Achieving biodiversity conservation through REDD+

Celia A. Harvey, Ph.D.
Conservation International
charvey@conservation.org

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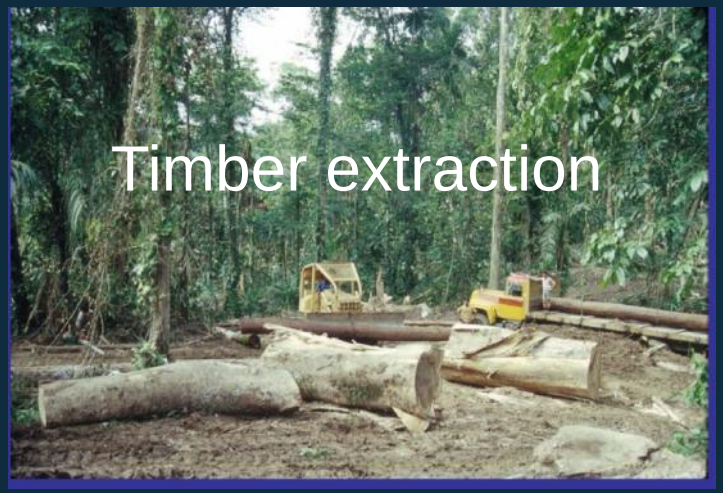
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Synergies between climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals

- Threats to forest carbon stocks and forest biodiversity are often the same:

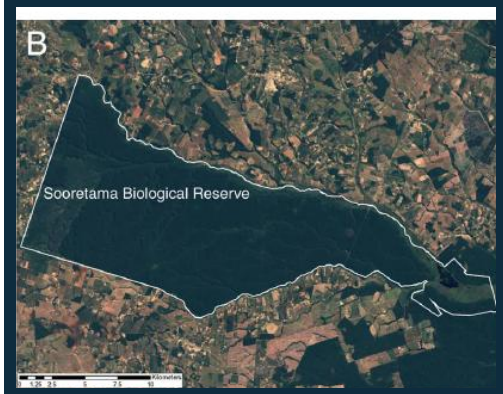


Agriculture and livestock

Firewood collection and charcoal production

Infrastructure development + mining

• Approaches that are useful for conserving forest biodiversity will also help conserve forest carbon stocks:



Establishment and expansion of Protected Areas*

Recognition of Indigenous territories and community-managed areas

Reduced Impact Logging, Community forestry

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
FSC
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

Certification of sustainable products

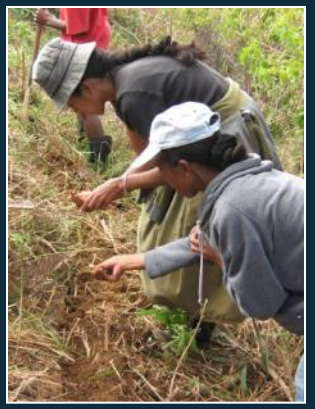
Agroforestry systems and agricultural intensification to reduce pressure

Fire management and prevention

More synergies…

3. Both require good governance

- Strengthening forest governance and improving institutional capacity
- Developing clear legal frameworks and law enforcement to protect forests
- Clarifying land tenure issues and land use rights



4. Success depends on active participation and support of local stakeholders

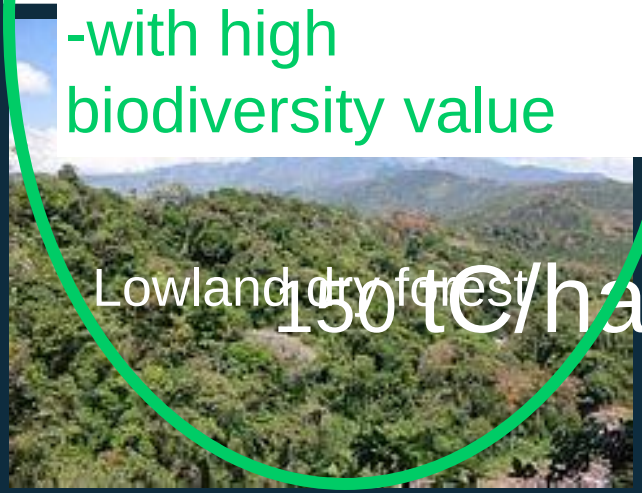
- Free, prior and informed consent
- Recognition of indigenous land rights and use rights
- Full participation in both decision-making and implementation

