

Policies on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities

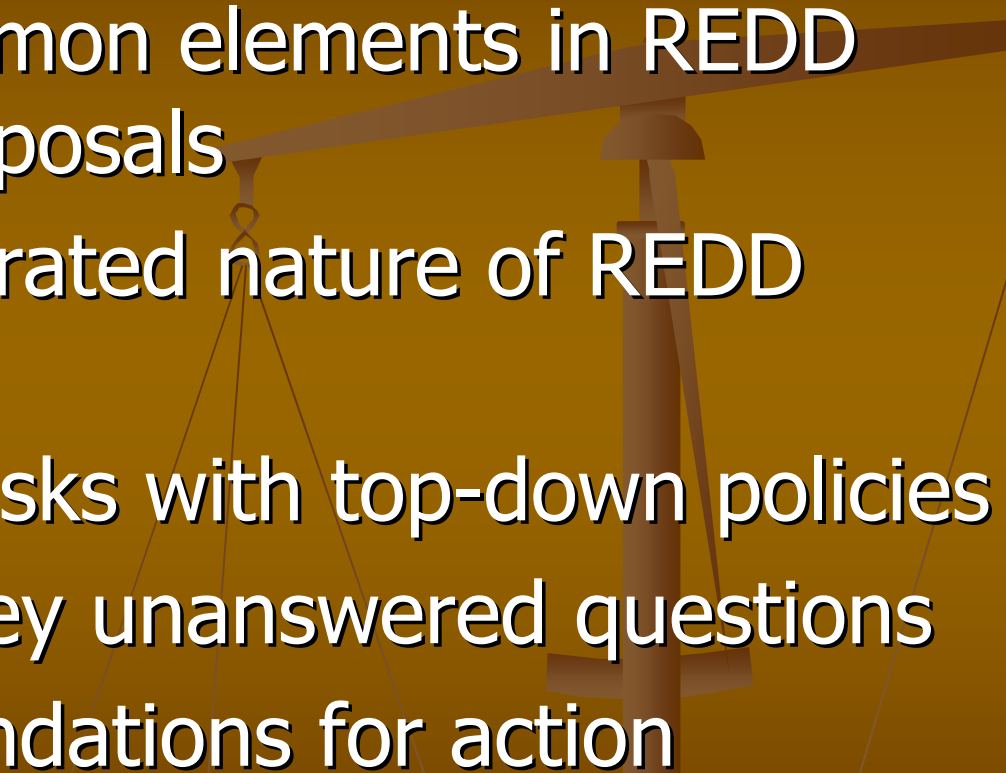


Presentation to PCLG Annual Symposium
7th November, 2007

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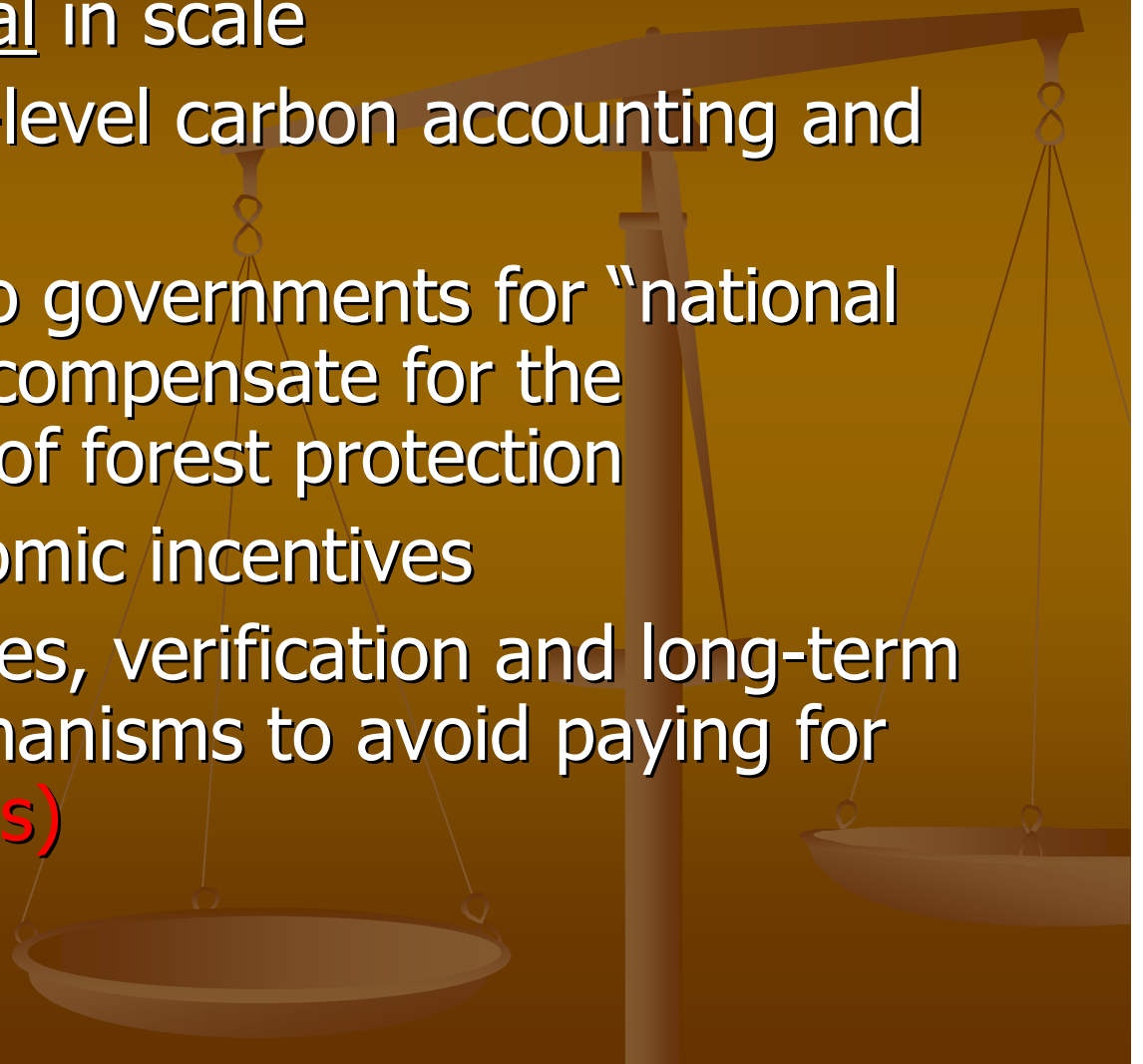
*Forest Peoples Programme www.forestpeoples.org

