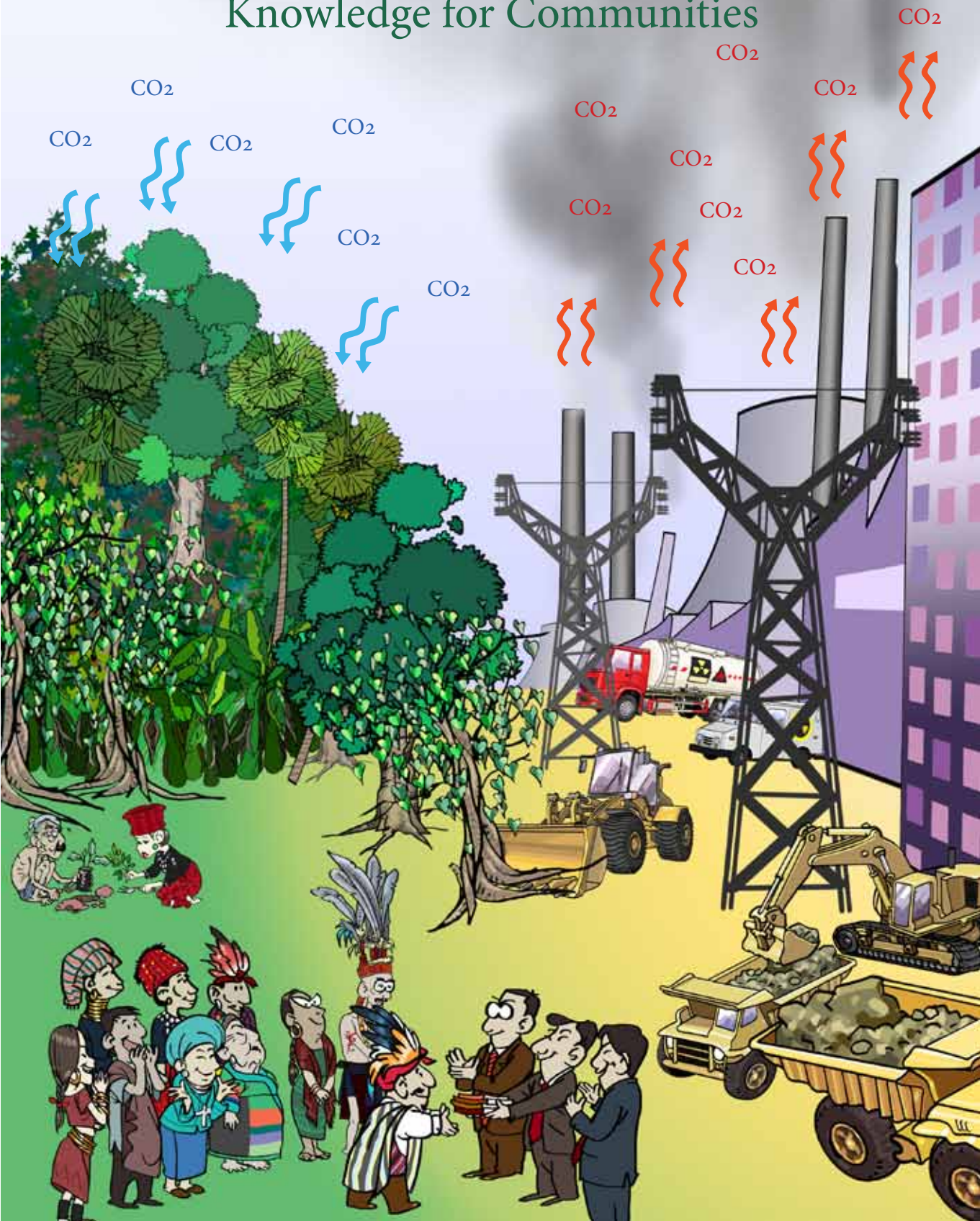


THE FOREST IS LIFE

Knowledge for Communities



Climate change is a commonly discussed issue nowadays, and has become an environmental problem-affecting people throughout the world. Climate change is resulting in shifting weather patterns and other global effects such as unseasonal rains that affect agriculture, droughts, increased temperatures, floods, plagues and diseases. Global warming is mainly the result of rising CO₂ level in the earth's atmosphere. Scientists say about 17% to 20% of the global CO₂ emissions are a result of deforestation and degradation of the forests. This comic book provides information on climate change and REDD (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries), which is one of the mitigation measures currently promoted for reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

As a comic book for the communities and peoples at the grass root, the content is simplified and accompanied by illustrations and photos for visualization. It is intended primarily for the indigenous peoples and local communities, ethnic minorities and students as a guide to understand climate change, REDD and how they relate to the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

This comic book also provides the importance and the roles of forests in climate change, the concept of REDD, REDD+ and brief background information of implementing REDD+ as well as how REDD+ relates to indigenous peoples and local communities and why it is critically important for them, especially those living in forests, to gain knowledge and understanding of REDD+.

As an information guidebook for indigenous peoples and local communities, this publication is aimed at increasing the awareness and understanding of indigenous peoples and local communities towards climate change action and the potential negative impacts for the recognition and exercise of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, especially on the right to land, territories and resources with respect to REDD+.

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Climate Change and Current Weather Conditions




Where have the fishes gone?




Whenever will it rain? All rice plants will be going to die.



When will it stop raining? My house and the entire paddy have flooded.



These days, the rain doesn't come with the season. Some years there is a shortage. It is hard to forecast.



This year there were heavy rains and soil erosion. In the upper village, the road, school and rice fields were flooded and six people died.

Before, life was abundant and rich

There were many forest products and wildlife

The rivers ran abundantly

Many crabs and fishes

People lived together in harmony



Livestock was strong and propagated abundantly

There was enough food, and some to sell for profit



Herbal medicines were used to treat diseases



Currently, the weather is changing a lot. I suspect our world is heating up. Many things are changing in our lives and livelihoods

