“The human development index (HDI) was positively linked to 1992 forest cover, agro-suitability and population density, and negatively associated with current land use intensity.”

Analyses such as the above can help in developing policies that target the poor and help to maintain forest cover. The relationships prove to be richer and more complex than the ‘poverty-driven deforestation’ hypothesis suggest. In applying the approach to agroforestry the problem: is a lack of ‘agroforestry’ maps.”

“Rewarding the Upland Poor for the Environmental Services they provide (‘RUPES’) assumes that poverty and ‘upland’ conditions are linked. The analysis presented here of agro-ecosystems, population densities and land cover is targeting upland-lowland relationships in Indonesia.”
“South + East + Southeast Asia has the world’s highest population densities. Nevertheless, it still contains closed forest areas of various types and high biodiversity value. It has the highest transfer of sediment to the oceans and thus major challenges to ‘environmental services’.”

“In a global comparison of farming systems, southeast Asia is dominated by types 1, 2, 4 and 8, with a noticeable area of 5 in the montane mainland part. We focus here on forest (8), upland mixed systems (4), tree crops (2) and lowland rice (+ urban) (1).”

“By superimposing an upland-lowland distinction onto this map of agroecosystems we can get a sense of how much of the lowland rice system is downstream of ‘forest’ rather than ‘upland mixed’, and how much of the ‘tree crops’ is in close association with ‘forest’ (relevant for biodiversity values).”
“Technically, the analysis was based on the combination and overlays of a number of spatial datasets, all rectified to the same coordinate system.”

“Combination of the farming system map and a digital elevation model led to the distinction of upland-lowland relations, which were then combined with population data and compared to existing ‘standard’ land cover maps.”

“Although the FAO farming systems classification is rather coarse, its combination with elevation data resulted in clear patterns of upland-lowland relations, with clear differences between the major islands.”
“Human population density is high on Java + Bali (+ Lombok), intermediate in Sumatra and S Sulawesi and generally low in most other parts.”

“Combining the population density data with the upland-lowland agroecosystem maps, we see that the highest densities occur in ‘rice below upland crop mosaic’, while the density in ‘rice below forest’ is less than that in the ‘upland crop mosaic’ per se.”

“Overall ¼ of the Indonesian population is related to the ‘upland crop mosaics’, either because they live in a rice (urban) system downstream of upland crop mosaic upland areas, or because they live in such a mosaic themselves. ‘Rice below forest’ harbours only 3% of the Indonesian people.”
“Area-wise the ‘tree crops’ in association with upland crop mosaics or forest account for a quarter of the land, as does the upland crop mosaics; the ‘forest agroecosystem’ covers 37% of the land.”

“In combination with the IGBP land cover classification, we see that all the 4 major ‘farming systems’ still contain at least 1/3 of ‘evergreen broadleaf forest’ – which at ‘pixel’ level may in fact be a dense homegarden/village under coconut cover… The forest agroecosystem is ¾ forest.”

“The simple conclusion is that nearly all of Indonesia is thus part of an agroforestry landscape mosaic, with variable intensity of land use. In terms of number of people affected, the dynamics of the ‘upland crop mosaics’ above ‘lowland rice + urban’ systems’ should be our main focus.”

Conclusions

- In Indonesia agricultural areas intertwined with forest patches as landscape mosaics are very commonly found

- To be relevant for large numbers of people, RUPES in Indonesia should focus on the watershed relation between upland crop mosaics and lowland rice/urban. Area-wise, the relationship between tree crop and forest is important for biodiversity issues.