Aim of presentation

- Note some common elements in REDD policies and proposals
 - Highlight accelerated nature of REDD initiatives
 - Identify social risks with top-down policies
 - Present some key unanswered questions
 - Make recommendations for action
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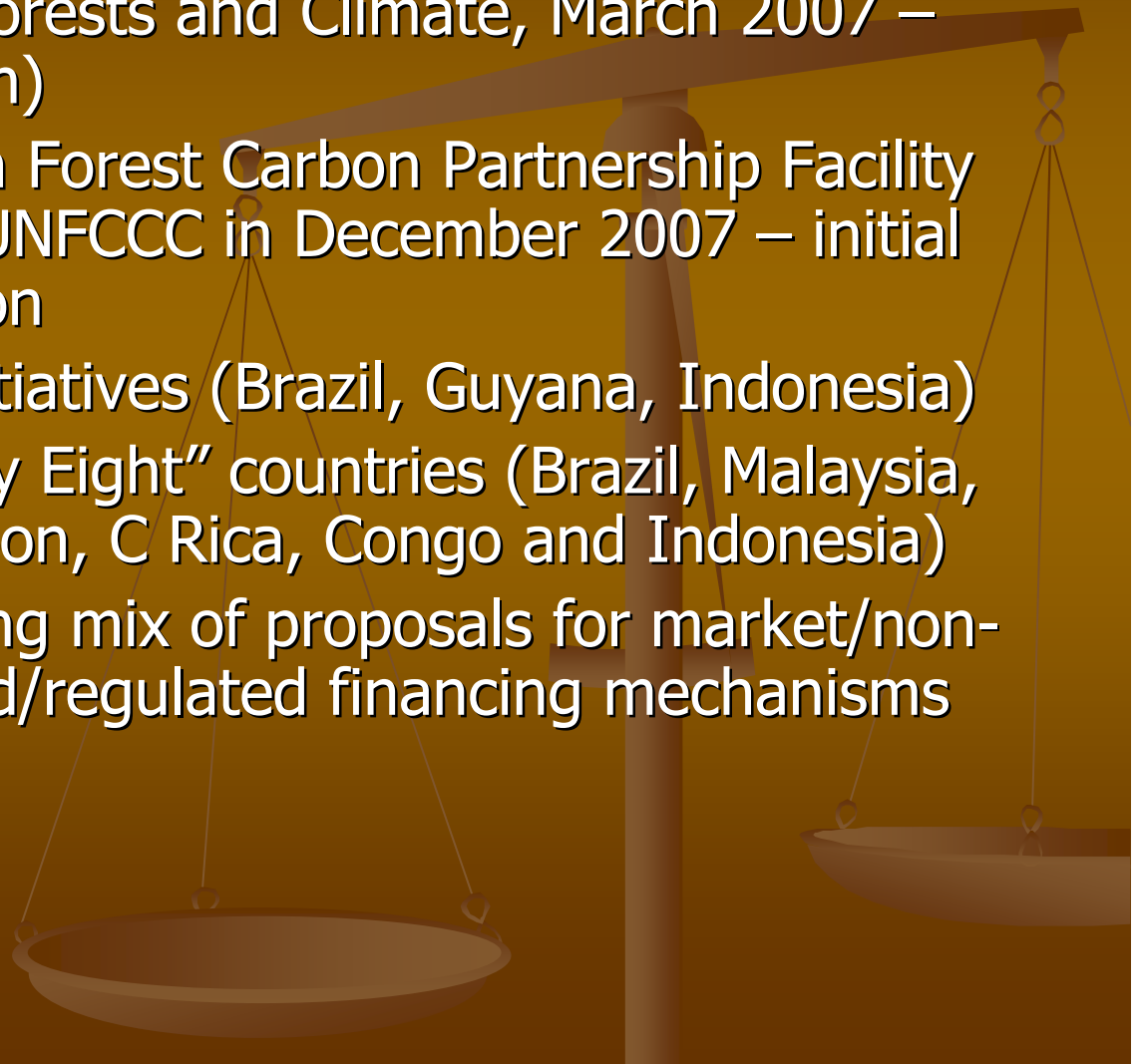
REDD policies

