

Challenges &  
opportunities of  
international policies  
for tropical forest  
restoration



# Outline

- ❖ Current & new opportunities for restoration in the tropics
  - ❖ What we got out of Durban
- ❖ Opportunities for restoration in REDD+
- ❖ Challenges for restoration in REDD+
- ❖ Proposed solutions





# Current incentives for restoration

- ❖ Community forestry
  - ❖ Bolivia, India, Mexico, Nepal, Philippines
- ❖ PES programs
  - ❖ Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras
- ❖ Is this ideal?





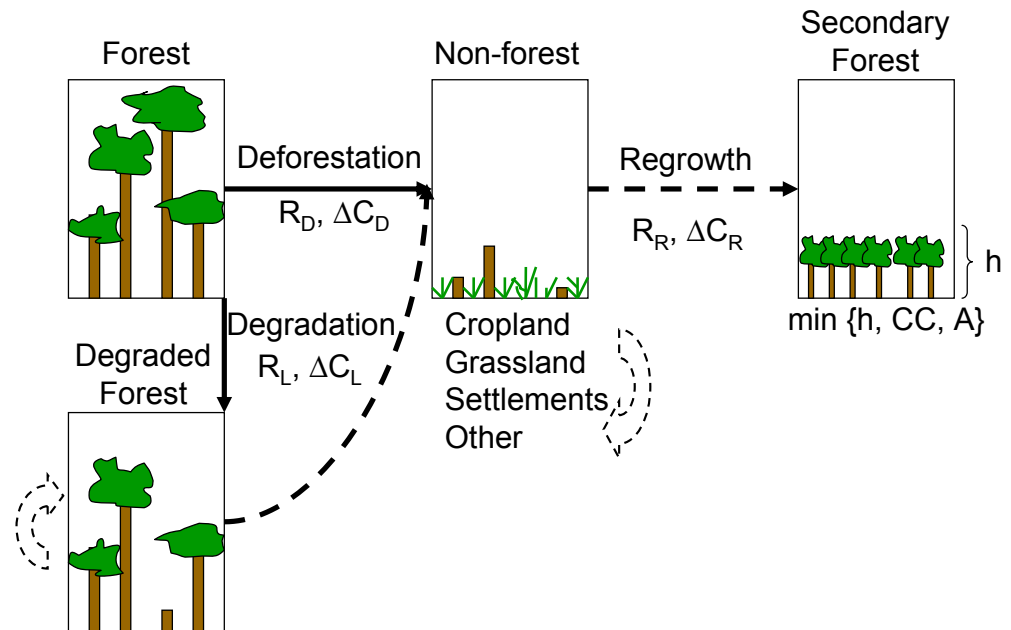
# REDD+ as a new opportunity

- ❖ Reducing emissions from deforestation
- ❖ Reducing emissions from forest degradation
- ❖ Conservation of carbon stocks
- ❖ Sustainable management of forests
- ❖ Enhancement of forest carbon stocks

# REDD+ as a new opportunity

## IPCC land use categories

- ❖ Forests becoming non-forests
  - ❖ Deforestation
- ❖ Non-forests becoming forests
  - ❖ Enhancement
- ❖ Forests remaining forests
  - ❖ Degradation
  - ❖ Conservation
  - ❖ Management
  - ❖ Enhancement





# REDD+ as a new opportunity

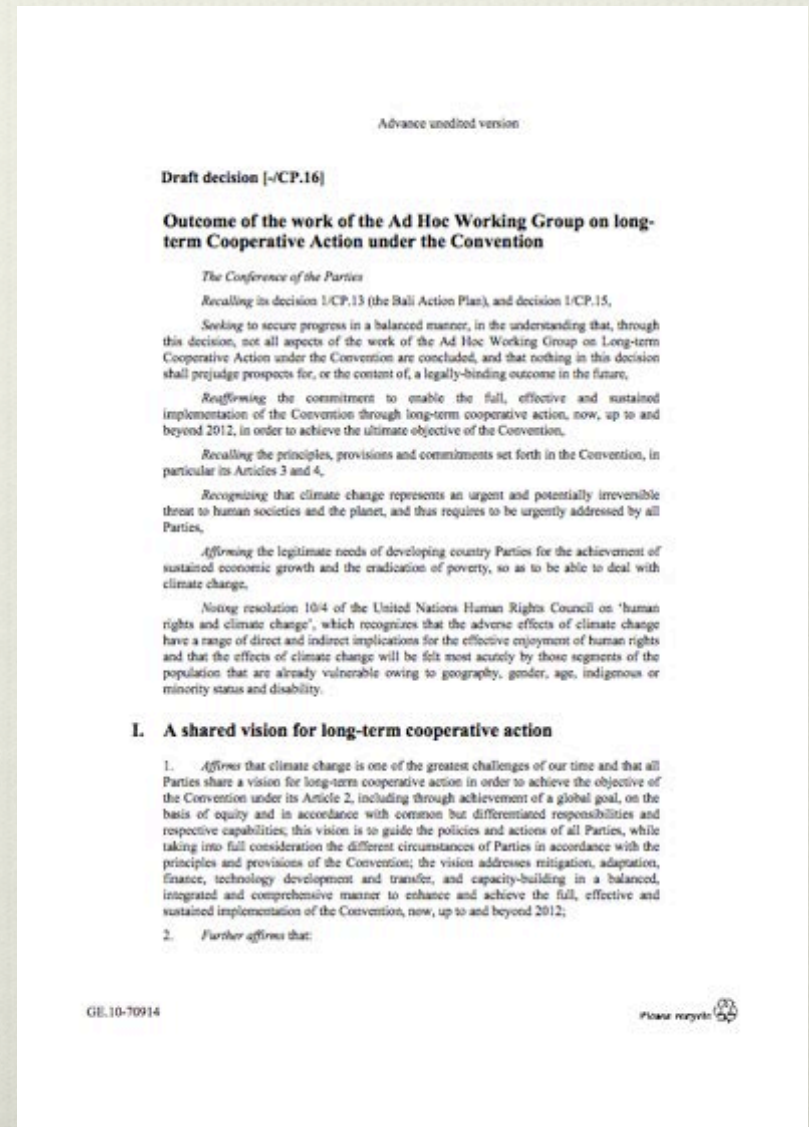
- ❖ Outside UNFCCC
  - ❖ World Bank
  - ❖ UN-REDD
  - ❖ Bilateral agreements
  - ❖ California
- ❖ Within the UNFCCC
  - ❖ Quickly moving forward





