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# The Future of REDD+

Source: Lucy, <http://toadstoolsandteacups.wordpress.com/tag/carbon-offset/>

**Adeniyi Asiyebi, PhD**

*Department of Politics*

*University of Sheffield, UK*

# Outline

- Background
- Current State of REDD+
  - General
  - Communities
  - Forests
  - Governments
  - Funding
- The Future of REDD+
- Conclusions

# Background

Montreal 2005; Bali  
2007; Warsaw, 2013...

“The decisions (on  
REDD+ at Warsaw  
2013) were a **clear  
breakthrough for  
action on climate  
change**” – UNFCCC, 2014

**Paris Agreement 2015:**  
Article 5:2



Source: UNFCCC REDD+ Web platform, 2017

# Background

- “No other large source of potential emissions reductions has such a comprehensive, consensus-based record of policy, technical, social, and financial debates, reports and decisions”

*-- Tropical Forest Group, 2011*

- “heroic, romantic effort to marry climate mitigation and economic growth”, one sustained mainly by market optimism ([Descheneau and Paterson, 2012 p.78](#))
- Builds on market-based Kyoto Protocol; the largest case of a Payment for Ecosystem Services

# Background

- About half (29) of African countries are involved in REDD+
- 18 Latin American, more than 20 countries in Asia-Pacific
- Different forms, approaches
  - projects, jurisdictions, bilateral arrangements, multi-lateral, carbon-centric, development-centric
- Three phases, entering result-based payment

# Current state of REDD+ in general

- Significant disconnect between global policy optimism and local realities
- Significant trade-offs, not win-win
- Cost of REDD+ => much higher than anticipated
- Biodiversity conservation: benefit or risk
  - Funds, moratoria
- Governance decentralisation/ recentralisation?
  - Multiple rescaling, often upward
- Persistent challenges: leakage, permanence, monitoring

# Current state of REDD+: Communities

- Growing awareness, knowledge of carbon forestry
- Some gains, part. in Latin America
- Participation sometimes tokenistic, instrumental
- Many cases of severe rights abuses, safeguards not withstanding
- Expectation => disillusion => 'blowback'
- Colonial conservation stereotypes & legacies persist
- Fortress conservation, exclusion, violent surveillance & enforcement -- often counterproductive

# Current state of REDD+: Communities



Center for International Forestry Research

Search

Climate Change

Gender

Livelihoods

Forest Management

Food & Biodiversity

Forest Policy

**TRENDING NOW :** In the rush for landscape restoration goals, let's not forget about biodiversity

Home » Library » Rights abuse allegations in the context of REDD+ readiness and implementation: A preliminary review and proposal for moving forward

## Rights abuse allegations in the context of REDD+ readiness and implementation: A preliminary review and proposal for moving forward



