Final Evaluation Report of the IUCN "Towards Pro-Poor REDD+" Project (Phase II)

Final Report

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Executive summary

The Towards Pro-Poor REDD+ Project

In December 2013 the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida) approved a grant of 25 million DKK for a four year second phase of a project entitled "Towards pro-poor REDD." This second phase of the project, which is a continuation of an earlier phased implemented between 2009 and 2013, is entitled "Towards pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II: Promoting pro-poor REDD+ principles and rights-based approaches to strengthen the conservation, governance and sustainable management of landscapes in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Province of Indonesia and Uganda" (or "Towards Pro-poor REDD+ Phase II). This project pursues the goal of ensuring that "by 2020 national climate change mitigation initiatives incorporate pro-poor principles and human rights based approaches (HRBA) to deliver policies and implement programs that reduce deforestation and forest degradation while simultaneously contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods and the long-term security of carbon stocks in key forest rich regions". The project covers the period 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017. The Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is responsible for implementing the project, which comprises "landscape", sub-national, national and global actions and involves the five project countries.

There are 3 components of the project: Component A: Demonstrate the value of human rights-based approaches and pro-poor principles in REDD+ and economic development strategies through landscape-level results; Component B: National capacities to mainstream human rights-based and pro-poor principles into climate, REDD+ and green growth strategies; Component C: Integration of human rights-based approaches and pro-poor principles into global frameworks and standards beyond the selected project countries.

Evaluation objectives and methods

An external evaluation of this second phase has been commissioned by IUCN as part of its contractual requirement with Danida. This report summarises the findings, conclusions and recommendations of that evaluation. The aims of the evaluation are to:

- define the project's achievements, contributions to and impacts on national, sub-national and landscape climate change mitigation (REDD+), forest governance and conservation policies and strategies in the five target countries;
- define and quantify the project's contribution to global REDD+ policy processes;
- address OECD DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact;
- demonstrate how the project contributed to the Danish Government's Strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation and the IUCN global programme respectively.

The report draws strongly on five national case studies commissioned as part of this evaluation, which explore the outcomes and contribution of the IUCN project at landscape and national or jurisdictional levels. In many cases, the initial findings and conclusions of these case studies have been validated through workshops held in-country with key partners and beneficiaries. Where

possible, these workshops have aimed to identify the nature and strength of the project's contribution.

International and overall programmatic aspects of the project have been evaluated separately by the team leader. The evaluation has used a range of sources as evidence for this exercise, including country-level case studies, interviews with beneficiaries, government agencies, international organisations, project staff and project partner staff as well as IUCN staff working in Gland and Washington DC. Project reports, studies and assessments conducted at national and international levels have complimented documentation produced by external agencies that reflects the influence of the project. All written sources are referenced as footnotes.

Project impacts, outcomes and contribution

A highly simplified theory of change diagram has been prepared as preparatory input to this evaluation that traces four impact pathways and impact areas. Overall, the evaluation has found that while these impact pathways have been followed by the project, in many cases, the pathways have yet to be completed to the level of impact (realised through, for example, changes in livelihoods or forest cover, over a wide area). Achievements to date have mainly involved outcome level changes, such as changes to government policies, plans and investment frameworks. The evaluation has concluded that policy level outcomes are strongest within the context of national and jurisdictional level processes (outcome area 2), with good results also captured within the context of landscape processes (outcome area 1). Important contributions have been made within the context of international processes (outcome area 3) but it has not been possible to identify visible policy impacts beyond capacity and awareness changes. Within IUCN, the project has contributed to broadening horizons and capacity changes (outcome area 4), but yet to make substantial contributions to policy level changes. Outcomes around these four impact pathways are summarised below.

Outcome area 1: Landscape level improvements in rights, governance and forests

Overall, the country-level case studies have shown that outcomes and impacts at landscape level have focussed mostly in two key areas – on developing, implementing and testing governance and livelihood activities that are compatible with local development priorities and reduced deforestation (Box 1), and on communicating the results of this work to policy makers with a view to influencing national REDD+ investment plans and processes. Governance activities have been successfully implemented in all countries, with particularly strong examples from Indonesia, Ghana and Cameroon. With regard to livelihood support, the primary objective has been identifying, assessing, demonstrating and integrating sustainable livelihood options that are compatible with both conservation and development objectives, explored through the production of business plans and feasibility studies. Large-scale, direct delivery of livelihood benefits has not been a primary focus of the project. In all cases, evidence from the country case studies shows that the strategy of using landscapes as an area for testing and communicating workable approaches has been a successful one. Within the landscapes, the scale and maturity of these livelihood interventions has varied significantly. Positive experiences are reported from Guatemala and Uganda. However, experience in other countries has so far been mixed. Overall, within the project landscapes implementation remains at an early stage and is unlikely to deliver solid local benefits before the end of the project period. The project has tried, with some degree of success, to identify alternative sources of funding, through a range of channels, including private sector social responsibility funding (Cameroon), small

grant schemes (Uganda), follow on projects (Ghana, Uganda, Guatemala) and local government funding (Indonesia). There is currently no evidence regarding the impact of the project on forests or carbon stocks at landscape levels and as such it is not possible to provide any assessment of the influence of the project in this area.

<u>Outcome area 2: Emerging national and jurisdictional REDD+ policies, programmes and investments incorporate pro-poor and HRBA</u>

There is strong evidence from many countries regarding the contribution of the project to the inclusion of gender within national REDD+ investment strategies and plans. In Phase I of the Towards Pro-poor REDD project, gender road maps were developed in Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda, in collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO), and civil society platforms were established and strengthened across all project countries to foster participation in REDD+ and equitable governance of forest. In Phase II, this work has been continued and expanded or taken further in all project countries while the gender mainstreaming dimension was taken further in Uganda, Cameroon, Ghana and Guatemala. In Indonesia, gender has not been given the same level of priority seen in other project-supported countries. Strong evidence also exists regarding the influence of the project with regard to the development of key REDD+ planning and investment plans and programmes. This is well advanced in Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon and Guatemala. The project in Indonesia has adopted a subnational approach with strong implementation focus in the two Papua Provinces; while the project team in the country have made a deliberate decision to reduce their level of ambition with regard to the integration of their work into national REDD+ plans and investment frameworks, it has instead made strong progress in influencing local government, spatial and forest management planning frameworks, with a view to integrating and facilitating the consideration of prevailing customary land management tenure processes.

As a strategy to support the inclusion of pro-poor and HRBA within the context of emerging national and jurisdictional REDD+, there is further evidence that project has supported civil society action across many countries, helping them position themselves to more effectively advocate on policy reforms. National and sub-national civil society coalitions and networks have been effectively supported and are able to more effectively advocate and influence national policies and plans relating to REDD+, forest management and land-use. IUCN's strong networks and trusted relationship with both government and civil society has been instrumental in supporting such processes.

<u>Outcome Area 3: International REDD+ programmes and processes (FCPF, Initiative on Climate Transparency, UNFCCC) incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies</u>

Funding constraints, as well as a shifting focus in Phase II have meant that outcomes in this domain have been relatively modest. As with impact area 2, one area where the project has made greatest contributions is with regard to gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement. Gender mainstreaming is most evident within the context of the FCPF, to which IUCN is represented through the international oversight and co-ordination body, the Participants Committee (PC). By building on and communicating lessons from project-supported countries (notably Guatemala, Uganda, Ghana and Cameroon), gender has been promoted strongly at international level through FCPF PC meetings. Pro-poor approaches have been successfully promoted across FCPF through the medium of country level presentations at PC meetings. These presentations are given when countries have completed either mid term reports or have undertaken readiness assessments (known as R-

Packages). Despite these positive contributions, it is not possible to identify any concrete policy changes at programme level within FCPF as a result of IUCN's influencing work.

IUCN, through its Global Gender Office and with some support from and collaboration with the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project, have been advocating for "gender-responsive" actions at international-level within the context of UNFCCC. Areas where specific contributions have been realised are with regard to the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) agreed during the Lima COP, preamble text to the Paris Agreement, which included strong references to gender; and most recently at the Morocco COP, which resulted in the extension of the LWPG. IUCN have also advocated consistently that gender should become a standing agenda item at all subsequent COP meetings, something that has now been formalized.

A stated aim of Output 3 was to influence the international framework for REDD+ safeguards (both voluntary and those within UNFCCC agreements). Progress here has been limited, with most contribution recorded within the context of the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) being promoted by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance.

<u>Outcome Area 4: IUCN programmes incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies</u>

Although not specifically defined as an outcome area within the Phase II project document, the Pro-poor project has supported the development of an implementation framework for HRBA within IUCN, drawing on practical experiences from the field. One of the areas identified to facilitate the institutionalisation of HRBA is the development of an environmental and social management system (ESMS), which is used in programme appraisal to identify and mitigate any potential negative impacts. The project has supported the roll out of the initiative at regional and country levels as well as through the drafting of guidance notes. Despite this promising progress, other areas of institutional reform are needed to operationalize HRBA (such as programme design and programme M&E), which have yet to be developed. As such, the integration and roll-out of HRBA into operational frameworks is variable across IUCN as an institution and is dependent on interest and commitment of programme heads within different departments.

Assessment of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability

The table below summarises the degree to which the project meets the OECD/DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability (impact having been addressed above).

OECD/DAC Criteria	Evaluation findings
Relevance	The project is highly relevant at country level across all five countries. Reflects shift in centre of gravity of REDD+ from international level (up to end 2014) to national and sub-national level planning and implementation (from 2015 onwards)
	The project is highly relevant at international level: National level focus relevant to increased international focus on challenges of REDD+ implementation, including results-based actions
	The project is highly relevant to both Danida and IUCN, both of which have made institutional commitments to move towards human rights based approaches.
Effectiveness	Good progress has been made against all outputs, although degree to which project has impacted on livelihoods and forests (as defined under output 1) is limited.
	High levels of policy influence have been achieved across most countries, particularly with regard to influencing national REDD+ policies, processes and investment plans
	Effective national level implementation, through local NGO partners at field sites
	By end of June 2017 (three and half years into implementation) 77% of project funds

	had been spent.
	Insufficient attention to ensuring that the combined learning and experience of the project as a whole (across all five countries) with regard to the integration of HRBA and pro-poor approaches into REDD+ is documented and effectively communicated
Efficiency	Remote and inaccessible areas selected for project implementation have generated unavoidable additional project costs than would otherwise have been expected. To some degree these additional costs have been mitigated by the identification and deployment of competent local partners.
	"Split level" nature of the project, requiring activities at landscape, national and international levels has also generated additional costs than more traditionally designed projects, although these additional costs appear justified, given the obvious benefits gained with regard to national and international level influencing
	Value for money of the project increased through contributions and influence over REDD+ financing and investment plans at national level and the "catalytic" nature of national and landscape level activities
	Further benefits and value for money gained through IUCN as an institution, with its wide networks, influence and sphere of influence, which the project was able to capitalise on.
Sustainability	Prospects for continuation of local level governance and livelihood benefits appear good across most landscapes. IUCN as well as IUCN's in-country partners have been actively pursuing additional external funding, which builds upon and continues project-established momentum within the same landscapes.
	In all countries supported by the project, there has been a deliberate effort to engage with government bodies at different levels in order to integrate project-supported activities with those of government. As such, many of the landscape level processes and interventions are now embedded into local government plans and funding streams.
	In most countries there have been successful attempts to identify and influence future financing streams for results based financing and climate mitigation. This means that as these funding streams come online in the final stages of the project's life, interventions of the type supported by the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project are likely to continue through other sources of funding, although in some cases, this may be in different locations.

Assessment of project contributions to Danida and IUCN priorities

In 2017, the Danish government published a new strategy for development co-operation[1], which provides an overview of how development and humanitarian assistance will be prioritised between now and 2030. Overall, the evaluation found little or no contribution of the project to the first two strategic goals (which relate mostly to humanitarian assistance, support to fragile states and reintegration of refugees) but found strong contributions to the third and fourth strategic goals (relating to sustainable development, human rights, gender and inclusion).

IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) is contributing directly to 16 targets within IUCN's strategic plan during this inter-sessional period. Generally, the Towards pro-poor project is well aligned with these organisational targets, with the evaluation finding that the project is making strong contributions to 9 targets, medium contributions to 2 targets, and little or no contribution to 5 targets.

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[1] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida. 2017. The World 2030. Denmark's strategy for development co-operation and humanitarian action.

Conclusions and lessons learned

The evaluation has shown that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has been able to identify, test and demonstrate that sustainable natural resource management processes can be delivered in ways that strengthen local tenure and rights, strengthen women's empowerment and gender equality, and improve the livelihoods of poorer and more marginalised communities while reducing emissions from forests and land-use. This provides an important and valuable contribution to the debate around the most effective ways to address drivers of deforestation – and an alternative narrative to more top-down interventions where the needs and priorities of forest-dependent communities are secondary to the goal of forest conservation. Furthermore, the project has been able to effectively advocate and influence national processes relating to REDD+ and climate mitigation to integrate these priorities into emerging policy and investment programmes. In Indonesia, where REDD+ remains somewhat contested at national level, the project has been able to demonstrate how investments in strengthening customary tenure rights and management systems is an essential pre-condition for effective natural resource management, laying a foundation for future results based payments if and when these materialise, and for more suitably tailored incentive frameworks to engage local communities into long-term action to reduce deforestation and nature degradation.

The review has identified a number of policy level changes where clear and visible contributions from the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project have been made. As the project nears completion, these policies are in the very early stages of being implemented, as countries move from readiness to implementation. As such, it is not possible to provide any definitive statement on whether outcomes will be translated into real impacts on either forests or livelihoods. As IUCN moves on to new projects and new challenges within these five countries, it will be important to ensure that civil society organisations continue to receive support with a view to holding government duty bearers to account against written policy or programme commitments. External and independent monitoring of the results-based financing will be critical in coming years if the benefits of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project are to be fully capitalised on.

The evaluation has highlighted the role that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has played in engaging at an institutional level within IUCN regarding helping the organisation move towards its policy commitments on HRBA. However, it has also demonstrated that for this to happen effectively, further work is needed at an institutional level to ensure that rights based considerations are fully mainstreamed in programme design, appraisal and performance management.

Finally, this review has highlighted how the project has contributed to shifting narratives, debate and in some cases policies at national and international level regarding the very real need for equitable governance processes, as a foundation for effective climate change mitigation through REDD+. What the project has yet to do in a clear and informed manner is to document and communicate what has been learned from the perspective of applying rights based approaches within the context of REDD+. A number of useful lessons-learned papers on different themes from across the project have been developed at country level, but this has yet to be synthesised and presented at a project level.

Recommendations

1. **Framing HRBA within the context of REDD+:** In the final months of the project, there is a need for the project management team, together with other members of the GFCC team to synthesise and document learning from across the five countries with regard to how a HRBA has been operationalized in practice through REDD+. Such lessons could usefully be packaged in a way that could inform the future application of rights based approaches in both Danida and IUCN,

which are both wrestling with how such processes can be institutionalised and internally promoted.

2. **Institutionalisation of HRBA in IUCN:** This evaluation has shown how the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project has supported a number of internal processes within IUCN that will enable a move towards organisational commitments on HRBA. Further support at an institutional level will be needed to ensure that HRBA commitments are further strengthened and mainstreamed, particularly within the context of project design, monitoring and reporting.

3. **Livelihoods:** There is a need to think strategically and creatively about how livelihood actions, piloted and tested in project landscapes are supported after the project ends. In many cases, these activities are at very early stages and without further support are likely to wither and die. In a number of landscapes, plans are advancing for integrating these actions within the plans of other organisations (including local government) while in other areas IUCN has managed to secure follow on funding from other sources that will see continuing support to communities and institutions supported under the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project. More fundamentally, IUCN will need to consider in future how actions designed primarily as testing grounds for scaling up and replication elsewhere, can be sustained or supported post-project within project communities.

4. **Monitoring implementation of pro-poor interventions:** The Towards pro-poor REDD+ project has been able, in many countries, to successfully advocate for the inclusion of pro-poor approaches in national or sub-national REDD+ implementation plans, investment strategies and programmes. As implementation takes place, it will be important to find ways that civil society organisations can monitor duty bearers (such as national government agencies and the World Bank/FIP) to ensure that agreed plans are implemented, leading to pro-poor outcomes.

5. **Reviewing programme design:** It is important that the theory of change being pursued by future projects is clearly conceived and articulated within future design documents. This includes being realistic about the degree to which governance-related interventions will lead to livelihood and forest cover impacts during the life of the project.

6. **Partner selection:** The evaluation has shown that IUCN's long engagement with government agencies at national levels has been a major factor behind its ability to influence and shape emerging REDD+ policies and plans across the countries supported. In future projects of this kind, where field implementation is combined with national level policy influence, it is recommended that countries should be selected where IUCN has a strong national presence and established links to government, while partners should be selected on the basis of their more local expertise, knowledge and track-record within selected landscapes.

1.   Introduction

In December 2013 the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Danida) approved a grant of 25 million DKK for a four year second phase of a project entitled "Towards pro-poor REDD." This second phase of the project, which is a continuation of an earlier phased implemented between 2009 and 2013, is entitled "Towards pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II: Promoting pro-poor REDD+ principles and rights-based approaches to strengthen the conservation, governance and sustainable management of landscapes in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Province of Indonesia and Uganda" (or "Towards Pro-poor REDD+ Phase II) pursues the goal of ensuring that "by 2020 national climate change mitigation initiatives incorporate pro-poor principles and human rights based approaches (HRBA) to deliver policies and implement programs that reduce deforestation and forest degradation while simultaneously contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods and the long-term security of carbon stocks in key forest rich regions". The project covers the period 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017. The Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is responsible for implementing the project, which comprises "landscape", sub-national, national and global actions and involves the five project countries.

