



RESOURCE GUIDE

MAY  
2013

# Capacity Building Materials on REDD+ for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

## Background

The emergence of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation, and conserving, sustainably managing, and enhancing forest carbon stocks (collectively known as REDD+) has generated great interest as a possible means of increasing support for the forest stewardship activities of indigenous peoples and local communities. Potential benefits associated with REDD+ initiatives include strengthening of community land and resource rights, empowerment of community institutions, and increased income through benefit-sharing. At the same time, REDD+ has sparked concern about possible adverse impacts on indigenous and community rights and livelihoods, including restrictions on land and resource rights, increased centralization of forest management, inequitable benefit-sharing, and lack of participation and free, prior, informed consent.

Capacity-building of indigenous and local communities and their organizations is widely recognized as a key foundation for securing the opportunities that REDD+ may provide and addressing its risks, contributing to more equitable and sustainable REDD+ initiatives.

Capacity-building helps to support a number of priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to REDD+. These include:

- To **understand** climate change and its impacts, what is REDD+, and the potential benefits and risks of REDD+ initiatives
- To **participate** fully and effectively in development of REDD+ programs/strategies at multiple levels (village, sub-national, national, international)
- To **decide** whether or not to participate in REDD+ activities, in keeping with rights to free, prior, informed consent
- To **manage** activities that will generate reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation
- To **benefit** from REDD+, especially through increased capacity to negotiate an equitable share of the benefits from REDD+
- To **monitor** results of REDD+ activities, as part of monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of REDD+ climate, social, and biodiversity impacts

Recognition of the importance of community capacity building for successful REDD+ has prompted development of a range of training materials for indigenous and local communities. Key aims of these community-oriented materials include to:

- Present complex issues concerning global climate change and developments in international climate policy and financing in ways that will be accessible to rural communities
- Inform indigenous communities, in particular, of the opportunities and protections afforded to indigenous peoples in their engagements with REDD+ initiatives
- Provide information on both potential opportunities and risks associated with REDD+, in keeping with best practices for the information-sharing element of free, prior, informed consent.

As WWF programs engage with communities and their organizations to introduce information on REDD+ and build capacity for peoples' participation in development of REDD+ programs – in field areas as well as at sub-national and national levels – this resource guide seeks to:

- share information and links to existing capacity-building materials, especially those developed by and/or for indigenous peoples and local communities;
- provide information on international indigenous networks and support groups that are working on training of trainers and other capacity-building initiatives, and may offer opportunities for partnership; and
- identify initial lessons and recommendations for WWF programs engaging in capacity-building activities with indigenous peoples and local communities.

## Resource Materials

---

The following summarizes a range of training manuals and modules, many of which have been developed specifically for indigenous peoples and local communities. Other materials are broader but have or may be used for community capacity-building activities. Most of these materials are oriented towards the objectives of building understanding, participation, and informed decision-making. (Descriptions of the materials are mostly drawn or adapted from websites where the materials are posted or from the materials themselves.)

### Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Forest Peoples Programme, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs & Tebtebba

#### **What is REDD? A Guide for Indigenous Communities**

*Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Forest Peoples Programme, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, and Tebtebba, 2010* / This guide provides informational material on REDD and its implications for indigenous peoples. It is intended primarily for indigenous peoples as a guide to understanding climate change and REDD, and how they relate to the recognition and exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples. The guide includes sections on climate change, REDD, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The content is designed to be easily accessible and is accompanied by illustrations and photos for visualization. Translated versions of this guidebook in several languages are also being published in Asia.

#### **What to do with REDD? A Manual for Indigenous Trainers**

*Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Forest Peoples Programme, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, and Tebtebba, 2010* / This manual is a companion resource to the community guide developed by the same group. It is written for indigenous trainers who intend to conduct training workshops for indigenous leaders, community members, and others. The training manual includes five modules, designed to be presented over the course of five days. Four of the modules correspond with information provided in the community guide: on climate change, REDD, UNDRIP, and how communities can use UNDRIP in relation to REDD. A fifth module covers advocacy, lobbying, and negotiation skills. A CD has also been produced to accompany the manual, with electronic copies of the visual material; it also includes manuals on facilitation skills and training techniques.

### Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact & International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs

#### **Training Manual on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in REDD+ for Indigenous Peoples**

*Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and International Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (IWGIA), 2012* / This manual aims to build the capacities of indigenous peoples, networks, and organizations to promote effective implementation of FPIC in activities and projects relating to REDD+. It seeks to provide indigenous peoples with an understanding of FPIC, and act as a general guide for communities on the application of FPIC in REDD+ activities. Since the social and political environment in each country and locality varies, this manual can be customized to fit the specific needs and considerations of both trainers and trainees. One goal of the manual is to empower indigenous communities to decide whether or not they would like to engage in REDD+ activities. This manual also provides practical guidelines on how to organize a consultation process, how to access information related to REDD+, how to select indigenous peoples' representatives at national and community levels, how to conduct Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, how to conduct independent and collective deliberations for collective decision making process, and how to put in place grievance mechanisms.

### **Understanding Community-Based REDD+: A Manual for Indigenous Communities**

*International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), 2012* / This manual looks at REDD+ at the project level and tries to provide guidance to finding answers to questions like: How does REDD+ fit into the overall livelihood and forest management systems of indigenous peoples? How does REDD+ work on the ground? What are the typical activities of a REDD+ project? Who is involved in a REDD+ project? What are the particular knowledge and skills needed for implementing a REDD+ project? By assisting communities in finding answers to such questions, the purpose of this manual is to help indigenous communities acquire the knowledge and skills needed to take a decision on whether to join a REDD+ project, and if they do, to be able to fully and effectively participate in it. This manual is based on and seeks to promote in a holistic way an approach to REDD+ that respects and promotes:

- the rights of indigenous peoples as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- indigenous peoples' social and cultural systems, values, and practices; and
- the protection of the environment and biodiversity.

### **Forest is Life: A Story on Climate Change, Forests and Communities**

*Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and International Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (IWGIA), 2012* / This comic book discusses climate change and REDD from the perspective of indigenous communities. It is intended primarily for communities as a simple guide to help them understand climate change and REDD. It discusses the importance and the roles of forests in climate change, the concept of REDD, and how it relates to and effects indigenous communities. It points to potential negative impacts of REDD on the recognition and exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, especially on rights to lands, territories, and resources. Finally, it shows why and how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) can be used to uphold and protect the rights of indigenous communities in REDD.

## **Tebtebba Foundation**

### **Training Guide for a Course on Climate Change and REDD+**

*Tebtebba Foundation, 2010* / This training course on Indigenous Peoples, climate change, and REDD+ aims to enhance the capacity of indigenous leaders, educators, and organizers to engage in national and international processes and mechanisms on REDD+. The guide contains five modules:

- Module 1: Forests, Biodiversity, IKSPs, and Climate Change
- Module 2: Climate Change Impacts, Mitigation, and Adaptation
- Module 3: REDD+ and Indigenous Peoples
- Module 4: Country Situations on Indigenous Peoples, Forests, and State Policies related to Forests, REDD+/Climate, and Biodiversity
- Module 5: Ways forward for Indigenous Peoples vis-à-vis Climate Change

### **Guide on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples**

*Tebtebba Foundation, First published 2008, Second edition 2009* / Tebtebba Foundation prepared the Guide on Climate Change & Indigenous Peoples in 2008 primarily for indigenous peoples, "to enhance our knowledge on climate change so that we will be better equipped to participate more effectively in shaping relevant policies and actions taken to address this issue." It also aims to inform other audiences of the perspective of indigenous peoples on climate change, and to address a gap in publications on indigenous peoples and climate change that are written from an indigenous perspective. The guide covers climate change issues broadly, including chapters on mitigation, biodiversity, and other topics in addition to a chapter on REDD. The second edition reflects updates to policies and best practices.

## Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

### [Guía Didáctica: REDD+ como un Mecanismo de Mitigación del Cambio Climático y su Aplicabilidad desde una Visión de los Pueblos Indígenas Amazónicos de Colombia](#)

*Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA) and Organización de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (OPIAC), 2011* / This publication is a compilation of REDD+ capacity-building materials and dissemination activities, notably workshops' reports, held with indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon.

