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Citation for published version (APA):

Lovera-Bilderbeek, A. S. E. (2017). *Agents, assumptions and motivations behind REDD+*.

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Agents, Assumptions and Motivations behind REDD+



Simone Lovera-Bilderbeek

*Agents, Assumptions and Motivations
behind REDD+*

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex

ten overstaan van een door het college voor promoties ingestelde
commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel
op vrijdag 23 juni 2017 te 10.00 uur

door

Aukje Simone Elisabeth Bilderbeek
geboren te Amstelveen

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List of Acronyms

AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AWG	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action
BINGO	Big International Non-Governmental Organization
CAN	Climate Action Network
C&I	Criteria and Indicators
CBD	Convention on Biodiversity
CBDR	Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CJN!	Climate Justice Now!
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EDF	Environmental Defense Fund
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest Investment Program of the Climate Investment Fund
FoEI	Friends of the Earth International
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFC	Global Forest Coalition
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IANGO	International Advocacy Non-Governmental Organization
ICCA	Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Conserved Territories and Areas
ICDP	Integrated Conservation and Development Project
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IIFB	International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity
IIFCC	International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
IPO	Indigenous Peoples Organization
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	International tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	The World Conservation Union (formerly International Union for the

	Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
LCA	Long-term Cooperative Action
LCERs	Long-term Certified Emission Reductions
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NGI	Non-Governmental Individual
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLBI	Non-Legally Binding Instrument
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PES	Payments for Environmental Services
PNG	Papua New Guinea
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, including conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable Forest management
tCERs	temporary Certified Emissions Reductions
TFAP	Tropical Forest Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UK	United Kingdom
UNDRIPs	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UN-REDD	United Nations Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
US	United States of America
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

Acknowledgments

First and foremost I would like to thank my supervisors, Prof. Dr. Joyeeta Gupta and Dr. Mirjam Ros-Tonen for their superb support in guiding me through this research. Their inspiring comments, insightful guidance regarding both the theoretical and the methodological aspects of this research, patience, editorial suggestions and invaluable practical support were essential for this undertaking. I also thank the rest of the staff at the University of Amsterdam for their support in practical and more substantive matters. It felt good to be back home, after more than 25 years of absence from the UvA, and more than 10 years in my new home country Paraguay.

I would like to sincerely thank the many people who have provided feedback, comments, or other inputs into this endeavor, including Markko Aho, Charles Barber, Lourdes Barragan, Tewolde Berhan Egziabher, Frederica Bietta, Josefina Braña Varela, Joanna Cabello, Estebancio Castro, Tim Christopherson, Paul Chung, Bas Clabbers, David Cooper, Simon Counsell, Roman Czebeniak, Gerhard Dieterle, Kate Dooley, Gary Dunning, Andreas Fichlin, Horst Freiburg, Ian Fry, Jesus Garcia de la Torre, Rachel Harris, Nils Hermann, Bente Herstad, Victor Illescus, Holly Jonas, Markku Kanninen, Alain Karsenty, Horst Korn, Andrey Laletin, John Lanchberry, Orin Langelle, Victor Lopez, Elke Mannigel, Nele Marien, Francesco Martone, Onel Masardule, Jan McAlpine, Kenn Mondai, Camila Moreno, Samuel Nnah, Gonzalo Oviedo, Philip Pattberg, Helena Paul, Anne Petermann, Ana Pinto Fernandez, Jose Antonio Prado, Peg Putt, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Isaac Rojas, Carlos Roxo, Maria Sanz Sanchez, Paul Kanyinke Sena, Gham Shyan Pandey, Marcel Silvius, Cassandra Smithies, Ricardo Ulate, Natalia Unterstell, Tiina Varhanen, Arild Vatn, Antony la Viña, Susanne von Walter and Andrew Wardell. I particularly want to thank my life partner Dr. Miguel Lovera Rivas, who not only inspired me to start this research, but also provided crucial guidance and advice on both the theoretical and methodological aspects. His comments and other feedback, both during the long research process and during the review phase, not only gave me the confidence to continue in moments of doubt, but also sharpened my analysis of some of the social and political dimensions of REDD+.

I want to thank all my friends and colleagues in the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), not just for their feedback, support and flexibility in allowing me to adapt my working hours to the requirements of this research, but especially for the many inspiring discussions we have had about REDD+ and the agents behind REDD+ during the past 15 years. It was the insights and wisdom shared during these discussions that inspired me to carry out research on REDD+ in the first place. I also want to thank many colleagues, friends and allies from the wider Climate Justice movement for their views, analysis and genuine ambition to strive for a radically different system of governing this planet. I very much hope I can use the insights gathered through this research to contribute to that ambition in the years to come.

My GFC work sometimes brings me to unexpected places. Last June I joined colleagues from the Indigenous Information Network in Kenya to visit a local school in the Narok countryside, where the students had been involved in a forest restoration effort at the edge of the threatened Mau forest. We had decided to give them an Earth Day award for their efforts, but we had expected few students would turn up for the ceremony as the visit happened to take place on a public holiday. However, the teachers,

who themselves were the drivers behind the restoration initiative, had asked all children to come, so we were met by some 250 children, neatly dressed in uniform, who gave a beautiful cultural performance. In my words of gratitude, I expressed my thanks to the kids, not just for their forest restoration initiative, but also for showing up at school during a public holiday. I told them that learning sometimes takes a lot of hard effort, including skipping your holidays, but that it was also a blessing if one could learn through-out one's life. And that I myself was an example, "as I was still at school".

Life-long learning is indeed a blessing, one of those truly sustainable forms of human development we should continue to promote in the 21st century. It is what we call a systemic alternative, a non-capitalist opportunity for human beings to grow in terms of real wealth, increasing their wisdom and well-being without depleting the planet's resources. I know that my sisters in the Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development advocated passionately and successfully in 2014 to get a reference to "life-long learning opportunities for all" in Sustainable Development Goal 4. And I am truly grateful to Joyeeta, Mirjam, the Governance and Inclusive Development Programme Group and the Centre for Sustainable Development Studies of the University of Amsterdam, and all others who contributed to this research, for giving me this "life-long learning opportunity".

Last but not least, it was my parents, and especially my father Henk Bilderbeek, a man who has literally read thousands of books during his lifetime, who convinced me of the value of life-long learning. I dedicate this book to him, and to my children, in the hope that they will be equally inspired to become life-long learners.