Dry conditions, little rain, and it does not come seasonally



Many diseases spread

We work harder

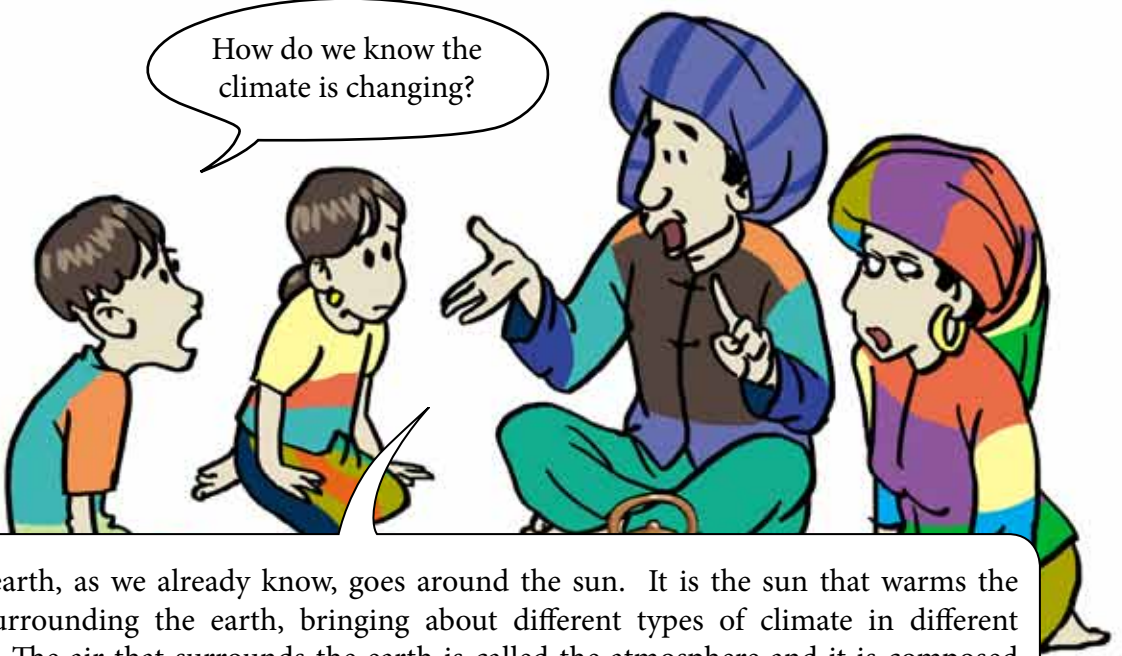


There is less food security and more poverty

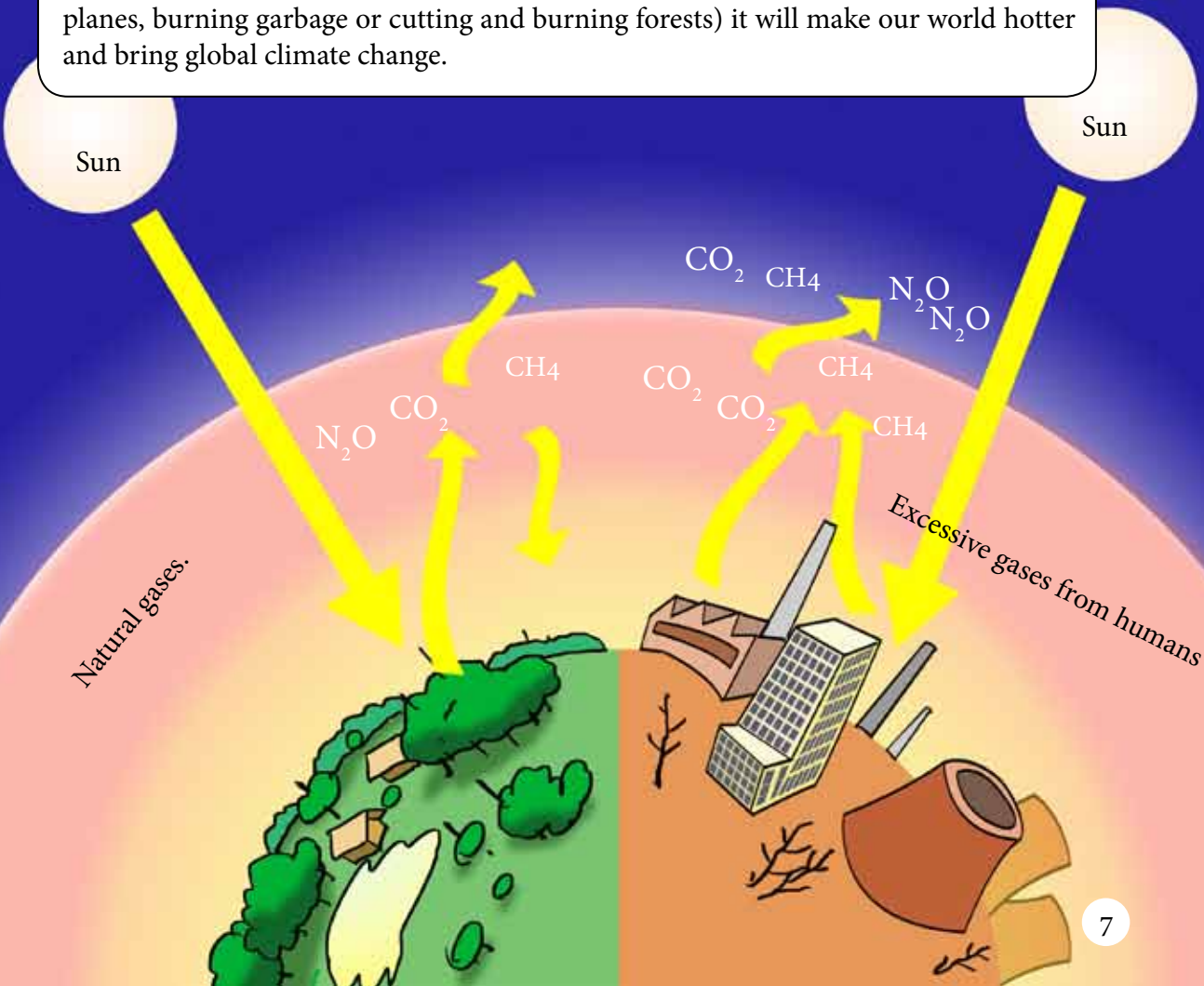
Men must find work in other places, causing family problems

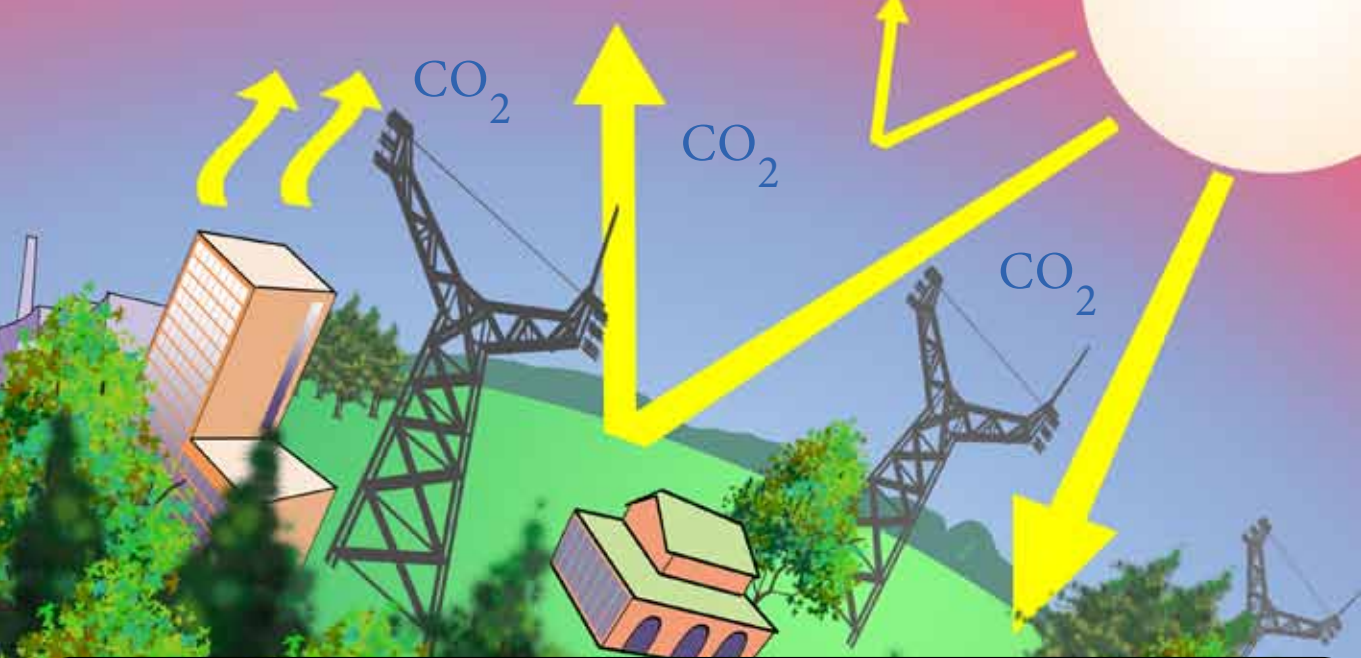


How do we know the climate is changing?

