Greening REDD+: challenges and opportunities for forest biodiversity conservation

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REDD+ under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- “Reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries” (REDD+)
  - creates financial value for carbon stored in forests
  - incentivizes GHG emissions reductions

- REDD+ can generate additional benefits, e.g., contribute to aims of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD):
  - However: synergies not inevitable
  - Negative impacts of poorly designed REDD+ schemes
  - Need to define biodiversity *safeguards* and objectives for *additional benefits*

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Biodiversity and REDD+: risks and synergies

Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests & biological diversity

Additional benefits:

Incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services

Risk: forest conversion into plantations

Risk: inter-ecosystem leakage

Climate mitigation & adaptation

Safeguards

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Structure of research project

International Level (WP 1)
- UNFCCC
- CBD
- REDD+
- UNFF

National Level (WP 1 & 2)
- Country strategy

Implementation Level (WP 2)
- Pilot projects
  - Goal-setting
  - Implementation
  - Impact

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Biodiversity under REDD+: challenges

Definitions
Safeguards: Natural Forest, SMF, biodiversity, ...

Operationalizing REDD+ biodiversity objectives

Monitor & Verify REDD+ biodiversity objectives

„REDDiness“
capacity for (sub)national MRV

Regime failure
Unsecure regulatory basis (UNFCCC)

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Current research: REDD+ Partnership

International Level (WP 1)

UNFCCC

CBD

UNFF

National Level (WP 1)

WB FCPF

REDD+ Partnership

UN REDD

Country strategy

- Pilot action
- National REDD-strategies
- Capacity building (institutional, technological)
- Upgrading of financing
- International coordination (knowledge management)

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REDD+ Partnership: network approach

Source: FAO

Sensitive to national circumstances
IT & data based coordination (also of MRV):
Voluntary, but horizontal accountability

**Potential:** effective international integration of safeguards into REDD+

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REDD+ Partnership: open questions

- (Dis)advantages of a voluntary institutional design
- Claims of effective governance setting for REDD+ in practice?
- Which are policy options for future design of REDD+ under UNFCCC(/CBD)
- Impetus or risk to UNFCCC?
  - Withdrawal or engine for negotiations?
  - REDD+ inside or outside an international regime?
  - Climate policy of different velocity? → increasing gaps
  - Enhancement or risk to key issue of trust between DCs and ICs:
    - Financial upgrade?
    - Additionality?
    - Interim instrument (2010-2012)!

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Current research: national case studies

International Level (WP 1)

UNFCCC

REDD+

CBD

UNFF

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs)

National Level (WP 1)

Country strategy

Pilot projects

Implementation Level (WP 2)

Goal-setting

Implementation

Impact

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Case study: REDD+ in Peru

- **Forest in Peru**
  - 13% of Amazonian Rainforest
  - Forest cover > 50% national area
  - 5% increase in annual deforestation rate
  - 47% of national GHG-emissions

- **REDD+ process in Peru**
  - Readiness Plan Proposal: final version 07.03.2011
  - Pilot activities
Aspects covered in interviews*

- Interest in conservation of biodiversity by REDD+ stakeholders
- REDD+ to finance/sustainably manage protected areas
- Available data to identify the baseline for forest biodiversity
- Availability of appropriate methods and capacity to monitor the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity
- Integration of biodiversity monitoring into carbon monitoring

*developed after Pistorius et al. (2010); Entenmann (2010)
Data collection

- Semi structured interviews with REDD+ stakeholders
- Project descriptions, regional studies, GIS-data (land-use, biodiversity), monitoring methodologies

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Aspects covered in interviews*

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*based on Pistorius et al. (2010); Entenmann (2010)
Aspects covered in interviews*

- Interest in conservation of biodiversity by REDD+ stakeholders
  - Definitions of (valuable) components of biodiversity
- REDD+ to finance/sustainably manage protected areas
- Available data to identify the baseline for forest biodiversity
- Availability of appropriate methods and capacity to monitor the impacts of REDD+ on biodiversity
- Integration of biodiversity monitoring into carbon monitoring

*based on Pistorius et al. (2010); Entenmann (2010)
Biodiversity values affected by REDD+
(classification modified after TEEB 2010)

- Species
  - Non-consumptive
    - Direct use
  - Consumptive
    - Indirect use
    - Food
    - Hydrological services
      - Pollination
      - Agrobiodiversity

- Non-use value
  - Use values
  - Preference-based
    - Intrinsic value
    - Option Value
    - Option Value
    - Healthy rivers

- Existence value
  - Stability
  - Insurance value/Resilience value
  - Connectivity
  - Biophysical

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- Scientific publications
- National publications
  - National Strategic Biodiversity Action Plan
  - „Planes Maestros“ of protected areas
- Gap analysis to the CBD
  - Identification of priority areas for conservation

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Initial observations

- Biodiversity protection important for economic and ecologic long-term viability of REDD+
- Little awareness regarding additional biodiversity benefits
- High-priority conservation targets
  - Often related to ecosystem services
  - Emblematic and threatened species also important
  - Valuable timber and non-timber forest products
- Monitoring on forest biodiversity in Peru problematic
  - Information often restricted to species richness
  - Little knowledge on functional and structural biodiversity aspects
  - Harmonisation of existing biodiversity-databases problematic
- Important: Integration of existing expertise regarding biodiversity monitoring in REDD+

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Thank you very much for your attention!

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