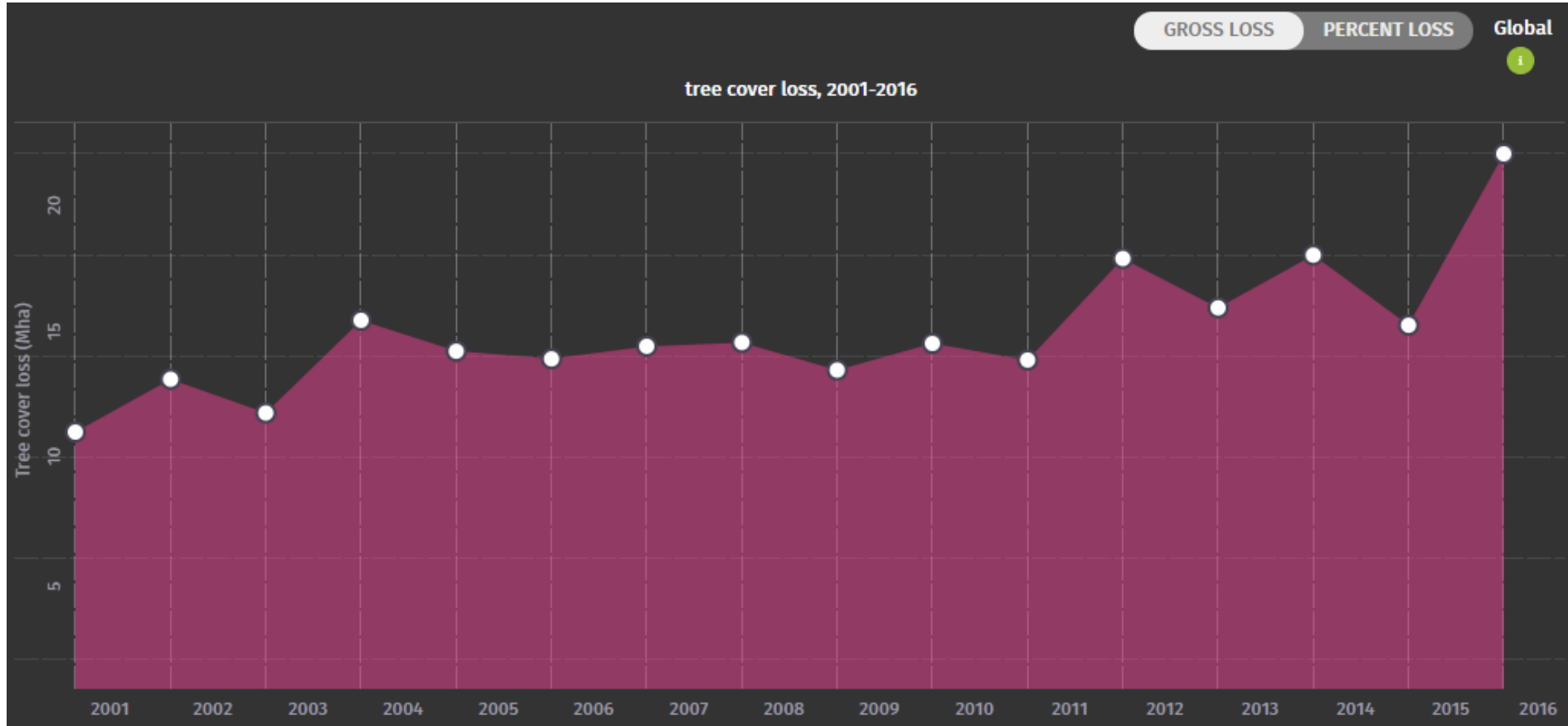
### Key messages

- This review reveals multiple allegations of abuses of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) readiness



# Current state of REDD+: forests

Global Tree Cover Loss, 2001 – 2016; 30Mha (Global Forest Watch)



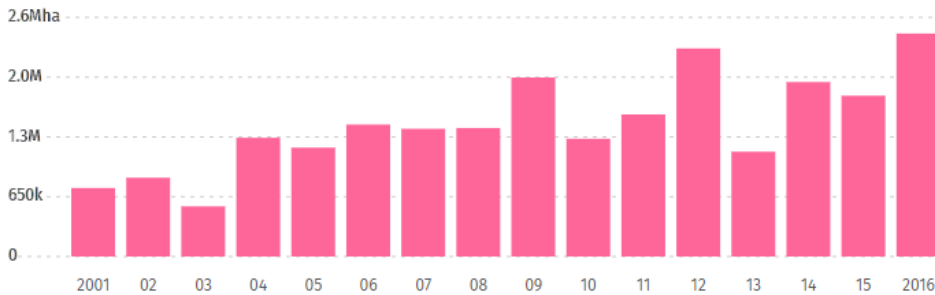
- Unprecedented levels of fires
- (Revert to) business as usual – with a vengeance?

# Current state of REDD+: forests

## TREE COVER LOSS IN INDONESIA

[SHOW ON MAP](#)   

