

Reflection of a lesson

„Mitigation in Africa case: Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), from the perspective of equity“

30.3.2012

This final lesson has been very interesting and enriching for me as my majors are not neither in the topic of development studies nor in climate changes studies. I hadn't heard so much about REDD+ before and it has been very exciting for me to get to know this program and to think about it from a point of view of political sciences.

As far as I can judge it REDD+ program is efficient and probably well-prepared in terms of climate changes adaptation, mitigation and in development studies, but its connection to practicalities with particular types of financing, organisation of funding and coherent political decision making have not been successfully implemented yet. As it has been discussed during the lesson, REDD+ is dealing with great difficulties of how to practically coordinate allocation of funding and division of money.

Although REDD+ also could be seen as a tool how to solve the problem of poverty in Third world at the same time it can cause enormous problems and move towards much bigger poverty. Considering the fact that unequal distribution of money is nowadays the biggest problem of chronic poverty in Third world and there is remaining high level of corruption how could we be so sure that impacts of unclear funding will not make the situation even much worse. Who is going to be in charge to control allocation of refunds and does he has real capacity to do it efficiently?

“Many different stakeholders from local farmers to national elites will need to cooperate for REDD+ to be effective” as it is said in the short REDD movie. One question still comes to my mind: “Is it possible to rely on ideal cooperation between these institutions in developing countries where the system of decision making is often based on clientelism and corruption?”

Certainly REDD+ is dealing with a lot of practical difficulties, which are hidden at the first sight. “We live here in the Peruvian Amazon where there is a new boom, a new fever just like for rubber and oil but this time for carbon and REDD. The companies, NGOs and brokers are breeding, desperate for that magic thing, the signature of the village chief on the piece of

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paper about carbon credits, something that the community doesn't understand well but in doing so the middle-man hopes to earn huge profits on the back of our forests and our ways of life but providing few benefits for communities. We denounce this 'carbon piracy' that is one side of the reality of REDD in the Peruvian Amazon" (Murley 2011).

There is no doubt that something should be quickly done. Now our biggest task is to carefully think about how to prepare things to maximize benefits and minimize risks.

MURLEY, Susanna (2011): *Compromise is Hard: The Problems and Promise of REDD+* , Huffington post, 12.2.2011