



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Rights Based Approach for REDD+ Benefit Sharing: Experiences from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The Forest Dialogue  
Scoping Dialogue on REDD+ Benefit Sharing  
23 – 24 March 2013

By  
Patrick Kipalu  
Project Manager, DRC  
Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Background on DRC

- Third biggest country in Africa
- With incredible natural resources: gold, diamond, coltan, etc.
- Went through series armed conflicts: 1996 – 2003, which caused around 6 million death...conflicts are still going on ...
- 70 % of population live in extreme poverty (total population estimated at 65-70 million, 2012)
- Jobless rate at 85%



## Forest Peoples Programme

### Economy of the DRC:

- Dominated by the primary sector: agriculture, forestry exploitation, and extractive industry
- Most economic activities occur in informal sector and are not captured in the country GDP

### The Country Forest and Biodiversity:

- 58 % of the national territory is covered by forest, (145 million ha).
- World second biggest forest after the Amazon
- Congolese forests are 5<sup>th</sup> in the world for their biodiversity (plants & animals)



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Forest Communities:

- More than 40 million Congolese depend on forests daily, including indigenous peoples (estimated at 1% of the country population).
- Forest communities in the DRC uses more than 200 different local languages.
- Prior to the colonial period, most of forest communities lived self-governed in different kingdoms and other customary systems.
- Till today forest communities in DRC still govern their daily affairs, and manage their lands and forest using customary laws
- Most of the forest communities live in extreme poverty. In fact, they are the poorest!



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Paradoxe!

- Extreme poverty of communities in the midst of great riches of the country!



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# The Country REDD+ Process

- Held as a good example by the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
- Entering the investment phase – with the production of the national framework REDD+ strategy - without completing the preparation phase.
- REDD+ discussion are still Capital (Kinshasa) centered – not many communities know much about REDD+ or are engage.
- Land conflicts and communities insecured tenure remain unsolved
- Not clear benefit sharing system in place
- Communities' customary rights not guarranty by the Law – and communities' right to FPIC not acknowledged.





Forest Peoples  
Programme

# The DRC Forests in the Fight against Climate Change:

- 10 à 30 bi metric tons of Carbon
- Focuses efforts for REDD+
- Constraints in Capacities are a Limiting Factor for the implementation of REDD in the country
- Social Safeguards are a Key Components - but not well developed, nor enforced on the ground.
- The country Forest Investment Strategy for the Forest Investment Program (FIP) was approved in 2011 and in progress for implementation.



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# REDD+

## Initiatives and Pilot Projects:

- More than 500 million USD are dedicated to REDD+ and conservation related activities in DRC
- Only a very small part of this amount targets communities specifically
- Potential benefits for communities are enormous, but...
- FPP and local partners have identified around 20 REDD+ projects targeting communities' forests.





Forest Peoples  
Programme

## FPP Supports Communities in DRC for their engagement in the REDD+ process

- Working in 6 Provinces: Bandundu, Bas-Congo, Equateur, Province Orientale, Sud-Kivu and Nord-Kivu — **with more than 120 communities.**
- Working through 4 Local NGOs, doing:
  - Information sharing on REDD+ initiatives, projects, risks & opportunities, etc.
  - Trainings/Capacity building: human rights, mapping etc.
  - Legal Support
  - Community mapping
  - Communities' engagement with REDD+ project developers/managers etc.
  - **Economic Development Projects at the Community Level based on Community Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).**



Forest Peoples  
Programme

## FPP Supports Communities in DRC to engage in REDD+

### Sharing Benefits with Communities on the basis of FPIC:

- Various small Economic Development Projects funded in around 40 communities:
  - ❖ Developing water sources,
  - ❖ Livestock raising,
  - ❖ Palm oil processing and soap making,
  - ❖ Roads clearance
  - ❖ Footbridges repair
  - ❖ Fish ponds,
  - ❖ Agro-forestry
  - ❖ Small farming support: seeds and tools distribution, trainings etc.







Forest Peoples  
Programme

# FPP Supports Communities in DRC to engage in REDD+







Forest Peoples  
Programme

# FPP Supports Communities in DRC to engage in REDD+







Forest Peoples  
Programme

# FPP Supports Communities in DRC to engage in REDD+

Diverse Meetings, Dialogues, Trainings (on REDD+, Human Rights, FPIC, etc.), consultations on forest management, and local social and economic development, etc. are organized in all the communities where we are working:







Forest Peoples  
Programme

# FPP Supports Communities in DRC to engage in REDD+:

The project funded and supported  
TFD in DRC on Free, Prior and  
Informed Consent (FPIC) in May  
2012







Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Lessons Learned for Benefits Sharing from our project:

- **REDD+ has not, yet, adequately addressed the issue of rights** - and communities are generally uninformed about risks and benefits;
- **REDD can only work if communities receive benefits** - especially if they are being asked to give up forest use or forest conversion, otherwise they become poorer - and they are already amongst the poorest!;
- Discussions about rights with communities give them the opportunity to get organized to negotiate effectively, from an informed position, and;
- **Communities becoming organized means that they are well placed to also identify the kinds of benefit sharing mechanisms that could be appropriate for them** (examples from our project);



Forest Peoples  
Programme

# Lessons Learned for Benefits Sharing from our project :

- Communities do not believe that benefit sharing via existing government structures will work – so, **other mechanisms must be found;**
- **Projects/mechanisms developed on the basis of community FPIC are most likely to succeed**, since they respond directly to community needs and they can be under community control;
- **Communities want such benefits to come directly to them, or via NGOs or other structures they nominate** - not via regional projects (eg roads, etc) **UNLESS** on the basis of **their FPIC** - and in which case the process needs to be organized so that they have oversight, and they are involve in implementation and monitoring.



Forest Peoples  
Programme

Thank You!

