	M	Kachin	Myitkyina, Kachin
23	Vengsung Thang	Myanmar Naga Youth Federation	M	Naga	Naga , Sagaing
24	Saw Kyaw Sein	CF , FRED A Project Area	M	Karen	Ah Mar, Ayarwaddy
25	Zin Maung Maung	CF , FRED A Project Area	M	Burmese	Ah Mar, Ayarwaddy
26	Dr. Sui Kar	Chin Human Right Organization and Chairman of AIPP	M	Chin	Chin State

### 3.1. Annex 1: Results of the Group Discussion During the Preparatory Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Dialogue between Ethnic Minorities and the UN-REDD Programme

#### 1. The Role of Ethnic Minorities (EM) in Sustainable Forest Protection and Development

- EM have been managing, protecting and depending on their forest for a long time.
  - EM communities are the direct beneficiaries of forest resources. They live close to the forests and their livelihoods are dependent on forests. If forest resources are not used sustainably and if forest protection and development are not carried out properly, forest resources will soon be depleted and EM will be the ones to suffer the most
  - EM communities are always ready to fight and sacrifice for the protection of the forests
  - EM people use their traditional knowledge, customs and traditions in sustainable forest protection and development. For example: community forests, ghost forests and sacred forests are protected well. Under the state's law, the practices of ethnic communities based on their customary laws can be considered illegal. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should respect indigenous peoples' customary laws and address this problem
- **The role of communities in the UN-REDD Programme - viewpoint of EM communities**
  - Communities are decisive forces to the success of REDD+ in Viet Nam
  - Communities should be given sufficient information in the languages they understand. The information should be simple and understandable to the communities. It is up to the communities to decide whether they want to participate in REDD+ or not
  - Communities may need capacity building while participating in REDD+. This should be met based on the needs and requirements of the participating communities

#### 2. Current difficulties of EM communities in the engagement with the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam

- Land allocation to communities has not been done well. Forests are allocated to individuals or organizations instead of EM communities. For example in Lam Dong Province, land is not allocated to EM despite the fact that most EM peoples live near forests
- Access to information and policy mechanisms is weak/lacking
- There is no mechanism to resolve the disputes relating to forest and land. Hence, complaints of those disputes remain unaddressed
- EM communities are forced to stay far away from the core area of special use forests
- Many forests belonging to communities now belong to State Forest Protection Management Boards and private companies. Some people are allocated forests in only short-term basis (yearly)
- Many people do not have a clear understanding of the REDD+ process and about the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam

- The existing mechanisms and policies do not meet the needs of the people. For example the government of Viet Nam allocates only limited budget for the protection of forests under Forest Protection Fund. A lot of money can be earned from illegal logging, so people are inclined to engage in illegal logging. The REDD+ process in Viet Nam should address this issue
- Lack of consensus across governments at all levels (e.g., even local governments are worried about the programme)

### 3. Concerns of EM with the UN-REDD Programme, Viet Nam

The participants drafted the following 13 questions to ask the UN-REDD Programme during the dialogue:

- What is the role of EM peoples in the UN-REDD programme? Is the UN-REDD Programme different from previous forestry program such as CT 661, 147, etc.? If yes, what are differences?
- What are the specific mechanisms to ensure the full and effective participation of EM in the UN-REDD Programme Phase 2?
- Once a community has its legal status and capacity to participate in the programme activities, can they directly access REDD+ funds?
- Will REDD+ activities in Viet Nam destroy the traditional values of EM peoples? How to preserve and promote traditional values of EM peoples?
- Will REDD+ establish Policy Feedback System? If yes, how will this system work? If no, why?
- Can EM peoples directly dialogue with the UN-REDD Programme? If yes, how will this system work? If no, why?
- Will EM benefit by participating in REDD+? If yes, how? Will their rights and benefits be guaranteed? Will this be fair? What guarantees the fairness?
- Will REDD+ respect indigenous knowledge, cultures, customs and traditions and customary laws? If yes, how will this be applied?
- Will the programme activity monitoring system accept the participation of EM people? If yes, how is the system organized and how does it work?
- It is necessary to ensure transparency in UN-REDD Fund. What is the mechanism to ensure this?
- It is necessary to strengthen forest law enforcement? So what will ensure strict and effective enforcement of the law?
- Will there be re-evaluation of forest development programs at local levels to find out the weaknesses?
- Is Viet Nam going to sell carbon credits under REDD+?