# REDD+ Requirements

- ❖ Environmental safeguards
  - ❖ Conserve natural forests
  - ❖ Promote biodiversity
  - ❖ No conversion to plantations
  - ❖ Avoid leakage & reversals
- ❖ Social safeguards
  - ❖ Respect rights
  - ❖ Include stakeholders
  - ❖ Transparent governance structures





# REDD+ Durban

- ❖ Safeguards
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Reference levels
- ❖ Next on the agenda:
  - ❖ Drivers
  - ❖ Monitoring & MRV
  - ❖ More on safeguards
- ❖ Agriculture

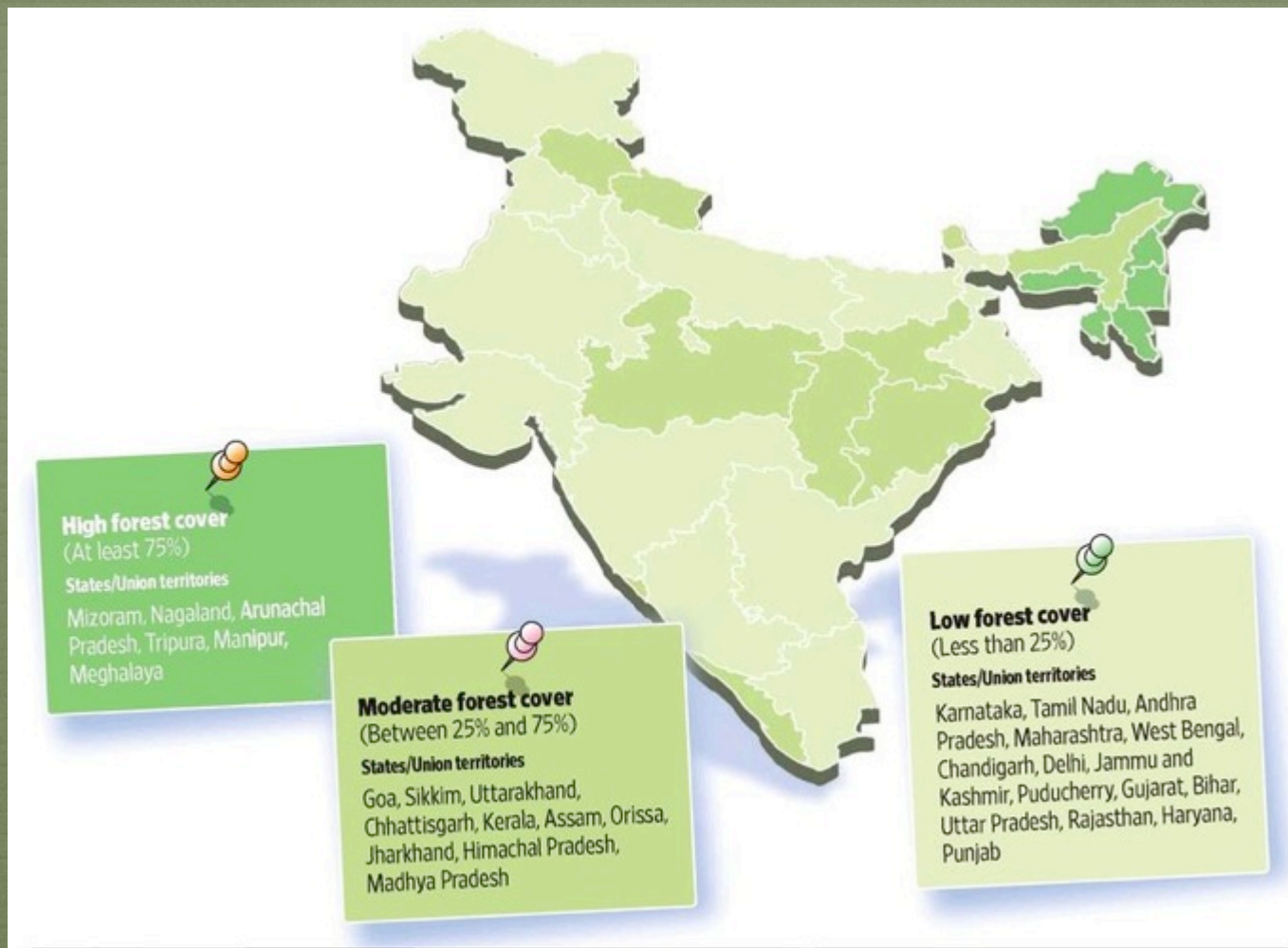






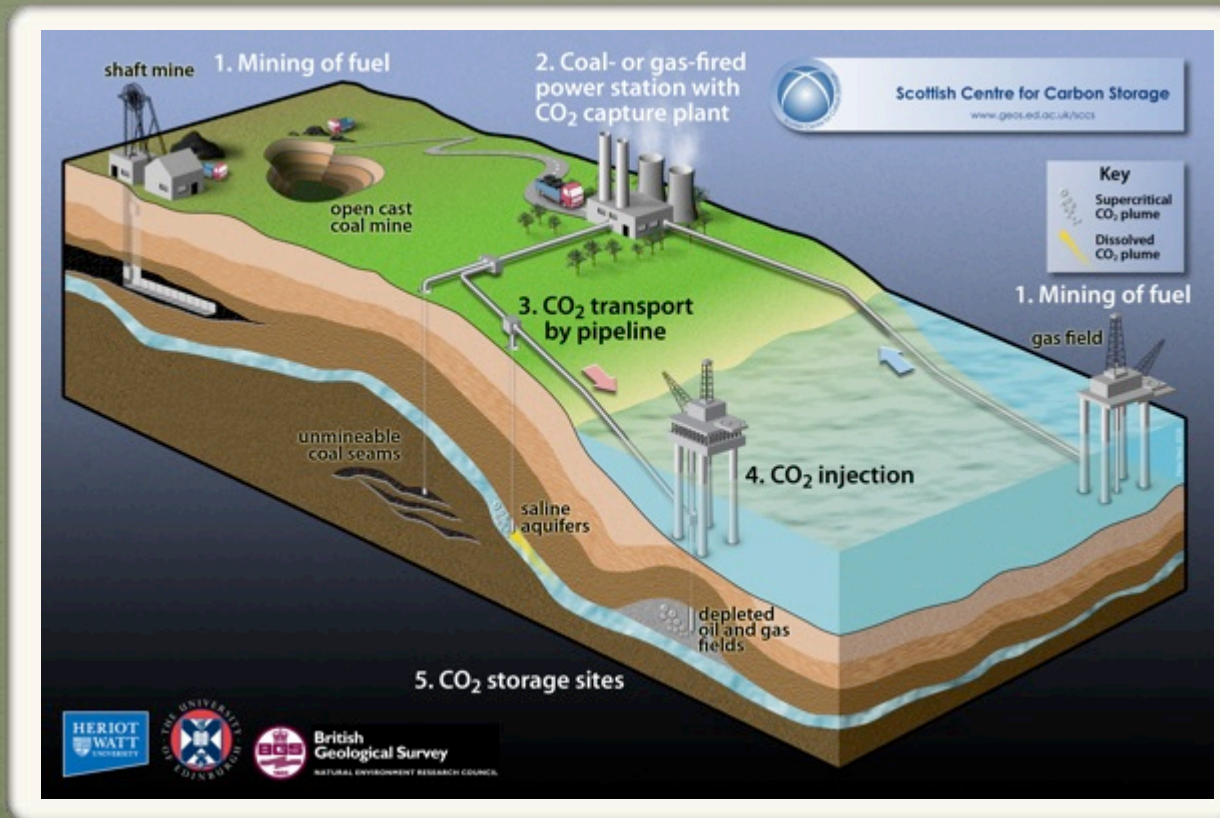
REDD+ & restoration: an  
ethical opportunity





