



# REDD+ AND LIVELIHOODS OF INDEGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ANTHONY PARAK KROND

PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

convened by



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD

# OUTLINE

- This Presentation
- Background
- Livelihoods of Forest Peoples
- REDD+ Projects in PNG
- Challenges of REDD+ Projects on Livelihoods
- The wild west?
- Current Status
- Way Forward
- Conclusions

# THIS PRESENTATION

- The challenges facing the implementation of REDD+ programs in Papua New Guinea
- Discuss issues facing the traditional owners of forestry carbon resources and especially their livelihoods
- Research on developing carbon markets in Papua New Guinea

# BACKGROUND

- Located around the equator, tropical island country. Indonesia to the west and Australia to the South.
- Population of over 7 million and annual growth rate of 2-3%
- 88% live a subsistence life style and depend on land for their livelihood
- 97% of land is owned by the local landowners
- Has total land area of 46 million hectares
- Forested area 60-70% which is about 25-28 million hectares

# LIVELIHOODS OF FOREST PEOPLES

- **Sedentary:** Established villages and grouped in clans and tribes. Both Coastal and Highlands
- Subsistence agriculture. Practice shifting cultivation. Taro, sweet potato, yams, pigs, dogs,
- Use the surrounding forests for clean water, hunting for game, medicines, construction materials
- Fallowing practice, allow secondary vegetation succession of old garden plots.

# LIVELIHOOD OF FOREST PEOPLES...

- **Semi-Nomadic:** Camps within traditional territories.
- Usually in the coastal forest zones and grassland plains.
- Hunting and Gathering of ecosystem resources
- Sago, wild pigs, fish and wild edible plants  
other wild game
- Fresh water, construction materials, medicinal plants, Spirituality, minerals, etc

# REDD+ PROJECTS

## Deforestation and Land Degradation

DRIVERS	ACTORS	REDD STATUS	MAGNITUDE
Subsistence gardening	Subsistence Farmers	Degradation Deforestation	
Industrial Logging	Foreign Logging Companies	Degradation Deforestation	
Mining	Foreign companies with tailings dam. Direct discharge into rivers	Deforestation	
Oil Palm, SABL's	Foreign Logging Companies	Deforestation	
Fires	Opportunistic and during long dry seasons El Nino	Degradation	

## CHALLENGES IN REDD+ PROJECTS...

- Logging code of practice not followed by most logging companies.
- Susceptible landowners were known to be coerced into signing land deals.
- Institutions and government systems were weak and did less to protect the rights, environment and livelihoods of local peoples.
- Illegal logging practices.



## CHALLENGES OF REDD+...

- Forest destruction, unsightly, polluted water ways, loss of livelihood, destroy culturally significant sites, habitat loss, biodiversity loss, food sources destroyed.
- Promised services such as roads, schools, housing, health services were not delivered as expected.
- Poorly compensation from log exports
- Tax evasion tactics.
- This has tarnished the reputation of the country and has affected its preparation for REDD+ Readiness stage.

# THE WILD WEST?

- Pre REDD+ periods, carbon investors invade the country with promises of goods and services.
- Government under the leadership of the former Prime Minister hastily put together a *de facto* institution staffed with people of questionable background. One of his cronies as CEO.
- No legislation, policy and poor community input.
- Went into dubious deals with two carbon investors.
- Attracted criticism and public protests both locally and international.

# CURRENT STATUS

- A new office dealing with Climate Change and Development. MRV, Adaptation, Mitigation, REDD+
- Legal jurisdiction, qualified staff, inclusive of all partnerships both local and international.
- Corporate documents of strategic plan, REDD+ standards and guidelines, hardware and technology for MRV,
- REDD+ formally accepted by UNFCCC and piloted in Asia Pacific, Amazon and Africa.
- Implementing the UN-REDD+ Initiative, CDM, PES using VCS and CCBA Gold Standards.
- Mangrove Reforestation funded by several foreign donors. In partnership with local coastal communities

# WAY FORWARD

- Is REDD+ about standing trees or cutting forests? i.e., preserving carbon stocks versus increasing carbon stocks?
- Will local owners of carbon stocks still be allowed to hunt and make gardens within their forest lands even when a REDD+ has commenced?
- Will REDD+ activities suffer the same fate as land use/forestry development?
- Will the owners of carbon stocks appreciate the environmental benefits rather than material benefits?
- Will the owners of carbon stocks accept REDD+ more than sustainable eco-friendly logging of their forest resources?

# CONCLUSIONS

- PNG has rich natural and cultural heritage. Much of this is connected to the ownership of the land and its resources.
- Major socio-economic changes impacts the balance of this pattern.
- Major impact on forest ecosystems by logging companies for a period of 15 years.
- REDD+ is a new concept of forest conservation and sustainable development that was championed by PNG.
- Question is whether concept will sustain the livelihoods of the 80% of the population who live in rural areas?