

Intervention in the SBSTA34 closing plenary, Bonn, June 16, 2011

Thank you chair. Distinguished delegates, friends.

My name is Ulrike Roehr from LIFE e.V. and I speak on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency.

During recent meetings, we have continuously asked to recognize and guarantee women's rights to land and territories, which includes collectively demarcating and titling Indigenous Peoples' and traditional communities' territories, where most of the world's forests are found. This has proven to be one of the most effective measures for reducing deforestation and supporting the livelihood and rights of forest-dependent women, girls and communities.

As women from diverse parts of the world, living in diverse conditions and circumstances, we affirm that it is of utmost importance to safeguard the rights of women. Currently, the paper used to print these safeguards, adds to deforestation rather than helps to secure women's human rights.

From our point of view, the system has to be turned around and, with it, what we consider to be the main objective and the co-benefits. Instead of the focus on the counting of carbon and perceiving social safeguards as "fine tuning" in mitigation activities, there should be a paradigm shift in putting forest people, their improvement of livelihoods, as well as human rights in the center of the activities aiming for forest conservation. From this perspective, carbon sequestration is a most welcome co-benefit of these activities, not vice versa.

In moving towards the ultimate goal of a paradigm shift, we call for putting strong emphasis on:

1. Monitoring and reporting for REDD+ activities, which clearly address human rights, women's rights and gender aspects.
2. Safeguards that ensure that at any time / point in the project cycle the social impacts of the project can be reviewed
3. An appeals process which ensures and provides local people and communities with the rights and the means to complain at any stage of the project

Hence we call for adequate monitoring and appeals procedures and for tangible consequences in case of violation of the safeguards.