



Barriers to
implementing
modeling
frameworks in Latin
America for GHG
emissions
accounting

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SilvaCarbon Program overview

- SilvaCarbon is a program under United States fast start financing for REDD+ and is a U.S. contribution to the Global Forest Observations Initiative task of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO). SilvaCarbon addresses technical issues including:
 - Sampling protocols and design
 - Data capture, processing, archiving, and distribution
 - Integration of remotely sensed and in situ data
 - Classification and mapping of forest cover
 - Carbon stock and flow estimation
 - GHG reporting

Introduction

- Genesis of the idea – modeling tools are **useful, cost effective** and **formalize** GHG estimations but are underutilized – a ‘new’ push to facilitate the transfer of these tools
- Understanding institutional barriers to effective cooperation can allow us to design more effective modes of capacity building
- I plan to make good use of this *forum* – thank you very much for allowing me to attend

Modeling frameworks

- Useful ways to link a wide variety of data together to describe the past, present and project into the future attributes of interest (e.g. GHG emissions)

What are institutions?

- “Broadly defined, institutions are the prescriptions that humans use to organize all forms of repetitive and structured interactions including those within families, neighborhoods, markets, firms, sports leagues, churches, private associations, and governments at all scales.” Ostrom, 2005

Barriers

- a circumstance or obstacle that keeps people or things apart or prevents communication or progress *
- Perhaps best relax the definition some...

General grouping

- Recipient(host country)
 - Intra-group barriers
 - Inter-group barriers
- Intra-donor/implementer
- Donor to recipient barriers

Recipient - intra

- Turnover
- Many hats worn (many responsibilities)
- Local institutions rarely have in place evaluation systems
- Models often seen as 'too complicated' or 'we lack data for using model A'
- Public sector and academia often seen at odds – often a lack of neutral language
- What else?

Recipient - inter

- Political objectives in a technical world...
- Unclear mandates in the recipient countries makes it more difficult to direct the capacity building activities
- Many international cooperation programs pushing their goals/methods...unwillingness to say 'no'
- Others?

Donor country barriers

- **Experts** tend to think **their way** is the best way
- **Imperfect information** by funding decision-makers on identifying needs to address
- Lack of **sustainability**: not producing expertise (related to turnover)
- **Communication** among groups (seen as independent agencies, projects, groups, etc.)
- **Evaluation** and project monitoring systems required by donors do not effectively measure progress and make it difficult to move in the most efficient direction
- What else?

Solutions or mitigation steps

- Not our place to 'fix' issues in the recipient countries – but how can we help?
- Can however fix our issues, hence my questions to you all...
- What may be a barrier, in a larger context, may be necessary (acquisition rules, travel permission, etc.)
- Thoughts?

Final thoughts

- As the world moves to reach the NDCs and push beyond while providing economic development and a better life the use of these tools are critical to examine paths forward
- Cards stacked against us, but time and time again, the folks I meet doing this work are earnest, hard working and devoted to the task. It can be frustrating and disappointing, but it is worth it.

Thanks!

- Please feel free to approach me here or via other means ... I would like to hear from you!

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