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**SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE**

Singapore City, 2-5 September 2009

REPORT OF THE MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Subregional Capacity-building Workshop on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change for South and South-East Asia was held in Singapore City, from 2 to 5 September 2009. It was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, and the National Parks Board of Singapore, with generous financial support from the Government of Germany and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The organizers gratefully acknowledge that several of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) contributed to the workshop by providing information on their work in the context of forest biodiversity and climate change.

2. The objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To support the efforts of Parties to identify complementarities and achieve synergies between the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, and forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, including those presently discussed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

(b) To strengthen the capacity of national focal points of UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC or country designated experts on the potential contribution of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity to climate mitigation and adaptation measures,¹ through relevant presentations on the subject and facilitation of an informal exchange of experiences on pertinent issues, including REDD-plus² and the links between mitigation and adaptation efforts;

¹It is intended to use terms and definitions in this document consistently with existing UNFCCC decisions and documents. Capacity building is offered without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or forthcoming UNFCCC negotiations.

² In this document, actions under paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of the Bali Action Plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Issues related to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) are referred to collectively as "REDD-plus", in line with UN document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1.

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(c) To strengthen coordination and collaboration among the national focal points of UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC, at regional and national level, through an informal exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

3. The meeting was attended by 50 participants from 13 countries: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. An observer from Germany was present, as well as resource persons from the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and the following CPF member organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Centre for International Forestry Research, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), as well as two representatives of indigenous organizations (Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia / Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia, and Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre on Policy Research and Education). The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Jürgen Blaser of Intercooperation (Swiss Foundation for Development and International Cooperation).

II. BACKGROUND

4. Resolution 8/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests, adopted at the Forum's eighth session, in April 2009, decided to strengthen the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) in addressing the challenges of "Forests in a changing environment" including climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss.³ Strengthened coordination, in particular among national focal points for UNFF, CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, to facilitate implementation of SFM at national and other applicable levels was also called for by the Forum.⁴ Greater emphasis was also placed on the use of national forest programmes or other strategies for SFM to integrate measures to address climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, degradation of forest ecosystems and water resources management, and to seek coherence with national development and poverty eradication strategies as well as with strategies and action plans under UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC.⁵

5. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity called for greater efforts to increase cross-sectoral cooperation and initiatives at all levels. Specific attention was drawn to support countries in their efforts to carry out a coordinated implementation of both the programme of work of forest biodiversity under CBD, and the decisions set by UNFF, including the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument), for the achievement of the 2010 target and the four Global Objectives on Forests.⁶

6. In decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to carry out thematic and/or regional workshops to support Parties' efforts in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity, based on the findings of the in-depth review of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3). Such workshops should be carried out in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNFF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to support Parties' efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in

³ UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1(a).

⁴ UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1(c).

⁵ UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1 (b) and 2 (a).

⁶ Decision IX/5 para 1 (i).

developing countries, in collaboration with the CPF members, in particular with the World Bank and the Secretariat of UNFCCC.

8. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary in decision IX/5 to collect, compile and disseminate information on the relation between forest ecosystem resistance and resilience, forest biodiversity, and climate change. The Secretariat has prepared a draft paper on this issue, which will be made available to meeting participants as a background document.

9. Further, in decision IX/16, the Conference of the Parties established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), including representatives of indigenous and local communities, on the linkages between forest biodiversity and climate change. The Group has the mandate to provide biodiversity-related information to UNFCCC, including scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and decision 1/CP.13 of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC as well as its Nairobi work programme. Specifically, the terms of reference of the AHTEG include:

(a) Analysing the social, cultural and economic benefits of using ecosystem services for climate change adaptation and of maintaining ecosystem services by minimizing adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(b) Identifying measures that enable ecosystem restoration from the adverse impacts of climate change which can be effectively considered in impact, vulnerability and climate change adaptation strategies;

(c) Identifying opportunities to deliver multiple benefits for carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in a range of ecosystems including peatlands;

(d) Identifying opportunities for, and possible negative impacts on, biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use, as well as livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, that may arise from reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;

(e) Identifying options to ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity but rather support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(f) Identifying ways that components of biodiversity can reduce risk and damage associated with climate change impacts;

(g) Identifying means to incentivise the implementation of adaptation actions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

10. The AHTEG has held two meetings: one on biodiversity and climate change mitigation (18-22 November 2008, London), and one on biodiversity and adaptation to climate change (18-22 April in Helsinki). A meeting to review and consolidate the findings of both meetings was held from 20-24 July in Cape Town, South Africa. The draft report of the AHTEG is available on the CBD website, and will be made available to meeting participants as a background document.

11. The CPF, which consists of 14 international organizations working on forest-related issues, among them the UNFF and CBD secretariats prepared a Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change in December 2008, which will be made available to meeting participants. The Strategic Framework has the following six key messages:

(a) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently;

(c) Inter-sectoral collaboration, economic incentives, and the provision of alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation;

- (d) Capacity-building and governance reforms are urgently required;
- (e) Accurate forest monitoring and assessment helps informed decision-making but requires greater coordination at all levels;
- (f) CPF members are committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.

12. The CPF also launched the Global Forest Expert Panels joint initiative, led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), which published a comprehensive scientific assessment of climate change impacts on forests and people and options for adaptation. The report will be made available to meeting participants.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

13. The Meeting was opened at 9.30 am on Wednesday, 2 September 2009 by Mr. Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board, Singapore (NParks). Upon welcoming participants to Singapore, Mr. Ng expressed his Government's appreciation to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety for their support. He further underlined the valuable leadership of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests in organizing this event jointly. Mr. Ng noted that the important inter-linkages between issues related to forest, biodiversity and climate change and highlighted Singapore's commitment to support the CBD, UNFF and ACB agendas by providing a platform for sharing information and fostering collaboration. Although Singapore is recognized as a low forest cover country, its forests are extremely vulnerable to climate change, and thus required significant attention. In this regard, the importance of research and partnerships for addressing these interlinked challenges were noted.

14. Mr. Tim Christophersen, Programme Officer of the SCBD conveyed a statement from Mr. Ahmed Djoghlafl, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Workshop. Mr. Djoghlafl highlighted that this capacity-building workshop is the first collaboration of its kind between the CBD and UNFF secretariats. He informed that the programme of work on Forest Biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity contains many specific actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and that the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change has recently developed concrete recommendations on REDD and forest-based adaptation efforts. Mr. Djoghlafl emphasised that based on recent studies such as 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity', the value of intact tropical rainforests is much greater than the short-term economic gain than can be obtained by converting them to plantations or other land uses. He encouraged participants to explore innovative means to use forests sustainably for our present and future generations and noted that payments for ecosystem services such as carbon storage as a new way to generate benefits from intact forests.

15. Ms. Clarissa Arida, Director of Programme Development and Implementation from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in her opening remarks she expressed appreciation to National Parks Board for their continued partnership, and to the CBD and the UNFF secretariats for engaging ACB in this significant workshop. Ms. Arida highlighted the ASEAN Member States commitment to the conservation of forests and their biodiversity and noted the region's target to increase the cover of all type of forest by 15 million hectares. She noted that this workshop is important in providing capacity-building in forest management, forest biodiversity and climate change and expressed the need to promote synergies and complementarities in terms of implementing the CBD programme of work. She highlighted ACB's capacity-building initiatives with partners on payments for ecosystems services scheme, including REDD plus and informed that 'biodiversity and climate change' is one of the key themes for the forthcoming inaugural ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity to be held in Singapore, on 21-23 October 2009.

16. Ms. Catalina Santamaria, Forest Policy Affairs Experts of the Secretariat of UNFF introduced a video message from Ms. Jan L. McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, in which Ms. McAlpine

highlighted the uniqueness of the workshop in setting out to strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation and integrating measures to address climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and deforestation, while seeking coherence with national development and poverty eradication strategies. Ms. McAlpine noted the importance that the Forum attaches to these issues and emphasized the need to prioritize and to work in collaboration when addressing the threats and challenges posed by climate change, deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity, including the impacts on over 1.6 billion people. Ms. McAlpine also underscore the full gamut of sustainable forest management (SFM) mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the importance in recognizing forests more than just in terms of its carbon values. The sum total of the social, economic and environmental contributions of forests is enormous and inestimable. In this regard, the challenge is to develop a comprehensive framework which includes both forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures while simultaneously addressing the other important values forests contribute to this world.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

