

Who benefits from

REDD+?

Players and Power



How to use this booklet!

This booklet is part of a series of booklets. It is recommended to go through them in order as they attempt to de-code and deepen your understanding of REDD+. In each booklet you will find the grandmother and granddaughter reflecting on a specific theme related to REDD+; visuals or maps; detailed information on this theme and ideas for workshops and games you can carry out in your local area to collectively de-code and understand REDD+. At the end of each booklet there is a glossary that explains all the words that are with a **different color** within the booklet.

Players and Power: An Introduction

In most Southern countries, the history of colonization and imperialism has led to many conflicts around land uses and tenure. Forested lands are complex and contested spaces. A range of actors with contrasting values, interests and views on what to do with these lands compete for space and a voice in decision-making. Even though Indigenous Peoples, peasant communities and forest-dependent peoples hold ancestral ownership to their lands and forests decisions about who uses the lands are often imposed upon communities by powerful elites.

Currently, how REDD+ will work remains unclear. However, in practice it is already happening in many forms. REDD+ puts a price on the carbon absorbed in forests and soils in Southern countries and therefore is attracting all kind of players with vested interests in this new commodity.

REDD+ in this sense introduces new risks and threats as well as more pressure to Indigenous and forest-dependent peoples' lands. This chapter aims to map some of the key actors behind REDD+.

Acknowledgments:

Carbon Trade Watch

Carrer de Princesa, Núm. 6
08003 Barcelona, Spain
+34 625 49 8083

www.carbontradewatch.org
carbontradewatch@gmail.com

Indigenous Environmental Network

PO Box 485
Bemidji, MN 56619
Tel: (218) 751-4967

www.ienearth.org
ien@igc.org

Illustrations:

Joanna Cabello (cover), Erik Rauws (pages 3, 5, 18 and 20), Santiago Armengod and Melanie Cervantes, www.justseeds.org (page 30).

What is 'greenwashing'?

'Greenwashing' is a term used to describe advertising by corporations that depict themselves as environmentally friendly to protect their image. A clear definition is: "disinformation disseminated so as to present an environmentally responsible **public image**". Greenwashing hides the real environmental effects of products, activities or industries promoted as 'green'. For example, when a corporation promotes a product as 'green' but is actually environmentally hazardous (like agrofuels) or when corporations promote 'green profiles' while investing in anti-environmental activities (like the oil-company BP with its slogan 'Beyond Petroleum'). Another way is corporations advertising major environmental achievements when these behaviors have already been required or mandated by existing laws.

When governments use 'greenwashing' to promote their countries' images as environmentally friendly it is called government greenwashing. Many governments today promote a 'green' rhetoric in order to gain public support, while continuing support of heavily polluting industries or sponsorship of projects with well-known environmentally devastating consequences.

Hi Grandma, what are you doing?

Who benefits from REDD+?

Hi Dearie, someone came to our community today to propose a REDD+ project so I am trying to learn about it before the meeting next week.



Who goes to communities and ask people to start a REDD+ project?

Usually, it is someone from an NGO, the government or a **project developer**. They see a golden opportunity and try to obtain the rights over the carbon absorbed in the forests. I heard about

a case in Peru where one of these opportunists – they called him a ‘carbon cowboy’ – tried to convince the Matsés Indigenous People who live six-days upriver on the border between Peru and Brazil, to sign a contract to give away their control over almost half a million hectares of preserved forests, the control of their territories, forests, the resources they use from their forests like wood for houses or land for agriculture and traditional **livelihoods**, in exchange for US\$10,000 dollars! REDD+ contracts try to turn the forests we consider as life to sinks for absorbing carbon.

But then, how are these contracts presented to us?

It depends on each case, but for example in the same case of Peru, the proposed contract was in English without considering the local language. It stipulated that the project would be subject to the laws of England and Wales, which are countries in Europe. But this is absurd! We need to be very careful about contracts. In the case of Ecuador for example, the contracts are presented under a governmental program called SocioBosque, which is part of the government REDD+ strategy.

Who are they working with?

The majority of the projects have several different groups involved which could include any combination of NGOs, governmental agencies, corporations and carbon traders. The United Nations and the **World Bank**, with the help of the national governments, are promoting REDD+ programs at all levels. And of course, many big polluting companies like oil and coal companies are also financing and supporting REDD+.

So how do oil and coal companies benefit from REDD+ again?

There are many benefits for the companies. For example, by planting trees or ‘protecting’ existing forests, these companies create a **public image** which makes them look like responsible ‘green’ companies.

Besides, these trees under REDD+ generate ‘**carbon credits**’, which allow them to continue polluting somewhere else or they can sell the credits in the **carbon markets** to make a profit. There are examples in Indonesia where mining companies have received concessions inside REDD+ project lands that allow them to expand their operations.*

So you are saying that people gave away their rights to use and have autonomy over their forests thinking the forests would be protected and then a mining company was given the right to come in and destroy the forests?

Yes.

Why would they do that?

The extractive industries like mining, oil and gas do not want to stop their business since that is how they make money. So by getting involved in REDD+ they make sure that they can continue and expand their operations while promoting an ‘environmentally friendly’ image. In reality, more forests will be fenced, **monoculture plantations** are expanded and our communities pushed aside for their activities.

But then companies can continue polluting?

Yes, that is the point exactly! The activities that are causing the climate crisis are allowed to continue and expand while the communities around the world living in the nearby areas of these polluting companies continue to suffer the consequences!

That does not seem fair!

No, it is not at all. It is not fair for us because we will lose our livelihoods and rights to the forests while companies make a lot of money from them, and it is not fair for the other communities in the North that live by the factories that pollute either.

Let's read on and find out more about these players...



Players and Powers Behind REDD+

Before making any decision, it is crucial to first reflect on who is mainly benefiting from REDD+, who is making the decisions and where is the money coming from, in order to understand who is pushing for REDD+ and why. Below is an overview of some of the key actors who are behind designing, implementing and profiting from the REDD+ mechanism.

