

# WHAT IS REDD+?

## A GUIDE FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

REDD+

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

AIPP IWGIA

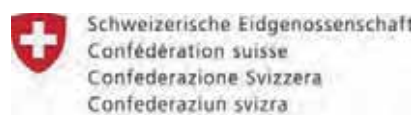


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2012



Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



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Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)  
Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)  
International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)  
Tebtebba Foundation

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# INTRODUCTION

Global efforts are currently underway to protect and restore forests as part of global initiatives to address and mitigate climate change. These efforts are formally referred to as REDD plus – (REDD+, or Reduced Emissions from Deforestation, forest Degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries)<sup>1</sup>– and are considered by many as a historic opportunity for forest conservation.

Critics point at the complexity of REDD+ and its inherent difficulties, predicting it to fail. Others, however, already consider REDD a “remarkable achievement” since the idea of REDD has been taken “to the point where a working model is on the horizon – all in a mere five years” (Mercer et.al. 2011: 272)<sup>2</sup>.

Since the very beginning of the idea of REDD indigenous peoples have been apprehensive of the possible impact of REDD-related actions on their communities and they have consistently sought to ensure that their rights and concerns are respected and taken into account in any REDD+ actions or policies. Still, many indigenous communities know very little about REDD+ and there is an urgent need for them to know what REDD+ is and what possible impacts – both positive and negative – it may have on their lives and wellbeing.

This book seeks to help indigenous communities and their organisations to provide their people with basic information on REDD+. It is intended as a guide in understanding climate change, REDD+ and how they relate to the recognition and exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples.

As a guidebook for communities, the content is simplified and accompanied by illustrations and photos for visualization. Translated versions of this Guidebook in several languages have been and will also be published in REDD+ countries in Asia and elsewhere.

This publication on REDD+ and indigenous peoples is divided into three parts. The first part is an overview on climate change and adaptation. In this section we provide a basic understanding of the phenomenon of climate change, factors for global warming, and impacts or effects of climate change on indigenous peoples and their livelihood activities in different landscapes and geographical locations. The section also addresses the actions being taken by governments and the international community. This includes a summary of information on the major adaptation and mitigation measures agreed upon by states under the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

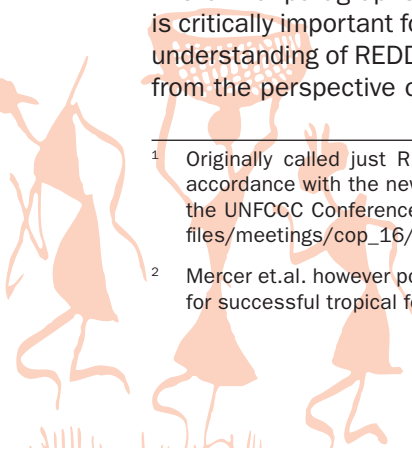
This part of the book is not intended to provide comprehensive information on climate change, but rather to help gain a basic understanding for indigenous communities of this complex issue, and the context in which the idea of REDD+ has been developed.

In the second part of this guidebook we turn to REDD+. The importance and the roles of forest, as well as how the concept of REDD came into being, are dealt with in this section. We provide background information about REDD+ implementation and the role of states under REDD+ projects, programmes and schemes – both those developed and those planned - and the role of developed countries. This contains also information on proposed REDD+ financing mechanisms and in this connection we address briefly the issues of carbon trading and the carbon market(s) and their relationship to REDD+.

In the final paragraphs of part two we explain how REDD+ relates to indigenous peoples, and why it is critically important for indigenous peoples, especially those living in forests, to gain knowledge and understanding of REDD+. It then elaborates on the specific impacts of REDD+ on indigenous peoples from the perspective of indigenous peoples themselves. As such, it dwells on REDD+ in relation to

<sup>1</sup> Originally called just REDD – Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation – this definition is in accordance with the new and more encompassing understanding of REDD (therefore “REDD plus”) that was reached at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 16 in Cancun, Mexico (see Draft Decision document available at [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_16/application/pdf/cop16\\_lca.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> Mercer et.al. however point out that despite the progress made, REDD is “still a long way short of being a workable plan for successful tropical forest conservation and restoration” and identify four key challenges (ibid.)





the role of forests in climate change, and on the potential negative impacts for the recognition and exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, especially on the right to land, territories and resources, and to indigenous peoples' livelihoods and well being. It however also discusses what the potential benefits and opportunities of indigenous peoples under the REDD+ scheme are with respect to strengthening the recognition of their rights, and whether and how they can benefit economically.

The third part of this guide book is on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and how it can be used to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples under REDD+ and other actions relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. It provides a summary of the contents of the UNDRIP, and it elaborates on the right of indigenous peoples to land, territories and resources, the right to development, and to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). This section also contains a list of suggestions for practical actions that indigenous peoples can take to promote, advocate and assert the recognition and exercise of their collective rights in relation to REDD and other climate change actions. It is followed by a check list for communities, which includes the most important questions that communities should get answers to when they are approached to be part of a project or programme that will be funded by the carbon market, by carbon finance funds, or that will create carbon credits.

At the end of this section is a list of references to other relevant materials on REDD and climate change is provided, which indigenous communities can access if they want to have more information.

As an information guidebook for indigenous communities, this publication is aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of indigenous communities and supporting them to take action for the promotion and protection of their rights with respect to REDD+ and climate change actions. For this third edition the text has been revised to bring it up-to-date with recent developments.

The International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) and Tebtebba jointly prepared this Guidebook. Publishing this guide book is part of their collaboration in working on climate change, REDD+ and indigenous peoples. This third edition has been produced with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Swiss Development Cooperation.





# PART I: CLIMATE CHANGE

## HOW'S THE WEATHER TODAY?

For indigenous communities, the weather is very much a part of life and culture. The rising and setting of the sun, the direction of the wind, the amount of rainfall and the turning of the seasons all have meaning and relationship to how life goes in a community. Recently, intensifying changes to weather patterns have been observed. These changes have, in turn, changed patterns of wildlife or of plant growth, affecting the lives of indigenous peoples.



## WHAT IS GOING ON?

The weather changes in short periods of time. Even in a day, the weather can change from a sunny morning to a rainy afternoon. Over a very long period of time, say 30 years, a certain area shows a weather pattern. This “averaged” weather is called climate. An easy way to remember the difference is that climate is what you expect, like a very hot summer, and weather is what you get, like a hot day with pop-up thunderstorms.

What is going on is that the climate is changing, and it is changing mainly because of human activities. What’s more, it is changing too fast.





## HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING?

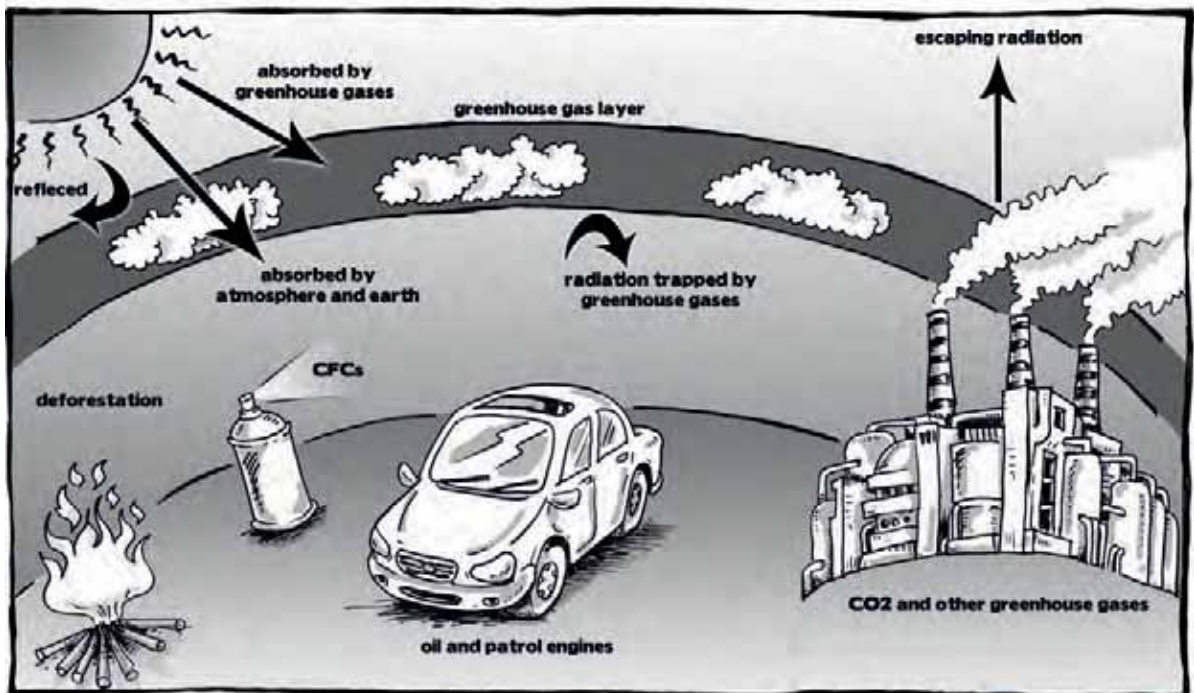
The earth, as we already know, goes around the sun. It is the sun that warms the air surrounding the earth, bringing about different types of climate in different areas. The air that surrounds the earth is called the atmosphere and it is composed of a combination of different gases. Some of these gases have a very strong impact on our climate, and these are the gases that we are particularly interested in here. These gases are called the 'greenhouse gases' (GHGs) because they act like the glass walls of a greenhouse, allowing some of the sun's rays to enter, reflecting back harmful radiation from the sun and keeping some warmth close to the earth, making the earth a place where we can live.



Some of the heat that comes from the sun is reflected by the greenhouse gases and by the earth and goes back into space. Some of the warmth of the sun is trapped by the greenhouse gases and stays in the atmosphere, keeping the earth warm. If this was not the case, it would be very cold on Earth – too cold for humans to live.

This natural process is called the greenhouse effect. As humans and their activities emit more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect becomes stronger. The result is global warming.

Greenhouse gases are chemical compounds such as water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. They are naturally part of the atmosphere. However, humans are adding more of these gases into the atmosphere by activities such as burning oil and gas to run factories, generate power and for transportation, land development or simply farming!



## What is a Greenhouse?

People living in cold climates have discovered that glass lets sunshine through but keeps the heat. So they started building houses made of glass (or, today, transparent plastic) in order to grow plants that need a warmer climate. Since these houses are used for growing plants – which are green – they called them “greenhouses”.



Carbon dioxide is the main GHG and its main source is the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, gas or coal that we use to run machines such as cars and to produce energy. Fossil fuels are called so because they come from the decay, burial and compaction of rotting vegetation on land, and of marine organisms on the sea floor and are formed over millions of years.

Another major source of carbon is from activities that destroy or damage forests. These activities include large scale logging, mining, forest fires and expansion of agricultural land. In fact, scientists estimate that a fifth of carbon emissions into the air come from these kinds of activities.



### GLOBAL WARMING

IS THE AVERAGE INCREASE IN THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH AND ITS OCEANS COMPARED TO PREVIOUS CENTURIES. GLOBAL WARMING IS ONE KEY ASPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

## What is Carbon?

If you burn wood, what remains is mostly ash, plus a bit of charcoal when not all is properly burned. Humans have discovered that burning wood with too little or no oxygen results in charcoal, and that later on this charcoal can be burned again or used for other purposes. When we make charcoal and if it is done properly, only water and other elements disappear during charcoal burning and what is left is mostly carbon. Depending how well it is done charcoal is 50% to 95% carbon, (the rest are other chemicals and ash).

When wood is fully burned however, all the carbon disappears. It returns to the atmosphere. That's where it actually came from.



Carbon is the fourth most abundant chemical element in the universe (after hydrogen, helium, and oxygen). Carbon is abundant in the sun, stars, comets, and in the atmospheres of most planets. In combination with oxygen (in carbon dioxide), carbon is found in the Earth's atmosphere and dissolved in all water (sea, lakes, rivers).

Carbon occurs in all life forms and is one of the most important "building blocks" of living beings. Some of them – the plants - can use carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere and water to form organic matter of different forms (in the plant's roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, nuts, seeds etc.). This process also produces oxygen, and it is powered by sunlight. This process is called photosynthesis.

Other organisms, like animals and humans, cannot absorb carbon from the atmosphere and have to use the carbon in plants or other animals to build their own bodies and to have the energy needed to maintain themselves. When we eat and digest plants CO<sub>2</sub> and water are again formed (this is called respiration), and when living organisms die and decay, CO<sub>2</sub> and water are also released again.

The amount of carbon on the earth remains the same; it is only changing form and places: it is absorbed from the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub> by plants, turned into organic matter in photosynthesis, and again turned into CO<sub>2</sub> in body respiration or through decay of organic matter. Most of it thereby returns to the atmosphere, but some of the carbon may be stored for a long time before returning to the atmosphere. Millions of years ago, the remains of ancient forests that have not fully decayed have been transformed into coal or oil. Tiny organisms living in the sea use carbon dioxide dissolved in sea water to form hard shells (like what mussels and clams do), and over millions of years the remains of the shells of these tiny organisms accumulate at the bottom of the sea and through geological processes are turned into limestone. Carbon in limestone, coal or oil may remain stored for millions of years, but may ultimately also be transformed again into CO<sub>2</sub> and return to the atmosphere when they are exposed to air or are mined and burned by humans. So as carbon changes its form it also "travels": from the atmosphere to organisms on earth or in the sea, back into the atmosphere or temporarily to geological deposits underground. This transformation of carbon into one form and then back to the original form is called the carbon cycle.



We are already feeling some of the impacts of climate change:

The patterns of rainfall, snow and hail have been observed to have changed. Some parts of the world are experiencing more rain than they used to, and it rains more heavily when it does, while other parts of the world are experiencing less.

- Extreme weather events such as stronger storms, droughts, heat waves, and rains are happening more often.
- The snow covers of very high mountains are now much less than they used to be and glaciers are melting very quickly.
- Many island nations are in great danger because the sea level is rising. The sea level rises when the ice at the earth's poles melts as the temperature gets warmer.
- Coral reefs in the oceans are bleaching because of the warming of the ocean and the increase in acid in the sea water.



## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RAPID INCREASE OF GREENHOUSE GASES?

Most of the greenhouse gases that are in the atmosphere come from the burning of fossil fuels for energy and from industrial processes such as petroleum refining and cement manufacturing. When people started using machines some 250 years ago, they started burning a lot of fossil fuels for their factories and farms. People started building cities and using cars and other machines that require fossil fuels for energy. This time was called the Industrial Revolution, and it began in Great Britain and spread through regions of Europe and to the United States. Today, these countries are called the "Industrialized Nations" and include some countries in Asia and in the Pacific Rim as well.

It is now clear that it is the developed countries in North America, Europe and Australia who are historically responsible for emitting most of these greenhouse gases with their energy-dependent and wasteful lifestyles and economies dependent on burning fossil fuels. However, the impacts of climate change are felt first in delicate and vulnerable environments, in small islands and in



countries and the traditional territories of indigenous peoples who have not contributed very much to emitting these gases in the past. The people who cannot afford to travel in cars and planes, do not have heating or air conditioning in their homes but have sustainable ways of life and practices are the same people who are suffering first from climate change.



## SO WHAT IF THE CLIMATE CHANGES? WHY ARE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AFFECTED MOST?

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples have lived in close relationship with their lands and with nature. The plants and animals in their territories are the sources of their food, medicines, and livelihoods. Their waters and lands are not only useful for them, but they also hold them sacred. Many indigenous peoples still live a way of life where they produce and harvest what they need, but also ensure that their natural resources will be there for their

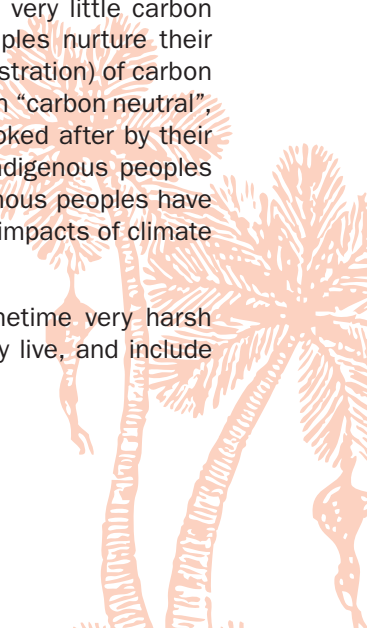
children and future generations. This is what today is called sustainable use of resources.

It is because of this close relationship with and dependence on the natural environment that the impact of climate change is more severe for indigenous peoples than for other people. Even with a low level of warming, the effects of climate change will directly affect their lives. For example, an increase in global temperature of just one degree Celsius will bring about changes in how plants grow in the forests and how fish breed in the seas. With an increase of two degree Celsius, many plants and animals will disappear and be replaced by others, and most corals will die. Imagine what will happen if it becomes even warmer. More and more people will be affected by flooding, drought, increase of diseases, extreme weather events and species extinction.



Indigenous peoples living a traditional way of life are not using much external inputs in the form of machines, fuel, fertilizers and other industrial products. They produce much of what they need themselves, and do not consume a lot. This means that their ways of life emit very little carbon or other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. And because indigenous peoples nurture their environment and use resources sustainably, they enhance the capturing (or sequestration) of carbon in the natural world. In the words of scientists, their way of life is in many cases even “carbon neutral”, which means: whatever carbon they emit is again taken up by the vegetation looked after by their resource management practices. Through their sustainable use of resources, indigenous peoples have also preserved the biodiversity of their territories. However, although indigenous peoples have contributed the least to climate change, it is in their lands and territories that the impacts of climate change are being felt most.

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples have thrived in very diverse, sometime very harsh environments. Their livelihoods are as diverse as the environments in which they live, and include among others:





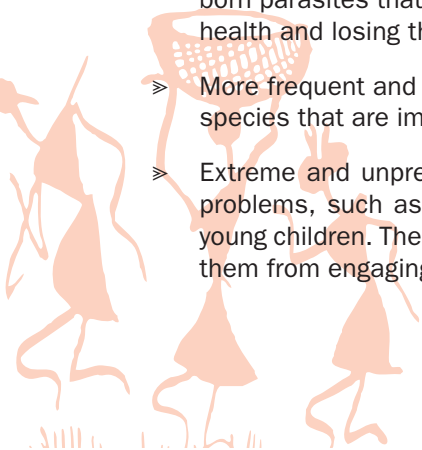
- Hunting and fishing in the arctic and sub-arctic;
- Hunting, gathering, shifting cultivation and many other forms of agriculture in tropical and sub-tropical, temperate and boreal forests;
- Pastoralism (keeping domesticated animals like goats, cattle, camels, etc.) or from hunting and gathering in dry and sub-humid environments like savannahs and deserts;
- Pastoralism and agriculture in high mountains;
- Fishing and agriculture in coastal and low-lying areas, small islands, swamps and mangrove environments.



## HOW EXACTLY WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

Climate change is going to or has already started to affect indigenous peoples in almost all aspects of their lives:

- Massive floods, strong hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons and storms lead to the destruction of infrastructure (houses, bridges, roads, power grid, etc.), of agricultural lands, crops, livestock, forests, marine and coastal resources leading to reduction of income and food shortage. Recent examples are the massive landslides in the Cordillera in the Philippines or the floods in South India
- They also cause loss of freshwater supplies and the increase of micro-organisms and water-born parasites that make us sick. Indigenous women and children are most at risk of weakening health and losing their lives.
- More frequent and prolonged droughts and floods cause the disappearance of plant and animal species that are important food sources or are essential to indigenous peoples' ceremonial life.
- Extreme and unprecedented cold spells and prolonged rain and humidity can result in health problems, such as hypothermia, bronchitis and pneumonia, especially among old people and young children. The burden of caring for sick family members is usually on women, which prevents them from engaging in socio-political opportunities or attending to their personal development.





- Dropping water levels, prolonged droughts, the resulting desertification or saltwater intrusion in coastal areas lead to loss of farm land and therefore more hunger and impoverishment. Water and food insecurity is getting worse. As water collectors, indigenous women face inevitable conflicts over scarce water resources.
- Aside from agriculture, many other traditional occupations like hunting and gathering, pastoralism, fishing, gathering of wild plants are undermined because of climate change.
- Adverse impacts on traditional livelihoods and the environments in which they are practiced will also mean loss of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with these livelihoods and environments. The capacity of women to perform their roles as seed-keepers and transmitters of culture and language, among others, are undermined.
- Loss of sources of income and economic opportunities in their territories and along with this the loss of traditional cultural practices associated with them are expected to severely weaken indigenous communities. As a result, many more of them will leave their communities to seek economic opportunities elsewhere. The outmigration of indigenous youth and male heads of families further limits their opportunities and capacity to cope with the effects of climate change. It will lead to erosions of indigenous economies and to loss of cultures. And it is the women who will bear the brunt of the responsibility of sustaining the families.
- An increasing number of indigenous will end up as environmental refugees because the lands have gone underwater or have been destroyed by landslides.





## WHAT HAVE OUR GOVERNMENTS DONE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Our governments are part of an international agreement signed by almost all countries in the world to respond to climate change. This agreement is called the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been in force since 1994.



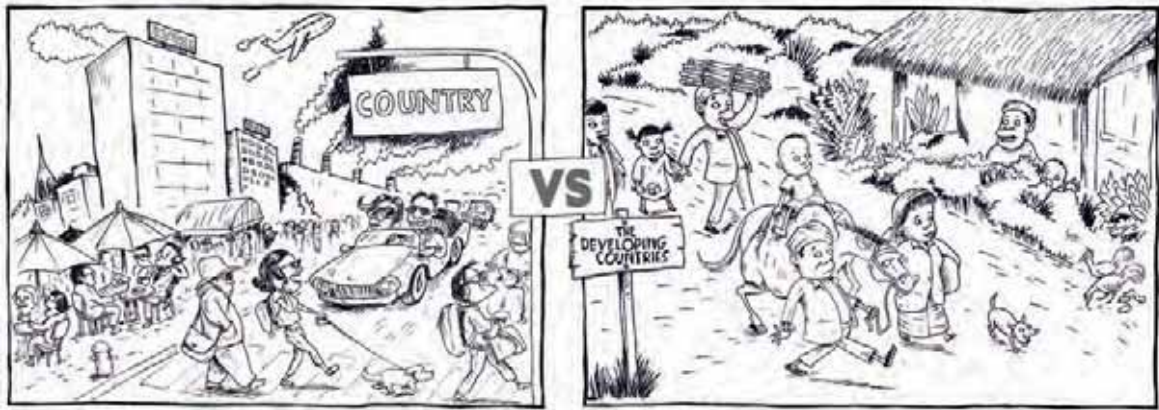
However, with the realization that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise around the world, the countries that signed the UNFCCC (officially called 'Parties' to the UNFCCC) began negotiations with the purpose of coming up with a "firm and binding commitment by developed countries to reduce emissions." Since the negotiations took place in Kyoto in Japan, the agreement reached is called the Kyoto Protocol. For the period between 2008 and 2012, the Kyoto Protocol sets targets for industrialized countries to reduce their pollution. It also gives them flexibility to do that, which means it allows them to reach these targets in different ways. The industrialized (also called "developed") countries who have pledged and are now obliged to reach these targets are listed in the Annex 1 of the Kyoto Protocol, and in the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol they are therefore referred to as "Annex 1 Parties".



### THE ANNEX I PARTIES

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MONACO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, ADDITIONALLY, THE EUROPEAN UNION





A much heavier burden to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has been placed on industrialized countries since it is considered only fair to require more emission reductions from them because they can afford to pay the cost of cutting emissions, and because they have historically contributed more to greenhouse gas emissions than developing countries. This is called the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities.”

It is important to know though that the targets set under the Kyoto Protocol are not high enough to seriously stop climate change and further commitments after 2012 will need to reach for far higher targets.



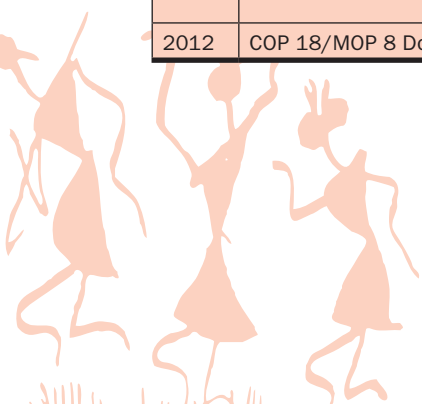
## COP AND THE BALI ACTION PLAN

THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OR COP OF THE UNFCCC MEETS EVERY YEAR TO REVIEW THE CONVENTION'S PROGRESS. IN 2007, AT ITS 13TH SESSION IN BALI, INDONESIA, THE COP CAME UP WITH THE BALI ACTION PLAN. IT WAS TO IDENTIFY THE STEPS THAT GOVERNMENTS NEED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AFTER 2012. REMEMBER THAT THE KYOTO PROTOCOL COMMITMENT PERIOD IS FROM 2008 TO 2012. WHAT IS ALSO IN THE PLAN THAT IS OF INTEREST TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IS THE INCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS ON MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS IS AN INITIATIVE THAT YOU WILL GET TO KNOW LATER IN THIS BOOKLET, AS REDD.





<b>Main Outcomes of the Conferences of the Parties of the UNFCCC</b>		
The member countries of the UNFCCC, called "parties", have their annual meetings, which are called Conferences of the Parties (COP). Since 2005 the COP are held in combination with the Meetings of Parties of the Kyoto Protocol (MOP). UNFCCC parties who are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol can participate in the MOP as observers.		
1995	COP 1, Berlin, Germany	First meeting of the COP
1996	COP 2 Geneva, Switzerland	Call for "legally binding mid-term targets"
1997	COP 3 Kyoto	The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change
1998	COP 4 Buenos Aires, Argentina	2-year "Plan of Action" to advance efforts and to devise mechanisms for implementing the Kyoto Protocol
1999	COP 5 Bonn, Germany	No major decisions taken
2000	COP 6 The Hague, Netherlands	Controversy over the United States' proposal to allow credit for carbon sinks in forests and agricultural lands
2001	COP 6 Bonn, Germany	Agreement includes a provision on carbon sinks: that credits can be granted for activities that absorb carbon or store it, including management of forest and agricultural land, and re-vegetation (re-forestation)  Agreement to establish three new funds: 1. A fund for climate change that supports a series of climate measures; 2. a least-developed-country fund to support National Adaptation Programs of Action; and 3. a Kyoto Protocol adaptation fund supported by a CDM levy and voluntary contributions.
2001	COP 7 Marrakesh, Morocco	Marrakesh Accords: decisions on the operational details needed for ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by states, including decision on the rules for international emissions trading  Establishment of the Adaptation Fund
2002	COP 8 New Delhi, India	Delhi Ministerial Declaration: calls for efforts by developed countries to transfer technology and minimize the impact of climate change on developing countries
2003	COP 9 Milan, Italy	Agreement to use the Adaptation Fund mainly for supporting developing countries to better adapt to climate change, and for capacity-building through technology transfer
2004	COP 10 Buenos Aires, Argentina	Buenos Aires Plan of Action to promote better adaptation to climate change in developing countries
2005	COP 11/MOP 1 Montreal, Canada	First meeting of the MOP; the Kyoto Protocol came into force  Montreal Action Plan: agreement to extend the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012 and to negotiate more cuts in greenhouse-gas emissions
2006	COP 12/MOP 2 Nairobi, Kenya	Adoption of a five-year work plan to support climate change adaptation by developing countries, and agreement on the procedures and modalities for the Adaptation Fund
2007	COP 13/MOP 3 Bali, Indonesia	The Bali Action Plan: decision to broaden REDD to include conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks"  Establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA
2008	COP 14/MOP 4 Pozna , Poland	Approved a mechanism to incorporate forest protection into the efforts of the to combat climate change, i.e. to broaden REDD (referred to as REDD+)
2009	COP 15/MOP 5 Copenhagen, Denmark	Aimed but failed to achieve a binding global climate agreement beyond 2012 (the expiry date of the Kyoto Protocol)
2010	COP 16/MOP 6 Cancún, Mexico	Agreement to establish a large "Green Climate Fund"  Draft decision on REDD, which recognizes the rights of and provides for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD
2011	COP 17/MOP 7 Durban, South Africa	Creation of the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action for negotiating a new, legally binding global agreement on climate change by 2015, which should come into effect in 2020.
2012	COP 18/MOP 8 Doha, Qatar	Will take place from 26 November to 7 December 2012





## WHY ARE THE CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS NOT PROGRESSING?

The problem of global warming is largely a result of the decades of industrialization activities of the rich countries which emitted huge amounts of carbon and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Around 75% of global carbon emissions had been caused by the developed countries (the “Annex 1 Countries” of the Kyoto Protocol). These countries therefore have the responsibility to take drastic measures to cut back their level of carbon emissions, and they also have the responsibility to provide the needed support and assistance to other countries that are suffering from the adverse impacts of climate change. This is referred to as the historical debt of industrialized countries to the rest of the world.

