

The ITTO Side Event took place on 7 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa, at the COP 17 of UNFCCC. It was jointly organized with JICA, TFD and IUCN under theme REDD Readiness- Ready for What?

On the outset of the Event, Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of ITTO signed the Memorandum of Understanding between ITTO and UNCCD with Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of UNCCD. The MoU from 2012 to 2014 is aimed at facilitating the implementation of joint activities based on restoration and sustainable management of dry tropical forests resources of ITTO developing member countries within the on-going ITTO and UNCCD work programmes.

In the first of three presentations, Nophea Sasaki (University of Hyogo, Japan) cited the ITTO definition of SFM and stressed the need to improve logging systems for SFM under REDD+ scheme by comparing the wastes generated by Conventional Logging (CVL) and Reduced Impact Logging (RIL). He further discussed the potential of enhancing carbon stocks under CVL & RIL in ITTO Producers under three different cutting cycle: 25-year, 40-year, and 50-year cycles.

Angelo Santos, Brazil Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO), Brazil provided an outline of REDD+ international and national levels arrangements as well as REDD+ activities at sub-national and project levels activities, including the incentive systems for environmental services in Acre state and REDD+ Carbono Surui – the first indigenous REDD+ project in Brazil. He underlined the importance of establishing carbon markets for REDD+.

Hiroki MIYAZONO, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) outlined the current work of REDD + by JICA which includes: the areas of policy & institutional framework; forest monitoring System (REL/MRV); research & development; and demonstration activities. Sharing several lessons including lack of donor coordination mechanisms, he questioned whether the timeframe set by the countries for addressing REDD+ is realistic. He noted that continued improvement of SFM will facilitate the implementation of REDD+.

In the Panel discussion, Gary Dunning, Executive Director of THE FOREST DIALOGUE outlined TFD's REDD Readiness Initiative (2009-Present): Ready For What? He discussed several challenges including the effectiveness of multi-stakeholder participation mechanisms and processes. Robert Bamfo, Climate Change Expert, Ghana Forestry Commission introduced the progress of governance reforms being developed under REDD+ in Ghana, highlighting that consultation and participation has been critical. Chea Sam Ang, Deputy Director General of the Cambodia Forestry Administration introduced the forestry sector reforms under the Cambodian National Strategic Development Plan 2009-2013 and updated policies and legal reforms relating to REDD+ development in Cambodia, including the work of the REDD Task Group which facilitated the development of REDD Road Map.

In concluding remarks, Ze Meka, noted that there are many important challenges for REDD+ and we are not in empty hand as we have good scientists, competent institutes like FUNBIO and many donors like Japan and Norway. He commended the work of Ghana and Cambodia in promoting REDD+ in support of MDG.
