



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (IUFRO)

Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests & People

14 December 2012

burness
communications

Advancing Social Change for Nonprofits Worldwide

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Executive summary

Vienna, Austria

Burness Communications managed media relations for the IUFRO-led release of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) report on " Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives."

The global scientific assessment report and a related policy brief were formally launched on December 2, during a Forest Day 5, which took place during the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha (UNFCCC, 26 November - 7 December 2012).

Burness successfully implemented a media outreach strategy that led to stories and reporter interest before, during and after the climate talks.

In the lead-up to the UNFCCC, Joe DeCapua of Voice of America featured an interview with John Parrotta in a multimedia story entitled "Trees Stand Tall Against Climate Change." John was also interviewed by Stephen Leahy for a story that ran in TerrAmerica on the eve of the UNFCCC. Entitled "The Planet's Thermostat Moves to Doha," the solid piece ran in both English and Spanish.

Christoph Wildburger was interviewed for a lengthy UN IRIN story entitled "CLIMATE CHANGE: To save trees, save people" as well as a Deutsche-Welle story entitled "Biodiversity neglected in countdown to Doha."

Other highlights of pre-UNFCCC coverage include a story by the wire service Reuters Alertnet entitled "Forest Carbon Schemes Must Consider People, Biodiversity – Scientists."

Burness also connected Bernardo Strassburg to reporters from two Brazilian newspapers Ciencia Hoje and O Globo. Both stories ran during the UNFCCC.

Following the climate change talks, Burness arranged an interview between John and Christoph and a SciDev.net reporter based in Hong Kong. The story, "Indigenous biodiversity 'crucial' to forest futures" appeared online.

See below for a complete overview of coverage.

Journalists Interest

Pre-Embargo Interviews

<u>Outlet</u>	<u>Journalist</u>	<u>Interest</u>
<i>Ciencia Hoje</i>	Sofia Moutinho	Interviewed Bernardo Strassburg. Requested Materials
Deutsche Welle "Living Earth"	Saroja Coelho	Interviewed Christoph Wildburger
Freelance, Inter Press Service	Steve Leahy	Interviewed John Parrotta
<i>O Globo</i>	Ana Lucia Azevedo	Interviewed Bernardo Strassburg, Requested Materials
SciDev.net	Talent Ngandwe	Interviewed John Parrotta and Christoph Wildburger via email
UN IRIN	Jaspreet Kindra	Interviewed Bhaskar Vira
Voice of America	Joe DeCapua	Interviewed John Parrotta

Doha Interviews

<u>Outlet</u>	<u>Journalist</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Associated Press	Mike Casey	Interested in Interview around Doha
ClimateWire	Tiffany Stecker	Interested in Interview around Doha
Politiken	Ellen Anderson	Interested in Interview around Doha

Requested Materials

<u>Outlet</u>	<u>Journalist</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Agence France Presse	Mariette Le Roux	Requested Materials. Interested in using report in lead up to COP18 or as sidebar
Associated Press	Mike Casey	Requested Materials
BBC	Matt McGrath	Requested Materials
<i>Correio Brasiliense</i>	Max Milliano Melo	Requested Materials
<i>Epoca</i>	Alexandre Mansur	Requested Materials
<i>Estado de Sao Paulo</i>	Felipe Werneck, Clarissa Thomé	Requested Materials
<i>Financial Times</i>	Pilita Clark	Requested Materials
<i>Folha de S. Paulo</i>	Reinaldo Lopes	Requested Materials
Freelance, Inter Press Service	Keya Acharya	Requested Materials
<i>Guardian</i>	Claire Provost	Requested Materials
<i>Le Monde</i>	Laurence Caramel	Requested Materials
Mongabay.com	Rhett Butler	Requested Materials
National Geographic	Ker Than	Requested Materials
<i>Nature</i>	Natasha Gilbert	Requested Materials
<i>Norway Post</i>	Rolleiv Solholm	Requested Materials
Reuters	Alistair Doyle	Requested Materials
Reuters AlertNet	Megan Rowling, Laurie Goering	Requested Materials
RTCC	Ed King	Requested Materials
SciDev.net	Joel Adriano	Requested Materials
Yale Environment 360	Kevin Dennehy	Requested Materials



Depleting forest cover is more than ‘carbon warehouses’: Study

Vienna, Nov 17 (IBNS) World’s rapidly dwindling forests should be valued as more than just “carbon warehouses” to mitigate the problem of climate change, a study done by International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) said.

According to reports, biodiversity is found to be a critical determinant of a forest’s ability to absorb greenhouse gases. It also stressed that accounting for those who live in or near forests when implementing REDD+ increases the likelihood of achieving carbon and biodiversity goals.

“The study comes at a crucial point in time as climate negotiators and forest stakeholders ponder ways to move forward with REDD+ agreements reached at the previous climate summit in Durban,” said Alexander Buck, executive director of IUFRO - the world’s leading network of forest scientists.

Buck said the goals to secure social and environmental benefits, good governance and longterm financing are also critically important.

More than 60 scientists from around the globe collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication “Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives. A Global Assessment Report,” which was coordinated by IUFRO on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

The full report will be formally presented at Forest Day-6 on Dec 2 during the United Nations (UN) Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Doha, Qatar that is slated to be held from November 26 to December 7.

The report is a comprehensive scientific analysis focusing of the relationship between

biodiversity, forest management and climate change mitigation in the framework of the UN-backed initiative REDD+ (reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing forest carbon stocks in developing countries).

It also examines the social implications of forest and land management interventions envisaged under REDD+, emphasising the need for an integrated landscape management approach and the fine-tuning of local strategies that involve people who have a stake in forests.

“Actions that reduce deforestation and degradation are likely to have the most immediate and greatest benefits for both carbon and biodiversity”, said John Parrotta, an IUFRO scientist working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the chair of the global forest expert panel on biodiversity, forest management and REDD+, which prepared the study.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the rate of deforestation, mainly resulting from the conversion of forests to agriculture, was estimated to be 13 to 16 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2010.

Forest loss is the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions generated by humans. At the same time, it is a major cause of global biodiversity decline and could further reduce the ability of forests to effectively provide ecosystem services. As a result, human well-being, particularly for those people most dependent on forests and most vulnerable to poverty, could be significantly and adversely impacted.

The report, coordinated by IUFRO, notes that globally, some two billion hectares of Land, an area greater than that of South America, is potentially available for forest restoration.

“There is no one-size-fits-all solution to forest loss and degradation. Impacts of REDD+ interventions are likely to vary significantly across different forest types and landscape conditions. These impacts may occur outside the area of management or in the future, and they can also evolve over time,” said Parrotta.

He noted that the report stressed on how each REDD+ project must be designed to best fit the characteristics of the forest and surrounding landscape at hand. Potential trade-offs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals need to be carefully

addressed.

“There is clear evidence that including objectives to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and local communities will strengthen local involvement and acceptance, and thereby support REDD+ goals,” said Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative.

He said socio-economic impacts should therefore be considered early on in REDD+ planning and implementation.

The report further points out that the rights and livelihoods of the people potentially impacted by these activities need to be taken into account in any management decision related to forests and land use changes.

An innovative REDD+ pilot project in Tanzania, for example, demonstrated the value of engaging village councils and assemblies in the joint forest management of state reserved forests and the community-based forest management of village lands, it said.

The particular project successfully increased communities’ revenues from forest management and generated new income streams to support community forestry while also bringing carbon benefits.

