

## Template for report and accounts for organisations under the Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society

2013-2015

### 1. General Project Information:

- 1.1 Name of recipient organisation: World Resources Institute
- 1.2 Reporting year: 2013-2015
- 1.3 Agreement Number: GLO-4236 QZA-13/0539
- 1.4 Name of project: Making REDD+ Work for People and the Planet: Putting Accountability into Practice
- 1.5 Country and region in the(se) country if applicable: Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia
- 1.6 Financial support to the project from Norad for last calendar year 2015: NOK 5,000,000
- 1.7 Thematic area: Analysis, concept, and methodology development that contribute to sustainable planning and implementation of REDD+

### 2 Please describe the project's progress for the whole grant period

- 2.1 Please repeat the **project's target group(s)** and the baseline for the target group at the start of the project (from the approved project document).

**Governments:** Governments actors, including executive agencies, law-makers, and subnational authorities, represent the supply side of accountability. They will play a critical role in ensuring that REDD+ programs have sufficient tools in place to promote accountable and effective implementation. They require increased political willingness, capacity, and knowledge to design and implement appropriate accountability mechanisms for REDD+, as well as strengthen implementation of existing accountability tools.

**NGOs:** NGOs play a vital role in convincing and supporting governments to undertake needed reforms through evidence-based research and advocacy. NGOs also play a critical watchdog role to determine when accountability mechanisms fail. Both international and domestic NGOs tracking REDD+ implementation require analysis of key accountability challenges for REDD+ in order to work with government to identify, prioritize, and address these issues. NGOs also need strong tools for independently monitoring REDD+ implementation.

**Local communities:** Local people are the demand side of accountability. They must actively seek to hold their governments to account by exercising the accountability mechanisms available to them. They require improved knowledge and strengthened capacity to use accountability mechanisms available to them and exercise their rights to information, participation, and justice.

**International REDD+ funders, investors and policy-makers:** The UNFCCC negotiations and various bilateral, multilateral, and private funding mechanisms shape global REDD+ priorities, policies, and practices, including supporting improvements in accountability. These groups require better information about approaches and best practices for institutionalizing accountability mechanisms on the ground, in order to develop global guidance and target their investments.

#### Baseline:

**In Brazil,** reducing deforestation has been a policy priority of the Brazilian government for many years, and is a major component of Brazil's national climate change law (2009). However, despite significant reductions in Brazil's deforestation rate over the past decade, GFI assessments reveal

that existing policy tools and financial mechanisms for reducing deforestation at state and national levels have not been implemented fully or effectively. In addition, there is growing political pressure to diminish these tools, such as recent efforts to revise the Forest Code. These trends indicate weak accountability for the implementation and enforcement of environmental policies and laws. Emerging REDD+ frameworks at the national and state levels need to be designed in ways that promote accountability for implementation (e.g. by establishing clear institutional responsibilities and systems for monitoring and response). In addition, civil society can take advantage of relatively high levels of transparency in Brazil to independently monitor REDD+ implementation and outcomes.

**In Indonesia**, strong vested interests in agriculture, timber, and mining have long thwarted local and national government accountability to forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples. REDD+ and the Letter of Intent (LOI) with Norway have created hope that historical accountability relationships could shift. Through the LOI, Indonesia has launched a national REDD+ strategy and has made significant progress in designing a system for REDD+ safeguards. However, the institutional requirements for implementation – including a national REDD+ agency – are not yet in place, and political support for them is slipping. Once in place, the REDD+ agency will face major capacity and political challenges. In this context, national efforts need to be supported by local efforts that generate scalable approaches for creating enabling conditions for REDD+ on the ground. To date, most district governments have not been substantially engaged on REDD+, even though local governance challenges linked to land tenure and licensing pose enormous barriers to REDD+ implementation. In addition, civil society can play a critical role in monitoring REDD+ implementation and advocating for the government to keep on track with the commitments it has made thus far.

**In Cameroon**, fundamental gaps in transparency block communities and NGOs from holding government accountable for the policy decisions and initiatives that impact them. In many cases, information is not collected or is not reliable. When information does exist, it can be extremely difficult for civil society and the public to access. These challenges pose a major barrier to stakeholder engagement in REDD+ programs, and to effective implementation of these programs. If approved by the FCPF, Cameroon's Readiness Preparation Proposal provides an opportunity to address this challenge. In particular, the R-PP commits to developing approaches to monitor various governance and social dimensions of REDD+. It cites initiatives such as GFI Cameroon that have experience using governance indicators. If these monitoring systems are designed to be comprehensive, transparent, and inclusive of local communities, they can become an important accountability mechanism for REDD+ in Cameroon.

2.2 Please repeat the project's **desired impact** (from the approved project document).

Within five years, REDD+ programs will have improved the livelihoods of rural people around the world, thereby increasing support for REDD+ locally and enhancing the sustainability of its climate outcomes.

