

Presentation given at the
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Village-REDD

A concept that promotes broad participation and spreads benefits widely among forest dependent people in PNG



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Scope of this talk

- This talk deals with key issues around the village-based REDD concept development
- It identifies some challenges to overcome to make REDD work in PNG
- The Village-REDD concept has been presented to the GoPNG





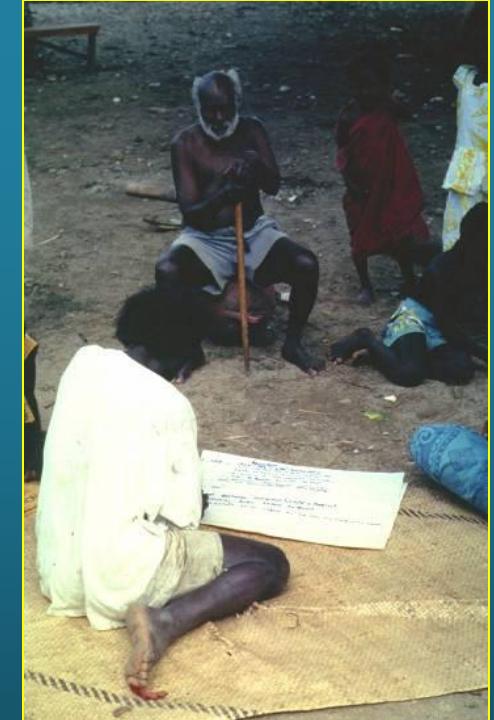
Manus Island
Marine and REDD

New Ireland
WCS Marine program

Goroka
Terrestrial Program

'Village REDD' Concept

- AusAID funded International Forest Carbon Initiative NGO grant
- To develop a concept
- Our work was really just a list of questions
- 4 elements of the project
 - Villages,
 - Government,
 - Civil society and
 - Literature



‘Village REDD’ - outputs and outcomes

- Produce Concept Note that is useful for:
 - PNG government to consider in policy development
 - Provinces or NGOs wanting to do a village-REDD project
- WCS objective – determine if we want to be involved in REDD



Concept Development Process

The WCS teams had discussions almost 600 individuals:

- 474 community members from six villages
- 17 community leaders from six villages
- 20 Local Level Government managers and presidents
- 24 district and provincial officers
- 21 staff of national agencies
- 27 employees of NGOs



Key issues investigated



- Determine level understanding of Climate Change and REDD
- Determine capacity of provinces/districts to implement and monitor REDD project
- Estimate existing benefits from forest resources :
 - Food security, livelihoods, ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation
- Understand attitudes towards costs/benefits within and among social groups
- Determine form of benefits expected

Key issues investigated

- Identify existing social institutions
- Examine social cohesion and information exchange at various social levels (district, ward, village, 'clan')
- Examine existing land tenure structures, social institutions, mechanisms used to settle disputes
- Partnerships - local and national government , local and international NGOs



Key themes coming out from concept development

Among all groups :

- Lack of understanding of climate change and REDD
- #1 need stated was more awareness on CC and REDD

High local interested in mechanisms to protect forests:

- Preferred development is low impact consistent with REDD
- Service delivery and cash benefits
- Most trusted social groups is immediate – family or ‘clan’



Key themes coming out from concept development

Support from national and sub-national govt . All levels government :

- have an immediate need for data
- want capacity building
- want on-the-ground learning to inform policy development
- Are interested in building partnerships

→ Opportunity for civil society engagement



Village-REDD approach

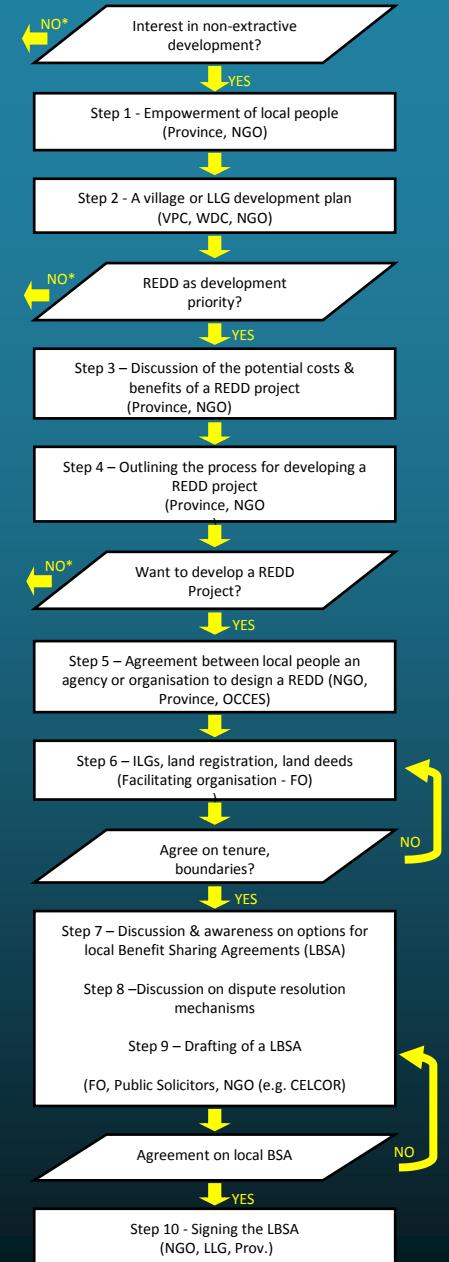
.....forest management that reduces disputes by working with local clans and villages and then combining the carbon credits for marketing.....

