

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### POLICY

Options for establishing an international mechanism for avoided deforestation are continuing to be explored and discussed, and these efforts need to continue. Within these discussions, a number of issues require particular attention:

- Support is needed to develop national strategies and infrastructure for forests and climate. This will need to include institutions to: monitor deforestation and degradation; develop and implement policies for forest management that will mitigate carbon emissions and land-surface impacts.
- A more holistic view of the role of forests in climate change needs to be adopted, considering not only their role in the cycling of greenhouse gases, but also the importance of land-cover characteristics. Means by which the latter role could be accounted for within a carbon credit system should be explored.
- Activities related to forests and climate must be co-ordinated and balanced with other forest issues and priorities. Priority should be given to projects that would bring a variety of benefits, e.g. securing land-rights, biodiversity maintenance, provision of forest products, etc., rather than to those aimed purely at carbon storage.
- Means by which indigenous peoples could be incorporated in a system for avoided deforestation should be explored.
- Any projects and activities aimed at avoided deforestation must incorporate monitoring processes to assess their impact on forest-dependent communities and on the wider environment.

### RESEARCH

The limited data in many areas has been widely reported, for example, the need for better assessments of biomass, forest area and rates and distribution of forest degradation and deforestation have all been highlighted. This is particularly true in Central Africa, where also understanding of, and data on, meteorological processes is limited. Therefore, there is a need for additional research facilities and activities within the region.

More specifically, the following issues need to be addressed:

- More attention in climate change predictions must be given to climate variability and to local effects, rather than the global average climate, in order to improve assessments of the ecological and agricultural impacts of climate change.
- Research is needed into traditional systems of forest management and agriculture that are carbon neutral, or minimise carbon loss to the atmosphere, as options for sustainable land-use.
- The role of forests in the cycling of greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide should be investigated further.
- More detailed research into the interactions between global warming and the land-surface impacts of deforestation is needed.