

For immediate release: October 9, 2008

Growing forest partnerships

Background: The World Bank, IUCN, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development, invite you to hear about an exciting new initiative. It aims to make forestry truly sustainable by building and strengthening new partnerships that reflects local needs and protects global public goods.

In 2007, acknowledging that existing efforts to make forestry work for the poor had not generated desired results, the World Bank proposed creating a growing forest partnership that links local and global processes and promotes decision-making on the international stage to reflect the views and needs of forest dwellers.

The World Bank then asked the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to conduct an independent assessment of its proposal with a broad range of stakeholders. The result was that more than 600 forest experts responded to IIED's assessment, or participated in focus groups in Brazil, China, Ghana, Guyana, India, Russia and Mozambique, as well as at international meetings. IIED also reviewed more than 50 existing initiatives to identify potential partners and the gaps it could fill. In July, 2008 IIED published the findings of its assessment.

During an informal presentation, followed by an interactive debate, the Growing Forest Partnerships will discuss how their efforts will focus on enhancing existing, and forging new, partnerships for action over the next three years, to explore choices and options and solicit further ideas from the audience. The growing *Wall of Friends* who are giving opinions and ideas as to how this could happen, will be shown.

Key Issues:

- *"The prospect of a new generation of forest-based partnerships that are locally owned and responsive to nationally defined needs is compelling,"* says **Stewart Maginnis, Head of IUCN's Forest Conservation Programme** and chair of the exploratory committee that was created by IIED to ensure the quality and credibility of the assessment. *"The assessment concludes that there is local, national and international support from the forestry community to develop a new and radically different approach to partnerships aimed at fostering "people's forestry".*
- *"The World Bank is happy to hear there is consensus on a new approach from a broad variety of forest stakeholders from around the world,"* says **Gerhard Dieterle, the World Bank's Forest Advisor**. *"We are convinced that this is a lasting way to have forests contribute to economic growth, to the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and poverty reduction as a whole, as well as preserving the global services forests deliver."*

Where:

Thursday, 9 October, 13.00-14.30, Forest Pavilion at the World Conservation Congress, Barcelona

Spokespersons:

Stewart Maginnis Head, Forests Conservation Programme IUCN; Nii-Ashie Kotey, Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission Ghana; Alda Salomao, Executive Director, Centro Terra Viva Mozambique; James Griffiths, Managing Director of Sustainable Forest Products Industry, World Business Council for Sustainable Development; Liz Carlile, Director of Communications at IIED; and Warren Evans Director of Environment Department, World Bank.

Materials for the Media: http://www.iied.org/mediaroom/releases/080709_global_forest_partnership.html

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