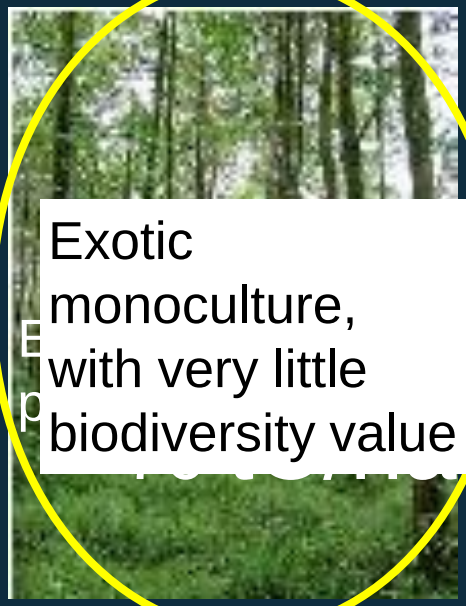
However, there are also some key differences between mitigation and biodiversity conservation agendas….

Forests as seen through a 'biodiversity' lens

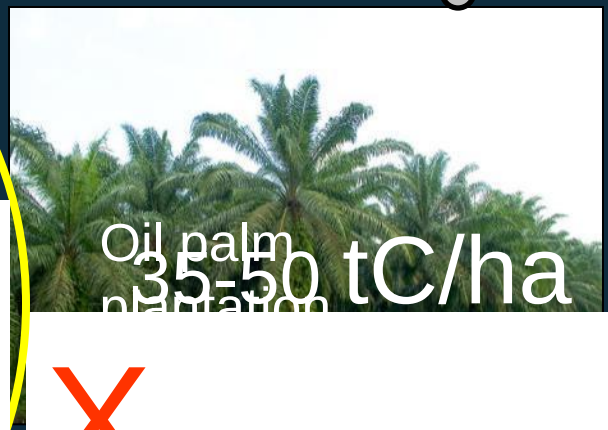
Forests as seen through the 'climate' lens

Natural, intact forest
-with high biodiversity value





Exotic monoculture, with very little biodiversity value



X not a forest- and no biodiversity value

→The type of forest is critical for conservation efforts, but not for mitigation

- Areas that are of highest priorities for mitigation are not necessarily the highest priorities for biodiversity conservation

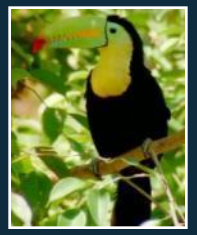
Mitigation:

-Areas under high deforestation risk

-Areas with high carbon stock

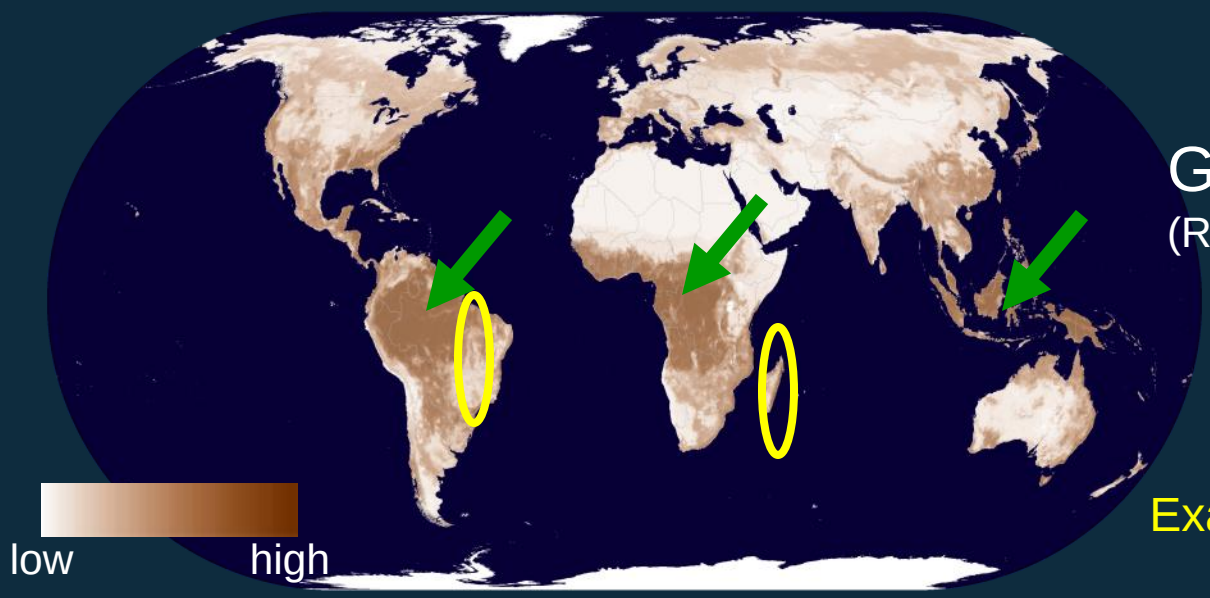
-Areas with low opportunity costs and low implementation costs

