



# Forest dynamics and climate change mitigation in Southeast Asia

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## The general picture

The current status:

- Deforestation is taking place, sometimes at an alarming rate. Correct ?
- Forest are degrading in 'quality'. Correct ?
- Forest is good, deforestation is bad. Why ?

What are the consequences ?

- Loss of bio-diversity: Are rainforests actually important in this respect ?
- Loss of 'ecological services': Which ?
  - Increased erosion, loss of fertile top-soil and nutrients
  - Hydrological services
- Loss of economic value: What about opportunity costs ?
- Emissions of GHG gases: Are they really affected ?



## The general picture

### What are the causes/drivers ?

- What is the exact meaning of the concepts of 'drivers' and 'causes'?
- Population growth ?
- Expansion of shifting cultivation and/or permanent cultivation ?
- Timber extraction ?
- Climate change ?
- Forest fire ?

### Should it and can it be controlled ?

- Opportunity costs
- Problems of valuing ecosystem services
- The interests of future generations: Sustainability



## Case 1: Uplands of Nghe An, Vietnam

Agricultural transformation, forest change and climate change mitigation in the uplands of Nghe An Province, Vietnam.



## Shifting cultivation/'swiddening'





## Composite swiddening



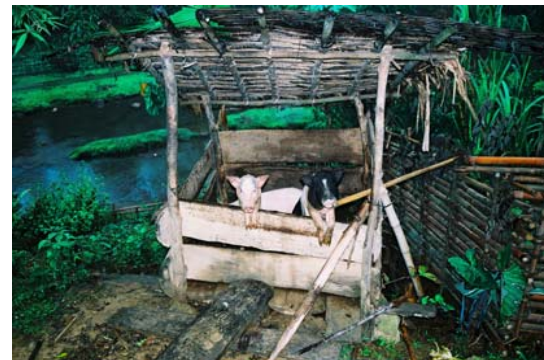


## Paddy rice production





## Animal husbandry







## Questions for discussion:

What interests are involved in the promotion of more 'forest', and more specifically primary rain-/monsoonforest, as a desirable thing ?

- Maximization of economic output ?
- Conservation of biological diversity ?
- Maximization of aesthetic value ?
- Prejudice against shifting cultivators ?



## Questions for discussion:

What are the threats to 'forest' ? Is the standard diagnosis correct ?

- Timber extraction ?
- Shifting cultivation ?
- Livestock grazing ?
- Plantations, large scale cash crops à là the Central Highlands ?



## Questions for discussion

- Is reversal of deforestation against the interests of local communities, mostly ethnic minorities ?
- What implications will the focus on CDM-projects have ?