The emergence of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and conserving, sustainably managing and enhancing forest carbon stocks (collectively referred to as REDD+) has generated great interest as a possible means of increasing support for the forest stewardship activities of indigenous peoples and local communities. If done well, REDD+ initiatives could strengthen community land and resource rights, empower community institutions and increase income through benefit sharing. Yet, REDD+ has also sparked concerns about possible adverse impacts on indigenous and community rights and livelihoods, such as restrictions on land and resource rights, increased centralization of forest management and inequitable benefit-sharing.

WWF believes that REDD+ is a key to effective climate change mitigation but needs to integrate strong social and environmental safeguards. WWF’s Guiding Principles for REDD+ emphasize respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and contributions to community livelihoods. Effective REDD+ programmes must ensure that risks are reduced and incentives for community stewardship are strengthened.

**Guiding Principles for REDD+**

WWF has adopted the following guiding principles for REDD+:

- **Climate** - REDD+ demonstrably contributes to greenhouse gas emission reductions with national goals working toward a global objective.
- **Biodiversity** - REDD+ maintains and/or enhances forest biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **Livelihoods** - REDD+ contributes to sustainable and equitable development by strengthening the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.
- **Rights** - REDD+ recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **Fair & Effective Funding** - REDD+ mobilizes immediate, adequate and predictable resources for action in priority forest areas in an equitable, transparent, participatory and coordinated manner.

Safeguards enacted in 2010 under the United Nations Climate Convention provide an important framework for reducing risks and ensuring benefits to indigenous peoples and other forest communities from REDD+, including with reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Governments and other REDD+ actors must now ensure that these provisions are implemented in national programmes and projects.
For more information:

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