There are 3 components of the project: Component A: Demonstrate the value of human rights-based approaches and pro-poor principles in REDD+ and economic development strategies through landscape-level results; Component B: National capacities to mainstream human rights-based and pro-poor principles into climate, REDD+ and green growth strategies; Component C: Integration of human rights-based approaches and pro-poor principles into global frameworks and standards beyond the selected project countries. In accordance with the design, IUCN has implemented the project to deliver on three outputs: Output 1: Agreed multi-stakeholder arrangements, measures or conceptual frameworks are in place to enhance the ability and efficiency of target landscape processes in clarifying and protecting rights, fostering participation and inclusion of the poor, resolving conflicts and delivering livelihood and forest conservation benefits. Output 2: National forest and climate change mitigation strategies build on lessons and models emerging from demonstration of pro-poor and rights-based principles at landscapes to design and deliver REDD+ and forest green growth policies and programmes that demonstrate a strong ability to protect rights, secure livelihoods, reduce discriminations, and effectively resolve natural resource conflicts. Output 3: Synergies established with key international REDD+ and climate change frameworks result in the updating of existing voluntary standards and UNFCCC compliance and regulatory frameworks to better consider and mainstream pro-poor & human rights-based approaches.

1.1.   Objectives of the report

Overall, the report aims to:

- define the project's achievements, contributions to and impacts on national, sub-national and landscape climate change mitigation (REDD+), forest governance and conservation policies and strategies in the 5 target countries;
- define and quantify the project's contribution to global REDD+ policy processes;

- address OECD DAC evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact;
- demonstrate how the project contributed the Danish Government's Strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation and the IUCN global programme respectively.

1.2. Scope and purpose of the report

This report assesses and evaluates the main outcomes and impacts of Phase II of the Pro-Poor REDD+ project and as such has as its main focus achievements delivered since 2014 to date. However, it is important to note that many of the achievements of this second phase could not have been made without the initial investments of Phase I and in some cases investments made by IUCN or other players, such as local IUCN partners, prior to Phase I. As such, references will be made, where relevant to actions implemented prior to the start of Phase II in January 2014.

The primary audiences for this evaluation are IUCN, the governmental and non-governmental partners of IUCN involved in project implementation across the five countries, and Danida. It is hoped that although a third phase of this programme seems unlikely, the findings and recommendations of this evaluation will be used to inform future programme development by Danida, IUCN and partners. This evaluation fulfils the requirements of the grant agreement between IUCN and Danida as well as the IUCN Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. A summary of the terms of reference can be found in Annex 3 of this report.

1.3. Methodology

This report was written using a range of inputs and evidence. Country-level case studies, undertaken by local consultants engaged by IUCN at country level provided national reviews of project progress, achievements and lessons. These reviews combined field visits and meetings with beneficiaries within the targeted landscapes with meetings and discussions with project partners and implementing agencies. In a number of cases, the initial findings identified by the local consultants were validated at mini-workshops held with project beneficiaries, implementers and partners. In some cases, these findings were further explored through the application of simple contribution analyses, which sought to identify and assess the relative strength of the project's influence (or contribution) over outcomes generated at higher levels (usually policy influences relating to the inclusion of rights-based considerations and pro-poor principles into REDD+ strategies or policies). The evaluation team leader for this assignment joined a 5-day field visit and validation exercise in two field sites in Papua Province Indonesia and participated in the final validation and sense-making workshop in Accra, Ghana. The links between the country case studies and this report are presented in Figure 1.
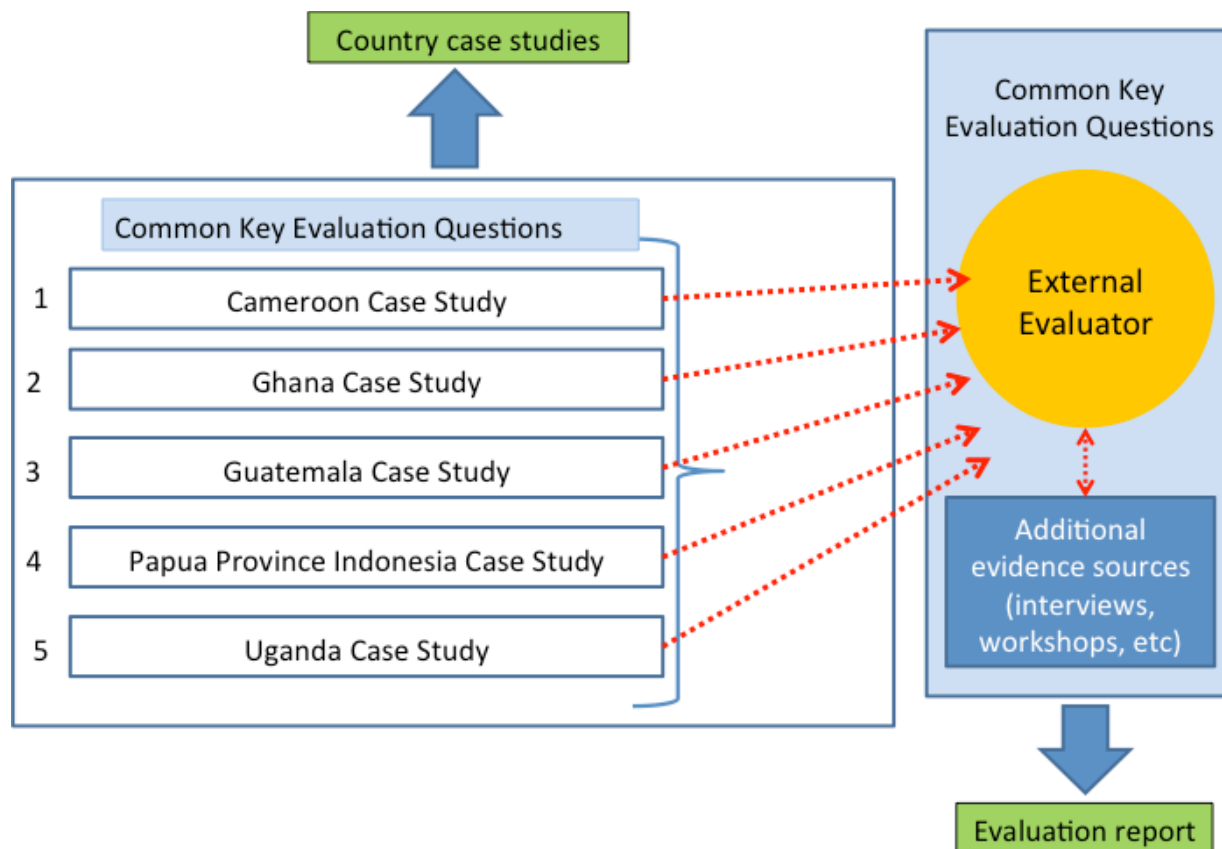
Figure 1: Relationship between country case studies and final evaluation report

Findings relating to the global aspects of the programme (including overall programme management, influence and learning) are derived from interviews with IUCN and non-IUCN staff as well as extensive document review. A list of the main documents reviewed as inputs to this evaluation, as well as the resource persons interviewed are presented in Annexes 1 and 2 respectively. When trying to assess impacts on the policies (either at international or national level), document analysis was undertaken, to identify written statements that indicate a measureable link back to project-promoted interventions or approaches. These are referenced throughout. Statements made by individuals are referenced using a coding system to protect anonymity. Interviews are coded as follows: [PPPFE##] where "##" refers to the number of the specific interview. The coding key has been saved separately from this evaluation document.

Country level and global-level evaluation was driven by a series of evaluation questions, which are broadly outlined in the TORs for this assignment and then subsequently further refined for more deeper questioning.

An analysis of project-based contribution was undertaken in some of the countries where the project worked. This involved a number of key steps, which were supported by multi-stakeholder inputs in a workshop setting. These steps include agreeing on key project-supported outcomes (mostly policy level influences); identifying the other actors who contributed to the identified outcomes (from both government and NGOs); identifying the actions or nature of contribution that contributed to that

change and finally, an assessment of the strength of contribution from different players. This helped with supporting evidence (validated through inputs from non-project staff) of the projects contribution but framed relative to other contributory inputs. Results varied across countries. In Ghana, despite a high-level of participation by actors outside the project (including government and civil society), it proved impossible to assess (or score) the level of contribution of IUCN and the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ Project. In Guatemala, however, a more rigorous approach was applied, using the Redstone strategy[2] and an approach trialled in an IUCN value for money assessment in Guatemala, which enabled a quantitative assessment of contribution to national policy processes to be established.

The evaluation was overseeing by a reference group, which had representation from project staff working at global and country level, programme staff from within IUCN as well as monitoring, evaluation and learning specialists from IUCN headquarters. The reference group convened three times during the evaluation (following submission of inception report, half way through the field work and on submission of the draft report). A final meeting was organised to receive a presentation of the final report.

Despite the best efforts of the team leader and national consultants to be rigorous in the gathering and presentation of multiple sources of evidence, this report does suffer from a number of limitations. Firstly, assessing the direct contribution of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has proven very challenging due to the multiple layers of actors and processes that this project has engaged in. At the international level, the programme approach of IUCN, while offering many opportunities (discussed later in this report), meant that staff from the Global Forests and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) within IUCN drew upon multiple sources of information to inform their messaging, communication and influencing processes, only one of which was the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project. Furthermore, at the landscape and national levels, IUCN and local partners engaged in policy processes equipped with evidence from a range of initiatives including (but not limited to) the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project. In many countries, REDD+ is a crowded field, with multiple donors, projects, NGOs and other actors seeking to influence national or jurisdictional level processes. As such unpacking and tracing the specific contribution of a single project has proven methodologically challenging and as such the findings should be treated with some level of caution. Attempts to trace back project contributions (and its relative strength when compared to other sources of influence) was attempted in some countries as described above, but with mixed results.

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[2] https://www.redstonestrategy.com/publications/new-approach-global-think-tank-network/

2.   The project context

2.1.   Background and international policy arena

After over a decade of international discussions and negotiations, The UNFCCC COP21 meeting in December 2015 reached a landmark in climate change negotiations, recognising the pivotal role that forests and landscapes play in combatting climate change. The agreement formally approved the "Warsaw Framework for REDD+[3]", which commits participating countries to key actions such as the development of National REDD+ strategies and action plans, establishing safeguard information systems to monitor how UNFCCC safeguards are "addressed and respected", establishing forest reference levels/forest emission reference levels and monitoring emissions through national forest monitoring systems. Once these key milestones are in place, countries may apply for "results based financing" on the basis of emission reductions generated through the implementation of "policies and measures" designed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. A key aspect of this work involves governance reforms that reduce illegalities in the forest sector, improve transparency and strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities living in and around forests in the tropical regions of the world.

In response to these political commitments, participating countries have been moving through a period of REDD+ readiness and governance reforms, supported by international support programmes. These include the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), overseen by the World Bank which supports countries through a "readiness fund" and a "carbon fund" to develop and implement reforms needed to reduce emissions in the forest and land use sector. A second initiative, the Forest Investment Fund (FIP), part of the larger Climate Investment Fund (CIF) supports countries in addressing the primary and underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The Norwegian government has spearheaded bilateral efforts to support REDD+ through its Norwegian International Climate and Forests Initiative (NICFI). It has so far signed "letters of intent" with a number of countries including Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia, Liberia and others that provide funding for both preparatory (readiness) and results-based actions. The Green Climate Fund (GCF), established in 2010 was established by the parties to the UNFCCC to support developing countries in responding to the challenges of climate change. With total commitments of over USD 10 billion, the fund provides new opportunities for tropical countries to finance results-based actions relating to REDD+.

A parallel initiative, spearheaded by the European Union, is supporting countries to improve forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT), through the signing of trade agreements (called Voluntary Partnership Agreements). These agreements commit producer countries to a series of reforms in the forest sector that ensure that timber exported to European markets is from legal sources. In return European member states have provided targeted financial and technical support to producer countries such as Indonesia, Ghana and Cameroon to design and deliver these governance reforms.

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[3] http://unfccc.int/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/items/8180.php

Countries selected for support under the first (and subsequent second) phase of support to the IUCN Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project were done so on a number of factors, including their active engagement on REDD+ and support provided through a range of the financial mechanisms described above. A summary of how these different initiatives are working within the context of the five countries supported by the IUCN Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project is presented below in Table 1

Country	Status of main REDD+ and VPA processes
Indonesia	**UNFCCC:** Reference level submitted January 2016 **Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative:** Letter of intent signed May 2010. USD 1 billion for readiness and results based actions **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF):** Mid term report (MTR) submitted including additional USD 5 million accepted; working towards the signing of a letter of intent for ERP **UN-REDD:** Partner Country. National programme with budget of USD 5.6 million **FIP:** Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) approved December 2016 for USD 16.3 million; Approved FIP investments to date: USD 34.3 million. **FLEGT/VPA:** VPA Signed September 2013, FLEGT licensing started November 2016
Cameroon	**FCPF:** MTR submitted March 2017. Emission Reduction Project Idea Note (ER-PIN) submitted and approved in June 2016. Letter of Intent for Carbon Fund signed, with tentative budget of USD 11.5 million for ERP) **FIP:** Cameroon admitted to FIP, but with no financing as yet. Investment plan under development **Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI):** Grant approved for USD 1 million in August 2016 to prepare National Investment Framework. **UN-REDD:** Partner Country, Targeted support only (USD 35,000) **FLEGT/VPA:** VPA Signed October 2013
Uganda	**UNFCCC:** Reference level submitted January 2017 **FCPF:** – Mid term review conducted. R-Package being prepared **FIP:** Investment Plan endorsed in June 2017 by FIP Sub Committee. **UN-REDD:** Partner Country. Support provided through Country Programme, with budget of USD 1.7 million. **FLEGT/VPA.** No VPA under negotiation or implementation
Ghana	**UNFCCC:** Reference level submitted January 2017 **FCPF:** MTR conducted; R-Package submitted, Cocoa Landscape ER-PD Accepted in Carbon Fund Pipeline funding (USD 18.5 million USD) June 2017 **FIP:** Dedicated Grant Mechanism approved in September 2016 for USD 5.5 million; Public-private partnership for restoration of forest reserves approved July 2016 for USD 10 million; Enhancing natural forests and agroforest landscape project approved in December 2014 for USD 29.5 million; Engaging local communities in enhancing carbon stocks approved in September 2013 for USD 9.75. **Green Climate Fund:** Concept note submitted for Shea Savannah Woodland Programme **UN-REDD:** Partner Country, Targeted support for USD 30,000 **FLEGT/VPA:** VPA signed November 2009.
Guatemala	**UNFCCC:** NDC submitted **FCPF:** MTR submitted with additional request for USD 5 million approved **FIP:** Investment Plan endorsed in June 2017. **UN-REDD:** Partner Country. Targeted support for USD 21,000 **FLEGT/VPA:** No VPA under negotiation or implementation

Table 1: Summary of status of main REDD+ and FLEGT/VPA processes within the five countries supported by the IUCN Pro-poor project (Sources: FCPF, FIP, CAFI, UNFCCC, GCP, NICFI and UN-REDD websites)

2.2.   Project background, scope and objectives

The first phase of the project concentrated on three components: i) Synergies between REDD+ pro poor mechanisms and good forest governance; ii) Connections between the local and the national level for REDD+; and iii) Knowledge and communication for building and implementing REDD+. The overall objective of the first phase was to *"ensure that post-2012 forest-based climate change mitigation initiatives and national REDD+ strategies build on and strengthen existing forest governance reform processes and are in line with, and contribute to, national poverty reduction strategies in five tropical, forest-rich countries*. Implementation of the this first phase of the project provided the opportunity to IUCN to significantly influence national REDD+ readiness and forest management processes across the five project countries[4]. The facilitation role played by IUCN in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, and Uganda, and in conjunction with the Samdhana Institute in Papua (Indonesia), provided the elements and frameworks necessary for mainstreaming pro-poor issues in national forest and climate change strategies. This led to better understanding and articulation of the pathways for better alignment of mitigation initiatives with poverty alleviation and human rights strategies, which the second phase builds on. In the period after the Bali COP (2009) much attention was focussed internationally to developing approaches to REDD+ that focused strongly on trees, forests and carbon, but with little real attention to the people whose lives depended on these resources. IUCN was among the first international voices that argued strongly at the international level that addressing deforestation and forest degradation in tropical countries could only be done when it was integrated with the needs and priorities of forest dependent communities, including indigenous peoples (IPs) and women. As such a focus on governance, rights and livelihoods was imperative as well as an appreciation that conservation and forest protection had a very real potential to negatively impact on the marginalized poor, forest-dependent communities. IUCN was able to use the results emerging from the first phase of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project to influence this debate at key forums such as UNFCCC COPs as well as key financial mechanisms such as NICFI.[5]

The second phase of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project, while building on the experiences of Phase I, differed in two main ways. Firstly, at the request of Danida, a more explicit move towards a human rights based approach (HRBA) was developed. This was in recognition of the fact that both Danida and IUCN, at an organisational level, had made a series of policy commitments towards rights-based approaches, and that this project had the potential to support institutional learning as well as the mainstreaming of these approaches in programme implementation.[6] One ramification of this change was the request by Danida to include additional field sites in Uganda and Ghana that would provide increased opportunities to develop and learn about HRBA. In Ghana, a new site was identified around Mole National Park in the semi-arid, savannah zone in the north of the country while in Uganda, the project was expanded to include the Agoro-Agu landscape in the Lamwo district in the north of the country, close with the Sudan border. Secondly, the primary target of policy

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[4] See Annex VI for maps of project locations
[5] Source: PPPFE07 and PPPFE14
[6] Source: PPPFE06

influence of the project shifted from international to national level, in recognition of the conclusion of the Paris Agreement and the need to translate these decisions into national level policy and actions[7]. Given the significant in-flows of financing in support of REDD+, through mechanisms such as FCPF and FIP and the development of national policies and processes such as REDD+ strategies, safeguard mechanisms and benefit sharing arrangements, it was felt that influence at this level would be more strategic and generate more significant impact. As with Phase I, REDD+ and forest governance has remained the primary focus of the programme. In Indonesia, activities did not focus strongly on influencing national REDD+ processes, but instead on creating enabling conditions for REDD+ implementation through sustainable forest management and mainstreaming of customary institutions and rights as an entry point. Furthermore, the special autonomy status of Papua and West Papua meant that policy influence took place at provincial rather than national levels.