<http://www.indiablooms.com/EnvironmentDetailsPage/2012/environmentDetails171112a.php>

Selected Online Pick Up:

New Kerala

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/newsplus/worldnews-104349.html#.UKkEBeOe--o>

News Wala

<http://www.newswala.com/International-News/Depleting-forest-cover-is-more-than-carbon-warehouses-study-22290.html>

Reuters AlertNet (UK)

Forest carbon schemes must consider people, biodiversity – scientists

Fri, 16 Nov 2012 00:00 GMT

By Megan Rowling



A Coquerel's Sifaka lemur sits on a bamboo pole inside the Lemurs Park, a private eco-tourism enterprise 22 km (14 miles) from Antananarivo, Madagascar, in this 2006 file photo. REUTERS/Radu Sighetu

LONDON (AlertNet) - Efforts to cut carbon emissions by curbing deforestation may fail unless they avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and local people, a network of forest scientists said on Friday.

The world's shrinking forests need to be valued as more than just carbon sinks for mitigating climate change, says a report from the International Union of Forest Research Organisations ([IUFRO](#)).

Biodiversity is key in determining a forest's ability to absorb greenhouse gases, it adds. And accounting for those who live in or near forests when implementing programmes under the U.N.-backed Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation scheme (REDD+) makes achieving carbon and biodiversity goals more likely.

"We need to consider all of the priorities for a particular landscape, such as food production, clean water, economic development, conservation and cultural and social values, to understand the different pressures facing forested areas," Christoph Wildburger, coordinator of the IUFRO panel that produced the assessment, said in a statement.

"It may not be possible to reconcile all of these concerns. But over the long term, REDD+ programs will not succeed, even at conserving carbon, unless there is a recognition of the trade-offs involved and an understanding of the relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forest management and people," he added.

Deforestation and forest degradation account for **nearly 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions**, through agricultural expansion, conversion to pastureland, infrastructure development, destructive logging, fires and so on, according to the United Nations.

Forest loss is the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions generated by humans, the IUFRO report says. It is also a major cause of global biodiversity decline and could further reduce the ability of forests to provide the services that nature supplies to humans, including carbon sequestration.

Thanks to large-scale forest planting efforts, natural forest expansion and slowing rates of deforestation, the net global loss in forest area slowed from 8.3 million hectares per year in 1990-2000 to 5.2 million hectares per year in 2000-2010, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The report says that further reducing the rates of global forest loss and degradation should yield substantial gains in mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity. It may also bring significant social and economic benefits - but only if the right conditions are in place.

"The degree to which these goals are achieved through a mechanism such as REDD+ will depend on whether and how REDD+ is translated into specific policies and practices that also contribute to biodiversity conservation and people's wellbeing," the report cautions.

NO 'ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL' SOLUTION

Globally, it notes that some two billion hectares of land - an area larger than South America - are potentially available for forest restoration. But this must be planned with care.

Restoring deforested and degraded forest land with a variety of native tree species can be expected to result in far greater biodiversity than extensive monocultures, which could have the opposite effect, the report says.

REDD+ activities could harm both biodiversity and people if they involve converting forests of high biodiversity value to other types of forest, planting trees in non-forest ecosystems such as grasslands and savannahs, displacing rural communities and increasing social inequities, the report warns.

It contains some examples of where forest protection and restoration efforts have worked well and others where they haven't.

In Madagascar, a WWF project in the moist forest landscape of Fandriana-Marolambo worked with local people to collect and manage seedlings to restore forest. In 2007, they planted only introduced species but by 2010, of the 328,400 seedlings planted, over 80 percent were local. The communities improved their knowledge and crop diversity, carbon sequestration was increased and biodiversity is set to benefit from growth in natural, indigenous forest cover.

But in Nepal's Chitwan National Park, efforts to establish tree plantations in severely degraded areas and promote natural regeneration in less degraded habitats led to a rise in conflict between humans and tigers as the animals roamed into the buffer zone. This initiative was positive for biodiversity and carbon, but had significant costs for local communities.

The report recommends that each REDD+ project must be designed to fit the characteristics of local forests and their surrounding environment.

"There is no one-size-fits-all solution to forest loss and degradation. Impacts of REDD+ interventions are likely to vary significantly across different forest types and landscape conditions. These impacts may occur outside the area of management or in the future, and

they can also evolve over time," said John Parrotta, an IUFRO scientist and chair of the panel that produced the report.

If actions to boost the role of forests in mitigating climate change are to be effective and long-lasting, they also need to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including rising demand for agricultural land, timber and other forest products, uncoordinated policies and weak governance, the report adds.

*"Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives" will be presented at **Forest Day 6** on Dec. 2 during the U.N. climate change conference in Doha, Qatar.*

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/forest-carbon-schemes-must-consider-people-biodiversity-scientists>

Selected Online Pick Up

EcoEarth.info

<http://www.ecoearth.info/shared/reader/welcome.aspx?linkid=298936>

The Planet's Thermostat Moves to Doha

Qatar, a major oil-producing country, is hosting the latest round of UN climate talks, where the world's countries will need to negotiate measurable targets to keep global warming under control.

By Stephen Leahy

DOHA, Nov 26 2012 (IPS) - The upcoming United Nations climate talks may have a renewed sense of urgency with a new World Bank report warning that the planet is on a dangerous path to four degrees Celsius of global warming by 2100.



A family walks along the beach in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region, in northeastern Nicaragua.
Credit: Germán Miranda/IPS

“Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided”, released on Nov. 19, [was prepared for the World Bank](#) by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Climate Analytics.

But the [18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([COP 18](#)) that begins Nov. 26 in Doha, Qatar has become extremely complex.

There is agreement amongst the 194 nations that are parties to the Convention on the need to set a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mainly from burning fossil fuels, to keep the increase in global temperatures below two degrees, to avoid catastrophic climate change.

That target is easy enough to understand, but exactly how this can be achieved has been the subject of intense and complex negotiations for many years, said Jennifer Morgan, director of the Climate and Energy Program of the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based NGO.

Last year at COP 17 in Durban it took extra days of negotiations for countries to finally agree to launch a new round of negotiations to create a legally binding international agreement.

That agreement will require carbon emission reductions for all nations by 2015 to meet the two-degree target. It is intended to be ratified and enter into force by 2020.

“No one knows what this new agreement will look like,” Morgan told Tierramérica in a press conference. “Are countries going to show up in Doha with the will to create a solid work plan?”

2015 is only three years off. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which requires some industrialized countries to reduce their emissions, was negotiated in less than three years. However, it took another eight years to be ratified by enough countries to enter into force, and some key nations like the United States backed out of the Protocol.

One of the major issues in Doha will be “ambition”, said Morgan. Ambition refers to how big the emission cuts that nations are prepared to agree to will be.

Climate science clearly shows that to stay below two degrees of warming, global greenhouse gas emissions must begin to decline by 2020.

To do this, industrialized nations must trim their emissions output by 25 to 40 percent below their 1990 emission levels.

The United States has pledged to make a three percent reduction compared to 1990 levels. The United Kingdom is aiming for a 34 percent reduction and has already reached 18 percent.

“We hope the U.S. will bring a new strategy, including greater ambition, to Doha,” said Morgan.

Most countries’ current reduction pledges are nowhere near what is needed, said Bill Hare, director of Climate Analytics, a non-profit climate science advisory group based in Berlin.

Countries have to find ways to trim another 9 to 11 billion tons of CO₂ by 2020 or forget two degrees Celsius, Hare told Tierramérica.

This “emissions gap” between the reductions pledged and those needed to keep the climate under control is growing larger, based on new data to be released this week by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Hare’s group.

“The gap keeps getting bigger... making it ever more difficult and costly to stay below two degrees,” said Hare.

Deforestation is the second largest source of climate-heating carbon emissions after fossil fuels.

To provide a financial incentive for developing countries to reduce deforestation, a controversial programme called [REDD+](#) (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) is also being negotiated at COP 18.

Forests are far more valuable than places to store carbon, according to the first comprehensive scientific assessment of REDD+ and potential impacts on biodiversity and local peoples’ livelihoods.

Conserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods are essential if REDD+ is going to work, says the new study, “Understanding Relationships Between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives. A Global Assessment Report”.

Coordinated by the world’s largest network of forest scientists, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), the report will be formally presented during the meeting in Doha.

“The world’s rapidly dwindling forests are not just carbon warehouses,” John Parrotta, report co-author and scientist with the United States Forest Service, told Tierramérica. “Forests provide a wide range of environmental goods and services that people need.” Those goods and services include cleaning water, preventing flooding, and providing food and habitat for humans and many other creatures like bees that perform valuable services like pollination.

Deforestation currently gobbles up an area the size of Greece (13 million hectares) every year, and is driven mostly by conversion to agriculture and by the wood products industries. REDD+ is an attempt to reverse this by creating a financial value for the carbon stored in forests.

Trees take heat-trapping carbon out of the atmosphere as they grow and store it for as long as the trees live. Instead of cutting down trees and selling the wood, the carbon trapped in the living trees can be sold as “carbon credits” on an open market.

A steel, cement, or coal-fired power company in the United States or a European country can then buy those credits instead of reducing its carbon emissions. The current price is around 10 dollars per ton, but this fluctuates.

Like any market, the carbon market demands verification of how much carbon is in a forest and how much carbon will remain there over 40, 60 or 80 years. This is both very technical and very expensive to do.

Purchasers of carbon credits also want contractual agreements with forest owners to guarantee the carbon stays in the forest, which may prevent local people from using the forest to grow food, fix a roof or even hunt for generations.

While REDD+ could protect forests and be an annual revenue source for local people, doing it right is very complex and there is much work left to do, said Parrotta. “It is hard to see how there will be much progress at Doha.”

* This story was originally published by Latin American newspapers that are part of the Tierramérica network. Tierramérica is a specialised news service produced by IPS with the backing of the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank.

<http://www.tierramerica.info/nota.php?lang=eng&idnews=4128>

Selected Online Pick Up:

Inter Press Service

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/11/the-planets-thermostat-moves-to-doha/>

Reuters AlertNet

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/the-planets-thermostat-moves-to-doha>



UN IRIN (Kenya)

CLIMATE CHANGE: To save trees, save people



Photo: Charles Akens/IRIN

A growing tree absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - the carbon stays in the tree until it is destroyed

JOHANNESBURG, [21 November 2012](#) (IRIN)

- Scientists are pushing for changes to a UN mechanism that aims to curtail greenhouse gases by preventing forest loss.

Environmentalists have long argued the mechanism must also protect biodiversity and forest-dependent communities. Now, ahead of [climate talks in Doha](#), this thinking is finding a broader audience.

The mechanism, REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) and its successor, REDD+ (which additionally aims

to reverse forest loss), emerged through years of UN climate change negotiations. It is currently designed to provide financial incentives for forest preservation, attaching a monetary value to carbon captured by forests. But its implementation has long been stalled, besieged by questions over its provisions and funding.

A [new assessment](#) by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the world's largest network of forest scientists, may help policymakers reshape REDD+ for the better. The assessment shows that efforts to conserve forests for the purpose of reducing emissions cannot work without protecting biodiversity and the well-being of forest dwellers.

These findings bolster the arguments that green lobbyists and others have been making for years, finally helping to convince policymakers.

Stephen Leonard, president of the Climate Justice Program, a legal NGO, told IRIN in an

email, "I think the dialogue has shifted quite significantly, especially in terms of recognizing that a multiple benefits approach - i.e., benefits for carbon, community and biodiversity - is important for a long-term outcome. It's a question of how you achieve and incentivize that."

Capturing carbon

Forests remove an enormous amount of carbon from the atmosphere; 57 percent of the carbon emitted by human beings is absorbed by ecosystems and the ocean.

Deforestation, on the other hand, contributes between 12 and 20 percent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions - about the same as the transport sector, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - making it the second-largest source of emissions caused by humans.

Environmentalists argue a biodiverse ecosystem is more effective in removing carbon from the atmosphere and regulating the climate.

Biodiversity can also help address the developmental needs of marginalized forest-dwellers, providing sources of livelihood such as fruit tree cultivation, the collection of medicinal plants, or even the sustainable harvesting of wildlife meat. Currently, many of these communities are forced to cut down trees to survive. Deforestation, resulting mainly from ongoing conversion of forests to agricultural land, is the major cause of biodiversity loss on land.

How it began

The REDD proposal was accepted at the 2007 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Bali, Indonesia. Despite discussion of biodiversity and forest-dwellers, the mechanism ended up focusing on monetary rewards for forest conservation.

Initially designed to benefit countries with rainforests, REDD+ now covers all developing countries, which could be compensated for forests preserved from a fund or with credits to be traded on international carbon markets.

Activists persisted in trying to address the rights of indigenous forest communities and

biodiversity at later UNFCCC meetings. These issues were finally recognized as "safeguards", or conditions that countries were required to meet to qualify for REDD+ funding, in the 2010 UNFCCC meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

The UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) was asked to develop guidance on how this could be done, notes a Greenpeace [report](#). But the process "stalled somewhat" in the 2011 UNFCCC meeting in Durban, South Africa, the report said, "and many felt some governments were even moving backwards on their commitments regarding safeguards."

No policies have yet been developed to implement the REDD+ safeguards.

Safeguards should be central

Biodiversity and forest communities "cannot be mere conditions but [must be] central objectives of REDD+", said Bhaskar Vira, a senior lecturer at Cambridge University and one of the authors of the IUFRO assessment. "The report argues that pursuing social objectives alongside REDD+ will increase the likelihood of achieving carbon and biodiversity goals," he added.

This thinking is gaining currency. Leonard of the Climate Justice Program said, "I think there has been some shift in the perception of safeguards... fewer are seeing them as conditionalities and more as enablers."

Roman Czebiniak, a senior political advisor on climate change and forests at Greenpeace, told IRIN, "We agree that the protection of the rights of forest communities and biodiversity must be a central objective of REDD+... A REDD programme that focuses only the carbon risks losing the forests for the trees."

This changing view of REDD+ was apparent at this year's UNFCCC meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. A paper of the REDD+ Safeguards Working Group (R-SWG), reporting on the meeting, pointed out that "REDD+ payments should go beyond carbon benefits... Achieving multiple benefits... is more likely to produce lasting results."

Many scientists agree. "There is clear evidence that including objectives to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and local communities will strengthen local

involvement and acceptance, and thereby support REDD+ goals,” said Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative.

“Socio-economic impacts should therefore be considered early on in REDD+ planning and implementation. Tenure and property rights, including rights of access, use and ownership in particular, also need to be emphasized as they are crucial to ensuring the sustainable success of REDD+ activities.”

A number of countries have even begun to develop their own national safeguard standards.

Nils Hermann Ranum, head of policy and campaign division at Regnskogfondet - Rainforest Foundation Norway, said, "Given that a narrow carbon focus is not likely to give the results we hoped for from REDD+ - [results such as] biodiversity protection and strengthened rights and livelihoods for indigenous peoples and local communities - I believe we have to rethink how we define results for REDD+."

Lack of political will

But even as REDD+ appears to be evolving, many feel the entire process is being stymied by a lack of political will.

In Durban in 2011, countries managed to agree on an extension of the Kyoto Protocol, which aims to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, to 2017. But the [nail-biting talks spilled](#) into two all-night sessions, and still failed to result in an agreement on revised emissions targets.

And after years of talks, countries have repeatedly failed to agree on a plan for after the Kyoto treaty expires.

The R-SWG paper noted, "There is increasing recognition that a narrow model based solely on a market for credits for emission reduction... is not feasible in the short term due to the limited political will to set stringent and ambitious mitigation targets..."

