

West Africa Katoomba Meeting Payments for Ecosystem Services in West Africa

Regional Challenges and
Opportunities for Pro-poor REDD
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Introduction

- “Poverty” = Structural Poverty resulting from exploitative social processes driving climate change
- Region = African communities – greatest victims of exploitation and marginalisation. Clear objective goal is to get out of structural poverty.
- REDD – Aspirational global scheme to enable north-south flow of resources to mitigate climate change through land use and forestry interventions - at present no clarity regarding quantum, source, destination, mediation or specific utilisation of fund

REDD Opportunities I

- We get to live - bringing the 20% forest emissions reduction capacity into play is critical for avoiding climate and societal chaos by 2050 which is global warming is a condition for survival.
- Depends on real assault on climate change – and massive changes in energy economy and Northern and other elite consumption patterns

REDD Opportunities II

- We get another (probably last) chance at “adaptation” – i.e. a new international order suitable for an unstable climate
 - improved awareness of rootedness of all production in natural world + limits of growth, social interdependence, recklessness and pointlessness of dominant capitalist development paradigms and relationships (especially concessions regime)
 - Chances to innovate in enterprise and markets – realising value for production (payments).
 - We can address long-standing distortions in global political economy
 - N-S
 - Urban-rural

Challenges for the REDD community

- Huge distrust in international community responses to structural poverty affects “pro-poor REDD”
 - no shortage of valuable products / services from South (oil & gas, minerals, miracle bio-products)
 - Issue is not products but relationships that contextualise production
- International community & REDD proponents must demonstrate:
 - sense of urgency about climate
 - understand continuity of climate change with existing socio-economic crises
 - willingness to address structural poverty by structural redistribution of wealth
 - transcendence of quick fix mentality
 - Go beyond payments

Challenges for the poor

- We must:
 - Strengthen organisation
 - Strengthen policy campaign capacity
 - Strengthen engagement platform building
 - Strengthen listening capacity of the international community

Thank You