

Info

1. Reading material
2. Lunch seminar: Friday, 7 March 12 pm:
Building Consensus in International
Negotiations – the Example of REDD in the
UN climate regime

Global climate laws now cover nearly 90% of carbon pollution

Australia climate cuts “insulting sovereignty of other countries”

Last updated on 28 February 2014, 5:52 pm

Leading UK government climate advisor says Canberra’s cuts to climate policy are “odd” and “selfish”



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By [Sophie Yeo](#)

The Australian government is insulting the sovereignty of other countries with plans to dismantle its climate change policies says an advisor to the UK government.

Lord Deben, head of the UK Committee on Climate Change told RTCC that Australia’s attitude to reducing its carbon emissions was “very sad” and “something I feel very personally about.”



(Feb 28th 2014, Beijing) The “Environomist China Carbon Market Research Report 2014”, conducted by one of the most professional consulting companies Environomist Ltd. and its partners, was launched at the UNDP building in Beijing. The year 2013 has been an eventful year for the global carbon market. While the EU ETS remains the world’s largest policy instrument for carbon emission control, many countries and regions have made major moves in terms of developing their own carbon emissions trading systems. In China, even though a nation-wide ETS is yet to materialize, with most of the 7 designated ETS pilots launched by the end of 2013, China has been reported by many from the mainstream media as the second largest carbon market in the world, with the greatest trading potential that could allow it to become the world’s largest in the future.

Against this backdrop, Environomist has conducted this first ever, market-focused China carbon market research with some major stakeholders that are involved in the development of the country’s carbon markets. The report has thoroughly examined all official documents published in 2013 at both the central and local government level. In addition, a market survey has been conducted to collect first-hand data from all participants in the Shanghai ETS pilot on their level of capacity and expectations for the scheme.

The report is available in both English and Chinese, which can be downloaded free of charge at the link below.

English - http://www.southpolecarbon.com/public/140227_Environomist_China-ETS_ResearchReport.pdf

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense tropical forest. The trees are lush green, with some areas showing a yellowish-green hue, possibly due to sunlight or specific tree species. The forest extends to the horizon under a bright blue sky filled with scattered white cumulus clouds.

REDD+ in the UN Climate Regime

Prof. Dr. Christina Voigt
International Climate Change and
Energy Law

REDD – People – Forests – Climate Change

From this video/presentation:

1. What is REDD+?
2. Who should be paying?
3. ...for what?
4. Which challenges can you see?
5. Pros/Cons?

Reducing deforestation: mitigate climate change, promote sustainable development

Deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries contribute to almost one fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)



Reducing deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) is a cost-effective measure to decrease GHG emissions