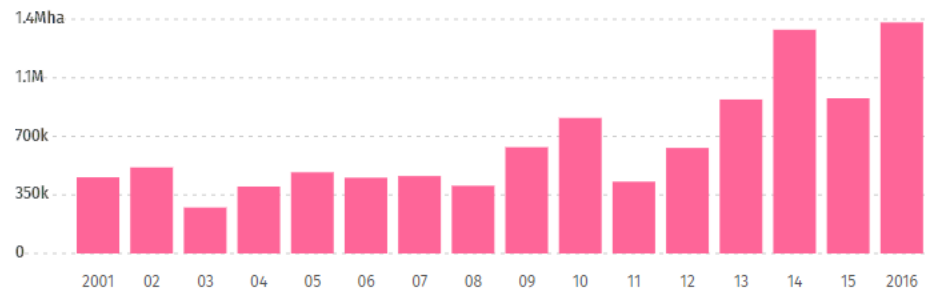
Between **2001** and **2016**, **Indonesia** lost **23.1Mha** of tree cover. This loss is equal to **14.3 %** of the area's tree cover extent in **2000**, and equivalent to **2.32Gt** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## TREE COVER LOSS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

[SHOW ON MAP](#)   

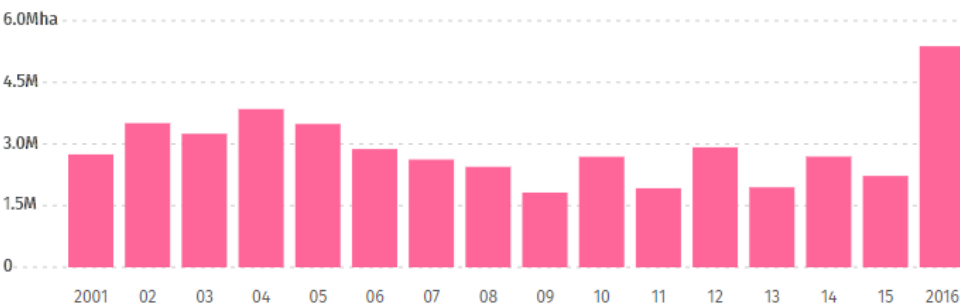
Between **2001** and **2016**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo** lost **10.5Mha** of tree cover. This loss is equal to **5.3 %** of the area's tree cover extent in **2000**, and equivalent to **1.17Gt** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## TREE COVER LOSS IN BRAZIL

[SHOW ON MAP](#)   

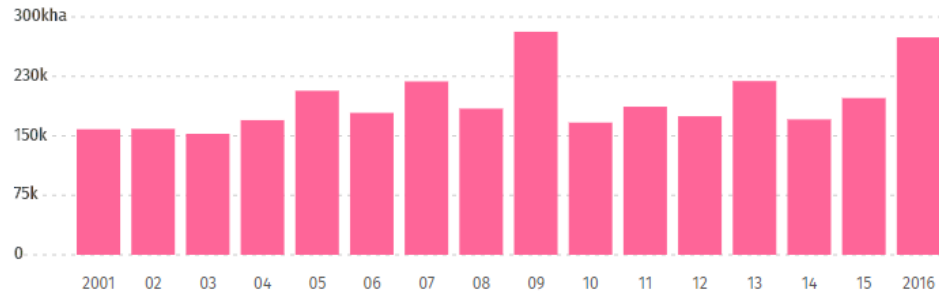
Between **2001** and **2016**, **Brazil** lost **46.4Mha** of tree cover. This loss is equal to **8.9 %** of the area's tree cover extent in **2000**, and equivalent to **3.84Gt** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



## TREE COVER LOSS IN MEXICO

[SHOW ON MAP](#)   

Between **2001** and **2016**, **Mexico** lost **3.10Mha** of tree cover. This loss is equal to **5.8 %** of the area's tree cover extent in **2000**, and equivalent to **190Mt** of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



*Global Forest Watch, 2018; Similar trend in Ghana, Cameroun, Nigeria, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Uganda, PNG etc*

