

9 Dec 2011

Report from UNFCCC's COP17 Nov-Dec 2011 in Durban South Africa.

The Growing Forest Partnership alliances, GACF, IAITPTF and IFFA, are active in Durban during the UNFCCC's COP 17



General

The Right holders Group are in Durban to

- Follow the forest issues handling and to meet, talk and listen to people and organisations with important influence on climate issues and international forest policy
- Meet with our alliance partners and our support organisations within the Growing Forest Partnership.

The purpose was not to directly influence on the mega political game on the general principles for a new accord.

The nutshell issues on prolonged Kyoto protocol for industrialised countries, commitments to reduce emissions from all big emitters and financing to the poor countries followed the on forehand given low expectations. Only marginal progress was made. When China starts to say no than USA with upcoming president elections can't move, than Japan and Canada can move either.. And on Tuesday India the world third biggest emitter said no to a new agreement.

The way I see it there is two major dilemmas, first the decisions makers are of course very sensitive to their national public opinions weather, democratic or not.



Ghan Shyam Pandy GACF, Marcial Arias och Edna Kaptoyo IAITPTF, Ganesh Karki och Rama Alemagar GACF och Lennart Ackzell IFFA with brochures and rollup

Without National opinions to create a political prize of no progress in climate change talks, nothing happens.

Secondly most parties sees a conflict with commitments on reductions and economic development, included the use of own coal/oil/gas which hurts not only China but also EU's Presidency Poland. And as the head of UN's IPCC Rajendra Pachauri said, "When people understands the threat of climate change the politicians will follow".

New information material

Prior to the meeting and thanks to good support from IIED and PEFC new information materials were produced and delivered during the meeting. [Growing Forest Partnerships \(GFP\) and REDD](#) and on [the G3's perspective on climate change](#) and the [PEFC \(Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification\)](#) During the ordinary UNFCCC the IIED stand was our market place and during the Forest Day the PEFC stand served us.



↓ Here with Liz Carlile och James Mayers från IIED as together with the colleagues Gracia Perez, Lucile Robinson and Teresa Corcoran were indeed very helpful prior and during the meeting. We also discussed further collaboration for Rio+20.



↗ Sarah Price and Thorstein Arndt PEFC at their stand on Forest Day 5



Forest Day 5

As at every Climate change COP since Bali a Forest Day is arranged. High level speakers from policy, research etc. Again the CIFOR and Frances Seymour made a great success. Over 1200 participants from 86 countries.

A good sign, perhaps because the conference was held in Africa, it became obvious how evident the interaction between people and forest and also forest and agriculture. The charismatic South African Minister of Agri-Forest-Fisheries Tina Joemat-Pettersson cited the national hero Nelson Mandela in her opening speech and emphasised that forest is much more than CO2 and that many, not the least in Africa are dependent of the forest from various





The Forest Day was closed by the UNFCCC General Secretary Christiana Figueres who concluded that even though slow progress was made one important element to the negotiations this conference has provided is a third leg. Besides mitigation and adaptation the third leg of better livelihoods and poverty eradication has to be added. Another welcomed acknowledgement with focus on the human component in climate change.

Forest Day 5 was a positive day from IFFA standpoint.

Right Holders Group / Growing Forest Partnership

The three alliances met several times and we discussed issues of visibility on these kind of big conferences and we were all thankful for the support from IIED as well as PEFC. It was noted that GACF and IFFA are not accredited to the EcoSoc list of NGOs which should be dealt with.



Common preparations for Rio+20 and COP 18 in Doha were initiated.

One problem mentioned is that available funds for the Growing Forest Partnership arrive well into the actual year. This complicates serious planning of activities. Participation, side events, stands, material require quite long term planning.

Another theme we discussed was how to better bridge between the policy and the in country activities of the Growing Forest Partnership. We are now facing a change in the support structure as Forest Partnership will be created and we look forward to work in that structure. I was asked to soon be in contact to seek for information on future budget work.

Many other side and contact meetings



Here Gary Dunning and Xiaoping Hou from the Forest Dialogue (TFD) with whom we discussed the coming ILCF dialogue in Indonesia and Sweden.

- African Forest Forum Godwin Kowero och Peter Gondo.
- WB Gerhard Dieterle och Peter Dewees
- South African company Mondi Peter Gardener.
- Eduardo Rojas who asked for closer cooperation Etc..

See more <http://www.growingforestpartnerships.org/g3-cop17-and-forest-day-5> and <http://www.familyforestry.net>

Yours hopefully, Lennart Ackzell