Biodiversity conservation:



- Areas with high # of endemic spp.
- Areas with high # of threatened spp.
- Areas with biodiversity under greatest threat
- Ecosystems that are underrepresented in current protected areas

…so geographic priorities do not always overlap

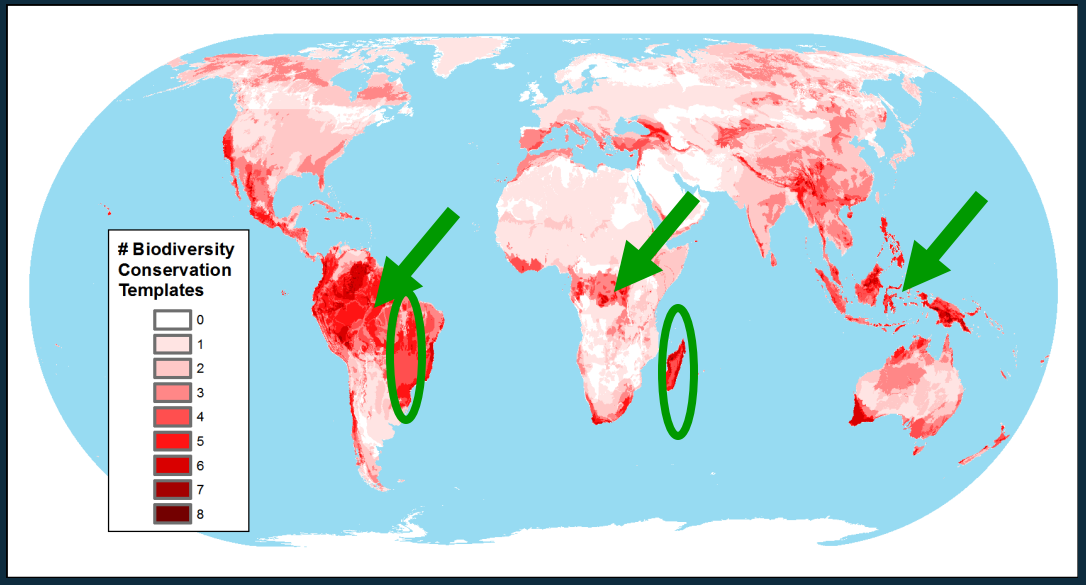


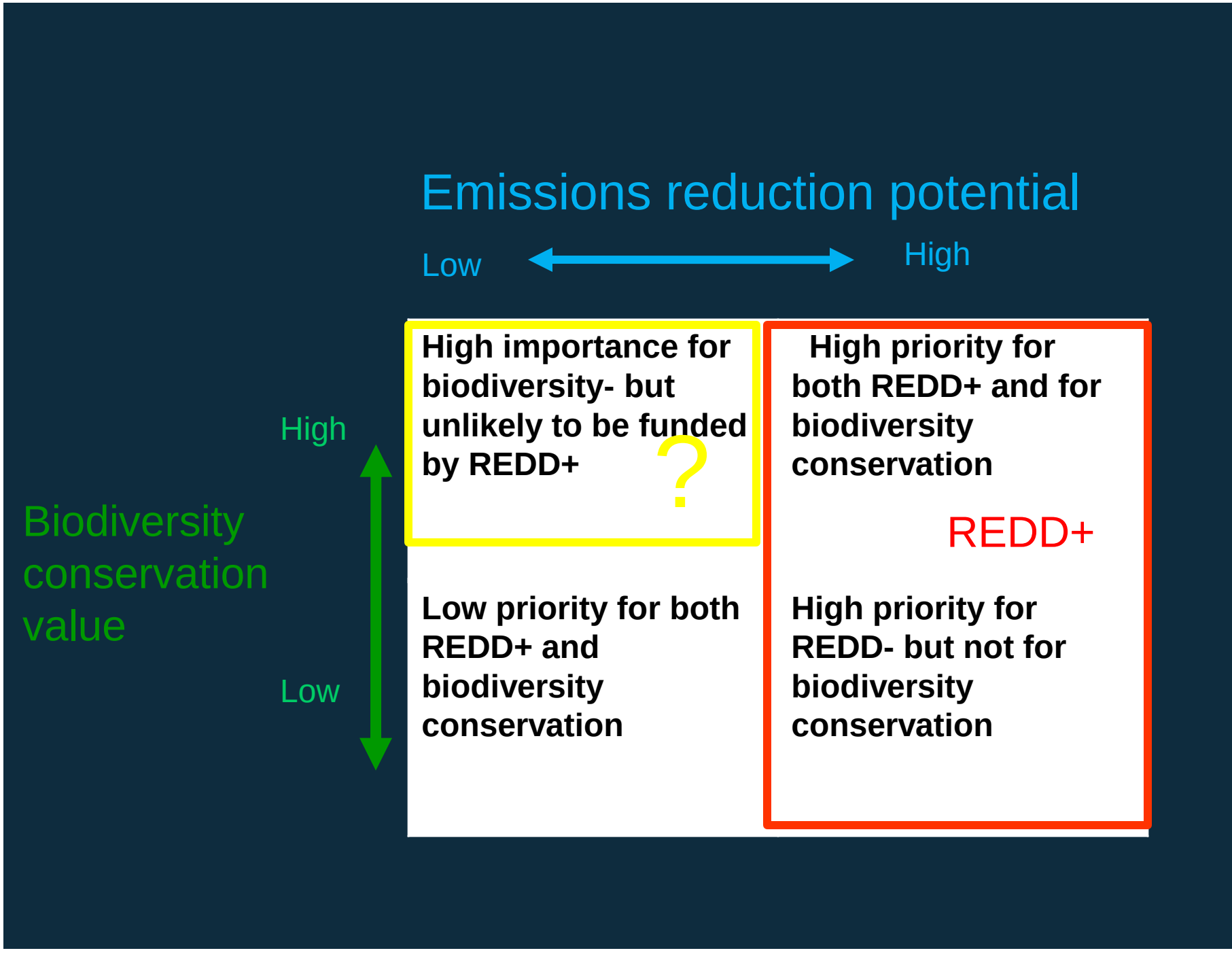
Global carbon stocks
(Ruesch and Gibbs, 2008)

Examples of synergies

Examples of differences

Global biodiversity conservation priorities
(Brooks et al., 2006)




Emissions reduction potential
Low
High
Biodiversity conservation value
High
Low
High importance for biodiversity- but unlikely to be funded by REDD+
?
High priority for both REDD+ and for biodiversity conservation
REDD+
Low priority for both REDD+ and biodiversity conservation
High priority for REDD- but not for biodiversity conservation

So, how do we ensure that REDD+ not only achieves mitigation goals, but also benefits biodiversity?

?

At the international policy level:

- Design REDD+ to maximize the amount of forest covered:
  - Maintain a broad scope of eligible activities (REDD+)
  - Have some flexibility in how reference levels are established, to ensure 'high forest low deforestation countries' (HFLD) are eligible for REDD
  - Ensure sufficient finance is available to implement at scale
    →$15-30 billion dollars annually needed to reduce deforestation by 50% by 2030)

•Ensure that REDD+ includes biodiversity safeguards

Possible options:

- •Avoid the conversion of natural forests to non-forest ecosystems
- •Ensure REDD+ activities comply with national biodiversity laws and relevant international conventions and agreements
- •Require MRV of biodiversity safeguards
- •Avoid the replacement of natural forests with monoculture timber plantations and/or oil palm*
- •Prevent the expansion of forest management into remaining natural, intact forests?

