


Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. In this key note presentation I will firstly outline the significant mitigation potential from the Forestry and Other Land Use sectors (If you don't mind I use the term FOLU for brevity).

I will then briefly outline some of the barriers to realizing this potential.





Finally I will identify some actions to unlock the mitigation potential from FOLU sectors.


This key note aims to provide a prelude to the country show cases for pre 2020 climate mitigation action to follow.

1. The potential from FOLU



1. Emissions from Forests accounted for **10-12 per cent** of global emissions in 2010
 - 5.4 to 5.8 Gt CO₂e per year
2. FOLU is often the dominant source of emissions in low-income countries: as a mitigation action it results in multiple sustainable development benefits (e.g. REDD+)
 - Brazil's recent REDD+ results - 3 GtCO₂e between 2011 and 2015 from reduced deforestation in the Amazonia biome
3. 100 countries directly mention a mitigation role for FOLU in their NDCs
 - Contributes one quarter of total pledged mitigation efforts up to 2030

FAO Forestry 

As commonly cited, emissions from AFOLU accounted for approximately 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. Emissions from Forestry contributed 10-12% of global emissions or 5.4 to 5.8 Gt CO₂ equivalent in 2010.

FOLU is often the dominant source of emissions in low-income countries with limited industrial bases, commonly generating more than 50% of national emissions. Further, in low-income countries mitigation in FOLU sectors results in social, environmental and governance benefits contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 2, Zero Hunger, SDG 6, clean water and sanitation, SDG 13, climate action, and finally SDG 15, Life on the land.

REDD+ is an example of a mitigation action with multiple sustainable development benefits, and for which there is considerable momentum for pre-2020 climate mitigation action, and which has been affirmed by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.

The recently submitted REDD+ results for Brazil submitted in its BUR REDD+ Technical Annex is an excellent example of this mitigation potential translating to action. Based on the forest reference emission level for deforestation in the Amazonia biome, Brazil measured emission reductions of just over 3 GtCO₂e between 2011 and 2015. The BUR will now undergo the International Consultation and Analysis process. In comparison to the global estimates for 2010, this a highly significant mitigation action, which conveys well the potential of the sector.

The potential of FOLU is recognised by member countries with nearly 100 countries directly mentioning a mitigation role for FOLU in their NDCs. In fact, a recent analysis of NDCs published in Nature indicates that countries expect FOLU to provide a quarter of the entire pledged mitigation efforts up to 2030.

Given the significant mitigation potential, it is timely, and in fact urgent, that we examine some of the barriers, and identify pathways to translate this potential into action.

2. The barriers



1. Socioeconomic barriers

- Lack of sufficient up front finance
- Long implementation timeframes
- Multiple objectives for FOLU sectors

2. Environmental barriers

- Diverse environmental conditions hinders replication and scaling-up
- Depletion and degradation

3. Institutional barriers

- Inadequate subnational and cross-sectoral integration

4. Technological barriers

- Capacity barriers and complexity of MRV



Despite the significant potential for mitigation in FOLU, there are barriers to implementation due to the complexity of drivers of land use and land use change.

These barriers are well summarized in the synthesis report of the previous TEM-M events and include:

Socioeconomic barriers such as the lack of sufficient upfront finance to cover transaction and monitoring costs.

Long implementation timeframes that require significant resource allocations that is challenging for donors and countries. Furthermore, long time periods are required to overcome social resistance, ensure engagement of indigenous people and incorporate diverse value systems.

Indeed, direct action is complicated by the multiple objectives influencing the drivers of land use and land use change from different economic sectors and policy contexts, such as food security and development.

Secondly, there are environmental barriers such as the diversity of environmental conditions which renders replication and scaling up of mitigation actions difficult. Further, the depletion and degradation of land reduces the availability of productive land

and influences land use decision making.

Thirdly, there are institutional barriers such as inadequate subnational and cross-sectoral integration. Coordination is required for national, sub-national and local implementation. Further, because of complex policy drivers on forestry and other land uses, cross-sectoral integration is necessary to create an enabling environment for implementation.

Finally, there are technological barriers such as the complexity of methods for measurement reporting and verification (or MRV), and capacity barriers in implementing these methods. As FAO we know well the challenge of MRV knowledge and capacity transfer to partner countries, in which we are deeply engaged.

So, although not insurmountable, in each individual context or country there will be an intersection of barriers across socio-economic, environmental, institutional, and technological factors that may result in implementation difficulties, and hinder replication and scaling up.

3. Actions to unlock the potential



High potential from REDD+, reducing deforestation, improved forest management and afforestation and reforestation

How can we create **enabling environments** to unlock this potential:

1. Integrated approaches to land-use for agricultural production/food security and sustainable management and conservation of forests
2. Clear linkage between mitigation action and development objectives (SDGs)



Finally, what have we learned from previous TEM-M events and successful forestry and other land use mitigation actions.

High potential actions identified in previous TEM-M events include; REDD+, Reducing deforestation, improved forest management and afforestation and reforestation. For these actions to be successful, there needs to be an enabling environment, and factors key to this enabling environment include:

There is a need for integrated approaches to land-use that balance agricultural needs for production and food security and the sustainable management and conservation of forests.

Clear linkages need to be made between mitigation actions and social, environmental and governance related development objectives that covers a spectrum of SDGs.

4. Actions to unlock the potential



3. High-level commitment, clear mandates, participation of cross-sectoral stakeholders beyond forestry sectors
 4. Financial support tailored to meet contextual needs of national and local circumstances
 5. Strengthened institutional arrangements and legal and regulatory frameworks
 6. Embrace the diversity of local priorities and solutions
- Now for the show-case presentations.



There is a need for commitment from high levels of government, clear mandates, and the inclusion and participation of cross-sectoral stakeholders for successful actions.

It is necessary for sufficient financial support tailored to meet contextual needs of national and local circumstances.

There is a need for adequate governance through strengthened institutional arrangements and legal and regulatory frameworks.

Finally, the diversity of local priorities and solutions needs to be embraced rather than being a barrier to implementation and action.

On this optimistic note, I pass to the show case presentations, to help identify scalable and replicable climate mitigation actions.



Thank you.