



Fondazione Willy Brandt
“2011 - International Year of Forests”

To the attention of:
United Nations Forum on Forests
of the Department of Economic
and Social Affairs
unff@un.org

Prot. n. 109/2009 MS/tdg

In relation to the celebration of the **International Year of Forests**, Fondazione Willy Brandt Italia would like to build up an initiative involving the United Nations Association of Brasil (http://www.wfuna.org/site/c.rvIYIcN1JwE/b.3783975/k.6FE3/United_Nations_Association_of_Brazil.htm) and Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization (IREO) and Forum Das Americas Brasil.

We are going to involve also other entities like Research Institutions and Universities established to carry out initiatives in the field of sustainable development and to comprehensively address concerns about economic development and environmental degradation.

In the context of climate negotiations, the agenda item on **Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries** and the Decision 2/CP.13 have a pivotal importance, particularly in light of the large contribution of emissions from deforestation in developing countries to global greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to scale-up the international focus on REDD, we would like to give a contribution on implementation of methodologies and monitoring systems relating to estimates of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as to promote technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation on issues relating to indigenous peoples and local communities, exploring a range of actions and demonstration activities.

We believe that involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples is essential for any REDD approach to be effective and we are planning support this crucial on-going process. Locally measured data can help countries improve their data quality, reduce uncertainty, fill critical gaps.

Local communities should see the REDD process as an opportunity for their economic development in a sustainable manner. Information, awareness raising and capacity building and transparency are the key elements to promote effective participation of local communities into REDD action and monitoring.



We are fully aware of concerns about legal property rights over the land of indigenous communities, that could be “harmed” by a REDD scheme. In this sense we have to take action to ensure that the legal rights over the land of indigenous people have been granted, in full compliance with the constitutional and legal framework of each country. The mechanism established as a consequence of avoided deforestation should be channelled down in a clear, transparent, and fair distribution of benefits obtained.

Fondazione Willy Brandt Italia (<http://www.fondazionebrandt.org>), through its network of experts, is already studying the model provided by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), managed by the World Bank, designed to assist developing countries in building developing countries to tackle deforestation and reduce emissions from REDD as well as develop capacity for assessment of measurable and verifiable emission reductions. In particular, the FCPF’s Carbon Finance Mechanism will provide knowledge and experience for private and public sector interested in REDD.

Please receive our Best Regards

Fondazione Willy Brandt
General Director
(Mario Spadari)

Rome, 2009 august 7

Mario Spadari
General Director
Fondazione Willy Brandt
Via di S. Elena, 29
00186 Roma, Italy

Tel. +39.06.68210997
Fax +39.06.68301564
e-mail: m spadari@fondazionebrandt.org