



Misrepresenting REDD+ to promote specific technological RS options

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Some scientific papers lately published in high-impact journals make reference to applications of forest carbon mapping by means of remote sensing as a tool for developing countries to participate in 'REDD'.

In this paper, we want to highlight inaccuracies with regards to: (i) the REDD+ mitigation mechanism under the UNFCCC and (ii) the IPCC's Guidance and Guidelines (2, 3) and verification under the UNFCCC.

REDD, which stands for 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries'- is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership between FAO, UNDP and UNEP launched in September 2008, supports countries to develop capacity to REDD and to implement a future REDD mechanism in a post-2012 climate regime. The programme works at both the national and global scale, through support mechanisms for country-driven REDD strategies and international consensus-building on REDD processes.

The UN-REDD Programme gathers technical teams from around the world to develop common approaches, analyses and guidelines on issues such as measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon emissions and flows, remote sensing, and greenhouse gas inventories.

According to the urgent need of developing countries for technological/ scientific advice and guidance in order to get ready for REDD, this paper wants to highlight some misrepresentations in the scientific literature.