### The key contentious issues



At present, there are three tracks of global negotiations for international agreements on climate change. The first is the **Kyoto Protocol (KP)**, in which developed countries (except US) have made commitments to cut their emissions by 5.2 % by 2012 as compared to the level of emissions in 1990. This is an internationally legally binding agreement. The problem is that scientists agree that developed countries need to make emission cuts of at least 25 to 40% by 2020 if we want to prevent the global temperature to rise more than 2° C and the catastrophic consequences this would have. Therefore, during the COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009 a second commitment under the Kyoto protocol was negotiated, which however was not realized. Developed countries are so far committing only to insufficient cuts of 11-18 %, including the US. At the negotiations during the COP 15 developing countries (the Group of 77 developing countries, or G-77, and China) demanded a 40% cut so that they will not have to reduce too much themselves and therefore have some space to develop their own economies and meet the needs of their much bigger populations. At the UNFCCC meeting in Durban in 2011 the Kyoto Protocol has been extended to 2017. But Canada decided to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol, and Japan and Russia also expressed their intention not to be part of any extension of the protocol.



Another problem is that developed countries want to achieve emission reductions through carbon offsets (i.e. compensation of carbon emissions, which we will explain in detail a little later) done abroad, and not only from carbon reduction measures at home. While refusing to commit to drastic emission cuts in their own countries, they are at the same time demanding legally binding commitments for heavy reductions from big countries such as China, India and Brazil. Due to this unforthcoming position of developed countries the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol have not advanced as needed and no second commitment was made.



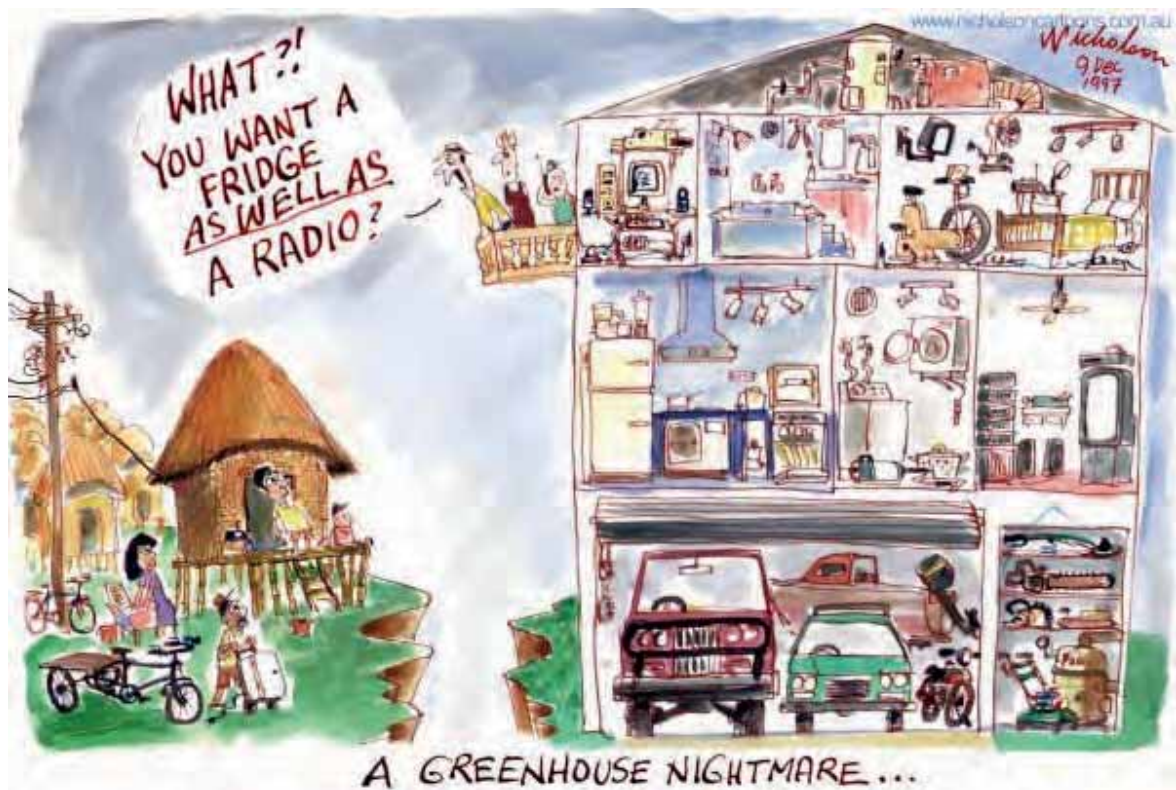
**COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES**

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL DEBT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE PRINCIPLE FOR THE GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS CALLED "COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES". THIS MEANS THAT ALL COUNTRIES MUST TAKE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF CLIMATE CHANGE AS A COMMON ISSUE, BUT INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES MUST TAKE THE BIGGER BURDEN BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAUSING GLOBAL WARMING, THEIR LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, WEALTH AND CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.





The second track of negotiations is under the **Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)**. This is a follow-up to the Bali Action Plan agreed on at the COP 13 in Bali in 2007. The AWG-LCA is a body of the UNFCCC established to ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change through long-term cooperative action, i.e. beyond 2012. Under the LCA, developed countries must provide funds and commit to technology transfer to allow for effective measures for developing countries to cope with the impacts of climate change. This is again part of the historical debt of developed countries to developing countries. However, developing countries are again making low commitments for the so-called mitigation and adaptation funds. The United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs report states that 500 to 600 billion US\$ are required by developing countries for mitigation and adaptation. However, developed countries especially the EU estimated that only 100 billion are needed and is proposing that funding should be sourced out as 20-40 % from developed countries, 40% from carbon market and 20-40 % as self finance of developing countries. For developing countries (G-77 and China) this is unacceptable, especially since they also need resources for sustainable development while at the same time addressing the impacts of climate change.



Furthermore, developing countries are proposing that the funds for mitigation and adaptation are managed under the Conference of Parties (COP), ensuring the equal rights of states. Developed countries however prefer to have this under the World Bank, which is again controlled by developed countries. At the COP 16 of 2011 in Cancun, Mexico, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** was officially created as a mechanism for transferring money from the developed to the developing countries to assist them in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The Green Climate Fund Board is in charge of governing the GCF, and the World Bank was chosen as the temporary trustee, but the Green Climate Fund Board among others has been given the task to select the permanent trustee of the GCF through an open and transparent procedure.

Finally, another contentious issue is the transfer of environment-friendly technologies by the developed countries to developing countries in order to help them meet their reduction targets while still being able to continue developing their economies. Developed countries are however reluctant and point at the need to protect intellectual property rights. Developing countries are therefore demanding exemptions to intellectual property rights in climate friendly technology and that a technology pool is established for the needs of developing countries.



The third track of negotiations is happening under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. This is a new body created at the UNFCCC's COP17 in Durban in 2011. Most likely, the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action will be merged into it. The Durban Platform was agreed on by over 190 nations and is supposed to negotiate a new, legally binding global agreement by 2015. This new agreement should come into effect in 2020. While it does represent a step forward, scientists however pointed out that the agreement will not affect emission levels before 2020 and that the decision on further emission reductions was postponed. It is estimated that the current reduction proposals are insufficient to limit temperature increase to 2°C global, and that without further reductions global warming would reach about 3.5°C by 2100.

**In sum, the negotiations for a new global climate change agreement are not only technically complex but also very political, especially due to the economic interests of governments and big companies. It is critically important that these interests are overruled by the notions of historical debt, social justice and recognition of rights and that they continue to underpin any agreement on climate change in order to find real solutions to this global problem and to achieve sustainable development for all.**

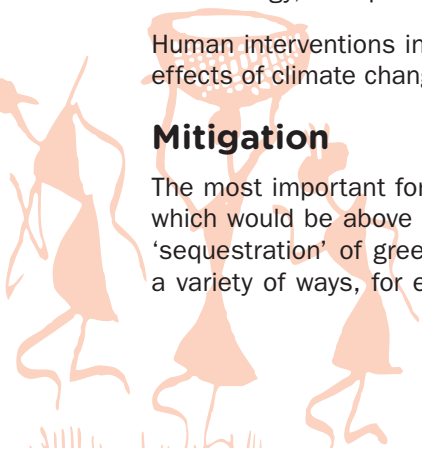
## WHAT EXACTLY IS BEING DONE NOW TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

There are different ways for people to deal with the impacts of climate change. All the human actions to reduce emissions or increase the uptake of carbon dioxide by vegetation are called Mitigation. Examples of **mitigation** measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include increasing automobile efficiency, increasing access to and use of public transportation, replacing fossil fuels with wind or solar energy, or improving the insulation of buildings, among others.

Human interventions intended to provide help to communities, peoples or nations dealing with the effects of climate change that are already happening are called **adaptation**.

### Mitigation

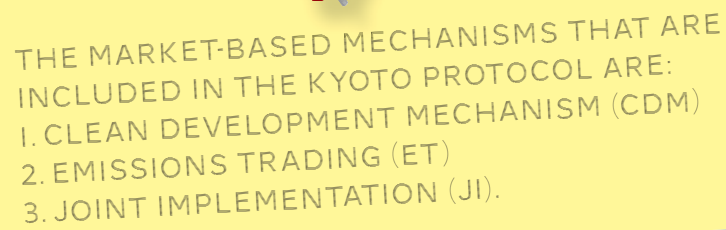
The most important form of mitigation is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases at source – which would be above all in the industrialized countries. The opposite approach is to increase the 'sequestration' of greenhouse gases, which means the absorption or trapping of these gases in a variety of ways, for example through plant growth. Since plants absorb carbon dioxide from the





atmosphere as they grow, there is a lot of carbon that is “sinking” into vegetation. Therefore, forests, savannas or the algae in the sea are called “carbon sinks”.

In the Kyoto Protocol, governments gave themselves several options to reduce their emissions. In addition to reducing them at home, they introduced several other ways to reduce emissions that they called “market-based mitigation mechanisms”. These mechanisms are called “market-based” because they work like a trading or market system. Remember that developed countries were given a concrete target for the reduction of greenhouse gases. As carbon dioxide is the main problem, these targets are limits to the amount of carbon dioxide that developed countries can release into the air. When a country lowers their emissions more than they need to (more than the target) they have spare emissions (carbon permits) that they are allowed to sell to other countries that have used up their quota. These carbon permits can then be sold to those who are not able to reach their target. In reality it is all much more complicated, and there are also possibilities to pay someone else in a country where there are no limits on the emissions to reduce theirs and allow an industrialized country to emit more, but what we have explained is the basic principle of the “market-based mitigation mechanism”.

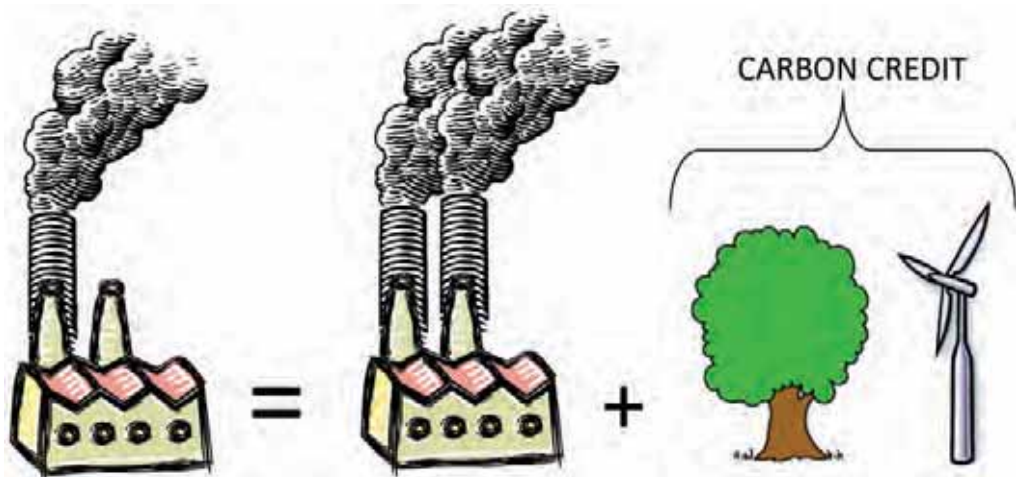


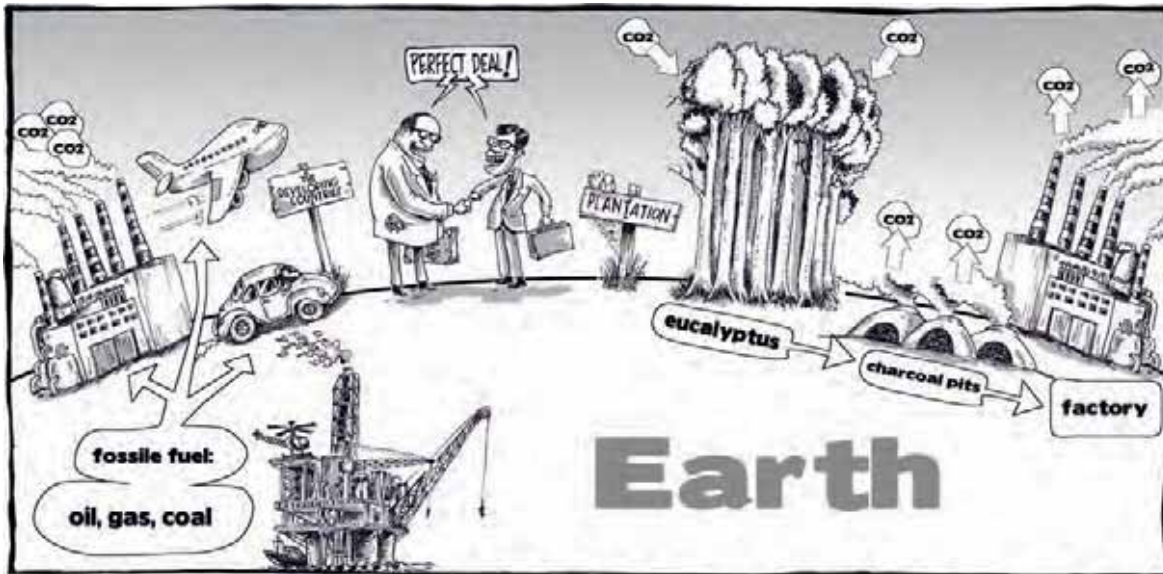
THE MARKET-BASED MECHANISMS THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THE KYOTO PROTOCOL ARE:  
1. CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM)  
2. EMISSIONS TRADING (ET)  
3. JOINT IMPLEMENTATION (JI).

Market mechanisms are also proposed to be included in the financial arrangements to pay for REDD, but this is not yet agreed between governments. Use of market mechanisms at the moment is voluntary. For more information on what “market mechanisms” might be included in future agreements and what their implications are please see pages 41-44 in this booklet.

These market mechanisms are supposed to lower the costs of achieving emissions targets. The CDM allows developed countries to invest money in projects in developing countries which are expected to lower the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. These include projects such as oil palm plantations for the production of bio-fuels (fuel produced from palm oil replacing the use of normal fuel), renewable energy production (reducing the amount of energy produced by power plants burning oil or coal), or projects that create or enhance carbon sinks, like through afforestation or reforestation.

The carbon emission that is claimed to be reduced or the carbon sink produced are measured and for that “carbon credits” are given to the country financing these projects. Similarly, through Joint Implementation developed countries can receive credit for investing in projects in other developed countries. And all the carbon credits gained through these two mechanisms can be traded by the developed nations among themselves.





Of course, the best way to mitigate climate change is to change the unsustainable production and consumption which are still the prevalent system in this world. The best mitigation measures involve changing lifestyles, individually and collectively, and to change the course of development towards a sustainable and low-carbon system of production and consumption.

It is crucial for indigenous peoples to fully understand these market-based mechanisms. Equipped with adequate information, they can evaluate the risks and opportunities which will allow them to make their own decisions on whether to engage with the emissions market or not. The “checklist for communities” on pages 101-103 includes some of the questions indigenous communities should think about if a carbon trading project is proposed near or within their lands, territory or resources.

## Adaptation

Mitigation is one of the main concerns of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Adaptation is the other. Adaptation is about finding ways to lessen the impacts of climate change to humans and to the environment. People have long since been able to cope with the impacts of extreme weather and changing climate. But it has now been recognized that in order to meet the challenges of the presently ongoing climate change additional adaptation measures will be required.

The capacity of human societies to adapt is called adaptive capacity. Adaptive capacity is not evenly distributed across the different regions of the world, or within a particular population. People or societies with low adaptive capacities are more vulnerable to climate change than others. At the same time, the impact of climate change is also expected to be uneven, with some regions being more affected than others. So the actual vulnerability of a people or a society is the result of the combination of the expected magnitude of the impact of climate change in the particular region, and the adaptive capacity they have. Vulnerability to climate change can be aggravated by factors like poverty and food insecurity, lack of access to resources, conflicts, diseases and economic globalisation that increased dependence on fluctuating markets. What all this means is that poor and marginalized people are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than the wealthy and powerful. The developed countries, which are also located in regions which will be less severely affected by climate change, also have more financial resources than poor countries in high-risk regions to pay for all the adaptation measure needed. And poor people, who are already struggling just to survive, hardly have the capacity to adjust to changes. It is therefore now widely recognized that successful poverty reduction programmes are crucial for reducing vulnerability to climate change.

The crucial question of course remains how the knowledge and resources needed for successful adaptation can be made accessible to those who need it. The UNFCCC has estimated that by 2030 poor countries would need between \$28 billion and \$59 billion a year for climate change adaptation.



The UNFCCC has set up various funds: the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund. The Adaptation Fund is supposed to be financed by a kind of tax on the Clean Development Mechanism. The other two funds are multilateral funds managed by the Global Environment Facility, which is the UNFCCC's financial mechanism. But not enough money is provided to these funds, and it has been estimated that it still covers less than five percent of the estimated funding required. Furthermore, because the whole set-up with all the various funds is so complex it is difficult to monitor where the money is actually going. Due to the economic crisis industrialized countries are already reluctant to pay, and they furthermore point at the problem of corruption and lack of transparency and efficiency of using funds in many developing countries.

Indigenous peoples have an incredible capacity to adapt. They often live in extremely difficult environments like deserts, high mountains or the arctic, and have been able to adapt to changes in their physical environments (by growing many different crops and crop varieties, relocating fields, changing hunting strategies, plant gathering, and fishing techniques) but also the social environment (like new trading opportunities or access to education and employment). They are already responding to climate change with their own innovative adaptation measures, based on their traditional knowledge. But with the increasing alienation of their land and resources, poverty and ongoing denial of self-determination the adaptive capacity of many indigenous communities has also been severely weakened.





### WHY SHOULD MITIGATION MEASURES BE A CONCERN FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

Sometimes the solutions that the industrialized countries are proposing may actually not be very good, at least not good for everyone. An example is the proposal to produce more bio-fuel, often also referred to as agro-fuel, so that less fossil fuel is used. However, to be economically profitable, large areas of land are needed for such plantations, and for that forests in tropical countries where indigenous peoples live are cut down on a large scale.



These plantations do produce bio-fuels such as ethanol (from sugarcane) or bio-diesel (from oil palm and the *jathropa* plant), and in this sense are replacing conventional fossil fuel.

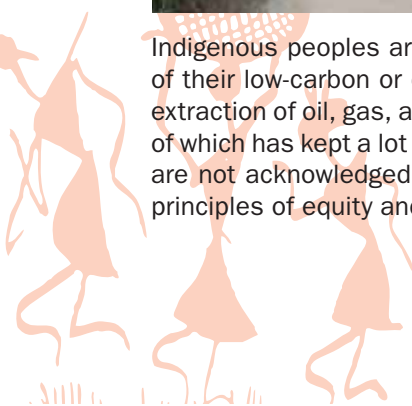


However, the destruction of forests for these plantations, developing the land, using fertilizers and pesticides, transporting and processing the raw materials lead to the releases of enormous amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. So these plantations end up emitting far more carbon than what they save through the production of bio-fuel. And indigenous peoples and other communities living in these forests are often displaced by such projects.

Climate change mitigation is not only an issue of cutting down greenhouse gas emissions but also an issue of equity, social justice, human rights and sustainability. How will the world share the burden of decreasing greenhouse gas emissions? Who should be compensated for what? How will such measures affect the rights to water, food, shelter and health? These questions need to be asked when climate change mitigation measures are proposed.



Indigenous peoples are not contributing to increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions because of their low-carbon or even carbon-neutral ways of life. Furthermore, they have struggled to prevent extraction of oil, gas, and minerals from their territories and keep on fighting against deforestation, all of which has kept a lot of carbon under the ground and in the trees. Unfortunately, these contributions are not acknowledged and accounted for in the carbon market. Therefore, also in this respect the principles of equity and sustainability are not really respected.





It is bad enough that there are no mechanisms to recognize, account for and integrate indigenous peoples' contributions to mitigation. But what is worst is the fact that some mitigation measures have led to the violation of indigenous peoples' basic human rights. Some of the negative impacts of mitigation measures to indigenous peoples include violation of the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources, criminalisation of traditional livelihood practices like shifting cultivation, or an increase in food prices resulting in more food insecurity. An example for this has been described above: when indigenous peoples' lands are forcefully taken from them in order to be converted to plantations.

The inclusion of REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) as a mitigating measure for climate change presents both threats and opportunities for indigenous peoples. While REDD, which will be part of the post 2012 climate agreement, may provide some financial and other opportunities for indigenous peoples who live and depend on forests, the concept and manner in which it is being shaped and implemented pose some problems which have to be addressed. Indigenous peoples fear that they will be excluded once more from their forests as what has happened in the establishment of Forest Protected Areas in the past. If their forests are designated as carbon forests and are used for emissions trading, there is a great possibility that they will be prevented from practicing their own traditional forest management practices and to use their forests for ceremonial purposes, shifting cultivation, as sources of timber and non-timber forest products and medicines, and other agro-forestry activities. You will read all about this and other discussion on REDD in the next section of this booklet.



## The Anchorage Declaration

From April 20 – 24, 2009, indigenous representatives from all over the world gathered in Anchorage, Alaska to exchange their knowledge and experience in adapting to the impacts of climate change, and to come up with key messages and recommendations which can be to be expressed when the UNFCCC meets for the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark on December 2009. It was the first time that a meeting on climate change focused entirely on Indigenous Peoples ever happened.

In this meeting, indigenous representatives came up with the Anchorage Declaration which challenged states to “abandon false solutions to climate change that negatively impact Indigenous Peoples’ rights, lands, air, oceans, forests, territories and waters. These include nuclear energy, large-scale dams, geo-engineering techniques, ‘clean coal,’ agro-fuels, plantations, and market based mechanisms such as carbon trading, the Clean Development Mechanism, and forest offsets.” They also called for the “... human rights of Indigenous Peoples to protect our forests and forest livelihoods ... [to] ... be recognized, respected and ensured.





# Part II: What is REDD+?



## WHY ARE FORESTS IMPORTANT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Trees are much more important than most people realize. Following are a few examples of the role and importance of forests and trees in the environment.

### Maintaining the carbon and oxygen balance

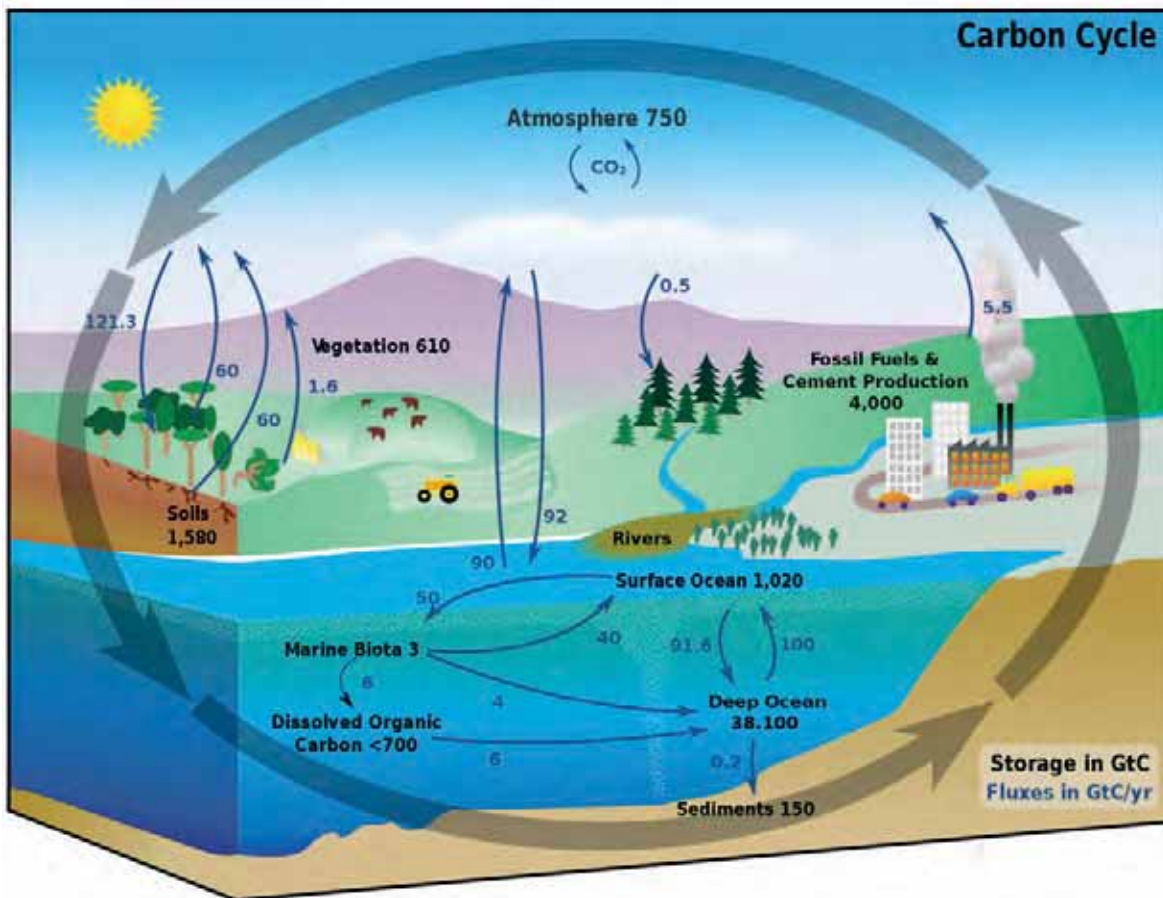
Animals, including human beings, must inhale oxygen to live. When they exhale, they give out carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the air. All vehicles, such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc., also produce carbon dioxide (far more than animals and humans). Many nations

depend on electricity which is produced by huge generators powered by diesel or other petroleum fuels and all of these produce carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and so if the huge amounts of carbon dioxide being emitted are not recycled, the earth will begin to warm and cause massive and terrible changes to the weather, climate and livelihoods.



Plants, especially trees, breathe in carbon dioxide and then separate the carbon and use it for creating stems, leaves, roots and trunks. When the carbon is absorbed and used by plants for growth, what is left of the carbon dioxide is oxygen. The trees also use some of it for building their own leaves and fruits, but most of the oxygen is released back into the air. If there is a good balance between the amount of carbon dioxide produced and the number of trees and other plants recycling it, then the atmosphere will be balanced and everything will be fine.





However, if the production of carbon dioxide increases without increasing the number of trees, of course, there will be an imbalance and the carbon dioxide in the air will increase.

If the carbon dioxide production remains steady but the number of trees is reduced there will also be an imbalance and the carbon dioxide in the air will increase.

The problem today is that both things are happening at the same time. The amount of carbon dioxide being produced has increased greatly and the forests have been cut down extensively. That means that there is a very great imbalance. The excess carbon dioxide is gathering in the air above the earth and, since it is a GHG, it is preventing the heat from escaping. As we know already, the result is that the earth is already getting warmer.

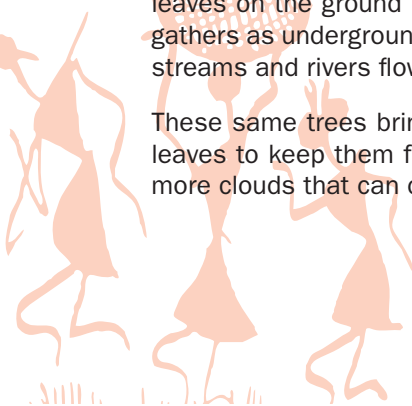
### Maintaining the water cycle

When the sun shines on the oceans and lakes, it evaporates some of the water which gathers in the cool air above the earth and form clouds. When the clouds are cooled, the water falls as rain.

When rain falls on barren slopes, it disturbs the soil. When the rain is heavy, the disturbed soil flows with the water to the streams and rivers and into the lakes and oceans. This is called soil erosion. Due to soil erosion, less soil remains and the fertility of the remaining soil is also damaged. This results in fewer plants growing in that soil.

When rain falls on forested slopes the leaves prevent the rain from disturbing the soil. The rotting leaves on the ground make a sponge which soaks up the water and sips it into the earth where it gathers as underground rivers called 'aquifers'. This water comes out slowly in springs and keeps the streams and rivers flowing even during the times when there is no rain.

These same trees bring up some of the water from the aquifers and let it evaporate through their leaves to keep them from getting too dry. The water that evaporates gathers in the air and makes more clouds that can carry the water to other places further inland from the oceans and lakes.





If the trees are removed from the mountains, the land further inland will have fewer clouds and lesser rain. If too many of the trees are removed, they may have no rain at all.

