

Review of: "“Saving the Forest” with a REDD+ Project: Socio-Ecological Repercussions on Indigenous People in Cambodia"

María Paula Ávila Castro

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is a relevant input to the field of environmental politics analysis, especially because it makes a critical study of an ongoing and worldwide program like REDD+. Moreover, it could be very useful for the study of territories where the implementation of such instruments is beginning and involves already a number of political, economic, and cultural challenges.

Because it explores so many themes, I believe each one of them could be a paper itself in the future, with a deeper and more detailed analysis. On occasions, the paper seems to be more interested in the role of REDD+ NGOs than in people's experience from an anthropological point of view. A consideration of this impression could enhance the approach hereafter.

Regarding methodology, it would be helpful to include interview excerpts to reinforce arguments and show at least some of the literal expressions of the indigenous people. This would allow two improvements in the writing: on the one hand, a clearer presentation of data and the author's thinking (converging or not in each case); on the other hand, a deeper and more complex analysis of locals' discourse.

I also recommend that the discussion section includes some conceptualization, both about the concepts that the author addresses (green economy, power struggle, vernacular knowledge, participation, or sovereignty) and the mechanisms that emerge from the analysis.

Finally, some examples and references are welcome for the rigor of the article. The author points out that many particular practices and specific knowledge are discredited by the NGOs' staff. Are there examples available? A better portrayal of such dynamics would contribute to a more accurate understanding of the violence REDD+ entails.

I look forward to reading more results of this research.