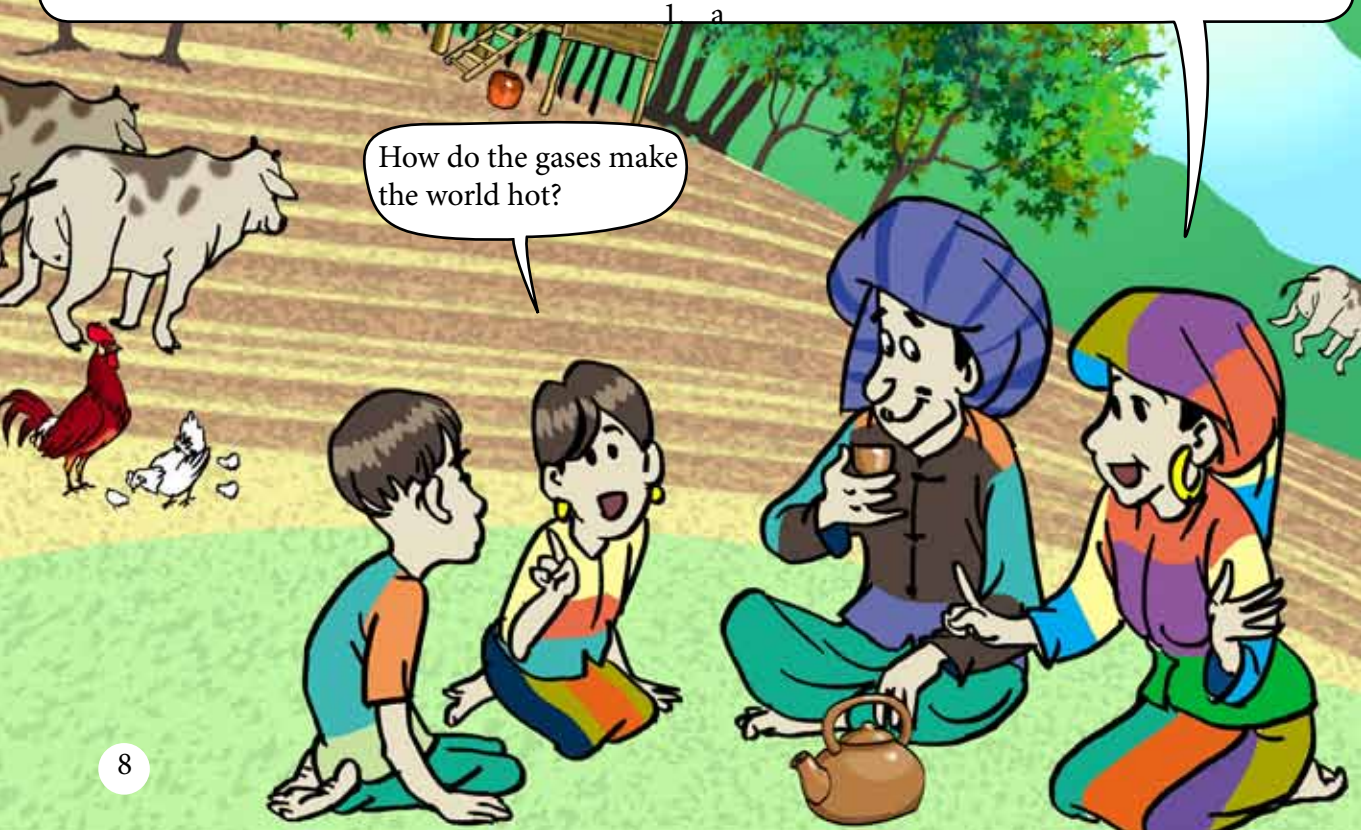


The earth, as we already know, goes around the sun. It is the sun that warms the air surrounding the earth, bringing about different types of climate in different areas. The air that surrounds the earth is called the atmosphere and it is composed of a combination of different gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen. The most is carbon dioxide. Naturally, these gases will absorb the sun's heat and keep the earth warm so that life can exist. But if there are too many of these gases in the atmosphere that come from human activities (such as plants and factories, cars and planes, burning garbage or cutting and burning forests) it will make our world hotter and bring global climate change.





Gases act like the glass walls of a greenhouse, allowing some of the sun's rays to enter, reflecting back harmful radiation from the sun and keeping some warmth close to the earth, making the earth a place where we can live. Some of the heat that comes from the sun is reflected by the greenhouse gases and by the earth and goes back into space. Some of the warmth of the sun is trapped by the greenhouse gases and stays in the atmosphere, keeping the earth warm. If this was not the case, it would be very cold on Earth – too cold for humans to live. This natural process is called the greenhouse effect. However, humans are adding more of these gases into the atmosphere by activities such as burning oil and gas to run factories generate power and for transportation, land development or simply farming. The greenhouse effect becomes stronger. The result is global warming.





How does the CO₂ make the world warmer, and where does it come from?

Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas and its main source is the burning of woods and fossil fuels such as oil, gas or coal that we use to run machines such as cars and to produce energy and electricity. Another major source of carbon is from activities that destroy or damage forests. These activities include large-scale logging, mining, building dams, forest fires, cement production and expansion of agricultural land. As humans and their activities emit more carbon dioxide, the temperature goes up even more.



Why is it that indigenous communities receive the worst effects from climate change?

Child! We have lived our lives closely with nature with the land and the forests, for thousands of years.

Many plants and wild animals around our village serve us as foods and medicines in our daily lives.



Sacred forest

The rivers and each piece of land are important for us, and have also been held as sacred by our ancestors. Most of us live our lives simply, taking only what we need to eat, and preserving the natural resources for our children and grandchildren. This is living and using resources sustainably.

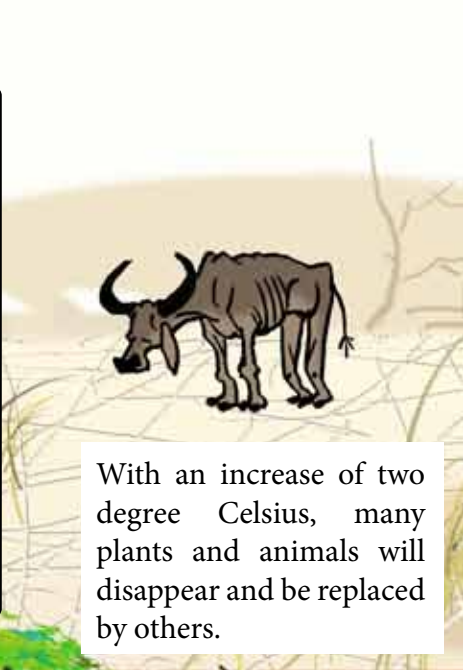


Our traditional way of life does not use much external input in the form of machines, fuels, fertilizers and other industrial products. We produce much of what we need ourselves, and we do not consume a lot. This means that our ways of life emits very little carbon or other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere





It is because of this close relationship with and dependence on the natural environment that the impact of climate change is more severe for us than for other peoples. Even with a low level of warming, the effects of climate change will directly affect our lives. For example, an increase in global temperature of just one degree Celsius will bring about changes in how plants grow in the forests and how fish breed in the water.

