

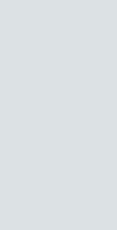


Forests and Climate Change: Implications for Forest Agencies

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Outline

- Purpose of the session
- The basics of forests and climate change and some realities
- Responses and programs in the forest sector to climate change
- What we are learning from implementation
- Implications for forest agencies
- Questions for reflection

Purpose

Review and assess how climate change is (or will) affecting your agency's priorities and actions

Learn about examples of large scale restoration and discussion of achieve success

Examples in the room

- Brazil: World leader on REDD; Amazon Fund
- Canada: Experiencing effects (pine mountain beetle) and supporting REDD readiness (FCPF)
- China: promoting restoration and tree planting; world's largest emitter per capita; trading scheme?
- DRC: major REDD-readiness (FIP, UNREDD)
- Indonesia: major REDD player; voluntary initiatives (FCPF, UNREDD, FIP)
- Peru: FCPF country
- Russia: major fires (due to climate change?)
- USA: donor to REDD-readiness; seeing changes already; second biggest emitter; lack of action undermined UNFCCC

Some basics

Generally accepted that increase of GHG emissions lead to climate change

Forests are naturally:

- Sinks: sequestering GHG. Eg, US Forests sequester 11% of the country's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Emitters: Deforestation/degradation accounts for approximately 15% of global human-induced GHG emissions

Forests are important for

- Adapting to climate change: reducing vulnerability of natural or human systems to climate effects
- Mitigating climate change: reducing emissions or enhancing sequestration capacities

Realities

Globally, emissions are going up

No solid, binding, global agreement (and the future of Kyoto Protocol is uncertain)

Copenhagen Accord commitments fall short of what is needed to limit the long-term concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to 450 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂-equivalent, in line with a 2 degree C increase (IEA, UNEP)

Forest carbon market not emerging at scale necessary

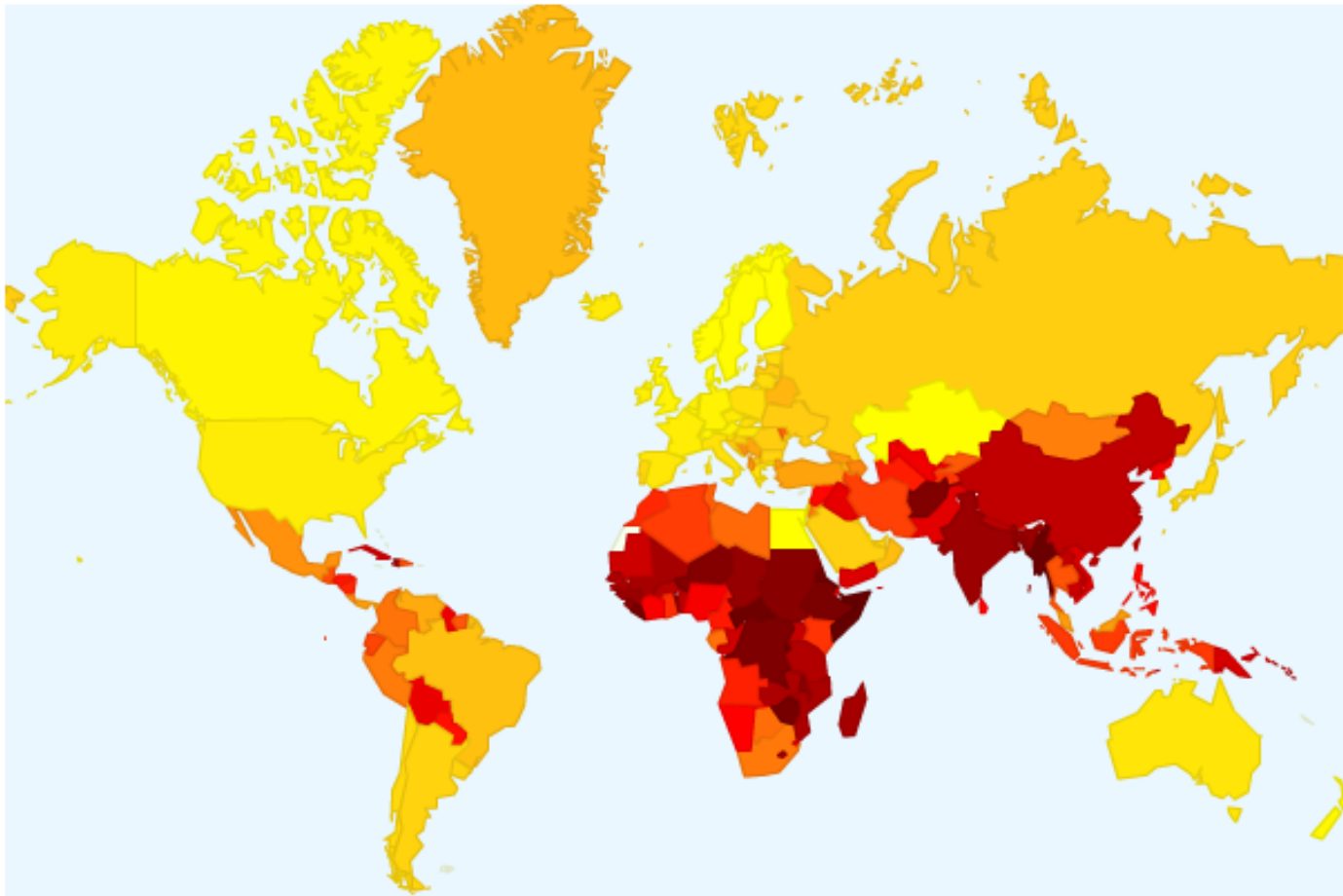
Lots of projects but difficult to scale-up

