The importance of governance to REDD+ activities: Lessons from Ulu Masen

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Facts on Ulu Masen REDD project

Ulu Masen 750,000 ha

Leuser Ecosystem 2,600,000 ha
Facts on Ulu Masen REDD+ Demonstration Project

• The first REDD+ demonstration project in Indonesia and the world’s first CCBA approved project.

• Ulu Masen covers an area of around 750,000 ha which touches on 6 of Aceh’s 23 districts.

• Will absorb up to 100 millions tonnes carbon over the next 30 years.

• Watershed for 2 million people

• Rich biodiversity, ideal soil fertility, high value timber, rich mineral reserves (gold, cooper, iron-ore) and coal.

Challenges to the area

1. Mining (company and community)
2. Plantations (estate and smallholders)
3. Logging concessions and illegal logging
4. Road expansion
5. Encroachment and agriculture expansion
6. Settlement
Policy and Political Commitment

“with or without REDD, protecting the forest is a must, so REDD scheme just a bonus”

1. Moratorium Logging and eradicating illegal logging activities. (June 2007)
2. Redesigning forest management framework in Aceh (October 2007)
3. Increasing forest protection forces (ie. forest ranger) – up to 2,500 personnel
5. Evaluating all concessions on forestry, extractive industry, and plantations (December 2009).

Forest governance challenges in Aceh

1. Regulatory overlap
2. Weak law enforcement, incl corruption within law enforcement and justice network.
3. Power overlap between different levels of government (national, province, and district).
4. Lack of coordination between government departments and agencies.
Governance of Ulu Masen REDD project

1. *Project proponent and project design*
   - The Government of Aceh
   - Carbon Conservation

Governance of Ulu Masen REDD+ project (cont)

2. *The management of project*
   - **PT PIA (Aceh government enterprise)**
     - *conducting carbon business transaction with Bank of America Merrill Lynch.*
   - **Aceh REDD+ Task Force**
     - *Government agencies are members.*
     - *To establish project management unit at local level*
Governance of Ulu Masen REDD project (cont)

- **Project management unit**
  - Conducting ongoing needs assessment at project level.
  - Facilitate information dissemination to civil society and others in Aceh, including the forest-edge communities.
  - Ensure information flows from community to project proponents and REDD taskforce
  - Benefit distribution

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Problems of Policy and Governance

New access road and potential deforestation

“We do not want to be isolated anymore and want to be like other communities around the provinces”
Problems of Policy and Governance

- Consensus
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Responsiveness
- Equity and inclusion
- Participation
- Land use policies
- Adherence to the rule of law

Update from GCF Task Force meeting
Banda Aceh, 17-20 May 2010 (GCF 3)

The Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) is a unique subnational collaboration between 14 states and provinces from the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Mexico that seeks to integrate REDD+ and other forest carbon activities into emerging greenhouse gas compliance regimes in the United States and elsewhere.
Update from GCF Task Force meeting  
Banda Aceh, 17-20 May 2010

• 150 participants, including delegates from US, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Liberia, Malaysia and Canada.

• **Preparation for GCF**
  • Aceh Government Secretariat for logistics
  • Government level strategy meetings
  • International NGO discussions with Government

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**Civil society response:**

• Aceh Civil Society Forum for Sovereignty of the Mukim released a press statement: ‘Local community, the forgotten host: the GCF meeting in Aceh’.

• Main message: The principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent had been violated and that REDD is an elite initiative.
Update from GCF Task Force meeting
Banda Aceh, 17-20 May 2010 (cont)

• 25 local Mukim attended Day 1 of the GCF, but staged a walk-out on Day 2. They felt marginalised in the broader REDD+ process, and felt they had no role and no voice in the GCF meeting.

• Demonstrations outside the meeting venue each day that led to negative media coverage.

Response by Task Force members:

• GCF Task Force members agreed on 4 Work Tasks and related outputs, one of which is “To develop and implement strategy and enhance/formalise stakeholders involvement in the GCF Taskforce”

To be completed by next GCF meeting in September in Para.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE