



Managing REDD+ across institutional landscapes

Where policy meets practice

From climate research to action under multilevel governance: Building knowledge and capacity at landscape scale

An application-oriented research project funded by International Climate Initiative (IKI)

New tools for REDD+ policy makers and practitioners

Making tropical forest management more responsible and sustainable is no easy task. REDD+ offers promise, but policy makers and practitioners need clear information and tools to design effective strategies.

A key challenge to the design and implementation of REDD+ and other land-use strategies is the sheer range of actors involved in various policy and cultural arenas. What they do, and how they do it, needs to be harmonized across government sectors at national, regional and local levels, and at different time scales.

An integrated, landscape-level approach is urgently needed to assess the carbon trade-offs and spill-over effects of various – often competing – land-use decisions. The elements of functional, effective climate policies need to be streamlined across levels. These include good governance, equitable benefit distribution and the assessment of strategies' success in meeting the goals of emission reduction, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

Our aim is to provide REDD+ policy makers and practitioners at all levels of governance with the best available knowledge about what works – and what doesn't – in REDD+ projects.

Using state-of-the-art research into multilevel governance, land use, and carbon trade-offs, we are developing comparative studies across countries and subnational regions to generate insights and policy lessons for better REDD+ implementation.

Launched in mid-2014, the project is collecting data on changes in carbon stocks, biodiversity, and benefit-sharing mechanisms at the landscape level – where policy meets practice. By 2017, we will have produced a comprehensive package of scientific knowledge to help REDD+ projects meet the so-called 3E outcomes: effectiveness, efficiency and equitability.

Policy makers and practitioners will be better equipped to work across different levels – from the local to the national. They will be able to use new knowledge based on scientific evidence to negotiate different policy environments with many different stakeholders.

What the project delivers

“We will learn from REDD+ governance at multiple levels; helping make REDD+ projects effective, efficient and equitable, plus promoting livelihoods and biodiversity.”

Four countries, multiple levels, many partners

The project is partnering with four countries: Indonesia, Mexico, Peru and Vietnam. Each is putting in place climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. REDD+ projects are active in all of them.

CIFOR will work closely with international and national partners to carry out the research. Through close interaction and repeated consultations on project goals, we aim to increase the project's relevance to national REDD+ policy processes.



“Early work in the project has already catalyzed reports and reviews on REDD+ in four countries.”

CIFOR has a strong history of working in collaboration with partners on REDD+ initiatives. Worldwide, REDD+ is a fast-changing field. Access to scientific evidence can put players ahead of the curve, pointing to new developments. We make sure our research makes a difference, by linking science to development outcomes. CIFOR’s science is known to be robust, salient and credible.

The project intends to be responsive to the partner countries’ policy dynamics. It will work closely with policy makers and practitioners. And the results will be communicated effectively through rich networks of stakeholders in the target countries and beyond, into the wider international REDD+ arena.

By adding a multi-governance perspective and moving to the landscape scale, this project complements CIFOR’s ongoing Global Comparative Study on REDD (GCS-REDD).

Why CIFOR?

Already making an impact

Studies of best-practice community-based MRV are well underway, exploring the use of new technologies and new approaches to data management in Peru and Indonesia.

Already, the project has produced policy reports and legal reviews in four countries. It has also begun to assess the carbon performance of REDD+ projects on the ground in Indonesia, Peru and Mexico. Work on biodiversity in REDD+ has started.

“CIFOR and its partners have a strong history of working together to get the best from REDD+.”

In-depth: How will the project be conducted?

Launched in mid-2014, the project will run until the end of 2017, conducting:

- **Legal reviews** and in-depth **interviews** with practitioners, policy makers, and other stakeholders to better understand institutions, processes and decisions.
- **Case studies** of financial incentives, performance criteria and indicators to reveal district-level impacts.
- Interviews and **analysis** to better understand the effects of international forest governance regimes and global economic drivers on national REDD+ decision making.
- Counterfactual, **longitudinal research** into the impacts of REDD+ at the village level.
- Collection of **carbon and biodiversity data** at the landscape scale and analysis of carbon trade-offs and biodiversity patterns using simulation models.
- Exploration of the **stepwise approach** to setting reference levels of emissions in each country, including: assessment of capacities, emission factors, best practices for MRV by communities, and effective data-stream management.
- **Stakeholder workshops** to explore the opportunities for and benefits of adaptation in REDD+ policy and subnational initiatives.
- Workshops on **policy-learning, knowledge-sharing** and capacity-building, as well as training and partnerships.

Current partner institutions:

- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) (Lead)
- Center of Research & Development in Upland Area, Vietnam
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- University of Leeds, UK
- Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

Contact:

Dr. Christopher Martius, c.martius@cgiar.org (+628119403900)

Dr. Anne Larson, a.larson@cgiar.org (+5113496017)

Levania Santoso, l.santoso@cgiar.org (+62811145874)

Photo cover by Terry Sunderland/CIFOR



**RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry**

This research is carried out by CIFOR as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA). This collaborative program aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests to farms. CIFOR leads CRP-FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and the World Agroforestry Centre.

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Co-funding partners



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Building and Nuclear Safety



Norad



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, environmental conservation and equity by conducting research to help shape policies and practices that affect forests in developing countries. CIFOR is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