European governments won't allow forestry into ETS

Federalized REDD emerging

Major disruptions and warming/weirding likely to affect natural and political/institutional systems (Russia, eg)

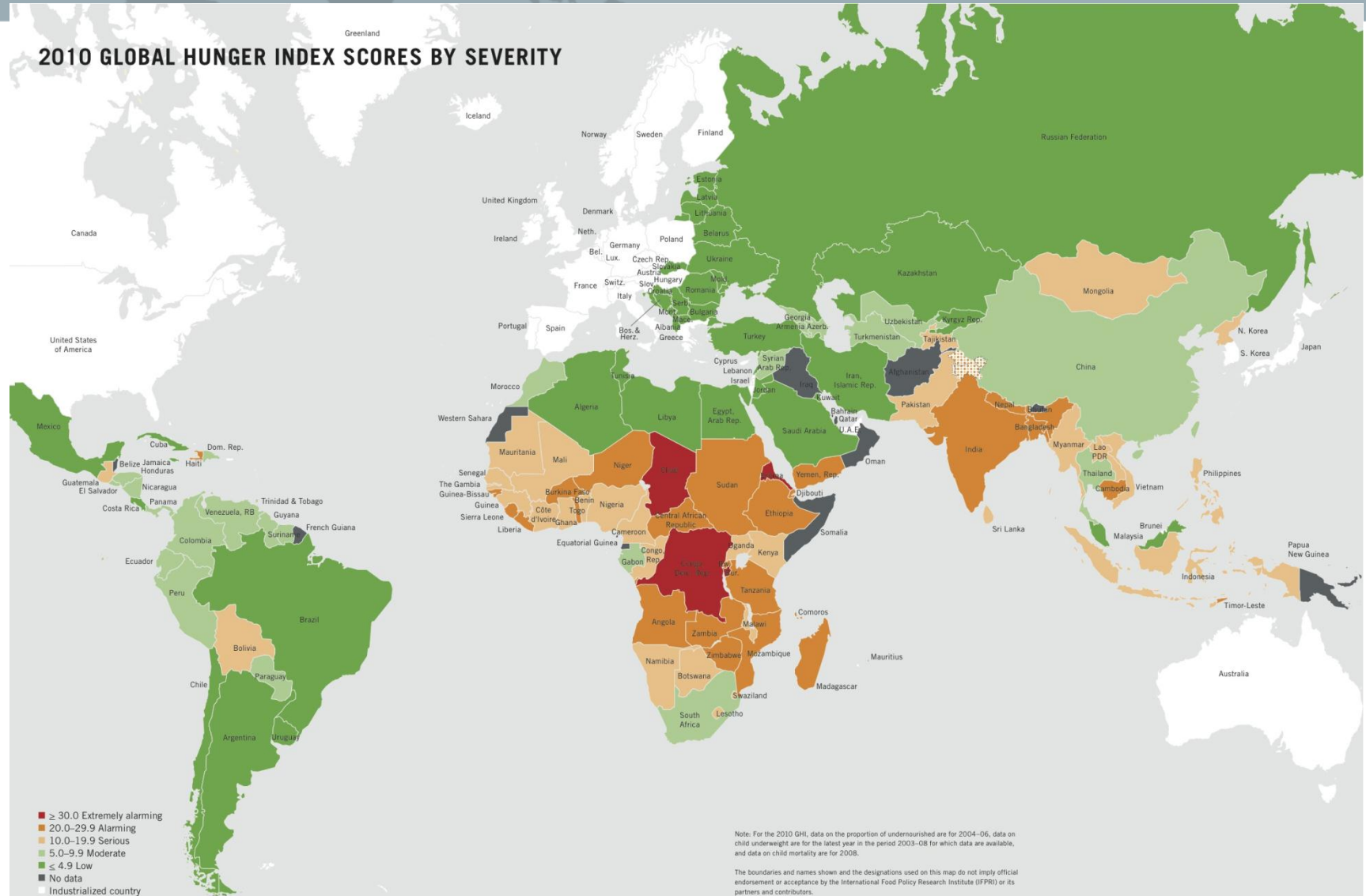
Vulnerability



Rank 1 169

Overall Overall Vulnerability:
Physical Impacts Adjusted For Coping Ability

Hunger persistent and severe



Mitigation and forests

