



Australian Government

Global Initiative on Forests and Climate



Forest Day, Saturday 8 December 2007

Overview

- Announced 29 March 2007
- \$A200 million over five years to reduce forest carbon emissions by:
 - reducing deforestation and forest degradation
 - increasing new forest planting
 - promoting sustainable forest management practices
- Global in breadth, but with a strong regional focus
- Three broad elements:
 - Multilateral partnerships: coordination, financing, research
 - Bilateral partnerships: key Asia-Pacific countries
 - Carbon monitoring services: regional, linked to global
- Whole-of-government initiative, with implementation jointly managed by AusAID and Department of Climate Change

Program elements

- Multilateral partnerships
 - Support for related **multilateral** initiatives, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Initiative
 - Partnerships with **research** organisations to facilitate consolidation of existing knowledge; engagement in REDD pilot design and subsequent monitoring; and extraction and synthesis of lessons learned
- Bilateral partnerships
 - Support for REDD **policy and institutional frameworks** in key partner countries
 - **Enabling** assistance for sustainable forest and peatland management, to increase prospects of success for REDD programs
 - Preparation and financing of **incentive based approaches** to reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation
- Forest carbon monitoring
 - Provision of **forest carbon monitoring** services and related capacity building to Asia-Pacific partner governments, drawing on experience with Australia's National Carbon Accounting System
 - Participation in development of global carbon monitoring arrangements

Progress to date

- Multilateral partnerships
 - \$US10 million contribution to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's readiness mechanism
 - Discussions with CIFOR on a research partnership
 - High Level Meeting on Forests and Climate, July 2007
- Bilateral partnerships
 - Enabling assistance (\$A10 million) to Indonesia for REDD readiness, sustainable forest and peatland management and forest carbon accounting
 - Coordinated support for Indonesia's REDD Initiative through Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance
 - Agreement to provide up to \$30 million toward estimated \$A100 million cost of Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership
 - Opportunities in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere being explored
- Carbon monitoring services
 - Planning advanced for establishment of additional remote sensing capacity in northern Australia
 - Discussion with Indonesia on structured capacity building program in carbon monitoring and accounting, with likely extension to other Asia-Pacific countries
 - Engagement in initial discussions with key providers of remote sensing services on networked approach to global carbon monitoring

High Level Meeting on Forests and Climate, July 2007

- Brought together key countries and organisations to discuss practical initiatives to address the challenge of reducing emissions from deforestation
- Involved 63 countries and broad range of international, private sector and environmental non-government organisations
- Conclusions:
 - Broad consensus that avoided deforestation will play important part in future climate change action
 - Renewed willingness from international community to revisit outstanding technical issues in the UNFCCC context, particularly those relating to leakage and permanence

Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership

- Australia committed up to \$A30 million toward estimated costs of \$100 million partnership that aims to:
 - prevent deforestation of up to 70,000 hectares of peatland forest
 - rehabilitate 200,000 hectares of degraded peatland
 - reforest up to 70,000 hectares of rehabilitated peatland
- Overall goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions from drying and burning of peatlands by around 700 million tonnes over 30 years
- Private sector will also contribute
 - BHP Billiton a founding partner

GIFC and the FCPF

- Commonalities:
 - Shared objectives: piloting REDD to inform UNFCCC discussions on post-2012
 - Commitment to strong Australia-Bank cooperation in design of FCPF and in the field, esp. Indonesia
 - Shared commitment to partnership with national governments, methodological rigour and learning by doing
- Complementarities:
 - GIFC both a program and a fund: source of funding for effective multilateral initiatives to facilitate reductions in emissions from deforestation, including the FCPF
 - GIFC able to support early action on readiness, as in Indonesia, while FCPF organises financing, governance and administrative arrangements
 - GIFC able to provide broad-based assistance to establish more favourable enabling environments for REDD programs
 - GIFC not constructed on a seller-buyer partnership model like FCPF → possibly more flexibility to experiment
 - GIFC a platform for leveraging Australian experience in carbon monitoring and accounting