The *REDD+ Accountability Project* will contribute to this impact by helping to ensure that decision-makers planning and implementing REDD+ programs are accountable to the needs of rural people.

2.3 Is the project still relevant for the desired impact? (Yes/No). Yes.

2.4 **Main outcome(s).**

- a) Please repeat the project's planned outcome(s) (effect on project's target group(s), beneficiary (-ies)) (from the approved project document).

**Outcome 1:** The *REDD+ Accountability Project* will generate new knowledge (e.g., innovative approaches, best practices, lessons) about how to institutionalize accountability in emerging

international, national, and sub-national REDD+ programs and frameworks. This knowledge will inform policy decisions and actions of REDD+ funders, policy-makers, and practitioners globally.

**Outcome 2:** In Brazil, Indonesia, and Cameroon, the *REDD+ Accountability Project* will stimulate governments to put in place accountability mechanisms that will make REDD+ programs more responsive to the needs of rural people, including forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, and women.

b) Please report on all outcomes from the project document:

i. What changes have been achieved with reference to the baseline?

#### Outcome 1:

New knowledge was generated about how to institutionalize accountability in emerging international, national, and sub-national REDD+ programs and frameworks.

- A Working Paper on Accountability and REDD+ was produced, targeting an international audience, including governments, donors and civil society. The paper explores the complexity of accountability for REDD+ given its broad range of objectives and actors, and analyzes the extent to which the types of approaches being developed in national REDD+ programs are promoting voice and accountability. It presents a general framework for evaluating the institutional framework, standards, and oversight mechanisms that most countries are developing as part of their REDD+ processes. Drawing from a review of 20 Emissions Reductions-Program Idea Notes (ER-PINs) submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Carbon Fund, we evaluated the current trends in how these mechanisms are being designed in order to identify promising approaches as well as highlight areas requiring additional consideration. The results can be used to strengthen REDD+ programs globally, contributing to their long term institutional sustainability. The Working paper is in its final review and will shortly be formally published.
- Through our work several international REDD+ instruments strengthened provisions for REDD+ accountability mechanisms. The Warsaw UNFCCC text linked Safeguard Information Systems to result-based financing. The Carbon Fund Methodological Framework incorporated several accountability mechanisms in its criteria and indicators. These include provisions on feedback and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder participation, benefit sharing plans, and safeguard plans.
- Through blogs and international meetings, awareness was raised on the importance of transparency, access to information, capacity building, gender mainstreaming, strong safeguards, and participatory processes for accountable and inclusive REDD+ programs.

#### Outcome 2:

In the three project countries - Brazil, Cameroon and Indonesia – important progress was made to make REDD+ programs more accountable, and, in general, improve transparency, capacities and participatory processes around the use of forest resources with the objective to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

#### **Brazil**

- In Matto Grosso, REDD+ safeguards and a Safeguards Information System were established. Furthermore, Mato Grosso developed an action plan to reduce deforestation that included recommendations to improve accountability. The state confirmed its leadership on reducing deforestation at the COP21, where it announced (with support from ICV and Imazon) the state's green growth strategy and plans to reduce 6 gigatons of CO2 emissions by 2030.

- In Pará, Imazon signed a cooperation agreement with the state land agency (Iterpa) in Pará to improve land tenure laws and practices at state level, using Imazon's analysis of land tenure governance. The Pará Climate Change Forum generated a proposal for a climate change agenda (with contributions from the state environmental agency, State University of Pará, and the Green Municipalities Program). The state started the elaboration of a program to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation following recommendations from the Pará Climate Change Forum.
- At the level of the Brazilian Amazon, Imazon and ICV in Brazil published recommendations to improve the transparency and accountability of 11 forest and environmental funds in nine states of the Brazilian Amazon.  
The Federal Prosecutor's Office of the Ministerio Publico Federal of Brazil is implementing actions to strengthen transparency and access to environmental information in the five Amazonian states on the basis of technical support from ICV (see case story in section 3).
- At the national level Imazon submitted comments on the draft REDD+ strategy of Brazil, focusing on strengthening governance issues. ICV and Imazon contributed to the Brazilian submission of the summary of safeguards to the UNFCCC in 2015. Imazon became a member of a new working group created by the Ministry of Environment to support the design and implementation of the Brazilian REDD+ Safeguard Information System (SiS).

### Cameroon

- The CSO REDD&CC Platform contributed to the R-PP formulation and validation processes. The R-PP clearly indicates governance as one of the major priorities in developing REDD+ national strategy and plans for a series of reforms that will address accountability.
- In Cameroon, capacities on public access to information and good governance in the context of REDD+ have been strengthened. Training for communities and local authorities to use the Simplified GFI Guide to forest governance was delivered in order to achieve transparent, inclusive, and accountable local forest governance processes, and the Civil Society REDD platform in Cameroon was supported to improve participatory REDD+ processes. Particular emphasis was given to increasing the participation of women in REDD+ programs through increasing the representation of women in the Civil Society REDD platform and through training on women's leadership.
- An access to environmental information decree was developed to operationalize the 1996 Framework Law. BDCPC engaged government agencies, civil society and donors to develop the decree. The decree is awaiting the official signature from the Prime Minister's office.
- Awareness was raised on the importance of fair benefit sharing mechanisms through an analysis of the management of royalties from forestry, mining and land concessions in the Littoral Region.
- Civil society participation in the national REDD+ process was improved through a national workshop in preparation for the COP21 with participation of the civil society REDD platform, resulting in a civil society position note that highlights the importance of transparency and participation.

