

Securing Forests through Securing Rights

Introduction to Session 2:

How Financing Is Reaching the Ground - Perspectives
from Communities, Indigenous Peoples and Projects

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THE EVIDENCE - SECURING RIGHTS SECURES FORESTS

- **1. The drivers of deforestation are not forest peoples but industrial activities**
- *“Recent scientific studies show that large commercial agricultural and timber enterprises—not subsistence farmers—are the principal agents of tropical deforestation” (UCS 2010), so “reducing growth in the demand for commodities that drive deforestation will be important to future successes” (Boucher et al 2010: 3).*

2. Community forests and Indigenous Peoples' territories are far more effective at conserving forests than traditional 'fortress conservation'

- *“Forests managed by local or indigenous communities for the production of goods and services can be equally (if not more) effective in maintaining forest cover than those managed under solely protection objectives”* (Porter-Bolland et al June 2011) **CIFOR**
- *“It is clear that mixed-use protected areas—where some degree of productive use is allowed—are generally as effective or more effective than strict protected areas . . . In Latin America, where indigenous areas can be identified, they are found to have extremely large impacts on reducing deforestation”* (Nelson & Chomitz 2011: 9) **World Bank**

Action to secure community forests & Indigenous Peoples' territories

Current REDD processes provide:

- **An Opportunity:** for the recognition of Rights through international scrutiny
- **A Danger:** of 'fortress conservation' and imposed REDD excluding and marginalising local people
- **The Dynamic:** Anticipation of REDD raises these stakes

Could the UK help to secure these opportunities?

- Could the UK's £600 million funding for forests be used to support indigenous peoples to secure their rights and so their forests?

REDD & RIGHTS: the global shaping the national level

1. **Offsets:** Can the carbon market survive, let alone compete and deliver funds?
2. **FPIC:** the World Bank still needs to strengthen its safeguards in line with the Cancun Agreement to bring them up to international human rights standards.

Partly as a consequence, at the national levels:

3. **Land tenure:** is not taken seriously in countries REDD budgets
4. **National Readiness Planning:** is not adequately addressing **rights**

REDD in Cameroon

Opportunity for indigenous peoples: if they receive support from international and national civil society

BUT

Danger: 'Fortress conservation' mentality may exclude them from their forests

Key Lessons:

- More attention must be paid to **FPIC and governance reform**
- National legal reforms must recognise, protect and secure **customary tenure** systems before REDD programmes are implemented, including rights over forests
- Tighter **regulation of logging and plantation** sectors is needed
- **Targeted support** is essential for IPs to engage effectively and secure their rights and forests.

Key Lessons From Peru:

- Indigenous Peoples are calling for a **moratorium** on local REDD+ projects until adequate controls are in place
- **Land and forest laws** must be brought in line with international obligations
- Indigenous peoples and forest communities must be actively involved in mapping and **demarkating** their forest territories
- More **training** on rights issues are required, including FPIC
- Focused support is needed for alternative community-driven forest protection and sustainable proposals outside carbon markets for **'indigenous alternatives to REDD'**

How can UK Government action help ensure rights, and how target finance at protecting customary tenure?

1. Build the capacity of governments and civil society on ***international human rights*** (incl FPIC)
2. Pursue a genuine phased approach to climate finance that seeks to ***assist tenure and governance reforms first***
3. Support governments to ***tackle the explosion of unregulated carbon trading projects.***
4. Providing direct ***funding through the ICF to support indigenous and other forest peoples.***
5. Establish a specific/dedicated ***land tenure reform fund***