

Asia-Pacific Workshop

Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) has been widely promoted for tropical forests as a means of reducing the environmental degradation caused by destructive and wasteful forms of logging. RIL is implemented through codes of practice and guidelines that cover activities such as forest management plans, road construction, tree felling, log extraction and reforestation. The benefits of RIL include reduced impacts on forest soils, hydrology, forest growth, biodiversity and improved worker safety.

Good progress has been achieved in developing codes of practice and RIL guidelines in many countries. However, the wider application of RIL has been limited by a number of factors, including weak institutional capacity, poor political commitment, concerns over the financial cost of RIL and a lack of financial incentives to account for the environmental and social benefits.

The global debate about climate change has highlighted the critical role of forests in the sequestration of carbon. The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) has identified REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) as an effective way of reducing CO₂ emissions. The main focus to date has been on reducing deforestation. Less attention has been given to the substantial gains that could be achieved by reducing forest degradation through improved forest management practices.

REDD+ and voluntary market arrangements have the potential to become major drivers for the wider uptake of RIL. For this to occur, policy-makers, forest managers and other relevant stakeholders need to have access to accurate information about the relative impact of various management options on forest carbon stocks and flows.

2. Objectives of the workshop

The objectives of the workshop are to:

1. review the challenges and opportunities for the application of RIL in the emerging forest carbon economy, including REDD+;
2. review current knowledge on forest carbon measurement, reporting and verification and monitoring related to forest degradation and different management practices;
3. review the potential magnitude of financial costs and benefits of applying RIL in a forest carbon economy; and
4. develop strategies to encourage increased application of RIL as a key mechanism for improving forest management and reducing carbon emissions under REDD+.

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 3-4 May 2012



Asia-Pacific Workshop

Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy

3. Planned outputs of the workshop

The workshop will aim to produce the following outputs-

1. A report on the opportunities and strategies for further developing and promoting the implementation of RIL as a measure to improve forest management, reduce forest degradation and CO₂ emissions
2. A series of briefs that summarise the potential roles of RIL in reducing forest degradation and CO₂ emissions and the potential magnitude of financial costs and benefits of applying RIL in a forest carbon economy, written in non-technical form (such as FAQ) for policy-makers, forest managers and the general public
3. An action plan that details the strategies by which RIL can be promoted to international and national bodies, negotiators and the media as a key component of measures for reducing forest degradation and CO₂ emissions under REDD+.

4. Program

The workshop is designed as a meeting of experts in the fields of RIL, forest carbon and REDD+. Lead speakers will briefly review the state of knowledge and present case studies on key topics. Most of the program will be devoted to group discussion and the development of strategies to promote the wider uptake of RIL. The key topics for discussion will include-

1. **The measurement of forest carbon** – a brief overview of current methods for measuring forest carbon, including the relative costs and practicality of measuring the components of forest carbon in space and time
2. **The impact of RIL on forest carbon emissions** - compared with conventional logging and unlogged forests.
3. **Current opportunities and challenges for RIL**- this topic will review the factors that are driving the uptake of RIL and those that are holding it back, including financial considerations, research and development, education/training, policy and regulation and infrastructure and resources.
4. **An action plan to promote greater uptake of RIL** – the main part of the workshop will be devoted to the development of actions and communication strategies for promoting RIL to policy/decision-makers, forest owners/managers, public/media and other stakeholders.

Further details on the program and speakers will be circulated prior to the workshop.

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 3-4 May 2012



Asia-Pacific Workshop

Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy

AGENDA

Thursday 3 May 2012		
8.00am	Registration	
8.30am	Session 1 - Opening	
	Introduction to the workshop	Patrick Durst
	Opening address: Implementation of RIL in Sabah	Fred Kugan
9.15am	Session 2 - The measurement of forest carbon	Chair: David Ganz
	Overview: current methods for monitoring emissions and removals from forest harvesting operations	Sandra Brown
	Carbon accounting under the Kyoto Protocol and REDD+	Danilo Mollicone
	Opportunities and Challenges in RIL Carbon: Experiences from Sabah, Malaysia	Michael Galante
11.00am	Morning tea	
11.30am	Session 3 - Forest harvesting and forest carbon emissions	Chair: Barry Flaming
	Overview: The impact of RIL on forest carbon emissions	Jack Putz
	Is there carbon money to be made from RIL?	John Tay
	Case study: Can REDD+ promote RIL in Malaysian tropical forests?	Toshihiro Yamada
1.00pm	lunch	
2.00pm	Breakout groups: RIL as part of REDD+ 1. What are the benefits of RIL for forest carbon? 2. How can practical guidelines for 'best practice carbon management' be incorporated into RIL guidelines and codes of practice?	Facilitator: Graham Wilkinson
3.00pm	Plenary: discussion of group findings	Panel: Sandra Brown and Jack Putz
3.45pm	Afternoon tea	
4.10pm	Session 4 - Current opportunities and challenges for RIL	Chair: Pat Durst
	Overview: Twelve Years of RIL: The TFF-Indonesia Experience	Art Klassen
	Case study - Reduced Impact Logging in Sabah	Kevin Grace
7.00pm	Workshop dinner	

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 3-4 May 2012



Asia-Pacific Workshop

Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies
in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy

Friday 4 May		
8.30am	Session 5 - The role of certification	Chair: Sairusi Bulai
	Carbon stewardship under FSC	Gregory Jean
	The role of forest certification in promoting greater uptake of RIL and implications of REDD+ for forest certification programs	Yong Teng Koon
9.30am	Breakout groups: The RIL matrix	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who are the players and what are their perspectives on RIL? 2. What and who are the drivers for RIL? 3. What are the constraints on wider uptake? 4. How can these constraints be overcome? 	Facilitator: Graham Wilkinson
10.30am	Morning tea	
11.00am	Plenary: discussion of group findings	Panel: John Tay, Art Klassen and Jack Putz
12.30pm	Lunch	
1.30pm	Breakout groups: Key messages and actions to promote RIL	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the key messages for promoting wider uptake of RIL? 2. What actions are needed to promote RIL as part of SFM and REDD+? 3. What communication and engagement strategies are needed to promote RIL to the various players? 	Facilitator- Graham Wilkinson
3.00pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30pm	Plenary: discussion of group findings and summary of key messages and actions to promote RIL	Panel: Pat Durst, David Ganz and Jack Putz
4.30pm	Closing remarks: where to from here?	Pat Durst and David Ganz

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 3-4 May 2012