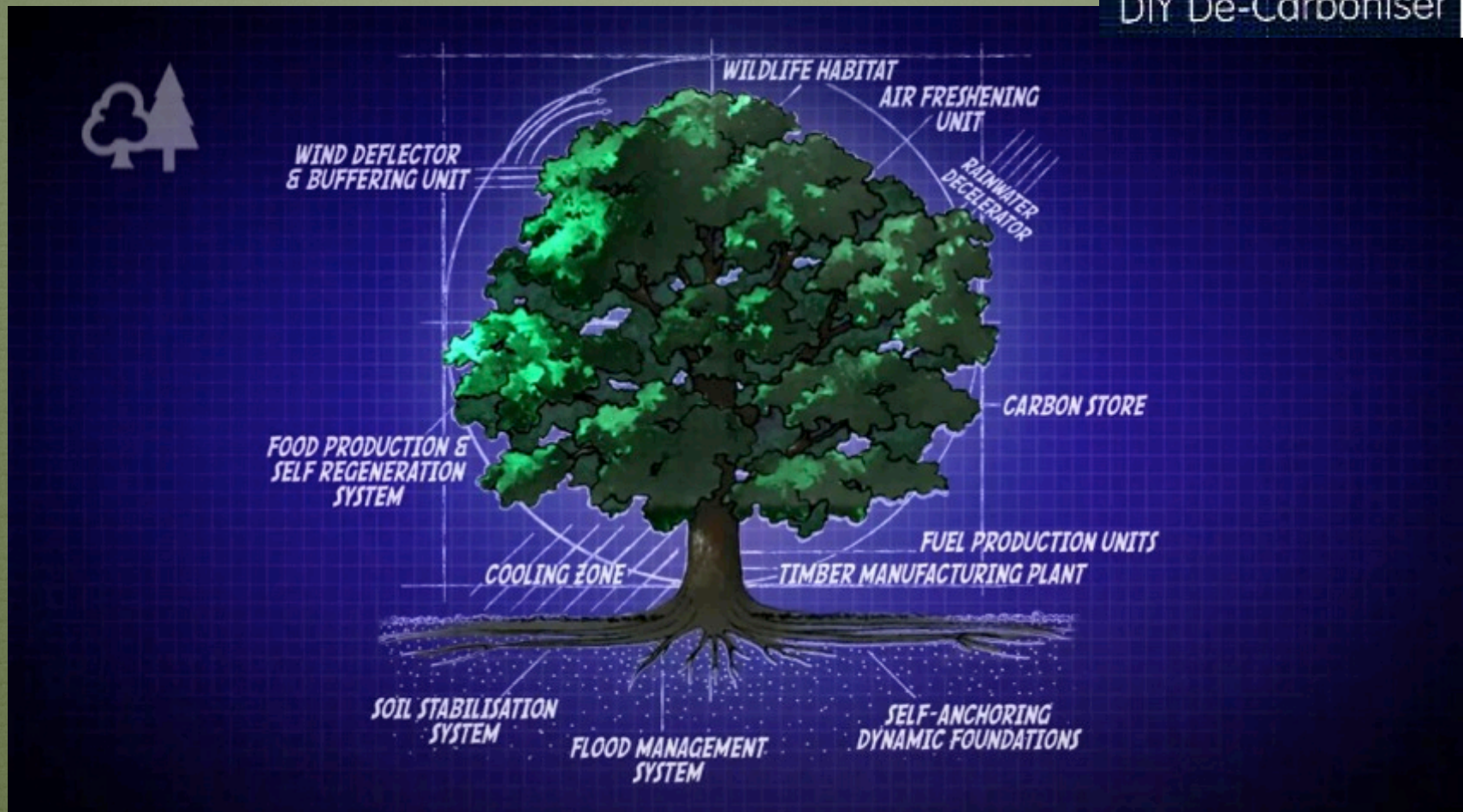
# REDD+ & restoration: a political opportunity





# REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity

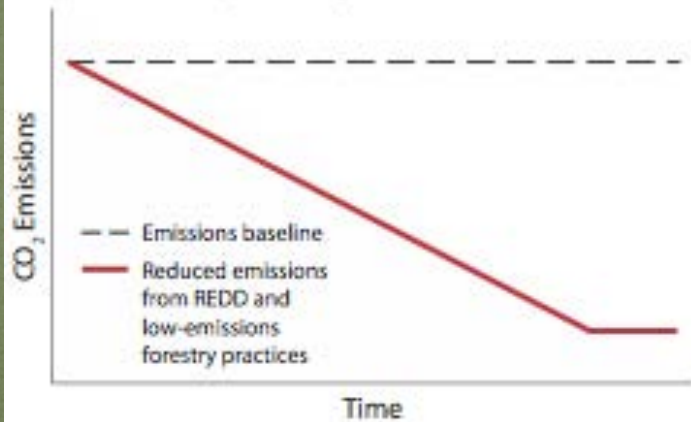




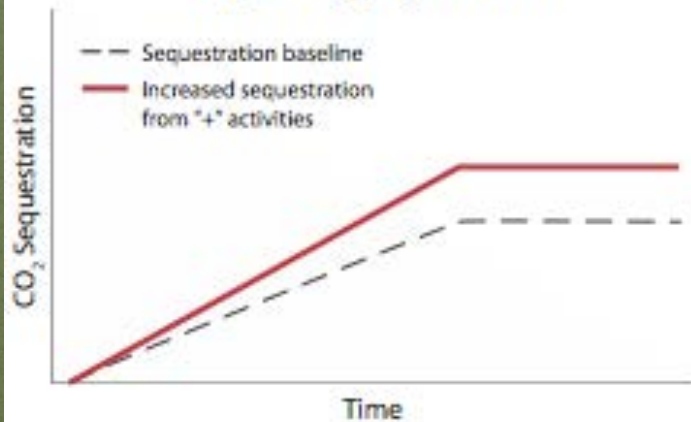
REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity



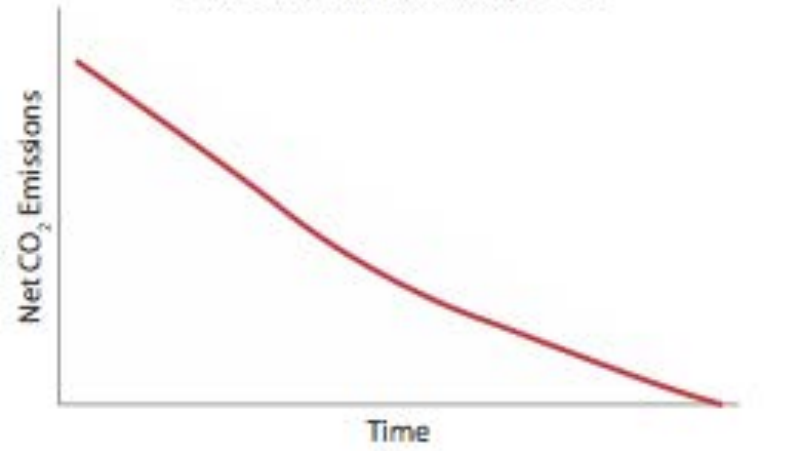
**a) Reducing Gross Emissions**



**b) Increasing Sequestration**



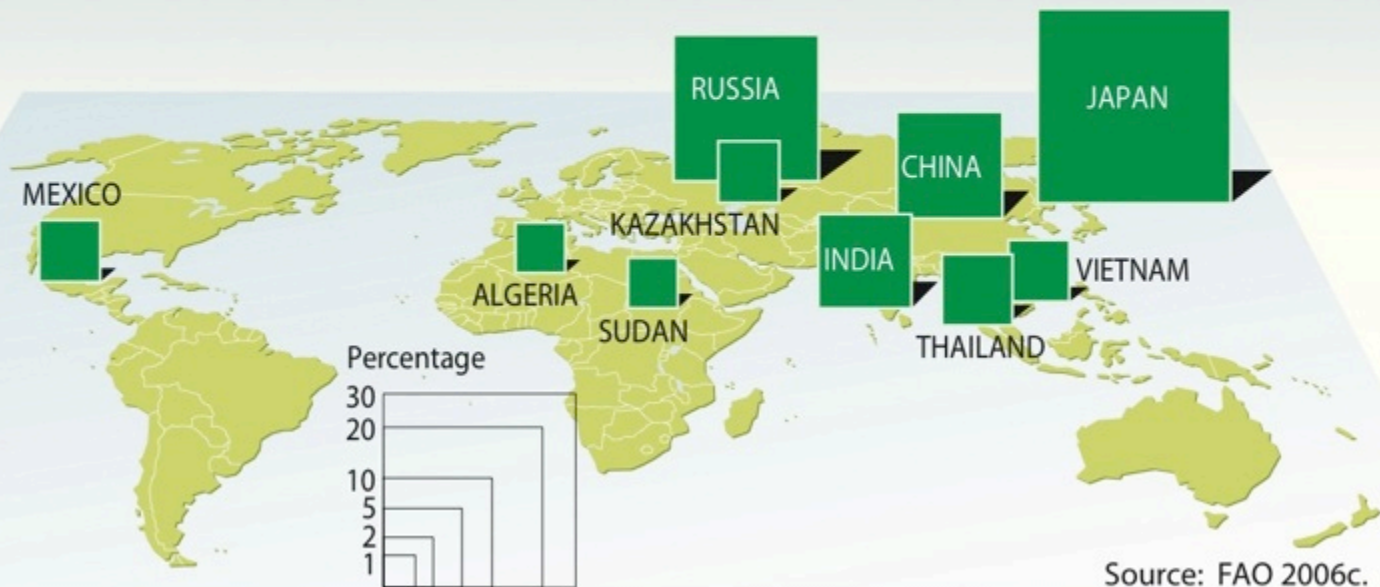
**c) Net Emissions Diminishing to Zero**



REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity

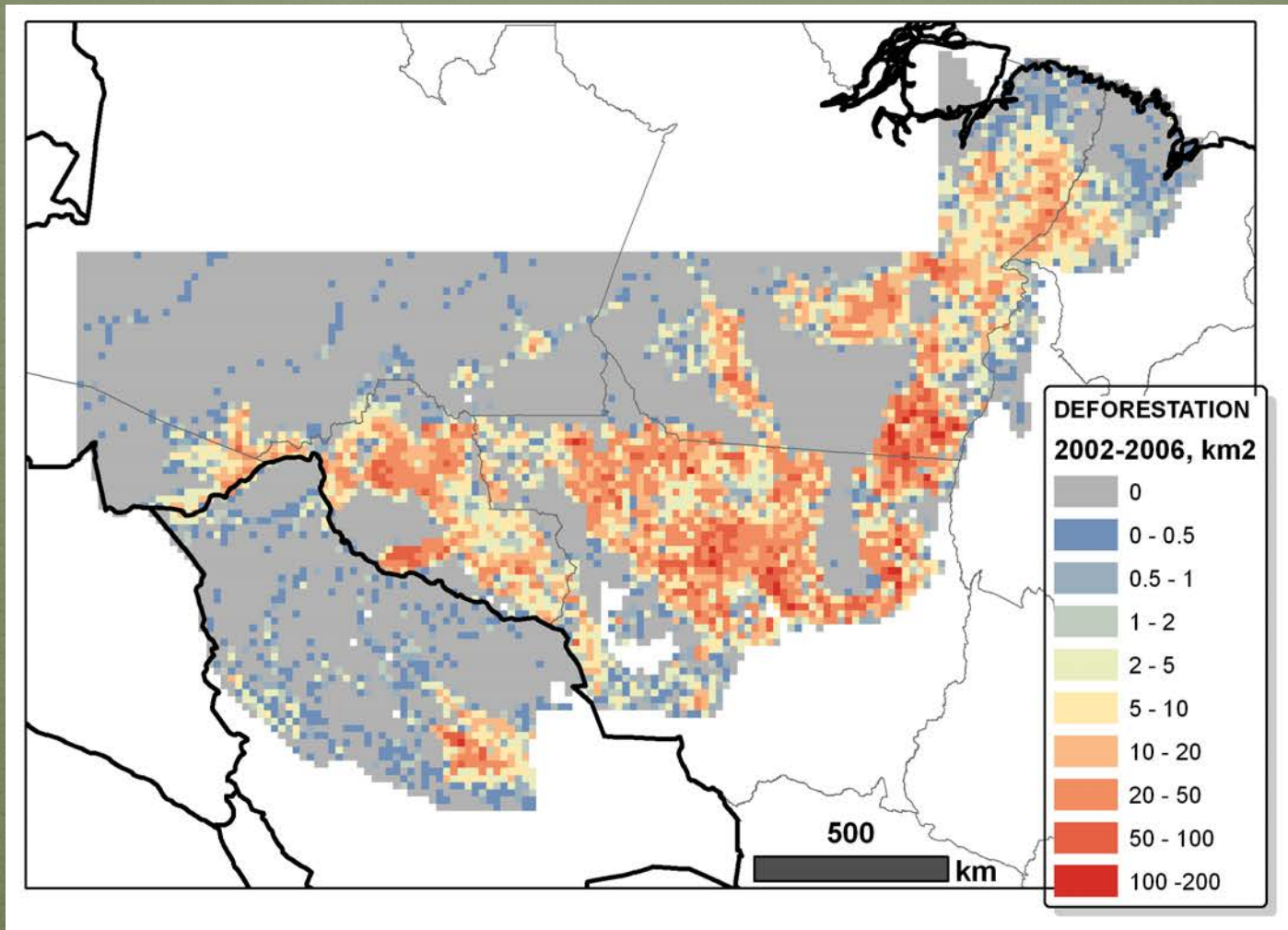


## Protective