



REDD and Climate Change: Implication for the African Woman

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Presentation outline

- What is climate change
- Links between forests and climate change
- What is REDD
- Brief History
- Key Challenges
- Implication for African Women
- Some Risks and Opportunities

What is climate change?

- A phenomenon of global increase in mean temperature due to excessive emissions **Green House Gases (GHG)** (a disequilibrium in the recycling of GHG) especially gases related to the emission of **carbon**, such as **CO₂**, **methane** et manifested through:
 - perturbation in the seasons
 - Floods including forests
 - melting of glaciers
 - a progressive degradation of ecosystems



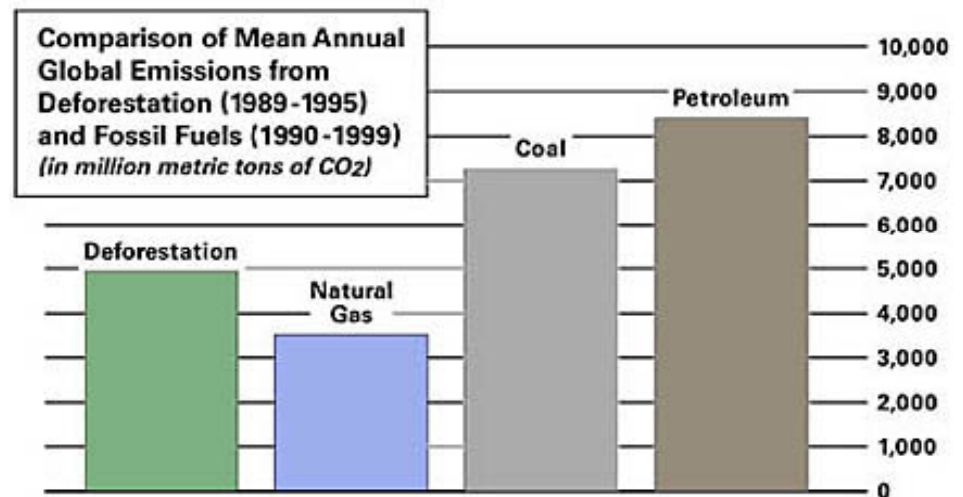
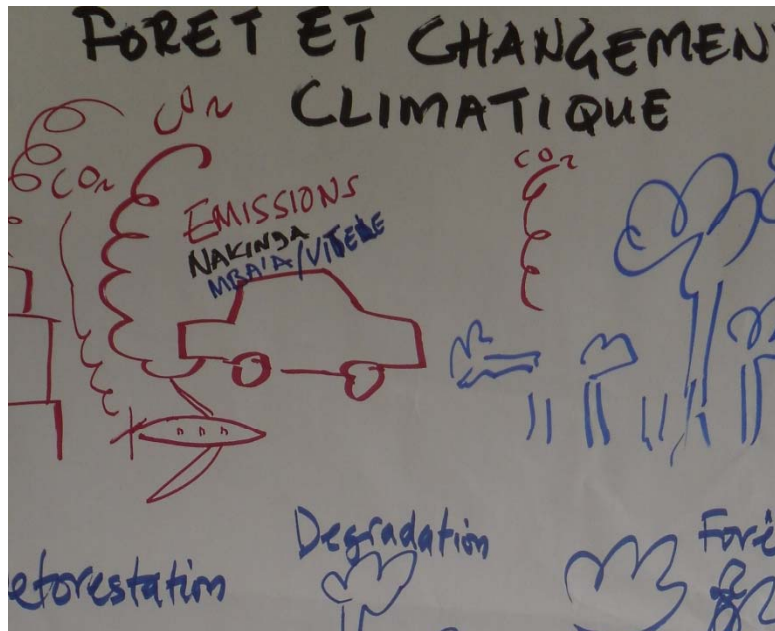
Some global examples



Rongbuk, the largest glacier on Mount Everest's northern slopes, in 1968 (top) and 2007. Glaciers are receding rapidly world-wide, including the Rockies, Andes, Alps, Himalayas. Lake Chad has reduced significantly in size