This is a concept given to OCCD for them to consider.



Key elements – ‘village’ process

- Managed by local people & LLGs
- Local development plan
- Local Benefit Sharing Agreements
- LBSA to get people to development objectives
- Consistent with LLG, district & provincial development plans & processes



*Group pursues other development options

Step 2 – Develop a village, Ward or LLG development plan

NO*

Is REDD a development priority?

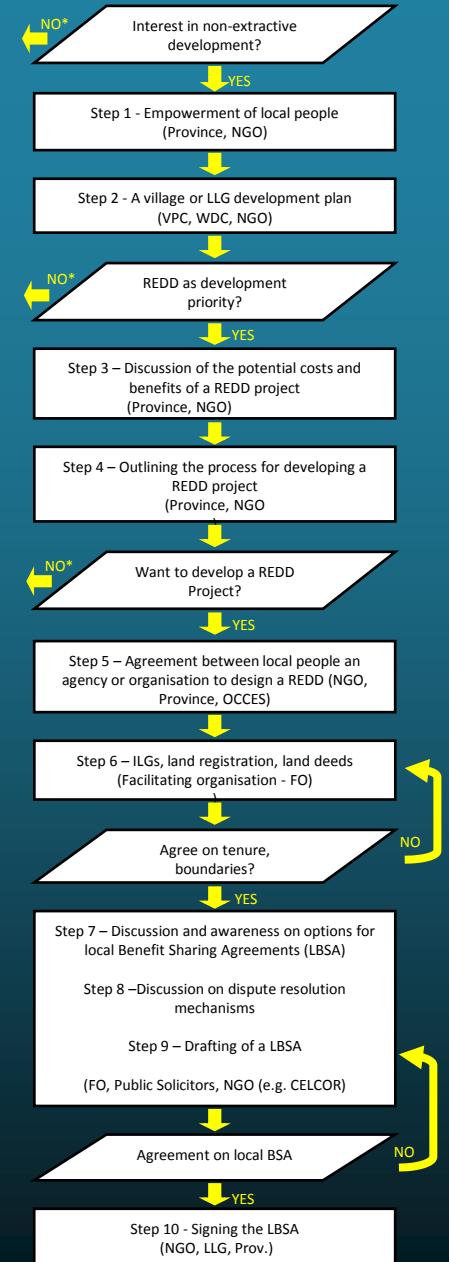
YES

Step 3 – Discussion of the potential costs & benefits of a REDD project

*Group pursues other development options

Key elements – ‘village’ process

- Landowner organisation and planning
- Empower local people to make transparent and informed decisions
- Each step involves broad participation
- Each step involves full understanding



*Group pursues other development options

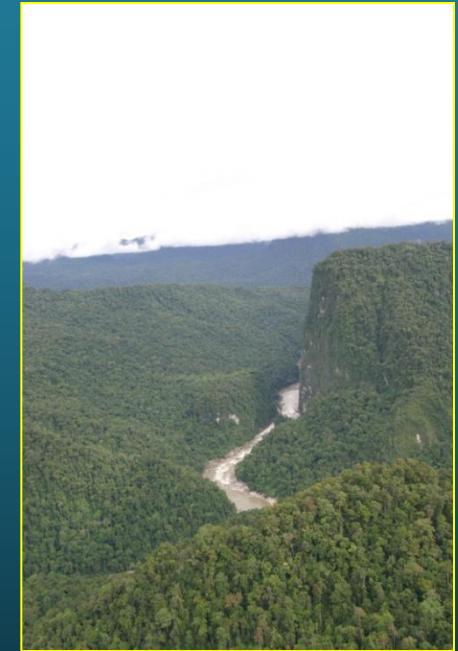
Village-REDD approach

.....forest management that reduces disputes by working with local clans and villages and then combining the carbon credits so marketing, administration and technical activities can be done....