17. Mr. Geoffrey Davison, Assistant Director (Terrestrial) of the National Parks Board, Singapore, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the workshop. Mr. Jürgen Blaser, Deputy Director of INTERCOOPERATION and Head of Advisory Services was appointed as the moderator for the Workshop.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

18. Participants adopted the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda proposed by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-FBD&CC/1/1/Add.1, UNFF/2009/EC-FBD&CC/Ag/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1 Election of officers;
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3 Organization of work.
3. Status of national implementation of international commitments related to forest biodiversity and climate change;
4. Technical session: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus);
5. Technical session on multiple benefits: links between climate change mitigation and adaptation;
6. Other matters;
7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting.

2.3. Organization of work

19. The proposed organization of work for the meeting was adopted as contained in the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-FBD&CC/1/1/Add.1, UNFF/2009/EC-FBD&CC/Ag/1).

ITEM 3. STATUS OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS RELATED TO FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

20. Representatives from Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam respectively presented their country updates on implementation of international commitments related to forest biodiversity and climate change based on the following outline provided by CBD and UNFF secretariats.

Outline 1: Lessons learned in implementing relevant CBD and UNFF commitments in support of forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

21. Participants provided information on national forest resources and the policy framework, and highlighted the need for: sustained institutional commitments, good governance, national information networks, capacity-building, increased stakeholder participation, enhanced awareness of technical issues, integration of commitments into national development plans, enhanced inter-agency cooperation and coordination, integrated and harmonized multi-sectoral approach, mechanisms for benefit-sharing and greater synergies between the work of CBD and UNFF.

Outline 2: Opportunities and challenges of REDD pilot and demonstration activities and links with national adaptation efforts

22. The presentations highlighted the following main challenges: scope and implication of REDD, interpretation of REDD plus in their national context; the need for baseline calculations; lack of financial resources, human capacity technical capacity and national level cross-sectoral cooperation, complexity of implementation procedures and systems, lack of involvement of private sector, high opportunity costs, and lack of clarity of project design, inadequate investment, and need for monitoring and accounting for REDD. Population expansion, poverty.

23. The opportunities gained from REDD and climate change mitigation and adaptation included: improve forest management, expansion of protected areas, development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, links with poverty reduction strategies, minimizing habitat loss and fragmentation, trained conservation professionals, as well as the use of joint forest management, local and indigenous knowledge.

Outline 3: Perspective for further interactions at national and regional levels for synergies between UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC

24. Some of the suggestions include: establishment of a high level coordinating body on climate change at the national level; use of existing institutions and networks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and other regional bodies; integration of measures to address forest, biodiversity and climate change into national development plans and poverty eradication; development of regional programmes to address challenges and opportunities in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation; interdisciplinary research; integrated capacity-building efforts; and sustainable finance mechanisms.

25. All the country presentations will be made available on the CBD and UNFF websites.

ITEM 4. TECHNICAL SESSION: REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD-PLUS)

26. The purpose of this session was to discuss the issues related to REDD-plus. Several resource persons introduced current aspects of the global debate on REDD-plus, and participants will be invited to discuss related aspects in plenary and in working groups.

27. Mr. Jürgen Blaser of INTERCOOPERATION provided an update on REDD-plus, its main challenges and opportunities and the current status of negotiations in the framework of UNFCCC. He

explained adaptation and mitigation measures in the context of promoting sustainable development and provided a background on the agreements for the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

28. Ms. Jennifer Theresa Rubis of Indigenous Peoples' Network of Malaysia outlined the engagement by the indigenous communities at regional and international levels and provided a general description on their perspectives of climate change impacts and initiatives taken towards mitigation and adaptation measures. Opportunities and challenges posed by REDD were also listed and shared with participants.

29. Mr. Tim Christophersen of SCBD introduced the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in particular the Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and its six key messages. The Executive Summary of the Strategic Framework was distributed.

