

A DECADE OF REDD+: STAKEHOLDER PERCEPTIONS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION



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Local stakeholders have a wide range of views on what is important regarding forests.
Photos © Nelson Grima

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FOREWORD

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) established the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme to link scientific knowledge with political decision-making on forests. GFEP consolidates available scientific knowledge to respond to key forest-related policy questions. GFEP's publications provide decision-makers and stakeholders with the most relevant, objective, and accurate information, making an essential contribution to increasing the quality and effectiveness of international forest governance.

In 2022, IUFRO published the GFEP report "Forests, Climate, Biodiversity and People: Assessing a Decade of REDD+". The report revisited the questions examined in GFEP's report of 2012 titled "Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives", which analysed the implications of the newly evolving REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation

and forest degradation; conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; and sustainable management of forests) framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the potential impacts of its activities.

Back-to-back with the 2022 report, stakeholder consultations were carried out in Asia and Latin America. These consultations helped to identify a number of factors that, from the point of view of the stakeholders, need to be improved in future REDD+ activities. The present publication synthesises the responses and comments from the nearly 200 stakeholders interviewed that provided their opinion on REDD+ implementation on the ground. I sincerely hope that this publication will support a more inclusive and participatory approach to REDD+ development and implementation, and that those shaping and implementing REDD+ will find the information presented useful.



Alexander Buck
IUFRO Executive Director

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We are also grateful to the institutions and organisations to which the experts and stakeholders are affiliated for enabling them to contribute their exper-

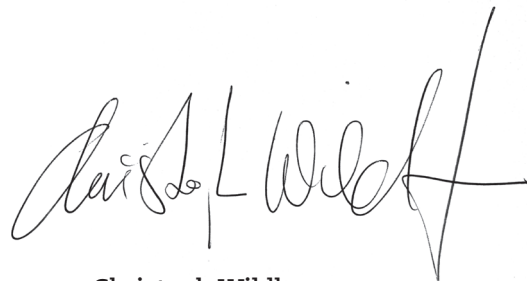
tise to this assessment. At the same time, we wish to note that the views expressed within this publication do not necessarily reflect the official policy of these institutions and organisations.

We also gratefully acknowledge the generous financial and in-kind support provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management.

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INTRODUCTION

Aiming to mitigate climate change and its impacts by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) started developing in 2005 what today is known as the REDD+ framework. REDD+ focuses on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserving and enhancing forest carbon stocks, and promoting the sustainable management of forests. In 2012, IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme published a scientific assessment report¹ evaluating the implications of forest management interventions foreseen under REDD+ activities. A decade later, in 2022, GFEP published a new scientific assessment report² to evaluate the progress made over the previous 10 years of REDD+ design and implementation.

Back-to-back with the 2022 report, stakeholder consultations were carried out in parallel in Asia and Latin America, encompassing a total of 14 different countries (Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru) and regions (given the size of Brazil and India, each country was divided up into two different regions). One local expert from each of these countries was responsible for implementing the consultations (see appendix). A total of 189 stakeholders

were consulted in individual interviews and under the condition of anonymity (unless they requested their name to be published), which enabled them to speak openly. These stakeholders were, to the greatest extent possible, homogeneously distributed among the countries and regions, and GFEP strived to achieve gender balance among them. For each country and region stakeholder distribution over social groups was balanced, with a minimum of two stakeholders representing each group. These groups were classified as: i) policy makers, ii) civil society, iii) academia and research, iv) private sector, v) international and regional organizations, and vi) other social groups of interest.

Using semi-structured interviews, the stakeholders were asked questions regarding socioeconomic, ecological, and governance issues related to REDD+ in their respective countries and regions, as well as how GFEP's 2022 report could contribute to future REDD+ activities and policy-making, and in which way stakeholders would use the report. Each of the question topics is expanded in detail in this publication in the chapters that follow. The views of the stakeholders interviewed in Asia and Latin America are presented separately, in the form of summaries of the outcomes of the consultation.

1 John Parrotta, Christoph Wildburger and Stephanie Mansourian (eds.). 2012. *Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives*. IUFRO World Series Volume 31. Vienna. 161 p.