Funding available at a country level was modest, with an average of DKK 0.9 million, per country, per year (around USD 150,000). This restricted the reach and potential impact of field activities, and ensured that such activities were focused around demonstration objectives only.

A timeline of the project, showing main outcomes and contributions at global as well as national levels is presented in Figure 2, illustrating the strong focus of the project in delivering country-level policy-influencing outcomes.
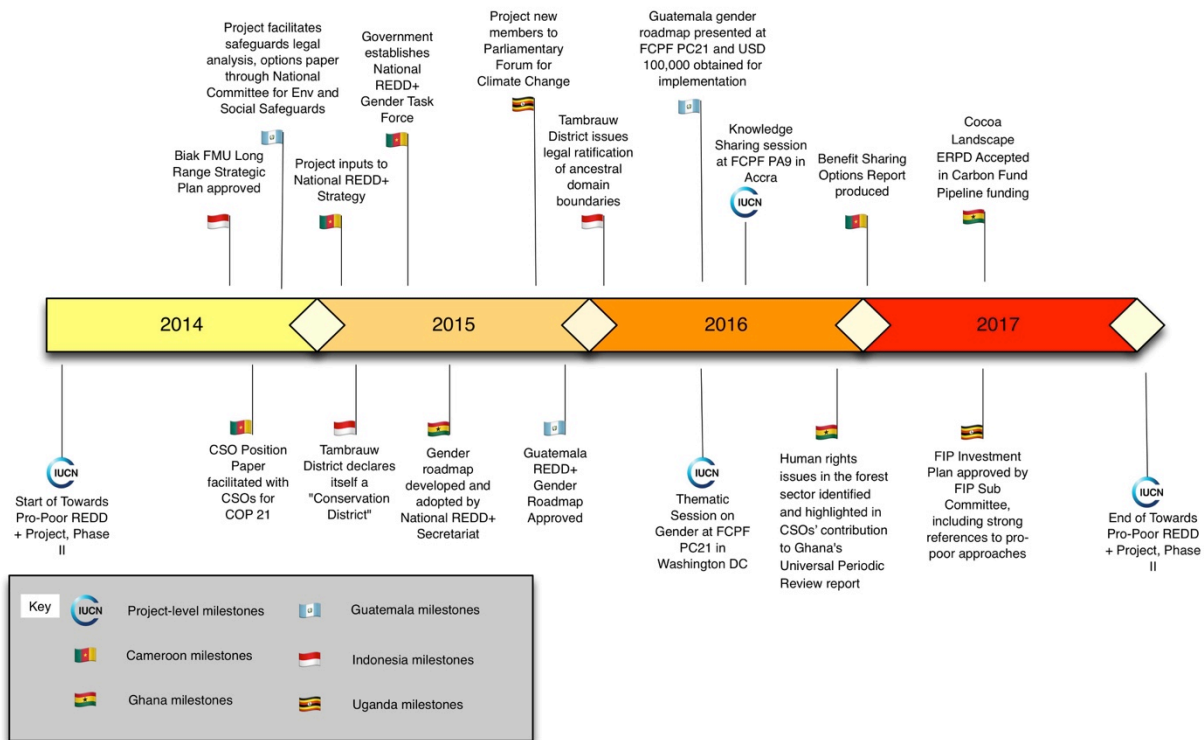

Figure 2: Timeline of key achievements of the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project

The development objective of the project is stated as follows:

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[7] Source: PPPFE20

By 2020, national climate change mitigation initiatives incorporate principles of PPAs (pro-poor approaches) and HRBAs (human rights-based approaches) to deliver policies and have implemented programs that reduce deforestation and forest degradation whilst simultaneously contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods and long-term security of forest carbon stocks in key forest-rich regions

Three outputs are defined for the project as follows:

1. *Agreed multi-stakeholder arrangements, measures or conceptual frameworks are in place to enhance the ability and efficiency of target landscape processes in clarifying and protecting rights, fostering participation and inclusion of the poor, resolving conflicts and delivering livelihood and forest conservation benefits.*

2. *National forest and climate change mitigation strategies build on lessons and models emerging from demonstration of pro-poor and rights-based principles at landscapes to design and deliver REDD+ and forest green growth policies and programmes that demonstrate a strong ability to protect rights, secure livelihoods, reduce discriminations, and effectively resolve natural resource conflicts.*

3. *Synergies established with key international REDD+ and climate change frameworks result in the updating of existing voluntary standards and UNFCCC compliance and regulatory frameworks to better consider and mainstream pro-poor & human rights-based approaches*

During the inception phase, the project team developed simple theories of change at both country and programme levels that described how activities and outputs produced higher-level outcomes and impacts. While useful in presenting the main activities and outputs being delivered by the project, these diagrams do not show clearly the impact or outcome pathways and as such are not sufficient to support an evaluation process. A revised programme level theory of change diagram is presented in Figure 3 that seeks to show, in a highly simplified form, how landscape, national (or jurisdictional) and international level actions are linked within the project. The theory of change in Figure 3 shows one outcome area that is not specifically mentioned in the project document, but which has emerged during implementation, namely the influence of project level actions on internal policies within IUCN, specifically those relating to the adoption of rights based approaches and contribution to social and environmental safeguards.

Implementation arrangements vary from country to country, but in all cases are undertaken together with local partners, such as national NGOs. In the case of Indonesia, as IUCN does not have a country presence, the Samdhana Institute performs this role, who in turn work in partnership with field-based NGOs active in the three field sites in Papua and West Papua Provinces.

Impact Area 3:
International REDD+ programmes and processes (FCPF, Initiative on Climate Transparency, UNFCCC) incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies

Impact Area 4:
IUCN programmes incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies

IUCN Forest and climate programme staff engage in external processes and platforms and communicate pro-poor and HRBA messages

Institutional mechanisms and policies within IUCN are changed to facilitate adoption of HRBA across all programmes

1. National government stakeholders communicate lessons from IUCN programme landscapes to international forums (FIP, FCPF, UNFCC)

2. Civil society partners advocate for pro-poor measures at international climate forums (UNFCCC CoPs)

Policy messages with regard to HRBA approaches, pro-poor approaches and gender mainstreaming are prepared and communicated internally across IUCN forest and climate programme

Internal IUCN programme policies on HRBA and safeguards incorporate learning from Pro-Poor REDD+ Project

Impact Area 2:
Emerging national and jurisdictional REDD+ policies, programmes and investments incorporate pro-poor and HRBA

Pro-poor REDD+ project staff engage in policy processes within IUCN around gender, HRBA and social safeguards

Impact Area 1:
Landscape level improvements in rights, livelihoods and forests

Findings and lessons from landscapes within five countries are documented, shared and communicated

Pro-poor and HRBA are developed and applied in selected landscapes within five programme countries
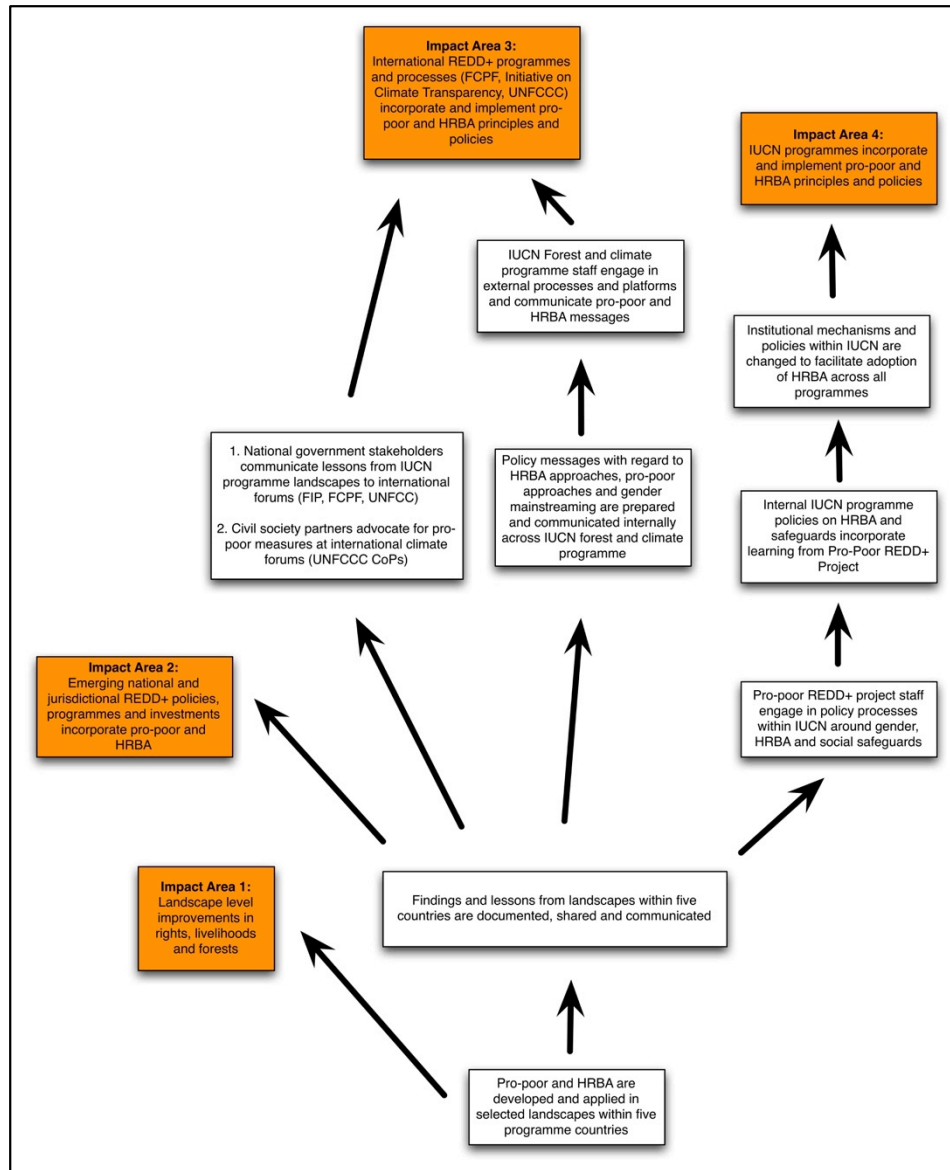
Figure 3: Simplified theory of change for the pro-poor REDD+ project, showing four main impact pathways

3.   Findings and Conclusions

3.1. Relevance

In terms of its relevance at international levels, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project remains highly relevant. As mentioned in section 2 of this report, the initial policy targets for the project centred around moving the international discourse on REDD+ away from a narrow focus on carbon and avoided deforestation to one that recognised and addressed the important role that forest-dependent communities play in protecting and managing forests. Having made important contributions at the international policy level during Phase I, the focus of advocacy and policy support work shifted to the country level in Phase II, by pursuing the objective of integrating pro-poor and human rights based approaches into emerging national REDD+ frameworks. This approach ensured the continuing relevance of the project to the needs of forest-dependent communities in the project landscapes across the five countries.

In 2012, the Danish parliament passed an International Development Cooperation Act, which made the promotion of human rights an overarching objective. In the same year, the Danish government launched a new development cooperation strategy, "A Right to a Better Life", in which it committed itself not only to poverty reduction but also to supporting human rights. This was accompanied in 2013 by a guidance note on Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) to development.[8] The way in which HRBA is applied in official Danish development cooperation is described in the guidance note. The guidance note explains the human rights institutional apparatus, including the nine core UN conventions and regional human rights systems. It also highlights the respective roles of rights-holders and duty-bearers. The Danish HRBA includes international human rights standards as objectives: the universally agreed commitments and legal frameworks to protect human dignity, such as the rights to life and to an adequate standard of living, for which duty-bearers (e.g. state actors) are responsible and that rights-holders (e.g. citizens or refugees) can claim and hold state actors accountable for. The Danish approach also requires the systematic application of four human rights principles derived from international treaties, which shape the processes of development: participation and inclusion, accountability, non-discrimination and transparency. The guidance proposes that Danida staff and Danida-funded projects "balance pragmatism and realism with regard to the integration of human rights standards and principles in programmes and policy dialogues". The starting point for application of HRBA is proposed to be country and context-specific, based on a thorough political economy and human rights analysis. Within the context of this shift in Danish development assistance, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project is highly relevant in that it was designed to provide opportunities for experimentation, testing and learning on issues relating to forests, land-use and climate change mitigation in five very different country-contexts with the potential to inform learning and practice[9].

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[8] Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark. 2013. *A Human Rights Based Approach to Denmark's Development Cooperation. Guidance for Policy Dialogue and Programming.* Danida
[9] Source: PPPFE06 and PPPFE24

Like Danida, IUCN have also made institutional commitments to move towards rights based approaches that date back to 1975, when it recognised the need to respect rights in conservation. The approach became formalised and included into policy in 2008 with the passing of Resolution 4.056 "Rights-based approaches to conservation[10]", which reaffirmed the links between human rights and the environment. This was further strengthened in 2012, when IUCN members adopted Resolution 5.099 "Policy on Conservation and Human Rights for Sustainable Development[11]", as an overarching RBA framework. Numerous other policy statements have been made in recent years relating to gender, equity, free prior and informed consent (FPIC), customary rights and tenure. More recently, IUCN has introduced a new programming tool, the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), a systematic procedure to screen proposed IUCN projects for potential adverse environmental and social impacts to assure that negative impacts are avoided or minimised, while positive impacts are stimulated. The ESMS includes standards on indigenous peoples and cultural heritage, as well as a grievance mechanism whereby those negatively impacted by IUCN actions can raise concerns and seek recourse.[12] Despite these positive moves, progress towards full integration and adoption of rights based approaches has been mixed within IUCN and variable across different global programmes[13]. As such, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project is highly relevant, offering important opportunities to learn, at a programme and institutional level, how rights based approaches can be practically implemented within the context of forests and climate change.

For the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project to be relevant at institutional levels to both IUCN and Danida, a process is needed to frame the key findings, outcomes and learning of the programme within a human rights based approach, assessing how the experiences of the project, over both phases, can inform the transition of both institutions to their stated policies of HRBA. Although it was not explicitly provided for in the design of Phase II, such analysis is an implicit and important part of the learning aspects of this project. To date, this has yet to happen in a systematic way.

At the country level, the project has aimed in all countries to support the emerging REDD+ readiness at local and national levels, through support to innovative and equitable governance frameworks at national and jurisdictional levels. As presented in Table 1, all countries supported under this project are members of FCPF, and have been approved for support under FIP (with a number already receiving funding) and all are UN-REDD partner countries. Country case studies prepared as part of this evaluation have shown how project teams have been able to engage with these processes and by doing so, ensure high levels of relevance as well as added value[14]. One quote, taken from the Cameroon case study illustrates this well:

> "*The project is very relevant. It addresses essential and very crucial issues at this moment in Cameroon when the REDD+ process is under construction. It will be very helpful in integrating these two major landscapes as part of the ERP being developed*". Prof. Ngoufo Roger (President of the IUCN National Committee)

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[10] https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2008_RES_56_EN.pdf
[11] http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/ImplementationReport/IUCN2.pdf
[12] https://www.iucn.org/resources/project-management-tools/environmental-and-social-management-system
[13] Source: PPPFE15
[14] Case study reports from Uganda, Ghana, Guatemala and Cameroon

In the case of Indonesia, the project context is somewhat different from other countries as policy-influencing activities have focused at provincial, rather than national level (due to the special-autonomy status of Papua and West Papua provinces). Furthermore, local political sensitivities concerning REDD+ have resulted in a broader focus on enabling conditions for securing emission reductions from land-use (including governance, social, tenure and institutional issues), rather than a specific focus on REDD+ strategies per se.[15]

Within target landscapes, the project has been able to test and promote activities that support sustainable livelihoods, which is relevant to local development priorities. For example, in northern Uganda (a poor and remote area of the country), the project has supported the design and framing of a number of livelihood enhancing options in the context and vision for a sustainable landscape, including beekeeping activities, small scale saving and loan activities and tree planting activities, all of which are well received locally by women and men.[16]

3.2. Effectiveness

Effectiveness and progress at programme level

The objectives and outputs of Phase II of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project are essentially defined by the influencing of policies and processes at landscape, national and international levels, and the resulting governance and multi-stakeholder arrangements to foster equity and participatory decision-making. The Phase II programme document includes a logframe with a series of indicators and activities defined for each of the three outputs. A summary of progress against the overall objectives and outputs is presented in Table 2.