If there are no clouds and no rain, the lands far from the ocean will become warmer. They may become so warm and dry that they will no longer be able to produce food crops. This has already happened in several places.



## What is the water cycle?

What we call the water cycle, is the continuous movement of water on, above and below the surface of the Earth. During its journey through the cycle water can change from liquid to vapour, to snow or ice depending on where on Earth or in the atmosphere it is. Although the amount of water on Earth remains more or less the same over time, water continually moves back and forth between the Earth and the atmosphere. The water moves from one reservoir to another: from rivers to oceans, from the oceans to the atmosphere when it evaporates.

When water changes its stage heat energy is exchanged, which leads to changes in the temperature of the area. For instance, when liquid water evaporates water takes up energy and the surrounding environment is cooled. Conversely, when water vapour condensates, it releases energy to its surroundings, so it is warming the environment.

The water cycle is important for the maintenance of life and ecosystems on Earth. Even as water in each reservoir plays an important role, the movement of water through the cycle has additional benefits. When water is transferred from one reservoir to another, the water is purified, freshwater on land is replenished, and minerals which are important nutrients for plants are transported to different parts of the Earth. It also changes the geological features of the Earth, through such processes as erosion and sedimentation. In addition, as the water cycle involves heat exchange, it has an influence on climate as well.



## What is the nitrogen cycle?

The nitrogen cycle is the process by which nitrogen is converted between its various chemical forms. This transformation can be carried out via both biological and non-biological processes.

The majority of Earth's atmosphere (approximately 78%) is nitrogen. Nitrogen in the air must be processed, or "fixed", to be used by plants. Nitrogen fixation can occur when lightning strikes, but most is done by bacteria. Aside from nitrogen fixation, nitrogen changes its chemical form in other ways (through mineralization, nitrification, and denitrification).

The nitrogen cycle is important because the availability of nitrogen, like other key nutrients, can affect the rate of plant growth and many other important ecosystem processes.

Through burning of fossil fuels, artificial nitrogen fertilizers, and release of nitrogen in wastewater have an enormous impact on the Earth's nitrogen cycle.

### Maintaining the nitrogen cycle

The air contains a very large amount of nitrogen, close to 80%. Nitrogen is needed by all animals because it is necessary for the production of proteins. But plants and animals are not able to absorb the nitrogen directly from the air.

The bacteria that live on the roots of many trees and other leguminous plants are able to take nitrogen from the air and mix it with water from the soil to manufacture various nitrates and other chemicals containing nitrogen that can be used by plants. They feed it to the plants in exchange for sugar from the plants. These are called Nitrogen Fixing Bacteria (NFB). Usually, they live in nodules on the roots but sometimes they just gather on the roots without nodules.

The plants then use these nitrogen containing chemicals to make plant proteins which are food for animals. The animals use the plant proteins to make meat, flesh and muscles. The animals, however, do not use all of the nitrogen from their food. Some of it they remove as urine on the ground and it becomes fertilizer to make more plant proteins.



Many plants have NFB but many don't. All plants, however, benefit from the nitrogen that comes from the urine and from rotting plant and animal materials that contain nitrogen.

The trees, of course, are the biggest plants and do much of the work of keeping nitrogen available for animal life. Without trees and NFB, the nitrogen might just gather in the atmosphere and stay there.



Often, the nitrogen in the atmosphere is attached to oxygen ( $NxO$ ). This is even worse than Carbon Dioxide in preventing the heat from escaping from the earth. It is a powerful GHG and makes the earth warmer.

### **Maintaining the methane balance**

When plant material rots in the water it produces methane ( $CH_4$ ). This is also much worse than carbon dioxide in preventing heat from escaping from the earth's atmosphere. It is another very powerful GHG.



Forests help in keeping the water moving and gather in the aquifers rather than in ponds so that less methane is produced.

Much of the methane is produced by cattle that are kept and fed in small pastures. If the cattle were allowed to graze in wider fields and within forests, less methane would be produced.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FORESTS ARE CUT?**

A lot of carbon is locked into forests. Much of the carbon is in the wood of the trees. If a tree dies, some of it rots and becomes carbon dioxide gas but much of its carbon goes into the soil. The carbon dioxide that is produced by the rotting wood is used immediately by the new trees that grow to take its place.

When a tree is cut, new trees grow to take its place. Its wood is removed and used for houses or furniture so it does not become carbon dioxide unless it is burned. The new trees continue to capture the carbon dioxide of the atmosphere so it does not affect the atmosphere.

The soil in a forest contains a lot of carbon also. The leaves and branches that fall will rot. Some of the carbon will be released as carbon dioxide gas but much of it remains in the soil. As the forest becomes older, more and more carbon is stored in the soil. Together with the carbon locked in the roots, trunks, branches and leaves, the carbon in the soil helps in keeping the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere balanced. In an old forest, carbon dioxide and other gases are constantly being absorbed and released, and overall, a balance is maintained.

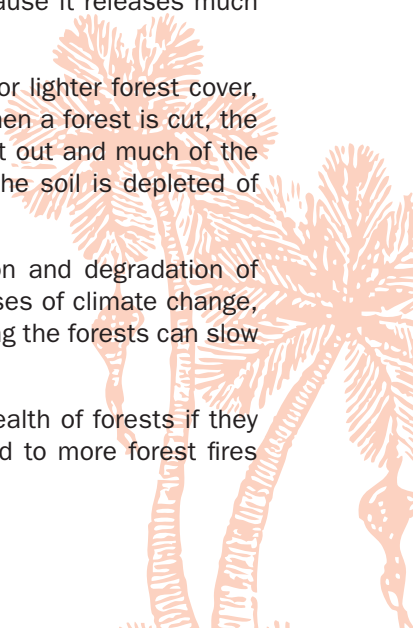
Forests are one of the biggest storehouses of carbon. The total carbon stored in the world's forests (which includes carbon in the vegetation above the ground, as well as deadwood, litter and carbon in the soil) is estimated to be 1 trillion tons – which is roughly 50 percent more than the amount found in the atmosphere.

Cutting individual trees is good if the wood (carbon) is used and the carbon in it is locked into houses and furniture. Cutting and just burning an entire forest, however, is bad because it releases much carbon dioxide.

When large-scale logging happens or forests are converted into plantations or lighter forest cover, large amounts of  $CO_2$  are released without enough being absorbed again. When a forest is cut, the sunshine heats up the soil that used to be protected by the forest. It dries it out and much of the carbon that was kept in the soil also evaporates as carbon dioxide. Soon the soil is depleted of carbon and the carbon dioxide in the air is further increased.

About 18% to 25% of the global  $CO_2$  emissions are a result of destruction and degradation of forests. This means that deforestation and forest degradation are major causes of climate change, although not as large as industrial production and energy generation. Protecting the forests can slow down climate change by avoiding large amounts of  $CO_2$  emissions.

Forests also suffer from climate change. Climate change can damage the health of forests if they receive less rain and when temperatures rise. Climate change can also lead to more forest fires





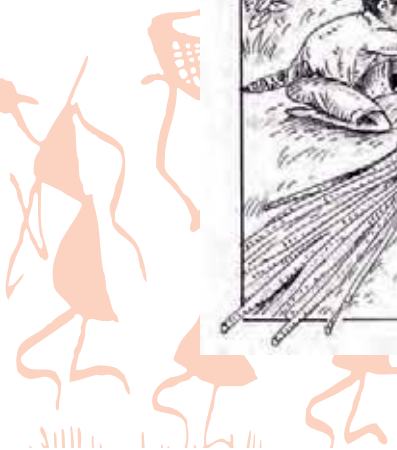
as weather becomes less predictable and more violent. This means that the changing climate can actually make forest destruction worse.

“Degraded forest” refers to an unhealthy, damaged forest with reduced tree cover. Forests might be degraded because of logging, fuel-wood collection, forest fires, or because they have been converted to plantations or agriculture. An unhealthy and damaged forest cannot provide the same amount and quality of ecosystem services on which people all over the world depend on, such as:

- Controlling soil erosion and preventing the expansion of deserts
- Providing clean water and clean air
- Providing food, fibre, medicine, timber and other forest products
- Providing a habitat for wildlife and plants, many of which above all for indigenous peoples are an important basis of livelihoods
- Providing many other important services and roles, including cultural and spiritual services and roles



**BENEFITS OF FOREST**





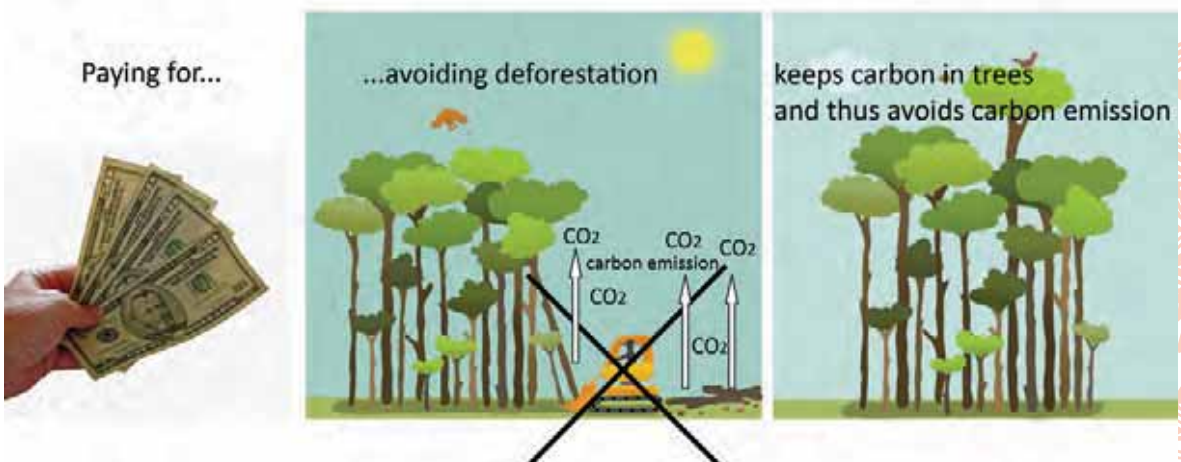
Forests are an important part of ecosystems and landscapes. Continued protection of the earth's forests will enable the earth, the ecosystems, animals and plants, and human beings to adapt and respond better to the changing climate. Large forests, especially in hilly and mountainous areas, help plants and animals to adapt to rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. Over time, they can move up where it is cooler; species better adapted to hotter climates can replace them at lower elevations.

## WHAT DOES “REDD” MEAN?

It has become clear that we need to slow deforestation and forest degradation and maintain healthy forest systems because of the crucial role that forests play in lowering the effects of climate change, the many other important roles they play in our lives, and because their destruction leads to more emissions.

This has led to the idea of “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation”, which means supporting efforts to stop forests being cut down or degraded and thereby reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that is released into the air. At its simplest, this is all that “redd” is about.

However, the idea to reduce emissions from forest use has been adopted by governments and inter-governmental bodies and agencies and has been developed into a more specific idea: that developed countries pay money to developing countries so that policies and projects are implemented to stop forest destruction and degradation. In some – but not all – of these proposals, developed countries are supposed to receive the right to burn a certain amount of fossil fuels and make greenhouse gas emissions in return for providing funding for forest protection. This particular set of policy ideas is known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries – REDD (in capital letters).





## THE BASIC PRINCIPLE

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING ALL PROPOSED REDD MECHANISMS IS: FUNDS ARE PROVIDED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION OR FOREST DEGRADATION.



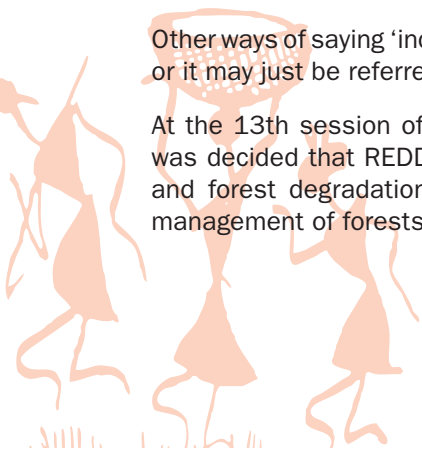
## WHY REDD+ AND WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REDD AND REDD+?

Reducing forest destruction and forest degradation helps to decrease emissions of carbon into the atmosphere. But protecting forests does not only prevent carbon emission, it can also help to remove carbon which is already in the atmosphere. This is called carbon sequestration. The result is an increased carbon stock in forests.

'REDD plus' (usually written REDD+) takes this into account. So since we have the prevention or reduction of carbon emission PLUS carbon sequestration and therefore increased carbon stock 'REDD' become 'REDD plus'.

Other ways of saying 'increased forest carbon stock' are: 'forest regeneration' or 'forest rehabilitation', or it may just be referred to as 'carbon removal'.

At the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 13) in Bali in 2007, it was decided that REDD not only refers to actions aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; but also "the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries."





We find this formulation under Decision 2/CP.13 “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action” in the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its 13th session. With this document, the negotiations on “REDD plus” within the UNFCCC started. At the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) in Poznan, Poland, a consensus was reached to broaden REDD activities accordingly. So keep in mind that nowadays, after the COP 13 in Bali, whenever you hear or read about “REDD”, it is usually referring to “REDD+”.

As we have seen, REDD+ aims at protecting forests not just to preserve the existing carbon stock, but in order to increase it. If we have a damaged or degraded forest, protecting it means that there will be more and larger trees, which in turn means that more carbon will be absorbed. This process is also called ‘increasing the carbon density’ in a forest.

Therefore, REDD+ seeks to maintain a forest area (prevent deforestation), and to maintain and increase the carbon density (prevent forest degradation and allow for forest regeneration or rehabilitation). But as of now, REDD+ does not seek to increase forest areas (which would be through reforestation and afforestation). So far, reforestation and afforestation are part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), but not part of REDD+.

## THE REDD AGREEMENT OF COP 16 IN CANCUN: WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE NOW INCLUDED UNDER REDD?

At the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010, an agreement was reached which includes REDD under the Long Term Cooperative Action on national mitigation actions.

REDD is covered in chapter C in part III of the Cancun Agreements. Part III is on “Enhanced action on mitigation”, and chapter C., which deals with REDD, has the following long title: “Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”.





In the box further below we have reproduced the complete text of the agreement on REDD. For the time being, we will focus only on the scope of REDD as agreed on in Cancun. We will get back to the broader agreement a little later on.

Paragraph 70 of the agreement mentions the activities that are now recognized as being part of REDD:

(a) Reducing emissions from deforestation	a) + b) are REDD
(b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation	
(c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks	c), d) + e) are the “plus”
(d) Sustainable management of forest	
(e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	

The first two activities (a and b) were originally part of REDD. The other activities (c, d and e) are the new ones. As we have seen earlier, since the addition of additional activities, it is now commonly referred to as “REDD+”. So we can say that activities “a and b” are “REDD” while activities “c, d and e” are the “plus”.

Even though the new agreement clearly is about REDD+ and not just REDD, the document however does not use the term “REDD+”, but just refers to it as REDD.

To sum up, while the idea behind REDD was to pay forest owners for actions that reduce carbon emissions (the amount paid corresponding to the amount of carbon they prevent from being emitted), “REDD+” pays for actions that prevent emissions and actions that increase removal of carbon from the atmosphere (again, the amount paid corresponding to the amount of carbon prevented from being emitted and/or being removed).



With this REDD+ addresses one of the critiques brought forward against REDD that REDD pays only for the protection of those forests that are in immediate danger of being destroyed or degraded, but not for those forests that have already been successfully protected (like e.g. protected areas, or the forests conserved by indigenous peoples).

So the “plus” in REDD+ appears to make a lot of sense. There are, however, serious concerns regarding the possible interpretation of some of the activities now included under REDD+, and the consequences they may have for indigenous people and local communities, and for forests themselves. Here are a few concerns that indigenous peoples have identified:

- » The establishment of protected areas in the name of conservation has in many cases led to large scale evictions of indigenous and other communities and the permanent loss of their rights over their land and resources, and the right to practice their traditional livelihood. There are fears that “carbon protected areas” will also lead to the eviction of communities or severe restriction on their livelihood practices.





- “Sustainable management of forests” could mean that under REDD+, subsidies are paid to commercial logging operations supposedly practicing “sustainable forest management” in old-growth forests, in indigenous peoples’ territories or in community forests.
- “Enhancement of forest carbon stocks” could mean that the establishment of tree plantations is also considered an “enhancement of forest carbon stocks”. This could mean that the conversion of any land and therefore also forests to industrial tree is accepted, and it might even lead to an increase of conversion of forest to tree plantations. This would have serious consequences for biodiversity, indigenous and other forest dependent communities.
- Finally, many people are not happy that the agreement mentions “conservation of forest carbon stocks”, instead of “conservation of forests” or “conservation of natural forests”. This reveals that the main concern of the UNFCCC is carbon, that forests are seen only as a “carbon store house” and are not appreciated for the many other values they have: for their biodiversity, the environmental services like regulating water flow, the local climate etc., or for the many resources and thus the livelihood they provide to indigenous communities and other forest dwelling communities.



## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S GUARAQUEÇABA PROJECT

“REDD-TYPE PROJECTS ARE ALREADY HAVING MAJOR IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. WHILE REDD PROponents SUCH AS THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC) ARE VERY FRIENDLY WITH MASSIVELY POLLUTING COMPANIES, THEY IGNORE THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES. A TNC PROJECT IN GUARAQUEÇABA, BRAZIL, FOR EXAMPLE, CREATES CARBON CREDITS FOR GENERAL MOTORS, CHEVRON AND AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER. THE PROJECT HAS DESTROYED LOCAL PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS BY NOT ALLOWING THEM INTO THE FOREST. TNC DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE. “THE CARBON IDEA IS NOT REALLY TANGIBLE TO PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY,” MIGUEL CALMON, TNC'S DIRECTOR OF FORESTS AND CLIMATE IN LATIN AMERICA TOLD INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST MARK SCHAPIRO.”

<http://chrislang.org>



Therefore, after COP 13 in Bali, when the negotiations on REDD+ started in 2008, indigenous peoples and civil society organizations demanded that recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities has to be a precondition for designing and implementing REDD+. They pointed at the many dangers REDD entails if the right of indigenous and other forest dependent communities are not taken into account, like increasing land grabbing, displacement, conflict, corruption, impoverishment and cultural degradation. They also point out that at all levels, REDD policies must include the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities' rights, and be in line with the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and therefore respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). We will have a closer look at the potential impact of REDD+ on indigenous peoples a little later, and how the UNDRIP can be used by indigenous communities to address these.

Important to point out here is that advocacy efforts of indigenous peoples' and others critical of REDD+ have been successful in the sense that the REDD agreement reached in 2010 at the 16th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Cancun, Mexico, includes a number of provisions (so-called "safeguards") that address these concerns. These safeguards are an important achievement, even though they are not as strongly formulated as indigenous peoples would have preferred. We will discuss them in detail a little later. Before we do that let us have a closer look at how REDD actually works.

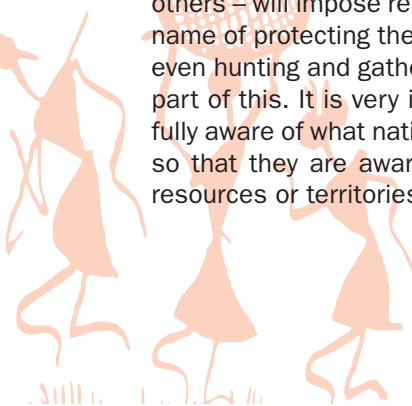
## BUT HOW DOES REDD+ ACTUALLY WORK?



REDD+ is an idea which is being promoted by several Northern and Southern governments and large conservation NGOs. In all these proposals, the basic idea remains the same: that developed countries must pay developing countries for reducing their rates of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from deforestation or forest degradation. The various proposals for REDD+ mechanisms differ mainly in how the financing would be arranged and at what level REDD+ projects could be organized (i.e., whether at the national or sub-national level, or both). Depending on the financing mechanism proposed, they also differ with respect to one of the most controversial questions: whether or not payments for REDD+ will be understood as compensation for Greenhouse Gas emission by the paying country. The former would imply that they would not have to reduce their own emissions as much, or in other words, they would "buy the right to keep on polluting".

Countries that receive funds have to implement policies and programs which reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Any policy or programme that reduces deforestation and degradation could in theory receive funds from richer countries. Some possible examples for such measures are: governments strengthen law enforcement, have better fire management and practice sustainable management of forests or change laws to stop large-scale logging or forest conversion activities like plantations.

What this means is that under REDD+, new kinds of "carbon protected areas" would be created over large areas of forests, with the main objective to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by avoiding deforestation and degradation of these forests. This could be done by government actions (like government Protected Areas now) or could be locally protected areas (by companies, conservation NGOs or others). This could also be done by indigenous peoples. These areas – if run by others – will impose restrictions on indigenous communities in the name of protecting the carbon. It may be that farming practices or even hunting and gathering of forest products will be restricted as part of this. It is very important that indigenous communities are fully aware of what national governments are planning with REDD+ so that they are aware of any possible impacts on their lands, resources or territories.





However, although we have some idea of what sort of things are included in ‘REDD+’, one big unanswered question is: how will REDD+ be paid for and who will receive the benefits? This is presently being hotly debated at national and international levels.

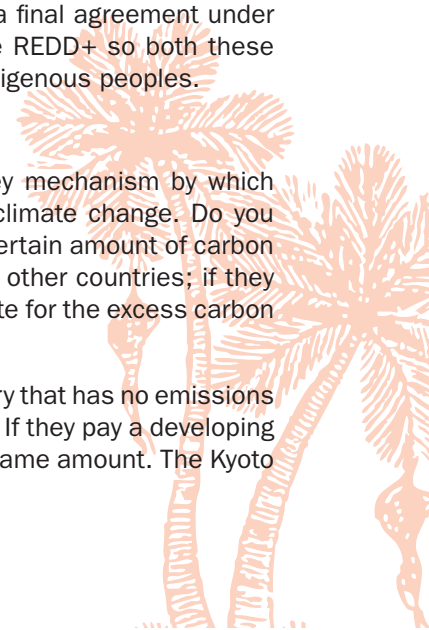
### Who pays and how?

Basically, there are two positions in this debate, supporting two different proposals on where the money to pay for REDD+ will come from. One proposal is to do it through the establishment of funds which would be passed out for REDD+ projects or programmes. The other proposal is through the use of a “market” for “carbon permits and credits”, which means through the buying and selling of credits for reduced emissions. Some of these funds have been established to help countries get ready for the market option, so are a mix of the two approaches. Under the market approach, governments or companies that have to reduce their emissions could buy credits from REDD+ projects instead of actually reducing their emissions. Although governments have yet to reach a final agreement under the UNFCCC, it is likely that both types of financing will be used to finance REDD+ so both these mechanisms will be discussed here as they have special implications for indigenous peoples.

### Financing through market mechanisms

As you have learned in the previous chapter, the carbon market is the key mechanism by which the countries who signed the Kyoto Protocol seek to lower the impact of climate change. Do you remember how it works? Putting it simply, each country is allowed to emit a certain amount of carbon each year. If they emit less, they have “extra carbon” which they can sell to other countries; if they emit more they have to buy carbon permits from other countries to compensate for the excess carbon they released.

Countries can also create “carbon credits” by paying for a reduction in a country that has no emissions reduction target, or by reducing more than the targeted amount of emissions. If they pay a developing country to reduce emissions, they can then increase their emissions by the same amount. The Kyoto



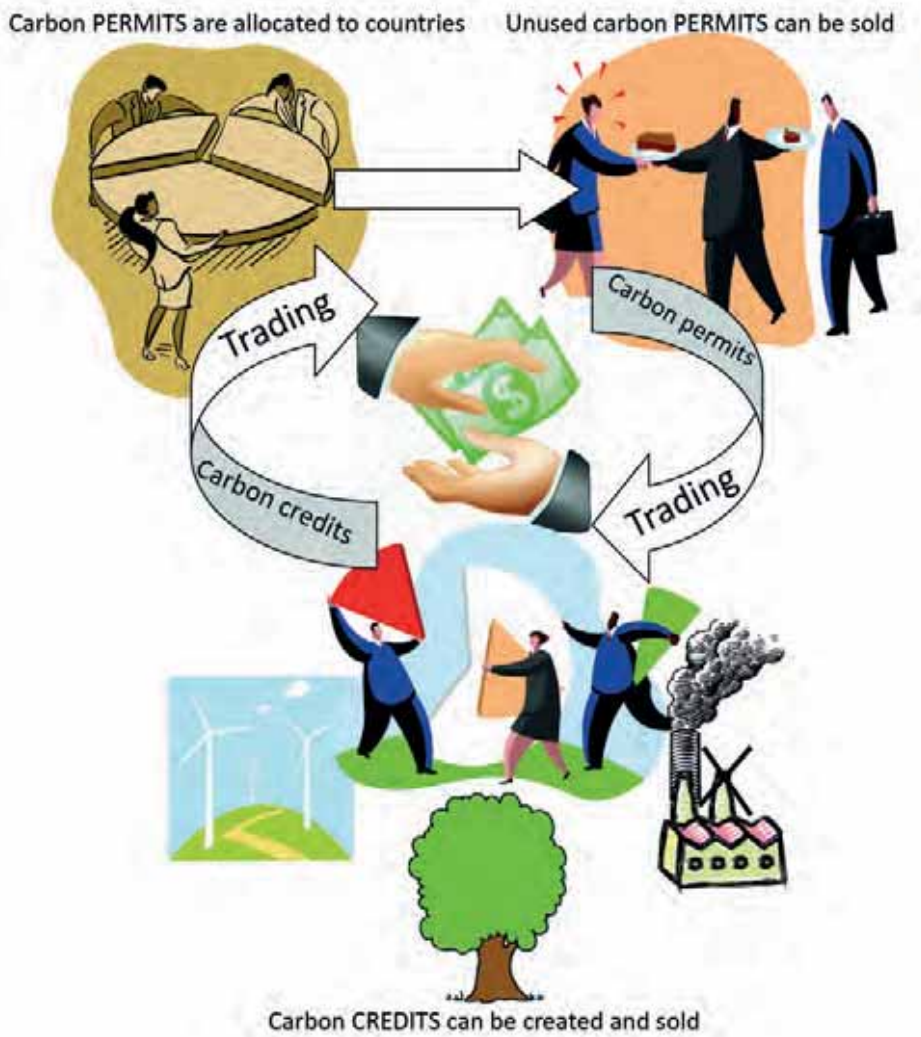


Protocol accepted afforestation and reforestation (growing new forests or replacing lost forests) as creating credits for trading but it did not accept avoided deforestation or forest degradation (REDD)

**CARBON PERMITS, CARBON CREDITS**

CARBON PERMITS ARE THE AMOUNTS OF CARBON EMISSIONS ALLOCATED TO COUNTRIES (AS PART OF THEIR TARGET), BUT A CARBON CREDIT CAN ONLY BE "CREATED" BY REDUCING AN EMISSION BY THAT AMOUNT. CARBON PERMITS AND CARBON CREDITS CAN BE TRADED AGAINST EACH OTHER, BUT ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS. IF YOU WANT TO POLLUTE MORE, YOU CAN PURCHASE A CREDIT CREATED BY SOMEONE ELSE, OR PURCHASE A PERMIT THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS NOT USED.

One carbon permit or credit is equal to one ton of carbon, and carbon permits and credits are traded between "buyer" countries, or companies, and "seller countries", or companies.





Current negotiations under the UNFCCC include the proposal to bring REDD+ into the carbon market, while according to other proposals funding should be strictly from funds that are NOT based on market mechanisms. There are different positions on how to use the market, too. Some are suggesting that the carbon market should be regulated under the UN system, others propose that there should be voluntary carbon markets, which use their own standards and have their own rules. Such voluntary carbon markets already exist and there are already quite a number of new companies that have been created just to trade carbon credits.

You have also already learned that if a country or company engages in an activity that is sequestering (absorbing carbon from the atmosphere like through planting trees) instead of emitting carbon, they can also create carbon credits. And if they prevent the emission of carbon, like when they protect a forest from being destroyed by logging or the establishment of a plantation, they also create carbon credits. So the idea behind the proposed “market solution” is to finance REDD+ projects by selling carbon credits that are created when forests are protected.



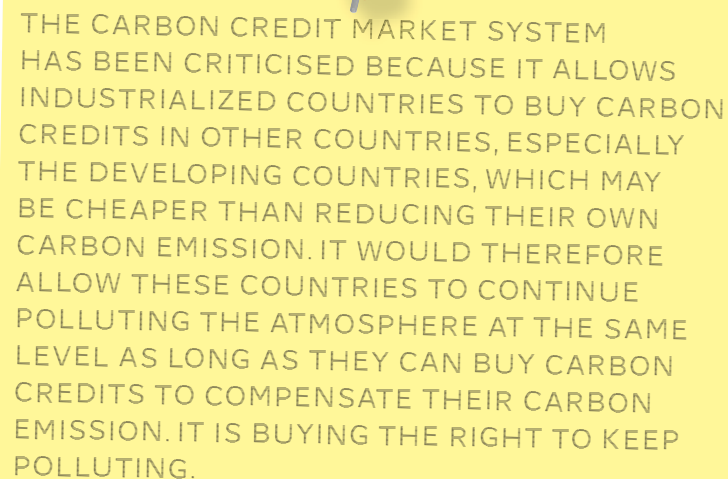
In 2007, 33% of the carbon credit traded on the voluntary market came from projects in reforestation and afforestation (these are projects that actually absorb carbon from the air). But credits traded from avoided deforestation or forest degradation (in other words from REDD activities) were only about 3% of the carbon traded on the voluntary market. This has changed dramatically in recent years, and in 2010, 33% of the forest carbon traded in the Voluntary Market came from REDD.

There are a lot of implications that a market system can have for indigenous peoples and for the overall goal of reducing emissions, and it is very important to think about all the possible positive and negative impacts that might happen if you think of joining a project that is financed through the market. The “checklist for communities” on pages 91-95 is intended to help you think through some of these implications for your own people and your lands and resources.





Many indigenous peoples, including the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, reject market mechanisms as a way to raise money for REDD+. The reason is that market mechanisms have many problems, and many doubt that they will really help reducing emissions and addressing the problem of climate change. At the same time, some indigenous peoples have decided to become involved in projects which are financed through the market.



THE CARBON CREDIT MARKET SYSTEM HAS BEEN CRITICISED BECAUSE IT ALLOWS INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO BUY CARBON CREDITS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHICH MAY BE CHEAPER THAN REDUCING THEIR OWN CARBON EMISSION. IT WOULD THEREFORE ALLOW THESE COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE POLLUTING THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SAME LEVEL AS LONG AS THEY CAN BUY CARBON CREDITS TO COMPENSATE THEIR CARBON EMISSION. IT IS BUYING THE RIGHT TO KEEP POLLUTING.

## Financing through funds

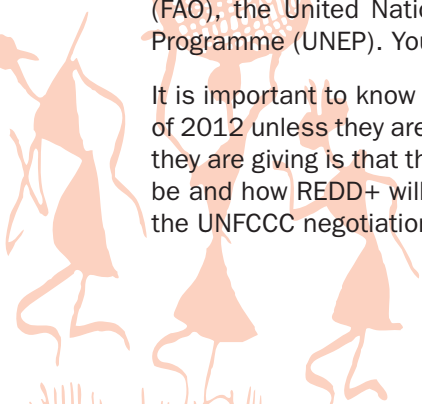
A fund is a mechanism by which different people, companies or governments pool money in order to jointly finance a program, a project, a business or an institution (like a school or an orphanage, etc.). The money of a fund is kept in a bank account, and there are people who are in charge of managing the fund, which means they have responsibility to ensure that the money is used for the purpose for which the fund was created. Funds can be public money (World Bank, or national governments) or it can be private money (from a bank, a foundation or a company).

Funds for REDD+ could be created at the global level, or at the regional level (like for Asia, for Africa, etc.) or at the national or local level (or a combination of these). For example, the government of Tuvalu, a small island state in the Pacific Ocean, proposed the creation of a Multilateral Climate Fund. Governments would pay money from taxes on activities that are harmful for the climate (like for air and sea traffic, for fuel that powers the engine of ships, aircrafts, etc.) to this fund. This money would then be used to pay for forest conservation. This proposal includes compensation to communities for protecting and sustainably using forests. Governments receiving money from this fund would report every year to the UNFCCC COP (Conference of Parties or annual meeting of state-members of the Convention) on the progress of their forest conservation work.

### Public funds

Several international organisations have already set up funds or programs through which they intend to support REDD+. The World Bank has established the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP). The UN has established the UN Collaborative Programme on REDD, or UN-REDD, a programme of partnership between the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). You will learn more about these a little later

It is important to know that these public funds indicated that they will end their activities by the end of 2012 unless they are asked to continue by the countries who are party to the UNFCCC. The reason they are giving is that the UNFCCC has not yet determined what the international rules for REDD+ will be and how REDD+ will be financed. These are difficult issues which are currently being debated in the UNFCCC negotiations.





Some industrialized countries have also set up funds to support REDD+. Norway, for example, has launched its International Climate and Forest Initiative and will provide 600 million US\$ annually until 2015 to support the UN-REDD programme and other projects (including the World Bank's FIP). Norway believes that both market and fund-based approach to a REDD+ regime are needed. Another example is Australia which committed 185 million US\$ funding mainly for Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank. These funds are also intended to enable countries to participate in the carbon market at a later date.

The Norwegian government has also supported the establishment of the interim REDD+ Partnership. It is open for all REDD+ countries and for organisations with observer status in the UNFCCC. REDD+ Partnership basically is a space for exchange of knowledge and experiences, for capacity building and for identifying ways to improve financial instruments for REDD+ etc. Its goal is to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and coordination of REDD+.



The REDD+ Partnership lacks any reference to the need to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and it has been strongly criticized by indigenous peoples. They have stated in particular that the UN process (through the UNFCCC) should be the main area for negotiations and the Interim REDD+ Partnership should not replace this in any way. Also, indigenous peoples have called for proper mechanisms to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples and communities in the work that the Partnership does. After some contentious debate within the Partnership a limited access to indigenous peoples has been allowed.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE...  
THAT CONTRARY TO THE CARBON CREDIT MARKET SYSTEM, UNDER THE PROPOSED FUND SYSTEM IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY GOVERNMENT, AND THEREFORE ALSO NOT FOR RICH INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, TO COMPENSATE FOR EMISSIONS ("OFFSET" EMISSIONS) WHICH THEY ARE CAUSING THEMSELVES.



## Forest Carbon Trust Fund: A pilot initiative on direct payment to communities for forest management in Nepal

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) and the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) created the first Forest Carbon Trust Fund (FCTF) in Nepal to provide financial incentive to local communities for their efforts to conserve forest and prevent deforestation.

The aim of this pilot initiative is to explore how a governance system can be adapted to suit REDD+ that is implemented with local communities. This above all means to ensure that the reward payments for increased carbon storage are equitable, respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and are sustainable in the long run. The project hopes to make experiences and gain insights that can be applied by policy decision makers and practitioners, and to develop capacity-building systems that can be used to implement REDD+ at the national level. By experimenting with actual REDD+ payments, the trust fund will also help to find out whether REDD+ will actually provide the benefits to forest communities which it is intending.

The pilot FCTF has been created under a REDD+ project implemented in the three watershed areas of Kayarkhola of Chitwan district, Charnawati of Dolakha district and Ludikhola of Gorkha district. It covers over 10,000 hectares of community managed forest and involves around 90,000 people. This is the first project in Nepal and one of the first globally in which communities are trained to conduct carbon measurement and monitoring and in which they receive a financial reward for the improvement of carbon storage through forest conservation. The actual trust fund was set up in 2010 with a seed grant of US\$ 100,000 provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under its Climate and Forest Initiative.

Payments are performance-based, which means that the amount of money paid to communities corresponds to the increase of carbon stock that results from sustainable forest management practices. There is no penalty for deforestation, but is discouraged because it will lead to a reduction of the annual REDD+ payment a community receives.



The project however also takes other criteria into account when assessing who gets how much. This is done in order to make the fund more equitable, i.e. to pay special attention to weaker sectors or groups of the communities involved. Therefore, three more criteria have been added: the number of households of indigenous peoples and Dalits ('untouchables'); the ratio of men and women; and the number of poor households.

The populations of these areas are ethnically very diverse. They comprise indigenous peoples, Nepali caste Hindus, and Dalit. The indigenous peoples living in these three watersheds are the Thami, Chepang, Tamang, Magar, Sherpa and Gurung. They make up 44.5% of all households in the three areas.

The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) has been a part of the process in the establishment of the FCTF both at central and district level. NEFIN representatives are playing key role in FCTF Advisory Committee in the central level. There are also representatives of the NEFIN District Coordination Council in the Watershed Fund Advisory Committee in each district of the pilot project.

Community members involved in this pilot project have so far been happy with the initiative, which is recognizing and now also financially rewarding their efforts in the sustainable management of forests. However, there is no clear guidance on how sustainability and mainstreaming of this mechanism in the national REDD strategy and action plan can be ensured. One of the main challenges of this project is the effective monitoring of equity in benefit sharing (i.e. whether benefits do reach indigenous, women and Dalit as intended) and how the rights of indigenous peoples to their land and customary practices can be addressed.

A critical and sensitive issue is the governance of the Community Forest Users Groups. At national level, indigenous peoples have raised their concern that most Community Forest Users Groups are dominated by non-indigenous, even though they may even be a majority in the respective area and more dependent on forests than non-indigenous. In the project area, it seems indigenous are well represented in the Community Forest Users Groups and the project tries to ensure equity based on the multiple criteria described. Governance and benefit sharing at the very local level will certainly be one of the most critical issues to address when mainstreaming the approach.

Even though Community Forestry in Nepal has since decades been hailed as a model approach, the fact remains that the communities – and in particular indigenous communities – are still not recognized as the owners of their forests.

*Sources: [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org); [www.communityredd.net](http://www.communityredd.net)*





**Private fundss**

In addition to the funds set up by the international organisations and governments, there is an increasing number of private funds set up by nature conservation agencies (like The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, World Wide Fund for Nature US, etc.) and also by private foundations and companies.



An example of a project working on REDD+ which is supported by private foundations is the Rainforest Project, launched by Prince Charles of Great Britain. It is funded by 12 big companies such as the mining company Rio Tinto, or banks like Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank. Another example for a large joint initiative is the Noel Kempff Climate Action Project in Bolivia by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN), the Bolivian government, and three energy companies (American Electric Power, PacifiCorp, and BP Amoco). In Indonesia, the US Bank Merrill Lynch (now owned by Bank of America) is funding the Ulu Masen REDD project in Sumatra. There are several foundations that already in the past have supported programs addressing deforestation and are now supporting activities related to REDD+. Among these are the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation working in the Amazon, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in Brazil; or the Rockefeller Foundation which is supporting the Clinton Climate Initiative to develop forests projects in tropical countries.

However, it is important to remember that many of these projects are just starting up and some have faced a lot of criticism about whether they are actually reducing emissions or not. The Noel Kempff Climate Action Project in Bolivia, for instance, has faced criticism from Greenpeace that it has not managed to prove its claims to reduce emissions permanently and effectively (see list of further readings in the annex for more details).

Because private funds are voluntary, they do not depend on any international agreement on REDD+ financing in the future. They are also not bound by any rules developed by the UN unless they decide to be. There are a range of voluntary standards that are being developed to regulate how these private funds can work (again, only if they choose to apply the standards).

Some of these standards are intended to make sure that REDD+ does no harm and can benefit indigenous peoples and other groups that may be vulnerable to negative impacts. One recent set of standards are the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards developed by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and CARE International. These standards contain some important protections for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. They are also aimed at promoting poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation, and are supposed to generate what they call "social and biodiversity co-benefits." The standards are available in many languages at <http://www.climate-standards.org/REDD+/> .

**HOW TO PROVE...**

A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WITH REDD PROJECTS THAT ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IS THAT IT IS PROVING VERY DIFFICULT FOR THESE PROJECTS TO PROVE (IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE "VERIFY") THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION. IF THEY CAN NOT ACTUALLY REDUCE EMISSIONS, THEN THE WHOLE BASIS FOR THE SYSTEM OF REDD COMES INTO QUESTION. PLEASE SEE "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION" AT THE END OF THIS BOOKLET FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS.





## Future financing arrangements

Since the UNFCCC still needs to decide how REDD+ will be financed in the future, the existing programmes that are trying out different ways of financing REDD+ are very important and influential. Indigenous peoples have been working very hard to influence the international negotiations on climate change and the financing discussions within them.

Global meetings of indigenous peoples have been organized to develop and agree on key positions and strategies regarding REDD+ financing. The most recent one was held in Oaxaca, Mexico, in October 2011, and was attended by indigenous peoples' delegates and government observers alike. It resulted in the adoption of an 'Action Plan for Durban and Beyond'. Similarly, the first Global Dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility was organized in Guna Yala, Panama in late September 2011. On that occasion indigenous peoples adopted the Guna Yala Action Plan with a set of demands related to participation and the respect of indigenous peoples' rights (UNDRIP, Free Prior Informed Consent, rights to land, territories and resources etc.) in all FCPF actions.

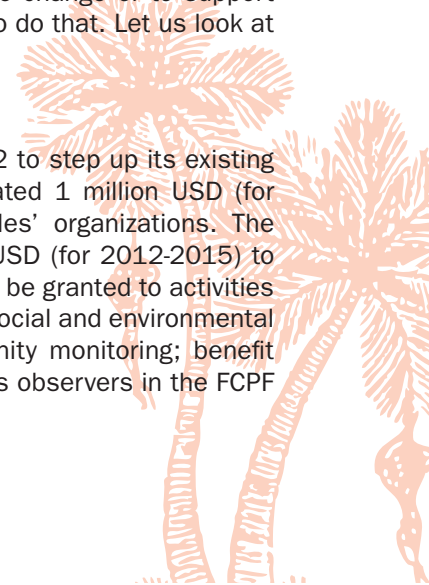
An important development with respect to REDD+ financing is of course the creation of the **Green Climate Fund** (GCF). At the COP 15 in Copenhagen it was agreed to set up a fund as a mechanism for transferring money from the developed to the developing countries to assist them in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Under the Cancun agreement of COP 16 the Green Climate Fund was officially created. The aim is that by 2020 100 billion US\$ are raised each year for the Green Climate Fund. However, it is highly uncertain where this money would come from. The Green Climate Fund Board is in charge of governing the GCF, and the World Bank was chosen as the temporary trustee. The GCF is however supposed to become part of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and to be accountable to and to function under the guidance of the COP. The GCF Board is now responsible to develop rules and procedures for the distribution of the money in the GCF, and how it will cooperate with the national governments of the countries where projects will be supported. These rules are to be adopted in the COP 18 in Doha in 2012. The GCF Board will also have to establish an independent secretariat once a decision is made on the country where it is to be located. The Board also has to select the permanent trustee of the GCF through an open and transparent procedure.

Two financial windows have been established under the GCF, one for adaptation and another for mitigation. The latter includes specifically REDD+. However, many issues related to the role and structure of the Green Climate Fund are not yet clear. This includes a decision on the role of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and whether the GCF will be additional to existing programmes, like FCPF, UNREDD and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP), or whether they will fall under and be managed by the Green Climate Fund. In any case, these programmes are still expected to have much influence simply because they offer an available model for how REDD+ financing could be done. The FCPF and UN-REDD have agreed that they will try to work together in countries in which both are giving money. So their procedures for applying for and granting funds may get more similar in the future, and it is therefore even more likely that they provide a guide for how financing will happen after a global agreement on REDD+ is in place.

In response to pressure from indigenous peoples, FCPF, FIP and UN-REDD have put aside some of their funding to support indigenous peoples' own actions against climate change or to support indigenous peoples in participating in REDD+ if a particular people choose to do that. Let us look at what these funds are.

## Funding dedicated to indigenous peoples

As a follow up to the Guna Yala Plan of Action, FCPF decided in March 2012 to step up its existing indigenous peoples' capacity building programme. It had previously allocated 1 million USD (for 2009-2013) to support 14 projects proposed by forest-dependent peoples' organizations. The proposal adopted by the FCPF was to increase the funding to 3.5 million USD (for 2012-2015) to finance activities proposed by indigenous peoples organizations. Funding will be granted to activities in, – among others, the following fields: research and policy on land tenure, social and environmental issues; sustainable livelihoods; mapping of indigenous land use; community monitoring; benefit sharing. The objectives are to support and enable participation of indigenous observers in the FCPF





meeting, the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in national REDD+ process and to contribute to an improved understanding on climate change and REDD+.

The Forest Investment Programme has also negotiated with indigenous peoples on how its **Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples (DGM)** will function. After these negotiations the DGM was adopted in November 2011. The DGM will fund projects proposed by indigenous peoples. It has a budget of 50 million USD, and for projects in the FIP pilot countries Brazil, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Peru, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Lao PDR.

The DGM will be run by a global coordination committee and national steering committees, and will consider projects proposed by indigenous peoples in a variety of areas and with various purposes. Among these are strengthening cooperation, solidarity, and networking between and among indigenous peoples and local communities, enhancing indigenous peoples' capacity to participate in FIP activities, strengthening plans to develop sustainable livelihoods, applying traditional knowledge and indigenous forest management systems, support sustainable use, conservation and management of biodiversity, supporting indigenous peoples' participation in Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and strengthening territorial and resource rights, including land tenure.

## Activities supported by the Dedicated Grant Mechanism

### a. Land rights

Securing and strengthening customary land tenure rights, rights to territory and natural resources, and traditional forest management systems. Specific activities given as examples are:

- Reducing cultural, social, economic, and policy barriers to land tenure and resource rights
- Supporting models of REDD+ activities that respect the priorities and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
- Enhancing traditional systems of land, territory and resource management

### b. Participation in FIP and REDD+

Developing mechanisms for participation by indigenous peoples and local communities in the design and implementation of national FIP investment strategies

Engaging other national and local REDD+ processes,

Outreach to assure participation by women and other vulnerable groups;

Mainstreaming activities of indigenous peoples and local communities with national FIP and other forest-related activities and policies

### c. Involvement in monitoring and evaluation

Involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and evaluating forest activities (including activities carried out by communities themselves)

### d. Alternative livelihoods

Alternative livelihoods to generate incomes and reduce pressure on forests, in line with the goals of indigenous peoples and local communities. This includes strengthening and promoting existing sustainable and low-carbon lifestyles and traditional livelihoods

**e. Capacity building for engagement with the DGM**

Capacity building activities for indigenous leaders, organizations and institutions related to the goals of the Grant Mechanism in general, but specifically:

Building the capacity to apply for, implement, monitor and evaluate Grant Mechanism projects;

Training, awareness and capacity building to support participation in national REDD and FIP processes

Developing networks and partnerships to achieve these goals

**f. Sharing of experiences, knowledge and lessons learned**

Discovery and sharing of lessons, information, knowledge and best practices to improve knowledge on how to achieve the objectives of the FIP and the Grant Mechanism

**g. Other activities advancing the objectives of the DGM**

*Source: Climate Investment Fund 2011*





The UNREDD does not have a special dedicated fund, but financial resources are made available to indigenous observers in case of need to enable them to communicate information on UNREDD activities, procedures and decisions to their organisations and peoples. Other activities can also be funded in the three programme regions (Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific) including country level consultations and missions.

## THE WORLD BANK AND REDD+



The World Bank wants to play a leading role in promoting and shaping REDD+. It has already set up two very large Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) and the Clean Technology Fund (CTF), which are supposed to support the development of clean technologies and other initiatives related to climate change. Under one of these funds, the SCF, is the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) which addresses REDD+ directly (you will learn more about this in a short while). Separate from FIP, but closely connected to the work the FIP is doing, is the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). Let's have a closer look at this first.

### The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

The FCPF is the World Bank's main mechanism for promoting REDD+. The FCPF intends to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This is supposed to be done through two funds:

**1. The Readiness Mechanism** aims at building capacity for REDD+. The idea is that countries which want to start REDD+ programmes need to have the necessary knowledge and technical skills before starting. The FCPF assists 37 developing countries in the tropical and sub-tropical region of the world in preparing themselves for future large REDD+ programmes. The FCPF:

- Supports countries in making an estimate of all the carbon that exists in their forests (the national forest carbon stock), and to identify the sources of carbon emissions from forests;
- Assist the countries in defining what is called a "reference scenario". If we want to know how much carbon emission we are preventing in a particular year by reducing deforestation through REDD, we need to know how much the annual carbon emission was before the REDD programme started. The estimate of the carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation before the start of a REDD programme is the "reference scenario" since this is what governments have to refer to when reporting how much carbon emission they have reduced. The World Bank is also providing technical assistance to these countries in calculating and comparing the costs of different ways of reducing deforestation and forest degradation. And based on this calculation, they design their own REDD+ strategy.

**2. The Carbon Finance Mechanism.** A few countries, according to the Participants' Committee members, have showed a significant degree of accomplishments in the Readiness Mechanism will be invited to be part of pilot programmes that are testing REDD+. Remember, the basic idea of REDD+ is to provide financial compensation for protecting forests (instead of logging them or turning them into plantations etc.), and thereby reducing carbon emissions. The offer of a financial reward with the hope that governments will take sincere efforts at reducing deforestation and forest degradation is called "creating positive incentives". They will receive the compensation payments if they are able to reduce the emissions below the level of the "reference scenario" explained a little while ago.

These Mechanisms are supposed to lead to the establishment of a much larger system of financing for REDD+ in the future. The World Bank itself writes on its website that they hope to "develop a realistic and cost-effective large new instrument for tackling deforestation, to help safeguard the Earth's climate, reduce poverty, manage freshwater resources, and protect biodiversity".

## Well, that sounds great, doesn't it?



However, many people, and above all indigenous peoples are not happy at all with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and they have on many occasions heavily criticized the World Bank. First of all, the World Bank has not properly consulted with forest peoples. In this, the World Bank was even ignoring its own internal safeguard policies and the rules of the FCPF. According to these policies, the World Bank is obliged to take into account the need for effective participation of forest dependent indigenous peoples and forest dwellers in all decisions that may affect them. Their rights guaranteed under national law and international obligations (including human rights treaties and other agreements like UNDRIP) should be respected.

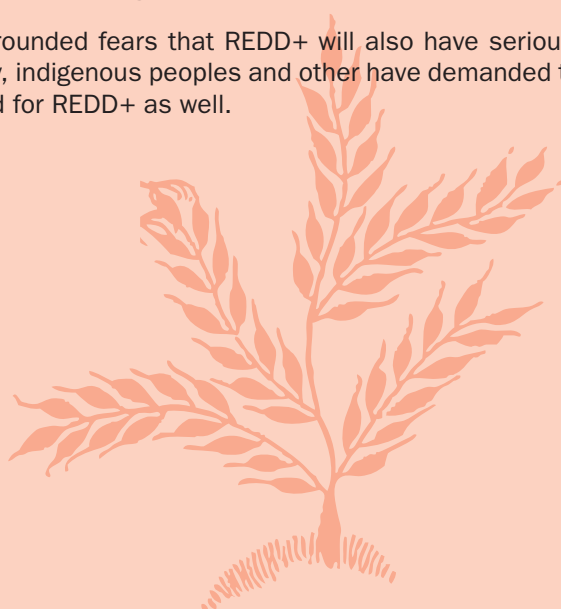
The World Bank has several policies and procedures which among others are supposed to ensure that human rights are not violated. These include Operational Procedure 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples which provides some protection for indigenous peoples – although at a standard far lower than the protections in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. For instance they do not adopt FPIC but rather prescribe that the World Bank conduct consultations with indigenous peoples where their lands are to be affected, and to make sure that there is “broad community support” for a project or activity before the Bank agrees to fund it.



## What are safeguards?

To safeguard means to protect something from harm. A safeguard can be a measure that is designed to prevent something undesirable, or an action taken to protect against something undesirable. This word is used for example for mechanical devices designed to prevent accidents, or for the part of a written contract or agreement which aims to prevent harmful application or interpretation of the agreement. Safeguards have become important in the context of development projects, after it was realized that many projects, like large dams, roads, plantations, intensifying agriculture etc., which are supposed to serve the interest of national development, have enormous negative consequences on local people and the environment. Today, large multilateral development banks and UN agencies as well as bilateral development agencies have drawn up their own safeguard policies.

Since there are well-grounded fears that REDD+ will also have serious negative consequences on people and biodiversity, indigenous peoples and others have demanded that social and environmental safeguards are created for REDD+ as well.





These and other safeguards are currently under review and there is a risk that they might be watered down and assimilated to a broader set of social safeguards. It is worth noting that an independent review of the implementation of the OP 4.10 was carried out in 2011. The findings were quite damning about the problems that the Bank has faced in implementing the existing standards, including problems with disclosure and preparing proper planning documents. Such findings are relevant for considering how such standards will be met and what criteria will have to be fulfilled when doing REDD+. The review – among others – recommended that the World Bank pay more attention to assess possible long term impacts of project activities in particular on indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural and cultural resources, as well as adopting specific monitoring indicators.

The safeguard policies of the World Bank are not only rather vague and weak, but there is also a lot of confusion and possible procedural bottlenecks about how and when these policies and procedures apply to the activities planned under the Readiness Mechanism of the FCPF.

Since the time it was launched, FCPF has developed into a more complex organization. The World Bank still plays a dominant role and acts as “trustee” (the legal term for a person or institution that holds property, authority, or a position of trust or responsibility on behalf of or for the benefit of others). However, other so-called “Multiple Delivery Partners” are now also part of the FCPF, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

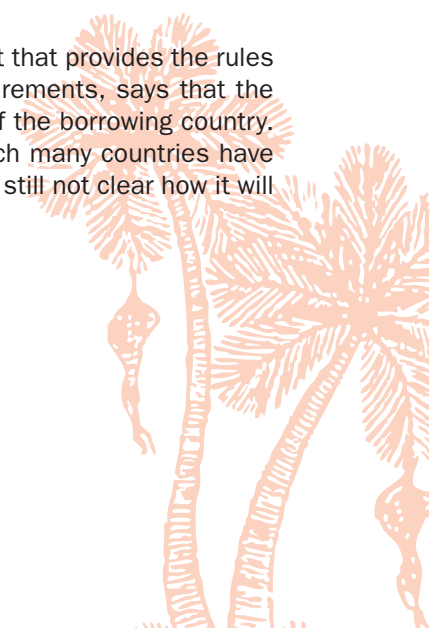
A Multiple Delivery Partner is an agency in charge of managing the financing and development of the so-called Readiness Plan in a given country where the World Bank is not present or has insufficient capacity to do it by itself. We will explain what a Readiness Plan is in the next section.

The key issue that had to be resolved was the application of safeguard policies: will the World Bank's safeguards and policies be applied to all Delivery Partners? Or will their own safeguards be applied, which may be either stronger or weaker than those of the World Bank? Hence, a complex process was undertaken to assess what is called “material equivalence” between the IDB, UNDP and World Bank safeguards and policies and develop a “Common Approach”. This means that it was assessed what the safeguards had in common and where they differed, and what should be applied when there are differences. The “Common Approach” agreed on is that the World Bank policies will always be used as the minimum standard. If the standards of the Delivery Partners are higher, they will be applied. But if the policy of a Delivery Partner is lower than that of the World Bank, the standards of the World Bank will prevail.

Current Multiple Delivery Partner pilot countries are: Guyana (IDB), Peru (IDB), Panama, (UNDP), Paraguay (UNDP), Cambodia (UNDP), and more recently Central African Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Suriname.

A similar problem arises in countries where both the FCPF and the UNREDD are operating at the same time. While both agencies concede that the higher standards (in the case of indigenous peoples' rights, UNREDD's standards) will prevail, it is not at all clear how this will be done in practice. Therefore, it is important that indigenous peoples are actively involved in the negotiations and definition of the Readiness Plan in their countries, and in deciding what safeguards and international obligations and standards should be applied.

As a matter of fact, the FCPF also has its own Charter, which is the document that provides the rules which all its activities have to comply with. The Charter, among other requirements, says that the activities funded by the FCPF must also meet the international obligations of the borrowing country. This refers to international agreements (like conventions or covenants) which many countries have signed. However, even though the FCPF has been operating since 2008, it is still not clear how it will ensure that these important standards are met.





YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT THE FCPF HAS A SO-CALLED PARTICIPANT COMMITTEE, IN WHICH TWO "SEATS" ARE RESERVED FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. SO IF YOUR OWN COUNTRY IS INVOLVED IN THE FCPF YOU CAN GAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IT BY CONTACTING THESE REPRESENTATIVES. YOU CAN FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE ON THE FCPF web-site: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/259>).

Fourth FCPF Participants Committee (2011-2012)	
<b>REDD Country Participants</b> Central African Republic Colombia Ethiopia Guatemala Indonesia Liberia Mexico Nepal Nicaragua Paraguay Republic of Congo Suriname Uganda Vietnam	<b>Financial Contributors</b> Agence Française de Développement Australia Canada Denmark European Commission Finland Germany Japan Norway Spain Switzerland The Nature Conservancy The Netherlands The United States
<b>Observers</b> Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest Dwellers International Organizations Non-governmental Organizations Private Sector UNFCCC Secretariat UN-REDD Programme	
<b>Delivery Partners</b> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Inter-American Development Bank United Nations Development Programme	

Source: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/259>



## Readiness for REDD+

Before a country can get any funds from either of these two mechanisms, they need to propose their planned activities. Many of your countries may now be involved in preparing their plans or may have already proposed their plans to the Readiness Mechanism. If you want to check if your country is involved in the FCPF, you can check on their website at: <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/257>

The document that governments have to prepare to apply for money through the Readiness Mechanism is called the **Readiness Preparedness Proposal (R-PP)**. In preparing this document, governments must consult with indigenous peoples who are living in or dependent on forests in that country and must prepare a detailed plan for how indigenous peoples and other people dependent on the forests will be involved in any REDD activities. If your country is involved in preparing a plan for funding, you should contact the government people in charge (or the World Bank directly) to get as much information as you can about the plans.

