REDD+ and Biodiversity Conservation

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Forests matter

Biodiversity

Make up 15%

of Earth's surface

Home to 50%

of land-based species

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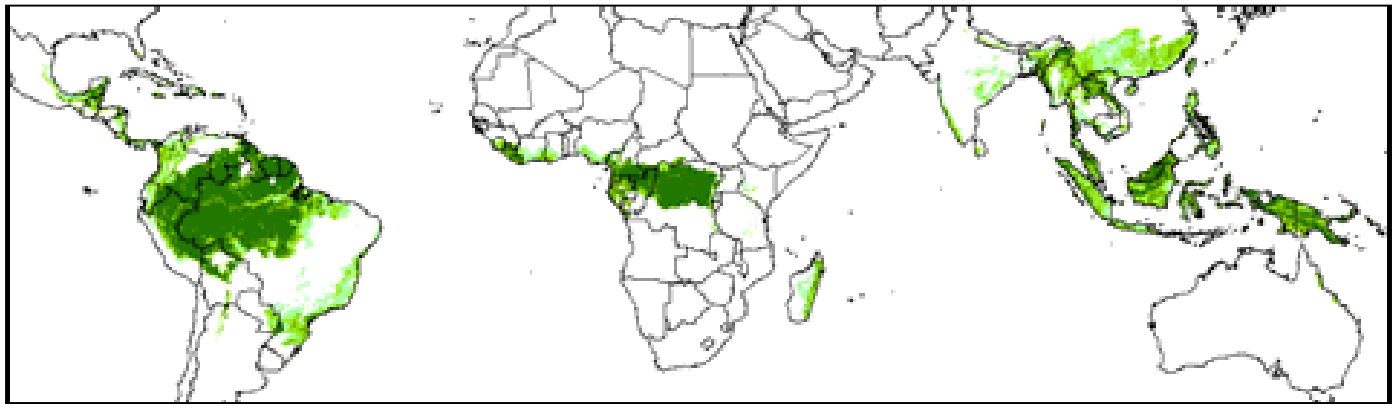
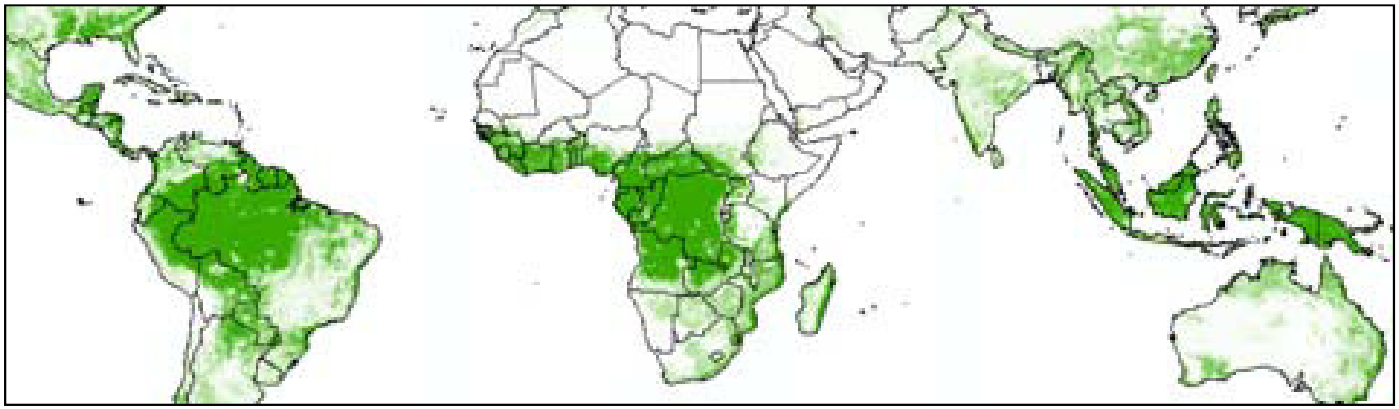
Forest cover (humid tropics)