1. The World Bank¹

The **World Bank** has several funds which finance carbon trading; it is important to review what are these funds aiming for and their intrinsic objectives to trade **carbon credits**. Below is an outline of the three most relevant funds related to REDD+.

a) Opening legal frameworks: The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

This fund develops the policies in Southern countries for REDD+ and provides financing to countries developing these policies. It became operational in 2008 despite the lack of any **international agreement** on REDD+. One of the main objectives of this fund is to create the conditions to start a REDD+ forest **carbon market**. There are 37 countries involved with the FCPF until now. The FCPF consists of two funds: **The Readiness Fund** and **The Carbon Fund**. These have three phases:

The Readiness Fund

The 'REDD+ readiness' grant establishes national strategies, capacity-building and pilot projects (these activities are inserted in phase 1 and 2):

Phase 1

Countries produce **Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PP)** for providing a national REDD+ roadmap.

Phase 2

Countries implement policy and legal reforms and execute REDD+ demonstration activities

Phase 3

The fund organizes 'performance-based payments', which consists of providing payments over several years based on a country accomplishing reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the forest sector.

The Carbon Fund

This public-private fund became operational in 2011 to facilitate the *trading* in forest carbon credits (inserted in phase 3).

1 The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries in the South (Latin America, Africa and Asia) for expanding 'economic growth'. The Bank's nature as a lending institution, its structure and the 'development' paradigm it promotes are in contradiction with the construction of just, fair and sustainable societies. It finances fossil fuel projects that deepen the climate crisis, supports private corporations at the expense of public interests, is governed by undemocratic structures and operate without full transparency and accountability.

Individual countries can decide at which of the three phases to begin; hence different phases could be done in parallel.² A review of eight **Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PP)** found that these documents ignore issues related to the respect of customary rights, the right to **Free Prior and Informed Consent**, **land tenure** conflicts and the real drivers of deforestation, while national consultations have been non-existent or inadequate.³

b) Inserting agriculture in the carbon markets: The BioCarbon Fund

This fund finances projects that absorb or maintain carbon dioxide within forests and agricultural practices and "can consider *purchasing* carbon from a variety of land use and forestry projects"⁴. It includes Afforestation and Reforestation, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation and is exploring approaches for **agricultural carbon**.

One of these projects was installed in Kenya. It aims to buy 150,000 carbon credits by 2016 from a 'soil carbon sequestration' project that covers over 40,000 hectares. This was the first project in Africa to sell carbon credits from managing agricultural activities. A recent study shows however that nearly half of the monetary benefits would be profited by **project developers** as '**transaction costs**', with minuscule returns to the farmers who would implement the project (the calculation are at most US\$1 dollar per farmer per year for 20 years).⁵

c) Public-private investments: The Forest Investment Programme (FIP)

This large-scale fund was established in 2009 to prepare national strategies for the implementation of REDD+ projects in eight selected pilot countries. It also plans to finance other schemes that promote carbon markets in forests. It achieves this by providing "public and private investments, identified through national REDD+ readiness or equivalent strategies."⁶

The FIP funds are channeled through five multilateral development banks: The African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank Group.

2 Draft Decision CP16 (2010) "Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention", p11 - paragraph 74. http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_16/application/pdf/cop16_lca.pdf

3 FERN (2011) "Smoke and Mirrors: a critical assessment of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility". www.fern.org/smokeandmirrors

4 Carbon Finance Unit – World Bank, <http://wbcarbonfinance.org/Router.cfm?Page=BioCF> (italics added)

5 Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (2011), "Elusive Promises of the Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project"

6 Climate Investment Funds, "Forest Investment Programme". www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/node/5

2. The United Nations (UN)⁷

Many of the United Nations' agencies, programmes and funds promote REDD+, including the UN-REDD Programme, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (known also as the Rio+20 Summit), the UN Development Programme, the UN Environmental Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Women Environment and Development Organization, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, among others. It has a specific programme to promote REDD+ in Southern countries: The United Nations REDD Programme (UN-REDD):

The UN-REDD Programme was launched in September 2008 to prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies in countries in the South. It works in 29 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.⁸ This fund bluntly states that "the final phase of REDD+ involves developed countries *paying* developing countries *carbon offsets* for their standing forests," making it clear that they conceive REDD+ as a carbon trading scheme.⁹

It was formed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The main funders of UN-REDD are Norway, Denmark, Spain, Japan and the European Union.¹⁰

3. Private Sector

Corporate lobbyists often have larger representation at international climate talks than governmental delegations, especially in comparison to those from **Least Developed Countries**.¹¹ The decision-making venues are packed with corporate lobbyists trying to prevent any real mandatory commitment to reduce pollution at source. They lobby to maintain their polluting activities 'safe' from any restrictions and to push for decisions that can be profitable for them.

Many corporations have interests in REDD+, from logging and soy industries to power and service sectors. Also, financial players (i.e. banks) are keen to increase speculation bubbles for financial gambling. Merrill Lynch, a subsidiary of the Bank of America, for example, is

funding the Ulu Masen REDD+ project in Indonesia and the worldwide Marriott Hotels chain is involved in the Juma Reserve REDD+ project in Brazil. Mining companies also want to get on the REDD+ action. The Rio Tinto company, infamous for violating human rights and causing environmental destruction, states: "REDD+ is used as an economic tool to offset the carbon footprint of Rio Tinto".¹²

Fossil Fuels and Related Industries

Fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) exploration and extraction activities continue to expand into the oceans, tropics and the Arctic while endangering ancestral peoples and biodiverse territories. Yet, fossil fuel companies support and finance REDD+ projects.

Well aware of the negative impacts being generated by their activities, these industries seek to greenwash their images and continue their pollution by buying **carbon credits** generated in a forest somewhere else. There are many examples of fossil fuel companies profiting from carbon trading schemes including BP, Shell, ConocoPhillips, Chevron-Exxon, Statoil, Gazprom, to name a few.

