Reducing

Emissions from

Deforestation and Forest

Degradation

ABOUT REDD+[2] [11] [12]

REDD+ was formulated by the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of the Parties (COP), discussed since 2007 and implemented since 2013

AIMS of REDD+

- reducing human pressure on forests that result in greenhouse gas emissions
- reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
- enabling sustainable management of forests
- conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

CRITIQUE

REDD+ is criticized as a "greenwashing" governance mechanism^[2]



- implementing government control over forests
- excluding local communities from forest management and removing their rights and livelihoods
- winners = private and/or national government interests
- losers = local and indigenous communities

SHIFTING THE FOCUS^[2] [10]

Environment 26 (10), S. 1221-1234. DOI: 10.1080/13549839.2021.1972953.

- REDD+ is shifting the focus from large scale commercial companies mainly responsible for deforestation to communities as key actors of deforestation
- carbon is seen as the most important value of the forest
- local communities are little involved in decision-making processes and around REDD+, contrary to what is emphasized in theory
- while industrialized countries have the highest share of carbon emissions, the task of solving the problem is placed in countries of the South

GREEN GRABBING^[13]



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Concept: "selling nature in order to save it"

- REDD+ as an appropriation of natural resources with devastating social and environmental consequences for the local communities
- REDD+ as a form of "green" land grabbing that involves the direct or indirect displacement of local people

THE DISPLACEMENT THE

REDD+ overlaps with contexts of repression and murder of environmental activists as well as displacement and dispossession of local/indigenous populations, among others.^[2] In postcolonial contexts, it is important to consider that pre-existing inequalities in land tenure distribution may be reinforced, resulting in wealthier landowners benefiting the most while poorer populations are displaced.^[5]

CHALLENGING REDD+

A CALL FOR JUSTICE

FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

...claim approximately 80% of the planet's biodiversity and ecosystems^[3]

...legally own around 11% of the world's forestland^[3]

...suffer distributive, procedural, and recognitional injustices resulting conservation initiatives such as

- displacement
- unequal burden of conservation
- Neglect of local knowledge^[2]

Rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, are negatively affected by restrictions on "locking up forests" under REDD+ projects:

- restricted access to land for cultivation, hunting, charcoal production, and fuelwood collection
- restriction on fuelwood extraction and charcoal production^[5]

These restrictions result in loss of revenue.^[5]

CASE IN POINT: REDD+ IN TANZANIA^[9]

REDD+ restricts activities that provide livelihoods and subsistence for forestdependent groups:

- Sale and use of charcoal and timber
- Collection of wild fruits
- shifting cultivation

Social and economic pressures from the REDD+ project and everyday resistance practices such as informal gatherings

Resulting in:

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

More than 50% of the world's tropical forests are located in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples^[2]

Strong resistance against REDD+ from the indigenous communities:

• as early as 2009, more than 400 indigenous people from 80 countries denounced REDD+ in the *Anchorage Declaration*^[14]

Forests are an essential part of existence for many indigenous peoples^[3]

Displacement and abandonment of traditional farming systems as a result of REDD+ initiatives could lead to

- loss of traditional knowledge and practices
- disruption of communities

III GREEN MILITARIZATION

To enforce initiatives such as REDD+, law enforcement or intelligence initiatives are increasingly being used to "police" the conservation resources, which can be described as militarized conservation.^[4] For example, as part of a preparatory REDD+ initiative in Nigeria in 2008, a militarized anti-deforestation taskforce was set up to enforce a logging ban. However, the violent surveillance and policing techniques often criminalized the local population.[1]

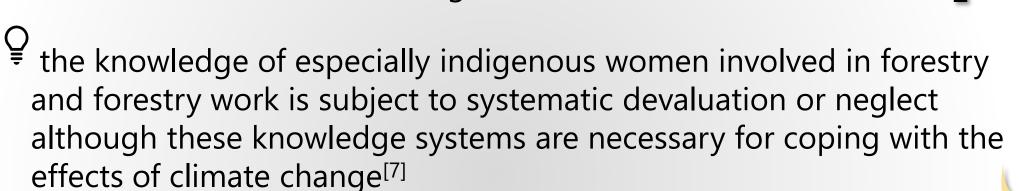
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ENVIRONMENTAL (IN)JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM^[2]

Environmental justice is a concept exposing how low-income and non-white communities suffer from Environmental Racism because they carry the primary burden of environmental impacts while often being denied inclusion in decision-making processes related to the environment in which they live.

GENDER ASPECTS

The current consideration of gender in REDD+ initiatives is insufficient and needs to be strengthened^[6]



Thus, the strategies of REDD+ initiatives that often ignore (indigenous) women's experiences and knowledge are insufficient^[7]

CASE IN POINT: REDD+ IN INDIA^[8]

The national REDD+ strategy ignores the role of women as potential entrepreneurs in forest management, with gendered roles for women such as firewood collection making them highly dependent on forests.

WHERE TO GO ?

ENABLING JUSTICE

A way to enable justice REDD+ could be strategically used by (indigenous) grassroots organizations as a mouthpiece to draw attention to (already existing) injustices at the international level^[2]

DECOLONIZING REDD+

It is necessary to actively involve women in the decision-making and implementation of REDD+. The starting point should be the environmental knowledge systems of indigenous women^{[6] [7]}

Gender mainstreaming within REDD+ must be seen as a fundamental principle that goes beyond the level of representation^[8]

In terms of environmental justice, it is necessary to increasingly incorporate the traditional knowledge on forest management systems and climate change adaptation of forest-dependent and indigenous communities into REDD+[3]

In order to fulfill the rights of indigenous communities in REDD+, fundamental decolonial transformations of the framework are necessary^[14]



Umweltsozialwissenschaften und Geographie

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