

# Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation

**Bangkok, Thailand**

27 November 2013



# Cancun Agreements

68. *Encourages* all Parties to find effective ways to reduce the human pressure on forests that results in greenhouse gas emissions, including actions to address **drivers of deforestation**;

72. *Also requests* developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia, drivers of **deforestation and forest degradation**, ...



# Fresh from Warsaw

2. *Recognizes* that drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have many causes, and that actions to address these drivers are unique to **countries' national circumstances, capacities and capabilities**;

3. *Encourages* Parties, organizations **and the private sector** to take action to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;

4. *Encourages* all Parties, relevant organizations, and the private sector and other stakeholders, to continue their work to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and **to share the results**



# What are “direct drivers”?

Direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are human activities that directly impact forest cover and result in loss of carbon stocks. **Agriculture** is estimated to be the direct driver for around 80% of deforestation worldwide.

Mining, infrastructure and urban expansion are important but less prominent.

Findings on global patterns of degradation indicate that (commercial) **timber extraction** accounts for more than 70% of total degradation in Latin America and (sub)tropical Asia.



# What are “indirect drivers”?

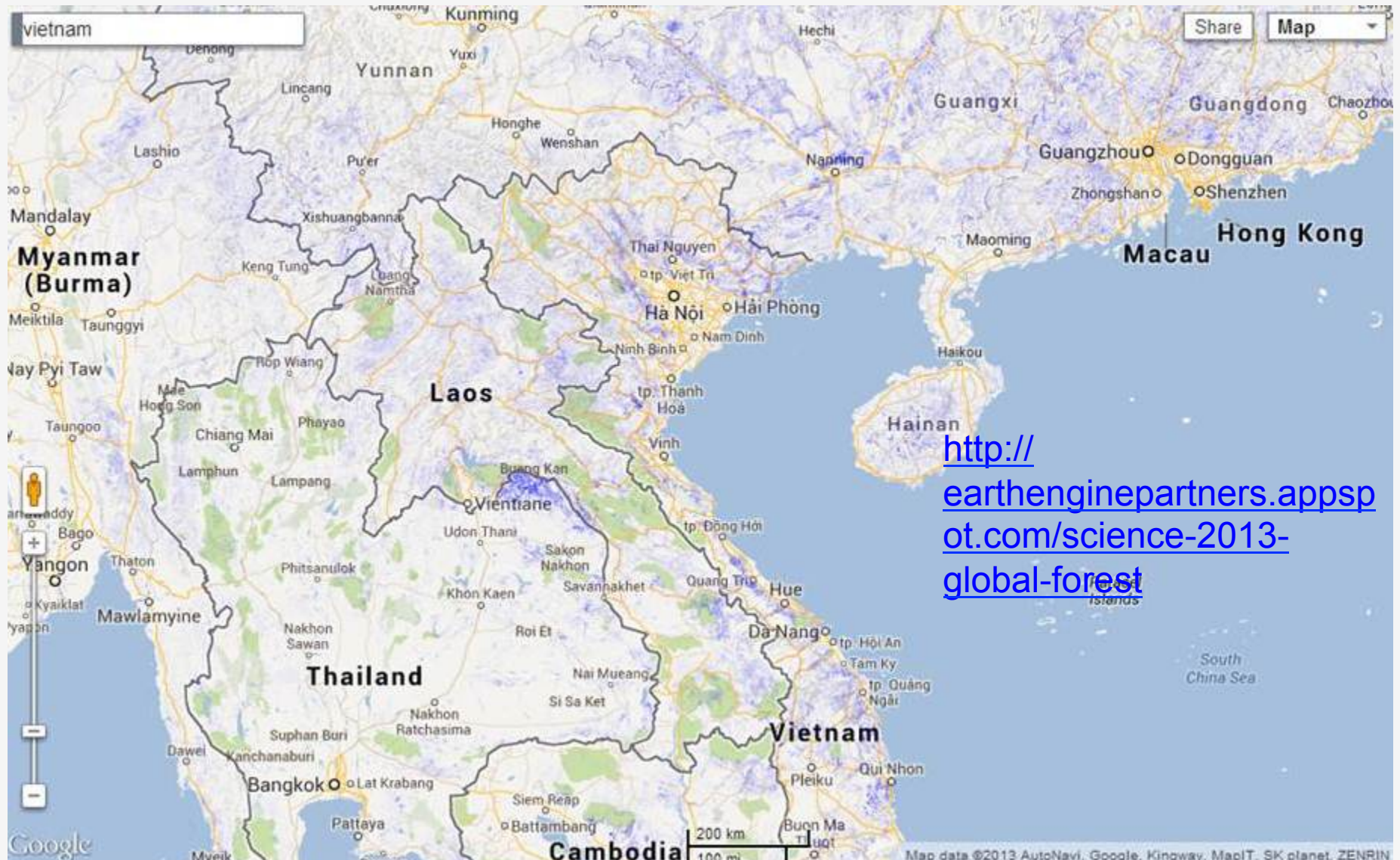
Indirect drivers are complex interactions of social, economic, political, cultural and technological processes that affect the direct drivers to cause deforestation or forest degradation.

