

1. Introduction

At the end of 2013 a grant of 25 million DKK was approved by Danida for a four year second phase of a project entitled "Towards pro-poor REDD+." The Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is responsible for implementing the project, which comprises "landscape", sub-national, national and global actions and involves five countries: Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, the Papua provinces of Indonesia and Uganda.¹ These were also targeted in the first phase of the project from 2009-13, with a view to "building synergies between forest governance, equitable benefit sharing and reduced emissions through sustainable forest management."

As defined in a theory of change, the long term goal of the second phase is that "by 2020 national climate change mitigation initiatives incorporate pro-poor principles and human rights

assessment of progress naturally reflects the greater opportunities for discussion and analyses during the meetings and interviews with the IUCN teams and partners in Ghana and Uganda.⁴

The RT wishes to thank all those who have taken time to share information and to discuss REDD+ during intensive sessions in Gland, Ghana and Uganda. This review report comprises the main findings and recommendations prepared by the team. These are subject to approval by the project steering committee bringing together representatives from Danida and the IUCN (GFCCP).

2. REDD+ and the IUCN – some contextual observations

Avoiding deforestation in tropical developing countries as a means of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and thereby mitigating climate change first appeared on the international agenda in conjunction with the conference of the parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2005. A proposal to include REDD within the Convention was tabled by the governments of Costa Rica and Papua New Guinea (PNG). By the time the Bali action plan was approved at COP13 in 2007, REDD+ had become a recognised mitigation mechanism, although the mechanics of a global payments arrangement for measured, reported and verified emissions reductions had yet to be finalised. This was achieved at the 19th COP in 2013 and the final seal of approval for REDD+ was given in the agreement at COP21 in Paris in 2015.⁵

From the outset numerous governments and non-governmental organisations were involved in the efforts to devise an effective and equitable system for performance-based payments that would reward those who reduced emissions. The system was designed to be based on the principle of 'no deforestation, no peat' (NDDP) and to be based on the principle of 'no deforestation, no peat' (NDDP).

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3. Main findings

3.1. Overall progress assessment

Inception

Phase II of the project formally commenced on January 1st 2014. Initially, there were discussions with the stakeholders in each country to determine how the second phase would continue the momentum developed in the first phase and align with policy agendas and requirements for REDD+. In particular the second phase included a strong focus on HRBA. Thus, partners needed time to re-establish teams, secure strategic partnership arrangements and develop operational plans at country level. Once the agreements were signed between the IUCN and Danida (MoFA), the IUCN's GFCCP team and the country teams started to develop the theory of change along with the project components and plans. Staff was hired and implementing partners in each country were formally selected.

In Uganda, the National Project Coordinator came on board in May 2014 and in Ghana new implementing partners (A Rocha and the Codesult Network) were selected for the new demonstration site in the Mole ecological landscape and the "phase I" landscape in Wassa Amenfi region. In practical terms this meant that the first year of phase II was spent on inception activities and getting everyone "on the same page" vis-a-vis the objectives and strategies of the project. Time was also spent ensuring alignment with national policy agendas and priorities. The operational plans for each country were discussed by the IUCN teams and partners in October 2014 and later adopted by the Project Steering Committee.

While the IUCN is responsible for overall project implementation, both at national and sub-national levels success depends on the IUCN and partner's ability to work together towards common goals. It would appear for example that there is a good team spirit in Uganda - where the IUCN team works with two key implementing partners: Environmental Alert and the Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (Ecotrust). In Ghana there also appears to be good collaboration between the IUCN team and A Rocha in particular, while some challenges arose in working with Codesult Network due to the organisation's lack of familiarity and capacities in dealing with REDD+. ⁹ From the reports and brief interviews there would appear to be strong dynamic partnerships in the other three countries not visited by the RT.

In spite of a rather long inception phase the teams in all five countries appear to have made good progress. This is due to the high level of technical capacity of the IUCN and the implementing partners on the ground, the integration of activities into the IUCN and partners' existing project portfolios, the use of the concrete outputs and processes from phase I, as well as open and regular dialogue with the IUCN's GFCCP teams.

