

Elucidating inconvenient realities and then pursuing better pathways: A shock treatment for current retrogressive REDD+ demonstration projects

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An inconvenient event is increasingly hindering the progress of hard-going REDD plus projects. A report by a European environmental NGO discouraged an international airline from leveraging a carbon trading scheme that utilized the carbon credits of REDD plus demonstration site in Cambodia. The report was written by the NGO against REDD plus based on information gleaned from an Australian PhD student that deforestations were continuing in the area. According to the spokesperson of the airline, the company provided the scheme to their customers as they believed the explanations of carbon trading agent that REDD plus was an effective way to stop deforestation in the area.

This incident and the airline's response suggest the inaction of both the airline and pro-REDD plus researchers. Since the difficulties in stopping deforestation in frontier areas have been clarified by some studies (eg., Kurashima et al. 2014, Kurashima et al. 2015, Kurashima 2007), pro-REDD plus researchers should have widely informed people about the difficult challenges faced by REDD plus in these areas and offered people opportunities for contemplation to let more stable supports form.

This study focuses on some inconvenient realities in the implementation of REDD plus projects in frontier areas, and shows possible ways to deal with such inconveniences under the REDD plus scheme. Ongoing deforestation around a planned Cambodian REDD plus site and the causes are elucidated in this study. Moreover, the directions for REDD plus supporters to address these realities are discussed.

References

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