Intervention statement	General assessment of progress since start of Phase II
Overall Objective: By 2020, national climate change mitigation initiatives incorporate principles of PPAs (Pro-Poor Principles) and HRBAs (Human Right-based Approaches) to deliver policies and have implemented programs that reduce deforestation and forest degradation whilst simultaneously contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods and long term security of forest carbon stocks in key forest-rich regions.	*Significant progress, particularly with regard to influencing national and jurisdictional frameworks and processes. Important contributions have been made in all countries with regard to policy and governance frameworks at national and landscape levels, as well as influencing externally financed REDD+ investment programmes. In Indonesia, the core focus has not been on influencing national climate change and REDD+ processes as such, but influencing forest and land-use governance processes in ways that recognise customary rights and tenure, as a prerequisite for effective and sustainable management.* *In most cases these proposals, policies, plans and programmes have yet to be implemented and are either in the planning or early implementation stages and as such the degree to which they will actually result in pro-poor and human rights based outcomes is as yet unknown.*
Output 1: Agreed multi-stakeholder arrangements, measures or conceptual	*Demonstrations established in all countries, but variable results in terms of delivering livelihood benefits and conserving forests. In all landscapes across the five*

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[15] Case study report from Indonesia
[16] Case study report from Uganda

frameworks are in place to enhance the ability and efficiency of target landscape processes in clarifying and protecting rights, fostering participation and inclusion of the poor, resolving conflicts and delivering livelihood and forest conservation benefits	*countries in the project, interventions have been developed and implemented. This has included strengthening of communal rights to management of forest and lands, which it is anticipated will lead to more sustainable and locally-beneficial management of natural resources. It has also included interventions with the potential to generate livelihood benefits. Some evidence of livelihood benefits from some countries (such as Guatemala, Uganda).* *Not possible to assess the degree to which "forest conservation benefits" have been delivered.*
Output 2: *National forest and climate change mitigation strategies build on lessons and models emerging from demonstration of pro-poor and rights-based principles at landscapes to design and deliver REDD+ and forest green growth policies and programmes that demonstrate a strong ability to protect rights, secure livelihoods, reduce discriminations, and effectively resolve natural resource conflicts*	**Good progress in all countries.** *Good progress made in influencing REDD+ readiness processes in Uganda, Ghana, Cameroon and Guatemala, as well as plans for REDD+ implementation in Ghana, particularly with regard to gender. In Indonesia, there has been limited influence at national level. Instead, the primary focus has been the integration of customary and traditional rights into forest and lands planning and management strategies such as spatial planning and forest management.*
Output 3: *Synergies established with key international REDD+ and climate change frameworks result in the updating of existing voluntary standards and UNFCCC compliance and regulatory frameworks to better consider and mainstream pro-poor & human rights-based approaches.*	**Good progress with influencing FCPF but limited progress elsewhere**. *Using IUCN's position as international NGOs representative on the Participants Committee of the FCPF while also co-ordinating at country level with country focal persons has ensured that a co-ordinated approach to influencing the FCPF has taken place. Particularly strong around issues such as gender. Some influence on the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards initiative and the Initiative for Climate Transparency.* *Relatively limited engagement with FCPF safeguard processes (such as SESA and ESMF)*

Table 2: Assessment of achievement of goals and outputs of the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project as defined in the programme document (Sources: Country case studies, project reports and interviews).

<u>Contribution of project to Danish development priorities and IUCN's global programme</u>

In 2017, the Danish government published a new strategy for development co-operation[17], which provides an overview of how development and humanitarian assistance will be prioritised between now and 2030. Annex V, Table 1 provides a summary of how the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project has contributed to the four strategic goals within this strategy. Overall, the evaluation found little or no contribution of the project to the first two strategic goals (which relate mostly to humanitarian assistance, support to fragile states and reintegration of refugees) but found strong contributions to the third and fourth strategic goals (relating to sustainable development, human rights, gender and inclusion).

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[17] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida. 2017. The world 2030. Denmark's strategy for development co-operation and humanitarian action.

IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme (GFCCP) is contributing directly to 16 targets within IUCN's strategic plan during this inter-sessional period. Annex V, Table 2 provides a summary of how the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project is supporting this contribution. Of the 16 targets, the project is making strong contributions to 9 targets, medium contributions to 2 targets, and little or no contribution to 5 targets.

Financial expenditures to date

The project has a four-year funding period. As shown in Table 3, expenditure by mid 2017 (three and a half years through the four year project) was 77% of the total budget. Expenditure per year has been growing, from the first year (2014) where spending was only DKK 3.2 million, growing to 6.4 million in 2015 and 6.8 million in 2016. With current expenditure patterns it looks likely that expenditure will be close to budget by the end of December 2017 (or slightly below). As such, a no-cost extension seems unlikely.

Output	Overall Annual Budget Allocation (in DKK) 2014 - 2018	Total Expenditure (including salaries)	% of implementation	Total Remaining Budget
Output A.1 Agreed multi-stakeholder arrangements, measures or conceptual frameworks are in place to enhance the ability and efficiency of target landscape processes in clarifying and protecting rights, fostering participation and inclusion of the poor, resolving conflicts and delivering livelihood and forest conservation benefits				
Cameroon	2,242,098	1,902,780	85%	339,317
Ghana	2,046,427	1,699,320	83%	347,107
Guatemala	2,126,245	1,690,106	79%	436,139
Indonesia (Papua)	2,126,245	1,872,199	88%	254,046
Uganda	2,242,098	2,161,711	96%	80,387
Global Component	516,887	0	0%	516,887
Subtotal Output A.1	11,300,000	9,326,117	1	1,973,883
Output B.1 National forest and climate change mitigation strategies build on lessons and models emerging from demonstration of pro-poor and rights-based principles at landscapes to design and deliver REDD+ and forest green growth policies and programmes that demonstrate strong ability to protect rights, secure livelihoods, reduce discriminations, and effectively resolve natural resources conflicts				
Cameroon	1,238,400	762,624	62%	475,776
Ghana	1,150,423	747,334	65%	403,090
Guatemala	1,190,423	847,030	71%	343,394
Indonesia (Papua)	1,190,423	861,356	72%	329,067
Uganda	1,238,400	1,081,423	87%	156,977
Global Component	291,930	0	0%	291,930
Subtotal Output B.1	6,300,000	4,299,767	1	2,000,234
Output C.1: Synergies established with key international REDD+ and climate change frameworks result in the updating of existing voluntary standards and UNFCCC compliance and regulatory frameworks to better consider and mainstream pro-poor & rights-based approaches				
Cameroon	-	-		0
Ghana	-	3,279		-3,279
Guatemala	-	- 72		72
Indonesia (Papua)	-	-		0
Uganda	-	-		0
Global Component	4,000,000	3,666,815	92%	333,185
Subtotal Output C.1	4,000,000	3,670,022	1	329,978
4. MANAGEMENT				
Cameroon	51,143	-	0%	51,143
Ghana	51,143	-	0%	51,143
Guatemala	51,143	5,057	10%	46,086
Indonesia (Papua)	51,143	38,961	76%	12,183
Uganda	51,143	23,846	47%	27,297
Global Component	1,508,769	715,377	47%	793,392
Subtotal Management	1,764,485	783,241	0	981,245
Total (A.1+B.1+C.1+4)	23,364,486	18,079,146.22	77%	5,285,339.84
Administrative Costs	1,635,514	1,260,993	77%	374,521
TOTAL	25,000,000	19,340,139	77%	5,659,861

Table 3: Project expenditure to date by country and component, as of end June 2017

Effectiveness and progress at country level

In Indonesia, the main focus of interventions has been at three landscape sites in Papua and West Papua provinces – namely in Baliem Valley, Biak island and Tambrauw (Annex VI). The Samdhana Institute has a long history of supporting customary tenure processes and participatory mapping dating back over twenty years and excellent relationships with district and provincial government bodies. Working through local NGOs, Phase II of the project has supported participatory mapping in 3

landscapes and across 26,000 ha, as well as supporting the design, testing and integration of livelihood enhancing options – such as agroforestry and community based tourism, within - into the landscape and forest management strategies and plans, village land use and development plans, most of which have also been developed or supported by the project. The project has been effective in working with and supporting government bodies within the two provinces. Forest Management Units, which are administrative mechanisms established by central government to co-ordinate management of forest-rich landscapes have been supported to integrate views and priorities of local clans and communities, and to mainstream and strengthen customary institutions within officially recognized forest and land management mechanisms and governance arrangements. The Biak FMU developed a long-term forest management plan that clearly recognises territories defined through participatory mapping and which has pursued a process of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). District governments have been strongly engaged as well and are developing local government regulations that will strengthen and codify customary tenure and boundaries identified through the participatory mapping exercises. Given the remote, difficult and inaccessible nature of all three field sites, work has proceeded effectively and concrete results are beginning to emerge[18].

In Ghana, work has focussed at two sites. Continuing work from Phase I, IUCN is working with CODESULT, a national NGO, in the Wassa Amenfi landscape, in the high forest, cocoa zone of south western Ghana and with A Rocha Ghana, in the Mole landscape, of the dry savannah ecosystem around Mole National Park in northern Ghana (Annex VI). Work has focused on a number of areas, including support to Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA), identification and support to the demonstration and mainstreaming of sustainable livelihood options such as collection and processing of the wild Shea nut, and strengthening dialogue between the park authorities and local communities through support to the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMAU) in Mole landscape. In Wassa Amenfi, the project worked with farmers to analyse and test models/options of environmentally and economically advantageous shade-tolerant cocoa, as well as frameworks of incentives – including tree tenure and tree registration[19] systems – to promote and upscale tree planting and reforestation within cocoa plantation systems. IUCN, together with their local partners have been very actively engaged in national level discussions on REDD+ policy and processes, as well as emerging landscape level investment plans in the Ghana "Cocoa Forest landscape" Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP) and early plans for a similar Shea Landscape ERP in the northern Savannah region of Ghana being submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The country review identified 17 significant project achievements (called milestones in this context) that ranged from landscape level outputs such as improvements in CREMA governance, strengthened tree tenure, mainstreaming of gender into local level governance frameworks and reduced conflicts between communities and with government on land tenure issues. At national level, stakeholders recognised the important contributions the project had made to the emerging REDD+ readiness process in areas such as safeguard development, inclusion and mainstreaming of gender and pro-poor considerations with regard to benefit sharing[20].

In Cameroon, the project has focussed its work in two landscapes: Firstly the Cameroon portion of the TRIDOM landscape (Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkébé), a trans-border forest landscape between

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[18] Indonesia case study and Indonesia Project Reports (2015 and 2016)
[19] Prevailing forest and tree tenure laws mean that naturally occurring trees are the property of the state, even if on locally managed farmland. To get round this, the project has supported tree registration activities that confer ownership on the local land user.
[20] Ghana case study report

Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Gabon, and secondly The Sangha Tri-national landscape (TNS), a trans-boundary conservation complex in the North-western Congo Basin where Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo meet (Annex VI). TNS encompasses three contiguous national parks totalling a legally defined area of around 750,000 hectares. The project has supported the identification of viable livelihood options at both sites, facilitated landscape level planning processes that clarify and protect the rights of local and indigenous peoples, identification of financing options for long-term support to the two landscapes as well as a range of activities at national level, designed to integrate pro-poor and human rights based approaches into the national REDD+ framework, including strengthened focus on gender, equitable benefit sharing and participation arrangements and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples. The project has 7 milestones over its four-year funding period, and progress on reaching these targets has been good, with most milestones either met or likely to be met by the end of the funding period[21]

In Uganda, work has focused at two sites: Mount Elgon and Agoro Agu landscapes. Mount Elgon is in eastern Uganda, covering Kapchorwa, Balambuliu and Mbale districts while the Agoro-Agu landscape is close to the Sudan border and covers Lamwo district (Annex VI). At the field level, work has focused on promoting sustainable agricultural production and agroforestry in support of sustainable land, including tree planting and reforestation, soil and water conservation activities. Around Mount Elgon the project has supported the demonstration of a payments for environmental services (PES) scheme that rewards tree planting and carbon sequestration, as well as strengthened and scaled the Community Environment Conservation Fund (CECF) as the financial mechanism to support the deployment of livelihood options. Piloting of performance-based payments for both individual and group based activities have demonstrated the value of a livelihood incentivizing approach to achieving environmental and multiple socioeconomic benefits – i.e. soil and water conservation activities have increased productivity of land for small farmers and increased resilience to climate change[22]. At national level, the project has made important contributions to unfolding REDD+ process in Uganda including coordinating CSO contributions across a range of policy areas as part of the national REDD+ consultation and participation plan, as well as leading on specific aspects such as the development of the gender roadmap; guidelines for benefit-sharing. All these guidelines have been successfully piloted through field demonstrations in both landscapes. The logframe for Uganda has 9 targets over the four-year life of the project. The Uganda review assessed overall delivery of these targets to be between 70 – 100% by mid 2017, with an average delivery rate of 90%[23], indicating an overall high level of effectiveness.

In Guatemala, the project works in one landscape, the Lachuá Ecoregion located in the north-western part of the country (Annex VI). The project has worked with farmer groups within the landscape to identify and assess livelihood options compatible with local economic development as well as sustainable forest management within a landscape vision, such as shade-tolerant cocoa, community based timber management and honey production. Work at landscape level has been used as a platform with which to influence national REDD+ processes including the early and continuous integration of gender into the National REDD+ strategy, support to the national safeguard development process and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA).[24] The

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[21] Cameroon Case Study report and Cameroon Country Reports (2015 and 2016)
[22] IUCN. 2016. Paving the way for gender-responsive FLR. Leveling the playing field for local farmers in Uganda. IUCN Global gender office, Washington DC, USA.
[23] Uganda case study report
[24] Guatemala case study report

Guatemala Work Plan includes 7 targets over its four-year life, and the most recent project report (June 2017) shows average progress of 64%[25]. Implementation has been at a lower level than in other countries and it seems unlikely that all targets will be met by the end of the project in 2017.

Effectiveness of overall programme management and administration

Overall programme management and supervision is provided through the IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, through the Global Forests and Climate Change Programme. A Project Coordinator at the global level (currently the REDD+ programme officer with the IUCN's Global Forest and Climate Change Programme), who oversees this and other REDD+ projects, has overall responsibility for delivery and implementation. The programme officer keeps close contact with the country teams and has regular calls to discuss progress. This is supported by regular in-country supervision visits.

As reported by the mid term review, project management and oversight continues to be effective and financial management procedures appear to work well and operate smoothly. In-country project partners reported satisfaction with the flow of finances from IUCN and the requirements placed upon them for reporting and accounting. Project reporting is done on an annual (for the donor reports) and semi-annual (for internal IUCN management and learning purposes) basis, using standard formats. The format requires country teams to report progress against a series of agreed milestones and indicators that were reflected in the original project proposal and the initial implementation plan developed during the inception phase. The project reports include a review and assessment of risks.

In 2016, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project together with a second IUCN project (relating to REDD+ benefit sharing funded by the German government) organised a 2 day learning event in May designed to support learning and exchange within and between these two projects, capture key lessons learned, and support improved implementation within the target landscapes and countries[26]. Outcome stories were prepared and reported during the learning event, which were then published as mini learning briefs, one from each country[27].

IUCN adopts a "programme approach" with regard to implementation, by which a range of programme staff in and beyond the GFCCP both support and utilise the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project among as well as others working on forests and climate[28]. As such, the project is able to capitalise on and link to staff working on cross cutting issues such as gender, policy influencing and human rights based approaches, within and outside the GFCCP. As discussed later in this report, this has generated important benefits and added value to the project as a whole.

At country level, a number of country-level case study reports pointed out that project effectiveness had been increased through the strategy of working with local organisations, with both experience, local knowledge and track-records in the targeted landscapes[29].

Effectiveness of "learning" around human rights based approaches

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[25] Guatemala. Progress per Outputs and Milestones July 2017.

[26] GFCCP BMU and DANIDA REDD+ Project Learning Workshop. Shaping IUCN's Forest And Climate Change Programme And Policy Processes. Workshop Report, 11 – 13 May 2016, Gland, Switzerland

[27] See for example: IUCN. 2016. Mobilising partnerships in Cameroon to advance rights-based REDD+ forest governance: Forest Brief No. 5; IUCN. 2016. Ghana advances rights-based REDD+ through existing local forest governance initiatives. Forest Brief No. 6; IUCN. 2016. Guatemala makes gender a priority for REDD+. Forest Brief No. 7; IUCN. 2016. Indonesia links REDD+ benefit sharing with local forest governance. Forest Brief No. 8

[28] Source: PPPFE07, PPPFE14, PPPFE20

[29] See for example, Case study reports from Uganda, Indonesia and Ghana.

Although not explicitly described as such in the programme document, it has been discussed at length between Danida and IUCN that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project is viewed by both organisations as an opportunity to learn, at an institutional level about testing, promoting and learning about HRBA and pro-poor approaches to REDD+. As the project nears its conclusion it is important to reflect what key lessons has the project learned, documented and communicated with regard to how HRBA can be applied within the diverse contexts supported by the project. The conclusion of this evaluation is that there is relatively little learning on this subject to date, (although it is understood that learning workshops will be facilitated at country level in the final quarter of the project). In many cases, projects have indeed advanced rights based approaches (through for example strengthening formal or informal claims of land and natural resource tenure, advocating for an explicit focus on poor and marginalised forest users and enhanced gender equality inclusion and women's empowerment) although there is little evidence that this has been framed within HRBA language and parameters. One specific example of where the project has tried to support a more explicit adoption of HRBA comes from Ghana, where IUCN worked with and supported a platform of local NGOs working on environment and natural resources to engage with the universal peer review mechanism process. For the first time, the report (which is produced once every four years and submitted to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations) included specific reference to natural resources and environment, covering issues such as tenure and benefit sharing inequalities. Despite this, there have been limited documented examples from within the project of how the project has responded to the rights based approach, and what lessons have emerged from this. Key questions for such an analysis might include: What are the implications for REDD+ of adopting a rights based approach? How does a rights based approach differ from other approaches (such as pro-poor approaches)? How can rights based approaches be operationalized at the field and policy levels within the context of REDD+?

3.3. Efficiency

Given the time and resources available for this review, it has not been possible to undertake a detailed and quantified assessment of efficiency or value for money. However, some general statements can be made relating to this evaluation criterion as follows:

Working in multiple sites per country and within poor and remote areas will necessarily generate additional project costs than would be expected if the project had selected single landscapes per country in more well-connected and accessible areas. Furthermore, the requirement to focus the interventions in more marginalised areas of the five selected countries, in line with its pro-poor focus brings with it additional costs. An example of this comes from the Baliem Valley area of Papua Province, Indonesia, which is one of three landscapes in Indonesian Papua that the project supports. The nearby town of Wamena has no external road access and as such all supplies are flown in to the town from Jayapura. As a consequence, supplies such as fuel are considerably higher than in other parts of Indonesia. The addition of new field sites in Uganda and Ghana (both of which are remote and require long driving times from the capital) has generated important learning and influencing opportunities for the project, but has generated additional costs and diluted limited project resources and related interventions. Fortunately, some of these additional costs have been mitigated to a large extent by the identification and selection of competent local partners, with a track record and background of working in these remote and operationally challenging areas.

