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The Terrestrial Carbon Group

**A 'State of Play' Assessment of  
Land Use in the International Policy  
Response to Climate Change**

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*The purpose of this document is to provide a clear overview of how terrestrial carbon is currently being incorporated in the ongoing international policy response to climate change. The key focus is the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol negotiations. However, attention is also given to other global and sub-global fora generating international policy responses. The information in this report has been obtained from publicly available sources, including UNFCCC texts. It has been produced in response to an identified demand from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and other country officials for greater information on national policy contexts regarding the inclusion of land in the climate change solution. It was made possible with funding from The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).*

## Acronyms

<b>AFOLU</b>	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses
<b>AWG-KP</b>	Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties Under the Kyoto Protocol
<b>AWG-LCA</b>	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
<b>BAP</b>	Bali Action Plan
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biodiversity
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>COP/MOP</b>	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FCPF</b>	World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>KP</b>	Kyoto Protocol
<b>LULUCF</b>	Land use, land-use change and forestry
<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
<b>NAMAs</b>	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Activities
<b>QELROs</b>	Quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
<b>SBI</b>	UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Implementation
<b>SBSTA</b>	UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice
<b>SFM</b>	Sustainable Forest Management
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UN-REDD</b>	United Nations Collaborative Programme between FAO, UNDP and UNEP on REDD

# 1 A Summary of Key Issues Based on the Current 'State of Play'

As this assessment will show, an extraordinary amount of time, effort and resources have been dedicated to pursuing land based solutions to climate change by both developing and developed countries across the globe. Progress has been made in building capacity and readiness, tools and techniques and principles and partnerships. However, terrestrial carbon is still not coherently part of the international response to climate change - there is no single mechanism to address either the emissions produced by or mitigation potential of land nor is there a concerted effort to coordinate the various responses. This is largely a legacy of the way that different sectors and land uses are covered under different sections of the both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its associated Kyoto Protocol (KP).

To put it simply, under the KP, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) activities and emissions are to be accounted for by developed countries. Yet, concerns over liability mean that many agriculturally based carbon sequestration activities continue to be ineligible for credits under the Kyoto system. This is because countries do not want to be accountable for natural disturbances, such as drought, or other emissions over which they have no control. Ways to address this, such as exemptions for such occurrences, and having a commitment period of more than 5 years to allow for longer term averaging to smooth out annual discrepancies, are under continued debate. Indications are that these discussions will not address the concerns of all countries. Therefore, at least in the short term, countries are likely to continue to choose to exclude activities such as grazing land management and cropland management from their annual greenhouse gas accounts (and therefore from available incentives). In contrast, developing countries, which are seeking avenues to gain credits for agriculturally based carbon sequestration activities are still unable to do so. And while afforestation and reforestation in developing countries has been made eligible under the approved methodologies of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Kyoto Protocol excludes avoided deforestation from its scope.

Under the UNFCCC, in principle agreement has been reached that developing countries will be able to gain credit for REDD+<sup>1</sup>. Agriculture as a whole is being addressed under a separate stream of negotiations on sectoral approaches. Unfortunately, agreement could not be reached on this section of the negotiations in at the last annual Conference of the Parties (COP 16) in Cancun. Given the lack of current momentum, a substantive agreement in Durban appears unlikely. There are serious political sensitivities around sectoral agreements generally, and agricultural agreements more specifically, not least due to concerns about trade implications.

In essence, what all this means is that land in the international response to climate change is messy and complex. The challenge for nations, who must manage multiple land uses in integrated landscapes and connected economies, is how to navigate these rules to deliver the best possible climate change outcome. For countries implementing land based mitigation strategies, key questions remain over how best to address the drivers of deforestation and to enhance sequestration and carbon stocks in both the forestry and agricultural sectors. The immediate priority is to build on the momentum of current efforts and to transition to the required scale. Given the unlikelihood that a unified approach will be achieved in the near term, greater coordination and creativity is required at both international and national levels. For developing countries, there is scope for agriculture to be addressed under REDD+ as a driver of deforestation. Forestry and agricultural activities can be listed as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Activities

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<sup>1</sup> Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

(NAMAs). The CDM also has potential for reform. In developed countries, both the UNFCCC and the KP offer opportunities for greater land based mitigation than is taking place at present. Nations will need to work together to build capacity and share lessons in how best to maximise this potential of land.

Looking ahead in 2011, the ongoing international climate change negotiations will build on the results of COP16 in Cancun. Cancun resulted in a mandate for negotiations to continue on a global legally-binding agreement, including on components such as REDD+, LULUCF and NAMAs. It also helped to better align the international policy response with actions already taking place on the ground. The next negotiations, AWG-KP 16 and AWG-LCA 14, will take place in Bangkok from 3-8 April 2011. The first UNFCCC sessional period in 2011 will be from 6-17 June 2011 in Bonn, Germany. It is hoped that the progress made to date can be translated into a legally binding agreement to be adopted by COP 17 in Durban at the end of 2011.

In coming months it will be important to monitor the moving 'landscape' of climate change policy and politics to see how countries respond individually and collectively. Much will depend on the detail of any follow-on negotiations and operative mechanisms. And, as always, everything depends on whether commitments are followed by real action and effective implementation. Specific developments to continue to watch out for in 2011 include:

- For REDD+: issues of scope (deforestation, degradation, conservation, enhancement of forest carbon), phasing of approach (from readiness through to performance payments), guiding principles, reference emission levels and definitions for forest degradation and sustainable forest management;
- For LULUCF: new rules, accounting approaches and implications for Annex I targets (including approaches to natural disturbance), and indications whether such rules will eventually be applied to REDD+ and other land based activities.
- Differences between the rules agreed for developed and developing countries over the rules for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and for setting reference levels;
- Linkages and overlap between REDD+ and NAMAs;
- Developments in sector specific approaches, particularly agriculture
- Details on development of international institutions, distribution mechanisms and delivery arrangements, including priorities for "fast start" funding and climate finance;
- Indications of timing and support for the inclusion of agriculture and other land uses within a robust legally binding agreement;
- Debate over the two track negotiating process and a 'common space' to discuss links between the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP;

Though further evolution and development of the international framework is needed, the foundations for the effective inclusion of land based mitigation in national and international responses to climate change are slowly but surely being built. Though not always coordinated, the array of global and sub-global initiatives provides multiple pathways forward. It is precisely because of the remaining technical and policy challenges that agreements and partnerships at all scales, be it global, multi-lateral or bilateral, will be crucial. Such agreements and action can ensure that the urgently needed building blocks of an effective international response are put in place – building blocks for a comprehensive approach to agriculture, forestry and other land uses that will see the potential of land in the climate solution unleashed.

