



# **From REDD+ performance to Green growth: Synergies or discord in Vietnam and Indonesia**

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# GG and REDD+

## ✓ Green growth and green economy

- no common definition but share common underlying concern that the level of necessary environmental protection is not being met through the 'business-as-usual' patterns of growth
- have been adopted globally and are promoted as the new answer to global development

## ✓ REDD+. reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

### REDD+ In The Paris Climate Accord: A Summary

Author: Steve Zwick

*After decades of evolution and years of difficult negotiations, efforts to slow climate change by saving trees and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) are enshrined in the United Nations Climate Accord. Here is a brief synopsis of Article 5, the one related to REDD and REDD+.*

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# GG and REDD+: Potential for synergy exists ?

## Expectations:

Source: REDD+ and a Green Economy: Opportunities for a mutually supportive relationship (UN REDD)

- ✓ REDD+ can promote economic growth and reduce poverty as part of a green economy.
- ✓ REDD+ can contribute to a 'virtuous cycle' of investments in natural and human capitals that are a catalyst for green development.



*What are the implications of the joining of REDD+ and GG narratives for objective of avoiding deforestation and degradation ?*

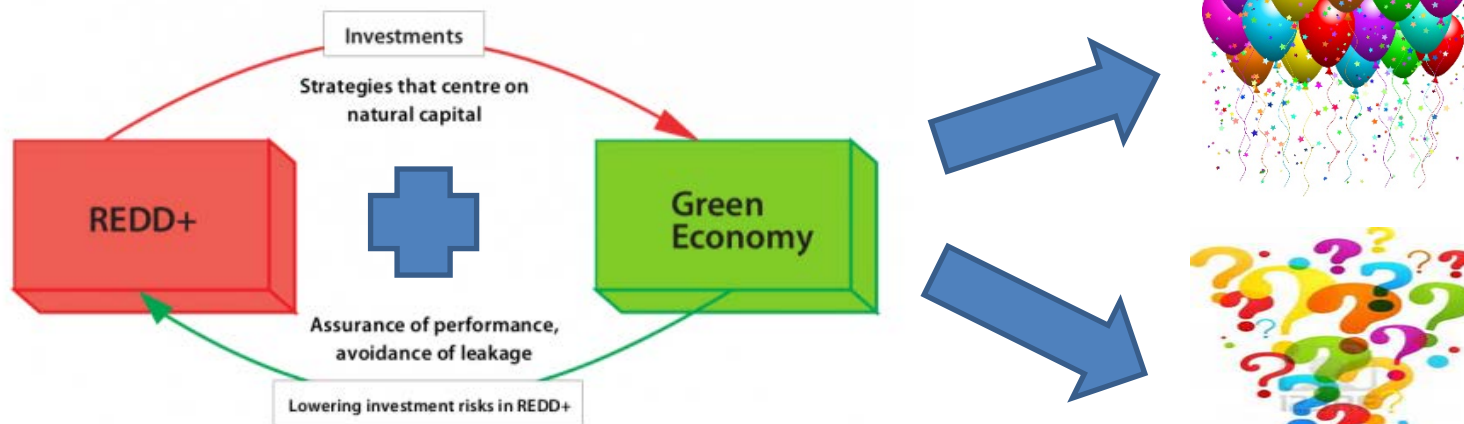


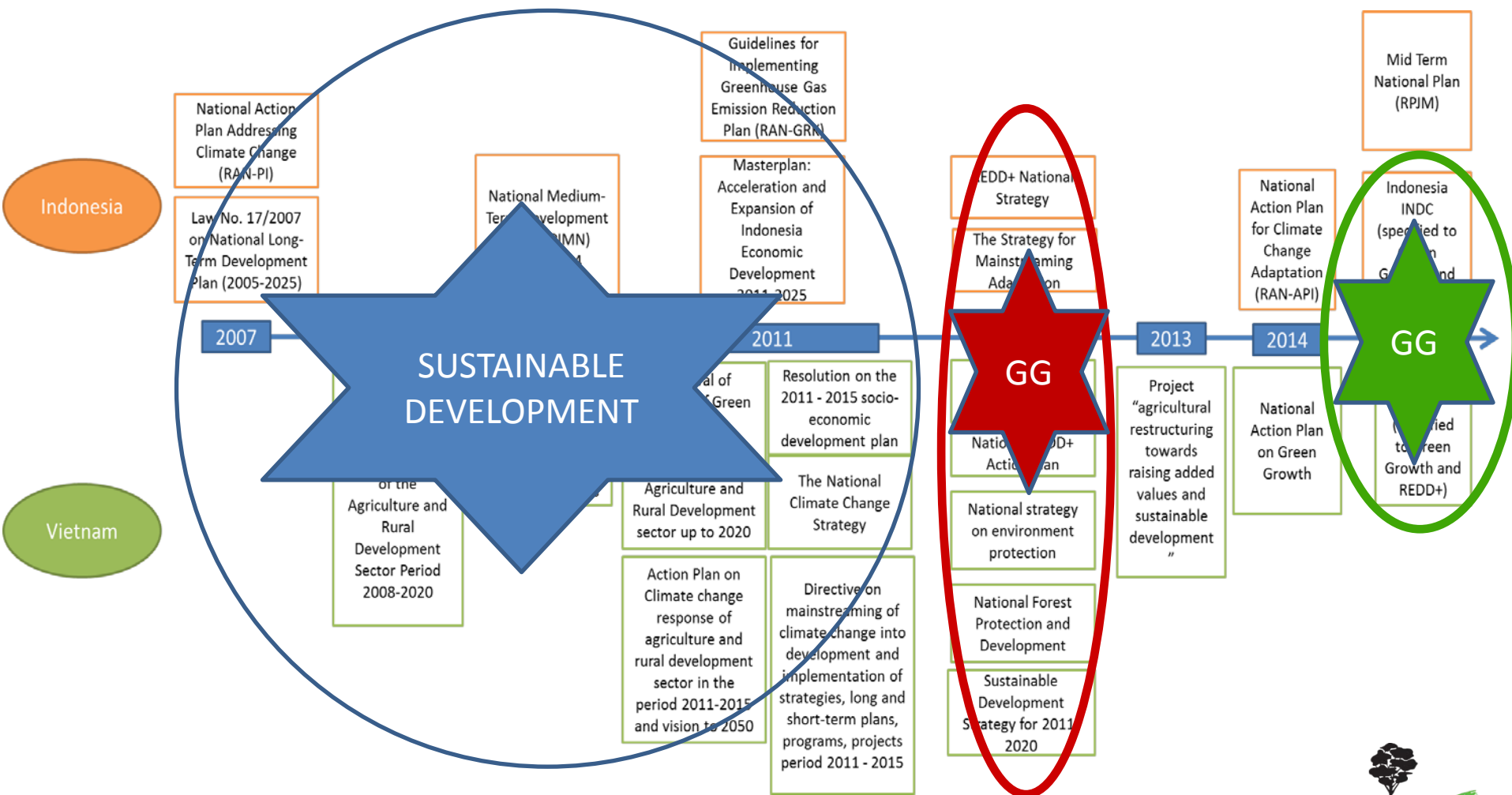
Figure 1: The potentially mutually beneficial relationship between REDD+ and a Green Development Pathway.