30. Ms. Catalina Santamaria, of the UNFF Secretariat, highlighted the recent outcomes of the eighth session of the Forum, in particular the adopted UNFF Resolution 8/1 on "Forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs". She presented relevant recommendations directed to Member States, CPF members, and the UNFF Secretariat and highlighted the role of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (Forest Instrument) as an integrated framework to implement SFM. Moreover, she noted the opportunities within UNFF to support forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation and the need to continue to work closely towards a mutually supportive and integrated approach. The role of SFM was underscored in this regard and several points regarding the challenges and opportunities ahead for forests and climate change were outlined.

31. Mr. Barney Dickson of United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) presented an update on the UN-REDD Programme. He highlighted the current activities of the national and the global joint programmes; and the multiple benefits of REDD.

32. Mr. Jürgen Blaser of INTERCOOPERATION updated on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPC) of the World Bank, the aim of which is to build readiness for REDD. He later presented on the Forests and Climate Change Initiative: The Forests Dialogue (TFD), which is joint initiative of civil society and private sector. The main aim of TFD is to build relationships and to spur collaborative action on forest-related priority issues.

33. Mr. Hwan Ok Ma of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) outlined ITTO's thematic programme on reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing of environmental services (REDD ES).

34. Mr. Tim Christophersen presented on the results of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change under the Convention on Biological Diversity, focusing on mitigation measures.

35. The presentations will be made available on the websites of CBD and UNFF, and were presented to all participants in electronic format at the end of the workshop.

36. The above presenters, together with Mr. Simmathiri Appanah of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) formed a panel to answer question from participants during a plenary discussion. This included a presentation from Mr. Dian Sukmajaya from ASEAN Secretariat on an overview of ASEAN's regional policy framework on forests and climate change, which includes key issues of ASEAN forestry cooperation and its efforts in addressing climate change.

37. The participants were divided into three working groups to discuss further on the following topics:

(a) Policy coherence at national level: opportunities and challenges (facilitated by Mr. Appanah, FAO);

(b) SFM contributions on REDD-plus at national level: opportunities and challenges (facilitated by Mr. Daniel Murdiyarso of Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)); and

(c) Indigenous and local community aspects of REDD-plus: opportunities and challenges (facilitated by Mr. Andrew Ingles of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

38. The working groups reported back to plenary on their deliberations, as contained in this report as annex I.

ITEM 5. TECHNICAL SESSION ON MULTIPLE BENEFITS: LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

39. The purpose of this session was to explore the links between mitigation and adaptation efforts and highlight various multiple benefits of a coherent approach. Several resource persons introduced current aspects of the global debate on forests and climate change adaptation, and participants will be invited to discuss related aspects in plenary and in working groups.

40. Mr. Daniel Murdiyarso of CIFOR provided an overview of the opportunities and challenges of forest-based adaptation, including examples of lessons learned from various countries in the region, and from other regions.

41. Mr. Alexander Buck of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) introduced the results of the IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels (GEFP) assessment report on “Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change”.

42. Mr. Andrew Ingles of IUCN introduced lessons learned for adaptation, restoration, and livelihoods, and presented an overview of the potential for forest landscape restoration.

43. Mr. Tim Christophersen of the CBD Secretariat introduced the adaptation-related recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

44. Mr. Simmathiri Appanah of FAO spoke on SFM work at the national level and also adaptation measures taken at the Asia and Pacific region.

45. The presentations were followed by a plenary discussion on regional opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation activities, in particular regarding the key opportunities and challenges for implementation of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity; as well as the opportunities for regional cooperation and synergies between mitigation and adaptation policies and measures. Mr. Raman Letchumanan of the ASEAN Secretariat provided an overview of ASEAN’s regional activities related to forest, biodiversity and climate change.

46. Following the plenary discussion, the participants were divided into three working groups:

(a) Forests for adaptation: opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation (facilitated by Mr. Daniel Murdiyarso of CIFOR);

(b) Adaptation for forests: opportunities and challenges for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity (facilitated by Mr. Alexander Buck of IUFRO); and

(c) Linkages between adaptation and mitigation: coherence in policies and measures (facilitated by Mr. Raman Letchumanan of ASEAN Secretariat).

47. The working groups reported back to plenary on their deliberations, as contained in this report as annex II.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

48. There were no other matters.

ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

49. The Chair provided an overview of his conclusions, and his observations on the meeting objectives. His conclusions are contained in this report as annex III.

50. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback and evaluate the meeting, using a form distributed by the organizers.