- Global and national in scale
- Based on country-level carbon accounting and remote sensing
- Major payments to governments for “national performance”, to compensate for the opportunity costs of forest protection
- Competitive economic incentives
- Require strong rules, verification and long-term enforcement mechanisms to avoid paying for “hot air” (**sanctions**)



Fast-track REDD policies

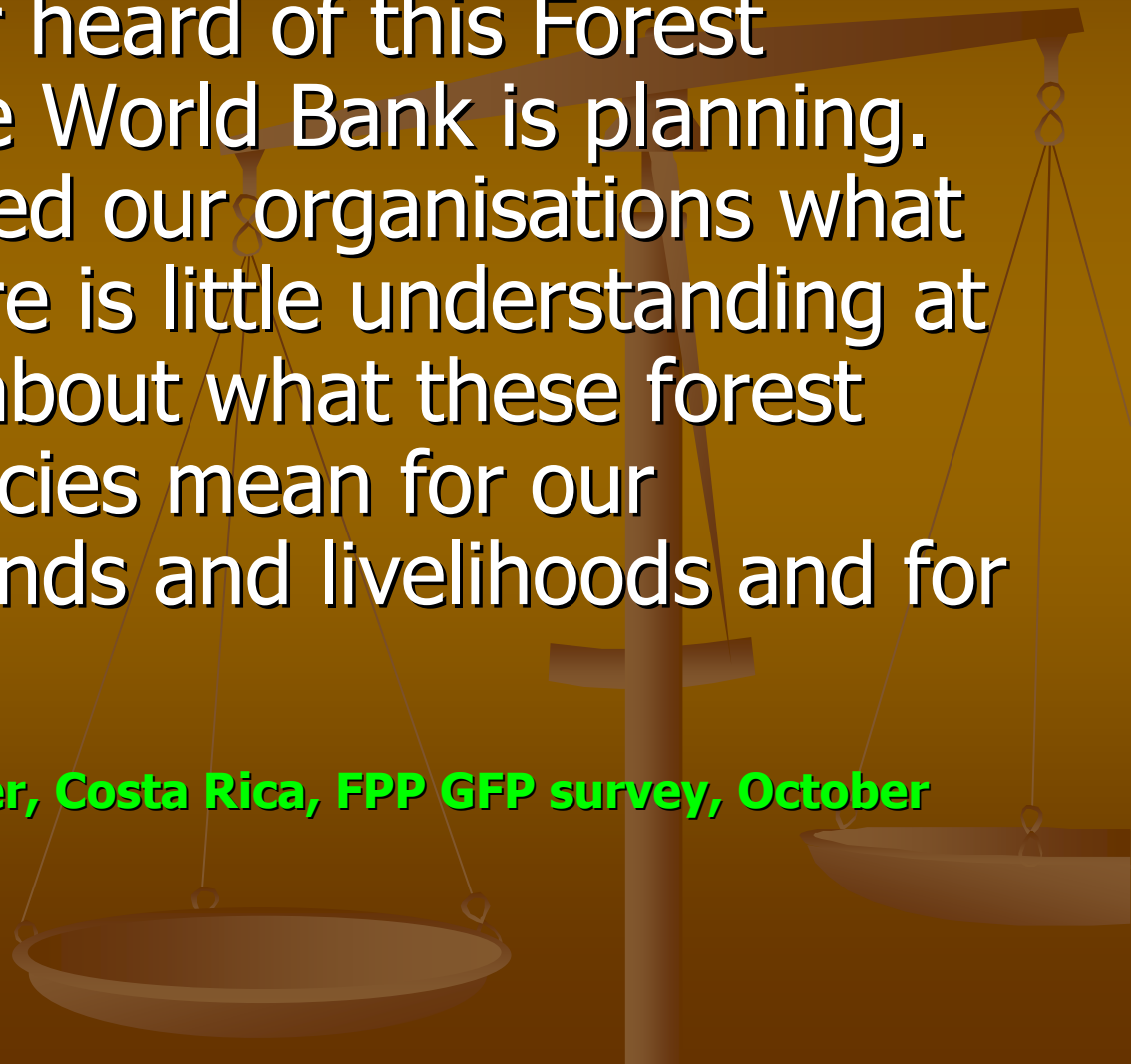
- Global Initiative on Forests and Climate, March 2007 – GoA (AUS\$200 million)
- World Bank to launch Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) at COP13 of UNFCCC in December 2007 – initial fund of US\$300 million
- National and local initiatives (Brazil, Guyana, Indonesia)
- Proposals of “Forestry Eight” countries (Brazil, Malaysia, PNG, Gabon, Cameroon, C Rica, Congo and Indonesia)
- Growing and confusing mix of proposals for market/non-market/non-regulated/regulated financing mechanisms



Going over the heads of forest peoples...