Even the changing vision of REDD+ might not produce tangible results, reckons Greenpeace's Czebiniak. "I have not seen much positive progress... this year, nor indeed

since Cancun... My expectations for positive progress in Doha are quite low... given the stalemate on many issues and the general lack of political will for science-based reductions and the finance needed to achieve them."

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96841/CLIMATE-CHANGE-To-save-trees-save-people>

Broadcast



Voice of America

Trees Stand Tall Against Climate Change



Degraded forest landscape in the Offinso District, Ghana. The original high forest cover has been modified through over-exploitation of wood, agriculture and human settlements. (Photo by Ernest Foli, FORNESSA)

Audio File Available

Joe DeCapua

Last updated on: November 16, 2012 11:42 AM

The next U.N. Climate Change Conference gets underway November 26 in Doha, Qatar. Once again, negotiators will try to reach a broad agreement on dealing with rising global temperatures. Deforestation is expected to be on the agenda.

The meeting is known as COP 18, or the 18th meeting of the Conference of Parties of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. There are now 195 parties to the treaty, but a definitive agreement on coping with a warming planet has been hard to come by.

In 1997, parties adopted the Kyoto Protocol, which aimed to legally bind developed countries to specific emission reduction targets. The protocol's original commitment period was supposed to end this year. But last year, negotiators agreed to extend it, possibly by either five or eight years. That's yet to be decided.

In advance of COP 18, 60 experts with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations have released a new report on reducing carbon emissions. The report said, "The relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forests and people are complex and interdependent." It added that "reducing the rates of global deforestation and forest degradation will yield substantial gains for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation."

One of the authors is John Parrotta, chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, who said keeping forests healthy is vital to mitigating the effects of climate change.

"They can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere – carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases contribute to climate change. They can either absorb them -- if they're expanding and growing -- or forest areas can be a source of carbon dioxide and exacerbate climate change, if, as we are seeing in many parts of the world, forests are being lost, being cleared or being degraded. So forests actually are a very important piece of the overall climate change picture," he said.

Parrotta, a senior scientist with the U.S. Forest Service, has tracked the rate of deforestation worldwide.

"The rate of forest decline is actually slowing worldwide, but there's still a net loss of forests globally. Between 1990 and 2000, forest area was lost at a rate of 8.3 million hectares per year. And over the next 10 years, between 2000 and 2010, forest area loss went down to 5.2 million hectares. It's still a very, very rapid rate of forest loss worldwide," he said.

There's also forest degradation. While this does not mean a loss of forest area, it does mean a loss of quality in forest ecosystems, including soil, vegetation and animal life. This has a direct effect on those whose livelihoods depend on forests.

The U.N. estimates the world population will reach 9 billion by 2050, bringing with it a much greater demand for food. Growing appetites could lead to greater deforestation as more trees are felled to make room for agriculture. The report recommended smarter agricultural practices to bring greater productivity on existing agricultural land.

When the super storm Hurricane Sandy battered the northeastern United States, it renewed debate and interest on the effects of rising global temperatures.

Asked whether it would take a natural disaster regarding forests to raise awareness, the scientist said, "History suggests that might be the case. One hopes you don't have to wait until you're at the edge of the cliff to do something. In the case of the scientific community, we're trying to compile and communicate what we know, and hopefully that will help guide decision-making."

There is a proposed U.N. mechanism to protect forests and ease climate change. It's called REDD, which stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in developing countries. The U.N. says REDD relies on the technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the U.N. Development Program and the U.N. Environment Program. One of the goals is to include indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities in policymaking.

The report said critics of the program warn of a "lack of clarity" regarding funding, as well as possible "environmental and social risks and inequity associated with various aspects of REDD."

Parrotta said while deforestation has been on the climate change conference agenda, it's time to act.

"The sooner the better. The sooner the better. As long as the current trends continue with respect to current levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and with respect to the extent and condition of forests, the worse it's going to be to try to reverse these trends," he said.

He added, "Actions that reduce deforestation and degradation are likely to have the most immediate and greatest benefits for both carbon and biodiversity."

COP 18, the U.N. Climate Change Conference, will be held in Doha from November 26 to December 7.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/climate-forests-16nov12/1547532.html>

Comunidades locais fortalecem REED+

Uma das formas consideradas mais importantes para frear a degradação ambiental no mundo é a Redução de Emissões por Desmatamento e Degradação, mais conhecida pela sigla REED+. Por meio dela, países ricos podem financiar a preservação de florestas em nações em desenvolvimento e contabilizar os benefícios causados na sua conta ambiental. Em outras palavras, se um país europeu

emitir muito carbono, mas impedir que o gás seja lançado na atmosfera ao evitar o desmatamento na Ásia ou na Amazônia, pode considerar que a segunda ação compensou a primeira.

O primeiro grande estudo a analisar tanto os aspectos sociais quanto ambientais do mecanismo será divulgado formalmente na COP18, em Doha. Elaborada pela União Internacional de Organizações de Pesquisa

Artwork: Sotoc/RFP - iStock12



Área de preservação: políticas ambientais devem incluir a comunidade

Florestal (IUFRO), com a participação de centenas de pesquisadores ao redor do mundo, a pesquisa *Política florestal: Não devemos ter que escolher entre carbono e criaturas* descobriu que as populações locais, como indígenas e grupos tradicionais, têm um papel fundamental na efetividade do REED.

"Descobrimos que, quando as populações são levadas em consideração, o REED é muito mais eficiente, sustentável e duradouro", explica Bernardo Strassburg, do Instituto Internacional de Sustentabilidade (IIS) e um dos autores da pesquisa. Segundo o levantamento, outro ponto fundamental para o sucesso

de ações de REED é o respeito à biodiversidade. "Quando comunidades e biodiversidade são beneficiadas, a proteção das florestas aumenta", comenta.

Isso, infelizmente, não é sempre levado em conta. "Não é o caso do Brasil, mas, no passado, antes mesmo de o REED ter esse nome, já houve situações em que reservas foram criadas e as comunidades locais expulsas dali", conta o pesquisador brasileiro. Nesses casos, além da destabilização dos grupos, a criação de zonas de proteção se mostrou ineficaz na hora de cumprir seu principal papel: manter as florestas de pé. (MMN)

Volta ao mundo por um acordo

Veja as principais expectativas e os resultados alcançados nos recentes conferências sobre mudanças climáticas

COP13

• Bali (Indonésia), 2007

Expectativas: Alcançar um consenso sobre a necessidade de adotar medidas urgentes e universais para a diminuição dos efeitos das mudanças climáticas.

Resultados: Apesar de algumas nações, entre elas os Estados Unidos, permanecerem com certo ceticismo em relação ao tema, o Bali Action Plan determinou que um novo acordo seria firmado em 2009.

COP14

• Poznań (Polónia), 2008

Expectativas: Aprofundar cinco pontos propostos pelo Bali Action Plan para facilitar o consenso na conferência do ano seguinte. Esses pontos incluem a transferência de tecnologias menos poluentes para países em desenvolvimento e a diminuição das emissões de carbono.

Resultados: A expectativa por um posicionamento do então recém-eleito presidente dos EUA, Barack Obama, trouxe um avanço mais rápido nas negociações. Das cinco metas, houve consenso em apenas uma: a formação de um fundo

internacional para ajudar países pobres a lidar com as mudanças no clima.

COP15

• Copenhague (Dinamarca), 2009

Expectativas: Como previa o plano elaborado na Indonésia, seria na conferência de Copenhague que o novo protocolo que substituiria o de Kyoto seria assinado. Por essa razão, 133 chefes de governo e Estado compareceram ao evento, o maior número em uma conferência ambiental desde a Rio 92, no Brasil.