## 2 The UNFCCC

### 2.1 An Overview of the Two Tracks of the UNFCCC

The main vehicle for collective action on climate change has been the UNFCCC<sup>2</sup>. Parties meet each year at a UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) to discuss progress and negotiate new commitments. Countries' current substantive commitments are set out in the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol's underlying legal texts, including accounting rules, are set out in the Marrakech Accords. There are two permanent subsidiary bodies under the Convention. These are:

- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA): tasked with providing advice to the COP on scientific, technological and methodological matters, including on specific areas, such as the LULUCF sector
- The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI): tasked with providing advice to the COP on all matters concerning the implementation of the Convention, including national communications, emission inventories and financial assistance

In addition, there are two subsidiary bodies with temporary mandates. Discussions under these two bodies are generally referred to as the "two negotiating tracks". The first relates to the Kyoto Protocol and the expiry of its five-year commitment period at the end of 2012. This subsidiary body, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties<sup>3</sup> under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) considers further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol for the period beyond 2012. These discussions are known as the Protocol negotiating track, and they include only those Parties signed up to the Kyoto Protocol. The AWG-KP was established by Parties to the Protocol in Montreal in 2005.

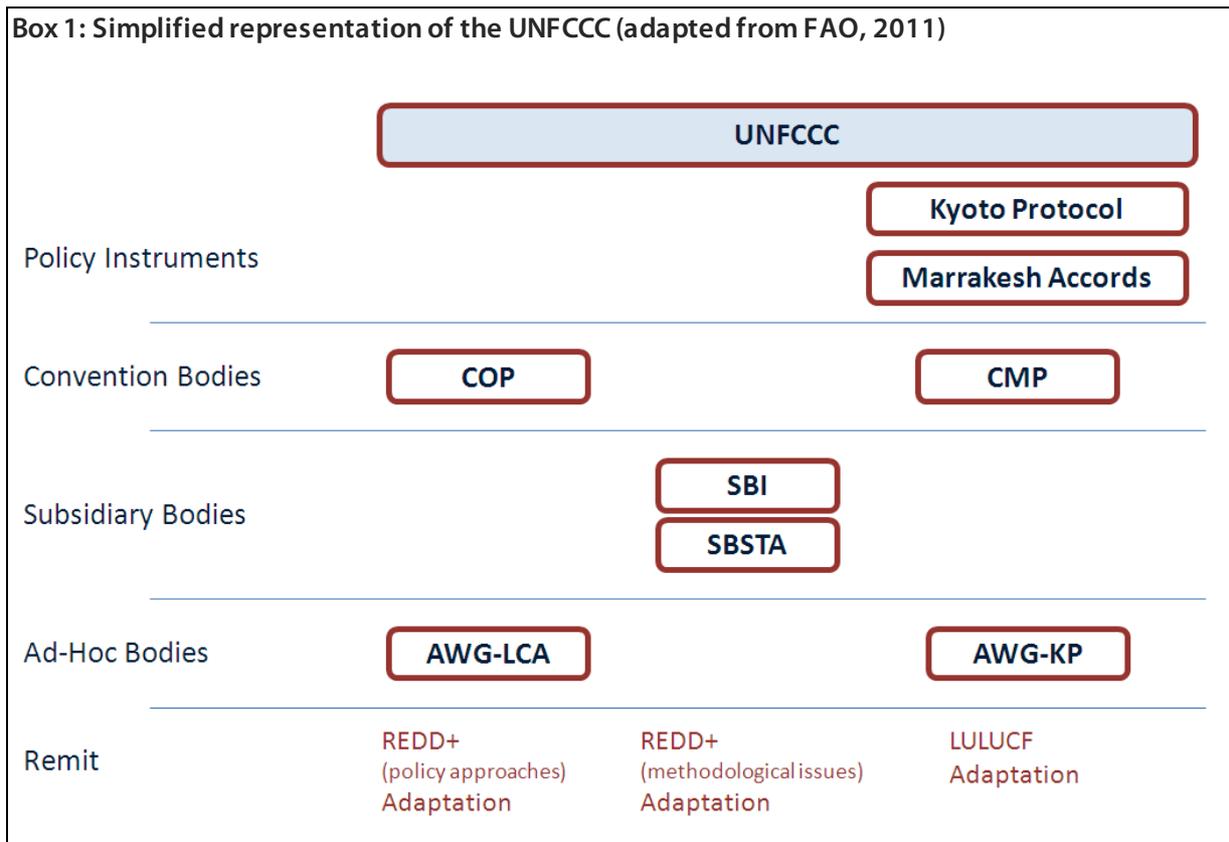
The second body, established when the Bali Action Plan (BAP) was agreed in 2007, is the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). This subsidiary body considers long term cooperation and the means to deliver a strengthened international deal on climate change. Discussions under this second negotiation track include all countries, including those not a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, most notably the USA and China. Box 1 (below) shows a simplified representation of these different structures.

The existence of these two negotiating tracks can be problematic for many aspects of the climate negotiations. Firstly, the issue of how or indeed whether the Kyoto Protocol continues beyond the first commitment period is a key sticking point. While developing countries want to see a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, many developed countries would prefer a unified agreement under the AWG-LCA that includes all major emitters. Secondly, the overlap between discussions in the AWG-KP and the AWG-LCA has caused duplication and confusion, and the need for joint discussions between the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP on cross-cutting issues. While still on the agenda, such joint discussions have not yet taken place.

