International Forest Policies and Politics: their implications on deforestation

Lessons learnt for reducing emissions in developing countries

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This presentation

I. Forests/deforestation: Context
II. Lessons learnt
III. Main challenges
IV. The main messages
I. Context
Land and Forests 2005

Global land area*: 13,000 m ha

"North":
8,200 m ha

"South":
4,800 m ha

Forest Area
3,600 m ha

« north »: temperate and boreal
« south »: tropical and subtropical
*without Arctic and Antarctic
I. Context: Why should we conserve and manage forests?

- 1,800 m people (1,300 in the tropics) make part of their subsistence out of forests and trees
- 500 million people directly depend on forest resources for their livelihoods
- 50 million men and women (in particular indigenous communities) live within forested areas
- Forest production, in particular timber production values up to $250 billion US$ annually, which corresponds to 2% of the world’s total production value
- 2/3 of all terrestrial species of fauna and flora live in forests
- Forests (biomass and soil) stock between 430-540 Pg of carbon

➔ Avoiding deforestation (to conserve carbon pools) an integral part of a diversified resource complex ("the forest")
I. Context:
Human-induced deforestation: not a new phenomena

Economic and social development is – to a great extent - based on deforestation!
I. Context:
Dynamic in forested areas 2000-2005: hotspots of deforestation and forestation

Deforestation in the south, while forests increase in the north.

Source: FAO, 2006
I. Context:
Varying perceptions - Forest rich situations

- Forests often seen as cheap development capital or as a physical barrier to development.
- High level of deforestation and forest degradation.

Main Issues:
- Deforestation impacting both, national economies as well as local standards of welfare.
- Extent of biodiversity loss takes global significance.
- Forest dwelling populations often excluded from decision making and resource utilization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Forest Area</th>
<th>GDP</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
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I. Context: Forest rich...
I. Context: Varying perceptions - Forest poor situations

- Forests serve very basic needs such as land reserve, fuelwood, fodder.
- Remaining forest cover is important for retention of soil, water and biodiversity values.

Main Issues:

- critical role of ecological factors in terms of impact upon human well-being and survival
- important relationship between forests and land productivity
- often lack of institutional capacities and mechanisms to engage local populations effectively
I. Context: Forest poor....

Côte d'Ivoire

Thailand

Viangchan

Rangoon

Bangkok

Phnom Penh

Yamoussoukro
I. Context: Deforestation in the tropics

China, SE-Asia:
Agroindustry (Oil palm), Pulp (China)

West Africa:
- Shifting cultivation, conflicts, timber extraction

Congo Basin:
- Timber extraction, roads, shifting cultivation

Central America:
- Shifting cultivation, land speculation

Amazonas Basin:
- Land speculation, Agroindustry (Soja, livestock), shifting cultivation, conflicts, planned and unplanned colonisation
I. Context:
planned conversion to other land uses than forests
1. **Context:**
planned conversion to planted forests
I. Context:
Unplanned conversion of permanent forest estates (often after logging activities)
1. **Context:**

Excessive fuelwood gathering: from forest degradation to deforestation
I. Context:
Deforestation and livelihood concerns: dry forests
II. Lessons learnt: Main Drivers are outside the forest sector

- Deforestation is a complex process that evolves over time.
- Avoidance of deforestation cannot be solved by the forests sector alone.
- A certain degree of deforestation is unavoidable.
- Avoiding deforestation needs adjustments and flexibility.
- Avoiding deforestation needs to closely take into consideration the macro-economic drivers as well as the socio-economic specificities of each country.
II. Lessons learnt: Creation of agricultural land to feed people

Who can be against that?

- Not all deforestation is undesirable:
  - Social and economic pressures make it inevitable that substantial areas of what is still natural forest today will be converted to agriculture and other uses.

- However, deforestation should be discouraged when:
  - It is not efficient from an economic viewpoint;
  - It is non-sustainable – in other words, it is a threat to environmental stability; and
  - It leads to social inequities and conflicts.
II Lessons learnt: Avoiding Deforestation: often a “non-issue”

But: undue deforestation is often intentional!

- “Technical objection”: Type of resource management implemented by “economic operators”

- “Political objection”: powerful political and economic groups are the winners when forest is cleared and brought to a more “economic” land use

Concession forestière sur terroirs traditionnelle de Penans en Sarawak, Malaisie. ©JBlaser
II. Lessons learnt:

AD: not necessary a socially acceptable solution

Objections and obstacles

- Consensus finding in respect to the objections: under which circumstances will forests remain?

- Avoiding deforestation efforts can compete/be contradictory to sustainable livelihood efforts

➡ Concentration on institutional challenges to make them adaptable so that they reflect local conditions
II. Lessons learnt (from policies):
There is no global program on combating deforestation, but

- CBD / GEF
- MDGs (Goal 7)
- UNFF 2006 resolution
  Global objective 1: reverse the loss of forest cover
  MoI: 5 (i): Creating an effective enabling environment for investment in SFM, including to avoid the loss of forest cover...
- New ITT-Agreement 2006
- ITTO, FAO policies and project work
- CIFORs programmatic work
- CPF as a joint force
- Multi-institutional approaches (e.g. R&R)
- (Multi)national NGOs, media, ...