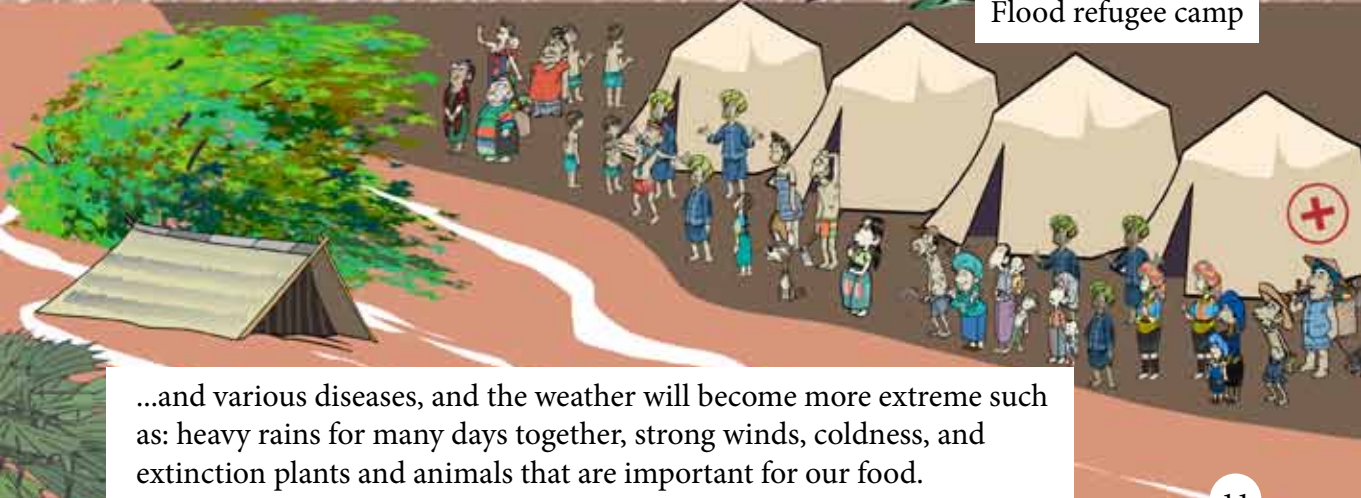


With an increase of two degree Celsius, many plants and animals will disappear and be replaced by others.

If it becomes even warmer, more and more people will be affected by flooding



Flood refugee camp

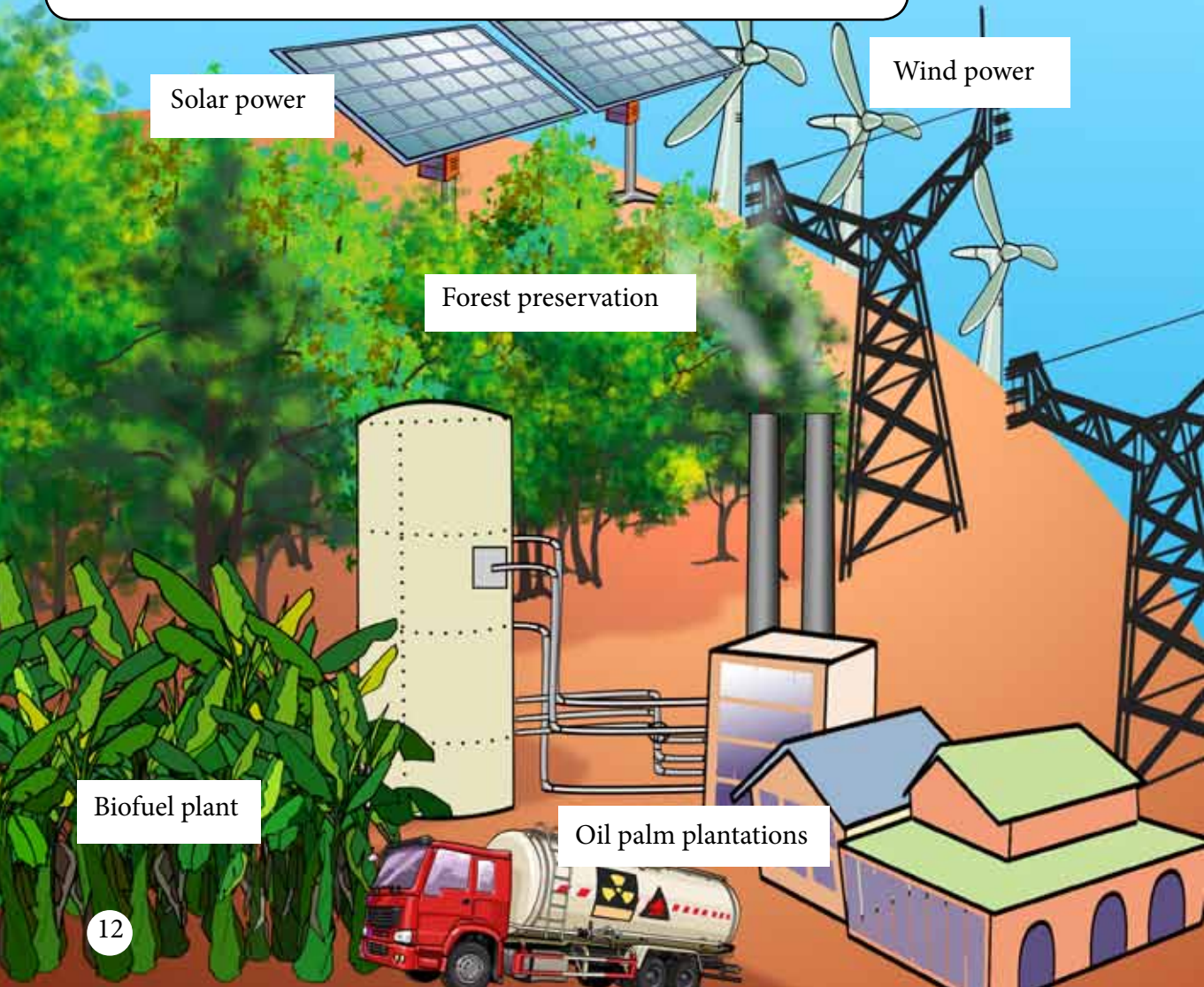


...and various diseases, and the weather will become more extreme such as: heavy rains for many days together, strong winds, coldness, and extinction plants and animals that are important for our food.



What can be done to prevent climate change?

We cannot prevent climate change anymore. For that it is too late. But we can make sure that the climate is not changing too much. There are many ways to do that. Above all we need to reduce the release of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere. This can be done by using less oil and by using alternative sources of energy such as solar power or biofuels. And we need to preserve and replant forests, which absorb carbon.