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<sup>2</sup> While not discussed here, it is important to note that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) also have implications for how land is managed, as do a range of other global and sub-global fora.

<sup>3</sup> Annex I Parties are industrialised countries listed in Annex I to the UNFCCC, and who accepted country-specific emissions targets for the period 2008-2012 in the Kyoto Protocol.



## 2.2 An Overview of how Land is being incorporated in the UNFCCC

In the ongoing international climate change negotiations, land is addressed in a variety of ways. Under the AWG-KP, land in *developed* countries is addressed through discussions on LULUCF, in particular articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the KP and decision 16/CMP.1. Note that under the KP, direct reductions in the business as usual emissions of terrestrial carbon in *developing* nations are excluded. However, the CDM, defined in Article 12, does allow for emissions-reduction or removal projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction credits. These saleable credits can be used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets. The CDM is one of three market-based mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol—the other two being emissions trading and Joint Implementation. As of 17 March 2011, there were 21 afforestation and reforestation projects and 137 agriculture projects registered under the CDM (UNFCCC, 2011). Under the CDM, the methodologies approved for agriculture currently relate to:

- Reducing methane emissions from ruminant livestock systems (for example, improved animal waste management systems in confined animal feeding operations); and,
- Reduced nitrous oxide emissions via improved nitrogen fertilizer management (for example, offsetting of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers by inoculant application in legumes-grass rotations on acidic soils on existing cropland)

Activities that enhance agricultural (soil and aboveground biomass) carbon sequestration are not eligible. To be eligible, a methodology would need to be approved by the CDM's executive board, under the category 'greenhouse gas removal by sinks'. All afforestation/reforestation activities fit under this category.

As described earlier, the AWG-LCA considers long term cooperation and means to deliver a strengthened international deal on climate change, as per the Bali Action Plan (BAP). 'Enhanced national/international

action on mitigation of climate change' makes up section b of the BAP, with components particularly relevant to terrestrial carbon and land based mitigation efforts for both *developed* and *developing* countries outlined below in Box 2.

**Box 2: Components of the BAP particularly relevant to enhanced national/ international action on land based mitigation and terrestrial carbon:**

- BAP (b) (i) Measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs), by all *developed* country Parties, while ensuring the comparability of efforts among them, taking into account differences in their national circumstances;
- BAP 1(b)(ii) Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by *developing* country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner;
- BAP 1(b)(iii) Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in *developing* countries;
- BAP 1(b)(iv) Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, in order to enhance implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention.

## 2.3 Negotiations on Land Based Mitigation under the Two Tracks of the UNFCCC in 2010

The Copenhagen Accord of COP 15 in December 2009 (UNFCCC, 2010aa), was a controversial three-page Accord of which Parties to the Conference 'took note'. While many Parties subsequently chose to formally associate themselves with the Accord, it represented no binding commitments. However, as regards land based mitigation, while not referring specifically to agriculture, it did recognise the role of REDD+:

The crucial role of reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation and the need to enhance removals of greenhouse gas emission by forests and agree on the need to provide positive incentives to such actions through the immediate establishment of a mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries.

In the aftermath of COP 15, during 2010, the AWG-KP focused largely on emission reduction commitments, flexibility mechanisms and LULUCF (IISD, 2010b). The possible contribution of LULUCF to meeting parties' QELROs remained an important issue in terms of parties' overall emission reduction targets and the G77/China proposed a means of achieving transparency in constructing LULUCF reference levels<sup>4</sup>. Parties called for consideration of potential linkages between the LULUCF rules and REDD+. Discussions also continued on the rules for establishing reference emissions levels and for accounting for inter-annual variability, *force majeure*<sup>5</sup> and harvested wood products. The AWG-KP's main challenge continued to be getting agreement on new emission reduction commitments for Annex I countries. This included

<sup>4</sup> When creating a system that incentivizes avoided greenhouse gas emissions, it is necessary to know what is being rewarded and how to measure success. Such benchmarks against which to measure success are commonly referred to as "reference levels".

<sup>5</sup> Generally taken to mean an extraordinary event or circumstance that is beyond the control of Parties, for example volcanos, earthquakes, climatic variability and extreme weather events.

considering what contribution the CDM and other mechanisms might make to reach such targets and new LULUCF rules for Annex I countries (FIELD, 2010).

Under the AWG-LCA, discussions covered a wide range of issues including a target for deforestation reduction, capacity building for NAMAs, MRV and REDD+, fast-start funding, sources of funding and new market mechanisms and governance issues. Differences arose again in the AWG-LCA talks regarding the use of REDD+ activities as an offset mechanism to fulfil developed countries emission reduction commitments. The African Group expressed strong concerns about these developments and the risk of REDD+ negotiations being undermined by this opposition (FIELD, 2010). Under the discussions on sectoral approaches, an agricultural work programme to deal with links between food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development was given support by some, but not all, countries (IISD, 2010b). Discussions also continued on finding a legal framework for mitigation and MRV that would be acceptable to developing and developed countries (IISD, 2010b). In terms of financing, throughout 2010 several nations expressed their opposition to the use of market mechanisms. Such points of difference saw an expansion of the negotiating text, with the reintroduction of options that were previously removed in the lead up to Copenhagen. Consultations also continued on finding a 'common space' for discussions on cross-cutting issues between the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP. These negotiations set the scene for COP 16 in Cancun.

## 2.4 The Cancun Agreements

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, took place from 29 November to 11 December 2010. The conference convened the UNFCCC COP 16 and Kyoto Protocol COP/MOP 6 as well as the four subsidiary bodies (AWG-LCA, AWG-KP, SBI, SBSTA). Prior to the meeting, there was little expectation of an overarching agreement being delivered in Cancun. Parties were instead working to find a means to move forward on options in the negotiation texts and to take decisions in Cancun that would not prejudge a legally-binding agreement being reached at COP 17 in 2011, South Africa, should that prove possible.

