



CCDA-V

Africa, sustainable development and climate change
Prospects of Paris and beyond

ClimDev-Africa



Democratic representation and climate change governance: *Lessons from the UN-REDD funded Nigeria-REDD programme*

Emmanuel O. Nuesiri

(MPhil. Cambridge; DPhil. Oxford)

*Marie-Curie BRAIN Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Potsdam, Germany
and Research Affiliate Cline Center for Democracy, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, USA*



Brandenburg Research
Academy and International
Network (BRAIN)



Universität Potsdam



Cline Center for Democracy
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Problem statement 1/2

- UN-REDD states that strengthening local democracy would prevent elite capture of REDD+ benefits, this study examined the political representation of local people during the participatory consultative process that led to Nigeria-REDD as an empirical test if UN-REDD operations conforms to its rhetoric.

Problem statement 2/2

- Article 2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states that climate change mitigation in addition to stabilizing GHG should “enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”. This study also seeks to understand if REDD+ enables sustainable economic development?



CCDA-V

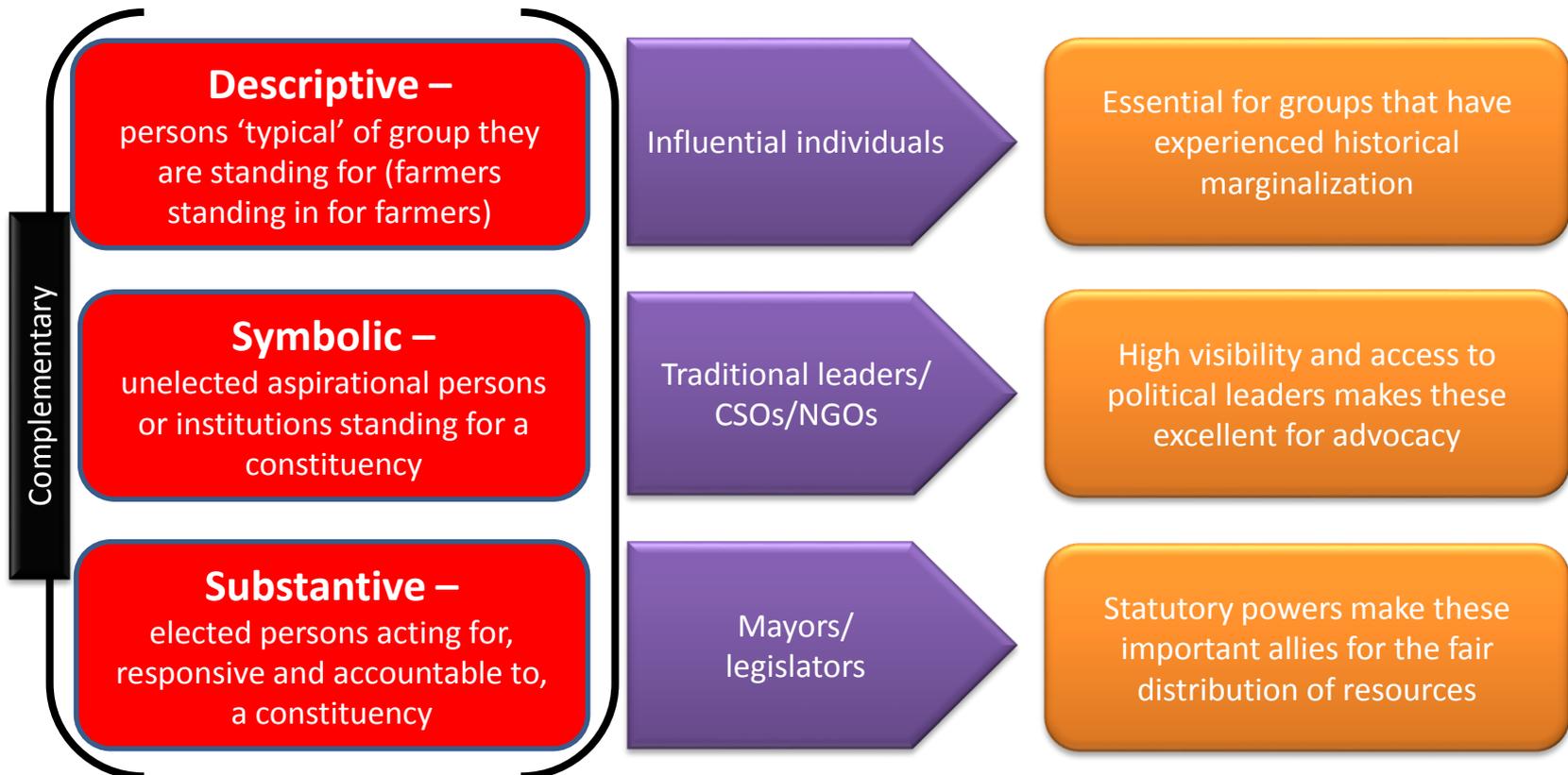
Africa, sustainable development and climate change
Prospects of Paris and beyond

ClimDev-Africa



Methods

Political representation as a conceptual framework



Representatives should aim for just decision-making that responds to needs of constituents



CCDA-V

Key Findings

ClimDev-Africa



Representation at Nigeria-REDD participatory consultative meetings in Calabar

Institutions and groups	18 Feb 2011	20 Aug 2011	Democratic credentials
Cross River State Forestry Commission	26	15	Government appointees
Local NGOs based in Cross River State	23	14	Symbolic political representatives
Local people (mainly from Ekuri)	13	30	Descriptive political representatives
Media	8	2	Fourth estate
Cross River State Governor	6	0	Higher level substantive democratic representative
International NGOs	6	1	Symbolic political representatives
Academics	6	4	Government appointees
Other Cross River State Government Agencies	5	0	Government appointees
Federal Ministry of Environment	2	0	Government appointees
National NGOs	2	0	Symbolic political representatives
Customary authority	2	6	Symbolic political representatives
Banks	2	1	Private business
Local Government Authority	0	0	Local level substantive political representatives
Total	101	73	



Key Findings

Elected local government authority mandated to be responsive / accountable to local people, were not invited to the participatory consultative meetings

Why – response from research participants included:

- insufficient funds to cover the cost of their participation
- they are poorly informed and thus irrelevant
- they are self-serving

These responses have some merit, but study found that subordination of local government authority by the state government makes state agencies like the forestry commission disregard local government authorities so did not bother to invite them to the REDD+ consultative meetings

“UN-REDD cannot force countries to include the local level...strengthening local democratic governance is not the main priority of [UN-REDD] donors”

Research participant interviewed for this study

Conclusions

UN-REDD subscribed to symbolic politics, and this raises concerns as to whether it can protect local people's socio-economic interests; and whether it can be responsive to Article 2 of the UNFCCC that climate change mitigation initiatives like REDD+ should enable sustainable economic development

Recommendations

- UN-REDD should carry out its FPIC, PGA and consultative meetings through local government authorities as they are at the heart of local democratic practice; NGOs, customary authority and higher level government agencies should come in as pressure groups ensuring local government authorities are responsive (they would need resources) and accountable to local people
- Where elected local governments do not exist, the UN-REDD should support initiatives moving local governance arrangements in a democratic direction