



To what degree are Multistakeholder Dialogues an essential component of Forest Governance Reform?

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Why consider MSDs as important?



MSDs – A sign of the times!

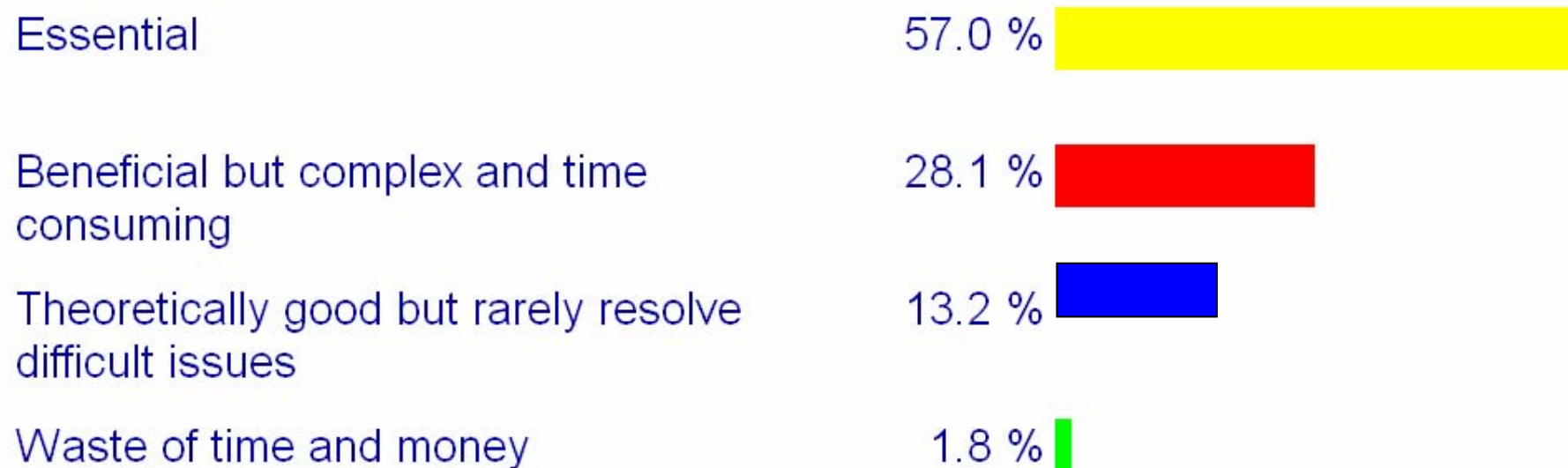
- Problems too big to be solved by governments alone
- It is not just policy formulation – its policy implementation!
- An alternative to adversarial interactions or tactical non-engagement!
- Trust is the key:
 - Stronger public confidence and interest in official decisions or actions taken
 - Better informed decisions
 - Improved prospects for effective follow-up





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How important are multi stakeholder dialogues in preparing for REDD





MSDs – Why would people want to participate?

- Access to information – which influences power!
- Access to decision-makers (formally through the MSD and informally through new contacts)
- Direct contribution to policy analysis
- Sharing of ideas and experiences across sectors
- Build relationships rather than continue conflict
- Specific individual agendas, e.g. protection, taxation, regulation, recognition of rights etc.



An overview of IUCN's experience

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE



Ghana – the Voluntary Partnership Agreement

- GoG requested IUCN to facilitate MSD in support of Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations
- There are several steps required to establish a MSD platform
- **Lessons:**
 - Facilitator **has to work** to command confidence of all sides
 - Don't assume all the stakeholders have been recognised – e.g. chainsaw lumbers are key actors but not an organized group
 - MSD more than organising meetings – implies additional activities
 - Deep consultation mechanisms will be required – this goes beyond simple representation
 - Be prepared to bring in expert advice – e.g. conflict resolution



D.R. Congo – testing MS approaches where state-led forest governance is evolving

- Assistance to communities, local government and private sector to test models for local and regional multistakeholder dialogue to address situation-specific conflicts, e.g.:
 1. Community vigilance and dialogue committees
 - 27 have been established in Bikoro territory
 - Need for intermediaries between customary forest owners and local authorities/logging companies.
 2. Territorial consultative committees
 - One has been established in Bikoro
 - Raises awareness, mediates conflict and promotes dialogue on forest issues.

Lesson:

- There is NO blueprint approach to facilitating MSDs but this does not invalidate the concept!



Sri Lanka – importance of private sector action

- Local multistakeholder forum established with community representation in Knuckles Environment Protection Area.
- In 2007 this forum was recognised under law, becoming the first instance of CBOs being formally incorporated into the decision-making structure of a protected area.
- Parallel to this Dilmah Tea Company support local communities to enhance market opportunities – linking governance with opportunity



Acre, Brazil – new spaces for new agendas

- Support state government willingness to create political space for addressing of sectoral (private sector, civil society) agendas
- Two tracks:
 1. Development of 'sectoral agendas' of private sector and civil society for governance reform
 - Networking, workshops, training, etc.
 2. Improvement of State Councils as decision-making bodies
 - Commissioned study that concluded that most State Councils did not facilitate civil society participation
- Results:
 - State Government processes are re-structured
 - New and improved state law on forest management
 - First State plan for forest concessions
 - Increased stakeholder participation in forest governance reform



IUCN's experience – General Results

- Ghana state-of-the-art multistakeholder dialogue is:
 - Reference point for all consultations in Ghana
 - Useful model for other countries engaging in VPA or other forest governance reform processes
- Thousands of people have learned about forest governance, FLEGT and VPAs
- Forest governance-related multistakeholder dialogues have been initiated in twelve countries
- Current MSD processes around specific issues (e.g. illegal logging) are being seen as precedents for broader participatory forest governance reform processes



Some lessons





Some lessons (i) - Success Factors

- Reach out to, and make the case for including, ‘non-traditional’ stakeholders
- Create conditions for established interests to build common cause with and recognise communities as key stakeholders (e.g. private sector and local communities)
- Ensure all stakeholders have equal access to public domain knowledge – e.g. inform communities about their rights
- Keep the process adaptable - no cookie cutter approaches
- Consultation is more than having “A” representative at the table



Some lessons (ii) - Challenges

- If the MSD is viewed as imposed from outside it will have limited effect
- Inadequate political commitment to meaningful participation is the easiest way to lose trust
- Entrenched positions prevent real discussion and negotiation
- Third party good intentions can unintentionally be counterproductive – e.g. how robust should the EU's additional measure be?
- No easy solutions - assertion of certain community or individual rights may disadvantage marginalised groups
- **GOOD NEWS!** These are reasons for, not against, MSDs



Outlook

- Forest Governance Reform is contingent on credible multistakeholder processes
- Challenge will be to go ‘beyond participation’ to:
 - There is no single “receipt” how to improve the quality of stakeholder inputs
 - As a rule ... deeper consultation is the desired state as opposed to “working group” participation
 - Address persistent situations of power imbalances (including within civil society)
 - Recognise that important stakeholders not always automatically at the table; e.g. chainsaw operators, small woodworking and furniture workshops, extra-sectoral groups
 - Strengthen self selection processes
 - THE END GAME IS IMPLEMENTATION!!