



## Tebtebba

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**NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN**

### **Submission on Providing Incentives and Addressing Methodological Issues Related to Non-Carbon Benefits (NCBs) Resulting from the Implementation of REDD-Plus Activities**

*By Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and the Global Indigenous Peoples Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup>*

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Methodological Advise (SBSTA), in its thirty-eight session, invited Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the Secretariat, by 26 March 2014, their views on methodological issues related to non-carbon benefits resulting from the implementation of REDD-Plus activities (FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 40). Further consideration of methodological issues related to NCBs will resume in SBSTA 40th session in June of 2014. Additionally, it was decided that part of the preparations for SBSTA 40, Parties should begin identifying and prioritizing NCBs at the national level.

This submission considers the internationally recognized role of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities, as we are offering our integrated holistic views and perspectives on forests and diverse ecosystems, our traditional knowledge and customary governance systems on forest ecosystems which has sustained and continues to sustain many of the world's remaining forest ecosystems found within our traditional territories. This is the framework and starting point of this specific submission on non-carbon benefits and how this can be incentivized and what elements and processes should be considered in addressing methodological issues related to NCBs.

As we, in the Global Partnership, and the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)<sup>2</sup> have consistently argued and asserted, NCBs should be closely considered in relation to how the Cancun safeguards on REDD+ are being addressed and reported. We also reiterated that REDD+ implementation should not only focus on reducing emissions from forest degradation and deforestation but the implementation of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest

<sup>1</sup> The partnership includes Tebtebba, AMAN (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara), CADPI (Centro para la Autonomia y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indigenas), CERDA (Center of Research and Development in the Upland Area), CHIRAPAQ (Centro de Culturas Indigenas el Peru), CIR (Conselho Indigena de Roraima), ID (Institut Dayakology), ILEPA (Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners), Lelewal Foundation, MPIDO (Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization), MRDC (Montañaosa Resource and Development Center), NNK (Naundep ni Napahnuhan ni Kalanguya), NEFIN (Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities), SER-Mixe/ASAM-DES (Servicios del Pueblo Mixe and the Asamblea Mixe para el Desarrollo Sostenible), SILDAP (Silingang Dapit sa Habagatang Sidlakang Mindanao), and UEFA/DIPY (Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone/Dignite Pygmee).

<sup>2</sup> The IIPFCC is the indigenous peoples' caucus, which regularly meets during UNFCCC processes to unite on common positions of indigenous representatives coming from the Africa, Arctic, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Pacific and Russia/Eastern Europe/Transcaucasia.

carbon stocks. We also have reiterated that forests cannot be valued only in relation to the carbon benefits that these provide. The way forests have been commodified and reduced to single values, e.g. timber, carbon, among others, is one of the root causes of the gross mismanagement and destruction of forests and violations of indigenous peoples rights to their forest ecosystems and biodiversity.

NCBs should further enhance and support social, economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and governance benefits including respect, protect and fulfillment of indigenous peoples rights, embedded in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The inclusion of NCBs will also enrich the methodological issues relevant to REDD-Plus. Beyond carbon, the NCBs, (which are also referred as the multiple benefits or co-benefits) and the implementation of the REDD+ safeguards are the very reason why Indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities are actively participating in the REDD+ processes; hence, this submission.

At the outset, it is also important to note here, that the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent local communities is a necessary ingredient in ensuring the success of REDD+ . Determining methodological issues related to NCBs and addressing REDD-Plus safeguards should meaningfully involve Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent local communities. It is our strong view that respect, protection and fulfillment of our rights, embedded in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), is a commitment of Parties to the UNFCCC which will be crucial in ensuring that our contributions to mitigation and our efforts to adapt to climate change will be enhanced. Our active engagement in these international and national REDD+ discussions and processes has to be sustained for us to contribute in meeting the objectives of the UNFCCC.

### **Recognizing and Defining Non-Carbon Benefits in Relation to the REDD+ Safeguards**

Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent local communities have strongly emphasized the integrated and holistic framework on sustainable development, including the recognition and respect of our rights and traditional knowledge and customary governance systems in the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and natural resources within our territories. Within this context and with the recognition of Parties that NCBs is a crucial part of REDD+ implementation, we take this opportunity to contribute our collective views on how to define NCBs, which are also referred to as multiple benefits or co-benefits as a result from the implementation of REDD-Plus activities. NCBs encompass a whole wide range of positive outcomes resulting from REDD+ activities beyond carbon storage and sequestration, and beyond mitigation efforts.