### [Information Manual on Climate Change for Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin, REDD and its Implications](#)

*Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), 2010* / This two-part information manual, produced by COICA, includes sections on Climate Change and on REDD. The Climate Change Manual includes information on climate change science and impacts, international negotiations, and COICA's position on respect for indigenous rights in climate change decisions. The REDD Manual describes international proposals for REDD, how payments for environmental services (such as REDD) work, potential advantages and disadvantages of REDD for indigenous peoples, and the fundamental principles that REDD implementation must take into account to address indigenous concerns.

## Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

### [African Indigenous Peoples and REDD+](#)

*Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), 2011* / This publication is a compilation of REDD+ training materials and perspectives from indigenous activists in Africa. It also includes reports from IPACC workshops on REDD+ in Kenya, Gabon, and Uganda. The aim of the collection is to provide IPACC members with a collection of materials and voices from their own communities, and insights into the risks and opportunities presented by REDD+. With the publication, IPACC aims to contribute to fighting climate change drivers and to promote conservation, sustainable natural resource use, human rights, and good governance in Africa.

Section I: IPACC REDD Training Programme

Section II: Essays

Section III: References and Resources

## RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests

### [Putting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent into Practice in REDD+ Initiatives](#)

*RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, 2012* / The principle that indigenous peoples and local communities have a right to give or withhold their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) to developments affecting natural resources is not new. However, experience using FPIC in REDD+ implementation is still limited in the Asia-Pacific region, and there are few materials that explain and train practitioners in its concepts and practice. There is still subjective understanding of the terms and requirements of FPIC, influenced by both cultural interpretations and interests. This manual, developed with financial and advisory support from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Norad, serves as a practical tool for trainers and facilitators to improve understanding of FPIC among stakeholders at all levels.

## Conservation International

### **Climate Change and the Role of Forests: The Community Manual**

*Susan Stone and Mario Chacón León, Conservation International, 2010* / This manual presents basic information on climate change that is oriented to community audiences to inform effective participation in REDD+ planning and decision-making. The topics covered include the basics of how and why climate is changing, the carbon cycle, and the role of forests in climate processes; climate policy; and ecosystem services and basic information on development of a REDD+ mechanism. It discusses proposed roles for REDD+ in climate change mitigation and benefit-sharing for countries and communities. The manual and training course were piloted in Guyana with a group of 24 indigenous community leaders, local government, indigenous organizations, and local NGO partners, whose feedback and comments were incorporated into the final version. The manual is available in English, Spanish, French, Bahasa, and Malagasy, and will be completed in Chinese and Portuguese.

### **Climate Change and the Role of Forests: Training of Trainers Manual**

*Susan Stone and Mario Chacón León, Conservation International, 2010* / This manual was developed as a resource to build skilled teams of local trainers (in-country NGO staff, community leaders, and/or local government agencies) who are able to effectively train communities and other local stakeholders on topics related to climate change. The course provides in-depth instruction on climate science, carbon cycle and forests, international climate policy, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), and REDD+, as well as instructional guidance and tools for replication to community audiences. The training manual and toolkit are available in English, Spanish, Bahasa, Malagasy, Khmer, Mandarin, and Portuguese, and can be translated into other languages for non-profits on request.

## United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies, Traditional Knowledge Initiative

### **REDD Guide for Indigenous Peoples**

*Ingrid Barnsley, United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies, Traditional Knowledge Initiative, First published November 2008; Reissued March 2009* / This short guide produced by the UNU Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) Traditional Knowledge Initiative introduces indigenous communities to climate change and to the current international debate surrounding the United Nations Collaborative Programme on REDD.

- Section 1 introduces the location and features of the world's forests, and explains deforestation and forest degradation, and their causes and effects.
- Section 2 explains climate change, notes the impacts of climate change on Indigenous peoples, outlines the role of the forestry sector in both contributing to and fighting climate change, and introduces the concept of REDD.
- Section 3 explains the international regime set up to address climate change, namely the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. It also explains how this climate regime addresses Indigenous Peoples and how it deals with the forestry sector.
- Sections 4 outlines international activity on REDD, both under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and in other conventions and institutions.
- Finally, Section 5 canvasses some potential opportunities and risks for Indigenous groups to think about, and some tools and fora to consider, in advocating a position on REDD.

