

Ph.D course:
Multidisciplinary Perspectives on REDD+

Date: 27 – 28 May 2013 (followed by three-day REDD conference May 29-31)
Venue: Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo, Norway (Conference: Ås, Norway)
Organised by: SUM Research School and the Norwegian REDD Research Network



1. Course objective

The principal objective of the course is to critically review the international climate change mitigation initiative Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) from different perspectives, enabling doctoral students to better understand key concepts, debates and perspectives in climate change policy making and forest governance, across scales, forms of knowledge and social, political, economic and ecological dimensions. In addition to lectures, the course will allow researchers conducting PhD research related to REDD+ to present their own work and comment on that of others, guided by senior experienced academics who are themselves working in this field.

2. Background

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) still appears to be the most promising global initiative for countering climate change. Substantial financial resources have been committed to REDD+, not least by Norway, although the prospects of agreement being reached on a global funding of the initiative are still far from secure. What is already becoming clear is that the challenges facing implementation of the initiative are very considerable, at global, national and local levels. A number of controversial issues are rising high on the agenda, such as: land tenure and equity; the role of the state, decentralized bodies, communities, NGOs and private actors; distributional issues and co-benefits; forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples' rights and participation; as well as monitoring and measuring impacts. Numerous plans and strategies have been prepared, and consultancy reports written, but these are often based on rather weak foundations; there is still only a very limited amount of independent research on REDD+ based on in-depth empirical studies.

REDD+ not only raises major practical challenges for policy-makers, it also raises very interesting theoretical issues across disciplines, such as anthropology, political science, political ecology and geography, development studies, science and technology studies (STS).

Topics arising include:

- REDD+ and the politics of environmental governance
- REDD+ and various forms of knowledge, science and policy (STS and political ecology perspective)
- REDD+ and distributional and equity issues: indigenous people, tenure rights issues, gender, participation and co-benefits
- Changes in REDD over time, REDD+ as result based aid?
- REDD+, measuring and monitoring: what to measure? Forests as carbon, biodiversity or forest functions? What about social impacts and co-benefits?
- REDD+: climate, forests and agro-ecology
- REDD+ and national architectures (this is the theme of the REDD conference in Ås)

3. Course length and content

This course will be organized at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo. The first part of the programme consists of two days of course work, the 27th and 28th of May, at SUM, with lectures and student presentations.

The course is organized back-to-back with a three-day conference on REDD+ which will be conducted at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) in Ås just outside Oslo. Those attending the course will be strongly encouraged, but not required, to also attend the conference. Credits will be given accordingly (see more details under 'Credits' below). Those attending the three-day conference will be invited to a one-hour gathering each evening to discuss the day's proceedings.

4. Lecturers and resource persons

Lecturers:



Arild Angelsen, Professor at UMB School of Economics and Business, Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) and Senior Associate, CIFOR. Angelsen is an economist, and is involved in several research activities on tropical deforestation and climate, including the Global Comparative Study of REDD+, coordinated by CIFOR. Research and policy advice include REDD global architecture, design and assessment of national REDD+ policies, and evaluation of local REDD projects. A key research activity concerns how to set reference levels at all scales, (global national, local) to measure impacts (effectiveness) of policies and projects, and to serve as the basis for international or national crediting of emissions reductions.

<http://www.umb.no/ior/ansatte/arild.angelsen>



Esteve Corbera, “Ramón y Cajal” Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA) and the Department of Economics and Economic History, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Corbera is an environmental social scientist interested in the interface between environmental policy and human development. His research focuses on the interface of climate, energy and land-use governance, including the analysis of agrofuels’ expansion, Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and forest carbon offset programs, as well as other climate policy related instruments including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). He has undertaken fieldwork in Mexico, Belize, South Africa and Tanzania, and is currently developing new projects in Mexico, Paraguay and Argentina. His teaching addresses a wide range of topics and debates in the area of ecological economics, political ecology and global environmental policy.

http://estevacorbera.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/cv_corbera_eng_nov20126.pdf



James Fairhead, Professor and Chair in Social Anthropology at the University of Sussex and also chairs the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth. His ethnographic research in West and Central Africa on agro-ecological and environmental questions ranges from the study of local knowledge and practices to the study of science and policy. He has published widely, including the trilogy of books *Misreading the African landscape* (CUP 1996); *Reframing deforestation* (1998, Routledge), and *Science, society and power* (Cambridge 2003).