2 John Parrotta, Stephanie Mansourian, Christoph Wildburger and Nelson Grima (eds.). 2022. *Forests, Climate, Biodiversity and People: Assessing a Decade of REDD+*. IUFRO World Series Volume 40. Vienna. 164 p.



Local communities in remote areas, such as the Rarámuri or Tarahumara of northern Mexico, directly obtain material and non-material benefits from the forests around them.

Photo © Nelson Grima

MAJOR SOCIAL FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED

Views of Asian Stakeholders

Due to the growing migration from rural to urban areas, the general public is becoming increasingly detached from nature, resulting in a lack of awareness and a limited understanding of how much societies depend on forests for survival. There is a need to raise awareness about the importance of forest through formal and informal education, and the use of media campaigns to change the view on forests from 'something to be used' to 'systems that provide and protect us'.

In rural areas, to prevent local communities to be lured into unsustainable (and often illegal) deforestation activities, a diversification of income options that balance development and conservation while ensuring sustainable livelihoods and food security is needed. This diversification could focus on community-based co-management of natural resources and forests, and be coupled with adequate training and education, together with a display of the government's political commitment to actively fight corruption and address poor governance. Resulting interventions should limit as much as possible the influence of social and political elites over local communities.

There are growing concerns that REDD+ may curtail the rights of indigenous and local communities to access and use forest resources. These concerns could be addressed by developing community ownership over the forest and natural resources (including non-wood forest products) and clarifying land tenure and rights to secure a fair benefit-sharing mechanism. It is important to homogenise the issuances of land tenure and rights provided by different government levels and agencies to prevent conflicts. The distribution of REDD+ benefits is a major concern, but an unfair distribution is not the only issue. A management focused on enhanc-

ing carbon stocks can be seen as detrimental for the provision of other ecosystem services critically important for local communities, including the spiritual benefits of forests and the provision of numerous medicinal plants.

Although current methods and approaches for monitoring social outcomes are limited and not robust enough, it is clear that a lack of coordination among government levels and agencies, inequitable resource distribution, elite-capture of benefits, and non-involvement of local communities in forest management can limit the success of REDD+. Thus, it is necessary to engage local stakeholders and forest-dependent communities during the design and implementation phases (including monitoring) using more inclusive and participatory approaches. Engagement through consultations, discussions, fora, and seminars may enhance the understanding and acceptance of REDD+, and should be implemented regardless of religion, identity, or political affiliation of the individuals affected. Special attention to gender issues, human-wildlife conflicts, and traditional knowledge is necessary.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

Strengthening education, and in particular environmental education, through increased collaboration with the academic sector and research organizations can improve dialogues between local communities, governments, forest companies, and other organizations, and help recognise the multiple values of forests beyond carbon storage. It is necessary to consider these non-carbon benefits during the formulation, negotiation, and implementation of REDD+ activities.

Regularising land tenure and carbon rights while respecting the rights of local and indigenous communities is essential. This regularisation would

enable to compare the potential REDD+ benefits with the benefits provided by alternative activities, allowing to examine impacts on local well-being under different scenarios and facilitating the proposal of additional activities complementary to REDD+. So far, there have not been clear measurements of the actual contributions of REDD+ to the beneficiaries' well-being. However, to ensure that REDD+ has a positive and transformative impact on the communities involved, guidance on how to invest in collective goods (such as infrastructure) could help to provide improved and sustainable outcomes for the long term. This is especially true for some indigenous communities and other marginalised groups that have limited experience with monetary transactions.

Local communities may have different needs and perspectives on territorial management, which sometimes compromises continuity by creating discrepancies between the demands of REDD+ activities and the habits of those communities. Recognising the work of these communities and aligning the demands of REDD+ with traditional livelihoods, knowledge, and beliefs would help to reduce or even eliminate conflicts of use.

Another source of conflict is the lack of transparency in the sharing of benefits, since often it is not

clear how the calculations for sharing benefits are made and why some people might receive more than others. A way to support transparency and enhance the sense of responsibility from local communities is guaranteeing access to clear and easily understandable information related to REDD+ activities and benefits. This could be achieved through, for example, the development of free-access platforms that help visualise not only the state of forests, but also the resources invested, their allocation, and the outcomes.

