

REDD+ in China: Opportunities and Challenges

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Chair of Forest Inventory and Remote Sensing



Some Basic Forestry Statistics and Figures

- **Forest cover (the largest plantation area)**
 - Current: 20.36%, 2/3 of the global average (7th NFI Report)
 - 2007: 18.2%
 - 1949: 8.6%
 - 2020: 23% (Forestry Action Plan on Climate Change, SFA 2009)
- **Average standing volume**
 - Forests: 85.88m³/ha (78%)
 - Plantations: 49.01m³/ha
- **Forest carbon stock**
 - 7.8 billion tons



Major Forestry Activities – (I)

- **The 6 key forestry programs**

- Natural Forest Protection Program (1998-.)
- Program for Conversion of Cropland to forestland/Grain to Green Program (1999-.)
- Sandification Control Program in the Vicinity of Beijing and Tianjin (2001-.)
- Shelterbelt Development Program in Three-North, Yangtze River Basin and other Regions (1988-.)
- Fast-growing and High-yield Timber Plantations Base Development Program 4.9mio ha (1990s - .)
- Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserves Development Program (2001-.)

Major Forestry Activities – (II)

• Collective Forestland Tenure Reform

– Justification

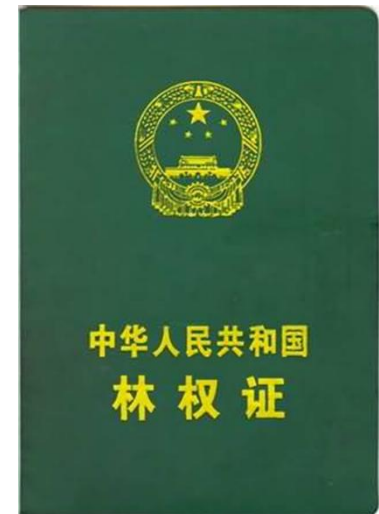
- Total forestland area: 284.92 Million ha/29.68%
- State-owned forestland: 42.45%
- Collective-owned forestland: 57.55%

– Objective

- Ecological & environmental improvement
- Poverty alleviation
- More carbon stock

– Main task

- Allocate and contract collective forestland into households





New Development Lines

- **Strategic shift from afforestation and reforestation to sustainable forest management and forest protection**
 - Many plantations, in particular in subtropical China, are in non-optimal condition
 - Significant potential for the enhancement of multi-functional forestry (including wood production & C sequestration)
 - Most forestry land are forested (little room for CDM)
- **Paradigm shift from traditional forestry to carbon forestry**
 - Pilot carbon inventories (SFA)
 - Establishment of domestic carbon market by 2015



Opportunities from REDD+

- **Strong political will to address climate change**
- **Major forestry activities in the framework of REDD+**
 - Reducing emissions from deforestation
 - Reducing emissions forest degradation
 - Conservation of forest carbon stocks
 - Sustainable management of forests; and
 - Enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- **Availability of experience and lessons over decades**
- **International exchange on SFM and carbon forestry**

Challenges from REDD+ Implementation (I)

- **Some major forestry policy constraints**
 - Annual Logging Quota (ALQ) system
 - Forest land tenure of 70 Years
 - Logging ban on natural forests
- **Legal vacuum/constraints**
 - Ownership of carbon products is not specified by law yet!
- **Urgent needs for capacity building**
 - Institutional capacity
- **Public awareness of carbon forestry in rural regions**
 - Different way of thinking
 - Example of power/Power of example (demonstration site)

Challenges from REDD+ Implementation (II)