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/anthropology/people/peoplelists/person/126936>



TBC: Anne Larson, Senior Scientist, Forests and Governance Programme CIFOR. Larson is involved in CIFOR's REDD+ research with specific emphasis on the relationship of REDD+ to forest tenure rights and gender. Her current research focuses on gender and forests in Uganda and Nicaragua, specifically examining the obstacles to women's participation in decision making and in benefits from forests. She is studying tenure, forest use and forest product marketing from smallholder and indigenous forest management systems in Ecuador and Peru, and is also coordinating research on the governance of indigenous territories in Nicaragua. Larson is particularly interested in how

legitimate, accountable and equitable governance institutions and authorities emerge on multiple scales, and the interrelationships of diverse state and non-state institutions, including traditional or customary institutions. She is also interested in the construction of and demand for resource rights, how communities face and respond to competing demands for resources, and the role of grassroots mobilisation and organisations in these processes.

<http://www.cifor.org/about-us/cifor-scientific-staff-profiles/detail-profile/staff/001372.html>

Resource persons:



Mariel Aguilar-Støen, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo. Aguilar Støen works with environmental governance and REDD in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with land use change and migration. She is involved in several research projects on REDD, such as PESILA-REDD (Colombia, Costa Rica), BOREDD (Bolivia) and “REDD in Comparative Perspective: Local and National Governance Issues”. Aguilar Støen is the coordinator of the Norwegian REDD Research Network.

<http://www.sum.uio.no/english/people/aca/cbd/index.html>



Signe Howell, Professor at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo. Professor Howell has conducted anthropological fieldwork over many years in the rainforest of Malaysia, and in Indonesia. For the last three years she has supervised a number of master students working on REDD in a variety of countries, primarily in Indonesia, but also in Tanzania and several Amazonian countries. She has delivered papers based on this research at several conferences and workshops.

<http://www.sv.uio.no/sai/english/people/aca/showell/index.html>



Desmond McNeill, Professor at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo. Professor McNeill is the director of SUM's Research School and leader of SUM's research area: Governance for Sustainable Development. McNeill has long experience in Africa, Asia and Latin America and published widely on governance issues. He is involved in the project "REDD in Comparative Perspective: Local and National Governance Issues", where he has been following country processes in Indonesia and Tanzania, and has contributed to CIFOR's recent publication: *Analysing REDD+: Challenges and choices*.

<http://www.sum.uio.no/english/people/aca/dmcneil/index.html>

5. Application procedures

Who may apply?

The interdisciplinary nature of the course will appeal to doctoral students from a variety of backgrounds, such as natural resource management, international relations, anthropology, geography, political science, economics, development studies and political ecology.

All participants will be required to submit a draft paper for discussion and comments during the course.

Funding

No course fees apply and lunch will be provided during the two day course. The organisers have some funds available to cover the cost of accommodation for students from outside Oslo; if you are in need of such support please state this in your application. Similarly, there is funding available for a limited number of travel scholarships (max 350 EURO per participant) for selected students (please consult point 4 under '*Application procedures*').

Application procedures

Interested students should submit the following by e-mail to cecilhi@sum.uio.no:

1. A cover letter signed by your PhD supervisor or another person at your institution/workplace, stating your academic background and academic degree(s) held, your research interests and current research projects, including estimated date of completion of doctoral project.
2. A statement of purpose, in the form of a 1 page note where you a) briefly describe your current research b) explain in what respect this course will relate to your project and c) inform us whether you intend to submit a revised paper upon completion of the course. (NB: For those who are admitted to the course, this statement may be distributed to lecturers and fellow students via a password-protected intranet site). d) Interest in participating in the 3 day

REDD conference (see more information below) from the 29th to the 31th of May at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB), Norway (see point 6 below).