A Case Study of British Petroleum (BP):

The oil-giant BP has spent millions of dollars on lobbyists and campaigns to prevent climate regulations that could affect its business. It has also actively participated in carbon trading schemes related to forests and lands. It was revealed that the company spent in the first quarter of 2011 at least US\$2 million dollars lobbying in the United States on issues like advocating for an end to the **offshore drilling moratorium** imposed after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster, which was one of the largest accidental marine oil spills in the history of the petroleum industry.¹³

BP also became the first private company to join the **World Bank's** FCPF Carbon Fund (see above). Other funders are the governments of the UK, Germany, Norway and the European Union as well as the NGO Nature Conservancy and the French investment firm CDC Climat. BP will purchase credits via this fund for offsetting its own pollution, greenwashing its image and/or for trading them on the open market.¹⁴

7 193 countries are member states of the United Nations (UN). The UN was founded after the World War II in 1945 as a peace keeping international body; however it has been criticized for its inability to cope with international conflicts. Moreover, five countries (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) concentrate power in the security decisions of the organization, which has led to accusations that it only addresses the strategic interests and political motives of these countries, especially in 'humanitarian interventions'.

8 UN-REDD Programme, www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/tabid/583/Default.aspx

9 UN-REDD Programme, www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/FAQs/tabid/586/Default.aspx

10 UN-REDD Programme, www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/tabid/583/Default.aspx

11 Corporate lobbying is the act of attempting to influence policy and regulation decisions by individual corporations or industry groups.

12 Rio Tinto (2009), "IUCN – Rio Tinto Facilitated Workshop Summary". cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/workshop_summary.pdf

13 Baram Marcus (2011), The Huffington Post, "BP Spent \$2 Million Lobbying On Offshore Drilling, Spill Liability, Other Regulations In First Quarter Of 2011". www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/04/21/bp-lobbying-2011-q1-2-million_n_851842.html

14 FERN (2011), "World Bank launches new forest carbon fund amidst secrecy and concerns for the safety of forest peoples". www.fern.org/node/4967

Forest Carbon Partnership (2011), "Session 5a. Update on the Carbon Fund". www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Mar2011/5a%20Update%20on%20Carbon%20Fund%20PC8%20Final1.pdf

The Noel Kempff Climate Action Project in Bolivia is another example worth noting. BP, together with two other energy companies, American Electric Power and PacifiCorp, set up a REDD-type project in 1997 to 'offset' their emissions. This means that the almost 650,000 hectares of 'protected' rainforest will allow the companies to continue polluting for 30 years with the generated credits. A report from Greenpeace found that between 1997 and 2004, the three involved companies reported considerably more than the 5.8 million tons verified for the 30-year project. In other words, the investors may have claimed millions of tonnes of CO₂ reductions that never occurred. In addition, one villager told Greenpeace about a herd of cows from the project in an attempt to provide 'alternative livelihoods' for the community. Unfortunately, the cows were European and unable to survive in Bolivia. "They all died in the end," the villager said. "The cows were so expensive that a whole herd of local breeds could have been bought for the price of a single one."¹⁵

Moreover, BP is the latest major oil company to extract and burn high-carbon dirty fuels from the tar sands in Canada. The large-scale tar sands project violates the human and territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples, destroys environmental health, contaminates water, clear cuts boreal forests, and is a major contributor to climate change. Over 5,000 miles of pipeline corridors are being constructed to refineries in the United States. It is important to remember that allowing carbon offsets also means allowing more destruction wherever these companies operate.¹⁶

Agribusiness and Logging sectors

Corporate lobbies are also pushing to make REDD++ available for agricultural lands and practices (see the 'What is REDD+?' booklet #1 for more information). Despite the contested idea of measuring carbon in soils, the lack of technical expertise, the variability of soil ecosystems, the amount of lands required, among many other questions of legitimacy, industries continue to attempt inclusion.

There is an increasing number and scope of agricultural methodologies approved by the United Nations for offset projects.¹⁷ One example is growing crops for biomass-based energy from agricultural crops and forests (agrofuels). By increasing the production of agrofuels in Southern countries, agribusinesses are increasing the already high pressure to local lands and food sovereignty while profiting with the generated credits and greenwashing their public images.

15 Greenpeace (2009) "Carbon Scam: Noel Kempff Carbon Action Project and the Push for sub-national Forest Offsets". www.greenpeace.org/international/en/publications/reports/carbon-scam-noel-kempff-carbo/REDD-Monitor (2009), "Carbon scam: the Noel Kempff project in Bolivia". www.redd-monitor.org/2009/10/22/carbon-scam-the-noel-kempff-project-in-bolivia/

16 Indigenous Environmental Network (2010), "Broken Promises We Will NOT Forget!". www.ienearth.org/bpfactsandlinks.html

17 The carbon markets use different methodologies for measuring and verifying carbon, depending on project type, size and location.

Moreover, corporations promoting the so-called 'genetically engineered climate-ready crops' are also pushing for REDD+. These crops threaten farmers' rights to seed biodiversity through patent claims and genetic contamination. Six agro-corporations (DuPont, BASF, Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer and Dow) control 77 percent of the 262 patent families identified, from which three alone (DuPont, BASF and Monsanto) account for over two-thirds of the total. The public sector holds only 10 per cent.¹⁸ These multinational companies are active in promoting soil-based REDD+ in climate negotiations.

Monoculture tree plantations are also being promoted as *forests*. The United Nations definition of forests is so vague that it includes monoculture plantations, even though such plantations called 'green deserts' destroy soils, habitat for biodiversity, water reservoirs and the livelihoods of forest-dependent and Indigenous Peoples. Groups globally have been challenging this definition of forests.¹⁹ Simply said, plantations are not forests!

Monsanto

The Monsanto Company is a United States multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation. It is the world's largest seed and pesticide company, which has controversially saturated the world with genetically modified (GM) crops.²⁰ Agribusinesses like Monsanto aim to use 'climate ready' GM crops to expand their business. Monsanto has a long history of producing GM seeds, including 'terminator' seeds that do not reproduce, forcing farmers to buy more Monsanto seeds each year.