Momentum towards REDD+

As noted above, progress on REDD+ made at the UNFCCC's COP19 and COP21, coupled with the progress in many countries towards establishing REDD+ "architecture" have resulted in highly conducive environments for implementation at country level. In Uganda, the national REDD+ processes have gained momentum after initial challenges of setting up REDD+

⁹ Capacity strengthening is being undertaken with Codesult Network.

structures and mobilising resources and technical expertise. The building blocks for REDD+ are moving ahead full speed, with progress being made on the REDD+ strategy, the MRV system, safeguards and to a certain extent options for a financing mechanism. The national elections do not seem to have influenced the commitment or direction of the Ugandan government towards REDD+.

In Cameroon, the national REDD+ processes have gained momentum with an initial draft REDD+ strategy submitted to the World Bank in November 2015 as well as the establishment of the REDD+ technical secretariat in June 2015. The IUCN has played a leading role in REDD+ processes and together with other organisations has provided technical assistance to the secretariat. The current situation provides a very conducive environment for influencing the

Landscape development approaches

From the country reports submitted, it appears that the teams now have a good understanding of the baselines, of the local drivers of deforestation as well as information on livelihood options at the demonstration sites. For new sites, baseline studies were undertaken in addition to the identification and assessment of livelihood enhancing options. Thus although a “standard” process for implementation was defined, the teams appear to be taking different approaches depending on the opportunities emerging and on their capacities. Common to all are the focus on pro-poor principles, on HRBAs and on ensuring participation and inclusion throughout at both sub-national and national level.

Livelihood options and benefit sharing

In Guatemala, business

procedures. The strengthening of small scale enterprises associated with community natural resource management could form part of the remit for the CREMAs, which would also function with respect to benefit sharing for REDD+ payments.

Capacity development is perhaps the key to community based natural resource management at landscape level. Thus, a large number of targeted capacity development activities have been undertaken in the various landscapes. The RT notes that capacity development activities are being used strategically to achieve the objectives of improved natural resource management and restoration, gender mainstreaming, surveys, etc. In Uganda, capacity development activities are always tailored to fit the audience. At the district and community level, capacity development efforts take on a more hands-on learning approach with the training in integrating pro-poor and rights based principles in natural resource management and training and use of the poverty toolkit. In Papua, capacity development activities have also included training of local facilitators to undertake and support the participatory process of customary mapping in accordance with the new and improved methodology.

Numerous livelihood enhancing options have

provide full government backing. The continued use of the multi-stakeholder platform established in phase I is also important in Ghana.

Gender responsiveness remains a real challenge in Agoro-Agu activities. While a local women's organisation is on the steering committee of the multi-stakeholder platform, the representative joining the meetings has to date, been a man. The IUCN team continues to reflect on strategies concerning how to tackle the very real challenges of working towards women's participation, economic empowerment and tackling gender inequalities at the landscape level. Similar concerns about how to further women's inclusion and participation at landscape level were noted by the teams in reporting from Papua and Guatemala.

3.3. Component B - national REDD+ strategies and processes

Designing REDD+ policies and measures

The IUCN teams and partners are carrying out different activities within Component B depending on the national context in each country, emerging opportunities and the implementing teams' capacities. The main aim of the component (as specified in the theory of change) is to ensure that national forest and climate change mitigation strategies build on the lessons learned from the demonstration activities, in order to design REDD+ and green growth policies and programmes that protect rights and improve livelihoods. The annual reports by the country teams provide narratives on the progress towards the objectives, albeit with varying emphases and clarity.

It is worth noting that the design of REDD+ national strategies and/or action plans has been more complex and has taken longer than originally envisaged. However, while delays in drafting these national strategies may be seen as reducing the impact of the pro-poor REDD project, the current momentum at country level seems to be providing opportunities to influence the strategies in accordance with objectives. For example, delays in the preparation of the Ugandan REDD+ strategy have allowed the IUCN team to better position itself as a valued REDD+ partner with technical expertise and knowledge to provide inputs to the REDD+ strategy document as well as to other REDD+ frameworks and mechanisms in the country. In Cameroon the IUCN team and partners have been able to influence the drafting of the national REDD+ strategy to include very specific references to pro-poor and HRBA principles. In Guatemala the IUCN team is engaging in the national process to ensure that gender becomes integrated in the national REDD+ strategy from the start, rather than as an add-on.

