

- Inappropriate policies that undermine traditional forest-based livelihoods e.g. destructive development policies
- Limited "alternative" livelihood approaches that take people out of the forest;
- The continuing adherence to a needs-based as opposed to a rights-based approach, demoting indigenous peoples to resource extractors on their own customary territories;
- The lack of effective mechanisms by which indigenous peoples, women and youth can have a decisive voice in formulation of climate change policies, forest policy and management schemes
- The lack of adequate, gender and culturally appropriate capacity-building programs conceived by youth, women and indigenous peoples to assist them in the development of their own forms of traditional knowledge protection.



Project Goal

To contribute to fostering an enabling environment for successful implementation of REDD+ in Uganda, as reflected in the UN mandate under UN Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

Project Management Arrangement

The project is being implemented under the framework of Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples in Uganda (CSCIPU). PROBICOU, the host organization is the principal recipient of funds and coordinates the implementation of project activities. The project has a board which plays an oversight function and overall quality control. The project board is composed of 11 People. These members constitute representatives of implementing partners, representatives of the Executive Committee of CSCIPU, representatives from

the beneficiary communities, a representative from Uganda government (REDD Focal Point person) a representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) a representative from Civil society organization. This project board is responsible for advising, approving project plans and projects reports as well as providing the overall quality control for the project, and technical backstopping.

Project beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the project are the forest dependent communities which are Batwa, Iik, Beneti and Karamajong. The Batwa were evicted from Mgahinga and Bwindi forests to pave way for conservation. The Batwa live in the district of Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu and Bundibugyo. Traditionally the Batwa lived as hunters and gatherers, residing in temporary huts and caves, deriving sustenance from forest resources such as honey, wild fruits, mushrooms and vegetables. The project also targets the Beneti who were evicted from Mt. Elgon. The pastoral communities of Karamajong are also targeted. Because the project also aims at promoting participation and involvement of Indigenous people in decision making processes, other beneficiaries are the policy makers at the District Local Government Level (DLG), representatives of central government and members of civil society organizations.

Key Results of the project

- Strengthened coordination of Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples to be able to network, share information and monitor the inclusion of indigenous people and forest dependent communities in REDD+ processes.
- Strengthened secretariat at the host institution - to be able to coordinate activities of the coalition, network, fundraise, and design projects and initiatives that aim promoting continued participation of Indigenous people.
- Increased awareness and adept skills of trainers on rights of indigenous in implementation of REDD+ initiatives.
- Increased and strengthened coordination mechanisms/strategies for increased participation on indigenous people in the design and implementation of REDD+ Initiatives in Uganda
- Capacity of indigenous people and other forest dependent communities to effectively participate in policy-making and decision-making processes within UN-REDD Program activities enhanced through training of trainers.
- Indigenous peoples' views and issues and rights integrated in laws, policies and regulations for management of natural resources like land, and forests.
- Action Plans on implementation of strategies to increase participation and involvement of indigenous people developed.

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**BUILDING THE CAPACITY
OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO ACTIVELY
ENGAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN REDD+ PROCESSES IN UGANDA
(READINESS AND IMPLEMENTATION)**



BACKGROUND

The Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous Peoples in Uganda (CSCIPU) is a coalition of Civil Society Organizations that work to promote the rights of indigenous people in Uganda, notably; the Batwa, Benet, Iik and Karimojong. It was established in 2015 to amplify the voices of ingenious communities in Uganda and is currently hosted by Pro-biodiversity conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU).

With support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank, and the Mainyoto Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO), the coalition is currently implementing a project titled "Building the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to participate in National Redd+ processes in Uganda (Readiness and Implementation)". The collaborating partners in this project are; - Pro-biodiversity conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU), United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU) and Karamoja Women Cultural Group.

Indigenous Peoples and REDD +

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradations (REDD) is a scheme aimed at mitigating climate change. It can offer opportunities for strengthening indigenous communities' forest tenure and income generation.

REDD+ is an international climate change mechanism to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) integrated the REDD+ regime among key climate change mitigation strategies focusing on developing countries. Through the World Bank (WB), the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was established to help developing countries prepare proposals and strategies for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Uganda submitted REDD-Preparation Identification Note (R-PIN) to World Bank/Forests Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF) in June 2008, which served as a formal request for Uganda's participation in the FCPF program. The R-PIN provided an initial overview of land use patterns and causes of deforestation, stakeholder consultation process, and potential institutional arrangements in addressing REDD+.

In April 2011 Uganda submitted its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and in June 2011 the proposal was approved with some recommendations highlighting gaps. Uganda has since put in place initiatives to

address these gaps. For example; Uganda developed the REDD+ strategy 2011 – 2014 which involved establishing and assigning the task to a relevant task force an action by the National focal point with the approval from the REDD+ steering Committee. In addition, a number of stakeholders are implementing REDD+ activities and others have planned initiatives and pilots that could inform the process in different parts of the Country.

Key Issues and Experiences of Indigenous People

The participation of Indigenous peoples in REDD+ processes in Uganda is still challenged. Limited awareness and weak capacity hinders indigenous people from effectively engaging in the REDD+ processes. As has been in other countries, REDD+ initiatives will have several implications for indigenous and forest dependent communities in Uganda, comprising significant risks and harmful negative outcomes, as well as potential opportunities for positive outcomes if harnessed well. The project is therefore bringing on board indigenous people to actively participate in the design and implementation of Ugandan REDD+ processes.

The experience of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities has clearly shown that many countries lack legal provisions regarding participation of indigenous people and the need to secure Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Unfortunately, even the legal land tenure provisions are not potentially favorable to indigenous groups.



State prioritization of other forms of land use such as logging, oil speculation, and the formation of national parks among them - ensure that access to forests tends

to remain insecure, competition between users damaging the vital link between indigenous peoples and their territories.

In Uganda, the rights of indigenous people (women and youth) over the resources on which they depend, and which they have exerted management and customary land tenure regimes, are not properly secured under national law. While REDD+ process provides the opportunity to clarify issues regarding participation of indigenous people, tenure rights, and access to forest resources. The limited capacity of indigenous people, women and youth remains a challenge. Indigenous people, youth and women, may not benefit under REDD+ because they lack or have restricted land tenure rights, do not participate fully and effectively in consultations or decision-making process; have limited access and/or control of information, technology and tools; lack access/or control of income-generating forest activities and land tenure rights, and receive unequal benefits due to blind benefit sharing schemes. Indigenous peoples' right to own, use and control their traditional territories needs to be explicitly acknowledged in national and international policies, taking into account the cultural diversity of forest-dependent communities.

Although Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) has been recognized by the Ugandan government, (made provisions in its recent National Forest Plan whereby dispossessed communities manage and benefit from allocated forest lands), the policies were arrived at without proper consultation with indigenous and local communities. This has resulted in inappropriate and unjust normative, technical and institutional proposals that fail to protect traditional livelihoods. Indigenous people and local communities complain that these policies have been formulated without any consultation, and participation of indigenous representative organizations.

In summary the Effective Participation of REDD+ process is likely to be frustrated by a number of challenges.

The principal barriers may include:-

- Failure to respect land and territorial rights of youth, women and indigenous people
- Limited recognition of the value of women youth and indigenous peoples systems of sustainable forest management;