

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF LAND USERS



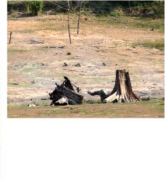
There is a risk of REDD funds being retained at government and corporate level and restricting any money from reaching the actual managers of the forest. In Vietnam, there are eight different legal categories of land users. Data show that forest protection is driven by companies and is government oriented, with only a small fraction of the forest land managed by households. However, further analysis shows that both the state management boards and the forest enterprises are allocating the management and protection of forests to communities and households (except for special-use forests where the committee is the state forest management board). This also implies that the involvement of households in planning activities, monitoring, reporting and verifying, and receiving and managing rewards would be necessary for the long-term effectiveness of REDD+.

POSSIBILITY FOR REDD+ LANDSCAPE APPROACH

The case study in Dak Nong showed the strong possibility of applying a landscape approach in Vietnam at the subnational level. The methods and tools developed (which will be further refined) for a landscape approach to emission reductions include:

- A uniform national land-use classification system,
- Analysing long-term land-use change trends in order to define drivers of deforestation and degradation and
- Conducting opportunity cost analyses for various existing land-use changes and scenarios.

The package of tools will be used for negotiating the development of cross-sectoral land-use planning that the REDD goal is mainstreamed into other socio-economic development plans for a region or a province. Cross-sectoral land-use planning also facilitates cross-sectoral links in REDD implementation that help to reduce national/regional leakage by embracing REDD best protection and high carbon stock/low carbon emission development pathways. Equitable involvement of land users, including government, private companies and smallholders in the landscape planning process provides the basis for a 'co-governance' approach, as suggested in this report. In order to plan REDD actions, including participatory benefit sharing and MRV, this report recommends that this 'co-governance' approach should be seen as a part of the REDD+ 'test case' in Vietnam.



REALU funded by NCRARD for 2020-2021, covering 8 countries: Indonesia, Philippines, China, Nepal, Vietnam, Cameroon, Haiti, and Honduras. REALU is the first and only partnership designed entirely to research on the tropical forest margins. REALU goal is to take products fully and because of rural households in the rural tropics without extensive development or understanding existing development services. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is one of the 18 international research organizations (ICRAF), with its mandate to contribute to sustainable growth, poverty reduction and environmental protection. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is the national agency for climate change activities in Vietnam. Department of Forestry (DAF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the National REDD focal point in Vietnam. Management of REDD focus under a steering committee by Climate Change Mitigation Programme (CCMP).

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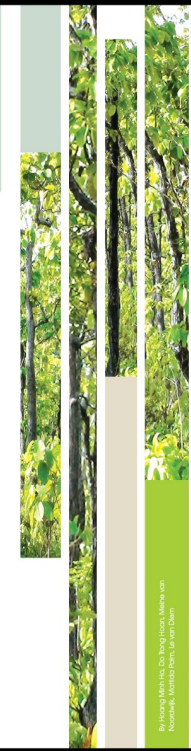
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(1) The content of this policy brief is extracted from Hoang Minh Hoi, Dao Tung Chinh, Meinh van Kienhiep, Pham Thi Thuy, Minh Ha Tran, Nguyen Xuan Bao Tam, Nguyen Thi Kim Dung, 2014. An approach and opportunities for enhancement from slash-and-burn, Vietnam experience in REDD. (2) The REALU website and online resources include the REALU policy brief number 1, named 'REDDING THROUGH RURAL LAND USER-DRIVEN' which can be accessed at: www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/realu. (3) The National Appropriate Mitigation Action or NAMA (DANIDA 2009), include activities for opportunities to reducing emission levels that are adapted to diverse conditions and national development strategies. (4) Agricultural, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) part of the REDD guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories and carbon stock land, provides a complete framework. (5) The REALU approach is based on the landscape planning approach and the landscape planning approach (LPPA) framework. (6) The inclusion of agriculture was done in order to reduce leakage associated with land-use changes and to be consistent with other studies included in the brief. (7) The inclusion of agriculture was done in order to reduce leakage associated with land-use changes and to be consistent with other studies included in the brief. (8) The action plan is based on Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) between the participating countries and the EU. (9) The following verification system which will be integrated in emission trading to be used for land-use changes and to be consistent with other studies included in the brief. (10) Similar to carbon forest and land-use related issues Vietnam also has committed MARD and MONRE, both of which use different terminology and land-use classification.



"REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM ALL LAND USES - REALU"

An approach toward Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD/REDD+) and National Appropriate Mitigation Action - NAMA



MAIN MESSAGES



1. REDD+ shows great potential for environmental, economic, but faces challenges on approach, method, data and institutional setting.
2. Coordinated efforts, including landscape planning, for an effective REDD+ implementation is recommended.
3. The REALU approach increase the possibilities to achieve a sustainable REDD+ in Vietnam, achieve effective approach in addressing leakage, drivers of deforestation and degradation, and enhancing participation of land users, including indigenous people in the REDD process.
4. The technical challenge relates to REDD+, and a 'co-governance' approach, in which the links to uniform REDD+ related database, including a unified land classification.
5. A landscape approach, including landscape planning, and a 'co-governance' approach, including a unified land classification.

