REDD+ in a Green Economy

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Global Symposium Report

19-21 June 2013, Jakarta, Indonesia

In collaboration with:

Introduction

The Global Symposium on REDD+ in a Green Economy was convened on 19-21 June 2013[1] in Jakarta, with the aim of providing key decision makers with a better business case for protecting and restoring forests in developing countries, and for linking REDD+ planning and investments with nascent green economy efforts. Co-hosted by the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the UN-REDD Programme, the Global Symposium was organized in partnership with the United Nations Office for REDD+ Coordination in Indonesia (UNORCID), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Participants from six continents, 24 countries and 31 organisations met to discuss ideas, share experience and best practices.

This report[2] summarises the key discussions from the plenary and working group sessions to synthesise the main take-away messages and content of the Symposium. The report is structured around the four core discussion areas over the Symposium: setting the scene and international context for REDD+ in a green economy; reaching out to the private sector; REDD+ country experiences; and the findings of three working groups on national support, research and development, and coordination.

Key resources and further information

- A background paper for the Global Symposium, *Integrating REDD+ in a green economy transition: challenges and opportunities*, is available on ODI, UN-REDD Programme, and UNORCID websites.
- All symposium presentations are available on the UN-REDD Programme website.
- The UN-REDD Programme blog discussing some highlights of the Symposium.
- For further information on the UN-REDD Programme's on-going work in this area, contact Tim.Christophersen@unep.org.

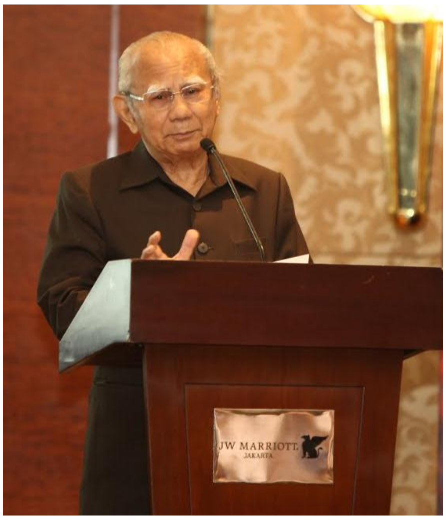
[1] A national roundtable on 'Greening Indonesia's National Development Plan' was held on 21 June as part of the Symposium. A meeting report from the national roundtable is available at www.unorcid.org.
[2] Authored by Will McFarland and Charlene Watson at ODI, with thanks to the team at UNORCID for their support.

Acronyms

AMAN	Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GoI	Government of Indonesia
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PES	Payments for Environmental Services
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
UN-REDD Programme	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNORCID	United Nations Office for REDD+ Coordination in Indonesia

Setting the Scene

H.E. Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto



Prof. Dr. Emil Salim

The Global Symposium for REDD+ in a Green Economy presented a strong rationale for aligning what have largely been pursued as separate concepts. In considering why they are complementary, it was discussed how **REDD+ could act as a catalyst for a green economy, while at the same time progress towards a green economy could stimulate REDD+ investments and make them more secure; thus there is a mutually reinforcing relationship**.

This is something that resonated with the Indonesian delegates in the room as it is at the heart of Indonesia's efforts to deliver REDD+. It was highlighted that, while the development of REDD+ stemmed from the agreement that addressing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation was an *end* that needed to be achieved, the process of delivering REDD+ has the potential to *catalyse* structural improvements with wider social benefits, for example better governance and management of landscapes. For most participants at the Symposium, the true benefits of reducing deforestation and forest degradation lie beyond carbon and in protecting and enhancing the many other environmental, economic and social benefits that forests bring.

In parallel to pursuing REDD+, there is international and domestic momentum in many countries to shift business-as-usual models of economic growth to those that are more environmentally sustainable, more resource efficient, and more socially inclusive. Yet, rising inequality remains a key barrier to development in many countries. In Indonesia, for example, GDP growth has not progressed hand-in-hand with sustainable resource management or social equity. It was agreed that there is an **imperative to *'improve human well-being, not GDP'* and therefore pursue a green economy.**

What is REDD+?

