



**PARTICIPATORY MONITORING REPORTING AND VERIFICATION
(PMRV):**

**KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND
EXCHANGE IN ASIA AND LATIN
AMERICA & CARIBBEANS
REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION**

OCTOBER 2021



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

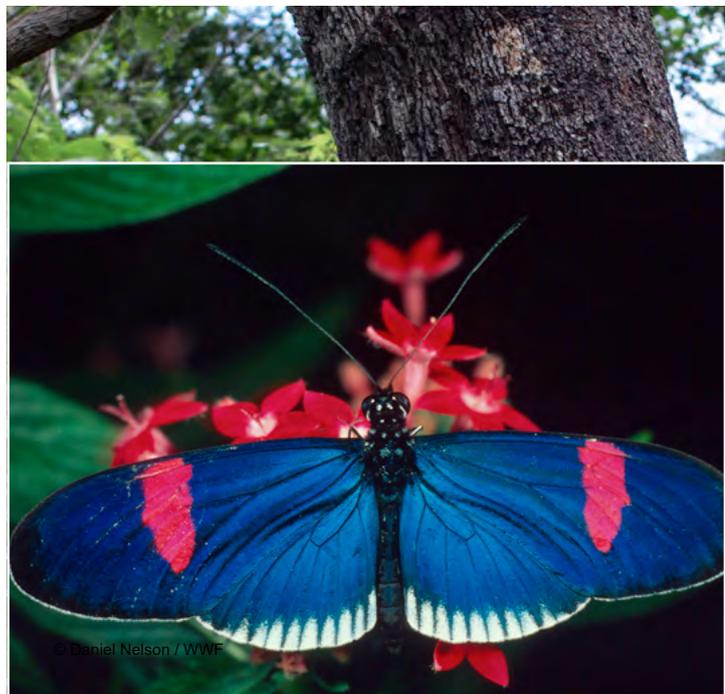
Local communities and indigenous people can monitor carbon and non-carbon aspects of natural resources management as effectively as experts (Larrazabal et al., 2012).

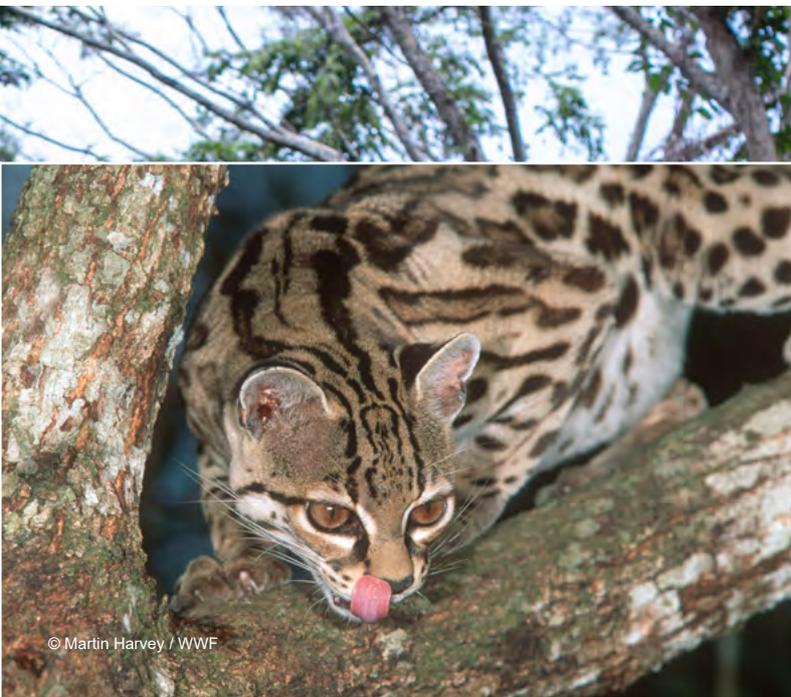
Recent studies found that based on repeated assessments of the communities' measurement data over time, participatory Monitoring-Reporting-Verification (participatory MRV) initiatives are becoming increasingly accurate and cost effective (Brofeldt et al., 2014). Several REDD+ initiatives have piloted community participation in the monitoring of REDD+ activities and MRV. These initiatives have documented positive outcomes of community participation in the monitoring of both carbon and non-carbon aspects of REDD+ activities.

This report was prepared as part of WWF-US's Forest and Climate Programme (FCP) on REDD+, funded by NORAD. We have prepared this report on participatory monitoring reporting and verification as a resource that can help provide innovative and strategic approaches through a review of past and current experiences, overall lessons learned, and suggested next steps. We hope that this will help practitioners and project managers reflect upon their work and learn from colleagues on the other side of the globe.

In this report, participatory MRV (PMRV) is defined as a group of participatory monitoring systems and initiatives that typically includes processes involving local communities and indigenous people in data collection and data interpretation/analysis for monitoring environmental attributes such as illegal logging, wildlife, biodiversity, hydrological services and forest carbon. Participatory MRV examples we have assessed cover a wide range of topics, going beyond the definition of community/participatory MRVs typically defined under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Plus (REDD+) but also within a broader agriculture, forestry and land-use initiatives such as Climate Smart Agriculture.

This report focuses on 1) documenting prominent PMRV cases through a global stock-taking, 2) analyzing and conducting cross comparison across the geographic regions, 3) fostering learning through two sets of regional knowledge and learning exchange workshops organized in 2020-2021, and 4) extracting key lessons learned from PMRV experiences. This report builds on the PMRV database that contains the most relevant and promising initiatives and their attributes that can be found in the Annex 1.





Methodologies

Relevant examples of PMRV have been identified from Asia, Africa and Latin America and were recorded in the PMRV database (Annex 1). The database serves as a basis for carrying out a benchmark analysis to pinpoint key success factors and risks of failure.