“We have never heard of this Forest Carbon fund the World Bank is planning. No-one has asked our organisations what they think. There is little understanding at the grassroots about what these forest and climate policies mean for our communities, lands and livelihoods and for our rights”

(Indigenous Bri Bri leader, Costa Rica, FPP GFP survey, October 2007)



Carbon pirates?

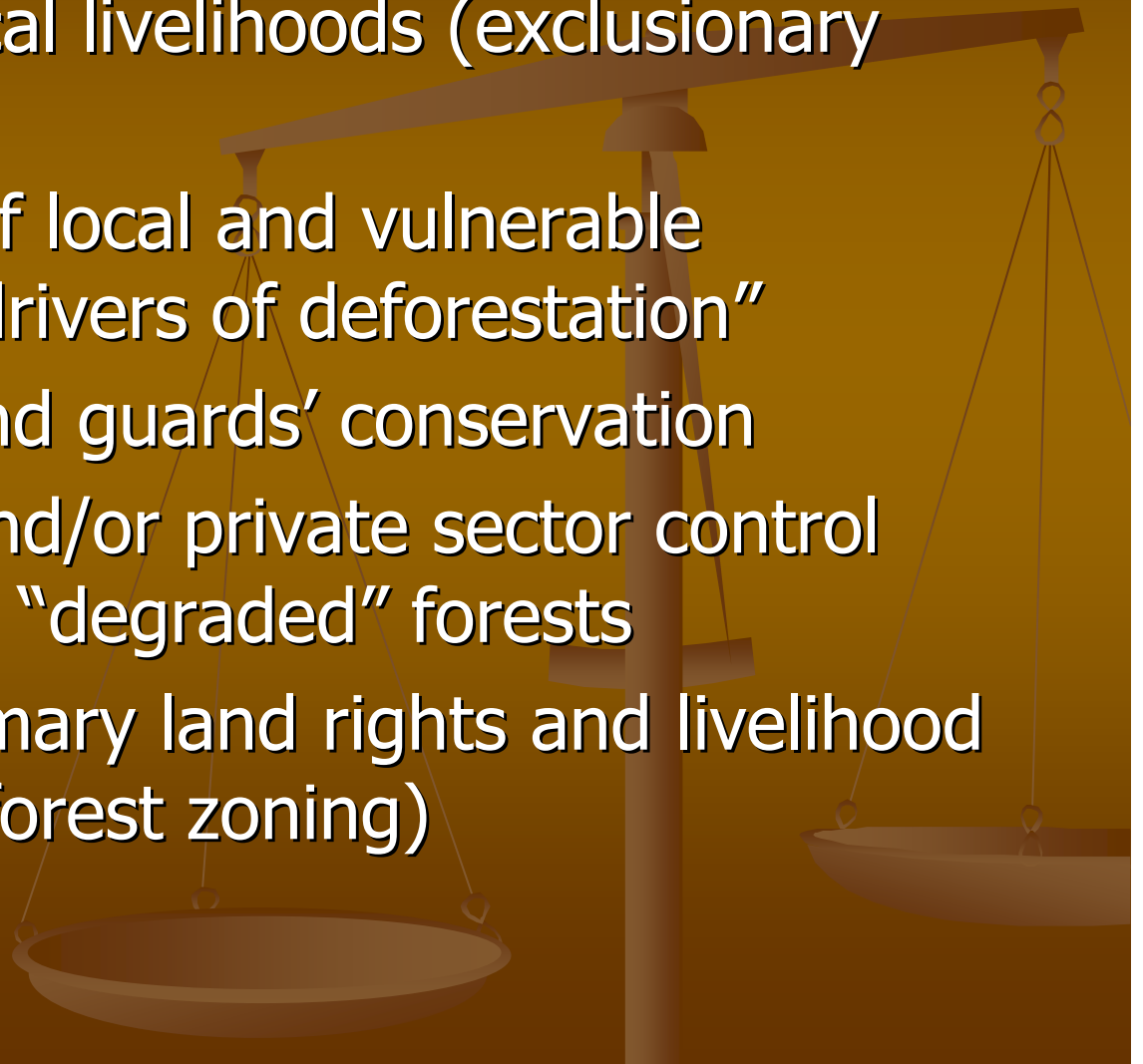
- “An obscure Chinese company is busily visiting Bupati district chiefs in Papua and offering carbon trades. ... but the chiefs are not properly informed...Some agreements have already been signed”

(Indonesian forest activist, September 2007)