Links forests and climate change

- Tropical forests absorb GHG such as carbon dioxide and « stock » in their vegetation and in the soil
- This carbon is released when trees are cut down plant materials decompose
- Deforestation and forest degradation contributes 18 – 25 % of annual global emissions of GHG
- Other important sources are , automobiles, factories, etc.
- A vicious circle: the more the forest is cut down, the more the planet heats up; the more the planet heats, the more the forest disappears



Source: IPCC; US Department of Energy

What is REDD

- RED, REDD: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
 - Which mean preventing or reducing forest lost in order to reduce emissions of GHG
- REDD+/REDD plus:
 - Conservation of forest carbon stocks
 - Sustainable management of forests
 - Enhance forest carbon stocks

What is REDD: brief history

- UNFCCC (1992), from Rio summit, with objectives of preserving existing GHG sinks, including forests
- Kyoto Protocol (1997), industrialised countries (except USA) committed themselves to respect certain emissions quotas. 2008 – 2012 first commitment period
 - CDM: projects to reduce GHGs while promoting sustainable development.
 - more focused on afforestation and reforestation (A/R)
- 2005 PNG and Costa Rica propose RED
- 2006 the Stern Report economic analysis of cost, puts forest as a cheap solution to the problem of CC
- 2007 Bali Action Plan
- 2009 Copenhagen Accord, recognises the role REDD

REDD: Key Challenges

- Financial mechanism: markets or offset markets, Public funds or others?: buying cheaper emission credits or cutting emissions in developed countries? Forest not to be reduced as a commodity for carbon trading
- Governance: Exclusion of women from decision making and further restriction to access to land and forests; violation of rights to land and resources, particularly forest rights, and rights to effective consultation and consent
- Fast tract REDD programmes: World Bank FCPF, UN-REDD and now Oslo-Paris REDD partnership agreement
- MRV, problems of baseline or reference scenarios
- Scale, national, sub-national or nested
- What are the drivers of Deforestation and Degradation
- Social and environmental safeguards: including the whole rights issues, gender, governance and biodiversity into MR;

