9 January 2020

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

Sample Interview Questions and Rationale (for REDEGN 2 ReShare Data Collection submission)

(please also refer to REDEGN2 data description (ReShare 2020).docx)

Methodology and objectives: Global environmental governance comprises multi-scalar links across policies and policy arenas, involving formal and informal rules. As conceived in Figure 1, there are multiple, evolving, competing discourses influenced by interactions and relationships among a complex network of actors, from local to international scales, which determine the environmental norms prioritised in policies and in turn their environmental and social impacts. Our research seeks to consider: which norms, whose, and why they gain prominence or not.

Figure 1 The guiding organising / conceptual framework (based on findings of REDEGN 1 project)
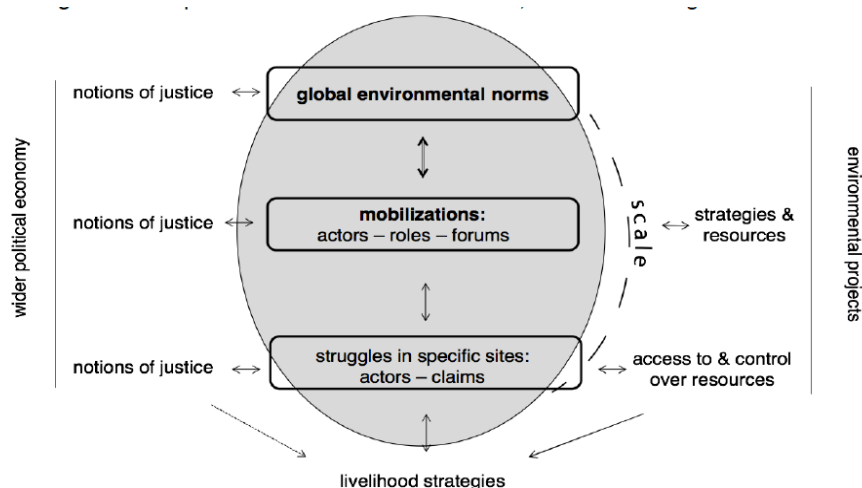
Local struggles: Environmental justice research reveals that people do not only worry about distribution of material resources. They care about the distribution of a broader set of costs, benefits and risks, about the procedures by which decisions are made and about how people with different identities and values are treated in and affected by such projects and planning for them.

In environmental governance in general, and certainly in REDD+ there have been progressive changes to include greater attention to social impacts, to the different types of stakeholders and their status, rights and distinct identities, as well as their role in decision making. Yet the extent to which local struggles are represented through mobilisations in order to influence global norms, and compete against norms informed by other notions of justice and the extent to which this might lead to more just outcomes at the local level through policy implementation is rarely critically analysed, poorly informed by theory and never tested empirically.

Experience of forest governance tells us is that in order to be successful in conserving in the long-term, interventions need not only avoid harm to local populations but contribute to more equitable/just outcomes in order to gain legitimacy. So (particularly through our think-tanks) we ask the extent to which will REDD + safeguards effectively aim to represent that goal and more importantly to actually achieve just outcomes for those living in or adjacent to forests through implementation?

Through semi-structured interviews with a variety of intermediaries (rather than stakeholders) involved in shaping REDD+ safeguard debates in Nepal and Uganda we seek to understand how they represent and mobilise local struggles and through their strategies, resources and interactions in the wider political economy engage with opportunities and barriers to influence environmental norms, policies and their implementation.

The 5-10 intermediaries to be interviewed in each country will be sampled from a range of organisations working at different scales to represent justice and influence norms and policy implementation (aided by a network mapping exercise with project partners). Sampling could also seek to represent organisations prioritising different notions of justice (e.g. neoliberal, nature-centric/future generations, **human rights, indigeneity/cultural**, poverty alleviation, gender-equality).

Interviews will take an exploratory approach. This document puts forward a draft set of interview questions to explore types of intermediary, their notions of justice, politics of scale, strategies, forums, interactions with others, and perceived outcomes, generally and more specifically relating to REDD+ safeguards. Questions listed aim to ensure that answers will be easily categorisable and comparable for each of those sub-concepts, drawn from the conceptual framework above. Note: questions will not function as a sequential list but as elements of a ranging conversation. It will also be necessary to explore answers provided through additional questions to obtain more detail, clarification and supporting examples.

