



Crosscutting Theme 4:

**Adaptation to climate change:
Achieving increased resilience and livelihood improvements**

Background:

One of the major events at this year's COP 13 was Forest Day, organized by CIFOR and partner organizations within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). More than 800 people attended Forest Day, including scientists, policy makers, and representatives from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Forest Day featured four parallel midday sessions focusing on cross-cutting themes related to forests and climate. These well-attended discussions examined such issues as climate change adaptation, carbon markets and governance, baselines and accounting methodologies, and equity-efficiency trade-offs.

Ibrahim Thiaw (United Nations Environment Programme) facilitated the session on "Adaptation to Climate Change". Panel participants were Thomas Downing (Stockholm Environmental Institute), Carmenza Robledo (Intercooperation), Youba Soukona (The Sahara and Sahel Observatory), and Rodel Lasco (World Agroforestry Centre).

Areas of consensus:

- Adaptation and mitigation cannot be disconnected and have to be addressed simultaneously.
- Adaptation efforts have to shift from responsive to anticipatory.
- Adaptation is about finance and technology, but as important, it is also about social learning and interaction among a multitude of stakeholders.
- For successful adaptation, science, policy and action at the local level have to be linked.
- Engagement of local governments is essential.
- There is a huge gap between needed means for adaptation and available means.
- Innovative mechanisms for funding are needed, and public-private partnership is one opportunity.
- There is a need to mainstream forest-related adaptation challenges into development planning more generally.
- There may be trade-offs between development and adaptation.

Areas requiring further consensus building:

- There remains disagreement regarding the most appropriate financial mechanisms for funding forest-related adaptation, (disagreement related to financial participation of developing countries, incremental costs).
- There remains disagreement regarding whether adaptation should be considered to be a part of development (in terms of mobilizing public funding through development assistance).

Area for further research:

- We need new methods and tools for knowledge sharing and learning to strengthen resilience at the local level.
- We need new methods for assessing the adaptive capacity of forest dependent communities, and interventions to strengthen resilience.

Forest Day



Shaping the Global Agenda for Forest and Climate Change