



The dangers of REDD+ for Indigenous Peoples, and the limitations of safeguards



The majority of parties in Cancun adopted a set of safeguards, but they are not legally binding



REDD+ = Performance-based payments: a country or actors within that country receives a payment for storing or sequestering a certain amount of carbon through forest-related activities (conservation, improved logging, plantation establishment, restoration).

Who will pay? Unclear, as developed countries say most of the funding will come from "private investors" = carbon offsets. But carbon markets are in crisis due to the lack of willingness to take up legally binding commitments. 98% of the regulated carbon market excludes REDD+ until 2010 (the EU Emissions Trading System).

Voluntary forest (and biodiversity) carbon offset market is unreliable, volatile, inequitable, corporate-driven, and unethical.

Other "private investments" will only come from forestry sector.



Most REDD+ funding will go to monoculture tree plantations if it is decided most funding comes from the private sector



Risks of REDD+

- Powerful elites will capture the benefits by grabbing forest land and closing false and unfair deals with forest peoples
- The drivers of forest loss and forest land grabbing will not be addressed
- Focus on carbon promotes monoculture tree plantations and ignores social and cultural values
- Counting how much carbon is stored is expensive – most funds will go to administrators
- REDD+ is a neo-liberal, market-driven approach that leads to commodification of life and undermining community values
- REDD+ will undermine the climate regime by allowing polluters to continue.



Indigenous Peoples' Organizations succeeded to raise awareness of policy-makers of potential negative impacts

UNFCCC and donor safeguards **suggest** Governments should respect right to participation and free prior and informed consent, as stipulated in UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

But Governments, donors and other organizations who can benefit from REDD+ present false information on the benefits of REDD+ and create conflict within communities



The FCCC safeguards are not legally binding, and proposals for information systems are even less binding.

UN-REDD has to comply with UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

World Bank operational policies require project proposals to ensure Indigenous Peoples agree with project, but these operational policies might be reversed.



Biocultural protocols can form a joint framework that strengthens the resilience of Indigenous peoples against top-down policies and project proposals that are imposed on them by outside actors. It allows people to reflect and build a joint vision on a community's own territory, traditional resource rights, livelihood aspirations, and governance structures. It can also help them formulate in advance what their position will be if they are approached by outside actors with REDD+ proposals, and how they want to be consulted on such proposals.

Through the development of a Biocultural Protocol, indigenous peoples and communities can make more effective use of their right to Free Prior and Informed Consent.



Beware of the GRIMM REDD Fairy
Tales...demand Indigenous rights to be
respected