

## **THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COLOMBIA STATEMENT OF INTENT ON TACKLING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION**

The Governments of the United Kingdom and Colombia are strongly committed to tackling deforestation and forest degradation. We recognise that reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) offers an important mitigation opportunity to achieve the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in limiting the increase in global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The world agreed in Durban last year to work towards a global legally binding agreement by 2015, and in parallel to intensify our efforts in advance of that global deal to increase mitigation ambition urgently in order to keep 2°C within reach.

We recognise that as well as the climate benefits, tackling deforestation and forest degradation can also contribute to poverty reduction and rural green growth, foster the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, and protect biodiversity and the ecosystem services we rely on locally and globally. Preserving forest cover also increases the resilience of ecosystems and societies against the impacts of climate change.

We recognise the good progress on REDD+ under the UNFCCC in Cancún and Durban and expect this to continue in Doha with decisions on the modalities and procedures for financing results-based actions and on the technical guidance for REDD+ with a view to finalising the technical architecture by 2013. We support the further work of the REDD+ Partnership and will work with other countries, and private sector and civil society stakeholders to share lessons from our experiences.

The UK and Colombian Governments are working with partners on the ground and investing in a £15 million grant over four years to support the growth of silvopastoral systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cattle ranching, improve the livelihood of farmers, protect local forests and increase biodiversity. The project aims to convert 28,000 hectares of grazing land to silvopastoral systems, saving around two million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over eight years, and create a strategy for increasing the use of silvopastoral systems in Colombia and beyond. The project will work in 7 regions of Colombia, including two deforestation hotspots, testing the effectiveness of silvopastoral systems to curb the expansion of the cattle frontier, the biggest driver of deforestation in Colombia.

### **The United Kingdom**

- Tackling deforestation is a priority for the UK's £2.9 billion International Climate Fund. The UK has already allocated £282 million to forests programmes since 2010, and we are working to ensure a balanced allocation with around 20% of the overall £2.9 billion for forestry by 2015. The UK is developing a major new set of interventions to achieve climate change, poverty and biodiversity objectives through reducing deforestation. This will focus on working with governments and the private sector to address agricultural drivers of deforestation, and build greater value in standing forest, in line with their REDD+ national strategies.
- We recognise the importance of low-carbon leadership and progressive policy commitments made by Colombia, including the expansion of protected areas in the

Amazon and their target to reduce deforestation in the Amazon to zero, which is reliant upon a contribution from international financing. These are vitally important in setting the policy conditions in which real progress can be made in tackling the drivers of deforestation and supporting green growth and sustainable development.

- We are pleased to announce a grant allocation of £15 million from the UK's International Climate Fund for the project *Silvopastoral systems for climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation in Colombia's livestock sector*, and we look forward to working on this project with the Colombian Government and other project partners.
- We are highly committed to deepening our dialogue with the Government of Colombia on their ambitious proposal to halt deforestation in the Amazon region of their country, including through the *Heart of the Amazon Initiative*. To this end we will explore future potential support and technical assistance through 2013.

## Colombia

- Colombia is deeply grateful to the UK for its partnership on silvopastoral systems. This endeavour builds on an alliance that involves cross-sectoral collaboration between the Colombian Government, the World Bank as implementing partner and the National Cattle Ranchers' Federation FEDEGAN as executing agency. Other critical partners are our main agricultural lender FINAGRO, the environmental non-profits Fondo para la Acción Ambiental y la Niñez, The Nature Conservancy and CIPAV (Research Center for Sustainable Agriculture Systems). Building on successful experiences in the field, this project will work with small and medium-sized cattle ranchers to convert extensive pastures to a mixed cultivation system planting trees, shrubs, fodder crops and living fences in grazing land. Results include improving land productivity for grazing, capturing carbon, increasing biodiversity, providing vegetation for foraging and timber and conserving existing forests. In addition, by increasing shade cover on pastures, ground temperatures are reduced, soils are protected, water retention is enhanced and the system is made more resilient to weather extremes, which are becoming more frequent as a consequence of climate change. Participating farmers, many of them in poverty, will be able to raise more, healthier cattle on their existing land using silvopastoral systems, increasing their income, improving their livelihoods and reducing the need to clear forest or even migrate.
- Colombia is on track to finish phase 1 of its National REDD+ strategy by 2015 while making good progress with phase 2. We hope to advance to phase 3 in the next 3 to 4 years. The REDD+ strategy is one of four climate change strategies of the Colombian government, together with a Low Carbon Development Strategy, a National Adaptation Plan and a Strategy of Financial Protection against Disasters. The REDD+ strategy has set a roadmap for preparation actions, developed a national deforestation and carbon monitoring system, and is working with the main stakeholders groups through a clear participation framework. Early demonstration activities in different regions of the country are testing approaches to REDD+ activities, carbon monitoring, stakeholder participation, reference levels, the application of safeguards, governance and benefit sharing provisions. With that learning in place, specific result-based REDD+ actions will be promoted, starting with regions and jurisdictions that are ready for REDD+.

- In that regard, we are raising donor funds to develop a subnational reference level for the Amazon and submit to the UNFCCC by the end of 2013, carefully examining the drivers of deforestation. This will be instrumental in measuring progress towards the target to reduce deforestation in the Colombian Amazon to zero by 2020 provided there is some international support. The country will eventually construct a national reference level, including through the combination of subnational reference levels.
- The largest hotspots of deforestation are in the Colombian Amazon, so this region is a priority for REDD+ implementation. As a bid to stop deforestation and set aside important areas for conservation, we are also on track to expand Chiribiquete National Park in the heart of the Colombian Amazon during the first half of 2013 from 1.30 to 2.78 million hectares, making it the largest national park in the country. In a broad region of 11 million hectares with this National Park at its core, we are developing the *Heart of the Amazon Initiative*, designed to promote conservation and sustainable development through improved governance, land use planning, sectoral agreements and incentives for forest conservation, restoration, cattle ranching conversion and Amazonian production systems.