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INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption



Ghana Integrity Initiative
Local Chapter of Transparency International



*with funding
support from
European Union*



Building Integrity in REDD+

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GHANA INTEGRITY INITIATIVE

The Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) is the local chapter of Transparency International (TI), the global, non-governmental, non-profit civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption through more than 90 chapters and over 30 individual members worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany. The GII was established in 1999 as a non-partisan, non-profit civil organisation focused on addressing corruption.

The vision of GII is ***“a corruption-free society where all people and institutions act accountably, transparently and with integrity”***.

The mission of GII is ***“to fight corruption and promote good governance in the daily lives of people and institutions by forging strong, trusting and effective partnership with government, business and civil society and engagement with the people”***.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nation’s (UN) defines climate change as ‘a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods’. Climate change occurs when typical weather patterns change significantly over an extended period of time. It means, for example, more intense and more frequent floods, droughts and storms.



Natural resources play a vital role in the economy of many countries. The extent to which those resources profit the well-being of its citizens is of great importance. However, some states exploit their forests, minerals or fossil fuels in a way that supports poverty alleviation, economic and social development. Meanwhile other resource-rich countries suffer economic stagnation, social conflict and in some cases civil war. Reasons behind this differ and continue to be debated. What is certain, however is that corruption in natural resource management hampers their efficient and equitable allocation, thereby reducing their potential to drive green, sustainable development.

The global climate finance architecture is marked by an increasing number of mechanisms and initiatives. It is evolving continuously with the establishment of various funding mechanisms. This situation holds out many opportunities for partner countries to enhance their climate activities. It also presents challenges in accessing and making efficient use of financial resources. At the same time, there is a need to assure that existing national systems are being used and that principles of aid effectiveness are considered in climate financing. Accessing climate finance is not the final step in making climate finance work. It also needs to be spent in an efficient and transparent way. In order to do so, the national budget systems need to have the capacities to absorb and allocate the resources.

Investigations into the governance of climate funding institutions pointed to instances of inadequate transparency, compromised or lacking independent oversight across important decision-making processes. Transparency International has therefore been working on climate finance since the launch of the Global Corruption Report on climate change of 2011 (and before that on Forestry issues). The REDD+ Integrity programme seeks to safeguard climate money against abuse, waste and mismanagement by demanding maximum transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels.



REDD+ GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE INTEGRITY FOR AFRICA PROJECT (REDD+ IN)

The REDD+ Governance and Finance Integrity for Africa initiative was officially launched in Ghana on the 22nd of July, 2014 by the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII). This is a three (3) year project starting from 2014 to 2016 and being implemented in partnerships with Transparency International (TI-S) Berlin, Cameroon, Zambia, Zimbabwe and some outreach activities in Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project is funded by the European Commission (EC).

Objective

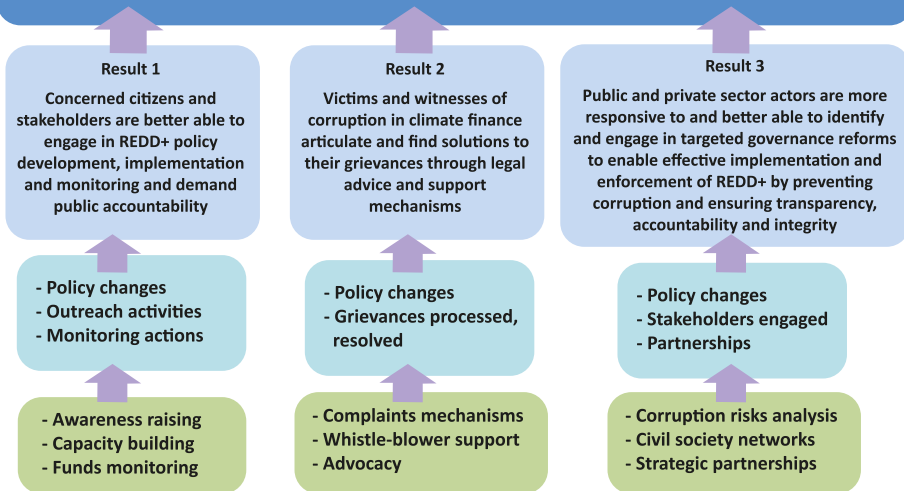
REDD+ governance and finance integrity in Africa project has an overall objective to improved anti-corruption policy and practice in REDD+ finance and governance in Ghana.

