Tropical Forests & Climate Change: REDD+ and Bottom-Up Innovation

Daniel Nepstad, PhD
Executive Director &
Senior Scientist

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General Context:

• Tropical deforestation ~11% of global emissions
• Brazil has reduced deforestation in the Amazon 70% from 2005-2013, avoiding 3.2 GtCO2 emissions
• Brazil and REDD+ could provide largest mitigation progress by 2020
The State of REDD+ Carbon Market:

• UNFCCC: REDD+ largely completed in Warsaw
  • Lack of demand for REDD+ ER’s major barrier
  • Chances of new commitments by Paris is low
• Public finance for performance-based REDD+ is growing
  • Norway, Germany, UK
The State of REDD+ Carbon Market:

• California
  • AB-32 Sectoral REDD Offset Provision
    • Could begin regulatory process early 2015
    • Offset shortage with potential implications for fuel prices
    • Opposition to offsets could prevent action
    • Governor Jerry Brown’s ambition
How did Brazil do it?

• Fear
  • Of losing access to markets or credit; fines, jail

• Money
  • Positive incentives

• Forestland Shortage
  • Increase in protected areas/indigenous lands
  • Delays in new highways

• Reduced demand
  • soy slow-down
  • cattle intensification/herd reduction
FORESTLAND SHORTAGE

New protected areas \(\rightarrow\) land speculation

Nepstad et al. 2014  Science
REDUCED DEMAND

Doubling beef yields, soy retraction

Nepstad et al. 2014  Science
How did Brazil do it?

• Fear ✔✔
• Money ✗
• Forestland Shortage ✔✔
• Reduced demand ✔✔
Replicating Brazil’s success:

Governors’ Climate & Forests task force
• 26 States & Provinces with 1/4\text{th} of the world’s tropical forests
• Rio Branco Declaration: 80% reduction by 2020

New York Declaration on Forests
• Halve deforestation by 2020; end it by 2030
• 150 B hectares of new forest by 2020; 350 by 2030

“Zero Deforestation” commitments
• Unilever, Wilmar, Cargill, Proctor & Gamble, Mars, Consumer Goods Forum
Rio Branco Declaration Implemented

Swette, Setiawan, Nepstad. 2014
www.earthinnovation.org
Potential Game-changers:

China announces curbs on commodity imports from deforesters
Company partnerships with GCF states and Provinces
California launches REDD+
Conclusion:

UNFCCC: demand for REDD+ ER’s low
Brazil moving ahead without a market
Other countries could follow, especially subnationally

To seize near-term opportunity:
  • Shared deforestation targets for governments & companies
  • California
  • China