## 3.1. Annex 2: Action plan for the VTIK from June 2014 to December 2015

No.	Content	Time
1	Report to local government to support and facilitate programme implementation (Report the results of the conference on the 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> , May 2014)	
2	Advocacy on REDD+ and UN-REDD. Make tapes and discs in 302 ethnic languages. Propagate forest protection and development. Coordinate with local governments to propagate to officials and households in various forms (via loudspeakers, leaflets, ethnic languages)	
3	Identify forest types to classify which forests should be protected under REDD+ and UN-REDD	
4	Organize learning cum visit: in Lam Ha and Di Linh, Lam Dong Province	
5	Collect opinions of local governments about the network and REDD+ engagement	
6	Synthesize opinions at localities and feedback to the network representative (Mrs. Truong)	
7	Suggest PEB to establish a legal organization to connect with the network to implement REDD+ together	
8	Perfect the organization, enhance the capacity of key members	
9	Exchange and connect to the network once every 3 months	
10	Expand network members, establish monitoring and evaluation force	
11	Expand network activities associated with "new rural" criterion	
12	Provide activity documents of the UN-REDD Programme	
13	Raise funds for forest protection and management	
14	Support livelihoods	
15	Allocate forest and land to households	

## 3.1. Annex 3: List of Participants

No.	Full Name	EM Groups	Organization	Phone Number/Email
1	A Thao	Xe Dang	Commune People's committee of Hieu, KonPlong district, Kon Tum province	016629659934
2	Tran Van Thanh	Xe Dang	Commune People's committee of Hieu, KonPlong district, Kon Tum province	0977100750
3	Bui Van Luat	Thai	Protection forest management boards of Nhung Mien, Ngoc Hien district, Ca Mau province	0989197589
4	Danh So'n	Kho' Me	Vien An Dong commune, Ngoc Hien district, Ca Mau province	01658684438
5	Lieng Jrang Ha Roky	Co Ho	Commune People's committee of Da Sar, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province	01677032084
6	Ya Ti Ong	Chu ru	Commune People's committee of Da Sar, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province	0912540211
7	Thong Minh Tim	Cham	Nature Reserve of Ta Kou, Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province	01644630521
8	Thong Thin	Cham	Nature Reserve of Ta Kou, Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province	01695224904
9	Pay Quynh Trang	Thai	Tuong Duong ditrict, Nghe An province	01675588162
10	Ha Hong Quan	Thai	Commune People's committee of Phu Xuan, Quan Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province	0914282551
11	Ha Thi Thuan	Thai	Commune People's committee of Phu Xuan, Quan Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province	01668873028
12	Le Van Phong	Tho	Cat Van commune, Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province	01676680390
13	Le Huu Chi	Tho	Cat Van commune, Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province	01667217132
14	Trinh Quoc Bao	Dao	Commune People's committee of Cao Son, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	01687845977
15	Bui Thi Huyen	Muong	Commune People's committee of Cao Son, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	01664845898
16	Vang Thi Senh	H'mong	Suoi Bu commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01682019570
17	Giang Thi Senh	H'mong	Suoi Bu commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01682154100
18	Vu Thi Van	H'mong	Cat Thinh commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	0967862438
19	Vu Thi Chu	H'mong	Cat Thinh commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01687712420
20	Nong Thi Thon	Tay	Woman union of To Hieu commune, Binh Gia district, Lang Son province	01243985203
21	Ma Thi Thanh	Tay	Woman union of To Hieu commune, Binh Gia district, Lang Son province	01687385571
22	Ha Trung Thong	Tay	Cay Troi village, Binh Long commune, Vo Nhai district, xã Binh Long, Thai Nguyen province	01695233589

