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WWF Forest and Climate Initiative External Policy Brief: UNFCCC-COP18

Overall Expectations for REDD+



WWF's Expectations for REDD+ at UNFCCC-COP18 - Doha, Qatar

Realization of an effective REDD+ mechanism must be a significant part of a global climate solution. Without the immediate scaling up of REDD+ action, limiting the global temperature rise to 2°C will be impossible. Following important decisions from Cancun and Durban, Parties in Doha should use SBSTA, the AWG-LCA, and the ADP to make key decisions to ensure that REDD+ exists within a comprehensive and legally binding climate agreement. **Most importantly, the LCA's mandate finishes in Doha and Parties must decide how REDD+ negotiations will continue under the UNFCCC, including the nature and form of REDD+ under a future platform (either the ADP or SBI).**

Finance for REDD+ should be a key priority at Doha. Parties must make concrete commitments for additional short-term REDD+ finance beyond existing fast start funding for the period until 2020 when a new agreement is to be in place, and clearly demonstrate how to meet the financing needs for all phases of REDD+. Following the REDD+ informal note developed at Bangkok, other key finance issues that Parties should focus on in Doha include:

- Elaboration of results-based payments for carbon and non-carbon values.
- Integration of REDD+ within the broader finance discussions including the NAMA registry, the Work Program on Long Term Finance, the Standing Committee on Finance, and the Green Climate Fund.

Under SBSTA, Parties need to advance and finalize the program of work established in Cancun on key technical issues that will enable countries to begin urgent action on REDD+. These decisions include:

- **Forest monitoring systems** that provide guidance to developing countries on requirements to accurately monitor carbon. These systems should be integrated with information systems for reporting of safeguards.

- **Measurement reporting and verification (MRV) guidelines**, specifically for how these relate to Durban decisions on Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and International Consultation and Analysis (ICA).
- Assessment process for **reference levels (RLs)** that ensures climate integrity and provides clear signals that submitted REDD+ RLs will be assessed in a fair, transparent, and timely manner.

SBSTA also needs to provide further guidance on the monitoring framework (including indicators) of REDD+ **safeguards**, to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness.

Lastly, while the Cancun Agreements recognized the need for all countries to reduce pressure on forests and to address **drivers** of deforestation, how this will be achieved remains undefined. In Doha, Parties should agree on a specific process (including a work plan) to develop methodologies to address the drivers of deforestation in time for adoption by COP19, and agree for countries to report back on progress by COP20.

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