### Indonesia

- The Central Information Commission ruled that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has to release public information about logging permits and commercial logging plans. This is a major step forward to improve transparency around forest management. The Ministry has started to disclose forestry information, such as logging permits, which are being made available to the public by FWI (see case story in section 3).
- Awareness on the importance of access to information was raised through the publication of the Policy Brief 'Information Disclosure in the Forestry Sector' which was a collaborative effort between government agencies, civil society and international organizations.

- The awareness of improving forest governance was raised through the application of the GFI forest governance methodology in Kalimantan and West Nusa Tenggara, leading to the provision of recommendations, especially related to access to information. This was followed up by the strengthening of capacities of a large number of community members and local government staff on access to information and REDD+. This improved pro-active public disclosure of forest data, as well as active requests of information by civil society.
- The quality of participation in the national REDD+ process of civil society organizations and local communities was improved through targeted training on the monitoring of REDD+ activities, including transparency and benefit sharing.

ii. Please report on the key indicators used to document that the desired change has occurred.

#### Indicators of change from the Grant Proposal:

Indicator	Description
Outcome 1	
Number of positive references to accountability mechanisms within official decisions made by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNFCCC Warsaw text links provision of information on safeguards (through safeguard information systems) to results-based financing.</li> </ul>
Number of positive references to accountability mechanisms within program documents, operational procedures, assessment frameworks, or global guidance produced by major multilateral funding programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 criteria and 11 indicators in the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework incorporate accountability mechanisms including feedback and grievance mechanisms, stakeholder participation, benefit sharing plans, and safeguard plans.</li> </ul>
Number and geographic diversity of participants attending presentations or workshops hosted by this project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fifth Global Gathering in Colombia brought together nearly a hundred participants from roughly 40 countries. The conference focused on how to use information, data and technology to improve forest governance and strengthen community rights.</li> </ul>
Number of downloads and citations of documents, presentations, or blogs produced by this project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three blogs were published by WRI (<a href="#">Q&amp;A with Cécile Ndjebet: Empowering Women Is Key to Better Forest Management in Cameroon</a>; <a href="#">Crossing the Digital Divide to Protect the Environment</a>; <a href="#">New Study Reveals Weaknesses in Brazil's Forest and Environmental Funds</a>)</li> <li>• GFI <b>Brazil</b> established a blog platform for the REDD+ safeguards process in Mato Grosso.</li> <li>• A press briefing on the importance of access to information for good forest governance in <b>Indonesia</b> obtained 10 media hits.</li> <li>• Local television covered training events in West and East Lombok, <b>Indonesia</b>.</li> </ul>
Number of unsolicited requests to WRI for technical guidance on how to design and implement accountability mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Florence Daviet was invited by GIZ to El Salvador to participate in a meeting entitled "International Safeguards Experts Meeting in the approach of Safeguards in the REDD+ context". The meeting brought experts together to share technical advice and exchange experiences on operationalization of social safeguards in REDD+</li> </ul>

