

Background

Forests

Keywords:

Climate change, REDD+, rights, equity, natural resource management



Issue date
February 2014



Thad Kerosky

Implementing REDD+

We need broad-based solutions to emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

REDD+ — reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus the role of forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks — holds much promise. For the first time it seems possible that finance could be mobilised to flow from developed to developing countries to bring transformative change in land use practices.

However, it is far from plain sailing. Researchers and practitioners have done much to highlight the risks and opportunities of REDD+ but government decisions are lagging behind and funding commitments at international and national levels are painfully slow.

IIED's work on REDD+

IIED work on REDD+ broadly encompasses governance, economics (including the economics of rights and benefits) and south-south collaboration. Some of our main projects have been:

Testing REDD+ in the Beira landscape corridor (central Mozambique). IIED coordinates a £1.9 million project that provides detailed landscape-level analysis of the rates and drivers of deforestation and degradation, develops emission reference level and socioeconomic baselines, and informs the Mozambique REDD+ readiness preparation process. We aim to use the lessons from this subnational-level implementation of REDD+ to inform the international debate on jurisdictional REDD+ as well as effectiveness and efficiency of REDD+ delivery models.

South-South collaboration between Mozambique and Brazil. IIED led implementation of an approximately £0.6 million project that shared experience of setting up REDD+ in the Amazon region with the Mozambique government. This helped Mozambique develop its REDD+ readiness preparation plan, which was approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in March 2012. It paved the way for an allocation of

FACTS AND FIGURES

IIED's work on REDD+ spans Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique), Asia (India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam) and Latin America (Brazil, Guatemala and Peru).

Most of our REDD+ work has been funded by the Government of Norway, the United Kingdom and the EU.

IIED works on REDD+ with a range of partners including international organisations; national governments of the North and South and ministries across different sectors; NGOs, both national and community based; and private sector institutions in developed and developing countries.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

REDD+ is simple in concept: compensate developing countries and communities that keep carbon stored in forests. Implementation of course is far more complex. One underlying problem is that governments in both the North and South see REDD+ as a forest issue, requiring forest sector solutions. But REDD+ will only meet its goals if it addresses drivers of deforestation coming from expanding and unsustainable agriculture, inefficient and unsustainable biomass energy extraction, infrastructure development, urban settlements and demand for forest commodities.

Alongside those challenges, it must find new ways to manage forests sustainably and support sustainable enterprises. These wide issues are where IIED's unique structure and broad reach of expertise could galvanise change especially as we explore more integrated approaches to our work. We work on sustainable agriculture, renewable and non-renewable energy, biodiversity, land

US\$3.8 million to help develop a REDD+ strategy and establish policy and institutions to reduce emissions in the country.

Analysing private sector engagement in REDD+ to understand the opportunities and challenges. We have looked at projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as case studies in Mozambique, Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo. The study highlights the policy vacuum and innovations in defining carbon rights and benefit distribution and also the challenges related to participation/exclusion of actors involved in deforestation and forest degradation.

Analysing how best to ensure gender is central to REDD+ through analysis of rights, power and equity issues. We are making use of value chain analysis to distil the links between drivers-commodities and actors as well as costs and benefits that they derive. A comparative study of Tanzania, Mozambique, Nepal, Vietnam, Peru and Guatemala will shed light on the complex gender interactions and likely winners and losers.

Mapping REDD+ activities and the institutional landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo to understand the opportunities and added value that IIED can offer to the country. The recommendations include working with government and other partners to clarify community rights in particular rights to carbon as well as overall participation of communities in forest and REDD+ governance and continue the private sector REDD+ work.

REDD+ architecture and its impacts on poverty and sustainable development in Brazil, Vietnam, Tanzania, Uganda and Ghana. This work helped to establish socioeconomic baselines, identify emission reducing activities and examining opportunity costs of implementing REDD+ pilots. It also analysed land users' perceptions of and preference for different formats for performance-based payments.

Creating opportunities for countries to analyse governance issues related to REDD+ readiness and implementation. This work by IIED's Forest Governance Learning Group has been instrumental in getting Malawi on course to engage in readiness for REDD+ and has contributed to discussion on how timber is sourced from African countries to supply China. This paves the way to reflect on how international demand for forests and non-forest products affects deforestation and forest degradation and what concerted efforts can address the challenge.

Nepal's Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of REDD+. IIED is supporting Nepal in this process in partnership with ICEM and SchEMS and lecturers from local universities. This work will provide lessons that can inform the analysis of how useful this instrument and safeguards are to ensure that REDD+ delivers on emissions reduction, biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction.

Looking ahead

We want to capitalise on our existing broad expertise and use it to discuss viable and innovative ways to implement REDD+. This will also complement our role in championing the global and national debates on a more integrated approach to addressing climate change and other environmental challenges.

IIED will work on various fronts including economics of pro-poor REDD+ delivery models, safeguards, payment formats and benefit sharing. Other areas could be:

- Energy solutions from more efficient and sustainable use of renewables.
- Agriculture productivity — what works well and potential to revolutionise policies and practice.
- Urbanisation — opportunities and challenges for sustainable management of rural landscapes, and analysis of leakage within and across country borders.
- Asking whether demand-side measures can shape sustainability in developing countries.
- Inclusive businesses and market and non-market solutions to environmental and climate change impacts.
- Engagement of private sector REDD+ — risks and options. We will pursue work on REDD+ projects run by the private sector as well as the greening of supply chains.

resources rights, urban settlements, sustainable and inclusive businesses, and fairer markets that promote sustainability.

KEY SPACES

- REDD+ has progressed within international climate change negotiations, from policy pledges first made in the 'Bali Action Plan' of 2007 through to the seven decisions of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ at the UNFCCC COP in December 2013. The main premise remains that REDD+ activities have to be additional to the business-as-usual scenario, be permanent, and ensure that there is no leakage or displacement of carbon dioxide-emitting activities elsewhere.
- The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and UN-REDD have been supporting tropical countries in developing their REDD+ readiness processes.
- Bilateral funding (especially by the Government of Norway to Brazil, Indonesia, Mozambique and Tanzania) has been financing the readiness process and enable testing the implementation of REDD+ including payment mechanisms to land users.
- For-profit companies, NGOs, academia and local communities are all involved in both readiness and testing REDD+ on the ground.



Knowledge Products

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) promotes sustainable development, linking local priorities to global challenges. We support some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in decision making.

FIND OUT MORE

IIED's work on REDD+ is undertaken by our natural resources and sustainable markets groups and partners. Find out more at www.iied.org/tag/reducing-emissions-deforestation-forest-degradation-redd