The project works at multiple levels and with multiple partners and as such generates additional costs than would be expected when a single organisation implements all activities. In some cases, the project supports and funds three different institutions before funding reaches field level implementation[30]. This is a necessary requirement given the "split level" nature of the project, which seeks to deliver results at the field or landscape levels, at national or jurisdictional levels and at international level as well.

The project has the objective to both deliver tangible development impacts in the field, as well to deliver policy and learning impacts at higher levels. As such, applying a more traditional cost-benefit measure of assessing the proportion of field level costs against national and international support costs will hide the non-field impacts that the project has delivered. This does, of course, assume that these upstream benefits have been fully delivered by the project, something that is explored in more detail in Section 3.4.

Despite the factors described above, which have tended to raise overall project costs, if one reviews the benefits that have been generated by the project, particularly with regard to influencing external processes and financing, a more positive image emerges. In Ghana, for example (as discussed in Section 3.4, the project was able to successfully influence the design of the key FIP investments as well as the Cocoa Forest Landscape ERP, with a combined budget of USD 48 million. Although these investments would almost certainly gone ahead with or without IUCN's presence, what is clear from the Ghana case study is that considerable influence was exerted by IUCN and the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project with regard to the inclusion of specific measures to make it more pro-poor and rights oriented. These are likely to generate considerably higher benefits to poorer, forest dependent communities than had IUCN not been present.

Finally, it is important to point out the value-for-money benefits that Danida has secured by implementing this project through IUCN. Despite the relatively high costs of international support and management, the project has been able to take advantage of and capture the benefits that IUCN brings at an institutional level. IUCN has a wide and active network of partners at international and national level, and pre-existing relationships with governments, civil society networks and key donor funded instruments such as the FCPF. These networks, combined with its organisational credibility and track record has almost certainly enabled the project to deliver more impacts than would otherwise been delivered by, for example, a private sector service provider identified through competitive tendering processes.

3.4. Impacts and outcomes

Although these impact pathways have been followed by the project, in many cases, the pathways have yet to be completed to the level of impact (realised through, for example, changes in livelihoods, rights or forest cover, over a wide area). Achievements to date have mainly involved outcome level changes, such as changes to government policies, plans and investment frameworks, but these have yet to be implemented on any large scale. As such, the following discussion focuses mostly on analysing project outcomes.

Outcome area 1: Landscape level improvements in rights, governance and forests

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[30] For example, in Indonesia, funds flow first to IUCN, then to Samdhana Institute and finally to local NGOs working in the field.

The theory of change diagram presented in Figure 3 presents four impact pathways and impact areas. Outcome areas 1 and 2 take place at landscape and country level and are closely linked. Figure 4 presents a more detailed theory of change for project activities at country level and shows how these linkages have been developed. The green boxes show the nature of IUCN and project partner contributions. Overall, the country-level case studies have shown that outcomes and impacts at landscape level have focussed mostly in two key areas – on developing, implementing and testing governance and livelihood activities that are compatible with local development priorities and reduced deforestation (Box 1), and on communicating the results of this work to policy makers with a view to influencing national REDD+ investment plans and processes as presented in boxes 2 and 3 and discussed in more detail under outcome 2, below. In some cases, livelihood benefits are being realised in project landscapes (Result 1), but not yet as a result of REDD+ implementation across a wider area (Result 2).
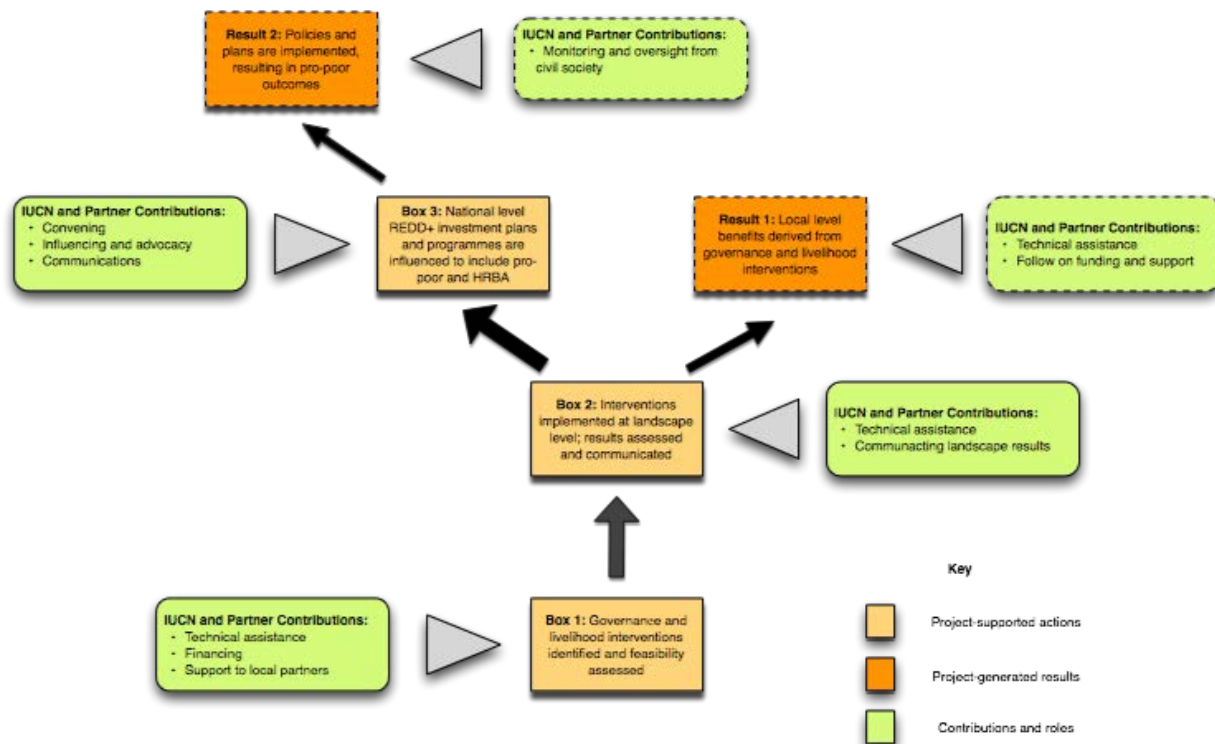

Figure 4: Simplified theory of change for project actions at country level (Outcome areas 1 and 2)

Support to governance has been particularly strong in Indonesia, Ghana, Uganda and Cameroon. In Indonesia, work has focused on supporting indigenous people living within the landscapes to identify, map and claim legal rights over communally held land and helping with the integration of these rights into formal planning frameworks used in forest management and local development. In Ghana, much of the work has focused on supporting improvements in communal management of natural resources through strengthening Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) institutions, as well as multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate communication between local communities and protected area management. In Uganda, landscape level multi-stakeholder platforms have been supported with which to inform the unfolding national-level REDD+ process and ensure that local voices and priorities are reflected. In Cameroon, the project has supported landscape level planning and governance in the two project landscapes, resulting in agreements that provide for co-management of wildlife resources, sustainable management of village lands and

community controlled areas such as protected areas, community hunting and buffer zones. In Indonesia, the project supported participatory mapping of 9 ancestral domains (customary territories) in three landscapes, covering 26,000 hectares[31].

In addition to support to local governance processes, the project has actively been identifying, assessing, demonstrating and integrating sustainable livelihood options that are compatible with both conservation and development objectives, explored through the production of business plans and feasibility studies. Large-scale, direct delivery of livelihood benefits has not been a primary focus of the project. In all cases, evidence from the country case studies shows that the strategy of using landscapes as an area for testing and communicating workable approaches has been a successful one (for example eco-tourism and shea nut collection in Ghana, shade tolerant cocoa and honey production in Cameroon and Guatemala, community based timber production in Indonesia). This is explored in more detail under outcome area 2, below. Within the landscapes, the scale and maturity of these livelihood interventions has varied significantly. Positive experiences are reported from Guatemala, where a local farmers co-operative (FUNDALUCHA) has been successfully supported to introduce shade-tolerant cocoa and beekeeping activities, generating improved employment and incomes.[32] In Uganda the project has been instrumental in supporting agroforestry and tree planting activities, establishing micro-level savings and credit schemes (the CECF, Community Environment and Conservation Fund), and promoting successful beekeeping model within local collaborative forest management framework (See Box 1: Testimony from Kapchorwa district).[33]

> Box 1: Testimony from Kapchorwa District

Beatrice Yapmangusho, 45 year old widow, Sumaton CECF Group, Kapchorwa District:

"The IUCN CECF initiative started in my village of Sumaton nearly the same time my husband had just passed away. I was lost. But the Sumaton Community CECF group gave me a new sense of family and I am now the happiest. Before, I would have money for seeds but not enough to buy fertilizer. After implementing my household environmental action plan I could access the CECF fund which enabled me to purchase fertilizer and increase my land productivity. Over time now, I no longer need the fertilizer since the natural productivity of my land has returned thanks to the contours and drains I built as part of my household action plan. I have over time earned enough money to take my first born child through secondary school- proceeds from my farm have paid for a good part of his secondary education and now he is at a tertiary institution pursing a nursing course".

Source: Uganda Case Study Report

However, experience in other countries has so far been mixed. In Cameroon, improved farming has been received by only 20 pilot farmers in both landscapes receiving direct support to improvement of agricultural practices and beekeeping activities.[34] In Indonesia, support to community managed forestry has yet to deliver benefits due to leadership challenges, and support to community tourism in Biak is currently generating around USD 50 a week from 10-20 visitors who visit during this period[35].

The project has recognised this problem and has tried to identify alternative sources of funding for scaling up activities within selected landscapes, thereby promoting implementation through other

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[31] Indonesia case study report
[32] Guatemala case study report
[33] Uganda case study report
[34] Cameroon case study report
[35] Indonesia case study report

routes. This includes working with corporate social responsibility funding from timber companies and small grant schemes (Cameroon), lobbying for inclusion of project-promoted actions on land titling into local government budgets (Indonesia), linking farmers into PES initiatives that provides small incomes from carbon financing for tree-growers (Uganda) and identifying other sources of donor funds for IUCN or partner institutions within the same landscapes (Ghana, Uganda and Guatemala[36]). This is discussed in more detail in Section 3.6 on sustainability.

There is no evidence regarding the impact of the project on forests or carbon stocks at landscape levels and as such it is not possible to provide any assessment of the influence of the project in this area.

<u>Outcome area 2: Emerging national and jurisdictional REDD+ policies, programmes and investments incorporate pro-poor and HRBA</u>

The second impact area has been an explicit focus on Phase II and has involved linking with and supporting the emerging national or jurisdictional level REDD+ processes that have been evolving in all countries supported. This is an area where the project has delivered strong results as discussed below.

There is strong evidence from many countries regarding the contribution of the project to the inclusion of gender within national REDD+ investment strategies and plans. In Phase I of the Pro-poor project, gender road maps were developed in Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda, in collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO). In Phase II, this work has been advanced with efforts to support implementation of the action plans. It is perhaps most advanced in Uganda (where the project team have worked with the national REDD+ Secretariat to develop a REDD+ gender action plan and gender M&E framework. In Cameron and Ghana, IUCN has facilitated the establishment of gender task force as part of the national REDD+ architecture to oversee and report back on gender[37]. The project has also supported the establishment of a gender task force, to oversee mainstreaming of gender into national REDD+ and climate change strategies, as exemplified by the following quote:

> *"The IUCN project has rendered the gender theme more operational in the REDD+ process in Cameroon. It is an example that is cited in the Central African sub-region in terms of gender considerations in the national REDD+ process."* Mrs. Ndjebet Cecile (President of Civil Society National Platform on REDD+ and Climate Change, President of REFACOF)

In Cameroon, the project has engaged strongly with the national REDD+ Strategy development process, advocating successfully for measures that respect equitable benefit sharing arrangements, recognition of the rights of forest-dependent and indigenous peoples, and an emphasis on broad-based, multi-stakeholder participation in the development of new policies on forests and climate.[38] In Guatemala the project has been actively working at different levels to support integration of gender into the emerging REDD+ plans and strategies. As a consequence of this support, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has updated its gender policies and the national protected area council (CONAP) has also developed its first gender strategy[39]. In Ghana and

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[36] IUCN has secured GEF, German government and Green Climate Fund financing for activities that will work in the same landscapes in Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda and Guatemala.

[37] Uganda case study report

[38] Cameroon case study report

[39] Guatemala case study report

Uganda, mid term successful requests made to FCPF for additional funding to REDD+ readiness have included further national support to gender mainstreaming and Cameroon has been assured of further financial support to gender[40]. In Indonesia, gender has not been given the same level of priority seen in other project-supported countries.

Strong evidence also exists for engagement by the projects in many countries in the development of key REDD+ planning and investment plans and programmes. For example, in Ghana, IUCN has been able to facilitate strong inputs to the REDD+ strategy, with regard to interests and concerns of poor, forest-dependent communities, including a clear recognition of the need to clarify tree tenure, benefit sharing arrangements and gender). All of these issues are now incorporated in the Ghana national REDD+ strategy[41] and there is wide acknowledgement of the role played by IUCN Ghana in facilitating these aspects as evidenced by the following quote:

> "IUCN Ghana and their partners have played a very important role in shaping the National REDD+ strategy and other REDD+ policy documents through their presence on national bodies, working groups and task forces, but also by linking us with field-level experiences in the west and the north of the country. Their main influence has been around benefit sharing, pro-poor approaches and gender aspects" Kwame Agyei (Assistant Manager, Climate Change Unit, Forestry Commission, Ghana)

In Ghana, the project has continued its engagement with government with regard to the formulation of plans for results based financing. For example, the Cocoa Landscape Emissions Reduction Programme Document (ERPD) recently submitted to (and accepted by) FCPF for funding under the carbon fund (with a budget for USD 18.5 million) includes specific references to CREMAs as well as project-developed recommendations on benefit sharing arrangements, both of which have been strongly promoted by IUCN and project partners during the project preparation process. In Cameroon, experiences gained from implementation of livelihood interventions in the two project landscapes have been incorporated into the national submission to the Green Climate Fund for an emission reductions project.[42] In Uganda, IUCN (engaged by government as part of the FCPF process, and not directly funded under the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project) have been co-ordinating civil society input to the development of the national REDD+ strategy, in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society, Environmental Alert and Tree Talk.[43] This has given IUCN a strategic position with which to influence the consultation process, including ensuring that concerns and issues emerging from the two project-supported landscapes feed into the national REDD+ strategy development process.[44] Implementation of these national or sub-national investment plans has yet to take place and as such it is not possible to assess the degree to which implementation will actually translate into pro-poor outcomes. This is discussed more in the final section on recommendations. In Guatemala, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project supported the development of the national REDD+ safeguards strategy, through technical support and facilitating the participation of key stakeholder groups (local communities and indigenous groups) in key sub-national and national events. Furthermore, project

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[40] Source: PPPFE08
[41] Republic of Ghana. 2016. Ghana National REDD+ Strategy. Forestry Commission, Accra, Ghana
[42] Source: Cameroon case study report
[43] Republic of Uganda. 2016. Mid term progress report for Uganda and request for additional funding from FCPF. Submitted to Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Fund. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.
[44] Uganda case study report

staff engaged in the preparation of the SESA / ESMF process and design of the grievance redress mechanism as part of a contract with government through FCPF.[45]

In Indonesia, the project has aimed to influence local government, spatial and forest management planning frameworks, with a view to integrating prevailing customary land management and tenure arrangements and processes. Strong evidence of project-generated outcomes can be seen within the context of the long-range strategic plan for Biak forest management unit (FMU), which in turn determines resource allocation and management actions over a 10 year period, in ways that recognise customary communal land tenure, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) over management decision-making and ensure regular communication between government-appointed forest managers and clan and community leaders. This management approach differs markedly from more traditional top-down management approaches being implemented in other FMUs across Indonesia. Efforts have been made to use this innovative approach to forest landscape management as a pilot site to influence other FMUs in Papua and West Papua provinces, and evidence from the Indonesian case study report suggests this is beginning to happen at other sites such as Wamena and Tambrauw.[46]

It has not been possible within the context of the case studies to assess the strength of influence of IUCN, within these areas highlighted above, other than in Guatemala where stakeholders participated in a scoring and ranking exercise. The outcome of this exercise show that IUCN's contribution in terms of influencing the REDD+ process (in the areas of gender, livelihood options and safeguards was 28%. This compared with government agencies (34%), international projects and donors (23%) and national civil society organisations (15%)[47].

Outcome Area 3: International REDD+ programmes and processes (FCPF, Initiative on Climate Transparency, UNFCCC) incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies

The third impact area relates to the influence of the project in shaping international REDD+ policies and processes. During the negotiation of the Phase II project, it was made clear by the donor that project funding for this component was relatively limited in recognition of the fact that impact was being focused at country level, but also in anticipation that IUCN could use its global framework agreement funding from DANIDA to support these activities. Due to internal budget and allocation arrangements, this was not possible, as DANIDA framework funding had already been committed elsewhere within IUCN[48]. For these two main reasons, the contribution of the project to this impact area has been relatively modest.

