


# Governance and REDD+: A civil society perspective

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Since REDD+ introduces new norms for forests, it should be done in synergy and interaction with communities living in and dependant from forests since decades.

## Forests and communities (I)




With regards to REDD+, the effectiveness of results will depend on the collaboration with communities that use forest resources.

## Forests and communities (2)



As a consequence, making the link between the State and the forest dwellers is a difficult, if not impossible undertaking as this would mean continuously organizing referenda to consult communities.

## Communities and political decision makers




The civil society thus becomes the partner between the communities and the political decision-makers. This ensures taking into account the rights of communities in national laws and policies and their ownership.

Facilitation of the dialogue between the political decision-makers and the forest communities: the role of the civil society

## « *Vive la société civile* »

This is the reason why the participation of the civil society should be promoted and guaranteed in the design and implementation of REDD+ related laws and policies.

In other words: make forest governance happen!



For the civil society, forest governance implies 4 elements: participation, capacity, transparency and accountability.

## Forest governance: a civil society perspective

# Participation

Participation means that the role of civil society in REDD+ design and implementation processes needs to be clearly recognized.

Participation should not be limited to information or consultation. It should include participation to decision-making and policy evaluation.



# Capacity


Civil society should be a laboratory of expertise at the disposal of forest communities. To achieve this objective, it both needs to build the REDD+ technical expertise necessary to be able to disseminate knowledge to communities; as well as a clear mandate to do so, recognized by governments.

# Transparency

Information about what is being done or decided needs to be available and accessible in order to enable civil society' follow-up and a proactive role in the process.

# Accountability

Government, the private sector and the civil society need to report on their actions and be accountable to third parties in charge of validating and legitimising their actions.



REDD+ governance implies that the rights and interests of people who depend on forests for their survival need to be secured. That is why REDD+ should not solely focus on carbon credits, as it might divert the attention from the good solutions.

To conclude,

## A few good solutions for REDD+ (I)

Among potential good solutions, we can find:

- The recognition and valuation of forestry communities' rights and knowledge;
- The financing of civil society participation by national and international institutions as a support to good governance;

## A few good solutions for REDD+ (2)

- Harmonising forestry related standards in order to address the issue of legal and process overlaps; such as REDD+ and FLEGT VPA;
- Ask ourselves relevant questions: for example, instead of ***who owns carbon credits?*** we should rather ask ***what is the point of owning carbon?***



# Merci!

# Thank you!

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