

Avoided deforestation: Poor information and data, and what to do about it



**An FAO side event at UNFCCC COP 12
Saturday 11 November 2006 at 15:15
The Gigiri 2 Room**

Large discrepancies exist between different estimates of carbon emission caused by deforestation. Limited information is available on past and present levels of deforestation for establishing baselines for future monitoring. And even less information is available on carbon stocks in different parts of the forest ecosystem and how a change in stocks relates to carbon emissions. Yet urgent calls are made for providing incentives to reduce carbon emissions through avoided deforestation in developing countries.

This side event highlights the issue of poor information related to rates of deforestation and carbon emissions from forests and outlines a three-pronged approach to address this issue:

1. A global framework for monitoring and assessing past and future levels of deforestation
2. Support to developing countries to undertake national forest assessments and establish national forest monitoring systems
3. Guidelines for estimating forest-related carbon stock changes and carbon emissions

FAO is working with a large number of partner organizations and countries to implement this approach and examples will be presented as a basis for an open discussion.