IUCN

arbor*vitae*

The IUCN Forest Conservation Programme Newsletter Issue 40 2009

Negotiations: The US is in 'catch-up mode', having effectively been out of the negotiations during the Bush administration. 4

Feature: ...the only real fact is that if we don't act now for a change in the trends of GHG emissions, we are condemning the world to costly and unavoidable consequences. 8

Perspective: The distributional game is the most serious hurdle for progress. 13

Interview: This was the moment when REDD transformed from a theoretical discussion to a real possibility. 16

© FAO / Roberto Faidutti

Forest burning for pasture, Central African Republic. Will REDD make conservation or sustainable management an economically interesting alternative?

Forest and climate change

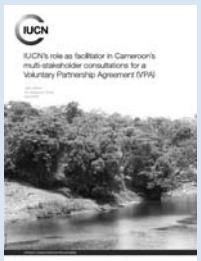
Contents:

AV40

This **arbor***vitae* is also available in French and Spanish on our website at www.iucn.org/forest/av

If you have a comment on something you have read in a recent issue of **arbor***vitae*, we'd love to hear from you. You can send a message to: jennifer.rietbergen@wanadoo.fr

IUCN's role as facilitator in Cameroon's multi-stakeholder consultations for a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)



A new report by IUCN member organization The Keystone Center evaluates the multi-stakeholder consultations undertaken as part of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiation process between the European Union and Cameroon. Both parties were committed to conducting transparent and participatory negotiations and Cameroon formed a multi-stakeholder technical commission to inform the development of their negotiating position. The EU and Cameroon tasked IUCN with facilitating the participation of civil society and the private sector in the technical commission and the VPA negotiations in Brussels. On the basis of interviews conducted with many of those involved in the multi-stakeholder consultations, the report identifies some of the key successes and challenges of IUCN's facilitation work and suggests recommendations for such efforts in the future.

The report is available at www.iucn.org/forest or by contacting Jamie Gordon, james.gordon@iucn.org.

Buitenlandse Zaken
Ontwikkelings samenwerking

DGIS is the Development Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Editorial

Things are heating up in the countdown to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Copenhagen in December. This 15th Convention of the Parties (COP15) will likely be the last chance for countries to agree on a new global climate treaty before the current one, the Kyoto Protocol, expires in 2012. There are many thorny issues and unanswered questions that need to be addressed – not least on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). The technical questions on REDD – such as how to deal with 'leakage' or how to monitor emissions reductions – are difficult enough but the political ones are even tougher. Resolving the question of how rich and poor countries should share their REDD responsibilities and commitments will be one of the biggest challenges facing the negotiators. On top of all this, climate adaption raises its own set of questions and concerns and here again forests are under the spotlight.

While there is speculation in some quarters that the Copenhagen talks are unlikely to arrive at consensus on the detailed modalities of future mitigation and adaptation mechanisms, there is general hope that agreement can be reached on the key principles necessary for making real and meaningful progress in the post 2012 period. IUCN believes that nature-based solutions such as REDD and Ecosystem-based Adaptation have an important contribution to offer. However in order for this to be realized, it is important that:

- Forest-based mitigation measures, rather than focusing narrowly on carbon, should be broad-based, encompassing the issues of sustainable natural resource use, biodiversity conservation and secure local livelihoods, and should address the concerns of forest-dependent people (with particular safeguards for the rights of indigenous people and women); and

- Adaptation measures need to take account of local climate coping strategies and livelihoods, and be based on an ecosystem approach (i.e. incorporating a range of local and landscape-level strategies that enable both people and nature to adapt in the face of climate change).

The importance of these principles is illustrated by the articles in this issue of **arbor***vitae* and we hope that the evidence and arguments put forward in the following pages will help focus and inform the debate on forests' role in climate change action.

***Stewart Maginnis** . Head of IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme*

news in brief

Europe to help bury China's carbon: According to a European Commission report released in June, Europe is to start moves to help China and India develop technology to trap and bury carbon dioxide underground. The technology, known as Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), involves isolating CO2 or other harmful gases in fossil fuel power plants and piping the gases into deep underground storage facilities. Still in its infancy, the technology is seen by some as the silver bullet solution to mitigating the climate change impacts of coal-fired power stations, while others see it as an expensive, untested option that diverts attention from the necessary move towards other, renewable energy sources. Under the proposed scheme, Europe will initially tap into about US$84 million of existing EU development funding for its EU-China Near Zero Emissions Coal demonstration project, but will also seek support from industry and taxpayers. According to the report, this is the sign of things to come as it predicts that by 2050, almost 60 per cent of CO_2 emissions from the power sector will be treated this way, compared to virtually none today.
Source: www.planetark@org, 21 June 2009.

Peruvian victory for indigenous tribes: In June, Peru's Congress revoked two controversial land laws that had sparked two weeks of violent conflicts between indigenous protesters and police in the country's Amazon region. The laws would have facilitated foreign investment in the Peruvian Amazon for logging, mining and energy projects. Indigenous groups said the decrees threatened millions of hectares of rainforest and undermined their traditional land-use rights. President Garcia had initially refused to hear the tribes' demands but later backed down, and apologized for the violence and for failing to consult with the indigenous groups before passing the laws. "There comes a time to recognize that there were a series of errors," he said in a speech in which he urged Congress to strike down the two laws. (See the article on page 12 of **arbor***vitae* 38 which highlighted the conflicts brewing in the Peruvian Amazon from the oil and gas prospecting that was planned in the area).
Sources: www.mongabay.com, 19 June, 2009 and www.reuters.com, 18 June, 2009.

Making REDD fit reality

Clearing a farm plot. Rotational forest-farm systems will pose problems for REDD

Gill Shepherd of IUCN's Livelihoods and Landscapes initiative looks at some of the tough challenges facing REDD.

REDD challenges many long-standing people-and-forest problems in developing countries, including ambiguities of tenure, poor forest governance, and a reluctance on the part of the state to give forest-dependent people the right to benefit from forests. To this we might add the fact that the state has never found it convenient to understand alternating forest-agriculture fallowing systems, though these are probably the commonest way in which forest is used by local people.

The farming system in western Ghana

One of IUCN's Livelihoods and Landscapes (LLS) learning sites – Wasa Amenfi in south-western Ghana – illustrates some of these issues very clearly. Here, cocoa, other tree crops such as cola nut, and favoured agricultural crops, are grown on a rotational fallowing basis – the short agricultural fallows intersecting with longer 20-25 year cocoa cycles. While there would seem to be plenty of forested land to a casual eye, all land is in fact individually owned farm or fallow land æ(apart from state forest reserves) and is in a process of succession from one condition to another.

It can be difficult to visualize the strategies of a farm household, and impossible to see what is going on unless a farmer takes you to all his/her scattered plots and explains how far through the cycle each one is. The cycle always begins with the clearing of forest, or old cocoa plots, but for every plot cleared another is going out of production somewhere else.

