Narratives, interests, and actors in forestry-SDG interactions: A systematic literature-based discourse analysis



MSc. Dominic Ahrens

ABSTRACT

Forests support life on earth through a number of ecosystem services that are crucial for human well-being and accordingly determine the success of the Agenda 2030 and the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals alters forest health and size, especially in the global south with high deforestation and forest degradation rates. Consequently, enormous challenges and opportunities come with this codependency and careful management is required to ensure/safeguard future sustainable development. The purpose of this study is to analyze the discourse on Forest-SDG-Interactions through an actor-centered perspective. As such, the study aims to enhance the understanding of trade-offs and synergies in forest landscapes, the relevant actors' interests, and conflicts amongst them, as well as how to mediate and govern them based on the actors' power capabilities. The analysis consists of two parts, beginning with the identification of trade-offs and synergies and the mapping of thematic blocks. In the second stage, the actors and their agendas will be integrated into the analysis to examine which groups of actors are connected to which trade-offs and synergies, which actors shape the discourse, and what narrative is promoted by whom. The study is based on a systematic review of literature from three main paradigms, the practical development politics discourse, the corporate sector discourse, and the scientific discourse, including the three major subcategories in nature, society, and technic. The results will be presented at the conference and aim to support decision-making processes within the socio-ecological systems of forest landscapes in the global south.

METHODS

Search terms assessed on April 4th, 2023 in Scopus, Web of Science, and CAB Direct

- Tier 1: Sustainable development goal*
 OR SDG*
- Tier 2: Forest* OR Wood* OR Timber* OR Plantation* OR Agroforest* OR Mangrove*
- Tier 3: Synerg* OR Trade-off* OR Tradeoff* OR Conflict* OR Interaction*

Inclusion criteria

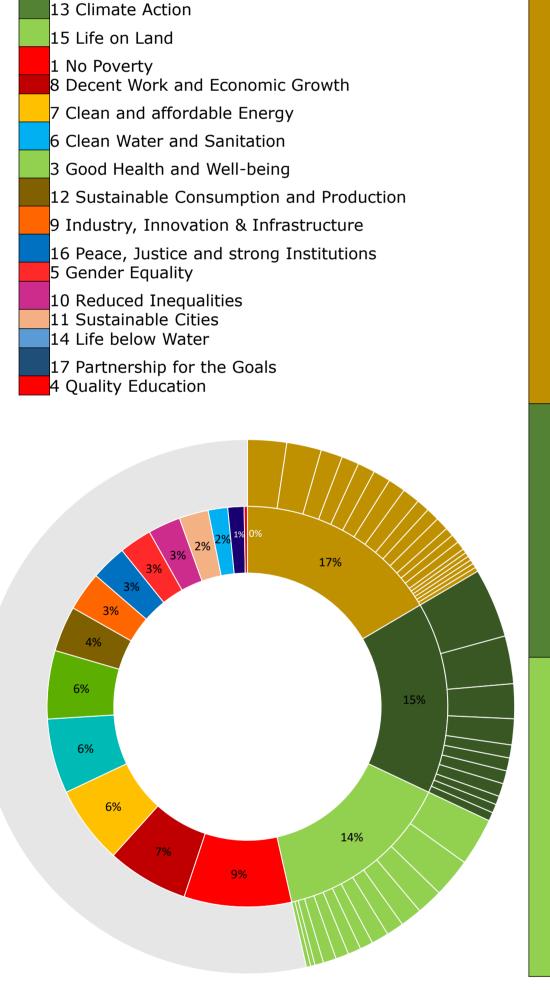
- Countries that receive Official
 Development Assistance and/or are
 listed as Small Island Developing States
 by the United Nations
- English language
- 2000 until today

