

A strategy formulation process has to be supported by reliable data

REDD+ requires a large amount of accurate, relevant, up-to-date, complete and verifiable data. This data enhances the credibility of the process and the results generated. The consultation process was supported by recent data, but it only covered some parts of the country. Better data for all regions, and data that corresponded with the local knowledge of stakeholders, would have made the process and the results more credible.

Lesson number 5: Process and results of consultations are only as good as the information they are based on.

A comprehensive National REDD+ Strategy requires coordinated policies at the national level

REDD+ is strongly associated with different interests at local, national and global levels. The effectiveness of a Strategy will increase significantly if it objectively explores the actual forest and land conditions, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, how current problems should be addressed, and how institutional and financial mechanisms can support the implementation of the Strategy. Consultations were enhanced when the working groups appointed by the Coordinating Minister for Economy deliberating on REDD+, made the latest institutional and financial information available. In other words, better coordination at the national level would have benefited the development of the Strategy.

Lessons number 6: Consultations need to be supported by developments and decisions made by stakeholders not directly involved in the formulation process.

The importance of a support system

The presence of the UN-REDD Programme in Indonesia has been critical to the consultation process, since the United Nations Organization is perceived by many as a neutral institution able to overcome barriers and improve communication between different government sectors and stakeholders with sometimes opposing views. The National UN-REDD Programme was instrumental in assisting the Government of Indonesia and BAPPENAS to coordinate the work of the Strategy drafting team. In collaboration with partners, the Programme was able to bring together diverse stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, as well as

various CSOs and government representatives. These efforts to build broad-based support for policy changes in the midst of declining public trust in forest management were much appreciated.

With the assistance of an experienced writing team and an efficient secretariat, the consultation processes were managed smoothly, though there will always be criticism by some parties. Overall, by providing a solid support system, the UN-REDD Programme Indonesia provided a valuable contribution to the preparation of Indonesia's first National REDD+ Strategy.

Lessons number 7: Consultations clearly benefit by being supported and facilitated by a mutually agreed upon neutral partner.



UN-REDD Programme Indonesia is a partnership among Republic of Indonesia's (RI) Ministry of Forestry, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The programme aims to support the Government of Indonesia (GoI) to progressively build a REDD+ architecture that allows a fair, equal and transparent REDD+ implementation, as well as to achieve REDD+ readiness.

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Multi Stakeholders Approach for Developing Indonesia's First REDD+ Strategy, Lessons Learned from Consultation Process

The outcome of the 2010 Conference of Parties (COP17) under the framework of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), also known as the Cancún Agreements, addresses numerous issues related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, as well as the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

The Cancún Agreements also spell out the requirements for developing countries aiming to implement REDD+ programmes, including the development of a national strategy or action plan.

Indonesia had taken a proactive approach in 2010 and had already formulated its first REDD+ Strategy. A major priority for those formulating the Strategy was to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders were able to provide their thoughts and input. The consultation process took four months and this report is a record of the lessons learned during the process.

The Indonesian REDD+ Strategy was coordinated by the State Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) based on its mandate from the

Coordinating Minister for the Economy. To make the development process transparent, inclusive, accountable and reliable, BAPPENAS invited all relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministries of Forestry and Agriculture, academics, and CSOs including the Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara¹ (AMAN), the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The consultation process was quite intensive and challenging, given the short time frame. Reaching stakeholders in a country as large as Indonesia is also expensive, costing around USD 350,000. While there was some criticism, many stakeholders appreciated the more participatory approach, which was considered an improvement over earlier awareness-raising or information dissemination activities.

The purpose of this brief is to share the key lessons learned with a wider audience in the hope that others will learn from the strengths and weaknesses of the process.

¹ AMAN is the national umbrella organization for the indigenous peoples of the Indonesian archipelago.



Draft
National REDD+
Strategy

Revision of November 18th, 2010



Regional Consultation Meetings for National REDD+ Strategy Draft



The importance of early preparation

A preparedness mechanism is essential to ensure the participation of all stake-holders in the REDD+ Strategy's formulation. All necessary information should be provided as soon as possible, to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient time to understand the various aspects of REDD+ before any discussions are initiated.

Many of the stakeholders in the REDD+Strategy have limited access to, and control of, information and decision-making processes. They include indigenous peoples, women and other vulnerable groups. An effective consultation process must anticipate the variety of cultural and practical problems that might hinder the

involvement of different stakeholders, including a reluctance to speak or express opinions in public, and poor comprehension due to limited or unclear information. Practical problems include lack of financial resources to attend consultation meetings, especially in Indonesia, where distances are far and travel can be expensive.

If the consultation period had been longer, more time would have been available for valuable preparation and the discussions of the National REDD+ Strategy would have been conducted in more depth.

Lesson Number 1: A successful consultation process requires that all participants clearly understand the issues early on.

An inclusive process takes time

An inclusive process is essential, but not easily carried out in a short time. BAPPENAS and the UN-REDD Programme Indonesia tried to provide equal opportunity for all stakeholders to participate.

An inclusive process contributes greatly to the quality of the discussions as well as the substance of the Strategy. Perhaps most importantly, it also provides a sense of ownership. Unfortunately, the process had to be shortened according to the deadline provided by the Coordinating Minister for Economy. The resulting sense of urgency may have severely affected the outcomes and hindered vulnerable groups from digesting the information and participating fully in discussions.

Lesson number 2: Predetermined deadlines for a consultation process may lead to premature decisions.

REDD+ is a complex issue and needs to be communicated in a suitable way for different target audiences

Even for informed stakeholders, REDD+ is not easy to understand due to the combination of political processes and scientific complexities. Facilitators of the consultations found it often difficult to avoid using scientific terms not easily understood by lay people. Additional communication tools, using suitable language and illustrations would have made REDD+ easier to understand. Failure to develop targeted communications meant that some stakeholders were unable to follow the discussion properly, to share their insights and become more active partners on the formulation process.

Lesson number 3: Effective communication needs to consider the audience and provide customised information for each stakeholder group.

Genuine participation requires trust in the process

Genuine participation in formulating the Strategy has to ensure that stakeholders are confident that their contributions are heard, and considered in the policy formulation process. In other words, they have to have trust in the facilitators and the process.

Building trust requires the direct or indirect encouragement and involvement of stakeholders at all levels of decision making. A feedback mechanism that clearly documents the input of all participants must also be available. Neglecting either of these can cause participants to lose interest and confidence in the process and the subsequent implementation of any decision. Stakeholders who felt their insights and opinions were not considered on previous occasions were reluctant to attend the consultations.

Many parties to the discussions appreciated that their views and

interests were being accommodated. Public consultations in Indonesia's seven regions² were considered an improvement on previous policy formulation processes, especially since stakeholders were promised a written response regarding the status of their input.

Lesson number 4: Documenting the process and a providing a feedback mechanism are necessary components of thorough consultations.

² (1) Northern Part of Sumatera; (2) Southern Part of Sumatera; (3) Java; (4) Bali, Nusa Tenggara, the Islands of Maluku; (5) Kalimantan; (6) Sulawesi; (7) Papua