REDD challenges

REDD's intentions are currently deeply challenged by the kind of forest land use described here. Some of these challenges include:

- Finding forested land which could be credited for REDD purposes, and which will not subsequently be cleared.
- Problems of unclear land tenure, particularly where migrants have farmed lands for long periods. Land payments made may be seen as rental by owners and as purchase by migrants.
- Limited benefit to the poor; any small patches of primary forest still found belong to wealthy individuals (and are mainly on hilly lands unsuitable for cocoa). REDD will not help the much larger numbers of poor people in these zones.
- Finding pro-poor cash distribution mechanisms – e.g. through chiefs - will be difficult. And chiefs distribute land-based payments only to indigenes, not to migrants.
- Monitoring the mosaic: farmers' plots are intermingled all over the landscape, and the resulting land-use patchwork presents a major monitoring challenge. Will notional REDD benefits be worth the effort and expense of trying to deliver them?

Proposals for the future

What does the western Ghana farming system suggest is needed, to give REDD value and attractiveness in an intensively farmed, and partially forested landscape?

For one thing, REDD should follow lessons learned in the past from contract tree-farming and out-grower schemes, offering models for poorer as well as wealthier farmers. It should be possible to award carbon credits for tree-retention for shorter as well as longer periods – and to count cocoa as a kind of tree.

In Ghana, the long out-of-date divorce between tree-tenure and land-tenure needs to be brought to an end. Reuniting the two kinds of tenure would result in an explosion of farmer timber-tree protection and planting.

Provision for the registration of planted trees (already being promoted by IUCN in the district in question) and in due course for the registration of protected trees, can provide a neat monitoring mechanism for REDD.

Contact: Gill Shepherd, gillshepherd@compuserve.com. Gill leads the Poverty and Landscapes theme of the Livelihoods and Landscapes initiative.

Climate negotiations: the story so far

Claire Parker sums up the state of play in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Amidst warnings from the scientific world that climate change is a more serious and urgent threat than was previously thought, a new UN agreement on climate change is being negotiated. There is still hope that it will be ready in time for adoption in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

The latest round of negotiations between the countries who are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and who are working on a new, and hopefully scaled-up, climate change regime, ended on 12 June in Bonn. It will be followed by at least three more negotiating sessions before the Copenhagen Conference, where the final deals should be struck and an agreement adopted.

The US is in 'catch-up mode', having effectively been out of the negotiations during the Bush administration.

A new regime is under discussion partly because the commitments taken under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol by industrialized countries (minus the US) expire in 2012 and partly because there is an expectation that non Kyoto Protocol countries – the US in particular but also the major developing countries – should play a role in addressing climate change. Agreement is made more urgent as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advised in 2007 that to stabilize the greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere at approx. 450ppm CO_2 equivalent and prevent a rise in global average temperature of more than 2°C, industrialized countries need to reduce their emissions by 25 to 40 per cent over 1990 levels by 2020 and by 80 to 95 per cent by 2050. Results of research since 2007 have indicated that, to limit the temperature rise to 2°C, even larger mitigation efforts may be needed. They also show that the effects of climate change are already being felt, and that they are disproportionately affecting the poorest countries: although all countries will need to adapt to climate change, the developing countries – in particular the most vulnerable – will need financial assistance to do so. The 'adaptation needs' are huge: the estimated costs amount to tens of billions of US dollars a year.

The four big issues negotiators have to address are: what reduction targets will industrialized countries (including the US) commit themselves to? What are (major) developing countries prepared to do to curb their emissions? What financial assistance will be made available by developed countries to assist developing countries to adapt? and how will these sizeable finances be 'governed', i.e. distributed?

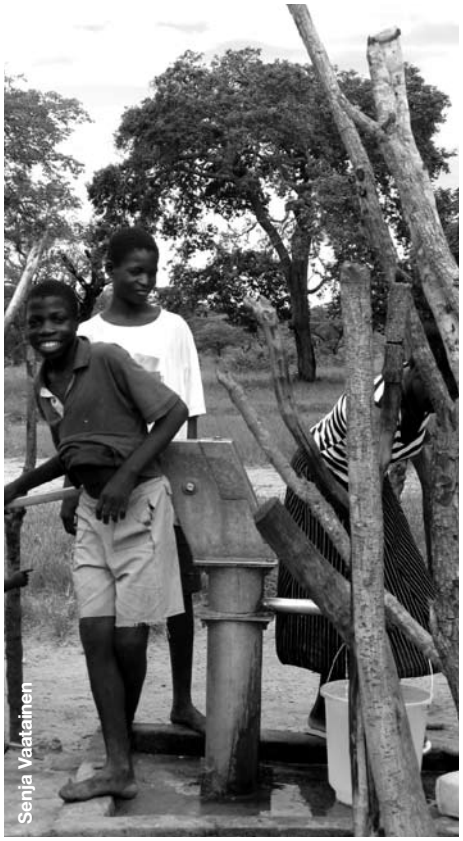
The EU has adopted a leading role on mitigation, having announced in 2008 mitigation targets of 20 per cent by 2020, and 30 per cent if an international agreement is in place whereby other industrialized countries take similar commitments. The US is in 'catch-up mode', having effectively been out of the negotiations during the Bush administration. The Obama administration has pledged a 17 per cent reduction over 2005 levels by 2020, which comes down to getting back to 1990 levels by that date, and tougher action in the following decades. Other countries like Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have come up, or are likely to come up, with relatively weak targets which are mostly contingent on the major developing countries taking commitments. Russia, whose 1990 emissions were far higher than they were at the end at that decade, and only started to rise again in the mid-2000s has announced a 10-15 per cent reduction target over 1990, but that is a 30 per cent rise between 2007 and 2020.

Developing countries' emissions are rising fast, and if unchecked, will undo the results of cuts by developed countries.

Developing countries' emissions are rising fast, and if unchecked, will undo the results of cuts by developed countries. Developing countries agreed in 2007 (in the 'Bali Action Plan') that they would take 'nationally appropriate mitigation actions' (NAMAs). These actions are strictly voluntary, but at the same time need to be 'measurable, verifiable and reportable'; they principally concern the 'major' developing countries. NAMAs will be one of the most debated issues between now and December. Developing countries will continue to oppose any (new) differentiation between them (whether in terms of 'major', 'poor' or anything else than 'most vulnerable', a category recognized in the Convention). Other key issues being debated include leakage (greenhouse gas emissions being reduced in one place and replaced by an unchecked source in another) and most importantly, financial and technological assistance for mitigation by developing countries. Many negotiators believe that finance and its governance will be one of the last issues to be resolved in December.

Contact: Claire Parker, claire.n.parker@btopenworld.com
Claire is IUCN's Senior Climate Change Policy Advisor.