The **Readiness Package**, or R-Package is the document that governments engaged in the FCPF will have to produce to show to what extent they are ready for REDD+. It is supposed to provide updated, detailed information on and an assessment of the level of implementation of the activities envisaged in the Readiness Phase. There are divergent views among governments and organizations on whether the Readiness package should just contain an assessment of the Readiness activities or also an evaluation on whether the country qualifies for applying for financial support from the Carbon Fund. There are many concerns on the way the Readiness Package has been developed by the FCPF. For instance, the last draft (March 2012) contains no explicit reference to the obligation to assess the degree to which indigenous peoples' rights have been recognized and respected in the Readiness phase, despite the fact that this is an obligation included in the FCPF Charter. Other concerns are about the lack of clear standards to assess the quality of the Readiness activities.

## The Forest Investment Programme (FIP)

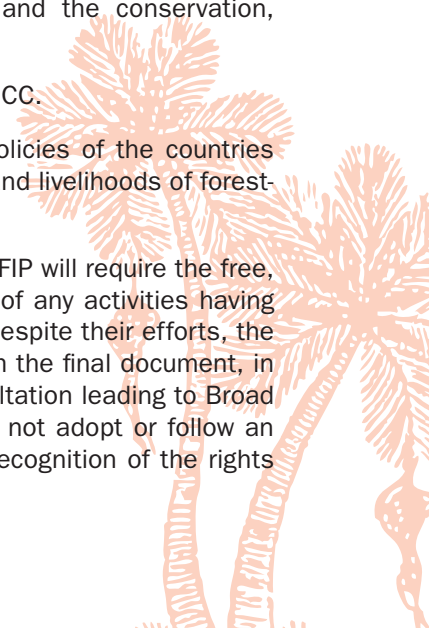
The FIP hopes to receive between 1 and 2 billion US\$ of funding for activities to promote and support "sustainable forest management" and afforestation, including REDD+. It has been steadily receiving money from donor governments since the middle of 2009.

The FIP is of particular interest to indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent peoples because it intends to achieve four objectives, all important for indigenous peoples. These four objectives are:

- To influence the forestry policies of developing countries in a "transformational way" (meaning: with the intention to change them) by increasing funding, supporting forest law enforcement, addressing "drivers of deforestation" and other activities;
- To encourage funding for REDD;
- To have pilot projects that show links between policies and laws and the conservation, enhancement and retention of forest cover and carbon stocks; and
- To generate lessons for the negotiations in Copenhagen under the UNFCCC.

Therefore, one of the main goals of the FIP is to change the laws and policies of the countries involved. This of course means that it will have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of forest-dependent indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples' representatives fought very hard to make sure that the FIP will require the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples prior to approval of any activities having an impact on indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. However, despite their efforts, the proposed references to free, prior and informed consent were removed from the final document, in favour of the World Bank accepted formulation of Free Prior Informed Consultation leading to Broad Community Support. We have very good reason to fear that the FIP would not adopt or follow an approach to development and forest conservation which is based on the recognition of the rights





of indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers in accordance to international obligations and instruments such as UNDRIP.

However, it is important to note that – on paper - the FIP design document and investment plan explicitly acknowledge the need to ensure indigenous peoples' engagement in the process from the very beginning. This means that indigenous peoples are to be involved already in the joint missions that will be sent to the country to prepare the FIP investment plan. The FIP design document also states that issues such as land rights and land tenure reform be taken into due account. Land tenure reform is one of the activities considered for support under the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for indigenous peoples and the FIP design document acknowledges that it should be one of the key results to be considered in the assessment of FIP activities. The FIP Results Framework explicitly lists land tenure reform for indigenous peoples, support to traditional livelihoods, recognition of rights to land and resources and traditional forest management by indigenous peoples as indicators that should be used when evaluating the results of FIP activities. These commitments can be used to make the FIP and REDD governments accountable for their obligations to respect indigenous peoples' rights.

There is also a lot of concern from both human-rights groups and environmental groups that the FIP may be used to support conventional large-scale plantations and logging operations. These concerns have been raised because according to the Forest Investment Program Design Document, the World Bank intends to promote "agricultural investments in the context of rationalized land-use planning; and agricultural intensification including agro-forestry" (page 6). It is well possible that logging and large-scale plantations will be included as part of "rationalized land-use planning" or forms of "agro-forestry".

As of mid 2012, the FIP is supporting eight countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Indonesia, Lao P.D.R., Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, and Peru. Some of these countries have identified pilot projects that have already been funded under the FIP, in particular Democratic Republic of Congo (5 projects), Lao PDR (3 projects), and Mexico (2 projects).



**THE CONTRADICTION IN THE WORLD BANK'S ENGAGEMENT**

WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE WORLD BANK'S INVOLVEMENT IN CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCING MECHANISMS, WE ALSO HAVE TO POINT OUT THAT THE WORLD BANK, WHILE ON THE ONE HAND, DECLARES COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH INITIATIVES LIKE THE FIP, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUES TO FINANCE LARGE-SCALE FOSSIL FUEL DEVELOPMENT AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES.





## THE UN COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME ON REDD (UN-REDD)

The UN-REDD Programme was set up in September 2008 and is run jointly by three of the United Nations' largest agencies: the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The government of Norway has provided the initial funding for UN-REDD, although the Programme is looking for significantly more funding from other governments. The UN-REDD's aim is to assist developing countries and the international community to gain experience with various ways of paying for REDD+ and on how to deal with the risks involved.

UN-REDD presently assists developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies. It also intends to support the development of a range of ways of financing REDD, including the carbon market and the so-called Payments for Environmental Services (PES). PES is increasingly popular with other donors and governments as well. However, the formats that PES will take is also under discussion and unclear and it may be combined with REDD+. Like REDD+, PES could offer benefits to indigenous peoples if the right preconditions were in place. (See suggestions for further reading on this at the end of the book.)

As of December 2011, 14 countries receive direct support for National Programmes: Bolivia, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

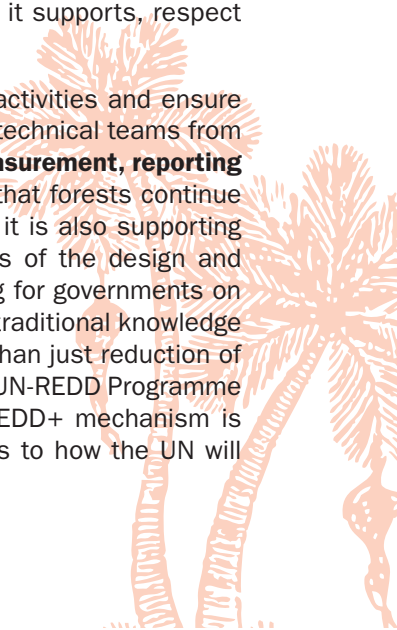
28 other countries from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean are observers to the Programme's Policy Board, participate in regional workshops and knowledge sharing through UN REDD's interactive online workspace. These countries are: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Suriname.

Like the World Bank's FCPF, the pilot projects implemented under UN-REDD have two purposes:

1. They are supposed to help the countries prepare for future national REDD+ schemes (called "readiness activities" since they are supposed to create the capacities of government to become "ready" for REDD+);
2. They will test the REDD+ payment systems developed. This means that with the help of these pilot projects, the UN-REDD programme wants to assess whether the technical support provided and the payment system devised can actually create the incentives needed to ensure clear, measurable and lasting emission reductions. At the same time, the other ecosystem services which forests provide (like biodiversity conservation, providing clean water, etc.) should be maintained and improved.

Most important for you to know is that the UN-REDD Programme declared that it will apply a "rights-based approach". This means that the programme should, in all activities that it supports, respect and promote the rights of all people(s) affected or involved in these activities.

The UN-REDD Programme also has made plans about how it will monitor its activities and ensure that they comply with its rules. For that purpose, UN-REDD is bringing together technical teams from around the world to help develop analyses and guidelines on issues such as **measurement, reporting and verification** (MRV) of carbon emissions and flows. It is striving to ensure that forests continue to provide **multiple benefits** for the environment and peoples' livelihoods and it is also supporting the **engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities** at all stages of the design and implementation of REDD+ strategies. UN-REDD also intends to provide training for governments on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to raise awareness on traditional knowledge and to develop tools for assessing "co-benefits" (which means other benefits than just reduction of carbon emissions, such as poverty reduction or biodiversity conservation). The UN-REDD Programme also seeks to build consensus and knowledge about REDD+, to ensure a REDD+ mechanism is included in a post-2012 climate change agreement. It still remains unclear as to how the UN will





ensure that its commitment to a rights-based approach will be applied in practice or how it will respond to indigenous peoples' demands of developing monitoring mechanisms which will ensure that indigenous peoples' rights are respected in all activities.



UN-REDD and the FCPF have agreed to work together in the countries in which they both are present and agreed to apply the higher safeguard standards when they do work together. This would mean that if the FCPF is working in your country and the UN-REDD is also there, the FCPF should also be respecting all the human rights protected by the UN-REDD approach. This particularly means that the World Bank would have to accept Free Prior Informed Consent. They have also agreed to use the same tools to develop the Readiness preparation proposals, i.e. the R-PP template. Unfortunately, the R-PP template is very vague in determining which standards would apply in cases in which both FCPF and UN-REDD are working together.

### GOOD TO KNOW...

UN-REDD ALSO STATED THAT IT WILL ADHERE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP GUIDELINES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. IN FEBRUARY 2008 THESE GUIDELINES WERE UPGRADED TO MAKE THEM CONSISTENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. THESE GUIDELINES AMONG OTHERS RECOMMEND THAT UN OPERATIONS SHOULD RESPECT THE RIGHT TO FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT, AND RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COLLECTIVE LAND AND TERRITORIAL RIGHTS.





## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF REDD+ AND WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATUS OF REDD IN THE UNFCCC?

### The Cancun Agreement

As mentioned already, in December 2010, an agreement was reached at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16) which includes REDD. REDD is covered in chapter C in part III titled “Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”.

In the box below we have reproduced the complete text of the agreement on REDD. A little earlier we have already mentioned and discussed which activities are identified in the Cancun agreement as being part of REDD, and which will, therefore, in the future receive funding under REDD programs. These activities are:

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forest;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Here we would like to briefly discuss a few more points which we consider important to keep in mind when trying to understand the REDD agreement reached in Cancun and Durban.

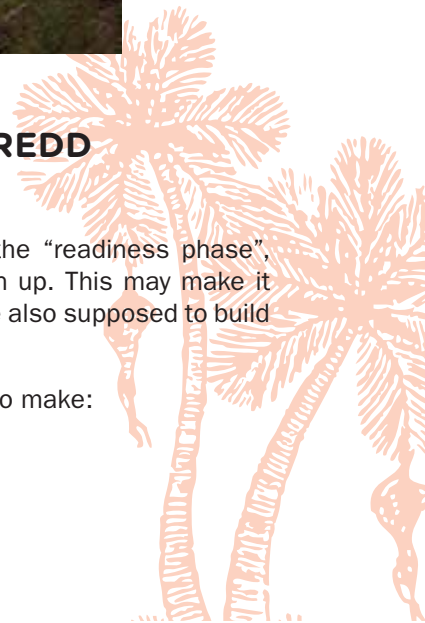


### How is REDD to be implemented? – The phases of REDD

The REDD decision foresees the implementation in phases. These are:

**Phase 1 (Readiness Phase):** During phase 1, which is commonly called the “readiness phase”, national strategies or action plans, policies and measures should be drawn up. This may make it necessary to change and make new laws. During this phase, the countries are also supposed to build up their capacity for the implementation of REDD.

More concretely, during the readiness phase REDD countries are supposed to make:





1. A national strategy and national plan that includes actions to be taken for addressing among others:

- Land tenure issues
- Identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Forest governance issues (including benefit sharing)
- Gender consideration
- Safeguards that ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples

2. Defining national and – where appropriate – sub-national emission reference levels

3. Establishing a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system, i.e. an MRV system at national and – where appropriate – sub-national level

4. Establishing a Safeguards Information System, i.e. a system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected in all REDD activities

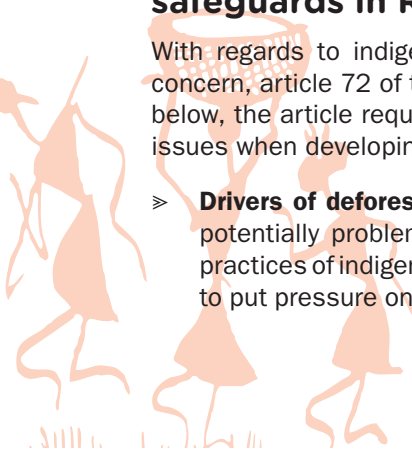
- **Phase 2 (Implementation Phase):** During the second phase, the national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that have been prepared during the readiness phase are supposed to be implemented. More capacity-building and the development of technologies or the transfer of technologies from other countries may be necessary. The implementation phase will also include concrete pilot projects during which REDD is supposed to put into practice. These are called “result-based demonstration activities”, which means that these concrete REDD projects are supposed to produce results that can be measured. This means the projects are supposed to clearly show how much carbon emission has been prevented or how much additional carbon has been sequestered through forest conservation. A system will be introduced which will include the measurement of carbon, the reporting on what has been measured, and a process through which it has to be shown that these measurements and reports are correct (which is called “verification” – to show that it is true). This is referred to as the MRV system (measurement, reporting, and verification).
- **Phase 3 (Accounting Phase):** This is the final phase when REDD is to be fully implemented and when all the results are supposed to be measured like in the pilot projects during the implementation phase. During this phase a kind of “book keeping” on carbon has to be done (keeping a record of how much carbon is emitted, how much carbon emission has been prevented and how much additional carbon has been stored), and it is therefore called the “accounting phase”. The MRV system tested during the implementation phase will have to be fully applied. Depending on the results of this “book keeping”, it will be determined how much money will be paid as compensation for the REDD activities.

Originally, the idea was that a country could not start with phase 2 without having completed phase 1, and could not jump from phase 1 to phase 3 directly. This is what is meant by the so-called “phased approach”. Now, the common view among REDD proponents and funders is that REDD governments can decide which phase to start with. This can be very risky, since it is in the Readiness and Implementation phases that the conditions and policy reforms should be adopted to ensure respect of indigenous peoples’ rights. If countries start implementing REDD without having put in place these reforms, indigenous peoples’ rights might be violated.

## Have indigenous peoples’ rights been taken into account? – The safeguards in REDD+

With regards to indigenous peoples’ rights, and also with respect to other important issues of concern, article 72 of the Cancun agreement is the most important article. As you can read in detail below, the article requests the governments of developing countries to address a number of critical issues when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans:

- **Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation:** This is a critical and for indigenous peoples potentially problematic issues since there is a danger that some of the land and forest-use practices of indigenous peoples will be identified as “driving deforestation”. It is also important also to put pressure on governments to identify the more indirect, underlying drivers of deforestation:





the demand for tropical timber, animal feed, agrofuel or other raw material and forest products, which lead to large-scale logging and conversion of forests to plantations;

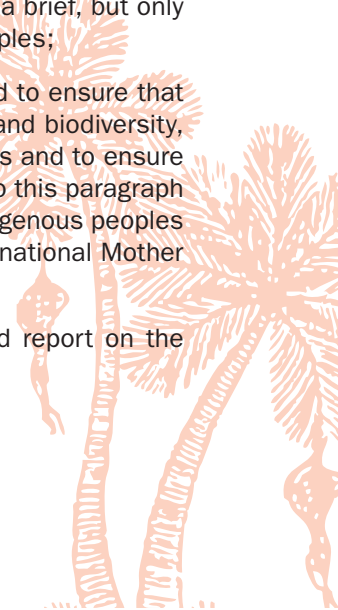
- » **Land tenure issues:** It is very important that this issue is clearly mentioned in the REDD agreement. Without clearly recognizing indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers right to land, REDD is unacceptable;
- » **Forest governance issues:** This is about how forests are to be managed and by whom. It includes who will benefit from this and from REDD. So the hotly debated issue of benefit sharing falls under this provision.
- » **Gender considerations:** This is to ensure that women are equally participating in and benefitting from REDD;
- » **The safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of annex 1:** The article itself also explicitly states that “the full and effective participation” of relevant stakeholders, among them indigenous peoples and local communities, should be ensured.



Indigenous peoples' rights and concerns are mentioned three times in the text:

1. In paragraph 72, which refers to the “the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities”;
2. In paragraph 2.c) of annex 1, which refers to the safeguards regarding the “knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities” and makes a brief, but only rather vague reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
3. The footnote to paragraph 2. e) in annex 1. This paragraph refers to the need to ensure that any actions taken in REDD do not lead to the destruction of natural forests and biodiversity, but should give incentives to conserve natural forests and ecosystem services and to ensure that they are beneficial to the environment and to local people. The footnote to this paragraph refers to the need to take into account the sustainable livelihood needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, and it again refers to the UNDRIP as well as the International Mother Earth Day.

It is important to emphasize that governments who signed this agreement should report on the implementation of these safeguards.



## Excerpts from the Cancun Agreements: Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative, Action under the Convention

### C. Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

*Affirming* that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, Parties should collectively aim to slow, halt and reverse forest cover and carbon loss, according to national circumstances, consistent with the ultimate objective of the Convention, as stated in Article 2,

*Also affirming* the need to promote broad country participation in all phases described in paragraph 73 below, including through the provision of support that takes into account existing capacities,

68. *Encourages* all Parties to find effective ways to reduce the human pressure on forests that results in greenhouse gas emissions, including actions to address drivers of deforestation;

69. *Affirms* that the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 below should be carried out in accordance with annex I to this decision, and that the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of annex I to this decision should be promoted and supported;

70. *Encourages* developing country Parties to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances:

- (a) Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- (b) Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- (c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- (d) Sustainable management of forest;
- (e) Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

71. *Requests* developing country Parties aiming to undertake activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop the following elements:

- (a) A national strategy or action plan;
- (b) A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level<sup>6</sup> or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure,<sup>7</sup> in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties;
- (d) A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in annex I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70, while respecting sovereignty;

72. *Also requests* developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of annex I to this decision, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities;

73. *Decides* that the activities undertaken by Parties referred to in paragraph 70 above should be implemented in phases beginning with the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified;

74. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, including the choice of a starting phase as referred to in paragraph 73 above, depends on the specific national circumstances, capacities and capabilities of each developing country Party and the level of support received;

75. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop a work programme on the matters referred to in annex II to this decision;

76. *Urges Parties*, in particular developed country Parties, to support, through multilateral and bilateral channels, the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures and capacity-building, followed by the implementation of national policies and measures, and national strategies or action plans, that could involve further capacity building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities including consideration of the safeguards referred to in paragraph 2 of annex I to this decision, taking into account the relevant provisions on finance including those relating to reporting on support;

77. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention to explore financing options for the full implementation of the results-based actions<sup>8</sup> referred to in paragraph 73 above, and to report on progress made, including any recommendations for draft decisions on this matter, to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session;

78. *Also requests* Parties to ensure coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, including of the related support, particularly at the national level;

79. *Invites* relevant international organizations and stakeholders to contribute to the activities referred to in paragraphs 70 and 78 above.



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<sup>6</sup> In accordance with national circumstances, national forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels could be a combination of subnational forest reference emissions levels and/or forest reference levels.

<sup>7</sup> Including monitoring and reporting of emissions displacement at the national level, if appropriate, and reporting on how displacement of emissions is being addressed, and on the means to integrate subnational monitoring systems into a national monitoring system.

## Annex I, paragraph 2.

2. When undertaking activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- (a) Actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, in actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
- (e) Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;<sup>1</sup>
- (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- (g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> Taking into account the need for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependence on forests in most countries, reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the International Mother Earth Day.

[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_16/application/pdf/cop16\\_ica.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_ica.pdf)

## What came out of the COP 17 in Durban?

At the COP17 in Durban in November 2011 the majority of governments were hesitant to adopt stringent guidance that would include “performance-related information” on compliance with safeguards. This means they were reluctant to discuss and come up with guidelines on what kind of information should be included in reports so that the compliance of REDD+ implementation with the safeguards agreed on in the Cancun agreement can be assessed. Instead, the discussions were limited to the modalities for reporting, i.e. the more formal, technical aspects. Indigenous Peoples demanded specific reference to indigenous peoples’ rights and to international obligations in the final text, but the only noteworthy outcome was a reference to international obligations, while any specific reference to indigenous peoples’ rights was diluted into a more general reference to the whole package of safeguards adopted in the Cancun Agreement.

In summary, the COP 17 decision on a System of Information on Safeguards:

- » Contains reference to international obligations and agreements and agrees that systems for providing information on how the safeguards are addressed should be in place. However, the COP 17 decision is quick to add that reporting systems on safeguards should take “into account



national circumstances and respective capabilities, and recognize national sovereignty and legislation, and relevant international obligations and agreements”.

- Specifies the general features of the system of information on safeguards, but leaves it up to national governments to decide on what data to include in their national communications to the UNFCCC in the form of a “summary”.
- The “summary” of information should be provided periodically and be included in the so-called “national communications”. These “national communications” are reports by governments to the UNFCCC. The contents of these reports are different for the developed countries (Annex 1 countries) and developing countries. The core elements of the national communications for both all governments are information on emissions and removals of greenhouse gases and details of the activities undertaken to implement the Convention. It is important that governments have to include in their reports how safeguards have been followed, but it is very unfortunate that it has not been clearly determined what information has to be included in these reports. Therefore it does not provide clear guidance on how reporting at international level is ensured
- Requests SBSTA to consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency and effectiveness when informing on how safeguards are respected and addressed
- Says that implementation of safeguard and information should support national strategies and actions and be included in all phases of implementation, “where appropriate”. This means that, again, it is left to the governments to decide on where safeguards are to be applied.
- The Durban COP also adopted a decision on REDD+ financing that contains some interesting elements. It did not take a clear-cut position on whether to support private market-based systems for REDD+ , stating simply that on the basis of experience gained from current demonstration activities market-based approaches could be developed by the COP. Governments also acknowledged the fact that results upon which payments would be made need to encompass non-carbon benefits, such as livelihood, biodiversity, poverty alleviation. The final text contains a somewhat ambivalent reference to safeguards. On the one hand it acknowledges that regardless of the sources of financing, any REDD action has to be consistent with the safeguards. On the other hand it states that the promotion and support of safeguards applies to those actions that are requested by REDD+ countries and for which they are seeking financial and technical support.

In short, the COP 17 of Durban

- Recognizes the multiple benefits of REDD+ in terms of poverty alleviation, biodiversity benefits, and that policies should promote and support safeguards;
- Reaffirms that any REDD+ finance will have to be consistent with the safeguards contained in the Cancun Agreement
- Agrees that sources of financing can come from a variety of sources, public and private, including alternative sources
- Considers that appropriate market-based approaches could be developed by the COP





## What are the gains, what are the challenges?

The key achievements of indigenous peoples' advocacy and lobby work on the UNFCCC with respect to REDD are:

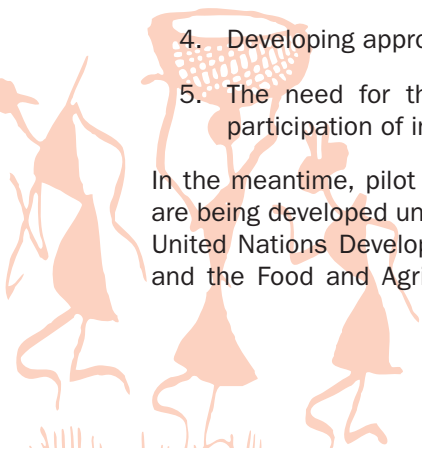
1. The inclusion of the respect for the traditional knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples
2. The request for full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in activities relating to REDD+
3. The obligation of states to report on the implementation of safeguards, and for the SBSTA to develop the guidelines



Clearly, the agreement on REDD does address indigenous peoples' rights, but the language agreed on is not very strong. For example, it uses phrases like "requests developing country Parties...to address". Therefore, in order to ensure that the agreement is translated into action at the national level, while working to improve international standards, a number of challenges need to be addressed now:

1. The need to strengthen the obligation of states under the UNDRIP with respect to
  - Community Land Tenure/ land/forest rights including to carbon
  - Recognition of Customary forest governance systems
  - Protection and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods
2. The need to ensure that FPIC is integral to full and effective participation of indigenous peoples
3. The need to include provisions for equitable benefit-sharing
4. Developing appropriate financing modalities of REDD
5. The need for the immediate implementation of the provision for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

In the meantime, pilot schemes on REDD+ are already being undertaken and national level plans are being developed under funding mechanisms set up by the UN-REDD – which is composed of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – and by international financial institutions like





the World Bank. At the same time there are local voluntary REDD+ projects being set up by private companies, governments and environmental conservation groups.

Pending a final UNFCCC decision on how REDD+ will be financed in the future, and a clear determination on the possible role of the Green Climate Fund, the existing programmes that are trying out different ways of REDD+ financing are still very important and very influential. Indigenous peoples have worked very hard to influence the international negotiations on climate change and the financing discussions within them.

These programmes are expected to have so much influence simply because they offer an available model for how it could be done as well as setting up good practices that would possibly be taken into account in future REDD financing schemes. The most influential of these existing programmes are the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Programme and the UN-REDD programme. Since the World Bank has now taken an increasing role in financing of Climate Change measures and wants to be regarded as the "Climate Bank", it will certainly play a vital role in the financing of REDD+.

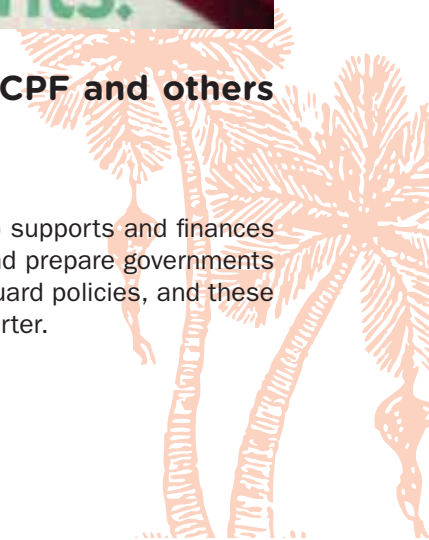
Indigenous peoples over the past year have also pushed very hard for these organizations to support indigenous peoples' own solutions to climate change and support the inclusion of indigenous peoples in any actions that may impact them. Indigenous peoples have also pushed very hard for these programmes to accept and protect their rights, including the right to FPIC. As already briefly mentioned, various so-called safeguards have been proposed and developed to address, among others, the concerns of indigenous peoples. We are therefore taking a look at what has so far been done to implement these safeguards.



## Implementing the safeguards - What UN-REDD, FCPF and others have done so far

### The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

As we have already explained, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) supports and finances readiness programmes, this means activities which build up the capacity and prepare governments to implement REDD in the future. The World Bank already has its own safeguard policies, and these safeguards also apply to the FCPF. This is clearly mentioned in the FCPF Charter.





However, readiness activities usually include technical assistance and capacity building, and do not necessarily include financing project activities on the ground. Only in some exceptional cases, the FCPF might directly fund projects. These are demonstration projects, for example to test MRV systems or forest management models in some areas. In these cases, the existing safeguards of the World Bank will have to be applied. In principle, for Readiness activities only two World Bank safeguards apply, i.e. Access to Information and Consultation. All the other safeguards will be triggered when REDD is implemented in the field through projects. In this case almost all the World Bank's safeguards might be triggered.

So, since FCPF is a preparatory ("Readiness") programme, helping governments to get ready for REDD, there is a need to ensure that this preparation also includes the preparation of safeguards that will apply for future REDD activities. This is necessary in order to comply with the social and environmental safeguards that are included in the Cancun agreements.

In order to do so, the FCPF developed the so-called Strategic Environmental and **Social Assessment (SESA)**, that provides the necessary tools to assess the needs and ways to prevent social and environmental harm in future REDD activities.

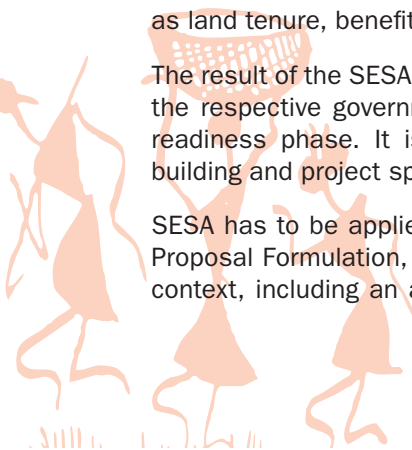
So the SESA has been developed specifically for the FCPF. Hence, for indigenous peoples it is key in the Readiness Phase to ensure that when preparing the SESA, the government and the FCPF take into due account all the REDD-related aspects that are relevant for indigenous peoples, such as rights to land, territories and resources, FPIC, benefit sharing, participation, respect for traditional livelihoods and knowledge. Indigenous peoples also stress that it is important to identify the gaps in legislation or policy that need to be addressed to ensure respect for rights and alignment to international obligations and instruments such as the UNDRIP.



The SESA is composed of various components. One is related to the research that needs to be done to determine whether the country's policies, laws and institutions are sufficient to ensure that the safeguards will be applied, no harm will be done, and benefits will be delivered. Another component is related to the assessment of the drivers of deforestation and of social and environmental issues such as land tenure, benefit sharing, access to resources. Then there is a component on consultation.