As with impact area 2, one area where the project has made greatest contributions is with regard to gender mainstreaming. This is most evident within the context of the FCPF, to which IUCN has representation through the international oversight and co-ordination body, the Participants Committee (PC). By building on and communicating lessons from project-supported countries (notably Guatemala, Uganda, Ghana and Cameroon), gender has been promoted strongly at international level through FCPF PC meetings. This has recently resulted in the production of a gender policy note by FCPF which was presented for discussion at the 21st Participants Committee meeting of the FCPF (PC21) in May 2016[49], which draws heavily on IUCN examples and country-level

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[45] Guatemala case study report
[46] Indonesia case study report
[47] Source: Guatemala case study report
[48] Source: PPPFE14
[49] https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2016/Aug/Gender%20integration%20brief_Final.pdf

experiences. In support of this gender note, IUCN hosted a thematic session at PC21, which explored experiences and lessons on integration of gender into REDD+ at country level, including examples from Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda. Following this, IUCN was invited to work together with the "REDD+ desk" to develop a new knowledge management and learning platform on gender, to support dissemination of knowledge and best practice[50,51]. With additional funding from USAID, the project was also able to facilitate a learning exchange on gender and REDD+ in 2014, which again drew upon lessons learned from countries supported by the Pro-poor project[52].

There have been limited opportunities to influence the emerging UNFCCC process as COP19 (in Warsaw), held one month before Phase II was approved had largely determined the shape of international REDD+ processes[53]. However, work by IUCN at COP20 and COP21 focused on profiling the real progress made by project-supported countries in adopting a more inclusive, pro-poor and rights based approach to XYZ. These were promoted through side events at SBSTA and COP meetings and through position papers widely circulated by IUCN before and during such events[54]. IUCN, through its Global Gender Office and with support from the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project, have been involved in advocating for gender-responsive actions at international-level within the context of UNFCCC. Areas where specific contributions have been realised are with regard to the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) agreed during the Lima COP[55], preamble text to the Paris Agreement, which included strong references to gender; and most recently at the Morocco COP, which resulted in the extension of the LWPG. IUCN have also advocated consistently that gender should become a standing agenda item at all subsequent COP meetings, something that has now been formalized. IUCN's inputs on gender have been felt most strongly within the context of mitigation, technology development and technology transfer, with a focus on energy, but to date there has been limited engagement on gender and REDD+ within the context of UNFCCC[56]. As part of the current work programme on gender, UNFCCC is developing an overall gender action plan (to be approved at COP23 in November 2017), which will include aspects of capacity building, and gender-based M&E and gender-responsive implementation, all of which could usefully be informed by the experiences of the Pro-poor REDD+ project[57].

Pro-poor approaches have been successfully promoted across FCPF through the medium of country level presentations at PC meetings. These presentations are given when countries have completed either mid term reports or have undertaken readiness assessments (known as R-Packages). At the FCPF PC21 meeting, mid term reports were presented from Uganda and Guatemala, both of which included strong references to inclusion, pro-poor approaches and gender equality (which have in turn

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[50] Source: PPPFE08

[51] http://theredddesk.org/theme/gender-and-redd

[52] USAID and IUCN. 2014. Technical Workshop: Gender and REDD+ Learning Exchange. 13 – 15 May, 2014. Summary Report

[53] COP19 was commonly known as the "Forest COP" and passed the seven decisions on REDD+ that became known as the "Warsaw Framework for REDD" or the "REDD+ Rulebook". After this meeting, the momentum shifted to national level processes.

[54] See for example: https://www.iucn.org/downloads/eng_iucn_2015_position_paper_for_unfccc___final.pdf

[55] Decision CP.20 in LWPG; and Article 7 in The Paris Agreement state that "*Parties acknowledge that adaptation and mitigation actions should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.*"

[56] Source: PPPFE34

[57] Source: PPPFE33

been the focus of the Pro-poor project) and where the contribution of IUCN was strongly recognised[58]. At FCPF PC22, Ghana presented its R-Package[59], which included similar references including the gender road map, gender working group, the role played by CREMAs and pro-poor interventions[60].

Output 3 of the project aimed to influence was the international framework for REDD+ safeguards (both voluntary and those within UNFCCC agreements). Progress here has been limited, with most contribution recorded within the context of the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) being promoted by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance. Through the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project manager, IUCN has been represented at an institutional level within the international steering committee for the REDD+ SES process, which oversaw the development and roll-out of voluntary REDD+ standards which have had important impacts in terms of building in-country capacity as well as influencing emerging safeguard provisions within the UNFCCC process. IUCN was able to use its representation on the international steering committee strategically and advocate strongly for a pro-poor and inclusive approach. However, given the range of organisations within the international steering committee, which were also promoting similar outcomes, it is difficult to point to specific IUCN "footprints" within the final principles, criteria and indicators that are now used within the standards.[61]

FCPF has been in a process of developing its policy on safeguards and rolling it out in countries being supported by the programme. The safeguard process, which is derived from World Bank operational policies on safeguards has been adapted for use within the context of REDD+ readiness and implementation. Although the project has been active in some countries in supporting national level safeguard processes (such as in Uganda and Ghana), there has been little or no engagement from IUCN on safeguard policies within FCPF at programme level, and this niche has been occupied by other international organisations such as Rights and Resources Institute, Greenpeace and Forests Peoples Programme[62].

One other area that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has engaged with at international level is the Initiative for Climate Action on Transparency (ICAT), which "integrates guidance, capacity building and knowledge sharing to engage countries in the use of a common framework to assess the impacts of their policies and actions and report progress, fostering greater transparency, effectiveness and ambition[63]". The initiative is currently developing guidance materials and IUCN (through the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project manager) is actively engaged in supporting this. Specifically, the project manager is providing written contributions on chapters related to stakeholder participation and assessment of transformational change in the context of climate policies, rights based approaches and the importance of transparency, disclosure and meaningful engagement. The initiative has an ambition to influence the post-Paris agenda, but it is currently too early to make any definitive statements on whether this will materialise as the initiative is still in its early stages.[64]

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[58] https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/pc21-may-3-5-2016-washington-dc
[59] https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/PA9/PC22
[60] Government Of Ghana. 2016. Participatory self-assessment and synthesis of Ghana's REDD+ Package (R-Package). Final Report
[61] Source: PPPFE25
[62] Source: PPPFE17
[63] http://www.climateactiontransparency.org/about/
[64] Source: PPPFE25

<u>Outcome Area 4: IUCN programmes incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies</u>

Although not specifically defined as an outcome area within the Phase II project document, the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has supported the drafting of an implementation framework for rights based approaches within IUCN, drawing on existing IUCN policies and standards and practical experiences from the field. Specifically, a document has been drafted and is under finalization, outlining how RBA can be mainstreamed across IUCN's various programmes.[65] The process began in mid 2015, an external consultant was engaged with support from Pro-poor project, with a mandate to develop an internal discussion document, guided by an internal working group drawn from across different IUCN programmes and with additional support from the IUCN law centre[66]. The document is currently in a draft format. A second phase, designed to build capacity on RBA across the organisation, has yet to materialise due to lack of funding. The document outlines three key areas that will need to be addressed if RBA is to be fully mainstreamed – namely the integration of RBA in programme design, in programme appraisal (through the application of environmental and social standards) and in programme monitoring and evaluation. As of today, only one of these three institutional reforms has been implemented – the Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS).

The ESMS was developed primarily to enable GEF accreditation (as screening for social and environmental impacts is a precondition for GEF funding). However, it was also recognised as a tool for operationalization of organisational policy commitments on adoption of RBA across IUCN. The Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project, through its manager, provided technical expertise, experience-based insights and guidance to the drafting of guidance notes and various standards in relation to indigenous people, involuntary resettlement, etc. When specific standards are triggered, these need to be addressed through mitigating actions.

Despite this good progress, further work is needed at an institutional level to strengthen HRBA adoption in the areas of programme design and M&E.[67] As such, the integration of RBA remains incomplete within IUCN and is often dependent on interest and commitment of programme heads within different departments. Some good examples do exist within IUCN of how RBA has been integrated, including the "Green List" of Protected Areas and support to the World Heritage Programme (which acts as formal adviser to the convention and to government members, and as such has had widespread and significant influence).[68]

In conclusion, policy level outcomes are strongest within the context of national and jurisdictional level processes (outcome area 2), with good results also captured within the context of landscape processes (outcome area 1). Important contributions have been made within the context of international processes but it has not been possible to identify visible policy impacts beyond capacity and awareness changes (broadening horizons). Within IUCN, the project has contributed to broadening horizons and capacity changes, but yet to make substantial contributions to policy level changes. This is summarised below in Table 4 using the methods outlined in Annex IV of this report

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[65] IUCN. 2017. IUCN's Rights-Based Approach: A Systematization of the Union's Policy Instruments, Standards and Guidelines - draft
[66] Source: PPPFE15
[67] Source: PPPFE15
[68] Source: PPPFE15

Outcome area	Strength of Contribution[69]	Strength of evidence[70]	Justification
Outcome area 1: Landscape level improvements in rights, governance and forests	Medium: "Broadening horizons"	High	Evidence from all case studies of strengthened governance processes and strengthened rights of poor, forest-dependent people, but impacts tend to be limited in scope and yet to be formalised into policy-level changes. Evidence of contribution validated by interviews with beneficiaries in all landscapes
Outcome area 2: Emerging national and jurisdictional REDD+ policies, programmes and investments incorporate pro-poor and HRBA	High: "Affecting planning and policy"	High	Strong evidence and high contribution by project in influencing national REDD+ programmes, plans and policies across all countries. Evidence of contribution validated by multiple sources within government and NGO sector, and visible within written policy and programme documents
Outcome area 3: International REDD+ programmes and processes (FCPF, Initiative on Climate Transparency, UNFCCC) incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies	Medium: "Broadening horizons"	Medium	Facilitating learning and dissemination of lessons and experience at international level within the context of FCPF, REDD Desk and other processes Support to process of developing REDD+ SES but little or no engagement in FCPF Safeguard policy development Evidence of contributions validated from multiple sources across IUCN and within policy documents generated at international level, but limited input from external (non-project) staff within UNFCCC, FCPF and other international processes.
Outcome area 4: IUCN programmes incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies	Medium: "Broadening horizons"	High	Evidence of contributions from pro-poor REDD+ project to tools such as ESMS, particularly with regard to implementation and capacity. Evidence of contributions validated from multiple sources within IUCN

Table 4: Assessment of strength of policy level outcomes delivered by Pro-poor project (refer to Annex IV for more details)

3.5. Contribution

Tracing the specific contributions of the Pro-poor project has proven to be methodologically challenging due to the programmatic nature of IUCN's work at international as well as national levels. However, the following section explores this question in more detail by exploring the different roles that IUCN and its partners have played within the four outcome areas

Contributions at landscape level (Outcome Area 1)

Contributions at landscape level have primarily been through project partners, who have local level knowledge and track-records in supporting local structures and landscape level governance processes. In general this has involved traditional project management functions of technical assistance, capacity development and financial support. In many cases (due to the remoteness of

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[69] Refer to Table 1 in Annex IV for description of ranking scale
[70] Refer to Table 2 in Annex IV for description of ranking scale

the sites selected) there have been very few other non-governmental or donor-funded initiatives operating in these sites and as such tracing the direct contribution of the project is relatively straightforward. An example, drawn from the Indonesian case study shows the strength of contribution of the project towards landscape as well as district / provincial outcomes

Project Contribution	Implementing Partner	Outcomes / Milestones	Strength of Project Contribution*)
Revision of Long Term Forest Management Plan	KPH Biak Numfor	Revised and approved document	5
Development of ecotourism in Sepse, Biak	Mnukwar	Village-based ecotourism in Sepse, Biak set up and operational	5
Participatory mapping and revitalization of indigenous structure and leadership in East Biak	Byak Indigenous Council and Rumsram	Maps of ancestral domains in East Baik	5
		Indigenous structure based on clans and sub-tribe system agreed	5
		Customary leaders on clans and sub-tribe level elected	5
Participatory mapping in Baliem Valley	YBAW	Maps of ancestral domains in Baliem Valley	5
		2 ancestral domains registered in BRWA	5
Meetings and workshops in Manokwari and Tambrauw	Unipa, local NGOs, and community groups	Draft of district code on conservation district of Tambrauw	3
		Draft of district code on recognition of indigenous peoples in Tambrauw	3
		Draft of province code on conservation province of West Papua	3

Table 5: Assessment of contribution of pro-poor project in Indonesia to landscape and district / provincial level outcomes. *Note: (1 = no contribution; 5 = very high contribution). Source: Indonesia case study report

Contributions at country level (Outcome Area 2)

At national level, the contribution of the project is largely driven by IUCN (other than in the context of Indonesia where Samdhana assumes this role from their head office in Bogor). Country case studies have shown that a key factor behind national level contribution relates to the long history of engagement, strong networks, trusted position and personal capital that exists between government forest and environment agencies and IUCN country teams. This provides country office teams with formal as well as informal opportunities to link with and influence emerging national processes relating to REDD+ readiness and financing. In some countries, IUCN has sought to influence national processes through a direct "service delivery" role, taking direct responsibility for aspects of the readiness process (for example in Uganda where IUCN has tendered and been awarded service delivery assignments around consultation and participation). Profiling experiences from the landscape level has also been an effective strategy, as evidenced by this quote from Uganda:

"The CECF approach as demonstrated by IUCN in the Mt. Elgon Landscape is an excellent example of how communities can be successfully and beneficially engaged in promoting REDD+ and sustainable forest management in Uganda"

Margret Mwebesa, Uganda's National REDD+ Focal Point

At the same time, NGO partners with whom the project works also have established relations to government and are often actively participating in REDD+ structures and processes in their own right (sometimes with project funding, but also through their own means). As such, when asked, stakeholders within government often find it hard to attribute specific contributions to specific projects as these contributions tend to be institutional in nature, but drawing heavily on project-level experiences. Interestingly, in the one country where IUCN has no presence (Indonesia), national level impacts were found to be minimal and the case study identified a number of missed opportunities relating to policy outcomes that might otherwise have been pursued.[71]

In Ghana, IUCN was identified in having a range of roles, supporting policy and governance level outcomes including advocacy, technical support, convening, funding, institutional leadership and institutional endorsement / recognition. Most commonly identified were the roles of convening and technical support.

A key element of project contribution at national level was facilitating information flow, learning and communication from project landscapes, to national forums related to policy and governance. Uganda has strong evidence of how landscape level forums, facilitated by the project, were able to capture local voices in the process of developing national policies relating to REDD+. This was strengthened by facilitating the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change to visit project field sites around Mount Elgon in 2016, where they interacted directly with forum members and exchanged views on local experiences[72].

Contributions at international level: Outcome Area 3

Contributions at international level tend to vary significantly according to the nature of the specific policy process concerned. Within the context of FCPF, the contribution has been primarily through support to national processes, which have then gone on to shape discussions at international levels through the medium of the PC. By embedding gender, inclusion, equitable benefit sharing within national level processes (for example in Ghana and Uganda), IUCN has been able to facilitate a process of exchange and learning at FCPF programme level through learning events, country-level presentations from focal persons and in the case of gender, briefing documents to inform policy development. Using IUCN's position as representative of international organisations within the PC has helped streamline this process. For example, at the Participants Assembly meeting (PA9) in Accra, Ghana, in September 2016, IUCN hosted and moderated a knowledge sharing session on benefit sharing experiences. While this drew mainly on the German government-funded Benefit Sharing project, it also included experiences from Ghana that came from the Pro-poor project.[73]

Within the context of UNFCCC, the project has had contributions at two levels. Firstly, work in some countries (such as Uganda and Cameroon) has facilitated preparatory work in terms of channelling contributions from non-state actors to country negotiating teams, ensuring that civil society voices find their way into formal negotiating positions at international meetings. Secondly, at an institutional level, IUCN has been an active player within the context of COP meetings. For example, IUCN's engagement at the Paris COP focused on generating increased awareness of its various climate-

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[71] Indonesia case study report.
[72] Uganda case study
[73] IUCN and FCPF, 2016, Knowledge sessions: Designing and mainstreaming equitable benefit sharing schemes. Experiences from Mexico, Ghana and Peru. See:
https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2016/Sep/Session%20Summary_IUCN%20Knowledge%20Session%20at%20FCFP%20Meeting%20in%20Accra%20FV%20%28002%29.pdf

related work across different thematic areas, and particularly in advancing nature-based solutions to climate change. To this end, IUCN hosted over 40 events in its dedicated Nature-based Solutions Pavilion in the official Conference Centre and co-organised over 60 events in the France-IUCN Partnership Pavilion. A number of these events focused on gender and REDD+ as well as the role of indigenous peoples, forests and REDD+. IUCN's communications team provided cross-cutting support to social media and targeted publications. Similar processes were followed at the Lima COP meeting, including an influential position paper developed by IUCN and a range of side events organised to profile project-level experiences.[74],[75]

Within the context of the REDD+ Social and Environment Standards initiative, IUCN's contribution has come through its membership and active participation in the international steering committee, which has provided opportunities to shape and influence the emerging standards, criteria and indicators. This role has been carried out by the Pro-poor REDD+ project managers, in a similar way to the Initiative for Climate Action on Transparency, which has involved individual inputs from the project manager. In both of these initiatives, the project manager was able to bring examples of grounded experience from both the Danida-funded Pro-poor REDD+ and the German funded benefit sharing initiative.[76]

Outcome area 4: IUCN programmes incorporate and implement pro-poor and HRBA principles and policies

Within this fourth outcome area, the project has played an advisory role, through its project manager, through active engagement in evolving policy processes related to the systemisation of RBA as well as the implementation and roll-out of the ESMS. This has been supported through limited financial support from the project, for example to a scoping study carried out on RBA systematisation as well as support to regional capacity building exercises for ESMS implementation.

