

Policy Recommendations for
**United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change COP16**

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,
29 November – 10 December, 2010
Cancun, Mexico

Climate change is a global crisis requiring collective action. The global community is depending on national governments to work together to limit global average temperature increases as far below 2°C as possible while supporting vulnerable people, and the ecosystems they depend on, to cope with the already inevitable impacts of climate change. Securing the necessary coordinated, international effort requires development of legally binding international agreements under the UNFCCC. At COP16 in Cancun, governments have an opportunity to demonstrate that the UNFCCC *can* succeed in this critical endeavor.

COP16 in Cancun must move towards establishing comprehensive, legally binding agreement(s). For this reason, it is essential that Parties make as much progress as possible in Cancun on both the LCA and KP tracks. To the extent possible, this progress should be captured in decisions. Parties should also decide on a timeline towards achieving a comprehensive climate agreement before 2012.

Conservation International has worked with governments and other partners engaged in the UNFCCC negotiations in order to inform discussions based on our field experience and scientific expertise, particularly in regards to the role ecosystems can play in climate solutions. We offer the following policy recommendations for COP16.

Recommendations

Post-2012 Agreement(s)

- Make significant progress on the LCA and KP texts. Capture progress in decisions to be adopted by the COP-MOP.
- Agree on the pathway to reach comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement(s).

REDD+:

- Use Option 2 (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14/Chapter VI) as the basis for REDD+ negotiations and focus negotiations on items remaining in brackets.
- Include all requests to SBSTA currently in the LCA text within a REDD+ decision. Progress in SBSTA on these issues will greatly facilitate a full agreement on all phases and elements of REDD+.
- Request SBSTA to develop modalities to measure, report and verify the carbon accounting, safeguards and financing associated with REDD+.
- Maintain and support language on social and environmental safeguards.
- Aim to halt net emissions from forest cover loss by 2030 and reduce emissions by at least 50% by 2020. Provide sufficient finance to do so (at least USD25-35 billion per year).
- Provide adequate and sustainable financing from a variety of sources, including public finance and carbon markets. Any public money should be new and additional to ODA and conservation targets.
- Incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests as well as their associated ecosystem services, including in countries with high forest cover and low historic rates of deforestation.
- Provide guidance that initiates a process to establish clear guidelines on reference levels.
- Include an interim role for sub-national accounting frameworks with national-level accounting frameworks being the ultimate goal. In the long term, any accounting at the sub-national level would need to be nested under the national accounting framework.

Adaptation

- Make significant progress on an adaptation framework under the LCA as part of a balanced package of decisions to be adopted by the COP-MOP.
- Commit and identify public funding from developed countries in support of developing countries that is new and additional to ODA targets as the primary source of support for adaptation.
- Ensure developed country funding commitments for adaptation are transparent and separate from mitigation funding.

- Acknowledge and reference the importance of an integrated approach to adaptation that includes natural ecosystems, with a high priority on ecosystem-based approaches.
- Recognize and incorporate the need to build and maintain natural ecosystem resilience, and refer to the direct use of ecosystems and their services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, an approach often termed Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).
- Acknowledge and reference the importance of an adaptation approach that includes local communities, with a high priority on community-based adaptation and local knowledge.
- Ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in program and project development and implementation.
- Ensure support for and commitment to the creation of robust and comprehensive adaptation plans for developing countries.
- Ensure appropriate environmental and social safeguards for adaptation action.

Mitigation

- Reduce aggregate emissions for developed countries by at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 95% by 2050. Reductions should be achieved domestically as much as possible.
- Reduce aggregate emissions for developing countries by 30% below business-as-usual by 2020.

Finance

- Provide adequate, sustainable and predictable financing that is new and additional to existing ODA targets in order to meet climate goals.
- Provide financing to enable implementation of safeguards, MRV and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **REDD+ Finance**
 - Provide adequate and sustainable financing from a variety of sources, including public finance and carbon markets.
 - Commit and identify sources of finance that combined can generate at least USD25-30 billion per year as that level of financing will be necessary to achieve emission reduction goals.
- **Adaptation Finance**
 - Ensure developed country funding commitments for adaptation are transparent and separate from mitigation funding.
 - Commit and identify public funding that is new and additional to ODA targets as the primary source of support for adaptation due to immediate and substantial adaptation needs. Complement public funding with other mechanisms where possible and appropriate.
 - Acknowledge that at least USD100 billion per year will be necessary to meet developing country adaptation needs.