



DIALOGUE ON FORESTS, GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

22 and 23 October 2009
Washington, DC

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday 22 October

- 9:00 **Opening and Welcoming Remarks**
Andy White, Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative
Jonathan Lash, President, World Resources Institute
- 9:30 **Key note address**
Ambassador Todd Stern
Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State (*To be confirmed*)

- 10:00 *Session 1*
Seeing forests for the climate: Equitable and effective forest-based climate change mitigation interventions

The international community has reached consensus on the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation. Recent gatherings of the Major Economies Forum, the G8, and the G20 have affirmed the centrality of REDD to global efforts to address climate change. This high-level panel will share insights on how the world can reduce forest carbon emissions. Discussions will focus on approaches to be taken to address the issues of effective emissions reductions and the intersections with human rights, legality, and governance.

Guiding questions

1. What does the world know about how to effectively slow deforestation?
2. What role do governance and legality play in addressing forest-based climate change mitigation measures?
3. Can forest-based mitigation measures empower forest dependent communities?

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 *Session 2*

Acting globally: Developments and insights from the UNFCCC Climate Negotiations

The Bali Action Plan created an opportunity to establish a financial mechanism to compensate for reduced forest carbon emissions. Negotiations are ongoing and evolving in the UNFCCC. This panel will explore the latest developments in the negotiations on the role of forests in combating climate change, possible outcomes at the upcoming Copenhagen Conference of the Parties.

Guiding questions:

1. What are the key points of debate within the negotiations around the design of REDD mechanisms?
2. What is the status of REDD+ and implications for forest conserving nations and communities?
3. How can the international community design an enabling framework for REDD that supports developing countries to address capacity constraints in a way that improves forest governance and promotes sustainable development?

Discussion

1:30 Lunch

2:30 *Session 3*

Making it happen: Learning from successful initiatives to slow deforestation, restore forests and promote the rights of forest communities

The success of initiatives to reduce forest carbon emissions will largely depend on national and sub-national level policy decisions and implementation to improve forest governance. Several countries have made steps in this direction in recent years and lessons can be learned from these initiatives to inform how the world approaches forest-based climate change mitigation. Panelists will discuss initiatives like the EU supported FLEG-T process, the recognition of indigenous peoples' tenure rights, and nationally supported community forestry initiatives.

Guiding questions:

1. What can previous national and international programs to improve forest governance teach future initiatives about design and implementation of forest reforms?
2. What kinds of forest governance reforms are likely to be integral to achieving REDD? Are there risks that some efforts at forest governance reform may be undermined by REDD? How can these risks be managed?

3. How can we monitor the progress that countries make in addressing key forest governance reforms as part of REDD, in order to support progress on this agenda?

Discussion

5:00

Closing remarks

Duncan Brack, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House

Friday 23 October

9:30

Opening remarks

Manish Bapna, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, WRI

Session 4

Buying the credits and setting the rules: Potential impacts of US, EU and Australian climate policy for forest governance

As negotiations on REDD's place in the global climate change agreement proceed, many countries' domestic policies to address climate change include provisions to create markets and funds for forest-based emission reduction credits. These initiatives are poised to generate significant revenues for REDD efforts. The success of REDD – especially market-based initiatives – largely depends on the standards that Annex 1 governments set for the credits they will purchase. Forest offsets are already included in California's state level efforts to cap and reduce emissions. The American Clean Energy and Security Act also creates a sizeable forest offset market, but attaches significant provisions that address the integrity of forest governance systems to the credits. The European Union and Australia are also exploring the scope to support forest emission reductions. This panel will share insights from these various ongoing processes, and provide a platform for an exchange between developed and developing country stakeholders.

Guiding questions:

1. What are the prospects for tropical forests and forest communities being impacted by US climate change legislation?
2. How will the rules for US, EU and Australian climate change mitigation financing be established?
3. How will the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities be protected by the regulations and requirements imposed by such policies?

Discussion

12:30

Lunch

1:30

Session 5

Investing in forests: Forest governance as a key to sustained investment

For many, investor confidence in REDD systems will be the key to unlocking stable, adequate and predictable financial flows for forests in the long term. To others, market financing might undermine forest governance and rights. This panel will provide a forum for an exchange of views between representatives of companies that might purchase forestry offsets to meet domestic targets, practitioners in global carbon finance, civil society representatives, and developing country representatives that might sell REDD credits.

Guiding questions:

1. How will governance within forest rich countries impact upon the certainty, and permanence of emission reduction credits?
2. Can market governance structures ensure credibility and viability of forests as part of the global mitigation response?
3. Will market-based financing mechanisms undermine community livelihoods and human rights?

3:00

Coffee

3:30

Session 6

Getting Ready: Multilateral Initiatives to pilot REDD

The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the UN Collaborative Programme on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) are the pre-eminent multilateral efforts underway to support developing countries to prepare for REDD.

Guiding questions:

1. How have issues of forest governance been addressed in these initiatives?
2. What processes have been used to engage local stakeholders in the design and implementation of these programs?
3. What are the emerging best practices for consultation?
4. How have environmental and social safeguards shaped these initiatives?

5:00

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

WRI, RRI and Chatham House

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