TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH AGROFORESTRY
a debrief for ICRAF staff

Wednesday 23 January, 9.00-10.30 am
in the Lundgren Auditorium
ICRAF Nairobi Campus

The science and practice of agroforestry provides important tools for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Agroforestry can reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and help smallholder farmers adapt to changing conditions.

All staff are invited to a seminar to learn about ICRAF’s participation at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007. Brent Swallow and Lou Verchot will give an overview of ICRAF’s climate change activities to date, and highlight current projects and future opportunities for research and collaboration.

ICRAF is in a strong position to shape the future – don’t miss out!
REDD:
Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

Meeting of the ASB Global Steering Group

Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance

Media

$$ and people
Background on deforestation and climate change

- Tropical deforestation is the source of about 20% of GHGs
- Tropical deforestation has other impacts on climate
- Avoided deforestation excluded from Kyoto
- CDM biased against reforestation, EU ETS prohibits reforestation credits,
- voluntary market investing in tree planting, but negative reports on some projects threaten
- UNFCCC COP11 supported 2 year debate on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD)
• First ever Forest Day at a UNFCCC COP
• Over 800 participants pre-registered and attending
• Included plenaries, 4 panels and 25 side events
• ICRAF as a co-host with other members of the CPF
• ASB convened 2 side events
• ICRAF / ASB information booth
• ICRAF was a member of the Forest Day summary drafting team
• Presented 2 ICRAF posters on biofuels and education
• 8 page summary prepared by IISD ENB team
- Rodel Lasco and Peter Minang were invited members of panels
- Presentations by Meine Van Noordwijk, Brent Swallow, Sonya Dewi at ASB side events
- Introduction to UNFCCC forestry issues for a range of ICRAF staff and the ASB community
- Lots of contacts with potential new collaborators, including Woods Hole Research Centre, IIASA (Austria)
Forest Day Conclusion:
• preamble that mentions agroforestry
• Identifies areas of consensus, controversy and research
• More research required on:
  • methods for monitoring change in C stocks,
  • operational efficiency and social equity of mechanisms,
  • appropriate scale of REDD interventions
  • knowledge sharing on interventions to strengthen resilience to climate change
  • new methods for assessing vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate variability and change
Opportunities for Avoided Deforestation with Sustainable Benefits
• Exploits and builds upon the methods, data and results from ASB and partner research over 10 years (land use / enterprise characterization, time-averaged C stocks, per ha returns to land)

• New remote sensing studies of land use and land use change

• Innovative method for calculating CO2-e / $ tradeoffs for each pixel and aggregating across all pixels that experienced land use change over last 10-20 years (Meine / Sonya)

• Cases in Amazon basin of Peru, 3 provinces of Indonesia, ASB benchmark site in Cameroon, Lantapan in the Philippines

• Strong collaboration from CIAT, IITA, CIFOR, national partners

• Report available and presented in Bali

• Main results distilled into executive summary and press release released on second day of COP
Main results:

- Deforestation in all regions is privately rational: Almost all deforesting land use change increases returns to land. Carbon finance can help to change this calculated deforestation.

- Deforestation / reafforestation trends are consistent with the forest transition theory – agroforestry greatest further along transition

- Deforestation generates low returns per tonne of CO2-eq released: >80% of emissions generate less than $5 / tonne CO2-eq of emission. This is 10-100 times less than the CO2-eq price on the ETS and somewhat less than the Chicago Climate Change price

- Peat forests deserve special attention: most emissions from peat forests generate less than $1 / tonne CO2-eq of emission

- Reducing the impact of agriculture in deforested peatlands is a priority
Acronym confusion: **REDD** has never meant Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation.

Before Bali (silent f): Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

After Bali (silent c): Reduced Emissions from Deforestation in Developing countries
Progress on REDD

• REDD supported by most of the high-profile speakers in the plenary sessions and major side events (eg Al Gore, Ban Ki-moon, Prime Ministers of Australia and Norway

• REDD contact group, formed at previous meetings, met for many hours during the COP, ending up with some bracketed text in the recommendation sent to plenary.

