

Working Group 4

Secure and equitable access to resources for food security and nutrition – Forests

(1) Topic outline

Nowadays, forest conservation is debated primarily from a climate and environment policy perspective and is accompanied by international programmes. As part of climate negotiations, programmes are being discussed which are designed to acknowledge forest conservation in developing countries as a climate protection measure (REDD and REDD+). Furthermore, corresponding initiatives are already being pushed forward in the form of pilot projects beyond the parameters of the stalled climate negotiations and the World Bank has already set up relevant funds.

In this regard, the aspects of food security, poverty reduction and the improvement of people's livelihoods play a secondary role in most cases. The problem with such initiatives is often the lack of an appropriate legal and planning basis and implementing this effectively in practice. As a result, there is also an absence of systematic recording and sustainable management of this part of the forest's resources. What would be required is to regulate and safeguard access to the resources while managing them in a sustainable fashion: Traditional rights of use of groups who either live in the forest or off the forest's products ('collective economies') are often ignored in forest planning and in the standard granting of licences for forest utilisation. Non-timber products are, in addition, often overexploited as a result of unregulated or illegal practices within the context of forest utilisation, and their stocks are under threat (example of the bushmeat problem). The potential offered by integrating tree planting and reforestation measures in countryside other than forests in order to improve soil fertility and, by extension, to increase agricultural productivity, is not considered either.

(2) Aim of the working group

To draw up recommendations for strategies as to how sustainable forest management could combine the various different aims, i.e. the preservation of forests as ecosystems, use of forests as a source of raw materials and their role in food security and reducing poverty.

(3) Specific questions to the working group

Lead question

How can secure and equitable access to forests be guaranteed for all of those groups who depend on forests for their food security? How can we ensure that these forests are preserved?

Working questions

- What enabling conditions would be advisable in order to take greater account of the nutritional function of forests and to safeguard this function in the long term? How can human rights instruments (Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacements) help in this regard?
- How can the potential of integrated systems of agriculture and forests and the increase in agricultural production as a result of reforestation (Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration/ FMNR) be exploited to greater effect? How can it be supported politically?

- What guarantees can be made to ensure that carbon markets do not produce any negative impacts in the long term as a result of competition for land with food security concerns and the right to food? How can, or how should the ongoing international programmes for REDD+ be organised in order to take sufficient account of this role of sustainably managed forests?

Process orientation

- How instrumental can the future Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests be in terms of sustainable utilisation of forests?
- UN climate negotiations
- Recommendations to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012

Languages: English
Venue: Außenministersaal

(4) Reference documents:

FAO	<p>Reforming forest tenure, FAO Forestry Paper 165 http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2185e/i2185e00.pdf</p> <p>Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests http://www.fao.org/nr/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/</p> <p>Consolidated Changes to the First Draft of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (12-15 July and 10-15 October 2011) http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/nr/land_tenure/pdf/First_Draft_VG_with_changes_October_2011_English.pdf</p>
World Agroforestry Centre	<p>Evergreen Agriculture: a robust approach to sustainable food security in Africa http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/evergreenagriculture/sites/default/files/Evergreen%20Agriculture%20Garrity%20et%20al%20Food%20Security.pdf</p>
Worldwatch Institute	<p>State of the World 2011. Investing in Trees to Mitigate Climate Change, Chris Reij, pp.</p>
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	<p>Moving ahead with REDD http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/nc/online-library/browse/view-publication/publication/2601.html</p>
FAO, UNDP, UNEP	<p>United Nations Collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries. Framework Document, June 2008 http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4&Itemid=53</p>

