



Forests in a Changing Climate: A Sourcebook for Integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes



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FORESTS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE:

A Sourcebook for Integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes



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Table of contents

FOREWORD	vi
INTRODUCTION	1
PEDAGOGY	3
Education for sustainable development	3
Target Audience	3
Using this Sourcebook.....	4
EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES	5
MODULE 1: Forest carbon and climate change.....	9
1.1 Fundamentals: The role of forests in the global carbon cycle	9
1.1.1 Photosynthesis, respiration and carbon sequestration in terrestrial ecosystems	9
1.1.2 Forests as carbon stores	10
1.1.3 Carbon Sequestration and Storage across Biomes	10
1.1.4 Stand Dynamics and Carbon Sequestration in Forests.....	10
1.1.2 The Contribution of Deforestation and Forest Degradation to Climate Change	12
1.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies.....	12
1.2.1 Sustainable Forest Management for Climate Change Mitigation	12
1.3 Case Studies	14
1.3.1 Tropical Deforestation, Fire and Carbon Loss in the Amazon Basin.....	14
1.3.2 Carbon Sequestration in Wood Products	15
1.4 Key Issues for Discussion	15
1.4.1 The role of forests in the carbon cycle	15
1.4.2 Patterns of forest development	15
1.4.3 Distribution of carbon across biome	15
1.4.4 Deforestation and the carbon cycle.....	15
1.5 References	16
MODULE 2: The multiple benefits of forests.....	23
2.1 Fundamentals	23
2.1.1 Ecosystem services: linking ecosystems and society	23
2.1.2 Benefits of forests in a REDD+ context	24
2.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies.....	25
2.2.1 Mapping benefits	25
2.2.2 Monitoring additional REDD+ impacts	25
2.2.3 Methods for valuing economic benefits of forests	25
2.3 Case studies.....	27
2.4 Key issues for discussion.....	29
2.5 References	30
MODULE 3: Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	33
3.1 Fundamentals	33
3.1.1 Recent trends in deforestation and forest degradation	33
3.2 Initiatives, tools and methodologies.....	34
3.2.1 Measurement of Deforestation and Forest Degradation	34

3.2.2	Factors Affecting Deforestation and Forest Degradation – Overview of Methodologies.....	35
3.2.3	Proximate Causes	36
3.2.4	Indirect Causes	37
3.3	Case studies.....	39
3.3.1	Subnational Differences in Deforestation Drivers – The Case of Thailand	39
3.3.2	Macroeconomic Changes and Deforestation – Structural Adjustment in Ghana	39
3.4	Key issues for discussion.....	41
3.4.1	Challenges in the measurement of deforestation and forest degradation	41
3.4.2	Heterogeneity in the relative importance of and interactions between drivers.....	41
3.4.3	Future projections of changes in forest cover	41
3.5	References	42
MODULE 4:	Solutions to reverse deforestation and forest degradation	43
4.1	Fundamentals	43
4.2	Initiatives, tools and methodologies.....	44
4.2.1	Solutions in the Forestry Sector	44
4.2.2	Solutions in Related Economic Sectors	47
4.3	Case Studies	50
4.3.1	The Nature of Agricultural Technological Change and Impacts on Deforestation: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon.....	50
4.3.2	The Potential Role of Forest Certification Programs in Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation.....	50
4.4	Key issues for discussion	52
4.4.1	Robust evaluation of the drivers of efficacy of solutions	52
4.4.2	Potential for multi-sectoral, multi-level solutions	52
4.5	References	53
MODULE 4:	The REDD+ approach.....	55
5.1	Fundamentals.....	55
5.1.1	The emergence of REDD+ In the UN climate regime.....	55
5.1.2	The Features of a Global REDD+ Mechanism within the UNFCCC.....	56
5.1.3	The Phases of REDD+.....	57
5.2	Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies	57
5.3	Case Studies	59
5.4	Key Issues for Discussion	60
5.4.1	Reasons for the emergence of REDD+.....	60
5.4.2	The politics of REDD+	60
5.4.3	The effectiveness of REDD+	60
5.5	References	61
MODULE 6:	The REDD+ Readiness Phase: implementation framework, governance issues & enabling investments.....	63
6.1	Fundamentals	63
6.1.1	Elements of the REDD+ Readiness phase.....	63
6.1.2	Implementation framework, governance issues and enabling investments.....	64
6.1.3	REDD+ Demonstration Projects	67
6.2	Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies	63
6.3	Case Studies	69
6.4	Key Issues for Discussion	70
6.4.1	Learning from REDD+ Demonstration projects	70
6.4.2	Political nature and implications of REDD+ Readiness	70
6.5	References	71
MODULE 7:	Systems for measurement, reporting and verification of forests.....	73
7.1	Fundamentals.....	73
7.2	Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies.....	73
7.2.1	Information on Tropical Forest Ecosystems.....	73
7.2.2	MRV systems and performance based incentive mechanisms	75
7.2.3	Components of modern MRV systems	75
7.2.4	Community and participatory monitoring of forests	76
7.2.5	The role of technology for efficient MRV systems	77
7.3	Case studies.....	78
7.4	Key questions for discussion.....	79
7.4.1	Technology transfer around MRV	79
7.4.2	Community-based management systems	79
7.4.4	Tradeoffs in data collection	79
7.5	References	80

