

Role of Civil Society in REDD+ Processes; The case of Ghana



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Ghana

Background



Location: West Africa

Population: 25 Million (Est.)

Primary forests (Bulk): South-western

Tropical Forest: 2.46 million ha

Deforestation rate: 2.0% (FAO '06)

Background II

Some Forest Initiatives in Ghana

- **Natural Resource and Environmental Governance Framework (NREG)**
- **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade/Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT/VPA)**
- **Non-Legally Binding Instruments (NLBI)**
- **Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)**
- **Forest Investment Programme (FIP)**

Ghana and REDD+ I

Forest Investment Project (FIP)

- Ghana has also been nominated for the Forest Investment Programme
- Amount approved is at about \$50 million
- Mission held last week with various stakeholders
 - Areas prioritised include tenure, benefits sharing, Law Enforcement & Conflict Management, etc
- Develop the investment strategy (within & outside forest sector)

Ghana and REDD+ II

Ghana submitted R-PIN

**Ghana was nominated in 2008
for WB-FCPF**

**One week mission held in May
2009**

**National REDD+ Steering
Committee formed**

**Information Sharing and
Consultation for R-PP Dev't**

R-PP Submission, Jan 2010

**Qualified Approval at PC5
Meeting, March 2010**

Activities of Civil Society in Ghana

- This revolves around:
 - Advocacy and Lobbying
 - Capacity Building (Policymakers, media, CSOs, Communities)
 - Moving forward Consultation and Participation Process
 - Networking
 - Research and Analysis

Advocacy and Lobbying

- The main targets for this action has been the Government of Ghana (Parliamentary Select Committees, Agencies, Ministries, UNFCCC Negotiators) and Donor Partners
- Much of the focus has been on
 - Having a holistic approach to REDD+ implementation in the NRE sector
 - The need for good Consultation and Participation for the process
 - The focus on REDD+ should be on improving forest governance (looking at **means** over **ends** and not vice-versa).
 - Pushing for community rights recognition in REDD+

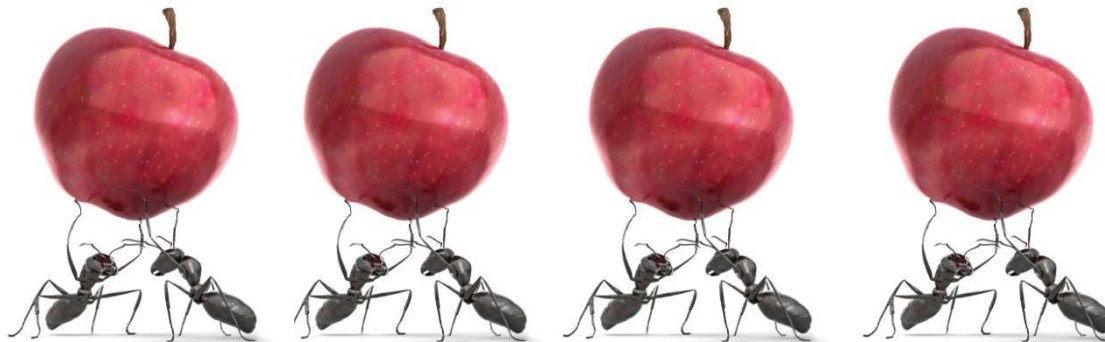
Capacity Building

- This activity focuses on building the knowledge capacity of the Policy makers, Media, CSOs and Communities, mainly through workshops.
- Involves:
 - Simplifying the concept of REDD+ and breaking away the technicalities
 - Updating actors on the status of int'l UNFCCC negotiations
 - Discussing and strategizing on Ghana's REDD+ process
 - Discussing the financial mechanism options
- Community involvement in capacity building is limited to a few who attend meetings/workshops. The immediate way forward is to have REDD+ issues introduced at District Forest Forums (FWG), using local community radio stations (exploring this with IUCN).

Moving Consultation and Participation Process

- Reactionary Approaches: *E.g. Post R-PIN*
- Pro-active approaches

Note however that participation should not be the objective...It's about achieving the change we want.



