

**TROPICAL DEFORESTATION AND THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, SEPT 07****Background**

Greenpeace understands that the Indonesian government will hold a meeting in New York with at least the eight countries that account for 80 percent of the world's tropical rain forests (Indonesia, Brazil, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Gabon, Costa Rica, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo). These countries are interested in obtaining funds to reduce their emissions from deforestation (RED).

The Indonesians reportedly hope this meeting will build momentum to a "Forestry Eight" Summit in Bali in December. Reports on the NY meeting stress that Indonesia is concerned about maintaining "ownership" of its forests and feels that the rainforest countries should work together to control the fate of their forests at the Bali meeting. According to one article, the Indonesian Environment Minister (Rachmat Witoelar) states that the F8 countries all now agree that deforestation credits should be included within the carbon market. However, Brazil's previously strong stance against such a system leads us to question the veracity of such a statement.

**Greenpeace Position**

The destruction of the world's forests is one of the main causes of climate change, second only to the energy sector. Tropical forests contain up to 40% of the world's terrestrial carbon and play a powerful role in mitigating the growing instability of the climate. The destruction of forests accounts for approximately one-fifth of total greenhouse gas emissions.

- Greenpeace supports the F8 countries' calls to make deforestation a critical component of the next phase of the Kyoto (post-2012) agreement on climate change.
- Greenpeace believes that the UNFCCC principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" requires countries with tropical forests to commit to reducing deforestation at the national scale.
- Greenpeace supports a **new international funding mechanism** to direct funding from rich countries to reducing tropical deforestation in developing countries. Any tropical forests eligible for such funds must also protect global biodiversity values and engage and share benefits with local indigenous peoples. This must not turn into an international subsidy for logging companies and agribusiness.

However, we do not support the approach (pushed by some F8 countries) that would allow rich industrialized countries to purchase deforestation credits (added to current Kyoto markets) instead of cutting their fossil fuel emissions. This would run the risk of flooding the markets with cheap deforestation emission reduction units, thus thwarting necessary changes in the energy sector. The world needs deeper cuts in both fossil fuel and deforestation emissions in order to keep us well below a 2 degree Celsius rise in temperature.

Any new regime must take into account the different capacities and circumstances of developing countries with tropical forests and be truly international (to avoid the industry simply shifting to another country).

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