In effect, this is what the resulting Cancun Agreements achieved. Non-binding but clear decisions were reached under both the Convention and Protocol negotiating tracks (IISD, 2010d). In addition to the Cancun Agreements, the COP and COP/MOP adopted 20 other decisions on matters ranging from capacity building to administrative, financial and institutional matters and the SBI and SBSTA also reached a series of conclusions (IISD, 2010df). The full decision texts are available at the UNFCCC website: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

### 2.4.1 Outcome of the work of the AWG-LCA (Convention Track)

Agreement could not be reached on a key area of the BAP - 1(b)(iv) Sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions. This was because parties were unable to agree on the "general framing" of the broader decision, meaning that no matter how advanced the specific agricultural sector text, it could not be progressed in the absence of agreement on the broader decision for all sectors. Under 'enhanced action on mitigation' (section B of the BAP), decisions were made in a range of areas.

#### 2.4.1.1 *Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Commitments or Actions by Developed Country Parties*

Under this decision, the secretariat was requested to organize workshops to clarify matters related to achieving emission reduction targets, including the use of carbon credits from the market-based mechanisms and LULUCF activities.

A work programme was agreed for the development of modalities and guidelines, in particular procedures for international assessment and review of emissions and removals related to quantified economy-wide emission reductions targets, including the role of land use, land-use change and forestry, and carbon credits from market-based mechanisms, taking into account international experience. Parties were invited to submit views on this by 28 March 2011. It was also decided that developed countries should develop low-carbon development strategies or plans (UNFCCC, 2010c).

#### **2.4.1.2 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions by Developing Country Parties**

Under this decision, it was agreed that developing country Parties be invited to voluntarily inform the COP of their intention to implement NAMAs and to submit information on those actions to the Secretariat. It was also decided that a registry would be set up to record NAMAs for which international support is sought, and to facilitate the matching of finance, technology and capacity-building support to these actions. Developing countries have been encouraged to develop low-carbon development strategies or plans in the context of sustainable development.

A work programme was agreed for the development of modalities and guidelines for: facilitation of support to NAMAs through a registry; MRV of supported actions and corresponding support; biennial reports as part of national communications from non-Annex I Parties; domestic verification of mitigation actions undertaken with domestic resources; and international consultations and analysis. Parties were invited to submit views on this by 28 March 2011 (UNFCCC, 2010c).

#### **2.4.1.3 Policy Approaches and Positive Incentives on issues relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries; and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD+)**

It was agreed that developing country Parties would be encouraged to contribute to mitigation actions in the forest sector by undertaking the following activities, as deemed appropriate given respective capabilities and national circumstances:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks;
- Sustainable management of forest;
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks;

In doing so, developing country Parties are requested to, with appropriate support, develop the following elements:

- A national strategy or action plan;
- A national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level
- A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system
- A system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed

This decision also requests developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of annex I to the decision. These safeguards state, among other things, that activities should contribute to the achievement of the objective set out in Article 2 of the Convention and be consistent with Parties' national sustainable development needs and goals and with the adaptation needs of the country. It was also agreed that activities undertaken should be implemented in three phases:

- Development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building;
- Implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans;
- Results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified.

In this context, the AWG-LCA was requested to explore financing options for full implementation of the results-based actions (third phase), including the potential role of markets. SBSTA was requested to develop a work programme that:

- Identifies LULUCF activities in developing countries, in particular those that are linked to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, to identify the associated methodological issues to estimate emissions and removals resulting from these activities, and to assess their potential contribution to the mitigation of climate change (to report on the findings to the COP at its 18th session in 2012);
- Develops modalities (for consideration by the COP at its 17th session in 2011) relating to forest reference emission levels, national forest monitoring systems, MRV and implementation of safeguards.

Also of relevance is the decision under 'enhanced action on adaptation', (section C of the BAP). All Parties were invited to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework through planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions - including areas such as water resources; agriculture and food security; terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. Also recognised was the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise to understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events such as salinisation, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification (UNFCCC, 2010c).

Although not specifically related to land, the 'Finance, technology and capacity-building' (sections D and E of the BAP), decision is relevant as it impacts on funding. Here, it was decided that the Green Climate Fund would be established and designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention under Article 11. The Fund will be governed by a board of 24 members comprising an equal number of members from developing and developed country Parties. The World Bank will serve as the interim trustee of the Green Climate Fund, subject to a review three years after operationalisation of the fund. It was also agreed that The Green Climate Fund shall be designed by a Transitional Committee with 40 members: with 15 members from developed country Parties and 25 members from developing country Parties.

The mandate of the AWG-LCA was extended for another 12 months (UNFCCC, 2010c).

#### **2.4.2 Outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol**

It was decided under the AWG-KP to 'take note' of quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets to be implemented by Annex I Parties as communicated by them. Annex I Parties were urged to raise the level of ambition of the emission reductions to be achieved, taking into account the quantitative implications of the use of land use, land-use change and forestry activities, emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms and the carry-over of units from the first to the second commitment period. The text also clarifies that emissions trading and the project-based mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to enhance removals resulting from anthropogenic land use,

land-use change and forestry activities shall all continue to be available to Annex I Parties as means to meet their quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives.

A decision on LULUCF was also made (Decision 2/CMP.6). It was agreed that the “definitions of forest, afforestation, reforestation, deforestation, revegetation, forest management, cropland management, and grazing land management shall be the same as in the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol” (UNFCCC, 2010e).

In this context of LULUCF, the AWG-KP is requested to further consider:

- Whether a cap should be applied to emissions and removals from forest management and how extraordinary occurrences (*force majeure*) can be addressed;
- Definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating for land use, land use change and forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol for application in the second commitment period.

