



Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFFCA)

Regional Kick-off Meeting of TroFFCA Southeast Asia

Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into development agenda: policy and scientific challenges

“Adaptation to the recurrence of forest fires and their risks under the influence of climate change and climate variability”

Bogor, 29-30 May 2006

Background

The importance of forests ecosystems as providers of goods and services for society has been widely discussed. The need to protect forests, through either conservation or sustainable management, derives from the fact that forest loss can lead to negative costs to society in terms of foregone goods and services. Likewise, any process that affects the structure and function of forests can also increase costs to society.

Climate change (and climate variability) is, together with major processes such as high rates of land conversion, a major process that may substantially affect forest ecosystems. Tropical forests are among the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change. Potential and observed impacts of climate change on forests, added to other pressures like land conversions and unsustainable timber and fuelwood extraction pose challenges to sustainably manage these systems.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on its Third Assessment Report (TAR) indicated that the annual average air temperature in Southeast Asia is expected to rise by 3.03°C in 2080s relative to 1990. The average precipitation is also expected to increase by 8.5% in the 2080s. However, projections for precipitation show a variation of the increase and decrease at the sub-region level: southern Indonesia, including Java, will experience a decrease in rainfall, rather than an increase. The accompanied seasonal variation would also vary, while the frequency and intensity of some extreme climate phenomena would be expected to increase.

At the same time, fire has long been a feature of the humid tropical landscape, as a tool in farming or land clearing, as a weapon in social conflict, or as a result of unintended actions. Fire requires fuel (biomass), low humidity (less moist in biomass and microclimate), oxygen and an ignition factor to happen. Unsustainable logging activities and large-scale developments in tropical rainforests and an extension of modified forest in general have led to an increased fire vulnerability and incidence by creating a ‘positive-feedback’ loop whereby fire-affected forests becomes more susceptible to repeated fire damage. In the event of a severe drought, such as that happened during an ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) year, forests will be very susceptible to fire. These fire disasters are more severe and have larger negative environmental impacts on peat forests than non peat forests. The link between climate change and forest fires is, thus, evident as drier conditions will increase the occurrence and extent of forest fires.

The hazard-mitigation efforts so far are part of disaster preparedness in response to extreme weather conditions that increase the likelihood of forest fires (i.e. early warning systems). The threat from climate change, which is a long-term trend, has not been well addressed. However, climate change projections (e.g. future trends of climatic variables) present a high degree of uncertainty and, therefore, precise impacts. This is because climate changes are scenario-based and the climate system is complex. Policy decisions for adaptation to climate change, therefore, are more difficult.

TroFFCA is an effort with to promote adaptation of the management of tropical forests to the adverse effects of climate change through the assessment of vulnerability and the development of policy-oriented adaptation strategies. TroFFCA in Indonesia (Southeast Asia) has a specific objective; to adapt to the recurrences and risks of forest fires under the influence of climate

change and climate variability. Such an objective is to balance the advancement of forest fires mitigation, which is already in the government's agenda. Mainstreaming adaptation to the changing climate in the development agenda requires wide consultations across the stakeholders.

Objectives of the Meeting

The meeting has four specific objectives: to formally initiate the activities of TroFCCA in Indonesia and to present the project to government organisations; to discuss needs, opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into national development policies; to analyse forest fires in the context of adaptation to climate change and climate variability, including methodologies for such purpose; and to explore the contribution of TroFCCA to national processes of adaptation to climate change in Indonesia.

The meeting will draw experiences to answer questions such as:

1. What challenges does climate change pose to forest fire policies at national and community levels? How would livelihoods be further affected? Which issues should be considered as a priority?
2. What would be the appropriate methodologies and tools to assess the vulnerability of forest ecosystems and forest-dependent societies to climate change? What is the state of the knowledge in Indonesia?
3. What would be the contribution of TroFCCA to national initiatives such as the national communication to the UNFCCC, the development of policies for adaptation and the design and formulation of adaptation projects?

Participants

The meeting will bring together practitioners, policy makers, and academics working in the areas of forest fires and climate change. The participants will have an opportunity to share knowledge, lessons-learned, and best practices from their professional experiences.

The meeting will be attended by 25 participants.

Venue

The two day meeting will be held on 29-30 May 2006 at CIFOR Headquarter in Bogor, Indonesia.