No.	Full Name	EM Groups	Organization	Phone Number/Email
23	Duong Cong Ly	Tay	Cay Ngai village, Phuc Luong commune, Dai Tu district, xã Binh Long, Thai Nguyen province	01686009757
24	Ha Xuan Va	Tay	Na Loc village, Hoa Mac commune, Van Ban district, Lao Cai province	01678446610
25	Nguyen Van Sau	Tay	Van Tam village, Khanh Yen Ha commune, Van Ban district, Lao Cai province	0944523063
26	Ban Thi Dao	Dao	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Pac Nam district, Bac Kan province	0962284966
27	Duong Thai Binh	Tay	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Pac Nam district, Bac Kan province	0978445594
28	Lo May Hang	Thai	Tuong Duong ditrict, Nghe An province	0982751189
29	Luong Duc Chom	Thai	Community Learning Center of Trung Thanh commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	0169413639
30	Lu Van Chien	Thai	Muong Giang commune, Quynh Nhai district	01648889737
31	Dieu Van Minh	Thai	Muong Giang commune, Quynh Nhai district	0949784140
32	Bac Thi Luyen	Thai	Dien Bien district, Dien Bien province	01674906156
33	Nong Van Hien	Nung	Institute for Rural and mountainous Development	0912314236
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38	Luong Thi Truong	Thai	CSDM	0913038782
39	Pham Minh Thoa	Kinh	Technical adviser UN-REDD program phase 2	0988806996
40	Dang Duc Nghia	Kinh	CSDM	0914257213
41	Duong Hoang Cong	Tay	CSDM	0945855053
42	Âyh Trong Hieu	CSDM	Muong	0962829698
43	Nguyen Thi Thuy	CSDM	Kinh	0977640293
44	Nguyen Thanh Tung	Kinh	Translator	0907716699



## 3.2. Annex 1: List of Participants

No.	Name	Organization	Phone Number and/or Email
1	A Thao	Commune People's committee of Hieu, KonPlong district, Kon Tum province	016629659934
2	Âyh Trong Hieu	CSDM	0962829698
3	Bac Thi Luyen	Dien Bien district, Dien Bien province	01674906156
4	Ban Thi Dao	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Pac Nam district, Bac Kan province	0962284966
5	Bui Duc Thang	Vietnam union of Geological Sciences	0913505813
6	Bui Thi Hien	CERDA	0913039781
7	Bui Thi Huyen	Commune People's committee of Cao Son, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	01664845898
8	Bui Van Luat	Protection forest management boards of Nhung Mien, Ngoc Hien district, Ca Mau province	0989197589
9	Dang Duc Nghia	CSDM	0914257213
10	Danh S n	Vien An Dong commune, Ngoc Hien district, Ca Mau province	01658684438
11	Dieu Van Minh	Muong Giang commune, Quynh Nhai district	0949784140
12	Do Hai Linh	Action Aid	0912104344
13	Duong Cong Ly	Cay Ngai village, Phuc Luong commune, Dai Tu district, xã Binh Long, Thai Nguyen province	01686009757
14	Duong Hoang Cong	CSDM	0945855053
15	Duong Thai Binh	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Pac Nam district, Bac Kan province	0978445594
16	Giang Thi Senh	Suoi Bu commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01682154100
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18	Ha Thi Thuan	Commune People's committee of Phu Xuan, Quan Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province	01668873028
19	Ha Trung Thong	Cay Troi village, Binh Long commune, Vo Nhai district, xã Binh Long, Thai Nguyen province	01695233589
20	Ha Xuan Va	Na Loc village, Hoa Mac commune, Van Ban district, Lao Cai province	01678446610
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No.	Name	Organization	Phone Number and/or Email
23	Hoang Viet Ha	UN-REDD Viet Nam	hvha@gmail.com
24	Joan Carling	AIPP	joan@aippnet.org
25	Kin Yii Yong	UN-REDD in Asia / UNDP	kin.yii.yong@undp.org
26	Lakpa Luri Sherpa	AIPP	nuri@aippnet.org
27	Le Huu Chi	Cat Van commune, Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province	01667217132
28	Le Minh Thao	Towards Transparency	lethao@towardstransparency.vn
29	Le Van Phong	Cat Van commune, Nhu Xuan district, Thanh Hoa province	01676680390
30	Lieng Jrang Ha Roky	Commune People's committee of Da Sar, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province	01677032084
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33	Luong Duc Chom	Community Learning Center of Trung Thanh commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	0169413639
34	Luong Thi Truong	CSDM	0913038782
35	Ma Thi Thanh	Woman union of To Hieu commune, Binh Gia district, Lang Son province	01687385571
36	Ngo Thi Loan	UNDP Viet Nam	ngo.thi.loan@undp.org
37	Nguyen Anh Ngoc	CCRC	ngocnguyenanh91@gmail.com
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39	Nguyen Thanh Tung	Translator	0907716699
40	Nguyen Thi Thuy	CSDM	0977640293
41	Nguyen Van Sau	Van Tam village, Khanh Yen Ha commune, Van Ban district, Lao Cai province	0944523063
42	Nguyen Viet Dung	Pannature	dungnv@nature.org.vn
43	Nong Thi Thon	Woman union of To Hieu commune, Binh Gia district, Lang Son province	01243985203
44	Nong Van Hien	Institute for Rural and mountainous Development	0912314236
45	Pay Quynh Trang	Tuong Duong ditrict, Nghe An province	01675588162
46	Pham Minh Thoa	Technical adviser UN-REDD program phase 2	0988806996
47	Thong Minh Tim	Nature Reserve of Ta Kou, Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province	01644630521

