



SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

26 October 2007

An Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change shall be established by the Steering Committee of the Joint Initiative on Science and Technology with the task of carrying out a comprehensive assessment of available scientific information about the adaptation of forests and the forest sector to climate change, and preparing a report for use by the UNFF at its eighth session, and also by the UNFCCC and CBD. The provisions contained in this document shall be applied when selecting the members of the Expert Panel.

Mandate and duration of work

The Expert Panel operates on the basis of Terms of Reference [to be] approved by the Steering Committee and is established on a temporary basis. The exact duration of work is specified in the Terms of Reference.

Panel size

In accordance with the Concept Note of the Joint Initiative on Science and Technology, the assessment report shall be prepared by an Expert Panel consisting of up to 30 scientists. The exact size of the Expert Panel will depend mainly on the specific topics to be covered in the Assessment Report on Adaptation. The first meeting of the Expert Panel on Adaptation might involve a smaller group of experts who may identify the need for involving additional experts.

Membership and representation

Expert Panel Members are scientists with recognized expertise in the fields related to adaptation of forests to climate change. These might include IUFRO officeholders and participating scientists, scientists from CIFOR and ICRAF, scientists working for other research organizations and networks, as well as experts of the CBD Secretariat, FAO and the UNFF Secretariat and other CPF Member Organizations. Experts Panel members participate in their own personal capacity.

Selection criteria

The Expert Panel shall be established on basis of the following general criteria and taking into account the scientific expertise required for the assessment:

General criteria:

- necessary areas of specialization to be covered, including natural and social sciences
- regional balance
- coverage of geo-ecological regions
- cultural diversity
- gender balance

Areas of specialization to be covered:

- Climatology, climate modelling and scenarios (both global and regional)
- Methodologies and tools to assess climate change impacts and forest ecosystem vulnerability
- Impacts on forest ecosystems (including expertise on silviculture, forest biodiversity, forest health, forest genetics and tree physiology, forest and water interactions)
- Social impacts (in particular impacts on human health and mortality, and on the supply of goods and services for meeting subsistence needs)
- Economic impacts (including impacts on productive functions of forests and changes in international markets)
- Interrelations among forest and other systems and sectors (e.g., energy, tourism, industry, agriculture)
- Traditional knowledge about adaptation of forests to climate change
- Institutional and policy frameworks

Chair of the Expert Panel

The work of the Expert Panels is overseen by a Chair. The Chair also facilitates the identification of potential Expert Panel Members in consultation with the Steering Committee Members. When selecting the Chair, particular consideration shall be given to

- his/her ability to lead and motivate teams of experts
- his/her communication and coordination skills
- the time that he/she will be able to devote to the role as a Chair
- the explicitly stated support by his/her employer.

Selection process

The Chair of the Expert Panel is selected by the Steering Committee on basis of discussions between the Steering Committee Members. Furthermore, the Members of the Expert Panel are selected by the Steering Committee with the assistance of the Chair. Steering Committee Members may establish their own procedures for identification and recommendation of potential Expert Panel Members from within their respective constituencies and/or from other research organizations and networks.