In some countries, corruption permeates institutions from local to national level. This is a critical point that needs to be addressed, along with the reinforcement of governmental forest-related agencies and their institutional agenda. To this end, the creation of specific legislation to support REDD+ initiatives may help in some cases. Other issues to be addressed are the temporality of forest-related jobs, and the inclusion of youth and women in the design and implementation of activities. Additionally, in regions with active armed conflicts, particular attention needs to be paid to the problems associated with these conflicts, such as spread of illicit crops, illegal logging, violence, or displacement of people.



Timber is a sought-after forest commodity, in particular in tropical countries.
Photo © Nelson Grima

MAJOR ECONOMIC FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED

Views of Asian Stakeholders

Poverty remains a major issue in many countries, driving local communities to engage in forest encroachment for fuel wood, unregulated logging, or agricultural expansion. Thus, it is crucial to create alternative and sustainable livelihood options, for example by locally developing efficient value-chains, or creating eco-tourism opportunities. Additionally, improvements in capacity building and education opportunities for rural communities would further help develop alternative livelihoods. At a larger scale, other economic factors driving forest degradation are infrastructure development, demand for timber and non-timber forest products, demand for agricultural products, and, in the forest industry, the use of inefficient technologies, outdated equipment, and unskilled labourers, that leads to a very high level of wastage during product processing.

Non-carbon benefits of forests need to be recognised and prioritised. Their identification, measuring, and economic valuation would make possible the establishment of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, which could drive a large-scale implementation of sustainable forest management avoiding current mistakes such as the conversion of natural ecosystems to monoculture plantations. For the implementation of these measures, as well as for the implementation of REDD+ activities, tenure rights of local and indigenous communities need to be ensured. Additionally, the benefit sharing mechanisms need to be equitable, transparent, and agreed before the implementation phase by involving the local communities in the planning of activities. These benefits must cover the implementation and opportunity costs (including comparisons with timber exploitation and other extractive activities), and the time elapsed between the start of the implementation and the recep-

tion of benefits should be minimized by enabling payments already at the initial stages.

The high transaction costs of REDD+ activities are often not matched by the low economic return from those activities, a situation exacerbated by the unstable fluctuations of the global carbon markets. Thus, it is critical to ensure an adequate and long-term flow of funds to the local level that considers the results of cost-benefit analysis. These funds should also cover the high costs of monitoring and verification. As a complementary measure, taxation of deforestation and forest degradation could be considered and coordinated with REDD+ implementation.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

Since the prices of agricultural commodities rarely include the environmental and social costs of their production, the international market for these commodities is strongly linked to the main drivers of deforestation. It is important to generate adequate policies that address this issue (for example through transparent traceability) and to enforce their implementation.

The global market rarely recognizes the economic value of forests beyond wood production and carbon and does not have systems in place that generate remuneration for the provision of other ecosystem services, or give value to conservation, restoration, and sustainable management. REDD+ could be used to develop community-based enterprises related to these other ecosystem services, not only focusing on large landowners, but also on smallholders. Recognizing the importance of activities at small scale, REDD+ could drive not only conservation, but also a transformative process that creates and strengthens sustainable supply chains and commercialisation mechanisms. These would create added value from

which local communities would benefit from through increased income and employment opportunities (in addition to the conservation of forests). Nevertheless, planners should keep in mind that there are regions where environmental conditions are not suitable for REDD+.

REDD+ resources need to be used more efficiently, aiming to create benefits beyond the conservation objectives. The flow of economic funds needs to be strictly regulated in a transparent manner to ensure that most of the funds reach the local communities and are fairly distributed among the beneficiaries. Investing in institutional strengthening, engagement and participation of local actors as well as local capacity building would help to avoid the need for intermediaries (who presently consume a large part of the economic resources), combat existing disinformation,

stop the promotion of perverse incentives, or encourage the local measurement and monitoring of carbon stored in forests to avoid conflicts arising from wrong expectations.

The implementation of REDD+ involves high costs, in particular for monitoring and verification, and often the payments received do not cover the investments and opportunity costs. Exploring the possibility of national financing (for example from the mining industry) could support the funding flows or enable the channelling of additional funds for emergencies or to prevent threats such as forest fires. Additionally, the simplification of procedures would reduce administrative costs, allowing smaller communities, associations, and marginalised people to get involved in REDD+.



