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Strategies for Influencing Policy and their Importance for the NRGF Design, Implementation, Follow-up and Evaluation

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The Context as Viewed from Latin America

One key element of importance in Latin America has been the strong evolution of Human Rights, especially for Indigenous Peoples, including the ILO 169 Convention, UNDRIP, rulings and jurisprudence from the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, Recommendations from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights on Indigenous Peoples Rights. However, this evolution of Human Rights has not always been translated into changes in legal frameworks and public policies. . So, in spite of the advances in the paradigms of management and governance of natural resources, there remains resistance to change.

At the same time, there is a tendency that may favor the construction of new legal frameworks for natural resources governance, such as: i) the shift from representative democracy to more participatory democracy; ii) the weakening of the centralized state and strengthening of subnational and local governments via decentralization and weaker institutional capacities; iii) advances in many countries, including titling of lands, territories and natural resources of indigenous Peoples, and the recognition of their autonomous governance, and own systems of justice is moving slowly; and the processes of REDD and FLEGT being promoted in Latin American countries which revolve around improving governance.

In addition, at the same time, there are challenges to the potential implementation of NRGF to improve governance, for example, : disputes over territories because of the expansion of extractive and energy industries are rising. These affect protected areas, indigenous territories and local communities. There are social movements that resist these economic changes, but at the same time there is criminalization of social protest and rising militarism.

Potential attitudes and practices of stakeholders/actors in relation to NRGF:

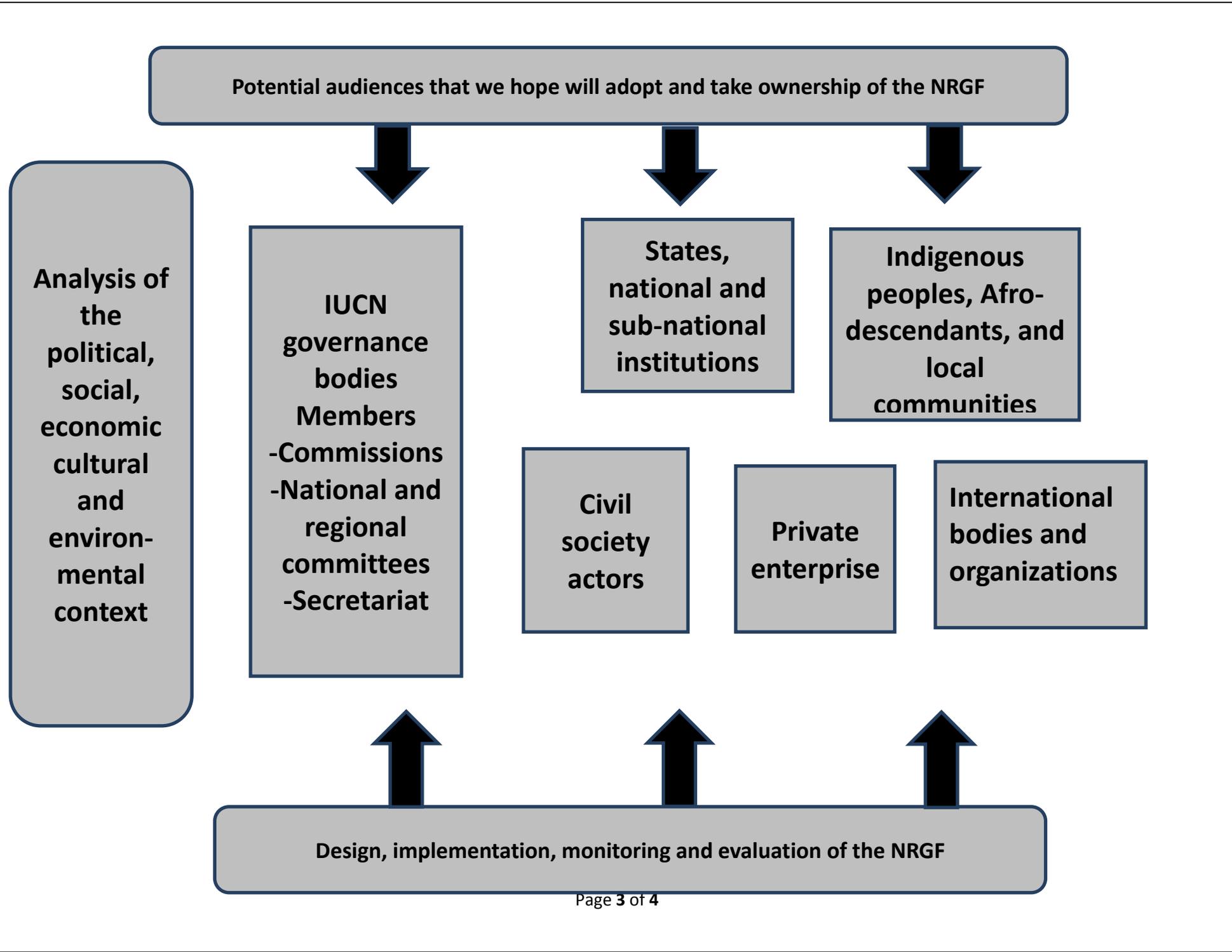
NRGF will need to engage with those who favor, oppose or are neutral toward NRGF so strategies will need to take different angles according to the position of the actors, their cultural roots, and the political context.

Some strategies that can be used to influence policy change include:

- Strengthen indigenous organizations and local communities in their capacities to influence policy.
- Broaden strategic alliances with actors in academic institutions, social movements, human rights NGOs.
- Carry out participatory action research, case studies, and publications that complement scientific knowledge with what is known with local knowledge (peoples science)
- Educate and create awareness of intercultural views
- Manage media messages.
- Direct lobbying with visits and meetings
- Legal advice and rights advocacy
- Promote spaces for meeting and dialogue between government officials, private sector, indigenous organizations, afro-descendent organizations and the organizations of local communities

The crosscutting themes in these engagements are rights, interculturality/diversity, inclusion and gender equity.

The development of the NRGF will be an iterative process as per the following graphics.



Stages of the Process

Feedback, adjustment and continuous learning

