

Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals

"Climbing the Ladder of Participation: Symbolic or Substantive Representation in Preparing Uganda for REDD+?"

Mbeche, Robert

Mbeche, Robert. "Climbing the Ladder of Participation: Symbolic or Substantive Representation in Preparing Uganda for REDD+?" *Conservation & Society* 15, no. 4 (2017): 426-38. doi:10.4103/cs.cs_16_100.

The United Nations (UN) and World Bank programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Deforestation (REDD) plus improving forest governance (REDD+) promotes carbon-emission reductions and sustainable forest management. The World Bank and the UN require developing countries to prepare for REDD+ via a consultation process with input from indigenous and forest-dependent peoples. This article focuses on stakeholder consultations carried out under the Ugandan REDD+ preparation process, examining whether these fulfill the conditions necessary for substantive local democratic representation. The article shows that even though REDD+ claims to be democratic and participatory, the Uganda program allows the input of only a few selected stakeholders – mainly the government actors and a limited number of NGOs. Further, despite claiming to be democratic and participatory, the program privileges REDD+'s programmatic goals over democratic procedures. In this context, the REDD+ consultations serve largely to—1) "educate" the participants to secure their support in implementing the "technical" aspects of the programme, 2) help the government to legitimise its REDD+ strategy; and 3) speed up the implementation of the REDD+ programme despite the lack of substantive representation. (Text from author's abstract)

© Robert Mbeche 2017. *Conservation & Society* is available online only and is published under a Creative Commons license (CC BY 2.5).

Download:

PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/conservatsoc154426-3129744_084137.pdf

Related links:

Periodicals Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal

"Climbing the Ladder of Participation: Symbolic or Substantive Representation in Preparing Uganda for REDD+?"

Source URL: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/8273>

Print date: 24 April 2026 12:49:19

- *Conservation & Society* website
<http://www.conservationandsociety.org/>
- *Conservation & Society* 15, no. 4
<http://www.conservationandsociety.org/currentissue.asp>