

Ghana REDD+ BS mechanisms field dialogue

**Co-chairs conclusions of
day 3 discussions**

Presentations

- **Introduction to TFD's REDD+ Benefit Sharing Initiative:** objectives and process.
- **Insights into the 2009 Ghana dialogue and the 2013 Vietnam dialogue:** Recognition of differences but also lessons from Vietnam that could be useful for the Ghana process

Presentations

- **Setting the framework for the dialogue:**
national vs project level BS mechanisms
 - **Defining REDD+ benefit sharing** –
 - FAO/IUCN (*equitable distribution of monetary benefits from the commercialization of forest carbon*).
 - **Balancing Objectives:**
 - Effective Incentives vs. Legitimacy
 - Provide effective incentives for actions

Presentations

- **Reflections on the field visits**
 - a better understanding of some of the BS approaches being considered/followed in Ghana:
 - endowment funds and agro-forestry out-grower schemes;
 - the challenges faced
 - land and resource tenure and rights;
 - stakeholders/beneficiaries consultation/participation in the design of BS mechanisms;

Presentations

- **Background paper:**
 - brief overview of Ghana's REDD+ process
 - summary of the main issues that Ghana will have to address to ensure the development of an effective, equitable and transparent BS mechanism that takes into account or helps to resolve current challenges (eg. land and resource tenure and rights challenges)

Discussion

Concerns raised:

- high costs associated with the development of an effective BS mechanism vs current and future price of carbon (as REDD+ ultimate goal)
- lack of participation of communities in consultation processes (below the paramount chief level)
- power dynamics at the community level that hinder transparency
 - government online information about cash benefits distributed at different levels mentioned as a good first step to address transparency

Discussion

- “bundling” benefits prevents appropriate “labeling “ (separation of the of benefit streams – stacks of benefits) and this in turn has an impact on transparency
- REED+ BS discussions could be used to address some of the systemic challenges including land and resource tenure and rights
- importance of considering both vertical and horizontal benefit sharing mechanisms for carbon as well as other environmental services
- BS mechanisms should be addressing “rights holders” and not just stakeholders and
- The design of BS mechanisms should address the drivers of deforestation and degradation to ensure effectiveness

Group session

- **role of tenure:** "recognizing the complexities of land/resource tenure rights in Ghana, HOW do we ensure equitable, transparent and efficient benefit sharing arrangements?"
- **role of multiple actors:** "how do we actively involve the private sector in generating and distributing benefits?"
- **sustainability, equity & permanence of benefits:** "how to use multiple benefits to incentivize actors to generate sustained land use changes & rewards?"
- **transparency, redress/grievance mechanisms & feedback loop?** "what characteristics of transparency and grievance redress mechanisms are currently working well in Ghana/your country that could be used to support REDD+ benefit sharing?"

Transparency

- Measures to ensure transparency should legitimized by national laws
- Role of awareness raising and education,
- Importance of effective and targeted communication
- Incorporation of socio-cultural aspects, particularly customary laws on land and resource administration

Redress

- Respect and recognition of local rules, traditions and governance as a means of mediation
- Facilitating the evolution of new system

Tenure

- It is an issue that requires immediate attention
- Communities participation ensured to allow for ownership of outcomes and participatory mapping done to determine ownership and rights
- New arrangements should bring more benefits to the different actors to ensure their adoption
- Develop success stories at pilot level
- There is a need for land reform: considering the complexities, including vested interests, how could this be done in Ghana?

Sustainability and equity

- Identify, map and value the diverse benefits and services;
- Analyse drivers to ensure identification of incentives that could encourage a mindset change
- Ensure knowledge and information sharing at all levels
- Structure benefits in flexible and dynamic ways, responding also to peoples' immediate needs
- Link multiple benefits to the National Development Agenda

And..

THANK YOU