

First Workshop Announcement

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

A workshop to discuss methodological and policy issues

Bad Blumau / Austria
10-12 May 2006



Organized and Co-funded by



Background

COP-11 initiated a 2-year process to consider approaches to stimulate action for reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. As a first step, the COP invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, by 31 March 2006, their views “on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, focusing on relevant scientific, technical and methodological issues, and the exchange of relevant information and experiences, including policy approaches and positive incentives”. SBSTA is expected to consider these submissions at SBSTA 24 in May 15-26, 2006 in Bonn, Germany, and subsequently hold a workshop on this issue later in 2006.

Objective

The objective of our workshop is to provide a timely forum for an informal discussion and assessment of methodological and policy approaches for reducing emissions from deforestation. The workshop will base its discussions on the published literature, the 31 March submissions by governments and observer organizations, and inputs by workshop participants. The timing of the workshop has been selected to precede and provide input into the dialogue at SBSTA 24 and SBSTA workshop in late 2006. Anticipated outputs include a side-event at SBSTA 24 to present major findings of our workshop, including initial ideas for the SBSTA workshop terms of reference.

The workshop will encourage the learning and awareness of the issue and analyse the possible paths that negotiations may take in the future. The workshop organizers encourage participants to attend with this in mind.

Target Audience

The workshop will be of interest to all individuals and organizations doing significant work on mitigation of climate change, with focus on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries. This includes:

- Practitioners;
- Key senior delegates of Parties to the UNFCCC;
- Technical experts and scientists;
- NGOs;
- Representatives from tropical forest nations; and
- Representatives of entities that may provide funding for avoided deforestation at national, state (e.g., US) and other levels; and the private sector.

Proposed Agenda

The workshop will be structured as follows:

1. Opening statements;
2. Plenary session with introductory presentations (0.75 days);
3. A panel discussion on the March 31 submissions (0.25 days);
4. Breakout groups for detailed discussion of issues and options (1.5 days); and
5. A wrap-up plenary session to present initial conclusions and possible ways of moving forward (0.5 days).

Day 1 – Wednesday 10 May

Opening Statements (9:00 – 9:30)

Plenary Session I - Background (9:30 – 11:00)

(Each presentation will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Subjects and titles are tentative at this time)

- History of the issue under the UNFCCC, reasons for exclusion of deforestation to date
- Magnitude of the problem and underlying causes of deforestation, including social and economic issues
- Lessons learned from other national and international efforts to reduce deforestation.

Plenary Session II – Future policy pathways (11:30 – 13:00)

- Changes since the Kyoto Protocol/Marrakech decisions on LULUCF that help enable a renewed dialogue on avoided deforestation
- Status of the “Montreal Mandate” and approaches how deforestation could be addressed within a UNFCCC or Kyoto Protocol type umbrella
- Policy approaches and incentives at the national level

Plenary Session III – Methodological and technical issues (14:00 – 15:30)

- Methodological issues including targets, benchmarks and baselines
- Environmental integrity and permanence, including in light of climate change
- Costs and potentials; possible scale of supply of GHG credits from avoided deforestation; impacts on carbon prices

Panel to discuss the March 31 submissions (16:00 – 18:00)

The essence of the submissions will be presented, followed by a general discussion. (3 x 20 minutes plus 1 hour of discussion)

Conference Dinner (19:00)

Day 2 – Thursday 11 May

Breakout Groups (9:00 – 12:00 and 13:30 – 16:30)

The detailed scope for Breakout groups (BOGs) will be decided upon after the submissions by Parties are available (expected around mid-April). Potential BOG topics include:

1. Current and future patterns, trends and causes of deforestation, experience in addressing the underlying causes, magnitudes of possible reductions, opportunity costs, costs of reducing deforestation at significant scale;
2. Quantitative approaches and methodological issues for reducing emissions from deforestation (accounting, leakage, permanence, monitoring and estimation; definitional issues like degradation vs. deforestation, experience with national GHG reporting of deforestation);
 - One day dedicated to options for developing deforestation baselines / targets — appropriate scale, including data needs and data availability.
3. International level: mechanisms, policy approaches and incentives (including linking vs. delinking with energy sector emissions trading), possible financing mechanisms, policy scenarios for next two years;

4. National implementation, experiences, mechanisms; links to sustainable development (synergies with other objectives and mechanisms such as adaptation, forest certification, forest policymaking, desertification, biodiversity, illegal logging, etc).

