

UN-REDD Programme - Strategy for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society

Summary

There is wide recognition that REDD will succeed only with the full engagement of Civil Society (CSO) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), especially at the local level where land and other natural resource management decisions are ultimately made. To support enhanced engagement of CSO and IPs the UN-REDD Programme has developed a Strategy for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society. The strategy includes representation in UN-REDD Programme governance (i.e., the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board), the establishment of a CSO Advisory Group to provide independent advice and guidance to the Programme, and global and national outreach and consultation to ensure that the interests and concerns of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples are reflected in the activities and outcomes of UN-REDD Programmes. In 2009, the focus will be on establishing the consultative fora and processes and to document experiences and propose recommendations from CSOs and Indigenous Peoples before the UNFCCC Copenhagen conference.

Context and Rationale

In response to UNFCCC Decision 2/CP.13 and requests from countries and donors, FAO, UNDP, and UNEP developed the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme). The Programme is administered through UNDP's Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office and was officially launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg in September 2008. The Programme is currently operated through a Multi-donor Trust Fund. The UN-REDD Programme consists of two sets of activities:

- (i) Country actions to assist developing countries prepare and implement national REDD strategies and mechanisms;
- (ii) International support functions to enable the development of normative solutions and standardized approaches based on sound science for a REDD instrument linked with the UNFCCC¹.

Conceptual Framework for the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations within the UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that designing climate change interventions in forest areas is a complex task that requires social and political as well as technical input. As a result, the Programme has developed a strategy to ensure the engagement of Indigenous Peoples, other forest-dependent communities, and Civil Society Organizations, so that the Programme is responsive to their issues and perspectives. The strategy applies at the National and International level and focuses on ensuring three basic principles – 1) Representation, 2) Transparency, access to information, and accountability 3) Participation and Inclusion. The strategy will be delivered within the framework of the UN-REDD Programme, via Country Actions and International Support Functions.

The UN-REDD Programme partner agencies have thus far initiated dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society in its program development. To translate this relationship into meaningful outcomes for REDD incentive structures, the UN-REDD Programme must significantly scale up its engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society in accordance with its strategy.

¹ See www.un-redd.net

Needs & Scope of UN-REDD Programme Activities Targeted at Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society Organizations

The overall structure and framework of the UN-REDD Programme is set out in its Framework Document (June 2008)². Within this framework, the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society at the National level falls under the 'REDD Dialogue' Country Action area. Ensuring the participation and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society at the global scale falls under the International Support Functions strategic focus areas of 'Co-benefits and Trade-off Tools' and 'REDD Awareness'.

To support the delivery of these outcomes, the UN-REDD Programme has developed an *Operational Guidance on the Engagement of Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities*³ to inform the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of UN-REDD Programme activities at the global and national level. Additionally, the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board has endorsed the formation of a *Civil Society Advisory Group*⁴ to provide independent advice and analysis towards ensuring that climate investments in forest areas are effective and support forest peoples' rights and development.

Proposed Actions

International Support Functions:

1. Global Consultation with Indigenous Peoples and other Forest Dependent Communities
\$100,000 USD in 2009
2. Engagement with Global IP & CSO Processes on REDD - *\$60,000 USD/year*
3. Recourse Mechanism for IP & CSO complaints - *\$60,000 USD/year*
4. IP & CSO representation to UN-REDD Programme Policy Board - *\$200,000 USD min/year*
5. Facilitation of IP & CSO Engagement in National Programs - *\$250,000 USD/year*
5. Communication & Outreach Strategy targeted at Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society
\$60,000 USD min/year
6. Research & Analysis of IP & CSO REDD Issues - *\$120,000 USD/year*
8. Independent Civil Society Advisory Group Activities - *\$100,000 USD/year*

National Programmes:

1. Training/Capacity Building on IP Engagement for National/Regional Staff - *\$150,000 USD in 2009*
2. Communication & Outreach Strategy - *\$140,000 USD min/year*
3. National Consultation with IP & CSO: - *\$200,000 USD min/year/country*

Total estimated budget: \$1,44 million USD for 2009

Immediate budget requirements

These activities are currently funded with a limited budget of \$298,000 USD for 2009. In order to fulfill the Strategy and deliver the proposed activities outlined above, the Programme requires an additional \$1.14 million USD in 2009. The anticipated expansion of the UN-REDD Programme towards 2012 suggests a longer term indicative budget of \$20 million USD over 3 years for roll out of this IP and CSO engagement strategy. The UN-REDD Programme is eager to implement this strategy in order to deliver concrete examples and useful lessons to inform the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society in any future REDD mechanism and to strengthen the debate in Copenhagen at UNFCCC COP 15.

² Link to UN-REDD Programme Framework Document:

³ Link to Operational Guidance:

⁴ Link to Terms of Reference for the Independent Civil Society Advisory Group