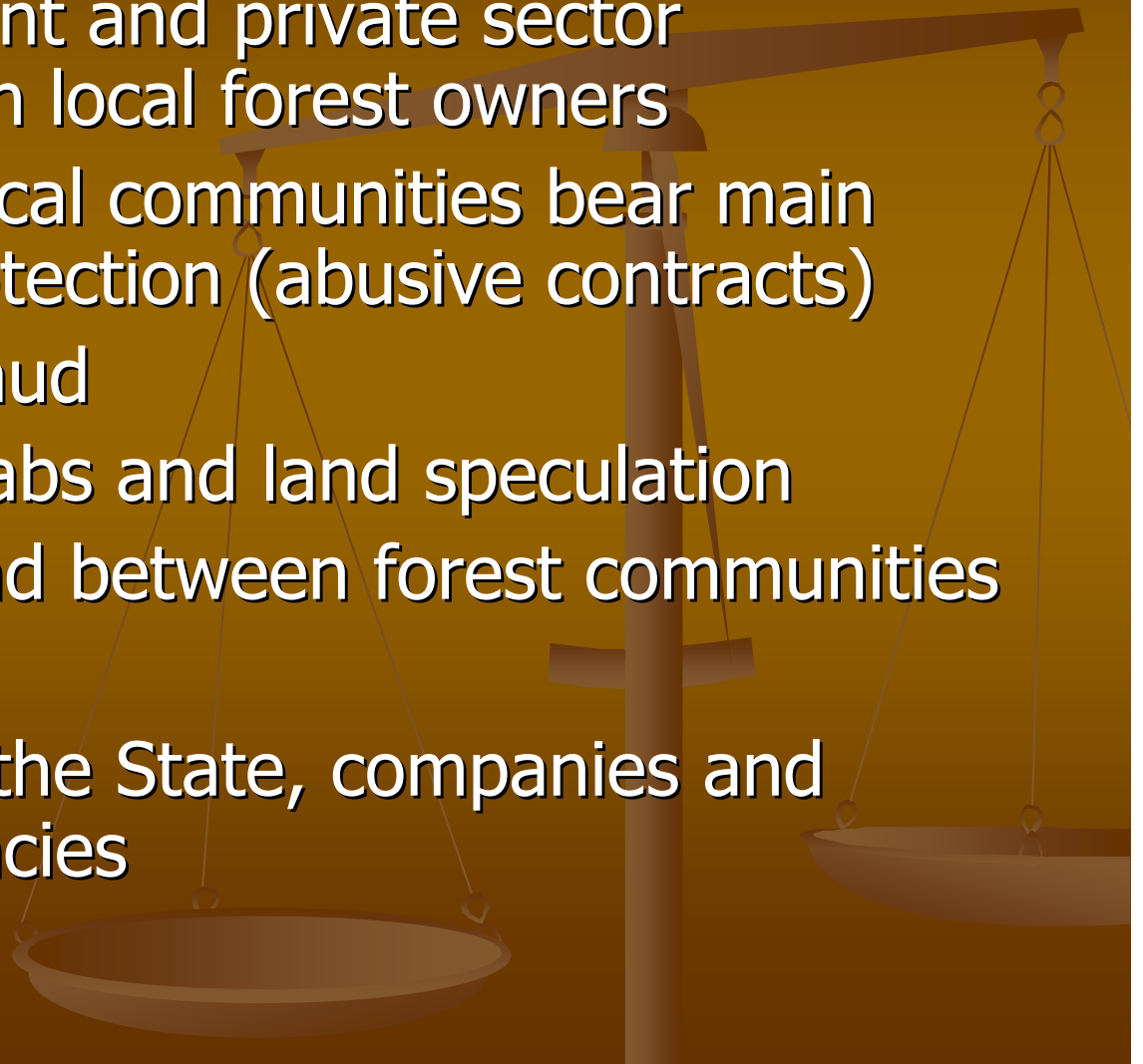
Risks (1)

- Restrictions on local livelihoods (exclusionary forest protection)
- Unjust targeting of local and vulnerable communities as “drivers of deforestation”
- Return to ‘guns and guards’ conservation
- Increased State and/or private sector control over standing and “degraded” forests
- Violation of customary land rights and livelihood rights (top-down forest zoning)

