

28 February 2012

From: Dr. Jane N. O'Sullivan
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To: **UNFCCC Secretariat**
for attention of the SBSTA
secretariat@unfccc.int

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (SBSTA)

Submission in response to FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.25, paragraph 5:

The SBSTA invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 28 February 2012, their views on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in its paragraph 71(c). It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions from Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session.

Addressing Drivers of Deforestation Through Population Health and Environment Programs

Sustainable Population Australia thanks the SBSTA for this opportunity for input.

We request that

- population growth is acknowledged as a major driver of deforestation and forest degradation;
- the advice of SBSTA recommends identifying measures to reduce population growth in communities living in and adjacent to forests as an effective means of reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

We draw your attention to the relatively recent expansion and success of Population Health and Environment (PHE) programs, which excel in engaging with communities in vulnerable environments in an integrated manner that addresses their needs for health and livelihood while enhancing their commitment and capacity to protect their environment and the inheritance of their children.

We commend to you, as examples of best practice,

- WWF (World Wildlife Fund) PHE programs:
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/what/communityaction/people/phe/populationhealthenvironment.html>
- PHE Ethiopia Consortium www.phe-ethiopia.org

We trust that you will take this information into consideration in preparing recommendations to the COP.

Sincerely,
Jane O'Sullivan
For Sustainable Population Australia