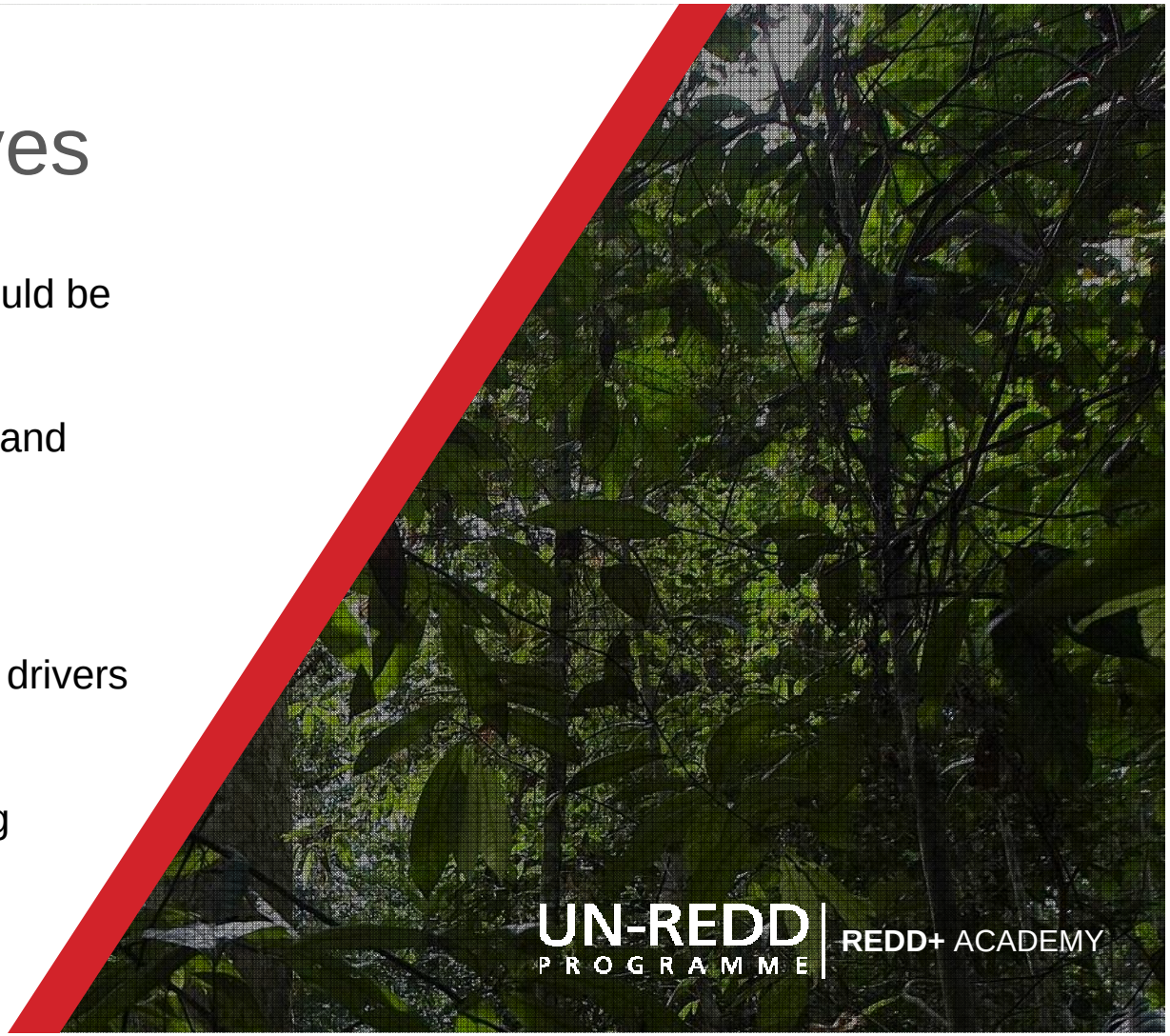