Besides wood production, the economic value of other ecosystem services from forests needs to be recognized by the global market.

Photo © Nelson Grima

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED

Views of Asian Stakeholders

Given the rapid population growth and the increasing disconnectedness of society from nature, future development plans need to take into account the value of forests, and existing plans need to be realigned to prevent further degradation and displacement of the most vulnerable communities. There needs to be a strategy to balance ecological requirements and development needs, linking the economy to environmental factors. More specifically, development plans need to address the problems associated with forest encroachment due to infrastructure development, industrialisation, unplanned urbanization, waste generation, and extraction of natural resources.

Agricultural expansion (including oil palm plantations) and shifting cultivation are also important drivers of land use change, causing high rates of deforestation, forest degradation and fragmentation, soil and water pollution through an excessive use of agrochemical products, and air pollution through burning of agricultural residues. Moreover, overgrazing leads to soil compaction and erosion. Collaboration among different sectors and cooperation between government agencies and local communities could help to palliate these issues.

Within forests, illegal logging, invasive species, biodiversity loss, and forest fires are issues of high concern. Possible solutions are a stronger implementation of laws and policies while preventing leakage; adequate valuation of forests including the goods and services they provide (such as protection from natural disasters), and their contribution to livelihoods; minimize migration into forest areas; and accurate surveys and proper delineation of forest limits and protected areas (including buffer areas) with modern technologies. Landscape restoration, afforestation, and reforestation activities must carefully and scientifically consider the selection of species to be used,

keeping in mind the composition and structure of the original forest, avoiding monocultures (except in mangrove areas) and the use of invasive species, and promoting natural regeneration.

The inclusion of non-carbon benefits within REDD+ would be helpful and would increase the understanding of trade-offs between carbon sequestration and other human uses of forests. For REDD+ to be successful, monitoring and data need to be reliable, and local capacity building in this direction can be beneficial. Moreover, the adoption of a holistic approach for REDD+ activities could contribute to forest conservation, help establish sustainable livelihoods, and raise awareness of the importance of the environment.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

For forest-dependent communities it is increasingly harder to sustain their way of life due to the impacts of climate change, fire, and droughts. Thus, a comprehensive vision that includes environmental and social dimensions is necessary. In view of this, REDD+ needs to consider the non-carbon benefits that other ecosystem services provide, not only because in particular cases those services are more important than carbon storage, but also to help society realize that forests deliver a plethora of benefits well beyond just sequestering carbon. This approach should be accompanied by improvements in the monitoring, reporting, and verification systems, which at present are not properly identifying forest degradation and its impacts, or aspects related to biodiversity. Adequate local or regional monitoring with modern technologies can be also used for prioritizing budgets and efforts.

Governments should address some of the environmental issues, such as indiscriminate logging, agricultural and urban expansion or pollution from industry and agribusiness by creating adequate laws and pol-

icies and effectively implementing them. These laws and policies should be coherent and coordinated with other sectors, and should incentivise forest conservation and restoration, as well as sustainable forest management. At the same time, these policies should strengthen the environmental agencies and provide them with the resources and knowledge they need.

Focusing on carbon, the fact that REDD+ does not consider below-ground carbon, and the lack of reliable metrics that acknowledge the capacity of different

tree species to store different amounts of carbon are generally considered major shortcomings. Further research on these lines would be beneficial and would lend itself to the elaboration and publication of 'good practice guidelines' to be used for capacity building of local communities and sector professionals. Some of the REDD+ activities are aimed at forest restoration and it is important to further promote such activities, which should be participatory and inclusive in their design and implementation.



