FROM THE TREE OF PRACTICES TO THE FOREST OF KNOWLEDGE

A guide to identifying, capturing, sharing and communicating REDD+ Inspiring Practices

PURPOSE
This exercise gives stakeholders a chance to consider REDD+ project’s history, progress and expectations for the future.

DESCRIPTION
A graphic representation of the sequence of events or milestones that are most significant in a project or practice.
- The activity coordinator asks participants to write the facts that, from their point of view, have been significant in the history of the experience or program (reference points, turning points, incorporation of new stakeholders, conflicting events, events that showed progress, etc.) on cards.
- On one or more sheets of paper placed on the wall a horizontal line representing the timeline is drawn; the starting date at one end and the closing date at the other. Depending on the number of participants, participants can work all together or in groups to make multiple timelines that are later incorporated into a general one.
- Taking turns, participants discuss the activities that they identified as important milestones. (e.g. a change in political contacts, a conflict that brought interesting consequences, the entry of a new stakeholder that produced changes, the discovery of a new methodology that solved difficulties, etc.). They then mark these milestones on the timeline.
- The coordinator records what each participant says and streamlines their reflections. It is possible that many participants agree on the location of those moments or that discussions arise regarding the importance of the selected activities. The important thing is to agree to collectively develop a timeline representing the perspectives of all stakeholders.
- The timeline, which is the final product of the activity, is a very important document for the recording of the practice or program. It can be reproduced to make it available to other stakeholders.

Variants of this technique:
The following activities are variants on the timeline activity, and can be ideal for visual learners or in settings where stakeholders do not share the same language.

The River of Life
- Ask a volunteer to draw a river flow on a large piece of paper
- Invite participants draw images representing milestones on the project on and within the picture of the river.
- When the group finishes drawing, start a conversation about what each participant sees in the river and how the milestones relate to each other and to the final outcome of the project.

The Patchwork Quilt
The name of this activity refers to quilts that are made by joining together different fabrics, cuts and dissimilar patterns to form a unified product.
- Ask participants to draw or cut out pictures from magazines to represent three stages of the practice: the past, the present and the future they imagine.
- Record or film the discussions about the different stages, and take photograph of the final product.

PARTICIPANTS
- People who took part in the same experience or a project
- Coordinator

WHEN TO USE IT
If the practice is in progress or initiating a new phase

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Adequate space for group work
- Paper and cards
- Markers
- Magazines with pictures (for the Patchwork Quilt activity)