

# Participatory approaches of the REDD+ program

Capacity Building Material

# Guidance

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UNFCCC safeguard 'D' refers to the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities. In addition, UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 requests **developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to ...ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities.**

For purposes of demonstrating conformance with these UNFCCC requirements, Jurisdictional REDD+ programs are expected to put in place adequate participatory approaches.

Although there are no official guidelines on how jurisdictions are supposed to have adequate participatory approaches, these are expected to be aligned with international standards and best practices

# Guidelines

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In alignment with UNFCCC guidance and international best practices, adequate participatory approaches incorporate a number of tools<sup>[1]</sup>, <sup>[2]</sup>,<sup>[3]</sup>:

- **Stakeholder identification and analysis:** can be used to identify who should be engaged in relation to the J-REDD+ program, and map their priority issues, rights, needs and desires. Particular attention needs to be given to the inclusion of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, women and other marginalized groups. Stakeholder groups should be supported to self-select representatives where appropriate.
- **Stakeholder engagement plan:** determines the principles and approaches that will be used to ensure the meaningful participation of stakeholders, noting consultations with indigenous peoples must be carried out through their own existing processes, organizations and institutions. The stakeholder engagement plan may encompass the set-up of representation bodies or platforms, such as multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs)<sup>[4]</sup>, which can serve as participatory structures and mechanisms to facilitate the full and effective participation of stakeholders.
- **Information disclosure:** Disclosure is a formal-sounding term for making information accessible to interested and affected parties. Communicating such information in a manner that is understandable to stakeholders is an important first (and ongoing) step in the process of stakeholder engagement. All other activities, from consultation and informed participation to negotiation and resolution of grievances, will be more constructive if stakeholders, including affected communities, have accurate and timely information about the J-REDD+ program, its impacts, and any other aspects that may have an effect on them.
- **Access to grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs):** GRMs act as recourse for situations in which, despite proactive stakeholder engagement, some stakeholders have a concern about a project or program's potential impacts on them.

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[1] FCPF, UN-REDD, 2012. Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness with a Focus on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest-Dependent Communities. 2012

[2] IFC, Stakeholder engagement , Good Practice Manual

[3] GCF, Sustainability Guidance Note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed activities

[4] For purposes of this tool, MSPs are defined as a purposefully organized structures that bring together a range of stakeholders to participate in dialogue and/or decision-making and/or implementation of actions seeking to address a problem they hold in common or to achieve a goal for their common benefit.

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