To select the most relevant initiatives, we have conducted rapid assessments using a checklist comprised of standard principles of participation, as well as qualitative information collected through a literature review and informational interviews with subject matter experts. This study has paid special attention to lesser-known examples with a potential to be scaled-up at a policy level, particularly from Asia and Africa, recognizing that more examples have been recorded in Latin America and the Caribbean region. As a result of the initial screening conducted in 2020, the database contained 14 of the most relevant PMRV initiatives and their attributes relevant to this study. This list has grown to 22 experiences in 2021.

We have developed an analytical framework (see Table 1) to assess the PMRV cases. These cases were then ranked against their rating based on the indicators of the analytical framework. The ranking rationale has been devised based on the evidence collected through empirical and theoretical studies regarding community participation in monitoring of natural resources.

Recent literatures examined for this study have pointed to a few common conditions for involving local communities and indigenous people. First, several papers discussed motivations of local people as a key enabling factor. Boissiere et al. (2017) argued that the success of participation of local actors into community based MRV lies with a good understanding of their needs and motivations. Second, to ensure sustainability and scalability, greater integration of local MRV cases into jurisdictional or national monitoring systems is required. Balderas Torres et al. (2015) emphasized that local data collected by communities can effectively supplement national monitoring systems. Sulistyawan et al. (2018) stressed that political endorsement at the national and provincial level is critical to apply the integration of participatory MRV into local level planning. In this regard, Danielsen et al. (2013) proposed to integrate community monitoring within national REDD+ and other related national policies. Lastly, a well-designed system for MRV and data quality management should be developed and operationalized at different layers of government. Boissiere et al. (2017) stressed the importance of operationalizing a systematic approach at different levels of government as one of the key enabling conditions of successful PMRV implementation.



Based on the key lessons extracted from the literature review, the following core elements have been selected as key foundation of the ranking rationale:

Sustainability potential: Preference for cases with evidences of higher potential for policy integration into local, regional and national level, such as legal, financial, and institutional frameworks as a precondition for sustained effort, rather than a standalone action; as well as cases with clear incentive structures and a sound understanding of motivations for local people to participate (systematic approach for integration and incentives for participation). These two indicators are proxies for understanding the degree of sustainability of particular PMRV cases.

Scalability potential: Preference is given to cases with scalability potential, defined as a possibility to become incorporated into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This can be determined through conducting an analysis of NDCs of respective countries and qualitative data from informational interviews.

PMRV reporting and verification, data quality management: Preference for PMRV data collection, reporting and verification procedures fully developed and operationalized. Ideal cases may present institutional arrangements that systematically integrate participatory MRV within different levels of government, covering various administrative hierarchy such as district, provincial and national government, but this is not a requirement.

Human potential: As a proxy to human benefits, level and types of capacity is used in this analysis. Preference for significant capacity and full suite of skillsets available at local level, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as women and youth.

Building on the above core elements and after a several rounds of review and revision, PMRV ranking rationale has been established consisting of six criteria and five ranks. The last criterion on ‘attention to local context and rights’ has been added on later on and we have proposed a binary ranking schema instead of escalating ranks of five for this criterion. (see Table 1):



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Table 1: PMRV Analytical Framework (Rank rationale for PMRV Database)

CRITERIA	RANKING RATIONALE				
	1	2	3	4	5
PMRV reporting & verification, and data quality management	Some data reporting and verification related trainings are organized, but no coherent procedures for PMRV data management exists	Data collection, reporting and verification procedures are currently under development and targeted trainings are provided.	Data collection, reporting and verification procedures are developed but not yet operational	Data collection, reporting and verification procedures developed but are not implemented by all levels of government (e.g. district, provincial and national)	Data collection, reporting and verification procedures fully developed and implemented at all levels of governments
Impacts on local capacity and skillsets	Communities have little or no knowledge or skills on PMRV and they solely depend on external experts for PMRV	Basic training manuals for community carbon monitoring, MRV, and safeguard developed, but participatory MRV still depends on experts	Key community members have been trained, and have the knowledge and skills for basic local level monitoring activities with some support from experts	Communities trained to conduct intensive local level monitoring without external support	Significant capacity and full suite of skillsets available at local level for sustained monitoring activities involving women & youth
Framework for systematic approach and policy integration	PMRV initiatives are operating in isolation and there is no evidence of an effort to integrate it into other existing programs/ initiatives	Multi-stakeholder consultations on developing institutional, legal or financial framework to integrate PMRV have been organized.	PMRV formally recognized by government and one of the following are currently being developed: Institutional, legal and financial frameworks	PMRV formally recognized by government and 2 or more of the following are being developed: Institutional, legal and financial frameworks	Relevant institutional, legal and financial frameworks are developed and operational, translated into development plans (e.g. participatory MRV incorporated into national MRV protocol)
Incentives to participate in PMRV	Little or no incentive mechanisms exist	Some incentive mechanisms exist but it is unclear	Incentive mechanisms exist verbally but it is not integrated into ruling documents yet	Incentive mechanisms exist and written, however not all communities are aware of it	A clear, written incentive mechanisms exist for participation and it is widely understood by communities (e.g. PMRV related compensations and benefit sharing mechanisms)
Scalability	A standalone effort. Little or no linkage to NDC implementation	Procedures for aggregating locally collected data and national level inclusion are being considered	Procedures for aggregating locally collected data and ensuring its inclusion in the national database are developed	NDC implementation or investment plan partially incorporates PMRV procedures	NDC implementation or investment plan fully incorporates PMRV procedures
Attention to and understanding of local contexts, decision making, and land tenure rights	Authorities/chain of conduct not defined/understood by stakeholders	-	-	-	Clearly defined authorities for PMRV and PMRV impacts are widely understood by all stakeholders



