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Workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries

30 August – 1 September 2006, Rome, Italy

**BACKGROUND PAPER FOR THE WORKSHOP ON REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM
DEFORESTATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its eleventh session, invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 31 March 2006, their views on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, focusing on relevant scientific, technical and methodological issues, and the exchange of relevant information and experiences, including policy approaches and positive incentives.¹ The COP also invited Parties to submit recommendations on any further process to consider the issues. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions from Parties in a miscellaneous document² and to post those from accredited observers on the UNFCCC website.³

2. At this same session, the COP requested the secretariat to organize, subject to the availability of supplementary funding, a workshop on “Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries” before the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Following an offer from the government of Italy, this workshop will take place at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome from 30 August to 1 September, 2006 and has been made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the governments of Australia, Finland, Italy, the Netherlands and New Zealand, and the FAO.

3. The SBSTA, at its twenty-fourth session, decided that the workshop should provide an opportunity for Parties to share experiences and consider relevant aspects relating to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. The specific topics to be discussed in the workshop will include:⁴

- (a) Scientific, socio-economic, technical, and methodological issues, including the role of forests, in particular tropical forests, in the global carbon cycle; definitional issues, including those relating to links between deforestation and degradation; data availability and quality; scale; rates and drivers of deforestation; estimation of changes in carbon stocks and forest cover; and related uncertainties;

¹ FCCC/CP/2005/5, paragraph 81.

² The views from Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.5 and Add.1.

³ For submissions from IGOs see http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/igo/items/3714.php and for those from NGOs see http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/3689.php.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paragraphs 52 (a) to (c).

- (b) Policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries, including causes; short- and long-term effectiveness with respect to emission reductions; the displacement of emissions; bilateral and multilateral cooperation; activities of other relevant international bodies; enhancing sustainable forest management; capacity-building; and financial mechanisms and other alternatives – basing discussions on experiences and lessons learned;
- (c) Identification of possible links between relevant scientific, socio-economic, technical and methodological issues and policy approaches and positive incentives that may arise from the consideration of the topics in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

4. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to prepare for the workshop a background paper on the items contained in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above, with a synthesis of relevant information in national communications and the submissions referred to in paragraph 1.⁵

5. The SBSTA decided to continue consideration of relevant scientific, technical and methodological issues and the exchange of relevant information and experiences, including policy approaches and positive incentives, at its twenty-fifth session, taking into account the outcome of the workshop and the submissions from Parties referred to in paragraph 1 above.

B. Scope of the background paper

6. This background paper, prepared by the secretariat in response to the mandate by the SBSTA referred to in paragraph 4 above, consists of two main parts and two addenda, covering the topics to be discussed at the workshop.

- (a) **Part I** of the paper focuses on the scientific, socio-economic, technical and methodological issues, including the topics in paragraph 3 (a).
- (b) **Part II** of the paper addresses policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries and elaborates on the topics in paragraph 3 (b), including relevant examples from country experiences.
- (c) **Addendum 1** presents a synthesis of relevant information in national communications.
- (d) **Addendum 2** consists of two parts, the first part contains the synthesis of relevant information from the submissions by Parties⁶ and the second part presents the synthesis of relevant information by accredited observers.⁷

7. This paper has been prepared for the purpose of providing background information and to facilitate discussions at the workshop. To this end, information has been obtained from a large number of sources, including literature, all of which may not necessarily reflect the views of the secretariat. Furthermore, while every effort has been made to cover the issues identified in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) comprehensively, other relevant literature and data may exist that have not been considered in this paper.

8. In preparing the syntheses of information from the national communications and submissions, the secretariat attempted to ensure a comprehensive coverage of the information provided by Parties, but priority was given to information relevant to the topics listed in paragraph 3 (a) and (b) above. To the extent possible, this information was organized according to those topics. In this regard, it should however be noted that the synthesis reflects terms and terminology as used by Parties in their submissions, including the broad grouping of the issues, which may not necessarily match the terms of topics and their grouping as listed in paragraphs 3 (a) and (b). The coverage and depth of the information

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paragraph 54.

⁶ See footnote 2.

⁷ See footnote 3.

obtained from national communications and submissions vary across topics in accordance with the information available.

9. A large number of examples of experiences and lessons learned by countries as cited in the literature and/or reflected in the national communications and submissions are also presented in this paper. These have been included for illustrative purposes but are not intended to provide a comprehensive and complete coverage of all country experiences and lessons learned. The choice of examples does not preclude the existence of other experiences which would be equally useful but were not reflected in the paper.

10. The chosen structure of the background paper allows each part to be read and comprehended on a stand alone basis. Hence, some repetitions across the two main parts and addenda may be noted. These are intentional so as to facilitate the flow of information and adequate coverage of the topics discussed in each part of the background paper.