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. "REDD+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

What is a Green Economy?

A green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive (UNEP, 2011).

With this in mind, it was agreed that REDD+ is vital for, and will inherently be part of efforts to transition to a green economy. Considered as a development tool, REDD+ fits squarely within emerging green economy principles. **In a transition to a green economy, investing in REDD+ has the potential to contribute to a wide spectrum of environmental, social and economic objectives, and in developing REDD+ in a way that is pro-poor and pro-jobs, it will support green economy principles**. **At the same time, the transition towards a low-carbon economy can help to accelerate and secure the success of REDD+.** This is the core of the debate on linking REDD+ to green economy initiatives.

Reaching out to the private sector

In light of the mutually reinforcing relationship, a green economy can bring a positive force to fostering greater private sector engagement in REDD+; where a green economy is considered as an approach rather than a static state. REDD+ can have negative connotations for the private sector, particularly if REDD+ activities restrict land uses. However, green economy approaches speak more to the opportunities for investment, particularly at the landscape level where investment can deliver emission reductions as well as returns for other land-uses as part of a package of investment. In the current absence of the necessary level of carbon finance or REDD+ finance to generate emissions reductions (see discussion on REDD+ financing in Box 1), **green economy approaches highlight the multiple benefits of reducing deforestation and forest degradation**. If regulatory approaches can be combined with economic incentives, including possible carbon finance, such benefits could attract greater levels of investment.

Box 1. The financing challenge

There is a substantial gap between the economic value of existing incentives to prevent and reverse deforestation and those that promote deforestation. For example, forest carbon transactions on the voluntary carbon markets totalled **US$237 million** in 2011, representing the reduction of 26 $MtCO_2e$. In the same year, the estimated annual production of palm oil, beef, and soy were valued at **US$31 billion**, **14 billion**, and **47 billion** respectively.

A recurring theme throughout the Symposium was if and how it was possible to overcome the differing incentives, in addition to finding the finance to implement both REDD+ and wider actions to transition to a green economy.

There emerged two options, not mutually exclusive, through which the above issues can be approached; one which identifies new finance required to support a transition (readiness activities and new incentives to change practices) and another that seeks to regulate existing private and public investments and safeguards them from causing deforestation and directs them towards green(er) activities.

Sources: UN-REDD Policy Brief Issue #04, June 2013, highlighted in the presentations by Pavan Sukhdev and Iain Henderson. Available at: http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10509&Itemid=53

The benefits of scaling up private sector involvement in REDD+ within a green economy are threefold: **to support investment, to drive innovation, and to utilise implementation capacity.** There is a need to better establish how private sector investment can build on public finance that has flowed for REDD+ and how the remaining public finance pledged to REDD+ can be best used to encourage such investments; by generating an enabling investment climate. In addition, more discussions on how innovation can be driven by the private sector are necessary, building on a growing momentum of positive change. As the largest land users with substantial skills and capacity, the role of the private sector in implementing REDD+ activities should not be underestimated. **This requires more consideration and greater differentiation between the different private sector actors important to REDD+.** A categorisation of three such groups may be: those purchasing voluntary emission reductions on the voluntary carbon markets, those engaged with 'forest-risk' commodities, and those who could create a non-extractive economic paradigm that reduces pressure on the forests.

UNEP Goodwill Ambassador
Mr. Pavan Sukhdev

If a green economy, or government commitment to pursuing a green economy, is to provide a much needed incentive to scale up private sector REDD+ finance, it will be important to better understand and communicate how the private sector considers the risks and rewards of involvement on REDD+ and on-going work to address these (Table 1). By doing so, efforts to create enabling environments are more likely to be successful.