• Plenary did reach a decision on REDD with brackets removed: Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action.
REDD Decision at COP13

Preamble stresses: contribution to GHG emissions, forest degradation, urgent need for action, deforestation requires stable resources, co-benefits of reduced emissions from deforestation, needs of local and indigenous communities:

1. Invites Parties to strengthen voluntary action on deforestation
2. Encourages all Parties to support capacity-building and methods
3. Encourages research and REDD demonstration
4. Encourages use of indicative guidance on how to do REDD
5. Invites parties to mobilize resources
6. Encourages the use of LULUCF good practice guidelines and national GHG reporting
7. Requests SBSTA to work on policy approaches and positive incentives
   (a) Invites Parties to submit, by 21 March 2008, their views on how to address outstanding methodological issues … to SBSTA
   (b) Secretariat to organize a workshop on methodological issues
   (c) Account for the Cairns workshop
8. Requests SBSTA to report to COP14
9. Invites relevant organizations and stakeholders to support REDD activities and share information with SBSTA and secretariat
10. Request the secretariat to develop a web site for information sharing
11. … Policy approaches and incentives on REDD should be given further consideration in post-2012 regime, including conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forest stocks
12. … Results of research and demonstration activities should inform future deliberations
Who’s investing in REDD?

Norway: $500,000,000 / yr for next 4 years
Belgium, especially in DRC
Australia: especially in Asia
UK -- DFID:
World Bank: Forest Carbon Partnership Fund
Almost all bilateral and multi-lateral donors (eg IFAD, Norway, Denmark, Finland) want to know, and will need to report, climate change mitigation and adaptation as primary or co-benefits of their investments (possible shifts in regional priorities)

New Partnership Opportunities

UNEP, especially DEPI (including GRASP)
Woods Hole Research Centre
IIASA
Several European Universities and research institutes
Regional and national organizations in ICRAF target countries
Media attention

- Collaborative effort yielded good media attention to the ASB results (over 35 media outlets, including *Daily Telegraph*, many environmental and forestry online news sources and mainstream news across Asia)
- EU Science for Environmental Policy News Alert is now covering ASB study
- Great coverage of Indonesian results in Monga Bay, SciDev, Jakarta Post
- Chip Fay and Meine did separate OpEd pieces in the Jakarta Post
- Brent and Peter Minang interviewed in Bali
Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance

• Formed in May / June 2007 in anticipation of Indonesia hosting COP13 and in light of findings that emissions from conversion and degradation of peat forests make Indonesia the world’s 3rd highest emitter of GHGs

• Supported by consortia of donors (about $1 million) and implemented by consortia of national and international organizations

• ICRAF supported strongly, with ICRAF and CIFOR contributing to a papers on finance and institutional mechanisms

• Tackling controversy over oil palm plantations, subsidized pulp, huge differences in approach to deforestation across provinces

• IFCA featured in two days of side events sponsored by Indonesia Ministry of Forestry; key speech by Meine Van Noordwijk
ASB and REDD

- ASB partnership re-asserted with comparative analysis of opportunity costs of reduced emissions from deforestation.
- Holding GSG meeting with the COP / Forest Day allowed most GSG members their first experience of international environmental policy.
- Ad hoc advisory panel of people with complementary expertise on climate change / REDD issues: academics, advisor to party, private sector, indigenous people group, large NGO.
- GSG set a new medium-term objective: a) Explore options for addressing climate change in agriculture – forest landscapes in the humid tropics for improving incomes of rural households, strengthening community engagement and maintaining essential environmental services… and b) proactively provide information on those options to influence relevant policy and programme design processes.
- GSG agreed on a set of papers relevant to REDD, targeting high profile journals.
- ICRAF elected to chair the GSG.
Implications for ICRAF:

- Hosting and convening ASB gives us credibility and legitimacy to work on the salient and fundable area of REDD

- We have several openings for further recognition of agroforestry within REDD:
  - importance of landscape approach,
  - need for full system accounting (including trees outside of forests),
  - importance of rights and livelihoods of local people,
  - need for alternative sources of forest products
  - impacts of land use and REDD mechanisms on other ecosystem services (esp. water, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience)
Implications for ICRAF:

- We need good evidence, clearly communicated, of how agroforestry can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation – both for donors with REDD as a primary target and those with adaptation and mitigation as a co-benefit.

- We need to re-emphasize the importance of strategic communication.

- We need to continue and expand our engagement in policy processes and science-policy linkages.

- We need institute-wide literacy and familiarity with climate change, REDD, CDM literacy within ICRAF.

- We need to consider how all Global Projects interface with GP7.

- We need to be, and be seen to be, to be a great strategic partner.