Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation
Learning objectives

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

• Define drivers of deforestation and degradation

• Define barriers to ‘+’ activities

• Explain trends which will affect drivers in the future

• Identify challenges to analysing drivers
Agenda for the session

- Introductory presentation on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and Barriers to ‘+’ activities
- Q & A
- Country examples
- Q & A
- Group exercise
Deforestation & Degradation

Primary forest

Forest degradation

Deforestation
Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

What are drivers and barriers?

**Drivers** are processes that result in deforestation and forest degradation
- **Direct** drivers (‘proximate causes’): immediate actions that directly impact forest cover and loss of carbon
- **Indirect** drivers (‘underlying causes’): complex interactions of social, economic, political, cultural and technological processes

**Barriers** are obstacles to the implementation of ‘+’ activities
- Conservation, sustainable management and enhancement
Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Examples of direct drivers

Deforestation

– Agriculture (subsistence and commercial)
– Mining
– Infrastructure development and urban expansion

Forest degradation

– Logging
– Forest fires
– Livestock grazing in forests
– Fuelwood collection
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Examples of indirect drivers

**International level**
- Markets, commodity prices, politics

**National level**
- Population growth
- Domestic markets
- National policies, fiscal incentives and subsidies
- Weak governance and institutions
- Poor cross-sectoral coordination
- Poverty

**Local level**
- Change in household behaviour
Deforestation drivers by region

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- Urban expansion
- Infrastructure
- Mining
- Agriculture (local/subsistence)
- Agriculture (commercial)
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Degradation drivers by region

- Livestock grazing in forest
- Uncontrolled fires
- Fuelwood charcoal
- Timber logging

Africa
Latin America
(Sub)tropical Asia
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What about the future?

- Global population increase
- Economic growth patterns
- Demand for agricultural commodities
- Demand for products (timber / non-timber)
- Use of fuel wood and charcoal

*Important to consider potential future trends*
Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Why analyse drivers?

- Design policies and measures that address specific drivers
- Prioritize intervention areas and actions
- Understand costs, risks and benefits
- Assess financial, technical and political feasibility
- Opportunity to engage key stakeholders, especially non-forest sectors
- Define priorities for forest monitoring and MRV
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Key Considerations

• Direct drivers are usually known, but need to ensure consensus

• Indirect drivers often neglected

• Assess agents: who is involved?

• Assess context of drivers: legal, institutional, financial, fiscal

• Evaluate GHG impact of main drivers / barriers

• Spatial and socio-economic factors will vary across a country
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Challenges

- Assessing / modelling potential future scenarios: need robust data
- Analysing indirect drivers
- Including non-forestry sectors and their plans for the future
- Separating the drivers of deforestation from the drivers of forest degradation
- Being fixated on particular solutions before the analysis
Key messages

- Understanding drivers and barriers is necessary to design effective REDD+ actions.
- **Indirect drivers** very often influence the direct drivers.
- Important to assess who is involved in drivers / barriers (the ‘agents’).
- **Future drivers and barriers** may be different from past and present ones.
- Understanding drivers / barriers from outside the forest sector is important.
Country Examples
### Matrix of direct and underlying drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Illegal logging</th>
<th>Encroachment</th>
<th>Indirect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>High demand for forestland and products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High dependency on forests</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy, governance and tenure</td>
<td>Lack of deliberative and inclusive process</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Weak law enforcement</td>
<td>Weak tenure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural (Socio-political)</td>
<td>Prolonged political transition</td>
<td>Inequality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Demographic</td>
<td>Population growth</td>
<td>Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Nepal**

- **High costs of alternative fuel, increasing number of brick factories**
- **Organized crime makes threats to Department of Forestry**
- **Poor people migrate to Terai and occupy public forest land**

Used to identify potential REDD+ policies and measures
### Cameroon

#### Current impact of underlying cause on agent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current impact of underlying cause on agent</th>
<th>Agriculture expansion</th>
<th>Large investors</th>
<th>Medium-scale farmers</th>
<th>Small-scale farmers</th>
<th>Mangrove wood exploitation</th>
<th>Proximate driver</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Underlying cause</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High impact</td>
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<td>Demographic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium impact</td>
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<td>Urbanization</td>
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<td>Low impact</td>
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<td>Economic</td>
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</table>

#### Projected future trend of underlying cause on agent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projected future trend of underlying cause on agent</th>
<th>Agriculture expansion</th>
<th>Large investors</th>
<th>Medium-scale farmers</th>
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<th>Mangrove wood exploitation</th>
<th>Proximate driver</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Underlying cause</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing impact</td>
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<td>Technological</td>
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<td>Business as usual</td>
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<td>Policy &amp; institutional</td>
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<td>Decreasing impact</td>
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<td>Cultural</td>
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