* this requires that the UNFCCC define ‘forests’ and ‘SMF’ more clearly and distinguish between natural and planted forests.

At the national level (implementation):

•Strategically select areas for REDD+ implementation, using spatially-explicit analyses

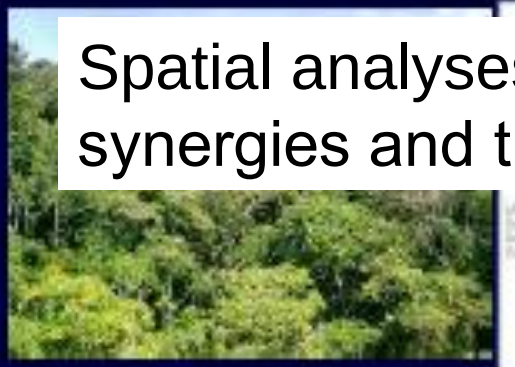
- Generate maps of carbon stocks, deforestation risk, biodiversity, and opportunity costs

- Use these maps to prioritize REDD+ in areas where there are greatest synergies (high C, high biodiversity)

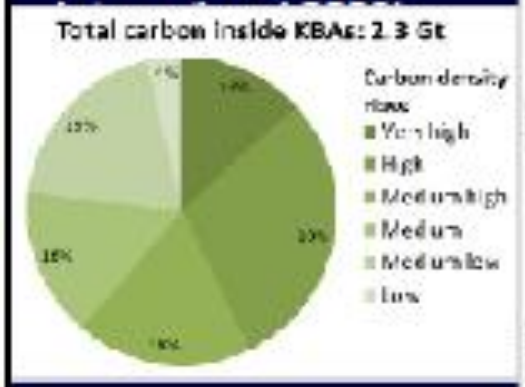
- When there are forests of similar carbon stocks, prioritize REDD+ in those of highest biodiversity value

- Identify areas that are critical for biodiversity conservation that will NOT be priorities for REDD+ and examine alternative options for achieving conservation

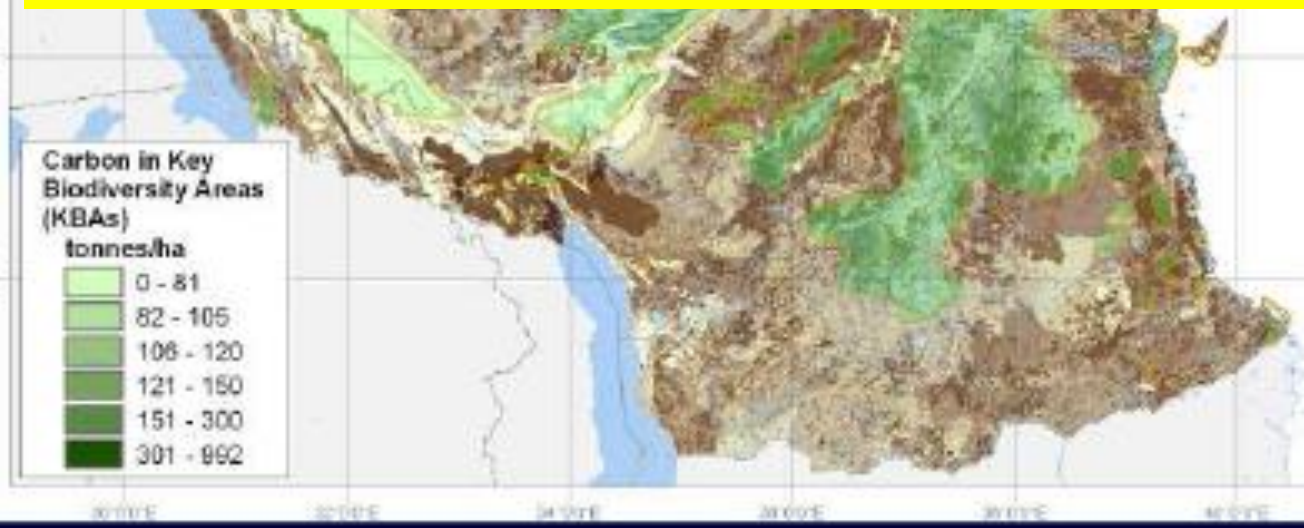
Spatial analyses can help identify both potential synergies and tradeoffs… and inform policy-making