After the United Nations climate talks in 2010, *La Via Campesina* stated:

"Monsanto tries to convince us that monoculture plantations of its GMO Roundup Ready soybeans²¹ qualify for carbon credits because they contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases that heat the planet by accumulating organic matter in the soil. Communities living nearby soy monoculture plantations are a living example of the mortal and destructive effects of these monocultures. Similar false arguments are used to sell carbon credits based on forest monocultures, agrofuel crops, or industrial animal production."

18 ETC Group (2010), "Gene Giants Stockpile Patents on 'Climate-Ready' Crops in Bid to Become Biomasssters". www.etcgroup.org/en/node/5220 See also, Petermann, Anne (2010), "The link between REDD and genetically engineered trees", *No REDD, A Reader*. <http://noredd.makenoise.org/>

19 World Rainforest Movement, www.wrm.org.uy/forests.html

20 Genetically modified (GM) seeds, also called genetically engineered (GE), are the direct human manipulation of a seed's genome using modern DNA technology. Strong activist groups have been claiming since its inception that they are unsafe for human consumption and weaken or destroy other seeds and crops. Moreover, they are mostly controlled by corporations affecting food sovereignty.

21 Roundup Ready soybeans is a Monsanto brand which means that crops are herbicide-tolerant engineered to enable crops to withstand doses of herbicides that would otherwise kill them. These are generally developed with the hope of increasing the sale of that herbicide (another Monsanto product). Roundup Ready soybeans are heavily herbicide dependent. This makes peasants completely dependent on Monsanto's products.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

The ITTO includes 60 countries of producers and consumers of wood in tropical forests and the European Union. It is a key actor in the push to approve REDD+, especially in relation to 'sustainable forest management' activities. The ITTO has launched a thematic program on REDD+ and environmental services with initial funding from Norway.

This sector's lobby seeks above all to include forest extraction (i.e. logging) inside REDD+, legitimizing in this way the false claim of 'sustainable logging'. The NGO Global Witness alleged that a major cause of forest degradation and a precursor to deforestation is industrial logging, even when it follows 'best practices' to reduce its impact. In the Brazilian Amazon for example, 32 per cent of 'selectively' logged forests were completely destroyed over a period of four years.²²

4. Countries

Bilateral agreements: A closer look into Norway

The Norwegian government has been an important player in financing and implementing REDD+ both as a major donor and through bilateral and multilateral agreements including billion dollar deals with Indonesia and Brazil. Norway committed US\$600 million a year to support REDD+ activities. Its profit and greenwash motivations became clear when it donated a billion dollars to the Amazon Fund in Brazil (which is supposed to help stop deforestation in the Amazon) shortly after sealing the deal between its national oil company, Statoil, and the Brazilian oil giant, Petrobras, for oil exploration in deep waters off the coast of Brazil. Moreover, the government of Norway is investing in bauxite mining and aluminum production in the same Amazon rainforest that it purports to be protecting.²³

Norway also made an agreement with Mexico in December 2010 with US\$15 million dollars for capacity building in carbon measuring, reporting and verification. It has also allocated US\$250 million dollars to Guyana for REDD+ activities, although the president of Guyana publicly scolded the Norwegian minister of environment at the 2010 climate talks because the promised funds had still not arrived – meanwhile the rate of deforestation in Guyana is actually increasing.²⁴

Indonesia agreed with the Norway-Indonesia REDD Agreement to implement a decree for a two-year logging **moratorium** starting in January 2011, and chose the area of Central

Kalimantan as a REDD+ pilot project. The moratorium came into force in May 2011, however, the moratorium was never intended to be a 'ban on deforestation'. As set out in the Letter of Intent signed in May 2010, the moratorium is part of Phase 2 of the Indonesia-Norway cooperation on REDD+. ²⁵ Meanwhile, a number of oil palm companies operating in Central Kalimantan are doing so without proper licenses. Norway's Government Pension Fund Global has invested a total of US\$183 million dollars shares in five of these oil palm companies.²⁶

Interim REDD Partnership Agreement

The United Nations climate talks of 2009 did not reach an agreement on a REDD+ text. Thus, Norway and France established the Interim REDD Partnership Agreement to hurry along the process of starting up REDD+. In 2010, 55 countries met in Paris and then again in Oslo to discuss how to fast-track funding for REDD+. The meeting in Paris was heavily criticized by grassroots organizations for their lack of transparency and participatory process.²⁷ At the Oslo Conference, Norway signed a REDD+ agreement with Indonesia for immediate financial support of about US\$1 billion dollars, and then, it signed another with Guyana for a US\$250 million dollar deal.

5. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Many 'conservationist' NGO's, like the WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, Conservation International, Woods Hole Research Center, Wildlife Conservation Society and others are among those who stand to make billions of dollars from REDD+.

The interests of these conservation NGOs in partnership with polluting industries have become more evident. Corporations have been using these NGOs as their best green public relations' agencies while the NGOs are dependent on the 'contributions' from these same corporations, and thus facilitate their operations.