2. GLOBAL STOCK-TAKING AND PMRV DATABASE

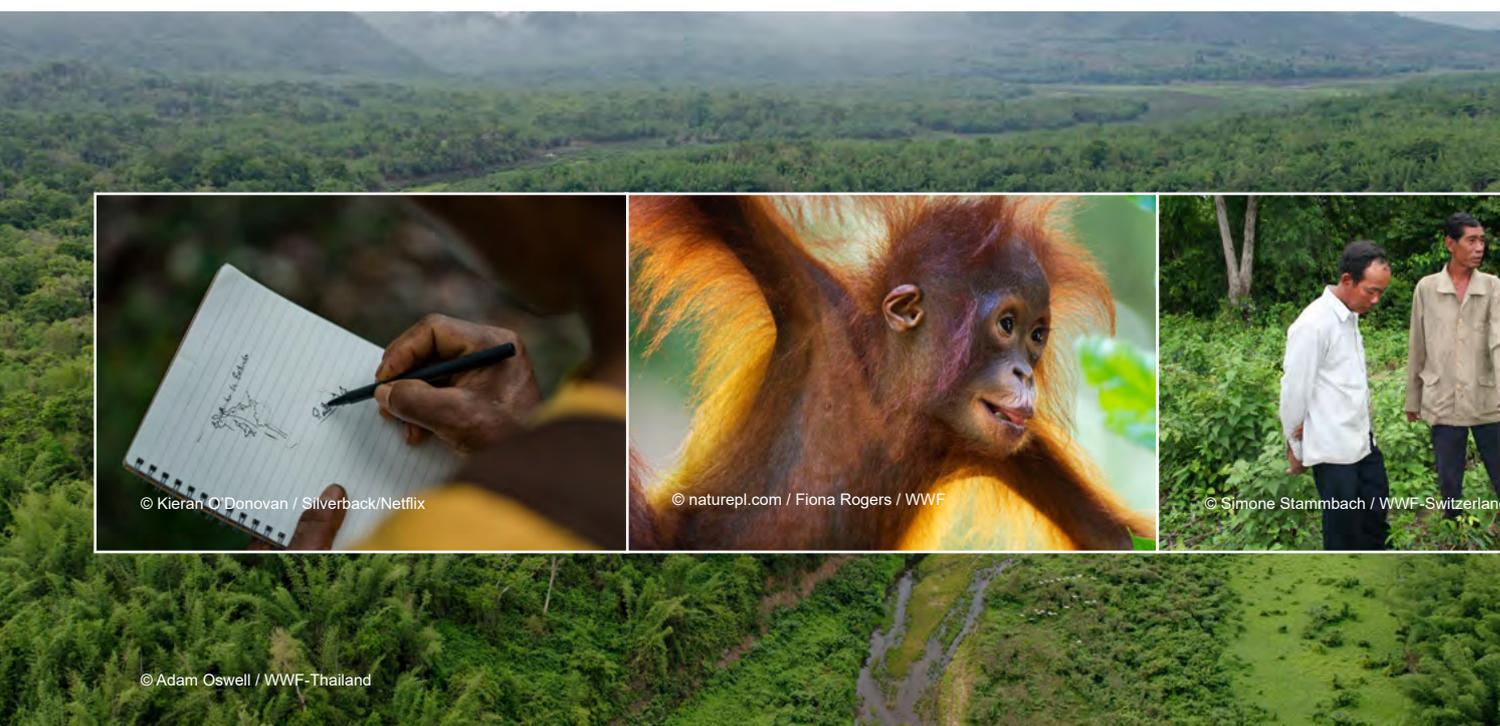
2.1 Results of global stock-taking

PMRV initiatives have been further assessed against the ranking criteria proposed in the Table 2. Total six criteria have been proposed to examine the sustainability and replicability potentials of the select projects using relevant proxies such as systematic approach, institutional, legal and financial arrangements, local capacity, incentives for participation and respect of local authority. Each criterion has a rank from 1 to 5, except for criterion 6.

In addition, an adjustment factor of 10% has been introduced in order to reflect special considerations. For example, the list includes new initiatives that are expecting results in the next few months and projects that are going through transitions into new phases. As scalability criteria does not capture scalability potentials to other provinces and jurisdictions but rather focuses on national integration, an adjustment factor was utilized to reflect relevant achievements made at provincial level. Complete ranking results are available at Annex 1.

Table 2: List of PMRV Initiatives (Initial list in 2020)