Issues that need to be addressed:

1. Getting the local organised
2. Land tenure/boundary demarcation
3. Role of local development plans
4. Dispute resolution mechanisms
5. Benefit sharing (agreements)
6. Information sharing and awareness
7. FMAs and logging concessions
8. Relationship with government
9. Partnerships



1. Local organisation

For REDD it will be necessary for customary landowners to organise themselves into a cohesive group, capable of negotiating and entering into long-term, binding contracts

- What is the appropriate social scale for local organisation – family, ‘clan’, village, ward, etc?



1. Local organisation (contin.)

Are Incorporated land Groups (ILGs) useful?

- Poor history of representation and transparency
- However, the 2007 amendments improve process
 - Allows customary title to be retained
 - Use existing and familiar legal structures
 - Follow a detailed process

Should alternatives to ILGs be used?

- Locally defined and appropriate
- Do not require process determined by outsiders



2. Land tenure and boundaries

It is imperative to address land rights and tenure issues

Customary land tenure

- Does not involve the complexity of land registration
- Retains its statutory protection against being sold, leased or mortgaged (unless permitted by custom)
- Ongoing customary connection to land not undermined
- But...



2. Land tenure and boundaries (contin.)

- ... a REDD agreement might have the effect of “disposing” of customary rights and thus be in breach of the restriction on dealing with customary land
- How can customary tenure be retained for REDD?



3. Role of local development plans

- Can REDD deliver conservation and development?
- Should REDD be seen as part of integrated community development?
- Should the benefits from REDD contribute towards individual or group development plans or both?



4. Dispute resolution mechanisms

Among all groups we spoke to, disputes over land and benefit sharing are seen as the major risk to REDD

- How can project design minimise disputes?
- What are the existing formal and informal dispute resolution mechanisms (and can they be strengthened)?
- What roles does custom play in dispute resolution (and can it be strengthened)?
- How can the over-burdened formal dispute resolution process be improved for REDD?



5. Benefit sharing (agreements)

Success or failure of a REDD activity will be determined by the success or failure of benefit sharing

- Are there any good examples of BSAs?
- What form should benefits take?
- How should benefits be delivered and by whom?
- Should Landowners determine form of benefits or it be mandated by legislation?
- Should benefits be part of a local development plan and integrated community development?



5. Benefit sharing (contin.)

- How can benefits be linked to forest conservation (to create an ongoing incentive for permanence)?
- How can small-holders and those without forest benefit?



6. Information sharing and awareness

- What are the expectations from REDD?
- Are these realistic?
- How can we best share information with local groups
- How best can we share information within and among social groups?
- What information do local social groups need for informed consent?
- What information do the different levels of government need for their roles in REDD?



7. FMAs and logging concessions

- What are the implications for REDD to a Forest Management Agreement?
- With a concession signed, are the rights to the carbon transferred to the loggers?
- Can REDD work within the *Forestry Act* and be a development option within a Forestry Management Agreement?
- How can a REDD legislative scheme set out a process for identifying and resolving existing FMAs or forestry concessions over land to be used for REDD activities?



8. Relationship with government

The success of the project will require robust engagement at all levels of government



9. Partnerships

What are roles and partnership opportunities among:

- National government agencies?
- District and provincial governments?
- National and international NGOs?
- Local social groups?



9. Partnerships (contin.)

The national government agencies

- DEC/ OCCES/PNGFS - central to REDD development

The district and provincial governments

- Should process be consistent with planning processes and development plans of sub-national govt?



9. Partnerships (contin.)

The national and international NGOs

- REDD activities require a multitude of skill sets - from highly technical work to community empowerment and facilitation - lends itself readily to collaborations among NGOs

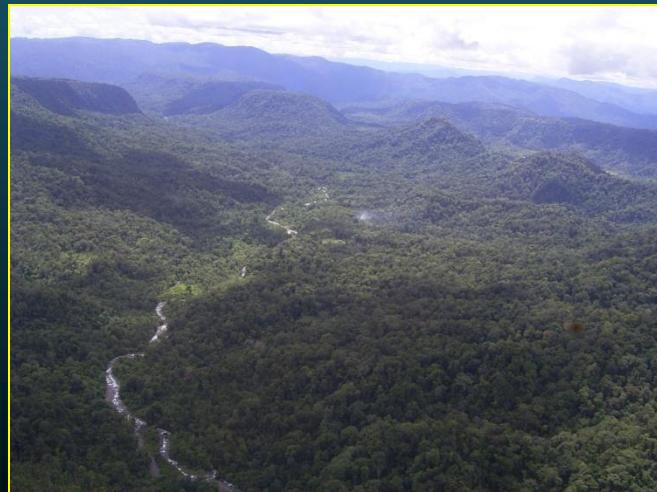
Local social groups

- Most important partners in REDD activities
- Successful implementation will require a strong and enduring partnership



Conclusions

- The complexity of REDD lends itself to partnerships
- REDD provides a unique opportunity for civil society to contribute to policy development (because PNG lacks data and experience on REDD)



Acknowledgement

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