Several groups like The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Conservation International (CI), for example, have lobbied for sub-national targets to be at the core of REDD+. Sub-national targets allow the implementation of specific projects without having a national-based target. An employee of a leading conservationist NGO explained to the journalist Johann Hari the motivations:

25 REDD-Monitor (2011), "Is Indonesia's "moratorium" worth the paper it's written on?". www.redd-monitor.org/2011/05/26/is-indonesias-moratorium-worth-the-paper-its-written-on/

26 REDD-Monitor (2011), "Norwegian finance for forest destruction in Indonesia. Oh, and where is the moratorium, by the way?". www.redd-monitor.org/2011/03/03/norwegian-finance-for-forest-destruction-in-indonesia-oh-and-where-is-the-moratorium-by-the-way/

27 AlertNet (2010), "Indigenous people lack voice in REDD forest talks, NGOs say". www.trust.org/alertnet/blogs/alertnet-news-blog/indigenous-people-lack-voice-in-redd-forest-talks-ngos-say

22 Global Witness (2009). "Vested Interests. Industrial logging and carbon in tropical forests", London.

23 Cardona Diego and Roa Avendaño Tatiana (2010), "Extractive Industries and REDD: Sinning then praying evens the score or how to legitimise pillaging and destruction" in No REDD, A Reader, <http://noredd.makenoise.org/>

24 Environment News Service (2011), "Guyana Deforestation Triples Despite Funding for Forest Protection", www.ens-newswire.com/ens/mar2011/2011-03-07-01.html

"It's because they will generate a lot of revenue this way. If there are national targets, the money runs through national governments. If there are sub-national targets, the money runs through the people who control those forests – and that means TNC, Conservation International and the rest. Suddenly, these forests they run become assets, and they are worth billions in a carbon market as offsets. So they have a vested financial interest in offsetting and in sub-national targets, even though they are much more environmentally damaging than the alternatives. They know it. It's shocking."²⁸

The case of Conservation International (CI)

CI is an intensive promoter of REDD+ including a very controversial REDD-type project in the Lancondon rainforest in Chiapas, Mexico. In 2009, the government of Chiapas began work on the Climate Change Action Programme for the State of Chiapas, financed by the British Embassy, with CI as a key actor in its implementation. The pilot projects are planned by CI for 2011 with 1.3 million hectares of land considered 'natural reserves' and fall under the framework of an agreement signed in November 2010 between California, United States, Chiapas, Mexico and Acre, Brazil. The agreement establishes the bases for initiating a carbon credit scheme incorporating REDD+ and other forest carbon projects. However, immediately outside the area designated for the sale of carbon credits, there is a continued promotion for the expansion of agro-industry, tourism development, industrial plantations of oil palm, and other activities that lead to deforestation.²⁹

Another way to see how these NGOs are counter-acting real environmental and social concerns is by taking a closer look at their partners. CI's corporate partners include several polluting industries such as ArcelorMittal, Barrick Gold, BP Foundation, Cargill, Chevron, Coca-Cola, Kimberly-Clark, Kraft Foods, McDonald's, Monsanto, Newmont Mining Corporation, Rio Tinto, Shell, Toyota Motor Corporation, among many others. Despite the ghastly record of human rights violation and environmental destruction of these climate criminals, CI blatantly states: "We believe that corporations are a major ally in our conservation efforts... We've always taken pride in our relationships with our creative corporate partners."³⁰

28 Hari Johann (2010), "The Wrong Kind of Green". www.thenation.com/article/wrong-kind-green

29 Global Justice Ecology Project (2011), "A Broken Bridge to the Jungle: The California-Chiapas Climate Agreement Opens Old Wounds". <http://climate-connections.org/2011/04/07/a-broken-bridge-to-the-jungle-the-california-chiapas-climate-agreement-opens-old-wounds/>

World Rainforest Movement (2011), "Mexico: REDD+ in Chiapas finances disease, death and intercommunity conflicts". www.wrm.org.uy/bulletin/165/Mexico.html

30 REDD-Monitor (2011), "Conservation International: 'Are they any more than a green PR company?'". www.redd-monitor.org/2011/05/12/conservation-international-%E2%80%99Care-they-any-more-than-a-green-pr-company%E2%80%9D/

These corporate partnerships are not only allowing these industries to greenwash their destructive activities, they are also paying the conservation NGOs to keep quiet about the environmental and social impacts that these activities entail.

6. Voluntary Carbon Markets

Besides the regulatory carbon markets, the voluntary carbon markets do not comply with any UN-backed binding regulations and allow companies and individuals to trade carbon credits to theoretically 'compensate' for individual or corporate-based emissions. Being a voluntary scheme, there is no authority or regulating standards for projects generating carbon credits. Certification standards like the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) legitimize such schemes. Certifier companies and carbon traders earn money by selling their 'expertise' for REDD+.

The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) was founded in 2005 and they have some "freedom" to create their own rules of the game by claiming "to pioneer innovative rules and tools that open new avenues for carbon crediting and allow businesses, non-profits and government entities to engage in on-the-ground climate action"³¹. VCS assists in the creation of REDD+ methodologies for project activities in the voluntary market.

The first REDD+ methodology approved under the VCS was funded by Shell, Gazprom Market and Trading, and the Clinton Foundation. Covering nearly 100,000 hectares of peat swamp forest in the province of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, the Rimba Raya conservation project received furious responses from local and environmental groups since polluters like Shell and Gazprom will be allowed to greenwash and expand their activities with the credits generated from the project.³²

VCS has also developed methodologies for crediting agricultural, peat and pastoral lands, expanding REDD+ into REDD++. The VCS legitimizes itself by involving a wide-range of groups interested in profiting from REDD+ and positioning itself as an easy way to invest in forest carbon credits without the 'hassle' of official regulatory frameworks.

There are many more players that are pushing for legitimizing and expanding REDD+. For example, key funders promoting REDD+ are the Climate and Land Use Alliance (Ford Foundation, Packard Foundation, Climate Works, Betty and Gordon Moore Foundation), the Clinton Foundation, the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD), the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ, Germany), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), to name a few.

