

INPUT ON PROPOSAL FOR FINANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

View of the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control(SBB) of **Suriname**

Drawing from the AHEG's formulation I would express our preference as follows:

1. The two key proposals terms are actually not mutually exclusive, and that, in fact, they described different aspects of what might be a desirable future arrangement for financing sustainable forest management and to achieve the overall global objectives on forests.

It is desirable that , dedicated Global Forest Fund and Facilitative mechanism are in place (c) as it is necessary to have the immediate establishment and start of a dedicated Global Forest Fund from which countries, who needs financing can obtain funding to achieve sustainable management of their forest resources. Donor countries, institutions and organizations both private and public national or multilateral can make immediate donations in the Global Forest Fund. It should be mentioned that this fund should not be replacements of the existing funds/mechanisms.

Putting a Facilitative mechanism to help mobilize existing and emerging funds for sustainable forest management does not have to compete with the immediate creation of the Global Forest Fund as a distinct financial source dedicated or earmarked for the implementation of sustainable forest management and other existing funds and mechanism. Current funding activities aimed at achieving sustainable forest management should not be interrupted but should continue to be parallel implemented and when necessary improved.

In order to avoid fragmentation, duplication and underutilization of capacity and financial resources, we suggest that from time to time systematic monitoring and evaluations should take place in order to judge the results that are achieved by both mechanisms. When there is significant evidence of a difference in effectiveness and efficiency adjustments and decisions should be taken accordingly.

2. We are considering all the listed essential elements as we see them as an integrated part of the both mechanism that we support to be put in place. We would therefore like to suggest that draft of the formal structures of these mechanisms are being drawn up and distributed to all Member States and major groups to be studied, taking into account experience with the existing mechanisms. We also suggest this to take place as soon as possible in order to have comments of the proposed drafts in order to have them approved at the eight session of the United Nation Forum on Forest to be held from 20 April – 1 May 2009 at UNHQ, New York

For both mechanisms clarity should be on:

- The scope and structure
- Governance and management
- Sources and financial resources
- Types of activities covered
- Accountability, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
- Short, medium and long term objectives
- Accessibility for all member states
- Conditions to utilize the funds should be practical and easy accessible (Minimum threshold)

3. We do not see any problems with links with other forest funding sources and mechanisms such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forest. Every country can choose her own partners to develop her national structures to enable sustainable forest management. Each member should have their own internal structures to coordinate financial assistance for sustainable management of their forest resources

4. Adequate funding to achieve sustainable forest management is the most challenging obstacle that should be resolved. Once funding is available and accessible and Member States have made sustainable forest management as part of their national agenda and policy on development most other challenges can be resolved too. Most Member States do not have or have insufficient capacity and financial means to:

1. Create an national enabling environment to encourage investment by multiple stakeholders, including the private sector and local and indigenous communities
2. Develop and implement national strategies to outline short, medium and long term financial planning for achieving sustainable forest management and the successful implementation of the planning
3. Establish and strengthen national partnerships and joint programs for implementing sustainable forest management;
4. Mobilize, utilize and provide significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources both national and international
5. Replace the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;
6. Develop and establish national positive incentives to reduce the loss of forests, to promote reforestation, afforestation, and rehabilitation, to implement sustainable forest management and to increase the area of protected forests and other areas of sustainably managed forest;
7. Develop and implement national economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for sustainable forest management.

With the available funds Member States can finance activities (programs and projects) to reach the national objectives that are linked to the four global objectives.

5. We have no objections against other existing and emerging sources of financing and mechanisms to keep supporting activities that are coincide with national and international efforts in achieving sustainable forest management. We do acknowledge that there is a risk of fragmentation and underutilization of capacity and resources and therefore suggest that wherever possible these sett backs should be avoided.

Special attention should be given to Global Payments for Ecosystems services of standing forest. Especially for high forested with low deforestation countries (HFDL countries)

We also think that it is necessary to carry out a comprehensive study/research why the existing financial mechanisms for sustainable forest management does not fully achieve their goals.

6. Other views and suggestions

As we know out of experience that achieving sustainable forest management is a long term exercise we would like to suggest that countries who will utilize the funds coming from both financial mechanisms are getting immediate financial assistance to formulate their long term sustainable forest management program.

At the same time existing national programs and projects that are in line with the principles of sustainable forest management should get immediate financial support.

All the financial mechanisms should take into account the countries preferences and financing country driven programs/projects and activities

The access for funding from both financial mechanisms for up front investments and transition costs should be easy and proper.

The mechanisms should not exclude any country, especially the HFDL countries.