International institutions and domestic policy makers need to set signals that are long, loud, legal and light. This is *long*-term commitments that allow time for the return on investment to be made, *loud* signals of the direction to be taken that give investors certainty and confidence, a *legal* framework that is trusted and transparent, and relatively *light* regulation that companies can navigate and that are easy to enforce. Gathering 'proof of concept' for REDD+ and showcasing positive returns (social, ecological and economic) from REDD+ is also necessary to (re)build confidence in the private sector.

Table 1: Simplified private sector perceptions of risks and rewards in REDD

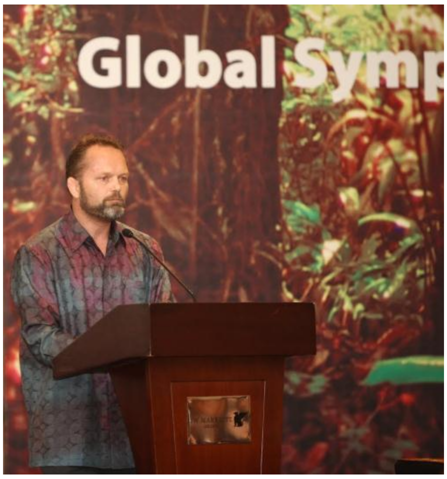
Risks	Reward
• Project risks - will it work? • Coordination risks - can actors be trusted? • Investor risks - can I get my money back? • Regulation risk - will it damage my brand? Will regulation change?	• Stable – project is manageable • Sustainable – viable over a long period catering for different investors, early and mature • Profitable – offering returns for upfront investment and the risks taken (income from emissions reductions is a bonus if they come to exist)
Adapted from: Presentation by Dr. Nigel Turvey, CEO of KeepTheHabitat	

REDD+ country experiences

Many countries have positioned their REDD+ efforts within a wider desire to move towards greener patterns of domestic growth and poverty reduction. There is much to learn in order to practically implement and integrate REDD+ within a green economy, and sharing perspectives and experiences is a useful starting point. A number of forested nations have identified national-level linkages between REDD+ and green economy approaches (Table 2). These largely relate to the social and environmental pillars of a country's national development or poverty reduction strategies and their linkages with REDD+ activities in country.

H.E. Dr. Ir. Rr. Endah Murniningtyas

Some countries have taken bold steps towards REDD+ in a green economy such as in Indonesia where REDD+ forms a key component of its development strategy and commitments to a greener economy. Kenya has also taken steps to better account for the economy-wide costs of deforestation that cuts across other economic sectors. Viet Nam has defined plans to decouple GDP growth and greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and strives for a green economy by 2050, with forestry and the importance of REDD+ explicit in these objectives. In addition to support of multilateral programmes such as the UN-REDD Programme, bilateral support has also proven important in fostering such linkages; the partnership between Indonesia and Norway, for example has played a role in Indonesia's embrace of REDD+ within a green economy.



Norwegian Ambassador
H.E. Amb. Stig Traavik

It is clear that countries face economic pressure from growing commodity export markets, and existing institutional and policy constraints that compete with REDD+ incentives and may challenge a shift to a greener economy. However, country experiences highlighted key areas where action was being and has been taken. Progress is being made and REDD+ actions have either contributed towards this progress or been responsible for it. For example, national REDD+ strategies often include changes to agricultural and energy production, while also working towards improvements in land management and governance, such as through improved participation and empowerment. These are all outcomes that will contribute towards and be necessary for the transition to a green economy.