Resultados: O que era para ser um momento histórico na mudança das

políticas ambientais em todo o mundo foi considerado por muitos um fiasco. Um acordo mais simples foi assinado nos instantes finais da conferência, mas sem efeitos vinculantes, ou seja, sem a obrigatoriedade de cumprimento pelas nações.

COP16

• Cancun (México), 2010

Expectativas: Com o fracasso da conferência anterior, as esperanças para a reunião do México se tornaram pequenas. O objetivo da maioria dos negociadores se transformou em solucionar uma

série de questões que impediam as negociações de um acordo mais amplo.

Resultados: De certa forma, esse objetivo foi alcançado. O número de países que aceitaram assumir metas de redução de emissão aumentou, e os financiamentos cresceram. No entanto, o grupo liderado pelos EUA permaneceu irredutível quanto à adoção de metas de redução da poluição.

COP-17

• Durban (África do Sul), 2011

Expectativas: Se por um lado a conferência do México conseguiu

avançar, criando a expectativa por mais avanços, por outro o balde de água fria da COP16 ainda deixava os negociadores otimistas. O principal objetivo era finalmente fechar um acordo que substituisse o Protocolo de Kyoto.

Resultados: Por um lado, foi um sucesso, já que ficaram garantidas a segunda fase do Protocolo de Kyoto, entre 2013 e 2017, e a discussão sobre um novo acordo global de redução de emissões para vigorar após 2020. Porém, não foi estipulado como ficará a questão entre 2017 e 2020. Além disso, Rússia, Canadá e Japão se juntaram aos EUA e se recusaram a aceitar a fase 2 do protocolo.

<http://www2.correio braziliense.com.br/sersustentavel/?p=7661>



Ciencia Hoje (Brazil)

E o Redd?

Estudos mostram que iniciativas para redução de emissões por desmatamento em países em desenvolvimento ainda não são levadas a sério por países ricos e mercado. Para obter sucesso, especialistas propõem levar em conta biodiversidade e sociedade ao planejar projetos.

Por: Sofia Moutinho

Publicado em 30/11/2012 | Atualizado em 30/11/2012



Mas vale uma árvore em pé ou derrubada? Para que a resposta ‘em pé’ seja benéfica tanto para o meio ambiente quanto para a economia, a Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU) lançou o conceito de Redd – Redução das Emissões por Desmatamento e Degradação Florestal. Por meio do programa [UN-Redd](#), a instituição incentiva países em desenvolvimento a diminuir suas emissões de gases estufa provenientes de desmatamento

e receber por isso compensações financeiras na forma de doações ou créditos de carbono vendidos a governos mais ricos ou empresas.

O esquema de compensação não é imune a críticas, mas ainda assim o Redd vem sendo apontado por especialistas como uma boa ferramenta para combater as mudanças climáticas. Isso porque as florestas funcionam como enormes esponjas absorvedoras de carbono da atmosfera. Mas quais são as chances de sucesso e em que pé andam os projetos de Redd?

As discussões sobre o assunto têm marcado presença nas últimas conferências da ONU sobre mudanças climáticas – as COPs –, mas muitos países, como o próprio Brasil, ainda não têm um marco regulatório para o Redd. Mesmo assim, os investimentos são consideráveis. No mês passado, a diretoria de políticas do UN-Redd aprovou em seu [orçamento para os próximos dois anos](#) 47,6 milhões de dólares para ações nacionais de Redd+ – versão atualizada do projeto que inclui a conservação das florestas como forma de evitar emissões.

No entanto, segundo [relatório escrito por mais de 60 cientistas](#), inclusive brasileiros, que será apresentado pela [União Internacional de Organizações de Pesquisa Florestal](#) (IUFRO, na sigla em inglês) no dia 2 de dezembro na [COP-18](#), em Doha, Qatar, essas iniciativas só podem ter sucesso se levarem em conta a biodiversidade das florestas e as pessoas que vivem nelas.

O documento, que é um apanhado de diversos estudos na área, aponta que a biodiversidade é determinante na capacidade das florestas de absorver carbono, mas que isso nem sempre é lembrado durante o planejamento de projetos de Redd+. Uma das autoras do trabalho, a ecóloga Joice Ferreira, da Embrapa Amazônia Oriental, aponta que ecossistemas com muita biodiversidade e pouca capacidade de estoque de carbono correm o risco de receber menos atenção do que outros com mais capacidade de absorção.

“Não é apenas a taxa de absorção do carbono que conta para as emissões”, afirma. “Temos que considerar todo o ciclo do carbono, que é influenciado pela variedade de espécies no ecossistema. Uma floresta com alta biodiversidade desempenha funções que garantem sua sobrevivência por um período maior de tempo, por consequência, mais absorção de carbono em longo prazo.”

Os autores do documento, entre eles o economista Bernardo Strassburg, do Instituto Internacional para Sustentabilidade, apontam ainda que pensar no sustento e na qualidade de vida dos habitantes das florestas garante melhores iniciativas de conservação e redução de desmatamento. Um exemplo é a implementação nas comunidades de sistemas agroflorestais de cultivo que oferecem sustento a seus membros ao mesmo tempo em que conservam a cobertura verde.

“A participação das comunidades é fundamental até para o próprio objetivo de redução de carbono”, diz Strassburg. “Por muito tempo se pensou que levar em conta a comunidade era uma concessão necessária para alcançar os objetivos de carbono, mas nosso estudo mostra que os projetos de Redd+ são mais bem-sucedidos e sustentáveis quando há o envolvimento da sociedade e isso se reverte também na mitigação de carbono.”

Redd+ no Brasil

O Ministério do Meio Ambiente está formulando uma política nacional de Redd+ e alguns estados, como Acre, Amazônia e Mato Grosso, já têm legislação própria para tratar do tema. De acordo com levantamento mais recente do Serviço Florestal Brasileiro, existem no país 18 projetos de Redd+, 12% implementados, 53% em fase de elaboração e 35% em negociação e captação de recursos.

Para Strassburg, um dos desafios atuais do Redd+ no Brasil é conciliar as políticas dos estados e do governo federal. “O objetivo final do Redd é mudar a maneira que usamos a terra e diminuir as emissões de carbono e, para isso, as políticas estaduais e nacionais têm que estar integradas e os setores de agricultura e transporte também têm que levar o Redd em consideração”, diz.

Apesar dos desafios, o diretor-executivo do Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia, Paulo Moutinho, acredita que o país tem tudo para se sobressair mundialmente nas iniciativas de Redd+. “O Redd+ poderá trazer recursos importantes para o Brasil e estamos preparados, temos uma posição privilegiada para aproveitar todo o potencial econômico que esse mecanismo oferece”, diz o biólogo, autor do livro [*Redd no Brasil – Um enfoque amazônico*](#).

Paralisação global

Quando o assunto são os créditos de carbono, porém, o Brasil e demais países em desenvolvimento ainda precisam lidar com a paralisação do mercado. Atualmente, a maioria dos investimentos em Redd+ é público ou voluntário e a procura por créditos de carbono é pequena.

“A discussão em torno do Redd foi por muito tempo focada na oferta; dizia-se que os países em desenvolvimento não teriam a capacidade de diminuir o desmatamento”, comenta Strassburg. “Mas hoje o problema é o oposto, o mercado está parado porque não existe demanda por Redd. Países em desenvolvimento, como o Brasil, estão prontos para oferecer créditos de carbono via Redd, que têm um impacto enorme nas mudanças climáticas, mas nada acontece por falta de interesse.”

Uma explicação para a paralisação do mercado pode ser o alto custo de monitoramento das estratégias de Redd+. Joice Ferreira conta que um dos modos mais eficientes de estimar a taxa de absorção de carbono de uma área de floresta conservada ou restaurada é também o mais caro: [usar altas torres instaladas na mata que medem as trocas gasosas entre a vegetação e a atmosfera](#).

