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*Photo © Nelson Grima
Taman Negara in Malaysia is one of the oldest forests in the world.*

The world's forests absorb 29% of annual CO₂ emissions caused by humans, but forests continue being cut down to the point that over the past 300 years, global forest area has decreased by 40%. Reducing deforestation and forest degradation could avoid considerable CO₂ emissions.



*Transporting freshly cut logs in Mexico.
Photo © Nelson Grima*

REDD+ is a framework created by the United Nations to enable payments between high-income and low-/middle-income countries and to guide activities in the forest sector aiming to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as to guide the sustainable management of forests.



Mangrove forests provide protection and livelihoods for communities
Photo © Nelson Grima

Mangrove forests are highly productive ecosystems that hold benefits for people as a source of food or fuelwood and as a protection for coastal communities. They also play an important role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. REDD+ schemes should capitalize on the multiple benefits that mangroves offer.



Deforestation and forest degradation challenge the survival of many species, such as wild elephants in Sri Lanka
Photo © Nelson Grima

Deforestation and forest degradation challenge the survival of many species, such as wild elephants in Sri Lanka. Since reducing deforestation decreases biodiversity loss, REDD+ has a potential to deliver biodiversity benefits, but there is still little evidence of the impact of REDD+ on biodiversity.



Community of forest-dependent people in Lao PDR
Photo © Nelson Grima

This community in Lao PDR depends on forests for their livelihoods. REDD+ can serve as a key tool to ensure that Indigenous Peoples, forest-dependent communities and other stakeholders are fairly rewarded for their role in forest conservation and sustainable land management.