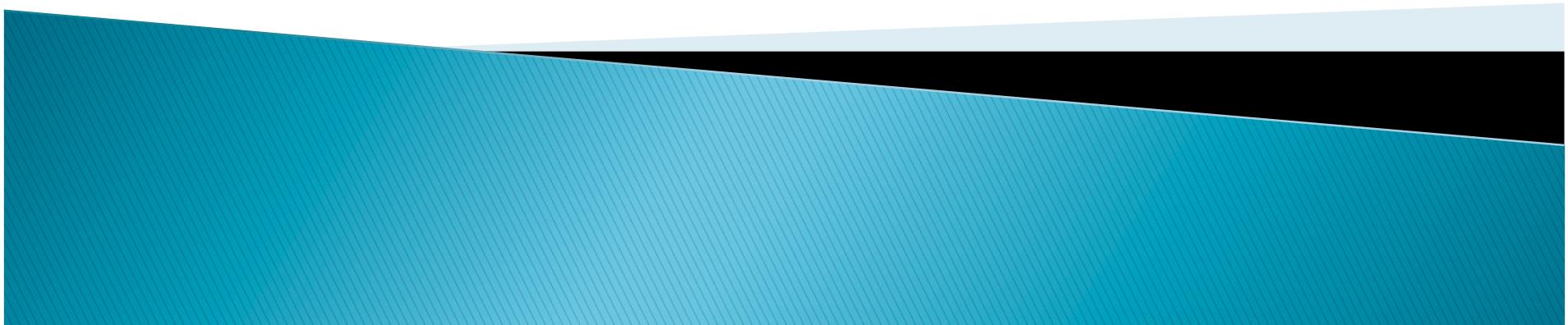


# Using the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) for Leveraging Secure Long- Term Forest Tenure: Possibilities and Obstacles in Cambodia and Laos

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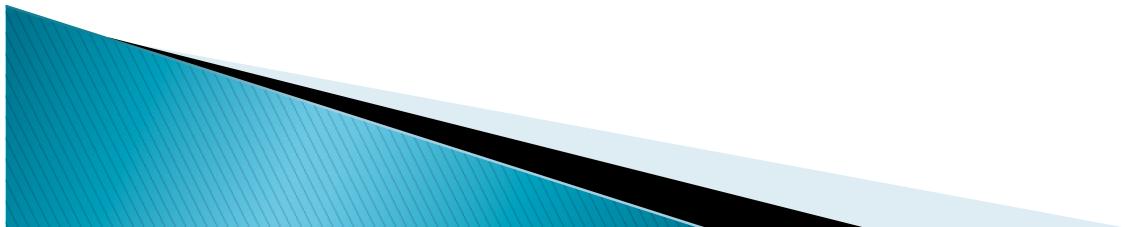
# Introduction

- ▶ Jacob Phelps, Edward Webb and Arun Agrawal (2010) have raised valid concerns regarding the potential for REDD to result in the recentralization of forest lands.
- ▶ REDD could potentially set back efforts to institute more locally sensitive decentralized models of forest management.



# Two main arguments for decentralized forest management

- ▶ Ethical (local people have experienced unfair disenfranchisement in the past and they deserve to be given more rights)
- ▶ Pragmatic (distant actors have often, but not always, performed poorly in protecting resources)



# REDD and Centralization

- ▶ Illustrative of how central governments are attempting to gain more control over forests, the Norwegian government has negotiated a US\$1 billion agreement with the government of Indonesia regarding REDD
- ▶ Forests are becoming more of a concern of national governments and regional players at the expense of local forest users. This can certainly be seen in the two countries that are the focus of this study, Cambodia and Laos.



# Purpose

- ▶ The purpose of this paper is to suggest possibilities for utilizing REDD or related systems to empower locals through strengthening tenure over forest lands.



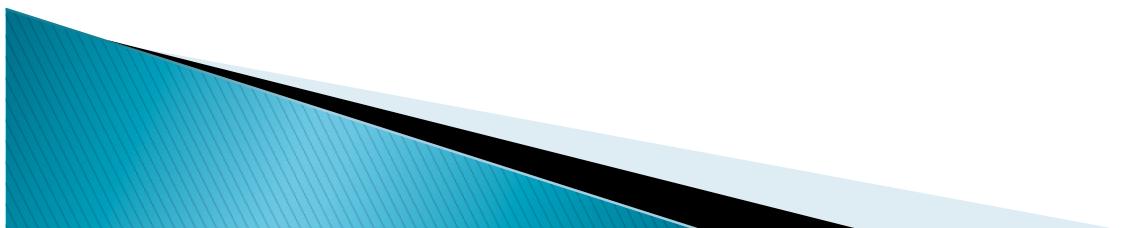
# Proposition

- ▶ It is possible to imagine ways in which ensuring secure long-term tenure over lands and forests for local people could become elevated to being a key objective and requirement of REDD.
- ▶ Right now REDD is too focused on reducing carbon emissions. Other issues also need to be more clearly integrated.



