



optimizing conservation benefits from forest carbon

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Delivering Multiple Benefits from Forest Carbon Markets to Address
Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation*



Forest carbon investments mitigate climate change, improve livelihoods and conserve biodiversity

- Deforestation and land use change produce roughly 20% of all GHG emissions
- Forest carbon investments provide ecological, economic, and social returns to indigenous people and local communities
- Protecting and restoring forests provides habitat for threatened species and ecosystem services for people



Two main questions

- How can forest carbon activities help us achieve conservation at scale?
- How can we optimize the benefits of forest carbon activities and markets for conservation?



This is a critical moment for conservation

- REDD could be formally adopted into a post-Kyoto framework by Dec 2009
- Carbon finance (REDD + A/R) could channel billions of dollars annually toward forest conservation



How can we optimize the conservation benefits of forest carbon investments?

- Locate activities in areas of high priority for biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Use native and diverse species to restore forests
- Manage threats to biodiversity (invasive species, fires, unsustainable harvesting, etc.)
- Design and locate forest carbon activities to help human communities and biodiversity adapt to climate change impacts



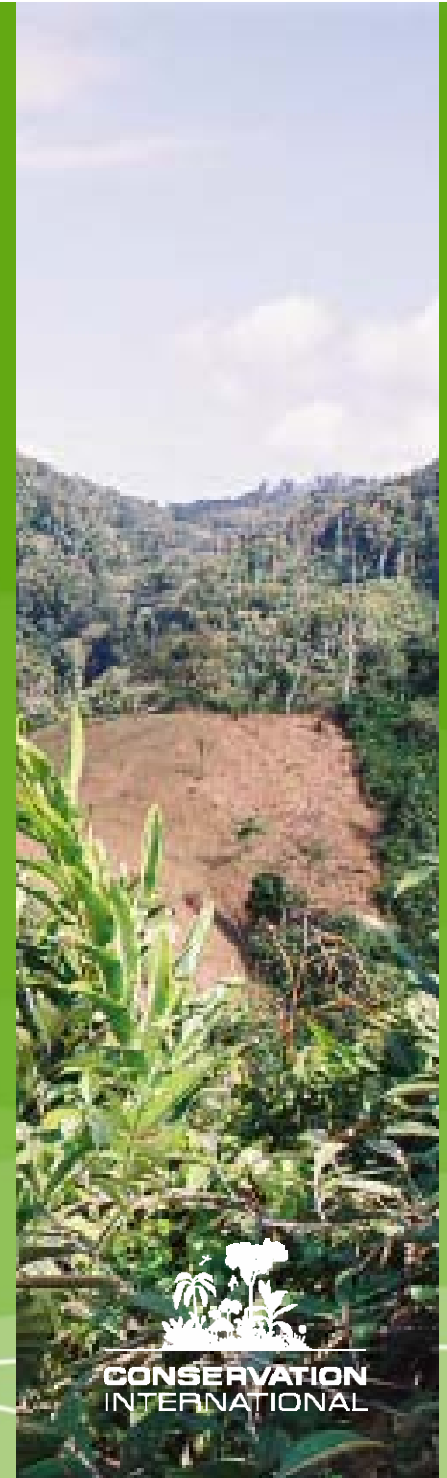
Rigorous market standards are needed to ensure carbon, community and biodiversity benefits

- Experience shows that carbon investors seek multiple benefits
- CCB and VCS provide highest standards in the voluntary market
- Similar quality standards needed for REDD + A/R in the regulated market
- Voluntary market will likely continue for unregulated entities and those who want to go beyond compliance