Tree nurseries are essential when natural regeneration is not possible or needs to be complemented.
Photo © Nelson Grima

MAJOR GOVERNANCE FACTORS TO BE ADDRESSED

Views of Asian Stakeholders

Widespread corruption and lack of transparency, accountability, and inter-agency coordination lead to misuse of REDD+ funds and natural resource depletion. These issues could be addressed by making information easily accessible, strengthening public forest agencies so they can play a role as technical facilitators, establishing effective feedback mechanisms, and promoting stakeholder participation in decentralised decision-making and implementation to prevent abusive practices. At the same time, traditional governance systems at the local level and the role of local institutions need to be respected, and land tenure and rights of use must be clear and secured. Conflicts related to land tenure and rights may also arise from poor boundary demarcation on the ground or its deficient registration in the legal documents. Besides avoiding conflicts, solving these issues would also help to develop proper land use plans.

The roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in REDD+ at all levels need to be clearly defined, and the knowledge and capacities of those actors must be strengthened. Additionally, when planning and implementing REDD+ activities, free, fair, and informed consent and inclusive involvement of women, local and indigenous communities, marginalized groups, and people living in and around forests is needed, with an additional emphasis on encouraging community-based monitoring and reporting of REDD+ activities.

In general, there is a lack of coordination and collaboration between public and private sectors, and among policy implementing authorities. Moreover, there is a lack of strategies for the long-term, which often results in the discontinuation of activities after new officials or political leaders are elected. This issue could be addressed by creating permanent positions;

strengthening institutional capacity through updating government agencies with the necessary logistics, tools, and technical knowledge; increasing the priority and significance of the forest sector in national policy agendas; and properly enforcing laws and regulations. Consequently, a strong political commitment is needed along with a simplification of the REDD+ governance and financing channels.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

Governance at all levels should be clear and transparent, and in most cases, there is still ample room for improvement. For example, decentralising REDD+ could help to fight corruption and to make the distribution and allocation of resources more transparent. Moreover, coherence between policies, and coordination between different government levels and among agencies and sectors are crucial. It is also of utmost importance to promote transparency, equity, better access to clear information, and respect for cultural processes by considering the established social dynamics.

To strengthen governance related to REDD+, participatory and inclusive approaches that take into account young people and women are needed. At the same time, this would help to distribute benefits in a fair manner, preventing them from being captured by privileged groups. The strengthening of governance would reinforce communities with poor organisational systems, while at the same time it could promote outreach, the lack of which has resulted in the geographical concentration of activities within and between countries.

The frequent changes in administrations make long-term implementation challenging. Thus, REDD+ could incorporate political safeguards to prevent governments from changing the frameworks, targets, and agreements consolidated during previous administra-

tions. To this end, it would be essential to monitor the outcomes of REDD+ activities, which should be binding and used as a basis to make future political decisions. However, there is no infrastructure or there are no incentives to produce quality monitoring information. For conducting proper monitoring, the agencies in charge of natural resources must receive adequate resources and capacity building, especially regarding

the use of technology. This would avoid the need for hiring specialised companies and would enable the creation of early warning systems for forest emergencies (such as fires) and related rapid response capabilities. These agencies could be then responsible for the continuous generation of data to measure the degree of REDD+ goals achievement.

HOW COULD GFEP'S REPORT³ ON REDD+ CONTRIBUTE TO POLICY MAKING?

Views of Asian Stakeholders

REDD+ provides an opportunity to address the socio-economic and political factors that keep forests under pressure. The lessons presented in GFEP's report are vital for designing, implementing, and evaluating REDD+ interventions, policies related to non-carbon benefits, and multi-sectoral approaches to forest management. The design of future policies could consider the report's findings, since they effectively enhance the understanding of the linkages between forests, biodiversity, carbon, and people's participation in achieving REDD+ objectives.

The report is particularly useful due to the inclusion of lessons learnt on the ground, and the explanations of the complexities regarding the existing approach to carbon capture and storage through forest management. It can inform policymakers, implementers, and other stakeholders providing them with clear information on the various factors that hinder the progress of REDD+. Moreover, the information provided can support addressing critical issues related to the application of nature-based solutions, and help prioritise areas for the implementation of new REDD+ activities.

By helping to better understand the global context and future challenges and opportunities of REDD+, the report can strengthen existing policies, generate awareness among policymakers and other actors, and help develop pragmatic solutions to challenges and barriers faced during implementation through the suggestion of avenues for financing, innovative monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, and options for benefit sharing. In addition, the report can also contribute to the current efforts aiming

to complete the readiness phase of REDD+ in some countries.

