



Corruption and other Governance Challenges in the Philippines vis-à-vis REDD initiatives

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Philippine Study



- Nature and Purpose: Similar to the U4 study
- Methodology: Review of literature and conduct of interviews of officials and key officers in government agencies (Climate Change Commission, Philippine negotiator on REDD, Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR], National Commission on Indigenous Peoples [NCIP]), leaders from civil society, private sector, donor agency



Governance in the Philippines: Rhetoric vs. Reality



- Multiple laws and policies on environmental and natural resource management, transparency and accountability
- Problems on overlapping institutional roles and conflicting priorities
- Weak enforcement of laws and policies
- Corruption as a cultural and psychological phenomenon in the Philippines



Legal Framework on Environment and Natural Resource Management



- State ownership over all natural resources counterbalanced by laws and policies on indigenous peoples
- Thrust towards decentralization, participation and community-based management



Forestry Sector



- Community-based Forest Management Strategy
- Encompassing perception of weakness in the oversight of the forestry sector
- Technical expertise and human resources are not maximized



REDD and Governance



- Growing interest in REDD as a new mechanism to combine forest protection with objectives of climate protection, biodiversity conservation and improvement of local livelihoods
- As a performance-based incentive, it can positively influence forest management efforts
- REDD requires sound policy and good governance arrangements



REDD Initiatives and Challenges



- Progressive, participatory, consensus-seeking and collaborative efforts between government and civil society towards the development of the Philippine National REDD Plus Strategy (PNRPS)
- PNRPS as a strategic outlook for REDD+ development; specifies REDD+ actions in seven overlapping components (policy, governance, resource use, allocation and management, research, MRV, capacity building and sustainable financing)



Governance Thrust



- PNRPS' thrust: multi-level and multi-stakeholders' participation, with the inclusion of global, national and local players
- Conducting broad based consultations and meaningful engagement
- Integrating REDDplus in sectoral plans
- Establishing national and subnational REDD+ coordinating agencies
- Establishing equitable benefit-sharing schemes with local government units and communities



Some Insights and Recommendations



- Develop new approaches (eg. REDD must not be marketed as money)
- Sustain the momentum in the PNRPS process
- Broaden participation in REDD plus discourse, advocacy and engagements (building on the gains of community-based management)
- Institutionalize multisectoral, multi-stakeholder management



Some Insights and Recommendations



- Adopt access to information and transparency norms and other creative strategies to insulate REDD process and tools from corruption (learning from pilot projects) – civil society will play a critical role



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THANK YOU