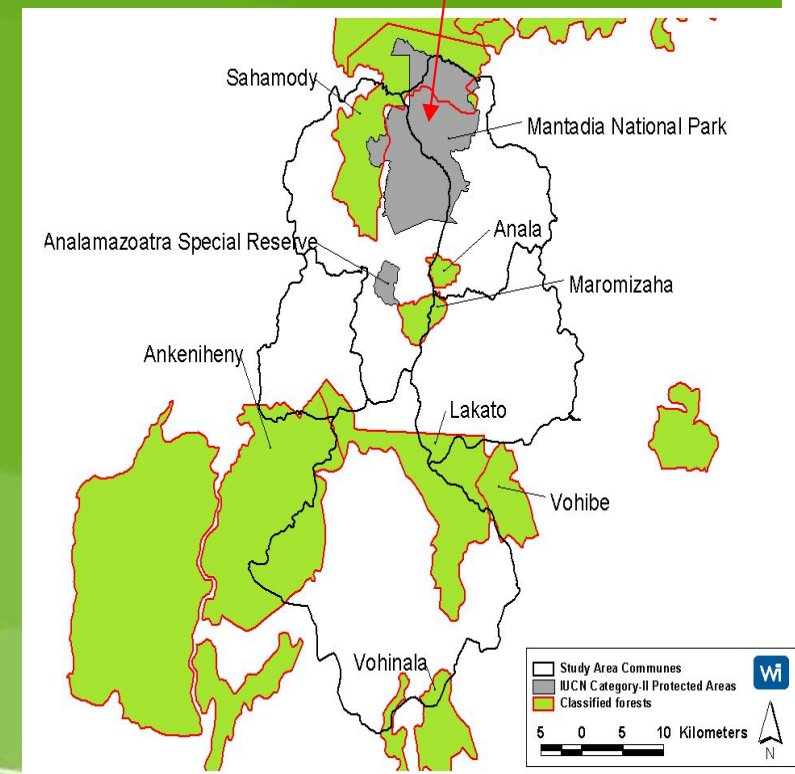
Policy and market issues

- REDD should provide incentives to conserve the largest area of forest worldwide
- HFLD countries need incentives to conserve remaining forests and prevent future forest loss
- Financial flows (market and non-market) must be sufficient to slow deforestation quickly at significant scale
- Regulatory market must embrace both REDD and A/R
- Issues of land tenure and carbon ownership must be resolved to ensure equitable benefit flows and effective implementation



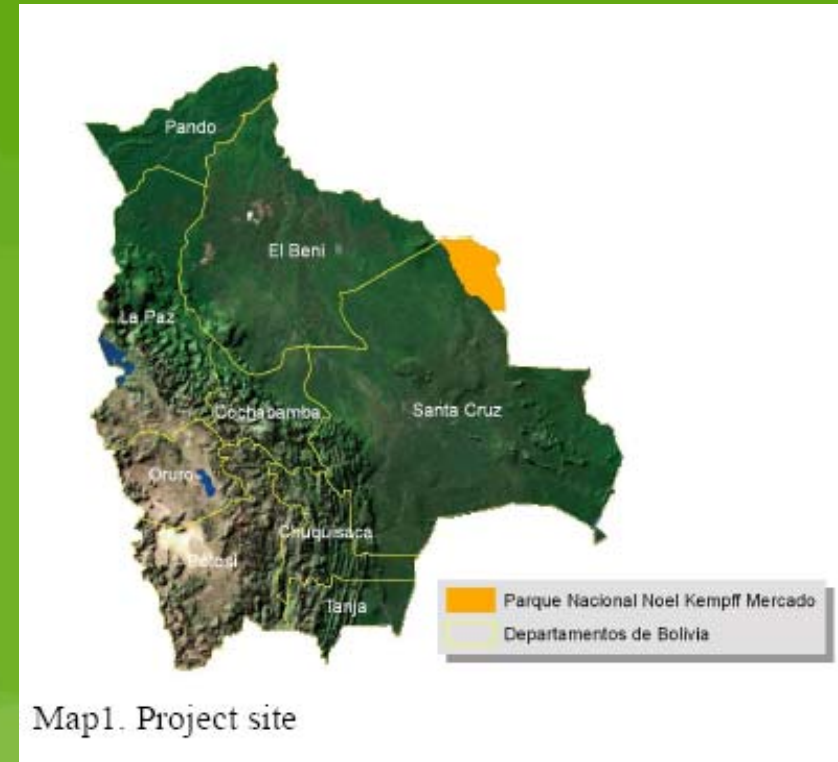
Mantadia (Madagascar) case

- Conservation corridor protects 420,000 ha of tropical forest, restores 3,000 ha of native forest and supports 1,800 ha of community forests (fuelwood + fruit)
- Provides water for rice cultivation and controls erosion
- Creates employment and income through reforestation and sustainable agriculture
- Maintains critical habitat for the Indri and other threatened species
- Sequesters over 10 million tons CO₂



Noel Kempff Mercado (Bolivia) Case

- Expansion of Noel Kempff Mercado National Park by 831,689 hectares, almost doubling its previous size
- Indemnified timber concessions, increased monitoring of park activities
- Supports indigenous communities to achieve legal status as "Communities of Native Peoples" and to obtain official land title
- Provides alternative, environmentally sustainable economic opportunities for the local population (e.g. community forestry program)
- Avoided 1,034,107 tons CO₂ emissions



Key roles of the conservation community

- Sharing our decades of experience to help governments and other partners reduce deforestation and forest degradation
- Apply our conservation toolkit (protected areas, incentive agreements, corridors, PES, etc.) to REDD + A/R
- Lend our technical expertise to help create effective forest carbon markets and to design, implement and monitor activities in the field
- Increase public awareness of the importance of forests in regulating climate, conserving biodiversity and sustaining local livelihoods



Bottom line

- The conservation community has an historic opportunity to work with governments and local communities to help tackle the climate change problem by conserving forests, preventing forest degradation and loss, and restoring degraded areas.
- We must quickly capitalize on this opportunity and ensure that today's momentum for REDD is channeled effectively into achieving climate, community and biodiversity benefits at scale, across the globe.





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