

CD REDD

Capacity Development for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

1.0 Background

Carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries account for approximately 20-25% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Presently, credit for avoided deforestation and degradation is excluded from the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol because of concerns such as additionality and leakage.

At the 2005 UNFCCC Conference (COP-11/MOP-1) in Montreal, Papua New Guinea, as co-founding nation of the then eight member *Coalition for Rainforest Nations* (CfRN), put forward a submission to consider whether incentives to reduce deforestation should become a provision of the UNFCCC, including the Kyoto Protocol. The proposal was forwarded for further consideration to the Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-13/MOP-3) in Bali, Indonesia, the proposal, "Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action," was adopted as part of the Bali Action Plan.

2.0 Introduction

The 'Bali Action Plan' of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) mandates Parties to negotiate a post-2012 instrument to provide financial incentives for the mitigation of climate change from forest actions in developing countries.

Decision 2/CP.13 of the Bali Action Plan invites Parties:

- to pursue efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
- to increase forest carbon stocks through sustainable forest management;
- to support capacity-building, technical assistance and transfer of technology in data collection, estimation of carbon on forest land, monitoring and reporting;
- to identify and explore a range of actions and undertake efforts, including pilot activities to prepare future REDD programmes.

Support for efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation has been expressed at the highest political level (G8, UN General Assembly). Recently the World Bank established the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Governments of Norway, Australia, Germany, United Kingdom, as well as other countries, have announced programmes to support actions related to REDD.



3.0 Objective

The REDD decision adopted at COP13 “**encourages the use of the most recent reporting guidelines as a basis for reporting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, noting also that Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention are encouraged to apply the Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry**”. The IPCC Good Practice Guidance, GPG 2003, has been used by almost all Kyoto Protocol Annex-B Parties to assess carbon stock changes on their forest land. Thus, the main objective of this capacity development action is to prepare developing countries to assess carbon emission and removals from forest land through methodologies recognized by GPG 2003, so that future results will be demonstrable, transparent, verifiable, and estimated consistently over time.

The REDD decision adopted at COP13 also requires that any “**reductions in emissions or increases resulting from the demonstration activity should be based on historical emissions, taking into account national circumstances.**” Thus, another urgent issue for developing countries is to establish a national monitoring system to determine an historical emission reference scenario and future emission levels.

In advance of COP-14, the CD REDD program will coordinate three workshops whose main objectives are to provide information on national GHGs inventories and on forest land monitoring systems. The workshops will inform experts from non-Annex-I countries of capacity building activities and actions to establish in-country forest monitoring and reporting systems. In this respect, it is important to ensure the **independence** and **neutrality** of the information that will be provided during the workshops. To ensure that materials are compliant with monitoring and reporting guidance developed by IPCC and already adopted by UNFCCC, the workshop speakers have been selected from IPCC 2003 LULUCF Guidance authors and UNFCCC LULUCF reviewers.

4.0 Activities

CD REDD will work at the international level: global workshops and training courses will be organized on topics of common interest and will provide the opportunity for information sharing among countries. CD REDD is open to all possible REDD countries (delegates from almost 40 countries will participate) and at least two persons from each country will be financially supported to attend all workshops. Experts from national institutions in charge of preparing ‘National Communications’, as required by the UNFCCC, will also be invited.

In the next months, CD REDD will consist of at least three technical workshops:

a) **Understanding National Inventories for LULUCF Sector: The Experience of Annex-I Countries:** November 5-7 2008, Berlin, Germany

Description: Under UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, Annex-I Parties have been requested to establish a national GHGs inventory system and to submit an annual National Inventory Report (NIR) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The IPCC Inventory Task Force published the 2003 LULUCF Good Practice Guidance (adopted by COP/MOP for the reporting under KP) and the 2006 AFOLU Guidelines which provide comprehensive and exhaustive



methodological approaches to assess GHGs emissions and removals from land at a national scale under any particular national circumstance.

Accordingly, all UNFCCC Annex-I Parties have already established a national inventory and have already submitted NIRs based on IPCC-compliant methodologies. During the workshop, the IPCC Inventory methodologies will be explained by IPCC authors and UNFCCC reviewers. Furthermore, Annex-I experts will provide a comprehensive view of the Annex-I Parties experiences in LULUCF GHGs monitoring and reporting.

Attendance: Policymakers (delegates) responsible for the LULUCF sector and those in charge of all land monitoring activities

b) Land Use Area Change Assessment: The Experience of Existing Operational Systems: February 4-6 2009, Brazil

Description: Data on land use changes are crucial to assess changes in carbon stocks. Many Annex-I countries have adopted field survey systems and only few national monitoring systems based on remote sensing methodologies already exist. The remote sensing methodologies represent a good technical solution for countries with few data sets and little information on land activities. For many years, Brazil and India have operated land monitoring systems based on remote sensing. During the workshops these experiences will be presented and IPCC experts will explain how to integrate these methodologies in national GHG monitoring and reporting systems.

Attendance: Policymaker (delegates) responsible for the LULUCF sector and functionaries in charge for all the country land monitoring activities

c) National Forest Inventory: The Experiences of Non-Annex I Countries March 2009, India:

Description: National forest inventories are the most robust systems to assess carbon stock changes in forest land. Almost all Annex-I countries have based their GHG LULUCF Inventory Reports on their national forest inventories. Some excellent experiences on national forest inventories also exist in non-Annex countries (e.g. India and Mexico) and another 20 countries have national forest resource assessment programmes, developed in collaboration with FAO Forest Department. These experiences will be presented during the workshop and IPCC experts will explain how to integrate forest inventories in national GHG monitoring and reporting systems.

Attendance: Functionaries in charge of land monitoring activities or/and the head of forest service and/or functionaries responsible for forest or land field survey

5.0 Implementation and coordination arrangements

CD REDD will be based on a cooperation agreement among all the partners which will delineate a common and comprehensive knowledge transfer programme.

Financial support has been granted by the German Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) to implement mostly the first 2 workshops. The Coalition for Rainforest Nations will be responsible for the practical implementation of the workshops. However the full implementation of CD-REDD will require complementary financing and technical support from the counterparts which previously expressed cooperative interest such as WB-GEF and UN-REDD.

6.0 Continued Influence

Since 2005, the Coalition for Rainforest Nations has grown to nearly forty participant nations and has provided developing countries with a voice within the deforestation dialogue. CfRN has been instrumental in mobilizing readiness and capacity building funding such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank and USD 2.7 billion from the Norwegian government. More importantly, CfRN, with recent support from the Forest-11 Group, has exhibited leadership in the international acceptance of deforestation as part of the Bali Action Plan and a post-Kyoto Framework.

Workshops such as these are an important step in the diplomatic and implementation process on deforestation and climate change. The Coalition for Rainforest Nations is grateful to the German Government, represented by the German Federal Ministry for Environment (BMU) and the German Technical Cooperation Agency, GTZ, for its dedicated support.

