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# The Paris Agreement, the Climate, and Forest Agencies

An Overview of Implications and Opportunities

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# The Paris Agreement - 4 Takeaways

## 1. Historic, inadequate, but mechanisms to “ratchet-up” commitments

- *Unprecedented political support, attended by 150 leaders, endorsed by 195 countries, major business, NGO, community/indigenous leaders*
- *Numerous side-agreements, voluntary declarations*

## 2. Forests play a key role: protection and restoration

- *Article 5: Should take action conserve / enhance sinks ; encouraged to implement / finance REDD+ & alternative approaches (joint mitigation and adaptation, and non-carbon benefits);*
- *Only referenced economic sector - raised political profile of forestry*
- *Featured in many INDCs: Land-based emission reductions identified in 80; REDD+ strategies mentioned in 66; but support to IP/LCs in 2*

# The Paris Agreement - 4 Takeaways



## 3. Included major social commitments

- *Preamble – “all CC efforts should respect, promote human rights, rights to health, rights of indigenous peoples, communities, development, gender equity... “*
- *Article 4.1: “...removals by sinks...on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty...”*

## 4. Accompanied by major, unprecedented, commitments (and collaboration) by corporates, cities, communities

- *a plethora of new initiatives, inspiring momentum*
- *Political / economic mainstreaming to “de-carbonize” the economy*



# Many Side Agreements on Forests



- **Launch of AFR100**
  - Restore 100 million hectares of degraded forest lands before 2030;
  - DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda.
- **Leaders' Statement on Forests and Climate Change**
  - Intensify forest protection, restore degraded forest, peat and agricultural lands, promote REDD+ and low carbon rural development / land-uses
  - Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, UK & USA
- **Lima-Paris Action Agenda on Forests**
  - Financing from Germany, Norway & UK (\$5bn for 2015-2020 ); Commitments from Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, DRC & Liberia
- **Year of commitments**
  - NY Declaration, Bonn Challenge, new private sector commitments, Zero-deforestation pledges - 42 major companies & Consumer Goods Forum

# The Climate (and Forests) Context



- 1. Climate change continuing, accelerating?** *Paris far from adequate: calls for 1.5C max, INDCs sum to 2.7C, indications that it's getting worse*
- 2. Forests – from sink to source?** *Tremendous variability and uncertainty, exposing thresholds, tipping points.*
- 3. Forest management likely to be more costly** *(to deal with fires, pests, restoration, monitoring, reporting), and “payments” concept – but many budgets stable or declining, global slowdown, need for low-cost options that build resilience and flexibility*
- 4. Many other (powerful) sectors now interested,** *and engaged, in forest management – crashing the party*
- 5. Tensions between new demands** *and competing uses (e.g. bio-energy, sinks, recreation, food security, diversity vs productivity, local vs national vs global etc., etc.)*

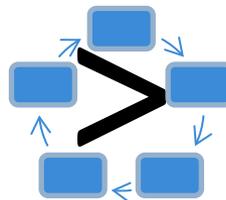
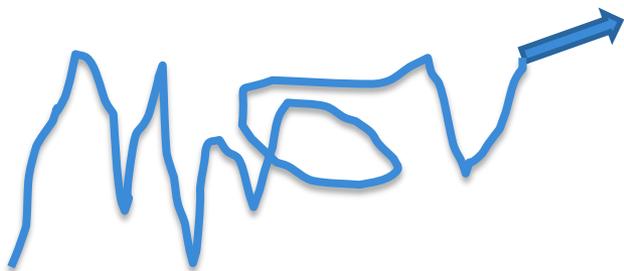
Biophysical  
Production



Forest land  
and  
management  
institutions



Social  
Demands



*What institutions will enable you to achieve this?*

# Opportunities for Forest Agencies



- 1. Mandate to expand global forest domain**
- 2. Market/political support for bio-energy**
- 3. Lots of people/organizations/sectors now have an interest in forests – great potential to muster and channel this great power and innovate**
- 4. Strong support (in global arrangements) for community-based initiatives, IP rights, forestry for sustainable development (which offers more flexibility, responsiveness, resilience, tailoring management - through subsidiarity)**

*Carpe diem!*

# The Text

## Article 5 – Parties

- 5.1 Should take action to conserve / enhance C sinks and reservoirs, including forests.
- 5.2 Are encouraged to implement and support...policy approaches and positive incentives (including results-based payments) to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and/or pursue joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while incentivizing non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.