RESULTS, BLOCK 1: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

A). SDG-centered analysis

Inside pie: Sustainable Development Goals

2 Zero Hunger





Water-Energy-Food Nexus

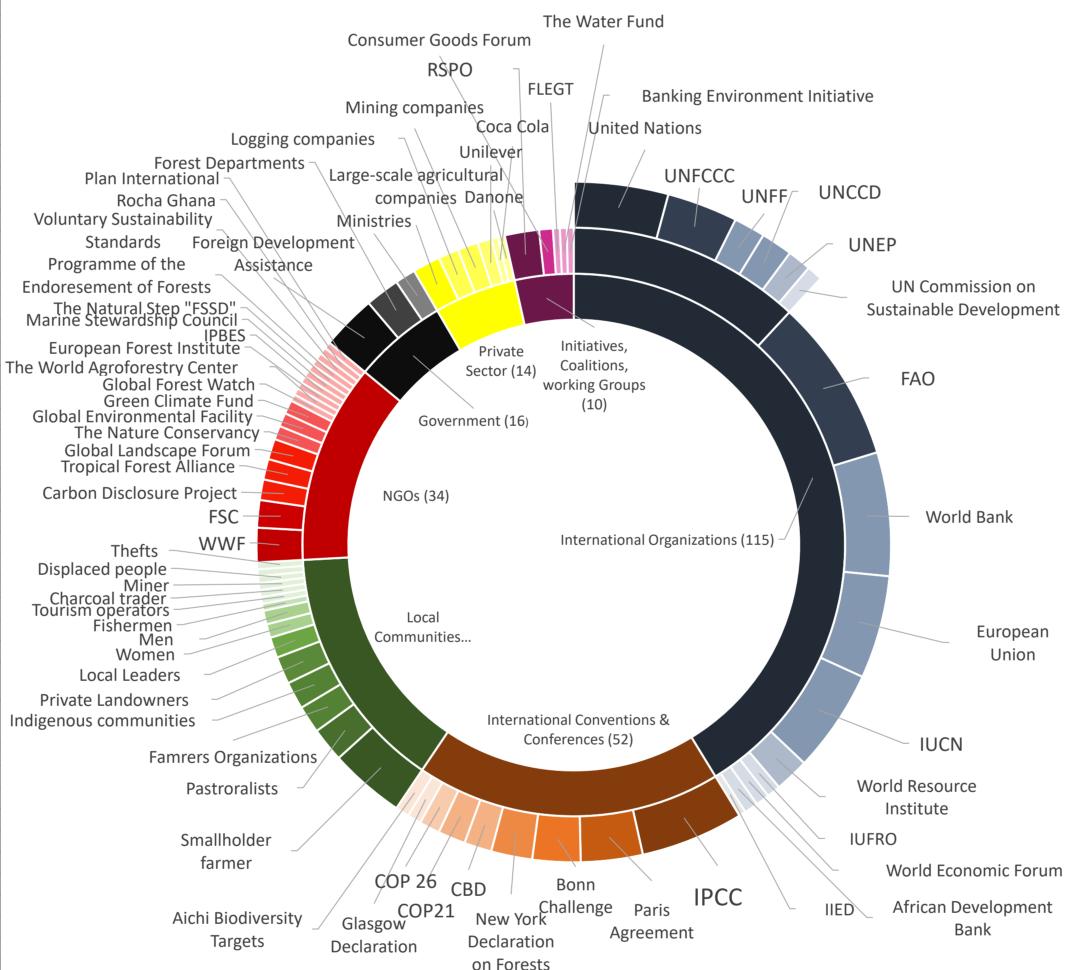
Land use change / planning

_andscape Approach

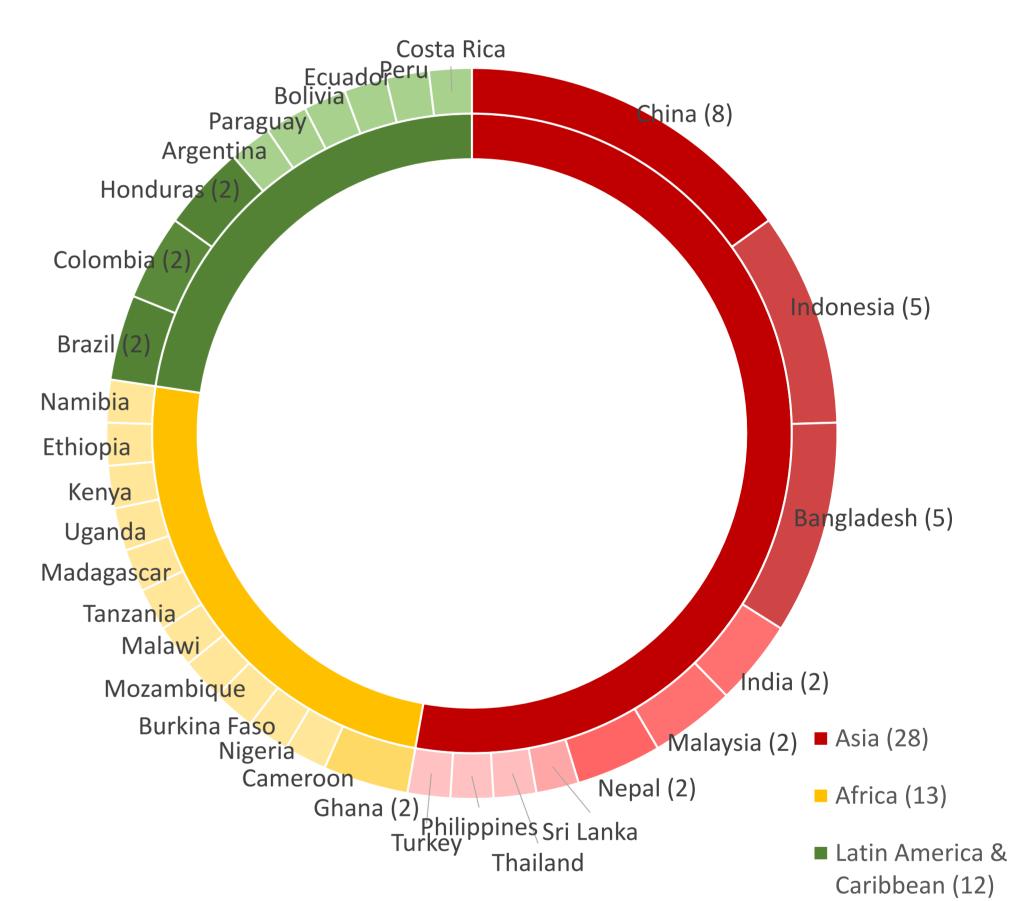
15 Life on Land

Outside pie: themes within the SDGs

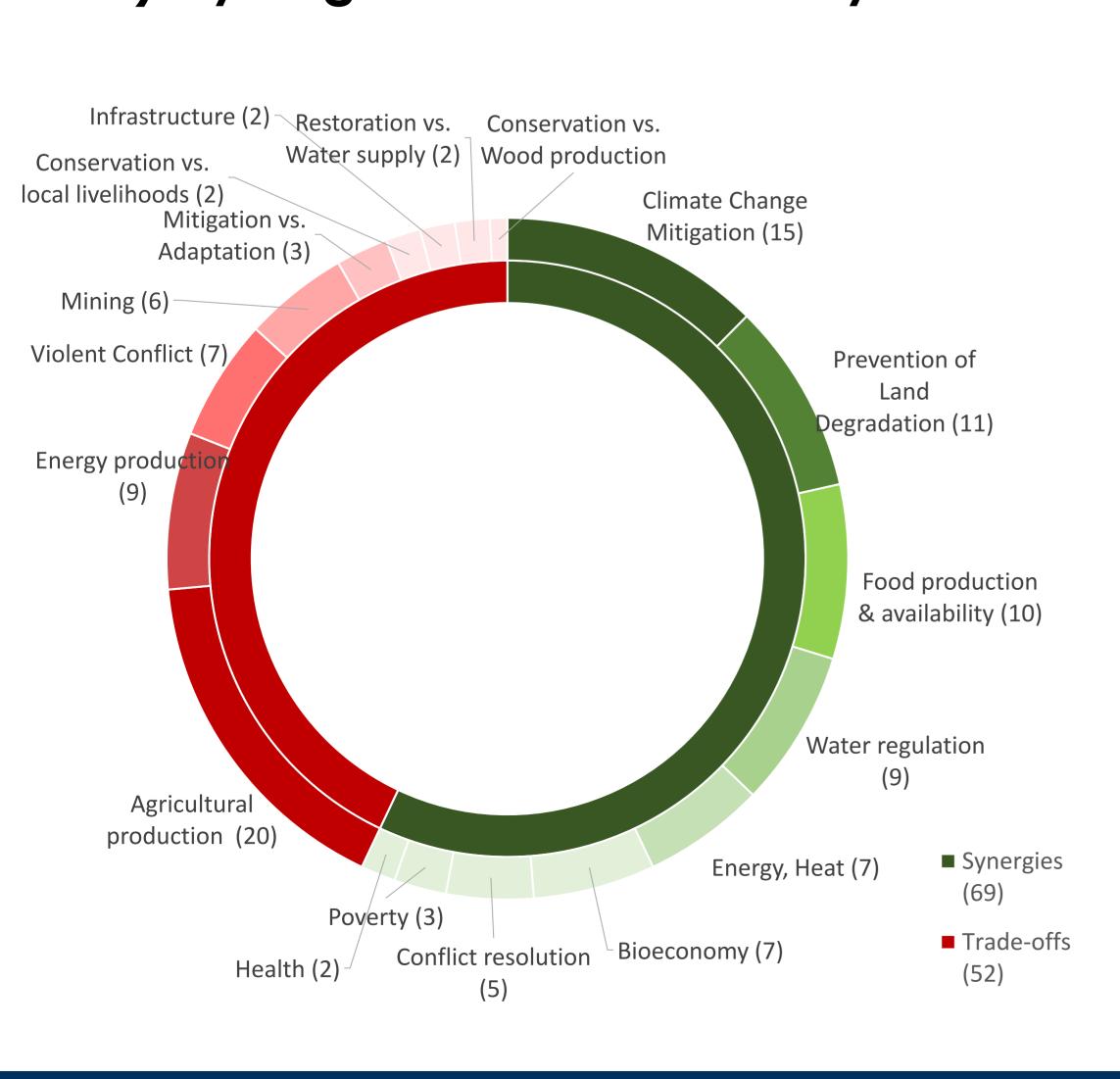
B). Actor-centered analysis



C). Regional analysis



D). Synergies & Trade-off analysis



CONCLUSION

- SDG 2 "Zero Hunger", SDG 13 "Climate Action", SDG 15 "Life on Land" shows the strongest connection with forestry
- Synergies occur most frequently in supporting mitigation, prevent land degradation, food production & availability, water regulation
- Trade-offs mainly occur in agricultural production, but also in the context of energy production, conflict dynamics, local livelihoods (e.g. mining)

NEXT STEPS

Results Block 2: In-depth analysis of synergies & trade-offs

A). In-depth analysis of the most relevant synergies & tradeoffs that exist between forestry and sustainable development to display the current discourse and ongoing debates on those forestry-sustainable development relationships.

Results Block 3: Actor-centered analysis

B). A comparison of the scientific literature results presented on this poster with literature from the

practical development discourse and the private sector (sustainability reports) to examine who is defined as actors by whom and what narratives are created for actors