

27 May 2009

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Thirtieth session

Bonn, 1–10 June 2009

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

Issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies

Submissions from Parties

Addendum

1. In addition to the eight submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.1 and Add.1, one further submission has been received on 19 April 2009.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.
3. The secretariat has also received submissions relating to issues contained in this document as part of submissions included in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.2 and Add.1 and 2.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.1/Add.2

GE.09-61333

SUBMISSION FROM SWITZERLAND ON BEHALF OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY GROUP

SWITZERLAND ON BEHALF OF THE EIG

Submission on: Views on Issues Relating to Indigenous People and Local Communities for the Development and Application of Methodologies

SBSTA 30

In response to the call at the 29th session of the SBSTA for parties to submit their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies¹, we are pleased to present the following:

1. There is a world trend in forest management evolving towards more participatory forms with increased involvement of local and indigenous people and greater emphasis on the contributions that forest services and goods make to local and global livelihoods. To be successful in the long-term REDD schemes should take into account local and traditional livelihoods as well as traditional forest-related knowledge, which often contribute crucial elements to a truly sustainable forest management (SFM). REDD schemes and incentives, not taking fully into account these aspects risk to further marginalize forest-dependent communities, to exacerbate problems of forest governance, and to hinder a full implementation of SFM.
2. In our view REDD schemes have to recognize and adhere to the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In our perspective, REDD financial incentives will only dissuade forest owners from degrading and clearing forests if property rights, as well as the human, civil and political rights, including rights of indigenous peoples, women, communities and other possibly marginalized groups in forest areas are recognized.
3. In the interest of developing appropriate methodologies, we would like to call attention to the direct link between the issue of indigenous peoples' rights and sustainable forest management. For this matter we recommend SFM be defined considering the following elements, as specified by the UNFF: 1) extent of forest resources; 2) biological diversity; 3) forest health and vitality; 4) productive functions of forests; 5) protective functions of forests; 6) socioeconomic functions; and 7) the legal, policy and institutional framework. Element 7 is a key element that touches on important economic and social functions of SFM: Equity issues such as poverty, food security, rural livelihoods and market access, local and indigenous peoples' rights, rights of land access, tenure and ownership (cf. e.g. proposal by the *Collaborative Partnership on Forests CPF* for a coordinated forest-sector response to climate change, <http://www.fao.org/forestry/media/16639/1/0/>)

¹ Response to FCCC/SBSTA/2008/L.23, paragraph 11

4. Current discussions imply that financial incentives are sufficient to dissuade forest owners from degrading and clearing their forests. However, much evidence forcefully indicates this concept will only work if a number of preconditions are met:
 - a. set up clear and secure tenure rights (property and use rights) over forest land and forest resources;
 - b. set in place mechanisms to ensure that these rights are enforced and protected;
 - c. set up a legal framework for and invest in efficient forest governance, e.g. with clear definition of roles and tasks of the local, sub-national and national actors with a view to implement SFM;
 - d. develop mechanisms for managing conflicts among diverse actors and stakeholders;
 - e. ensure that potential benefits from future agreements aiming at mitigating climate change from forestry go in priority to local stakeholders involved in land-use changes and forest use;
 - f. REDD and SFM will be best implemented in the context of climate change as part of an integrative national land use planning;
5. The success of SFM depends heavily on effectively functioning forest governance, e. g. the way national, sub-national and local levels interact. Similarly important are interactions between the public forest sector, the civil society and the private sector.
6. There are a number of methodological and political issues that need further exploration:
 - How to build up capacities, especially in developing countries, on a scale needed to successfully engage all relevant stakeholders in REDD activities
 - The potential role of local and indigenous communities in combined monitoring schemes (remote sensing with local verification)
 - The implications of REDD activities on their socio-economic environment and sustainable development of the host countries
 - The role of REDD financing schemes for indigenous peoples and local communities

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