

NON-CARBON BENEFITS IN REDD+

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PERSPECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTA)



AIPP Submission on Methodological Issues Related to Non-Carbon Benefits Resulting
from the Implementation of REDD+ Activities

March 26, 2014



The Nineteenth Conference of Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognized the importance of incentivizing Non-Carbon Benefits (NCB) for the long-term sustainability of the implementation of REDD+ activities¹. This decision has long-term implications for indigenous peoples in Asia especially in relation to the recognition and exercise of their collective rights over their forests.

Asia is home to two-thirds of the world's estimated 350-400 million indigenous peoples. More than 150 million of them are found in the 12 REDD+ countries in Asia namely Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia and Bangladesh. These countries are implementing REDD+ in partnership with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Programme of the World Bank and the UN-REDD Programme through support for their national REDD+ Programmes. All these REDD+ countries, except for Bhutan and Bangladesh, have adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Despite this, most states in Asia do not recognize indigenous peoples and their collective rights, especially to their land, territories and resources.



¹ Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 22



Indigenous peoples have always asserted

the manifold functions of forests including their social, cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic values that are integral to their territorial governance and livelihood systems. Through their respective organizations and the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), they have reiterated and reaffirmed this position in the meetings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They have always advocated for the recognition of the multiple benefits of forests, rather than reducing them to carbon sinks and storage.

For indigenous peoples, the Non-Carbon Benefits of forests include: sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples such as shifting cultivation that provides food security and non-timber forest products; sustainable resource management for food production and enhancement of biodiversity (flora and fauna); spiritual identity, traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples; source of medicinal plants and animals; and ecosystems services such as watersheds and water supply, among others. These tangible and intangible benefits are interlinked and integral to the overall cohesion, governance, identity, cultural heritage and wellbeing of indigenous peoples.



Non-Carbon Benefits are more valuable than carbon. They are critical for indigenous peoples' continued survival and development including of their present and future generations, as their identities, livelihoods and cultural heritage are historically rooted in their forests that are part of their traditional territories. It is therefore necessary and imperative to ensure the recognition of indigenous peoples' collective rights to their forest, land and resources as part of the human rights framework in approaches to Non-Carbon Benefits as well as to the overall design and implementation of REDD+. Likewise, incentivizing Non-Carbon Benefits should take into account the historical role of indigenous peoples and, in particular, indigenous women in forest protection and conservation with a view of providing for their needs and priorities for their overall wellbeing.



Recommendations

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) provides the following recommendations to the SBSTA on Non-Carbon Benefits:

1. We request SBSTA to confirm that the scope of Non-Carbon Benefits shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples such as shifting cultivation that provides food security and non-timber forest products, among others
- Sustainable resource management for food production and enhance
ment of biodiversity (flora and fauna)
- Spiritual identity, traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples
- Source of medicinal plants and animals
- Ecosystems services such as watershed and water supply, among others

2. We urge SBSTA to recognize the need for specific measures and policies to be established and implemented by the Parties and their partners as fundamental and enabling conditions to secure and enhance the Non-Carbon Benefits in REDD+ especially in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples. These measures and policies shall include the following:

- Legal recognition and protection of the collective rights of indigenous peoples over their forests as part of their right to their lands, territories and resources
- Recognition and protection of the sustainable livelihoods and forest management systems of indigenous peoples
- Recognition of the roles and contributions of indigenous women in sustainable forest resource management, thereby requiring their full and effective participation in all decision-making bodies and processes relating to forests including Non-Carbon Benefits and natural resources
- Recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' customary laws and sustainable forest governance systems and decision making processes

- Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity
- Measure to fully address and stop the real drivers of deforestation and forest degradation such as commercial logging, forestland conversion, mono cropping and plantations, among others.

3. We request SBSTA to encourage the Parties to engage in constructive dialogues with indigenous peoples for policy review and reform, especially on the prohibition/restriction of shifting cultivation, towards addressing forest conservation and management on the one hand, and the livelihoods, rights and entitlements of indigenous peoples on the other. Their continuing practice of sustainable livelihoods and occupations is crucial for the delivery and enhancement of Non-Carbon Benefits.

4. We request SBSTA to urge the Parties to recognize the important role of indigenous peoples in community-based monitoring systems. Independent and scientific studies have shown that monitoring of Non-Carbon Benefits (i.e.PES) with the participation of and by indigenous peoples is credible, reliable and cost effective. It is thereby important and beneficial for states to collaborate with and establish partnerships with indigenous peoples on community-based monitoring as part of the forest monitoring system.

5. We request SBSTA to encourage the Parties to adhere to a human rights framework and ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in formulating and implementing a methodological guidance on Non-Carbon Benefits and Safeguards Information System (SIS). In line with this, key indicators relating to Non-Carbon Benefits shall be identified in collaboration with indigenous peoples in order to ensure the recognition and respect of their collective rights in relation to Non-Carbon Benefits and in all aspects of REDD+.



AIPP at a glance

The Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) is a regional organization founded in 1988 by indigenous peoples' movements as a platform for solidarity and cooperation. AIPP is actively promoting and defending indigenous peoples' rights and human rights; sustainable development and management of resources and environment protection. Through the years, AIPP has developed its expertise on grassroots capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global levels and strengthening partnerships with indigenous organizations, support NGOs, UN agencies and other institutions. At present, AIPP has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia with 7 indigenous peoples' national alliances/networks and 35 local and sub-national organizations including 16 are ethnic-based organizations, five (5) indigenous women and four (4) are indigenous youth organizations.

Through our Indigenous Women (IW) programme, AIPP aims to empower indigenous women through networking, education and capacity building activities with the overall goal for indigenous women to assert, promote and protect their rights as women and as indigenous peoples.

Our Vision

Indigenous peoples in Asia are living with dignity and fully exercising their rights, distinct cultures and identity, and enhancing their sustainable management systems on lands, territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality.

Our Mission

AIPP strengthen the solidarity, cooperation and capacities of indigenous peoples in Asia to promote and protect their rights, cultures and identities, and their sustainable resource management system for their development and self-determination.

Our Programmes

Our main areas of work among the different programmes are information dissemination, awareness raising, capacity building, advocacy and networking from local to global. Our programmes are:

- Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy
- Regional Capacity Building
- Environment
- Indigenous Women
- Communication and Development
- Organizational Strengthening

AIPP is accredited as an NGO in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and as observer organization with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). AIPP is a member of the International Land Coalition (ILC).



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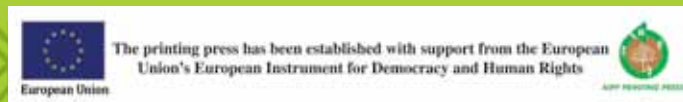
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