# Research Question/ Methods

We will answer this through investigating:

- (1) how the two narratives have unfolded in Vietnam and Indonesia
  - (2) and to which extent REDD+ and GE/GG rhetoric includes actionable elements;
  - (3) perceived challenges by policy actors for implementation?
- 
- Methods: Policy review, Stakeholder interviews, Policy network analysis in 2011 and 2015

# Evolution of REDD+ and GG in Indonesia and Vietnam



# GG and REDD+ in Indonesia

## Indonesia: Overview of GoI-GGGI Green Growth Program Phase 1 (2012-2015)



Global  
Green Growth  
Institute

### Country-level goal

#### Green Growth Program

“To promote Green Growth in Indonesia that recognizes the value of natural capital, improves resilience, builds local economies and is inclusive and equitable.”

### Component-level activities

1

#### Greening the planning process

- 1A: National ‘Green Growth Roadmap’
- 1B: Green growth assessment tools
- 1C: Prioritization of green technologies

2

#### REDD+ for green growth

- National REDD+ support
- Sub-national REDD+ support

3

#### Sub-national engagement

- Green growth mainstreamed in Central and East Kalimantan

# GG and REDD+ Vietnam



**GG strategy has 4 targets and REDD+ falls into the 4<sup>th</sup> target: Restoring forest based natural capital**

- Part of incentives to bring about green transformation
- option to achieve domestic GHG emissions policy goals

# Common interest rooted in national economic development goal



- Uncertainty of REDD+ global negotiations and markets -→ weakened interest of government in REDD+ and increasing interest in GG whereby REDD+ is a tool to obtain more funding to support national GG strategy (*both countries*)
- GG and REDD+ are seen by government informants as a way to improve country position and images in international policy arena and as a new way to tap in international funding and investment (*both countries*)



# Different interpretation

“It remains unclear if the government really understands what is GG and what “green” entails of or is this simply a slogan to attract donor funding”

A donor interviewee

REDD+ is already confusing and we already have had difficulties in interpreting and implementing them at provincial level and now we have to work with GG which is also very confusing.  
**A local government interviewee**

# Mismatch between policies

- Contradicting policies:
  - e.g. reducing oil consumption by partially shifting to renewable energy sources vs. the plan of establishing large coal-based power plants in Vietnam (*Indonesia*)
  - e.g. increase forest cover vs. increase GDP through expansion of coffee and rubber area (*Vietnam*)
- National strategies emphasize GG and REDD+ in all sectoral policies BUT sectoral policies ignore both GG and REDD+ (*Vietnam*)
- Lack of ownership: (e.g. REDD+ is seen across all actor groups as donor project while GG is seen as nationally driven in *Vietnam*)
- Unclear guidance and policy and measures to implement both GG and REDD+ (*both countries*), across all actor groups

# Institutional stickiness

## Vietnam

- GG= Ministry of Planning and Investment Territory and REDD+= Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Only 33% of REDD+ actors show interest in green growth and participate in green growth strategy development (14% indicated relative interest, 16% indicated medium interest)
- Government led agency on GG do not participate in REDD+ decision making
- Government led agency on REDD+ only showed medium interests in GG

## Indonesia

- structural and operational challenges for developing a coherent policy framework for GG.
- Although, REDD+ is perceived to be part of the GG policy framework, REDD+ is under MoEF while the GG policy framework is designed by the National Planning Agency (BAPPENAS).
- Decentralized development planning and implementation, where full autonomy has been given to districts and provinces is a challenge for coordination.

# Discussion/Conclusions

- Old wine in new bottles
- Transformational changes or business as usual ?
- Dilution of REDD+ agenda and confusion of green growth strategy
- Drivers of deforestation and degradation remain unctackled





## Thinking beyond the canopy

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