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation (RED)

has evolved to REDD+:

- *Reducing emissions from deforestation;*
- *Reducing emissions from forest degradation;*
- *Conservation of forest carbon stocks;*
- *Sustainable management of forest;*
- *Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;*

REDD+ Progress

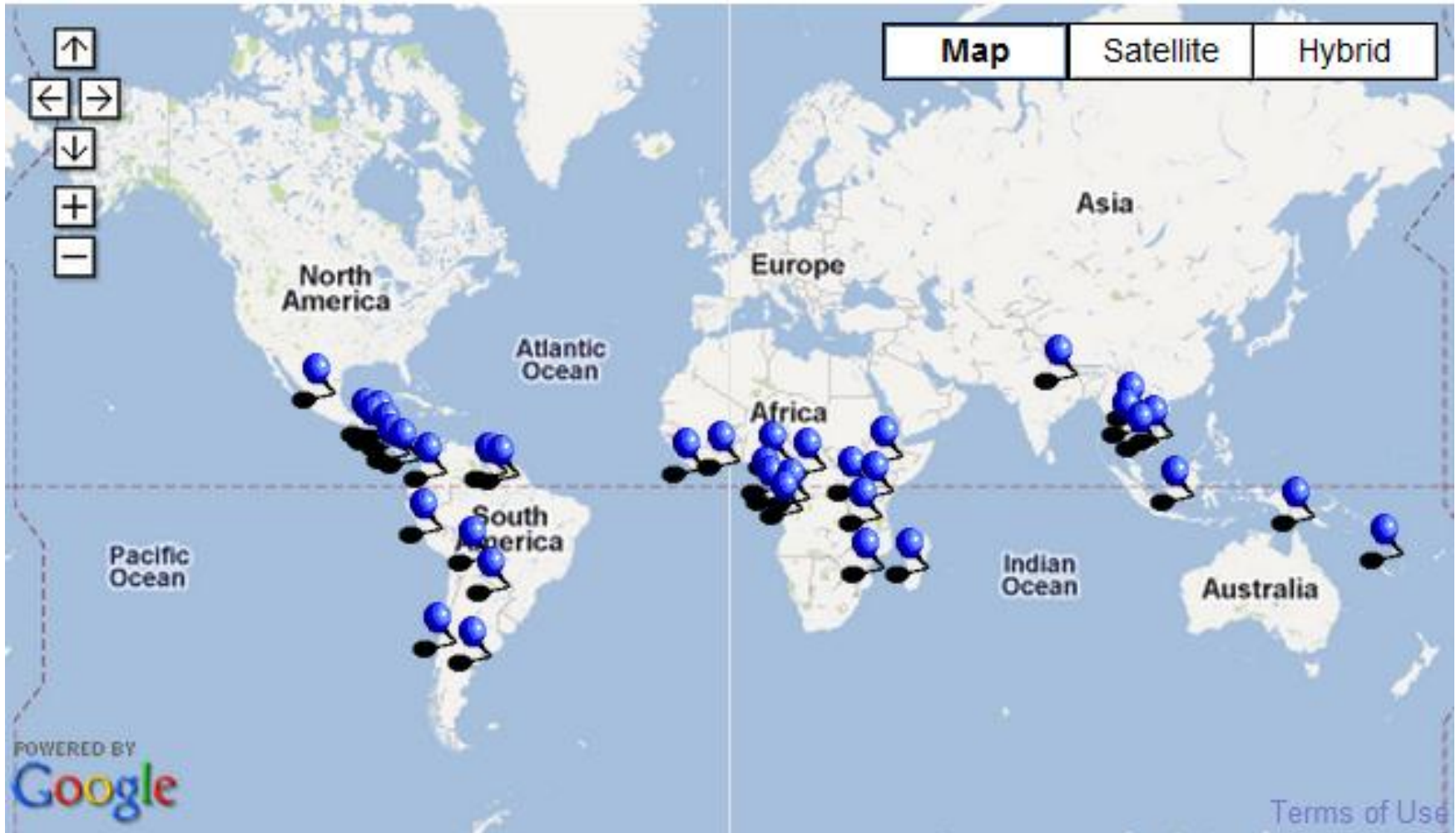
\$3 to 4 billion pledged – little disbursed (REDD+ database)

