



The Forests Dialogue

3rd Dialogue on Forests and Climate **SUMMARY**

24-25 June 2008
IUCN HQ
Gland, Switzerland





Challenges

- Forests key in mitigation and adaptation
- Deforestation as major source of emissions
- Forests marginalized in UNFCCC until Bali
- Forest community has many voices, tends to be reactive and therefore lacks leverage
- Meanwhile, key decisions being made outside forest sector with little reference to SFM, governance, rights, etc.
- Risk that SFM is overtaken by climate agenda with singular carbon focus undermining progress towards a people-centered, multiple-use paradigm





Summary to date from Bali & DC

- Recognize and promote the full contribution of forests and forestry activities to mitigate climate change and increase human resilience to climate change.
- Recognize the need and promote the full participation of “forest communities” in decision making process
- Legal, equitable and sustainable forest management should be the ultimate goal of the UNFCCC process as this will result in long-term stabilization of forest practices
- Promote the trade of legally, equitably and sustainably produced forest products as a strategy to reduce emissions from the forestry sector





New Perspectives

Indigenous People:

- LAND RIGHTS – a pre-requisite! But rights cannot be eaten!
- Economic benefit needs to accrue to rightsholder. Who has the rights to carbon – need to shape the regime to capture this?
- GOVERNANCE - Need to look at the barriers to implementation – crisis of governance exacerbated by exclusionary model!
New money could mean reinforcing the old exclusionary model
- FPIC – need to operationalize this rather than use as “slogan”;
- Role of IPOs is not clear – the debate is too technical and no space for Indigenous People in UNFCCC process.
- Food security another major climate issue





New Perspectives

➤ Small Landowners:

➤ “Talk with” not “to” those who own & manage forests.

➤ SFM is a pre-requisite.

➤ FORESTS have to be ECONOMICALLY VIABLE so don't forget the wood link (product substitution).

➤ DON'T MAKE IT TOO COMPLICATED (those who manage are effectively being excluded by technical complications)

➤ TIME PERSPECTIVE – what is a source can become a sink and vice versa





Big Ideas – initial feedback

- Still too complicated!
- Need to distinguish UNFCCC modalities from need for integrated approach.
- Target audience – need for clarification
- Promote the good ongoing things and not just to avoid the bad things
- Address forest degradation and restoration – the thing that the forest community can do!





Big Ideas – initial feedback

- Invoke UN's Human Rights Framework
- We have not addressed the sovereignty issue – how do we address the concerns of southern governments
- Controversy 1: Funding mechanisms
- Controversy 2: How to count carbon – at national or sub-national





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FOREST LEADERS STATEMENT 2nd Outline

24-25 June 2008
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INFO BOX

According to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.....

CONTEXT

The conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests is one of the most effective means readily available for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Forests that are sustainably and equitably managed can deliver carbon emission reduction and avoidance, enhance rural livelihoods, meet expanding demand for forest products - which can also substitute for other carbon intensive materials - and supply renewable, carbon neutral energy.

Experience shows that a narrow focus on the delivery of one single commodity, such as carbon, at the expense of multiple forest values is unlikely to succeed; this reality is not reflected in the current climate negotiations.

Furthermore, the fragmented treatment of forests within the existing climate regime undermines the social, environmental, and economic resilience that rural communities will need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.



CONTEXT (cont.)

The key attributes of successful forest management – such as good governance, forest certification, recognition of rights and tenure of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities, and the balanced provision of goods and services – are fundamental prerequisites for lasting land-use based emission reductions.

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) is a collaborative initiative of environmental and social groups, business, indigenous peoples and forest community groups, trade unions, forest owners, and international organizations. This group cautions that adherence to these principles in future climate change arrangements is fundamental. Without this, the potential contribution of forests to address climate change will not be realized.

Future climate change arrangements should be predicated upon:





Key Messages

1. Take a coherent approach to the forest and land-use related elements of future climate action
2. Make provision for the identification and resolution of the barriers to transparent, inclusive, and accountable forest governance
3. Reinforce local processes that clarify and strengthen tenure arrangements, property and carbon rights with particular emphasis on indigenous peoples, forest communities and small forest owners
4. Give equal treatment on mitigation and adaptation strategies to both forest rich and forest poor countries





Key Messages (continued)

5. Address cross-sectoral causes of deforestation
6. Make country climate commitments on procurement and consumption
7. Improve standards and planning processes
8. Funding Mechanisms
9. Recognize expertise of forest owners, workers and managers



Task 1

Focus on Key Messages 1-4

- One explanatory paragraph if needed
- List concrete actions by no more than 3 stakeholder groups (eg negotiators will ... National Governments will...)



Task 2

Key messages 5-9

- Select no more than 2 messages and...
 1. Formulate key messages
 2. Explanatory paragraph
 3. Concrete actions (time permitting)



Task 3

Definitions

1. Sustainable forest management
2. Governance
3. Human rights
4. ?

Provide definition or provide sources



Task 4

Research

Nominate 3-4 Research paper themes around forests and climate to underpin Forest Leaders Statement

- Theme/title
- TOR title



Task 5

Review current preamble + key messages and craft a final concluding statement that is:

- Positive about forests & climate
- Gives sense of urgency
- actionable