PDFs of the guide are available in English, Spanish and French.

Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance; Conservation International; Rainforest Alliance; The Nature Conservancy; GTZ; and the World Wildlife Fund

### **Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+)**

*Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance; Conservation International; Rainforest Alliance; The Nature Conservancy; GTZ; and the World Wildlife Fund* | This free course uses interactive tools to present information on a wide range of topics, including: the role of forests in climate change, technical elements of REDD+, the political context of REDD+, social and environmental considerations, national-level REDD+ programs, and REDD+ project development. The course consists of four distinct modules made up of several stand-alone lessons that can be completed at one's own pace. The entire course will take roughly 6.5 hours and is available in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Materials include:

- Participant Resource Manual
- Instructors Manual
- Sample Presentations

## **Emerging Lessons**

- Where information-sharing with communities on REDD+ is undertaken as part of a process to explore community interests to participate in a REDD+ initiative, it is important to apply free, prior, informed consent (FPIC) best practice standards to the information sharing activity. Among these standards are that information should include: a balanced treatment of potential positive and negative impacts; assessment of costs and benefits; alternatives and outcomes of different scenarios, and information on community's legal rights and legal implications of the proposed project (e.g., implications for land/resource rights, status of carbon rights). ([For more information, see Free, Prior Informed Consent and REDD+: Guidelines and Resources, WWF 2011](#))
- In particular, potential for financial benefits to communities from REDD+ need to be discussed carefully and realistically (not over-promising) in order to avoid presenting unbalanced information or raising expectations within communities that later cannot be met. This is especially the case in the earlier stages of REDD+ readiness when prospects for programs and many aspects of how they will operate are still unclear.
- Sufficient investment of time and effort is needed to talk through with communities the causes of climate change, the policy negotiations, the rights issues, and the possible benefits and interests for communities. This is a slow process as at first REDD+ seems remote, alien and urban, but once communities understand the issues, they are often interested in ways to benefit from their forest stewardship activities.
- Partnering with national or international indigenous organizations or support groups on REDD+ capacity-building offers a number of advantages, including contributions of expertise on community rights and livelihoods aspects of REDD+, and links to broader processes and networks focused on them.
- Capacity building of government representatives on indigenous/community concerns with regard to REDD+ may also be needed, along with support for States and indigenous peoples to agree on consultation procedures.

*WWF gratefully acknowledges support received from Norad through the REDD+ for People and Nature (RPAN) project to produce this resource guide. Thanks are also due to members of the RPAN Advisory Group for providing comments, and to all those who shared materials compiled here. Jenny Springer prepared the first edition of this guide, published in 2011. This 2013 edition has been updated by Vanessa Retana, Jenny Springer, Minnie Degawan, and CeCe Sieffert.*

WWF believes the following are key to equitable and effective REDD+ initiatives:

## SECURE COMMUNITY TENURE

Recognizing and respecting customary rights to forests enables more effective stewardship and will significantly influence who receives benefits from REDD+ initiatives.

## FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION

Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in developing, implementing and monitoring REDD+ initiatives will require investments in capacity building and inclusive decision-making processes.



## EQUITABLE SHARING OF REDD+ BENEFITS

Incentives for forest communities and good governance of financial mechanisms can help ensure that REDD+ initiatives provide benefits to communities, many of whom are the historic stewards of forest resources.

## FREE, PRIOR, INFORMED CONSENT

FPIC enables community rights and interests to be taken into account in REDD+ initiatives, resulting in more effective and equitable REDD+ outcomes.

### For more information:

Jenny Springer  
 WWF People and Conservation Program,  
 1250 24th St., NW, Washington, DC 20037, USA  
[forestclimate@wwf.panda.org](mailto:forestclimate@wwf.panda.org)

	<p><b>Why we are here</b>                  To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.  <a href="http://www.panda.org/forestclimate">www.panda.org/forestclimate</a></p>
--	---