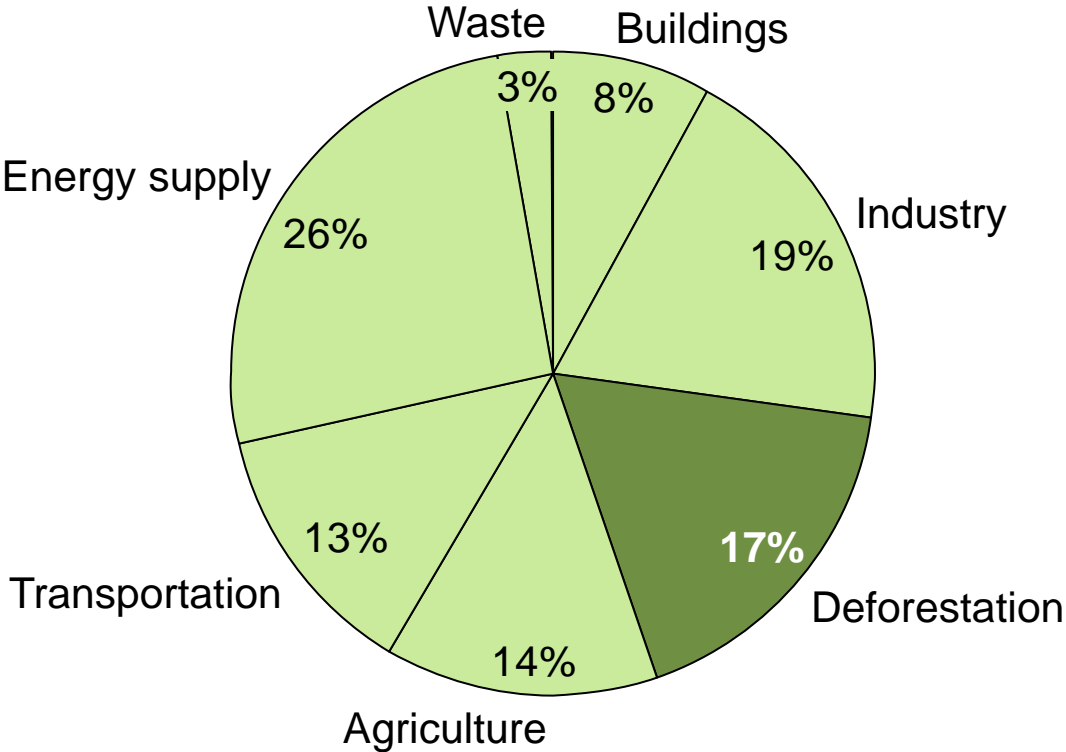


Reducing forest loss sustains livelihoods and protects water resources, ecosystems and biodiversity



IPCC estimates that deforestation contributes about 17 % of GHG emissions

Emission of greenhouse gasses from different sources
100% = ~50 GtCO₂e in 2004

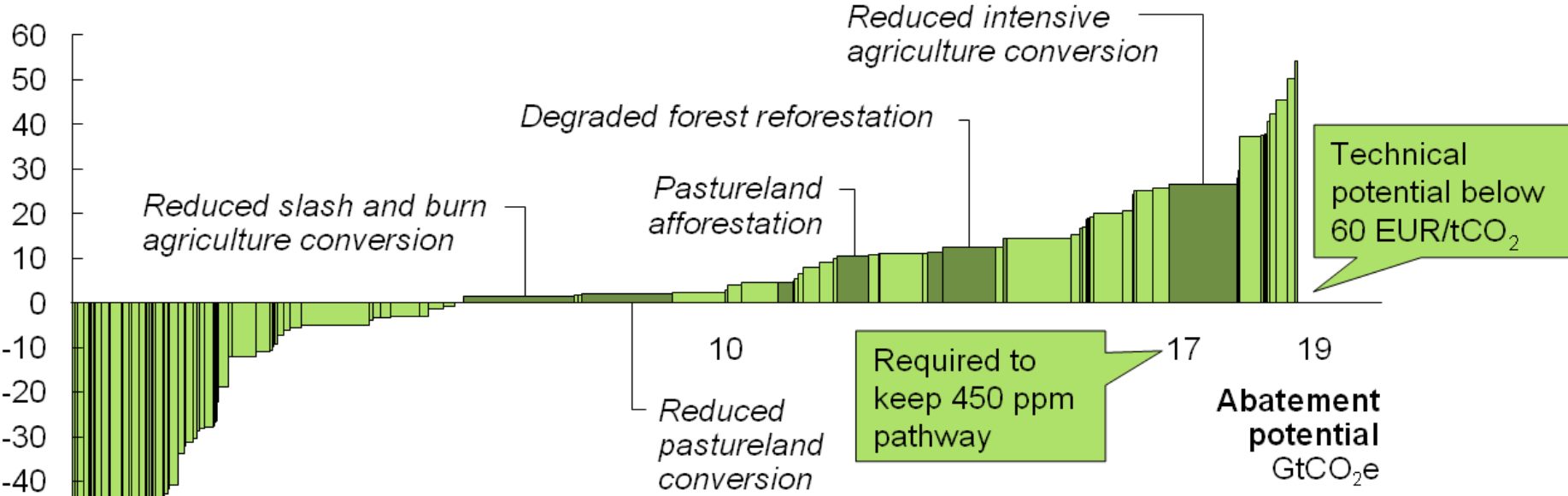


Forestry is a significant lever in limiting global warming to 2°C

McKinsey global abatement cost curve, 2020 (up to costs of EUR 60/t CO₂e abated)

