Between forests, agroforests and plantations, Analysis of landscape dynamics in Bungo, Jambi province, Indonesia

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In the wider context of the agrarian transition in Indonesia, changes in landscapes are happening very quickly and often at the expense of forested lands. In 2010, Bungo district presents a complex landscape mosaic, combining remnant forest patches to rubber and durian agroforests and monoculture plantations of oil palm and rubber. Agroforests are increasingly converted by farmers into monoculture plantations, in intend to enhance their income. This evolution rests on the investment of different categories of stakeholders – population, governments, industrial sector - who share a common interest in the economic development of the district.

This paper analyses in details the dynamics of rubber agroforests conversion to rubber and oil palm monoculture plantations. A multi-scale and transdisciplinary approach was used to articulate different spatial and social scales, from the cultivated plot to the extended family, from the village to the district, and to the broader international context.

Local communities are willing to intensify their agricultural practices, and voluntarily participate in the development of monoculture plantations, in particular of oil palm. The conservation of forests and agroforests is not their concern, but one of the international community, represented by non governmental organizations and international conventions for the preservation of the environment. REDD and the certification of agricultural products are two ways to look for trade-offs between economic development and environment conservation concerns.