UN-REDD Viet Nam

Reference Levels and Baselines

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Presentation structure

- Forest trends in Viet Nam

- Basic elements of Reference Levels and Baselines

- Reference Levels in the Vietnamese context

- Recommendations

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Forest trends in Viet Nam

- Viet Nam has seen very high deforestation until about 1992
- Decrees 327 (1992) and 661 (1997) have established a turn-around
- Current trend shows reforestation of up to 3% per year

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Reference Levels and Baselines Terminology

- A **reference level** (RL) is a sequence of amounts over time
- Properties of a RL:
  - **Scope**: What is included in the RL
  - **Scale:** Geographical area from which it is derived or to which it is applied
  - **Period:** over which the RL is calculated
- An RL of emissions of CO_2e is called a **reference emission level** (REL)
- An RL of past amounts is **retrospective** (historical)
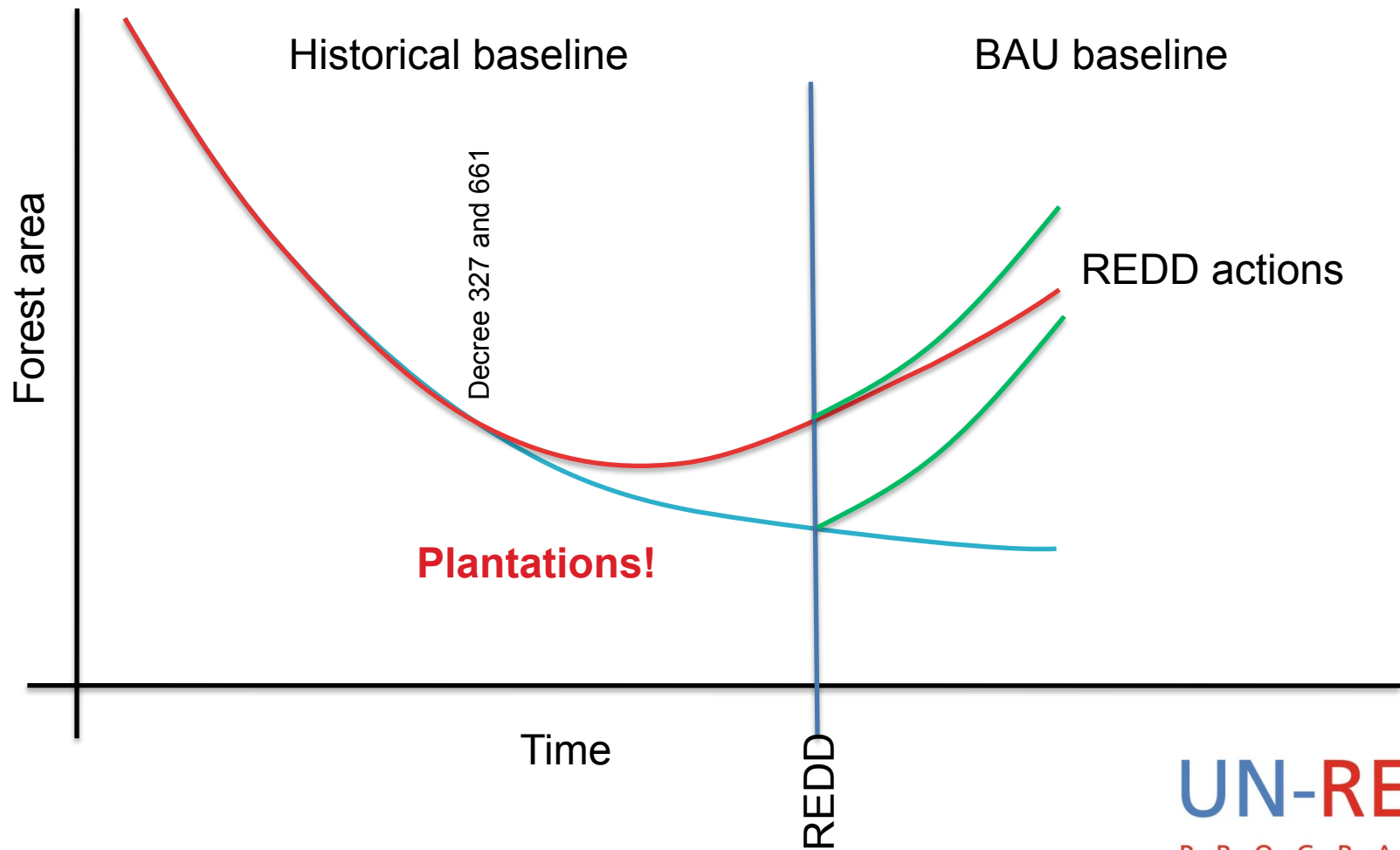- An RL of future amounts is **prospective** (projected)

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Reference Levels and Baselines Terminology

- The **baseline** is a special kind of RL: The RL without REDD interventions

- Past amounts are reflected in the **historical baseline** (retrospective)

- Future amounts are reflected in the **business-as-usual baseline** (BAU) (prospective)

- Adjustments:

  - **Development adjustment factor** (DAF) accounts for low deforestation rates and low technological capacity – not applicable to Viet Nam

  - **Crediting baseline** applies a discount to the BAU baseline – emission reductions are compared against it to determine benefits

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Business-as-usual?

Forest area

Historical baseline

BAU baseline

Decree 327 and 661

REDD actions

Plantations!

Time

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Recommendations

- Very clear distinction should be made between the different concepts in the establishment of RLs and baselines

- Better data means more accurate baselines
  - More confidence in emission reduction estimates
  - Less "discount" in the crediting baseline
  - A longer time series at lower resolution may be better than a few inventory dates at high resolution. Combination will be best

- Incorporate Decrees 327 and 661 as national circumstances
  - Viet Nam should not be punished for investing early in sustainable forest management and reforestation

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