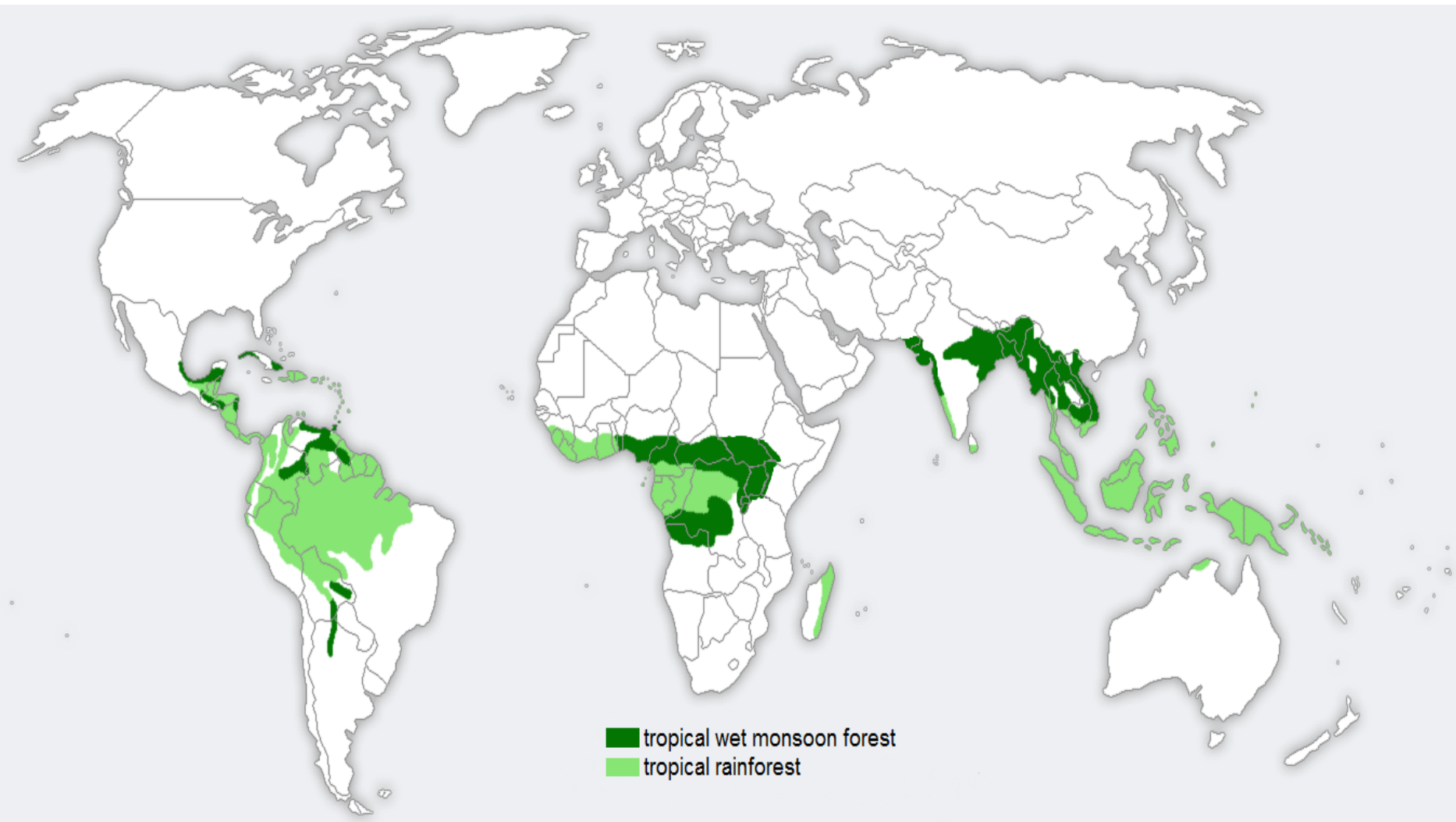
■ Forestry

Abatement cost
EUR tonne



- Breakdown by **abatement type**:
 - 9 Gt for terrestrial carbon, of which **6 Gt in forestry**
 - 6 Gt for energy efficiency
 - 4 Gt for low carbon energy supply

- Breakdown by **geographic location**:
 - 5 Gt in developed country geographies
 - 14 Gt in developing country geographies



REDD+: Development under the UNFCCC

- UNFCCC Art. 4.1 a, b, c (“anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks”)
- Not part of the Kyoto protocol
- Agreement reached at Bali in 2007 (COP13) on process for **REDD+** (Bali Action Plan). Deadline set for COP15 in Copenhagen.
- Copenhagen Accord:
 - “agreement on the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries”.

