

A Special Report on Selected Side Events at the
Durban Climate Change Conference

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Events convened on Tuesday, 29 November 2011

Indigenous Peoples: Key Proposals for Mitigation and Adaptation Actions based on the Sustainable Use and Management of their Lands, Territories and Resources

Organized by Conservation International (CI)



Juan Carlos Jintiach, COICA, explained how COICA works: to empower indigenous communities; to build capacity; to participate in climate negotiations; and prepare for impacts of climate change.

Juan Carlos Jintiach, Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), summarized work to build capacity of indigenous leaders from several tribe members in the Amazon to better represent themselves in climate negotiations and manage long-term impact of climate change.

Gonzalo Griebenow, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), presented COICA projects to train for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) readiness, finance travel grants and develop pilot projects.

Ryan Sarsfield, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, reviewed concerns of REDD impacts and shared recommendations, such as: promotion of a rights-based approach; transparent free prior and informed consent; and technology to increase participation.

Edwin Basquez, COICA, shared challenges of disseminating tools to empower indigenous communities so they can: defend their rights; use REDD as a tool to recover territory rights; and lobby against government policies that threaten natural resources.

Onel Masardule, Panama's Foundation for Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge, relayed that responsibilities of the Kyoto Protocol must be assumed and finance should be delivered to indigenous communities rather than become trapped in bureaucracy. He underscored how the Meso-American region has developed a common agenda with principles to create solidarity and reciprocity to present in Rio+20. Heraclio Lopez, Panama's National Coordinator of Indigenous Peoples, stated that the organizational structure for indigenous communities were designed by the government to avoid unity and cohesion.

Milagros Sandoval, CI Peru, communicated about a project promoting and strengthening the capacity of indigenous communities to participate in the decision-making process in San Martin, Peru, using CI tools.

During the subsequent discussion, the panel responded to issues, such as: shared ecosystems that cross-territories; inclusion of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and integration of REDD into the carbon market.

Miguel Palacin, COICA, Andean Coordinator, clarified that his "people do not want to have a better life, they want to live well with Mother Earth." He reminded the group that without glaciers, there is no water, and without water there is no Amazon.

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Coal the Dirty Truth

Organized by Greenpeace International

Ferrial Adam, Greenpeace Africa, framed discussions on the use of coal.

Kyle Ash, Greenpeace USA, presented the US experience of coal, stating that the US could show leadership in mitigation. Yang Fuqiang, NRDC China, detailed the China Coal Cap programme aimed to wean the country of coal as China is the number one coal emitter.

Melita Steele, Greenpeace Africa, presented results from research on the true cost of coal in South Africa, emphasizing that coal fails to deliver energy to over 2.5 million households and is destructive with a number of hidden negative externalities, such as: impact on climate change; health issues; water use; and mining. She warned that although there are benefits of renewable energy including job creation and reduction of carbon emissions, there are also barriers. Steele urged the South African government to listen to people rather than corporations when creating policies.

Siddharth Pathak, Greenpeace India, expressed hope that India could avoid developing a coal dependency that would require mining in dense forests that are home to tigers and indigenous communities.

Justin Guay, Sierra Club, provided specific examples that debunk coal industry claims, stating: scarce financial resources should be redirected to clean energy projects; coal cannot be low-carbon and actually lock-in large levels of emissions; and coal does not deliver on universal access. Iris Chang, Greenpeace International, explained that carbon capture storage (CCS) is a false promise and should not be legitimized.

Kumi Naidoo, International Executive Director, Greenpeace International, stated that polluting corporations are influencing governments in climate negotiations, and undermining democracy. He suggested that the message of urgency be intensified in order to bring about necessary change and response to science.



Kumi Naidoo, Greenpeace International, grappled with presenting a positive outlook in what he described as a nightmare of a challenge that faces climate negotiations, delivering a message of urgency.

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Enforcement and Anti-corruption Measures Essential to REDD Success

Organized by Global Witness Limited

Andrea Johnson, EIA, highlighted law enforcement and anti-corruption institutional activities are essential to successful and equitable efforts to reduce deforestation and degradation. She lamented that these issues have not been adequately included within REDD+ forest governance. She said building the institutions for more transparent and accountable law enforcement will have long-term benefits for forests and societies regardless of REDD outcomes.

Davyth Stewart, Global Witness, emphasized the need for anti-corruption measures since an increase in financial inputs in developing countries could lead to funds' misappropriation. He recommended, *inter alia*: a mandatory auditing process, a publicly available registry of finance and activities; and the adaptation of the International Aid Transparency Initiative and International Monetary Fund Guide on Resource Revenue Transparency to include REDD.

Rosalind Reeve, Philippines' Ateneo School of Government, highlighted: stakeholder cooperation, especially among law enforcement agencies; development of memoranda of understanding among national agencies; regional cooperation that enables fast communication, data sharing, and cross-border operations; and international cooperation.

Peg Putt, Global Witness, speaking on behalf of Indonesia's communities of the Tripa Peat Swamps, stressed the main causes of substantial degeneration: long-ongoing conflict; subsequent tsunami and major loss of forest; and illegal fires which have been used to clear land. She posited that crimes committed by officials at government level need to be addressed in any crime prevention action.

Roberto Espinoza, Indigenous Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSESP), stressed the need for structural change within REDD and called for an end to the financial speculation by "carbon cowboys". He pointed as some of REDD+ problems: the separation of the rights to trees, soil and land; leakage and the establishment of infrastructures such as dams and roads; and the inability to address the rights of indigenous peoples.