3.6. Sustainability

In the context of this evaluation, sustainability is defined as the continuation of project-generated benefits at outcome or impact level. The Danish government has indicated that a third phase of support to the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project is unlikely, given declining overseas development assistance budgets in Denmark and decisions to channel available REDD+ funding through multi-lateral instruments such as the FIP, FCPF and GCF.[77] This section assesses whether the results that have been reported in section 3.4 will continue to flow, or in the case of outcomes, be translated into concrete and tangible impacts. The assessment is presented, with regard to the four outcome areas identified in the theory of change presented in Figure 3.

Sustainability of actions at landscape level

Prospects for continuation of local level governance and livelihood benefits appear good across most landscapes. Although funding for the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project formally comes to an end in

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[74] IUCN. 2014. Gender Priorities for UNFCCC COP20 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto
Protocol, Lima, Peru, 1-12 December 2014
[75] Source: PPPFE03 and PPPFE32
[76] Source: PPPFE25
[77] Source: PPPFE24 and PPPFE19

December 2017, IUCN as well as IUCN's in-country partners have been actively pursuing additional external funding, which builds upon and continues project-established momentum within the same landscapes. For example in Cameroon, livelihood options have been successfully promoted to a range of government and donor-funded initiatives including district development budgets, forest concession social responsibility agreements, and Cameroon's Emissions Reductions Programme (ERP).[78] In the case of IUCN, this includes work relating to forest landscape restoration, forest governance and most recently, supporting locally administered protected areas (community based forest management). A recent project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Environment will continue to support landscape processes in the same areas as the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project in Uganda and Ghana and is seeking to continue and expand work on pro-poor approaches to natural resource and landscape management[79].

Furthermore, given the deliberate strategy taken by the project of embedding project interventions within institutional, governance and financing mechanisms operating at landscape or jurisdictional levels, the benefits generated are likely to outlive the funding period of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project. For example, in Uganda, communities supported by the project are now connected with carbon financing and PES schemes and able to access this support over the long-term.

Sustainability of actions at national or jurisdictional level

In all countries supported by the project, there has been a deliberate effort to engage with government bodies at different levels in order to integrate project-supported activities with those of government. As such, many of the landscape level processes and interventions are now embedded into local government plans and funding streams. Secondly, in most countries there have been successful attempts to identify and influence future financing streams for results based financing and climate mitigation, such as FCPF, FIP, GCF, NICFI, Central African Forests Initiative (CAFI) and others. This means that as these funding streams come online in the final stages of the project's life, interventions of the type supported by the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project are likely to continue through other sources of funding, although in some cases, this may be in different locations. It is likely that if pro-poor and rights-based measures that are now integrated into policy and programme documents are to be implemented in full, additional monitoring and oversight of implementation plans and reports will be required by civil society as well as external monitoring actions designed to hold government and donor agencies to account.

Sustainability of actions at international level and within IUCN

It is perhaps too early to provide any informed conclusion regarding the sustainability of actions at international levels. While IUCN has made good progress in terms of raising the profile of gender, rights and pro-poor approaches within the context of FCPF-supported country programmes and at international level through the Participants Committee, this has yet to be translated into any kind of binding policy commitments and as such, it is not clear to what degree these ideas will be taken forward and implemented across the FCPF programme. With regard to voluntary REDD+ standards, while the project has supported the development of the REDD+ SES, declining funding to this initiative, coupled with an increased emphasis on UNFCCC safeguard requirements means that the initiative is limited in terms of longevity and sustainability remains uncertain. Within the context of

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[78] Cameroon case study report
[79] The project is called "Protected area categories V and VI as landscape mechanisms for enhancing biodiversity in agricultural land, ecological connectivity and REDD+ implementation" Started implementation in mid 2017.

IUCN, the project has contributed to the institutionalisation of RBA within the organisation as a whole, although as indicated in section 4.4, this work requires additional financing and top-level support from within IUCN if it is to become fully mainstreamed across the organisation.

4.   Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

Overall conclusions and lessons learned over the first and second phase of the Pro-poor project are presented below. These are high level, strategic conclusions and differ from the more project and intervention-focused lessons that are presented in the 2016 lessons learning review[80]. In recognition of the fact that the project has only a few months to run, recommendations are by necessity light and in most cases addressed to IUCN as an institution rather than to the project team directly.

Firstly, the evaluation has shown that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has been able to identify, test and demonstrate that sustainable natural resource management processes can be delivered in ways that strengthen local tenure and rights, empower women and strengthen gender equality, and improve the livelihoods of poorer and more marginalised communities. This provides an important and valuable contribution to the debate around the most effective ways to address drivers of deforestation – and an alternative narrative to more top-down, interventions where the needs and priorities of forest-dependent communities are secondary to the goal of forest conservation. Furthermore, the project has been able to effectively advocate and influence national processes relating to REDD+ and climate mitigation to integrate these priorities into emerging policy and investment programmes. In Indonesia, where integration in and influence on national level REDD+ process where not prioritised as a key focus the project has been able to demonstrate how investments in strengthening customary tenure rights is an essential pre-condition for effective natural resource management, laying a foundation for future results based payments if and when these materialise. Experience from Indonesia has shown how informal, customary and traditional systems and institutions can be anchored in formal planning and resource-allocation processes, providing them with legitimacy and a legal basis within the formal system of government. For this to happen requires engagement with not just rights holders but equally importantly with duty bearers, who can become champions, change agents and channels for replication and scaling up.

A key lesson to emerge across all countries is the challenge of finding the right balance between landscape level, field-based activities with the potential to impact directly on the livelihoods of poor and marginalised households, and national or jurisdictional level policy influencing activities with potential to impact wider areas across multiple landscapes. It was argued in the evaluation of Phase I that more work was needed in Phase II to feed landscape level learning into the evolving national level REDD+ policy process, which was addressed strongly in the second phase, and validated through this final evaluation. At the same time, however, there is a danger that in some countries the focus on policy level, national influence while generating important benefits with regard to scaling up

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[80] GFCCP BMU and DANIDA REDD+ Project Learning Workshop. Shaping IUCN's Forest And Climate Change Programme And Policy Processes. Workshop Report, 11 – 13 May 2016, Gland, Switzerland

and sustainability, may have resulted in processes being incomplete and partially implemented at landscape level, falling short of delivering real, concrete benefits with regard to sustainable livelihoods. While it is the case that many of the interventions proposed and tested in selected landscapes have been integrated elsewhere in investment strategies for results based financing, there is no clear strategy for continuing interventions within the project landscapes after the project closes. Many of the landscapes were deliberately selected as representative sites for poor and marginalised communities, with urgent development needs. Evidence from some countries (Indonesia, Cameroon and Ghana) suggests that within the project landscapes, while addressing landscape-level governance concerns has yet to address more immediate development priorities in any substantial way.

A second lesson to emerge relates to IUCN's programme approach. While working at a programme or institutional level has generated many real benefits to the project and without doubt delivered greater value for money to the Danish tax payer, it has resulted in real challenges of undertaking outcome and impact evaluation and ultimately has meant that project-level accountability has been somewhat reduced. This evaluation has highlighted the very real benefits delivered by harnessing the values of IUCN's wide network, convening power and cross-cutting staff engaged in complex policy processes relating to climate change, forests and gender. However, there may be a need to reflect, at organisational level how these clear benefits can be continued without any loss of accountability.

The evaluation has highlighted the role that the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project has played in engaging at an institutional level within IUCN regarding helping the organisation move towards its policy commitments on rights based approaches. However, it has also demonstrated that for this to happen effectively, further efforts will be need to strengthen organisational procedures relating to programme design, appraisal as well as performance management through M&E.

The review has identified a number of policy level changes where clear and visible contributions from the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project have been made. As the project nears completion, these policies are in the very early stages of being implemented, as countries move from readiness to implementation. As such, it is not possible to provide any definitive statement on whether outcomes will be translated into real impacts on either forests or livelihoods. As IUCN moves on to new projects and new challenges within these five countries, it will be important to ensure that civil society organisations continue to receive support with a view to holding government duty bearers to account against written policy or programme commitments. External and independent monitoring of the results-based financing will be critical in coming years if the benefits of the Towards Pro-poor REDD+ project are to be fully capitalised on.

Finally, this review has highlighted how the project has contributed to shifting narratives, debate and in some cases policies at national and international level regarding the very real need for equitable governance processes, as a foundation for effective climate change mitigation through REDD+. What the project has yet to do in a clear and informed manner is to document and communicate what has been learned from the perspective of applying rights based approaches within the context of REDD+. A number of useful lessons-learned papers on different themes from across the project have been developed at country level, but this has yet to be synthesised, consolidated and presented at a project level.

4.2. Recommendations to IUCN

The Towards pro-poor REDD+ project will end by December 2017 and as such there are limited opportunities for the project to adopt recommendations as a result of this review. Consequently, the bulk of the recommendations that appear below are aimed at the Global Forests and Climate Change team more generally and are meant to be used to inform and stimulate debate within current and future programming work implemented by IUCN.

1. **Framing HRBA within the context of REDD+:** In the final months of the project, there is a need for the project management team, together with other members of the GFCC team to synthesise and document learning from across the five countries with regard to how a HRBA has been operationalized in practice through REDD+. Such an analysis could usefully explore what are some of the rights-based implications of REDD+ and how can they be mitigated, what sort of interventions can effectively support rights holders and well as duty bearers in the application of rights based approaches and how do rights based approaches differ from other approaches being promoted by IUCN and others (such as the use of pro-poor, sustainable livelihoods and other approaches). Such lessons could usefully be packaged in a way that could inform the future application of rights based approaches in both Danida and IUCN, which are both wrestling with how such processes can be institutionalised and internally promoted.

2. **HRBA:** This evaluation has shown how the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project has supported a number of internal processes within IUCN that will enable a move towards organisational commitments on HRBA. Further support at an institutional level will be needed to ensure that HRBA commitments are further strengthened and mainstreamed, particularly within the context of project design, monitoring and reporting.

3. **Livelihoods:** There is a need to think strategically and creatively about how livelihood actions, piloted and tested in project landscapes are supported after the project ends. When working in poor communities, expectations are always likely to be high – and often above and beyond what is possible with limited funding available. In a number of project-supported landscapes, livelihood activities are at very early stages and without further support are likely to wither and die. In a number of landscapes, plans are advancing for integrating these actions within the plans of other organisations (including local government) while in other areas IUCN has managed to secure follow on funding from other sources that will see continuing support to communities and institutions supported under the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project. More fundamentally, IUCN will need to consider in future how actions designed primarily as testing grounds for scaling up and replication elsewhere, can be sustained or supported post-project within project communities.

4. **Monitoring implementation of pro-poor interventions:** The Towards pro-poor REDD+ project has been able, in many countries, to successfully advocate for the inclusion of pro-poor approaches in national or sub-national REDD+ implementation plans, investment strategies and programmes. It will be important to find ways that civil society organisations can monitor duty bearers (such as national government agencies and the World Bank/FIP) to ensure that agreed plans are implemented, leading to pro-poor outcomes.

5. **Reviewing programme design:** It is important that the theory of change being pursued by future projects is clearly conceived and articulated within future design documents. This includes being realistic about the degree to which governance-related interventions will lead to livelihood and

forest cover impacts during the life of the project. Project outputs should be framed around those changes that are within the direct influence of the project by the end of current funding.

6. **Partner selection:** The evaluation has shown that IUCN's long engagement with government agencies at national levels has been a major factor behind its ability to influence and shape emerging REDD+ policies and plans across the countries supported. The one country where IUCN has no national presence (Indonesia), national level results have been much more limited. In future projects of this kind, where field implementation is combined with national level policy influence, it is recommended that countries should be selected where IUCN has a strong national presence and established links to government, while partners should be selected on the basis of their more local expertise, knowledge and track-record within selected landscapes.

Annex I: List of persons consulted at international and national levels

Name of person	Position	Institution
IUCN global programme staff members		
Stewart Maginnis	Global Director, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme Nature Based Solutions Group	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Chris Buss	Deputy Director, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
George Akwah	Project Co-ordinator, Pro-poor REDD+	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Julien Colomer	Monitoring and learning officer	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Florian Reinhard	Programme officer	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Patrick Wylie	(Former) Senior Policy Officer, Global Forest and Climate Change Programme	IUCN, Washington DC, USA
Gonzalo Aviedo	Senior Adviser for Social Policy	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Lorena Aguilar	Director, Global Programme Governance and Rights. Global Senior Gender Adviser	IUCN, Washington DC
Margaux Granat	Climate Policy Specialist, Global Gender Office	IUCN, Washington DC
Maria Espinosa	Senior Forest Policy Officer, Climate Change,	IUCN, Washington DC
Sandra Caya	IUCN Manager, Knowledge & Communications Manager	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Cory Nash	Knowledge and communications officer	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Sengupta Sandeep	Policy adviser	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
Linda Klare	ESMS Co-ordinator	IUCN, Gland, Switzerland
IUCN Country Staff and case study consultants		
Saadia Bobtoya Owusu-Amofah	REDD+ Project Officer	IUCN Ghana Country Office
Nana Ama Yirrah	Ghana Case Study Consultant	Colandef, Ghana
Lorena Cordova	Forests and Climate Co-ordinator	IUCN Guatemala Country Office
Leonora Martin-Hidalgo	Guatemala Case Study Consultant	Independent Consultant
Cotilda Nakyeyune	Senior Programme Officer	IUCN Uganda Country Office
Robert Ddamulira	Uganda Case Study Consultant	YESE Uganda Ltd.
Charlotte Eyong	REDD+ Projects Co-ordinator	IUCN Cameroon Country Office
Mary Nyuyinwi	Cameroon Case Study Consultant	Independent Consultant
Yunus Yumte	Programme Co-ordinator	Samdhana Institute, Indonesia
Ambrosius Ruwindrijarto	Indonesia Case Study Consultant	Independent Consultant
Danida		
Mike Speirs	Senior Adviser	Danida
Elsebeth Tarp	Former Senior Adviser – Forests and Climate	Danida (now retired)
Flemming Winther Olsen	Former Senior Adviser – Environment and Water	Danida (now in Afghanistan)

External		
Joanna Durbin	Co-ordinator, REDD+ SES Initiative and Initiative on Climate Action Transparency	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance
Phil Franks	Co-ordinator REDD+ SES Initiative	International Institute for Environment and Development, UK
Gill Shepherd	IUCN External adviser	Overseas Development Institute, UK
Kenn Rapp	Senior Social Development Adviser (Safeguards Specialist)	World Bank, South and South East Asia Regional Office
Fleur Newman	Gender Focal Person	UNFCCC Secretariat
Nicholas Soikan	Social Development Specialist	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, World Bank

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Annex III: Summarised terms of reference

Introduction

This evaluation fulfills the requirements of the grant agreement between IUCN and DANIDA as well as the IUCN Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, to conduct an independent evaluation for the purpose of accountability, learning and reflection on project value for money.

The final evaluation will take in consideration the project journey and impacts from its first phase, however the main focus will be on exploring the project's achievements, contribution to and impacts on national, sub-national and landscape climate change mitigation (REDD+), forest governance and conservation policies and strategies in the 5 target countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, the Papua provinces of Indonesia and Uganda), as well as globally, over the period 2009-2016.

Objectives of the evaluation

The evaluation will:

- Define the project's achievements, contributions to and impacts on national, sub-national and landscape climate change mitigation (REDD+), forest governance and conservation policies and strategies in the 5 target countries.

- Define and quantify the project's contribution to global REDD+ policy processes

- The evaluation will specifically address OECD DAC criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact).

- Demonstrate how the project contributed the Danish Government's Strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation and the IUCN global program respectively.

Audience for the evaluation

The primary audiences for the evaluation are DANIDA, relevant government, civil society and private sector stakeholders in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Province of Indonesia and Uganda, IUCN and the REDD+ community.

Given that DANIDA and IUCN are key audiences, the evaluation will need to demonstrate how the project contributed the Danish Government's Strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation, and the IUCN global program respectively.

Methodology

This evaluation will be carried out in conformity with the IUCN Monitoring and Evaluation Policy (2013)2, which sets out IUCN's institutional commitment to evaluation, and the criteria and standards for the evaluation and evaluation of its projects, programmes and organizational units. IUCN's evaluation standards and criteria are based on the widely accepted OECD DAC Evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

This evaluation will use a learning-focused, partner-driven approach, consisting of five IUCN-commissioned country-level case studies (A) and an independent external evaluator (B) to develop an overall evaluation report, as well as related communication and outreach products. As much as

possible, multi-media data collection methods will be used to feed more easily into communication and outreach products (C).

A – Case studies

The objectives of the case studies are to develop five country-level, robust, evidence-based narratives of achievements and contributions to change and impacts. Each project country will develop a 20 page case study against a common template, using a common set of evaluation questions against the project theory of change. IUCN will commission these case studies, and consultants will work closely with a) IUCN country teams and project partners, b) the GFCCP evaluation lead and Project Manager, and c) the external evaluator to complete the case studies.

Draft key evaluation questions for the case studies are listed below:

1. Did the project deliver against its agreed objectives in country and were there any unexpected results?

2. How did the project contribute to enhancing rights-based and pro-poor approaches to REDD+ at national, sub-national and landscape levels in country X?

3. What were the project's main impact pathways and nodes of influence at the country level?

4. What is the project's quantified contribution value?

5. What are the key missed opportunities and lessons learnt at the country level?

As much as possible, multi-media data collection methods will be used during case study development to feed more easily into communication and outreach products.

B – External evaluator

The external evaluator will be engaged early in the case study development process to provide a conceptual oversite and advisory role, and to ensure that the external evaluator gains understanding about the project through the case study development process.

The external evaluator will draw from the case studies, key informant interviews, additional document review, and two country-level sense-making workshops (countries TBD) to develop a 30 page evaluation report, which will:

- Define the project's contribution to pro-poor REDD+ approaches in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Province of Indonesia and Uganda.

- Define and quantify the project's contribution to global REDD+ policy processes3

- Address OECD DAC criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact).

- Demonstrate how the project contributed the Danish Government's Strategy for Denmark's Development Cooperation and the IUCN global program respectively.

