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

Pham Thu Thuy, Moira Moeliono, Maria Brockhaus, Le Ngoc Dung
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
GG and REDD+: Potential for synergy exists?

Expectations:

- 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.

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

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

Guidelines for Implementing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan (RAN-GRM)

Masterplan: Acceleration and Expansion of Indonesia Economic Development 2011-2025

Law No. 17/2007 on National Long-Term Development Plan (2005-2025)

Sustainable Development

National Action Plan for Climate Change (RAN-PI)

Indonesia

Vietnam

2007

2011

2013

2014

Indonesia INDC (spelled to green growth and REDD+)

Mid Term National Plan (RPJM)

National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (RAN-API)

National Action Plan on Green Growth

National Strategy on Environment Protection

National Forest Protection and Development

Sustainable Development Strategy for 2011-2020

Project “agricultural restructuring towards raising added values and sustainable development”

Directive on mainstreaming of climate change into development and implementation of strategies, long and short-term plans, programs, projects period 2011-2015

Action Plan on Climate change response of agriculture and rural development sector in the period 2011-2015 and vision to 2050

Agriculture and Rural Development sector up to 2020

Resolution on the 2011 - 2015 socio-economic development plan

The National Climate Change Strategy

Ghana (GG)
GG and REDD+ in Indonesia


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 strategy has 4 targets and REDD+ falls into the 4th 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 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
CIFOR advances human wellbeing, environmental conservation and equity by conducting research to inform policies and practices that affect forests in developing countries. CIFOR is one of 15 centres within the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). CIFOR’s headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia. It also has offices in Asia, Africa and South America.