Carbon overlaid with Key Biodiversity Areas (Birdlife



Important to include information on:
-carbon stocks
-biodiversity, ecosystem services
-deforestation risk
- opportunity, transaction and implementation costs



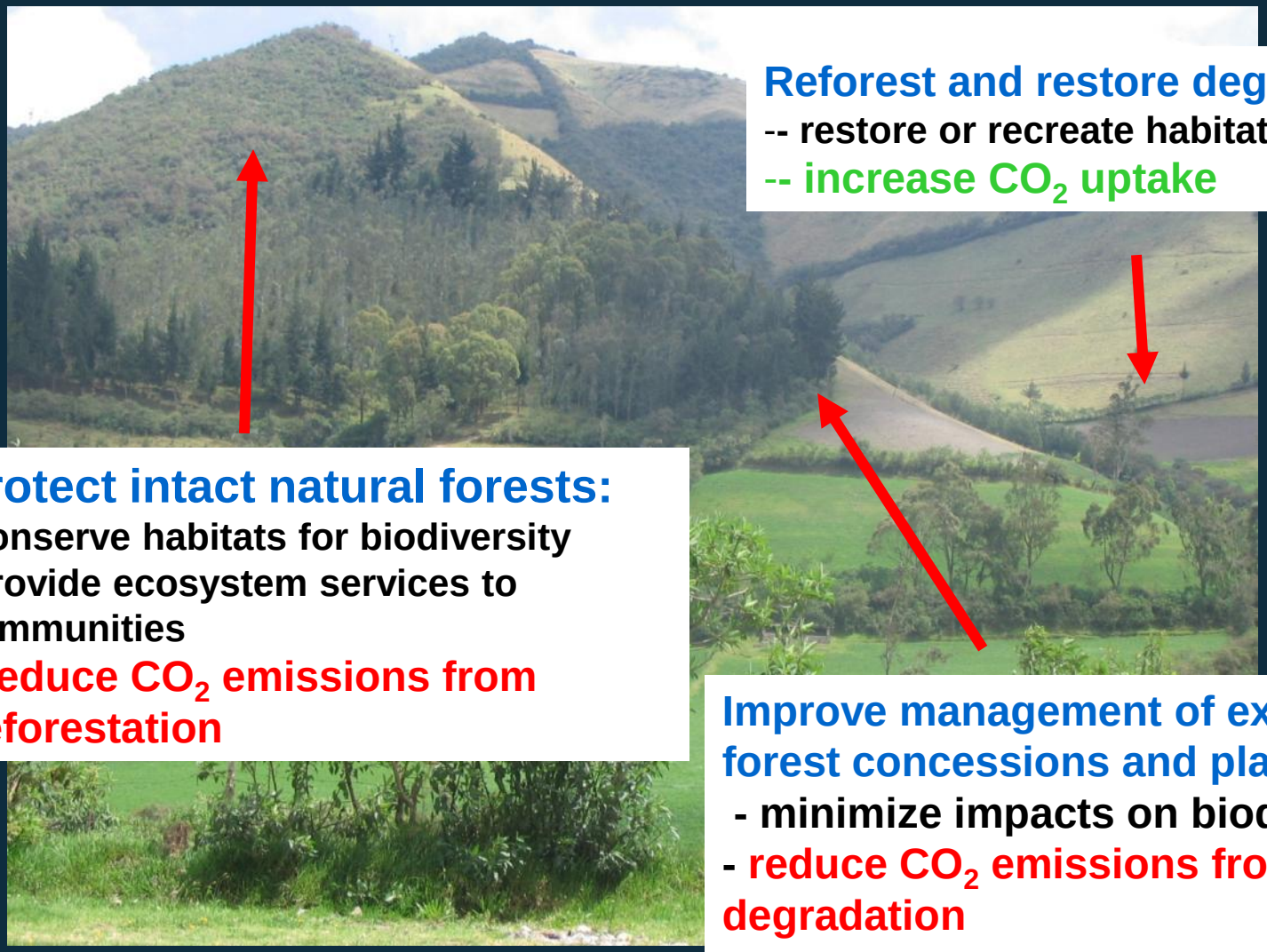
UN-REDD PROGRAMME

(Slide: Valerie Kapos, WCMC)

