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Agents, Assumptions and Motivations behind REDD+



Simone Lovera-Bilderbeek

*Agents, Assumptions and Motivations
behind REDD+*

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

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aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
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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

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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".

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