

Side event WRI : Parallel Paths to Cancun: Taking Stock of Progress across the Different REDD+ Negotiations

My name is Mariana Christovam, I am from IPAM, Amazon Environmental Research Institute, a Brazilian environmental NGO, with its main office located in Belém, a city in Amazon Basin. I am currently based in Brasilia, and that is why I was one of the representatives of a few Brazilian NGO's able to attend to the Partnership meeting that took place in Brasilia last 14th and 15th of August.

Just to remember, what was the partnership for? As per the document signed in Oslo, the Partnership aims to be an interim body to assist and contribute to the UNFCCC REDD process being replaced by it as soon as a future mechanism including REDD+ is established under that Convention.

Taking the exact same words of the Oslo document, *"The core objective of the Partnership is to contribute to the global battle against climate change by serving as an interim platform for the Partners to scale up REDD+ actions and finance, and to that end to take immediate action, including improving the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and coordination of REDD+ initiatives and financial instruments, to facilitate among other things knowledge transfer, capacity enhancement, mitigation actions and technology development and transfer."*¹

In this sense we have seen the partnership as a channel to coordinate the existing REDD+ mechanisms and projects and to identify and address the possible financing gaps and overlaps. We looked to the Partnership to bring some coherence to the many REDD+ initiatives developed in this field since Bali and raising a potential proposal of a global (multilateral) finance coordination body with the ability to support implementation of REDD+ globally in a consistent and cohesive way.

However so far this is not quite what we have observed, especially after the Oslo meeting. In general to this point, the Partnership appears to lack clear and defined rules for that Partnership to advance and in part this was intentional. On the one hand, Partners did not want to have to develop so many rules that they would be stuck in lengthy bureaucracy, and on the other hand they miss a minimum level of rules and guidance to solve issues relating to stakeholders participation, for example. I will not go through all the elements we analyzed and discussed that did not reach a consensus in this last formal meeting, or I would not give sufficient time to the other speakers.

For example, according to the UNREDD Programme's rules, civil society and IPs have acquired membership on the Policy Board by a self-selection process - four representatives of each of these stakeholder categories are elected as observers through a self-selection process according to the four geographic areas (one member for Latin America & Caribbean, one for Africa, one for Asia & Pacific and one for Developed Countries). One of each of these two stakeholder categories holds the status of the full member of the Policy Board. The full member rotates then amongst the four representatives so, that the other three observers subsequently become a full member. Funding is

¹ Document available at url:

<http://www.oslocfc2010.no/pop.cfm?FuseAction=Doc&pAction=View&pDocumentId=25019>

normally provided for the developing civil society representatives. Regarding the Policy Board meeting, we receive the agenda for input well in advance (at least 15 days) and have the right of voice and vote through our full member spokesperson. The relevant documents are made available electronically at least 10 working days before the decision date. IPs also have a full member in the policy board.

In our case, IPAM was elected as the Latin America and Caribbean civil society representative. A 3 months process ended up with one third of the civil society votes to IPAM. Since then, IPAM has started a capacity building and information sharing process in order to inform the civil society about the UN-REDD program, which includes:

- The creation of an e-mail group for the exchange of information ,
- a virtual platform in Spanish for all the Latin American community, the UN-REDD América Latina y Caribe “Espacio para debatir cuestiones acerca de UN-REDD en América Latina y Caribe” (<http://un-redd-amlatinaycaribe.ning.com/>). Now we have approximately 100 members per country in the region,
- a co-organization of a Conference at COP15 to civil society, with COICA (the representative of IPs for Latin America & caribbean in UN-REDD). It included 50 participants, and
- Participation on the 4th Policy Board for the approval of Bolivia, DRC and Zambia’s Program’s. In that meeting, Ipam analyzed Bolivia’s national strategy and provided input as a specialized Research Institute on Amazon forest issues.

Through these official participation means, we inform our constituencies that we represent, and work with them to engage in the process, together with the countries, helping to build capacity, listening to their needs and recommendations for REDD+ policies and institutions.

The governance structure of Brazil’s Amazon Fund is another possible model. Its Guiding Committee consists of three membership constituencies: federal government, state governments and civil society, which includes representatives of IPs, NGOs, labour unions, the research community and the private sector. Under the Amazon Fund, each constituency has one vote, with respect to committee decisions, and each member has one vote within their constituency. We have elected ISA, Instituto Socioambiental, which is not a UNFCCC registered member, and if this partnership restricts representation to UNFCCC participants, as it appears that some Partners prefer, it could exclude some locally important representatives from participating in this process and as application to the UNFCCC can take up to a year, this would not allow them access to the Partnership in a timely manner.

FIP and FCPF also have their official ways of giving civil society and IPs official mandates to participate. We could provide other very good examples, like the CBd (Convention for Biodiversity) that grant a very good level of participation to stakeholders. However, what is extremely important

to keep in mind ladies and gentlemen, is that (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) was not included in the Partnership agreement, and this can represent a risk to the IPs rights. We cannot lead to a distrust of the process, violating the credibility of the Oslo meeting and going back to the lack of confidence among civil society stakeholders that was seen at COP 13.

So, the minimum we expect from the Partnership is to have the same level of participation that the REDD+ multilateral initiatives already established, and we have not seen this since Oslo. This is the only way in which the partnership can accomplish its goals. If we are excluded from the process, we will lack understanding and cannot contribute to the Partnership in reaching common goals.

We must recognize that civil society and IPs, together with governments, really work to reduce deforestation and foster conservation most efficiently and effectively than if they would work individually.

REDD+ will only work with collaboration among government *at many levels*, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, private sector including investors, project developers and commodities producers that actually *have influence over land use decisions*. **The Partnership should reflect this reality of REDD+ by including representatives of these groups in a meaningful way.**

However, we still believe that the partnership is the forum where we need to strengthen the trust and the political will to move ahead on making REDD a reality, scaling up the funds and coordinating efforts among institutions.

Partnership must establish rules that guarantee the meaningful inclusion of relevant stakeholder groups and finally ensure that fast-start funding is spent transparently and effectively. For that, we hope the work plan (designed “informally” that means in closed meetings, where CSO participation was prohibited) pays special attention to ensuring implementation of the safeguards (biodiversity and full participation) and the next formal meetings, starting with today’s - to be open to CSO.

Thank you very much for your attention