



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation: Views from Latin America

*International Roundtable on Reducing Emissions from
Deforestation in Developing Countries*

Brussels, 24 – 25 October 2007



Emissions from deforestation in Latin America

- Currently, **Latin America** experiences **high levels of deforestation**. During the period **2000-2005** the net total of **native forest surface was reduced by 4.7 million hectares a year**
- **Carbon stocks** in living biomass in **Central and South America** represent a **potential contribution** to global emissions parallel to that of **China's known coal reserves**.
- Considering only carbon stocks in living biomass, the **projected forest loss in Latin America** could entail the emission to the atmosphere of around **15,530.75 mtCO₂** between **2000 and 2020**

Potential benefits of RED in Latin America

- Finding **adequate international funding options** to stop deforestation in Latin America in the next 20 years could potentially be **as relevant as stopping the GHG emissions from the transportation sector** in the **European Union for twenty years** at their 2003 levels, or to **eliminate the total U.S. GHG emissions for two years** at their 2004 levels.
- This would also entail **associated benefits**, going from **local environmental improvements** (air and water quality, for instance) to the conservation of **globally significant species** and **ecosystems** and the **sustainable development of rural communities** affected by poverty.

Regional work on RED

Latin American countries have worked together on REDD during the last two years generating three joint submissions:

- Proposals on approaches to stimulate action (March 2006):
 - Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay
- Proposals on REDD in developing countries (March 2007):
 - Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru
- A flexible approach to reduce emissions from deforestation (Sept. 2007)
 - Paraguay, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru, supported by Ecuador and Chile

A flexible approach to REDD

- **SBSTA-26** invited Parties to **submit** their **views** on issues related to **further steps** related to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action.
- **Regional workshop** with the support of **ONF, CATIE, the Swiss Cooperation, ECLAC and ENERGEIAS**
- **Submission by Paraguay, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru, supported by Ecuador and Chile**
- In this submission, we propose a **roadmap on further steps** and suggest a **flexible approach to stimulate action at all levels** while **ensuring the environmental integrity** of the international climate change regime

Roadmap on future steps

- CoP-13 should adopt a Decision including provisions on:
 - a. Implementation of **capacity building and early action** activities for reducing emissions from deforestation.
 - b. The **consideration** on the range of **policy approaches and positive incentives** proposed by Parties.
 - c. Such policy approaches and positive incentives should be considered **in the context of any discussions of future international cooperation on climate change taking into account any other relevant work under the Convention.**

- In the our view, the draft decision forwarded from SBSTA 26 provides a **useful basis for a successful outcome at COP13.**

The need for flexibility

- **Latin American** proposals have sought to **ensure the environmental integrity through flexible and equitable approaches** to address emissions from deforestation
- We do **not support approaches** to REDD providing **incentives only** to emissions reductions **at the national level**, because:
 - Given their **technical and institutional requirements**, **limit immediate participation** to a handful of countries
 - Limited participation means **limited environmental benefits**, as well as **lack of equity**
 - Rewarding **only** ER at the **national** level (through governmental initiatives only), the **participation** of the **private sector** will be **reduced**
- **Lack of flexibility will weaken the multilateral CC regime: developing countries are willing to increase their participation, but require flexible options to accommodate their particular national circumstances and development priorities** – Limiting REDD to **any** exclusive approach will provide a **negative signal for post-2012 negotiations**

A Latin American “Nested” Approach

- We envision a **progressive approach toward national RED efforts**, allowing initial participation at both the national or the sub-national level depending on each country’s choice
- Countries would be eligible to receive **incentives** to reduce their emissions from deforestation **for activities at any scale, including** at the **national level**
- **Countries** that do not wish to start at the national level, would be able to **host projects** to be implemented by private and/or public entities, ensuring that such projects are **consistent** with their **conservation and development objectives**.
- Project proponents should identify the drivers of deforestation and their proposed implementation strategy should **explicitly address leakage** avoidance. Leakage should be **assessed, monitored, quantified, independently verified** and **discounted** from the estimation of emissions reduction.
- This approach is **methodologically sound**, since it **builds on a proposal prepared and supported** by some of the **best experts in the field** (CATIE, Climate Focus et al)

A Latin American “Nested” Approach (ctd)

- Countries could engage in nation-wide efforts either:
 - (i) **voluntarily at any time** if they so desire; or
 - (ii) **After XX% of their forests is engaged RED activities or YY time has elapsed since the first RED activity** was approved).
- When countries initiate nation-wide efforts, their deforestation reference level should be determined to enable RED accounting.
- These “triggers” provide:
 - Developing countries a **specified period of time to build the capacities** they need to move to a national approach
 - **Coherence** between levels of **capacity** and **scale of actions**
 - **Evidence** that **developing countries will move** from the project to the **national level** in a specified period of time
 - **Incentives for Annex I** countries to **support capacity building** efforts and **promote RED** activities
- Successful activities at any level would lead to fungible **carbon credits** and could aid Annex I Parties to fulfill their future commitments.



Thank you

