

Reporting back to PB10 from the PGA Information and Knowledge Sharing Session, 26 June 2013

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The PGA Information session 25 June aimed to share knowledge and experience from the PGA process in Indonesia, highlight key findings, recommendations and next steps.

Also this was an opportunity to launch the English version of the PGA report, as the Bahasa Indonesian version was launched on 6 May already for national stakeholders in Jakarta.

The Information session yesterday was well attended, with high level speakers, an official hand over of the PGA report to representatives from the three other PGA pilot countries (Ecuador, Vietnam and Nigeria), as well as the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, and a diverse and active panel discussion.

We also got a good media turn-out, and the high level speakers were meeting the media – ranging from local media to national media, also with an international audience (such as Jakarta Post).

One of the key repeated points – both from the government perspective, as well as civil society, was the realization that governance is essential for a successful and effective REDD+ implementation.

Further from the government perspective, the PGA data is seen as useful for better policy reform to inform strategic decision making in all levels of government. They also appreciated the fact that this process has been inclusive in a meaningful manner – with concrete inputs from key stakeholders – from the onset. The Government also mentioned that the PGA would be a model on which to assess forest governance in the future.

From the civil society perspective, AMAN emphasized the value of the PGA process in particular since this assessment also incorporated the capacity of civil society and Indigenous Peoples actors, as well as how their rights are respected. For them, the PGA report has already been used for their strategic planning to identify the relevant areas that need more work and strengthening.

The UN agencies also provided their insights, and the ones most relevant to repeat here is that the PGA produces credible and robust governance data, can be used to make strategic decision in policy making and reform, track performance and regression, holding decision makers to account, and lastly to feed into Safeguards Information Systems that countries will report back to UNFCCC, and they commend the government's courage to openly admit and address governance challenges.

Although robust and comprehensive data is important, there is also a need to find the balance – and a key lesson can be to develop an indicator set with fewer indicators. This will also positively affect the costs and time needed to do the regular data collections.

The added value of joint decisions throughout the PGA process was also recognized throughout the panel, and was seen to have positive influence on the ownership, relevance and credibility of the results and findings.

Next steps indicated were dissemination of results to the sub-national stakeholders, ensure active

use of the PGA data and refining the PGA indicator set, aiming for a second assessment using this “lighter” indicator set, and exploring how the PGA data can feed into their national safeguards information system, among others.

By sharing the results and concrete examples of how the PGA has and will be used in Indonesia, we hope that this has inspired the other PGA pilot countries who are in the process of obtaining governance data as well.

We also see from the diversity within the PGA process – by all stakeholders who have participated and contributed – both within the government with high commitment and support from both the Ministry of Forestry and REDD+ Task Force, in addition to a variety of key civil society actors, such as AMAN, that the extra effort to keep everyone involved throughout the steps of the PGA process has been worthwhile. We look forward to continuing this work to get an updated PGA report for 2013.