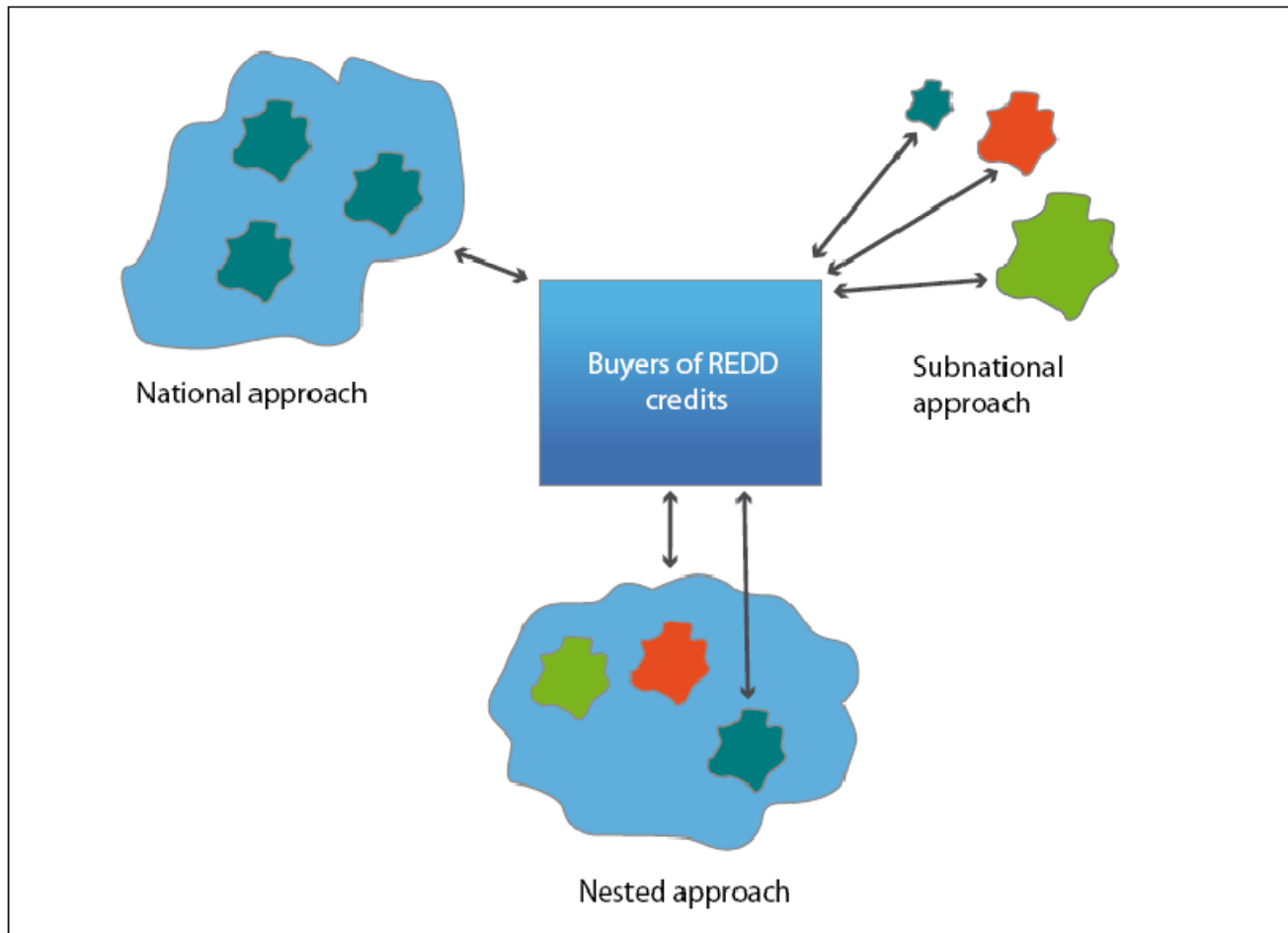


Different drivers of forest carbon change

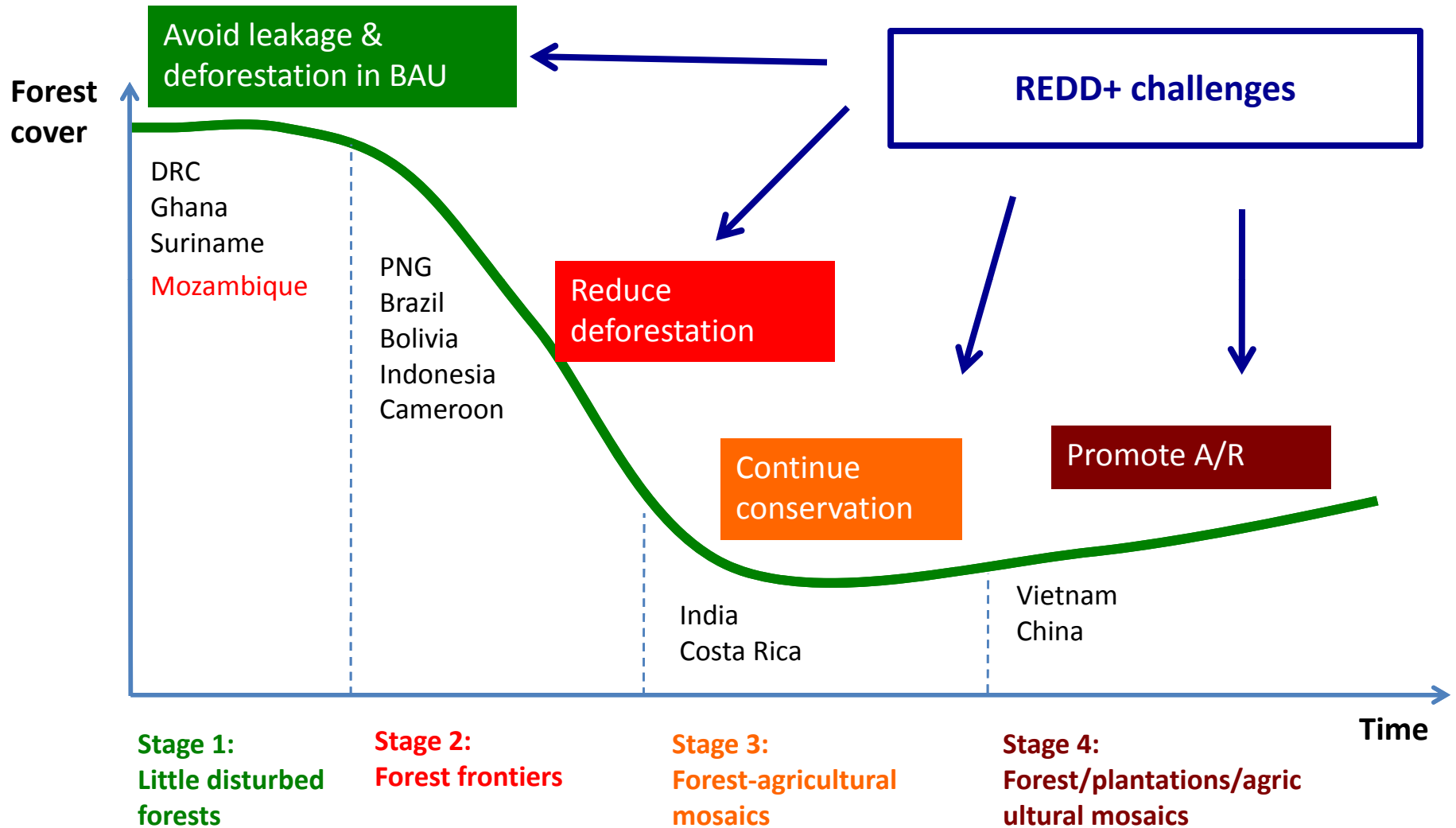


Scale: national, sub-national, nested – not agreed

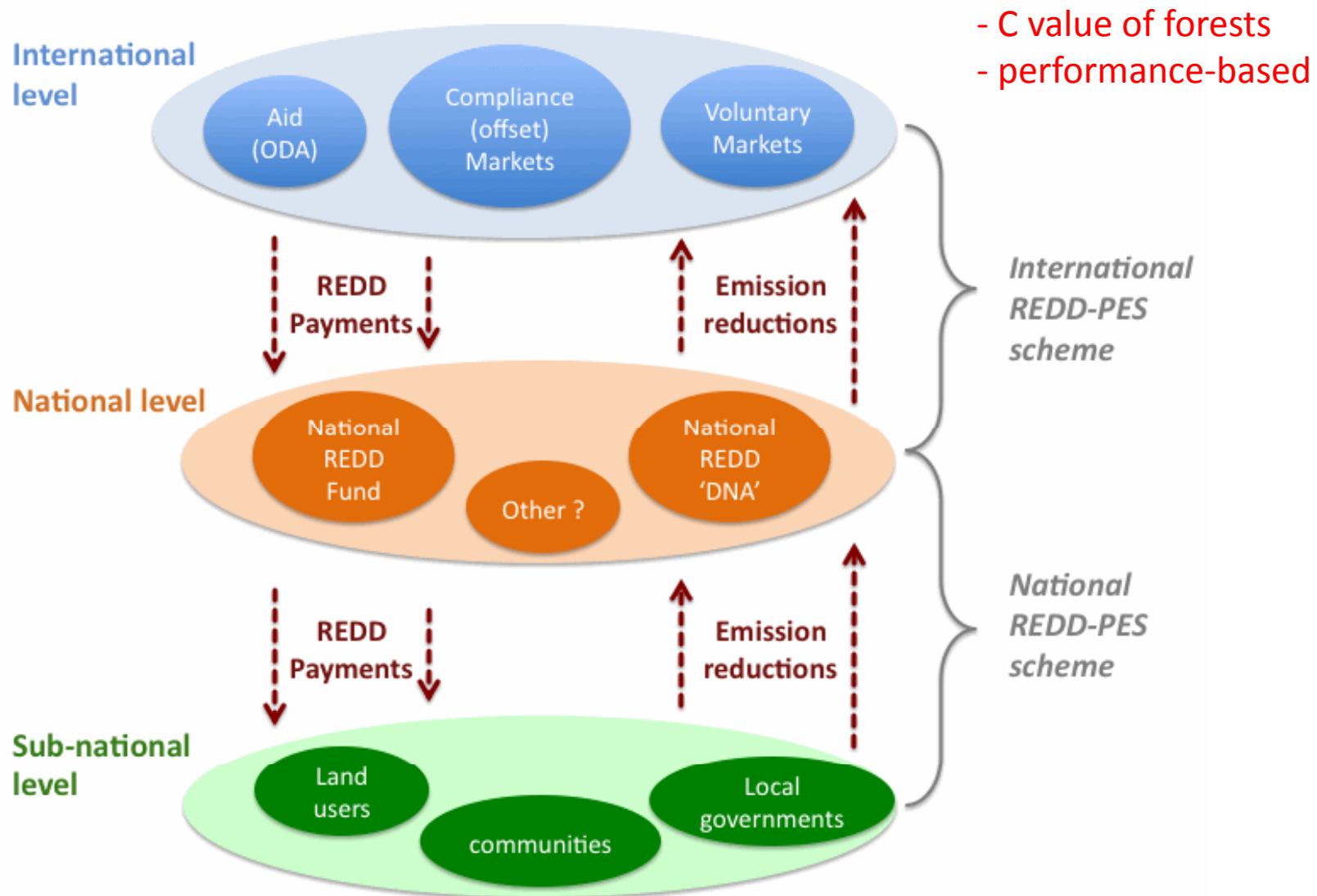
Source: Angelsen, A., C. Streck, L. Peskett, J. Brown, and C. Luttrell. 2008. *What is the right scale for REDD?* In: *Moving Ahead with REDD: Issues, Options and Implications*.



Different national circumstances and challenges



The core idea of REDD+



Implication for women

- Women are the backbone of the African family economy as custodian of livelihoods
- Climate change does not affect women and men in the same way
- Women's greater responsibilities for crop and food production in Africa render them more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, such as declining water supplies and increasing pest outbreaks.
- There are risks and opportunity of REDD and CC

Risks

