

Collaborators

REDD-ALERT is implemented by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in partnership with twelve research institutions in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. The collaboration builds on the ASB Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins, a global research consortium which since 1994 has been working on land use, climate change, livelihoods and environmental services in Southeast Asia, and the Amazon and Congo basins.

Photos: V. Meadri



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Georg August University of Göttingen (UGOE), Germany

Research Centre for Forest Ecology and Environment (RCFEE), Vietnam

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)*

Institut de Recherche Agricole pour le Développement (IRAD), Cameroon *

Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Indonesia

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* members of the ASB Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins

Linking knowledge to action

The project will provide a unique link between international policy-makers and stakeholders on the ground who need to be encouraged to change their behaviour regarding deforestation, thereby contributing to well-informed policymaking at the international level.

Knowledge generated in this project will facilitate the identification and assessment of viable policy options addressing the drivers of deforestation and their consistency with policy approaches on REDD currently being discussed in UNFCCC. By developing improved spatial quantification of land use change and the associated GHG fluxes, we will support improved national accounting of GHG emissions resulting from land use change in tropical forest margins and peatlands. This data will help build scenarios to understand the impacts of potential international climate change policies on emission reductions, land use, and livelihoods in our case study areas. The results of this analysis will be used to develop new tools to support international, national and local stakeholders negotiating the details of REDD in post-2012 climate agreements.



Photo: V. Meadri

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Linking global policy with local incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation



Photo: G. Cerbu

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation through Alternative Land-uses in Rainforests of the Tropics

Context

An estimated 13 million hectares of tropical forest are destroyed each year, resulting in the emission of 5.8 Gt (gigatonnes) of CO₂ annually, about 20% of total human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The drivers of this destruction are many and varied, but generally include a combination of commercial wood extraction, permanent cultivation, livestock development, and the extension of overland transport infrastructure. Discussions are currently underway at the global level on how this 20% of global GHG emissions can be included in international climate change agreements to follow the Kyoto Protocol after 2012

A global mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in developing countries (REDD-plus) under the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will reward countries that reduce their rate of deforestation and enhance carbon stocks in forest areas.



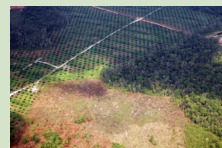
Once a REDD-plus deal is in place, national policy makers will need to be able to design policies and incentives to influence patterns of land use change on the ground. This will require a clear understanding of the drivers of land use change, carbon stocks and changes, policy options, and local stakeholder perspectives and preferences. The REDD-ALERT project aims to generate this data in four countries and work with national stakeholders to link this knowledge to practical action.

Active 'negotiation support' will be needed to achieve the 'free and prior informed consent' that is seen as a moral imperative to agreements potentially affecting the livelihoods of people outside of the centres of political power. This project aims to make a significant contribution to the evaluation of mechanisms that translate international-level agreements into instruments that will help change the behaviour of the people on the 'front-line' while minimising adverse repercussions on their livelihoods.

Activities

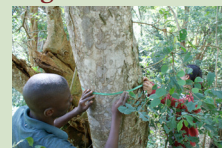
Understanding the drivers of land use change

Documenting the diversity in social, cultural, economic and ecological drivers of forest transition and conservation and the consequences.



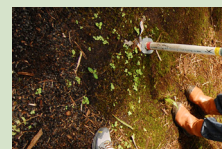
Quantifying and monitoring land use change

Quantifying rates of forest conversion and change in forest carbon stocks.



Quantifying GHG emissions from land use change

Improving accounting (methods, default values) of the consequences of land use change for GHG emissions in tropical forest margins including peatlands



Policy options addressing tropical deforestation

Identifying and assessing viable policy options addressing the drivers of deforestation and their consistency with approaches on avoided deforestation currently being discussed in UNFCCC and other international processes.



Integration and modelling

Analysing scenarios in selected case study areas of the local impacts of potential international climate change policies on GHG emission reductions, land use and livelihoods.



Development of REDD Negotiation Support Systems

Developing new negotiation support tools and using these with stakeholders at international, national and local scales to explore a suite of options for incorporating REDD into post-2012 climate agreements



Where we work



Indonesia Jambi and Lampung (Sumatra) and East Kalimantan

Viet Nam Bac Kan (North Vietnam) and Dac Lak and Dac Nong (Central highland)

Peru Ucayali, Peruvian Amazon

Cameroon Nyong et So'o, Ocean, Mvila, and Valee du Ntem, southwestern Cameroon