THE WAY FORWARD

The landscape approach to REDD+ is planned as a part of the REDD+ piloting phase in Vietnam. A 'co-governance' approach, with equitable involvement of land users, including government, private companies and smallholders in the land-use planning process is suggested.

A REDD+ PERSPECTIVE IN VIETNAM

Vietnam has the opportunity to contribute to the global debate on REDD+ as it has been one of the first countries to turn the corner on 'forest transition' without having first completely depleted the forest. Net emission continued while reforested forest area increased as carbon rich forest was lost and plantation of low carbon stock were added. Vietnam pioneered a trajectory that many developing countries are expected to follow and it provides lessons on what to expect.

Even though a preference-based approach and carbon markets are still new in the forestry sector in Vietnam, it is clear that the Vietnamese government emphasizes REDD+ and REDD+. However, it is important to ensure the recognition of other crucial issues embedded in REDD+ such as permanence, leakage, linkages between MRV with benefit sharing rights and obligations of land users at subnational, national and regional levels.

LINKAGES BETWEEN REDD+, NAMA AND OTHER POLICY APPROACHES

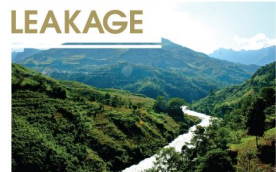
Analysis of the REALU approach shows that REDD+ or REDD+ cannot be addressed by the forestry sector alone, but it should be seen as one instrument for sustainable development, where economic growth, environmental protection with a focus on natural forest protection, and poverty reduction go hand in hand. The goal of REDD+ is not really new and it aligns with many public policy goals. The challenge is to ensure that additional funding streams synergize with existing efforts to jointly 'tip the balance' towards recording development and environmental goals.

Different global approaches of the global feedback system aiming for a reduction of emission from land uses are illustrated in Figure 1, and highlight the close interlink between policies, market and fund based approaches. The REDD+ agenda focused on forest, the NAMA approach focused on nationally appropriate mitigation action (can but does not have to include land use or selected parts of the AFOLU agenda) and the trade-based approaches where sustainable production of timber and biofuels are being certified or banned. The combined effect of these measures relates both to the (top-down) agreements between nations for international rules and the bottom-up perspective of global citizens as consumer who stimulate 'responsible business' models to emerge.

Figure 1. The relationship between land use and these parts of the global feedback systems that try to reduce emissions from land use: REDD+ Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)/Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the EU ETS/RSPO, sustainable on sustainable production of oil palm.



ADDRESSING LEAKAGE



Regional and national leakage pose great challenges for REDD+ implementation in Vietnam. National leakage in Vietnam is mainly driven by illegal logging or poor cross-sectoral land-use planning. As a solution to this, a careful design and analysis of long-term land-use planning should be conducted before any policies and strategies are carried out. At the regional level, there are several commitments by Vietnam and its neighbouring countries to act jointly to control illegal logging and leakage, such as the EU action plan, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Careful analysis of transaction costs for implementing a REDD mechanism and leakages should be conducted to assess the viability and sustainability of the schemes.

DRIVERS OF LAND-USE CHANGE, EMISSION AND INCENTIVE STRUCTURE

Despite the fact that total forest cover increased since 1997, the last decade still saw on alarming degradation of natural forest, continuing the trend since the 1980s. Given that carbon stocks in diverse, natural forest are estimated to be 5-10 times higher than those in planted forest, the increase in forest area alone cannot ensure the expected emission reduction. Analysis shows that large inconsistencies in land-use classification have led to inconsistencies in the available forest data. Dak Nong case study (Box 1) showed the cause of land-use change was insufficient and inadequate land-use planning and, consequently, poor land-use management. These factors combined with others such as high financial revenue from government crops, rapid and large immigration, and unclear land tenure rules. However an opportunity cost analysis showed that only about 20% of emissions was linked to economic benefits exceeding 5.5t CO₂e; the major part of emissions should be in 'react' of economic incentives to offset opportunity costs.

Box 1. Applying a full landscape approach - The Dak Nong Story

The Highland Plateau is a major 'hot spot' for converting forest to agriculture in Vietnam. On average, from 1990 to now forest was lost at a rate of 15,000 ha per year. As a result, forest cover declined from 75% in 1985 to 60% in 2009. The annual rate of deforestation in the Highland Plateau was the highest of all regions, accounting for 46.3% of the national forest area lost in the whole country. It is understandable why the Highland Plateau was selected by the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture (MARD) to be the focal area for REDD pilot activities. The rapid increase of population, together with unsustainable land use in this area has led to rapid degradation and deforestation.

The REALU approach applied in Dak Nong show that the main drivers of deforestation in the area is expansion of industrial perennial crops as well and shifting cultivation. After a stakeholder consultation the underlying causes for the drivers were identified as poor land management and planning, accelerated immigration from other parts of the country and financial profitability of land conversion. Further analysis highlighted weak land use planning where the planned land use does not compare to the actual land use. The major difference can be seen in the natural protection forest loss: during 2005-2008, more than 50,000 ha of this type of forest were converted to other land uses while almost have been kept intact, according to land use planning. The analysis show that some land-use conversions are too profitable to stop, for example rubber production and protection forest to rubber while even the carbon price of today (BUSD) could decrease the majority of deforestation and degradation.

