Human Rights and Natures Rights: Global Developments and Lessons for Australia

A few caveats

- (1) I am a social scientist, not a lawyer; focus on the social dimensions of human/environment related law, regulation, certification
- (2) My focus the green economy, including carbon markets in Uganda











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Limits of this project ...a familiar story

- "reforestation" = non native pine trees planted for carbon credits harvested and sold as timber
- Thousands evicted to make way for plantation
- Livelihoods threatened; limited land for growing food, grazing animals, water,, collection of firewood and wild food





Insights from this case

- Defence of environmental and human rights is developing in a context shaped by private sector interests, national government agendas
- SEA, Finnfund, Norfund able to ignore due diligence findings/ dismiss evidence/ render invisible human rights dimensions
- Enabled by complicity of certification schemes: FSC, CDM, CCBA
 - Fail to report on problems; reify company reporting; rely on narrow set of measures (calculating carbon sequestration and carbon leakage)
- Holistic approach to environmental and human rights law and certification is needed, including widening the scope of reductive audit mechanisms that evaluate social and environmental claims

- To follow this case, please subscribe to the Oakland Institute mailing list
- https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/