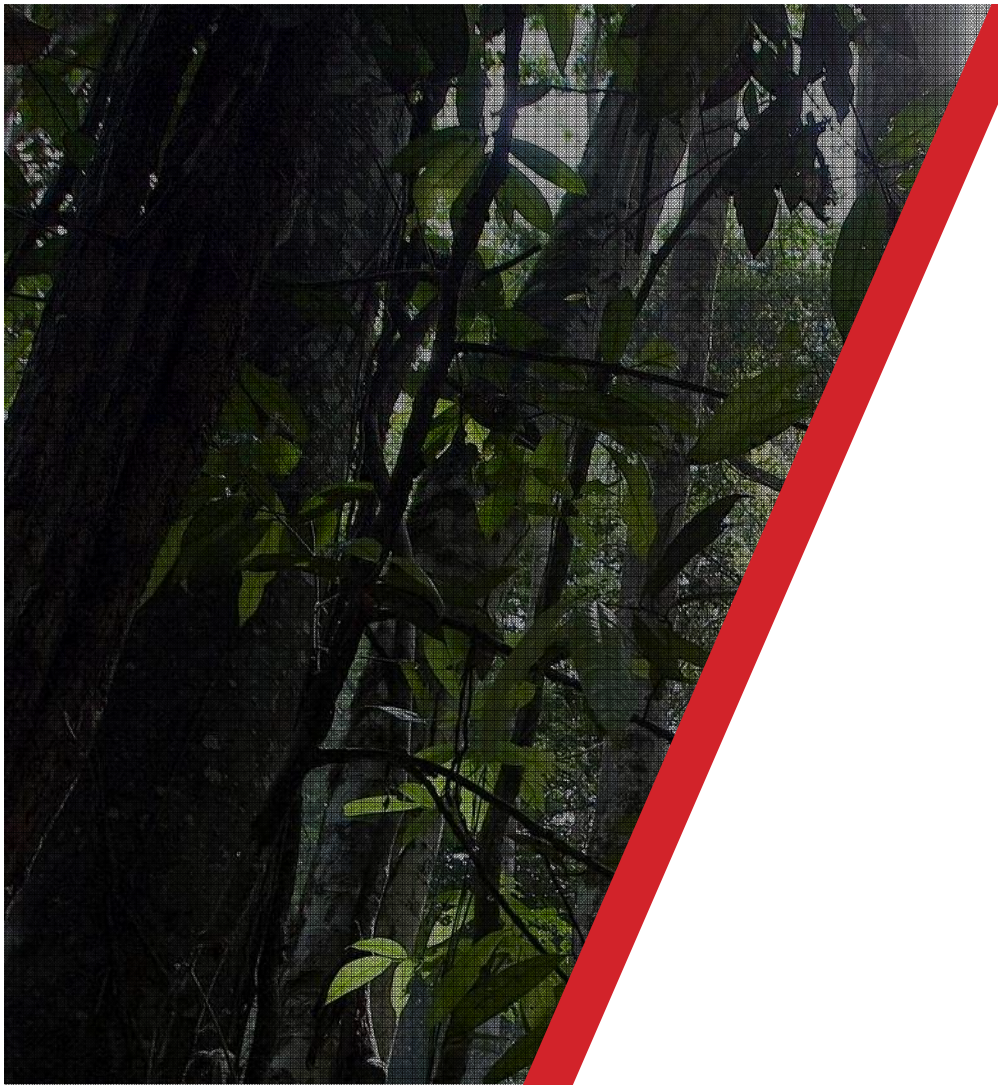