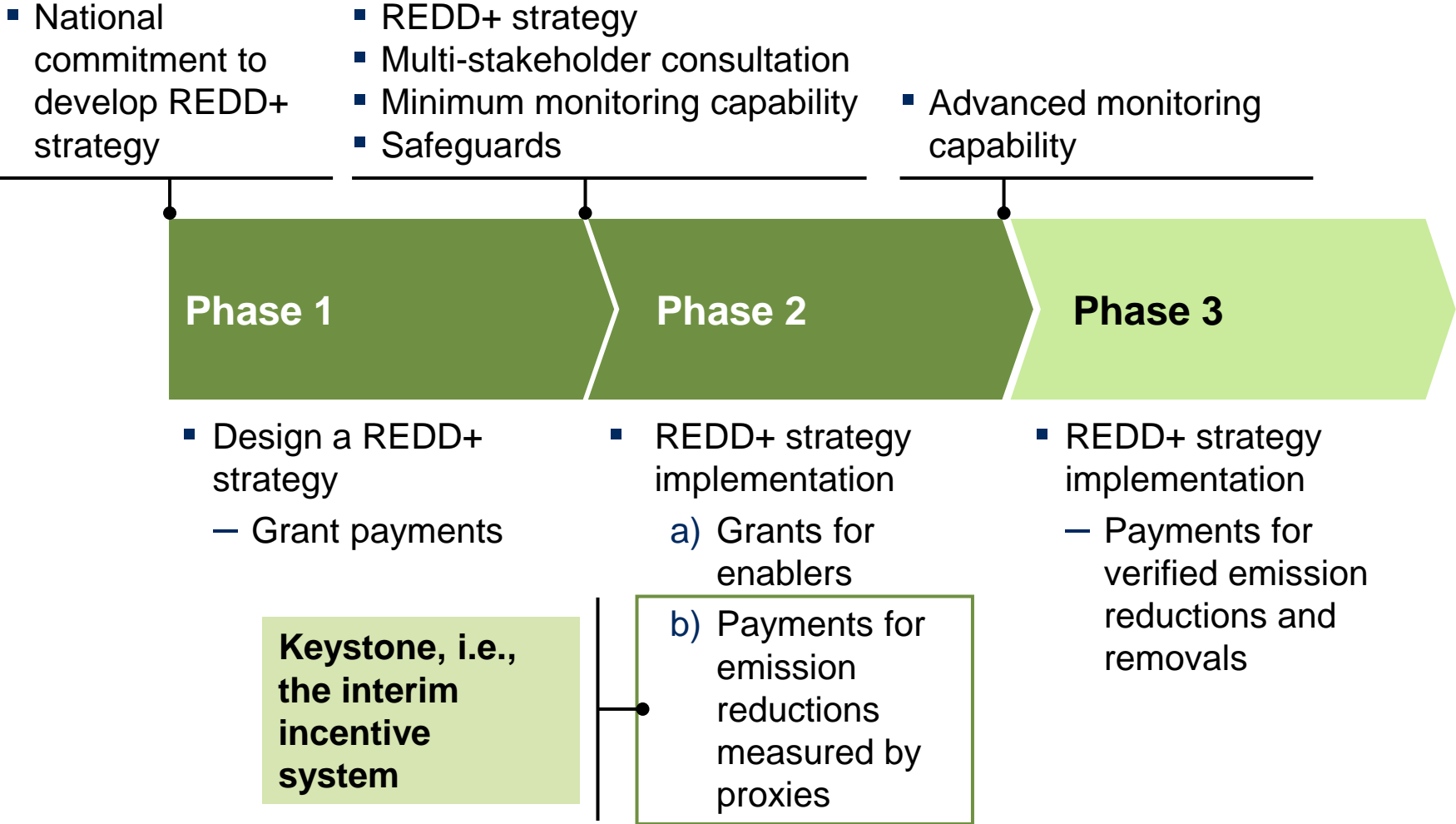
REDD+ Decision in Cancun 1/CP.16

(2010)

