
Philippines

National Orientation Workshop on Climate Change, REDD+ and Indigenous Peoples

May 21 – 22, 2010

Ridgewood Residence, Baguio City

CONCEPT NOTE

With significant progress made in the negotiating text of REDD+ after COP 15 in Copenhagen, the role of forests in climate change has become even more recognized. This has also resulted to more and more actors involving themselves in what are called “REDD+ readiness mechanisms” while specific areas on how REDD+ will be implemented, including its financing and scale, are yet to be finalized. There are also various reports of “little REDD+” where “carbon cowboys” facilitate sub – national agreements especially for the voluntary carbon market.

An important facet of these developments is the fact that most of the world’s remaining tropical and subtropical forests are found in indigenous peoples’ territories. Over the past years, the contribution of indigenous peoples’ community-based and collaborative conservation for the protection of forests and biodiversity has been increasingly recognized. However, as REDD+ programs and initiatives rapidly become implemented, it must be ensured that forest-dwelling indigenous peoples’ rights to their traditional lands and resources are not threatened.

The Philippines is not considered a REDD+ country in the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), one of the two REDD readiness mechanisms set up under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Recently, it was included as an “observer country” in the UN – REDD programme.

Environmental and other concerned groups and non – government organizations, and other institutions in the Philippines have also started discussing the implications of the REDD+ policy for the Philippines. A national REDD consultation held in 2009 identified at least eleven (11) potential sites for REDD pilot implementation: Mantalingahan (Palawan), Kimangkil (Bukidnon/Misamis Oriental), Kalahan Ancestral domain (Nueva Vizcaya), Ilong-Ilong/Diwata (Surigao del Sur), Sablayan (Occidental Mindoro), Makilala Ancestral Domain (North Cotabato), Southern Sierra Madre (Quezon), Mt. Kitanglad (Bukidnon), Zambales Mountains (Zambales), Mt. Labo (Camarines Norte) and Silago (Southern Leyte).¹

The challenge is for indigenous peoples and their organizations to have an active role as REDD activities move forward. However, during the Global Training of Trainers’ (TOT) training on Climate Change, REDD+, and Indigenous Peoples sponsored by Tebtebba under the Norad funded project “Ensuring the Effective Participation of Indigenous Peoples in Global and National REDD+ Processes” on January 8 – 10, 2010, all the Philippine partner participants (SILDAP, CPA and CEC) verbally expressed that the

1 Code REDD, Highlights of the national Consultation on REDD/ held in the imperial Palace Suites, Quezon City on April 28-29, 2009. Available from: [_http://ntfp.org/coderedd/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/REDD_natl-consultation_-highlights1.pdf_](http://ntfp.org/coderedd/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/REDD_natl-consultation_-highlights1.pdf). Accessed February 1, 2010

issue on REDD+ (and Climate Change) is very new for them and their organizations. This indicated the need for a deeper discussion of the issue especially for the indigenous peoples' organization network.

This orientation seminar will then try to address this gap. Indigenous peoples and organizations in the Philippines have to be better informed if they are to present their views, aspirations and suggestions regarding REDD+ strategies in the Philippines to the government and other institutions.

Indigenous leaders from the organizations involved in this program will attend a 2 - day orientation seminar using modifications of the Training Manual: Climate Change, Indigenous Peoples and REDD+.

OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of this orientation workshop is to equip indigenous community leaders/ NGO staff members / representatives from project partner organizations with adequate knowledge on climate change, REDD+ and its relation to indigenous peoples.

Specific Objectives: At the end of this orientation seminar, the participants should have been able to:

1. discuss climate change, including adaptation and mitigation measures and why these concern indigenous peoples.
2. comprehend what REDD+ is, what kind of REDD+ initiatives are taking place in the Philippines, and what are the potential implications for indigenous peoples at the community level.
3. analyze the REDD+ mechanism, including its potential pitfalls and opportunities.
4. understand the use of a rights-based approach and ecosystems approach in determining ways forward in local, national and other international processes and measures on Climate Change and REDD+.

TRAGET PARTICIPANTS:

Community leaders/ NGO staff members / representatives from project partner organizations. :

METHODOLOGY

This activity is essentially an orientation seminar where the participants become familiar with CONTENT relating to climate change, REDD+ and indigenous peoples. It will be a mixture of inputs from resource persons/ trainers from Tebtebba and participatory techniques including workshops to get participants' perspectives or to evaluate participants' knowledge of their own context.