

Exploring mechanisms to promote High-Biodiversity REDD+: Piloting in Vietnam

Steve Swan

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Netherlands

Development

Organisation



Connecting People's Capacities

International political consensus on REDD+ safeguards

- Past 6 months - international framework for REDD+ safeguards has emerged (UNFCCC & CBD aligning)
- UNFCCC Parties are requested to:
 - address and respect safeguards
 - develop a safeguard information system (..CoP 17)
- CBD Parties have committed to:
 - ambitious forest biodiversity (Aichi) targets
 - enhancing benefits / avoiding negative impacts
 - identifying indicators; assessing monitoring mechanisms for REDD+ co-benefits

Need for REDD+ environmental safeguards

Biodiversity risks (CBD, Nairobi, Sept. 2010):

- conversion of natural forests to plantations; including introduction of biofuel crops
- displacement of deforestation/degradation to areas of low carbon but high biodiversity value
- afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value

Risks to biodiversity from REDD+ activities

- a) Reducing emissions from deforestation
leakage to other forests/countries
agricultural intensification
- b) Reducing emissions from degradation
threats to disturbance-dependent species
- c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks
leakage to other forests/countries
- d) Sustainable management of forests
promotion of logging in old-growth forests
- e) Enhancement of carbon stocks
loss of non-forest biodiverse habitats

Opportunities for biodiversity conservation from REDD+ activities

- a) Reducing emissions from deforestation
maintenance of ecosystem functioning (services)
- b) Reducing emissions from degradation
recovery of forest structure (resources; niches)
- c) Conservation of forest carbon stocks
synergies with biodiversity conservation
- d) Sustainable management of forests
greater ecosystem stability (resistance/resilience)
- e) Enhancement of carbon stocks
multi-cultures of indigenous species (habitat expansion; improved connectivity)

'High-biodiversity REDD+' mechanisms

How to minimise the risks and maximise the opportunities?

- International/national policy (strengthening; coherence)
- Planning tools (integrated land use planning)
- Financial incentives (HB REDD import reserves; biodiversity premium)
- Safeguards (minimise risk; 'do no harm')
- Standards (focus; 'proliferation' of options)
- Certification

'High-biodiversity REDD+' Project

- Duration: < 3 years (2011-2013)
- Budget: < EUR 1,000,000
- Donor: BMU-ICI
- Implementer: SNV-Vietnam
- GoV counterpart: VNFORESTS REDD+ Office
- Technical partners: IIED; MoNRE (BCA);
research institutes;
conservation NGOs

Objective

- Biodiversity protected by reducing deforestation and forest degradation, through widespread adoption of a high-biodiversity REDD+ mechanism

Results

1. International mechanisms to foster high-biodiversity REDD+ schemes explored and supported
2. Biodiversity safeguards and high-biodiversity areas for REDD+ are recognised and operationalised as part of the Vietnamese national REDD+ programme (KEY!)
3. Biodiversity safeguards monitoring framework designed, tested and integrated into the national REDD+ information system
4. Community-based biodiversity and carbon monitoring system developed and piloted

Current status

- GoV project approval process commenced
- Research into international measures to promote 'high-biodiversity REDD+' first draft
- Engaging in high-profile international fora (CBD/UNFCCC): Singapore (Mar); Bonn (Jun); Durban (Dec)
- Aligning existing field intervention – Cat Tien (field testing models and impact)



THANK YOU!