Strassburg acredita, no entanto, que a estagnação se deve à falta de comprometimento global para minimizar os impactos das mudanças climáticas; sem metas definidas, não existe pressão para compensar emissões.

[Um estudo publicado nesta semana](#) pelo Instituto Internacional para o Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento (IIED, na sigla em inglês) corrobora essa tese. O trabalho mostra que pelo menos 30 bilhões de dólares foram prometidos por nações ricas em 2009 para serem direcionados ao Redd+ até 2012, mas somente 23,6 bilhões chegaram ao seu destino. Além disso, segundo o estudo, apenas 20% desse valor foi realmente alocado em projetos de adaptação às mudanças do clima em países pobres. O restante corresponde a empréstimos que devem ser pagos.

“É imprescindível negociar uma resposta global às mudanças climáticas e as nações mais ricas podem adiantar esse processo ao cumprir suas promessas passadas”, diz uma das autoras, Saleemul Huq, do IIED. “Países mais ricos precisam mostrar às nações mais pobres que estão comprometidos a trabalhar em conjunto nesse desafio global.”

<http://cienciahoje.uol.com.br/noticias/2012/11/e-o-redd>

Original Online



Center for International Forestry Research's Forests News Blog (USA)

No success for REDD+ in Doha until links between carbon, biodiversity & people better understood

BY



The relationship between forests, biodiversity and people cannot be ignored by climate mitigation schemes. *Jan van der Ploeg/CIFOR.*

Ashlee Betteridge

DOHA, Qatar (29 November, 2012) While there is no one-size-fits-all solution to forest loss and degradation, the management of forests under REDD+ schemes must be adapted to local contexts to ensure both carbon and biodiversity goals are attained, say scientists.

Christoph Wildburger and John Parrotta from the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and co-authors of a new study that explores the relationship between forests, biodiversity and people, spoke with Forest News on the sidelines of the UN Climate talks in Doha, Qatar.

They highlighted the need to ensure that trade-offs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals are carefully addressed by schemes to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+).

Q: Your research was based on a comprehensive analysis of scientific literature about forests and land management as well as specific REDD+ experiences. What did you learn?

A: The evidence is quite clear that by pursuing both biodiversity and social objectives in REDD+ planning at the earliest stages, the odds are considerably improved that REDD+ activities will yield significant and lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Q: What are the key links between biodiversity and carbon and why are they so critical?

A: Some of the key linkages between biodiversity and carbon include photosynthesis, decomposition and carbon storage. However, these processes are complex and result from interactions among many species that form a forest ecosystem. At broader scales, a rich biodiversity enables forests to be resilient to environmental change and wise resource use by humans. In tropical forests, resilience results in a long-term capacity of forests to store carbon. Hence, the loss of species causes declines in processes at several scales, with consequently reduced carbon stored in forests.

Q: What role do people play in this relationship?

A: People are strongly dependent on the goods (ranging from timber to fuel, food and medicines) and the ecosystem services that forests and their biodiversity provide, including carbon sequestration. Clearance of forests for agriculture and forest degradation (e.g. from unsustainable logging and wild fires) places the integrity of forest ecosystems, and their ability to continue to provide these critically important benefits to people across the world, in jeopardy. It also has a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable populations, who are often most dependent on forests for their subsistence.

Careful management approaches that take into account the complexity of forest biodiversity, and the myriad of species-driven ecological functions that help support the ecosystem can help restore degraded areas and safeguard the world's remaining forests against future human impacts and climate change.

Q: How can these relationships impact on the effectiveness of REDD+?

A: Recognition of the importance of forests to people can potentially increase the effectiveness of REDD+ actions, if those actions take account of, and aim to meet the needs of, local people for resources and services from forests. Where these needs are ignored or insufficiently incorporated in planning and management for REDD+, there is a danger that REDD+ actions will lack local support and therefore may fail, leaving forests vulnerable to destruction or degradation that impair their ability to provide vital services, including climate change mitigation.

If people's well-being is seen as a core objective, it is much more likely that REDD+ activities will be compatible with the aspirations of local stakeholders.

Q: What tools and approaches can policymakers use to balance these relationships when designing REDD+ projects?

A: REDD+ emerged within a larger landscape of forest and land use governance. There is a wide array of existing intergovernmental agreements, environmental and social certification schemes, multi-lateral funding mechanisms, and national and local governance mechanisms of relevance to REDD+, biodiversity, human rights and sustainable livelihoods.

Rather than simply generating new tools and new layers of complexity, the challenge for REDD+ projects is to engage with affected stakeholders in identifying locally appropriate approaches that can also demonstrate synergies with broader national and international norms.

Q: What other steps can be taken to ensure REDD+ does not impact negatively on carbon, biodiversity and people?

A: Caution is needed when extrapolating management recommendations across different forest and woodland ecosystems. No single approach can be necessarily replicated widely; instead strategies to implement REDD+ actions will need to be tailored to specific local and regional settings.

Moreover, the trade-offs between carbon and biodiversity need to be addressed in REDD+ planning and implementation to minimize the risk of unintended negative impacts, such as the displacement of forest degradation or deforestation to other areas. An integrated landscape management approach helps to define and address resulting trade-offs and provides a useful tool to reconcile environmental, social and economic considerations relevant to REDD+.

Furthermore, for REDD+ implementation to be most effective socio-economic impacts should be considered early on in REDD+ implementation, and tenure and property rights, including rights of access, use and ownership, need to be clear.

The report, Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives will be presented at the discussion forum REDD+, biodiversity and people: Opportunities and Risks at Forest Day 6, which will be held on the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP18 on December 2.

<http://blog.cifor.org/12663/doha-no-success-for-redd-until-we-understand-local-links-between-carbon-biodiversity-and-people/#.ULd8LqzBFCY>

Selected Online Pick Up:

Forest Carbon Portal

<http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/no-success-redd-doha-until-links-between-carbon-biodiversity-people-better-understood>

Reuters AlertNet

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/climate-conversations/no-success-for-redd-in-doha-until-links-between-carbon-biodiversity-people-better-understood/>



Deutsche Welle (Germany)

Biodiversity neglected in countdown to Doha

Date [21.11.2012](#)

Author Shant Shahrigan

Editor Saroja Coelho



Biodiversity is a vital part of lowering carbon emissions - but an overlooked one, according to forest experts. In a paper for the upcoming UN conference on climate change in Doha, they call for a new point of view.

Consider the toucan. The South American bird is beloved around the world for its vibrant beak and proud posture. It is actually known to benefit from deforestation, because it flocks to the kinds of open land that is created when trees are cut down.

Other species are not so lucky. Widespread deforestation is depriving many creatures of their native habitats. Worse still, efforts to reforest land are not always effective. Once animals are driven out, it's hard to bring them back. That has far-reaching consequences, according to a groundbreaking report that the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is to present at the climate talks in Doha, Qatar.

"We found out that biodiversity is a key determinant of forest ability to sequester and store carbon," said Christoph Wildburger, Coordinator of an IUFRO-led initiative called the Global Forest Expert Panels.

Biodiversity's benefits

The new report delves into previously uncharted territory, investigating the connections between biodiversity, forests, carbon emissions and human beings. It argues that the less biodiversity there is in a forest, the poorer job the forest will do of absorbing carbon gas.



The report calls for a more thoughtful approach to reforestation



Involving locals could have many benefits

The reason isn't simply that decreased biodiversity means fewer bees to pollinate flowers. Rather, they chart out an elaborate system of effects that biodiversity has on a forest's health.

Basically, the more diverse and interconnected the species in a forest are, the healthier the forest will be. And healthy forests mean a whole range of benefits, such as food, water, erosion control – and the removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

"If you have a certain area of forest breaking down because it lost a certain amount of biodiversity, you will lose carbon storage," Wildburger told DW in an interview. If "a forest system will lose its stability, then you will lose a lot of ecosystem services – maybe also carbon sequestration."

