

Weilburg Action Agenda Messages

Developed and endorsed by the delegates of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Civil Society Organizations and REDD+ Countries at the 2nd Weilburg Conference on Social Inclusion in REDD+ Processes
Weilburg/Germany, 27-29 November 2018



Acknowledging where we've come from and where we are now – Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) have seat at table, spaces have been opened, governments are not monolithic and are generally more willing to engage in dialogue; at the same time, persistent problems relating to land tenure, respect for rights and ineffective and non-transparent forest governance remain as significant challenges for REDD+ implementation in many places.

Land tenure

Recognizing the wide range of land and forest tenure situations across REDD+ countries, it is urgent to:

Customary land and forest tenure rights must be legally recognized and demarcated on the ground as essential for equitable benefit sharing, rights to carbon and stopping deforestation and forest degradation.

Rights of rural and indigenous women and youth, including pastoralists, to land and forest must be included in this recognition, and land use planning should be supported to resolve overlapping claims and conflicts around land and forest rights.

Safeguards

Recognizing that the international standards for REDD+ have advanced, but that national capacities and budgets for effective implementation are often lagging behind:

Social and environmental safeguards need to be aligned with international standards and made legally binding in national frameworks; this requires national legal reform processes be finalized and capacity for implementation enhanced, including effective feedback, grievance and redress mechanisms.

Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other key stakeholders need to be effectively included in the processes of implementing safeguards for REDD+ programs, including those funded by the FCPF Carbon Fund, and in developing and validating national reports to the UNFCCC from safeguard information systems including submission of shadow reports.

Practical guidance on safeguard implementation should be developed for use by countries.

Benefit sharing

Benefit sharing must be based on clear legal rights to carbon, a fair negotiation and the free prior informed consent of the participating communities; should prioritize collective benefits while respecting community norms and preferences.

Governance of benefit sharing must be inclusive, participatory, transparent, accountable, and accounting, prioritizing indigenous peoples and local communities and needs to include effective grievance and redress mechanisms.

Benefit sharing should be conceived of broadly, including carbon and non-carbon benefits in the form of cash and non-cash benefits; should be present in all stages of REDD+, and benefit sharing plans must be developed using effective participatory processes.

Gender

Recognizing the cross cutting nature of gender and the important role of women in forest management:

Dedicated support and funding for rural and indigenous women, including pastoralists, to secure their legal rights should be prioritized, including training and capacity building and platforms for dialogue with the state.

Practical next steps:

International donors should implement a rapid response mechanism for environment and human rights defenders under threat and at risk; using the network of contacts with governments, donor agencies, civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations to secure legal and financial support, protection and personal security mechanisms and evacuation from situations of persistent risk, as needed.

Governments should respect, sign and ratify relevant conventions that increase protections for human rights and environmental defenders.

FCPF should ensure continued funding for capacity building for indigenous peoples and local community organizations, extending the existing Capacity Building Program for indigenous people and civil society through 2025 and increasing the annual allocation so that IPLC can effectively engage in the design and implementation of emission reduction programs supported by the FCPF Carbon Fund. Building capacity on MRV needs to be included here.

Funding for land and territorial titling and restitution processes needs to be urgently prioritized by international donors, and funding should be included for land titling in all emission reduction programs where these issues are relevant.

Governments, national and international funding agencies should prioritize the development of direct access mechanisms by indigenous peoples and local community organizations on a wide range of needs and themes, including dedicated funding through existing projects and programs.

FCPF should carry out a global survey of land tenure situations in REDD+ countries to capture the state of play, challenges and opportunities.

FCPF should organize a next round of indigenous peoples and local community, including pastoralists, regional and global dialogues to assess the past 10 years of REDD and renew the joint global agenda on the way forward.