Draft key evaluation questions for the external evaluator are listed below:

- Did the project deliver against its agreed objectives and were there any unexpected results?

- How did the project contribute to enhancing rights-based and pro-poor approaches to REDD+ at country and global policy levels?

- What were the project's main impact pathways and nodes of influence?

- What is the project's quantified contribution value at national and global levels?

- What are the key missed opportunities and lessons learnt?

Findings will be shared and validated with IUCN through an ongoing consultation process and a walk through of the final report.

Deliverables

The consultant will deliver a 30 page report (using the supplied template as a guide), using available secondary information (case studies, project reports, learning event materials, related web-based information) and primary data (key informant interviews, workshop, field visits) to provide an evidence-based narrative against the key evaluation questions. Visual aids such as photos and timelines will be used as appropriate to clearly convey key messages.

Annex IV: Planning and Policy influence ranking scale and strength of evidence tool

Ranking	Description	Criteria
High	Affecting Planning/Policy	• Most or all of (2) • Modification of existing programs, plans or policies • Fundamental re-design of programs, plans or policies, or creation of new ones
Medium	Broadening Horizons	• Most or all of (3) • Providing opportunities for networking/learning within the District or with colleagues elsewhere • Introducing new concepts to frame debates, putting ideas on the agenda or stimulating public debate • Educating researchers, practitioners and others from across sectors (especially cross-cutting ones) who take up new positions with broader understanding of issues • Stimulating quiet dialogue among decision-makers
Low	Expanding Capacities	• Improving the knowledge/data of target actors • Supporting recipients to develop innovative ideas • Strengthening capacity to communicate ideas • Developing new talent for research and analysis
None	No influence	• No influence on target planning or policy processes

Table 1: Planning and policy influence ranking scale

Rating	Criteria
High strength of evidence	Where the evidence is relevant to the claim and concurs with one of the following criteria: - Evidence is provided in the form of a published document available in the public domain that has been peer reviewed. - Evidence is published on an official Government website and is directly relevant to the claim. - Evidence is triangulated through 3 different categories of evidence. For example, expert informants concur with this finding, and there are also 2 examples of documented evidence of the finding from different sources. - Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected with a statistically representative sample, or with the population.
Medium strength of evidence	-Where directly relevant testimony / user experience is collected using saturation sampling (over 20 participants). -Where highly credible testimony is provided: for example, an email from a government official who is the target of the knowledge product. -Administrative data that is directly relevant to the claim– such as participant records about who attends meetings to comment on reach or evidence about achievement of a report being published -Where there is triangulation between at least 2 weaker forms of evidence (see below)

Low strength of evidence	Low strength of evidence is where there is only one of these weaker forms of evidence such as: - Evidence that is written in a text provided by a third party - Evidence that relies on a single respondent's claim. - Evidence that relies only on internally produced documents written by the claim maker.

Table 2: Strength of evidence ranking scale

Annex V: Contribution of the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project to Danish development assistance goals and IUCN / GFCCP targets

Strategic goals of Danish development assistance	Degree to which Pro-poor REDD+ has contributed to these goals
Security and development – Peace, stability and protection (includes support to fragile states, peace-building, humanitarian assistance)	**Little or no contribution**. The project is not working in fragile states, not engaged in peace building activities and has no link to humanitarian assistance.
Migration and development (includes support to refugee reintegration, combatting extremism, multi-lateral approaches, addressing root causes of economic migration)	**Little or no contribution**. The project is not supporting efforts to reduce international migration.
Inclusive, sustainable growth and development (includes support to private sector development, sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation, free trade, energy and agriculture)	**Strong contribution.** The project is supporting and advocating for livelihood and governance activities that support local livelihoods and reduce deforestation, with a view to mitigating the effects of climate change through REDD+. Many of the livelihood-focused activities implemented in countries such as Guatemala, Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda are linked to agriculture.
Freedom and development – democracy, human rights and gender equality (includes support to human rights and democracy, gender equality, civil society strengthening)	**Strong contribution**. The project has an explicit focus on HRBA, strengthening voice, accountability, inclusion and gender equity. Support to civil society and the creation of political space is also a central aspect of the project.

Table 1: Contribution of the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project to the strategic goals of Danish government development assistance

IUCN / GFCCP Targets	Degree to which Pro-poor REDD+ has contributed to these goals
T.05: IUCN knowledge, including gender-specific knowledge as appropriate, on the value and conservation of nature is generated and communicated to influence key global, regional and local decisions and actions	**Medium contribution.** Gender strategies for REDD+ have been supported in three countries where the project operated, which highlighted gender considerations regarding the use and management of forest resources and land-use actions.
T.09 - Targeted conservation actions lead to the recovery of species and ecosystems	**Little or no contribution**. The project did not have any specific goal of targeted conservation actions, although in the long term, it is possible that ecosystem recovery will result from actions implemented within project landscapes and as a result of national REDD+ investment plans
T.12 – Nature For All raises awareness of nature and its values and enables more people to experience, connect with, and take action to conserve nature	**Little or no contribution**. The project has no specific activities on raising awareness of the values of nature, although across the five countries, actions have been taken to increase understanding of policy makers on the value of forests and forest resources to poor and marginalised communities.
T.13 - IUCN tools, methodologies and approaches for assessing and improving natural resource governance are available and used.	**Strong contribution**. Governance assessments and support has been an important element of the work of the project in relation to community forestry structures (in Indonesia and

|	
	Cameroon), farmer co-operatives (Guatemala) and CREMAs (Ghana)
T.14 - Natural resource governance systems assessed (through testing of methodologies) under different management regimes, including protected areas, and corresponding improvement plans developed.	***Medium contribution.*** *Community based natural resource management systems have been supported in Ghana, Indonesia and Cameroon, although there are no specific links to protected area management per se (other than incidental links to the Mole National Park in Ghana)*
T.15 - Community-led, cultural, grassroots or protected area governance systems that achieve the effective and equitable governance of natural resources are recognised (as best practices/pilot testing), supported and promoted, while respecting the rights of nature.	***Strong contribution.*** *As mentioned above in T.14 this has been an important aspect of support to the Ghana, Cameroon and Indonesia components of the project.*
T.16 - Intervention points in which rights regimes related to natural resources are clear, stable, implementable, enforceable and equitable have increased and are effectively integrated with other rights regimes – particularly for women, indigenous people, youth and the poor – have increased.	***Strong contribution.*** *Rights have been strengthened in a number of countries, including benefit sharing aspects. In many cases these have been integrated within national or sub-national governance regimes and have received official recognition (for example, work on formalisation of customary territories in Indonesia)*
T.17 - The capacity of institutions (including protected area and customary institutions) to undertake decision making in a participatory, inclusive, effective and equitable manner is enhanced, especially for facilitating the active participation of women, youth and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders.	***Strong contribution.*** *Capacity building has been an important aspect of activities undertaken within project landscapes across all five countries*
T.22 - IUCN and partners are equipped to systematically collect and compile disaggregated data that enables the assessment of the material benefits and cultural values that flow from ecosystems to, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities.	***Little or no contribution.*** *There has been limited attention to data collection of any sort, including disaggregated data, for valuation of natural resource systems.*
T.24 - Key nature-based solutions interventions promoted by IUCN, (e.g. Forest Landscape Restoration, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Mangroves for the Future, river basin management and protected areas) are equipped to systematically assess and monitor the requisite in-country enabling frameworks, including legal, customary, institutional and resourcing mechanisms for implementation.	***Little or no contribution.*** *The primary focus of interventions has been REDD+. There has been little or no explicit focus on FLR, disaster risk reduction, protected area management or watershed management.*
T.25 - Legal, policy and institutional mechanisms (at the national and sub-national level) that support and reward ecosystem stewardship by local communities and other resource managers for the delivery of societal benefits have been piloted and documented.	***Strong contribution.*** *REDD+ is a system that rewards ecosystem stewardship and is a central focus of the project. In all countries, the emphasis has been on developing, testing and advocating for livelihood and governance strategies that meet local development needs while reducing deforestation.*
T.26 - Mechanisms to facilitate the active participation of women, youth and indigenous peoples as key stakeholders in the design and implementation of nature-based solutions are tested, evaluated and promoted.	***Strong contribution.*** *Gender equity has been a central focus of work in many countries, while specific support to indigenous peoples has been a central aspect of the work undertaken in Papua and West Papua provinces of Indonesia as well as in Cameroon.*
T.27. Additional international or national financial mechanisms that encourage the deployment of nature-based solutions are established and /or strengthened	***Strong contribution.*** *REDD+ is an international financial mechanism that encourages nature-based solutions and is a central pillar of the project. As a sustainability strategy, the project has identified other financial mechanisms from public private and NGO sources with which to sustain interventions within project landscapes (Uganda, Cameroon in particular)*
T.28 - New national, sub-national or corporate planning and investment frameworks are effectively implemented in productive ecosystems to contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainably deliver ecosystem goods and services and promote 'land degradation neutrality'.	*Strong contribution. The project has implemented an explicit strategy to mainstream and integrate landscape level interventions within emerging REDD+ investment frameworks, with strong examples from Ghana, Uganda, Guatemala and Cameroon.*
T.29 - Restoration processes and methodologies make demonstrable contributions to the restitution of key ecosystem services in degraded landscapes,	***Little or no contribution.*** *FLR has not been an integral part of the project and interventions made to date have had limited impact on restoration of degraded ecosystems*

watersheds and seascapes.	
T.30 - Legal, customary and institutional mechanisms and resourcing are effectively implemented to maintain intact, natural and semi-natural ecosystems that deliver benefits to society, including existing and new protected areas.	*Strong contribution. Customary and traditional mechanisms and structures have been an entry point for project interventions across many countries, including Ghana, Cameroon, Guatemala and Indonesia.*

Table 2: Contribution of the Towards pro-poor REDD+ project to IUCN targets
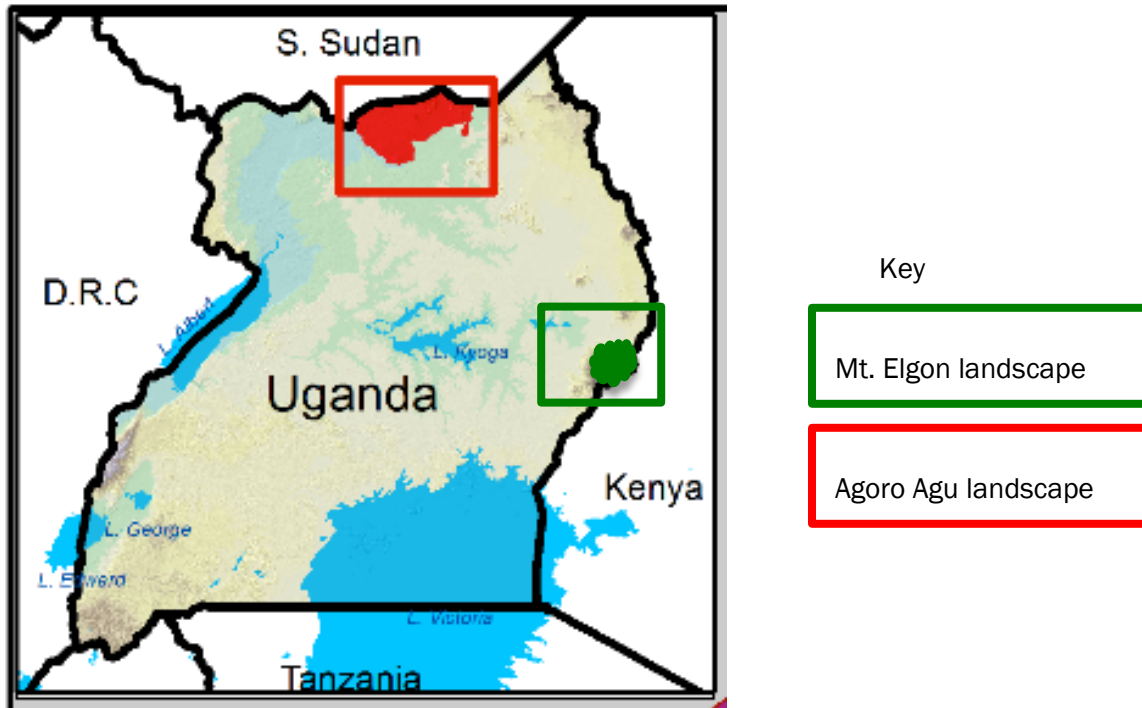
Annex VI: Geographic location of project sites
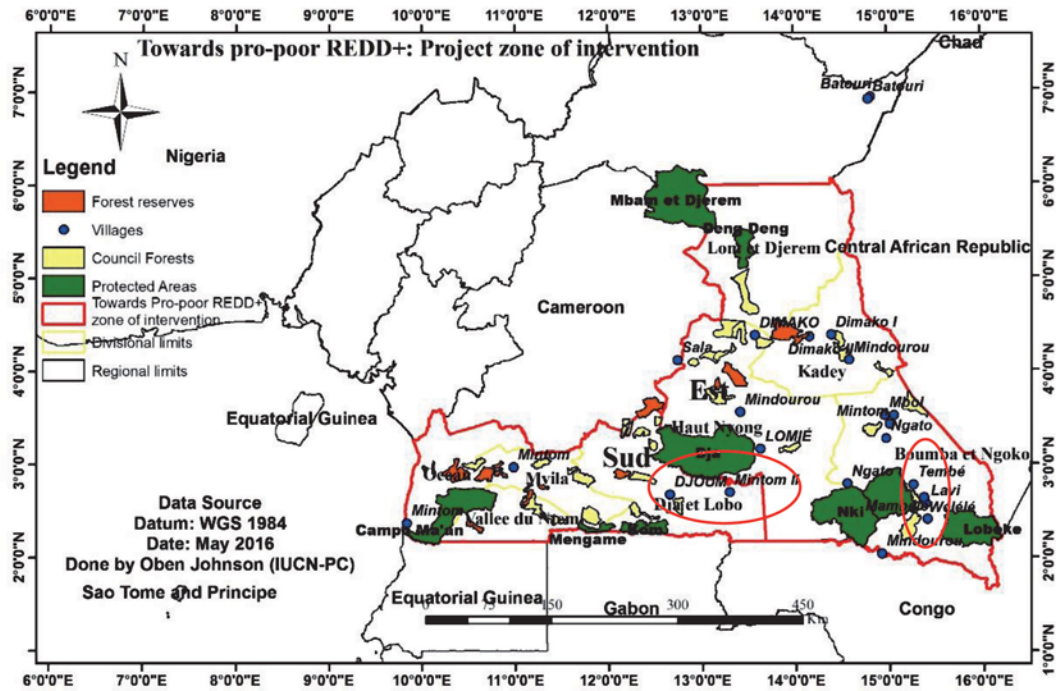
Map of project landscapes - Cameroon
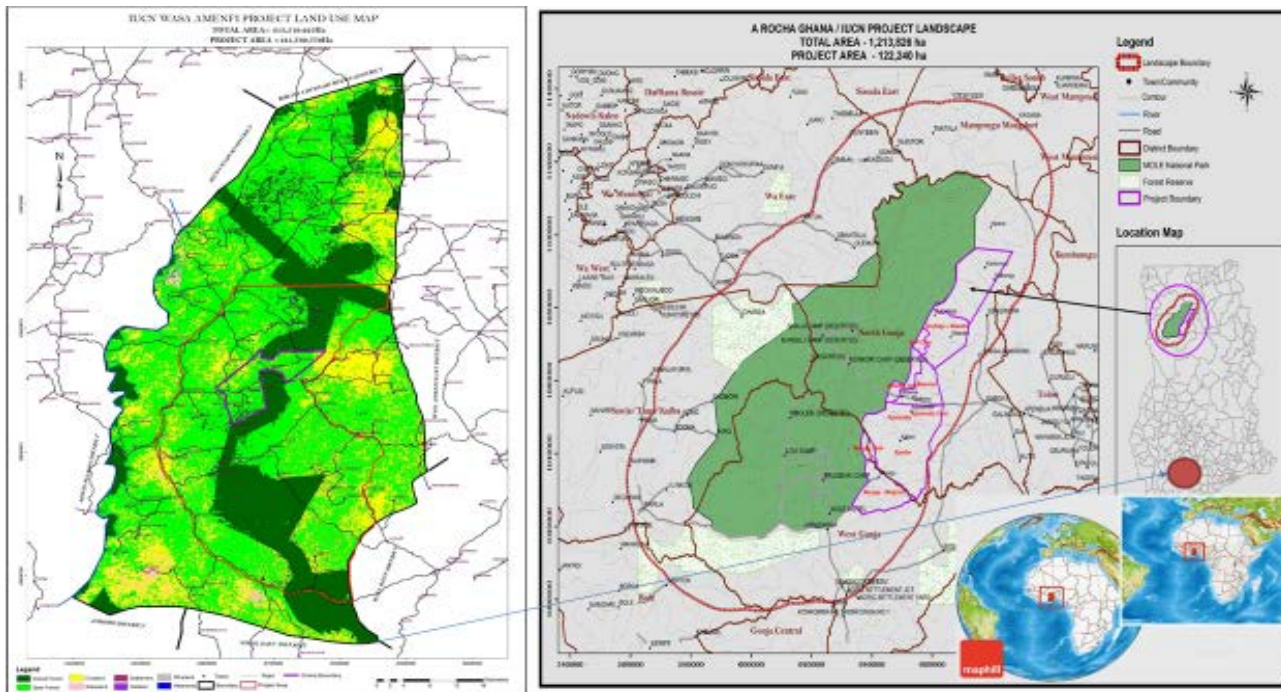
Map of project landscapes - Ghana

Map of project landscapes - Indonesia

Key

Mt. Elgon landscape

Agoro Agu landscape

Map of project landscapes - Uganda

Map of project landscapes - Guatemala