Day 3 – Friday 12 May

Breakout Groups (9:00 – 12:00) (possibility of re-grouping as necessary, with feedback mechanisms between groups)

Plenary (13:30 – 16:00)

The conference will close with the presentation of summaries from each BOG.

Venue

The workshop will take place on Wednesday to Friday, 10 - 12 May 2006 in Bad Blumau Spa, Austria (see maps on the last page).

Rogner-Bad Blumau, Hotel & Spa (A-8283 Bad Blumau 100. Tel: +43 3383 5100 9595 Fax: +43 3383 5100 805, email: fbba@blum.rogner.com). For web details see www.blumau.com.



Transportation

It is recommended that participants book flights to Graz / Austria. There are several flights per day to Graz from Frankfurt/Germany, Munich/Germany, Zurich/Switzerland, Vienna/Austria and other cities. For those participants already travelling to Frankfurt / Bonn for SBSTA 24, the incremental costs of the trip to Graz may be as low as 200€ depending on the itinerary and time of booking the flight (the earlier the better).

Participants are asked to provide flight details when registering, so that transportation from Graz airport to the workshop venue in Bad Blumau can be organized (about 35 to 45 minutes). This transportation will be provided by the organizers. Alternatively, participants can book flights to Vienna / Austria, from where it is possible to go to Bad Blumau by Taxi (about 1 hour 30 minutes; the organizers will facilitate the joint use of Taxis) or public transport (about 3 hours, schedule available upon request).

Visa Requirements

Please make sure that you have a valid visa for entry into Austria. It is a different visa from that required to enter Germany (which may be needed for attending SBSTA).

Accommodations

Conference Hotel

A block reservation at the Rogner-Bad Blumau, Hotel & Spa under the name JOANNEUM RESEARCH has been made for 60 participants. These rooms will be held until 28 February. Address: A-8283 Bad Blumau 100. Tel: +43 3383 5100 9595 Fax: +43 3383 5100 805, email: fbba@blum.rogner.com.

Single Rooms:	Category: <i>Friedensreich</i>	122,40 €/ day including breakfast
	Category: <i>Dunkelbunt</i>	117,90 €/ day including breakfast
Shared Accommodation	Category: <i>Friedensreich</i>	95,40 €/ day including breakfast
	Category: <i>Dunkelbunt</i>	90,90 €/ day including breakfast

Budget Hotels

A block reservation at the Hotel-Restaurant Bad Blumauerhof under the name JOANNEUM RESEARCH has been made for 15 participants for budget conscious participants. These rooms will be held until 28 February. Bad Blumauerhof is a 20 minute walk by foot through a wooded area to the conference site. Address: 8283 Bad Blumau 29. Tel.: +43 3383 51 15 Fax: +43 3383 51 15 50, email office@badblumauerhof.at, webpage: www.badblumauerhof.at

Price : 35 €/ day (breakfast included)

A block reservation at the Hotel Garni Thermenose under the name JOANNEUM RESEARCH has been made for 11 participants for budget conscious participants. These rooms will be held until 28 February. Hotel Garni is a 15 minute walk by foot through the village to the conference site. Address: 8283 Bad Blumau 29. Tel.: +43 3383 2660, email perl@thermenoase.at webpage: www.thermenoase.at

Price : 34 €/ day (breakfast included)

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING THEIR OWN ACCOMMODATIONS

Participation Fee

The participation fee is 300 € per participant from Annex I countries and includes lunch and coffee / snacks on all three days, the conference dinner on Wednesday night and transportation to and from Graz Airport. The reduced fee for participants from non-Annex I countries is 150 €. Limited support for up to thirty participants from non-Annex I countries will be available. This support covers lowest cost airfare from Frankfurt to Graz (it is expected that participants will already have funding for travel to Frankfurt because of attending SBSTA 24 in Bonn), hotel costs (budget accommodation) and registration fee. The participants eligible for this support will be selected by the co-sponsors of the workshop in early March.

The workshop will be limited to 80 participants. If there are a more than 80 registrants, participation will be decided on a first come first served basis, with a view to achieve a geographical and institutional balance, and to have a wide range of expertise represented at the workshop.

Extra – conference Activities

A guided tour of Graz will be organized for the Saturday after the conference.

Registration

Please register online at www.joanneum.at/REDD/registration.doc. The latest information on the workshop is available online at www.joanneum.at/REDD.

Contact

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Maps