31 Verified Carbon Standard, www.v-c-s.org/who-we-are

32 Indigenous Environmental Network (2010), "Shell bankrolls REDD", <http://redroadcancun.com/?p=753>



World Bank
Washington DC, USA



United Nations
New York, USA



FAO
Rome, Italy



ITTO
Yokohama, Japan



WWF
Gland, Switzerland



The Nature Conservancy
Virginia, USA

Conservation International
Virginia, USA



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Environmental Defense Fund USA



ArcelorMittal
Luxembourg

Coca-Cola
Atlanta, USA



Kimberly-Clark
Texas, USA



Nestlé

Nestlé
Vevey, Switzerland



Unilever
London, UK

Fossil fuels and related industries:

RIO TINTO

Rio Tinto London, UK
and Melbourne, Australia



Newmont Mining Corporation
Colorado, USA



Shell
The Hague, Netherlands



BP
London, UK



Chevron-Texaco
California, USA



Gazprom
Moscow, Russia



Statoil
Norway



ConocoPhillips
Texas, USA



Barrick Gold
Ontario, Canada

Chemical and agribusiness companies:



Dow Chemical
Michigan, USA



DuPont
Delaware, USA



BASF
The Chemical Company
Ludwigshafen, Germany



Bayer
Leverkusen, Germany



Syngenta
Basel, Switzerland



Cargill
Minnesota, USA



Monsanto
Missouri, USA

Map of the North

Here are some of the players involved in REDD+. We include a major grouping of players we have chosen to detail throughout this booklet but there are many more. One idea for a workshop is to explore REDD+ players in your own region and make a new map or add it to this one.

Workshops and Games:

Who benefits from REDD+?

Players and Power

This section outlines workshops and dynamic ideas for motivating group discussion over the issues reviewed in this booklet with an aim to build trust among each other. These can be modified and changed in any way the group wants. Some recommendations for carrying out these workshops include:



Try to find a quiet space. It is usually best if the group can sit in a circle or semi-circle depending on the space.



Each workshop should have one or more facilitator(s) to help in the process. If you choose to have more than one, try to have people from both sexes (male and female). Facilitators should try to include everyone and ensure that the group is treating each other with respect, for example by preventing people talking over each other or using offensive language. The facilitators should encourage calm moments where tough discussions might come up and to keep the discussions flowing.



One way to ensure respectful participation could be at the beginning of the workshop the facilitator(s) can agree with the group on some basic guidelines or group contract for the day. For example: "We need to respect all our opinions, even if we don't agree. Wait until someone has finished talking before speaking. Monitor how much and for how long you talk to make sure you are not dominating the discussion..." These can be written in a big piece of paper and placed somewhere in the room. Then the facilitator(s) can refer to the collectively agreed guidelines if someone forgets.



The facilitator(s) should avoid imposing any solution to the group or presenting opinions as the 'right' answer. (S)he should try to encourage discussion and bring the different viewpoints.



Use humor and examples that people can identify with during the workshop.



Take breaks if the workshops last more than an hour. The facilitator(s) should try to be available during the breaks to talk with participants.



Be patient, creative, respectful and have fun!

Workshop #1 Human Knot

materials

No Materials Required

This is a dynamic that helps to build up a group and a nice way to warm up the atmosphere. It can be used in the introduction or at any time during a workshop when people seem tired and need to stand up and move around.

concept



Ideas

The group stands up in a circle with nothing in the middle of them. Everyone raises their arms, closes their eyes and slowly walks towards the middle of the circle and finds two hands of two other people to hold. The facilitator(s) can signal the group to open their eyes when everyone has two hands securely held. Without letting go of the two other hands, they begin the process of untangling the human knot to reform the circle.



Workshop #2 Line of Profit Game

materials

This can be as elaborate or as simple as the facilitator(s) choose.

For more information on different players, refer to the factsheet in this section.

This game is a way for the group to think about who is profiting from REDD+ and what they are getting in return. It helps to understand the different actors and players involved.

concept



Ideas

The group starts out with an open discussion about the players involved in REDD+. If necessary, the facilitator(s) can stimulate the discussion by posing questions like: "what companies make money in your regions or territories?" and "when did they arrive?" and "how was that decision made?".

The facilitator(s) can also write on a big paper all the players that have been brainstormed by the group and form clusters among them (NGOs, companies, communities, government institutions...).

Then, the group is divided into smaller groups. Each sub-group chooses one player that could be involved in a REDD+ project which is not the local community. Each sub-group discusses and outlines how this player will gain or lose in relation to the local community. The sub-groups show their outcomes to the larger group with a presentation, drawings or anything else to compare benefits.

There are many possibilities with this exercise. The facilitator(s) can also do research prior to the workshops on specific companies that are in your area (even if it is not a REDD+ project) and discuss if these companies could be involved in REDD+ or the **carbon market**. If it is possible, the facilitator(s) can also research the real annual profits of these companies (this is normally found at the companies' websites) and make a guessing game with the group.

after
natives

Workshop #3

What would you do if...

materials

Any item to pass around the circle (it can be a ball, fruit, a stone... anything that is not sharp nor could hurt someone).

It can be difficult to visualize the implications of a certain event, especially if the activity has never been previously

concept

witnessed or experienced. Without an understanding of the potential consequences of such an event, it is difficult – if not impossible – to make informed decisions or represent the best interests of the community. This exercise is to stimulate discussion around possible daily-life situations which limit freedom and how one would respond.

The group sits in a circle. The facilitator(s) has some item in her/his hands. Then, the facilitator(s) asks a question to the group which always starts with “What would you do if...” and the person on her/his right should give an answer and pass the ball, fruit or stone to the next one.

After completing the circle, another question is raised and the item can go this time towards the left.



ideas

Here are some ideas for the questions. What would you do if:

- It is forbidden to cultivate food or medicinal plants on your lands
- The company that promised your community a lot of money did not pay
- A contract that your community signed was not what you thought it was (for example, you thought the contract will help protect your forests and at the end they are being turned into plantations)
- You begin to work measuring trees or all day in a plantation field
- Your house cannot be repaired with the resources from the forests anymore

In order to make the round of answers not so rigid on turns, the facilitator(s) can also pass the item to other person in the round without being the person in the right or left. If this is preferred, the facilitator(s) have to be aware that everyone is participating and there is enough time for thinking the answers between the turns.



The facilitators can also write questions on small pieces of paper and pass them out from a hat. Each person takes a turn answering their question.

Workshop #4

Role Playing

materials

Pieces of papers/cartons and any writing material (pens, crayon, pencils...)