For further information, please contact:

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AGENDA

Day 1: Plenary Session Regional, National and Community's Needs on Policy Development: Challenges and Ways Forward

09:30 - 10:00	Registration and Morning Coffee
10:00 - 10:20	Welcome by Markku Kanninen (ENV Director) An introduction to TroFCCA (Claudio Forner, TroFCCA Coordinator) <i>Chaired by Heru Santoso, CIFOR</i>
10:20 - 10:40	Keynote speeches - Policy needs and challenges on climate change adaptation 1. Prof. Emil Salim "Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change in the development agenda"
10:40 - 11:00	2. Masnellyarti Hilman (<i>Deputy Minister of Environment, UNFCCC National Focal Point to Indonesia</i>) "Indonesian initiatives for adaptation to climate change"
11:00 - 11:20	3. Dr. Agus Prabowo (<i>Head of the Directorate of Environment, National Development Planning Agency [BAPPENAS]</i>) "Climate change adaptation and the national long-term strategic plan"
11.20 - 12.20	Discussion <i>Chaired and facilitated by D. Murdiyarso, CIFOR</i>
12:20 - 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 - 13:50	Policy and technical implementation, and ways forward 1. Tri Wibowo (<i>Director of Forest Fire Control, Directorate General of Forest Protection and Natural Conservation, Ministry of Forestry</i>) "Indonesian policies and their implementation on forest fires in relation to climate change"
13:50 - 14:10	2. Raman Letchumanan (<i>Environment and Disaster Management Unit, ASEAN Secretariat</i>) "ASEAN initiatives and agreements on mitigating transboundary haze pollution"
14:10 - 14:30	3. Prof. Mezak A. Ratag (<i>Agency for Meteorology and Geophysics</i>) "State of the art on climate change and climate variability projections and their application in Indonesia"
14:30 - 15:30	Discussion <i>Chaired and facilitated by Enrique Ibarra, CIFOR</i>
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 - 16:45	Open Discussion and preparation of the 2 nd day break-out structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarising first day meeting; • (Elaboration on) Strategizing and harmonizing national agenda on adaptation to climate change and TroFCCA; • Discussing next day break-out group structures. <i>Facilitated by Heru Santoso, CIFOR</i>
17:00 - 19:00	Poolside barbeque dinner

Day 2: Morning - Forest fires in the context of adaptation to climate change and climate variability

09:00 - 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daniel Murdiyarso (CIFOR) “Linking mitigation and adaptation measures to forest fires: an approach to the development of a vulnerability assessment method” - Erna Adiningsih (LAPAN) “Extreme climatic events and fire frequencies/intensities” <p><i>Questions/Answers for clarifications</i> <i>Chaired by Rizaldi Boer, IPB</i></p>
09:45 - 11:25	<p>Break out group discussions I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Forest fire disaster risk reduction efforts from governments and communities; B. Understanding the link between climate change and the physical conditions inducing fires: gaps of knowledge and uncertainties; C. Setting priorities: vulnerabilities of biophysical and socio-economic systems to fires, and interlinks of forest goods and services beyond forestland. <p><i>[Coffee session is included]</i></p>
11:25 - 12:00	<p>Report from Groups <i>Chaired by Rizaldi Boer, IPB</i></p>
12:00 - 13:00	LUNCH

Day 2: Afternoon - Refining methodology and ways forward (methodological approaches and strategy for driving climate change adaptation into policy)

13:00 - 13:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heru Santoso (CIFOR); <i>Top down approach</i> - Moekti Handajani Soejachmoen (Pelangi); <i>Bottom up approach</i> <p><i>Questions/Answer for clarifications</i> <i>Chaired by Indro Tjahjono, Konphalindo</i></p>
13:45 - 15:25	<p>Break out group discussions II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Synergy between policies and actions for adaptation and for mitigating forest fires. B. Opportunities for TroFCCA in Indonesia: Policy development strategy, gaps, National Communications, vulnerability and adaptation and formulation of projects. <p><i>[Coffee session is included]</i></p>
15:25 - 16:00	<p>Report from Groups <i>Chaired by Indro Tjahjono, Konphalindo</i></p>
16:00 - 16:30	<p>Other business, conclusions and closure <i>Chaired by Claudio Forner, CIFOR</i></p>