Cooperation SUD’s Recommendations for the Durban Climate Change Conference

Make REDD+ a Tool for Economic and Social Development

28 November - 9 December 2011, Durban (South Africa)

REDD+ is implanted in territories that are not empty of people and biodiversity. While it must lead to effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions, it cannot be confined to this aspect alone. It must enable sustainable and fair development for rural and forest people and reinforce their rights. It must be a tool for development, and help preserve biological diversity and the services provided by tropical forest ecosystems (including dry forests) in developing countries.

Principles for REDD+ Implementation

1. REDD+ must contribute to the sustainable and fair economic and social development of rural and forest people, and must accompany a shift in technical itineraries in forestry and agriculture.

2. REDD+ must promote the participation of and respect for the rights of rural and forest populations, especially indigenous peoples. It must result in greater land tenure security for rural and forest populations.

3. REDD+ implementation requires ensuring fair distribution of costs and benefits of REDD+ at all levels.

4. REDD+ must effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to other emission reduction policies in developed countries.

5. REDD+ must maintain and increase forest biodiversity and the associated environmental services.

6. REDD+ must address all the drivers of deforestation in developing countries. The mechanism requires implementing broad-reaching policies in developing countries (regarding land tenure, agriculture, energy, etc.), changes in modes of production and consumption in developed countries and improved coherence between developed and developing countries’ policies.

Our priorities for REDD+

- Operationalizing the Green Climate Fund, with the creation of a specific REDD+ window.
- Establishing a shared structure for monitoring social and environmental safeguards.
- Establishing shared criteria to calculate baseline levels: transparency, participation, comparability, coherent and adjustments based on national circumstances.
1 REDD+: A Development Stake

- **Change development modes through wide policy reforms.**

  For effective and equitable action against deforestation and forest degradation to take place, joint policy reforms in all sectors (development, land tenure, agriculture, energy, etc.), not just forestry, must be designed and implemented.

- **Improve coherence.**

  REDD+ implies ensuring that policies, plans and projects are coherent on the national level. Accordingly, splintering the issue of land-use change into various components of the negotiations does not encourage it to be addressed in a comprehensive manner. Any future working program on agriculture should include linkage with REDD+ to encourage implementation of coherent, integrated actions in the field.

- **Change production and consumption modes in developed countries.**

  To fight deforestation in developing countries efficiently, change in production and consumption modes in countries that import goods that contribute to deforestation must take place. It is also crucial to ensure that developed countries’ public policies are coherent with development needs and policies in developing countries.

- **Secure land tenure.**

  National REDD+ implementation must not result in increased land pressure which excludes local communities de facto or de jure, but must instead be an opportunity to define, recognize and secure the rights of these populations to land and forest resource management.

- **Invest in the long term.**

  National REDD+ implementation must not be reduced to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. It should promote broader investments that encourage the adoption of technical and development paths in agriculture and forestry that guarantee sustainable forest management and improve the incomes and living conditions of local communities.

2 Promote Local Communities’ Involvement

- **Adapt REDD+ to local populations’ needs and realities.**

  For local populations to participate actively in REDD+ implementation and benefit from potential positive effects on their development, REDD+ must above all be adapted to their context, language and their social and cultural characteristics. This must result in simplified and accessible methodologies, unlike those currently developed, which are complex and expensive. Among other things, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be obtained from populations for all REDD+ actions, enabling them to understand the stakes, the consequences, and their rights.

- **Establish participatory mechanisms and adopt complementary policies on the national and local levels.**

  Public policies in the education and training sector as well as dedicated participatory mechanisms allowing information circulation or technology transfer can help strengthen public participation.

- **Take into account traditional knowledge and know-how.**

  REDD+ must be based on acknowledging the traditional knowledge, know-how and innovations of local communities and indigenous peoples, in particular when it comes to conservation and sustainable forest management. Good practices that emerge from this experience should be better disseminated and integrated in REDD+ processes at the local and national, sometimes regional levels.
3 Ensure Monitoring, Transparency, Comparability and Consistency

- **Ensure that monitoring of safeguards is transparent and comparable.**
  
  In Durban, a common structure for national information systems on compliance with social and environmental safeguards and REDD+ co-benefits must be defined and established under the UNFCCC. It will be supplied by the information systems set up on the national level. These information systems must provide transparent, comparable and publicly accessible information so that abuses can be identified and denounced.

- **Ensure that REDD+ MRV systems are consistent, transparent and comparable.**
  
  These systems must be based on scientific information (including IPCC guidelines) and best practices.

  > Ensure strict monitoring of emissions reductions: National MRV systems must allow the strict monitoring of effective greenhouse gas reductions.

  > Set up comparable and consistent MRV systems: National MRV systems must generate internationally comparable data. They must be based on a shared structure and criteria, to be determined in Durban. National systems must be based on the monitoring systems and existing knowledge within each country.

  > Evolve toward national MRV systems: MRV systems must be national; the interim subnational MRV systems must rapidly evolve into national systems.

4 Ensure the Environmental Integrity of REDD+

- **Establish transparent baselines that ensure the environmental integrity of REDD+.**
  
  Deforestation and emissions baselines are two very different approaches but they are linked, in particular since they determine the threshold based on which countries will receive results-based payments for their REDD+ related emissions reductions.

  In Durban, modalities need to be defined to:

  > Allow additional, verified and permanent emissions reductions.

  The modalities determined in Durban must notably avoid “carbon leakage” and double counting, thereby preventing the creation of "hot air."

  > Establish transparent baselines that ensure the environmental integrity of REDD+.

  There are several methods available to establish baselines: historical or projected. The two methods imply a number of problems and uncertainties. For this reason, baselines must respect the following principles:

  > Be established in a transparent manner;

  > Be adjusted depending on national characteristics and available data;

  > Promote broad participation and create incentives in countries with strong forest cover; and

  > Be consistent with other national baselines in order to ensure the environmental effectiveness of REDD+ on the international scale.
In Durban, create a specific REDD+ window of the Green Climate Fund.
The COP17 must determine a financial mechanism that can sustainably, adequately and predictably mobilize amounts sufficient to meet the needs (estimated at 42 billion US dollars per year from 2013 to 2017). Innovative financing mechanisms must be created to fund the Green Climate Fund. The public financing mobilized must be in addition to official development assistance targets.

Distribute REDD+ financing and benefits equitably.
Fair and equitable mechanisms to govern and distribute REDD+ financing and benefits must be set up on the national and local levels. They must benefit people who manage the forests, including indigenous peoples and local communities. Women must not be excluded from these mechanisms, given their participation in forest resource management.

Transparent and comparable reporting of REDD+ finance.
MRV of support allocated to REDD+ on the international scale must ensure the transparency of the financial and technical support provided by developed countries based on clear, comparable and consistent reporting criteria.

Learn Lessons from Official Development Assistance

REDD+ must learn from previous programs and projects to support the fight against deforestation and forest degradation.

Learn lessons from what exists.
Past and existing policies, programs and projects in the forest sector can provide valuable lessons for REDD+. These interventions can be brought into coherence and integrated into REDD+ strategies. Monitoring and evaluation, as well as the analysis and documentation of good practices, which have been neglected by Official Development Assistance (ODA), are still essential for effective and equitable implementation of REDD+ finance.

Grant a large share of subsidies, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
Unlike current ODA allocated to the forest sector, which consists mostly of loans, REDD+ finance must contain a large proportion of grants to finance institutional support, capacity building, and community management of forest resources, especially in LDCs.

Allocate financing based on the national priorities and strategies of recipient countries.
Climate finance must move beyond the donor-recipient relationship that predominates for ODA.