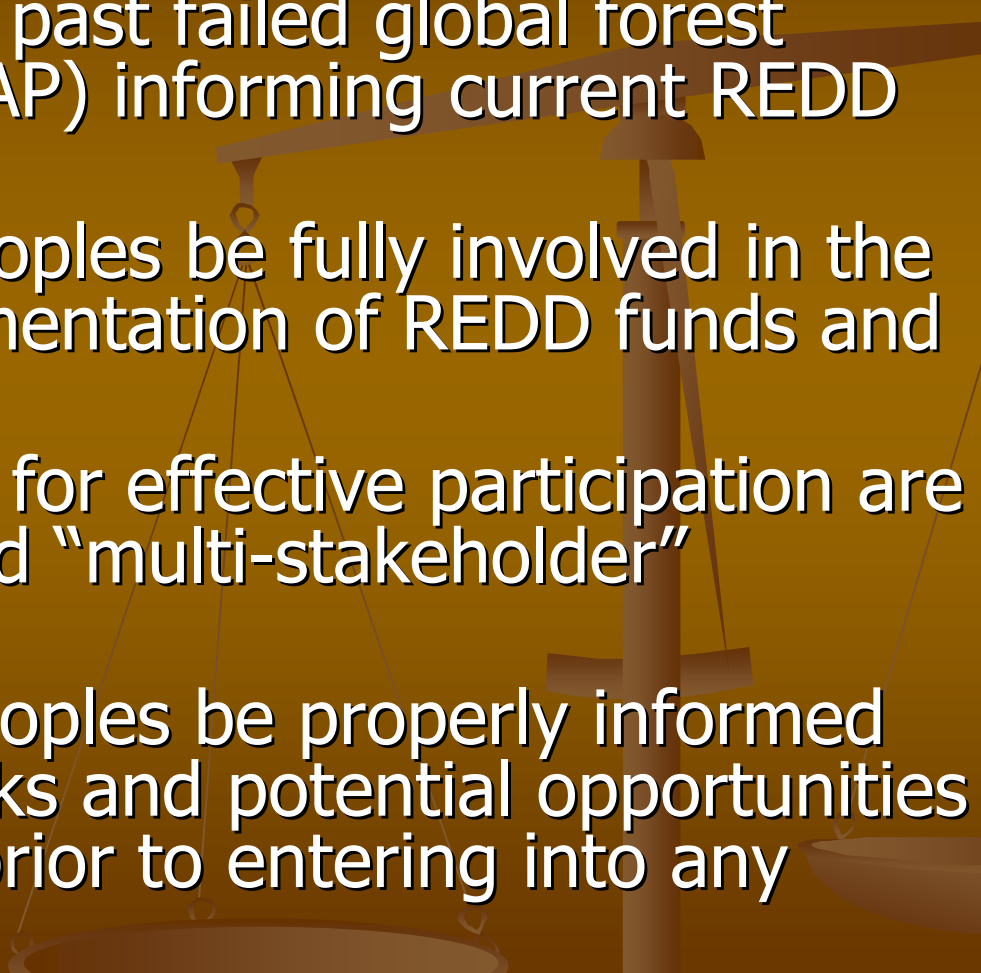


Risks (2)

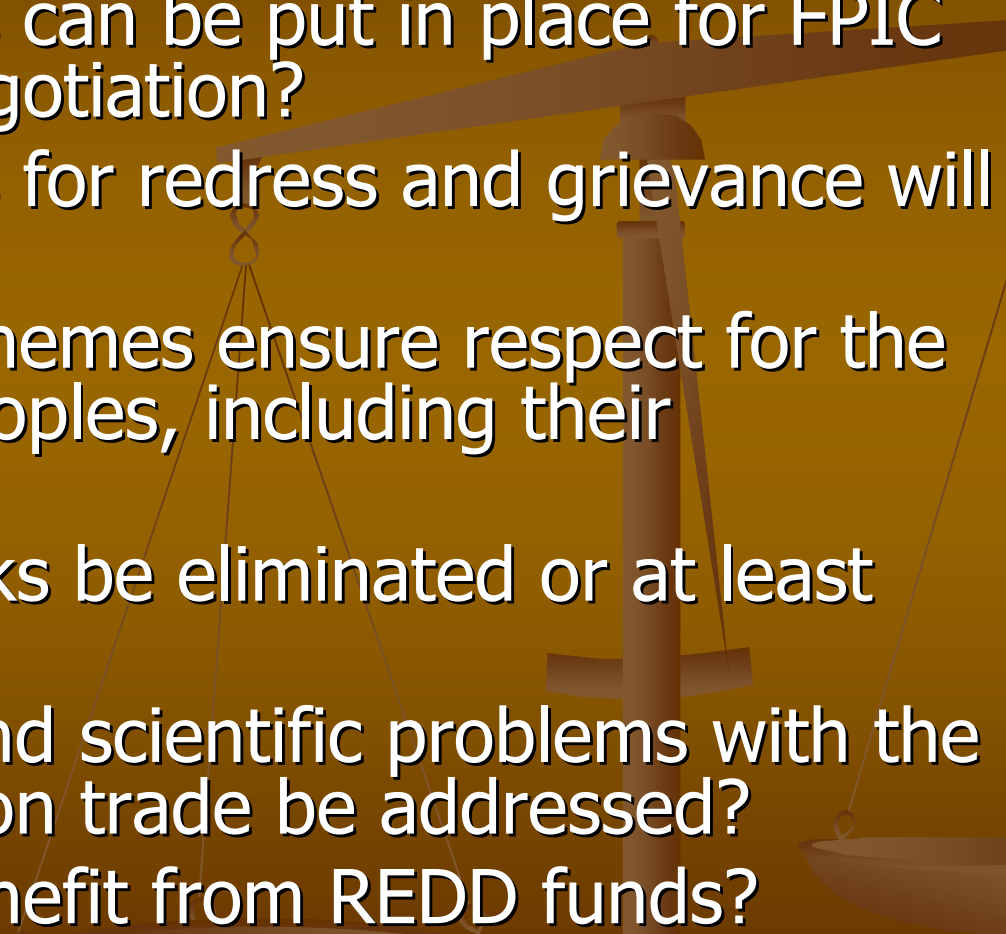
- Rushed government and private sector “negotiations” with local forest owners
- Indigenous and local communities bear main costs of forest protection (abusive contracts)
- Corruption and fraud
- Increased land grabs and land speculation
- Conflicts within and between forest communities
- Land disputes
- Litigation against the State, companies and conservation agencies