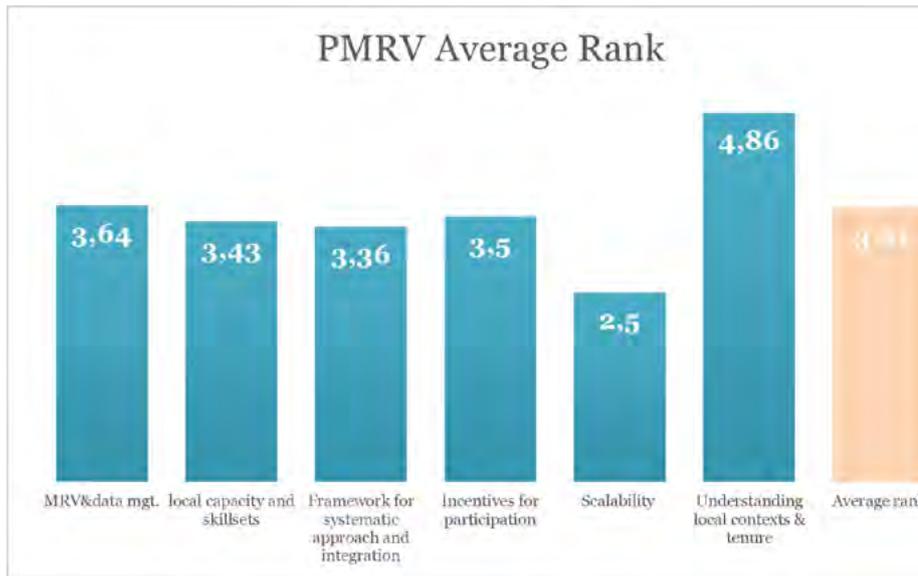
No.	Region	Country	Project title	Organizations
1	Asia	Indonesia	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund REDD+ Pilot	World Bank, TNC Indonesia
2	Asia	Sri Lanka	Community Based Redd+ (CBR+) Programme in Sri Lanka	UN-REDD, 8 national CSOs throughout the country
3	Asia	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia	Heart of Borneo Initiative (HoB): Transboundary (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia)	WWF
4	Asia	Vietnam	Green Annamites Program	USAID, Ecodit
5	Asia	Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar	Voices From Mekong Forest (VFMF)	RECOFTC, WWF
6	Africa	Nigeria	CBR+ Programme in Cross River State	UN-REDD Programme, Governor's Climate and Forest Taskforce (GCF)
7	Africa	Kenya	Kasigau Corridor REDD Project Phase II: The Community Ranches	Wildlife Works Carbon
8	Africa	DR Congo	FCPF Carbon Fund Mai Ndombe ER Program	World Bank, National Coordination REDD+ (CN-REDD), WWF, and WWC
9	South America	Brazil	System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA)	Government of Acre, Cooperacre, KfW, GCF
10	North America	Mexico	Iniciativa de Fortalecimiento de Capacidades para el Monitoreo Comunitario en México (MREDD)	TNC
11	South America	Peru	Alto Mayo Conservation Initiative	Conservation International
12	South America	Peru	Jubilación Segura	Pur Project, Oro Verde, Fundavi, Acopagro
13	South America	Colombia	Jurisdictional REDD+ in Caquetá	World Bank, Department Of Caquetá, GCF
14	South America	Guyana	WWF Guyana CMRV Project	WWF



2.2 Analysis and cross-comparison

As shown in Figure 1, the 14 PMRV initiatives scored an average of 3.62. The highest scores were observed in criterion 6 “Attention to local land tenure context, knowledge and rights”, and the lowest scores were recorded in criterion 5 “Scalability potential”. As these examples have been screened against the PMRV screening criteria and principles, and land tenure/rights issues are considered the most important considerations for most PMRV initiatives, the majority of the cases examined were well aligned with criterion 6. On the other hand, scalability presents the most rigorous standards that would require a strong linkage to country’s NDC processes, and many non-jurisdictional programs did not meet this bar. Out of the 14 cases examined, only Indonesia’s jurisdictional REDD+ example scored 5 for the scalability criterion due to the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions contribution to the overall NDC targets and regional development goals.

Figure 1: PMRV average rank for ranking criteria



Although regional variation in ranking is considered insignificant in this analysis, a few criteria have demonstrated some regional differences that are worth noting. For example, shown in Figure 2, Asia ranked highest on MRV and data management and scalability, while Africa scored highest in the incentives for participation. South America and the Caribbean (SAC) was top ranked for local capacity and skill sets and systematic approach and integration. Although only a small subset of examples from each region was considered in this study (five countries in Asia, three countries in Africa and six countries in SAC), the analysis shows potentially strong and weak areas of each region. This would be beneficial from the learning exchange point of view, as sharing lessons learned from each region could provide a potential for improvement in the areas where they need most assistance.

Lastly, an analysis of the differences between initiatives at a jurisdictional scale and standalone projects has been conducted. Overall, jurisdictional programs ranked higher in most of the criteria set by the ranking rationale. However, when it comes to local capacities and the respect of local land tenure rights, they scored equally compared with their counterparts. Figure 3 illustrates the comparison between jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional initiatives. As you can see, jurisdictional programs generally perform better when it comes to scalability and sustainability which made them attractive examples to include in the knowledge and learning exchanges organized between 2020 and 2021.

