CARBON DECISIONS INTERNATIONAL

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A Regional Approach to Baselines

Lucio Pedroni Ipedroni@carbondecisions.com













What language to describe it?



Top-down Regional Bottom-up approach approach approach Country Country Country Region Region Region Project Project Project

Top-down approach



- The national government defines a national baseline.
- Eventually ,"shares" of the national baseline are distributed to regions (and projects) and from regions to projects.
- Distributing "shares" of the national baseline will be politically and technically challenging. Countries will not accept international "methodologies" to do this.
- No project and no jurisdictional initiative could start until the country has defined its baseline and decided how to distribute it sub-nationally (if at all).
- The distributed "shares" could be quite far from local and regional reality.

Bottom-up approach



- Projects pick-up <u>their</u> reference regions to set their project/regional baselines (e.g. following VCS methodologies).
- The sum of "reference regions" and baselines (set at the project level) leads unavoidably to overlaps, gaps, and inconsistencies at the regional/national level...
- VCS now trying to fix this (development of new standards for "nesting" and "jurisdictional baselines").
- With certain rules and a registry system, inconsistencies could be avoided, but individual projects would set precedents for larger regions.

Regional approach



- A regional baseline is developed (with the participation of key stakeholders).
- Projects "cookie cut" their project baseline out from the regional baseline (problem for projects across two or more regions if one of the regions does not have a baseline).
- The sum of regional baselines once completed for all country's regions - leads to the national baseline, without overlaps, gaps or inconsistencies (a registry of regional baselines is required).
- Projects suffer from the long process of setting regional baselines, but there are important upsides: economy of scale and consistent baselines across scales.

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"Forestlandia"

An example for the regional approach

Photo: Conservation International



Forestlandia



How should the boundaries of the regions be defined?

 Academic criteria (VCS methodologies)
OR

 Political criteria (VCS Jurisdictions)



Forestlandia

- Endless discussion.
- Could lead to overlaps and gaps.
- You never know *ex ante* where you are.
- Makes formal approval process complex.
- \rightarrow NOT PRACTICAL!

Region C

Region A

- You know once for all.
- No overlaps and gaps.
- You know *ex ante* where you are.
- Makes formal approval process simpler.
- \rightarrow PRACTICAL!

How should the boundaries of the regions be defined?

> • Academic criteria (VCS methodologies)

OR

 Political criteria (VCS Jurisdictions)





















¿What must region A do?



Task 10:

Know in advance what to do with excess emissions or excess emission reductions occurring outside the registered project areas (this is linked to the issues of permanence, leakage and benefit distribution).



"Forestlandia" will have more to share in the future...

Photo: Conservation International



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Thank you for your attention