** In case it is preferred not to include writing, the facilitator(s) can also tell the story verbally and suggest the roles verbally.



concept

This is a team building exercise which aims to stimulate group thinking about who profits and what is at stake.

For this workshop there needs to be some preparation beforehand. The idea is to divide the big group into sub-groups for playing and discussing specific REDD+ cases. For this, the facilitator(s) will need to write short fiction REDD+ cases. If there are five sub-groups, there should be five stories. Each story should be giving a context for discussion.



ideas



For example:

"An agribusiness company is very interested in the lands of a community in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest. There is a local NGO that is trying to make some links with the community for creating a REDD+ project. This would be financed by the World Bank. The community is conflicted about the project since the company is not being clear about their rights to use forest resources. They try to get the municipality involved."

Then, the facilitator(s) write on small papers the different players that could be involved in that REDD+ project. For example, for a group of five people, the small papers could have: 'local NGO representative', 'World Bank representative', 'community leader', 'mother living in the local community' and 'representative from the local municipality'.

Others stories could involve different places, companies, funds, positions and local actors. It is preferred to have different stories and actors among the sub-groups.

The day of the workshop, the group is divided into sub-groups of preferably 5-6 people each. Each sub-group receives one of the stories. They all read their stories collectively. Then, each member of each sub-group should receive one small paper with a role. This tells each one the role that they will have to acquire.

The sub-groups then role-play and discuss what to do and afterwards everyone returns to the entire group to discuss the challenges that were confronted and how they managed to move forward. It is also interesting to hear from the groups which didn't find solutions and explore these difficulties together.

Workshop #5

What is the difference between Payment for Environmental Services and Social & Environmental justice?

materials

Pieces of papers/cartons and any writing material (pens, crayon, pencils...)

** In case it is preferred not to include writing, the facilitator(s) can also say the words out loud and the rest can also say the new words out loud (in this case it would be good to have the facilitator(s) writing all the words on a big paper to avoid forgetting.

This workshop helps to find a collective definition to a term. The example is 'social justice' as it helps to discuss how to include social justice in our lives and arguments.

concept



The facilitator(s) prepare pieces of papers with different words/synonyms of justice. The facilitator(s) show the prepared cards to the entire group. Then, the group divides into sub-groups and each sub-group receives blank pieces of papers and pens. The facilitator(s) ask each sub-group to select the three words that best represent the definition of social justice. Each sub-group also has to write down three more words that the group believes are not included. When they are ready, they present their own definition to the group in any way they chose.

The subject to be defined can change as preferred. Other options are for example, to explore what it means to be a 'healthy community' or 'what is a forest'.

The way of discovering a collective definition with more time can also entail theater presentations on each concept and share the different examples and situations that each group found.



Workshop #6

Show Videos

materials

Support for showing a film: TV, video projector, computer, etc.

concept

Showing a video aims to empower the group with visuals and knowledge and/or other community struggles. Show a short film which address climate change, REDD+, or other communities resisting REDD+.

“The Carbon Hunters”

English:

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/carbonwatch/2010/05/the-carbon-hunters.html>



“The Silence of the Pandas”, “Der Pakt mit dem Panda
- Was uns der WWF verschweigt”

English and German:

English: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp25_ujKviY

German: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V95LyZAd65k>

“La Pachamama no se vende” – Acción Ecológica

<http://www.accionecologica.org/component/content/article/313-multimedia/1503-video-la-pachamama-no-se-vende>

Spanish, English and German

Divide into small groups after the film. Each group is given a question to answer. Each small group organizes a reply for the entire group.



Glossary

Project developer A project developer can be a third party organization or individual that sets up a project, creates contracts, administrates it and/or then sells it on to another organization or the implementing organization itself.

Public image The impression that a company, organization, government or individual uses to boost their image to the public. Often this is a way to create more clients and therefore more money; but can also be used as a tool to cover-up a scandal or dirty practices.

Carbon credits Each tonne of carbon dioxide or equivalent gases (tCO₂e) is sold as a commodity on a **carbon market** into tradable credits or permits. This can be done in official UN programs such as the Clean Development Mechanism or on a voluntary market.

Carbon markets The carbon markets are the “spaces” where **carbon credits** (each tonne of carbon dioxide or equivalent gases) can be bought, sold or traded. These benefit the companies and governments

which create the pollution since they have commodified pollution in order to generate credits. For more information on the carbon markets, please download in English, Spanish and Portuguese, accessible fact sheets at: www.carbontradewatch.org/publications-/factsheets-banner.html

Monoculture plantations

Monocultures are areas where only one single crop is grown in an area. Monocultures are not environmentally or socially sustainable because they disturb the soils, absorb ground-water and are susceptible to diseases which lead to the excessive use of pesticides and herbicides. Monoculture tree plantations have devastating effects on biodiversity and local communities. The United Nations (and REDD+ programs) makes no difference between monoculture plantations and biodiverse forests!

Livelihoods Generally, a livelihood refers to the means of living or how one creates food, shelter and basic necessities to live a healthy life. This can also refer to how one generates an income.

World Bank The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries in the South (Latin America, Africa and Asia) for expanding 'economic growth'. The Bank's nature as a lending institution, its structure and the 'development' paradigm it promotes are in contradiction with the construction of just, fair and sustainable societies. It finances fossil fuel projects that deepen the climate crisis, supports private corporations at the expense of public interests, is governed by undemocratic structures and operates without full transparency and accountability.

International Agreement This is an agreement or instrument by which nation-states and international organizations regulate an issue of concern. The agreement can be governed by and can include the development and codification of international law, the creation of international bodies, and the resolution of actual and potential international conflict. The most comprehensive agreement is called a treaty, but can also be referred to as a convention, a charter, a protocol or a pact. Countries and corporate lobbies with greater power can often pressure countries with less power or resources into agreements which favors the more powerful country.

Performance-based payments
A method of contracting which will pay only after the work is finished (or performed) and usually under a fixed-price that will not change.