It is crucial that NCBs be defined taking into consideration the multiple functions/services that forests and other ecosystems can provide. Clearly NCBs cannot be separated from the implementation, monitoring and information systems of REDD+ safeguards. Including NCBs and addressing how these can be incentivized and addressed methodologically in the REDD+ decisions and programmes will help build the synergies of social, environmental and governance benefits, functions and services.

It should also be recognized that the NCBs will be more specifically identified, depending on national and subnational circumstances, and that should be defined through participatory and inclusive processes with multi-stakeholders and rights-holders at national and subnational levels. Various approaches to methodological issues related to NCBs may cover the following categories of NCBs, which is integral to the implementation of REDD+ safeguards:

1. Improved socio-economic benefits and alleviation of poverty should come about as results of REDD+ activities. The probability of achieving these benefits will be high if the following are

effectively implemented.

- genuine recognition, respect for and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources and their right to use their traditional knowledge and governance systems, especially on the use, ownership and management of their forests and resources found therein.
- the provision of adequate support and financial and technical assistance to enhance indigenous peoples' sustainable traditional livelihoods and other forest-related livelihoods which sustainably use forests and do not lead to deforestation, e.g. propagation and sale of non-timber forest products, ecotourism, agroforestry, among others.
- policies and programmes which strengthen their collective and individual capacities to assert and claim their rights as well as reinforce cultural and spiritual values which protect, conserve and sustainably use forest and forest resources, protect sacred sites, transmit their traditional knowledge systems, strengthen their customary governance systems on sustainable forest management and enhance and incentivize indigenous women's full and effective participation in REDD+.

2. Increased environmental benefits which include the range of actions consistent with incentivizing the conservation and protection of natural forests and biodiversity including the enhancement of the proven sustainable and traditional management systems of natural resource/forests/ecosystems, increased resilience of ecosystems and improved ecosystem services including water management, with synergies on adaptation and disaster risk management such as erosion and flood controls, increased actions in identifying and addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, among others.
3. Improved governance benefits which include increased levels of transparent and effective national forest governance consistent with relevant international agreements and conventions, recognition and respect of customary laws and governance systems of indigenous peoples on forests/natural resources/territories, more meaningful and effective participation of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities in global, national and subnational REDD+ processes including their free prior and informed consent (FPIC), progress towards securing land and forest tenure including the recognition of customary rights to forests and territories of indigenous peoples, increased levels of local participation in policies and systems that affect the management of forests/natural resources, and increased participation and recognition of indigenous women and their contributions to REDD+.

### **On Incentivizing, Monitoring, and Information Systems on NCBs and REDD+ Safeguards**

In the discussions on methodological issues for NCBs, linkages to other approaches, systems and methodologies should be considered, for example, the linkage between NCBs and in addressing REDD+ Safeguards as mentioned above. Hence, identifying specific NCBs should be guided by REDD+ Safeguards, with consideration of the broad definition and categories of NCBs under social, environmental and governance benefits. The NCBs should be specific in accordance to national/subnational objectives and circumstances, while being consistent with relevant international agreements, conventions and instruments.

1. Identifying, incentivizing, monitoring and reporting on NCBs can be partially covered by

Safeguard Information Systems (SIS). However, NCBs should go beyond safeguards monitoring and reporting requirements. SBSTA needs to provide guidance on approaches to incentivize, monitor and report on NCBs that will be identified in each national/subnational context.