Thus, the IUCN teams and 3.2(a)]80.5(d).005 The 0.005 Tw 0.4220 Td [(e.C)]TJ 0 T 85]-6.5(t)-8.6(e)0.

being captured in a policy brief to be used with decision-makers in the development of REDD+ architecture of the country.

From the annual reports it appears that the IUCN contributions at national level, in terms of land tenure, safeguards, benefit-sharing and gender-related issues are particularly strong features in most countries. Success in influencing decision-makers (and ultimately policies, plans and strategies) on these issues depends on a combination of high-quality analytical work and practical tools for implementation.¹⁴ Achievements associated with the key topic of gender mainstreaming are good examples of the concerted effort of providing appropriate tools, analysis, roadmaps, and capacity development opportunities for partners. The gender achievements also illustrate how outputs and processes from phase I have been taken forward and made use of in phase II.

3.4. Global component (C)

The objective of the “global level” component (C) is to ensure that “pro-poor principles and HRBAs are reflected in existing voluntary standards and regulatory frameworks such that barriers to tenure rights and equitable sharing of benefits are addressed.” In the project design it was noted that the component would encourage learning amongst countries and at the “global-to-national” levels through the advisory services of the GFCCP. It was also pointed out that the “evidence and capacities generated in the other components would be promoted, shared and integrated through submissions and position papers by the IUCN.”

The RT has not received a consolidated report of the progress and achievements of this component.¹⁶ However, it is understood that the financial and human resources available have enabled the IUCN to contribute to the revision of REDD+ social and environmental standards (SES) by incorporating pro-poor and rights based approaches. Furthermore, HRBAs have been taken up in various other contexts, notably in preparing guidelines for project design and monitoring as well as in guidelines for protected area management. Mainstreaming HRBAs in conservation initiatives is also being undertaken, as proposals for an international standard on social safeguards are being considered by a group of key conservation organisations, including Birdlife, Conservation International and the Worldwide Fund for Nature, etc. IUCN representatives have also participated as observers in the decision making bodies of the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme and have been active in the processes associated with the conferences of the UNFCCC and the 2015 agreement on sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The forthcoming learning events will provide opportunities for the IUCN team to initiate sharing of experiences from the second phase of the project and to formulate plans for further advocacy concerning HRBAs and REDD+ at global level. The RT notes that the IUCN monitoring and learning unit will be increasingly involved in the project. It is anticipated that this will strengthen the efforts to ensure that the main lessons learned are communicated effectively to a broad audience.

In particular, after 8 years pursuing pro-poor agendas in five countries, it would seem that the time has come to thoroughly assess the outcomes of the REDD+ processes and to contribute to consolidating a global mechanism based on HRBAs and with improved tenure and benefit sharing arrangements at the forefront. Some analytical work might be carried out, in order to collate and digest the results and challenges in the five countries and to develop proposals for the way forward. The scope and limits of the FCPF's Carbon Fund and the potential for results-based payments in based on the UNFCCC “model” (otherwise known as the “Warsaw framework” for REDD+) could be worth exploring in greater detail. As the IUCN has recently been accredited with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) there might be opportunities to ensure that the REDD+ performance payments envisaged through the fund will be allocated in accordance with the pro-poor principles and take full account of the rights and duties of forest communities.

3.5. Project management

The project is managed in accordance with the standard IUCN practices and systems. A note outlining the involvement of the headquarters of the Union as well as the regional and country offices was prepared at the outset of the project. This also indicates the roles of the project coordination team (at global level), the country level implementation teams and the project steering

from. Specific communication efforts should be considered in order to facilitate the dissemination of lessons learned and results obtained. The IUCN should consider preparing communication material along the lines of the brief thematic articles presented on the IUCN website. The IUCN should consider whether sufficient resources have been allocated towards developing high quality communication

involved in REDD+ both at the national and landscape levels as

During the review various suggestions were made concerning issues and topics which are important for the design of the national and global REDD+ mechanism.¹⁸ The IUCN and partners

Annex A - Persons met

1. IUCN, Gland
 - George Akwah, REDD+ programme officer and global project coordinator
 - Chris Buss, deputy director, Global forest and climate change programme
 - Jules Colomer, Monitoring and learning officer, Global forest and climate change programme
 - Manuela Fernandez, Intern, Global forest and climate change programme
 - Stewart Maginnis, Global director, Nature based solutions group
 - Gonzalo Oviedo, Senior social policy adviser
 - Patrick Wylie, Senior forest policy adviser, Global forest and climate change programme

 2. Bogor, by skype:
 - Yunus Yumte, Samdhana (Papua)
 - Budi Rahardjo, Samdhana (Papua)
 - Nurul Chairunissa, Samdhana (Papua)
 - Sandika Ariansyah, Samdhana (Papua)

 3. Yaoundé, by skype:
 - Ako Charlotte Eyong, IUCN Cameroon
 - Remi Jiagho, IUCN Cameroon
 - Raphael Meigno Bokagne, INADES Formation, Cameroon
 - Leonard Usongo, IUCN Cameroon
 - Keneth Angu Angu, IUCN regional forestry programme, Central Africa

 4. Guatemala City, by skype:
 - Lorena Cordova, IUCN Guatemala
 - Erick Ac, IUCN Guatemala
 - Marleny Oliva, MARN Guatemala

 5. Northern Region of Ghana, Damaongo
- Meetings with A Rocha (IUCN partner NGO) team:
- Godwin Evenyo Dzekoto
 - Daryl Bosu
 - Emmanuella Kyeremaa

- Amankwah Yakubu, Human resources
- Ali Mahama, Law enforcement & GC
- Joanna Saaka, Community unit
- Dramani D. Jaward, Law enforcement & GC

Meeting with members of Murungu Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) James K. Bani

- Seidu Munaba
- Jacob Kontali Zein
- Salifu Chir
- David Kpaliga
- Zapayali Moshei
- Marck M. Bani
- Jebuni Pogbanaba
- Amadu Boriche
- Ibrahim Memuna
- Fusheini Dunaba
- Joseph G. Jedu

6. Accra

Meetings with IUCN team

- Saadia Bobtoya Owusu Amofah
- Samuel Kofi Nyame
- Dorcas Gyimah Owusu
- Adewale Adeleke, Consultant

Meeting at Royal Dutch Embassy

- Fred Smiet, First Secretary Water and Climate Change

Codesult Network, by 'phone:

- Michael Sam, Programme Officer
- Robert Obiri Yeboah, Executive Director

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), by 'phone

- Musa Abu Juam, Technical Director (attending FIP session in Kumasi)

Meeting at Forestry Commission with partners

- Hugh Brown, Forestry Commission (FC)
- Charles Sampson Duah, FC
- Raymond Sakyi, FC
- Yaw Kwakye, FC
- Hilma Manan, FC
- Andrew Kyei Agyare, FC
- Richard Gyimah, FC
- Wellington Baiden, Portal
- William K. Dumenu, CSIR/IFORIG
- Peter Maar, ICA
- Kwaku Abban, ICA
- Robert Bamfo, Consultant
- Kobby Optson, PDA
- Daryl Bosu, A Rocha
- Patience Opoku, MoGCSP

7. Kampala

Meetings with IUCN team,

Annex B – main documents consulted (by year)

2016

Global - Presentation made to Review Team, Gland, March

Annual Technical Progress Reports (2015) for Cameroon, Guatemala, Ghana, Papua (Indonesia), and Uganda.

2015

Summary of Recommendations of the Project Steering Committee, October

Summary of Progress up to 30 June 2015, September

Final Report on Global Gender Office Technical Assistance in REDD+ Project, July

Annual Technical Progress Reports 2014 - Consolidated and Country Annexes

2014

Project Operational Strategy, October

Project Theory of Change - General and Country-specific ToC

Overview of Project Management Arrangements

2013