Table 2: Examples of links between REDD+ and green economy in national policy and planning

Country	Links between REDD+ and green economy in national policy and planning
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	DRC produced a roadmap in 2013 towards a National Strategy for Sustainable Development. 'Sustainable environmental management' is a pillar of DRC's vision for sustainable development and a green economy, and REDD+ contributes directly to many subcomponents of this, including land reform, eco-agricultural practices, and low carbon energy development.
Ethiopia	Ethiopia's vision is to build climate resilience and a carbon neutral and sustainable economy by 2025. One of the four pillars of the green economy focuses on forests and REDD+ is seen as an opportunity to support forestry development activities.
Indonesia	Sustainability is one of eight 'missions' in Indonesia's long-term development visions (2005-2025). The focus is currently on institutional strengthening and building capacity in environmental management. With forests and peat land being a huge component of Indonesia's environment and its degradation of its emissions, REDD+ is an integral part of the country's development strategy.
Kenya	*Vision 2030* is the country's new development blueprint. It has three pillars, economic, social, and political. Forests contribute to different sectors within these, for example tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing. Recent studies[3] have highlighted the costs to other sectors from deforestation and REDD+ activities in Kenya are key to reduce these.
Republic of the Congo	REDD+ is described by the National Forum on Sustainable Development as *'a tool for sustainable development'* and '*a base for the green economy.'* The country's REDD+ strategy encourages investments in the green economy, improves efficiency of resource use, and reduces poverty levels.
Viet Nam	The Green Growth Strategy is approved and being initiated through the development of a national action plan. Viet Nam will start using 'green GDP' as an overall socio-economic development indicator. The strategy has a focus on restoring forest, building existing PES policies, and investigating market-based instruments. The domestic importance of REDD+ is highlighted, as well as its role as an international financing mechanism.

[3] The Role of Forests for the Kenyan Economy, available at: http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Kenya_InputOutput.pdf

Supporting progress

Having explored conceptual aspects of REDD+ in a green economy, the Global Symposium turned to deepen the understanding of how to link REDD+ to a green economy transition. To achieve this, three working groups were established on *national support, research and development,* and *coordination.* Their generated ideas and solutions are reported here.

What support is needed at national level?

Identifying the need for international support in order to successfully integrate REDD+ planning into on-going or planned domestic green economy efforts was one of the ambitions of the symposium. Working Group One explored the key criteria for successfully integrating REDD+ planning into on-going or planned green economy efforts as well as to postulate how these might be met through international support:

1. **Willingness and capacity to make necessary changes to business-as-usual** requires support at the highest levels as well as strong leadership that can generate buy-in (and ideally result in domestic actions that are legally binding (for example the Indonesian action plan to reduce GHG emissions). Support at this level necessitates the knowledge of the case for a green economy approach to be communicated, including any trade-offs, but also capacity to effect this change. This capacity and commitment must trickle down through all levels of government and activities towards a green economy could become part of the government's mandate. Support might raise awareness around green economy approaches as well as help to make an economic case for a green economy through effective communications.
2. **Research into economic and distributional aspects of costs and impacts of REDD+ and green economy approaches** can help to understand the trade-offs and longer term economic impacts of shifting from the business-as-usual pathway. In this way, risks can be better communicated at all levels of decision making. Support can help fulfil research needs where capacity or resources are weak.
3. **Cross-sectoral approaches** for integrated land-use planning that can deliver the multiple benefits of REDD+ into the future, while also meeting development objectives. Support to shift thinking from forest sector projects to a more integrated land-use initiative could better demonstrate how REDD+ and a green economy can be mutually reinforcing. This could include support to explore investment and policy options or the mainstreaming of green economy in existing national planning and budget allocation structures.
4. **Adequate financing and/or technical support** pertains to both early investment to kick-start the process of integration, but also sustained investment for the development and implementation of national REDD+ strategies. Support could provide direct technical and financial resources for pilot activities and preparations; technical assistance could be used to identify areas where different funding sources could be integrated and innovative sources of finance found.
5. **South-south cooperation and lesson learning**, such as those by the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF, could accelerate progress through the distillation of best practice. For example, identifying whether institutional, financial or technical levers are most effective in driving change, or whether insights can be drawn from existing payment for environmental service

schemes. Support could provide the platforms through which cooperation could occur or could support national-level efforts to monitor and evaluate progress from which learning is possible.