Networking

- **National:**
 - Using the existing Forest Watch Ghana network
 - Using the “Contact Group” set up under the EU FLEGT/VPA process
 - Engaging Forest Forum members in workshops
 - Early stages of a establishing a network
- **Regional:**
 - Africa Community Rights Network (ACRN)
 - Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- **International:**
 - Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate



Research, Analysis & Strategizing

This activity includes:

- Research Work by IUCN (Benefits sharing, bottlenecks issues)
- Analysis of REDD+ international negotiation texts
- Analysis on financing mechanism design for REDD+
- Analysis of Power and interests of various actors



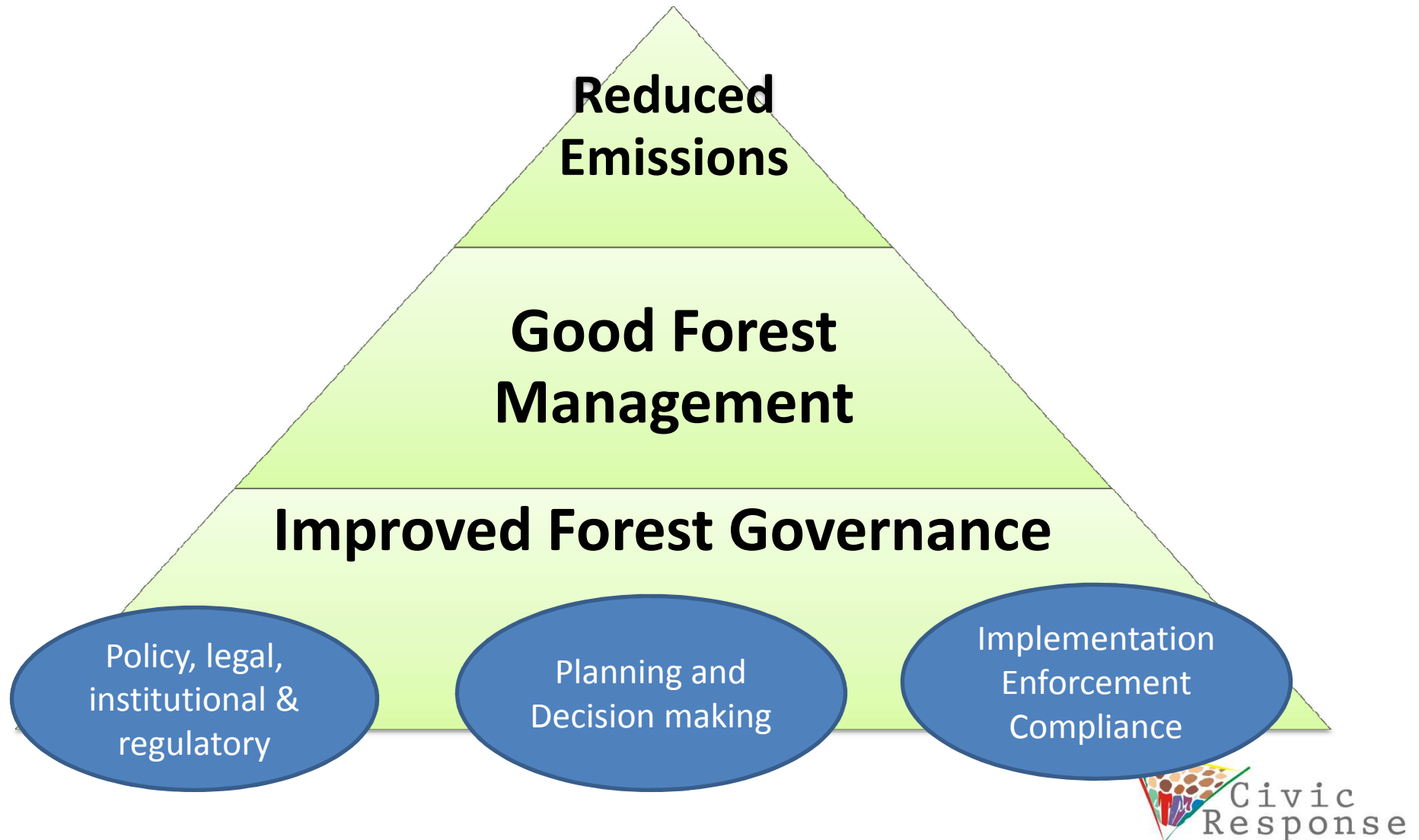
Challenges

- Technical paradigm of REDD+ is not helping
- Shifting Civil Society focus on the payments for carbon and “how can communities be involved to measure the carbon” instead of focus on forest governance and socio-environmental safeguards.

Opportunities

- Constitutional Review
- Legal and Policy Reform in the Forest Sector
- NREG Framework
- Safeguards Information System

Conclusion





Thank You

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