	and co-benefits and safeguards.
Outcome 2	
Number of positive references to accountability mechanisms in official government documents (e.g., REDD+ strategies, regulations, procedures) and official presentations given by government representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Cameroon</b> R-PP clearly indicates governance as one of the major priorities in developing REDD+ national strategy and planned for a series of reforms that will address accountability among others.</li> <li>• The government of <b>Mato Grosso</b> changed its action plan to reduce deforestation (PPCDQ-MT, Plano de Prevenção e Controle do Desmatamento e das Queimadas), consistent with ICV recommendations from the GFI assessment.</li> <li>• The draft decree for the operationalization of the law on access to information in <b>Cameroon</b> reflects strong governance language from GFI.</li> <li>• The REDD+ Safeguards Information System for Mato Grosso, <b>Brazil</b> contains provisions to strengthen accountability.</li> </ul>
Number of documented actions by governments to implement or strengthen accountability mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Cameroon</b> R-PP.</li> <li>• <b>Mato Grosso</b> action plan to reduce deforestation.</li> <li>• In Cameroon, a draft decree was prepared for the operationalization of the law on access to information.</li> <li>• In <b>Indonesia</b>, the government collaborated with GFI Indonesia in the preparation of a Policy Brief on Forest Governance.</li> <li>• The REDD+ Safeguards Information System for Mato Grosso in <b>Brazil</b>.</li> <li>• The Federal Prosecutor's Office of the Ministerio Publico Federal of <b>Brazil</b> requested support from ICV to strengthen transparency and access to information in the five Amazonian states.</li> <li>• Imazon signed a cooperation agreement with the state land agency (Iterpa) in <b>Pará</b> to improve land tenure laws and practices at state level, using Imazon's analysis of land tenure governance.</li> <li>• <b>Pará</b> state started the elaboration of a program to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation following recommendations from the Pará Climate Change Forum.</li> <li>• The <b>Indonesian</b> Central Information Commission ruled that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has to release public information about logging permits and commercial logging plans. The Ministry has started to disclose forestry information, such as logging permits.</li> <li>• At the COP21 in Paris, the state of <b>Mato Grosso</b> announced the state's green growth strategy and plans to reduce 6 gigatons of CO2 emissions by 2030.</li> <li>• With technical support of ICV, the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF) has asked 19 land tenure and environmental agencies of five <b>Amazonian</b> states to improve their transparency practices.</li> </ul>
Number of joint civil society statements or official advocacy positions in support of accountability mechanisms advocated for by GFI partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cameroon</b> Civil Society Organizations REDD+CC Platform Statement on REDD+.</li> <li>• The African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) Position Document on REDD+&amp;CC.</li> <li>• The Civil Society Common Platform in <b>Indonesia</b> has advocated for principles of transparency, participation and accountability in forest governance.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imazon formally submitted comments on the draft REDD+ strategy of <b>Brazil</b>, focusing on strengthening governance issues.</li> <li>• Policy Brief 'Information Disclosure in the Forestry Sector' published in <b>Indonesia</b>.</li> <li>• Press briefing on the importance of access to information for good forest governance in <b>Indonesia</b></li> <li>• Publication of Forest Governance assessments for South Barito, and West and East Lombok, in <b>Indonesia</b></li> <li>• Recommendations of the Climate Observatory in <b>Brazil</b> to improve transparency in the national REDD+ process.</li> <li>• Advocacy and recommendations of the Forest Code Observatory (a collective of NGOs monitoring the implementation of the new Code) to improve accountability and transparency in <b>Brazil's</b> Forest Code.</li> <li>• Technical support by ICV in <b>Brazil</b> to the state Prosecutor's office to improve transparency practices;</li> <li>• Recommendations by Imazon and ICV in <b>Brazil</b> to improve transparency and accountability of 11 forest and environmental funds in nine states of the Brazilian Amazon</li> <li>• Recommendations on approaches to REDD+ benefit sharing in <b>Cameroon</b> by Cameroon Ecology and REDD+ civil society platform members.</li> <li>• Report by Imazon on land tenure governance problems in <b>Pará</b> state, with several recommendations for improving the procedures of federal and state agencies.</li> <li>• The Pará Climate Change Forum prepared a draft proposal for a climate change agenda in <b>Pará</b> state. It includes recommendations on budget allocation for GHG inventories and the preparation of a bill for a state climate change policy law.</li> <li>• ICV and Imazon contributed to the <b>Brazilian</b> submission of the summary of safeguards to the UNFCCC in 2015.</li> <li>• Management of royalties from forestry, mining and land concessions was analysed for the <b>Cameroonian</b> Littoral Region.</li> <li>• Imazon and ICV have led the elaboration of an open letter from the Climate Observatory to the <b>Brazilian</b> President requesting more seats for civil society in the national commission for REDD+ (it currently has only two seats for civil society). So far, the government has not accepted to change the number of seats in the commission.</li> <li>• As part of a forest governance campaign, a writing and photography competition was organized in <b>Indonesia</b>. The competition received 133 applications.</li> </ul>
<p>Number of civil society meetings to discuss specific accountability mechanisms for REDD+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A National dialogue on REDD+ was organized by GFI <b>Cameroon</b>.</li> <li>• In <b>Indonesia</b>, FWI organized monthly meetings with Dewan Kehutanan Nasional (DKN) / National Forestry Council.</li> <li>• In <b>Indonesia</b>, a workshop on the harmonization of the forest governance standard was organized.</li> <li>• The <b>Indonesia</b> GFI team attended a conference in Lombok on FCPF related issues, together with other CSO.</li> <li>• ICV organized a Seminar that gathered 25 municipalities of the Amazon region of <b>Mato Grosso</b>, NGO partners and state and federal institutions to propose the creation of a statewide Sustainable Municipalities Program.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICV organized a series of trainings in <b>Mato Grosso</b> to help staff of state agencies, smallholders, and indigenous groups improve their capacity to demand and exercise accountability mechanisms for REDD+</li> <li>• In <b>Brazil</b>, ICV facilitated the Mato Gross REDD+ safeguards committee, establishing a six-month interpretation process of REDD+ SES standards through regular meetings with 16 public and private organizations from the Mato Grosso Climate Forum.</li> <li>• In <b>Brazil</b>, five meetings of the Pará Climate Change Forum were held to draft a proposal for a climate change agenda (with contributions from the state environmental agency, State University of Pará, and the Green Municipalities Program).</li> <li>• FWI organized a series of meetings of the working group on forest governance to discuss and encourage harmonization of forest governance standards in <b>Indonesia</b>.</li> <li>• A national workshop was conducted on harmonization of the governance standard by the working group on forest governance in <b>Indonesia</b>.</li> <li>• In <b>Cameroon</b>, BDCPC organized a series of meetings to generate momentum for the decree's passage with other actors, including co-organizing a workshop on Parliamentary Action Day.</li> <li>• Imazon became a member of a new working group created by the Ministry of Environment to support the design and implementation of the <b>Brazilian</b> REDD+ Safeguard Information System (SIS). The WG had its first meetings in 2015 and Imazon has given recommendations on SIS content.</li> </ul>
<p>Quantity and quality of participation in local forest policy discussions, including REDD+</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cameroon</b> CSO REDD&amp;CC Platform participation to REDD+ process and their contribution to R-PP formulation and validation processes.</li> <li>• <b>Cameroon</b> CSO RRI coalition contribution to 1994 Cameroon Forest Law review.</li> <li>• The African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) contribution to the 1994 <b>Cameroon</b> Forest Law review</li> <li>• REFACOF participation in the current <b>Cameroon</b> land law review.</li> <li>• Workshop of CSO with DKN on good governance in REDD+ in <b>Indonesia</b>.</li> <li>• Series of discussion meetings in Brazil with CSOs on national REDD+ strategy, <b>Mato Grosso</b> action plan to reduce deforestation, and sustainable municipalities.</li> <li>• Training on REDD monitoring for CSOs, held in Bogor, <b>Indonesia</b>: 30 participants</li> <li>• Training on REDD monitoring for communities, held in Bogor, <b>Indonesia</b>: 30 participants</li> <li>• Training on access to information for government and CSOs, held in Mataram, <b>Indonesia</b>: 30 participants</li> <li>• Training on access to information for communities, held in West Lombok, Barat District, <b>Indonesia</b>: 20 participants</li> <li>• Training on access to information for communities, held in East Lombok District, <b>Indonesia</b>: 20 participants</li> <li>• Training access to information for communities, held in West Barito District, <b>Indonesia</b>: 25 participants</li> <li>• To improve access to information, FWI and partners trained 121</li> </ul>