No.	Name	Organization	Phone Numberand/or Email
48	Thong Thin	Nature Reserve of Ta Kou, Ham Thuan Nam district, Binh Thuan province	01695224904
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50	Tran Van Thanh	Commune People's committee of Hieu, KonPlong district, Kon Tum province	0977100750
51	Trinh Quoc Bao	Commune People's committee of Cao Son, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province	01687845977
52	Vang Thi Senh	Suoi Bu commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01682019570
53	Vu Thi Chu	Cat Thinh commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	01687712420
54	Vu Thi Van	Cat Thinh commune, Van Chan district, Yen Bai province	0967862438
55	Ya Ti Ong	Commune People's committee of Da Sar, Lac Duong district, Lam Dong province	0912540211

## 4. Annex 1: Indigenous Peoples' Statement, National Consultation of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples on REDD+ Dhaka, 18 June 2014

We, the representatives of indigenous peoples and tea estate communities, participating in the National Consultation of Indigenous Peoples on REDD+ in Bangladesh, make the following declaration through consensus, on the proposed REDD+ initiative in Bangladesh and related matters.

The Indigenous Peoples of Bangladesh have been inter-generationally and sustainably managing and using our lands and territories, including forests and other natural resources, for several centuries, often in conjunction with shifting cultivation (jum cultivation), in accordance with our beliefs, spirituality, world views, laws, customs, practices and usages.

The conservation and sustainable use of these forests and other natural resources, along with the related democratic traditions and customary laws on collective land and resource rights, has contributed to the ecology, environment and sustainable development of Bangladesh.

Based upon this rich heritage of collective rights and practices, and ecologically sustainable resource uses, we seek to build new and respectful partnerships with the Government of Bangladesh and other entities, to conserve and sustainably use these lands, forests and the resources thereon, including to combat the threat of climate change and to enhance biological diversity and achieve sustainable development that is respectful of identity and culture of peoples and communities.

We welcome the initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh in engaging with REDD+ and pledge our full support to the achievement of REDD+ Readiness by Bangladesh in a manner that engages all stakeholders in all stages, throughout all phases of REDD+, including indigenous peoples. We are encouraged by the cooperation between the Department of Forest and indigenous peoples in the context of REDD+, and look forward to closer and more fruitful work together.

We thank the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact and the NCC, in consultation with the UN-REDD Programme, the Bangladesh Forest Department and UNDP Bangladesh, for organizing this 3-day National Consultation of Indigenous Peoples on REDD+ from 16-18 June 2014, to be followed a National Dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh on 19 June 2014.

We reiterate that in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the impact of climate change and to achieve sustainable and culturally sensitive development, REDD+ should not just focus on carbon, but should also provide and deliver non-carbon benefits, such as the enhancement of biological diversity, the protection of watersheds of rivers and streams, the livelihood security, food security and nutritional security of forest-dwellers and forest-users, including indigenous peoples, and their languages, cultures and spiritualities.

We emphasize that any future REDD+ strategy and related land and forest governance, management and use must be in conformity with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other related international standards and agreements, including the Cancun Agreement (UNFCCC COP 16, 2010), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Elimination

of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and ILO Conventions Nos. 111 (Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation), 107 (Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention, 1957) and 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989).

We assert that the full and effective implementation of the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts) Accord of 1997 is vital to achieving the conservation and sustainable use lands and forests in the CHT, which has the largest concentration of indigenous peoples in a contiguous unit in Bangladesh.

We recall several declarations adopted by indigenous peoples with regard to land, forest, environment and development, which we believe will help guide a respectful and effective partnership between indigenous peoples and the Government of Bangladesh, including the following: Adivasi Declaration (1997), Rangamati Declaration (1998), Dhaka Forest Declaration (2001) and Rangamati Land Declaration (2002).

