



**United Nations Environment Programme
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT
PROGRAMA DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS PARA O MEIO AMBIENTE

**Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Panama City, Panama
20 to 25 November 2003**

**A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS
20TH TO 21TH NOVEMBER 2003**

Distribution:

Limited

UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIV/Inf.13

Tuesday 11, November 2003

Original: Spanish

**Statement from the Experts
on Land Use, Change of Land Use
and Forestry within the Framework
of the Kyoto Protocol**

The group of experts on land use, land use change and forestry, within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, convened on October 28-29, 2003 in Mexico City, Mexico:

Considering,

That during the Eleventh Meeting of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru, in 1998, it was determined that, among other things, the functions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean included assessing, discussing, and agreeing upon the regional position on topics of the environmental agenda. This Forum is today the highest body for discussion and agreements on these matters.

That during the Thirteenth Meeting of the Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2001, it was determined that the necessary steps would be taken to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the continued support of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment and of UNEP was requested in this matter.

That the Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes the role of forests and change implemented in land use as activities that mitigate climate change, and declares that the parties shall promote and cooperate in the sustainable management, conservation and "perfecting" of greenhouse gas sinks, including forests and other land, coastal and marine ecosystems.

That the Kyoto Protocol, in Article 12, defines the Clean Development Mechanism as a tool to assist developing countries to attain sustainable development and contribute to complying with the Convention's ultimate objective, as well as helping developing nations to comply with the commitments undertaken in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

That at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties at its Seventh Session (UNFCCC), known as the Marrakech Agreements, it was decided that during the first period of compliance land use activities, change of land use and afforestation eligible under the Clean Development Mechanism would be limited to afforestation and reforestation. Thus the process to develop definitions and applicable modalities was begun for these projects with the objective of adopting a decision regarding the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties at its Ninth Session, to be held December 1 through 12, 2003.

That afforestation and reforestation projects for Latin American and Caribbean countries contribute, among other aspects, to:

- a) Generating employment through an alternate forest production model that includes both timber-yielding and non-timber-yielding resources.
- b) Generate economic, social and environmental benefits for communities in rural areas.
- c) Conserve soil and restore deteriorated soil.
- d) Conserve and restore regional biodiversity.
- e) Protect watersheds and improve the utilization of water resources.
- f) Develop attractive economic options for small producers and the poorest populations.

That various organizations have sent memos to the European Union proposing the exclusion of said projects from the Clean Development Mechanism, or to abstain from financing them and/or including them in their internal emissions trade systems.

**WE CALL ON THE MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TO:**

- 1. Pronounce** themselves before the international community on the importance of this type of project in the region, and the importance of reaching an agreement at the Conference of the Parties at their Ninth Session (CoP 9) within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concerning the definitions and modalities for the inclusion of forestry projects in the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol,
- 2. Manifest** our deep concern to the European Union concerning the negative effects of possible restrictive decisions regarding the use of emissions reduction certificates for forest projects within the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism); these decisions could be reached within the framework of an emissions exchange system. A decision in this regard would be of grave import, given that the rules for the inclusion of forestry projects in the CDM will not have been established until CoP 9 takes place.
- 3. Invite** the European Union, and developed nations in general, to participate in the implementation of the afforestation and reforestation projects within the Clean Development Mechanism in the region, and
- 4. Promote** cooperation among the respective countries and the countries of the region for the construction of skills and the prompt implementation of forestry projects within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism.

**MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
OCTOBER 29, 2003**

Participating countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