# Secure long-term tenure

- ▶ Secure long-term tenure is broadly means that local people are able to exercise a high degree of autonomy over land for an indefinite period of time, with strong legal rights, including the ability to deny economic land concessions, commercial logging operations, etc.



## SOUTHEAST ASIA



# REDD+ in Cambodia and Laos

- ▶ The central governments of both Cambodia and Laos have both endorsed the idea of REDD+
- ▶ In Laos, the Department of Forestry is responsible for developing REDD in the country
- ▶ In Cambodia, the Forest Administration is responsible for assessing and regulating carbon trading
- ▶ Various pilot REDD+ projects are being developed in both countries



# PACT - Oddar Meancheay Province

- ▶ The most advanced REDD project in Cambodia
- ▶ Around 65,000 hectares located in 13 separate areas (10,000 households)
- ▶ Objective of the project is to support communities to develop a sustainably managed community forestry
- ▶ 15-year renewable agreement on community forestry (limited community control, still “state land” leased to villagers)
- ▶ Mainly not “indigenous” so no communal land titling possible for agricultural lands
- ▶ Central government more involved in forest than ever since it is a pilot project for the government and carbon selling is the responsibility of the government
- ▶ Communities have little say in how revenues are allocated



# WCS – Seima, Mondolkiri Province

- ▶ Second most advanced REDD project in Cambodia
- ▶ Almost 188,000 hectares area including 16 mainly ethnic Bunong villages
- ▶ Main objective of project is to support protected area management
- ▶ Indigenous people have been able to establish communal land title for agricultural and reserve lands (1,400 hectares in first village) with WCS support
- ▶ The main forest is classified as “state land”. Villagers can still use the forest, including tapping rubber, but tenure cannot be considered secure.



# JICA in Luang Phrabang Province

- ▶ Less than 20,000 hectares in three districts in Luang Phrabang Province, northern Laos
- ▶ The main focus of the project is to test a participatory REDD project model
- ▶ The crucial point of the project is to support villagers to gain government-recognized secure and long-term tenure over their forests
- ▶ In early stages of project implementation
- ▶ Unclear if government will allow local people the tenure rights desired by the project director, and whether JICA will be willing to push the matter



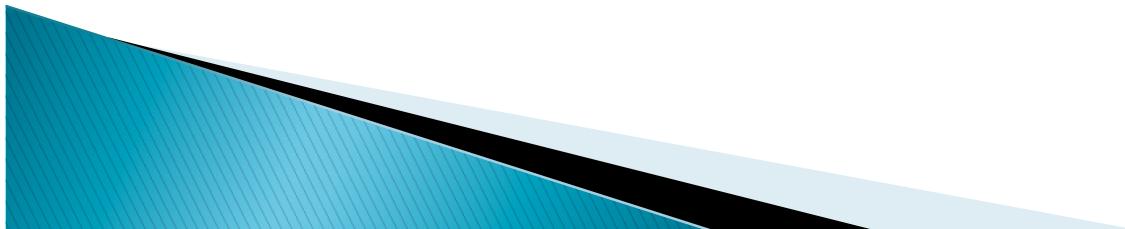
# Possibilities for Using REDD for Increasing Local Land and Forest Tenure

- ▶ Each of the case studies illustrates partial achievements and possibilities for advancing local forest tenure through the use of REDD
- ▶ There could be considerable improvement



# A challenge for the future

- ▶ ‘Free Prior and Informed Consent’ (FPIC) was only recently added as a requirement of REDD+. Just a couple of years ago it seemed unlikely that it would be included
- ▶ The requirement that local forest users have secure long-term tenure over forest resources could also be added as a precondition for certifying REDD+ projects
- ▶ This would, however, require a considerable paradigm shift in REDD+



# Conclusions

- ▶ While it seems unlikely that secure long-term forest tenure will become a precondition for REDD+ in the near future, it is crucial to advocate for such a change.
- ▶ REDD+ could serve as a tool for disempowering local forest users or it could serve to empower them with more secure long-term tenure
- ▶ National government would appear to be the main obstacles for achieving secure long-term tenure for local forest-users
- ▶ We must first imagine a REDD+ with an emphasis on secure long-term resource tenure if we can ever expect it to be achieved



Thank you

