

**Forests, Climate Change and Development Meeting**  
**British Academy, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The meeting, hosted by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, focussed on a number of priority areas to take forward commitments to promote sustainable supply chains, implement governance and land tenure reform, and meet forest landscape restoration goals.

**Participants' recommendations included:**

- Maximising the mitigation potential of forests and land use in the new climate change agreement, including through:
  - Forest Nations, recalling the *Lima Challenge*, coming forward with significant national efforts to implement large-scale climate mitigation actions and move to a low carbon development path, and to quantify how they could go even further in partnership with others;
  - Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom, recalling their *Joint Statement on REDD+* commitment to provide scaled-up and coordinated finance to support ambitious forest nation action and results, and the *New York Declaration on Forests* commitment to provide strong, large-scale economic incentives commensurate with the size of the challenge, welcomed the Lima Challenge. They proposed to start focussed dialogues, involving relevant tropical forest countries, private sector, indigenous groups and civil society in key geographies in the first half of 2015.
- World Bank and key donors to work with forest nations to
  - align finance flows to create more powerful incentives at the local level to transform the land sector;
  - create forest and landscape financial packages that provides seamless support to countries;
  - build better awareness of the role of land tenure, livelihoods and governance, including the contribution of local and indigenous communities, in ensuring forest conservation and climate mitigation;
  - Under the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes, convene key stakeholders in targeted jurisdictions in 2015 focussed on creating business-friendly environments that align policy reform and financial incentives, and support the implementation of supply chain commitments including support for working with smallholder farmers, local NGOs and SMEs where possible;
  - strengthen dialogue with Ministries of Finance in forest countries and help to convene them around sustainable landscape finance;
- Ensuring the new sustainable development goals were strong and coherent on the linkages between forests, sustainable land use, climate change and development, in meeting the needs of the poorest.
- Recognising the important contribution of forest landscape restoration to sequester carbon, to prevent the loss of biodiversity and to achieve sustainable development, Germany will host the Bonn Challenge 2.0 High Level Roundtable 20-21 March 2015 to encourage further ambitious action in this area.

Over 120 key stakeholders participated in the meeting, including Ministers and government representatives from emerging economies and key donor nations, the private sector, the scientific community, the World Bank, NGOs and indigenous communities. Countries

represented included Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Germany, Guyana, Indonesia, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**Energy and Climate Change Secretary Ed Davey** called for greater collective efforts in 2015 to step up delivery of results on the ground, and through international action. He said:

*“It’s vital that the new climate agreement is a forest-friendly agreement. At the local-level we need to create powerful incentives that can drive the kind of transformation that is needed to move to a sustainable land-use model.*

*It is essential that forest nations take the lead on this issue, and I commend those who are doing so. The UK is committed to doing its part, and to work in partnership with others, to meet our collective goal of protecting and conserving natural forests.”*

**Lord DeMauley, UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment and Science**, announced that the UK would invest additional £40m investment in the BioCarbon Fund the BioCarbon Fund *Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes*. He said:

*“At the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit, the UK, Germany and Norway committed to fund up to 20 additional forestry programmes by 2016. With today’s announcement, Defra will support new programmes in Indonesia and Zambia which work to prevent deforestation whilst creating sustainable livelihoods for local people, such as through implementation of climate smart agricultural practices and working in partnership with the private sector to create sustainable supply chains. These projects underscore our commitment to working in partnership with forest nations and the private sector to address the drivers of deforestation.”*

**Rachel Kyte, Vice President of the World Bank:**

*“To rein in climate change we have to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero before 2100, and that won’t happen without healthy forests and landscapes. We need to rapidly ramp up forest financing, scale-up our work with the private sector, and better package existing mechanisms so that they are easy for developing countries to use.”*

**Tine Sundtoft, Norway’s Minister for Climate and Environment:**

*“We must all do our part. Governments in partner countries need to provide large-scale payments for reduced emissions at national level. We note that the amount recommended by the Global Commission is at least 5 billion US dollars per year. Norway is open to discuss scaling up our contributions in this field – from the current 500 million US dollars a year – if others increase their contributions correspondingly.”*

**Jeff Seabright, Chief Sustainability Officer, Unilever:**

*“Consumer Goods Forum members, who have a combined \$3 trillion in annual sales, are committed to getting commodity-driven deforestation out of their supply chains. For forest nations, there’s great potential to create partnerships that bring together donor finance and private sector partners to help catalyse transformative change at the landscape-level. As part of the emerging global public-private partnership to end deforestation, it is also imperative that developed countries come up with credible, concrete commitments to provide large-scale and sustainable payments to tropical countries for verified emissions reductions from their forests.”*

**The event launched two new reports:** The Prince's Charities' International Sustainability Unit's draft 'Tropical Forests: A Review', and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility/The Nature Conservancy's 'Early Lessons from Jurisdictional REDD+ and Low Emissions Development Programs'.

'Tropical Forests: A Review' draws particular attention to recent developments in tropical forest science which demonstrate that reducing deforestation and degradation while substantially increasing forest landscape restoration could lead to up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions mitigation – a significant part of global efforts to address runaway climate change. The report draws particular attention to the scale and importance of the forest degradation issue and also to the need to ensure that forest landscape restoration efforts underway enable large scale restoration of forests as well as sustainable agricultural development.

[\*Early Lessons from Jurisdictional REDD+ and Low Emissions Development Programs\*](#) features an analysis of eight REDD+/LED programs worldwide and provides insights into the dynamics and realities experienced on the ground by these jurisdictions in their efforts to reduce forest related emissions. The report reveals that with appropriate investment and support, jurisdictional REDD+/LED programs have the potential to become transformational models of forest-friendly development, while also highlighting some of the common challenges such programs face.