- Framework decision on REDD+
- Elements:
 - **Overall goal**: slow, halt and reverse forest cover and forest carbon loss, consistent with Article 2 UNFCCC (Preamble 1)
 - **Voluntary**
 - **Scope** of REDD+ (same as in Bali Action Plan) (para 70)
 - A **phased approach**: from capacity building via enabling policies and measures to result based payments (para 73)

A phased approach to REDD action allows for flexibility and immediate action until a long-term solution is in place

■ Potential scope for interim mechanism



REDD+ Decision in Cancun 1/CP.16 (2010)

- **National REDD+ strategy** and robust and transparent **national forest monitoring and reporting system** (4/CP.15)
- Reduced emissions measured against a reference level
- Reduced emissions shall be monitored, reported and verified (MRV)
- **Coordination** of activities at **national level** (para 78)
- **Safeguards** for biodiversity protection and indigenous peoples' and local communities' involvement (Annex I)

Why Safeguards?

- REDD is about carbon
- Forests are more than just carbon
- Forests provide multiple ecological functions and people's livelihoods
- Capacity of forests and resilience to store carbon depends on robustness of their ecological functions
- Avoided side-effects – co-benefits – multiple benefits
- Safeguards are necessary to maintain the environmental and social integrity of the REDD+ mechanism



Safeguards (1/CP. 16 Annex I para 2)

“The following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- (a) Actions complement or are **consistent with** the objectives of national forest programmes and **relevant international conventions and agreements**;
- (b) **Transparent and effective national forest governance structures**, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- (c) Respect for the knowledge and **rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities**, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

“
...

Safeguards (1/CP. 16 Annex I para 2)

“The following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

....

(d) The **full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders**, in particular, indigenous peoples and local communities, in actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;

(e) Actions are **consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity**, ensuring that actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to **enhance other social and environmental benefits**;

(f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;

(g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions. “

What are the Safeguards?

- Conditionality?
- Eligibility criteria (from phase 1 to 2 to 3?)?
- No clear provisions to ensure that the safeguards are adhered to in practice
- Safeguards “should be promoted and supported” when undertaking *all* REDD+ activities(1/CP.16 para 69)
- Developing country Parties are requested, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, “to address...the safeguards” (1/CP.16 para 72)

How to secure "Safeguards"?

Developing countries are requested to develop:

"A system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in annex I ... are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70..." (1/CP.16, para 71(d))

Durban Decision 12/CP.17 (2011)

Decision 12/CP.17: "Guidance on systems for providing information on how the safeguards are addressed and respected...)

- Transparent and consistent information
- Accessible by all relevant stakeholders
- Updated on a regular basis
- Flexible (allow improvements over time)
- Include ALL safeguards
- Country-driven at the national level
- Build upon existing systems (as appropriate)
- Include a summary in the national communications
- Mandate to SBSTA: further guidance on: transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness

Durban 1/CP.17 (2011)

- Decision 1/CP.17:
 - financing REDD (based on MRV) (para 64)
 - New, additional and predictable
 - Variety of sources (public, private, multilateral, bilateral) (para 65)
 - Market-based approaches possible (para 67)

Qatar (2012) 1/CP.18

- Non-carbon benefits
- Work-program on results-based finance in order to:
 - Contribute to the ongoing efforts on results-based finance
 - Scale up and improve effectiveness of finance
 - Ways and means to transfer payments for results-based actions
 - Ways to incentivize non-carbon benefits
 - **...in order to enable to adopt a decision on this matter!**

Qatar (2012) 1/CP.18

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«Warsaw Framework for REDD+»

- COP 19 adopted **7 decisions** on REDD+ - Establishment of the «REDD+ Mechanism»:
- 5 Decisions on Methodology:
 - [National Forest Monitoring Systems: Decision 11/CP.19](#)
 - [Safeguard Information System: Dec. 12/CP.19](#)
 - [Forest reference emission levels: Dec. 13/CP.19](#)
 - [MRV for REDD+: Decision 14/CP.19](#)
 - [Addressing Drivers of deforestation: Dec. 15/CP.19](#)
- [Decision on «Institutional Arrangements»: Dec. 10/CP.19](#)
- [Decision on results-based finance: Dec. 9/CP.19](#)

'Signature' achievement on forests at UN climate talks



By **Matt McGrath**
Environment correspondent, BBC News



Countries with forests will have to provide information on safeguards for local communities

Nations meeting in Warsaw at UN talks have agreed a significant step forward towards curbing emissions from deforestation.