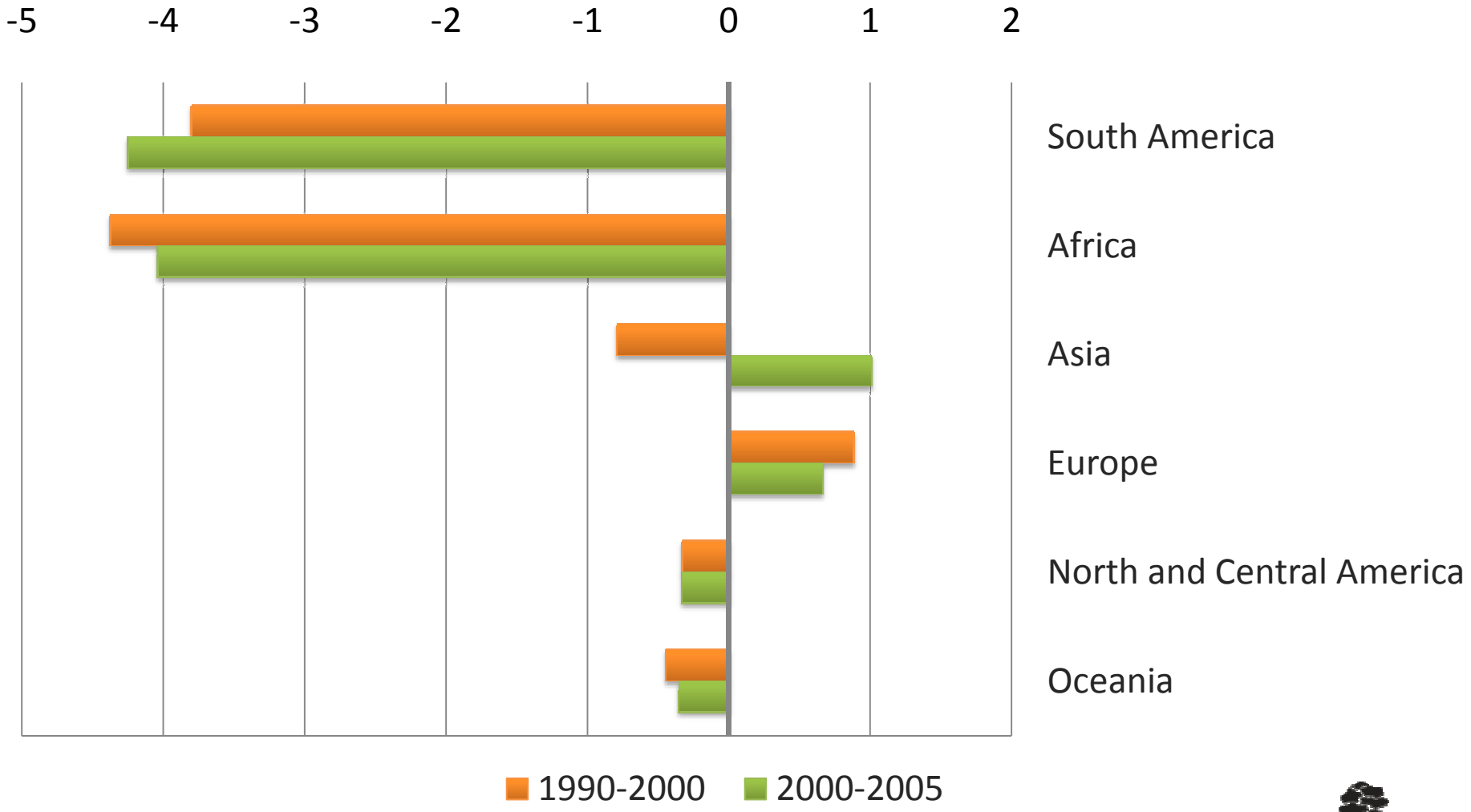


Carbon storage



Deforestation

Net change



Source: FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2005

From RED to REDD to REDD++?

- **R**educing **E**missions from **D**eforestation (**RED**) concept first mooted in COP 11 in Montreal
- **REDD:** second “D” added to include “degradation”
- **REDD+:** “plus” includes afforestation, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and improved forest governance
- **REDD++:** includes emissions from other land conversion (e.g. agriculture)

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Some definitions

- **RED** = Reducing emissions from (gross) deforestation: only changes from "forest" to "non-forest" land cover types are included, and details very much depend on the operational definition of "forest";
- **REDD** = as above, plus (forest) degradation, or the shifts to lower carbon-stock densities within the forest; details very much depend on the operational definition of "forest";
- **REDD+** = as above, plus restocking within and towards "forest"; in some versions REDD+ will also include peatlands, regardless of their forest status; details still depend on the operational definition of "forest"; and
- **REDD++** = as above plus all transitions in land cover that affect carbon storage, whether peatland or mineral soil, trees-outside-forest, agroforest, plantations or natural forest. It does not depend on the operational definition of "forest."