Annex I Parties were requested to submit information on their forest management reference levels to the Secretariat by 28 February 2011.

In terms of the decision on further guidance relating to the CDM, agreements largely related to the governance, accreditation, membership and remuneration of the executive board (UNFCCC, 2010f). In the context of 'baseline and monitoring methodologies and additionality', SBSTA was urged to conclude its work, and provide recommendations on the consideration of “new technologies and scopes as possibly eligible under the clean development mechanism”.

### **2.4.3 Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) – 33rd Session**

It is also worth reporting here that under the SBSTA 33, it was:

Noted that the 2006 IPCC Guidelines have merged the methodological guidance of the agriculture sector and the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector into a methodological guidance of a new sector: agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU). The SBSTA agreed that, in the revised UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines, the agriculture sector and the LULUCF sector should continue to be separate as in the current UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines. The SBSTA further agreed that separate reporting of agriculture and LULUCF requires an allocation of the AFOLU categories in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines to the agriculture and LULUCF sectors with a view to ensuring completeness and avoiding duplication of reporting of individual categories and/or sub-categories. The SBSTA also agreed that this may include revisiting the allocation of categories in the current UNFCCC Annex I reporting guidelines.

The SBSTA also invited the IPCC to undertake further methodological work on wetlands, focusing on the rewetting and restoration of peatland, with a view to filling in the gaps in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in these areas and to complete this work for the thirty-ninth session of the SBSTA (SBSTA, 2010). Parties were invited to submit their views on the implications of including forests in exhaustion under the CDM by 28 March 2011.

## **2.5 Country Submissions to the UNFCCC AWG-LCA**

All of the above relates to the multilateral UNFCCC process. As part of this process, individual countries (or coalitions representing a number of countries) are invited to make submissions on a range of issues related to the negotiations.

In 2010, four opportunities existed for countries to make submissions on specific issues - prior to each of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP meetings. In regard to AWG-LCA submissions, several countries made specific references to REDD+ in their submissions during that year. These submissions provide a sense of the issues of concern to different countries. For example, under the call for views "on which the Chair may draw in preparing negotiating text" (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/MISC.2), submissions can be found by:

- Argentina (in relation to reference emissions levels, a phased approach, financing and excluding REDD+ from NAMAs)
- Bolivia (in opposition to market mechanisms)
- Ghana (on financing)
- Guatemala (on financing)
- Turkey (on financing)
- USA (on the scope of negotiating text)

Meanwhile, in 2011 the UNFCCC is currently accepting submissions of information and views on the outcomes of the recent sessions in Cancun in December 2010.

Based on the submissions provided to the UNFCCC prior to COP 16<sup>6</sup>, we have made some general classifications of country positions in respect to REDD+ in term of scope (the activities covered) and accounting (the scale of accounting). We note here that submissions can sometimes be ambiguous and open to interpretation and we welcome clarification (see Table One below).

**Table One. Stated Positions of Countries and Groups as at November 2010**

Scope	Accounting		
	Project or National	National	National & Global
REDD	COMIFAC* Chile	AOSIS* Brazil Canada Dominican Republic^	Guatemala^ Honduras^ New Zealand Nicaragua^
REDD+	Argentina Colombia Malaysia Paraguay Suriname Vanuatu	CfRN*^ China EU* Guyana India Indonesia Japan	Mexico^ Nepal Panama^ PNG^ Peru^ Tuvalu Zambia
REDD+ with ultimate objective of AFOLU		Australia COMESA* USA	Norway^

\* Submission made on behalf of a number of countries (note that some countries are part of two or more not entirely consistent submissions)  
 ^ Country has indicated that while a sub-national/ project level approach may be acceptable initially, a transition to national level is necessary.

<sup>6</sup> All submissions are available at: [http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad\\_hoc\\_working\\_groups/lca/items/4578.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/items/4578.php)

## 2.6 Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)

As described in 2.4.1.1, further work is to be done to develop the guidance for NAMAs. For developed country commitments, discussions and agreement are needed on the use of carbon credits from the market-based mechanisms and land use, land-use change and forestry activities by developed countries. In addition, a work programme was agreed to for the development of modalities and guidelines, in relation to LULUCF.

As described in 2.4.1.2, Developing country Parties were invited to voluntarily inform the COP of their intention to implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions. It was also agreed that a registry would be set up. It is likely that these NAMAs will reflect those already submitted under Appendix II of the Copenhagen Accord. Under the Accord, Non-Annex I Parties were invited to submit NAMAs to the secretariat to be listed. In that case, of the 43 non-annex I Parties that made submissions, 29 made specific reference to forestry related actions. Of these 29, 18 also mentioned agriculture related actions (see Table Two below).

**Table Two. NAMA submissions referring to agriculture or forestry (UNFCCC, 2010g)**

Non Annex 1 Parties	Agriculture	Forestry
Armenia		✓
Benin		✓
Botswana		✓
Brazil	✓	✓
Cameroon		✓
Central African Republic	✓	✓
Chad	✓	✓
Chile	✓	✓
China		✓
Colombia		✓
Congo	✓	✓
Costa Rica		✓
Cote d'Ivoire	✓	✓
Eritrea	✓	✓
Ethiopia	✓	✓
Gabon		✓
Ghana	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓
Jordan	✓	✓
Madagascar	✓	✓
Mauritania		✓
Mongolia	✓	✓
Morocco	✓	✓
Peru		✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓
Sierra Leone	✓	✓
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	✓	✓
Togo		✓
Tunisia	✓	✓

### **3 Other Global and Sub-Global Fora Generating International Policy Responses on Land Based Mitigation and Terrestrial Carbon**

As mentioned in the introduction, there is an abundance of global and sub-global initiatives that have the potential to provide pathways forward for land in the international climate change response. This section briefly outlines some of the more recent developments, agreements and partnerships at a variety of scales.