They act at **multiple scales**: international (markets, commodity prices), national (population growth, domestic markets, national policies, governance) and local circumstances (subsistence, poverty).

Many REDD+ readiness plans identify weak forest sector governance and institutions, weak cross-sectoral coordination, and illegal activities (related to weak enforcement) as critical indirect drivers.



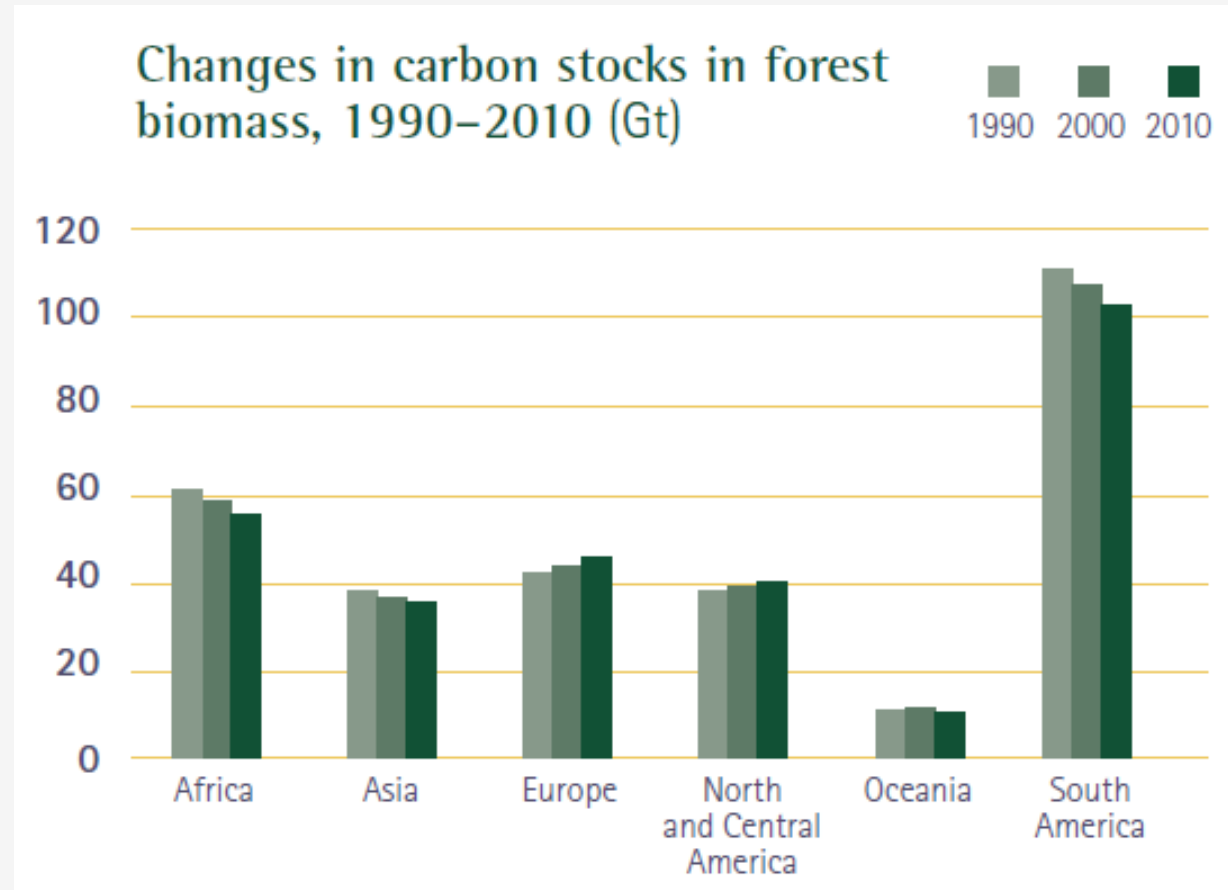
# Forest gain 2000-2012



# Asia-Pacific region

Forest areas  
are expanding

... but is still  
losing carbon!

