



**FORESTS:
A GREEN PATHWAY
FOR HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT**

***Climate change:
impacts, needs and
responses***

COFO 21
WORLD FOREST WEEK



Climate change and forests

- Climate is changing
- Impacts on forest ecosystems are significant
- Delivery of ecosystem services is jeopardized
- Economic and social impacts are evident



International developments

- Forests role in the global carbon cycle and in adaptation are recognized in the Convention
- Incentivizing developing country mitigation action
 - REDD+ decisions: COP16 (2010), COP17 (2011)
- Rationalizing forest accounting rules for developed countries
 - LULUCF decision: COP17 (2011)
- Climate financing: Green Climate Fund est.
- Developing countries to identify NAMAs and develop NAPs
- Regional cooperation in adaptation encouraged



Key opportunities

- Visibility of forests in CC has increased understanding beyond traditional stakeholders
- REDD+ has attracted important financing
- REDD+ has spotlighted other values of forest and forest governance
- Efforts to align REDD+ with other global goals (CBD, UNCCD, MDGs) has been beneficial
- Bioenergy policies is increasing demand for forest-based energy
- Product substitution is receiving more attention
- CC strategies are reinforcing integrated landscape approaches and inter-sectoral coordination



Possible risks

- Climate change “hijacks” the forest sector
- Climate change responses contributes to further fragmentation of the forest sector
- REDD+ effectiveness for CC mitigation could be limited by efforts to use it as a solution to persistent, overarching problems
- Costs of engagement become prohibitive

Country needs

- **Data and information**
 - forest carbon for mitigation
 - costs and benefits of mitigation
 - impacts of CC and of adaptation measures
- **Strategy development**
 - risk and vulnerability assessments
 - options, costs & benefits of mitigation and adaptation
- **Policy, legal and institutional adjustments**
- **Research**
- **Support for management actions on the ground**

FAO Approach

- Work to mainstream climate change into FAO's forestry programmes
- Apply and adapt existing tools for SFM to address CC needs
- Develop tools to facilitate the integration of climate change into the forest sector
- Work across sectors (ag, fo, fi) to encourage integrated approaches to climate change
- Use global mandate, regional mechanisms and country presence for linking normative work with field support

FAO Activities: Cross-cutting

- Information dissemination
- Development of tools for integrating climate change into the forest sector
- Strengthening regional cooperation
- Capacity strengthening
- Fostering cross-sectoral approaches
 - Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook
 - FAO-Adapt
 - FAO/OECD Workshop on Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agriculture Sectors, April 2012

Key FAO actions

- Strengthening policy, legal and governance frameworks
- Delivering adaptation and mitigation through sustainable forest management
- Strengthening forest monitoring in support of climate change action

Thank you!