The result of the SESA is the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that advises the respective government on how to address social and environmental issues during the REDD readiness phase. It is supposed to include procedures for stakeholder consultations, capacity building and project specific environmental and social impact assessments and action plans.

SESA has to be applied during the whole Readiness Phase. During the first phase, the Readiness Proposal Formulation, a REDD country has to do an initial analysis of the social and environmental context, including an assessment of land use, forest and environmental policies etc. Civil society





organisations have to be consulted, but not yet communities. The results of this analysis have to be part of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP).

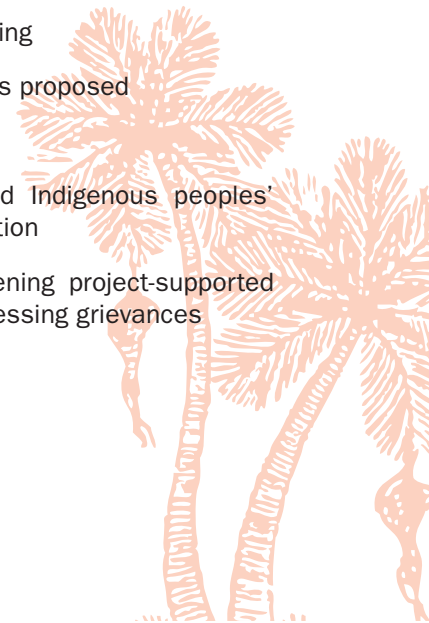
During the second phase, the Readiness Preparation, REDD countries have to conduct a more in-depth analysis. Above all, they have to conduct more stakeholder consultations, this time also with communities. In accordance with the World Bank's Operational Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples, free, prior informed consultation have to be conducted with indigenous communities involved and affected. At the end of the Readiness Phase, FCPF countries have to compile the Readiness Package (R-Package), which also includes the Environmental and Social Management Framework.



As part of the procedures of the FCPF, the countries involved will have to submit so-called Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (ISDS). The ISDS will specify which state institutions will have to ensure the proper consideration of social and environmental aspects in Readiness, and it contains also a list of World Bank safeguards that might be triggered in the Readiness process. These would be: Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04); Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01); Forests (OP/BP 4.36); Pest Management (OP 4.09); Physical and Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11); Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12); Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37); Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50); Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60).

Most important for indigenous peoples is that SESA has to include the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), described in the Annex 3 of the World Bank Operational Guidelines (OP 4.10) on Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is composed of the following elements:

- a. Types of programs and subprojects likely to be proposed for financing
- b. Potential positive and adverse impacts of projects and programmes proposed
- c. A plan for a social assessment
- d. A framework for Free prior Informed Consultation with affected Indigenous peoples' communities at each stage of project preparation and implementation
- e. Institutional arrangements (including capacity building) for screening project-supported activities, evaluating their effects on indigenous peoples and addressing grievances
- f. Monitoring and reporting arrangements



## Common Approach on Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners

Under the FCPF Charter, the World Bank is the only eligible “Delivery Partner” for the FCPF Readiness Fund. To be a “Delivery Partner” means to implement activities (and thus dispose of and channel funds from the FCPF Readiness Fund. However, a number of other organizations, like regional development banks such as the IADB and ADB, and the agencies involved in UN-REDD (UNDP, UNEP and FAO) are now being considered to be accepted as Delivery Partners.

The World Bank and each of these organizations have their own social environmental policies and safeguards. Therefore, FCPF decided that before including other agencies as Delivery Partners there should be a uniform set of safeguard standards which all of them would have to ensure in their work with REDD+ countries. This Common Approach on Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners provides that if an organization other than the World Bank is the Delivery Partner in the FCPF and “if the environmental and social safeguard policies and procedures of the DP are more stringent and/or protective than those of the WB, the DP shall apply its policies and procedures to activities”. This means, for example, that if UNDP is a Delivery Partner to the Readiness Fund, the principle of FPIC and other provisions contained in the UNDRIP apply since UNDP is a UN agency and thus has to adhere to the UNDRIP.

The Common Approach is part of the latest draft version (April 20, 2012) of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) template (Annex E: FCPF Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners, Including Guidance on Disclosure of Information)

### The UN-REDD Programme

The UN-REDD Programme has developed a set of Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC, adopted in 2012) that will assist in the implementation of the Cancun safeguards and at the same time ensure respect of United Nations conventions and declarations such as the UN DRIP. Adopting a right-based approach, the SEPC will be used to reduce risks and ensure benefits as well as define what needs to be done to prepare and implement REDD+. They can be used in the formulation of the National UNREDD programme, to review programme documents and/or in monitoring and reporting activities. A Benefit and Risk Assessment Tool (BERT) will also be adopted to help in the application of the SEPC. Some of the criteria are very relevant for indigenous peoples, among these:

Criterion 1: Apply norms of democratic governance that included ensuring access to information, full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples;

Criterion 2: Respect and protect stakeholder rights in accordance with international obligations, including the rights of indigenous peoples to land, territories and resources, seeking their Free Prior Informed Consent and respecting traditional knowledge;

Criterion 3 Promote sustainable livelihoods, equitable benefit sharing and well being including of indigenous peoples, taking into account indigenous peoples’ development plans, concepts and traditional livelihoods.

## UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior, Informed Consent

The UN-REDD is also in the process of adopting its Guidelines on Free, Prior, Informed Consent and a recourse mechanism. These are useful tools for indigenous peoples to advocate for a genuine FPIC process in line with international standards and with the UNDRIP. The latest draft (February 2012) recognizes that FPIC needs to be sought throughout the whole Readiness phase, in all activities and not just once. Important is also that it states that FPIC can be sought also for activities planned in areas where the land rights of indigenous peoples are not yet recognized. This is a significant step forward and a very important precedent to advocate for a strong commitment by UN-REDD countries to comply with FPIC. However, some limitations still exist. The most important – again – is related to the relationship between UN-REDD and FCPF when they operate in the same country. It says that for FCPF FPIC will apply only in countries that have ratified ILO 169 and have FPIC recognized in national legislation. This may change once the joint Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness are finalized and the issue is finalized and a decision is taken on how to deal with the fact that different agencies have different standards. As explained above, the most recent draft of the Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement calls for the application of the highest standard (FPIC) when the World Bank does work on a project with a development partner that expressly applies FPIC.



## Joint Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness

UNREDD and FCPF have jointly developed guidelines on the engagement of stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples.

It is the first effort to harmonize the work of FCPF and UN-REDD. The purpose of the common guidelines is to support effective stakeholder engagement for REDD+ readiness with a focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities. The guidelines are an important tool to ensure that indigenous peoples are properly engaged in all phases of REDD readiness of both UNREDD and FCPF. Furthermore, by having one Stakeholder Engagement process instead of two they can reduce the burden on REDD countries.

These guidelines are part of the requirements for participation in FCPF and UN-REDD. They have been integrated into the latest version (April 20, 2012) of the R-PP template (as Annex B) and will be part of the up-coming UN-REDD 'Handbook to Support National Actions'. FCPF and UN-REDD will provide support to countries and stakeholders to apply the guidelines. This includes, among others, financial support for in-country stakeholder engagement or for the involvement of regional stakeholder engagement specialists etc.

The guidance recognizes that countries that are part of UN-REDD and have "adopted" the UNDRIP, will be expected to adhere to Free Prior Informed Consent, while for those involved in FCPF the principle of Free Prior Informed Consultation leading to Broad Community Support applies.

In a significant development the guidelines' latest draft (March 2012) clarifies that

when a country is engaged with more than one partner, i.e. with the FCPF and the UN-REDD and maybe other agencies, the highest standard would apply. This means that FPIC would be required if a country is engaged with both with FCPF and UN-REDD.

The guidelines recognize the importance of issues such as land tenure and resource rights, livelihoods, and the need to respect traditional indigenous peoples' decision-making structures. They envisage the creation of accessible and fair mechanisms for grievance and redress.

Eight steps are listed to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities:

- a. Define desired outcomes of consultation
- b. Develop a consultation and participation plan and request endorsement through a national stakeholder workshop
- c. Select the consultation and outreach methods
- d. Define issues to consult on
- e. Identify stakeholders
- f. Establish grievance and redress mechanisms
- g. Conduct the consultations
- h. Analyze and disseminate results

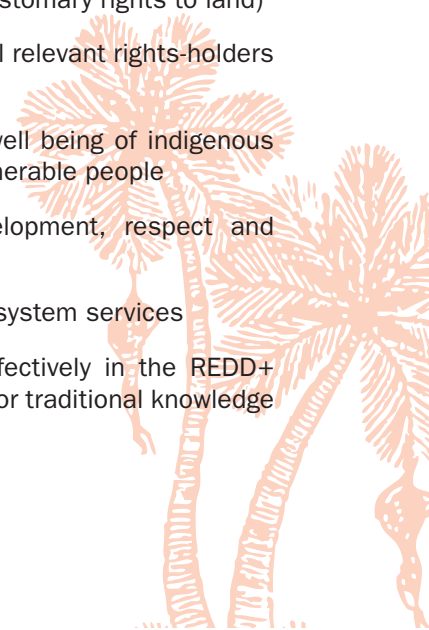


## Voluntary Standards: The REDD+ SE Standards

The international Non-governmental Organization CARE International and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) have developed voluntary international standards called REDD+ SE Standards. These standards are clearly supporting FPIC and other REDD-relevant indigenous peoples' rights obligations. These standards are proposed for adoption for government-led programmes at national, state or provincial levels. This far (March 2012, the REDD+ SE Standards have been applied in pilot programmes in the State of Acre (Brazil), Ecuador, Tanzania, Nepal, and Central Kalimantan (Indonesia). Their role is to support government-led REDD+ programmes to contribute to human rights, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. They are composed of principles, criteria and indicators. Principles and criteria are applicable to all countries, while specific indicators would be developed at the national level, through a multi-stakeholder process.

The REDD+ SE principles are the following:

1. Rights to lands, territories and resources are recognized and respected by the REDD+ program (this includes the right to FPIC and respect for indigenous peoples' customary rights to land)
2. The benefits of the REDD+ programme are shared equitably among all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders;
3. The REDD+ programme improves long-term livelihood security and well being of indigenous peoples and local communities with special attention to the most vulnerable people
4. The REDD+ programme contributes to broader sustainable development, respect and protection of human rights and good governance objectives;
5. The REDD+ programme maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services
6. All relevant rightsholders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ programme (this includes access To grievance mechanisms, respect for traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples' traditional management systems);





- The REDD+ programme complies with applicable local and national laws and international treaties, conventions and other instruments (this includes the UNDRIP)

By March 2012 the Standards are under review.

## REDD+ safeguards discussed in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

On various occasions the CBD has acknowledged the linkage between REDD+ and biodiversity conservation as well as the key role of indigenous peoples' customary resource management in protecting forests. It has also acknowledged the risks posed by REDD+ to traditional knowledge and land rights of indigenous peoples, and proposed a range of actions and approaches aimed at minimizing risks and maximizing benefits for biodiversity and indigenous peoples.

At its latest meeting in Montreal in May 2012, the CBD SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice) adopted a draft document that spells out some of the key elements of a system of safeguards for REDD+ aimed at protecting biodiversity and supporting indigenous peoples' rights. A key goal of the meeting was to identify possible indicators and mechanisms to assess and monitor impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity.

The Draft Recommendation submitted by the Co-chairs of the SBSTTA titled "Advice on the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity and on possible indicators and potential mechanisms to assess impacts of REDD+ measures on biodiversity" points to the linkages between implementation of REDD+, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity targets. Governments and REDD proponents should ensure coordination between national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national REDD+ strategies and action plans.

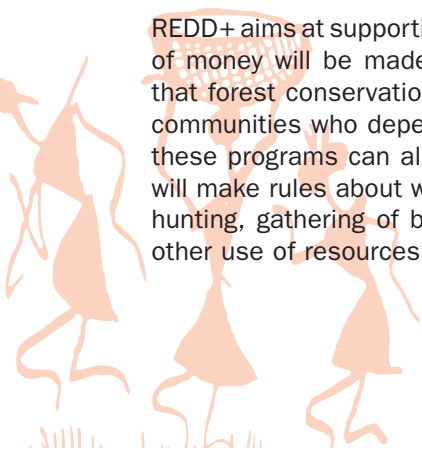
The draft report recognizes the relevance of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation, and the need for the reduction of biodiversity impacts of mitigation measures. Parties are invited to undertake land-use planning applying an ecosystem approach and utilizing international standards for the identification of biodiversity areas to prioritize conservation. The full and effective participation of indigenous peoples should also be ensured together with the achievement of benefits for indigenous peoples and biodiversity.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO KNOW ABOUT REDD+?

From what you have learned so far, you can already imagine that REDD+ has a very real potential to affect your rights to use, own and manage your lands and resources. It may affect your whole way of life, for better or for worse.

REDD+ is being implemented in developing countries in the tropics and sub-tropics and is focusing on forest areas – in many places, the traditional and customary territories of indigenous peoples. These forests have been inhabited by indigenous communities for hundreds if not thousands of years. Indigenous peoples have used, managed and shaped these forests in different ways. Rather than destroying them, traditional land use and management practices have led to more diverse landscapes, and thus to an increase in biodiversity.

REDD+ aims at supporting forest conservation, and enormous amounts of money will be made available for that by industrialized countries. Even though we may agree that forest conservation is in the interest of everybody, and certainly in the interest of indigenous communities who depend on forests for their livelihood, we can expect, as we will see below, that these programs can also have a severe negative impact on indigenous peoples. REDD+ schemes will make rules about what can and cannot happen inside forests, regulating activities like farming, hunting, gathering of bush foods, medicines, cutting firewood and lumber for construction or any other use of resources in the forests. It is possible that REDD+ projects have the same impact on





indigenous peoples as protected areas. Actually, in some ways they are a new form of protected areas: carbon protected areas.

Indigenous peoples all over the world have become increasingly worried about REDD+ since their experiences in the past have shown that governments and private companies often refuse to recognize their rights and interests in forest policies and programmes.

Indigenous peoples are also concerned about the impact of REDD+ projects on titling or recognition of land tenure, particularly because none of the new national laws on REDD+ nor international REDD+ programmes make land tenure security a precondition for REDD+. Similar to what is happening with mining and logging concessions, it is possible that the government will choose to sell carbon rights on untitled lands without reference to or consultation with the traditional owners of those lands.

But there may also be new opportunities that may help the indigenous peoples in their struggles if the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples are respected and if control of the design and management of REDD+ projects is in the hands of indigenous peoples. The positions of indigenous organisations on REDD+ therefore differ considerably. Some groups vehemently oppose the idea of treating forests mainly as a carbon storage, and they reject any form of forest carbon trading. Others accept that there could be benefits, and demand that indigenous peoples' positions are included in international and national processes.

If the money for REDD+ is raised from the market, then there are certainly implications for the peoples whose lands and resources are directly affected. But there is also the more problem that market solutions may not result in real reductions in emissions, and that it therefore may not help address the problems of climate change. For this reason, many indigenous peoples have rejected any use of the market to raise funds for REDD+. However, some indigenous peoples have chosen to participate in REDD+ projects that get money from the market. Indigenous peoples must decide for themselves if the benefits are higher than the problems of REDD+ and of market-based REDD+.

In any case, for you and your community, it is important to know what REDD+ is all about and know the possible advantages and the expected negative impacts so that you are prepared and can negotiate and defend your rights in case REDD+ programmes are targeting your land and territories.





## WHAT IS THE EXPECTED IMPACT OF REDD+ ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

The impacts of REDD+ depend on how it is implemented and how it is financed. It is important to find out standards are applicable for any particular REDD+ project and also how that project is being financed. If it is a government project, is it under the FCPF or the UN-REDD or FIP? If it is a private project, is it funded by the market or is it a private fund? If it is private, what standards are being applied? These are the questions for which you need to find answers in order to know the possible impacts of the project.



### General problems with REDD+

It has already become clear that REDD+, the way it has so far been designed, has several weaknesses, even dangers. Some problems are more technical, however, most are ethical.

#### Who will claim the forests?

We already know very well that many governments in the world refuse to accept or acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, forests and resources. When REDD+ comes into a country, it means that there is a lot of money on offer for projects and programmes in forest areas. This has already meant in some countries that governments are claiming more and more of the rights to forests and lands – even in some cases where the rights of indigenous peoples were previously secure under the law. This is why indigenous peoples everywhere have rejected any form of REDD+ that does not provide security for their rights to their lands and forests before ANY project or programme is developed.





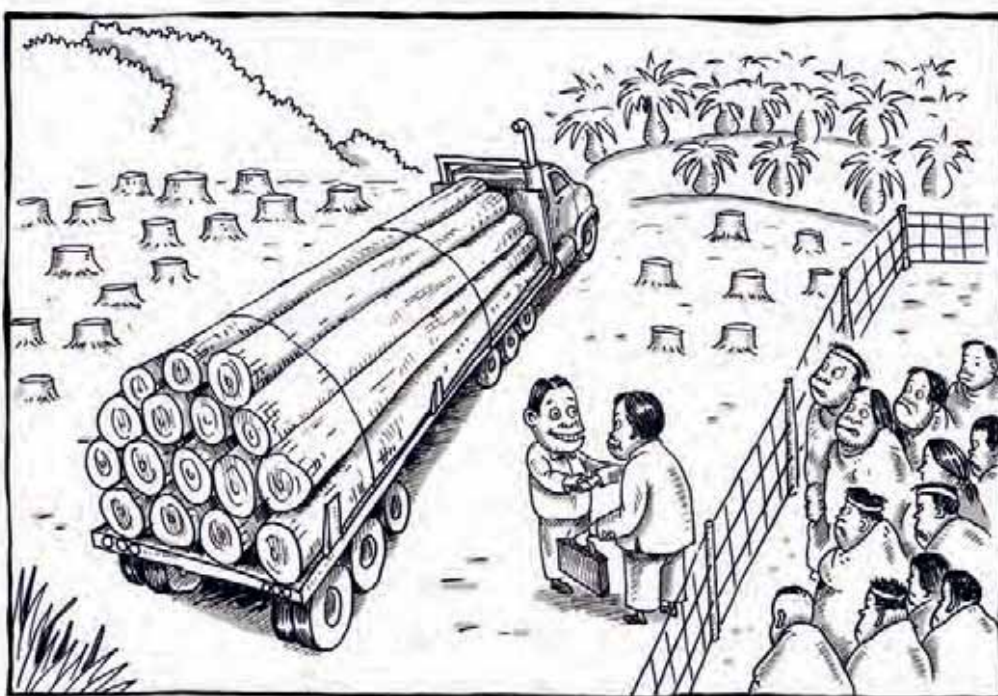
## The problem of “leakage”: Protecting here and cutting there

Leakage happens when a container has a hole. In the context of REDD+, it is referred to the problem of making sure that the REDD+ programs or projects do not have any “holes”, i.e., that when deforestation is prevented in one area it is not displaced to another area. For example, imagine that the government has given a company a concession for converting a forest into an oil palm plantation. Because of a REDD+ programme, the forest is not cut and turned into a plantation because the company and the government receive a compensation for agreeing not to cut the trees and plant oil palm. But how can we make sure that the same company (and the government agencies responsible) are not simply establishing the plantation in another forest, which has so far not yet been targeted for plantations? That’s the problem of “leakage”.

## The problem with “additionality” and “perverse incentive”: Paying the wrong people and encouraging deforestation

In order to be included in a REDD programme, the respective forest owner – a government, company or community – has to prove that the “carbon gains”, this means the carbon prevented from being emitted into the atmosphere (and kept stored in trees instead), would not have happened without the compensation payment offered. In other words, they have to prove that without the compensation payment the forest would have been cut. The technical term for this is to prove “additionality”, which means to prove that “additional” carbon has been saved. This is important because the carbon saved is sold as a carbon “credit” to someone in a developing country so they can meet their emission limits, or exceed them.

Before the broadening of the scope of REDD to REDD+, the situation was such that people who protect a forest anyhow, for other reasons than for keeping the carbon locked in trees, would not have been entitled to compensation and thus not be included in a REDD program. Or to put it more simply: only forests under an immediate threat to be destroyed or degraded were considered under REDD. REDD+ has changed that. Now compensation is also considered for already existing forest conservation. But the avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation is still a priority under REDD+. And there is still the danger that the people who may in the end benefit from REDD+ are also forest destroyers like cattle ranchers or oil palm companies. The most concern of worry is that REDD+ may actually encourage such people or companies to start destroying forests just in order to be included in a REDD+ program and get access to compensation money. Since such encouragement or “incentive” is totally in contradiction to the declared intention of REDD+, it is called a “perverse incentive”.





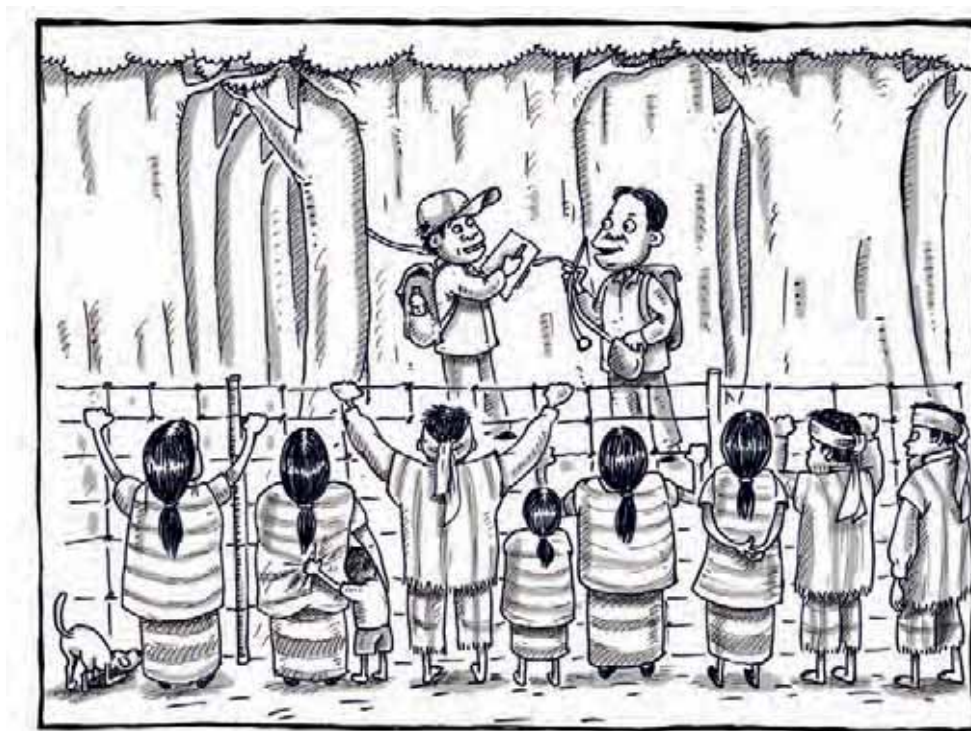
Another problem is that the definition of forest used in the United Nations makes no difference between natural forests and plantations. This means that a company could replace a forest with tree plantations, and still qualify for support under a REDD+ program.

Finally, once REDD+ programs are established, there will be a flow of enormous amounts of money from the industrialized countries to developing countries. There is a serious risk of large amounts of money being lost to corruption as money will be poured into some of the most corrupt governments of the world.

### Measuring and monitoring – and forgetting the people and the root causes of deforestation

The way the REDD+ schemes are planned now put a lot of emphasis on complex carbon measurement (how much carbon is stored in a forest?), accounting and monitoring systems (how much carbon could be saved through the REDD+ initiative, in comparison to what would have happened without the REDD+?), making new forest inventories (where are what kind of forests?), and on methods that help prove that emission reductions have happened.

However, very little attention has so far been paid to legal reforms that provide communities with titles to their land and forests and thus empower them for forest protection. And very few programs include monitoring of the impacts of REDD+ programs on forest communities, or monitoring of whether and how well those in charge of the program (government and donor agencies) are doing their job.



In all this the international agencies are focusing on actions in developing countries, and they are not addressing the main drivers of forest destruction: international trade and global consumption of agricultural commodities, timber and other products from forests.

In the long run, forest protection will only work if there are serious actions taken to address inequalities in land tenure, discrimination against indigenous peoples, corruption in governments and companies, over-consumption and uncontrolled industrialization.

## How much carbon is there in a tree?



The amount of carbon stored in a tree depends on the density of its wood. The denser and harder the wood, the more carbon it contains. An average sized tree of 15 meters height with an average wood density contains about 100 kg of carbon. So it takes about 10 trees for a ton of carbon.



### Trading in forest carbon: Helping polluters and not the climate

Trading carbon stored in forests would allow heavy polluters in industrialized countries to continue with greenhouse gas emissions to continue. It is very likely that if trading in forest carbon is allowed, it would lead to a massive increase in carbon credits available on the carbon market. Like with all commodities that are traded in the free market, the price will drop rapidly when supply increases. Therefore, trading forest carbon may not have a real potential to help in addressing climate change. We simply need to find ways to stop burning fossil fuels, not to create loopholes that allow the pollution to continue.



## WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF REDD+ ON INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES?

As long as there are no guarantees that indigenous peoples' rights are recognized and protected under any REDD programmes, there is a real danger that they will have very serious negative impacts on your community.

### The added impacts of REDD+

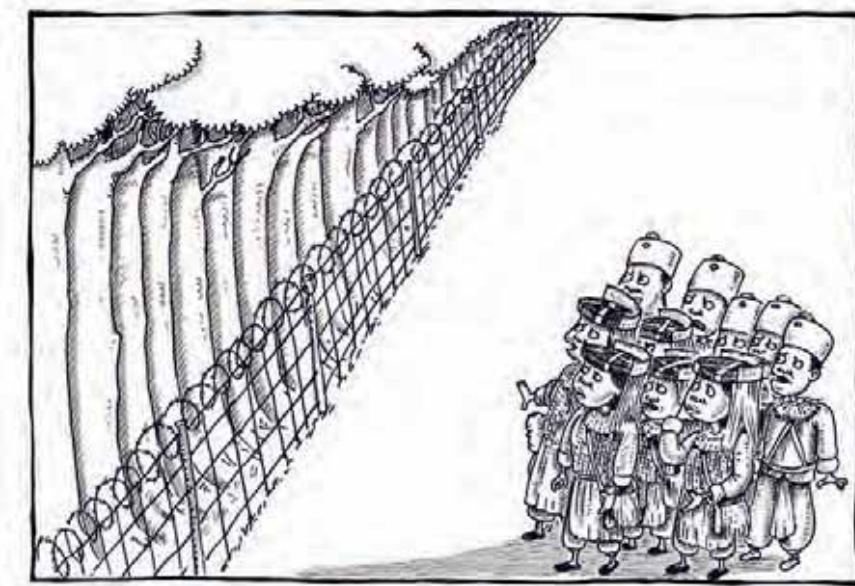
REDD+ includes more activities than just reducing the cutting down of forests. This is what the “+” means.

REDD+ language – what could it mean?	
“Stabilization of forest cover”	= keeping the forests that we have at the moment
“Conservation and maintenance of forest carbon stocks through sustainable management of forests”	= could include expanding protected areas and parks
“Enhancement of forest carbon stocks through conservation and sustainable management of forests, and/or increase in forest cover through afforestation and reforestation”	= this could mean tree plantations and agro-fuel plantations or it could mean re-planting or restoring areas that used to be native forests to make them forests again

The activities described here are ones that we are already familiar with in many indigenous territories. The problems caused to indigenous peoples by the expansion of protected areas without their consent are well known. If REDD+ means that more funds are given to protected areas without FULL protection of indigenous peoples' rights then they might face the same problems all over again, losing access and rights over their forests. “Sustainable management of forests” could also mean industrial logging of forests and then replanting of forest or tree plantations, destroying the original forests. Afforestation and reforestation may include paying for companies to expand agro-fuel plantations and tree plantations in some areas where the forest is not healthy. The problems of tree plantations are also well known to indigenous peoples. Companies and governments gain money from these plantations while they lose their rights to their lands.

### Ignoring indigenous peoples' rights: Relocation and land grabbing

Over the past decades, indigenous communities and other forest people have struggled hard to get recognition of and support for community-based conservation of forests. And in many cases they have succeeded. However, with REDD+ we fear that all the gains will be lost and that governments will again favour a “fences and fines” approach. In many cases this may not only mean that strict rules for forest conservation are imposed on forest people, but that communities will be evicted from such “carbon protected areas”.





Experiences in the past have shown that a “fences and fines” approach does not work and that it failed to prevent the destruction of forests or the loss of biodiversity. The non-recognition of the rights of indigenous and other forest communities prevents them from taking care of forest conservation and encourages encroachment by others.

Instead, it is expected that under REDD+, there will be an increase of “zoning” of forests by governments, companies and conservation NGOs, that there will be an increase of demarcation of protected areas, forest reserves or sustainable forest management zones (for certified logging) in order to receive REDD+ payments. The majority of already existing “forest zoning” and “land classification” programs throughout the world ignore the customary rights of indigenous peoples to their land and territories. With REDD+ the value of forests increases and it therefore cannot be expected that governments will be interested in addressing the demands of indigenous communities for the recognition of their rights to their land and territories. The compensation payments for forest conservation may also lead to increased land speculation in forest areas. Unless REDD+ programmes take measures to secure and recognize customary land rights of your communities, there is a serious risk of more forests being taken over by migrant settlers and private companies.