information officers in **Indonesia** (Central Kalimantan and West Nusa Tenggara) on Standard Operation Procedures, internet portals and the definition of priority information and appropriate formats.

- Capacity building for village communities and local authorities to use Simplified GFI Guide to forest governance in order to achieve transparent, inclusive, and accountable forest governance processes in **Cameroon**: 525 community members trained (180 women, 345 men)
- Capacity building for newly elected village coordinators of the Civil Society REDD platform in **Cameroon** (10 women and 20 men)
- A capacity building event on women's leadership was organized for platform coordinators at regional, commune and village level in **Cameroon**. A total of 20 women participated.
- Eight communities (25 people) in **Cameroon** participated in an exchange on their experiences on the implementation of forest governance in their localities.
- A national workshop was organized in **Cameroon** in preparation for the COP21 with participation of the civil society REDD platform. The main workshop result was a civil society position note on COP21 that highlights the importance of transparency and participation.

- iii. Please reflect on whether targets that were originally set have been achieved, and what project outputs were key to achieving them. If relevant reflect on why outputs delivered as planned did not help meet the targets

Accountability in REDD+ programs and around forest management in general was improved at different scales. A main focus of the project was to improve transparency and access to information, participatory processes, and the implementation of safeguards. This led to a variety of outputs, such as the ruling in Indonesia that holds the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to their obligation to release forest information, increased capacities in Indonesia to request and release forest information, strengthened civil society participation in REDD+ processes in Cameroon and Brazil, and a strengthened mandate of federal prosecutors in the Brazilian to assure release of environmental information in Amazon states. Important contributions were made to the development of solid REDD+ safeguards. In several cases forest policies, programs and plans were strengthened, such as a draft decree for access to information in Cameroon, the R-PP in Cameroon, Mato Grosso's state action plan to reduce deforestation, and green growth strategy.

- iv. If outcomes are not yet achieved, please explain why, and in addition, how the outputs will lead to the desired outcome and when.

Progress on national REDD+ programs is uneven across countries and in general slower than expected. In Indonesia, less than two years after its establishment, the decree establishing the REDD+ agency was officially revoked by Presidential Decree No.16, 2015, which absorbed the agency into the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In Cameroon, the draft decree on access to environmental information is awaiting the official signature from the Prime Minister's office. In Brazil important progress was made on REDD+, especially REDD+ safeguards, in states like Mato Grosso, but at the national level progress on REDD+ is slow. Our analysis of accountability mechanisms in REDD+ ER-PINs has shown that especially feedback and grievance redress mechanisms require further strengthening and attention. Our work aimed at making progress by strengthening accountability tools that have value beyond REDD+ programs. We believe that this

has laid important foundations for stronger accountability mechanisms in REDD+ programs that will continue to have impact over time.

v. Are the outcomes expected to be sustainable?