The various challenges outlined in the report, such as the importance of participation of local stakeholders for the success of REDD+ activities, the need for more transparent mechanisms for reporting and monitoring environmental and socioeconomic benefits, or the need to simplify the technical language used in REDD+ bureaucracy and communication to enable a wider range of people to understand it (in particular local communities), can be used as basis for providing practitioners with better tools to improve current practices in REDD+ implementation.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

The report brings up key issues in the context of REDD+, especially the inclusion of traditional communities in decision-making processes, which strengthens their impact on public policies. The information it provides can serve to identify shortcomings in design and implementation, to recognise challenges, or as input for the development of public policies. Beyond policies related to REDD+, the report can also have an effect on other sectors such industry or education. The report is a technical tool that may serve to guide policy-making at all scales while reducing uncertainties, but political will is needed to devise adequate policies and implement effective actions.

The information provided in the report can also redirect current forest-related policies, clarify limits and opportunities that so far have not been properly understood, and raise awareness among the different public and private stakeholders. The highly relevant issues it describes are an essential update for the gov-

³ John Parrotta, Stephanie Mansourian, Christoph Wildburger and Nelson Grima (eds.). 2022. *Forests, Climate, Biodiversity and People: Assessing a Decade of REDD+*. IUFRO World Series Volume 40. Vienna. 164 p.

ernments and policy-makers involved in REDD+, in particular regarding the need to strengthen the links among different government levels, amid sectors, and between governance levels and systems.

The challenges mentioned in the report must be considered comprehensively and be adopted as achievable goals. This would allow to improve the im-

plementation and operation of REDD+ at all scales, optimising funding, and strengthening the monitoring and compliance with social and environmental safeguards. To effectively disseminate the report outcomes at all levels, in particular among the local communities, it would be ideal to use a simple and plain language without technicalities.



Forest conservation largely depends on the policy strategies adopted by each country.

Photo © Nelson Grima

HOW WOULD STAKEHOLDERS USE GFEP'S REPORT ON REDD+?

Views of Asian Stakeholders

The information presented in the report will serve as essential reference material for academia and research, not just for personal academic interest to include it in discussions, meetings, seminars, conferences, and workshops, but also to prepare lectures for undergraduate and graduate students, and to prepare material for trainings and presentations in various professional circles. This dissemination of up-to-date knowledge will help raising awareness among the different stakeholders, including disadvantaged social groups and local communities, to better understand the global REDD+ scenario, to develop future plans and policies, and maybe even to convince potential donors to invest in REDD+ activities.

The report findings may guide the forest sector towards reinforcing the advocacy of forest restoration as an essential component in mitigating climate change, and raising awareness of the value of forests as essential ecosystems. It can support forest co-management activities by serving as a basis for discussions between forest sector government agencies and also other government agencies, and among a wide range of stakeholders and actors.

The information provided on REDD+ research and policy in the global context is useful for assessing and reshaping the architecture and implementation of REDD+, and for formulating effective policies at all levels. The report can help align different government programmes, plans, policies, and strategies, and implementing agencies can use it as a guideline to adopt a more inclusive and transparent approach that takes into consideration local stakeholder rights, livelihoods, and governance structures.

Views of Latin American Stakeholders

The conclusions of the report adequately describe the reality of REDD+ on the ground. The report summa-

rizes fundamental issues and provides updated information that allows stakeholders to understand and be familiar with the current REDD+ situation, learn from other countries' experiences, and guide discussions and debates at different scales and in different settings. In the academic circles, the technical information the report provides can serve as input for establishing the necessary priorities for future research and knowledge generation. The report also constitutes a didactic input not only for undergraduate and graduate students, but also for local communities directly linked to REDD+ implementation, who could use it to strengthen their arguments regarding land tenure and rights, or as training material to avoid depending on intermediaries in the near future.

In the political arena, the report can support decision makers to approach local communities more transparently, and to formulate new proposals that strengthen community participation, the equitable distribution of resources, as well as the proper valuation of non-carbon benefits in REDD+ activities. The discussions triggered could improve inter-sectoral cooperation in both public and private spheres.