Solar power

Wind power

Forest preservation

Biofuel plant

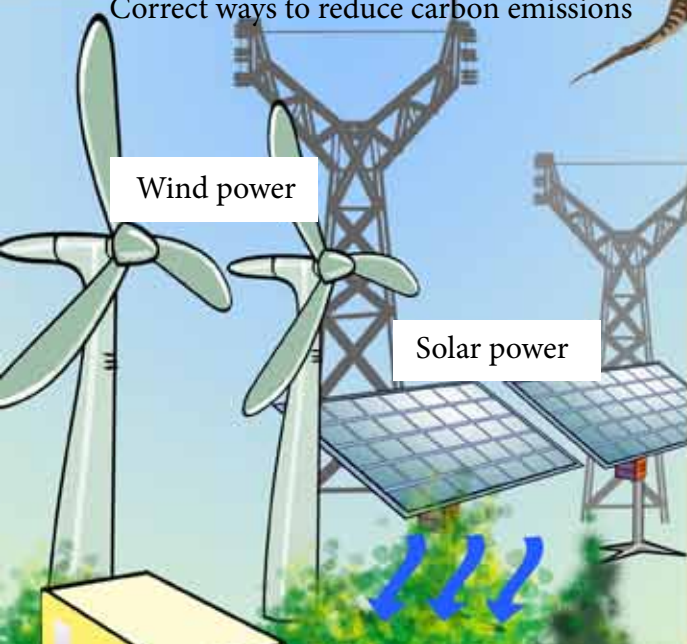
Oil palm plantations



But there are correct and incorrect ways to reduce carbon emissions

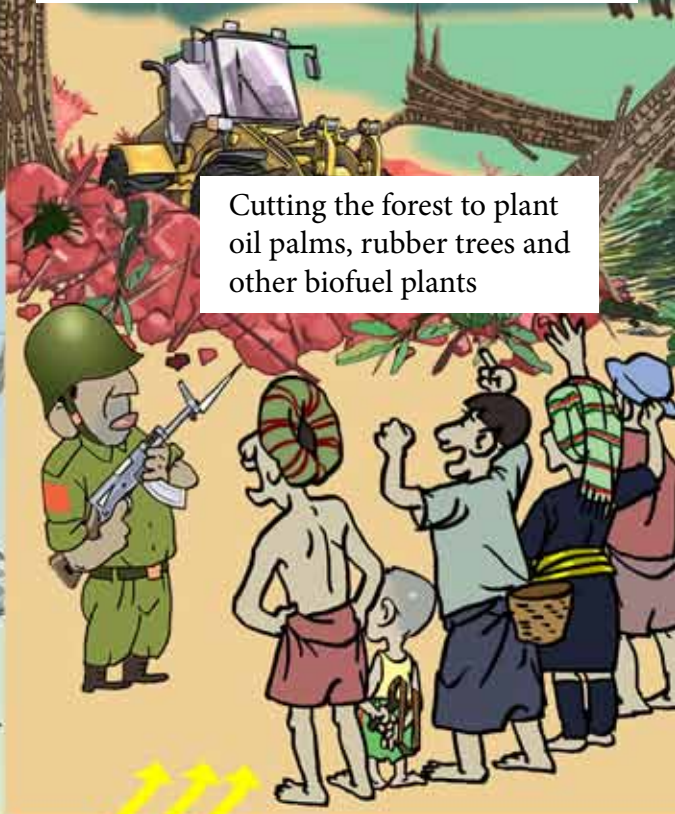
Ways to reduce carbon emissions that are not correct and might have negative results for social harmony and justice, effects on rights and freedoms of the communities, their livelihoods and well being and threaten biodiversity and the environment

Correct ways to reduce carbon emissions



Wind power

Solar power



Cutting the forest to plant oil palms, rubber trees and other biofuel plants

Forest preservation

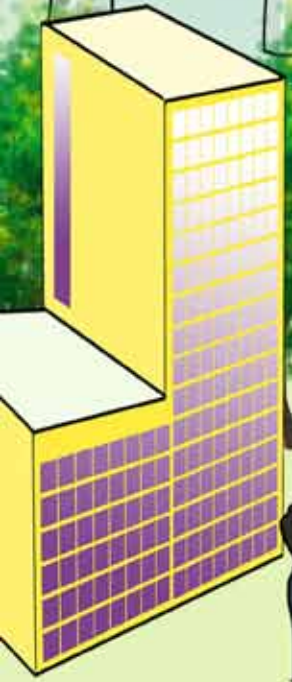


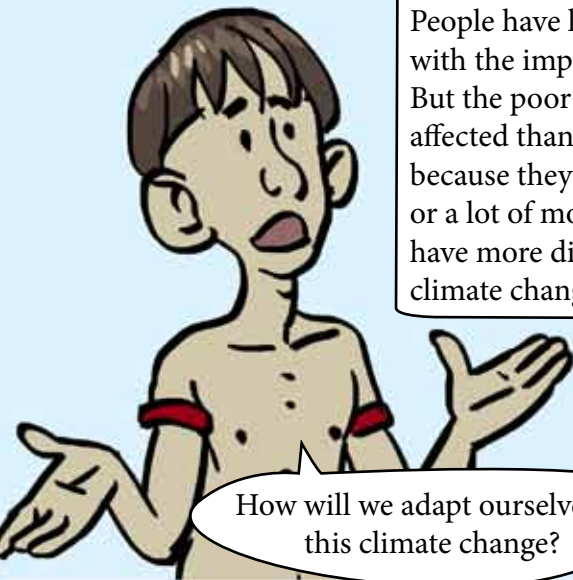
Fencing off our forests while continuing to release greenhouse gases from burning oil

Do not enter to the forest

We promise to reduce carbon emissions as well

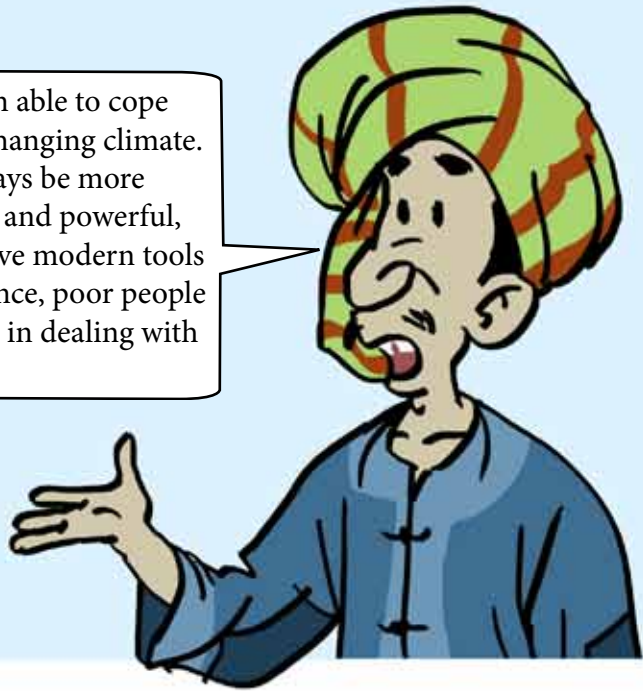
Rules for managing the forest preserve:
-No upland farming or gardens,
-No grazing of livestock or hunting,
-No cutting of trees or gathering of firewood





People have long been able to cope with the impacts of changing climate. But the poor will always be more affected than the rich and powerful, because they don't have modern tools or a lot of money. Hence, poor people have more difficulties in dealing with climate change.