A package of measures has been agreed here that will give "results-based" payments to developing nations that cut carbon by leaving trees standing.

One observer told the BBC that this was the "signature achievement" of these talks.

Deforestation accounts for about 20% of global emissions of carbon dioxide.

Earlier this week the UK, US, Norway and Germany agreed a \$280m package of finance that will be managed by the World Bank's **BioCarbon fund** to promote more sustainable use of land.

Related Stories

[Hope for climate talks' final hours](#)

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UN agrees multi-billion dollar framework to tackle deforestation

Source: Reuters - Fri, 22 Nov 2013 01:51 PM

Author: Reuters

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A rainbow forms over the Amazon rainforest near the city of Santarem, Para state, Brazil, April 20, 2013.

By Stian Reklev

WARSAW, Nov 22 (Reuters) - U.N. negotiators on Friday agreed rules on financing forest projects in developing nations, paving the way for multi-billion dollar investments from governments, funding agencies and private firms in schemes to halt deforestation.


The agreement on "results-based" funding for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) was a rare breakthrough at the climate talks in Warsaw, where negotiators are struggling to make progress in discussions on emissions cuts and climate change aid.


The deal was "another big step forward", said Ed Davey, the British minister for energy and climate change.

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Forest Protection Plan Settled at UN Climate Talks

By Alessandro Vitelli | Nov 23, 2013 12:04 AM GMT+0100 | [1 Comment](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

Climate envoys from about 190 nations agreed on a deal that will channel funds to **developing countries** to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by preventing deforestation.

A decision establishing rules for the mechanism, known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD-plus, was approved at a plenary session at United Nations-organized climate talks in Warsaw last night. Nations have been discussing a REDD-plus mechanism since 2005.

Countries have targeted deforestation as a major source of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas blamed for causing global warming. Clearing trees to make room for agricultural activity, such as cattle ranching or palm-oil production, is a major source of forest loss, which causes 15 percent of global emissions, according to the WWF environmental group.

“The EU very much welcomes the agreement on REDD+ reached in Warsaw,” Isaac Valero-Ladron, a spokesman for the European Commission, said by e-mail. “The package of decisions, which provides the necessary methodological framework for REDD-plus, represents a major step forward in efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. The decisions largely complete the rulebook for implementing REDD-plus.”

UN climate talks reach deal on cutting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation

11-23-2013 07:35 BJT

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WARSAW, Nov. 22 (Xinhua) -- Governments at the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw on Friday agreed a set of decisions on ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and the degradation of forests.

The agreement on the so-called REDD+ initiative is backed by pledges of 280 million dollars in financing from the U.S., Norway and Britain, according to a statement released by the Conference.

"I am proud of this concrete accomplishment. We are all aware of the central role that forests play as carbon sinks, climate stabilizers and biodiversity havens," President of the conference Marcin Korolec said.

Korolec hailed the deal as "a significant contribution to forest preservation and sustainable use which will benefit the people who live in and around them and humanity and the planet as a whole."

The decisions adopted provide guidance for ensuring environmental integrity and pave the way towards the full implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground, said the statement.

The package also provides a foundation for transparency and integrity of REDD+ action, clarifies ways to finance relevant activities and how to improve coordination of support, it added.

The agreement was announced as the two-week climate talks, which aimed to prepare for a global climate pact due to be agreed in 2015, are entering the final hours.

Decision 9/CP.19

- Result-based financing (whole package was conditioned on this decision)
- Links REDD-activities and financing
- Established concrete requirements for payments
 - 4. *Agrees* that developing countries seeking to obtain and receive results-based payments in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 64, should provide the most recent summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 2, have been addressed and respected before they can receive results-based payments;
- Main finance channel: Green Climate Fund («key role»)
- Information hub
- Prevention of corruption (?)
- Important signal to forest developing-countries

Challenges

- **Implementation**
- **Extension to include agricultural sector (land sector)**
- **Non-carbon benefits**

2. When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- (a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- (b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;
- (c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
- (e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;
- (f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
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