

REDD Early Movers (REM) Indigenous benefit sharing

Approaches, results, lessons learnt

Context

The REDD Early Movers (REM) Programme sees KfW remunerate partner governments for their performance in terms of climate change mitigation and pay them to prevent the generation of carbon emissions from deforestation. GIZ is assisting its partners with preparing and implementing the programme. In Colombia and the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, GIZ has advised governments and forest-dependent indigenous peoples on sharing the benefits of results-based finance.

Approaches to benefit sharing

GIZ is explicitly supporting indigenous peoples through the participatory development of benefit sharing programmes. In-depth information and consultation processes have paved the way for sustainable project funding that takes account of people's living situation and needs.

The Colombian benefit sharing programme *Visión Amazonía* was developed in cooperation with the responsible ministries and OPIAC (the National Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon). Similarly, a constructive policy dialogue arose in Mato Grosso between the federal state government, FEPOIMT (the Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organisations of Mato Grosso) and all seven regional associations of indigenous peoples.

The indigenous representatives from the two project regions directly defined their own decision-making structure, investment priorities and project selection criteria.



“ The greatest impact we had with the consultations was the process itself – of showing and confirming that it is really possible to consult on a large scale and build a program collectively! ”

Eliane Xunakalo, Advisor to FEPOIMT

Indigenous investment priorities	
Colombia	Mato Grosso
Sustainable indigenous territories: planning and demarcation	Territorial management: planning and demarcation
Self-governance: policy dialogue, FPIC, zoning, territorial control	Institutional strengthening: policy dialogue, FPIC, territorial control
Economic development: production improvements, market access	Production and gathering economy for food sovereignty
Gender equality, training, traditional knowledge (TK)	Gender equality, socio-cultural strengthening, TK

Process and project results

Colombia

OPIAC and governmental stakeholders engaged on a peer-to-peer basis in negotiating the parameters of a representative participation process for designing the indigenous benefit sharing pillar of Visión Amazonía. This process agreement was accepted by the MRA (indigenous regional round table of the Amazon region), which legitimised implementation.

The strengthened OPIAC evolved into an interest group representing the peoples of the Amazon beyond the REDD+ context and further legitimised its role in the eyes of some 60 different indigenous people groups. Thanks to initial support, indigenous organisations acquired project management capacities and took ownership of the project implementation process.

By mid-2020, Visión Amazonía had financed a total of 36 projects worth approximately USD 8 million in total. These initiatives reached over 17,000 families and positively impacted some 14 million ha of indigenous territory (almost 30% of the Colombian Amazon region). Just under USD 7 million has been awarded for 2021; a separate line of funding has been set up for women's projects to address their needs specifically.

Projects include activities for preserving traditional seeds, strengthening self-governance and traditional knowledge, and sustainably managing indigenous territories.



Participants in a workshop on investment priorities in Putumayo/ Colombia

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Mato Grosso

A large-scale consultation process enabled state, indigenous and civil-society stakeholders to gain initial experience of collaboration. Policy dialogue is being continued by the steering committee of the indigenous benefit sharing programme and within the Ministry of the Environment's climate change forum.

FEPOIMT has improved its political capacity and enjoys judicial recognition. It has become a legitimised political mouthpiece for the indigenous peoples of Mato Grosso and an implementation partner to state stakeholders.

FEPOIMT continues to build its capacities and plays a key role in inclusive communication with its member organisations and their grass roots members.

Against the backdrop of the forest fires and coronavirus pandemic, an emergency plan was put into effect in 2020/21. Across 61 projects, around USD 1.8 million are spent on food and health security, to raise awareness of the pandemic and strengthen indigenous fire services.

Lessons learnt

Benefit Sharing	
Prerequisites	Obstacles
<p>Settled land rights are key to forest conservation and a lever for participation.</p> <p>Properly functioning, legitimised representation structures are central to cooperation.</p> <p>Good expectation management guards against a loss of trust.</p>	<p>Complex administrative requirements meet inadequate project management capacities.</p> <p>A large number of goals and high transaction costs meet poor funding.</p> <p>Donor institutions must call for and support participation.</p>

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