Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Developing Countries

Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15)
7th – 18th December, 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark   For more information, please contact :

Summary of Recommendations

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Scope and objectives

IUCN urges Parties to reach an agreement on a REDD-plus mechanism that notes that the overarching aim is to avoid greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as a necessary component of achieving deep cuts in all sources of anthropogenic emissions in order to mitigate climate change.

IUCN further urges Parties to ensure that a REDD-plus mechanism provides scope for:

- **Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation through actions** that protect existing forests from immediate and/or medium term threats of forest conversion and further degradation, along with:

  - **Conservation:** Actions to protect existing forests, especially primary forests, including those that face no immediate threat from deforestation and degradation but could in future be subject to land use pressures created by national and international leakage. This is particularly pertinent to high forest cover and low deforestation rate countries.

  - **Sustainable management of forests:** Actions that safeguard against long-term decline of, and as appropriate expand, existing carbon stocks in both community and industrial working forests, in particular forests already subject to commercial logging and shifting agriculture, while ensuring the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable provision of associated ecosystem goods and services.

  - **Enhancement of forest carbon stocks:** Actions that are broader than

- Support the retention of a safeguard against conversion of natural forests and other ecosystems into plantations.
- Agree that REDD-plus actions should contribute to and be consistent with the conservation of

conservation, water supply and quality, timber and non-timber forest products), which is necessary to ensure that REDD-plus works in practice.
IUCN urges Parties to reach an agreement on a REDD-plus mechanism that provides scope for:

- **Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation through actions** that protect existing forests from immediate and/or medium term threats of forest conversion and further degradation.

"Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation" can be achieved through such measures as:

- Clarification of tenure and rights for land and carbon
- Adoption and enforcement of laws to reduce deforestation and forest degradation
- Establishment of protected areas or community-managed forest reserves
- Schemes that involve payment for ecosystem services
- Activities outside the forest sector to reduce the pressure on forests (e.g. certified sustainable agriculture, removal of subsidies that encourage agricultural expansion into intact natural forests.

- **Conservation:** actions to protect existing forests, especially primary forests, including those that face no immediate threat from deforestation and degradation but could in future be subject to land use pressures created by national and international leakage. This is particularly pertinent to countries and areas with currently high forest cover and low rates of deforestation (HFLD).

"Conservation" can be achieved through such measures as:

- Establishing, expanding and effectively managing protected areas and connectivity corridors
- Recognizing and supporting conservation actions by forest dependent communities, including indigenous peoples' and community conserved areas
- Land stewardship agreements and conservation easements
- Payments for provision of the ecosystem services generated by protected forest ecosystems, including carbon storage, water supply, provision of wildlife habitat, among others.

- **Sustainable management of forests:** actions that safeguard, and as appropriate expand,

existing carbon stocks in both community and industrial working forests, in particular forests subject to commercial logging and shifting agriculture, against long-term decline while ensuring the economically, ecologically and socially sustainable provision of associated ecosystem goods and services. These should be implemented as part of supportive national policy frameworks that also include conservation and enhancement activities in a coordinated way.

"Sustainable management of forests" can be achieved through such measures as:

- Independently certified production of timber
- Sustainable production of non-timber products
- Low impact logging that aims to minimize collateral damage to trees, ground cover and
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- Restored protective forests that protect against flooding, erosion and other catastrophic events
- Planting of on-farm trees and other sustainable agro-forestry systems.

Principles and Safeguards

Safeguards are necessary to strengthen the potential contribution of forests to climate change mitigation. Without basic safeguards forests could be regarded as a high-risk option, one that will be less attractive to investors. Furthermore, the adoption of adequate safeguards is necessary to avoid unintended consequences from the application of defined terms and interpretation of undefined terms, such as the conversion of primary forests and/or natural forests to perennial woody tree crops.

IUCN urges Parties to:

- Agree that safeguards should be 'ensured' rather than merely 'promoted', in order to increase confidence in the REDD-plus regime and strengthen its ability to deliver effective climate change mitigation.

- Support the retention of a safeguard against conversion of natural forests and other ecosystems into plantations.

- Agree that REDD-plus actions should be consistent with the conservation of biological diversity and safeguard and provide co-benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Included in this is ensuring that intact natural forests are protected from deforestation or further degradation, and extending and strengthening the integrity of protected areas systems.

- Provide for gender-balanced and broad stakeholder participation in the design and implementation of REDD-plus actions and integrate experiences with multistakeholder platforms established in support of forest governance reform processes to increase the ability of countries to implement those actions.

- Explicitly include women, indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities when ensuring the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in REDD-plus decision-making processes and actions. This safeguard should contribute to ensuring that forest-dependent communities receive an equitable share of benefits arising from a REDD-plus mechanism.

- Recognize and respect the rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including their right to free, prior and informed consent, support traditional knowledge and management systems, and recognize and ensure the security of land tenure and resource rights and arrangements.

Means of implementation

A phased approach would enable countries with different circumstances to swiftly pilot and

ANNEX: THE PHASED APPROACH: AN OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR REDD ACTION

IUCN welcomes the suggestion by many Parties that an operational framework for REDD-plus action

enhancements relative to a national reference level should be performed by an independent third party. A market mechanism should be supported by an appropriate national regulatory framework that guarantees credibility through unequivocal non-compliance measures, clarifies liability, clearly appropriates responsibility for risk management and establishes a clear framework for the equitable distribution of REDD payments. Consideration may have to be given to as to whether a time-bound mechanism may be required during the early period of REDD market payments to guard against