Preparing for climate change – experiences from Zambia



A borehole at Kalobolelwa school, a critical asset in this drought-prone area

Senja Väätäinen of IUCN outlines how coping strategies are evolving in different parts of the country.

Developing countries such as Zambia are considered highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, since a large part of their economy is dependent on climate-sensitive sectors (namely those dependent on natural resources) and their adaptive capacity is often limited by weak human and financial resources and by low institutional and technological capability.

As part of the pilot phase of its Climate Change and Development Project, IUCN has been undertaking a climate change vulnerability assessment in three rural areas of Zambia, as well as similar activities in Tanzania and Mozambique. This article looks at the preliminary findings from the Zambian sites.

The first area, covering the villages of Mulauli and Mutuka, is located within the Kapiri Mposhi district of central Zambia. Kapiri Mposhi is within easy reach of Lusaka and has good connections to the capital. The road network connecting the villages within the district is also in good condition, which explains the presence of many organizations and programmes in Mulauli and Mutuka. The area receives about 1200mm of rainfall per year.

...better access to meteorological information and improved housing and hygiene were identified as the best options for enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change.

In contrast, the second site, focusing on the two villages in Kalobolelwa area in Sesheke district is in the south-western part of the country, where the climate is affected by the Kalahari Desert. Here, annual rainfall averages only about 650mm. The road from Kalobolelwa to the nearest town is in very poor condition and the village is largely isolated from the outside world. Here, unsurprisingly, the presence of climatic stress is more obvious. Indeed, all the livelihood groups consulted during the study cited drought as the main climate hazard in the area. In Kapiri Mposhi, on the other hand, there was some variation between the different livelihood groups. Farmers reported that drought had caused major impacts on their livelihoods while beekeepers considered both drought and excessive rains to be harmful to their livelihood activity.

Farmers in Kapiri Mposhi had already been exposed to conservation farming methods that help them cope with excessive rains or dry spells. They have also already diversified their livelihoods to beekeeping and understand the importance of forest conservation for this activity (although there is still a considerable amount of charcoal being produced in the area for sale in the capital). More systematic and consistent application of conservation farming methods, introduction of water harvesting and irrigation, better access to meteorological information and improved housing and hygiene were identified as the best options for enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers to climate change.

In Kalobolelwa the current coping strategies used in case of drought don't provide sustainability, and ideas for alternative coping strategies were lacking. For example the community representatives couldn't consider other options for coping with poor germination of crops than replanting. For income diversification, piece work such as handicraft production or farm labouring were offered as possible short-term solutions.

On the basis of these findings, discussions with the local agricultural extension officer and the village headman suggested that the introduction of small-scale irrigation and water harvesting systems, improved extension services and weather forecast information, the introduction of conservation farming methods, gardening and multipurpose trees and improved access to markets could help people in Kalobolelwa better adapt to climate change.

IUCN's Climate Change and Development Project will respond to these adaptation needs by providing technical assistance for the implementation of some of the prioritized adaptation activities and by helping secure more funds for these efforts. In addition, collaboration with the government extension services will provide continuity for the adaptation processes and the information and experiences gained through this project will be gathered and used in policy dialogues with the Zambian government.

Contact: Senja Väätäinen, Senja.vaatainen@iucn.org

Corridors: routes for adaptation

David Suárez-Duque, **Susan V. Poats**, **Tatiana Castillo** and **Tania Delgado** of the Corporación Grupo Randi-Randi highlight the importance of conservation corridors for climate change adaptation.

Biological corridors have conventionally been seen as a means of countering habitat fragmentation and facilitating species movements between protected areas. Our NGO, Corporación Grupo Randi-Randi, has been promoting the establishment of one such corridor in the Ecuadorian highlands to connect two protected areas – the El Angel Ecological Reserve and the Golondrinas Protected Forest. The planned corridor project involves the establishment of farm and community-level management plans that outline areas for conservation of the natural vegetation and areas for productive activities. These local plans have the approval of Ecuador's Ministry for the Environment as a strategy for zoning and managing natural resources within and around the protected areas.

Climate change is inevitable. However, by creating corridors between biodiversity-rich reserves, we can at least ensure that species have natural areas to migrate to and can thus help prevent their extinction due to habitat loss.

Last year, we started to investigate the possible effects of climate change on the proposed corridor area. The study, financed by the MacArthur Foundation, looked at potential impacts at both the landscape and the plot level. At the landscape scale, using the HadCM3-A2 scenario put forward by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we looked at possible changes in the corridor's floral diversity over a 70-year time horizon. At a plot level we implemented the GLORIA monitoring protocol in the upper slopes of the corridor. As a result of the scenario modelling, we have identified areas where changes in species richness are forecast and areas where new species might potentially colonize, or where they might be extinguished. The majority of the zones to which species might migrate were found to be outside of the two protected areas. At the same time, other species are expected to colonize the protected areas, changing the current structure of these natural ecosystems. This has caused us to reconsider our own view of corridors. While we had initially aimed to simply connect the two protected areas through community conservation, we now see that the corridor will be important as a means to enable species to adapt to climate change. This is particularly the case in this area as high-altitude ecosystems are likely to suffer more from climate change impacts than lower lying areas.

Climate change is inevitable. However, by creating corridors between biodiversity-rich reserves, we can at least ensure that species have natural areas to migrate to and can thus help prevent their extinction due to habitat loss.

Importantly, these corridors should have multi-altitudinal features, since this variation in altitude within the corridors will provide the necessary escape routes for species to survive climate change.

Contact: David Suárez-Duque, davsua@gruporandi.org.ec.

Corporación Grupo Randi-Randi is an Ecuadorian NGO which has been a member of IUCN for five years.

Participatory planning in the corridor route

Importantly, these corridors should have multi-altitudinal features, since this variation in altitude within the corridors will provide the necessary escape routes for species to survive climate change.

Adapting to climate change: learning from local knowledge

Edmund Barrow of IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme calls for more learning from, and support for, customary drought management strategies.

With climate change now a centre-stage issue, many 'fixes' are being proposed and debated. But we don't seem to be learning from the time-tested knowledge and institutions of those living in harsh, risk-prone drylands, for whom the vagaries of climate are a daily reality. On the contrary, the drought management strategies of pastoralists (the dominant land users of these environments) have been compromised by political, development and conservation strategies that have resulted in the conversion of the best ('wetter' or richer) drylands for agriculture, human settlement and reserves.

Some of the detailed risk management strategies that pastoralists have developed to help secure a continuous supply of food are outlined below.

Livestock: Livestock mobility, over space and time, optimizes use of the range where rainfall is spatially and temporally very varied. Livestock diversity (grazers and browsers) reduces risk from disease, droughts and parasites, which is further supported by redistributing assets through mutually supportive networks, including herd splitting.

