
1. Introduction:

Institutional capacities building workshops on Community Organizations, Representatives, Women and Youth Groups, Impact and Participation in REDD+ Structures was organized by the Wise Administration of Terrestrial Environment and Resources (WATER) for community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups, impact and participation in REDD+ structures. This activity is funded by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) through Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO) for the implementation of the “Capacity building actions to increase understanding of forest dependent IPs and their organizations on national REDD+ strategy in Nigeria project”’. The activity held in Ekuri community from June 6 – 7, 2019 and was attended by 20 participants consisting of community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups made up of 5 organizations, 6 women, 5 men and 4 youth representatives.

2. REDD+ Stakeholders:

The REDD+ stakeholders consist of five stakeholder groups namely the technical Expert which is the government and private sector experts that design and guide implementation of REDD+ activities. This include Government technicians, consultants, project developers, auditors. Others include the decision maker consisting of people responsible for land use decisions at larger scales comprising of Government policy makers, land owners, community leaders; and local community member consisting of groups of people that live in the areas directly affected by REDD+ activities, such as communities that depend on forest resources or that live inside forest areas such as Indigenous peoples, members of local communities.

The fourth stakeholder group is the civil society made up of community-based organizations, NGOs/ advocacy organizations, traditional authorities, academic institutions that seek to understand and influence the REDD+ program e.g. NGOs, academic institutions. Finally, the Investor are organizations that provide funding for REDD+ through donations or the purchase of emissions reductions which consist of governments, private companies, philanthropic foundations.
This technical report is based on the Institutional capacities building workshops of community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups, impact and participation in REDD+ structures:

3. Methodology:

The workshop used different approaches from facilitation, historical trend, group work, plenary and the most memorable stories on capacity building on REDD+. This elicited enthusiasm from the participants who willingly without restrain, contributed effectively to the processes towards achieving REDD+ Program in Cross River State of Nigeria.

The characteristics of the stakeholders of RED+ in Cross River State include gender, age range, educational level, language spoken and educational method used. The description of the stakeholders includes man/woman, with age range of 10 years and above, illiteracy, primary, secondary and university education, English and indigenous languages. Short and long-term workshops, field trips written materials etc.

4. REDD+ Themes of Interest:

The participants through facilitation, identified stakeholders REDD+ Theme of interest in Cross River State consisting of: Stakeholder Engagement, Perspectives on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Social and Environmental Safeguards, Reference Level and Reference Emission Levels, Measurement, Reporting and Verification and finally on REDD+ Funding and Finance.

5. Technical Capacity Needed by Community Organizations, Representatives, Women and Youth Groups:

For community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups to make meaningful impact in Cross River State of Nigeria on REDD+, there is a crucial need to build their technical capacities as to record the required results. Though the Scale of REDD+ and REDD+ Readiness Processes has been concluded and now awaiting the Investment Stage, the level of knowledge and skills of Community Organizations, Representatives, Women and Youth Groups on REDD+ still remain low on themes earlier mentioned which they need their capacities built.

During the investment stage, the stakeholder engagement be strengthened in a robust manner by building the capacities of community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups, make the program open and accountable. The Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) needs improvement in the next level of REDD+ stage as community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups contend that there is poor and no formal FPIC. The stakeholders require that
their capacities be enhanced so the REDD+ Pilot Sites of Ekuri/Iko, Afi/Mbe and the Mangrove communities are on the same page. The capacities of community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups on REDD+ Social and Environmental Safeguards, Measurement, Reporting and Verification and Reference Levels and Reference Emission Levels are weak and low. The building of their capacities is necessary to improve their knowledge and skills to assist them engage meaningfully in REDD+ processes and structures. This will bring about building trust of the local stakeholders in the REDD+ program, guaranteeing commitments, efforts and sustainability of the program.

6. **Type of capacity building:**
To sustain the commitments and efforts of community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups for the effective delivery of the REDD+ program in Cross River State of Nigeria, there is need to develop a capacity building plan based on training needs. Such a plan may include resources needed, schedule of activities, and format to be used. The type of trainings may include:
- Short-term capacity building initiatives
- Long-term capacity building initiatives (e.g. long-term mentoring of individuals)
- In-person trainings (e.g. workshops or short-term courses)
- Online courses
- Production of training materials (e.g. posters/flyers/books/manuals)
- Radio/TV
- Others.

7 **Conclusion:**
It is hoped that this technical report will assist the implementers of REDD+ to do the needful and galvanize community organizations, representatives, women and youth groups to contribute their quota to the required successes of REDD+ in Cross River State of Nigeria.

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**References:**