



Views regarding Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

Submission of the Climate Action Network International* To the AWG-LCA, 30 September, 2008**

1. REDD in the post-2012 Regime

1.1 Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries (REDD) can contribute significantly to the mitigation of dangerous climate change.

1.2 REDD must be demonstrably consistent with the 2°C goal and the environmental integrity of the UNFCCC and the KP.

1.3 REDD negotiations must be informed by a clear understanding of the implications of different policy options for the stability, equity, effectiveness and environmental integrity of the international post-2012 regime.

1.4 Capacity building and support needs to be undertaken as a priority.

2. Positive Incentives

2.1 Significant and reliable streams of funding for REDD are required. This funding must be additional to official development assistance (ODA).

2.2 REDD must be additional to deep domestic emissions reductions by Annex I countries and must not create disincentives to the necessary transformation towards a future low carbon economy.

2.3 Funding for REDD must be tied to strong requirements for good governance in order to effectively address a range of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

2.4 REDD finance mechanisms must avoid or minimize international emissions displacement (IED).

* CAN is a coalition of more than 400 environmental and development non-governmental organizations in 85 countries worldwide, committed to limiting human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. CAN members meeting in Bali, Bonn, Tokyo and Accra developed the following set of Principles on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD).

** CAN-International welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs to the discussions moving towards a post-2012 agreement. This paper is CAN's response to the call for ideas and proposals on the elements contained in Paragraph 1 of Decision 1/CP.13 the LCA, in FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/L.7 with specific reference to REDD. These Principles require further elaboration to provide effective guidance for activities that are genuinely capable of achieving emissions reductions. CAN commends these principles to the Chair and to Parties for consideration and incorporation in forthcoming Decisions.

3. Policy Approaches for the Rights of Local and Indigenous Peoples

3.1 REDD mechanisms must recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to lands, territories and resources, their traditional uses of the forest, and their right to choose their own development. Implementation of REDD should directly benefit local communities and Indigenous Peoples and not lead to displacement of local communities or Indigenous Peoples from their territories and lands.

3.2 Parties that want to fund or benefit from REDD should implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ratify relevant Conventions related to local communities and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

3.3 A conflict-resolution mechanism must be incorporated within the overall framework to address any conflicts which might arise between governments, communities and other stakeholders.

3.4 Negotiations on REDD in the UNFCCC should be closely linked to discussions in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3.5 Any approach to REDD must ensure full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples and local communities in all stages of decision making, *inter alia* by establishing the same provisions for participation as those of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

4. Biodiversity

4.1 REDD must contribute to the conservation of biodiversity; impacts on biodiversity must be explicitly considered by REDD activities, rules and modalities.

4.2 REDD must encourage retention of carbon in natural forests, especially those of high conservation value, and exclude the conversion of natural forests to industrial forests or plantations.

5. Scope

5.1 REDD must reduce emissions from both deforestation and forest degradation.

5.2 REDD must also set positive incentives for countries with currently low deforestation and degradation to protect their natural forests.

5.3 The enhancement of forest carbon stocks would be more effectively dealt with via another mechanism.

5.4 REDD should not be a part of a project based CDM.

6. National and Sub-national Approaches¹

6.1 National approaches (e.g. national-level accounting, regulatory frameworks, reference levels, monitoring and enforcement systems) must be adopted in order to reduce transaction costs, address domestic leakage and ensure the integrity of baselines. National approaches are the most effective scale to address issues of permanence, through measures such as debiting, insurance, risk pooling, and buffers. International rules on permanence must be reflected in national rules.

6.2 The role of sub-national activities undertaken *under a national accounting framework* should be examined. The potential role and impacts of non-credited, time-bound sub-national activities as part of a strategy to develop a national level approach should also be examined.

6.3 Addressing international leakage requires additional measures and mechanisms, particularly for countries that have historically low deforestation rates.

7. Methodologies

7.1 Remote sensing methodologies should be coupled with ground-based measurements for robust assessment of changes in deforestation and degradation.

7.2 In order to strengthen the robustness of REDD, methodologies to measure degradation should be refined and assessed by an appropriate UNFCCC or affiliate body.

7.3 The UNFCCC should ensure that adequate guidance for the accounting and reporting of REDD activities is made available to Parties.

8. Definitions²

8.1 “Deforestation” - Direct, human-induced conversion of natural forest to non-forest land or plantation. The canopy cover threshold, demarcating the transition from native forest to non-forest land, should be defined for specific forest ecosystems.

8.2 “Degradation” - Direct, human-induced reduction in the natural carbon carrying capacity and carbon stocks of natural ecosystems

9. Rules and Modalities

9.1 A gross accountancy methodology should be used for measuring emissions; emissions from deforestation and degradation cannot be offset by any removals from other forest based activities.

9.2 REDD rules and modalities must protect the integrity of emission reduction commitments against the uncertainty associated with forest carbon fluxes and inventories.

9.3 REDD methodologies must account for all significant sources of emissions from deforestation, including those from soils in peat land forests.

^{1, 2} Conservation International, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy and Woods Hole Research Center did not endorse this Principle.