



Wildlife Conservation Society - PNG Programme

Village REDD Concept
1-3 March 2010
March Girls – Gaire Village

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Village-REDD

A concept that promotes broad participation and spreads benefits widely among forest dependent people in PNG



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Concept Development Process

The WCS teams had discussions with almost 600 individuals:

- 474 community members from six villages
- 17 community leaders from six villages
- 20 Local Level Government managers and presidents
- 24 district and provincial officers
- 21 staff of national agencies
- 27 employees of NGOs



Key issues investigated

- Determine level understanding of Climate Change and REDD
- Determine capacity of provinces/districts to implement and monitor REDD project
- Estimate existing benefits from forest resources :
 - Food security, livelihoods, ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation
- Understand attitudes towards costs/benefits within and among social groups
- Determine form of benefits expected



Key issues investigated



- Identify existing social institutions
- Examine social cohesion and information exchange at various social levels (district, ward, village, 'clan')
- Examine existing land tenure structures, social institutions, mechanisms used to settle disputes
- Partnerships - local and national government , local and international NGOs



Key themes coming out from concept development

Among all groups :

- Lack of understanding of climate change and REDD
- #1 need stated was more awareness on CC and REDD

High local interested in mechanisms to protect forests:

- Preferred development is low impact consistent with REDD
- Service delivery and cash benefits
- Most trusted social groups is immediate – family or 'clan'



Key themes coming out from concept development

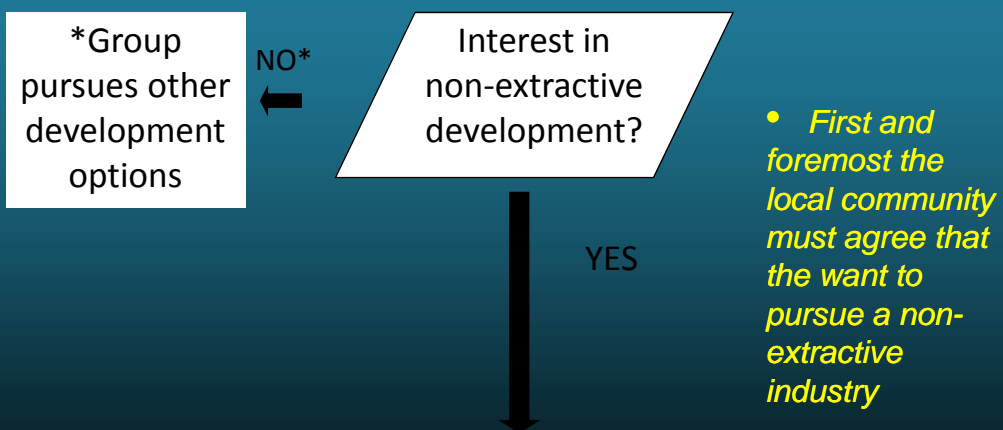
Support from national and sub- national govt . All levels government :

- have an immediate need for data
- want capacity building
- want on-the-ground learning to inform policy development
- Are interested in building partnerships

→ Opportunity for civil society engagement



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Step 1 -
Empowerment of
local people
(Province, NGO)

- *Evaluate current state of local governance systems*
- *Identify areas for awareness, skills training, support and strengthening.*



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Step 2 - A village or LLG development plan (VPC, WDC, NGO)

• A village or local level development plan is developed using the institution (e.g. WDC) or mechanism preferred by local people after they have decided on their communal and individual development goals.

• This may require strengthening of village- and local-level institutions and forming village and/or ward development plans.



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Step 3 – Discussion of the potential costs and benefits of a REDD project (Province, NGO)

Where appropriate awareness should be undertaken, including on;

- REDD,
- co-benefits of a Village-REDD (e.g. food security),
- carbon financing,
- potential benefits and opportunity costs of REDD,
- LBSAs and relevant laws



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Step 4 – Outlining the process for developing a REDD project (Province, NGO)

Discussion of process of developing a REDD activity must be discussed with local people.

The people must then agree on

- *the process to be followed,*
- *the institution or individuals that will manage this process in the village,*
- *the level of involvement and role of government agencies and partner organisations.*

NO



Want to develop a REDD Project?

YES



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Step 5 – Agreement between local people an agency or organisation to design a REDD (NGO, Province, OCCES)

Agreement between local people and the agency or organisation to assist in designing the REDD activity is drafted and signed after local groups express an interest in developing a Village-REDD activity and have a broad understanding of the process involved.



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Step 6 – ILGs, land registration, land deeds (Facilitating organisation – FO)

Agree on tenure, boundaries?

NO

YES

Village to decide on how land tenure will be recognised (e.g. ILGs). Options must be discussed and relative merits well understood.