How will we adapt ourselves to this climate change?



Indigenous and other local communities have great abilities. They live their lives in the highlands are far away from rivers, but are able to adapt to those conditions. They grow many kinds of plants and vegetables, and rotate the planting areas. They explore new ways to hunt and fish, and also adapt to social conditions such as: study and education, and seeking employment. They adapt to climate change by using knowledge and their own local methods.



But because their land rights are not recognized and their land and forest are given to companies and others....

...because they are not allowed to participate in decision making about their land and territories and because of poverty, it is now more difficult for them to adapt to climate change





What have our governments done to prevent climate change?



Since climate change is an global issue, our governments are part of an international agreement signed by almost all countries in the world to respond to climate change. Many meetings and conferences have been held to negotiate how to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. The developed/industrialized countries have historically contributed more greenhouse gases emissions than the developing countries and they asked to reduce their emission levels more drastically, and also to provide the funds for helping the developing countries to make their own emissions reductions and to adapt to climate change. However, the developed countries are not ready to do what is necessary and no clear agreement has yet been reached. One particular new programme aims to provide funding for the developing countries to prevent deforestation and forest degradation because it can play crucial roles in lowering the effects of climate change. This programme is called REDD – Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation.

About 17% to 20% of the global CO2 emissions are a result of deforestation and degradation of forests. Protection of forest and prevention of forest degradation will prevent carbon emissions.

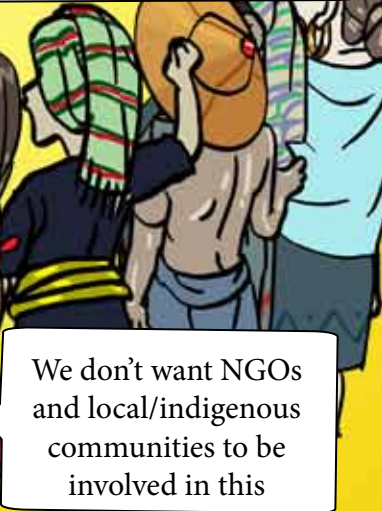
We are poor countries. We can protect our forest but we also need money for developing our country

International meeting to prevent climate change

We can provide funds for developing countries to protect forest and plant trees but we must be allowed to continue our economic development.

We are not going to sign agreement and we want to save the government about \$ 14 billion in fines because we cannot reduce our emissions.

We cannot make emission cut of 40%. We have a big population and we need our own economic growth.



We don't want NGOs and local/indigenous communities to be involved in this



Why are forests important in climate change?

When trees grow, they absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and use it to build stems, branches, leaves and roots.

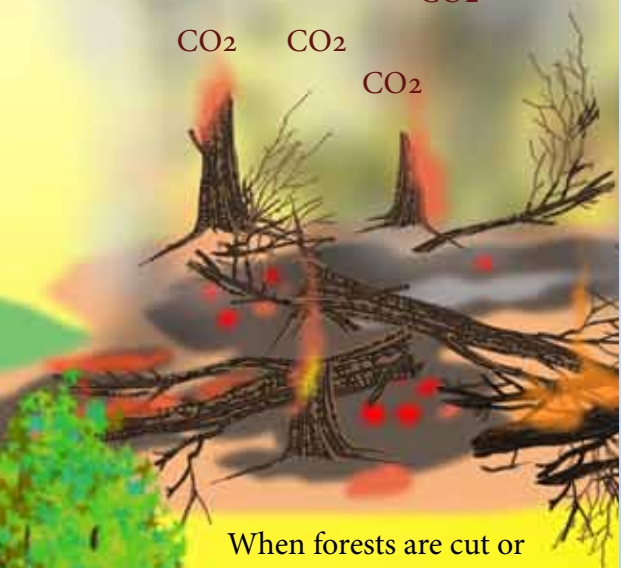


When trees die, carbon is released back into the atmosphere



Burning the forest causes the stored carbon to be released back into the atmosphere.


CO₂ CO₂
CO₂ CO₂
CO₂




When forests are cut or destroyed, large amounts of carbon are released into the atmosphere.

CO₂ CO₂
CO₂ CO₂
CO₂ CO₂






Yes, REDD+ is supposed to help in addressing climate change by reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation and sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



What is the project, which people call REDD+? They say it is to help to reduce global warming



The basic idea of the project is that the developed countries provide money to the developing countries to curtail deforestation and forest destruction, to protect their forests better and regenerate degraded forests and plant new forests.



But How does REDD+ work?
What does it exactly do to reduce global warming through forest conservation?



The developing countries must apply for assistance from the developed nations to implement projects that protect forests. They will measure how much carbon have prevented in the forests from getting into the atmosphere, and then calculate how much money they will pay for that. It is quite complicated, with a lots of rules that REDD countries have to follow.



Who will implement the forest conservation projects? What about our communities? What role will we play in these projects?



REDD projects can be implemented by the governments, the private sectors, or international development agencies, and villagers can cooperate on this or they can do it by themselves.



Those who want to start a REDD project must come and explain everything clearly with us, including the possible impacts, our roles and all the rules and policies. They also must give us time to discuss among ourselves before we take a decision. Indigenous communities have the rights to say yes or no to a project implemented on our territories. This is call the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent – FPIC.