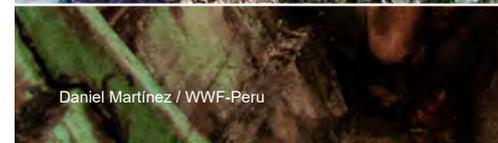




Figure 2: A regional comparison of PMRV ranking

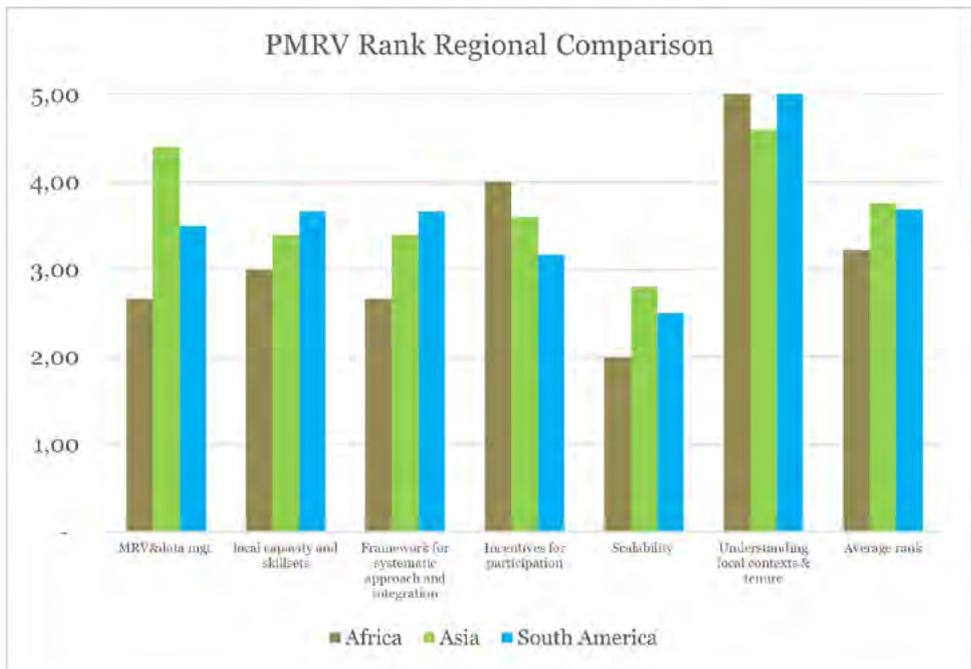
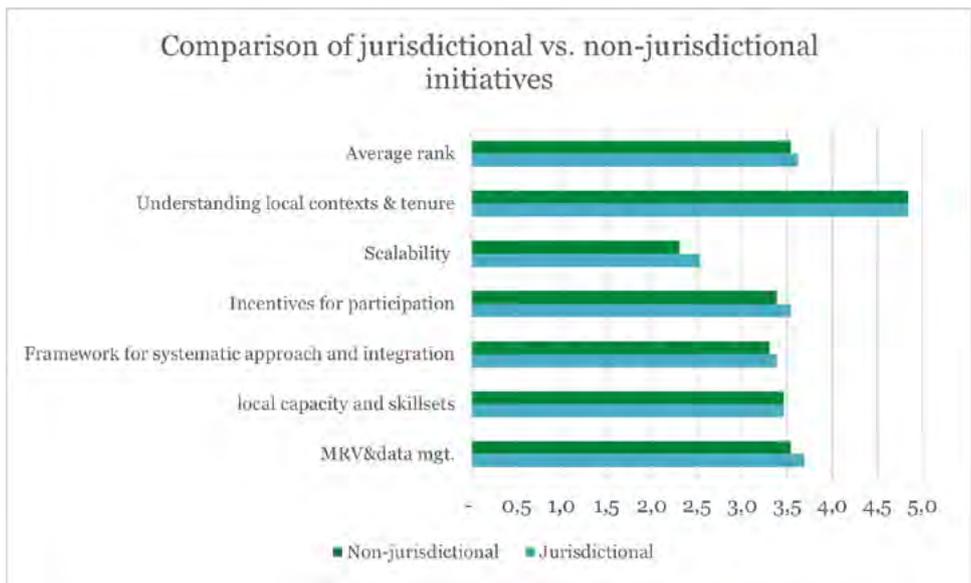


Figure 3: A rank comparison of jurisdictional vs. non-jurisdictional initiatives



3. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING EXCHANGES IN ASIA AND SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEANS



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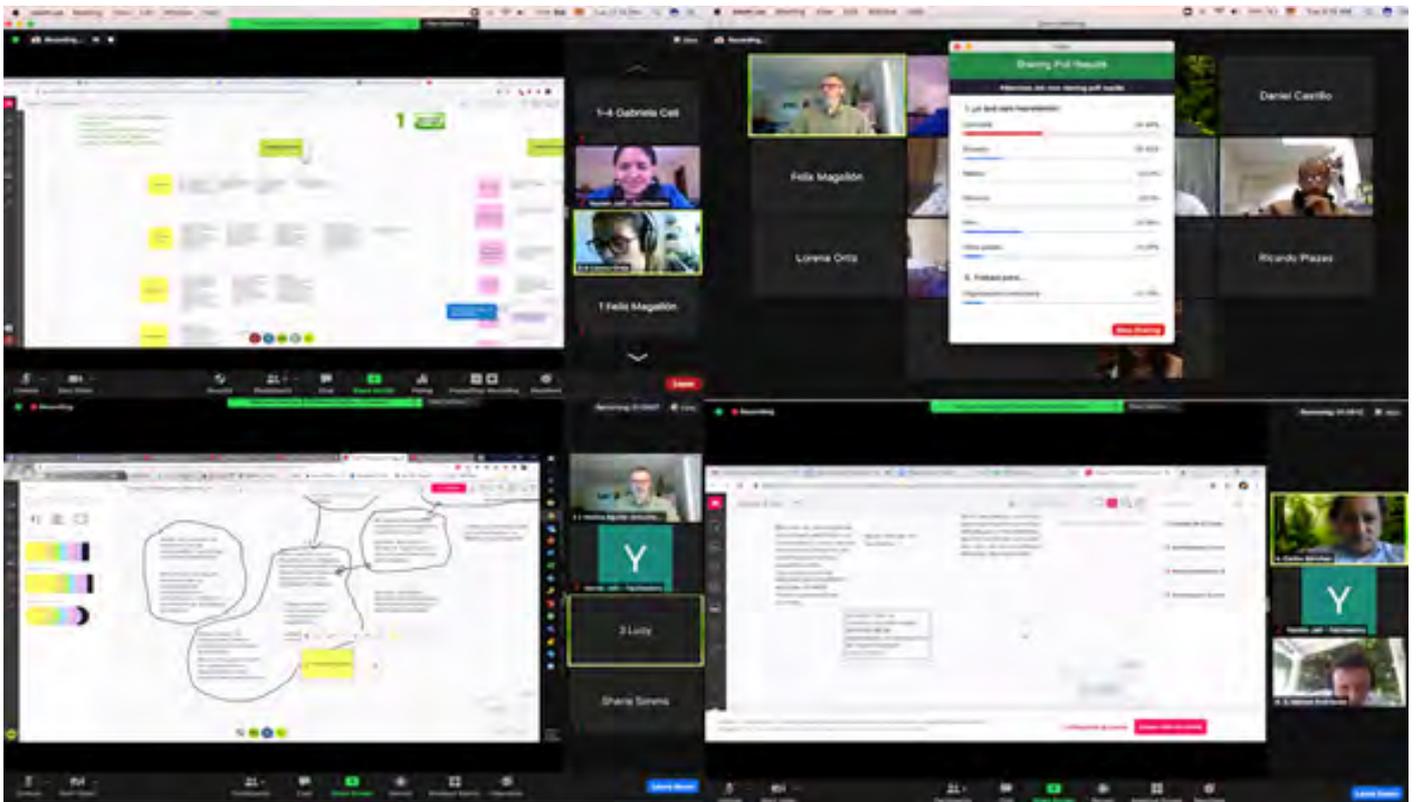
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3.1 Overview

SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN WORKSHOP

Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the workshop was organized online on November 24th, 2020. Total 14 participants from community organizations, civil society organizations, international NGOs, government and international development agencies in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Mexico and the United States have joined the meeting. Six diverse PMRV experiences with rich history of implementation have been shared among participants. The workshop has taken two main activities 1) collecting lessons learned from PMRV experiences learning from each experience; and 2) asking targeted questions to participants through small group discussions on each criteria to evaluate PMRV cases as defined in the PMRV Analytical Framework (Annex 1). Select images from the workshop are attached below at Figure 4.

Figure 4

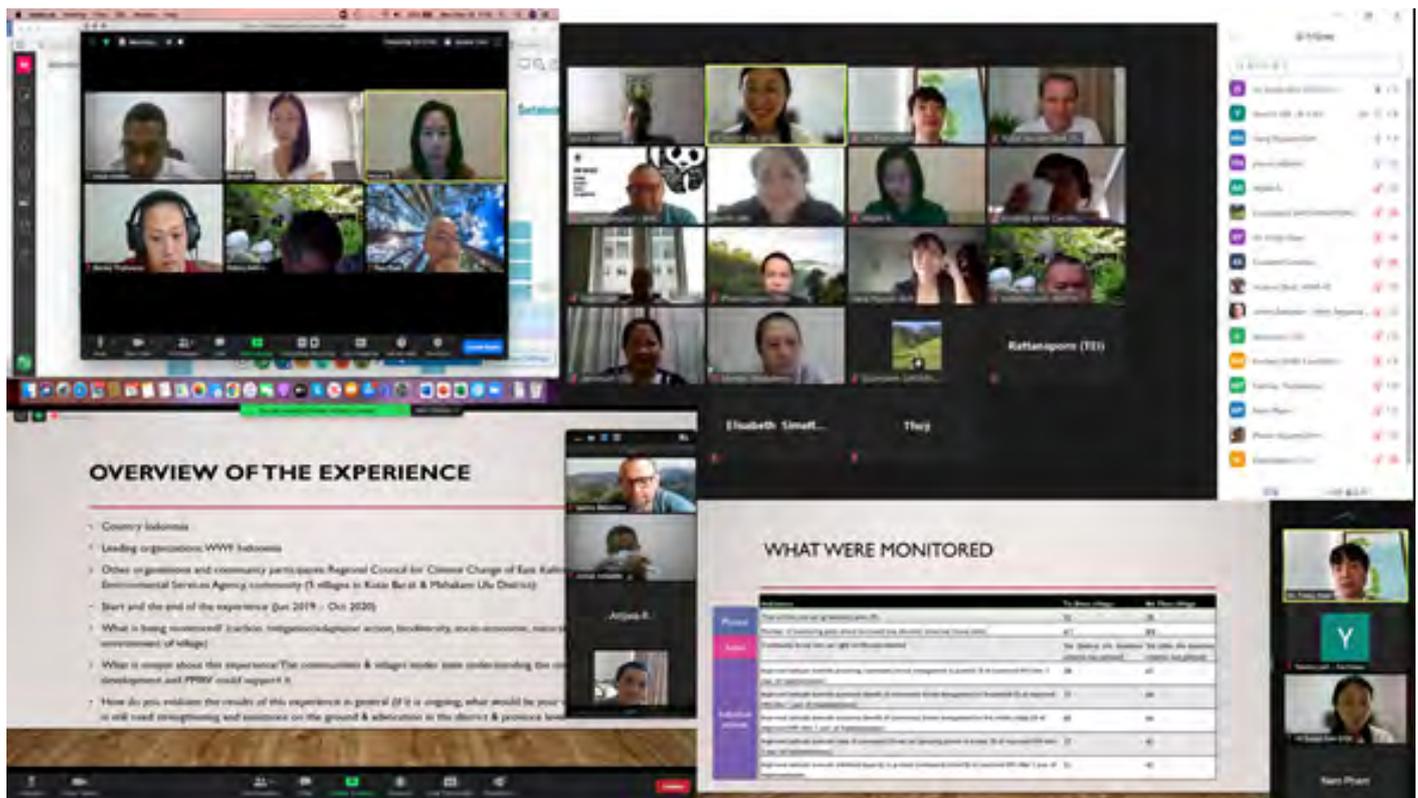


ASIA WORKSHOP

Similar to the previous workshop in South America and Caribbean, Asia regional workshop was organized virtually as well due to Covid-19 restrictions. The workshop was held virtually over two days on May 18 and 19, 2021. The main objectives of the event were to share experiences from implementing community-based and participatory monitoring, reporting and verification (PMRV) initiatives from various countries in Asia; to reflect upon their key lessons learned both advances and drawbacks, as well as to take stock of perspectives on sustainability and alignment with national priorities. The workshop aimed at generating collective recommendations to advance the people-centred forest governance in the region.

Sixteen people from community-based organizations, national and international NGOs, and government in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam have joined the workshop. We utilized interactive tools to facilitate this workshop such as Metimeter and Mural, and had an active participation from participants. The workshop was divided into two main parts: 1) fostering the exchanges of knowledge and learning through presentations and questions; and 2) small group discussions with targeted questions to understand sustainability and replicability elements of PMRV in the region. Figure 5 is a screen capture of the Asia workshop.