- Countries could also consider prioritizing ‘conservation’ and ‘reducing deforestation ‘ within REDD+ implementation

REDD+ Activity	Importance for Emissions Reductions	Importance for Biodiversity Conservation
1. Reducing emissions from deforestation	XXX	XXX
2. Reducing emissions from degradation	X	X
3. Forest conservation	X(XX)	XXX
4. Sustainable management of forests	X	X
5. Carbon stock enhancement	X	X

• Take a landscape-level approach to implementing REDD+, strategically locating activities to optimize conservation and mitigation goals



Reforest and restore degraded areas
-- restore or recreate habitat
-- increase CO_2 uptake

Protect intact natural forests:
-conserve habitats for biodiversity
-provide ecosystem services to communities
- reduce CO_2 emissions from deforestation

Improve management of existing forest concessions and plantations
- minimize impacts on biodiversity
- reduce CO_2 emissions from degradation

•Develop and apply standards that ensure biodiversity (and social) benefits

- Example: REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards = a set of principles, criteria & indicators and a process for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) on biodiversity and social issues
- To be applied to policies and measures of government-led REDD+ programs implemented at national or state/provincial level

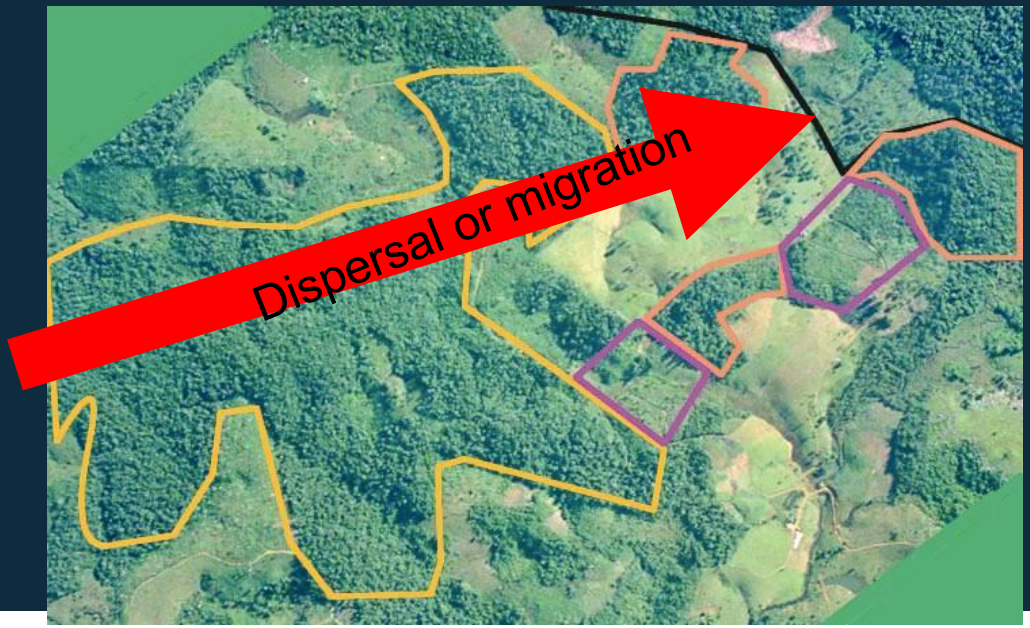
Principle 5: The REDD+ program maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services

