



Safeguards and local communities: Lessons from REDD+

Adaptation Forum 2013

Regan Suzuki



LESSON 1: *Necessity is the mother of invention*

LESSON 2: *Ignore local voices at your peril*

LESSON 3: *Adaptation – the next safeguard?*



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- REDD+ will draw at least some of its financing from the market
- Concerns over potential profitability leading to fears of ‘carbon cowboys’ or state recentralization of NRM
- Questions of justice if developed countries are looking to offset continued levels of emissions
- In the end, REDD+ is highly contentious and has galvanized various groups including indigenous, local communities, social justice and others







- Adaptation by definition, is to support what are (ideally) positive adaptive responses
- Interventions are largely local with direct local beneficiaries
- Focus not on safeguarding but enhancing adaptation benefits and ensuring they reach the most vulnerable
- Closest comparable instrument would be vulnerability assessments to ensure intervention is appropriately designed



THE LESSON: due to significant inherent risks and strong public scrutiny, it was necessary for strong safeguards to be built around REDD+



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Thai Climate Justice Working Group slams Thailand's Readiness Preparation Plan: "The participatory process was problematic and the content of the draft was defective"

By Chris Lang, 19th March 2013


 The **Thai Climate Justice Working Group** has written a very critical short paper about the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Preparation Plan for Thailand. Both the process of producing the R-PP and its content are deeply flawed.

reddisms:

"I guess in some ways it's akin to subprime. You keep layering on crap until you say, 'We can't do this anymore.'"
— Marc Stuart of EcoSecurities after the value of his company's shares crashed in 2008

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THE LESSON: cannot presume stakeholders to be passive partners in developing/ implementing activities. Their **REAL** and full consultation is needed and comes with the risk of activity rejection.



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THE LESSON: there are no easy, one-size-fits-all solutions, and the safeguards bring with them a risk of being unwieldy, BUT consider that adaptive capacity might not only protect vulnerable communities, but may allow REDD+ to work.

