

# Working Group Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPsLC) Aspects

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## **Indigenous and local community aspects of REDD-plus: opportunities and challenges:**

- What role can traditional knowledge play for the implementation of climate change mitigation measures (and for adaptation)?
- What are the main opportunities and challenges in ensuring that REDD efforts will generate benefits for indigenous and local communities?



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# Working Group Indigenous and Community Aspects

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## Approach:

1. Discuss key questions in group (common understanding)
2. Individual reading and writing
3. Share and collate



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## Definitions – Common understanding

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- Traditional Knowledge includes innovations, practices, knowledge, technologies, institutions, and adaptation (therefore relevant for mitigation AND adaptation!)
- Rights based approach (Article 8(j) of CBD) as part of participatory methods



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## Traditional Knowledge (TK)

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- IPsLC are key stakeholders and TK is essential for effectiveness because many decisions about deforestation and forest degradation are taken at local level, and because holistic understanding of forest values can inform decision making.
- TK needed for formulation and implementation of national interest (in some countries, FPIC is part of national legislation)



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# Specific roles of Traditional Knowledge

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- MRV: TK often the best or only way for cost-effective ground-truthing. Knowledge already exists, and IPsLC have an incentive to utilize the knowledge, in particular for forest degradation
- ‘Early warning system’ of threshold degradation levels: IPsLC the first to know impacts of degradation (e.g. depletion of rattan or other NTFPs and ecosystem services)



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# Specific roles of Traditional Knowledge

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- Support forest law enforcement and governance through traditional governance systems, and through local reporting of infringements (e.g. poaching; illegal logging)
- Local and traditional governance systems as blueprint for benefit sharing
- Knowledge about NTFPs: value and benefits of medicinal uses; spiritual values



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# Specific roles of Traditional Knowledge

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- Holistic knowledge and view of forests (e.g. spiritual values) can incentivize forest conservation and wise use
- Long-term memory of forest aspects can inform restoration: what species might work best in the long term
- Important role of ethnobotany as means to compile and make TK available



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# Specific roles of Traditional Knowledge

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- Communication channels: traditional networks can be used e.g. for awareness raising and sharing of experience
- TK holds good examples for sustainable natural resource management and landscape level planning, thus linking forest sector and other landscape elements



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## Ensuring REDD benefits

REDD has potential benefits for forest-dwelling indigenous peoples and local communities, but indigenous peoples are likely to benefit more from REDD where:

- they own their lands;
- there is the principle of free, prior and informed consent, and
- their identities and cultural practices are recognized and they have space to participate in policy-making processes.



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## REDD Opportunities

- Secure forest values and benefits for future generations
- New and restored forests could provide more ecosystem and monetary benefits to IPsLC; local funds could support local development (e.g. infrastructure; schools)
- Higher organization and advocacy skills of IPsLC and open doors for IPsLC in other policy processes



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## REDD Opportunities

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- Establish inventory and increase understanding of full range of benefits (not only \$), e.g. food security
- Bundling of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Early involvement (e.g. in phased approach) strengthens chance that benefits are generated
- Engage women's role and interests in resource management



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## REDD challenges

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- Incentivizes land grab (need to address key issues of governance; land tenure)
- Lack of awareness about full range of potential benefits for IPsLC - narrow focus on monetary benefits of REDD (but channel full range of benefits, including \$, to IPsLC)
- Lack of awareness and capacity of local and national authorities regarding IPsLC so that they are responsive



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