Unanswered questions (1)

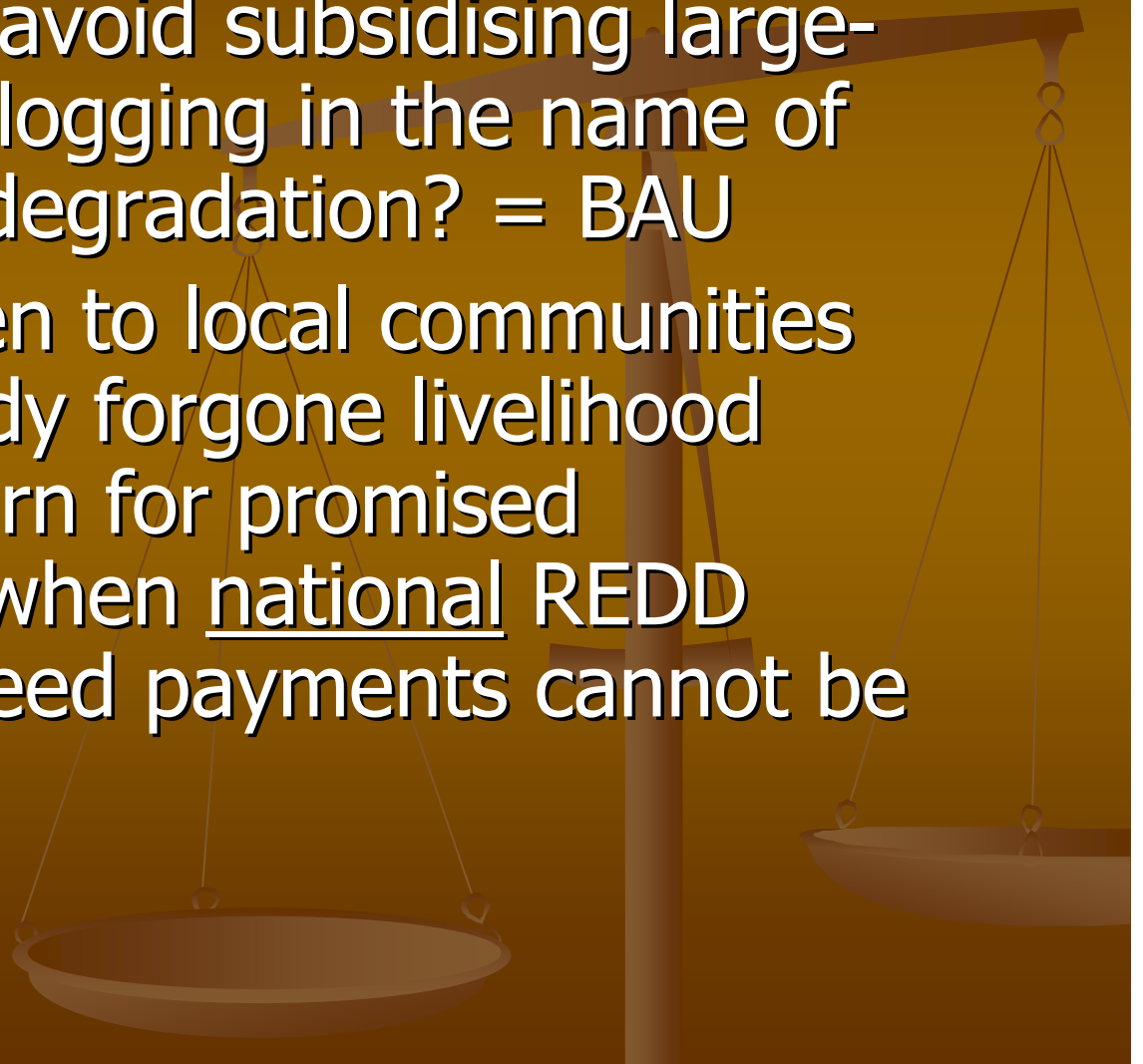
- Are the lessons of past failed global forest initiatives (like TFAP) informing current REDD policies?
 - How will forest peoples be fully involved in the design and implementation of REDD funds and policies?
 - What new models for effective participation are proposed? (beyond “multi-stakeholder” committees...)
 - How can forest peoples be properly informed about both the risks and potential opportunities of REDD policies prior to entering into any agreements?
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Unanswered questions (2)


- What mechanisms can be put in place for FPIC and good faith negotiation?
 - What mechanisms for redress and grievance will be established?
 - How will REDD schemes ensure respect for the rights of forest peoples, including their customary rights?
 - How will social risks be eliminated or at least minimised?
 - How will ethical and scientific problems with the international carbon trade be addressed?
 - Who will really benefit from REDD funds?
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Unanswered questions (3)

- How can REDD avoid subsidising large-scale high-tech logging in the name of reduced forest degradation? = BAU
- What will happen to local communities who have already forgone livelihood activities in return for promised compensation, when national REDD targets and agreed payments cannot be met?