Research and development

Working Group Two considered the key knowledge gaps for making the 'business case' for REDD+ in a green economy. Four gaps were identified and it was further discussed who these knowledge gaps affected and how they could be filled (Table 3). Greater levels of categorisation and the need for case studies are emphasised throughout that reflects both differing country contexts, but also the need to accelerate implementation through sharing best practice as was also emphasised throughout the Symposium.

Table 3: Knowledge gaps affecting the business case for REDD+ in a green economy

Information gap	Affecting who	Action needed	Impact of solutions
What are the incentives driving land-use change at a national level?	Primarily the public sector and policy makers	Categorise economic and policy incentives that influence sectors with roles in deforestation and forest degradation. Follow-up with country-level case studies in three to four countries.	Understanding existing incentives can lead to more efficient and coordinated policy making, agricultural efficiency gains, higher value chains.
What is the role and value of indigenous knowledge systems?	Primarily policy makers and the private sector, but also indigenous peoples	Indigenous people through documentation of the knowledge and the creation of case studies at country level. IPs should work through civil society (including IP's own organisations) and international research agencies to channel information up and down. An example of this would be AMAN in Indonesia.	Better partnerships, more sustainable programs, and secured long term investments
What is the business case given different interpretations of REDD+ and Green Economy?	Government at the national/state level, community actors, and the private sector	Consultation, synthesis, and evaluation of the feasibility of different approaches to REDD+ within (or not within) a green economy.	Improved national and sub-national REDD+, and green economy strategies
What are the costs, risks and benefits for stakeholders at different scales?	Donor community and investors, community actors, and government	Participatory research by national and international research organisations	Better understanding of trade-offs, well-informed decisions, and better targeted investments

Coordination

The third working group considered how countries could benefit from the coordination of REDD+ and green economy linkages which goes beyond dialogue to build efficiency and make strategic use of limited finance. The discussion was broad, covering coordination between government sectors and ministries in a country, but also considering the need to coordinate between private sector actors, as well as the donor community, academia and other interest groups. It was recognised that everyone supports coordination in theory, but in practice, coordination can be challenging due to resource and time constraints or even political economy constraints. Three core questions were explored in more detail to determine how progress towards coordination could be made:

What defines good coordination?

- A central vision can foster a greater willingness to coordinate, as coordination is a means to an end and not an end in itself. In doing so, efforts must go beyond dialogue and may need to be broken down into specific sectors, groups of actors, or themes to build strong foundations that everyone can buy-in to and be empowered to act on its foundation.
- Leadership is critical and while it does not necessarily have to come from within the government, government must play a central role if there is to be successful coordination to the extent that policies, planning and budgeting processes are all aligned. Such leadership has to also have the authority to mandate coordination.
- Objectives for coordination should be clear and agreed upon in advance particularly as both REDD+ and a green economy require such cross-sectoral coordination. This will allow us to define, recognise, and measure it at different scales. Key performance indicators could be designed from such objectives and even integrated into job descriptions which could provide a soft form of sanctions against those who fail to coordinate.
- Efforts to coordinate build on or reinforce existing institutions and structures rather than duplicating and adding to the burdens of actors, particularly civil servants, sitting on multitudes of committees, working groups and such like.

What concrete activities can be undertaken to aid coordination?

- Work towards the alignment of existing national planning and budgeting institutions with a REDD+ and green economy approach that may or may not require new institutions or a combination of existing institutions to achieve. This also necessitates retrospective policy harmonisation that can clarify the role of, and reduce confusion between the 'jungle' of planning documents at both national and sub-national levels.
- Move away from highly compartmentalised thinking and activities towards a more holistic approach that recognises REDD+ as more than a project, but rather as a platform for integrated land-use planning. This is likely to require greater dedication of financial resources to support such mainstreaming.
- Gather and share information on techniques, methods and tools that have worked to promote coordination in other contexts that might be transferred or adjusted to new national and sub-national contexts. This is likely to include a reflection of sub-national level coordination where power relationships can be different and coordination can be achieved more readily.
- Assess and build capacity in relevant actors where necessary, so that they have the required 'know-how' as well as the ability to communicate this know-how. This may go beyond the civil service and may engage civil society who can play an important role in transparency that keeps watch over efforts to coordinate.