# Current state of REDD+: Governments

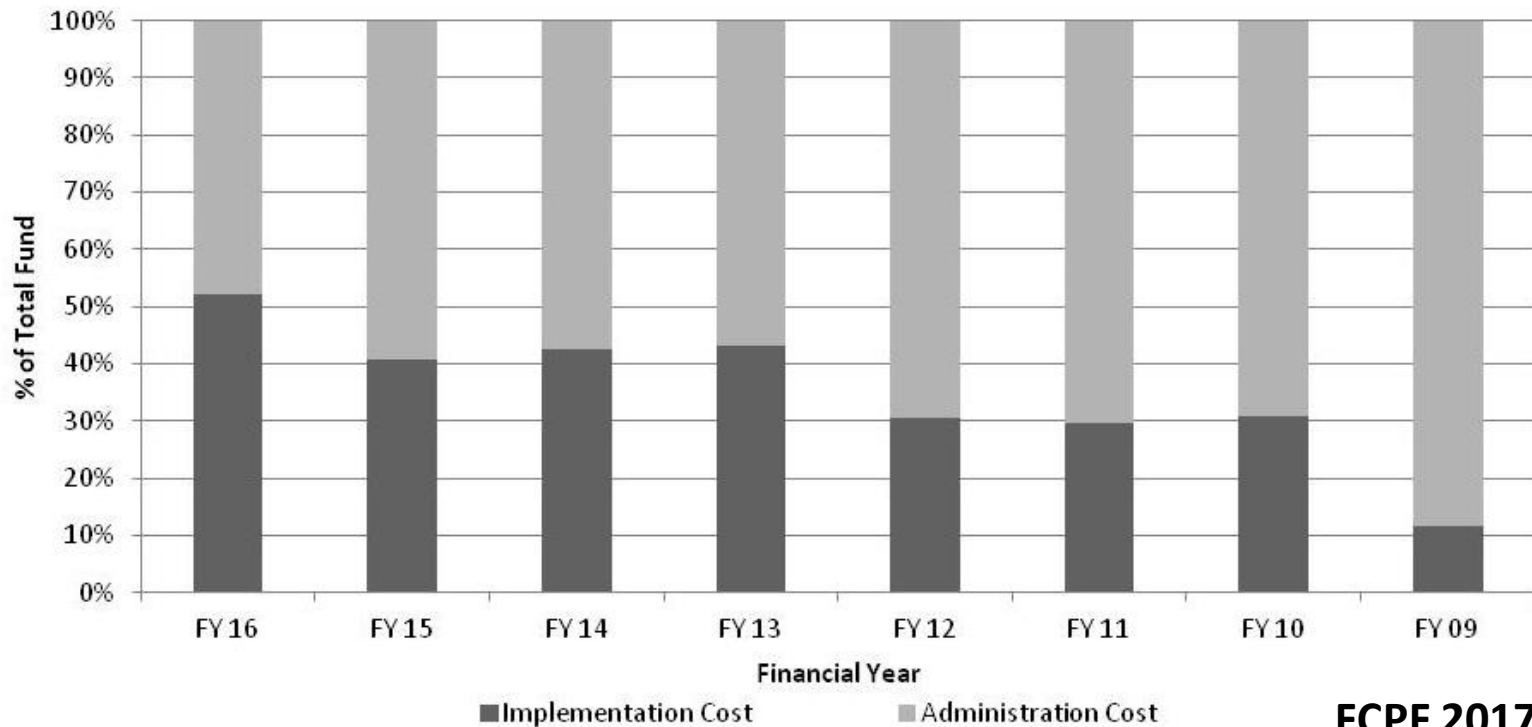
- Increased awareness and capacity, knowledge community
- Capacity far from sufficient
- 'REDD+ bureaucracy' not always inclusive, embedded
- Tension between old (timber forestry) and new (carbon forestry)
- Long-standing inter-ministerial tensions and territorial + budgetary competition

# Current state of REDD+: Governments

- Some appearance of commitment e.g. Bans, complementary funds
- A cross-national study by CIFOR found that most more than 84% of their sampled subnational governments have spent more on REDD+ than they have received
- REDD+ Finance: expectation => disappointment
- Challenge competing with other land-based investments
- Indications of revert to business as usual

