

# Winners and losers: trade-offs and justice in ESPA

20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

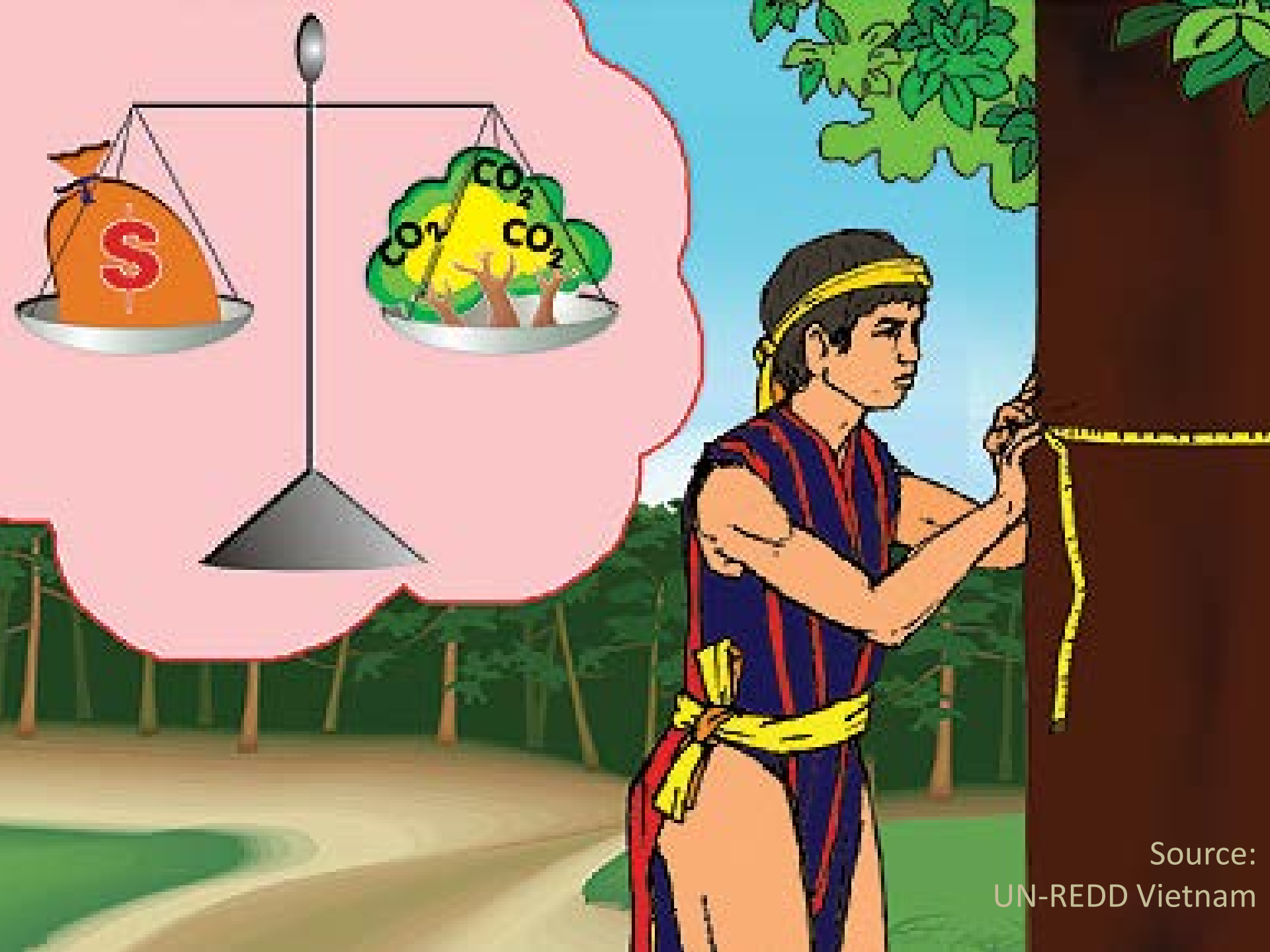
T Sikor, A Akol, V Chhotray, R Few, J  
Fisher, H Jun, A Martin & M Zeitoun

# Governance interventions

- trade-offs: ecological and social
- ES-based governance interventions typically
  - focus on particular trade-offs
  - include mechanisms for (monetary) transfers between involved parties
- examples today
  - revenue-sharing in biodiversity conservation
  - payments for afforestation
  - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)

# A dominant 'ES model of justice'?

- model of justice
  - providers & beneficiaries form 'justice community'
  - define optimal level of ES provision together
  - some provide => potential losers
  - others benefit => potential winners
  - financial transfers from beneficiaries to providers => perhaps not all win, but at least nobody loses
- just on the basis of certain conceptions
  - utilitarian: aggregate benefit increases
  - libertarian: at least one better off, no-one worse off



Source:  
UN-REDD Vietnam

# Yet, how applicable is this model?

- inequalities between North and South
  - ‘a dollar here is not equal to a dollar there’
  - power differentials in global conservation
  - e.g. poor people planting trees in Uganda (Fisher 2013)
- absence of level playing field in the South
  - elites tend to capture benefits and dominate decisions
  - e.g. insights from Uganda (Martin et al. 2013)

# Other conceptions of justice

- emphasis on non-distributive aspects
  - participation and recognition (e.g. indigenous)
  - insights from Uganda (Martin & Akol, under review)
  - cf. rights-based approaches
- other distributive principles
  - Rawls: ‘difference principle’; Sen: basic capabilities
  - e.g. payments for tree plantations and poverty alleviation in China (He and Sikor, under review)
  - implicit to ESPA?