### **Competing over benefits: The danger of increased inequality and social conflict**

As the forest gains in value and encroachment by outsiders on indigenous peoples’ forests increases, there will be more conflicts. But REDD+ may also cause more conflicts between and even within indigenous communities. The increased value of forests and the expected benefits from REDD+ programmes will undoubtedly generate more conflicts over boundaries between communities, or among local landholders and forest owners. Once compensation payments under REDD+ begin to flow, there is also the risk that there will be more and new conflicts between and within communities if there are no careful measures taken to make sure that the different communities and the households within these communities equally benefit from these payments.



### **Targeting indigenous peoples land use practices: Banning a way of life**

Fire has been an important tool in land use and forest management of many indigenous people, not just those living in the forests of the tropics and sub-tropics. In the savannas of Africa, for example, pastoralists and hunters-gatherers have used fire to maintain the productivity of the ecosystem for livestock and game since thousands of years. Fire is also the key technology in shifting cultivation, a farming method practiced by an estimated 300 to 500 million people worldwide, many of them indigenous peoples.





However, indigenous peoples' use of fire, just like many other aspects of their resource management systems have often not been properly understood by outsiders, above all not by foresters, park rangers and other state agents in charge of the management and conservation of forests and biodiversity. As a result, such practices have been discouraged and in most cases even been declared illegal.

In the age of global climate change, resource use and management practices that rely on the use of fire are coming under increased pressure. This is particularly the case with shifting cultivation. In the name of forest conservation, governments all over the world and particularly in Asia have since long sought to eradicate this form of land use. The climate change discourse now provides them with additional arguments for banning shifting cultivation. In some countries, every year indigenous farmers are arrested when practising shifting cultivation.



Not only shifting cultivation, but also other forms of land use practiced by indigenous peoples – controlled burning of forests to improve habitat diversity, for game or pastures and for livestock, the collection of fuel wood, cutting trees for house construction and other purposes. Even the gathering of non-timber forest products – are now considered a form of “forest degradation” under REDD+ programs. And since REDD+ aims at reducing deforestation and forest degradation, indigenous communities are and will increasingly be targeted in such programs. This will have a severe impact on the way of life and the livelihood security of the affected communities.

## BUT CAN REDD+ ALSO BE BENEFICIAL TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

### Co-benefits: “REDD plus-plus”



We have to be very clear about one thing: the original idea behind REDD, and therefore also the main objective of REDD+ is mitigating the impact of climate change. It's all about carbon and other greenhouse gases: to reduce further emissions and to increase their absorption by plants. Any other positive results are additional benefits, or, as they are usually called: “co-benefits”. Some authors call REDD with such co-benefits “REDD plus-plus” (REDD++). It is however not an ‘official’ name.





The co-benefits of REDD+ often mentioned are:

- Conservation of biodiversity
- Other environmental services like increasing or regulating water flow of streams and rivers, reducing soil erosion etc.
- Promoting and improving sustainable livelihoods
- Poverty reduction
- Strengthening the capacity to adapt to climate change
- Securing rights of communities
- Promoting transparency and good governance



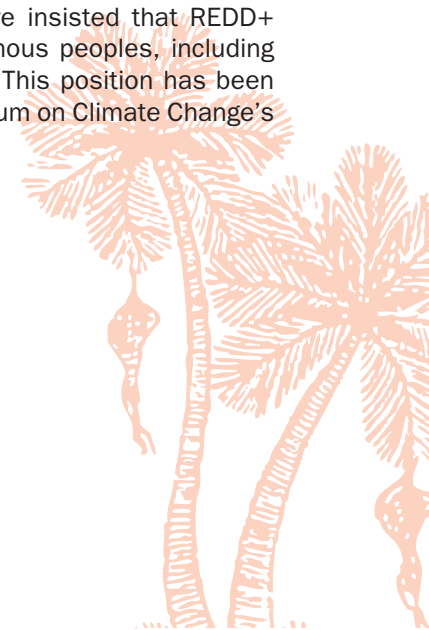
For indigenous peoples, the recognition of their rights is a precondition for any REDD+ project and should not be seen as a “possible co-benefit”.



### Possible benefits of REDD+ for indigenous communities

Although some indigenous peoples believe that REDD+ can never have any advantages for them, indigenous peoples organizations in several countries under REDD+ feel that there are conditions under which REDD+ could potentially assist them in realizing their rights to their lands and resources, protect their sustainable livelihoods and provide financial and other forms of benefits to their communities. It can also lead to the strengthening of their traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation activities.

Since the Indigenous Peoples’ Global Summit on Climate Change in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2009, indigenous peoples engaged in international policy-making for REDD+ have insisted that REDD+ must only go ahead if it is based on FULL respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, including the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This position has been expressed in the position papers of the International indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change’s (IIPFCC) and its proposals for the REDD+ negotiation text of the UNFCCC’s





If REDD+ was based on the recognition of indigenous peoples RIGHTS in this way, it may also help your community in protecting your way of life:

- There is a possibility that indigenous communities, whose rights to their land, territory and resources are not recognized and protected, can use a REDD+ project to achieve recognition and protection of their rights: REDD+ could be used to promote progressive reforms of land, forest and protected area laws and policies so that they fully respect indigenous peoples' rights, including the right to culturally appropriate consultation and free, prior and informed consent.
- Resolution of outstanding land and territorial claims could be a requirement or a precondition for any REDD+ project. Indigenous peoples could demand reforms of land titling and demarcation policies so that their lands and territories are recognized based on traditional occupation and use, and titles can be issued.
- REDD+ could be used as a way to gain funding, recognition and support for community conserved territories or community conserved forests, with funding made available to support indigenous peoples' conservation and management practices.
- If designed well, REDD+ could recognize that traditional farming and other customary practices (cutting of firewood, cutting of lumber for house building, etc.) do not harm the forest. It can also ensure the practice of sustainable traditional livelihood activities of indigenous peoples, while promoting their traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation practices.
- REDD+ could provide national level recognition that the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples is critical to forest conservation. Furthermore, their traditional knowledge can also be tapped and strengthened when developing appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures addressing adverse impacts of climate change.
- REDD+ could promote full title and ownership over traditional territories to enable direct access to international REDD+ funding and related finance.
- If and when the rights to their land and resources are fully recognized and protected, indigenous peoples or communities may consider joining REDD+ programmes or take the initiative on their own and enter into REDD+ partnerships with foundations, conservation agencies, private companies or others offering financial compensation for their efforts to protect their forests. Such agreements would be similar to other Payments for Environmental Services (PES) projects. You however have to be aware that if such schemes are not financed through funds that explicitly exclude emission compensation/offsetting for the respective donors, or which involve carbon trading, they will have impacts not only for your peoples and area but also in the developing countries in which emissions are allowed to continue.





Donors funding the respective REDD+ project can be used to add pressure on the government to change policies and laws, depending on their own policy and guidelines. UN-REDD, for example, is supposed to follow the UNDP Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and the World Bank its Operational Policy 4.10. However, the guidelines which the donors are using are often also not strong enough. The World Bank's Operation Policy 4.10, for example, does not recognize indigenous peoples' customary rights to their lands, territories and natural resources, and to their right of free prior informed consent. Instead, it refers to a process of "consultation" prior to the initiation of a project. So you have to carefully assess what position the respective donors have and to what extent they can help in achieving your goals.

Another word of caution is necessary regarding the financial benefits of REDD+ projects. There is a danger that unrealistically high expectations are created in communities about large amounts of money coming in from carbon sales or the funds financing REDD+ projects. It is important to know exactly what benefit-sharing mechanism a REDD+ project has, which means: how much of the income generated from a particular REDD+ project goes to the communities, how it will be distributed among them and, ultimately, whether that income properly compensates the efforts communities have to take and their expenses when engaging in a REDD+ project. It is important to know, for example, that REDD+ projects are long-term projects, of a duration of 30 years or more, and payments may be made only once in the whole cycle.

## Excerpts from the Position of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) on current Climate Change negotiations

Bonn, Germany, June 2010

### General Principles

Any decision or indication undertaken by the Parties will have to be founded on a strong rights-based approach and framework – specifically including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Indigenous Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO 169), and other international human rights obligations and instruments - and on the recognition of historical responsibility and ecological debt.

[ ]

### 1.B.2. REDD+

The IIPFCC is particularly concerned about the acceleration of REDD+ implementation, both under the Interim REDD+ partnership and other bilateral and multilateral processes. The Interim Partnership document does not have any specific reference to ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples as one of its overarching principles. It is imperative that the rights of indigenous peoples, including the resolution of land tenure, carbon rights and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples be addressed and resolved at national and international levels as a precondition for any further activities of REDD+.

[ ]

The IIPFCC encourages the implementation of sub-national REDD+ pilot projects, when promoted, planned and implemented by indigenous peoples and local communities and supported by dedicated grants directly accessible to them, subject to the prior establishment of a national legal framework that ensures the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, while preventing leakages.



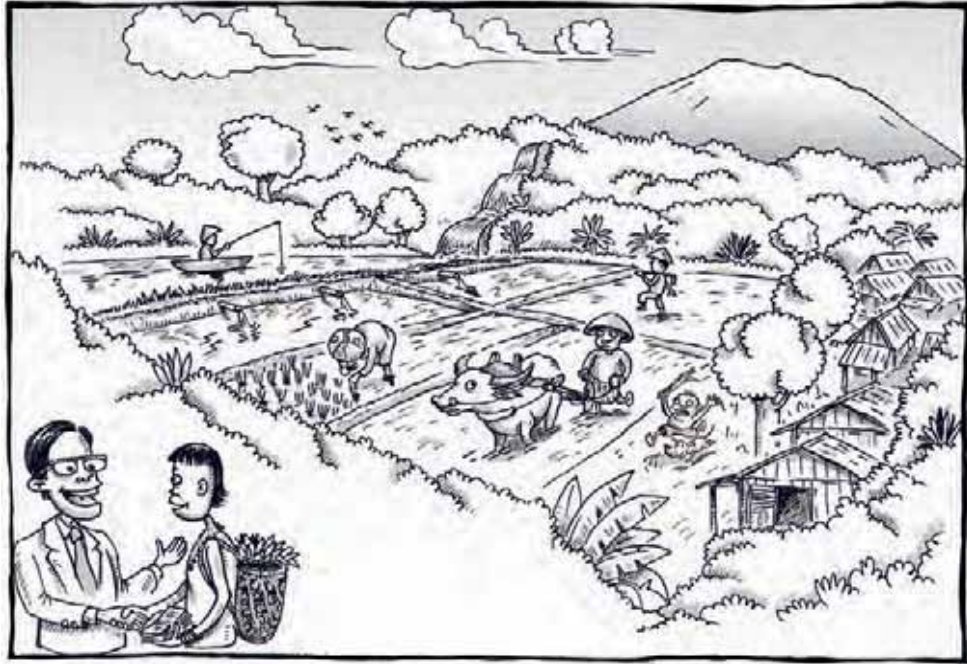
## What does my community have to think of before making a decision on REDD+?

In our manual “Understanding Community-based REDD+” we discuss in detail how REDD+ projects can be assessed and how communities can take a decision on whether to engage or not that takes all important aspects into consideration. Before we conclude this general overview of what REDD+ is, we think it is important to also highlight at least a few key issue which we feel communities should keep in mind before making a decision on REDD+.

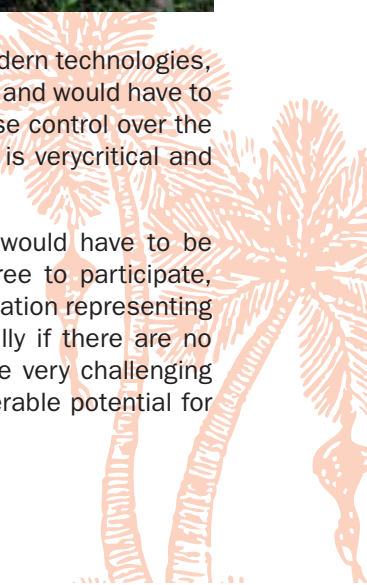


PES schemes – including Carbon Partnerships – are often promoted as a way to address poverty especially among communities in remote, upland areas. There are indigenous communities who are considering, or even already preparing for carbon partnerships. These may include compensation for reforestation and afforestation, but also for REDD+. Such partnerships can range from simple carbon trading agreements to more comprehensive agreements which may explicitly include other environmental services such as biodiversity conservation. Since communities are supposed to get financial compensations for their forest conservation efforts, such partnerships do represent an alternative form of income. Indigenous communities can also assert their right to determine how they will be compensated for their environmental services, like through the provision of basic social services such as water and sanitation system, support for sustainable livelihood practices, renewable energy development etc. There are however a number of critical issues which communities have to consider before entering into such agreements. Among others these include:





- REDD+ and other carbon partnership agreements are usually long-term contracts, extending over several decades. So communities would be bound by such an agreement for a very long time and it would probably be very difficult to make changes with respect to land use and management in the area covered by the agreement. Communities should therefore be aware of the implications of specific terms of agreements, especially in relation to their control of their land and resources, and on the protection of their livelihoods.
- Contracts especially with private companies – who in any case are first of all interested to make profits – are complex and detailed and it is necessary to study them very carefully in order not to accept conditions whose consequences are not fully understood. The service of a lawyer may be necessary.
- There are also considerable technical challenges: REDD+ projects imply a constant monitoring of carbon stock changes. There are examples that show that communities are well capable of doing this if the areas to be monitored are not very large. Most agencies who seek to enter into a REDD+ partnership are however interested in having large areas included in the contract. In some cases, communities may actually own large forest areas, but for monitoring these areas it may be necessary to involve modern technologies, like remote sensing. Communities may not have the means or skills to do that and would have to rely on outsiders or the contract partner. This implies the danger that they lose control over the process. Therefore, support for capacity building of indigenous communities is very critical and should be included in the terms of the agreement.
- In other cases when large areas are to be included several communities would have to be involved. Some communities may however not be interested, and if all agree to participate, coordination and cooperation would have to be ensured and maybe an organisation representing all communities involved would have to be found or newly created. Especially if there are no traditional social and political institutions present at a higher level it can be very challenging to ensure smooth and good governance of the project and there is a considerable potential for conflict.





There is a check-list provided at the end of this booklet to provide you with a guide for the kinds of detailed questions that any community should ask prior to entering a carbon partnership agreement. It is also a good idea to find out as much information as you can from sources OTHER than the company trying to set up the project.





# PART III: THE UNDRIP AND WHAT COMMUNITIES CAN DO

## YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY: DEALING WITH REDD+ THROUGH THE UNDRIP

You are an indigenous person. It is likely that you and your community have lived in the area where you are in for decades, if not hundreds of years.

It is important that you are aware of discussions and decisions on climate change, including REDD. It is important that you participate in discussions where the land you live and make your living is concerned. It is important that you have a voice, to speak your mind or to ask questions, especially when decisions have to be made. It is your right. It is your human right. It is your right as an indigenous person. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) says so.



### WHAT IS THE UNDRIP?

The UNDRIP is the result of more than 20 years of work by indigenous representatives, governments and experts – writing the contents, and negotiating and agreeing among themselves, until it was eventually adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007. The purpose of the Declaration is to identify standards by which governments can recognize the rights of indigenous peoples.

It sets the **minimum standards** for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world. The Declaration is not a directly legally binding instrument but *it affirms many rights already contained in international human rights treaties*, and is therefore indirectly legally binding. For this reason and because a majority of the governments in the United Nations (UN) have agreed to its contents, indigenous peoples can use and are already using this to pressure governments to fulfil their obligations in the recognition and protection of their rights.



In fact, already in 2007 Bolivia has adopted the UNDRIP as a law, and it was incorporated into their new Constitution in 2009. Bolivia is proud to be the first country in the world to implement this international instrument. In Belize, the indigenous Maya villages of Conejo

and Santa Cruz sued the government in 2007 for giving permission to logging, oil, and hydro-electric companies to undertake projects on their territories and denying Mayan farmers access to their own ancestral land. The Supreme Court of Belize ruled in favour of the Mayas and ordered the national government to recognize the indigenous Mayas' customary rights to their land and to stop any





activities that might hinder them from using their land. It made explicit reference to the UNDRIP. It was the first judgment that made reference to the UNDRIP, which could influence the outcome of similar cases in other parts of the world.

## WHAT IS IN THE UNDRIP?

The Declaration contains **24 preambulatory paragraphs and 46 operative articles** which list and explain the international human rights of indigenous peoples. Among important contents of the Declaration are: the right to self-definition as indigenous peoples; the right to self-determination; rights to lands, territories and natural resources; the right to free, prior and informed consent for development activities on their lands and territories; and rights embodied in the other human rights instruments. The Declaration is also special because it talks of collective rights. This is particularly important for indigenous peoples, because many aspects of their life are common, or shared, such as ownership of lands and resources.



If you look closely at the UNDRIP, you will find that it is made up of elements that are found in other international legal instruments, like the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Human Rights Covenants, and conventions and declarations like the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Racial Discrimination (CERD), conventions addressing genocide, minorities and religious intolerance, as well as the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169.

## The UNDRIP - Summary of what it contains

### Self Determination

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination, which means that they freely determine collectively their political, economic, social and cultural systems and development.

They are entitled to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, in the life of the State in regard to those aspects.

They have the right to determine their own identity and membership; and the structures and leadership selection of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures, customs and traditions.

### Right to land, territories and resources

Indigenous peoples have the right to lands, territories and resources. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources with due respect to customs and traditions of indigenous peoples to land tenure systems.

They have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their lands, territories and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with indigenous peoples concerned, an open and transparent process to recognize and settle disputes pertaining to their lands, territories and resources.

#### **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC )**

Indigenous peoples have the right to free, prior and informed consent on the following:

- a. Any action resulting in forced removal or relocation from their lands or territories
- b. Any change in existing or creation of new laws or regulations by the government that affects them.
- c. Any projects affecting their lands and territories particularly with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
- d. Any storage or throwing away of anything that is poisonous or dangerous on their lands or territories.

*FPIC means that indigenous peoples should determine whether a project can go ahead or reject or set conditions for project implementation based on their collective decision making processes.*

#### **Right to Development**

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems and institutions and to secure their own means of subsistence and development, including the freedom to engage in traditional and other economic activities. Those deprived of such means are entitled to just and fair redress. They have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for their own development and to be actively involved, in health, housing and other economic and social programmes which when possible they will administer through their own institutions.

States shall take special measures to improve the economic and social conditions of indigenous peoples, while paying attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities. States shall take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and all forms of child labour.

#### **Culture and Cultural Heritage**

Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture, and States shall provide effective mechanisms to prevent and provide redress to forced assimilation.

Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies, including the use and control of their ceremonial objects and the repatriation of their human remains. States shall seek to enable the access and/or repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains in their possession through mechanisms developed with indigenous peoples concerned.

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures. States needs to act to recognise and protect these rights.

#### **Education**

Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions in their own languages and methods. They are also entitled to receive all levels and forms of education from the State. States shall take effective measures for indigenous individuals to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information. States shall take effective measures to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

#### **Health**

Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, as well as to the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. States must make sure that whenever indigenous peoples are affected by poisonous or dangerous materials that proper programmes are in place that will improve and repair the health of indigenous peoples and that these programmes are designed by the affected indigenous peoples.



## So what does that have to do with Climate Change and REDD+?

The UNDRIP should be the overarching framework which guides the design and implementation of climate change policies as these relate to indigenous peoples. Any policy, programme or project, including those on climate change, which will be implemented on indigenous territories should be carried out with indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). Many of the problems faced by indigenous peoples on climate change-related activities arise from neglect of these rights and the FPIC principle.



## Can you tell me more about Free, Prior and Informed Consent?

FPIC is the consensus/consent of indigenous peoples which has come about in accordance with their customary laws and practices. This does not necessarily mean that every single member must agree, but rather that consensus will be determined according to customary law and practice. In some cases, indigenous peoples may choose to express their consent through procedures and institutions that are not formally or entirely based on customary law and practice, such as statutory councils or tribal governments. Regardless of the nature of the process, the affected indigenous peoples retain the right to refuse consent, or to withhold consent until certain conditions are met. Consent must be obtained without coercion and manipulation ("free" consent). It must be obtained before the activities start ("prior" consent), and after the project proponent has provided all information needed to fully understand all the details of the project, like its purpose, scope and of course the impact on the environment and the people, and this information has to be provided in a language and in a way that is understandable to the affected indigenous communities ("informed" consent).

## Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

FPIC is mechanism and a process wherein indigenous peoples undertake their collective decision on matters that affects them, as an exercise of their right to their land, territories and resources, their right to self-determination and to cultural integrity.

### **FREE: Independent process of decision-making**

- Without coercion or free from sponsored ideas or manipulative or deceiving actions to get consent;
- Decision making process compatible to the indigenous customary laws.

### **PRIOR: Right to have a say and decision in any project that concerns them before its implementation**

- The State or third parties planning activities must seek their informed consent sufficiently in advance of any commencement and final authorization for implementation;
- Sufficient time to understand and analyse the information they receive, and to define and undertake their collective decision;
- Time bound requirement for information dissemination should be compatible to the situation of indigenous peoples;
- Time requirements of indigenous consultations and consensus processes should be defined by the indigenous communities and not imposed on them.

**INFORMED: Right to be provided with pertinent information on the activity/project/ programme being planned in order for the community to undertake an informed decision making process. This also includes the right to access related information.**

- Includes the full and legally accurate disclosure of relevant information in a form, which is both accessible and understandable (language) to them.

### **CONSENT: Consent is a result of the collective, independent and self- determined decision-making process of indigenous communities**

- Consent decision is based from a collective decision of the community and not just a decision of leaders;
- Consent as a collective decision of indigenous communities may also include their terms and conditions for their consent decision, including withdrawal of consent if terms and conditions are violated;
- Consent shall be sought at every stage or phase of the project/activity if deemed to have potential impacts at every stage/phase of the project;
- The presentation of correct and sufficient information, consultation and participation are crucial components of a consent process;
- Inclusion of a gender perspective and participation of indigenous women are essential, as well as participation of children and youth as appropriate.



In the UNDRIP, articles that are related to FPIC are the following:

- Article 10:** Indigenous peoples cannot be forcibly removed from their lands and territories and relocated without FPIC.
- Article 11:** Redress shall be given to indigenous peoples whose cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property are taken without their FPIC
- Article 19:** FPIC must be obtained before adopting or implementing legislative/administrative measures affecting indigenous peoples
- Article 28:** Indigenous peoples have the right to redress for lands, territories, resources, which were confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their FPIC
- Article 29:** No storage or disposal of hazardous materials in indigenous peoples' lands without FPIC
- Article 32:** FPIC should be obtained prior to approval of any project affecting their lands, territories and resources, particularly exploitation of mineral, water and other resources.

### **REDD+ involves indigenous peoples' forests and resources - Is there anything in the UNDRIP on these?**

A common and important problem that indigenous peoples encounter is the violation of their rights to lands, territories and natural resources. This problem is getting more and more serious as natural resource extraction is expanding into even the remotest areas, and it is particularly bad in countries where there are no national laws recognizing indigenous peoples' land rights. What's more, in many countries not even the existence of indigenous peoples is recognized in laws and policies. The denial of the right to land and resources, as well as the right to their use and management, is one of the causes of biodiversity loss among indigenous peoples, and it leads to tremendous hardship among many indigenous communities.



Rights to land and resources can be found in the following UNDRIP articles:

#### **Article 25**

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.





### Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.

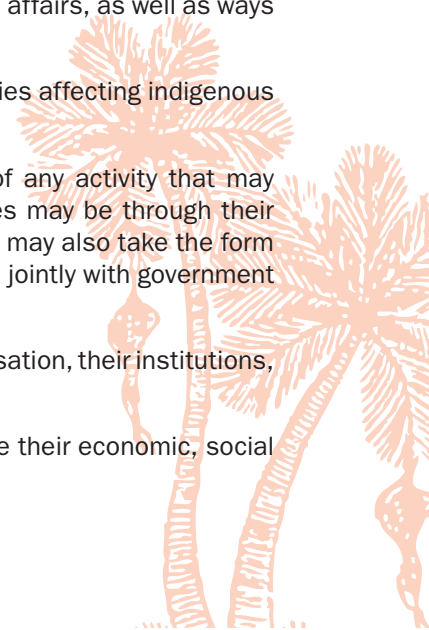
### What does the UNDRIP say about indigenous peoples' right to development?



The UNDRIP emphasizes the right to self-determined development of indigenous peoples. This is spelled out in Article 3, which states: “Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of this right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”

The right to self-determination is manifested in the following:

- Autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions;
- Respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent in any activities affecting indigenous peoples;
- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at every stage of any activity that may affect them directly or indirectly. The participation of indigenous peoples may be through their traditional authorities or a representative organisation. This participation may also take the form of co-management (managing a project, programme, protected area, etc. jointly with government agencies or other non-governmental organisations);
- Formal recognition of indigenous peoples' traditional socio-political organisation, their institutions, justice and conflict resolution systems;
- Recognition of the right of indigenous peoples to freely define and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.





**Now that we have all this information: What can my community and I do and how can we use the UNDRIP?**

Because indigenous peoples can play a vital role in the mitigation of climate change, it is important to ensure their meaningful and effective participation at all levels in all policies and programmes affecting them. The UNDRIP serves as a framework according to which the policies and programmes affecting indigenous peoples should be shaped.

The Anchorage Declaration, mentioned earlier, reiterates this, asserting that *“the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples, affirmed by the UNDRIP, must be fully respected in all decision-making processes and activities related to climate change”*.



With the UNDRIP as framework for indigenous peoples’ engagement in the climate change processes, they have identified the following as ways forward for indigenous peoples and communities:

- Enhance and deepen our understanding of climate change to implement more effective and appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures in our lands and territories. We need to conduct education and awareness raising campaigns among our communities.
- Strengthen engagements and relationships with other indigenous peoples and communities, and with government and non-government agencies and institutions.
- Enhance our capacities to mitigate and adapt to climate change by using traditional knowledge and sustainable forest management practices and by implementing self-determined development.



- Document how indigenous peoples, including youth and women, are being affected by climate change, and what their contributions are to local adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Exchange information with other communities on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies developed based on traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices which includes knowledge and use of land, water and sea ice, traditional agriculture, forest management, agricultural plant diversity, pastoralism and husbandry, herbal medicines etc. In all this we need





to ensure that our intellectual property rights are protected and respected at the local, national and international levels.



- Participate in climate change meetings at different levels (local, national, regional and global) and speak out, presenting our position and defending our rights wherever possible. Ensure the participation of women and children in these processes.
- Write strategy papers on REDD and the issues of technology, finance, adaptation and mitigation, and capacity building. Help to ensure that all initiatives under REDD recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, including their land rights in accordance with traditional practices and customary laws.
- Support campaigns for the implementation of the UNDRIP.
- Wherever not yet recognized, campaign for the recognition of our right to maintain our traditional use of plants and animals through hunting and gathering.
- Nurture and develop our traditional knowledge, environment-friendly technologies, cultural diversity and the biodiversity in our territories.
- Support campaigns of indigenous peoples against projects and policies which worsen climate change and which violate our rights (mining, logging, dams, etc.)

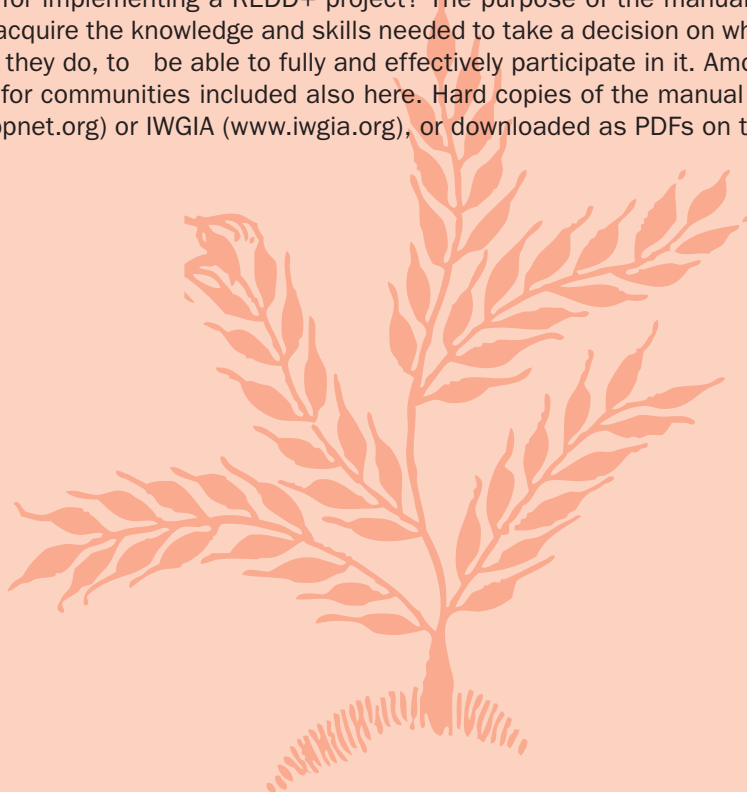


- Undertake sustained lobby and advocacy work within the UNFCCC processes, among the UN agencies and bodies, and multilateral bodies to ensure our effective and meaningful participation and that our rights, perspectives and proposals on climate change are respected and implemented.
- Actively participate in the formulation of national policies on climate change.