Plantation Forests



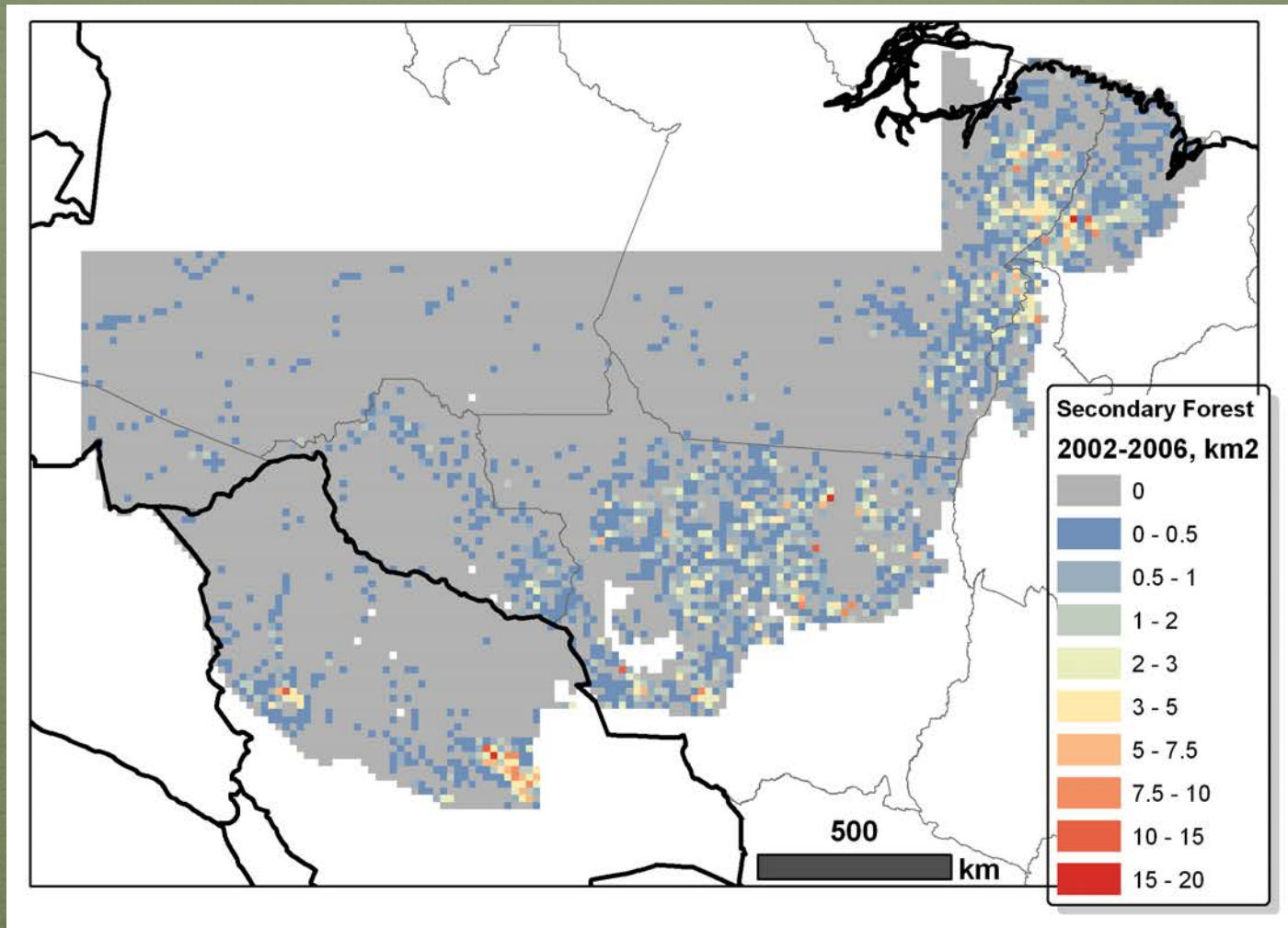
REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity





REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity





REDD+ & restoration: an environmental opportunity



# Challenges to restoration in REDD+

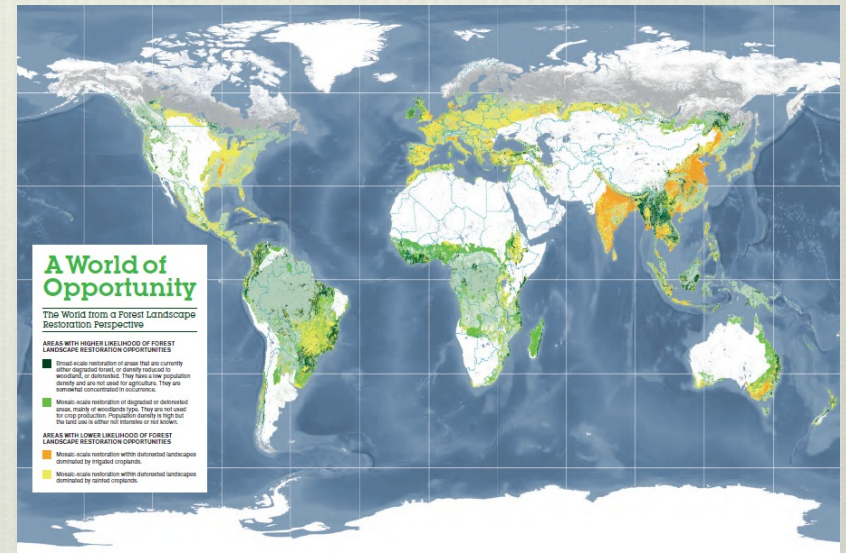
- ❖ What are REDD+ activities?
  - ❖ Where are different practices most appropriate?
- ❖ Addressing drivers is necessary for REDD+
  - ❖ This means producing agricultural products without causing emissions





# Challenges to restoration in REDD+

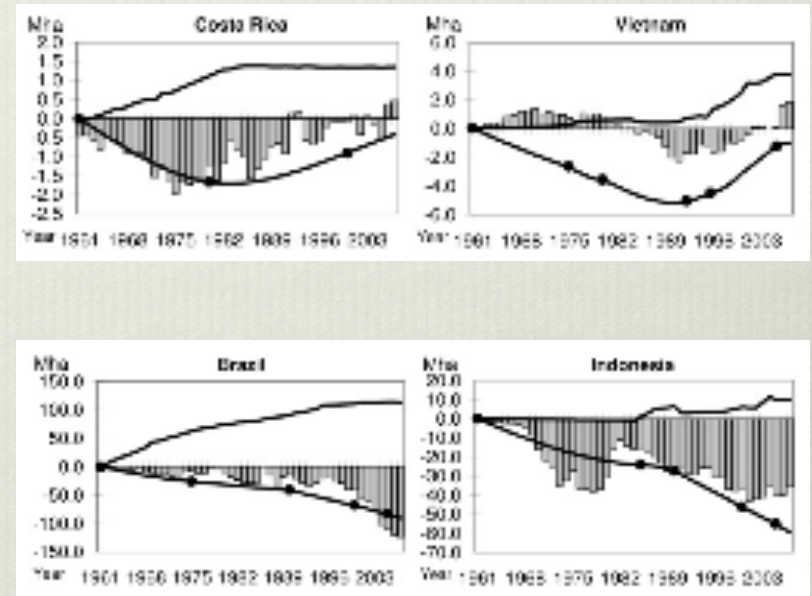
- ❖ Restoration trade-offs:
  - Restoring land to forests
  - Using degraded land for production
  - Combination of the two
- ❖ We can't ask one hectare to do it all





# Challenges to restoration in REDD+

- ❖ Leakage
  - ❖ Does land sparing work?
  - ❖ Effects of increasing productivity
- ❖ Biophysical limitations
  - ❖ What is sustainable management?
  - ❖ Variability





# Challenges to restoration in REDD+

## ❖ Finance

- ❖ Sources & levels
- ❖ Valuation will only be for carbon
- ❖ Implementation costs still unclear
  - ❖ Brazil Case Study