51. Participants were invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared and presented by the Chair. The report was adopted, as amended.

52. The meeting ended on Friday, 4 September 2009 at 5.30 p.m. It was followed by an optional field trip to the HSBC TreeTop Walk at Central Catchment Nature Reserve on 5 September.

Annex I

RESULTS OF WORKING GROUPS ON 3 SEPTEMBER (ON REDD-PLUS AND MITIGATION)

The Working Groups provided an opportunity to further discuss key challenges for forests and biodiversity with regards to climate change through an exchange of views among national focal points or country designated experts of UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC, with the aim of sharing relevant knowledge and lessons learned, strengthening coordination and collaboration and identifying key opportunities and challenges for potential synergies in the implementation of REDD-plus activities.⁷

There has been a positive shift in perception within the climate change negotiations from a narrow view of forests for their carbon value to a broader understanding of the values and benefits of sustainably managing forests – from livelihoods to reducing poverty and conserving forest biodiversity. UNFCCC discussions on REDD-plus have now broadened to include the role of conservation and sustainable management of forest (SFM) and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. Sustainable forest management provides a framework for forest-based mitigation and adaptation measures including REDD.

While it is generally agreed that efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries should contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, as well as sustainable development and generate benefits for indigenous and local communities, it is important to examine obstacles which impede ‘co-benefits’ from being achieved. Likewise, the tools and practices of sustainable forest management (SFM), which could contribute to the implementation of a possible REDD mechanism need to be further clarified and operationalized, in particular when considering all elements of REDD-plus.

Working Group 1: Policy Coherence at National Level – Opportunities and Challenges

Key questions:

- a.) What are the main components of an integrated approach to address climate change, biodiversity, deforestation and forest degradation?
- b.) What are main opportunities and challenges in the integration of policy approaches on issues related to REDD-plus?
- c.) How could coherence be improved between relevant forest-related strategies and action plans at national level (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, National Forest Programmes, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers)?
- d.) What are the main opportunities and challenges for cooperation between national focal points in the preparation of REDD pilot and demonstration activities?

MAIN COMPONENTS OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

- High Level Political Commitment
- Prime Minister’s Panel on Climate Change (e.g. India, Singapore (DPM))
- Inter Ministerial body
- Representatives: Policy makers, NGOs, civil society, etc., so that it is participatory and holistic
- Framework Mechanism – Terms of Reference

⁷ Actions under paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of the Bali Action Plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Issues related to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) are here referred to collectively as “REDD-plus”, in line with UN document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1

- Identify areas affected due to climate change: biodiversity (forests & agriculture), water, livelihoods, energy
- Strategies/Action Plan (National Action Plan on Climate Change)
- Knowledge about climate change
- Sustainable agriculture
- Afforestation
- Financial Mechanism
- Implementation Framework (timelines)
- Objectives of REDD
- Conflict resolution
- Awareness building

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN INTEGRATED POLICY APPROACH

Challenges

- Conservation vs. development
- Financial Mechanism
- Coordination (among different sectors)
- Information/Database
- Clean technology
- Conflict between sectors for achieving their goals (priorities of government)
- Lack of capacity
- Pace of REDD development too fast
- Governance issues: National development plans to be revised in view of new initiatives
- Rights of local community

Opportunities

- Incentives (Both challenge and opportunity)
- Benefit sharing (Both challenge and opportunity)
- Meeting ground for CDM/REDD plus

COHERENCE BETWEEN FOREST RELATED STRATEGIES

- Review of existing strategies, identify conflict areas and find solutions
- New draft for REDD to take into account existing policies
- Whether countries need new REDD policy - finances associated

PREPARATION OF REDD PILOT AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES – COOPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

- Also achieving objectives of other processes
- Coordination mechanism
- Resolving technical issues

Working Group 2: SFM contributions on REDD-plus at national level: opportunities and challenges

Key questions:

a.) Which specific SFM practices and activities (e.g. Reduced Impact Logging) yield the most potential for emission reductions and forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation when compared to ‘business as usual’?

b.) What are the main opportunities and challenges to further promote and implement SFM practices at national and regional level?