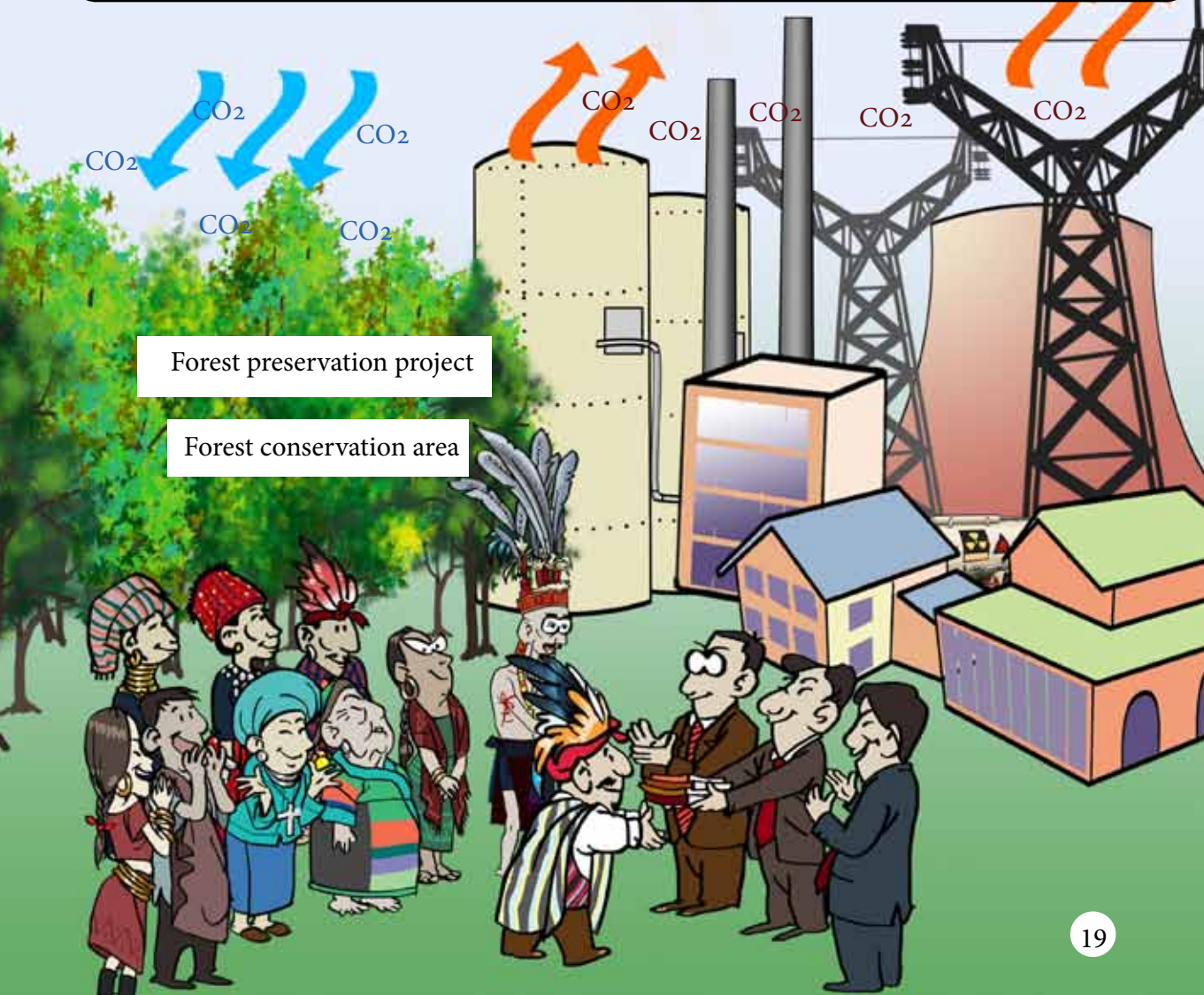
If the project is implemented through cooperation of external agencies, how will we know what the positive and negative effects on our livelihoods?



Who pays for the project, and how do they pay?



Basically, there are two positions in the discussion on where the money for REDD+ should come from. The first is financing through market mechanisms. It works like this: A country or company or community engaged in REDD is preventing the emissions of carbon through forest protection – like by stopping logging or a plantation. The amount of carbon saved in the forest is measured and for that amount a REDD Project gets a certificate. This is called ‘Carbon Credit’. One carbon credit is equal to one ton of carbon. These carbon credits can then be sold. Carbon credits are traded between ‘buyer’ countries, or companies and ‘seller’ countries or companies, just like other goods. However, many peoples and organizations reject the carbon market because it allows rich countries and companies to use the credits they buy in order to continue to pollute and release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Instead of reducing their own emissions they just buy carbon credits from developing countries. This does not really help in reducing global warming and the impact of climate change.



Forest preservation project

Forest conservation area



The second method proposed for funding REDD is through funds. A fund is established where governments, banks, and other companies, foundations or just wealthy persons donate money to be used for a particular purpose. It is proposed that such funds are also created in order to raise the money needed for REDD+. The amount paid to a REDD project from such a fund will also depend on the amount of carbon that is saved by protecting forests.

REDD+ Forest Conservation Project



Financing REDD through funds has the same goal like financing through the carbon market: to promote forest conservation therefore to reduce carbon emissions and increase carbon storage in forests. The problem with the proposal to set up funds for REDD is that we can't be sure that there will be enough money. Companies or countries may not be willing to give money without getting anything in return, like carbon credits.





Where will REDD+ be implemented?

REDD+ will be implemented in poor or developing countries. Under REDD+ there will be something like protected areas for forest conservation and developed countries will pay for the project.



What does it mean to conserve a forest like a protected area? What does this mean for our communities?



Actually, we fear that our forest will be turned into a kind of 'carbon protected area.' We fear that there will be strict rules about what can and can't be done inside our forest, regulating farming, hunting, gathering of forest foods, herbal medicines, cutting fire-woods, or lumbers for constructing our houses. REDD+ can indeed be a threat to our rights to own, use and manage our lands and resources. If our rights are not recognized and protected before REDD comes, it may seriously affect our way of life.



Rules for managing the forest preserve: -No upland farming or gardens, -No grazing of livestock or hunting, -No cutting of trees or gathering of firewood

No cutting of wood

No hunting

Protected forest

No entry



What rights do we have in this protected forest?



However, If REDD+ is based on the recognition of indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, it may also help your community in protecting our way of life. REDD+ could also be used to promote progressive reforms of laws and policies on land, forest rights or on protected areas. For that REDD has to fully respect indigenous peoples' rights, including the rights to culturally appropriate consultation and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).



- It is important that indigenous peoples' and local communities' positions are included in international and national processes related to REDD+.




- With full and effective engagement and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, REDD can assist us to assert our rights to land and resources and land titling.



- REDD+ could be used as a way to gain recognition, support and funding for community conserved territories or community conserved forests. Funding could support our conservation and management practices as well as supporting village development activities.

- REDD+ can also lead to strengthen our traditional knowledge and biodiversity conservation activities





What do we need to consider before joining a REDD project?

REDD and other carbon partnership agreements are usually long-term contracts, extending over several decades. Once agreement is signed, it will probably be very difficult to make changes with respect to land use and management in the area covered by the agreement. Communities, therefore, should be fully aware of what is covered by the agreement, what each paragraph means and what implications are of specific terms used in the agreement. It is especially important with respect to the control of their land and resources, and the protection of peoples' livelihoods. There are a number of critical issues, which communities have to consider before entering into any agreement. Here are short checklists with a few of the most important things a community needs to keep in mind:

1. Information about the project

- Where is the project? How big an area does it cover?
- What is the time period of the contract?
Is it the same as the length of the project?
- What kind of land rights do your people or community hold over the lands and territories?
- Are you being proposed as a party to the contract selling the carbon credits?

2. The financing mechanism


- Who is the buyer? Who pays for the carbon rights, which the community is considering to sell and at what average price? What are the prices for comparable projects?
- Is the buyer of the carbon credit purchasing the right to continue to release fossil fuel emissions at home by paying the community to change behaviour and thereby reduce emissions, which they are responsible for?
- If the project is financed through a fund, who is providing the funding? Are those providing the funds getting carbon emission offset rights in return for their contribution?

3. Consultation and negotiation process

- Who has negotiated for you or is proposed to negotiate for you? Will you negotiate by yourself?
- Did the consultation process allow for feedback from community members? Was the consensus of the people of the community obtained in accordance with their custom and tradition? If not, why not?
- Who will be signing the contract on behalf of your people or your community? How has this been decided?
- Who carries the risk if something happens to the forest/trees? What happens if the trees are lost through accidental events like a wildfire? Would you have to pay money back to the contract partner?

4. Implementation and monitoring

- Who is responsible for the implementation of the rules and regulations agreed on in the contract? Who is monitoring the implementation?



However, the projects are always complex and detailed and it is necessary to study them very carefully in order not to accept conditions whose consequences are not fully understood. It is also important to find out as much information as you can from sources other than the company or organization trying to set up the project.



What is the UNDRIP?

