



Enabling forests to score sustainable development goals for LDCs: background note

Side Event at the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for the Development of Productive Capacities in LDCs | Cotonou, Benin | 28-31 July 2014

Objective

Building productive capacity is a central area of focus for LDCs in achieving post-2015 sustainable development goals. Natural resources, including forests and their ecosystem services, are expected to play an important role in achieving inclusive economic growth and poverty eradication, given their relative abundance in many LDCs. At the same time, some of the key related challenges include natural resource depletion and undervaluation, achieving full and equitable participation, and realising market opportunities. The session will raise understanding among participants about how the SDG framework can best enable forests to contribute towards diverse goal areas, and to benefit negotiators by helping identify critical elements of the existing framework for retention, as well as missing issues and trade-offs that need stronger consideration.

Session overview

An introductory presentation will outline how a modular application of the framework can enable critical levers of change so that forests deliver sustainable development outcomes in a transformative, universal and integrated manner. This will be followed by an interactive moderated session to explore LDC priorities, synergies, trade-offs and examples of success in relation to the building of productive capacity and transition to a climate resilient, inclusive green economy.

A background document will be provided to participants before the event, and the outcome will be disseminated in summary form to participants as well as through social media.

Draft agenda

1. **Welcome and introductory comments** (5 mins)
2. **Presentation: Embedding forests in the SDGs** (15 mins)
3. **Interactive moderated discussion**
 - a. **LDC's priorities for forests and SDGs** (20 mins)

Guiding questions:

 - What are the most important sustainable development outcomes delivered by forests, including in relation to productive capacity?
 - What are the most important levers of change or enabling conditions to ensure this contribution is fulfilled?

Interactions to include instantaneous, anonymous voting on priority areas followed by live sharing of results and discussion.
 - b. **Synergies, trade-offs and examples of success** (30 min)

Introductory speaker remarks followed by moderated discussion. Guiding questions:

 - What are the potential trade-offs when enhancing the role of forests in a transition to a climate resilient, inclusive, green economy?
 - What examples of success exist in LDCs that can feed into useful implementation guidance?
4. **Conclusions and way forward** (5 mins)

Contact: Jonathan Reeves Jonathan.Reeves@iied.org or Leianne Rolington Leianne.Rolington@iied.org.