

# BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS OF REDD+ FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AFRICA

Presented by

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# INTRODUCTION

- Many African countries do not recognize existence of indigenous peoples within their borders.
- Lack of recognition has resulted into lack of constitutional, legislative, or even administrative measures to ensure that indigenous peoples enjoy their rights in equal footing to other communities.
- Many countries have however voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which was passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.
- Another window of opportunity is the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which established the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the Working Group of Experts on the Rights of Indigenous Populations.
- Lack of government recognition notwithstanding, many groups have been organizing themselves around the concept of indigenous peoples

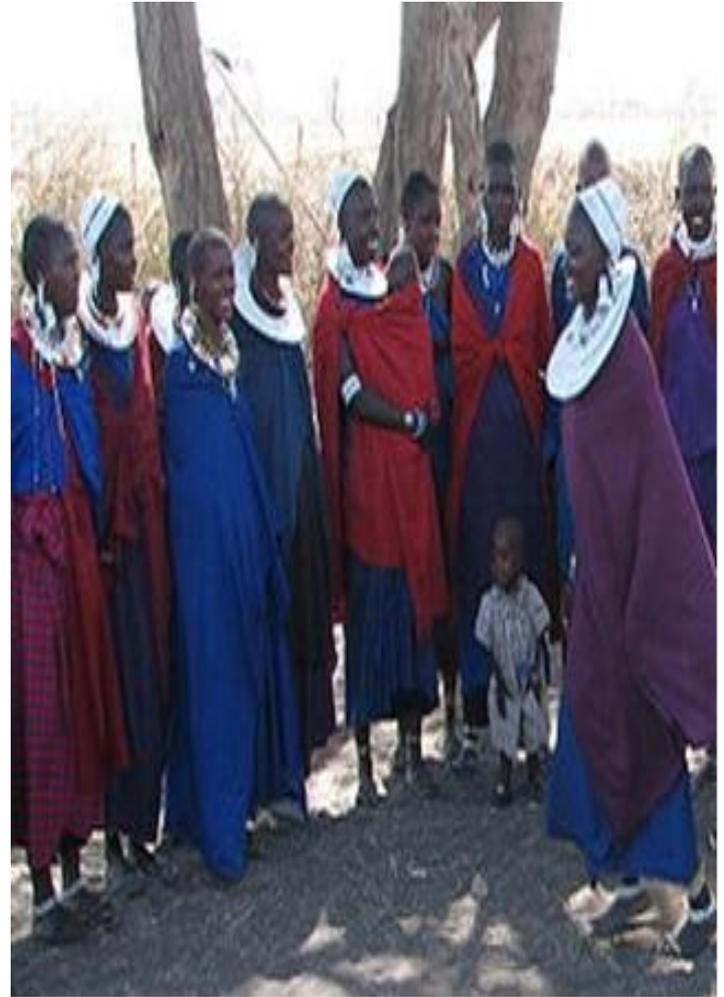
# ENGAGEMENT IN REDD ISSUES

- Indigenous Peoples of Africa have been actively engaging in REDD development both at the local and international levels.
- The International Indigenous People Forum for Climate Change (IIPFCC) being focal point
- This follows from a realization that many countries have embarked on developing national REDD strategies without involving indigenous
- peoples. Many countries have also formed task forces charged with coordinating REDD and climate change activities; in which indigenous peoples are not represented.
- REDD therefore provides a golden opportunity for recognition of IPs in Africa (Re: UN REDD, FCPF etc)



# Overarching Principles required by IPs of Africa

- There is need for minimum safeguards and standards for peoples and the environment
- That is both the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) as well as the Ecosystem Approach (EA)
- Principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Respect for indigenous peoples land and natural resource rights
- Consideration of traditional knowledge ( Re Article 8(j) of the CBD)



# RISKS OF NON INVOLVEMENT



- Perpetuation of the negative stereotype attitude that indigenous peoples destroy the environment.
- Possible enactment of laws, policies, plans and strategies that continue to negatively affect indigenous people's rights to land, natural resources, livelihoods and culture.
- Governments are also likely to implement project that will impact negatively on the indigenous people lives
- Benefit sharing is likely not to be taken into account
- Eviction of indigenous peoples from ancestral land

# WHY THE NEED FOR MULTIPLE BENEFITS

- Multiple benefits is in line with Indigenous Peoples conception of Forests management.
- Most of the indigenous people's lands in Africa are already under some sort of legal protections (such as a conservation area).
- Forests mean more than mere Carbon Off set or reducing emission they entail for example cultural and spiritual values.
- Holistic approach will ensure acting in accordance with international instruments such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and not focusing on money/economic benefits.

# CONCLUSION

- There is a need to reconsider land tenure issues more seriously
- There is a need to build capacities of Policy makers on indigenous peoples issues
- There is a need to promote the UNDRIP as a working tool for engagement of IPs in REDD issues

**ASANTENI SANA KWA KUNISIKILIZA  
(THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!)**