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Step 7 – Discussion and awareness on options for local Benefit Sharing Agreements (LBSA)

Step 8 – Discussion on dispute resolution mechanisms

Step 9 – Drafting of a LBSA (FO, Public Solicitors, NGO (e.g. CELCOR))

Agreement on local BSA

YES

Discussion and awareness on options for LBSAs undertaken, including;

- *how revenues can assist people in achieving their development goals ,*
- *how benefits will be distributed and by whom,*
- *the link between protecting forests and benefits*



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Step 10 - Signing
the LBSA
(NGO, LLG, Prov.)



Signing the LBSA once there is a broad understanding and a consensus agreement has been achieved. Before revenue or benefits flow, financial planning and management should be provided to social groups that request it and local institutions that will administer the LBSA



Key issues that need to be addressed:

1. Getting the locals organised
2. Land tenure/boundary demarcation
3. Role of local development plans
4. Dispute resolution mechanisms
5. Benefit sharing (agreements)
6. Information sharing and awareness
7. FMAs and logging concessions
8. Relationship with government
9. Partnerships



1. Local organisation

For successful projects it will be necessary for customary landowners to organise themselves into a cohesive group, capable of negotiating and entering into long-term, binding contracts

- What is the appropriate social scale for local organisation – family, 'clan', village, ward, etc?



1. Local organisation (contin.)

Are Incorporated land Groups (ILGs) useful?

- Poor history of representation and transparency
- However, the 2007 amendments improve process
 - Allows customary title to be retained
 - Use existing and familiar legal structures
 - Follow a detailed process

Should alternatives to ILGs be used?

- Locally defined and appropriate
- Do not require process determined by outsiders



2. Land tenure and boundaries

It is imperative to address land rights and tenure issues

Customary land tenure

- Does not involve the complexity of land registration
- Retains its statutory protection against being sold, leased or mortgaged (unless permitted by custom)
- Ongoing customary connection to land not undermined
- But...



2. Land tenure and boundaries (contin.)

- ... a REDD agreement might have the effect of “disposing” of customary rights and thus be in breach of the restriction on dealing with customary land
- How can customary tenure be retained for REDD?



3. Role of local development plans

- Can REDD deliver conservation and development?
- Should REDD be seen as part of integrated community development?
- Should the benefits from REDD contribute towards individual or group development plans or both?



4. Dispute resolution mechanisms

Among all groups we spoke to, disputes over land and benefit sharing are seen as the major risk to REDD

- How can project design minimise disputes?
- What are the existing formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms (and can they be strengthened)?
- What roles does custom play in dispute resolution (and can it be strengthened)?
- How can the over-burdened formal dispute resolution process be improved for REDD?



5. Benefit sharing (agreements)

Success or failure of a REDD activity will be determined by the success or failure of benefit sharing

- Are there any good examples of BSAs?
- What form should benefits take?
- How should benefits be delivered and by whom?
- Should Landowners determine form of benefits or it be mandated by legislation?
- Should benefits be part of a local development plan and integrated community development?



5. Benefit sharing (contin.)

- How can benefits be linked to forest conservation (to create an ongoing incentive for permanence)?
- How can small-holders and those without forest benefit?



6. Information sharing and awareness

- What are the expectations from REDD?
- Are these realistic?
- How can we best share information with local groups
- How best can we share information within and among social groups?
- What information do local social groups need for informed consent?
- What information do the different levels of government need for their roles in REDD?



7. FMAs and logging concessions

- What are the implications for REDD to a Forest Management Agreement?
- With a concession signed, are the rights to the carbon transferred to the loggers?
- Can REDD work within the *Forestry Act* and be a development option within a Forestry Management Agreement?
- How can a REDD legislative scheme set out a process for identifying and resolving existing FMAs or forestry concessions over land to be used for REDD activities?



8. Relationship with government

The success of the project will require robust engagement at all levels of government



9. Partnerships

What are roles and partnership opportunities among:

- National government agencies?
- District and provincial governments?
- National and international NGOs?
- Local social groups?



9. Partnerships (contin.)

The national government agencies

- DEC/ OCCES/PNGFS - central to REDD development

The district and provincial governments

- Should process be consistent with planning processes and development plans of sub-national govt?



9. Partnerships (contin.)

The national and international NGOs

- REDD activities require a multitude of skill sets - from highly technical work to community empowerment and facilitation - lends itself readily to collaborations among NGOs

Local social groups

- Most important partners in REDD activities
- Successful implementation will require a strong and enduring partnership



9. Partnerships (contin.)

TNC, WWF, WCS and civil Societies Partnership with the Manus Provincial Government to develop the Manus Provincial Natural Resources Management Plan



Conclusions

- There is a lot we don't know and civil society best placed to find this out
- Civil society needs to be seen to be providing answers to key issues (not just identifying problems)
- The complexity of REDD lends itself to partnerships



Conclusions

- Civil society must form strong partnerships with government (we already have them with local social groups and among ourselves)
- REDD provides a unique opportunity for civil society to contribute to policy development



Acknowledgement

- WCS Staff
- REDD Concept Development Team and International advisors.
- Our thanks to all those that gave their time to discuss issues with our team