Specifically the project seeks to among others:

- To strengthen citizens' engagement to increase the demand for transparency, accountability in REDD+ governance and finance policy development and monitoring;
- To empower potential victims and witnesses of corruption and fraud in REDD+ actions (including land acquisitions) to pursue their corruption-related complaints;
- To strengthen national, regional and global anti-corruption policies and practices leading to REDD+ Safeguards respected in practice and information available in national systems.

Public money for climate change is used effectively and for its intended purposes

Improved anti-corruption policy and practice in REDD+ Finance and Governance in Africa



Mapping / corruption risks assessment / project monitoring tools and applications, training workshops, community visits, seminars, e-learning, education campaigns, ALACs, policy papers, press cooperations

Activities implemented so far

1. Community sensitization in over 30 communities in Eastern (Kade), Western (Asankranga & Enchi), Central (Kakum area), Ashanti (Offinso), Brong Ahafo (Nkoranza)
2. Community level Multi-Stakeholder Platforms – CMSPs formed in Six (6) Districts and trained in advocacy and citizen engagements
3. Six (6) FM radio talk programme (Capacity building) held in six districts
4. Research on REDD+ Corruption Risk and governance Assessment conducted



REDD+ Project Launching

REDD+

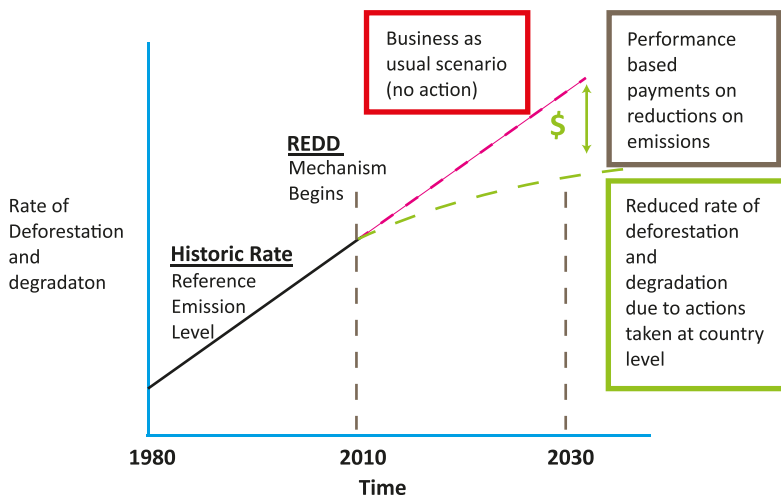
The basis behind REDD+ is that developing countries should be financially compensated for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It was first proposed in 2005 by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP-11) and has since been primarily discussed within the United Nations. The debate was initially limited to deforestation (the acronym then was RED), but was later expanded to include forest degradation (the second D in REDD), and conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks (the “plus” in the current acronym “REDD+”). 9 REDD+ was included in the Bali Action Plan (UNFCCC-COP-13), which invited States to reduce emissions from deforestation on a voluntary basis and undertake “demonstration activities.”¹⁰ In 2009 the Copenhagen Accord adopted at the UNFCCC-COP-15 called for the “immediate establishment of a



mechanism including REDD+ to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.”¹¹ At the conclusion of the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-16) held in Mexico in December 2010, a framework for REDD+ was defined in the “Cancun Agreements,”¹² with a number of details on goals, scope, scale, elements, phases as well as social and environmental safeguards. However, a final design of the REDD+ mechanism has yet to be defined. Since no such mechanism exists under the Kyoto Protocol, carbon credits from avoided deforestation and forest degradation so far are limited to voluntary markets.

HOW REDD+ WORKS

Countries will and able to reduce emissions are will be financially rewarded as depicted in the diagram below. However, this must be based on verifiable results.



The success of REDD+ depends on whether national, legal and policy frameworks and strategies ensure



- *Inclusion*
- *Transparency and*
- *Accountability*
- *Forest dependent communities including indigenous people fairly receive the REDD+ Benefits*
- *Donors and investor have confidence in the REDD+ mechanism*
- *The Risk of Corruption is addressed throughout the REDD+ process*



Illegal Chainsaw operators caught in the act

CORRUPTION RISKS

Forest management embraces the legal, economic, administrative, social and technical measures related to the conservation and utilisation of forests (FAO 1997). Poor governance in the forest sector is an impediment to achieving optimum development outcomes in the sector. In developing countries, an estimated 1 billion rural poor depend at least partially on forests for their livelihoods, and about 350 million live in and around forests and are heavily dependent on them for economic, social, and cultural needs (Standing, 2012). Forests ensure



the sustainability of environmental services such as biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and watershed protection. All these services are at risk if forests are not managed in a sustainable manner, or governance is poor (Standing, 2012). For example, forests can play an important role in climate change mitigation, but these expectations cannot be met if forests and rural landscapes in general are poorly managed. Thus, all schemes to reduce emissions from the Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation program (REDD+) emphasize the fundamental importance of good governance (Standing, 2012).