Yes. We ensured project sustainability by developing strong partnerships, raising awareness of GFI tools and methods, and working with a wide range of actors, such as governments, CSOs, communities and media. Our strategic selection of country partners was critical to the success of the GFI project and supports its long-term sustainability. We built coalitions between organizations with similar interests and complementary expertise in each GFI country. Our work led to increased capacities to move the agenda forward and for reforms in policies and legal frameworks.

2.5 Are there any internal and/ or external factors that have affected the project in any significant way?

a) Please specify deviations from plans.

The exchange rate between the Norwegian kroner and the US dollar resulted in the project receiving substantially fewer funds than originally budgeted for the grant period. This change resulted in a scaling back of some activities. For example, given the decrease in funding, GFI reduced travel to partner countries and combined planned events on accountability and REDD+ with the Access Initiative's (TAI) Fifth Global Gathering in Bogotá, Colombia in order to maximize the reach of our activities.

b) Please provide a short assessment of the risks occurred

*Uncertainty regarding performance-based payments under the UNFCCC.* The global climate change agreement at the COP21 in Paris creates new momentum for climate action, including for results-based payments to reduce deforestation. The project outcomes will help ensuring that international programs create incentives that promote accountability in REDD+.

*National REDD+ processes stall.* REDD+ processes in GFI countries continue to move forward at uneven paces. The future speed of implementation of REDD+ programs still need to be seen. Nonetheless, the project aimed at making progress by strengthening accountability tools that have value beyond REDD+ programs, for example by focusing on improving public access to information, strengthening capacities and developing safeguards.

*Emphasis on accountability raises difficult political questions.* Discussions of accountability can raise difficult questions about political will, roles and responsibilities across branches and levels of governance, and issues of national sovereignty. The GFI network was cognizant of these challenges and focused on emphasizing the need for practical tools that promote accountability, for example through improving transparency and communication to public citizens and creating space for dialogue about forest and land use decisions. Furthermore, we engaged directly with decision-makers and accountability actors such as federal prosecutors in Brazil in order to build the case for accountability tools.

2.6 **Cross cutting concerns.** Please report on whether the project has had any effect (positive or negative) on

- a) *Corruption.* GFI's work to promote better implementation of accountability tools such as access to information laws in Cameroon, Indonesia and Brazil, REDD+ safeguards, transparency of REDD+ funding (Brazil) and participation of civil society is an important step to increasing government transparency and enabling scrutiny of government actions that can reduce corruption.

- b) *Gender equality.* GFI's work with the REDD+ platform in Cameroon focuses on important gender equality considerations. Platform rules require a certain number of women and indigenous representatives as regional, commune, and village level coordinators—a step to ensuring that women have a voice in the REDD+ process in Cameroon. While quotas can be a first step toward encouraging the participation of women, GFI Cameroon also works to ensure that women are not just present but have the capacity and are empowered to influence decision-making processes. They also succeeded in getting gender focal points in eight ministries dealing with natural resource management.
- c) *Respect for human rights.* Safeguards work both internationally and at the country level implicitly addresses human rights, particularly in the context of pushing for participation and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

**2.7 Lessons learned.** For final report, please summarize lessons learned for the whole agreement period. Both internal and external factors are relevant. What could have been done differently? How can lessons learned be incorporated in future plans? We are interested in learning based on positive and negative experiences.

Accountability is a complex concept and comprises many dimensions. It is important to apply it in a flexible way, taking the local context and circumstances into account and use accessible language. Furthermore, in each country REDD+ progress moves forward at uneven paces and political situations and opportunities change constantly. This requires adaptive management. In the three partner countries, continuous engagement with government, CSOs, and indigenous peoples is necessary to obtain our goals. GFI coalitions aim to make progress by strengthening accountability tools that have value beyond REDD+ programs, for example by focusing on strengthening public access to information, transparency of government institutions, and safeguards for other forest related forest policies and programs.

### 3 Case/success story

#### **Result example 1: Advocacy improved access to forest information in Indonesia.**

Lack of access to information weakens governance of REDD+ programs. It limits the participation of civil society in land use decisions, affects rights of local communities and weakens accountability of institutions in charge of forest management. This project improved access to forest information in Indonesia through a legal procedure to hold the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to their legal obligation to disclose information about activities that affect forest land. It also strengthened capacities of district-level government information officers to provide forest information to the public, and those of civil society to effectively access that information. Resulting from the activities, the Indonesian Central Information Commission ruled in 2015 that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is obligated to release public forest information related to logging permits. Information officers in Central Kalimantan and West Nusa Tenggara were trained and given the tools to provide meaningful information to the public. The capacity of civil society actors to access and use forest information was improved through targeted trainings.