Alongside interview questions we will sketch a timeline of norm/policy evolution and influences (at various scales) upon them with each participant (or alternatively do so as part of analysis of their answers), and then collate these for each case, or for specific event or events within the case. This will enable visualisation of the key actors, events, various discourses (and inherent notions of justice) influencing safeguard debates, policies and ultimately their implementation. Interviews can be used to further develop the network mapping in order to locate the different actors, forums and influences on mobilisations and norm translation (either during the interview itself or as part of analysis).

These aspects are explored generally and more specifically relating to REDD+ and associated social safeguards. Questions did not function as a sequential list but as elements of a ranging conversation. Answers provided were also explored in greater detail through additional questions seeking further information, clarification and supporting examples.

1) Intermediary characteristics, objectives, resources:
   - Broad questions about organisation, its history, direction and priorities, key individuals and how funded?
   - How did you get into this area of work, what is your inspiration?
   - What concerns do you seek to mobilise for which people and why? How diverse are their claims/concerns? How do you seek to represent those claims, where, how and to what end? Why prioritise those over others?
   - Where do you target your work, what are objectives for which policies or policy arena? What are opportunities and constraints? What have successes and major influences been? Who are the key players to work with or influence in these fields, for those aims?
   - Are there any key examples of situations, struggles or people who have shaped the organisation's agenda or the main debates playing out in the regional, national or international arena? In what way are they positive or challenging examples?

- How have these things changed, any notable changes to the language, terms, objectives, what events have triggered those changes?
- Any key documents to represent the organisations work and its impacts?

2) REDD+/ Forest and climate policy within overall organisational work:
- Is REDD+ an important issue, debate for you? Why/why not? How do you perceive REDD+, where it is going in Uganda/Nepal, the opportunities and risks it presents? How important are REDD safeguards deemed for those you try to represent? How is that reflected in the organisations' work/objectives? How does REDD+/safeguards relate to other areas of your work (human rights, biodiversity, poverty etc)? Are there any particular safeguards of great importance to you and why? What do you think the safeguards might most usefully look like?
- What are some of the main ideas and arguments which support REDD policies, and how has that changed over time at global, national and more local levels? Who are the key actors/events/networking/conflicts/work/barriers which have shaped those changes? Are there important examples which have shaped debates and discourse, or your own objectives?
- How well do you feel your organisation's objectives/ local justice concerns are represented within REDD policies at present? What are your objectives?
- What is a REDD project going to ideally look like on the ground? What benefits would they actually provide and to who? How will it actually seek to address some of the drivers of deforestation and degradation in Uganda/Nepal?
- Any key documents to show these issues, changes and influence of different actors?

3) **Mobilisations, forums, interactions, scale and means to influence (avoiding any repetition from previous section):
- How do you try to represent local concerns, where and through what approaches? What forums, what networks are available and prioritised to do that, and at what scale? Any resources/documents to detail where local struggles have been taken up?
- What things do you do to try to influence these policies, at what level, through what means, in what places/meetings/behind the scenes networking, publicity do you try to achieve that? Where do the main moments of influence appear to happen? What relationships are important in achieving that?
- What are the opportunities/barriers to influencing/improving those policies and how do you seek to overcome them?
- What do you do to represent your priority issues? What momentum and arguments do you build on or how do you create attention to them? What do you have to do to get them included in policy debates, to be heard or to have influence? Are there any other policy areas or fields you borrow from?
- Does ability/inability to influence stem from the organisation's resources, work of others, limited or advantageous political space? To what extent does that compromise what outcomes can be achieved? What new opportunities have become open or previous ones closed and for what reasons? Do you have to adapt the arguments, strategies, networks you are involved with to try to attain that influence?

- Who do you communicate with on these issues, what informal interaction occurs to strategise, build, innovate towards greater influence? Any examples of where influence has come from?
- What successes have been enjoyed, what difficulties endured in not being able to influence policy or practice, what compromises have you made and why? What institutional barriers/space or rigid ways of thinking make it difficult to make progress?

4) Future direction:
- What events, decisions, policy changes do you think will be important in shaping these debates and outcomes in the future?
- What do you predict will happen if things carry on as they currently are and why?
- What do you think could happen in the future – what needs to happen to realise what you would consider to be positive outcomes?