The range: Large and diverse ranges comprising wet, dry and drought time grazing areas are managed as common property resources. Use of wild foods, particularly tree based, supplement reduced yields during dry times, as there is detailed knowledge of which species yield when and so the foods that can be harvested and stored. Tree conservation (and ownership) is vital to pastoral livelihoods, for conserving fodder resources, providing shade, and protecting a stream of other benefits that a wide variety of trees provide. There are many (usually tree based) products of real or potential commercial importance, for example gums, resins and medicinal plants. This all further spreads risk and enhances the resilience of the overall system.

> The drought management strategies of pastoralists have been compromised by political, development and conservation strategies that have resulted in conversion of the richer drylands.

Water: Water management for pastoralists is tightly controlled and rights are negotiated such that range and water management go hand in hand, and it is often the availability of water in the driest areas that gives livestock access to some of the highest value pastures.

Agriculture: Cultivation-based agriculture (rain-fed or irrigated) has been promoted to 'green the desert' but is fraught with risk. But, opportunistic rain-fed agriculture is practiced to spread risk, e.g. the Turkana of Kenya have 23 sorghum varieties that only need 60 – 90 days to mature.

Livelihood diversification: Mitigating risk from drought may involve diversification into distant labour or trading markets, as well as expanding the products being traded.

Institutions: Risk management, through traditional institutions such as '*Qaaran*' in Somali, '*Iribu*' in Afar, and '*Buusa Gonofa*' in Borana, are diverse and include ways to support pastoralists who have lost livestock due to drought, raids, and diseases. These social safety nets enhance labour sharing and security during periods of stress.

We need to respond to this wealth of knowledge by:

- Better understanding customary systems, to reinforce them instead of undermining them;
- Consolidating pastoralist experimentation with research and extension that start from the community's perspective and are directed by them;
- Disseminating improved information on trees to facilitate increased primary production (e.g. water harvesting, natural regeneration and direct seeding);
- Informing policies of the logic of pastoral mobility and flexibility for conservation, resilience and productivity of the rangelands;
- Enhancing indigenous coping strategies and providing new options for risk management; and
- Strengthening the pastoral economy by reducing the susceptibility of pastoralists to volatile terms of trade, increasing marketing opportunities and access, and developing alternative and complementary livelihoods for pastoralists and ex-pastoralists.

If we agree that pastoralist and dryland people have a deep knowledge and institutional base for the management of risk in dry climates, and that many of these landscapes are likely to be severely impacted by climate change, then we may ask "will such coping and risk management strategies be resilient enough to cope with expected changes in climate?" If they are not, this is not an excuse to ignore such systems, but a challenge for us to learn from them and see how they can be adapted, changed and enhanced as part of local and national strategies to adapt to a changing climate. We ignore such knowledge systems and institutions at our peril.

Contact: Edmund Barrow, Edmund.Barrow@iucn.org

REDD will need to address land-use change – here, from forest to plantation crops

REDD-plus: will the 'broad bridge' hold up under the strain?

Consuelo Espinosa Proaño
of IUCN calls for a broad-based approach to forest-based mitigation as a bridging mechanism towards a low-carbon economy.

In 2007, when the Bali Action Plan introduced REDD as a possible method of mitigating climate change, it thereby expanded the potential role of forests in the post-2012 climate change regime. Forests have the capacity not only to 'sink' carbon through afforestation and reforestation activities (as already accepted by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol), but also to conserve and enhance global carbon stocks.

Linking all these possible activities with the principles of sustainable development is crucial for creating an effective and equitable climate mitigation mechanism. IUCN believes that any climate change mitigation activity should target the sustainable use of natural resources and the maintenance of biodiversity, in order to achieve healthy ecosystems and secure livelihoods for forest-dependent people.

The overarching conclusion of the 4th IPCC Assessment Report, as well that from the Stern and Eliasch reviews, points to forests-based options as cost-effective, significant and timely contributions to stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs). These studies also suggest that there is a need to avoid fixed, narrowly-defined mechanisms that focus solely on carbon. This broad-based

...the only real fact is that if we don't act now for a change in the trends of GHG emissions, we are condemning the world to costly and unavoidable consequences.

REDD can be seen as a temporary 'bridging mechanism' on the way to a low-carbon economy

approach is one that IUCN is very much promoting.

In addition, IUCN believes that forest-based mitigation activities under REDD are more likely to be successful if they:

- explicitly complement progressive forest governance reforms (such as those being put in place to tackle illegal logging);
- respect and reinforce the rights of forest-dependent people (including indigenous people); and
- underpin the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

More recent scientific reviews have shown that the 4th IPCC Assessment Report was probably overly optimistic in its estimate of what degree of warming constitutes dangerous climate change. The 0.6°C increase in global average temperature seen over the last century is already linked to elevated extinction risk among several taxa: 35 per cent of birds, 52 per cent of amphibians and 71 per cent of warm water corals. Even more alarming is the message from the Tyndall Centre which indicates that stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of GHGs below 450 ppm will be virtually impossible if land-use change is not systematically addressed.

Significant emissions reductions could be achieved from reduced deforestation and forest degradation, hence providing an 'immediate' response to stabilizing GHG emissions (although the speed with which REDD can be implemented varies from country to country). If we analyze this moment in time within a longer timeframe of changes in technology, in sources of energy and in land-use, REDD could be seen as a 'bridging mechanism' towards a low-carbon economy. In fact, REDD would not be an acceptable option 20 or 30 years from now, since at that stage forests will need to have reached a stabilization point, following the major reductions in deforestation that are needed now.

If there is to be any possibility of effectively positioning REDD as a bridging mechanism, its scope needs to include all the elements mentioned in the Bali Action Plan: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. This is what it is now understood as REDD-plus.

Conservation as a mitigation option is especially relevant in largely intact naturally forested landscapes, and can be achieved through a range of measures, including protected areas. The benefit of including existing forest carbon stocks within a REDD-plus regime is to avoid the risk of large-scale international leakage. However, such an option should be only considered if the post-2012 climate treaty achieves strong participation from those countries facing high deforestation rates.

Enhancing forest carbon stocks through restoration of degraded forests represents an important option. There are 850 million hectares of degraded forest lands that are unlikely to be converted to another land-use. The UNFCCC estimates that the restoration of these lands could save approximately 117 Gt of CO_2 equivalent by 2030 – which is one-and-a-half times the estimated potential CO_2 saving available from avoiding deforestation until 2030. Indeed the restoration of degraded forests offers a triple climate benefit: avoided emissions from further degradation, significant additional sequestration, and enhanced ecosystem and livelihood resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Readiness processes

Currently we are confronting one of the lessons that we learned from the negotiations of including forests within the CDM, when little attention was given to the preparation countries would need for the implementation of this mechanism. The REDD readiness phase is a key process that countries will require for defining, in a participatory manner, the national opportunities for REDD. This process involves identifying and understanding some of the trade-offs this decision will imply. Countries will also need to assess shortcomings in their forest governance, rights systems and knowledge for implementing REDD, while targeting other environmental and social objectives. Any country interested in REDD inevitably needs to carry out a real assessment of the national drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and incorporate them in any pre-existing national forest strategy.

