

ICFPA Supports Conclusions of the IPPC 4th Assessment Report

The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), representing the global forest-based industries, urges that the negotiating parties at COP 15 take action to implement the recommendations of the Fourth Assessment Report of the scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on forestry which states that:

“a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit”

Decisions made at COP-15 need to lay the foundation for including forests and forest products in a future international climate change agreement.

ICFPA, therefore, urges the parties to include provisions that incorporate the benefits of forests and forest-based products. Such provisions not only should incentivize the effectiveness of climate change mitigation efforts, but also help reduce deforestation and encourage sustainable forest management. Any future international climate change agreement should ensure the recognition that forests and related industries contribute to curbing deforestation and forest degradation, hence being part of the solution to climate change mitigation by:

1. Acknowledging that sustainable forest management of all types of forests, including planted forests, - either existing ones or new ones resulting of afforestation and reforestation measures - sequester carbon and provide a climate-friendly building material, cellulose fibre, renewable fuel, as well as delivering many other economic, environmental and social benefits (e.g. biodiversity, soil conservation, poverty alleviation, etc.). In that context, parties need to embed Sustainable Forest Management at the very core of REDD and to simplify the recognition of CDM and JI projects covering sustainably managed forests, allowing for some flexibility for planted forests to be relocated on non-forest land (including forest offsetting), while ensuring environmental integrity.
2. Acknowledging that harvested wood products (HWP), represent long lasting carbon pools and that these carbon pools have the potential to grow further, and thereby recognising the full carbon life cycle of forests and forest products.
3. Recognizing the potential of wood biomass as substitution material for non renewable and fossil fuels and of harvested wood as substitution material for carbon intensive building materials.

The global forest products industry is an important part of the solution for climate change, managing forests sustainably, producing products that store carbon and being the world's largest industrial producer and consumer of renewable biomass energy.

The inclusion of the three issues above in any new global agreement will be essential to the success of the agreement and will be used by ICFPA to evaluate the agreement.



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