

Community Based Monitoring (CBM): Implications for FIP M&E



Ancha Srinivasan, Ph.D.
Asian Development Bank

Role of Communities in REDD+



Monitoring in FIP

1. **Emissions:** Amount of emissions that can be avoided, reduced or captured – Measuring carbon, reporting on progress and verifying this process
2. **Livelihood impacts:**
 - ❖ Rights of access to resources
 - ❖ Benefits sharing from REDD+ implementation
3. Collecting **reliable and up-to-date information** on the state of forest resources – Forest area change, biomass inventory, biodiversity assessment, etc.

Potential Roles of Communities in FIP Monitoring & Evaluation

- **Program Monitoring**
 - Planning & decisions that affect the entire project
 - Auditing and control
 - Benefit sharing and dispute resolution mechanisms
 - Dissemination of relevant forest laws
- **Activity monitoring**
 - Monitoring timber and NTFP use
 - Resource allocation and implementation
 - Patrolling against illegal logging or encroachment
 - Fire break construction and maintenance
- **Emissions monitoring**
 - Collection of baseline data on forests and landscapes (forest cover, diameter at breast height [DBH]; tree height, tree species and tree count)

Benefits of CBM - I

- Compliance with UNFCCC **Decision 4/CPI.5** (Article 3): Effective engagement of IP and LC in M&R
- Compliance with commitment to **CBFM and social forestry**
- Improved **Efficiency**
 - Field testing showed no significant difference in basic data collected by forestry professionals or trained community members.
 - **Cost savings of up to 80%** can be achieved, without compromising on quality.
 - Timely information on the location, time, area and type of change events such as forest fires
 - Deterring illegal loggers and poachers

Benefits of CBM - II

- Improved **accuracy and cooperation** in national forest monitoring systems
 - ❖ Indigenous knowledge systems, such as knowledge on local tree species, wildlife and weather systems
- Improved **community livelihoods**
 - ❖ Equitable benefit sharing mechanisms
- Enhanced **Social capital**
- Increased local **ownership of forest resources**

Prerequisites for CBM Success

- **Training materials in local language**, with allowances for members of communities speaking non-official languages and illiterates (e.g. using pictorials and other visual materials)
- **Incentives** for village facilitators
- **Transparency** in decision-making processes and financial transactions
- **Equitable engagement of women** without disturbing local customs and traditions
- **Following local practices and calendars** as much as possible (e.g. no activities at harvest time)
- **Respect for and integration with local customs** and activities (e.g. no sampling plots in “holy” forest sites)

Concerns on CBM

- Compromises on **data accuracy** related to forest condition
- **Overstating** community contributions to REDD+ as a way of securing a higher share of incentives
- **Social exclusion** of certain community members and groups
- **Exploitative contracts** with vulnerable communities

Implications for FIP & DGM

- Formal and better clarification of the roles and responsibilities of communities in FIP project monitoring systems (e.g., **guidelines and standards** for participatory data collection)
- Allocation of **resources** for participatory monitoring training in FIP projects
- Annual **reporting** on CBM progress and challenges
- CBM as a theme in **DGM**
- Use of new **technologies** (e.g., mobile phone SMS technology) in support of CBM
- More effective involvement of **CSOs** in CBM
- **Documentation** of CBM experiences in FIP projects

Thank you.