- **WHY:** In Indonesia, lack of access to information hampers participation of communities and civil society organizations in decisions that affect forest resources.

Poor access to information has been a persistent problem in the forestry sector in Indonesia. Lack of transparency on allocation of logging and other permits limits participation of communities and civil society organizations in decisions that affect forest resources and land rights of local populations, creates vulnerability to corruption, and contributes to poor forest governance and unsustainable forest management. Due to the lack of data, it has been almost impossible to track illegal activities in the forest.

- WHAT: Legal action and capacity building to improve access to forest information.

This project was implemented by Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) in collaboration with the Governance of Forests Initiative (GFI) at the World Resources Institute and with local organizations. The project's overall objectives were to strengthen national and local forest governance in Indonesia. In particular, it aimed to improve transparency and participation in order to make government more accountable to the needs and interests of forest-dependent communities. Research by GFI and others, has demonstrated that improving access to information is key to achieving these goals.

- HOW MUCH: Approximately NOK 850,000, from 2014-2015.
- RESULTS: A court ruling holds the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to its obligation to release forest information, information officers and civil society are trained to improve access to information.
  - What is the result as compared with the baseline, and how was it achieved? Please provide the source documenting the results (more on this below))

After a trial brought by Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) and partners, in May 2015, the Indonesian Central Information Commission ruled that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry was obligated to release public information about logging permits and commercial logging plans. On the 26th of August 2015, the Jakarta State Administration Court denied an appeal of the Ministry and upheld the decision of the Central Information Commission. This decision reaffirms the Ministry's obligation as a public institution to disclose forestry information as required by the Public Information Disclosure Law and Forestry Law. The court ruling was highly significant, as it creates the enabling conditions for more transparency.

In order to improve access to information, FWI and partners also trained information officers in the district of South Barito in Central Kalimantan and Lombok in West Nusa Tenggara. These officers were supported with the development of Standard Operation Procedures and improvement of internet portals. Furthermore Lists of Public Information were developed to identify priority information to be released as well as to define the appropriate formats. A total of 121 information officers was trained.

Additionally, civil society actors were supported to improve their abilities to access information. In South Barito and Lombok 128 actors were trained to file formal information requests to the authorities. This was complemented with training on the concepts of REDD+ programs and the monitoring of these programs in their respective jurisdictions.

- What was the effect of the project on the target group? Were the results as planned? Please be careful documenting the results

The project resulted in the empowerment of both government and civil society actors to increase access to information and improve transparency. The impact of the court ruling is significant as it creates enabling conditions and strengthens the capacity of civil society to monitor forest governance. FWI is a member of the Indonesian Independent Forest Monitoring Network (JPIK) that monitors the implementation of Indonesia's timber legality assurance system (called the SVLK) which, along with civil society independent monitoring of the system's implementation, are core elements of Indonesia's FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union. In order to make the SVLK fully operational, improved transparency of the forestry sector is crucial. The court ruling is therefore also very significant for the eventual success of the SVLK. This in turn, is also crucial for the implementation of solid REDD+ programs in Indonesia. Due to training of both government information officers and civil society to provide and access information, respectively, transparency around forest management was increased.

- How do we know that this particular project led to the result? (attribution) or did it contribute together with other initiatives ? (Contribution)

The trainings were delivered directly by FWI and partners. The legal action was also conducted under the leadership of FWI with support from a number of local partners. The creation of enabling conditions at the national level as well as improved capacities in Central Kalimantan and West Nusa Tenggara can therefore be attributed to the project. The project contributes to activities undertaken by a wide range of actors in Indonesia to improve forest governance. These include governmental and non-governmental organizations, some private companies, as well as local communities.

- We encourage you to reflect on the relation between the resources spent and the result – Did you get what you “paid for”?

Through partnering with other organizations, co-financing and making activities complementary with on-going initiatives, the project was cost-effective.

- **LESSONS LEARNED:**

Public support from academia, the National Forestry Council, and CSOs provided a strong argument for the need to increase access to information. Furthermore, the FLEGT VPA process was also a powerful external factor to advance on this issue. National and international media have been instrumental in disseminating information to the public and to support advocacy efforts.

Internally, the long-term commitment and the availability of dedicated resources were key for success, as governance reforms take time. The combination of global research and development of tools for governance assessments, together with local research, capacity building and advocacy, were the key for success.

In terms of external risk factors, the importance of information disclosure to the public body is not yet fully understood and in some cases public agencies distrust CSOs or fear that public information can be misused. Through close collaboration, capacity building and high quality work, these risks can be reduced.

- **PARTNERS:** Please name the implementing partners in the project.

Forest Watch Indonesia, Indonesian Center for Environmental Law, World Resources Institute, Gema Alam-West Nusa Tenggara, JARI-Central Kalimantan

- **GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:** Country/countries of implementation and geographic area within the(se) country/countries if relevant (provincial/state level).