Enabling countries to carry out this first phase will require a flow of sufficient and equitable resources to support activities such as participatory consultation, capacity-building, institutional strengthening, and efforts to improve forest governance and enforcement (including the revision or strengthening of carbon rights and benefit-sharing mechanisms). It is also important that donors enhance coordination actions to avoid duplication of these kinds of 'readiness' efforts at a national level.

Parties of the UNFCCC have less than six months to reach agreement regarding the incorporation of REDD-plus in the next climate change regime. Three additional meetings have been already scheduled prior to the COP15 in Copenhagen to allow additional time for parties and observers to recognize their points of consensus, discussing their concerns, and identify ways in which the inclusion of a broader scope of forests could be part of the post-2012 agreement. While many uncertainties persist, the only real fact is that if we don't act now for a change in the trends of GHG emissions, we are condemning the world to costly and unavoidable consequences. IUCN is actively contributing to the global effort to build consensus and support for broad forest-based climate action and I am optimistic that agreement will be reached.

Contact: Consuelo Espinosa Proaño, cespinosa@iucnus.org

Will REDD make a difference?

Arild Angelsen of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and CIFOR gives a 'cynical optimist's' view on whether REDD will work.

REDD is not only a buzzword in climate negotiations. The mechanism – and the potentially large amount of money and policy reforms associated with it – might become the tallest landmark in modern forest conservation history.

REDD is based on a simple idea: reward individuals, communities, firms, projects and countries that reduce forest-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the proponents it has a *huge potential* (one-fifth of current global GHG emissions), is *cheap* (many deforestation and degradation activities are only marginally profitable), can be done *quickly* ('stroke-of-pen' reforms and no new technologies needed), and produce *win-win-win* outcomes (climate, biodiversity and livelihood benefits).

Contrast this optimism with the dismal record of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, a very mixed history of forestry and forest conservation projects, continuously high deforestation over several decades, and the temptations (read: corruption) that big money tends to generate. The most important question to be asked about REDD is thus: *Why should we succeed this time?*

...many good brains and practitioners are working hard to find innovative ways of making REDD come true.

To achieve the main aim – reduced emissions – REDD must succeed at different levels. First, at the ***international*** level, sufficient funding must be mobilized, and sound mechanisms established to channel funding to countries. The post-2012 climate protocol to be agreed on at COP 15 in Copenhagen (or at later meetings), must include REDD and significant funding mechanisms.

Although all countries may have an interest in minimizing climate change, the interests in the global negotiations are divergent. One common assumption is that rich countries should pay poor countries to reduce forestry emissions. Looking at it cynically, as I'm trained to do as an economist, poor countries have an interest in maximizing funding received while doing as little as possible about their deforestation and degradation. Rich (Annex I) countries have the opposite interest: they want as much "bang for their buck" as possible, including some costs to be borne by REDD countries themselves. Rich countries also want to use REDD (and mitigation in poor countries generally) to partially offset their domestic emissions reduction targets.

This leads to a distributional game about '*who will pay how much for what*'. Should, for example, middle income countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Gabon and Malaysia not assume higher responsibilities and commitments than poor nations like DRC, Tanzania and Laos? Being labeled as poor (non-Annex I) can be lucrative. This game is the most serious hurdle for progress in climate negotiations.

Second, at the ***national*** level, the REDD money received must be used to undertake policy reforms and create incentive mechanisms that deliver real emissions reductions. Many actors will be seeking REDD rents – and 'rent seeking' is the root cause of corruption. Good governance reforms won't come easy and we know from the aid and conditionality experience that aid is not effective as a means to buy political (or policy) reforms. REDD success therefore hinges on domestically-driven democratic reforms.

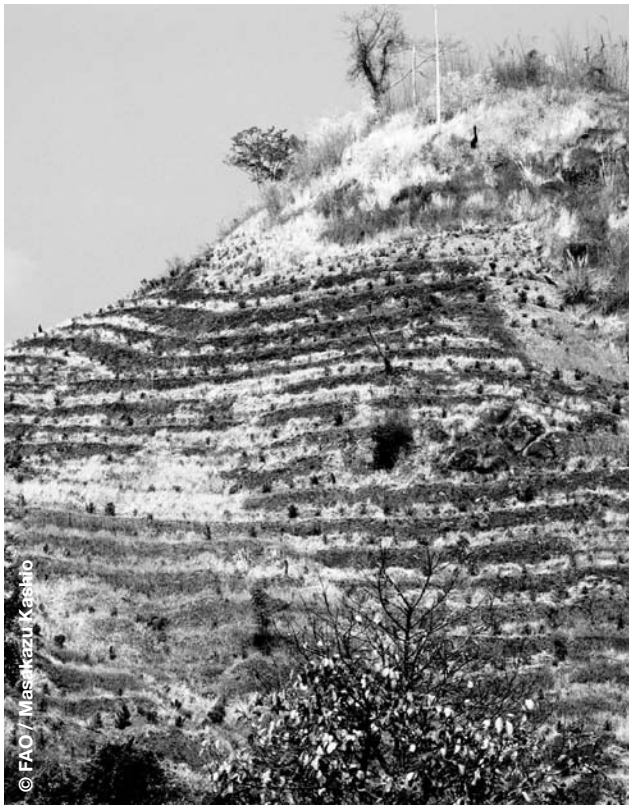
Effective REDD policies must also be identified and designed. Many foresee that REDD can be simply an upscale of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) systems, to make forest conservation profitable by paying those that reduce deforestation and degradation. But implementing PES down to village, household and firm levels is information-intensive and costly. More importantly, many deforestation hotspots are characterized by unclear land rights and weak access controls. Who are to be paid in those situations? PES systems will therefore have to be complemented by old-fashioned forest conservation and broader policy reforms.

Will REDD make a significant difference in climate change mitigation? I choose to be an optimist, and can see some grounds for this stance. First, increasing evidence of climate change impacts will make international negotiators and political leaders more focused on action than on who should pay. Second, REDD has sufficient momentum to generate substantial international funding. Third, many watchdogs create awareness of any mismanagement, corruption and inefficient uses of REDD money. Fourth, international REDD payment will – much more than development aid – be linked to performance and measureable results. And finally, many good brains and practitioners are working hard to find innovative ways of making REDD come true.

In 10 years, I think we will probably look back and say: in spite of – and partly because of - our sound initial skepticism, REDD actually came to make a real difference!

Contact: Arild Angelsen, arild.angelsen@umb.no.
Arild is Professor in the Department of Economics and Resource Management at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, in Ås, Norway and is also Senior Associate with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in Bogor, Indonesia.

Integrating REDD into the post-2012 climate regime



Forest restoration – will it be included in REDD?

Chris Elliott of WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative looks at how REDD proposals are attempting to address concerns about effectiveness and feasibility.