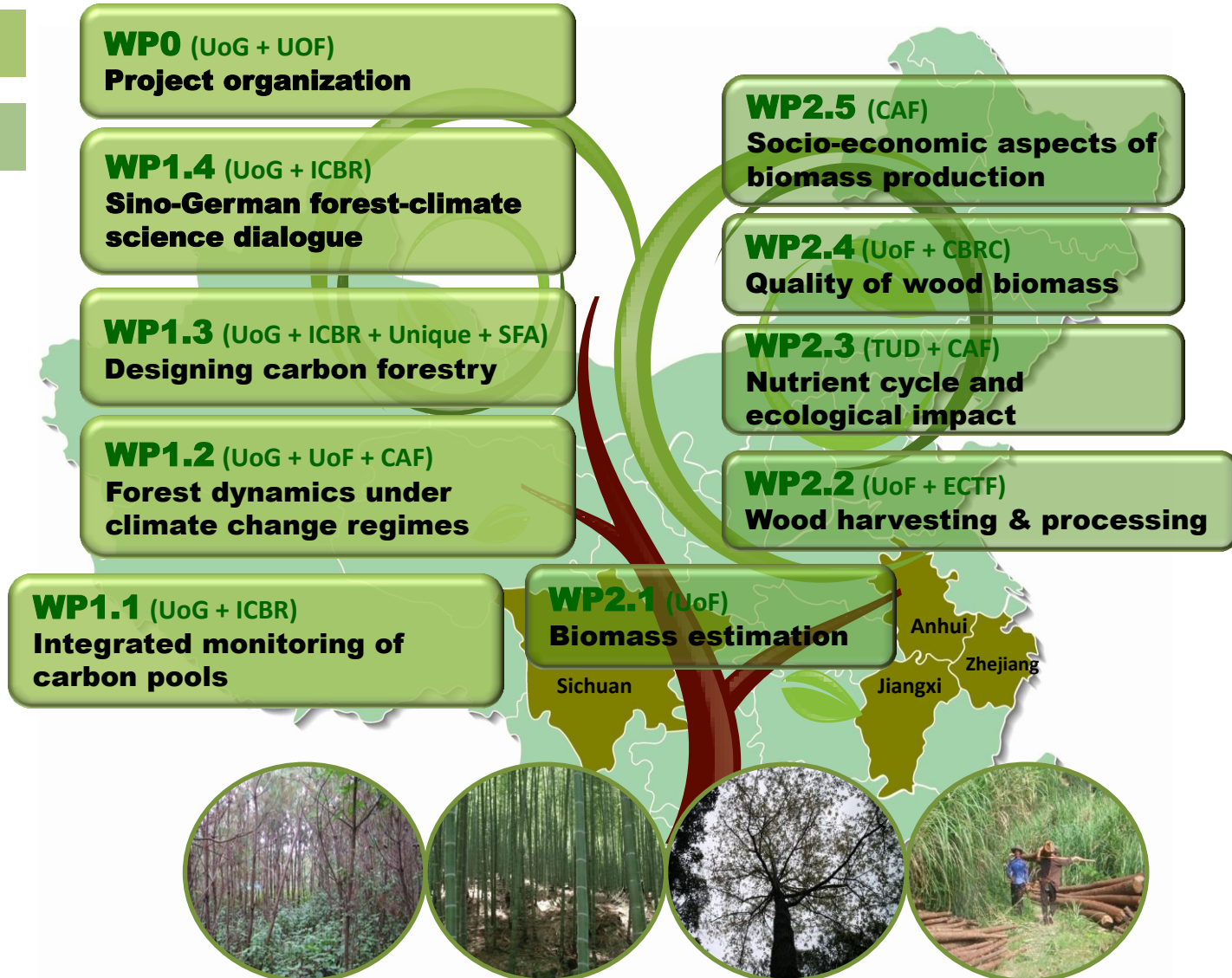
- **Scientific and technical challenges**
 - Tree species selection (only Chines fir and Masson pine)
 - Thinning from above (former below)
 - MRV (Monitoring, Report and Verification)
 - ...
- ...