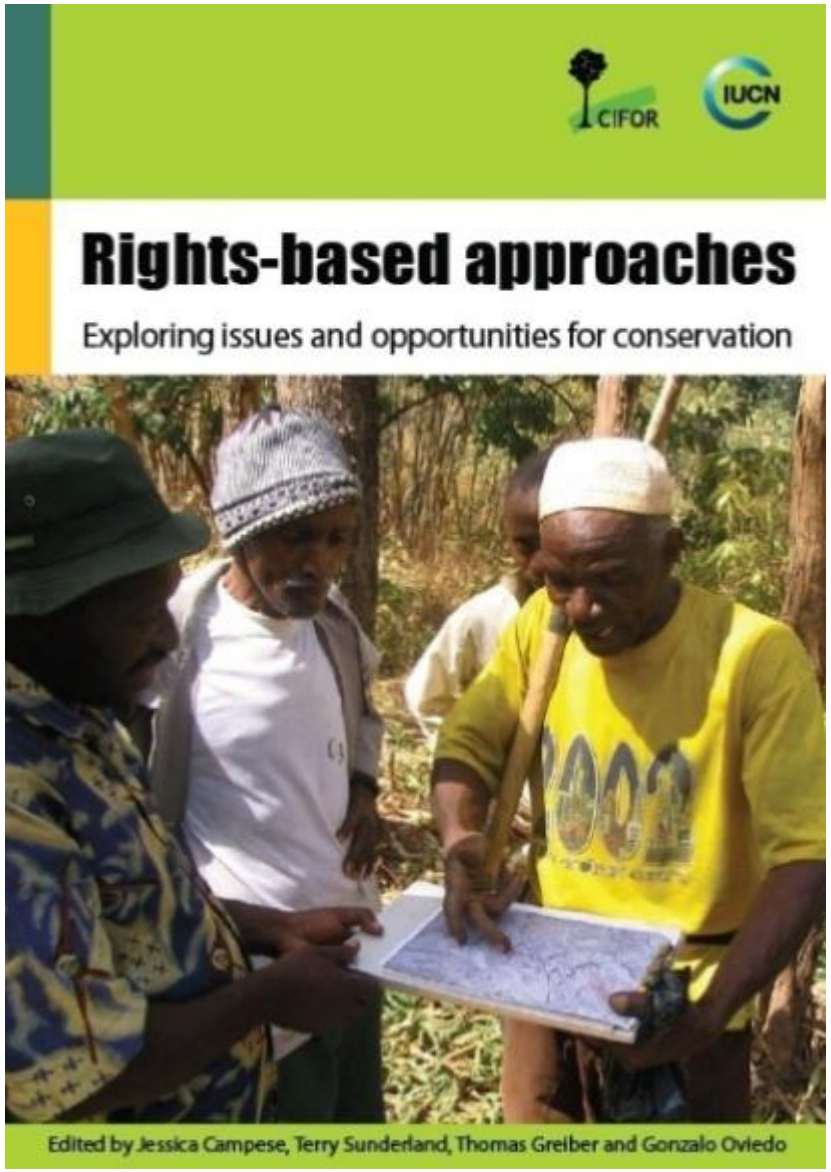
REDD+: new hope for conservation

- Recent literature suggests REDD+ is likely to provide a net benefit for conservation
- Forest conservation to compete with drivers of deforestation
- *In theory*, co-benefits include poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and improved forest governance
- Efficacy will depend on the details of design at the global level and implementation at national and project scales

Potential risks and challenges

- Intensively managing forests for carbon alone pressures will simply be displaced (through “leakage”) to other forest areas, which may be lower in carbon value, but higher in conservation value
- A (disputed) risk is that, depending on the definition of “forest” employed, REDD could encourage the replacement of natural forests with plantations or non-forest uses such as oil palm plantations
- Overlapping tenure claims

