

Forest Day



Shaping the Global Agenda for Forest and Climate Change

Presented by

**Center for International Forestry Research
Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

Summary of Forest Day

Produced by a drafting committee representing the

Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Presented to the UNFCCC Secretariat

Closing Plenary - Forest Day, December 8, 2007

Preamble

1. The world's forests and forested landscapes have multiple facets and values. Their existence is a value in itself; they provide goods and services to hundreds of millions of forest dwellers and other rural and urban populations; they harbor the majority of the world's biodiversity; and they play an important role in global carbon cycles.
2. The world's forest and tree resources exist within a range of contexts and land use systems, from dense humid forests, to secondary and production forests, to agroforestry systems managed by smallholder farmers.
3. Forests and tree resources play particularly important roles in the lives of indigenous peoples and have cultural significance for populations across the world.
4. It is important to recognize that a great deal of knowledge has already accumulated on effective and fair approaches to sustainable forest management. This knowledge is held by a range of stakeholders, from indigenous groups, to the international organizations forming the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Nonetheless, we recognize the need for all of us to learn more.
5. There is a need to align the climate change agenda with larger development processes.
6. Forests and tree resources offer opportunities for synergies between climate change mitigation and adaptation. Forests and tree resources also offer various co-benefits related to poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, and other objectives.

Areas of consensus

1. While there are significant methodological challenges to be surmounted, current methods are "good enough" to proceed with the design of mechanisms towards the goal of producing emission reductions from both reduced deforestation and reduced forest degradation.
2. There is need for further work on definitions, including degradation.
3. Governance-related challenges pose the greatest risks for both international investors and local stakeholders in the context of new mechanisms. However, there is also an

opportunity for achieving needed governance reforms. We cannot rely on markets alone; we need a combination of market mechanisms and governance mechanisms.

4. Mechanisms should be simple, in terms of modalities and procedures. We should not repeat the mistakes of the Clean Development Mechanism, in terms of high transactions costs.
5. There is agreement that we need a set of multiple instruments (particularly within any REDD mechanism) for dealing with the value of forest ecosystem services.
6. The success of any REDD mechanism depends on the political will to address the drivers of deforestation, including drivers that originate beyond the forestry sector.
7. To ensure equity in the distribution of REDD benefits, it is essential to clarify land rights and legal rights to carbon.
8. We need adaptation now. Adaptation should be focused on the most vulnerable, including forest-dependent people.
9. Innovative mechanisms for funding adaptation are needed, and public-private partnerships are one opportunity.
10. Forests play a key role in mitigating climate-related disasters; adaptation needs to shift from responsive and reactive to anticipatory and proactive.

Areas requiring further consensus-building

1. There were different views on the role of commercial forestry, including logging concessions, in any REDD mechanism. To what extent is it part of the problem, and to what extent is it part of the solution?
2. There are concerns that REDD-related market mechanisms by themselves will not benefit the poor, given the exclusion that poor people have experienced with respect to access to natural resources markets. There are differing views as to the best ways to address such concerns.
3. There remains disagreement regarding the most appropriate financial mechanisms for funding forest-related adaptation.

Areas for further research

1. We need better data on forest degradation and better methods for monitoring change in carbon stocks overall, particularly with respect to forest degradation and peatlands.
2. There is need for further research on how to optimize between “streamlining” forest carbon finance deals to minimize transactions costs and ensuring compliance with relevant safeguards.
3. More research is needed to determine how the scale of REDD interventions shape the interactions and trade-offs between operational efficiency of reducing carbon emissions on the one hand, and achieving social equity on the other.
4. We need new methods and tools for assessment of the adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities, as well as for knowledge sharing and learning related to interventions to strengthen local level resilience to climate variability and change.
5. We need new methods for assessing the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate variability and change.

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