REDD:
Issues, concerns and ways forward for forest agencies

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Outline

1. Key issues and concerns surrounding REDD
   • International design
   • Implementation
   • Civil society concerns

1. The role of tenure in achieving climate goals
2. Framework of actions
3. Questions for discussion
International design: Baselines

• Most of the world’s forest carbon emissions come from state-owned forest lands
• Slash and burn agriculturalists have a right to subsistence
• Institutional capacities are uncertain to effectively and equitably operate REDD in many countries
• Poor track record – what will be different now? Only technology?
• What can realistically be achieved in the next 10-15 years to reduce emissions?
International design: Assumptions

• Financing and speed is the solution
• Monitoring capacities are adequate
• REDD can scale up rapidly and private market will respond
• REDD can deliver all things to all people
• Whatever is decided in Copenhagen can be implemented: what about CDM A/R?
• Cheap and easy (Paying off communities is cheap)
International design: Benefits

• Being pitched as a benefit to the poor and window to development
• Industry will want its share
• Governments will want their share

• Is it a question of benefits, rewards, compensation or reparations?

• REDD+ is now on the agenda. What will it require to work in terms of technical capacity, institutional arrangements and compensation schemes?
Implementation: Confusion

- Multitude of funds, agreements and projects
  - Australia bi-laterals
  - Norwegian funds
  - FCPF
  - UN-REDD
  - FIP
  - US legislation coming
  - Voluntary markets

- Creating spaces for corruption and tricky dealings (Liberia and Papua New Guinea)
- Pilots that cherry pick obfuscating some realities
- Bad information (climate change seedlings)
Implementation: National strategies

• A lot of expectations being placed on forest agencies
• Institutional reforms needed to administer REDD
• Technical capacity
• Leading agencies and coordination
• Legislation
  – Carbon rights
  – Land tenure clarity
Concerns from civil society

- REDD is just another form of colonialism
- Sub-prime carbon another bubble
- Market based REDD will put the climate in jeopardy
- People will be dispossessed of their lands and livelihoods
- Blame for climate crisis being shifted from industrial polluters to local communities
- Focusing on finance misses the picture: governance is the key
Tenure is at the heart of reducing forest carbon emissions

- Contestation between customary and statutory tenure systems presents major challenge for forest governance.
- Insecure tenure a known, but difficult to quantify, driver of deforestation (Eliasch Review 2008).
- Increased size of and greater authority in community forests leads to better outcomes for carbon, livelihoods and biodiversity (Agrawal 2008).
- Increasing pressure on forest land (agriculture, biofuels, water, etc) places pressure to clarify tenure.
- Effectiveness and equity seriously compromised if the tenure rights of those living in forest areas are overlooked.
Growing recognition of tenure’s importance in REDD

- Civil society: ethics and effectiveness
- Indigenous Peoples: historical grievances/justice
- Private sector: investment security and knowing who to pay
- Governments: Norwegian OAR
- REDD programs (FCPF, UN-REDD)
REDD can provide an impetus

• For securing lands of Indigenous Peoples and other forest dependent communities/individuals
  - Readiness phases
  - More money available
  - Effectiveness

Or

• Roll-back progress
  - State seizure of forest lands
  - Sale of carbon (and thereby the land use change) to foreign investors without local consent
Framework for Ensuring Effective Investment in Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation in Forest Areas

- **Legal & Institutional Framework**
  - Strengthen rights and governance

- **Accountable Funding Mechanisms**
  - Prioritize investments in communities
    - Carbon sequestered and maintained
    - Rights respected
    - Livelihoods supported
    - Forests conserved

- **Independent Advisory & Auditing**
  - Establish national and international mechanisms

- **Information & Monitoring Infrastructure**
  - Monitor more than carbon

**OUTCOMES**

- Carbon sequestered and maintained
- Rights respected
- Livelihoods supported
- Forests conserved
Questions for discussion

• How are forest agencies engaging in international and national program design and bringing their experience to the table?

• Are the expectations being built for forest agencies realistic? How will agencies handle the new burden/responsibility?

• Can REDD deliver on all that’s being promised?

• What will carbon monomania do to forest governance and other uses?

THANK YOU