What impact did REDD+ interventions have on household income and equity?

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Concerns about REDD+ on income and equity

- Concerns based on theory and previous experience in conservation and development

- Many risks for local communities involved in global processes (Agrawal 2011, Phelps 2010)

- Calls for REDD+ to appropriately compensate the full range of economic, social and political costs (Ghazoul 2010, McDermott 2013)

- Empirical evidence basing on detailed income and wealth data is scarce
Global Comparative Study on REDD+

- **Sample**
  - 16 sub-national REDD+ initiatives
  - 125 villages (63 intervention)
  - 4,172 households (randomly sampled)

- **Village, women, and household surveys**

- **Baseline before any benefits/incentives**
Subnational REDD+ Initiatives (GCS M2)

Comparison (Control)

REDD+ site (Intervention)

Before

2010 / 2011

After

2013 / 2014

IMPACT
Data

~4000 Household income, with detailed valuation of
- Agricultural production
- Forest products
- Wage labor, business income, remittances, etc.
- Cash and subsistence

Data collected at two points in time, before and after
Statistically matched to ensure balance
- Livelihood indicators
- Household characteristics
- Wealth indicator (assets)
Household income: before-after

Trends variable at the country level:

**Increase:** Brazil, Indonesia,

**Stagnant:** Tanzania, Vietnam

**Decrease:** Peru, Cameroon
Household income: before-after/control-intervention

Differences between REDD+ and control households, where any, remain constant in time, with exception of Cameroon.
Equity in REDD+: the income angle

- Impact of REDD+ on income seems marginal, at least at the country level.

- However, distributional changes within communities could be masked

- No evidence using household-level data to examine impact on existing inequality?
Equity in REDD+: the income angle

- Analyses of opportunity costs show widely different implication between “rich” and “poor”:
  - Different activities
  - Different per ha income
  - Different shares of income affected by REDD+
    Ickowitz et al, in prep

- For REDD+ to fulfill safeguards and be equitable, attention on balance between benefits and burdens is needed

- Focus on REDD+ impact across wealth groups within communities
“NO HARM” REDD+: does not affect underlying trends

- High income HH
- Medium HH
- Low income HH
PROGRESSIVE REDD+: reduces existing inequalities

Before

High income HH

Medium HH

Low income HH

After

Household income
REGRESSIVE REDD+: accentuates existing inequalities

Household income

Before     After

High income HH
Medium income HH
Low income HH
Income trajectory by wealth group: Brazil

Before

After

CONTROL

INTERVENTION

Wealth quintiles

1 low
2
3
4
5 high
Income trajectory by wealth group: Cameroon (1 site)

CONTROL

INTERVENTION

Wealth quintiles
low

high

Before
After

Before
After

*
Conclusions

- REDD+ impact on Household income is small at the country level and most sites
- No unilateral impact of REDD+ detected
- Aggregated income trajectories may belay dynamics related to pre-existing inequality and wealth distribution
- Need to synthetize lessons at the broader scale, but impact needs to be measured close to the ground
Conclusions: Next steps

- Investigate what underlies different performance of REDD+ at different sites
- Fine-tune analyses to intervention typologies
- Income is only a component of equitable outcomes
  - Gender- disaggregated analyses
  - relationship between income and overall wellbeing
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CIFOR’s Global Comparative Study on REDD+: http://www.cifor.org/gcs/


REDD+ safeguards packet: http://www.cifor.org/gcs/publications/redd-safeguards/