Given this, it is clear that illegal and corrupt actions in the forestry sector must be seen as a problem of forest management, and clear indication of governance weaknesses. Likewise, they cannot be divorced from the broader context of law enforcement or integrity of public officials (Callister, 1999). Corruption — paying of bribes, political patronage and so on — operates either to allow many of these activities to occur in the first place, or to allow them to proceed unchecked or unpunished (Callister, 1999).



Corruption Risk Assessment Inception Meeting



FORMS OF CORRUPTION

Bribery refers to the act of offering someone money, services or other inducements to persuade him or her to do something in return. Bribes can also be referred to as kickbacks, hush money, or protection money.

Cronyism refers to the favourable treatment of friends and associates in the distribution of resources and positions, regardless of their objective qualification.

Collusion refers to secret agreements between two parties.

Nepotism is a form of favouritism that involves family relationships. Its most usual form is when a person exploits his or her power and authority to procure jobs or other favours for relatives.

Embezzlement is the misappropriation of property or funds legally entrusted to someone in their formal position as an agent or guardian. Extortion is the unlawful demand or receipt of property, money or sensitive information to induce cooperation through the use of force or threat.

Fraud refers to an intentional misrepresentation which is done to obtain an unfair advantage by giving or receiving false or misleading information.

Patronage refers to the support or sponsorship by a patron (a wealthy or influential guardian), e.g. to make appointments to government jobs, or to distribute contracts for work.

Influence peddling, or trading in influence, is a form of bribery. For example, a person promises to exert an improper influence over the decision-making process of a public official or private sector actor in return for an undue advantage.

Abuse of public property or improper use of public resources refers to the inappropriate use of public financial, human or infrastructure resources.



Money laundering involves the depositing and transferring of money and other proceeds of illegal activities to legitimize these proceeds

Insider trading involves the use of information secured by an agent during the course of duty for personal gain.

TYPES OF CORRUPTION

Petty corruption, also called bureaucratic corruption, involves low level contacts between citizens, businesses and officials and generally takes place when public policies are being implemented. It is common in service delivery, such as in health care, when people use public services.

Grand corruption involves bribery or the embezzlement of large sums of money by those at the highest levels of power.

Political corruption results in gaining political power, or the misuse of political power for private gain for preserving or strengthening power, for personal enrichment, or both.

State capture is when the state is held captive to the actions of individuals, groups, or firms who influence the formation of laws, rules and regulations to serve their own private interests. This is a way of 'legalizing' corruption.

Systemic corruption is a situation in which corruption is an integrated aspect of the economic, social and political system

Risks of Corruption in a REDD+ Process

- Project developers could bribe public officials so that the land they own could be allocated to or excluded from REDD+
- There could be bribery or cronyism in the procurement of goods and service for REDD+
- REDD+ revenue could be embezzled by interest groups or scooped away by individuals



How can Corruption be Prevented?

- Raise awareness about REDD+ and what corruption in REDD+ might look like
- Monitor Corruption risks in REDD+
- Promote transparency in REDD+ eg. By publishing revenue from forest carbon sales
- Promote accountability by ensuring effective participation by Civil Societies and indigenous people in REDD+ processes
- Monitor and provide oversight for the use of REDD+ relate revenue by parliamentary committees, CSOs, media, etc.



Field Visit by Transparency International REDD+ Coordinator

What are the REDD+ safeguards?

During the **COP16** in Cancun (2010) countries took a significant stride in recognizing the role of safeguards in implementing REDD-plus projects. The Cancun Agreements delineated the following safeguards¹ for REDD+ initiatives:

¹Adopted in 2010 by COP16 (Cancun) in decision 1/CP.16 (paras 69, 71[d] and 72)
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf> (full list of safeguards available on page 26)



Field Visit by Transparency International REDD+ Coordinator

- a) Actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- d) Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities;
- e) Actions that are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that actions are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize



the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;

- f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions.



TI REDD+ International Conference in Kenya



CONTACT INFORMATION

Corporate Office

H/No. 21 Abelenkpe
(Near the Abelenkpe Traffic Light on the 37 Achimota Rd.)
Abelenkpe – Accra

Contact Numbers

Tel: +233 (0) 302 760 884/782 364 – 5/ 0303 939 470
Fax: + 233 (0) 302 782 365

Email: info@tighana.org
Website: www.tighana.org

Postal Address

P.M.B CT 317, Cantonments – Accra