# Other dimensions of justice

- this far: explicit attempts to operationalise justice
- what about other justice effects of ES-based governance interventions?

=> an illustration: measurement in REDD+, comparing

- top-down carbon monitoring
- participatory forest monitoring

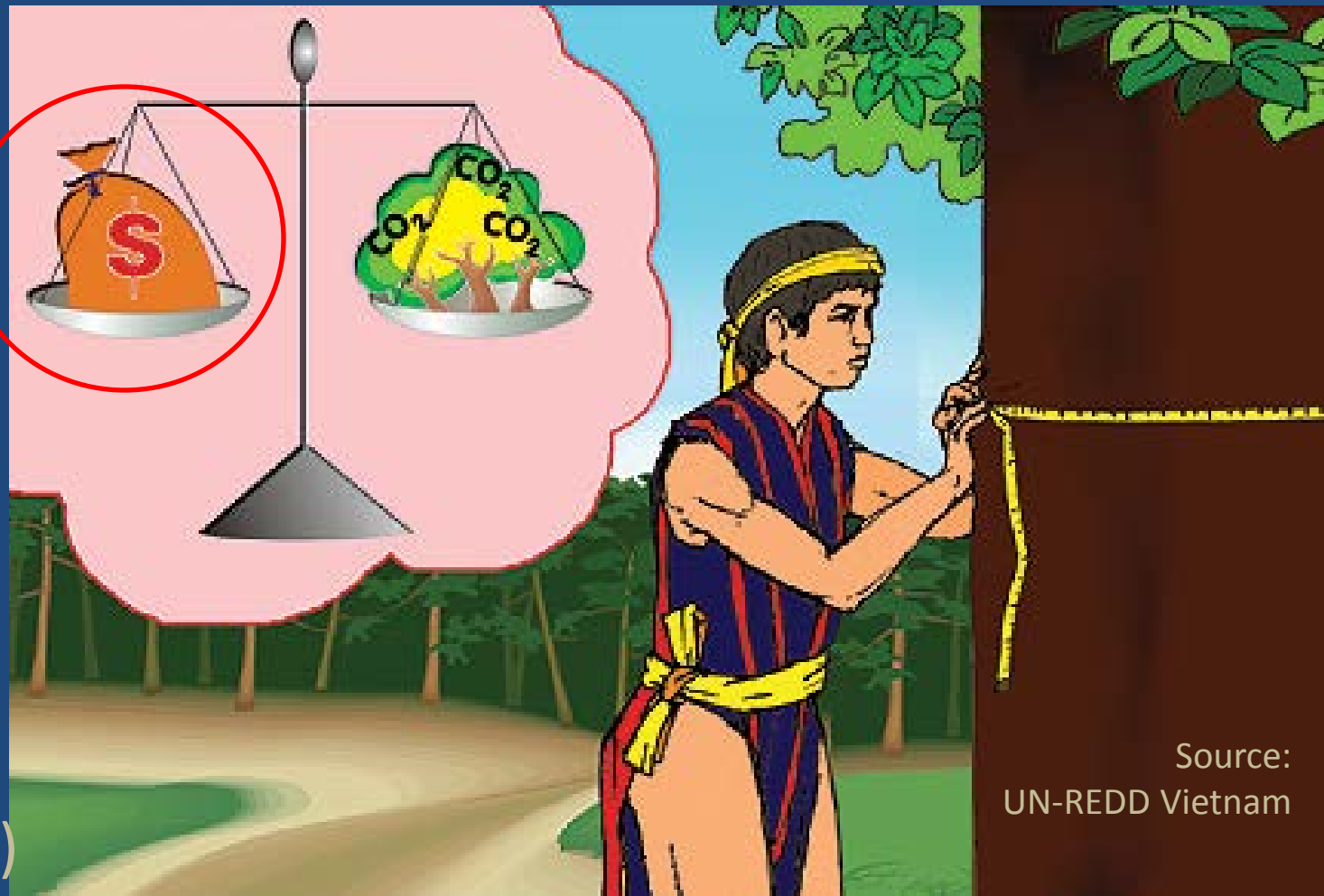
# Measurement and distributive justice

participation payments for local people?

?



budget for  
technical  
agency?



(Balderas &  
Skutsch 2012)

Source:  
UN-REDD Vietnam



# Measurement

- any measurement is partial
- e.g. remote sensing technology
  - different images and techniques generate different measurements (Qureshi et al. 2012)



# Comparing top-down & participatory

- Danielsen et al. 2013: participatory forest monitoring

## top-down

- pay experts
- degradation invisible
- centralised database
- forest as carbon pool

## participatory

- pay villagers
- degradation visible
- information accessible
- multiple visions of forest

=> justice effects

# Conclusion

- justice is integral dimension of ecosystem management
- research needs to
  - understand implicit conceptions of justice
  - examine operationalisations of justice
  - identify other justice effects
- e.g. debate on ES for poverty alleviation/PES and equity goals: different conceptions of justice

Thank you!

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*and* INJUSTICES  
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