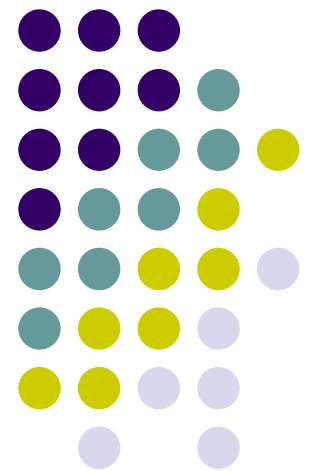


# Abatement costs of emissions from forest degradation

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8 propositions



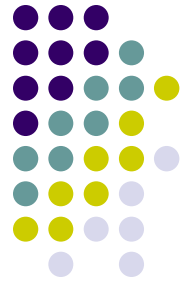
**Kyoto: Think Global Act Local project**

[www.communitycarbonforestry.org](http://www.communitycarbonforestry.org)



# 1. Degradation has not received enough attention in the REDD debate

- Deforestation = loss of area of forest: visible (in principle) from remote sensing
- Degradation = loss of carbon density within the forest without loss of area; very difficult to measure from above (gaps too small to register, much of the loss in any case below the canopy)



## **2. Degradation and deforestation = different processes and actors**

- Most deforestation is market driven and carried out by, or for, outside concerns/markets (timber, palm oil, soya, beef, even bio-fuels)
- Most degradation is due to local livelihoods (shifting cultivation, charcoal production, grazing)
- Exception: selective logging in some rainforest

### **3. In most cases degradation does not lead on to deforestation**



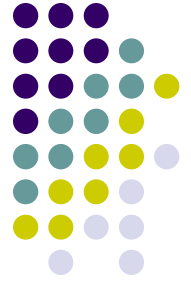
- It is the exception, not the rule, that degradation is followed by full deforestation, the latter occurring mainly in the context of settlers following selective logging, which has opened access roads (there may even be collusion between settlers and loggers)



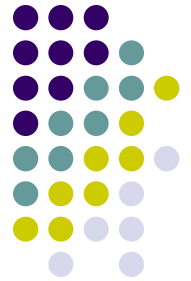
## **4. Emissions from degradation have been underestimated**

- Degradation, especially in dry forests in Africa, may double the emissions which have already been estimated for deforestation

## **5. The opportunity costs related to degradation are lower than those related to deforestation**



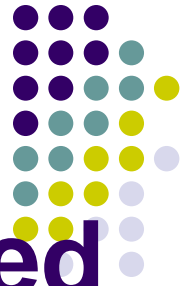
- The economic output of most degradation is low, bringing marginal economic benefits to local communities



## **6. Thus the abatement costs are much lower for reducing degradation than for reducing deforestation**

- Agriculture: \$0.7 per ton CO<sub>2</sub>
- Charcoal: \$1.6
- Firewood: \$1.2
- Timber: \$1.8

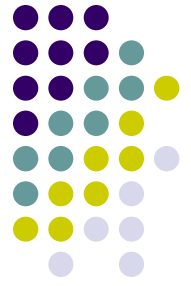
## **7. Community forest management is an established anti-degradation agent**



- In the dry forest belts where degradation is due to over-exploitation because it is an open access resource, community forest management is effective in reserving degradation and enhancing forest re-growth
- CFM is a well established instrument (though not for carbon); institutional infrastructure is in place in many countries

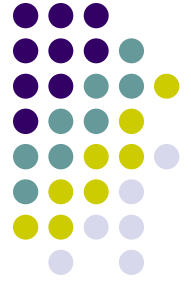


## 8. CFM results in both reduced degradation and increased stock



- In our field sites, CFM resulted in:
- Saving of around 1-2 tons CO<sub>2</sub>/ha/year as a result of stopping degradation
- Increased stock of around 4-15 tons CO<sub>2</sub>/ha/year as a result of forest regeneration
- At \$2 per ton = \$10-35 per hectare per year

# Conclusions



- Community forest management is a proven and cost-effective instrument to reduce emissions from degradation, particularly in typical dry forest areas.
- Carbon crediting tied to CFM could bring sustainable alternative livelihoods to poor, marginalised communities
- This may require different methodologies and accounting systems from those applicable to deforestation.