Linking REDD+ and ape conservation in Africa: opportunities and constraints

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Great apes and poverty linkages workshop

Bogor, 12th January 2012
From RED to REDD to REDD(+)++?

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED) concept first mooted in COP 11 in Montreal (2005)**

- **REDD:** second “D” added to include “degradation”

- **REDD+:** “plus” includes co-benefits of afforestation, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and improved forest governance

- **REDD++:** includes emissions from other land conversion (e.g. agriculture)
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.”
Opportunities for REDD+ in Africa

- REDD+ seeks to reverse drivers of forest conversion by rewarding participating individuals, communities, local and national governments
- 635 million ha of forest (16% of world’s total)
- Congo Basin harbours second largest block of forest in the world
- Hence “the opportunities for REDD+ and biodiversity synergies are immense (CBD, 2011)
REDD+: new hope for conservation?

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

- High biodiverse forests in Africa often sequester the most carbon (Lewis et al. 2009)
- Conserving key forest systems could generate revenues greater than alternative land uses if economic incentives are competitive
- As such, REDD+ projects could be located in biodiversity rich areas where keystone species, such as great apes, occur
“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
Much to learn from previous conservation implementation for REDD+ (e.g. PES, ICDP’s)

REDD+ requires collaboration between multiple government agencies

Meaningful stakeholder participation and engagement is critical

Understand trade-offs and benefits

Capacity building
Review

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

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Integrated conservation and development projects
REDD
REDD-plus
Principles and best practices

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 REDD projects that can provide valuable lessons for subsequent initiatives.
REDD+ in Africa: key actors

- UN-REDD
- World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership
- Congo Basin Forest Partnership
- Congo Basin Forest Fund
- African Forest Forum
- COMIFAC
- COMESA
- CARPE
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 = risk to great ape habitat

- 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
**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 social safeguards

*Calculated using, corruption, voice and accountability and force of law indices*
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)
Warning over REDD projects excluding rural poor from forests

Tom Levitt
16th June, 2011

Global study finds forests provide one-fifth of household income in rural communities and says access for them should be prioritised in REDD-type conservation projects.

We are 'undervaluing' the income rural communities in developing countries derive from forests, according to major survey of 25 countries including Brazil, Guinea and Indonesia.
Africa: Indigenous People Cry Foul Over REDD+

Rebecca Quarcoopome
2 December 2011

A network of people and organisations from across the world have lined up against the introduction of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme in developing countries because they believe it is an intrusive way of solving carbon emission problems.

Dubbed the No REDD Platform which is a loose network of researchers, activists, organisations and movements, they consider the REDD+ and the carbon market a hypocrisy which will not impact global warming.

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terrapinn.com/asia mining

The prospect of gaining carbon credits by acquiring land to implement REDD+ has caught the eye of the private sector. In many countries, including Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Congo, there are reports of a carbon rush. In Mozambique, private investors have expressed an interest in acquiring more than 22 percent of the country’s land—an area larger than the 18 percent of protected areas for REDD+. But Mozambique, like many other developing countries, is still in the early stages of preparing a REDD+ strategy.

Forest carbon projects
Carbon credits from forest projects: A better climate - A better future
www.face-the-future.com
Major constraints

- REDD+ is at different stages of advancement in different countries and regions yet design and implementation are yet to be resolved
- Funding source: ODA versus climate change investment = problems of sustainability
- Monitoring, reporting and verification
- Distribution of incentives: where/who are the poor?
- Regulatory aspects
- Managing risk of government failure (e.g. re-centralisation)
- Multi-actor participation necessary: do not “consult” but achieve “consent”!
THINKING beyond the canopy

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