



United Nations Forum on Forests

Global Partnership: For Forests, For People

Forest Day 3 Co-Host, UNFF Secretariat facilitates financing for forests and climate change discussions



On 13 December 2009, close to 1,500 representatives from government delegations, international organizations and civil society gathered at Forest Day 3, to ensure that forest-based climate change solutions remained high on the agenda at the UNFCCC COP 15 discussions. This Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) event featured luminaries such as Gro Harlem Brundtland, Nobel laureates Elinor Ostrom, Rajendra Pachauri and Wangari Maathai and a video message from former US President Bill Clinton.

The UN Forum on Forests Secretariat co-hosted two key events at Forest Day 3, a learning event on strategies for increasing financing for forests and climate change and a sub-plenary session on Forest Degradation which highlighted the importance of degraded forests (the second "D") in REDD+.

Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, chaired and facilitated the learning event discussion on financing for forests and climate change. Featured speakers included Maryanne Grieg-Gran from IIED, Jonah Busch from Conservation International, Emmanuel Ze Meka from ITTO, and Per Pharo from the Norwegian Government International Climate and Forest Initiative.

The main message from the Learning Event on financing was: "REDD+ could provide 30% of the global abatement potential by 2020. Financing in the order of 25 billion Euros per year from all sources is needed. REDD+ initiatives must include attention to the social, economic and environmental aspects, and be based on local and national level decisions on what and where REDD+ should occur, taking into account the variability of countries. REDD+ must start in a phased approach immediately; delaying action until 2015 would "cost" 16 gigatons of carbon lost."



The sub-plenary session on degradation was moderated by Fiona Harvey of *The Financial Times*, and featured speakers included Jorge Rodriguez, Minister of Environment, Energy, and Telecommunication of Costa Rica, Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai of Kenya, Sandra Brown from Winrock International, Estebancio Castro-Diaz from International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of Tropical Forests, Panama, Mr. Peter Gardiner of Mondi, South Africa, and Mr. Markku Simula of the University of Helsinki, Finland.



The main message from the sub-plenary session on Forest Degradation was that improved forest governance is a prerequisite to reversing degradation and that forest restoration provides an immense opportunity to address the widespread degradation of forest lands and significantly enhance carbon stocks and also provides important opportunities for adaptation.

Further information on Forest Day 3 including the summary statement of the Day may be accessed from: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/>

Photo credit: IISD/ENB <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop15/fd/>