#### **3.1 African Union, the African Development Bank, the UN Economic Commission for Africa**

The Seventh African Development Forum was held from 12-15 October 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the theme, "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa." The Forum was convened by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Addressing the Forum, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, expressed his suspicion that the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 16) in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of 2010, and COP 17, scheduled to take place in South Africa in 2012, "will be a total flop." He cited disagreements between developed and developing countries, and a leadership crisis on environmental issues at the international level. He called on Africa's leadership "to prove its worth" and reach a satisfactory agreement for the continent in the current negotiations (IISD, 2010e).

One of the outcomes of the Forum was the establishment of a partnership on Africa's options for a Green Economy, backed by the African Union, the African Development Bank, UNECA and UNEP. An initial activity of the partnership will be the organization of an Africa-wide conference on a low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy, to take place in 2011, in response to the Bamako Declaration. The Declaration, including fostering a Green Economy, was made at the 13th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (UNEP, 2010).

On 4 November 2010, the African Development Bank launched the African Carbon Support Project (ACSP), designed to assist project developers in the continent in accessing carbon finance to ensure the commercial feasibility of their projects. ACSP will address the policy and operational implications of current discussions on the global carbon finance framework, especially with respect to the private sector in Africa. The project will be managed by the Bank's Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department and is supported by a grant from the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA). FAPA is a component of the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance Initiative (EPSA), originally a Japan-AfDB billion-dollar joint initiative to promote private sector development in Africa but recently converted into a multi-donor trust fund (AfDB, 2010).

### **3.2 Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)**

The Heads of Government of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 17 November 2010 for the 4th Summit of the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS, 2010). The resulting agreement, the Phnom Penh Declaration, refers to cooperation on a range of matters including:

- Technology transfer and information sharing in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture to increase productivity, food security and food safety and enhanced cooperation in bio-fuel crops production;
- Environmental conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the Ayeyawady, Chao-Phraya and Mekong Rivers; and,
- Addressing global warming, reducing air pollution, adapting and mitigating climate change, improving the regional and global environment, water resources management and Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

### **3.3 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

The 1st APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security was held in Niigata, Japan on 17 October 2010 (APEC, 2010). At its conclusion, Ministers adopted the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security. On confronting the challenges in climate change and natural resource management, the declaration states:

Agriculture is also particularly vulnerable to climate change. Agriculture, as a source of global greenhouse gas emissions, is contributing to this challenge. At the same time, it may also contribute to a solution through carbon sequestration in soils and forests and improved natural resource management practices. In this context, we agreed to work together to assist the agricultural sector to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change through the development and transfer of new and existing technologies, exchange of information, research collaboration and capacity building, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. To this end, we noted the importance of bringing economies together in a bottom-up, voluntary network to increase international cooperation, collaboration and investment in agricultural greenhouse gas research. One positive example of such collaborative work is the Global Research Alliance which brings economies together to find ways to grow more food without growing greenhouse gas emissions. We also agreed to address natural resource challenges such as growing water scarcity, expanding desertification, increasing farmland conversion, diminishing biodiversity, degraded tropical forests and depleted marine fishery resources. Recognizing the opportunities provided by biofuels, we shared the need to cooperate on developing second-generation biofuels.

The 2011 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting will be hosted by the United States in Honolulu in November.

### **3.4 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus 3**

The ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea held their Tenth Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 24

October 2010. The Ministers reaffirmed their strong support in advancing cooperation in food, agriculture, and forestry sectors as guided by the Second Joint Statement on East Asia Cooperation, including the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2007-2017). The ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy on Food, Agriculture and Forestry provides a framework to foster cooperation among the ASEAN Plus Three countries in the areas of Strengthening Food Security, Biomass Energy Development, Sustainable Forest Management, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Animal Health and Disease Control, and Cross-Cutting Issues. The Ministers welcomed the Niigata Declaration on APEC Food Security and recognised that the Niigata Declaration shared similar inspiration with the on-going efforts of AMAF Plus Three cooperation towards regional food security through sustainable development of the agriculture sector and facilitation of food investment, trade and markets (ASEAN, 2010).

The Chair of ASEAN for 2011 is Indonesia. Two Summits for ASEAN Leaders will be held in April and October in Jakarta and Bali respectively. The East Asia Summit will be expanded to include Russia and the United States.

### 3.5 BASIC Group

The BASIC countries are Brazil, South Africa, India and China. The fifth BASIC Ministerial meeting on climate change was held in Tianjin, China, 10-11 October 2010. Ministers supported elements of the Copenhagen Accord relevant to "political understandings" being reflected in the negotiating texts of the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP (MOEF, 2010). They also reiterated the importance of the two track approach, while noting the differences between the emission reduction commitments by developed countries compared to those of developing countries in the content of NAMAs. Ministers emphasised that sustainable development was a prerequisite for setting up any global emission reduction target. During COP 16, India acted as the coordinator of the BASIC group and will host the next meeting of BASIC Ministers in early 2011.

Note that in late 2010, South Africa was invited to join the BRIC alliance with Brazil, Russia, India and China. This follows an earlier request from South Africa to be admitted to the bloc of nations, which held its first summit in June 2009 in Russia. The second BRIC summit was held in Brazilia. BRIC leaders are due to meet in Beijing this year.

### 3.6 Bilateral Agreements

A significant number of multilateral and bilateral funding commitments have been made in regard to REDD+. The following provides examples of bilateral agreements:

- *Australia, PNG, Indonesia:* Australia's \$273 million International Forest Carbon Initiative is working to help build capacity and provide momentum to support inclusion of REDD+ in a post-2012 global climate change agreement. Administered by the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and AusAID, the initiative provides direct assistance to developing countries, in particular Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, to develop their own national forest carbon measurement systems (DCCEE, 2010).
- *Germany, Pacific Island States:* In 2010, €350 million will be disbursed by the German Government for all fast start climate change financing. An example of bilateral funding includes the €4.2m (2009-2012), to be increased in 2010 by €10m, for adaptation to climate change by the Pacific Island States. Under this project, Germany is helping the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in its consultative function as well as the island states of Tonga and Vanuatu in their formulation of specific policy measures and by

implementing a system of sustainable land use. The project will be extended between 2010 and 2012 to include more partner countries and a broader range of issues (Fast Start Finance, 2010a).