UN-REDD
PROGRAMME
REDD+ ACADEMY
3
Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Learning objectives

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

- Define drivers of deforestation and degradation
- Define barriers to '+' activities
- Explain trends which will affect drivers in the future
- Identify challenges to analysing drivers





Agenda for the session

- Introductory presentation on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and Barriers to '+' activities
- Q & A
- Country examples
- Q & A
- Group exercise

Deforestation & Degradation

Primary forest

Forest degradation

Deforestation

What are drivers and barriers?

Drivers are processes that result in deforestation and forest degradation

- **Direct** drivers ('proximate causes'): immediate actions that directly impact forest cover and loss of carbon
- **Indirect** drivers ('underlying causes'): complex interactions of social, economic, political, cultural and technological processes

Barriers are obstacles to the implementation of '+' activities

- Conservation, sustainable management and enhancement

Examples of direct drivers

Deforestation

- Agriculture (subsistence and commercial)
- Mining
- Infrastructure development and urban expansion

Forest degradation

- Logging
- Forest fires
- Livestock grazing in forests
- Fuelwood collection

Examples of indirect drivers

International level

- Markets, commodity prices, politics

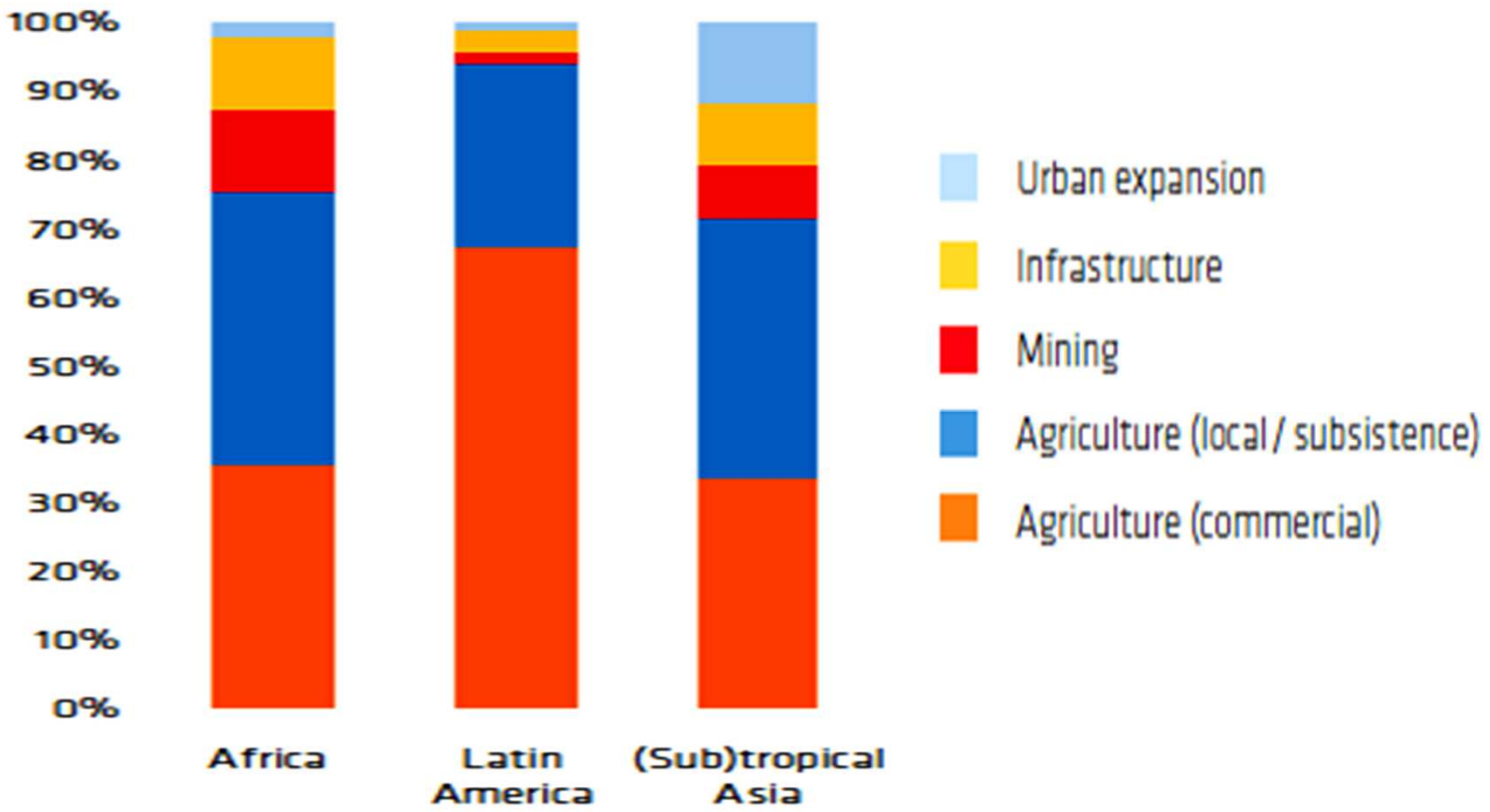
National level

- Population growth
- Domestic markets
- National policies, fiscal incentives and subsidies
- Weak governance and institutions
- Poor cross-sectoral coordination
- Poverty