→ More leverage to put into stake....
II. Lessons learnt (from Initiatives): Ongoing Programs and actors

- Recent forest-based Programmes and Initiatives that influence the decision whether or not to deforest

- Decentralisation
- Forest landscape restoration
- Forest management certification
- Natural resource accounting
- PRS: Access to land and markets for the poor
- But also at national level: creation of protected areas, logging bans, FLE,…

There is no «Combating Deforestation Initiative » as such:
Do we find the rodeo bull to ride in the framework of the UNFCCC?
II. Lessons learnt: Fundamental Transitions Underway

- Changes in forest ownership
- Changing demand and supply
- Growing value of forest ecosystem services
- Changes in forest policy

→ Challenges, and opportunities for conservation, improvement in livelihoods and economic development
II. Lessons learnt: Tenure and access to forest resources

Dramatic increase of forest tenure by village communities and indigenous groups over the past 12 years

- About 16% of tropical forests are nowadays owned by communities (170 mio hectares), 3 times more than 12 years ago
- 80% of the forests in PNG and Mexico; more than 1/3 in Peru, China, Guatemala, Colombia and Bolivia
- Improved access to state owned forests for the rural poor
- Importance of trees outside forests
  - Agroforestry (50 - 100 m ha in the tropical belt)
  - Trees as an element in homegardens (15 - 20 m ha in SE-Asia)
  - Small forest stands in agricultural landscapes (most important wood and NWFP source in Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, India, Uganda, ....)

Towards a new paradigm to protect forests and avoid deforestation?
II. Lessons learnt: 
Forest and rural economy

- ↑ Product demand (esp. in LDC’s)
- ↑ Scarcity value of natural forests
- ↑ Forest intensification
- ↑ Globalizing markets
- ↑ SFM and certification
- ↑ Demand for environmental services
- ↑ Democratic governance of resources
II. Lessons learnt:
Forest based initiatives to reduce poverty

➔ The rural poor are often involved in forest resource use and (unsustainable) management, but most of the time are not political influential and do not take advantage of it in the long run

Sustainable development objectives of Avoiding Deforestation imply:

➔ To support social actors at the economic level in particular in:

- Increasing value derived from natural resource management
- Increase revenues for natural resource management
- Improve accessibility to capital in rural and forested areas
- Diversifying revenue in rural areas and reduce risks
- Create marketing opportunities
- Stimulate financial options to value environmental services
India: transfer payment for forest protection at Village Forest Committees, Village Protection Committees

Also in Vietnam, China, and many other countries

All photographs Madhra Pradesh, India © JBlaser
Costa Rica: integral commercialisation of environmental services

- Biodiversity protection
- Water protection
- Emission reduction

Investors

Government of Costa Rica

Investments

Certificates

Financement

Services
Colombia: PES San Nicolas

Which ecosystems?
San Nicolas: which services to be paid for...

- C Sequestration
- Regulation of microclimate
- Food production
- Wood production

- Water regulation (quantity)
- Water offer (Quantity and quality)
- Control of erosion
- Soil formation
- Soil fertilization
- Polinization
- Biological control
- Species habitat
- Species diversity
- Production/conservation of genetic resources
- Recreation
- Cultural activities

- CERs and VERs

Already functional:
- TP and NTFP

- Regulation of the hydrologic cycle
- Soil conservation
- Conservation of biological diversity
- Conservation of cultural habitat (incl. scenic beauty)
Mexico: Integrated community based forest management, Ejido de Noh Beh, Quintana Roo
Madagascar: Avoiding forest fire and forest restoration (transfer payments)
III. Major challenges

Avoiding deforestation as an instrument to conserve carbon pools and support sustainable development

- What forests to commit?
- In the absence of existing deforestation strategies
- In the absence of quantification of costs and benefits
- Which actors? What role? How to harmonize with SD-objectives...
III: Major challenges (tropical forests): What to commit as carbon pools?

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<th>Sphere for committing forests as carbon sinks</th>
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<tr>
<td>200 mm ha</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
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**Non-accessible intact forests, Remote forest protected areas**

**Multiple-Use Forest Area:**
- Opened-up forests,
- Degraded old-growth forests,
- Secondary forests,
- Degraded forest land
- Accessible forest protected areas

**Timber production forests, in production or in reserve**

**Forestry outside forests, afforestation and reforestation, agroforests, etc.**

**Committed forests:** permanent forests threatened by deforestation (and not sustained by other uses)
IV. The main messages

Avoiding deforestation (AD) is happening in a more integral and diversified framework than all other mitigation strategies to climate change.

The potential for AD is existent and forest sector stakeholders ready to face the challenge. Hence climate change negotiations need to be sensibilized and informed in this respect.

Avoiding deforestation has to happen in specific areas where we can commit forests as carbon stocks (« COMMITTED FORESTS »).

- Elegibility, additionality and leakage, as well compatibility with sustainable development remain the major challenges to avoid deforestation and to commit forests as carbon pools.

- Recognising the multiple interests
- Creation of a favorable political commitment for AD, including strategic coalitions
- Recognize the opportunities; utilising flexible approaches and approaches adapted to the situation:
  AD is probably rather a « small-scale » than a « big-scale » approach;
Avoiding deforestation? There are some challenges ahead: no reason to dig our head and relax!

Thank you for your attention