Forests have a vital role to play in combating global warming, being the largest terrestrial source of carbon and the third-largest source of carbon emissions after coal and oil. Although their importance in addressing climate change is clear, forests have had a complex history in the international climate negotiations. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change calls on all nations to protect and enhance the reservoirs of carbon, including forests. In 2001, the Marrakech Accords made *afforestation* and *reforestation* projects in developing countries eligible to a limited extent for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This allowed developed countries to offset some of their emissions through projects in developing countries although only a handful of forest projects were developed under CDM.

The Marrakech Accords, however, excluded *deforestation* and forest *degradation* in developing countries. There were a number of reasons for this, including concerns that: (1) carbon stored in forests might not be *permanent* because it could be released in the future, due to human activities such as logging or natural disturbances such as drought; (2) protecting a forest in one place might simply result in deforestation in another area (*leakage*); (3) deforestation 'avoided' by the project might not have happened anyway (*additionality*); and (4) data and methodologies were not available and/or sufficiently accurate. Another key concern at the time of the Marrakech Accords was that developed countries would have fewer incentives to reform their economies if they were allowed to offset emissions with projects in developing countries.

Proposals for a post-2012 REDD mechanism have started to address the concerns around leakage and permanence of forest carbon. Widespread acceptance of the need to develop national-level REDD programs goes a long way towards addressing leakage concerns around project-level initiatives. Various options have been proposed to address the risk of non-permanence, including buffers (i.e. only 'selling' a proportion of the emissions reductions into the system), pooling of multiple forest areas, discounting (i.e. applying a discount factor to the emissions reductions achieved) and insurance and liability schemes.

Several key questions today shape the debate around REDD. They include:

- How should REDD be included in the post-2012 agreement?
- How can developing countries produce measurable and verifiable emissions reductions through REDD?
- How should REDD be financed?
- What is the appropriate scope of REDD (i.e. deforestation, forest degradation, soils, reforestation, etc.)?

These questions are not yet resolved but it is increasingly clear that a national-level approach to REDD in developing countries should be adopted in which activities fit into a national framework and accounting system. The system will need to be built in three phases – *Planning, Preparing* and *Executing* – that have clear, internationally approved standards and internationally pre-defined criteria for graduating from one phase to the next, implemented by a UNFCCC-defined international institutional REDD mechanism. An international mechanism is also needed to approve and periodically review country baselines that determine business-as-usual scenarios. Baselines will determine whether 'real' reductions are actually occurring. The post-2012 climate agreement will need to secure measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) REDD actions with increasing security as the country moves through the phases.

Contact: Chris Elliott, celliott@wwfcanada.org.
Chris is Director of WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative.

Financing options for REDD-plus: the issues at stake

Demarcating a community forest in Cambodia. To be successful, REDD-plus will need agreement on issues of ownership, tenure and governance

Carmenza Robledo of Intercooperation outlines the current thinking on REDD-plus financing.

The forerunner of REDD – Emission Reductions from Deforestation in Developing countries – first appeared on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC in 2005. Since then, forest degradation has been added to the concept and the current term being used in the negotiations, REDD-plus, is even more inclusive, encompassing the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

Over the last four years there has been progress on both the methodological and financial issues surrounding REDD. According to a 2007 study prepared for the UNFCCC secretariat, the yearly opportunity cost of REDD is around U$12 billion. After discounting commercial activities, the yearly opportunity cost for reducing 65 per cent of the emissions form deforestation and forest degradation is around U$5.6 billion. These figures do not include any kind of transaction cost associated with fulfilling methodological or procedural requirements made by the COP.

Many financing options have been discussed and some agreement has been achieved around the following points:

- A mixture of funding sources is required for REDD-plus activities. This mixture can include overseas development assistance (ODA) money in the form of grants and also loans and investment capital.

- Countries with REDD-plus potential are in different circumstances. While some are ready to start concrete activities, others need to improve their institutional and human resource capacities in relation to, for example, data availability or the transformation of forest data into accurate carbon accountability. In recognition of these different circumstances, a phased approach has been proposed, that includes a 'readiness' phase and a 'full implementation' phase. Activities during the readiness phase are likely to be at least co-funded by ODA money. Some existing funds as the FCPF of the World Bank have already some experience with this readiness idea.

- Markets for REDD-plus credits are an issue still under discussion. The success of such markets would depend not only on the creation of a carbon trading mechanism, but also on the existence, or stimulation, of sufficient demand. This demand, in turn, will depend on the share of commitments that Annex I countries (developed countries) will be allowed to achieve non-domestically.

Experience has demonstrated the advantages and disadvantages of ODA funds. On the one hand, ODA funding opens up opportunities for social groups that would not otherwise have access to external resources, while on the other hand this funding suffers from a certain level of 'donor fatigue' and the proliferation of a development bureaucracy. Private investments often offer better returns and are probably more easily available but access to these investments is limited to specific stakeholders. Finding a healthy balance between different financing sources for REDD-plus remains a challenge.

Three other issues need to be mentioned here. During the negotiations on REDD-plus, one constantly heard the terms 'participation', 'clear ownership and tenure' and 'governance'. There seems to be a general agreement that these three issues are key for any success in implementing REDD-plus. However, these terms are interpreted quite differently by the different stakeholders involved in the negotiations.

Undoubtedly REDD-plus can be an opportunity for conservation and sustainable forest management, as long as the needs and concerns of local actors are properly addressed. It is unrealistic to expect that the international negotiations can deliver a detailed regulation that addresses all the different contexts for participation, ownership and tenure and governance. However a realistic requirement that should be given to the negotiators is to define a framework that allows REDD-plus to be used under different contexts, with appropriate safeguards to promote sustainability and prevent any escalation of conflicts. Furthermore, the international stakeholders need to ensure the availability of a significant portion of the needed funds.

Once this groundwork is done, real progress can be made in developing REDD-plus activities in developing countries.

Contact: Carmenza Robledo, carmenza.robledo@intercooperation.ch
Intercooperation, a Swiss development NGO, has been a member of IUCN since 1992.

REDD: putting women at risk or providing opportunities?

Women with tree seedlings, Bangladesh

Jeannette Gurung of WOCAN highlights some of the gender differentiated impacts of REDD.

While REDD presents opportunities for positive social outcomes, it also brings risks of serious negative outcomes. The current discussions on REDD mechanisms and impacts have paid little attention to the gender differentiated impacts of REDD, in terms of the increased vulnerability of rural women to its negative consequences and the opportunities that REDD presents for women. There are a number of concerns here that relate to the different roles, responsibilities and rights of women's and men's use of forest resources. Three of the main issues are:

1. Women as farmers: Due to existing gender roles that are defined by cultural norms and practices and women's primary responsibilities for food production/ preparation and household care, women's roles in forest management are usually limited to those of subsistence needs for fuelwood, medicinal products, fodder for livestock, and selling small quantities of fuelwood in local markets while men's roles are more likely to be linked to timber and NTFP extraction for commercial purposes. Women's greater responsibilities for crop and food production in most of the developing world render them more susceptible to the impacts of climate change, such as declining water supplies and increasing pest outbreaks.