- *Norway, Brazil, Guyana, Indonesia, Mexico, Tanzania:* The Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative works with developing forest countries and multilateral REDD+ initiatives such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the United Nations REDD Program, the Forest Investment Program and the Congo Basin Forest Fund. For the 2010-12 period, Norway has pledged 1 billion USD for REDD+. Bilateral funding agreements include the countries of Brazil, Guyana, Indonesia, Mexico and Tanzania. In addition, Norway is preparing large scale pilot schemes for performance-based REDD+ payments in several countries with different circumstances, including Brazil, Guyana, Indonesia and Tanzania (Fast Start Finance, 2010b).

Note that this list is not exhaustive. Other countries have committed significant amounts, often through multilateral agreements. For example, as per the Copenhagen Accord's collective commitment by developed countries to provide \$30 billion by 2012, the United States contribution to fast start financing in 2010 was \$1.7 billion. A large portion of this support is provided to developing countries through multi-regional, regional, and bilateral programs, principally supported by USAID. One of the three priorities under this funding is sustainable landscapes. This program focuses largely on helping countries to slow, halt, and reverse deforestation. For such land use and forest related activities, U.S. support prioritizes mitigation potential; countries with the political will to implement large-scale efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and other land-use activities; and potential for performance-based approaches (United States, 2011). Another example is the United Kingdom, which has pledged £1.5 billion in Fast Start finance over 2010-2012, with £300 million earmarked to help rainforest nations safeguard their forests (Fast Start Finance, 2010c). Clarifications and additional information on other relevant bilateral agreements are welcomed.

In addition, a range of countries have signed memorandums of understanding and communiqués that convey bilateral agreements to cooperate on climate change. A recent example is the 16 December 2010 Joint Communiqué issued by *India* and *China* following talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (NetIndian, 2010). The communiqué called for:

Continued international adherence to the principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol including that of "common but differentiated responsibilities". Both sides also appreciated the joint efforts of India and China in the international negotiations towards arriving at fair and balanced climate agreements with the aim of further enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol according to the mandate of Bali Roadmap. Both sides appreciated bilateral cooperation in the area of mitigating and adapting to climate change and agreed to strengthen such cooperation. They welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries on Cooperation in Green Technologies.

Action is also taking place at the subnational scale. For example, on 16 November 2010, the then Californian Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Governor Arnóbio Marques de Almeida Júnior from Acre, Brazil and Governor Juan José Sabines Guerrero from Chiapas, Mexico to combat climate change and protect tropical forests. Under the MOU, a working group will develop recommendations with the ultimate goal of bringing subnational REDD programs into California's cap-and-trade program to allow California companies to use REDD credits for compliance. The working group is due to make its first set of recommendations in October 2011 (Office of Governor, 2010).

### **3.7 Forest 11**

On 12 October 2009, at a meeting hosted by the Government of Indonesia, the Forest Eleven endorsed the "Jakarta Declaration on the Promotion of Dialogue and Cooperation of Tropical Rainforest Countries (F-11)". This declaration officially launched F-11 cooperation and set out a program of work for projects. At this stage, the F-11 member countries are in process of preparing the implementation of their respective projects which will serve as a mechanism for sharing of knowledge and information among F-11 member countries. The F-11 countries include: Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and Peru (Forest Eleven, 2010).

### **3.8 The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) was established in 2008. The FCPF assists tropical and subtropical forest countries develop the systems and policies for REDD+ and provides them with performance-based payments for emission reductions. Thirty-seven REDD countries (14 in Africa, 15 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and eight in Asia and the Pacific) have been selected in the partnership. Thirteen of these countries (Argentina, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, the Republic of Congo and Tanzania) have so far submitted Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs). Sixteen financial contributors (Agence Française de Développement, Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Nature Conservancy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States) have pledged about \$345 million to the FCPF (\$200 million to the Readiness Fund and \$145 million to the Carbon Fund). The World Bank acts as trustee to both funds and provides the secretariat. The FCPF cooperates with the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Investment Program (FCPF, 2011).

### **3.9 G20 and G8**

Within the G20 Summits, the focus has been primarily on international economic and financial issues. However, the agenda has broadened out to include low-carbon/green growth, as well as wider energy and climate change issues (DECC, 2010). The Republic of Korea is chair of the G20 in 2010. The G8 has dealt with climate change in the context of the meetings of the G8 Environment Ministers and G8 Heads of State. These meetings give countries the opportunity to discuss low carbon green growth and energy security issues (DECC, 2010).

### **3.10 Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change**

Participants from governments, international and regional organizations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, civil society, farmers and the scientific community, met at the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in The Hague, Netherlands from 31 October to 5 November 2010. The outcomes from the African Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (Addis Ababa, 6-8 September 2010) were noted and welcomed. A Roadmap for Action on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change was agreed with the aim of signalling a commitment to take concrete actions linking agriculture-related investments, policies,

and measures with the transition to climate smart growth. See: <http://www.afcconference.com/final-roadmap-for-action>. The Roadmap for Action included many specific activities outlined under 3 “pillars” in the Annex to the Roadmap. Examples include:

<i>Pillar 1: Policies, Strategies and Supporting Incentive Mechanisms for Climate-smart Agriculture</i>	Initiative to enable integration of land use planning in country climate and food strategies. Support to a multi-country, 5-year initiative to enable integration of land use and planning considerations in the development of sustainable food production, low emission development and adaptation strategies.	2011-2016  The Netherlands, Terrestrial Carbon Group and other partners
<i>Pillar 2: Tools and Technologies for implementing climate-smart agriculture</i>	AFOLU Readiness: Linking improved land management practices that enhanced productivity and food security, improved use of climate information and risk management.	2011-2015  COMESA/EAC/SADC/ Member States, Norway, European Union, Rockefeller Foundation.
<i>Pillar 3: Financing for transformational change</i>	Convene a pan-African expert panel to explore the possibility of setting up a financial mechanism for African climate-smart agriculture and food security	2012  African Union Commission and CTA