We are concerned that several national laws, policies and programmes related to land, forest, environment, development and climate change do not adequately account for the rights, needs and contexts of indigenous peoples, and therefore need to be reformed, in partnership with indigenous peoples, and in the context of the CHT Accord, also including the specialized institutions of the CHT Regional Council, the Hill District Councils and the Traditional Institutions (Chiefs, Headmen and Karbaries).

Convinced that the context of REDD+ offers a good opportunity to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while respecting the rights, identity and culture of indigenous peoples, indigenous peoples and their organizations and networks in Bangladesh have already initiated some activities related to REDD+. They seek financial, technical and logistical support to sustain and expand such activities, including on the following: (a) Training of Trainers on REDD+ for resource persons, trainers/facilitators; (b) Regional training and workshops; (c) Awareness raising, advocacy; (d) Translation of key materials on REDD+ in national language (Bangla), and in indigenous languages and local commonly spoken languages where appropriate; (e) Publication of translated documents, etc.

## Recommendations on REDD+

### 1. Participation

- **National Steering Committee**

Point 10 of Annex 1a: National REDD+ Management Bodies refers to “Local Hill Council”. This should be clarified by reference to the CHT Regional Council. In addition, the following CHT-specific institutions should be added: one representative of Hill District Councils; one representative of Traditional Institutions (Chief, headmen and Karbaries). In addition at least two representatives each of IPs from the CHT and the Plains (on the basis of self-selection) should be included.

- **Stakeholders' Forum**

The following should be included: CHT institutions (Regional Council, Hill District Council, Traditional Institutions), Indigenous Forest users, Village Common Forest communities, associations and networks, Khasi Punji communities and others.

In the self-selection process of representatives from the other categories – such as private sector, civil society, media, women focused groups, government organizations, community-based organizations, local and international NGOs, donors, academia, research organizations, and other stakeholders – the government should help ensure that this is done based upon the principles of equity, inclusiveness and non-discrimination, so that indigenous persons are not excluded from these groups, if they are otherwise competent to be a representative from the concerned groups.

- **Technical Working Group**

Representation of indigenous peoples should be ensured in all the existing and future Technical Working Groups (TWGs), as appropriate.

- **Grievance Mechanism**

The formulation of the Grievance Mechanism, from local to national levels, can invoke the existing judicial and quasi-judicial authority of the CHT traditional system. Best practices on dispute resolution, including through application of customary law and procedure can be replicated, as appropriate in dispute resolution, mediation, arbitration and other redress mechanisms and processes. The provisions of UNDRIP, particularly articles 25-30<sup>2</sup>, can serve as guidelines in the redress and other aspects of the Grievance Mechanism

## 2. Capacity building and awareness raising

- Capacity building for indigenous peoples on REDD+, in order to increase resource pool of indigenous peoples to participate fully and effectively (disaggregated by region, age, gender, ethnicity).
- Building capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations on REDD+, with support from the government and other donor agencies, UN bodies, CSOs and relevant NGOs.
- Organizational strengthening and capacity building of Village Common Forests (VCF) associations and networks and traditional community leaders to facilitate REDD+ readiness (e.g., CHT Headmen and Karbaries, Khasi Punji Myntri, Nokma, Manjhi-Pargana-Deshmanjhi, Gaobura, Bagan Panchayat, Lal Montani, etc.)
- Sensitization and awareness raising of Government officials from relevant sectors on REDD+, including the best practices in terms of forest conservation and management, and sustainable use and rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples and communities.
- Translation of relevant UNFCCC and REDD+ documents into national, indigenous and local languages.

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<sup>2</sup> Article 25, Article 26, Article 27, Article 28, Article 29 and Article 30 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

### 3. Capacity building and awareness raising

- The future development of FPIC Guidelines by the Ministry of Environment & Forest should only be done through consultation, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.
- The FPIC Guidelines should be developed in line with UNDRIP and guidelines of UN Treaty Bodies.

### 4. Reformation of Laws, Policies and Programme

The following laws, policies and programmes need to be reviewed, in partnership with indigenous peoples, and in accordance with applicable laws and standards, including the Constitution of Bangladesh and international human rights and environment-related treaties ratified by Bangladesh, including ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CBD, UNFCCC and ILO Conventions Nos. 111 and 107.

