Avoiding REDD Hot Air
Side Event

UNFCCC COP 14, Forest Day
Poznan, 6 December 2008,
Session 2 16:30-18:00

The REDD mechanism will conserve terrestrial carbon stocks and ecosystem services. However, the integrity of REDD will crucially depend on implementation details. We will show how integrated assessment models can inform effective REDD policy planning and support efficient REDD implementation processes. Baseline setting to measure real efforts in a total land use context, hot spotting of REDD areas, costs of gross and net REDD, monitoring costing und economic mechanism designs to maximize ecosystem services will be discussed. Less REDD Hot Air means more forests conserved.

The side event will be centered around two questions:

I: How can REDD institutions be designed to generating standardized and globally consistent national reference scenarios to avoid the appearance of too much REDD Hot Air on international carbon markets?

II: How can we design REDD policy mechanisms to maximize sustainability of REDD actions?

Addressing the first question we propose an institutional REDD design aimed at generating measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) REDD credits. Thereby we will directly address the issues of additionality and leakage. It is commonly understood that "good" baselines are a necessary precondition for financial REDD resources to be deployed. We argue that a robust REDD policy process ought to be based on independent and globally consistent data compilation (incl. socio-economic drivers), and harmonized computation of appropriate reference scenarios. At the core of the proposal is the establishment of an international REDD reference scenario coordination center, particularly tasked to establish and supervise globally consistent National Reference Scenarios.

REDD will not only contribute to mitigate climate change, but also might emerge as a major tool to conserve ecosystem value. In the side event we will explore new ways on how to build in 'ecosystem services' to the carbon economy. The broad societal dependence on forests, as well as intimate reliance of 300 million people (mostly poor) for their subsistence and survival, has been recognized through several recent UN conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD, UNFF). Understanding that biodiversity, ecosystem services and the opportunity costs of avoided deforestation are not distributed evenly across the forests of the world, we propose a mechanism design for REDD implementation which delivers the biggest ecosystem service bang for one's avoided deforestation buck. We describe the details of such a possible mechanism design generating REDD credits, whilst maximizing the co-benefits of actions addressing deforestation.

Agenda

Lead Organization:	***Forestry Program, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria***
Side Event Title:	***Avoiding REDD Hot Air***
Chair:	***Yoshiki Yamagata, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan***

Time	**Title of presentation**	**Speaker (inc. Institution)**
16:30 – 16:45	The IIASA REDD Assessment Tool Box and Geographic Explicit REDD Hot-Spotting	Florian Kraxner (IIASA)
16:45 – 17.00	REDD Costing Within a Total Land Use Context and Uncertainties in Afforestation potentials	Petr Havlik (IIASA)
17:00 – 17:15	Monitoring Costs of REDD and Land Use Uncertainties	Hannes Böttcher (IIASA)
17:15 – 17:30	REDD and Ecosystem Services	Steffen Fritz (IIASA)
17:30 – 18:00	A policy Framework for Avoiding REDD Hot Air and Maximizing Ecosystem Services	Michael Obersteiner (IIASA)

For more information see:

www.iiasa.ac.at/Research/FOR/

or

www.geo-bene.eu and www.cctame.eu