Readiness Preparation Proposals Countries that are receiving funds from the **World Bank** REDD program are obliged to create a Readiness Preparation Proposal, which establishes a map that countries use in order to implement national REDD programs.

Free Prior and Informed Consent It is the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use. FPIC is now a key principle in international law and jurisprudence related to Indigenous Peoples.

Land Tenure Land tenure is the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land.

Agricultural carbon The quantity of carbon dioxide contained in agricultural lands and practices which theoretically has the capacity to accumulate or release carbon. However, when plants die they release carbon into the air so it is very difficult to put a level on how much agriculture truly absorbs when adding in other carbon uses such as fossil fuels used by machinery, soil disruption, pesticide use and application etcetera.

Transaction costs This is the cost incurred in making an economic exchange. For example, this can be the commission to pay a broker for a carbon exchange or the energy costs for transporting a good over long distances.

Carbon Offsets Many 'emissions saving' projects in the South (for example large scale hydroelectric, HFC-23, coal projects etc.) create **carbon credits** which are bought by polluters to theoretically 'compensate' for their pollution by investing in these project. These credits allow the polluters to continue polluting. The largest offsets market is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). For more information, please download in English, Spanish and Portuguese a free fact sheet at: <http://www.carbontradewatch.org/factsheets/fact-sheet-2-carbon-offsets.html>

Least Developed Countries (LCD) The LCD countries are the world's "poorest" countries based on the countries' Gross National Income per capita (average over 3-years), the Human Assets Index (indicated by nutrition, health, education and adult literacy) and Economic Vulnerability Criterion (based on the stability of agriculture, exports of goods and services and merchandise). There are currently 33 LDC countries in Africa, one in the Americas and 14 in Asia-Pacific.

Offshore Drilling This is oil drilling that occurs in the oceans or seas at deep levels with high spill risks to ocean biodiversity and sea-dependent communities.

Moratorium An emergency legislation authorizing a government to suspend an action temporarily.

Tar Sands A colloquial term for an oil reserve which are part of a natural mix of sand or clay, water, and a type of oil known as bitumen. It is a thick and sticky form of crude oil that will not flow unless heated. Large deposits are founding Alberta, Canada where strong campaigns to stop the tar sands are underway because it is destroying lands and waters of Indigenous Peoples' and biodiversity. Tar sands are also found in large quantities in Venezuela.

Resources:

Indigenous Peoples Guide,
False Solutions to Climate
Change

http://www.ienearth.org/docs/Indigenous_Peoples_Guide-E.pdf#search=%22REDD%22

REDD – Reaping Profits
from Evictions, Land
Grabs, Deforestation and
Destruction of Biodiversity
<http://www.ienearth.org/REDD/index.html>

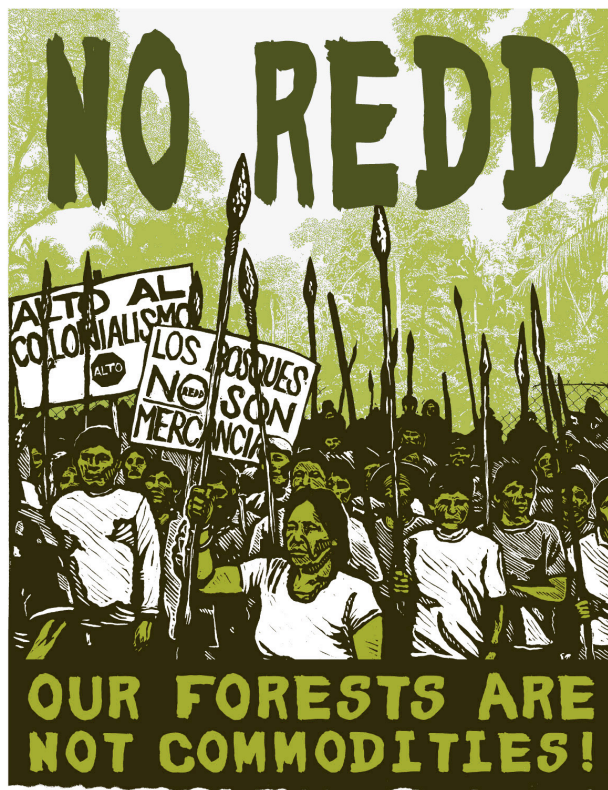
No REDD, a Reader
<http://noredd.makenoise.org>

REDD: The reality in black
and white
<http://www.foei.org/en/resources/publications/pdfs/2010/redd-the-realities-in-black-and-white>

Why REDD is Wrong
<http://ggjalliance.org/node/567>

Position Paper, Imaginary
Sinks: India's REDD
Ambitions
<http://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Sinks-in-the-making1.pdf>

<http://infochangeindia.org/Environment/Community-forests-of-Orissa/The-taming-of-the-wilds.html>



ART BY SANTIAGO ARMENGOD | DESIGN BY MELANIE CERVANTES

Websites:

<http://www.redd-monitor.org/>
<http://www.wrm.org.uy/>
<http://globaljusticeecology.org/>
www.accionecologica.org/

www.oilwatch.org
<http://www.thecornerhouse.org.uk>
<http://www.timberwatch.org/>

WHO BENEFITS FROM REDD+?

Players and Power

Some say that the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) scheme could help communities who rely on the forests while others see REDD+ as paving the way for land grabs around the world which threaten the livelihoods and cultures of communities and the forests. This educational booklet aims to decode the complexities of REDD+ using clear and straight-forward language while opening up a space for critical perspectives.

This booklet is the second in a series of REDD+ popular educational booklets that can be used as tools for widening on-going collective discussion and learning about REDD+.

All the booklets can be downloaded in English and Spanish at <http://noreddpoped.makenoise.org> Please, feel free to print, reproduce and disseminate as much as you want!

And since this is a work in progress, we would like your feedback! Please go the website <http://noreddpoped.makenoise.org> and send your ideas to improve the booklets or write an email to carbontradewatch@gmail.com

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