

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to host a Country-Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

A pathway to a green economy in the context of sustainable development: Focus on the role of markets in the promotion of sustainable forest management

Forests multi-functionality is being recognised for providing multiple economic, environmental and social benefits. In this context however, global forest governance is a complex problem because it is driven by multiple linkages with other forest related issues. Adding to the complexity are a wide range of actors, policy instruments and financing mechanisms.

Markets play an important role in meeting these challenges and the urgent need for transition, as there is a growing awareness of the environmental dimensions of trade. Over recent years market instruments have become a focal point in the debate on the production of timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests.

Addressing global challenges through different agendas, separate processes and a variety of institutions will not contribute to reaching our global goals. Many producing countries are being confronted with new land use issues, trade implications and different sets of legality and sustainability criteria as required by consumer countries.

This Country-Led Initiative therefore seeks to:

- 1) foster dialogue and cooperation on how to enhance synergies and resolve frictions between the major challenges facing forest policymakers and land use managers today: strengthening sustainable forest management and sustainable land use on the one hand and on the other hand enhancing the contribution of forests and land use management to improving the livelihoods of rural communities and small- and medium-scale forest enterprises;
- 2) address international trade of products from sustainably managed forests as a possible instrument to contribute to an enabling environment for legal and sustainable production of timber and sustainable forest management;

This CLI will focus on market based instruments, especially in promoting international trade in legally and sustainably produced timber, as well as private and governmental procurement policies in the context of combating deforestation.

Format of the CLI

The meeting will combine plenary presentations, break-out discussion groups, and ample opportunities for informal interaction. The agenda will be structured to take into account and feed into the relevant agenda items to be taken up during UNFF10. Outcomes will be captured in a "Chairs' Summary" report which will be jointly submitted by the co-organisers, the government of Vietnam and the governments of the Netherlands and Finland to the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2013 as well as feeding into the RIO+20 process.

Participants

The CLI is an experts meeting and it is expected that it will bring together 200 invited policy makers (multi-sectoral), forest managers and communities involved in timber trade, law enforcement authorities, timber industry, private sector representatives, certification organizations, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and scientific institutions, with the active engagement of UN organizations.

Registration

Please contact the website www.isgmard.org.vn/clivietnam2012 for more background information, the draft programme and to register.