The report also serves as a tool to raise awareness regarding deforestation and forest degradation. As such, it could be used as input to create guidelines and diverse information and outreach materials targeting different audiences such as local communities, politicians at all levels, private companies, NGOs, or universities.



Raising awareness and improving forest-related knowledge, especially among the younger generations of forest-dependent people, can contribute to the success of REDD+ implementation.

Photo © Nelson Grima

KEY FACTORS IDENTIFIED BY STAKEHOLDERS

Despite the intrinsic differences between the regions covered in the stakeholder consultations (Asia and Latin America), the factors that, according to the stakeholders interviewed, need to be improved, are similar. These factors can be divided into:

SOCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Safeguard of local livelihoods▶ Capacity building▶ Gender issues▶ Consideration of indigenous knowledge▶ Adoption of participatory approaches▶ Tenure rights▶ Fighting corruption▶ Halting further degradation of perceived values▶ Attitudes and behaviour towards forests
ECONOMIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Clarity of financial strategies▶ Value chains▶ Development of alternative and sustainable livelihoods for forest-dependent communities▶ Pricing of carbon credits▶ Consideration of actual opportunity costs▶ Design of a fund-flow mechanism where communities start getting payments from the beginning▶ Transparency of traceability and accounting mechanisms▶ Reduction of REDD+ implementation costs▶ Equity in the distribution of economic benefits (ensuring that most of these resources reach the local level)
ENVIRONMENTAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Selection of species for afforestation and reforestation avoiding monocultures▶ Prevention of leakage due to REDD+ implementation▶ Control of invasive species▶ Strategies to balance ecological requirements and development needs▶ Prevention of forest conversion to other uses▶ Planning and provision of resources to prevent and combat forest fires, periods of drought, and water scarcity▶ Measures to halt soil degradation and promote their recovery▶ Enhancement of local capacities to manage solid wastes▶ Prevention of forest encroachment by infrastructure development and urban and agriculture expansion

GOVERNANCE

- ▶ Fight against corruption
- ▶ Law enforcement
- ▶ Transparency and accountability
- ▶ Harmonisation and coherence of laws, regulations, and policies
- ▶ Coordination between policy implementing authorities (from local to national level)
- ▶ Promotion of synergies, coordination and collaboration between and among different sectors (both public and private)
- ▶ Empowerment of local people through participatory approaches and their involvement in decision making and implementation
- ▶ Demarcation of forest land on the ground
- ▶ Support to and strengthening of local institutions
- ▶ Securing forest tenure and rights
- ▶ Prioritising community needs in benefit-sharing mechanisms
- ▶ Decentralisation of power
- ▶ Clarity of roles and responsibilities
- ▶ Effective feedback mechanisms
- ▶ Creation of permanent positions (the change of officers after elections disrupts continuity of projects)
- ▶ Clarity of objectives
- ▶ Infrastructure or incentives to produce quality information
- ▶ Using a systemic, holistic, and landscape vision

TECHNICAL

- ▶ Technology for field measurements
- ▶ Monitoring and reporting
- ▶ Measurability and monitoring of livelihoods and other non-carbon benefits
- ▶ Strengthening of science-policy integration
- ▶ Standardisation of methods
- ▶ Enhancement of transparency and public availability of data and information (including terminology and language accessibility)
- ▶ Measurability and monetisation of soil carbon
- ▶ Summaries and compilations of proven best practices
- ▶ Communication strategies
- ▶ Implementation of longitudinal studies to determine dynamics
- ▶ Synergies with payment for ecosystem services schemes rather than competing with them

From the stakeholders' point of view, the 2022 GFEP's scientific assessment on REDD+ may contribute not only to communicating the current situation of REDD+ at the international level, but also to improving and strengthening national policies by providing supporting material that can assist the development of pragmatic solutions to existing and future challenges. In particular, the international examples pre-

sented in the assessment can serve as inspiration for the development of new policies or the adjustment of existing ones. In general, stakeholders see a huge potential for the use of this assessment to guide public policies. Nevertheless, they also point out that this potential is conditioned to the will of national governments to work towards improving the forest sector and its associated socioeconomic impacts.



APPENDIX: LOCAL EXPERTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

LOCAL EXPERTS

Alejandra Porras Maturana	<i>Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile</i>
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