Clarification of SFM

- The WG discussed the term SFM and took note of the definition from the UN General Assembly coming from the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (the Forest Instrument). A background of definitions was distributed.
- Overall strong support on the concept of “Sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.” The Group expressed their view and support to continue to work on REDD plus within this concept.
- Countries mentioned the links between actions on REDD, SFM, the 4 Global Objectives on Forests and the Forest Instrument.
- There was discussion of the term “sustainably managed forests” expressed in REDD plus documentation and ‘SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT’ as agreed at the multilateral level and adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 69/98.
- The group further discussed the title of the working group and noted that it should reflect SFM “practices” as they contribute to REDD plus at the national level. The title of the group was amended.
- The holistic approach of SFM for meeting agreed global commitments on sustainable development and multiple co-benefits (poverty eradication, biodiversity and watershed conservation, sustainable livelihoods) were also expressed.
- The Group also mentioned that SFM provides an effective framework to implement REDD plus.
- Several countries highlighted their experiences from local and national levels. Among these the use of Criteria & Indicators for SFM at different levels were discussed and encouraged as appropriate tools for implementing REDD-plus. In addition, approaches through Joint Forest Management, forest fire control, enrichment planning, and reduced impact logging were discussed.

Opportunities and Challenges:

The WG expressed the following as common challenges for implementing SFM:

- Need of additional financial resources, including for environmental sound technologies, forest research, measures to adapt forest to climate change, including inadequate investment (on afforestation, protection, and development),
- Pressure from population expansion; poverty
- Human resources
- Land tenure systems/ land allocation

- Illegal logging and corruption
- Limited policy and institutional frameworks
- Forest fires
- unsustainable land use practices

Among the opportunities, the following were underlined:

- payments of ecosystem services
- Globalization, trade and new technologies
- REDD in terms of farmer compensation
- Forestry education and training

The need to consider global commitments and to take them into account at national and global scales (especially the deliberation of REDD plus in COP15) were also presented.

Working Group 3: Indigenous and local community aspects of REDD-plus: opportunities and challenges

Key questions:

- a.) What role can traditional knowledge play for the implementation of climate change mitigation measures?
- b.) What are the main opportunities and challenges in ensuring that REDD efforts will generate benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPsLC)?

Definitions – Common understanding

- Traditional Knowledge includes innovations, practices, knowledge, technologies, institutions, and adaptation (therefore relevant for mitigation AND adaptation!)
- Rights based approach (Article 8(j) of CBD) as part of participatory methods

Traditional Knowledge (TK)

- IPsLC are key stakeholders and TK is essential for effectiveness because many decisions about deforestation and forest degradation are taken at local level, and because holistic understanding of forest values can inform decision making.
- TK needed for formulation and implementation of national interest (in some countries, FPIC is part of national legislation)

Specific roles of Traditional Knowledge

- MRV: TK often the best or only way for cost-effective ground-truthing. Knowledge already exists, and IPsLC have an incentive to utilize the knowledge, in particular for forest degradation
- ‘Early warning system’ of threshold degradation levels: IPsLC the first to know impacts of degradation (e.g. depletion of rattan or other NTFPs and ecosystem services)
- Support forest law enforcement and governance through traditional governance systems, and through local reporting of infringements (e.g. poaching; illegal logging)
- Local and traditional governance systems as blueprint for benefit sharing
- Knowledge about NTFPs: value and benefits of medicinal uses; spiritual values
- Holistic knowledge and view of forests (e.g. spiritual values) can incentivize forest conservation and wise use
- Long-term memory of forest aspects can inform restoration: what species might work best in the long term
- Important role of ethnobotany as means to compile and make TK available
- Communication channels: traditional networks can be used e.g. for awareness raising and sharing of experience
- TK holds good examples for sustainable natural resource management and landscape level planning, thus linking forest sector and other landscape elements

Ensuring REDD benefits

REDD has potential benefits for forest-dwelling indigenous peoples and local communities, but indigenous peoples are likely to benefit more from REDD where:

- they own their lands;
- there is the principle of free, prior and informed consent, and

- their identities and cultural practices are recognized and they have space to participate in policy-making processes.

