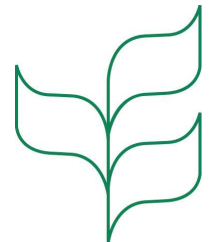


Biodiversity, Forests and Climate Change

United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity Target



CBD



Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change (AHTEG)

- Convened in response to CBD COP decision IX/16 paragraph 12 (b)
- First meeting held 17 - 21 November 2008 in London, UK
- Second meeting held 18 – 22 May 2009 in Helsinki Finland
- Mandate:
 - identify the impacts of climate change on biodiversity
 - Identify opportunities for synergies between biodiversity and climate change mitigation



Main Messages on Synergies

- Maintaining natural and restoring degraded ecosystems, and limiting human-induced climate change, result in multiple benefits for both the UNFCCC and CBD if mechanisms to do so are designed and managed appropriately
- Implementing REDD activities in identified areas of high carbon stocks and high biodiversity values can complement the aims and objective of the UNFCCC and CBD
- Adaptation activities that make use of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, when integrated into an overall adaptation strategy, may contribute to cost effective climate change adaptation and generate additional environmental and societal benefits.



Forests

- Different forest have different value for biodiversity and carbon

Forest type	Biomass Carbon stock	Carbon sequestration potential	Biodiversity value	Value of ecosystem services
Primary forest	+++	++(+)	+++	+++
Modified natural forest	++	++	++	++
Plantations (indigenous species)	+	+++ (depending on species used and management)	+(+)	+
Plantations (exotic species)	+	+++ (depending on species used and management)	+	(+)

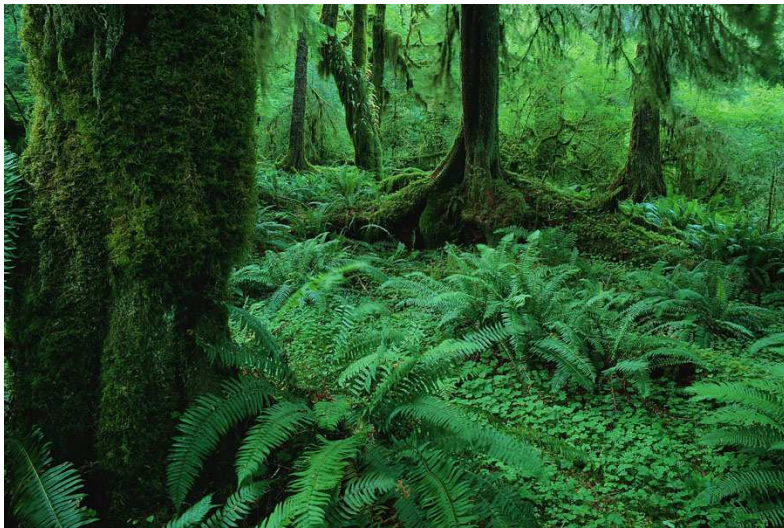
Response Measures

- in forest landscapes currently subject to clearing and degradation reducing deforestation, and reducing forest degradation is the best approach



Response Measures

- in largely intact forest landscapes where there is currently little deforestation and degradation occurring, the conservation of existing forests, especially primary forests is critical





Response Measures

- in forest landscapes that have already been largely cleared and degraded, it is necessary to grow new carbon stocks through afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration





Maximizing Co-benefits from REDD

- There is a need to address forest degradation since degradation decreases forest resilience and often leads to deforestation
- Both intra-national and inter-national displacement of emissions under REDD can have important consequences for both carbon and biodiversity which should be carefully considered
- While it is generally recognized that REDD holds potential benefits for forest-dwelling indigenous and local communities, a number of conditions would need to be met for these co-benefits to be achieved



Enhancing Positive and Limiting Negative Impacts

<i>Mitigation activity</i>	<i>Potential benefits for biodiversity</i>	<i>Potential risks to biodiversity</i>	<i>Possible actions to maximize benefits or reduce negative impacts on biodiversity</i>
Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation	<p>Reduced forest loss and reduced forest degradation</p> <p>Reduced fragmentation</p> <p>Maintenance of diverse gene pools and robust species populations</p>	Leakage into areas of high biodiversity	<p>Develop premiums within incentive measures for biodiversity co-benefits</p> <p>At national level, prioritizing REDD actions in areas of high biodiversity</p> <p>Improving forest governance</p> <p>Promote participation in the REDD mechanism, to minimize international leakage</p> <p>Involve forest-dwelling indigenous and local communities</p>



Contentious Issues

- Role of sustainable forest management
- Defining the link between biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Finding the balance between being policy relevant and policy prescriptive



Next Steps

- Finalization of the document (drafting committee meeting 20 – 24 July 2009 in Cape Town South Africa)
- Publication as a CBD Technical Series
- Submission to UNFCCC
- Submission to CBD SBSTTA