



Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA)

Regional Kick-off Meeting of TroFFCA Southeast Asia

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

Bogor - Indonesia, 29-30 May 2006

Summary

The regional kick-off meeting of Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA) in Southeast Asia was held at CIFOR Headquarters, Bogor, Indonesia on May 29-30, 2006. It was attended by 30 participants from Indonesia and the Philippines, including project implementers, practitioners, policy makers, academics, research organizations and NGOs. It served as the first meeting with potential partners. The meeting carried the title: “**Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into the development agenda: policy and scientific challenges**”.

The kick-off meeting triggered lively discussions on adaptation to climate change. Participants to the meeting elaborated on the current status of adaptation work in Indonesia and the Philippines, and identified challenges in implementing adaptation, in particular, the mainstreaming of adaptation into development policies. Participants collectively identified priority development issues relating to adaptation, forests and climate change, namely, **increased risk of forest fires and landslides**. The meeting also discussed existing gaps between science and policy; identified indicators of vulnerability and resilience of forest ecosystems and forest dependent communities, specifically linked to forest fires and landslides; and considered how to achieve synergy between mitigation and adaptation to climate change on forest fires.

Followings are the main conclusions from the meeting.

On the **need for adaptation** in the context of national development strategies:

- *Adaptation to climate change is becoming more important and urgently required. For this reason, the Ministry of Environment has conducted institutional changes in order to enhance programs on adaptation to climate change;*
- *The capacity of the government is still low, although awareness is rising. Capacity and awareness at the sub-national level (provincial and local levels) are lower;*
- *Strategies for adaptation to climate change need to be developed and incorporated into the national development strategic plan;*
- *Adaptation is best addressed through mainstreaming within the framework of sustainable development;*
- *Mitigation and adaptation to climate change should be addressed together in efforts to combat climate change;*
- *The forestry sector has considered the link between mitigation and adaptation, but financial incentives have not yet been adopted;*
- *The treatment of adaptation requires consistency from all levels of all related government institutions.*

On mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development:

- *Mainstreaming adaptation should be the responsibility of all development sectors and requires the involvement and participation of all stakeholders. It also requires synergy between adaptation itself and other policy objectives and should concentrate on identified priorities while pursuing resource optimization.*
- *Mainstreaming is a difficult and lengthy (long-term) process. It may involve several steps starting with awareness campaigns (through dialogues between climate experts, policy makers and players in related sectors), and the development of good team work (comprising representative of many stake holders and experts).*

On the development of an adaptation strategy:

- *Adaptation strategies should be developed on the basis of assessed vulnerabilities (applying top down or bottom up approaches) and the identification of adaptive capacity. The process should bring local institutions and incorporate indigenous knowledge.*

On vulnerability assessments (forest fires and landslides):

- *Vulnerability (and resilience) indicators can be grouped into biophysical, socioeconomic, and institutional. A list of them was produced during the kick-off meeting.*

On the science-policy dialogue in order to reduce gaps between science and policy:

- *Science has produced a significant amount of knowledge that is useful in adaptation, however, it needs to be translated in a way that is simple and policy relevant;*
- *The science-policy dialogue should seek to engage scientists to support the policy making processes;*
- *The dialogue should be started at the national level and be fed with inputs from the sub-national level for a successful implementation of the designed adaptation policy.*

The meeting produced some recommendations for actions of TroFCCA in Southeast Asia, as follows:

- *TroFCCA will develop adaptation strategies through a comprehensive assessment of vulnerability and adaptive capacity, and science-policy dialogues;*
- *The national implementation of TroFCCA will start with a comprehensive literature review on existing knowledge to develop a conceptual framework for addressing adaptation relating to forest fires and landslides;*
- *TroFCCA will actively participate in relevant science-policy dialogues on the development of national strategies for adaptation;*
- *TroFCCA will liaise with the government to provide inputs for the Second National Communication;*
- *Contact with governments will proceed from the start of the project.*