REDD Opportunities

- Secure forest values and benefits for future generations
- New and restored forests could provide more ecosystem and monetary benefits to IPsLC; local funds could support local development (e.g. infrastructure; schools)
- Higher organization and advocacy skills of IPsLC and open doors for IPsLC in other policy processes
- Establish inventory and increase understanding of full range of benefits (not only \$), e.g. food security
- Bundling of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Early involvement (e.g. in phased approach) strengthens chance that benefits are generated
- Engage women's role and interests in resource management

REDD challenges

- Incentivizes land grab (need to address key issues of governance; land tenure)
- Lack of awareness about full range of potential benefits for IPsLC - narrow focus on monetary benefits of REDD (but channel full range of benefits, including \$, to IPsLC)
- Lack of awareness and capacity of local and national authorities regarding IPsLC so that they are responsive

Annex II

WORKING GROUPS ON ‘MULTIPLE BENEFITS: LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION’

The Working Groups provided an opportunity to further discuss key challenges for forests and biodiversity with regards to climate change. They also facilitated an exchange of views among national focal points or country designated experts of UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC, with the aim of sharing relevant knowledge and lessons learned, strengthening coordination and collaboration and identifying key opportunities and challenges related to the linkages between forest-based adaptation and mitigation measures.

A main message of the ‘Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change’ of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is that forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are interlinked and should proceed concurrently. This has been echoed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change under the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, apart from the forest sector, the full potential of forests for climate change adaptation, as well as the need to adapt forests to climate change, is not fully recognized, and often poorly reflected in international discussions and national level implementation. Furthermore, national and international discussions about adaptation and mitigation measures often tend to be separate, leading to a limited interaction and engagement of experts at various levels.

Working Group 1: Forests for Adaptation: Opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation

Key questions:

- a.) What are the main opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation? Which successful examples exist in the region (e.g. mangrove restoration)?
- b.) How is forest-based adaptation reflected in the international debate, and in international financing opportunities?
- c.) What measures need to be taken to ensure that the potential of forest-based adaptation is fully recognized at all levels?

Working Group 2: Adaptation for Forests: Opportunities and challenges for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity

Key questions:

- a.) What are the main opportunities and challenges for the adaptation of forests to climate change?
- b.) Which SFM tools and approaches are the most promising when it comes to ‘making forests fit for change’? Which successful examples exist in the region (e.g. establishment of ecological corridors)?
- c.) How is the need for adaptation of forests and sustainable forest management reflected in the international debate, and in international financing opportunities?

Working Group 3: Linkages between adaptation and mitigation: coherence in policies and measures

Key questions:

- a.) What are main opportunities and challenges to create synergies between mitigation and adaptation policies and measures? Which successful examples exist in the region (e.g. forest landscape restoration)?
- b.) What are main opportunities and challenges to improve coherence between relevant forest-related national strategies and action plans (e.g. NBSAPs, nfps, or NAPAs)?

Key messages:

1. Countries address adaptation and mitigation as a package – coordination benefits from elevation of the issue to the highest government level (e.g. coordination body at PM Office)
2. Issues are addressed as overall framework on climate change, forestry or biodiversity
3. Holistic approach important – countries reported actual links at policy level, and on the ground
4. No UNFCCC commitments on mitigation, but developing countries in the region are doing a lot already
5. Broad range of examples (forest management, protected areas, restoration)
6. Most donor support on **enabling activities**, but very little on ‘substantive’ activities
7. Most funds should be under UNFCCC, not separate from Convention. Need to link adaptation and mitigation through Climate Funds, and at national level
8. Some adaptation issues are of urgent and of immediate concern, such as drought proofing, flood control, crop improvement; however, this area is not very well developed (e.g. ‘risk insurance’ and emergency credits for adaptation to the poor)
9. Negotiators depend on technical support and information from relevant Ministries and experts
10. Meetings between UNFCCC, CBD and UNFF focal points very useful
11. Early action is important, should not wait until all concepts and definitions have been finalized
12. National forest related strategies and action plans are often coherent, but their implementation sometimes is not. This has been improved through:
 - elevation of coordination to highest government level
 - if all relevant Ministries are represented on the coordination body by appointed experts (need for continuity)

Annex III

CHAIRS SUMMARY

Chair's Summary

Subregional Capacity-Building Workshop on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change