Call for action

Wild species are not the only animals discussed in the report, which is titled "Understanding Relationships Between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The key to achieving REDD+ objectives."

The paper also calls for policy makers to "add people to the picture" when pursuing REDD+ aims, a set of UN goals to reduce greenhouse gases from deforestation through financial goals. Wildburger pointed to a project in Tanzania as a successful case of involving locals in the fight against carbon emissions.

After swathes of trees were cut in the northern region of Shinyanga, locals banded together to use traditional means of reforestation. According to the report, the



Expectations are mixed ahead of the Doha conference

area had been "dramatically transformed" by 2000 – with benefits to the environment and locals alike.

"They got more supplies from different forest goods and services," Wildburger said, "and at the same time there were a lot of carbon benefits because a lot of trees were planted. That's quite a good example of a win-win situation."

As of this summer, 75 countries had joined a partnership to support or implement the REDD+ goals, according to reddpluspartnership.org. The IUFRO report will get its hearing [on Dec. 2](#) in Doha.

<http://www.dw.de/biodiversity-neglected-in-countdown-to-doha/a-16393875>



Green Building Elements (USA)

Keys to Understanding Possible Impacts On Forest Biodiversity And People

NOVEMBER 16, 2012 BY GLENN MEYERS

First comprehensive scientific assessment shows that conserving biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods are essential components for achieving climate change mitigation goals.



There appears to be too much information about the [world's dwindling forests](#) that is not properly considered. A new study released by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) contends that biodiversity is found to be a critical determinant of a forest's ability to absorb greenhouse gases. The assessment also stresses that accounting for those who live in or near forests when implementing REDD+ (reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and enhancing forest carbon stocks in developing countries) increases the likelihood of achieving carbon and biodiversity goals.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between biodiversity, forest management and climate change mitigation in the framework of the United Nations-

backed initiative REDD+. Importantly, the report reviews the social implications of forest and land management interventions envisaged under REDD+ and points to the need for an integrated landscape management approach that involves all people who have a stake in forests.

Over 60 scientists collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication “*Understanding Relationships between Biodiversity, Carbon, Forests and People: The Key to Achieving REDD+ Objectives. A Global Assessment Report.*” The report – coordinated by IUFRO on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests – will be formally presented on December 2nd during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Doha, Qatar.

“The study comes at a crucial point in time as climate negotiators and forest stakeholders ponder ways to move forward with REDD+ agreements reached at the previous climate summit in Durban. The goals, to secure social and environmental benefits, good governance and long-term financing, are critically important,” said IUFRO executive director Alexander Buck in a press announcement.

Here are parts of the release:

Carbon-wise may be biodiversity-foolish

“Actions that reduce deforestation and degradation are likely to have the most immediate and greatest benefits for both carbon and biodiversity”, said John Parrotta, an IUFRO scientist with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+, which prepared the report.

In fact, the rate of deforestation—mainly resulting from the conversion of forests to agriculture— was estimated to be 13 to 16 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2010, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Forest loss is the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions generated by humans. At the same time, it is a major cause of global biodiversity decline and could further reduce the ability of forests to effectively provide ecosystem services—services that nature supplies to humans, including carbon sequestration. As a result, human well-being—particularly for those people most dependent on forests and most vulnerable to poverty—could be significantly and adversely impacted.

While REDD+ actions can provide clear benefits, it is not always easy to predict or measure all impacts of such interventions on carbon and biodiversity as they depend on a variety of factors. The report coordinated by IUFRO notes that globally, some two billion hectares of land—an area greater than that of South America—are potentially available for forest restoration. But how forest restoration is accomplished determines whether the restored forests will attain both carbon and biodiversity goals. For example, restoring deforested and degraded forest lands with a variety of native tree species could bring far greater biodiversity than the establishment of extensive monocultures.

“There is no one-size-fits-all solution to forest loss and degradation. Impacts of REDD+ interventions are likely to vary significantly across different forest types and landscape conditions. These impacts may occur outside the area of management or in the future, and they can also evolve over time,” said Parrotta.

He noted that the report stressed how each REDD+ project must be designed to best fit the characteristics of the forest and surrounding landscape at hand. Potential trade-offs between climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation goals need to be carefully addressed. Lastly, forest management should strive to minimize the risk of unintended negative impacts on biodiversity and use forest goods and services at levels proven to be sustainable for the ecosystem.

Adding people to the picture makes a difference

REDD+ interventions will lead to socio-economic changes that may affect peoples’ lives, either positively or negatively. In the IUFRO report, scientists emphasize that most people and groups in tropical and sub-tropical regions who are dependent on forests are often also the most vulnerable to these changes.

“There is clear evidence that including objectives to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and local communities will strengthen local involvement and acceptance, and thereby support REDD+ goals,” said Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative. “Socio-economic impacts should therefore be considered early on in REDD+ planning and implementation. Tenure and property rights, including rights of access, use and ownership in particular, also need to be emphasized as they are crucial to ensuring the sustainable success of REDD+ activities.”

The report points out that the rights and livelihoods of the people potentially impacted by these activities need to be taken into account in any management decision related to forests and land use changes. An innovative REDD+ pilot project in Tanzania, for example, demonstrated the value of engaging village councils and assemblies in the joint forest management of state reserved forests and the community-based forest management of village lands. The project successfully increased communities’ revenues from forest management and generated new income streams to support community forestry while also bringing carbon benefits.

Another example of the delicate relationship between carbon, biodiversity and people was the creation of a buffer zone around Nepal’s Chitwan National Park. Trees were planted in severely degraded areas, and natural regeneration was promoted in less degraded forest habitats as a means of reducing pressure on the park and to provide firewood and other products to local communities. An unintended consequence of this forested buffer zone was an increase in human–tiger conflict as tigers were able to roam beyond the limits of the park. In this case, both the costs and benefits to local communities were significant while benefits for biodiversity and carbon were positive.

The REDD+ Landscape

REDD+ interventions, even if limited to one specific site, will often have impacts beyond the immediate surroundings. Therefore, the report highlights the importance of expanding the program's scope to include an integrated landscape management approach that helps identify and address trade-offs between biodiversity and carbon goals and better highlights the effects of REDD+ actions on stakeholders. This approach, together with regionally customized strategies that involve all stakeholders, is key to addressing and reconciling the many environmental, social and economic aspects relevant to REDD+.

"We need to consider all of the priorities for a particular landscape, such as food production, clean water, economic development, conservation and cultural and social values, to understand the different pressures facing forested areas", said Wildburger. "It may not be possible to reconcile all of these concerns. But over the long-term, REDD+ programs will not succeed, even at conserving carbon, unless there is a recognition of the trade-offs involved and an understanding of the relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forest management and people."

<http://greenbuildingelements.com/2012/11/16/keys-to-understanding-possible-impacts-on-forest-biodiversity-and-people/>

REDD+ must consider biodiversity, forest livelihoods to have any chance of success

November 16, 2012



Treefrog in Borneo. Photo by Rhett A. Butler.

Safeguarding biodiversity is a critical component in any plan to mitigate climate change through forest protection, argues a comprehensive new assessment published by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the world's largest network of forest scientists.

The report, which will be released December 2 at Forest Day 6 during the U.N. climate change conference in Doha, Qatar, is based on a large-scale review of scientific research on the relationship between biodiversity, forest management and climate change mitigation via the REDD+ program, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in tropical countries. The report concludes that in order for REDD+ to succeed, it must take an "integrated landscape management approach" and embrace strategies that involve all forest stakeholders.

