

International Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism – Opportunities for the Forest Industry Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region (Korea)

Final Report

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This project aimed to provide an international forum to promote the development of carbon markets in the tropics through the implementation of CDM forestry activities such as afforestation and reforestation (A/R) of degraded forest land by participation of the forest industry sector. The forum was designed to identify the opportunities and challenges of carbon forestry on the global forest sector, with an emphasis on the forest industry sector and rural livelihood in tropical countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

An International Workshop on Climate Change and Forest Sector: Clean Development Mechanism in tropical Countries, hosted by the Seoul National University, was held in Seoul, Korea on 21-23 September 2004 in cooperation with Korea Forest Research Institute, Northeast Asian Forest Forum, and Center for International Forestry Research and the Swiss foundation Intercooperation. About 80 participants representing the Asia-Pacific region attended the workshop. A total of 25 oral presentations and 6 poster presentations on various themes of the workshop were made. In addition, during the workshop, four working groups reviewed the institutional, technical, financial and social aspects of CDM forestry.

The workshop noted that tropical forest is contributing to climate change and the implementation of climate change strategies for mitigation and adaptation brings opportunities and challenges to tropical forest. In particular, it noted that institutional aspects would be crucial to the identification of A/R CDM projects in tropical countries. Many of the current forestry institutions in tropical countries may not be prepared to respond to the specific legal and technical requirements of A/R CDM projects, which are not present in traditional forestry projects. The recommendations of the workshop to ITTO include:

- Assist ITTO producing member countries in understanding the potential and constraints of A/R CDM projects in sustainable tropical forest management;
- Support the capacity building of ITTO producing member countries in A/R CDM project identification, formulation and development;

- Promote the development and implementation of pilot projects of A/R CDM to provide experiences, training and data to the critical issues in A/R CDM; and
- Enhance a better integration of ITTO's practical experiences and knowledge in tropical forestry into the UNFCCC negotiations.

The project leader (Prof. Yeon-Chang Youn) made a presentation on the main outcomes of the workshop during the 35th session of the Committees in Yokohama in November 2004. During the extension period of the project duration, the Executing Agency had cooperated in the organization of two forums as follows:

- “International Conference on Agroforestry, Biodiversity, Forest Restoration and CDM in ASEAN Region” was held in Seoul, Korea on May 24 - 25, 2005 in collaboration with ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Unit; and
- “International Symposium and Workshop: Kyoto Mechanism and International Cooperation for Afforestation and Reforestation” was held at Sejong Hall, Seoul, Korea on October 19 – 20, 2005 in collaboration with Korean Forum on Forest for Sustainable Society and Korean Forest Service.

In order to disseminate the information on CDM carbon forestry effectively, the project has created a website at <http://www.ee-forest.org>. The website features the workshop information and proceedings of the three workshops organized or assisted by the project. Almost one thousands copies of the proceedings of workshops were distributed to the participants, government agencies, academia and the private sector. The book titled: “Climate Change, Clean Development Mechanism and Forest Sector in Asia” was published by Korean Studies Information Co. Ltd (a commercial publisher in Korea). This book consists of 15 papers, which were selected from the three workshops and edited by the project leader.

The project had been successfully implemented by establishing a strong partnership between the Executing Agency (Department of Forest Sciences, Seoul National University) and collaborating parties. Such partnership has built into a wide network of professionals who have interests in CDM forestry activities. The three workshops organized in collaboration with several parties have demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative efforts as a key element of success in implementing the project. The partnership has also facilitated building of a network of professionals engaged in A/R CDM for their representative organizations/institutions.

The ITTO Secretariat has received the book on CDM forestry (CD-ROM), project progress reports, completion report and the final audit report on the use of project funds in accordance with the Project Agreement signed with ITTO. In November 2006 the relevant ITTO Committees declared this project as completed.