2-5 September 2009, Singapore Botanic Gardens

1. A significant amount of relevant information was shared in the course of these three days.
2. Insightful presentations by countries and international organizations helped to clarify various important aspects on forests biodiversity and climate change, including the role of forest conservation, sustainable forest management, topics related to land use, and the involvement of indigenous and local communities in REDD related activities.
3. Presentations provided by country designated experts offered a rich overview of the experiences and realities faced in implementation. In particular the following points were addressed:
 - Lessons learned in implementing relevant CBD and UNFF commitments in support of forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures
 - Opportunities and challenges of REDD pilot and demonstration activities and links with national adaptation efforts
 - Perspective for further interactions at national and regional levels for synergies between UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC
4. In this respect, participants highlighted the need to:
 - Keep in mind the need to implement current commitments on forests, biodiversity and climate change
 - improve and build governance frameworks
 - develop national information sharing networks
 - foster greater capacity building on technical issues
 - increase stakeholder participation in forest management
 - involve the private sector
 - integrate forest related commitments into national development plans and strategies
 - further enhance inter-agency cooperation and coordination
 - integrate and harmonize multi-sectoral approaches
 - encourage mechanisms for benefit sharing
 - promote greater synergy between the work of CBD, UNFF and UNFCCC.
5. Challenges were also expressed in the context of REDD aspects. Such included:
 - Need for better understanding of the coverage of REDD and REDD Plus (including within the UNFCCC negotiations)
 - need for baseline calculations and monitoring, verification systems and methodologies for REDD
 - limited investments to a few countries
 - lack of human resources and technical capacity
 - difficulty in addressing the complex implementation procedures and systems built around REDD (design measures, access to financing mechanisms, oversight of project implementation)
 - need to assess REDD and REDD plus in relation to other land use opportunity costs
6. In general the following opportunities were expressed:
 - need to better explore existing opportunities to embark in readiness plans, through UNREDD, FCPF and/or REDDES mechanisms

- involve stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the design of REDD approaches
- use sustainable forest management tools and practices, including nfps to integrate measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, mindful of other multiple benefits, in particular related to forest biodiversity
- the role of protected areas, their possible expansion and the effectiveness of their management, and exploring other methods of obtaining co-benefits
- use and develop criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management
- strengthen links to national development agendas and poverty reduction strategies
- additional options for addressing habitat loss and fragmentation
- provide training on conservation measures and strategies

Aspects for possible follow up

The following are points for consideration in view of possible follow up:

National level

- promote an inter-sectoral focus when addressing climate change mitigation and adaption;
- ensure that the communication exchange and interaction launched at this workshop continues and feeds into follow up implementation approaches at the national level;
- explore strategies and approaches, i.e. thru the use of nfps, to integrate measures to address forest biodiversity and climate change into national development plans;
- Promote greater policy-science interactions especially when exploring forest-based climate change adaptation opportunities;
- Strengthen national forest science based information systems and promote related research measures;
- Continue to work with existing regional organizations, institutions and networks such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), FAO Regional Forestry Commission for Asia Pacific, APFNet, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization and AFP to further enhance forest cooperation in the region and help to facilitate a better understanding of forest-related global commitments and national implementation.
- Explore the potential of using the findings of the CPF Strategic Framework and the CBD AHTEG on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change in future capacity building activities, including in country pilot studies within the scope of the UNREDD, FCPF and /or ITTO REDDES.
- Include the forest sector in national adaptation programs and actions (NAPA) and national communications within the UNFCCC context.

Regional level

- Encourage CPF and its member organizations to continue to share their organization's regional and sub-regional experiences in addressing forest based climate change measures;
- Prioritize actions and look for potential synergies to better address climate change challenges that have significant implications on forest biodiversity;
- Tap upon the strengthen of existing regional institutions and their experiences in forest and climate related activities and initiatives;
- Sharing information on REDD-plus pilot activities with national and regional programmes.

International level

- Invite international organizations to consider undertaking policy briefs on science-policy linkages in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Encourage international organizations to examine ways of making forest scientific information more user friendly and appropriate to the geographic scale to which it is applied;

- Invite the CPF members to further provide a better understanding of the terms within the context of REDD and REDD plus;
- Explore the potential to carry out future capacity building workshops addressing specific concerns of REDD plus, taking into account COP15 outcomes.

Annex IV

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