Do we know the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? It is usually referred to by its acronym, UNDRIP. It says that before any project is implemented, there must be participatory consultation, consideration and decision-making among all related parties, including us villagers?



The UNDRIP is a declaration signed by almost all members of the United Nations. It sets standards from the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The most important provision of the UNDRIP are:

1. Right to land, territories and resources - Indigenous peoples have the right to lands, territories and resources. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources with due respect to customs and traditions of indigenous peoples to land tenure systems.
2. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) - Indigenous peoples have the right to free, prior and informed consent on the following:
 - a. Any action planned that would result in relocation from their lands or territories.
 - b. Any change in existing or creation of new laws or regulations by the government that affects them.
 - c. Any projects affecting their lands and territories particularly with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.
 - d. Any storage or throwing away of anything that is poisonous or dangerous on their lands or territories.

FPIC means that indigenous peoples should freely determine whether they want a project or not, or set conditions for project implementation based on their collective decision making processes.



Can you tell me more about Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)?

FPIC ensures that a consensus/consent of indigenous peoples in accordance with their customary laws and practices. This does not necessarily mean that every single member must agree, but rather that consensus will be determined according to customary law and practice. It is an exercise of their right to their land, territories and resources, their right to self-determination and to cultural integrity

Are we satisfied with the project?

We need to discuss more

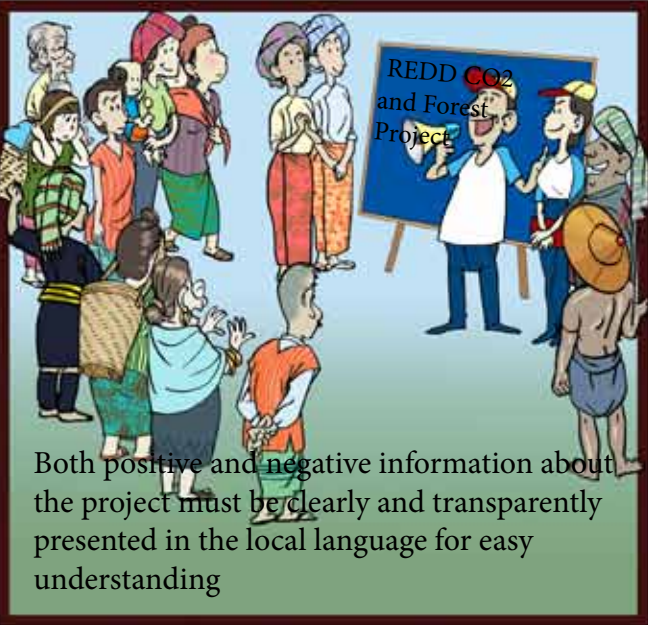
Free decision-making without coercion or intimidation

You must agree!

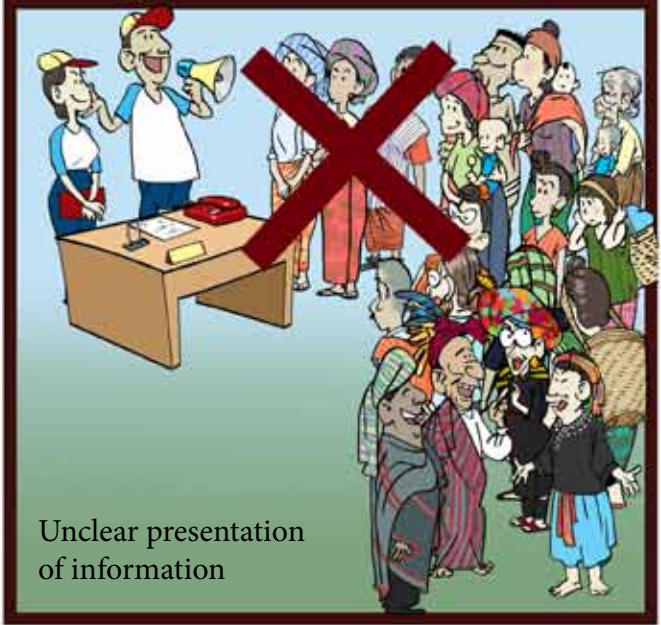
Controlled decision-making with coercion or intimidation

Communities have time to decide and tell their opinion before the project starts

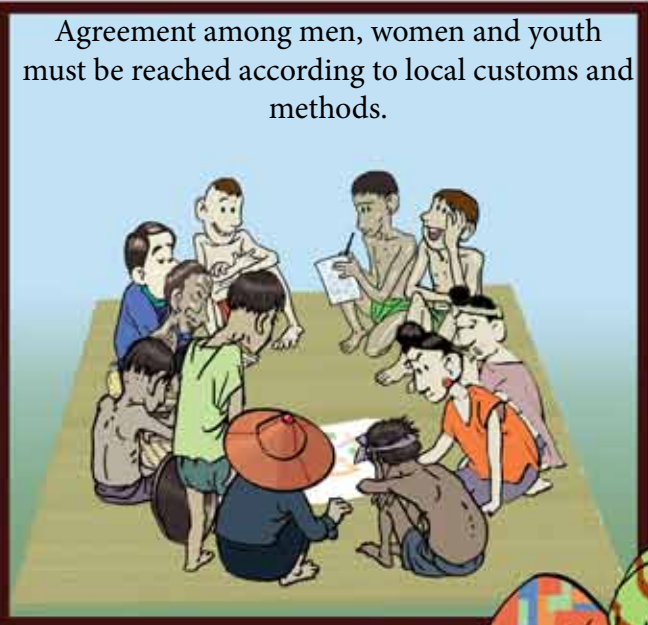
Communities do not participate and are not able to speak or exercise their rights in the consultation and decision-making



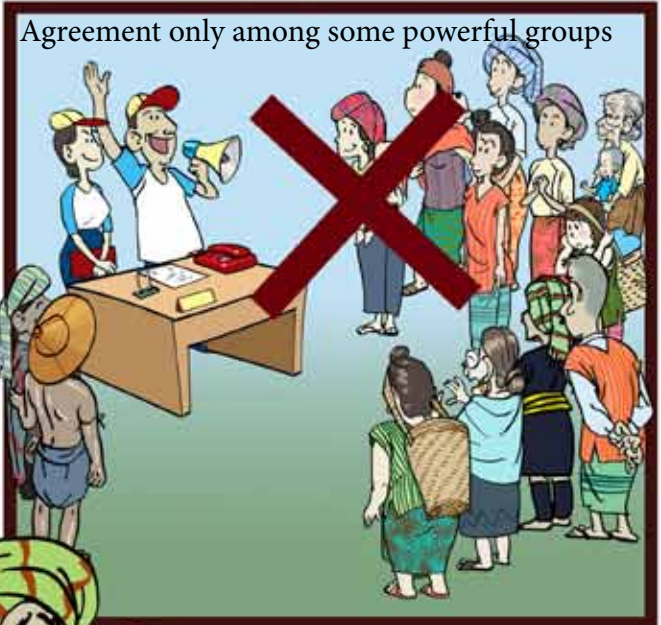
Both positive and negative information about the project must be clearly and transparently presented in the local language for easy understanding



Unclear presentation of information



Agreement among men, women and youth must be reached according to local customs and methods.



Agreement only among some powerful groups

Now we understand. Thank you very much for giving us information and explaining us.



Good! We will meet this afternoon at the community hall

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