Figure 5



A complete list of participating experiences is summarized here:

Table 3: PMRV Experiences – Asia and Latin America workshops

NO.	NAME OF EXPERIENCES	COUNTRY
1	Consejo Comunitario de Comunidades Negras de la Cuenca del Río Tolo y Zona Costera Sur	Colombia
2	Unión de Comunidades Productoras Forestales Zapotecos-Chinantecos de la Sierra Juárez	México
3	Ministerio de Ambiente	Perú
4	Ministerio de Ambiente y FAO Ecuador	Ecuador
5	TNC México y Ejido Candelaria	México
6	Ministerio de Ambiente Panamá	Panamá
7	Training of Trainers for Participatory Carbon Measurement. Kampung Linggang Melapeh Kutai Barat, East Kalimantan	Indonesia
8	Participatory forest monitoring models. Café Redd Project, SNV Vietnam	Vietnam
9	Voluntary PES. The case of carbon sequestration service, ICRAF Vietnam	Vietnam
10	Voices for Mekong Forests Regional Program	Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia
11	A National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism, Thailand	Thailand
12	PMRV Experience in East Kalimantan, Indonesia	Indonesia



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3.2 Analysis and cross-comparison

MOTIVATIONS FOR PARTICIPATORY MRVS

This category has the most overlap between the two regions. Below list summarizes the key motivations for participating in PMRVs identified in both workshops:

- Financial (funding opportunities and cash income)
- Use of and access to information needed for decision making
- Land rights and solidifying indigenous territories
- Capacity building
- Freedom to report and share illegal activities & protecting Territories
- Grievances and conflict resolution
- Improving forest governance and deterring Deforestation/degradation
- Evaluate impacts of production activities /supply chain linkage

In addition to the items in this list, Asia workshop participants also mentioned of donor requirements and/or funding prospects for PMRV; as well as ways to facilitate certification processes for forest products.

South America workshop participants considered PMRV useful to connect ancestral knowledge and cultural identity with technical knowledge; and also recognized that motivations of men and women participating in PMRV can be quite distinct.

ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR DEVELOPING PMRVs

Most participants thought that strong local government support and local capacity are critical enabling conditions for successful PMRV. They also mentioned that involving local people from the very beginning and empowering them to make decisions that work for them are important. Below is a subset of overlapped items from both workshops:

- Support and buying in from local government/jurisdictions
- Legal and regulational frameworks
- Ensure participation and inclusion in planning, implementing, and monitoring.
- Livelihood incentives of PMRVs linking community livelihoods
- Co-design of PMRV and transparency from the beginning
- Capacity building for communities.
- Leadership building and local empowerment; rights and authorities to access to information and make decisions.

In addition to this, Asia workshop highlighted “linkages to markets and financing” and “allowing access to open source information through mobile apps”. South America workshop discussed “establishing strategic alliances at national and regional level”; and “indigenous community leadership and capabilities for PMRV”.

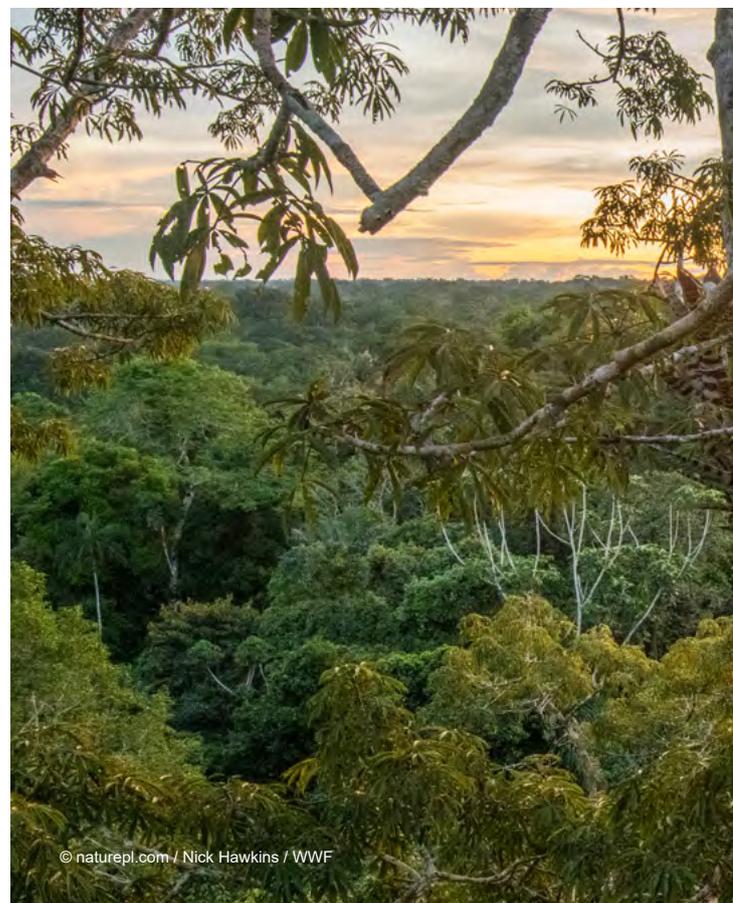
STRATEGIES AND RISK FACTORS FOR SUCCESS OR FAILURE

- Lack of clarity on institutional roles and regulations
- Lack of benefit sharing mechanism
- Insufficient capacity on organizational management and local leadership
- Lack of understanding on the importance of PMRV
- Unclear land tenure and overlapping ownership
- Lack of technical capacity
- Limitations due to pandemic

In addition, “disconnection between PMRV initiatives and local processes” was mentioned at South America workshop, versus Asia workshop identified “lack of trusts for external agents”, “intimidation, threats and fears associated with illegalities”; and “strict conditionalities posed by donors”.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Align with local communities’ lives, values and their tradition, to the level possible for them to carry out;
- Consolidate factors that make “protecting forest” more an intrinsic value of the communities;
- Improve technical capacities of indigenous organizations and equip them with finance and technologies (involvement of the youth);
- Facilitate exchange and learning among different initiatives of PMRV at different levels of development;





- Building permanent skillsets within communities.