2. Indicators on the achievement of NCBs and REDD+ safeguards should be clearly formulated and integrated around the categories of socio-economic, cultural and spiritual, environmental and governance benefits and outcomes. This ensures that incentivizing NCBs are part of over-all REDD+ implementation in all its phases and at various levels.
3. The full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent local communities should be ensured with necessary support for capacity-building in the whole range of REDD+ decisions and actions, and in relation to incentivizing NCBs and the implementation of REDD+ safeguards and beyond. Dialogues between national/subnational governments with Indigenous Peoples and forest dependent local communities; and with the UNFCCC (including SBSTA) and REDD+ mechanisms is a good practice that can be applied in the process of defining and developing methodological guidance on NCBs and REDD+ safeguards.
4. Involvement of local governments at subnational level in all phases of REDD+ plus implementation and monitoring will also contribute to defining and implementation of NCBs and in addressing REDD+ safeguards, and the long-term sustainability of REDD+.
5. The methods and approaches being used by us in the Global Indigenous Peoples Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development (and other partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and local communities) include building upon our own traditional monitoring and information systems and integrating the work which we, in Tebtebba, and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) Working Group on Indicators, are doing in the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>3</sup> The members of the Global Indigenous Peoples Partnership have and continue to do community participatory mapping of their territories and undertaking resource inventories. We combine our traditional knowledge and collective systems of mobilization and knowledge-generation with modern information technologies like the use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Global Information Systems (GIS). Furthermore, we are developing and implementing our community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) for forests, biodiversity, land use and land use changes, traditional occupations, language diversity, traditional knowledge, and full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. We recommend that the CBMIS should be integrated in methodologies developed for NCBs and REDD+ safeguards information systems, building upon the experience and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent local communities, as appropriate.

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<sup>3</sup> In 2012 the CBD has adopted its Strategic Plan on Biodiversity (2010-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets including a Monitoring Framework of goals, targets and indicators. Target 14 states that “by 2020 ecosystems that provide essential services including services related to water and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. Target 18 says, “By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels. Tebtebba and the IIFB WG on Indicators work on CBMIS include measuring the indicators adopted by the CBD for Target 18. These are the status and trend include linguistic diversity; numbers of speakers of indigenous languages: status and trends in traditional occupations: status and trends in land use change; trends in which traditional knowledge are respected through their full integration, safeguards and full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan.

## **Incentivizing NCBs as Central to Long-term Viability and Sustainability of REDD+, and integral to Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development**

Paragraph 22 of Decision 9/CP.19 “*Recognizes* the importance of incentivizing non-carbon benefits for the long-term sustainability of the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, and noting the work on methodological issues referred to in decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 40”. This affirms the importance of incentivizing NCBs and its essential and crucial contributions to the sustainability and success of REDD+, ensuring its long-term viability and its contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Through the incentives, support, promotion and implementation of NCBs, the REDD+ strategies and actions will be able to contribute significantly in addressing the REDD+ safeguards and enhancing the multiple benefits or co-benefits of forests and REDD+, as envisioned. This will also reinforce further the possibilities of meeting Targets 14 and 18 of the CBD Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the work on NCBs will contribute to the efforts of the United Nations in defining sustainable development goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The identified categories or areas of NCBs to be incentivized including the socio-economic, cultural, spiritual, environmental and governance benefits will also lead to addressing the REDD+ safeguards and the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in addition to achieving the carbon benefits and emissions reductions.

NCBs should be considered in all the phases and levels of REDD+ implementation. How NCBs can be incentivized with results-based REDD+ finance should also be part of the decisions, which will be made by the Green Climate Fund and by other multilateral and bilateral donors supporting implementation of REDD+. Decision 9/CP.19 on Results-based REDD+ Finance, Paragraph 4 states, “*Agrees* that developing countries seeking to obtain and receive results-based payments in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 64, should provide the most recent summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 2, have been addressed and respected before they can receive results-based payments; “ This decision should be seriously taken into account by REDD+ countries and donors. This should be integral in all REDD+ monitoring systems, including in the development of National Forest Monitoring Systems.

Sustaining incentives and support for NCBs will significantly contribute to broader sustainable development goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. This also is an additional guarantee that REDD+ will not contribute in furthering marginalization and exclusion of forest-dwelling and forest-dependent indigenous peoples in tropical countries. It should be recalled that indigenous peoples in various fora have expressed their apprehension on the potential threats that REDD+ will have in terms of violations of their human rights, particularly their rights to their lands, territories and resources and rights to development and participation. It is our hope, in the Global Indigenous Peoples Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development, that the Parties to the UNFCCC will further elaborate on incentivizing and methodological issues on NCBs and implement the decisions reached.