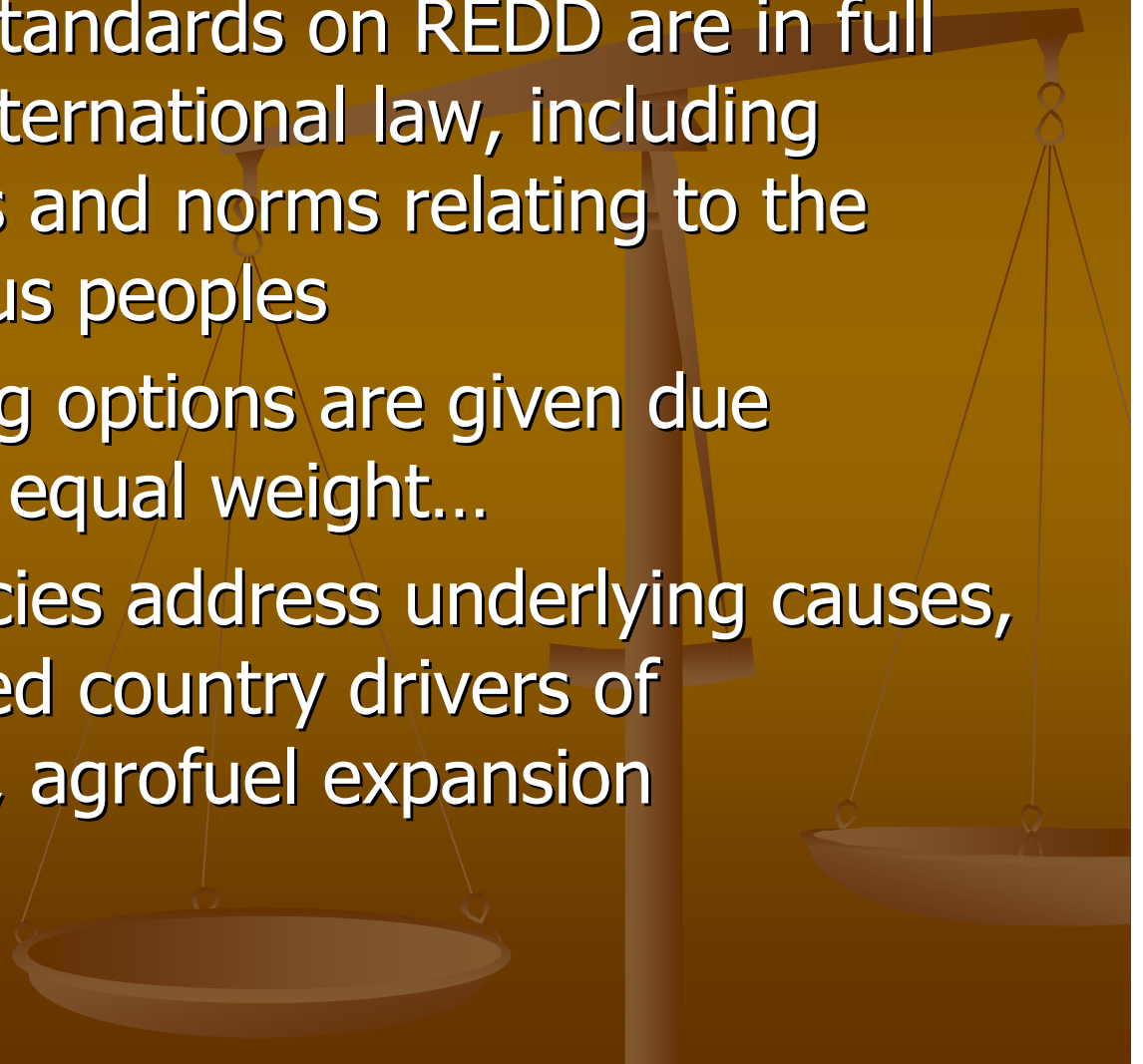


Recommendations(1)

- Inform forest peoples on risks and opportunities of REDD policies (support local and regional meetings)
 - Support informed participation of forest peoples in formulation of REDD policies and in related standard-setting processes (local, national and international)
 - Delay major global initiatives until wider consultation has taken place and better social safeguards are in place e.g., World Bank FCPF
 - Apply a rights-based approach to REDD policy design and implementation (FPIC, customary rights etc)
 - Ensure good governance, transparency, minimum standards and accountability in REDD schemes
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Recommendations (2)

- Ensure that new standards on REDD are in full conformity with international law, including human rights laws and norms relating to the rights of indigenous peoples
- Ensure non-trading options are given due consideration and equal weight...
- Ensure REDD policies address underlying causes, including developed country drivers of deforestation e.g., agrofuel expansion



■ Thank you!