Our manual “**Understanding Community-based REDD+**” tries to help communities gain a deeper understanding of REDD+ and thereby to help take a decision on whether to engage in it or not. It takes a closer look at REDD+ at the project level and tries to provide some guidance to finding answers to questions like: How does REDD+ fit into the overall livelihood and forest management systems of indigenous peoples? How does REDD+ work on the ground? What are the typical activities of a REDD+ project? Who is involved in a REDD+ project? What are the particular knowledge and skills needed for implementing a REDD+ project? The purpose of the manual is to help indigenous communities acquire the knowledge and skills needed to take a decision on whether to join a REDD+ project, and if they do, to be able to fully and effectively participate in it. Among others, it contains the check-list for communities included also here. Hard copies of the manual can be obtained from AIPP ([www.aippnet.org](http://www.aippnet.org)) or IWGIA ([www.iwgia.org](http://www.iwgia.org)), or downloaded as PDFs on these web-sites.





## CARBON PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

# A CHECK-LIST FOR COMMUNITIES

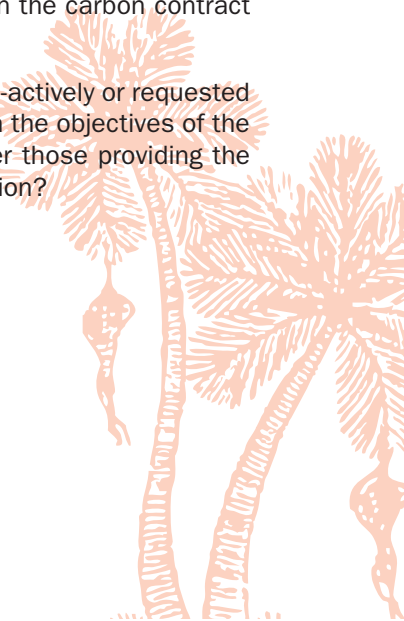
### INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

#### Basics

- Where is the project, how big an area does it cover, what are the names and number of affected people(s) or communities?
- What kind of land rights do your people or community hold over your lands and territories? Are your rights customary and untitled, customary and titled, individual and titled, individual and untitled, communal and titled or communal and untitled, or some other form of right?
- Are you being proposed as a party to the contract selling the carbon credits? If yes, who is the named seller? If no, what company, agency or other entity is the named seller?
- What is the length of time that the project covers? What are the different stages of the project and their respective durations?

#### The financing mechanism

- Is the project funded through the sale of carbon offset credits or through other funding or a mix of the two?
- If the project is funded by the sale of carbon offset credits, what kind of information has been provided to you pro-actively, and what information has been requested by the community during project and contract negotiations on:
  - Who is the buyer? Who pays for the carbon rights which the community is considering to sell and at what average price? What are the prices for comparable projects?
  - What are the possible legal implications of signing a carbon offset contract and what is the possible impact of such a (long-term) contract on ownership rights over the carbon in the forest, both for present and future generations?
  - What are the possible implications of both decreasing and increasing carbon prices for the specific project? For example, will the community benefit if carbon prices go up or do they receive a fixed sum payment irrespective of the price for which offset credits are traded? With regard to falling prices, will payments to the community be linked to the price of carbon on an international carbon market? Are contractual obligations linked to payments agreed on in the carbon contract signed?
- If the project is financed through a fund, has information been provided pro-actively or requested by the community during the presentation and negotiation of the project on the objectives of the fund, where the fund is located, who is providing the funding and whether those providing the funds are getting carbon emission offset rights in return for their contribution?



## What you should know....

...on the climate implications of carbon offsets generally:

(1) the buyer of the carbon credit is purchasing the right to continue to release fossil fuel emissions at home by paying the community to change behaviour and thereby reduce emissions which they are responsible for;

(2) carbon offset projects never reduce emissions and lead at best to stabilisation of emissions while the scientific consensus is that emissions need to be reduced by some 80-90% over the coming decades and peak around 2015 if climate chaos is to be avoided;

(3) carbon offset projects will justify continued and expanded extraction of oil and coal with all its human rights, social and environmental consequences.

## CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION PROCESS

- » Who was the negotiating partner, if any?
- » Who has negotiated for you or is proposed to negotiate for you? Will you negotiate by yourself?
- » Who will be signing the contract on behalf of your people or your community? How has this been decided?
- » Have you had independent legal advice and/or an opportunity to discuss the contract and its implications on rights with a lawyer?
- » Was there a lawyer representing or advising you during the negotiations?
- » Were the national laws of the country discussed in terms of how they may affect the carbon contract?
- » Has the contract been written and presented in the language of your people or the language spoken in the community, or at least a language that the community members can understand?
- » Have women been involved in the consultation and decision making?
- » Did the consultation process allow for feedback from community members? Was the consensus of the people of the community obtained in accordance with their custom and tradition? If not, why?
- » Has the community been given a copy of the contract and other documentation related to the carbon offset project?
- » Assuming there are restrictions on the use of the forest, how have these been negotiated within your community?
- » Do the restrictions affect all members of the community equally? Who is affected the most and who the least?
- » Is there a process to address unequal impact?
- » Does the project create any new jobs? If yes, what are the kind of jobs and by what process are jobs allocated or provided?

## What you should know...

...on a proper consultation process.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights gave a ruling after dealing with the case of the Saramaka People vs Suriname Government which outlines some key aspects of the duty to consult. The same should also apply to negotiation of forest carbon projects:

- The state and those authorised by it have the duty to both accept and disseminate information, and ensure constant communication between the parties;
- Consultations must be undertaken in good faith, through culturally appropriate procedures and with the objective of reaching an agreement;
- Indigenous and tribal peoples must be consulted, “in accordance with their own traditions, at the early stages of a development or investment plan, not only when the need arises to obtain approval from the community, if such is the case. Early notice provides time for internal discussion within communities and for proper feedback to the State;”
- The state must ensure that the indigenous and tribal peoples are aware of possible risks, including environmental and health risks, so that the proposed project is accepted knowingly and voluntarily; and,
- Finally, consultation should take account of indigenous and tribal peoples’ traditional methods of decision-making.

Do you think that the consultation and negotiation process related to the proposed project meets all of these requirements?

## THE CONTENT OF THE CONTRACT

- What is the time period of the contract? Is it the same as the length of the project?
- Does the contract limit or restrict your right of access and use of land and forests, or the right of use for other neighbouring communities? If yes, have these limitations been fairly negotiated and has fair compensation been provided under the contract?
- How are the payments being determined?
- If the selling of credits is part of the contract, how many credits are these?
- Is the payment received linked to the price of the carbon?
- Did you have your own financial analysis to assist in arriving at the agreed price? Is the payment made as one-off fixed sum or a continuous payment for as long as the contract lasts?
- What rules or regulations have been put in place to make sure the carbon remains in the forest during the contract period? Who has put these rules and regulations in place?
- Who carries the risk if something happens to the forest/trees? What happens if the carbon is lost through accidental events like a wildfire? Will you have to pay money back to the contract partner?
- Has sufficient information been provided/sought for you to understand both the responsibilities and benefits as agreed upon in the contract?

## IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- Who is responsible for the implementation of the rules and regulations agreed on in the contract? Who is monitoring the implementation?
- What enforcement mechanism is in place to ensure that the contractual obligations are met?

*This check-list is based on a community check-list developed by FERN and the Forest Peoples Programme*



WHERE YOU CAN GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THESE THINGS

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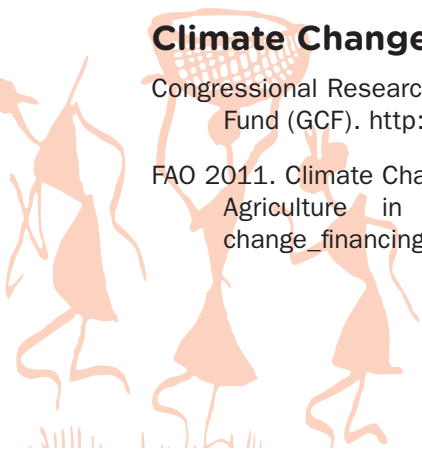
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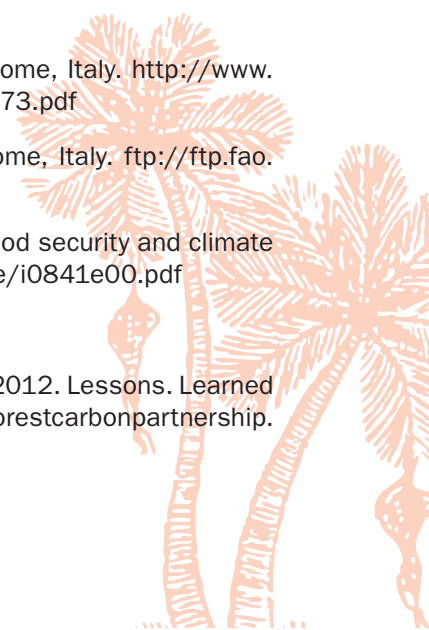
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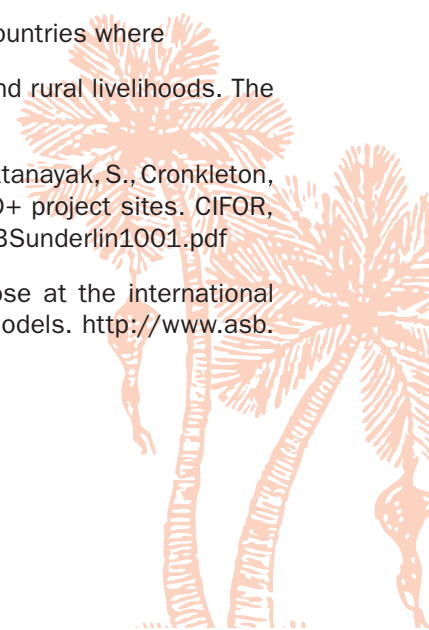
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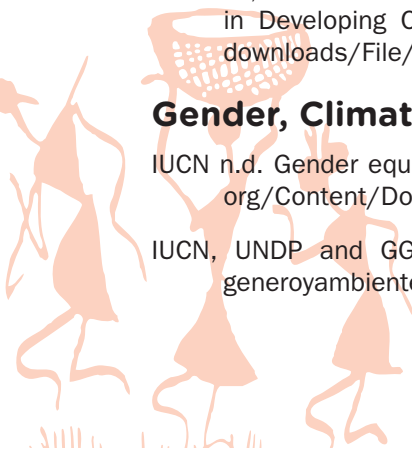
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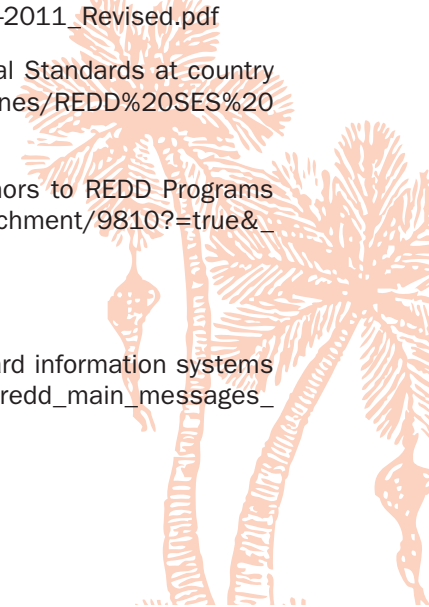
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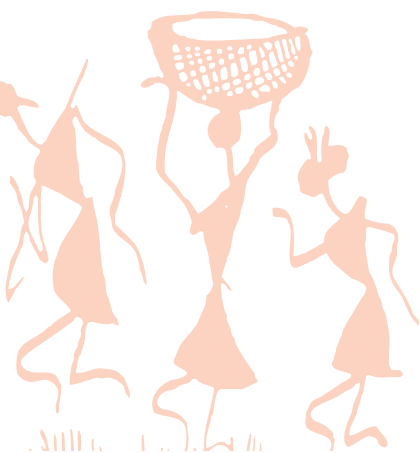
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# GLOSSARY

**Adaptation:** Any activity or change that is intended to address the effects that climate change is already having, for instance on land, ecosystems and livelihoods.

**Additionality:** The term used for the requirement that additional carbon has been saved as a result of a particular initiative in forest conservation – not just the carbon that would be there also without that action

**Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA):** a body of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change = established to ensure the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, i.e. beyond 2012. Under the LCA, developed countries must provide funds and commit to technology transfer to allow for effective measures for developing countries to cope with the impacts of climate change.

**Advocacy:** A process through which organized citizens strategically affect decision-makers for addressing a certain issue or interest. Active support of an idea or cause etc.; especially the act of pleading or arguing for something.

**Advocacy campaign:** An organized effort to educate the voting general public on an issue and to mobilize them to support the position in the appropriate way.

**Afforestation:** Developing a forest on land that has not been forested in recent times (compared with reforestation, or the replacement of a forest recently lost or logged, see below).

**Alliance building** - An agreement between two or more organizations to cooperate in a specific activity, so that each benefits from the strengths of the other, and gains competitive advantage.

**Anchorage Declaration:** A declaration drawn up by indigenous representatives at the global indigenous peoples climate change meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, in April 2009. In the declaration, indigenous peoples demand that state abandon false solutions to climate change that negatively impact indigenous peoples' rights and their lands, territories and resources, and that the human rights of indigenous peoples and their rights to protect their forests and forest livelihoods be recognized, respected and ensured in all climate-related actions.

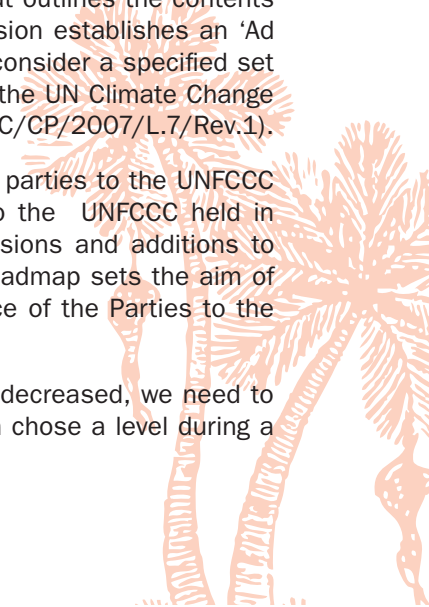
**Annex I Parties:** Industrialised countries listed in Annex I to the UN Convention on Climate Change. Nearly all of these countries are the countries that have binding emissions reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

**Anthropogenic:** Something which is caused by human action. The term is used to distinguish naturally occurring greenhouse gas emission reductions from ones that result from human activity.

**Bali Action Plan:** One part of the Bali Roadmap, the Bali Action Plan (or BAP) is the name given to a decision taken by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC that outlines the contents of a future legally binding agreement under the Convention. The decision establishes an 'Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action' ('AWG-LCA') to consider a specified set of issues also set out in the decision, aiming to reach agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009 (UN Doc FCCC/CP/2007/L.7/Rev.1).

**Bali Roadmap:** The collection of decisions and conclusions adopted by the parties to the UNFCCC and to the Kyoto Protocol at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Bali, Indonesia, which provide a process for agreeing to future revisions and additions to the UNFCCC and new commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The roadmap sets the aim of finalising all post-2012 discussions in all fora by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

**Baseline:** When we seek to measure whether something has increased or decreased, we need to measure it relative to a level that it has had at some point. We often chose a level during a





particular year or date to serve as this 'starting point' for our measurements. This starting point is called the baseline.

**Bio-diversity** - All the species living in a particular area, not only living organisms and their complex interactions, but also interactions with the abiotic (non-living) aspects of their environment.

**Carbon bio-sequestration:** The storage of carbon by plants, trees and other flora, which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, releasing the oxygen, and storing the carbon both in themselves and in the soil.

**Carbon credits** are created by reducing carbon emission by a certain measurable amount. The carbon credit corresponds to that amount. Carbon permits and carbon credits can be traded against each other, but are two different things. If you want to pollute more, you can purchase a credit created by someone else, or purchase a permit that someone else has not used.

**Carbon permits** are the amounts of carbon emissions allocated to countries. Governments of these countries can then issue carbon permits to companies, for example.

**Carbon market:** Transactions for the sale of emissions permits, credits, reductions or offsets together comprise the 'carbon market'. In fact, carbon can be traded as carbon or as carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases (or emissions) can also be traded in some of the 'emission markets'. It is important to remember that at the moment there is not one carbon market, there are a number of emission trading markets of different types – some are geographical (the European market), some a purely voluntary and they all have different rules and regulations governing them.

**Civil Society:** When people come together outside the family, the state and the market for advancing common interests and joint action. It is used for self-help groups, charity organisations, religious groups, non-governmental organisations, human rights campaign groups etc.

**Clean Development Mechanism (CDM):** A facility created under the Kyoto Protocol, which allows Annex I countries to finance emissions reducing projects in developing countries that are party to the Kyoto Protocol then to use the resulting 'certified emissions reductions' ('CERs') to offset their own emissions (to count towards their own targets for emission reduction).

**Conference of the Parties (COP):** The term used to describe the regular meeting of state parties to a UN Convention, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is the body with authority to take decisions under the Convention and to amend the Convention.

**Conference of the Parties acting as the Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP):** This is the meeting of state parties under a Protocol to a Convention (such as the Kyoto Protocol) and the body with authority to take decisions under the Protocol.

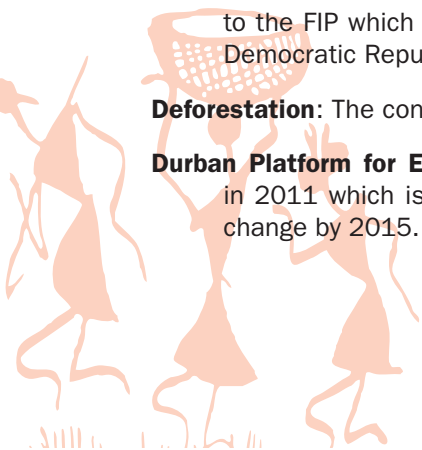
**Constituency:** A group of supporters or patrons for certain activity or causes.

**Climate change:** This term refers to all the impacts on the earth's natural climate system that are resulting from human-caused global warming (see below). This includes rainfall patterns and ocean levels, the direction and speed of wind and ocean currents, seasonal cycles, and the likelihood and intensity of climatic disasters such as droughts, storms and floods (IPCC, 2007).

**Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples (DGM):** a fund created under the World Bank's Forest Investment Programme (FIP) with a budget of 50 million US\$. It funds projects related to the FIP which are proposed by indigenous peoples in FIP pilot countries Brazil, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Peru, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Lao PDR.

**Deforestation:** The conversion of forested land to non-forested land.

**Durban Platform for Enhanced Action:** A new body created at the UNFCCC's COP17 in Durban in 2011 which is supposed to negotiate a new, legally binding global agreement on climate change by 2015. This new agreement should come into effect in 2020.





**Emissions trading (or 'carbon trading')**: The sale or purchase of: 'permits' or 'allowances' to emit greenhouse gases; or 'certificates' or 'credits' that prove a certain reduction in emissions from a particular activity beyond what would otherwise have been the case (i.e. 'business as usual' emissions); or certificates that indicate a certain amount of actual emissions have been 'offset' somewhere else, through for example, carbon sequestration.

**Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)**: Assessment of the possible impact (positive or negative) that a proposed project may have on the environment, together consisting of the natural, social and economic aspects.

**Forest degradation**: Occurs when the structure or function of a forest is negatively affected, reducing the ability of the forest to provide services or products (FAO, 2004).

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**: the World Bank's main mechanism for promoting REDD+. The FCPF intends to assist developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This is supposed to be done through two funds: the Readiness Mechanism and the Carbon Finance Mechanism

**Forest Investment Programme (FIP)**: A program run by the World Bank to promote and support sustainable forest management and afforestation, including REDD+.

**Fossil fuels**: Gas, coal, oil and oil-derived products such as diesel. Fossil fuels are combusted to create electricity, to provide heating, to power all forms of transportation and to power industrial processes, like mining and manufacturing activities. They are formed by dead organic matter being pressed over millions of years, hence the term 'fossil'.

**Fund**: A mechanism by which different people, companies or governments pool money in order to jointly finance a program, a project, a business or an institution

**Global warming**: An observed or expected rise in the earth's average temperature due to having more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere leading to more of the sun's warmth being trapped close to the earth.

**Green Climate Fund (GCF)**: a fund created at the UNFCCC's 16th Conference of Parties (COP 16) of 2011 in Cancun, Mexico, as a mechanism for transferring money from the developed to the developing countries to assist them in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

**Greenhouse gases (GHGs)**: A group of gases in the atmosphere that absorb infrared radiation. They appear in greatest proportions in the earth's lower atmosphere. These gases include water vapour, ozone, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.

**Information Dissemination**: The information that translated into local languages and dissemination of written material using various media for target audience that the organization is trying to reach with its message.

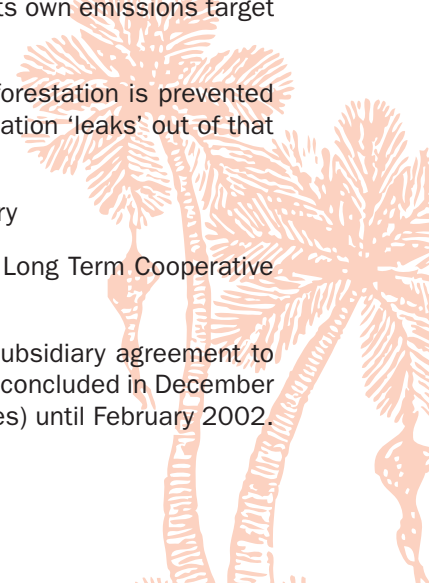
**Joint Implementation**: A facility created under the Kyoto Protocol, which allows an Annex I party to fund and/or run a project to reduce emissions in another Annex I party. The funding country can then apply the emissions reductions generated to help it to meet its own emissions target under the Kyoto Protocol.

**Leakage**: in the context of REDD+ this refers to the problem that when deforestation is prevented in a particular area it may just happen elsewhere instead, i.e. deforestation 'leaks' out of that area into another (often neighbouring) area

**Legitimacy**: The property of being genuine or valid, not being a fake or forgery

**Long Term Cooperative Action (LCA)**: see under Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)

**Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**: a subsidiary agreement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, this agreement was concluded in December 1997 but did not 'enter into force' (become legally binding on its parties) until February 2002.





This Protocol is binding under international law on those countries that are a 'party' to it (which means those countries that have ratified it, or agreed to be bound by it).

**Legislative and Policy reforms:** Laws and guidelines/policies that are enacted by government but not beneficial to the constituents, thus needing changes or revision.

**Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF):** This is an identified category of activities that can contribute to both greenhouse gas emissions and emissions removals. The other main categories are energy-related emissions (both production and consumption), agriculture and waste-related activities.

**Lobbying:** Lobbying is the practice of influencing decisions made by the government (in groups or individually)

**Lobby work:** An activity of a group of people who try actively to influence legislation, the decision of the government.

**Media Outfit:** Organizational structure set up that employs mass media to disseminate information such as print, video, broadcast etc:

**Mitigation:** Any action taken with the intention of avoiding further climate change by lowering the total level of greenhouse gases released through human activity. Such actions might include reducing the use of fossil fuels and changing the way we use land – such as by reducing the rate of land clearing and deforestation, and increasing the rate of reforestation.

**Mobilized:** Made ready for action or use. Political action done or implemented by a group of people to advance/make known of their agenda or cause; can be in the form of rallies, demonstration, mass meeting, marches etc:

**Multi-faceted Campaign:** Having many parts or sides of a campaign using varied forms to launch political action or advocacy. Integrated approaches like information dissemination, training, mobilization etc:

**Negotiation:** A dialogue intended to resolve disputes, to produce an agreement upon courses of action, to bargain for individual or collective advantage, or to craft outcomes to satisfy various interests.

**Non-Annex I parties:** Developing countries not listed in Annex I to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. These countries do not have binding emissions targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

**Parties:** The individual members of an agreement, such as the member states to an international law agreement.

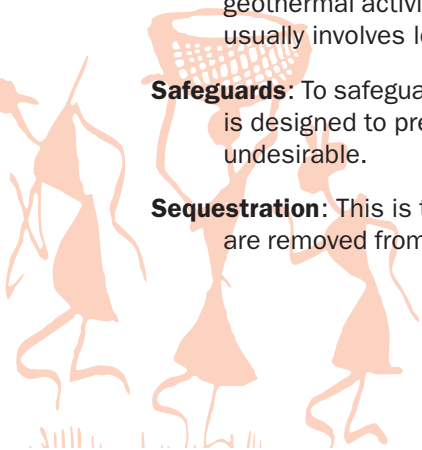
**Readiness Package, or R-Package** is the document that governments engaged in the World Bank' Forest Carbon Partnership Facility will have to submit to show to what extent they are ready for REDD+.

**Reforestation:** The reestablishment or regeneration of a forest.

**Renewable energy:** This form of energy can be used to provide electricity, heating or fuel for transportation similar to the way we use fossil fuels for these purposes. Unlike oil, gas and coal, renewable energy sources are not finite. Key sources include wood, waste decomposition, geothermal activity, wind and solar energy. The use of renewable sources for generating energy usually involves lower emissions of greenhouse gases than the use of fossil fuels does.

**Safeguards:** To safeguard means to protect something from harm. A safeguard can be a measure that is designed to prevent something undesirable, or an action taken to protect against something undesirable.

**Sequestration:** This is the opposite of emitting greenhouse gas and occurs when greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere, for example, by trees during the process of photosynthesis.





**Sinks:** Reservoirs or locations that sequester or store a greater amount of carbon dioxide than they release. Major carbon sinks include forests and oceans.

**Trustee:** The legal term for a person or institution that holds property, authority, or a position of trust or responsibility on behalf of or for the benefit of others

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** An international agreement, which was reached in 1992 and entered into force in 1993, the UNFCCC provides a framework for international cooperation on climate change.

**UN-REDD (full name 'UN Collaborative Programme on REDD):** A programme run jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to assist developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies. It also intends to support the development of ways of financing REDD.

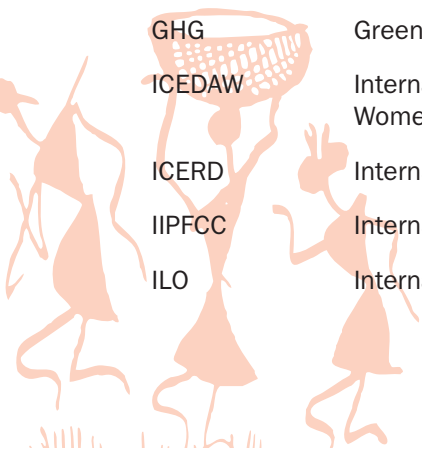
*This glossary is partly based on the glossary provided in Barsley, Ingrid 2008. Pocket Guide. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries: A Guide for Indigenous Peoples. United Nations Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan*





# ACRONYMS

AIPP	Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact
AWG-KP	The Ad hoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol
AWG-LCA	Ad-hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CCMIN	Climate Change Monitoring and Information Network
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	The UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which oversees the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CERD	The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which oversees the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
CIFs	Climate Investment Funds, a bundle of different funds under the trusteeship of the World Bank
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide, the most common gas form of carbon
COP	Conference of the Parties.
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CIFs	Climate Investment Funds
CTF	Clean Technology Fund, one of the CIFs (see above)
DGM	Dedicated Grant Mechanism
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
ET	Emissions Trading
FAN	The Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest Investment Programme
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FPP	Forest Peoples Programme
GHG	Greenhouse gases
ICEDAW	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
IIPFCC	International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change
ILO	International Labour Organization





IWGIA	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
JI	Joint Implementation
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LCA	Long Term Cooperative action
NEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
NGO	Non-governmental organisations
NIPT	Network of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PSA	Public Service Announcements
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
REDD+	REDD as defined above, plus the recognition of the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (sequestration of carbon)
RFN	Rain Forest Norway
R-PP	Readiness Preparedness Proposal
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations on REDD





This book is the first in a series of four information and training manuals dealing with REDD+ (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation, Forest Degradation, conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries), one of the mitigation measures now promoted for combating climate change. All four have been written mainly for indigenous communities, their leaders and organisations. As the first book in this series, 'What is REDD+?' provides basic information on REDD+. It intends to help indigenous communities gain a general understanding of what REDD+ is, what the "plus" in REDD+ means, what the possible impacts of REDD+ are and how their rights can be protected.

This is the third edition of 'What is REDD+?' Previous editions have been translated into several Asian languages, Spanish, French and Swahili. This edition will again be published in several languages in order to make it more accessible for indigenous communities.

The other three manuals in this series are:

- **Understanding Community-Based REDD+** (published by IWGIA and AIPP in 2011)
- **FPIC for REDD+ - A guide for indigenous communities** (published by AIPP and IWGIA in 2012)
- **Advocacy, Lobbying and Negotiation Skills in REDD+** (forthcoming)

3<sup>rd</sup> edition

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