## ❖ Governance

## ❖ Political challenges

- ❖ Development & economies
- ❖ New approaches





# Proposed solutions

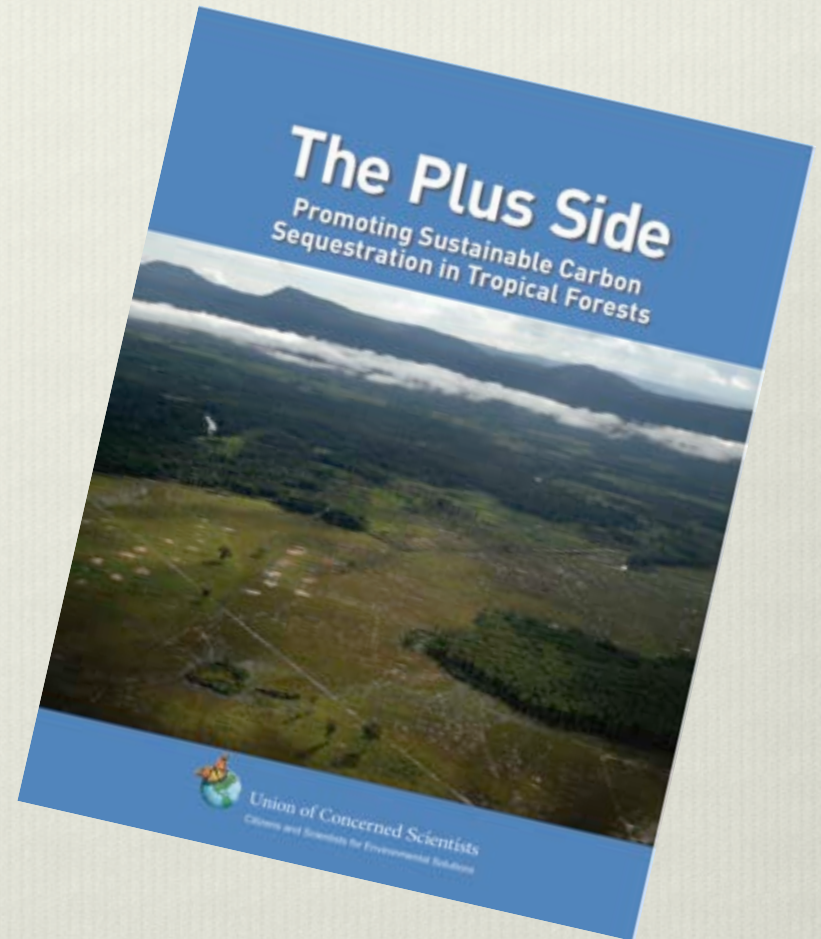
- ❖ Addressing drivers is necessary for REDD+
  - ❖ Net zero deforestation
  - ❖ Sustainable production
- ❖ Open to many REDD+ activities
- ❖ Scientific work (especially mMRV) needs to go beyond carbon





# About UCS

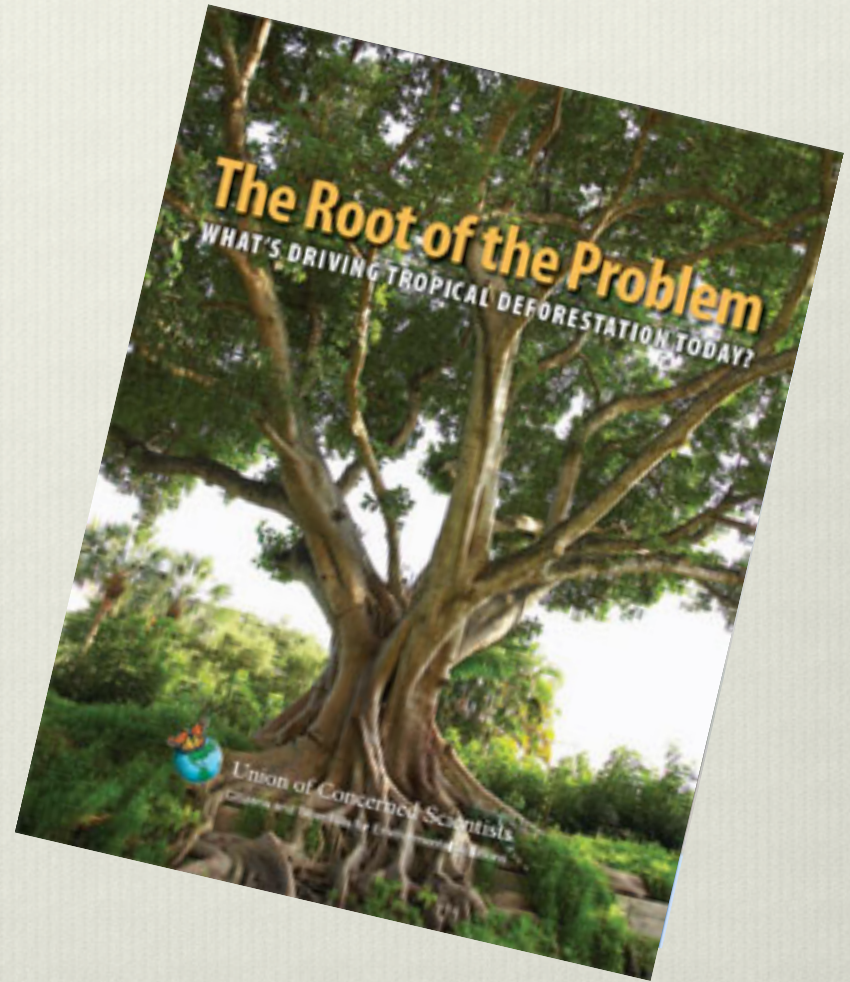
- ❖ UCS REDD+ Advocacy
  - ❖ Bali 2007
  - ❖ Durban 2011
- ❖ UCS REDD+ Research
  - ❖ *Root of the Problem*
  - ❖ *Points of Reference*
  - ❖ *The Plus Side*





# About UCS

- ❖ UCS Scientist & Expert Engagement
  - ❖ Webinars
  - ❖ New reports
  - ❖ Getting involved



[www.ucsusa.org/forests](http://www.ucsusa.org/forests)



# Thank you

Pipa Elias  
[pipa.elias@gmail.com](mailto:pipa.elias@gmail.com)