- **Laws**

The most important of laws mentioned above include the Forest Act 1927 (including reform of Social Forestry Rules & Forest Transit Rules and formulation of Village Forest Rules), the Wildlife (Preservation & Security) Acts, the East Bengal State Acquisition & Tenancy Act 1950 and the CHT Land Disputes Resolution Commission Act 2001.

- **Policies**

The most important of the concerned national policies include the National Forest Policy, the Environment Policy, the Land Policy, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and the National Women's Development Policy.

- **Programmes**

The most important of the concerned programmes include: (a) Mono Plantations of Eucalyptus, Pulpwood and Softwood, which are harmful to biological diversity; (b) Social Forestry Programmes that are harming biodiversity and excluding indigenous peoples and local communities; (c) Continuance of leases of forest lands to non-functional tea estate companies; (d) leases of forest lands in the CHT to non-local companies and individuals.

## Recommendations Beyond REDD+

### 1. Forum on Forests

A Forum on Forests may be established. Its structure may be as follows: Headed by the Minister of Environment & Forest, it can include the Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Chairman, CHT Regional Council, representatives of the Hill District Councils and Traditional Institutions of the CHT, representatives of different ministries and departments, one representative from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Environment and Forest Ministry and representatives of indigenous peoples from both the Plains and CHT and other forest-dependent communities. Its functions can include dialogue to address disputes (such as on disputes over creation of new reserved forests, proposed de-reservation of reserved forests, supervision and monitoring of social forestry and other programmes, etc).

## 2. Wildlife Protection Forum

The structure of the existing Wildlife Protection Forum, headed by the Minister of Environment & Forest, can be amended to include representatives of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

## 3. Implementation of International Treaties

The Government should take steps to implement the provisions of international treaties ratified by Bangladesh, including by incorporation in national laws and policies, including CBD, ICCPR, ICESR, CERD, CEDAW and ILO Conventions Nos. 111 and 107.

## 4. Implementation of CHT Accord

All unimplemented provisions of CHT Accord should be implemented, including on land and forests, including amendment of Land Commission Act, transfer of Forest to the Hill District Councils, rehabilitation of internally displaced indigenous peoples, etc.

## 5. Law and Policy Reform (mentioned in REDD+ section above)

## 6. Full and Effective Policy implementation

Several policies of the government that have a bearing on land and forest remain unimplemented or only partially implemented. These need to be implemented, in partnership with indigenous peoples, including their institutions and organizations to ensure the full realization of Millennium Development Goals. Specific funds need to be allocated and responsible agencies identified and timelines set to implement them. These include sectoral policies on Education (PEDP-III), Health (Tribal Health Plan). Most importantly, the measures outlined in the Sixth Five Year Plan need to be supplemented with budgetary, logistical, procedural and programmatic measures.

In brief, the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh along with the tea estate communities in Bangladesh welcome the government's initiatives in engaging with REDD+ and seek to build new and respectful partnerships so as to conserve land, forests, natural resources and to enhance biological diversity through REDD+ activities in Bangladesh. However, we urge that REDD+ activities should be executed to avail non-carbon benefits including livelihood security, food and nutritional security, cultures and spiritualities of the forest dwellers and users rather than that of carbon benefit.

In order to ensure full and meaningful participation of the indigenous peoples in decision making process in the national REDD+ programme, such as in the National Steering Committee, Stakeholders' Forum and relevant technical working groups, extensive capacity building and awareness raising activities on REDD+ among indigenous peoples around the country are essential. On the other hand, government officials from relevant sectors on REDD+ should be sensitized about the best practices in terms of forest conservation and management, and sustainable use and rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples and communities. We seek support from the government and other donor agencies, UN bodies, CSOs and relevant NGOs for the abovementioned purposes.

We also request that before initiating implementation of REDD+ activities, the government shall ensure meaningful participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the development of



FPIC guidelines, fully implement the CHT Accord of 1997 and reform several national laws, policies and related to land, forest, environment, development and climate change with due respect to the rights, identity and culture of the forest dependent communities including indigenous peoples. All these propositions shall be carried out in line with international standards and agreements such as the UNDRIP, Cancun agreement, CBD, ICCPR, CERD, CEDAW and ILO Conventions Nos. 111, 107 and as well as 169.

## 4.1. Annex 2: List of Participants

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