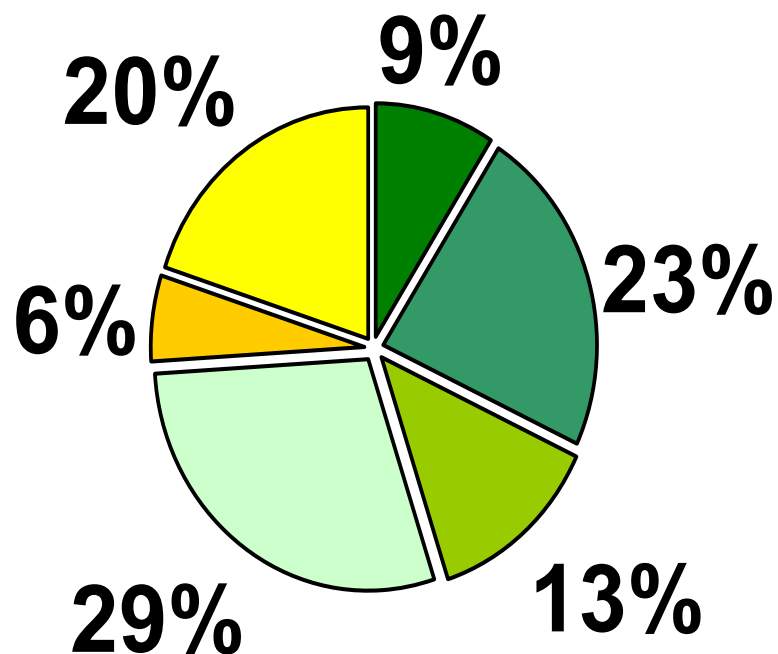


# Forest loss 2000-2012



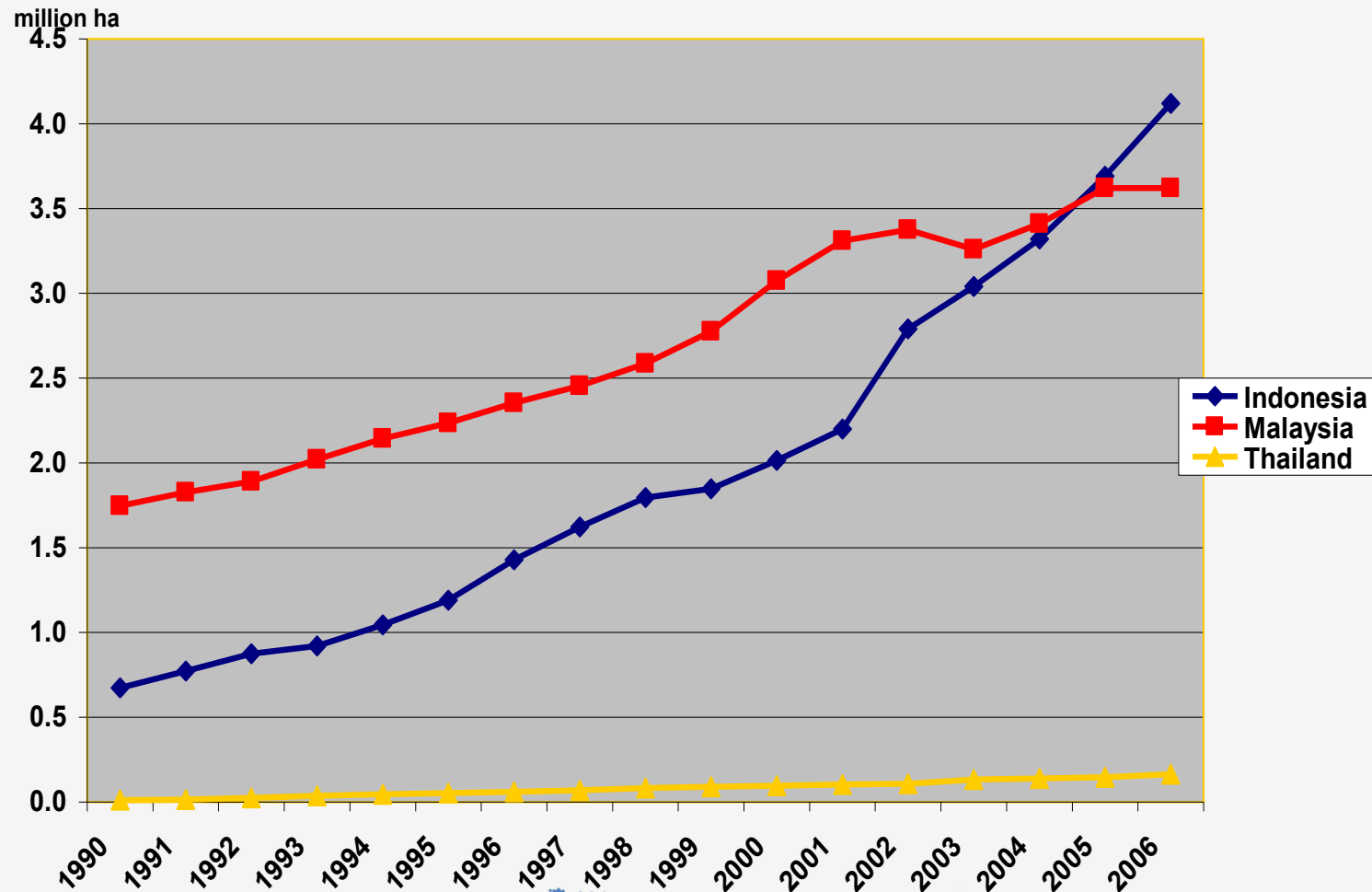


# Causes of change in forest area, Asia/Pacific



- Expansion of shifting cultivation into undisturbed forests
- Intensification of agriculture in shifting cultivation areas
- Direct conversion of forest area to small-scale permanent agriculture
- Direct conversion of forest area to large-scale permanent agriculture
- Gains in forest area and canopy cover

# Oil palm production (Harvested area)



# Affecting drivers

Interventions can engage actors at various scales, for instance commodity roundtables and public-private sector partnerships. Consumer and producer countries have a range of tools and interventions to address international activities driving deforestation. These can be voluntary measures (e.g. EU Voluntary Partnership Agreements, procurement and sourcing commitments) or regulatory (such as import controls). Where demand- and supply-side interventions are mutually reinforcing, there will be greater chance to affect driver activity.



# Affecting drivers

National-level interventions can include a range of incentives (e.g. tax policies, benefit-sharing), disincentives (e.g. moratoria, fees, reduction of “perverse” policies, such as low land rents or price support schemes for agricultural products) and enabling measures (e.g. adequate governance, strict enforcement, policies and land-use planning, secure tenure rights).

Local-level interventions need to be suited to local conditions, but considered within the context of national REDD+ plans to ensure the right incentives, enabling conditions, and policy levers are in place.





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**Thank You**

Website: <http://www.un-redd.org>

For more information see:

Kissinger, G., M. Herold, V. De Sy. Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: A Synthesis Report for REDD+ Policymakers. Lexeme Consulting, Vancouver Canada, August 2012.