Began with simple and elegant premise (opportunity cost approach)

Actions show difficulties but have promoted dialogue

Cancun Agreement positive but vague and not enforceable (esp on safeguards)

FCPF Countries



Lessons from implementation

Opportunity costs not a sufficient foundation because of bad assumptions (forests much more than carbon)

Projects identify land tenure insecurity and weak governance as major impediment to investment (Oslo Exchange, 2011)

Role of agriculture as a driver now being recognized

Public policy promoting clearing (infrastructure, concessions, etc) a driver

Adaptation and forests

Adaptation of forests and forestry: making forests more resilient

Active, diverse management of landscapes can increase resilience

- Insect infestation in Canada
- Forest fires in Russia

If forests are not resilient communities will bear the burden. But communities also offer a solution, diverse production systems will allow for more stability

Adaptation using forests: making people more resilient

Trees will reduce fragility of soil systems: controlling erosion, landslides

Can provide food in times of drought, etc

National adaptation plans of action (NAPAs) and Adaptation Fund just getting going

Lots of research underway to understand complex dynamics (technical) but emerging understanding of institutional implications

Lessons from history

Adaptation

Resiliency requires strong basis of rights, governance and institutions to make changes

Technical and political

Large scale restoration is possible [By default, or with government intervention]

Government commitment at highest levels

Governance reforms needed

- Tenure reform and management authority at local levels
- Control of illegal forest activity
- Liberalization of wood imports

(77 countries that have moved to FAC status)

Emerging complementarities

One example, programs to restore degraded lands can increase sequestration capacities, and

- Provide livelihood options for the rural poor and sources of food
- Help adapt: Reduce vulnerability: landslides
- Reduce water shortages; increase drought resistance; increase resistance to heavy waterfall
- Restored forests can provide a source of energy

We need to invest on underlying, cross-cutting initiatives that help address multiple crises – that strengthen rural society and build resilience

Some implications forest agencies

Climate finance poses challenges and provides opportunities

Can expect major political ramifications/reactions

Because there will not be adequate reductions, adaptation will become more important

Governance, tenure and institutional innovation important for both adapting to and mitigating climate change

Interactions with other agencies likely to become more important (land, infrastructure, agriculture, mining...)