Local level

- Change in household behaviour

Deforestation drivers by region



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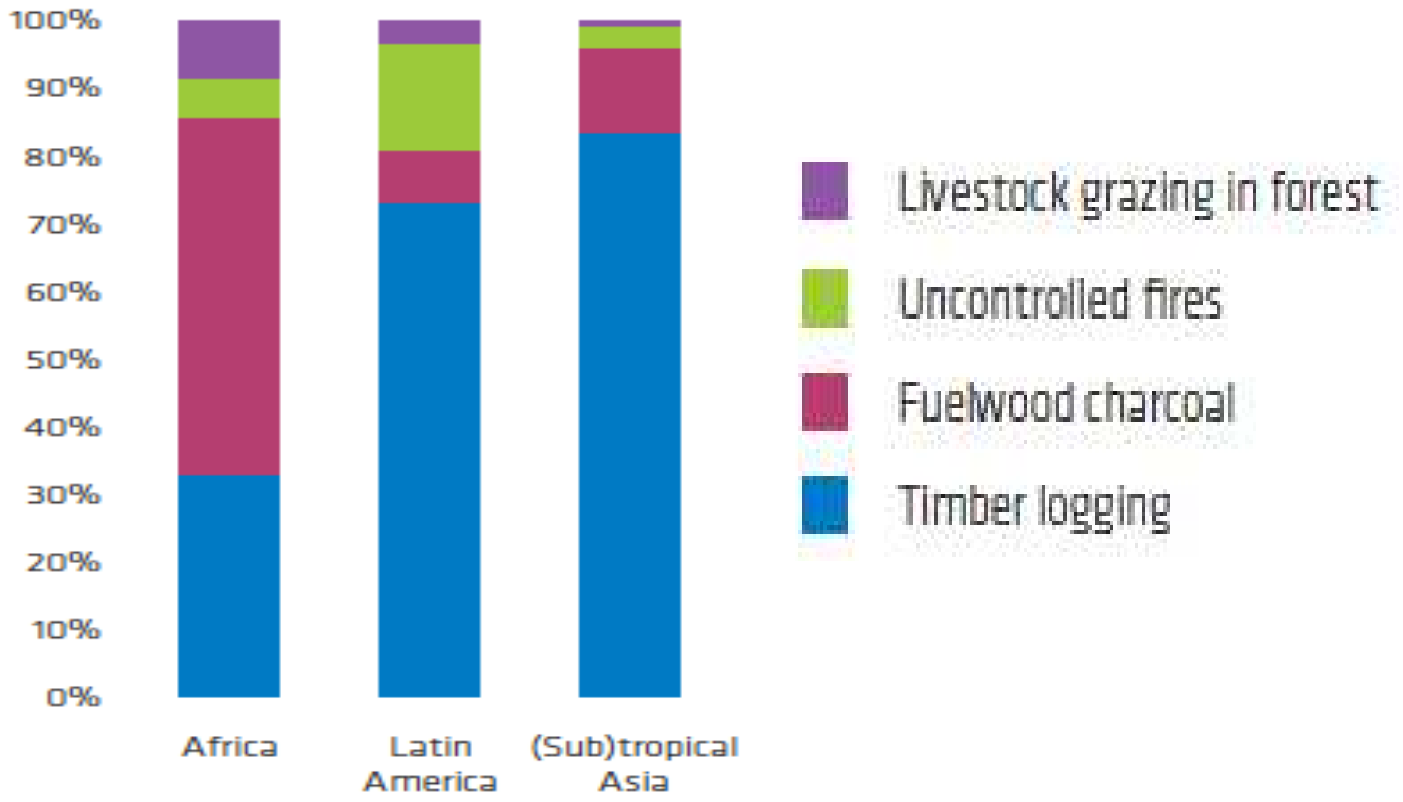
Degradation drivers by region



What about the future?

- Global population increase
- Economic growth patterns
- Demand for agricultural commodities
- Demand for products (timber / non-timber)
- Use of fuel wood and charcoal

Important to consider potential future trends

Why analyse drivers?