REDD+ and human rights

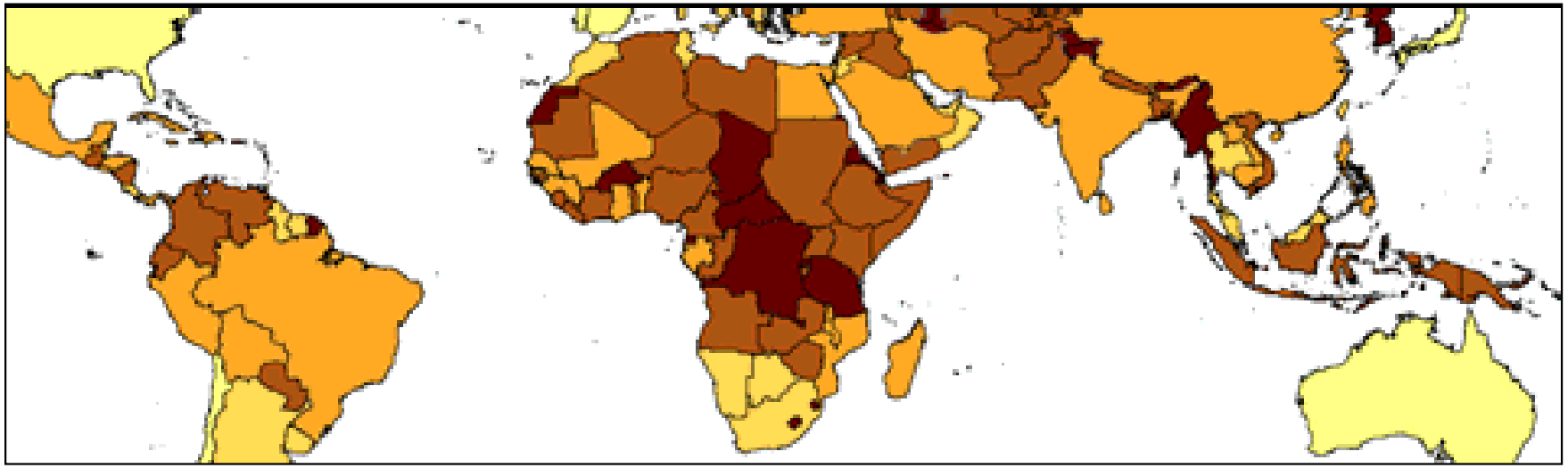


- "… *the implications of REDD for the rights of forest-dwelling communities are largely unknown*".
- However; "*..a rights-based approach to REDD could enhance its acceptability by granting adequate tenure, providing conservation incentives and engage local people in monitoring and enforcement*".

Lawlor & Huberman, 2009 (Chapter 12)

Governance

- Will the funds provided by REDD/REDD+ lead to increased centralisation, corruption and elite capture?
- "Business as usual" from the environmental perspective
- Respect for rights, benefit sharing mechanisms. Need for rights-based safeguards



*Calculated using, corruption, voice and accountability and force of law indices

Learning from the past…

"*REDD could provide us with the greatest opportunity for forest conservation and the equitable sharing of benefits for local communities or it could turn into yet another case of false promises, unrealistic expectations and diverted funds that will ultimately fail in slowing carbon emissions and conserving biodiversity, unless we learn from past experiences.*" Editorial: The Guardian (UK) , 28th October, 2009

Learning from past experiences

- Long-term analysis of fifteen ICDP/landscape scale projects in Lower Mekong (funded by MacArthur Foundation 2006-2009)
- Identified constraints in project implementation and what constitutes “best practice”
- Much to learn from previous conservation implementation for REDD+

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Review

Getting REDD to work locally: lessons learned from integrated conservation and development projects

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ABSTRACT

Integrated conservation and development projects (ICDPs) have been a pervasive, although widely criticized, approach to tropical conservation for more than 20 years. More recently, international conservation discourse has shifted away from project-based approaches and towards reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). While REDD is based upon experience with payment for environmental services (PES) initiatives and forest-related discussions in the United Nations (UN), REDD implementation will still require sub-national projects. Issues of equity will likely pit these sub-national projects against some of the same challenges that have dogged ICDPs. This suggests that REDD project developers stand to learn a great deal from the lessons generated by experience with ICDPs. This paper provides a list of best practices for ICDPs and applies their lessons as principles to guide the development and implementation of sub-national REDD projects. The intent of this approach is to encourage the design and implementation of sub-national

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Conservation implementation and links to REDD+

- Conservation projects habitually include elements of local development/governance: linking biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation
- However, such projects have poor track record and have been roundly criticised for their ineffectiveness
- Accountability an issue (lack of monitoring)
- In many respects, initial REDD+ pilot projects resemble contemporary conservation projects

Conservation project "best practices" of relevance to REDD+

- Have measurable and clearly defined goals
- Project duration should reflect time commitment needed to achieve goals = permanence
- Markets must be available for participants goods and services
- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation should be in place
- Multi-functional landscapes: most biodiversity outside PA's

Project practices identified that require greater diligence for REDD+

- National policies should support project activities
- Locally based conservation should be applied where threats and solutions are local
- Recognise and negotiate for trade-offs
- Develop understanding of community heterogeneity and complexity
- Develop understanding of community needs (access, rights, tenure, gender)
- Design projects to be adaptable
- Involve local stakeholders at all stages
- Collaborate with all potential partners
- Monitoring, reporting and verification

The key issues

- We do not suggest that all REDD projects should always follow the “conservation project” approach: REDD implementation will be far more complex than current project implementation
- However, experience of conservation-type activities show that project design is important for overall project success
- Must be careful not to regard REDD+ as a totally new approach: much to be learned from the past
- Other “silver bullets” (biodiversity prospecting, NTFP development, CBNRM, ICDP’s etc)
- MUST integrate a pluralistic approach learning from project experiences (multi-functional landscapes more resilient, plus less leakage)
- Or we will be reviewing REDD/REDD+ experiences in the same way as ICDPs/CBNRM etc.

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Thank you!!

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