



A NEW CLIMATE FOR FORESTS?

A global assessment by the
CPF Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to
Climate Change

CPF Side Event, 5 December 2008, Poznan, Poland

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BACKGROUND

- Expert scientific advice increasingly called upon to inform decision-making
- Mechanisms needed to provide policy and decision makers with up-to-date scientific information
- CPF Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) launched in April 2007 at 7th session of United Nations Forum on Forests

CPF GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

- Provide decision makers with an objective source of information about forest-related issues of high concern, including emerging issues
- Carry out comprehensive, objective interdisciplinary assessments of available scientific information relevant to the understanding of these issues of high concern

CPF GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS (ctd.)

- Consist of a limited number of **scientists** with recognized expertise
- Are established on a **temporary** basis
- Operate on basis of **Terms of Reference**
- **Steering Committee:** IUFRO (Coordinator), CBD Secretariat, CIFOR, FAO, ICRAF, UNFF Secretariat

EXPERT PANEL ON ADAPTATION OF FORESTS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

- **First thematic panel** established under GFEP in October 2007
- Theme “adaptation” identified in series of **policy consultations** (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC)
- **Why adaptation:** discussion has mainly focused on mitigation - adaptation needs more attention

THE PANEL

- Chair, 6 Coordinating Lead Authors, in total about 100 participating scientists
- Broad range of scientific backgrounds and expertise; various IPCC experts



THE ASSESSMENT

- Most comprehensive assessment to date of existing scientific knowledge about forest adaptation
- Particular emphasis on social and economic impacts of climate change, and on options for adaptation
- All manuscripts subject to scientific peer review by invited experts

MAIN TOPICS OF REPORT

- **Introduction:** Conceptual framework
- **Past Observations of Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptations**
- **Potential future impacts and vulnerabilities:**
scenarios; environmental, economic and social impacts and vulnerabilities
- **Adaptation options:**
 - Management options
 - Policy options

SOME EMERGING KEY MESSAGES

- Significant impacts on forest ecosystems and services even if CO₂ concentrations will be stabilized (UNFCCC Article 2)
- Adaptation options based on **sustainable forest management strategies** are likely to perform well across a wide range of potential future climate conditions, but **need for flexibility**
- Adaptation increases **costs of forest management**; need for additional financial tools

PRODUCTS

- Peer-reviewed scientific assessment report
- Special summary for policy makers
- Formal launch of both publications at UNFF-8 in April 2009

RESOURCES AND FINANCING

- In-kind contributions by CPF Members
- Financial contributions by interested governments
 - Finland (FORMIN)
 - Sweden (Sida)
 - United Kingdom (DFID)
 - Germany (GTZ)
 - United States (US Forest Service)