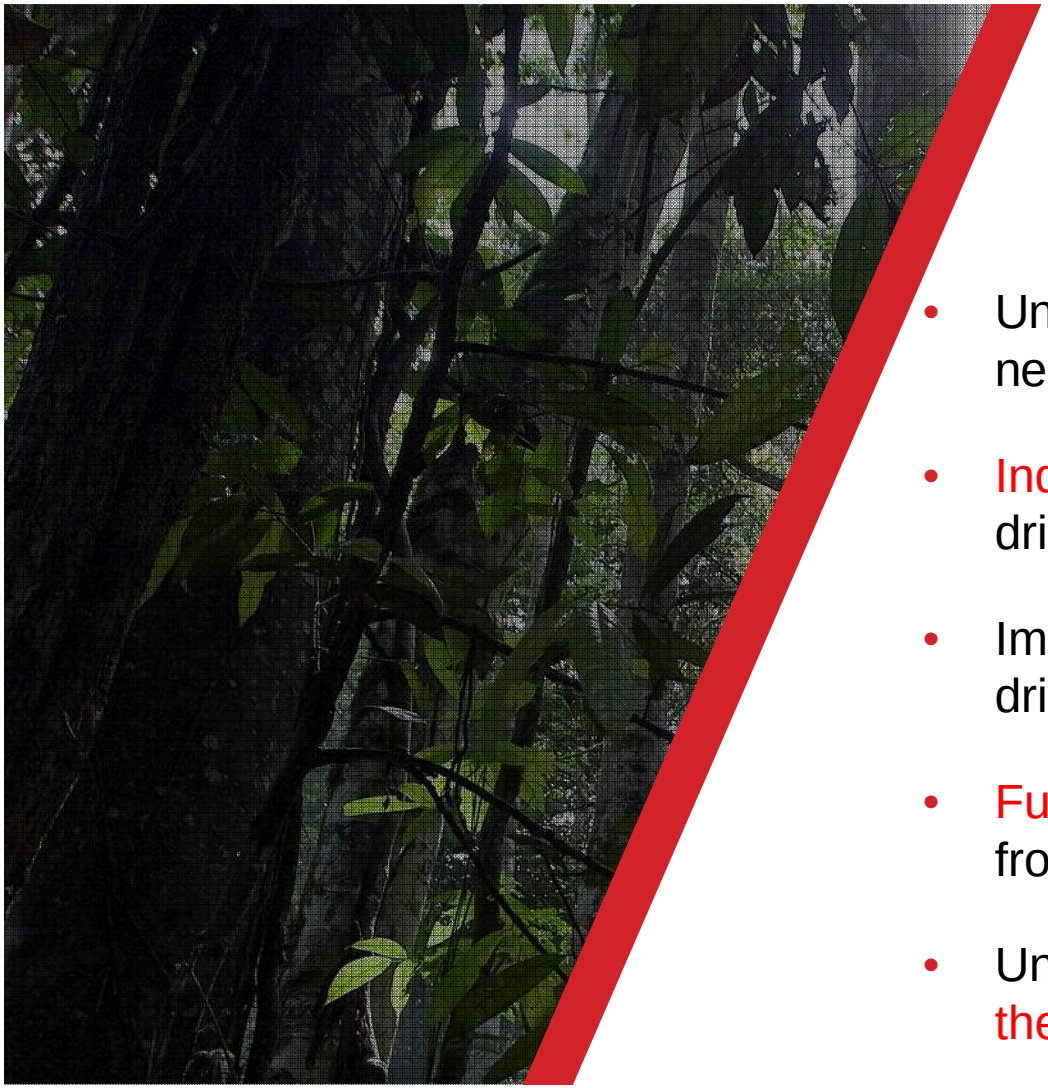
- Design policies and measures that address specific drivers
- Prioritize intervention areas and actions
- Understand costs, risks and benefits
- Assess financial, technical and political feasibility
- Opportunity to engage key stakeholders, especially non-forest sectors
- Define priorities for forest monitoring and MRV

Key Considerations

- Direct drivers are usually known, but need to ensure consensus
- Indirect drivers often neglected
- Assess agents: who is involved?
- Assess context of drivers: legal, institutional, financial, fiscal
- Evaluate GHG impact of main drivers / barriers
- Spatial and socio-economic factors will vary across a country

Challenges

- Assessing / modelling potential future scenarios: need robust data
- Analysing indirect drivers
- Including non-forestry sectors and their plans for the future
- Separating the drivers of deforestation from the drivers of forest degradation
- Being fixated on particular solutions before the analysis



Key messages

- Understanding drivers and barriers is necessary to design effective REDD+ actions
- Indirect drivers very often influence the direc drivers
- Important to assess who is involved in drivers / barriers (the 'agents')
- Future drivers and barriers may be different from past and present ones
- Understanding drivers / barriers from outside the forest sector is important

Country Examples

Nepal

Indirect \ Direct		Illegal logging	Encroachment		
Economic	High demand for forestland and products				
	High dependency on forests				
Policy, governance and tenure	Lack of deliberative and inclusive process				
	Corruption				
	Weak law enforcement				
	Weak tenure				
Cultural (Socio-political)	Prolonged political transition				
	Inequality				
Demographic	Population growth				
	Migration				
Technology					

High costs of alternative fuel, increasing number of brick factories

Organized crime makes threats to Department of Forestry

Poor people migrate to Terai and occupy public forest land

- **Matrix of direct and underlying drivers**
- **Used to identify potential REDD+ policies and measures**

Cameroon

Underlying cause →		Demographic		Economic		Technological		Policy & institutional		Cultural
Proximate driver	**Agent**	Population growth + migration	Urbanization	Demand / market Forces	Poverty	Low productivity	Infrastrucutre development	Unclear land tenure and property rights	National development plans	Consumption patterns
Mangrove exploitation	**Fishers, wood collector**	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	→	→	→	↗
Agriculture expansion	**Small-scale farmers**	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↗	→	→	→
	Medium-large investors	→	→	↗	→	↗	↘	→	↗	→
	Agro-industry	→	→	→	→	↗	↘	↘	↗	→

Current impact of underlying cause on agent

High impact | Medium impact | Low impact

Projected future trend of underlying cause on agent

↗ Increasing impact | → Business as usual | ↘ Decreasing impact