



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2008

Mubariq Ahmad
WWF - Indonesia

George Asher
Lake Taupo Forest Trust -
New Zealand

Mohamed Bakarr
World Agroforestry Centre

Marcus Colchester
Forest Peoples Programme

Gerhard Dieterle
The World Bank

Peter Gardiner
Mondi

William Ginn
The Nature Conservancy

James Griffiths, TFD Co-Leader
World Business Council for
Sustainable Development

Peter Kanowski
Australian National University

Matti Karjula
Stora Enso

Mikhail Karpachevskiy
Biodiversity Conservation Center -
Russia

Lars Laestadius
World Resources Institute

Stewart Maginnis, TFD Co-Leader
World Conservation Union (IUCN)

James Mayers
International Institute for
Environment and Development
(IIED)

Cassie Phillips
Weyerhaeuser Company

Carlos Roxo
Aracruz Celulose

Antti Sahi
Confederation of European Private
Forest Owners

Liz Sandler
American Forest Foundation

Roberto Smeraldi
Amigos da Terra - Amazonia
Brasileira

Ken Strassner
Kimberly-Clark

William Street, Jr.
International Association of
Machinists

Justin Ward
Conservation International

Emmanuel Ze Meka
International Tropical Timber
Organization

Gary Dunning
Executive Director
The Forests Dialogue

Initiative on Forests and Climate

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) is developing a new initiative on forests and climate. Through this process stakeholders within the broader forest community can identify and address the complex emerging issues of forests as an integrated part of the climate solution. This initiative is a result of an initial scoping dialogue held in Bali, Dec 2007 in line with the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 13. The primary outcome of this scoping dialogue was a commitment that TFD would provide a platform for the broad forests community via which it can raise stakeholder awareness and understanding while identifying potential roles and contribution of different actors. In addition, this dialogue will bring stakeholders together to collectively and pro-actively discuss the potential for the comprehensive treatment of forests and forest resources within international climate policy negotiations, over the course of the next two years.

Overview

The acceptance of the important role of forests in combating climate change provides significant opportunity for the forest sector to play an influential role within international climate policy negotiations, both under the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change and associated Protocols, and in relation to the emerging voluntary market for forest based carbon offsets. For the maximum potential to be gained from this opportunity requires an increased understanding and involvement from all segments of the forest community. This process involves a number of steps, beginning with increasing stakeholder awareness, participation and collaboration. TFD aims to initiate such a process.

Current climate change strategies exist that address the roles of the following forestry related aspects:

Afforestation / reforestation (A/R)

These initiatives are currently accepted under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and provide opportunities for large scale reforestation of degraded areas, as well as intense research on the rehabilitation of natural forests. Current concerns within the broad forest community relate to the implications of large scale plantations to forest management, biodiversity, and forest dependent communities.

Reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)

While REDD has not been included within the first commitment period of the CDM due to concerns over leakage, non-permanence, baseline determination, adequate monitoring and measurement, governance, and potential flooding of the carbon market, such projects are becoming more commonly accepted within the voluntary market. Such projects provide significant opportunity to combine the carbon sequestration potential of tropical forests with increased biodiversity and social benefits of forest conservation. Some concerns over these projects and the implications to forest dependent communities remain.

Bioenergy

There is increasing interest within the climate community with regards to the development of bioenergy as an alternative to fossil fuels. Potentially providing a more sustainable energy future bioenergy has associated reductions in carbon emissions. Environmental benefits may occur where degraded land is used. However, although currently marketed as providing opportunities for landscape management, conservation farming practices and rural livelihoods development there is also widespread recognition that the bioenergy sector may also contribute to deforestation in tropical and sub-tropical countries, and has the potential to undermine food security, degrade ecosystems, and marginalize rural livelihoods.

Agroforestry

Under certain circumstances, the utilization of degraded land by agroforestry initiatives may be accepted for carbon remuneration under the CDM or voluntary market schemes. Such schemes have high potential to play an effective role in sequestering carbon, providing employment and food security and rehabilitating degraded lands. However agroforestry also represents a challenge within the biodiversity and forest management sectors, and requires insight to ensure local communities have access to viable markets for the various crops grown within small scale agroforestry regimes.

These strategies involve a wide variety of stakeholders with different objectives, and to be carried out effectively require good governance, secure tenure, rule of law and respect for forest peoples' rights as well as advanced technological input and involvement of specialists within each field. The emerging role of forests in climate change provides an opportunity for such stakeholders to come on board for mutual benefit.

To date, the broad forests community has had little involvement in the process of framing forest based solutions within the inter-governmental climate discussion. As a result, the centrality of fundamental lessons, gained over decades of practical and policy experience in the fields of sustainable forest management and community participation, has not been reflected in current forest based climate strategies.

