

**Intervention by Brazil: ADP – TEM on Land Use – June 11<sup>th</sup> 2014**  
**Policies, Practices and Technology – Global State of Play**

*Objective: Share experiences on implementation of land use action with climate benefits, lessons learned, challenges and plans for further scaling up.*

In this Technical Expert Meeting on Land Use, we would like to highlight some experiences on implementation of land use action with climate benefits, lessons learned, challenges and plans for further scaling up.

*Experiences on implementation of land use action with climate benefits in the Amazon*

Emissions from land use change and forestry were responsible for about 80% of Brazil's emissions profile in 2000. Reducing emissions from deforestation in the Amazon biome was the center of national and international attention to our emissions, being the greatest environmental challenge we faced, specially in the last 10 years.

In 2005, deforestation rates in the Amazon biome started a continuous downward trend, culminating, in 2012, at more than four and a half thousand square kilometers (4.500 sq km), the lowest ever rate recorded by the Project for Monitoring Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PRODES), since we started to systematically measure deforestation in the 80's. According to the last preliminary estimated data, in 2013 the deforested area was equivalent to more than five thousand and eight hundred square kilometers (5.800 sq km), the second lowest in history. This data, when compared to 2004, indicates that the deforestation rate dropped by approximately 79% or 70% related to the projection by 2020.

And what were the underlying drivers of this change?

Studies point out the strong connection between the implementation of national policies and the decrease of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, in special, the implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon.

In 2003, the Federal government established a Permanent Interministerial Working Group, to propose and coordinate actions aimed at reducing deforestation in the Amazonia biome. 2004 registered the second highest increase in deforestation in the Amazon biome, reaching more than 27.8 thousand square kilometers. In 2004 came into force the Action Plan which is focused in three main areas: (i) robust forest monitoring and law enforcement, (ii) territorial planning and (iii) promotion of sustainable productive activities.

### *Lessons learned and challenges*

For the first phase of its implementation, from 2004 to 2008, the main focus of the Action Plan was on actions to control deforestation. Heavy investments have been made to improve forest monitoring systems and to integrate it with actions on the ground. The implementation of the Real Time System for Detection of Deforestation (DETER), a satellite-based system, enabled frequent and quick identification of deforestation hot spots, greatly enhancing monitoring and targeting capacity, enabling law enforcers to act upon areas with illegal deforestation activity. This improvement in monitoring and law enforcement was the main driver of the 2000s deforestation slowdown. We are now on the third phase of the plan (2012 – 2015) and as deforestation patterns change from large to small areas, the focus is gradually scaling up sustainable productive activities.

Economic incentives have also played a key role in this process. An important initiative was the enactment of a resolution introduced in mid-2008 by the Central Bank of Brazil, to condition rural credit in the Brazilian Amazon to the proof of compliance with environmental regulations, the legitimacy of land claims, and the regularity of the rural establishments. Other initiatives underway include the sustainable roundtables. These initiatives from non-governmental organizations have been embraced by the Brazilian government to try and bring the private sector to the table and promote forest conservation. Another initiative is the Production and Protection Strategy launched in Warsaw in 2013. Brazil has vast natural resources that carry immense potential for the country's economic and environmental goals. Using land efficiently is crucial to achieve both goals. Yet, the promotion of efficient land use is a great challenge. The Production and Protection strategy is an integrated approach towards land use intended to help address these challenges.

We must not only further reduce the deforestation rates, but also keep them low and avoid some of the reversals we have seen in the past.

### *Plans for further scaling up*

This past week, Brazil has submitted a forest reference emission level for payments for REDD+ results to the UNFCCC. This submission marks the beginning of the concrete implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ under the UNFCCC. We expect that the results of our national policies reducing emissions from deforestation since 2005 will be recognized and compensated under the Convention.

In 2008 Brazil created the Amazon Fund to obtain and receive payments for REDD+. The Fund is aimed at raising donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation, as well as to promote the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Amazon Biome. So far, Brazil received payments for less than 10% of the results

achieved in the Amazonia biome. If we want developing countries contributing to the climate change mitigation through the forest and land use sector, financial incentives need to be scaled up.

It is important to mention that the Amazon Fund also supports the development of systems to monitor and control deforestation in other Brazilian biomes and we are ready to engage with other developing countries to share our experience in developing national monitoring system/reference levels, with a view to allow an increasing number of parties to be able to implement results based actions.

### *Other challenges*

The challenge on promoting sustainable land use activities is being tackled in Brazil also in agriculture.

Brazil is an important food producer, and a large area of the country is occupied with agriculture activities. That means that the country faces great challenges to find the right balance between production and environment protection. Through extensive research, and positive policies, Brazil has been leading in the proposal and adoption of sustainable practices for agriculture production systems. The ABC Plan is developed in this context, as one more tool to bring to farmers – being them large or small - the necessary knowledge and motivation to adopt the right technologies, in sync with other agricultural and environmental policies in place in the country. This is not an easy task, farmers tend to be conservative in adopting new techniques. But there is a concrete perception by farmers that the promoted practices are also much more profitable, and allow for a production system much less vulnerable to risks – especially changes in climate patterns.

Within its operative strategy, as a motivational tool to the adoption of those technologies, the plan offers tailored credit lines. From 2010 till March 2014, with an exponential growth of demand year by year, around 24 thousand properties received financing of approximately USD 3 billion.

Between 2005 and 2013, national crop production increased by 64%. However, the area used for agriculture increased only by 9%. Depending on the climate change impacts, this yield will drop, and if it happens in other developing countries, the ultimate objective of the Convention will be under serious risk of not being achieved.

Concluding, recent results in Brazil with regards to reducing deforestation and increasing agricultural productivity are substantial, and are the result of policy choices as well as technological developments over a long period of time. The land use sector offers great potential to enhance ambition, in particular in developing countries where this sector is responsible for

good part of the emissions profile. But this potential will not be fulfilled on its own, it has to be unlocked and incentivized. The Convention has a role to play in unlocking this potential, through the provision of adequate, predictable and sufficient international resources. Means of implementation to developing countries is not merely a matter of assistance, it is a matter of generating global benefits.