Other elements on the list that do not overlap include: “Moving away from project approach”; “sustainable financing mechanisms supported by government”; “clear communication on full benefits of protecting the forests”; and “understanding long term benefits over short term issues”.

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL/REGIONAL/LANDSCAPE LEVEL INITIATIVES

- Alignment with relevant national forestry strategies and implementation;
- Demonstrate meaningful changes that PMRV has brought and communicate positive results effectively with stakeholders;
- Linkages to other landscape level initiatives such as PES (Payment for Environmental Services) or national initiatives such as FLEGT (Forest, Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) and National Forest Inventory (NFI);
- Networking and connecting communities and practitioners; and
- Adoption of simple design that can be easily understood and replicated.

In addition, “Mainstreaming regional and national policies and guidelines”; “linkages to regional development planning processes” and “good social media coverage and tactics” were also discussed. Due to lack of government buying-in and interests experienced in several Asian countries, “Advocate for better engagement of government” was also mentioned.



ANNEX 1: PMRV DATABASE

No.	Region	Country	Project title	Organizations	Status	CMRV reporting & verification, and data quality management (1-5)	Impacts on local capacity and skillsets (1-5)	Systematic approach, policy integration, and institutional arrangements (1-5)	Incentives to participate in CMRV (1-5)	Scalability (1-5)	Attention to local land tenure context, knowledge and rights (1/5)	Adjustment Factor	Overall Rank
1	Asia	Indonesia	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund REDD+ in East Kalimantan	WB, Regional council for climate change of East Kalimantan, WWF	Ongoing	5	3	4	5	5	5	1	4.50
2	Asia	Sri Lanka	CBR+ Sri Lanka	UN-REDD, 8 national CSOs throughout the country	Completed	4	3	2	2	2	5	1	3
3	Asia	Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia	Heart of Borneo Initiative(HoB): Transboundary (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia)	WWF	Ongoing	5	4	4	4	2	5	1	4
4	Asia	Vietnam	Green Annamites Program	USAID, Ecodit	Ongoing	4	5	4	4	3	5	1	4.17
5	Asia	Vietnam, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar	Voices From Mekong Forest (VFMF)	RECOFTC, WWF	Ongoing	4	2	3	3	2	3	1.1	3.12
6	Asia	Vietnam	Cafe REDD	SNV	Ongoing								
7	Asia	Vietnam	3PAD project in Bac Kan province	ICRAF	Completed								
8	Asia	Thailand	National REDD+ Action Plan and strategies	Thailand Environemnt Institute	Ongoing								

No.	Region	Country	Project title	Organizations	Status	CMRV reporting & verification, and data quality management (1-5)	Impacts on local capacity and skillsets (1-5)	Systematic approach, policy integration, and institutional arrangements (1-5)	Incentives to participate in CMRV (1-5)	Scalability (1-5)	Attention to local land tenure context, knowledge and rights (1/5)	Adjustment Factor	Overall Rank
9	Africa	Nigeria	Community Based Redd+ (Cbr+) Programme in Cross River State	UN-REDD Programme, Governor's Climate and Forest Taskforce (GCF)	Completed	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	3
10	Africa	Kenya	Kasigau Corridor REDD Project Phase II: The Community Ranches	Wildlife Works Carbon	Ongoing	1	3	2	5	1	5	1	2.83
11	Africa	DR Congo	FCPF Carbon Fund Maï Ndombe ER Program	World Bank, National Coordination REDD+ (CN-REDD), WWF, and WWC	Ongoing	4	3	3	5	3	5	1	3.83
12	South America	Brazil	System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA)	Government of Acre, Cooperacre, KfW, GCF	Ongoing	5	5	5	5	4	5	1	4.83
13	South America	Mexico	Iniciativa de Fortalecimiento de Capacidades para el Monitoreo Comunitario en México (MREDD)	TNC Mexico, Ejido Candelaria	Completed	4	5	4	3	3	5	1	4
14	South America	Peru	Alto Mayo Conservation Initiative	CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL	Ongoing	3	3	3	3	2	5	1	3.17
15	South America	Peru	Jubilación Segura	PUR PROJECT, ORO VERDE, FUNDAVI, ACOPAGRO	Ongoing	3	3	3	3	1	5	1.1	3.3
16	South America	Colombia	Jurisdictional REDD+ in Caquetá	WB, EII, DEPARTMENT OF CAQUETÁ, GCF	Ongoing	3	3	4	2	3	5	1	3.33
17	South America	Guyana	WWF Guyana CMRV Project	WWF	Ongoing	3	3	3	3	2	5	1.1	3.48

No.	Region	Country	Project title	Organizations	Status	CMRV reporting & verification, and data quality management (1-5)	Impacts on local capacity and skillsets (1-5)	Systematic approach, policy integration, and institutional arrangements (1-5)	Incentives to participate in CMRV (1-5)	Scalability (1-5)	Attention to local land tenure context, knowledge and rights (1/5)	Adjustment Factor	Overall Rank
18	South America	Colombia	Consejo Comunitario de Comunidades Negras de la Cuenca del Río Tolo y Zona Costera Sur	WWF	Ongoing	3.64	3.43	3.36	3.50	2.50	4.86	1.02	3.61
19	South America	Mexico	Unión de Comunidades Productoras Forestales Zapotecos-Chinantecos de la Sierra Juárez		Completed								
20	South America	Peru	Ministerio de Ambiente										
21	South America	Ecuador	Ministerio de Ambiente y FAO										
22	South America	Panama	Ministerio de Ambiente										



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