

Benefit Sharing

as part of the REDD Early Movers Programme

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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INTRODUCTION

The **REDD Early Movers (REM) programme** has provided results-based payments for the reduction of deforestation (REDD+) and the achievement of policy milestones regarding forest conservation since 2012. Most of the funds (60-70%) support the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, while the rest contributes to government-led initiatives for monitoring forests and controlling deforestation.

REM comprises four programmes in **Colombia, Ecuador,** and in two federal states of **Brazil, Acre and Mato Grosso,** that have gained valuable lessons on benefit sharing over the past 13 years.

This leaflet summarises the main results of a study conducted across these programmes. The study drew on a review of existing documents and semi-structured interviews with 53 participants from key stakeholder groups. This leaflet outlines the key benefits, challenges and lessons learned from the benefit sharing schemes of REM.

What is REM benefit sharing?

It refers to the fair and transparent distribution of funds, which stem from result-based payments for emission reductions from deforestation and forest degradation. It ensures that all local stakeholders, especially Indigenous Peoples and local communities, receive a fair share of these benefits, according to their roles and contributions in forest conservation. The REM benefit sharing schemes vary depending on the local context and have evolved through consultations and participatory processes. This led for example to support provided for the diversification of sustainable economies and for the self-management of Indigenous Peoples' territories.

> **The impact of the REM programme was to promote more efficient, participatory public management.**
>
> **NGO representative, Acre, Brazil**

KEY BENEFITS

- **Economic:** Sustainable livelihoods were diversified, for example by providing local employment, equipment, access to loans and support for acquiring certifications.
- **Social:** The activities strengthened local decision-making, capacities and social cohesion, fostering dialogue and trust between actors.
- **Environmental:** The initiatives raised environmental awareness locally and contributed to forest monitoring, restoration and conservation.
- **Institutional:** Key participatory institutional structures were built that can serve future benefit sharing schemes of other programmes.

> **The implementation of forest harvesting activities initiated a paradigm shift in the community, which began to understand that conserving the forest is important.**
>
> **Implementing agency representative, Colombia**





KEY CHALLENGES

- **Distribution:** Ensuring equitable benefit distribution is challenging, as perceptions of how benefits should be distributed between different groups vary, and many local stakeholders live remotely.
- **Capacity:** Various capacity gaps remain locally to meet complex administrative, planning and financial management requirements of benefit sharing schemes.
- **Communication and transparency:** More effective communication about the eligibility criteria, the programmes' impacts and timeline is difficult, but would enhance the ownership and outcomes.

> **It is very difficult for people to access these benefits, so we need to think about simpler mechanisms.**
>
> **Indigenous representative, Mato Grosso, Brazil**

> **The most valuable is that the programme emerged from the communities, from their day-to-day lives.**
>
> **Implementing agency representative, Ecuador**

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- **Institutions and capacity:** Building strong, locally-embedded institutions, capacities and trust needs considerable time and effort, but is crucial for obtaining long-term impacts.
- **Local needs:** Benefit sharing schemes need to respond to locally voiced needs, while balancing immediate requirements with longer-term structural changes.
- **Participation:** Participatory design and decision-making processes, including gender and youth considerations, enhance ownership, transparency and effectiveness.
- **Equity:** To avoid conflicts between different stakeholders, it is key to regularly identify all relevant local partners, and ensure fair and timely access to benefits.





IN SUMMARY

The study provides evidence that the REM benefit sharing schemes **improved the quality of life** overall amongst the Indigenous Peoples and local communities that were involved, generating considerable economic, social, environmental and institutional benefits.

Developing **strong institutions, capacities and effective communication** is challenging, but crucial for delivering lasting impacts.

Benefit sharing schemes need to embrace **participatory design and decision-making processes** that respond to local needs and ensure **fair distribution** of benefits, while being flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances.

CONTACT

Further information: www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/SDG-portal/SDG-15/REDD-REM/

Contact: Ingo.Baum@kfw.de; Judith.Schleicher@giz.de

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