Furthermore, where forest based climate strategies are in place, there is a lack of communication between stakeholders within the climate realm and those working on the ground towards sustainable forest management. To change this requires the process to become clearer, more efficient and to aim for tangible outcomes.

TFD's Scoping Dialogue

In December 2007, TFD convened a scoping dialogue for a small group of sector leaders to discuss key issues and opportunities related to forests and climate. The outcome of this meeting was an agreement that for forests to be considered a vital and viable part of solutions for addressing climate change, the broader forest community needs to speak louder and with a more unified voice on the complex issues involved within this arena. Keeping the initiative within the framework of sustainable forest management, items such as governance, community rights and participation, mitigation and adaptation, financing, bio-energy and avoided deforestation must all be addressed and put forward by the forest and forest resources industry in a stronger and more definitive manner.

With experience and success in addressing such areas, and providing an international, multi-stakeholder platform to create a unified voice, TFD is in a unique position to provide the structure, process and leadership to develop and put forward this message.

Objectives

TFD's primary objective is to facilitate a discussion to agree on a common framework and means for approaching the issue of forests and climate within international policy negotiations and the resulting practical outcomes. TFD will aim at reducing tension and misunderstanding that has emerged between stakeholders as a result of proposed mechanisms to include various aspects of forests within climate strategies.

In particular, TFD will focus on whether the potential contribution of sustainable forest management to international and national mitigation and adaptation strategies is being fully realized and specifically on the existing or emerging tensions that arise from the way in which issues such as (1) the current treatment of forests in the existing climate change regime and carbon markets; (2) emerging issues surrounding reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD); (3) bioenergy; (4) agroforestry; and (5) competition for forest products, such as timber, non timber forest products (NTFP), and fiber

Scheduled Meetings

TFD will organize and convene a series of dialogues throughout 2008, leading up to COP 14 in December. The tentative is as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April | Dialogue to identify current perspectives and tensions within the forest community with regards to issues surrounding forests and climate. Further to identify opportunities for stakeholder agreement and mechanisms to resolve such tensions. |
|
 | |
| June | Dialogue to further the process of creating a joint leaders communication for presentation to the international climate community on the consideration of forests within combating, adapting and mitigating climate change. |
|
 | |
| September | Dialogue to bring together CEOs and high level leaders of key stakeholder organizations to decide upon a common vision for moving forward and <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Determine how the forest sector can best impact international climate negotiations➔ Identify tangible actions and outcomes for each sector within the forest community➔ Identify different responsibilities within each sector➔ Lay out a mechanism by which the forest sector can influence and work together with additional actors, such as the agricultural sector. |
|
 | |
| October | TFD/forest stakeholder communication event at the 2008 World Conservation Congress, with the overall aim of engaging a broader audience. |

December Event/Dialogue during COP 14 in Poland with key stakeholders and presentation of leaders statement.

Expected Outcomes

TFD expects this series of stakeholder meetings and dialogues to focus on highlighting the different issues at stake, and thus result in increased stakeholder awareness and identification of the individual roles and contributions of different participants within the climate and forests arena. This dialogue will aim at producing a roadmap with tangible expectations and achievements for the forest and forest resources sector to play a key role in forthcoming climate policy negotiations and via this increased awareness and participation attain policy outcomes which directly benefit the broader forest community, under the framework of sustainable forest management.

This series of dialogues aims not only to identify ways in which stakeholders can work together to influence forest and climate policy frameworks and decisions that affect the broader forest community but also to produce a leaders statement on the key aspects of forests and climate. This joint statement encompassing the views of the broader forest community will be aimed at presentation to the international climate community.

Planning and Organization

This dialogue process is being developed and convened by The Forests Dialogue, its Steering Committee and its Secretariat. On behalf of the Steering Committee, several members have taken the lead in organizing the initiative including James Griffiths (WBCSD); Stewart Maginnis (IUCN), Roberto Smeraldi (Amigos da Terra – Amazonia Brasileira), Gerhard Dieterle (World Bank), Lars Laestadius (WRI) with Gary Dunning (TFD), Camille Rebelo (TFD), and John Spears (World Bank). Enquires should be directed to Gary Dunning at TFD - info@theforestdialogue.org

Sponsors

In addition to the TFD Steering Committee members and participants who give freely of their time and energy to help develop this process and make this initiative a success, TFD is also very thankful to the following preliminary group of sponsors:



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE



World Business Council for
Sustainable Development



FORD FOUNDATION



The World Bank

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

More information

For more information about The Forests Dialogue please see our website at www.theforestdialogue.org or e-mail info@theforestdialogue.org

The work of The Forests Dialogue is implemented by a Secretariat hosted at the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University in the United States (F&ES). TFD is an autonomous network of individuals, governed by a Steering Committee comprising representatives of major forest stakeholder groups. The statements, reports, and findings of TFD do not necessarily represent the views of the F&ES Faculty or Yale University.