



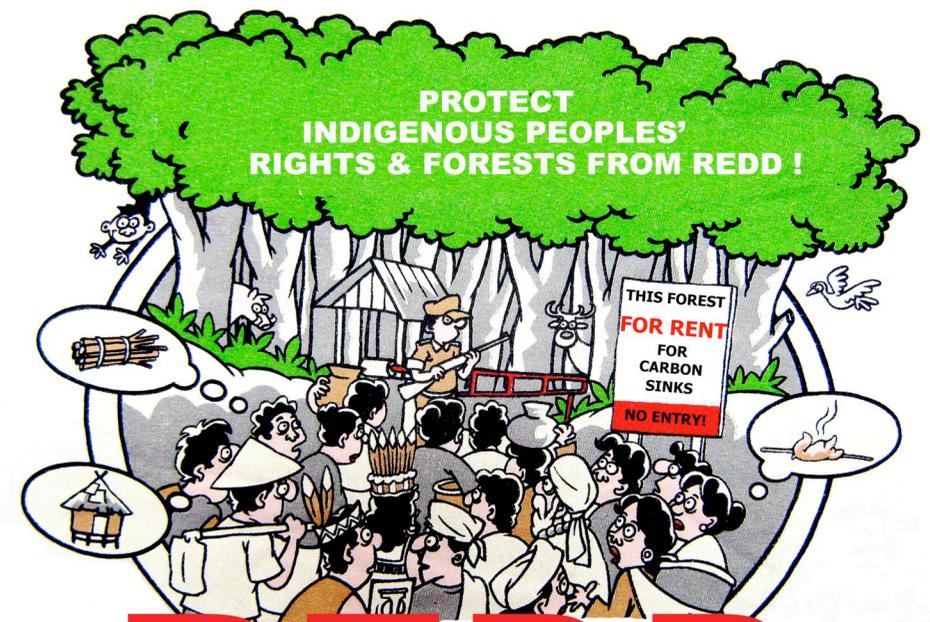
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REDD

**Human Rights and Environmental Disaster
Keep Forests OUT of the Carbon Market!**

NO to CO2lonialism!

<http://earthpeoples.org/blog>



REDD

A FALSE SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

According to the United Nationsⁱ, REDD could:
(see footnotes next page)

- Expropriate Indigenous Peoples' Forests, Lands & Territoriesⁱⁱ
- Violate Human Rights & Indigenous Peoples' Rightsⁱⁱⁱ
- Cause Conflict, Forced Relocation and Displacement^{iv}
- Privatize Forests and the Sky
- Privilege "Carbon Rights" over Human Rights^v
- Marginalize the Landless^{vi}
- Increase Poverty^{vii}
- Undermine Democracy^{viii}
- Violate International Law^{ix}
- Threaten Local Economies^x
- Include Monoculture Tree Plantations as Forests & create "Perverse Incentives"^{xi}
- Reward Deforesters, Loggers and Polluters^{xii}
- Criminalize Indigenous Livelihoods & Blame Indigenous Peoples for Climate Change^{xiii}
- Undertake Pilot Projects in sensitive areas of armed conflict^{xiv}
- Repeat the Mistakes of the Clean Development Mechanism^{xv}
- Increase World Bank Climate Profiteering^{xvi}
- Offends Indigenous Peoples' Spirituality – Sky & Forest are Sacred, not commodities^{xvii}
- Last a long time and Take forever to pay up^{xviii}
- Be impossible to verify because of Leakage & Non-Permanence^{xix}

FOOTNOTES:

- i. UN-REDD Framework Document [http://www.undp.org/mdtf/UN-REDD/docs/Annex-A-Framework-Documents/UNDP/UNEP/ODI/IUCN/SIDA/ADB/DFID/WCMC-A-Poverty-Environment-Partnership-\(PEP\)-Policy-Brief,-Based-on-the-full-report-'Making-REDD-Work-for-the-Poor'-\(Peskest-et-al.,-2008\)-www.cbd.int/cms/ui/forums/attachment.aspx?id=47](http://www.undp.org/mdtf/UN-REDD/docs/Annex-A-Framework-Documents/UNDP/UNEP/ODI/IUCN/SIDA/ADB/DFID/WCMC-A-Poverty-Environment-Partnership-(PEP)-Policy-Brief,-Based-on-the-full-report-'Making-REDD-Work-for-the-Poor'-(Peskest-et-al.,-2008)-www.cbd.int/cms/ui/forums/attachment.aspx?id=47)
- ii. REDD risks include “loss of access to land” PEP, p. 1, “restrict long term land use” and “erode communal tenure systems which are integral to the well-being of those with low purchasing power” PEP, p.4.
- iii. UN-REDD could “deprive communities of their legitimate land-development aspirations, and hard fought gains in forest management practices might be wasted, that could cause the lock-up of forests by decoupling conservation from development, or erode culturally rooted not-for-profit conservation values.” p.4 and 5 UN-REDD Framework Document. Effects include “diversion of funds into REDD systems from other areas such as spending on healthcare and education...” PEP, p.4.
- iv. REDD could cause “conflict over resources” PEP, p.1; “could also create perverse effects such as in-migration and conflict” PEP p.6; “conflicts between legal land owners, those who assert claim to land, and governments.” PEP, p.4
- v. “Rights to own and transfer carbon will be essential...such rights are likely to govern land management over long timescales.” PEP, p.5; “Carbon rights’ are a key issue in the design of REDD benefit sharing mechanism. They define a new form of tradable commodity linked to land and forest...” PEP, p. 4. The PEP Policy Brief neglects to propose a human rights based approach to REDD.
- vi. REDD could “marginalize the landless... and those with ... communal use rights”. p. 4 UN-REDD Framework Document
- vii. “The poor may ultimately end up worse off” PEP, p.2. Furthermore, “financial payments from REDD...may well be much less than those derived from subsistence production itself.” PEP, p.4.
- viii. REDD risks include “the concentration of power by elites”. PEP, p.1; “The potential risks to the poor from REDD are also large and include... a lack of voice in decision-making.” PEP, p.6; “high levels of funding could destabilize institutions” PEP, 4, Ibid.
- ix. REDD could violate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (especially Articles 10, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 32) Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Agenda 21, and many national laws on Indigenous Peoples’ rights.
- x. “But in practice, REDD systems could present new risks for the poor. These could include factors such as the loss of land, the concentration of power by elites and distortion effects in local economic systems.” PEP, p.1;
- xi. “...destabilizing effects...include local economic effects, especially in relation to food and fuel commodity prices could occur in areas where access to markets and product substitution is limited (as in much of Africa)” PEP, p.4.
- xii. “REDD benefits ...may have to be traded off against other social, economic and environmental benefits.” UN-REDD Framework Document, p.5.
- xiii. Depending on the definition of “degradation,” “illegal activities” could include shifting cultivation; hunting; foraging; collecting kindling, medicinal plants, materials for housing and art; performing ceremonies and accessing sacred sites. “[T]he interpretation of definitions relating to ‘degradation’ will have to be carefully monitored in situations where the poor are engaging in activities that are seen to be degrading forest resources.” PEP, p.5; “degradation’ activities that can be crucial for the poor (such as shifting cultivation) maybe disrupted by REDD systems without adequate compensation.” PEP, p.3; “[P]oor people are unlikely to benefit directly...and evidence indicates that they could actually be subject to increased risks if they are engaging in illegal activities.” PEP, p.4.
- xiv. A founding member of the UN-REDD Program, the FAO’s definition of forests includes monoculture tree plantations, notorious for destroying biodiversity and displacing local communities and Indigenous Peoples all over the world. If plantations are eligible for REDD, there would be “perverse incentives” to evict communities, clear cut forests, (hence releasing emissions) create plantations, and cash in on REDD.
- xv. There are a growing number of Clean Development Projects that violate Indigenous Peoples’ rights. See www.carbontradewatch.org REDD discussions do not include the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and could repeat past mistakes.
- xvi. ex. Republic of the Congo.
- xvii. Amidst protest, the World Bank launched the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in Bali and is also part of the UN-REDD Program. To see photos of protest against the World Bank: <http://www.globaljusticeecology.org/gallery.php>
- xviii. REDD could “erode culturally rooted not-for-profit conservation values.” p.4 and 5 UN-REDD Framework Document.
- xix. No quick turn around is foreseen. “Long time lag before benefits delivered.” “Long timescales;” “restrict long term land use options;” and payment “only upon verification” or “holding reserves of credits as insurance against potential loss”, PEP, p.4. Ibid
- xx. PEP, p.4.
- xxi. Voluntary Markets ...are much smaller in scale...In addition, there is a danger that well-intentioned Corporate Social Responsibility driven activities could impose top-down and northern driven agendas which misread the dynamics of livelihood systems and distort local economies.” For fund-based approaches “the volume of funding is likely to be much lower, based on evidence from existing forest sector aid.” PEP, p.3.



- Many countries do not even recognize the existence of Indigenous Peoples - let alone their rights, so neither FPIC nor UNDRIP will protect them.
- Neither FPIC nor UNDRIP are considered legally binding by any state except Bolivia.

Measures for reducing deforestation:

- Demarcating and titling Indigenous Peoples’ Territories which is where most forest tracts and 80% of the world’s biodiversity is found precisely because Indigenous Peoples have sustainably managed them for millennia
- Declaring and enforcing bans on deforestation
- Discouraging plantations, large-scale agro fuels production
- Reducing demand for pulp and paper
- Addressing the underlying causes of deforestation
- Declaring a moratorium on new fossil fuels developments, hydroelectric dams & mines in territories of Indigenous Peoples

Can REDD work outside the carbon market?

Voluntary Market or Fund-based Approaches will be a tiny percentage of REDD and will not be economically competitive. [xxi] However, they may serve as window dressing and a pretty poster child for the massive land grab of market-based REDD. Non-market projects should use another name to avoid green washing REDD, which, fittingly, is the color of blood.