2. Women as fuelwood collectors: The depletion of forest resources often severely increases women's labour and time for fuelwood collection for cooking and heating. Conservation measures that bar entrance into protected forests (as part of a nation's REDD program, for example) also increase women's labour and time demands, sometimes forcing parents to remove their children from schools to help with collection tasks. Monoculture tree plantations (as included in REDD programs) generally have negative impacts on women's livelihoods as they cannot provide the multiple benefits of fuelwood, fodder, medicine, water and soil nutrient retention, etc.

3. Women's land rights: Women are commonly without any formal rights to land or forests. Under statutory or customary laws, most tropical forests are owned by indigenous peoples or forest dependent communities but it cannot be assumed that women have equal rights with men to these lands. Land claims may be affected by privatization as corporations, international conservation agencies and governments scurry to acquire land for REDD.

There are many cases of women's groups successfully managing forestry and agroforestry projects, nurseries and woodlots, yet women continue to be nominal stakeholders in decision-making and planning. What assurance, therefore, exists that they will receive equal benefits and participation in REDD mechanisms? If decision-making processes of REDD fail to acknowledge the roles, skills and knowledge of women, the sustainable use and management of forest for climate change mitigation will be severely constrained.

Opportunities

Despite the very real risks that REDD poses to rural women, there are opportunities for it to make significant immediate and direct contributions to their livelihoods. It holds out the hope of rewarding the managers of forests for their efforts to protect, nurture and rehabilitate forests, while expanding community-based forestry systems that address the basic livelihood concerns of women and other forest-dependent groups. Thus it could reduce the vulnerability of women to climate change while also creating new financing and mechanisms to address poverty alleviation goals. REDD can reward women for their biodiversity stewardship (especially regarding saving seeds and nurturing trees) through targeted and effective public governance measures that pay them for their time.

It could provide a renewed focus on reforms to decentralize forest management and institutions, to make them more accessible and responsive to the needs of rural women, and to assure appropriate and equitable benefit-sharing for women of communities that are both forest-dependent and forest-enhancing.

Contact: Jeannette Gurung, jeannettegurung@wocan.org
Jeannette is Director of WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM). WOCAN, IUCN and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance hosted a workshop on 'Engendering REDD' in May. The aim of the workshop was to produce criteria and standards for making REDD initiatives more gender-sensitive. A report on the workshop is available from www.wocan.org.

Getting REDD right for forest people

Tambor Lyngdoh, a khasi leader in northeast India who has mobilized local support for conservation and community forestry

Mark Poffenberger of Community Forestry International calls for the climate mitigation negotiations to take account of the rights and concerns of forest dependent people.

Worldwide, it is estimated that there are between 1 and 1.6 billion forest dependent and indigenous people representing some of the poorest communities on earth. In many Asian countries, historic forest sector transitions are underway characterized by devolution of public forest lands management responsibilities to rural communities. The Philippines, Nepal, India, Cambodia, Bhutan, and Bangladesh have all launched national community forestry programs covering millions of hectares, while Vietnam, China, and Indonesia are exploring decentralization strategies. In India, 21 million hectares of forests are being protected by 100,000 villages who have substantially contributed to stabilizing that nation's forest cover after decades of deforestation. Forest cover on the island of Java increased from 1.27 million in 1985 to 1.87 million in 1997 largely due to the expansion of community-based agroforestry and forest gardens.[1] Forest-dependent communities have strong incentives to conserve local forests and represent a logical ally for initiatives that seek to reduce greenhouse gases from forests. They are often the best positioned stakeholders to control local drivers of deforestation, typically possessing extensive forest knowledge, and if they are not in possession of *de jure* forest rights, they often hold them on a *de facto* basis. A number of international indigenous peoples organizations and forest dweller groups are raising important concerns regarding their forest tenure and resource rights under REDD initiatives, including those over carbon credits, that need to be seriously considered during forthcoming negotiations.

Financing community-based forest conservation programs has been a challenge for many developing nations, especially as donor 'fatigue' sets in and bilateral and multilateral agencies shift funding priorities to other sectors. United Nations' efforts to forge a global forestry strategy over the past fifteen years have consistently failed to secure the major financing required to establish an international forestry fund. Some proponents of REDD see it as a mechanism to finance the expansion of participatory forest management systems to better conserve threatened forests while addressing long-standing tenure conflicts and poverty problems. To succeed in this mission, it will need to avoid past pitfalls. Earlier efforts to support afforestation and reforestation carbon projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol were limited by the restrictive eligibility criteria, complex methodologies, and burdensome and costly project approval requirements. By early 2009, only three forestry projects were approved out of 1613 registered as part of other CDM activities. As one analyst notes "small-scale projects have to bear the length of the approving process and the high transaction cost entailed by expertise and monitoring.[2]

National REDD can create incentives supporting the promulgation of enabling laws and policies that resolve forest tenure conflicts and protect natural forests from conversion to economic concessions, while sub-national projects are needed to support local communities and control local drivers of deforestation. A hybrid approach is required to address both national policy and field-level operational problems that are part of the complex and tiered structure of deforestation drivers. The financial architecture of REDD needs to be structured to allow funds flowing from international carbon credits to reach communities and other local project implementers, keeping transaction costs low and rewarding performance-based achievements. At the same time, public financing through multilateral and bilateral institutions is required to design and develop projects before carbon revenues are generated. Flexible project design and funding strategies will be essential to REDD's success and broad-based implementation.

[1] FWI and GFW. 2002. The State of the Forest: Indonesia. Bogor: Forest Watch Indoneesia and Global Forest Watch. p. 13. cited in Poffenberger, Mark. 2006. "People in the Forest: Community Forestry Experiences form Southeast Asia." *Int. J. Environment and Sustainable Development,* Vol. 5. No. 1.
[2] Karsenty, A. "The architecture of Proposed REDD Schemes after Bali: facing critical choices." *International Forestry Review*. Vol.10 (3) 2008, p.445.

Contact: Mark Poffenberger, MPoffen@aol.com
Mark is Executive Director of Community Forestry International, a US-based NGO (www.communityforestryinternational.org).

Forest governance and climate policies

Illegal logging is one of the key governance issues that need to be addressed

Fred Stolle of the World Resources Institute looks at the need for REDD to address forest governance issues as well as creating market incentives.

Policy-makers are recognizing the essential role that the world's remaining forests play in maintaining the global climate system. The political momentum generated by the Bali Action Plan under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will create a unique opportunity to put in place a framework of incentives that could curb deforestation, slow forest degradation, and improve the way forests are managed. To succeed, these incentives must strike at the main drivers of rampant deforestation and must also recognize the dependency of local communities on forest ecosystems for their livelihoods.