Indonesia: National level, Central Kalimantan, West Nusa Tenggara

- **SOURCES:**

- <http://fwi.or.id/publikasi/public-information-disclosure-shall-also-be-implemented-by-relevant-ministriesinstitutions-in-natural-resources-management/>
- <http://fwi.or.id/publikasi/forest-management-document-is-now-open-to-public/>
- <http://www.fern.org/node/5914>

## **Result example 2: NGO research improves environmental transparency in the Brazilian Amazon**

With a tool to measure transparency from an information user perspective, Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV) was able to put environmental transparency in the public agenda and enhanced the availability of environmental information.

- **WHY:** Environmental information is rare and not actionable in the Brazilian Amazon

While Brazil has established clear legal obligations for environmental information transparency, the transparency requirements are neither enforced nor monitored in the Brazilian Amazon. Access to environmental data such as rural cadasters, deforestation authorizations, environmental infractions or embargoes is key to control deforestation (Thuault, 2014; Barreto, 2015). Without access to this information, environmental control is significantly jeopardized. It limits the implementation of environmental public policies because executive agencies of state and federal government are not sufficiently sharing data. It also hinders internal mechanisms of governmental accountability such as the federal or state prosecutors' work or the internal audits, and jeopardizes any kind of social accountability from CSOs or private actors.

- **WHAT:** A methodological tool to target key information, assess transparency and act or advocate for disclosure

In order to engage decision makers on environmental transparency in the Brazilian Amazon, Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV) created and applied a participatory methodology to define together with information users what specific information should be available and in what format. It then measured the current state of public availability of environmental regularization, land tenure, logging, agricultural and infrastructure information in 5 states of the Brazilian Amazon based on the feedback of information users. Finally, the results of the assessment were presented to key decision makers to show transparency gaps and propose how to concretely improve the availability of environmental information. ICV developed this work together with the federal prosecutors' Amazon Working Group to establish a clear baseline on environmental transparency, so that legal actions can be taken to strengthen access to information and results can be monitored against that baseline.

- **HOW MUCH:**

This work was possible thanks to the generous support of 1,2 million NOK from Norad (50%) and the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) (50%) in 2014 and 2015.

- **RESULTS:** A baseline for federal prosecutors and civil society actions to increase transparency over the Brazilian Amazon

With the baseline on environmental transparency in five states of the Brazilian Amazon, federal prosecutors were able to establish clear and time-bounded recommendations to 19 state and federal agencies (MPF, 2015). The set of recommendations provoked different responses from the agencies. In Mato Grosso, for instance, a new information platform was implemented with information of the rural cadaster, enforcement activities and embargoes. In Pará, an access to information state law was passed and a new working group was established to work at state level to facilitate its implementation. ICV's work on transparency also allowed to better structure advocacy campaigns of national and state networks such as the "transparency now" (Transparência Já) campaign of the Environmental Code Observatory, and the list of Environmental Code implementation priorities of the Mato Grosso state forum of environmental NGOs (FORMAD).

- **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- Approaches of targeted transparency, where information users clearly identify their needs, allows to demystify access to information laws, showing what public agencies need to publish and how.

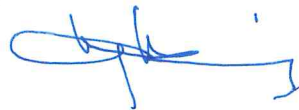
- Governance issues such as transparency can be measured. With the establishment of a framework based on feedback from information users, availability of information is easy to track and monitor.
- Using indicators and numbers is a strong asset to communicate on governance issues. In this case, it allowed to stress clear gaps and recommendations and raise a common understanding among Federal Prosecutors and NGOs of the need to target specific information.
- PARTNERS: Amazon Working Group of the Federal Prosecutors, Imazon, and World Resources Institute.
- GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: 5 states of the Brazilian Amazon (Mato Grosso, Pará, Amazonas, Acre and Rondônia).
- SOURCES:
  - Thuault, A., Ferreira, J., and Micol, L., 2014. «Avaliação da transparência das informações florestais em Mato Grosso» ICV, Cuiabá. [[Link](#)]
  - ICV. 2014. Information lists from information users. [[Link](#)]
  - Thuault, A., Fernandes, E., Valdiones, A., Micol, L., 2016. «Transparência das informações na Amazônia» ICV, Cuiabá.
  - Formad. 2014. *Código florestal, o caminho da implementação*. [[Link](#)]
  - Barreto, P. and H. K. Gibbs. 2015. "Imazon Research Brief: How to improve the effectiveness of agreements against deenvironmentation associated with ranching in the Amazon?" *Imazon, Belem Brazil and University of Wisconsin-Madison*. [[Link](#)]
  - Observatório do Código Florestal. 2015. Relatório de atividades 2013-2014. [[Link](#)]

#### 4 Project's accounts for last year:

(Accounts are attached.)

Date: 20 May 2016

Signature:



Free de Koning  
Project Director, Governance of Forests Initiative  
World Resources Institute

Attachments:

- Financial Report
- Summary of Funds Used
- Auditor Report
- Menu of common indicators
- Selected outputs