



The Forests Dialogue



Task Force 5 **SUMMARY**

24-25 June 2008
IUCN HQ
Gland, Switzerland





INFO BOX

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

CONTEXT (paragraph 1)

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

- **Stress active forest management (switch order w. conservation)**
- **Mention sustainable development to avoid southern hemisphere reaction; may tie in recognition of national sovereignty issues**



CONTEXT (paragraph 2)

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.

- **Proposal should not be confused as a replacement for cutting emissions in developed countries**
- **Note forest products' carbon storage capability**
- **Ecosystem services and biodiversity maintenance as products of forests at local and global scales**
- **Human rights-based approach**



CONTEXT (paragraphs 3 and 4)

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 (paragraphs 5 and 6)

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.

- **Human rights based approach**
- **Emphasize ecological sensitivity as part of the balanced provision of goods and services**
- **Remove forest certification as it is a specific message**
- **Successful vs. sustainable forest management?**

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:



CONTEXT (new point)

We acknowledge that forests are diverse in nature and circumstance. These differences necessitate diverse actions and approaches to forest management, forest conservation and the role of forests in the climate change discussion.





CONCLUDING POINTS

- Underlying causes of deforestation are responsibilities shared by all committed
- Forests and sustainable forest management offer unique efficiencies linking climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development
- Forest products have clear advantages as materials: they store carbon, are renewable and have potential to contribute to meeting society's energy needs
- Solutions must respect national development strategies as well as human rights
- TFD has taken a participatory and inclusive approach: this was a diverse group of people with diverse perspectives but all are committed to working towards communicating a focused message:
 - all process should be participatory and inclusive
 - opportunities have been missed in the past
 - we must seize opportunity now
 - we can and must build on past experience and successes

