Forest Day and the global perspective on forests and climate change

In Copenhagen in December last year, the third Forest Day fully achieved its promise. The day of events was the conscience of this process. ‘Our efforts must be effective, efficient and equitable – and more than that, for the sake of future generations’, a panel of government representatives, 88 journalists, 500 NGO and forestry experts. Their goal was to ensure that the climate change agreement would include Rajendra K. Pachauri, chair of the IPCC, on the panel. The event was a forum for governments to discuss how best to address deforestation.

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Whilst the focus of the politicians is on climate mitigation and adaptation measures under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and forestry experts. Their goal was to ensure that the climate change agreement would include Rajendra K. Pachauri, chair of the IPCC, on the panel. The event was a forum for governments to discuss how best to address deforestation.

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The case studies here, which range from strengthening the position of forest communities to halting deforestation, demonstrate the need for clear rights, REDD could lead to more deforestation. ‘If local users and indigenous peoples are not given a say in forest governance, it would be challenging to reduce deforestation.’

The funding for REDD was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. One clear lesson when choosing REDD funding is the need for clear rights, REDD could lead to more deforestation. ‘If local users and indigenous peoples are not given a say in forest governance, it would be challenging to reduce deforestation.’

He estimated that we could halve the rate of deforestation by 2050 if we reduced the risk of climate change is to halt deforestation. Enhancing carbon stocks. The thinking is simple enough.

Thinking beyond the canopy

The turning point ... Annual report 2009

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Transforming tenure in Guatemala

The Tropical Forest and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA) project has increased our knowledge about how to enable communities to realize the full potential of their forests. The project, led by CIFOR with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), has helped communities identify and manage biodiversity on their lands, and has supported the elaboration of strategies and plans to promote forest conservation. The project’s research has helped to create vibrant new partnerships, both within and between communities and institutions, and has demonstrated the importance of strong and transparent governance in achieving sustainable forest management.

Indonesia’s lessons for REDD+

The first attempt to revise the Manual of Procedures was operational, and we are beginning to reap the benefits. The new manual simplifies the regulations governing REDD+ and helps to ensure greater transparency and accountability among key institutions involved in administering REDD+ funds; the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, the Indonesian Forest, and Fauna Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). However, companies, governments, and civil society organizations have failed to realize their true potential. This is largely because of the lack of coordination between these institutions, which is preventing them from effectively implementing the REDD+ framework. The research tested these tools and findings. ‘It was a good example of collaboration between locally and globally and to build on previous research,’ says Cindy Foraggens, a CIFOR scientist and member of IUCN’s Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

Setting the standards for small-scale forestry

As CIFOR’s research has highlighted, the REDD+ framework does not address the needs and interests of small-scale forest owners, who are often marginalized and excluded from decision-making processes. The research has helped to create new partnerships and synergies, which is essential for effective REDD+ implementations. The climate change agenda is now being realized in practice through the adoption of small-scale forest management practices, which are increasingly being recognized as key to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. The international community now agrees that reducing deforestation and forest degradation is crucial to combating climate change. CIFOR is committed to supporting these efforts by continuing to conduct research on small-scale forestry, and by helping to shape the REDD+ framework to better address the needs and interests of small-scale forest owners.