To be addressed by research projects like: Lin2Value

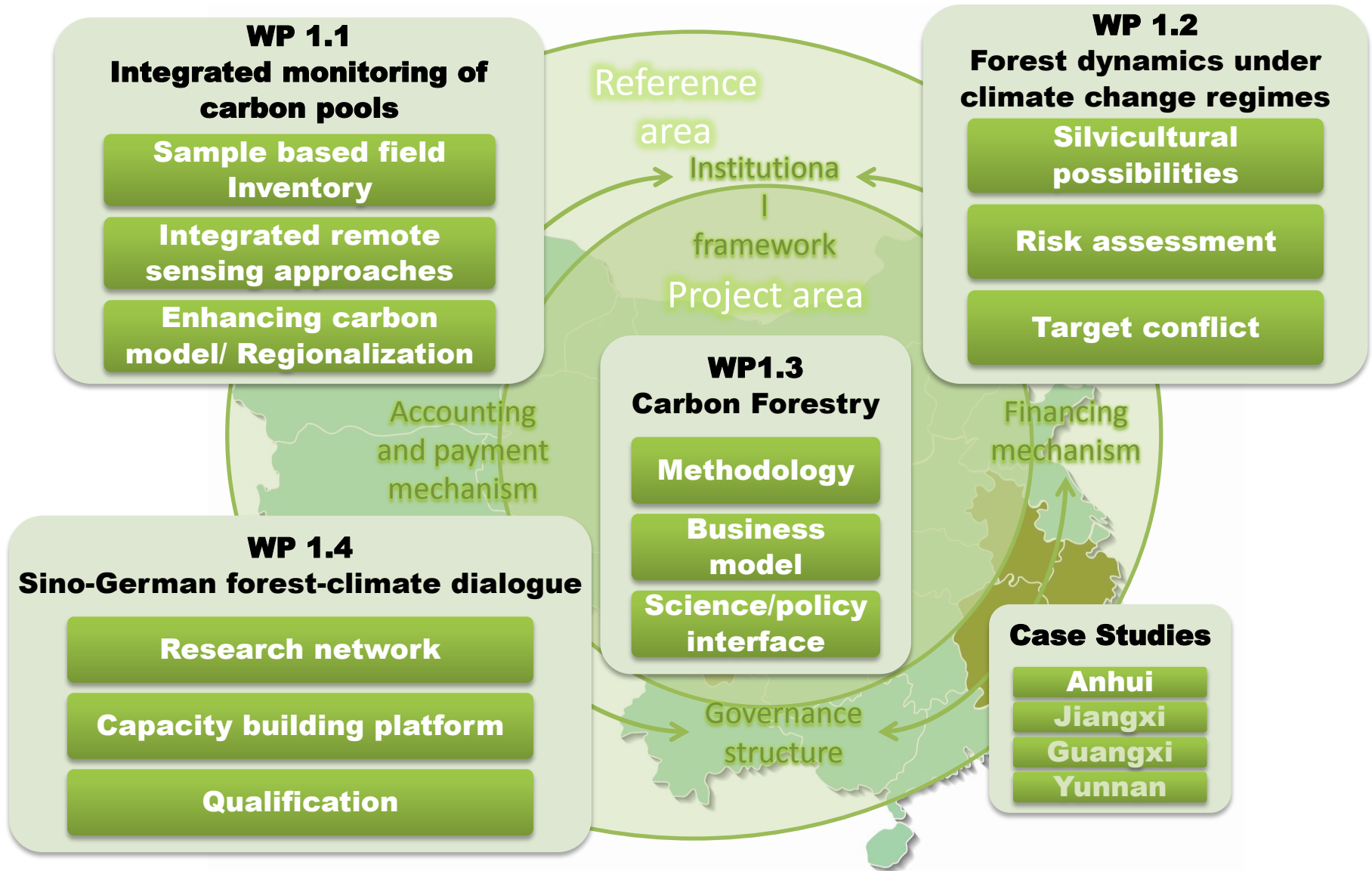
Lin²Value: Overall Structure

Lin⁴Carbon

Lin⁴Wood



Lin⁴Carbon: Workpackage Structure





Conclusions

- **REDD+ is a good opportunity for China in many aspects**
- **A series of challenges are required to be addressed and solved for the successful implementation of a REDD+ project!**



Thank you for your attention!

For more information about Lin2Value project:

<http://www.lin2value.de>