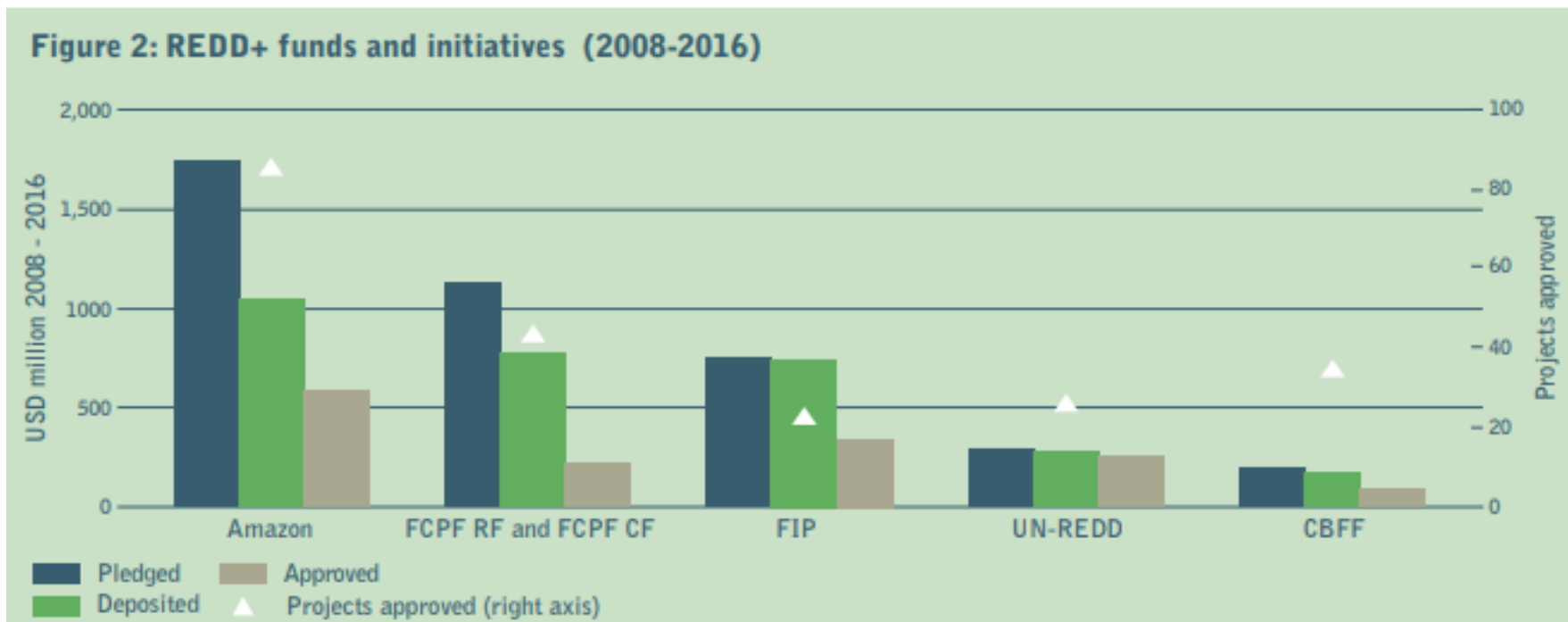
# Current state of REDD+: Funds

- About \$10b for a decade vs required \$10-15b per year
- Highest Funders: Norway, UK, Germany and US
- Channels: FCPF, UNREDD, FIP, Biocarbon, Early Movers, CAFI, Amazon Fund, other bilaterals, UNFCCC's Green Climate Fund
- A great deal on administrative costs, e.g. FCPF



