

Non-paper by FRANCE on promoting synergies between the UNFCCC and the CBD on reducing GHG emissions from deforestation in developing countries

1/ Deforestation is responsible for around 25% of global GHG emissions (almost 80% of the reduction of emissions the UNFCCC Annex 1 Parties committed themselves), causing also major loss in term of biodiversity;

2/ Globally, gross deforestation amounted to 13 Mha/year for the period 2000/2005 (FRA 2005). For instance, gross deforestation amounted to 2.84 Mha/year in Brazil and 1,95 Mha/year in Indonesia for the period 1990 to 2005 (FRA 2000 & 2005); in these countries, the national biodiversity index are ranking respectively at the 4th and 1st places (GBO 2001);

3/ In 2004, Papua New Guinea requested the UNFCCC-SBSTA to consider the issue of "Reducing GHG emissions from deforestation in developing countries". The issue of "avoided deforestation" was then introduced as a SBSTA item at UNFCCC COP11 (2001, Montreal);

4/ Since then, two workshops have been organised:

- The first one took place in Rome in August 2006. Based on submissions from UNFCCC parties and accredited observers, topics discussed included "Scientific, socio-economic, technical, and methodological issues", "Policy approaches and positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation" and "Identification of possible links between this two topics"
(Cf. http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/3745.php).
- The second one took place in Cairns in March 2007. On the basis of new submissions, topics discussed included "Ongoing and potential policy approaches and positive incentives", "Technical and methodological requirements related to their implementation", "Assessment of results and their reliability" and "Improving the understanding of reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries"
(Cf. http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/lulucf/items/3896.php).

5/ At SBSTA26, in May 2007, UNFCCC parties negotiated on the basis of a draft COP decision that was provided by the SBSTA Chair. Discussions were tough and the draft COP Decision, attached to the draft conclusion issued by the SBSTA Chair, is almost completely bracketed (Cf. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2007/sbsta/fre/l10f.pdf>)

6/ However, it is stated (without bracket) in the preamble of the draft COP decision "*Recognizing that reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries can promote co-benefits and may complement the aims and objectives of other relevant international conventions and agreements*".

7/ Parties are expecting a substantial outcome at COP13 in December 2007: the Stern report (2006) as well as the IPCC 4th Assessment report (2007) highlighted the fact that reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries could contribute at low cost ("*low hanging fruits*") to 15%-30% of emissions reductions needed to keep under a +2°C target. In addition, Indonesia, hosting the COP13 and suffering from deforestation, has major expectations in term of political decision. For all these reasons, there is now a momentum to make progress on the issue;

8/ The debate will pursue at SBSTA27 (November 2007) in order to propose a draft decision at COP13 (November 2007). In the meantime, in a effort to make further progress, it is stated in the draft COP conclusion that “*SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 August 2007, their views on issues related to further steps under the Convention related to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action*”.

9/ Considering that the COP13 decision could list some modalities for the implementation of pilot activities aiming at reducing emissions from deforestation, it would be a good opportunity for UNFCCC parties that are also CBD parties, to include their views on “*practical means to link reduction of emissions from deforestation and protection of forest biodiversity in a coherent and efficient approach, building effective co-synergies between UNFCCC and CBD*”. In other words, it could translate the objective stated in the preamble into proposal for action;

10/ The UE has been pro-active and high level commitment is stated in the Feb 2007 Environment Council Conclusions: “*The EU emphasises that emissions from deforestation in developing countries amount to about 20% of global CO2 emissions and that concrete policies and actions as part of a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement are needed to halt these emissions and reverse them within the next two to three decades, while ensuring the integrity of the climate regime and maximising co-benefits, in particular with regard to biodiversity protection and sustainable development, using synergies between the UNFCCC, CBD and CCD*”.

11/ At the Cairns workshop in March 2007, the EU also stated that it was looking for “*Rules to be consistent with sustainable development and broader post 2012 considerations*”.

12/ For these reasons, it would be useful that, before 15 August 2007, WPIEI Biodiversity and WPIEI Climate change have an exchange of views on the issue. It could then be envisaged to integrate biodiversity concerns into a submission, to be drafted by the EU sink experts group and endorsed by the WPIEI Climate change, to be sent to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as a contribution of the EU to the UNFCCC SBSTA26 request.