On 9 December 2010, at COP 16 in Cancun, the Roadmap for Action: Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change was officially announced, with a group of global leaders and policy makers calling for agriculture to play a key role in the architecture of climate finance. Among those present were Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia; Robert B. Zoellick, President of the World Bank Group; Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture, Vietnam; Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, USA; Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment and Development, Norway; Tabaré Aguerre, Minister of Agriculture, Uruguay; and Jacques Diouf, Director-General, UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The event was moderated by Hans Hoogeveen, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands (World Bank, 2010). Part of an ongoing initiative, the Government of the Netherlands has offered to support the process in the lead up to a follow-up conference that Vietnam offered to host in March 2012.

### 3.11 Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases

The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases was launched on 16 December 2009 in the margins of the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The concept originated in New Zealand, but there are now 30 Alliance Member Countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam (GRA, 2010).

The Alliance is focused on research, development and extension of technologies and practices that will help deliver greater productivity and more climate-resilient food systems without an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Currently in a 12 month establishment phase, Alliance countries are working to agree a governance structure and Charter, and a programme of work. The first meeting of Alliance countries took place in Wellington, New Zealand, from 7-9 April 2010, where it was agreed that three Research Groups would be established:

- Livestock (co-ordinated by New Zealand and the Netherlands)
- Croplands (co-ordinated by the US)
- Paddy rice (co-ordinated by Japan)

It was also agreed that an additional process be created to deal with two cross-cutting issues:

- Soil carbon and nitrogen cycling (co-ordinated by Australia and France)
- Inventories and measurement (co-ordinated by Canada and the Netherlands)

### **3.12 Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate**

In March 2009, US President Obama established the Major Economies Forum, building on the former Major Economies Process under President Bush. The forum is intended to promote a candid dialogue on climate change among 17 major economies, provide the political leadership required to promote a successful outcome in Copenhagen, and facilitate the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that can advance clean energy growth while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The 17 major economies are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (DECC, 2010). The Second Clean Energy Ministerial will be held April 2011 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

### **3.13 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

When Ministers met at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2009, they adopted the Declaration on Green Growth and asked the OECD to develop a Green Growth Strategy. The Interim Report of the Green Growth Strategy was presented to the Ministerial Council Meeting in May 2010. The OECD will deliver a Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report to the 2011 Ministerial Council Meeting, which will elaborate on specific tools and recommendations to help governments to identify the policies that can help achieve the most efficient shift to greener growth. The 2010 Interim Report highlights preliminary findings on a number of key issues that policymakers are currently facing in transitioning to greener economies – reflecting a sub-set of the broader range of issues that will be addressed in the 2011 Synthesis Report (OECD, 2010).

### **3.14 REDD+ partnership**

In March 2010, countries attending the International Conference on the Major Forest Basins in Paris (hosted by France) agreed on the need to forge an interim partnership on REDD+. Building on the Paris conference, this non-binding partnership was officially launched in May at the Oslo Forest Climate

Conference (hosted by Norway). This is an interim arrangement that allows countries to scale up actions and is to be replaced by a REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC.

Known as the REDD+ Partnership, as of 27 May 2010, the Partnership included 58 Partner countries. At the end of October 2010, the Partnership included 70 Partner countries (REDD+ Partnership, 2010). With a focus on capacity-building and enabling institutions, the REDD+ Partnership 2010 Work Program includes:

- Database of REDD+ financing, actions and results
- Discussion on effectiveness of multilateral REDD+ initiatives and analysis of financing gaps and overlaps
- Sharing lessons and best practices on REDD+ initiatives, and promote cooperation among Partners
- Institutional arrangements

The Partnership ran in to difficulties over issues of the agenda and process in Tianjin which led to the cancellation of some talks. However, at the Aichi-Nagoya Ministerial Meeting of the REDD+ Partnership, held on 26 October 2010, Ministers' reaffirmed their commitment to the partnership. Partnership participants are reviewing projects carried out to date under the partnership, and are also expected to endorse the outlines of projects for 2011 and 2012.

### **3.15 UN General Assembly**

The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) of the UN General Assembly met on 28 October 2010 in New York. In considering agriculture development and food security, various speakers addressed the role of agriculture in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. For example, on the mitigation potential of agriculture, Belgium, on behalf of the EU, stressed the important mitigation potential of environmentally, socially and economically, sustainable agricultural development and land management, calling for the further exploration of incentives to reward the provision of environmental services to ensure full exploitation of existing synergies. Malawi indicated that through an agriculture-based climate change mitigation framework developed by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Heads of State had agreed to establish an inter-ministerial mechanism to bring together agriculture, environment and water Ministers. The representative of the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) underscored that sustainable agriculture could help mitigate the impacts of climate change, noting that alternative crops could offer significant prospects of carbon sequestration (IISD, 2010f).

### **3.16 UN-REDD Programme**

The UN-REDD Programme was launched in September 2008 and involves the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Programme currently supports REDD+ readiness activities in nine pilot countries: Bolivia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Zambia. The Programme also has 18 partner countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Guyana, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Sudan (UN-REDD, 2010a).

The five UN-REDD Programme pilot countries that are now considered to be in the 'implementation phase' are Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia. By August 2010, the UN-REDD Programme had invested about 40% of approved funds in Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Monitoring (UN-REDD, 2010b). During its fifth Policy Board meeting in Washington, D.C. from 4-5 November 2010, the UN-REDD Programme approved US\$15.2 million in funding for national programmes in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines and Solomon Islands, bringing the total amount of funding for UN-REDD National Programmes to US\$51.4 million. New funding of US\$6 million was also received from Denmark (UN-REDD, 2010c).

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