- Build a platform for coordination that can prepare objectives, agree a timeframe for actions, and delegate responsibilities at ministry, institution, or even individual level. Such a platform is likely to also enable monitoring and evaluation of agreed upon objectives.

What can international organisations do to aid coordination?

- It was noted that donors must be aware and sensitive to the political economy in countries where they work if they are to contribute to efforts to coordinate REDD+ and green economy planning and investments. There is often competition between, and even within, ministries and sectors, particularly where donor finance has been involved and this is likely to impact on efforts to coordinate.
- There was a further call for donors to better coordinate themselves to avoid duplications and to progress beyond a culture of writing more reports rather than instigating change. This requires greater transparency in donor objectives as well as clarification on where strategic partnerships go into the future.
- The international community could potentially play a larger role in motivating coordination, either through incentives where it is achieved, or disincentives (such as being left behind) where it is not.

Overall, the group noted that while coordination can prove a daunting challenge, no matter where you start there are positive knock-on effects at different levels and that the benefits of coordination may take time to realise and be hard to ever attribute, but will be worth the investment.

Concluding remarks

Participants recognized that there are many benefits to be derived from linking REDD+ and a Green Economy transition. It was largely understood that agreement on terminology was less important than testing the underlying concepts and adapting them to national and local circumstances: a clear definition of what a 'green economy' entails will depend on each country's conditions, ambitions and priorities. In countries that are already striving towards the broad goal of a 'low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive economy', REDD+ can help to provide context, experience, and improved land-use practices as a catalyst for this transition.

The increased certainty that could be provided for investments by linking REDD+ to a broader, long-term green economy transition can alter the risks and rewards involved and thus provide greater opportunities for the private sector to engage in REDD+. The integration of REDD+ within a green economy could benefit from a better understanding of the component actors in the private sector and their capacity to invest, innovate and implement actions. This would require a broadening of the current focus on private sector engagement in REDD+, which looks mostly at restrictions and at carbon finance opportunities. This shift, however, also requires public sector action to provide the enabling and regulatory environment that changes the incentives driving the losses and degradation of forest ecosystems.

Many countries have attempted to position their REDD+ efforts within the wider domestic desire to move towards greener patterns of growth and poverty reduction. Continuing to foster this process may require a shift towards thinking of REDD+ as a development tool, rather than an environmental or climate change tool only (or an end in itself only, i.e. to end deforestation and forest degradation and related emissions). While UN-REDD Programme countries are at very different stages in the process of integrating REDD+ in green economy approaches, it is clearly still early days. There is work to be done on the practicalities of how mutually reinforcing planning and implementation can be achieved, and how it would differ from business as usual.

In supporting progress, there is a case to first build greater awareness, willingness and capacity to identify the changes to be made at national level, and to implement these changes. This requires evidence-based information as well as the ability to communicate this information in an accessible and suitable manner to the right levels of decision-making actors and potentially affected parties. As REDD+ necessitates cross-sectoral approaches, and a green economy transition is inherently cross-sectoral, support for processes of greater coordination will be necessary at multiple scales. Embedding REDD+ in a green economy transition will need to go beyond technical issues and forest governance improvements and even beyond carbon, to support a long-term transition towards sustainability.

As a next step, the UN-REDD Programme, under the auspices of the UNEP International Resource Panel, has established a global Working Group of renowned experts, who will synthesize available knowledge and provide guidance on mutually reinforcing linkages between REDD+ and a Green Economy. The report of the International Resource Panel will be available in early 2014.

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