



**“FOREST AND POST-2012 CLIMATE REGIME” PRESENTATION FOR DIPLOMATS**

**Ref.**  
15

Expert(s)	Country	Volume (md)	Amount (€)	Beneficiary	Funding	Start date	End date	Partner(s)	Reference
O. Bouyer	France	1	n/a. * expert civil servant	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Budget of the French Govt	July 2009	July 2009	n/a	<a href="mailto:brice.lalonde@wanadoo.fr">brice.lalonde@wanadoo.fr</a>

Detailed description of the project	Services provided
<p>The amount of French Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to the forest sector is around €26 million/year, mainly implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). 75% of this amount goes to Africa, where it is principally used to finance small projects (less than €5 million). The allocation of “forest” ODA represents only 0.6% of total ODA and 5.5% of “climate” ODA.</p> <p>In comparison to the ODAs of countries active on forest issues (like Norway – €500 million/year, Germany - €125 million/year, Great Britain - €74 million/year), France is a small donor. French diplomacy nevertheless seeks to defend some specific actions in the forest sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The promotion of sustainable forest management, especially in the Congo Basin (10 million ha under forest management plans in 2009);</li> <li>- Its commitment as a “pioneer” in forest carbon finance: AFD was one of the first contributors to the World Bank’s Biocarbon Fund (BioCF) and one of the first contributors to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF);</li> <li>- As one of the only developed countries, along with Australia, to have a large portion of rainforest, France has developed a recognized scientific and technical expertise in terms of knowledge and management of tropical forest ecosystems.</li> </ul> <p>For these reasons, the environmental attachés of the French diplomatic corps, based in French embassies around the world, were seeking accurate information on current forestry issues, especially in relation to climate change and the fight against deforestation. The expert provided a presentation at the annual gathering of environmental attachés.</p>	<p>As the presentation was made a few months before the Copenhagen Climate Conference, which was supposed to give birth to an agreement on the Post-2012 Climate Regime, the presentation naturally focused on this issue and was entitled “<i>What place for the forest sector in the Copenhagen Accord?</i>” It helped to inform the participants on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiation issues of REDD+ for developing countries and LULUCF (<i>Land Use, Land Use Change and Forest</i>) negotiations for developed countries;</li> <li>- Recent advances in science on the likely impacts of climate change: the 2006 Stern Report and the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);</li> <li>- Reminder of the existing political power relations at the time of the Kyoto negotiations and an explanation of the marginal role left to forests;</li> <li>- Prospects for climate negotiations in general: more science, greater public awareness of the issues, but the USA and the governments of the developed countries in general who are still slow to commit;</li> <li>- Current progress and challenges in the LULUCF negotiations: the taking into account of the risks associated with extreme weather events, enlargement of LULUCF activities accounted for, harmonization and simplification of accounting rules, etc.</li> <li>- Progress and current issues of REDD+ negotiations: phased-approach for the development of strategies, clarification of the scope of activities included, guidelines for the establishment of baselines, carbon market financing vs. funds, etc.</li> </ul> <p>The presentation was followed by a debate on the values and positions to be defended by French diplomats on the issue of temperate or tropical forests.</p>