3. An up-to-date CV.

4. [OPTIONAL]: Students who wish to apply for a modest travel grant are welcome to do so by attaching a budget which includes economy class travel. Please also state whether you are in need of accommodation in Oslo.

The final application deadline is 1st of April 2013. Due to space constraints, an early application is highly recommended. Successful applicants will be contacted by 5th of April.

Preparations

A major purpose of the course is to provide doctoral students with comments on their on-going work. It is therefore obligatory for all participants to present a draft paper during the course. The paper should be approximately 3000 words, excluding the bibliography.

Students who are admitted to the course should submit their draft paper electronically to the course secretary: cecilhi@sum.uio.no by 13th of May 2013. This paper may be revised and resubmitted for evaluation and approval after the course.

All draft paper submissions will be posted on the course's password protected intranet site in preparation for the course. This will give participants time to read each other's work in advance.

A complete reading list will be published on the course's intranet website by 5th of April 2013, and selected readings will be made available directly on the site.

6. Conference May 29-31: Options for national REDD+ Architectures

The conference is organized by Noragric at the University of Life Sciences (UMB) in cooperation with the Norwegian REDD research network, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The purpose of the conference is to facilitate knowledge exchange and experience sharing between countries at various stages in REDD+ design and implementation. By bringing together policymakers and researchers involved in REDD+ processes at national levels the conference aims to help create dialogue and learning. Through country presentations of actual REDD processes; sharing of experiences from research on matters relevant to REDD, and subsequent discussions, the conference will explore and pre-assess potential benefits and drawbacks of the REDD processes at national levels.

Issues that will be discussed include the overall legitimacy of various REDD+ governance structures; their effectiveness and efficiency; how architectures may affect participation, access to local resources, and distribution of funds. This kind of knowledge is important to

inform future stages of the national design and implementation processes as well as debates in the post-Kyoto negotiations.

The conference is planned for three days. 30 researchers and policy-makers from countries engaged in establishing national REDD+ architectures are invited. Representatives from the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (especially the secretariat for the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) will also attend the conference.

The conference will combine presentations based on research on a variety of issues, experiences gained in the participating countries from the processes of developing REDD+ architectures, discussion sessions (plenary and in groups), and summary sessions.

Main topics:

- The overall capacity of various national REDD+ architectures to reduce carbon emissions
- How to ensure that REDD+ becomes participatory and protective of local rights
- Formats for measurement and payment.

Presenters from the conference will include:

- Arild Angelsen, University of Life Sciences/CIFOR
- Maria Brockhaus, CIFOR
- Anne Larson, CIFOR
- William Sunderlin, CIFOR
- Esteve Corbera, ICTA
- Edwin Vasquez, general coordinator of the Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

7. Credits

Your own institution must approve credits for the course. Course participants will receive a Course Certificate recommending either 10, 5 or 3 ECTS credits. 3 ECTS credits are recommended for those who participate in the two day course at SUM but choose not to re-submit a paper after the course, and 5 ECTS for those who attend the two day course (27th and 28th), and submit a paper. A recommendation of 10 credits will require participation at both the course and the REDD conference, as well as preparation of a paper of acceptable standard of 6000-8000 words. (The paper must be submitted to the course organisers no later than 8 weeks upon completion of the course. It will be evaluated by a course lecturer and assessed within eight weeks after submission).

8. Contact information

The Course secretariat can be contacted at e-mail: cecilhi@sum.uio.no or phone: +47 22 85 87 98 (+47 907 48 887).

Check for updates

Please check the PhD Course web pages at Centre for Development and the Environment – SUM from the 15th of March for updated information using this [link](#)