

REDD+ KALIMANTAN

-MITRACO SURYA PILOT PROJECT-

A LOOK AT REDD+ AND IT'S ADAPTION TO THE PILOT PROJECT WITH INCORPORATION OF A/R ACTIVITIES

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SUMMARY

The aim of this report was to compile information on the current state of REDD+ [Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries], to give initial ideas and to spark discussion within the project stakeholder group responsible for the Mitraco Surya project in Indonesia.

The underlying cause for the necessity of the REDD+ framework is of course the global climate change. Since deforestation, and later degradation in the tropics as been identified as one of the key drivers, the European Commission reacted accordingly, stating that tropical deforestation must be cut in half by 2020 and halted completely by 2030 in order to stabilize the atmospheric CO₂ levels at no more than 450ppm and stay below the European Union's 2°C goal (COMMISSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES , 2007). These findings are also consistent with the conclusion of the Eliasch Review, which was commissioned by the UK Government in 2008. Eliasch, the UK Government's Special Representative on Deforestation, further states that deforestation alone will account for an extra 40 ppm of CO₂ by the year 2100 (ELIASCH, 2008). As declared by the IPCC in 2007 emissions from deforestation and degradation contribute with 17% or 8.7 billion tones of CO₂ - eq. per year to global GHG emissions (IPCC, 2007).

In order to make a global effort to reduce GHG emissions from forest ecosystems and through land degradation and to strengthen nature conservation, sustainable forestry and the enhancement of carbon stocks, REDD+ was initiated, which is based on two major principles (ECA, 2010):

- I. For their efforts to preserve natural forests and to participate in sustainable forest management initiatives, developing countries need to receive adequate financial compensation.
- II. Financial compensation should be attractive enough to developing countries that, when given the option to preserve or clear forestland, they opt for conservation, making the forest worth more standing than cut.

REDD+ offers a variety of benefits but also poses serious challenges as demonstrated by a number of pilot projects in Kalimantan Indonesia. The importance of plot selection in accordance with chosen chains of custody as well as the participation of local communities is a major outcome of the study. Additionally, the study proposes that not all project goals can be carried out in the REDD+ framework as they do not create permanence. As such the report suggest to split REDD+ and non REDD+ activities into separate project parts under the umbrella of an international partnership to contribute to reducing emissions, to rehabilitate degraded forest land and to reforest deforested land. As such, the project could become one of the first to incorporate afforestation and reforestation activities in a REDD+ pilot project. Special attention needs to be paid to peat lands due to their capability to store, but also emit vast amounts of greenhouse gases. The report further proposes to tackle some of the necessary scientific research in the form of bachelor- and master theses which could be carried out at University of Applied Sciences Rottenburg and Technical University Dresden. Finally further steps and recommendations are proposed in order to initiate the international partnership and to successfully collaborate.

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