REDD-An Indian Perspective

By
Dr. Shaju Thomas
Reader
Postgraduate Dept. of Zoology & Founder President, Center for Diversity Studies (CDiS), Muvattupuzha Kerala, India -686661
E mail:drshaju@gmail.com
Kerala - My State

- **Area**: 38,863 sq.km.
- **No. of Districts**: 14
- **Population**: 31.8 million according to the 2001 census
- **Population density**: 819 per km²
- **Literacy**: 90.92%
- **Forest Area**: 9400 sq.km
- **Per capita forest area**: 0.0323 ha
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries**: 12
- **National Parks**: 2
My Involvement

- Started in 1994 with Inventorying and Monitoring Biodiversity with People’s Participation
- Collaboration with Prof. Gadgil, CES, IISc, Bangalore
- Work confined to an LSGI – The Keerampara Grama Panchayath (KGP)
- Documented Biodiversity, Ecological History and Traditional Knowledge
- Involvement of People for Conservation
Outcome

• Conservation of a big patch of emerging Evergreen Forest
• Formation of a People’s Forest Protection Committee in association with the State Forest Department - JFM
• Helped prepare People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR)
• Involved in the preparation of National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) for Biodiversity conservation of the State
• Interested in exploring REDD in the regional context
Govt. of India Initiatives

- National Forest Policy-1988
- Joint Forest Management Programme -1990
- Panchayati Raj Act-1992
- National Afforestation Programme -2002
- Biological Diversity Act-2002
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act-2005
- Recognition of Forests Rights Act-2006
- National Action Plan Climate Change (NAPCC) -2008
  by Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change
Road Block

- Different Ministries, different approaches
- Lack of focus and co-ordination
- NAPCC misses result oriented agenda and time bound action
- Emphasizes on “Differential responsibilities and respective capabilities”
- Fails to recognize the conservation efforts so far
- No thrust on low carbon, green technology
- CDM highlighted but only six host country approved forestry projects in India
REED-Opportunities & Challenges

- Good Strategy for emission reduction
- Only afforestation and reforestation (A&R) qualify as CDM projects.
- Market Oriented, confusing terminologies
- Complexity of Procedures
- Specific starting date for CDM
- Ambiguity in definitions (Forest, A/R etc.)
- Few Projects from India - eg. communities and CC: The CDM & village based Forest Restoration in central India and Women for SD -Plan Vivo Forestry Project (Mango Orchard)

The Question – Is it possible for villagers to work through CDM to secure carbon - credit payments under REED/CMD?
Recognize The Values

- Country specific conservation efforts
- Include Guaranteed Emission Control (GEC) form the Natural Forests in KP negotiations
- Add cash crop plantation (eg. Rubber in credit trading)
- Develop strategies that support co-benefits
- Allow natural regeneration (many Rf. work against conservation)
Explore Alternate Strategies

- per capita natural forest
- Per capita emissions
- Historic rate of emission
- Design new bench marks
- Reward emission reduction credits to the communities
- Assess, Monitor and contribute
- Involve both Govt. and Community
- Funding either direct to the community with prior information of the Govt. or to the Govt. for well designed projects
- Differential and carbon – footprint based new taxes
Capacity Building

- CDM & REDD together is a complex issue
- Demands strong theoretical understanding
- Familiarity with the tools and techniques of carbon sequestration and credit trading
- Exposure to emerging trends and successful case studies
- Training of Trainers
Expectation

• Deep and Broad understanding on one of the biggest problems facing Mankind
• Learn the different approaches on REDD form the Experts
• International exposure and networking
• Gain expertise on GW, CDM & REDD
• Apply the knowledge in home situation
New Slogans

• Establish country specific Climate Mitigation Council
• Prioritize climate change
• Involve all stake holders
• Coordinate action plans
• Develop and share green tech.
• Promote REDD & Include conservation efforts into accounting
• Need Global and Local Actions (GALA)
• “Plant trees and fight climate change”