- REDD mechanisms have paid very little attention to the vulnerability of women to its negative consequences
- Women as farmers will see their activities highly impacted by climate change; low production, diseases, pest, etc, or identified as drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Women as fuel wood collectors: conservation measures may bar entrance into forests protected as part of a REDD programme
- Women's land rights: women do not have equal rights with men to lands. Land claims may be affected by privatization as corporations, international conservation agencies and governments scurry to acquire land for REDD
- Women continue to be nominal stakeholders in decision-making and planning.
- No assurance that women will receive equal benefits and participation in REDD mechanisms

Opportunities

- The hope of rewarding the managers of forests for their efforts to protect, nurture and rehabilitate forests
- Could reduce the vulnerability of women to climate change while also creating new financing and mechanisms to address poverty alleviation goals
- Could provide a renewed focus on reforms to decentralize forest management and institutions, to make them more accessible and responsive to the needs of women, and
- Could assure appropriate and equitable benefit-sharing for women of communities that are both forest-dependent and forest enhancing
- Could provide increased visibility of women's concerns and inclusion of these into negotiation texts and national policies
- Greater challenge for unity building and more effective lobbying and advocacy work

Conclusion

- As much as women are potentially the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, so too could they be at the centre of mitigation actions. Hence, if decision-making processes of REDD fail to acknowledge the roles, skills and knowledge of women, the sustainable use and management of forest for climate change mitigation will be severely constrained

Thank you!

