



Collaborative Partnership on Forests



Mr Chair, distinguished delegates and dear colleagues,

To quote the Secretary-General of the UN, “climate change cannot be won without the world’s forests”. This belief is shared by all the 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. CPF is comprised of 14 international organizations and secretariats dealing with forests. It is my pleasure to make this statement on their behalf.

Mr Chair, sustainable forest management has a significant strategic role in achieving long-term climate change mitigation and it provides a robust and flexible framework for effective adaptation. The concept goes way beyond traditional management aspects and includes conservation of biodiversity, support to livelihoods, provision of a range of forest goods and services, and issues related to governance and financing.

Drawing on the rich information base and long expertise of many organizations, the CPF has put together a resource document that provides background information and facts as well as proposes strategic steps forward for the optimal contribution of the forest sector to the reduction of emissions and to sustainable development. The document is called “*The CPF Strategic Framework for Forest and Climate Change*”. It is a proposal by the CPF for a coordinated forest-sector response to climate change.

Deforestation, forest degradation and other forest changes cause 17.4 % of GHG emissions. This must and can be changed. In addition to underlining the crucial role of sustainable forest management, CPF wants to convey five other key messages, namely that:

- Mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently;
- Inter-sectoral collaboration, economic incentives, and alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation;
- Capacity-building and governance reforms are urgently required;
- Forest monitoring requires greater coordination (carbon monitoring needs to be integrated into existing forest monitoring systems); and finally that
- CPF members are committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The strategic framework has also benefited from other recent, joint initiatives by CPF members, such as the UN-REDD programme started by UNEP, UNDP and FAO. During a side event later this week, we will hear more about this “One UN” approach. The Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change is another example. In the past few months, this Panel, led by IUFRO, has assessed the state-of-knowledge about the impacts of climate change on forests and people, and about the options for adaptation in terms of management and policy. I am pleased to inform you that this assessment has just been completed.

Mr Chair, we hope that both the strategic framework and the outcome of the adaptation panel will provide a valuable source of information for the deliberations on forests and climate change, both during these two weeks and beyond, in building the post-2010 climate change regime at UNFCCC, as well as at the 8th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

CPF members wish to convey their support for the negotiations and their commitment to work together and with countries and other stakeholders to advance the sustainable management of the world’s forests - for the benefit of people and the environment.

Thank you.