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WHY AM I WORKING ON REDD?

Ever wondered why you are working on, or at least thinking about REDD? And we do not mean the direct cause, which is probably related to your livelihood strategy. We are more referring to the underlying cause, which is related to a discussion paper published ten years ago.

Before the emergence of REDD and then REDD+, including forestry in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) had been the subject of heated debate, especially in the lead-up to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 6) in 2000. Most discussions revolved around how to deal with non-permanence (the forest can be removed after the issuance of credits), the risk of leakage (displacement of carbon emissions beyond the project perimeter) associated with a project-based approach and how to avoid inflation of carbon credits. As a result of these concerns avoided deforestation was not included in the decisions. The risks of lack of additionality and leakage were found to be unmanageable. Almost end of story.

Invitation

Go-REDD+ welcomes your contribution to the debate on the potential of linking REDD+ with poverty reduction. We invite you to share your comments in the [Go-REDD+'s discussion forum](#).

The discussion reignited only three years later at COP 9 when a new proposal was put on the table. [Santilli and his co-authors](#) reviewed all what had been said and written before and concluded that project-base schemes would not be the solution. Instead they suggested a national crediting scheme that would particularly take care of leakage. The authors proposed a novel concept, which they called “compensated reduction”, “whereby countries that committed to stabilize or reduce national-level deforestation in the future (below a previously determined historical level) would receive post facto compensation”. Such a scheme, the authors argued, “could create large-scale incentives to reduce tropical deforestation, as well as for broader developing country participation in the Kyoto Protocol, and leverage support for the continuity of the Protocol beyond the 2008–2012 first commitment period.”

The concept of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries (REDD) was introduced during the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP 11), held in 2005. It was further elaborated, expanded and officially adopted during COP 13 in Bali, Indonesia in 2007. The final “d” in REDD stands now for “degradation” as it was observed that forest degradation in some developing countries was as threatening as forest conversion. The Bali Action Plan also encouraged Parties “to explore a range of actions, identify options and undertake efforts, including demonstration activities, to address the drivers of deforestation relevant to their national circumstances, with a view to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and thus enhancing forest carbon stocks due to sustainable management of forests.”

Since then REDD+ projects (the demonstration activities) have proliferated, although the intention behind REDD was to circumvent the project approach and focus on the national level. But that’s another story. The real story is that your current engagement is REDD+ was determined by six researchers from Brazil and the U.S.A., whose proposal is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Have a read. It is fascinating to look back in time.

Go-REDD+ is an e-mail listserv managed by the UN-REDD Programme team in Asia-Pacific, based in Bangkok. The main objective of Go-REDD+ is to distribute information, synopses of research results and activities related to REDD+ in Asia-Pacific, to assist countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. Old messages will be archived on the [Regional Activities pages](#) of the UN-REDD Programme website. [Discussion forum](#) on Go-REDD+ is available through UN-REDD Programme's online [knowledge sharing platform](#). The Go-REDD+ team welcomes feedback, suggestions or inquiries to goredd.th@undp.org.