Andrea Johnson, EIA, summarized three key requirements for ensuring improved law enforcement and anti-corruption measures in REDD.

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LEDS Global Partnership: Collaboration across Low-Emissions Development Programmes around the World

Alexia Kelly, US Department of State, explained low-emission development strategy (LEDS) global partnership is a base to share information and identify opportunities for cooperation and moving forward.

Sadie Cox, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), summarized the evolution of this partnership that grew quickly and brought together 28 governmental and international institutions. She said LEDS' main objectives are to: identify and disseminate best practices; foster ongoing information exchange; and build awareness of LEDS implementation globally.

John Christensen, UNEP, highlighted good experiences and coordination under LEDS to promote low-emission initiatives. On national communications, he said it is an ongoing process that needs to be: revisited; and established into a strong and permanent institutional framework.

Farhana Yamin, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), explained that CIFF is a private foundation that takes part in the LEDS. She said the aim is to fund and support developing countries, taking into account country-driven needs and best-designed efforts that enable mapping out pathways that link climate change mitigation and development.

Bert Metz, European Climate Foundation, gave an overview of the Green Growth Best Practice Initiative, noting that it encompasses a transition to a long-term low-carbon society. He underscored the Initiative's objectives, including: performing rigorous assessment of green growth planning best practice; and facilitating knowledge-sharing by involving green growth partners.



Farhana Yamin, CIFF, underscored the coordination work across donors, using Colombia as a case study.

More information:

http://openei.org/wiki/LEDS_Global_Partnership

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Emissions from International Transport - Global Actions for Global Industries

Presented by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Roberto Kobeh González, ICAO President, stressed that environmental sustainability remains a high priority, with airplanes currently being 77% more fuel efficient and 75% quieter. He said discussions on climate change should strive for a balance between environmental and social dimensions. Kobeh highlighted the need for financial resources and a clear roadmap to achieve these goals by the end of 2012.

After a video presentation on the implications of air transport, Jane Hupe, ICAO, reported on her institution's training workshops held in several countries and commented on a report by the World Bank and the IMF, which requires an emission reduction of 5% from each sector, but lacks guidance on its implementation.

Asked about how passengers would be impacted by these steps, Kobeh said that it would not only include market-based instruments, but also operational procedures to improve the efficiency of the airplanes, such as landing issues and the airplanes' use of alternative fuels.

On a question about biofuels, Hupe stressed the importance of their current research in different fuel stocks and using sustainability criteria, and added that airplanes are already flying with a range of fuel biomasses.



Roberto Kobeh González, ICAO President, gave an overview of ICAO achievements.

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EU Fast Start Funding for Developing Countries: 2011 Progress Report

Organized by the EU Directorate-General for Climate Change

Clifford Polycarp, World Resource Institute, noted the European Union (EU) is implementing its commitment made two year ago on the fast-start funding (FSF) for developing countries. He highlighted the importance of understanding the reality on the ground to move and deploy financial resources.

Artur Runge-Metzger, EU Climate, Finance and Deforestation Unit, noted that the EU is supporting developing countries, especially in Africa and Asia, in the fields of adaptation, mitigation and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). He underscored the EU FSF combines loans and grants to support such activities.

Taulealeausumai Tuifusaa Laavasa Malua, Samoa Minister of Natural Resources, said that the FSF is making a difference to his country by enabling adaptation activities in the water sector. He said current financial arrangements enable supplementation of governmental resources allocated to water issues such as: catchment; community needs; and supply.

Willem Bron, SNV World, explained that the Africa Biogas Partnership Programmes aim to provide half a million people with access to a sustainable source of energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by building sustainable market-oriented biogas sectors for 2009-2014. Bron underlined that the target is to have 70,000 biogas digesters in six countries by 2014.

Tewelde B. G. Egziabher, Ethiopia's Environmental Protection Authority, said Ethiopia is getting the required support for building climate resilience through FSF. Underscoring that many developing countries complained about FSF bureaucracy, he noted that donors must act with caution to avoid abuse of financial resources. Egziabher called for transparency on both donor and recipient sides in order to achieve their commitments.

Heiner Von Lupke, GIZ Indonesia, explained FSF is used in Indonesia for combating vulnerability and adaptation in water, agriculture, health, sea-level rise and land change. He noted the need for: more direct and improved communication with Indonesian partners to clarify FSF differences from Official Development Assistance (ODA), concept, modalities and purpose; and enhanced dialogue with partners about selection, development and implementation of FSF related activities.

Thais Linhares Juvenal, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, presented the objectives of the UN REDD Programme, set up in 2008 to support countries in their REDD+ efforts. She underscored that in 2011-2015, its objective changed to promote the elaboration and implementation of National REDD+ strategies and readiness, including the transformation of land use and sustainable forest management.

In the ensuing discussion, participants addressed issues such as: whether FSF was "new and additional" and how it differentiated from ODA; participation of local private sector on biogas projects; increase in monitoring, reporting and verifying activities to minimize corruption; and importance of designated national authorities in speeding up carbon finance projects.



Artur Runge-Metzger, EU Climate, Finance and Deforestation Unit, noticed that the EU remains on track to meet its commitment of € 7.2 billion for the 2010-2012, having mobilized €4.68 billion to date.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/finance/international/faststart/index_en.htm

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Tewelde B. G. Egziabher, Ethiopia's Environmental Protection Authority, underlined that many developing countries have not yet developed their capacity even to ask and deploy the fast-track resources that are available.