In the coming months, climate change negotiators have agreed to explore a mechanism for providing compensation for "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries" (REDD). Under most REDD proposals, compensation would be financed by the sale of these emission reductions as 'carbon offsets' to be used by regulated countries or companies to remain within their emissions limits.

However, will the promise of money for carbon alone create the conditions necessary to counteract the drivers of deforestation?

If a REDD mechanism is to succeed, competing pressures on forests will need to be managed fairly and effectively. REDD needs to strike at the heart of the drivers, which are not always directly linked to markets, but are as often factors of problems such as illegal logging, bad planning, lack of law enforcement, the absence of tenure rights, the lack of accountability, the lack of coordination and capacity of institutions that manage forest resources and the loss of revenues and other governance factors.

It seems thus apparent that REDD will need to do more than create market incentives. To make REDD effective, efficient and capable of achieving lasting impacts, these governance issues need to be addressed. However, to make these difficult governance improvements countries will need assistance, while these improvements cannot be directly translated into reduced emissions and thus cannot be paid for by carbon credits. There is thus a need for a payment mechanism phase either in parallel or prior to a market mechanism, for REDD to be successful.

Although this phase could not be measured by tons of carbon removed, it is clear that such a phase needs to be measured (and reported and verified), not to fall into the same trap of general development assistance (ODA) over the last decades that has had a low percentage of success. The concept of this governance phase is getting more attention lately and one option of such a phase has been described recently in the Norwegian government -Meridian Institute Options Assessment Report (2009), as the 'Implementation of policies and measures phase'.

To make this governance phase measurable and successful, governance indicators (qualitative and/or quantitative) need to be developed and agreed upon to be able to identify areas of improvement and hold governments accountable (both governments that supply funds and governments that receive funds). These indicators should cover a wide range of governance topics such as institutions, management, tenure, planning, etc.

Addressing climate change and especially deforestation worldwide will depend on the right incentives and the governance capacity to effectively use these incentives. To improve governance and ensure progress and accountability of governance, we need to develop measurable and agreed upon governance indicators.

Contact: Fred Stolle, FStolle@wri.org.
WRI has been a member of IUCN since 1983.

Gisela Ulloa, former Bolivian government negotiator on REDD and coordinator of the country's implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), talks to **arbor***vitae* about the current climate change negotiations.

What is your perception regarding the state of the current negotiations?

I think the financial crisis has become a barrier that hinders the possibility of reaching an agreement in Copenhagen. Developing countries require real funding for adaptation and this, combined with deeper reduction commitments of developed countries, means that enormous amounts of resources need to be in place for climate change issues alone. But the world has hope. Thanks to the election of President Obama, the major emitter of GHG could be part of a global deal; it is important to understand that without the US on board a Copenhagen Agreement would not work.

Discussions remain on the different positions of rich and poor nations: the former seeking to maintain their standards of living and the latter arguing for their right to develop and hope for the same standards. As I see it, both these positions are wrong because neither system is sustainable. The challenge is on countries and their citizens to understand that the fate of the rich and poor is linked and if we do not find a suitable intermediate path and begin to move towards that direction and change, we can expect the same bleak future for both.

I hope that in Copenhagen we can agree on deeper reductions in carbon emissions but so far this seems difficult; the numbers on the table are between 15 and 30 per cent by 2020, which is too low.

Alongside these real difficulties in the negotiations, can you tell us about some rewarding moments that you have seen in the process?

Looking back at the Bali Agreement, this was achieved at the last minute and after exhausting working hours; the historic session on that Saturday was full of tension and drama.

The G77 had been working on the Agreement for several days, and we had had very little sleep. As we were so tired on the Friday night, we decided to catch some sleep and leave the final review of the text until a special meeting of our group just before the plenary on Saturday morning, the last day of the negotiations. There was a moment of confusion and misunderstanding at the beginning of the plenary session as the chair didn't notice that the G77 were absent and began to proceed with the agenda.

Once the session was established again with the G77 present, and despite the fact that non-Annex 1 countries showed probably too much flexibility on the text of the Agreement, the US objected to it. Strong interventions by several Annex 1 and non-Annex 1 countries appear to have had an effect, as the US did cede and we all approved the text during the afternoon that day.

For REDD this was a great moment. The readiness phase began, the indicative guidelines were agreed, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility was launched and the indigenous movement began its call for the recognition of their rights. This was the moment when REDD transformed from a theoretical discussion to a real possibility.

If you lived through all that adrenaline in Bali, what do you imagine for the negotiations in Copenhagen?

I hope that between now and December some major event occurs that will bring about a greater flexibility in the positions of the different parties, to enable us to reach an agreement. I think we might not reach a detailed agreement, but one with clear targets in reductions that will lead to future discussions on innovative mechanisms to reduce emissions such as REDD, an improved scheme of the CDM and others.

This would not necessarily be a bad outcome. I am in favour of a strong general framework with significant reductions commitments. It is better not to reach an agreement at all if reduction targets are going to be weak.

The negotiation process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has produced, throughout its history, some very innovative schemes, from market mechanisms to offsets, funds and transfers. The next COP won't be an exception since REDD, as I envision it, will be a mechanism that will change the way the world manages its forests and will lead to a global recognition of the role of forests in climate regulation.

arbor*vitae*

The next issue of arbor*vitae* will be produced in December 2009 (copy deadline end October) and will look at forest finance and investment. If you have any material to send or comments please contact:

Jennifer Rietbergen-McCracken
85 chemin de la ferme du château
74520 Vulbens
France
jennifer.rietbergen@wanadoo.fr

Communications regarding the arbor*vitae* mailing list (subscription requests, address changes etc.) should be sent to Sizakele Noko, sizakele.noko@iucn.org

Back issues of **arbor***vitae* can be found on: www.iucn.org/forest/av

This newsletter has been edited by Jennifer Rietbergen-McCracken. Managing editor Jamie Gordon, IUCN. **arbor***vitae* is funded by DGIS. Design by millerdesign.co.uk.

Buitenlandse Zaken
Ontwikkelings samenwerking

DGIS is the Development Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed forests and other controlled sources
www.fsc.org Cert no.
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council

Acknowledgements
Adewale Adeleke (Ghana); Arild Angelsen (Norway); Edmund Barrow (Kenya); Chris Elliott (Canada); Consuelo Espinosa Proaño (US); James Gordon (Switzerland); Jeannette Gurung (US); Ninni Ikkala (Switzerland); Stewart Maginnis (Switzerland); Claire Parker (UK); Mark Poffenberger (US); Carmenza Robledo (Switzerland); Gill Shepherd (UK); Fred Stolle (US); David Suárez-Duque (Ecuador); Gisela Ulloa (Bolivia); Senja Vaatainen (Zambia).