

Robust Monitoring Techniques on Large Scale Carbon Dynamics for REDD+ in Tropical Peatland-Forest

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The Earth remaining tropical forests are found mainly in the peatlands and lowland of the Amazon, Central Africa, and South-east Asia, especially in regions of Kalimantan, Sumatra, and Papua New Guinea, where rich biodiversity can still be found and large amounts of carbon are stored in peat soils (UNDP, UNEP, WB, and WRI, 2000). Indonesia, for example, has a peatland area and carbon stocks of about 20Mha and 45-55GtC respectively, and a forest area and carbon stocks of about 88Mha and 10-26GtC respectively, indicating that more than half the amount of carbon in tropical peat is stored in the peat of Indonesia (Maria Strack ed., 2008, J. Jaenicke et al., 2008, J.O. Rieley et al., 2008, H. K. Gibbs et al., 2007). It is estimated that the Indonesian peat contains between 7.5-24.2 times more carbon below-ground than above-ground.

Therefore, REDD+ is very important for storage of carbon as well as the conservation of biodiversity. To establish REDD+, an MRV system that is coupled with two components ? satellite sensing and ground tools - is urgently required. Presently, our JST-JICA Project on "Wild Fire and Carbon Management in Peat-Forest in Indonesia" is the only project in the world to propose all aspects of MRV in tropical peatlands, enabling it to contribute significantly to biodiversity estimation.

REDD+ itself is only considered as one of Carbon Credit Mechanisms. However as MRV for REDD+ is composed of integrated system of satellite sensing and ground tools, REDD+ and MRV system contribute to develop new scientific fields and advance forest research in various tropical forest ecosystems, including forest management and social activity research. Thus, this JST-JICA project intends finally to establish REDD+ system in tropical peatland.

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キーワード: Biodiversity, Carbon Flux Model, Grand Tools, MRV, REDD+, Satellite Sensing
Keywords: Biodiversity, Carbon Flux Model, Grand Tools, MRV, REDD+, Satellite Sensing