

WORKSHOP ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION RELATED TO LAND-USE
Wednesday, 1 May 2013, 3–6 p.m.

Take home points from the Facilitator
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Participants in the second workshop under Workstream 2 on opportunities for mitigation and adaptation related to land-use held on Wednesday, 1 May 2013, engaged in a dynamic and interactive discussion and rich exchange of information. Delegates offered their views, suggestions and reflections on the two opening presentations and the questions in the Informal Note on the session (what national action can be undertaken at the national level to increase ambition, what incentives are needed for Parties to undertake these actions, what barriers Parties face and how they overcome them, and how international initiatives contribute to strengthening national action). I would like to highlight some of the many points I heard:

1. According to the UNEP Gap report, emission reductions in the annual global total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions can be achieved in the land-use sector. In particular, agriculture and forestry have the untapped potential to close the emission gap by 2020. Some Parties highlighted that emissions from these sectors constitute a large share of their national emissions and that they make efforts to curb the emission growth from land. A few Parties spoke about successes in decoupling of emission trends from economic growth pathways reached through improvements in land-use efficiency and productivity.
2. A great number of mitigation and adaptation actions already take place at all levels (local, subnational, national, international) in the land-use sector, and ample opportunities exist to scale up these actions. Parties exchanged views on implementation of national climate change strategies and mainstreaming of climate change considerations in policies addressing sustainable natural resources management, territorial planning, forest monitoring, agricultural production, etc.
3. Parties highlighted that multiple benefits, such as food security, sustainable livelihoods, economic and productivity gains, biodiversity conservation, and poverty alleviation, represent a major driving force behind national action.
4. Among policy priorities and best practices, Parties listed the following:
 - Promotion of sustainable development principles in forest management programmes;
 - Mainstreaming of adaptation priorities into agricultural land-use efficiency and productivity programmes;
 - Holistic approach to mitigation and adaptation in land use, including forest management;
 - Deforestation and illegal logging abatement programmes;
 - Piloting various financial incentive and investment schemes, market and non-market mechanisms, payment for ecosystem services schemes;
 - Investments in research and development, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building;
 - Community forest management and emerging markets support programmes, including bioenergy generation in rural areas;
 - Public-private partnerships and involvement of private sector.
5. In discussing the barriers for enhanced action, Parties highlighted several areas, where advancements could help Parties make a transformational change. Additional means of implementation could play a role in addressing barriers such as:
 - Limited access to financial resources and lack of long-term international funding;

- Poor enabling environments and institutional readiness for enhanced actions;
 - Vulnerability and non-permanence of forest resources as well as natural disasters risks;
 - Constrained access to low-cost effective technologies and limited capacity on the ground.
6. Some Parties highlighted that in the land-use sector the scale of research, and the quality of monitoring systems and data advanced substantially in the last 10-15 years. On-going improvements in data and methodologies in this sector, including for quantification and monitoring, are giving and will continue to give greater confidence to Parties to estimate emission reduction potential from the land.
 7. There was some convergence that reporting and accounting under the UNFCCC is a positive development that would provide added incentives to harness the mitigation potential of the land. Many Parties realised that even though the accounting systems are still evolving, they can take action and benefit by starting the process of learning by doing.
 8. Parties shared views on the importance of facilitation of international cooperation beyond the UNFCCC and potential involvement of other international organizations and partnerships, such as Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation programme and Partnership on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus. A number of Parties highlighted the role of the UNFCCC in relation to advancing climate action in the land-use sector, and the progress in on-going negotiations under the permanent subsidiary bodies and Conference of Parties.
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