**Introduction**

*Structure*

Forest cover and forest loss across SEA. Emerging economies based on natural resources.

Importance and difficulties of understanding relationships between economics, socioeconomics, and forests at different scales. Important for developing sustainable forestry policies and for predicting forest loss so as to target interventions.

Approaches to modelling these relationships. Mini literature review. Identify some key papers from Asia that model these relationships. What approach did they take? What are the potential flaws?

Challenges associated with some of the approaches. Are they identifying and accounting for all the variance at the scale they are working at? Are they missing a lot of variation?

Cambodia – rapid economic and social development post-conflict. Discuss ELCs and foreign investment. Importance of identifying drivers / relationships. But what is the best approach?

*Cambodia*

Between 1975 and 1992 Cambodia suffered enormous civil unrest, civil war, and foreign occupation, which resulted in almost complete economic collapse. Yet by 2006 Cambodia’s economy was one of the fastest growing economies in the world and represents a good example of a country’s ability to move from post-conflict status to full integration within a dynamic regional economy (Cambodia’s economic transformation report).

Cambodia’s economy can be described as “economic transformation”. During 1990’s – 85% of population were subsistence agriculture, with small garment sector. Low productivity. After 2001 (Forestry Law and Land Law) shift towards agro-industry. Private sector grew exponentially, mostly due to investments in tourism, manufacturing, and mining. Between 2000 and 2006 economy grew by an average of 8.7%, but this increase was driven primarily by manufacturing, (especially garment manufacturing), construction, services, and tourism. These industries geographically limited to Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, and their surrounds. During this period 55% of population remained in agriculture, with almost all of the growth in the agricultural sector driven by the industrial agricultural sub-sector.

At the start of the century 41.9% of Cambodia’s land area was forested, and by 2012 the total forested area had been reduced by 19.8%, equating to over 1.3 million hectares (Davis et al 2015). Only 25 other countries lost more forest than Cambodia between 2000 – 2012 (Hansen et al 2013).

McSweeney, C., New, M. & Lizcano, G. 2010. UNDP Climate Change Country Profiles: Cambodia. Available: http://country-profiles.geog.ox.ac.uk/ [Accessed 23/06/2020].