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Rethinking Environment and Development in an Era of Global Norms: Exploring international politics of justice on carbon forestry and hydropower ES/N005740/1

### **Notes on Data Collection for REDEGN 2 ReShare Data Collection submission [data description]**

This note accompanies the three documents that make up the REDEGN 2 Data Collection.

REDEGN 2 research was led by Neil Dawson, Nada Ali, and Hari Dhungana, and coordinated by Dr Mark Zeitoun. Technical backstopping and assistance with research design came from Janet Fisher, Heike Schroeder, and Michael Mason. Data collected in Sudan for REDEGN 2 (as opposed to REDEGN 1) related to the highly confidential and partly ongoing court cases. With the hope that others can contribute, this will be made available when it can no longer risk interfering with the legal processes, or causing reputational or physical harm.

Research in Uganda and Nepal focused on the perceptions of a range of state, civil society, local activist and academic intermediaries. As readers will note from their characteristics, the documents in this collection relate to the investigation of whose claims they seek to mobilise, the strategies they pursue, various forums they engage in, other norms they encounter and barriers or opportunities they experience to facilitate norm travel and achievement of various social and environmental aims. Through attention to which and whose norms are prioritised or disregarded in various policy processes or forums, and through what particular institutional arrangements and exercises of influence by specific actors, this form of inquiry provides important insights into power relations in each of our case studies. This approach does not critically assess the extent to which intermediaries effectively represent specific social groups or act in their own strategic interests. The work's focus was on providing robust insights into actions and interactions to promote norm travel, reactions to perceived barriers and opportunities and claims regarding influence.

As documented in the accompanying documents in this collection, the project convened participatory workshops, or think-tank meetings, over two days in Kampala and Kathmandu in August 2016. In Nepal, 23 participants represented 17 organisations (approximately half of the 34 policy actors in REDD+ processes): 12 diverse Civil Society Organisations; the state agency responsible for REDD+; two academic institutions; one private consultancy and; a national newspaper. In Uganda 17 participants represented 14 organisations (approximately 42% of organisations listed as part of Uganda's REDD+ Working Group): 10 diverse CSOs, the Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forest Authority and two relevant academic institutions. The meetings were facilitated by the authors as open discussions, drawing on participant expertise to deliberate over equity issues relevant to REDD+ and means of addressing them.

As noted in the accompanying 'Interview Transcripts' and 'Interview Guide' documents, semi-structured interviews were held with 16 intermediaries from Nepal and 16 from Uganda. Key informants who were sampled were chosen to include varied types of organisations with diverse objectives operating at a variety of scales. Each interview extended to roughly two hours. Participants primarily represented civil society organisations, but also included state officials, journalists and private sector actors, operating at various levels from local scale community work and mobilisations to national and international networks and policy forums (refer to 'Interview Transcripts' document). Not one of the 32 intermediaries functioned solely at local, national or international levels, and most worked at all three. For example, even local government officials had attended international United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC ) conferences. Furthermore, both social and environmental objectives guided the climate-related forestry work of all 32 participants. All interviews were conducted by the authors, 26 during 2016, while six interviews were held with subnational intermediaries in Uganda in 2014.

Six interviews in each country were held at local level with intermediaries working in areas adjacent to forests where strict protection for biodiversity conservation has adversely impacted some local communities' resource access, land tenure security and place attachments: around Mount Elgon National Park in Eastern Uganda and Chitwan National Park in Southern Nepal. Again, intermediaries were selected to represent a diversity of organisations and perspectives on forest governance and associated social issues. Around both Mount Elgon and Chitwan National Parks, impacts have been particularly acute for Indigenous Peoples or cultural minorities inhabiting those areas, affecting access to ancestral lands, resources and cultural practices associated with their identities. At Mount Elgon, carbon-based forest governance has been established, initially through The Uganda Wildlife Authority-Forests Absorbing Carbon Emissions (UWA-FACE) project from 1992 and more recently through the Mt. Elgon Regional Eco-System Conservation Programme (MERECP). For the site around Chitwan, REDD+ projects were in the planning stage, though pilot studies have been conducted within the same district. The remaining ten semi-structured interviews in each country were conducted with intermediaries based in the capital cities, Kathmandu and Kampala. Participants were selected to represent a diversity of actors seeking to advance both environmental management and social outcomes of the rural population, and with potential to mobilise and advance justice-related norms based on recognition of local values and practices. The intermediaries participating in this study represented stakeholders in a variety of policy sectors, though all had some involvement in climate-related forest governance and the majority had been directly engaged in formal REDD+ policy processes.

Semi-structured interviews were flexible and exploratory, expanding across a range of topics. At the minimum, interviews sought to elicit perceptions of participants on specific themes in line with the conceptual framework: the intermediaries' priorities in their work; the justice concerns they seek to mobilise, and for which people; the actions and interactions they undertake in different forums to mobilise those concerns and influence different actors and policy debates; any barriers faced in doing so and responses to them; any successes enjoyed and factors enabling them; their perceptions of REDD+ and climate policy processes at different levels of governance, norms within them and level of engagement (see attached interview topic guide). Interviews were all conducted in English with answers noted as fully as possible. Transcripts were coded thematically in accordance with the concepts described above and analysed inductively using NVIVO 10.