

## Brief Presentation Concept

Results and Implications of REDD+ Incentives in Africa on Tenure Rights of Indigenous Peoples.  
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In Africa, with a forest cover of 675 million hectares that account for 23% of the total land area, the continent's rapid deforestation is threatening the flow of key environmental goods and services at the local, national and global levels especially with the humid forests particularly in Central Africa, where the Congo Basin that is considered the second largest forest in the world is found. The continent has with agency been involved in global mechanisms crafting solutions and incentives to address global emissions and climate change with specific interest in the Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation, forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks(REDD+)mechanism.<sup>2 3</sup>

The engagement of Indigenous peoples with the REDD+ mechanism is premised on opportunities that would be obtained with meaningful participation at all levels including at international spheres such as clarity on land tenure in Indigenous peoples' territories, injection of much needed finances into the forestry sector, push for needed forest policy and governance reforms to put Indigenous peoples at the center of forest governance, implementation of REDD+ safeguard policies to secure a variety of rights for Indigenous peoples and equitable sharing of benefits, diversified livelihood options and protection of Indigenous cultures and inclusion of traditional knowledge systems in REDD+ governance. The engagement was also cognizant of inherent risks to the livelihoods of the very communities that the REDD+ projects are designed to benefit particularly rural communities that depend on forest resources if the interventions are implemented free of safeguards.<sup>4 5</sup>

Results of REDD+ interventions in regards to tenure rights of Indigenous peoples have made great strides in clarifying and mitigating against risks associated to evictions and loss of land rights for Indigenous peoples, state control over forests reversing gains made by communities in conservation, centralized, top-down forest management leading to the exclusion of Indigenous peoples from decision-making processes, land speculation and dispossession through land grabbing by powerful individuals and corporations without Indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent and possible violation of Indigenous peoples' livelihoods, cultures and traditional knowledge systems.

The elements inherent in the REDD+ process provide a framework for inclusive engagement of all stakeholders though national level implementation varies across countries with differences in land tenure systems, deforestation and degradation drivers, recent experience with conservation and governance capacity with a range of deforestation pressures, financial resources, technical capacity and a diverse array of interest and sectoral groups presenting challenges to REDD+ implementation.<sup>6</sup>

1IP Hub Africa is an Initiative supporting the co-creation of Indigenous peoples space in Africa.  
[www.iphubafrica.space](http://www.iphubafrica.space)

2GLP Report No.3 2012. Challenges and Prospects for REDD+ in Africa

3Indigenous Peoples Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative, Indigenous Peoples and REDD+; A critical perspective

4AfDB Knowledge Series, October 2016. REDD+ In Africa

5Sustainability Resource Institute. Exploring the agency of Africa in designing REDD+ and the associated implications from national level implementation.

6IPACC, November 2011. African Indigenous Peoples and REDD+