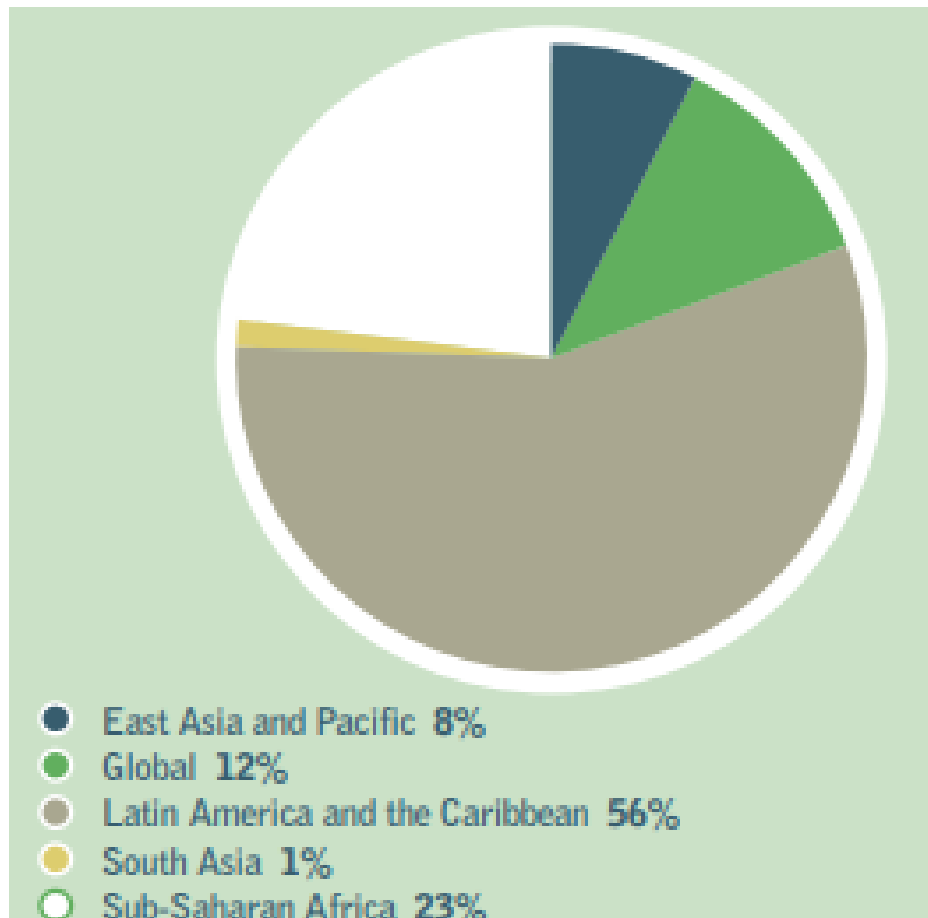
# Current state of REDD+: Funds?

- Public sector funds/grants constitute about 80-90%
- Rate of public funding commitment now declining
- The rise of private finance, PPPs and markets (e.g. IFC's \$152m bond for REDD+ in Kenya)
- Approved spend < pledges redeemed < pledges made



# Current state of REDD+: Funds?

Significant spending on capacity building, aside from the Amazon Fund



# Future of REDD+

- Is REDD+ dead? Is REDD+ another fleeting conservation fad?
- REDD+ is alive, but certainly not well
- Becoming more realistic, more streamlined
  - countries/jurisdictions with the institutions, capacity and stability
  - Consequent deforestation in countries ‘left behind’
- Carbon forestry logic will persist



# Future of REDD+: Adjustments & Alignments

- Governments, international institutions and other stakeholders might seek to repurpose/reposition REDD+
  - NDC: new impetus, challenge of ownership, changing forests
  - SDGs: scope for synergies; private sector moving ahead
  - New York D on F: finance and making forests worth more standing
- Will reflect emergent political milieu – surging nationalism, ‘trumpism’, and trust deficit in GEG

# Future of REDD+: Privatisation & Financialisation

- Rise of private finance
  - e.g. REDD+ Bonds, PPPs; REDD+ project control e.g. in DRC
- Industry Initiatives:
  - Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
  - High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) of commercial plantation industry
  - The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) enrolling large corporations and firms
- More threats to communities as projects compete, private investments are protected, and community tenure/rights are left undefended

# Future REDD+?: The big challenges

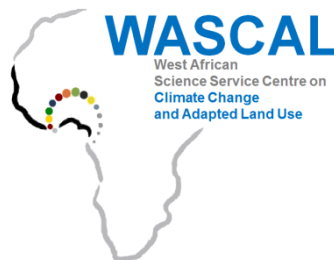
- Existing problems: funds, leakage, permanence
- Tropical forests under changing climate e.g. fire, precipitation, drought – duration and intensity
- Adaptation and resilience at the forest frontiers
- The challenge of social justice + socio-ecological resilience
  - Beyond safeguards and FPIC
  - Facing issue of community rights head on
  - Morally right, reduces deforestation, improves livelihoods and resilience

# A Research Proposal

- Rights-based approach => Justice?
- Accountability as mediating link?
- Examine in 4 SS-African countries
- Begin with REDD+, derive insights for natural resource governance broadly.



AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY



**WA-BICC** ...and others

Thank you!