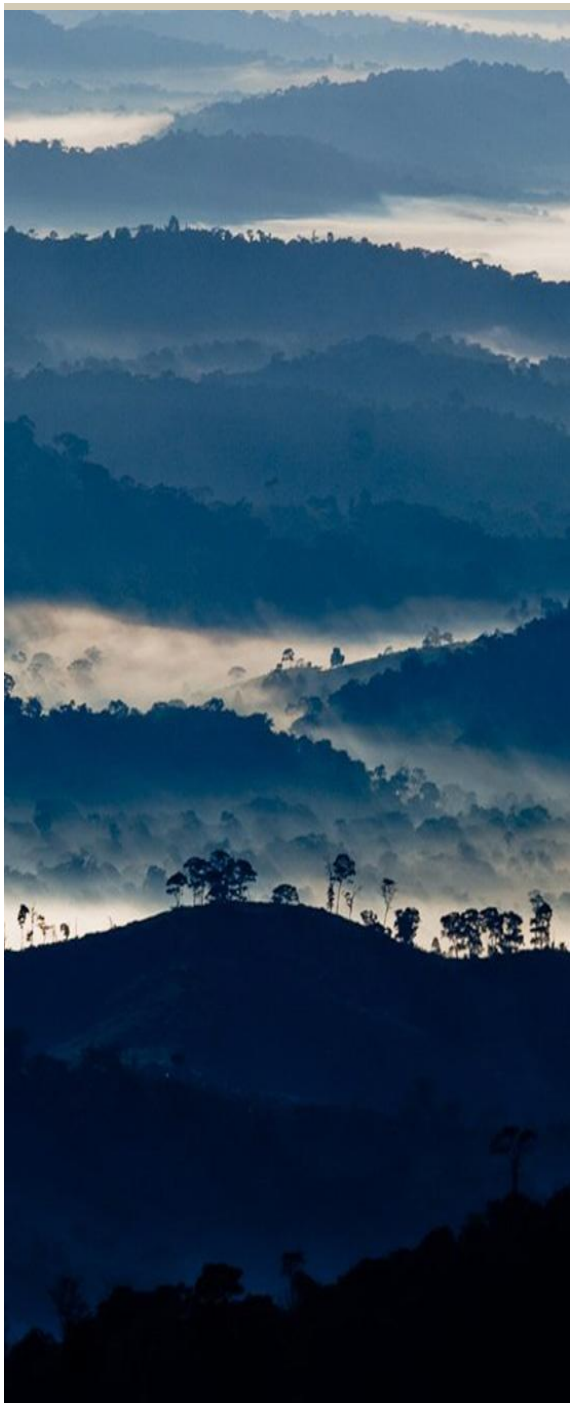
Criteria address:
•Maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystem services
•Assessment of positive and negative impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity
•Adaptive management of the REDD+ program in response to impact assessment

Additional recommendations for REDD+ implementation

- Consider adding specific activities to promote biodiversity conservation within REDD+ areas
  - E.g., prevention of hunting, restrictions on wildlife trade, etc.

- Where possible, locate REDD+ activities in such a way as to enhance landscape connectivity and facilitate animal movement





Conclusions

- REDD+ offers a unique opportunity to conserve forest biodiversity at an unprecedented scale

- However, the ‘REDD+” and ‘biodiversity’ agendas differ in some fundamental ways, which mean that certain tradeoffs are inevitable and REDD+ will not solve all biodiversity concerns

- There are many options to design and implement REDD+ to promote biodiversity conservation, but some of these may reduce the effectiveness of REDD+ as a mitigation option

Final thoughts…

- The current REDD+ negotiating text already pays significant attention to biodiversity conservation

- Although there are additional ideas that could be added to the REDD+ mechanism, it may not be strategic to overburden the mechanism with additional biodiversity constraints

- Instead, since many of the biodiversity gains can be achieved at the national level where REDD+ is implemented, it might be most strategic to provide guidance to countries on how to best implement REDD+ to achieve both conservation and mitigation goals

- It will also be key to monitor impacts of early REDD+ initiatives on biodiversity- and use this information to adapt future REDD+ implementation

- THANK YOU!

For more information, see:

POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Opportunities for achieving biodiversity conservation through REDD

Celia A. Harvey[1], Barney Dickson[2], & Cyril Kormos[3]

[1] Center for Applied Biodiversity Science, Conservation International, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22202, USA
[2] UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK CB3 0DL
[3] The WILD Foundation, 717 Poplar Avenue, Boulder, CO 80304, USA