“Actions that reduce deforestation and degradation are likely to have the most immediate and greatest benefits for both carbon and biodiversity”, said John Parrotta, an IUFRO scientist with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+, which prepared the report.

“There is no one-size-fits-all solution to forest loss and degradation. Impacts of REDD+ interventions are likely to vary significantly across different forest types and landscape conditions. These impacts may occur outside the area of management or in the future, and they can also evolve over time.”



Rainforest waterwall in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Photo by Rhett A. Butler.

The report warns that focusing solely on maximizing carbon sequestration by forests in the short-term could be detrimental to biodiversity and forest-dependent people in the long-term.

“There is clear evidence that including objectives to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and local communities will strengthen local involvement and acceptance, and thereby support REDD+ goals,” said Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative, in a statement. “Socio-economic impacts should therefore be considered early on in REDD+ planning and implementation. Tenure and property rights, including rights of access, use and ownership in particular, also need to be emphasized as they are crucial to ensuring the sustainable success of REDD+ activities.”

“We need to consider all of the priorities for a particular landscape, such as food production, clean water, economic development, conservation and cultural and social values, to understand the different pressures facing forested areas. It may not be possible to reconcile all of these concerns. But over the long-term, REDD+ programs will not succeed, even at conserving carbon, unless there is a recognition of the trade-offs involved and an understanding of the relationships between biodiversity, carbon, forest management and people.”

<http://news.mongabay.com/2012/1116-redd-iufro.html>

Selected Online Pick Up:

Forest Carbon Asia

<http://www.forestcarbonasia.org/in-the-media/redd-must-consider-biodiversity-forest-livelihoods-to-have-any-chance-of-success/>

Forest Carbon Portal

<http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/redd-must-consider-biodiversity-forest-livelihoods-have-any-chance-success>



Responding to Climate Change (UK)

REDD+ should value forests as more than “carbon warehouses”

Last updated on 15 November 2012, 6:26 pm
By Tierney Smith

Efforts to reduce emissions through deforestation must take into account the biodiversity and livelihood benefits of forests and view them as more than “carbon warehouses”, a new report has warned.

Researchers from the [International Union of Forest Research Organisations \(IUFRO\)](#) found biodiversity to be critical to a forest’s ability to absorb greenhouse gases. They called on policy makers to address the potential co-benefits of REDD+ for ecosystems and climate change.



REDD+ should not reduce forests to merely carbon stocks, warns report (Source: Taunting Panda/Flickr)

REDD+ is the UN’s scheme aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation. It offers financial incentives to developing countries to protect their tropical forests.

The call comes just over a week before countries head to the UN’s climate summit in Doha, Qatar, where they will discuss ways to move forward with REDD+ agreements reached at the last conference in Doha.

Environmental benefits and safeguards, good governance and financing the scheme will all be on the agenda at this year’s conference.

The IUFRO report found that globally there are around two billion hectares of land that are potentially available for forest restoration – an area larger than South America.

But finding the balance between carbon and biodiversity goals could be difficult, it warns. For example, restoring this land with a variety of native trees would bring better biodiversity benefits, while extensive monocultures of trees with higher rates of carbon absorption could benefit climate aims.

The report also warned that those people in tropical and sub-tropical rainforest regions, dependant on the forests could be vulnerable to the changes brought about by REDD+.

It says including these people in the scheme – addressing tenure and property rights, access, use and ownership – will also strengthen the scheme and lead to a higher chance of success.

“There is clear evidence that including objectives to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependant people and local communities will strengthen local involvement and acceptance, and thereby support REDD+ goals,” said Christoph Wildburger, from IUFRO.

Without the inclusion of these biodiversity and social concerns, REDD+ programmes will not succeed, even in conserving carbon, warns the report.

The report will be presented at the COP18 conference during Forest Day on 2 December.

<http://www.rtcc.org/redd-should-value-forests-as-more-than-carbon-warehouses/>

Indigenous biodiversity 'crucial' to forest futures

Talent Ng'andwe
13 December 2012

[HONG KONG] Forestry experts are calling for an increase in the use of native tree species in reforestation projects, arguing that they are better for [biodiversity](#) and can slow the pace of [global warming](#).

The recommendation appears in a report published by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) that was presented during the UN climate change conference in Doha, Qatar, earlier this month (2 December).

It was written by 60 leading [forestry](#) experts, who assert that forests are more than just carbon warehouses: they also shelter most of the world's plant and animal species, and supply impoverished communities with [food](#), [fuel](#) and as much as 59 per cent of their incomes.

SPEED READ

- Native species central to carbon removal and slowing global warming, says report
- Forestry plans must consider livelihoods and impacts on water, crops and soil erosion
- Local people 'critical determinant of whether forests survive'

John Parrotta, an international forest-science policy analyst with the US Forest Service and chair of the committee that prepared the report, says that [deforestation](#) and forest degradation must be checked to boost biodiversity and help remove carbon from the atmosphere.

He explains that, although it is costly, tree planting may be necessary for reforestation in certain places and should be targeted at areas where the restoration of forest cover will yield multiple benefits for communities. These include improved [water](#) quality, soil erosion control, crop pollination services and the provision of timber and non-timber products.

"While there is no one-size-fits-all model, there is increasing evidence that mixed-species planting, including those designed especially for the restoration of native forest ecosystems, generally offer greater advantages than single-species plantings for biodiversity recovery, as well as a broader range of valuable ecosystem services for people," Parrotta tells *SciDev.Net*.



Experts strongly emphasise need to include local people in forest planning
Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR

Christoph Wildburger, IUFRO's coordinator for global forest expert panels, says the report comes at a crucial time for the ongoing negotiations on measuring, reporting and verifying REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

The rate of [deforestation](#) — mainly resulting from the conversion of forests to agriculture — was estimated to be 13 to 16 million hectares per year between 1990 and 2010, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

REDD+ provides mechanisms and financial incentives to developing countries to implement [policies](#), programmes and projects designed to reduce [greenhouse gases](#) and prevent the destruction of forests.

Duncan Macqueen, head of the forest division at the International Institute for Environment and Development, tells *SciDev.Net* that local people are a critical determinant of whether forests survive or are cleared for other land uses. Ignoring the presence of local people is inadvisable for REDD+ schemes, he says.

Wildburger also emphasises the importance of including local people in forest planning.

"Poor recognition of property rights, for example, may exclude [local people] from decision making, limit their access to forest resources, deny them access to potential benefits from markets and may also facilitate land grabbing," he says.

[Link to full report](#)

This article has been produced by SciDev.Net's South-East Asia & Pacific desk.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/south-east-asia/news/indigenous-biodiversity-crucial-to-forest-futures-1.html>

Press Release Pick-up

Congoo

http://www.congoo.com/news/addstorycomment.aspx?st=212599510&Channel_ID=11&Category_ID=508

E! Science News

<http://esciencenews.com/sources/physorg/2012/11/16/no.success.redd.without.understanding.possible.impacts.forest.biodiversity.and.people>

GeneRef

<http://generef.com/newsstory.rss.html?pid=113452>

PhysOrg

<http://phys.org/news/2012-11-success-redd-impacts-forest-biodiversity.html>

Redd-monitor.org

<http://www.redd-monitor.org/2012/11/19/redd-in-the-news-12-18-november-2012/>

RoadRunner

<http://features.rr.com/article/09vA4qv4pz4aH?q=Global+Warming>

Science Codex

http://www.sciencecodex.com/no_success_for_redd_without_understanding_possible_impacts_on_forest_biodiversity_and_people-102250

Science Daily

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/11/121115210613.htm>

Science News

<http://www.science-news.eu/environment-news/cluster205038/>

Southwest Climate Change Network

<http://www.southwestclimatechange.org/news/feed/item/no-success-redd-without-understanding-possible-impacts-forest-biodiversity-people>