MODULE 8: Performance based incentives for reducing deforestation and forest degradation	81
8.1 Fundamentals	81
8.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies	81
8.2.1 Preliminary Institutional Framework	82
8.2.2 Nature of Contracts	83
8.2.3 Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV).....	84
8.3 Case studies.....	85
8.3.1 Cost Effectiveness and Sustainability of PES Programs: Evidence from the Sloping Lands Conversion Program (SLCP), China.....	85
8.3.2 Environmental Effectiveness of PES Programs: Evidence from Costa Rica	86
8.4 Key issues for discussion.....	86
8.4.1 Effective Implementation of PES programs in Fragile States	86
8.4.2 Optimal Contracting Mechanisms in Various Contexts	86
8.4.2 Using Scientific and Socio-Economic Data for Site Selection	87
8.5 References	88
MODULE 9: Social and environmental safeguards	89
9.1 Fundamentals	89
9.1.1 Social and environmental risks and opportunities offered by REDD+.....	89
9.1.2 REDD+ Safeguards in the UNFCCC	90
9.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies.....	91
9.3 Case studies	94
9.4 Key issues for discussion.....	94
9.4.1 The effectiveness of safeguards.....	94
9.4.2 Ensuring additional social and environmental benefits from REDD+.....	94
9.5 References	95
MODULE 10: The cost of REDD+: concepts, methods and approaches	97
10.1 Fundamentals	97
10.2 Tools, Initiatives and Methodologies	97
10.2.1 Identifying the costs of REDD+ costs	97
10.2.2 Estimating the costs of REDD+	99
10.2.3 Components necessary for implementation of REDD+.....	100
10.2.4 Costs curves of REDD+ interventions.....	101
10.3 Case Studies	102
10.4 Key issues for discussion.....	103
10.4.1 Limitations of MAC curves	103
10.4.2 Opportunity costs as the basis for REDD+ Payments.....	103
10.5 References	104
MODULE 11: Funding for REDD+	105
11.1 Fundamentals	105
11.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies	105
11.2.1 International sources for climate finance	105
11.2.3 Public funding and public-private partnerships	110
11.2.4 Opportunities and constraints of carbon markets	110
11.2.5 Funding mechanisms and funding sources	112
11.3 Case studies.....	112
11.4 Key issues for discussion.....	113
11.4.1 Compliance carbon markets	113
11.4.2 Local governments and public-private partnerships	113
11.4.3 The establishment of CTFs	113
11.5 References	114
MODULE 12: Beyond REDD+, the green economy transition	115
12.1 Fundamentals	115
12.1.1 Shaping a green development pathway	115
12.2 Initiatives, Tools & Methodologies.....	120
12.3 Case Studies	122
12.4 Key issues for Discussion	123
12.4.1 Country-specific economic scenarios.....	123
12.4.2 Resource scarcity.....	123
12.4.3 Governance reforms	123
12.5 References	124

Foreword

Tackling the issues of climate change requires a wide array of expertise and innovative ideas as well as an understanding of both the policy elements and the scientific facts related to the most challenging phenomenon of our time. Despite the overwhelming attention to climate change, it is still a relatively new field of study and it is constantly evolving based on the latest scientific findings, international agreements, national commitments and the realities on the ground.

One important element of the climate change mitigation discussions is the role of forests and specifically the internationally-agreed activities for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation while promoting conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). REDD+ encapsulates many of the challenges and opportunities for addressing climate change and the need for increasing expertise in order to do so. For REDD+ programmes to be successfully devised in countries, technical understanding is needed on carbon accounting, national forest inventories, spatial planning and biodiversity. In addition, there is a need for addressing environmental governance, cross-sectorial policies and legal reforms, and stakeholder participation. Some elements are very specific to REDD+ such as the social and environmental safeguards outlined in the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (2010), and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ implementation (2013), while others are about a larger paradigm shift in national development strategies, which is not limited to REDD+ or forests but rather address issues related to the transition to an inclusive Green Economy.

This sourcebook is designed to give an overview of the key topics related to forests and climate change, under the overarching and evolving REDD+ narrative; with the purpose of facilitating the integration of this new knowledge domain into academic programmes. The sourcebook provides detailed references for further study in each module, and can be used comprehensively or with a focus on a specific topic of interest or relevance for the course of study.

From a pedagogical point of view, *Forests in a Changing Climate* is aimed at university professors and graduate students from different academic disciplines (forestry, public policy, environmental science, economics, etc.) interested in teaching a course or conducting a lecture on REDD+. The content of the book is largely based on the knowledge generated by the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme). Members of UNEP's Global Universities Partnership on Environment and

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