

Sabine Schreiner: She presented on the topic “Introduction on Standards and methodologies for Carbon Projects.” She mentioned that the methods and standards for carbon projects are very complex and there are many specific terms in the project. She also mentioned about the problems related to Additionality, Permanence and Leakage that are prevalent in the carbon projects. There was a comment made in her presentation about whether the voluntary carbon markets are using the similar standards of carbon measurement process as she had mentioned. The response was that there exist many carbon measurement systems and the voluntary carbon market could use any of the standards based on their interests or requirements or even develop their own standards.

Dr. Lutz Fehrmann: He presented on the topic “Capacity building in context of MRV for REDD+.” He explained that there is a need of developing technical expertise and institutional capacity of the concerned countries for REDD+. He also mentioned that IPCC focuses on the use of Remote Sensing including satellite system and wall-wall monitoring systems. He focused on the increasing complexity of REDD process and stressed on the importance of harmonization and standardization of information. He mentioned that the international process like REDD+ need a distinct objective monitoring systems to analyze and evaluate the commitments of the countries. Answering to a question raised by a participant about why much more thinking is being concentrated towards carbon rather than on the money to be granted for it, he added that carbon has been taken as an indicator and evidence of forest conservation. There was a comment that only REDD+ and carbon measurement has been given a lot of attention though there has been no money returns and the measurement process and the whole REDD process is getting complicated.

Prof. Cornelis Ham: His presentation topic was “Optimisation of financial returns from environmental services on plantation forestry estates in South Africa.” He mentioned about the increase in the value of natural capital that encompasses ecosystem services provided by the forests and the issues raised by climate change. He was questioned about why only carbon is being considered in the context of payment for the ecosystem services, he agreed on the subject of the question by saying that forests also assist in providing other ecosystem services apart from sequestering or storing carbon, so he stated that the buyers need to go beyond carbon and also focus on other services that forests provide. Answering a question about why is it very difficult to identify and quantify ecosystem services, he said that models exist for quantifying ecosystem services but they are very complicated.

Anja Eickermann: She presented on the topic “Painting it REDD? Considering the Status of Forests in International Law.”

- International law is the law between states and states need to come into a consensus.
- There is an enforcement difficulty in such laws due to the lack of international police.
- Soft laws are not legally binding whereas international forest laws (treaties such as CITES, Ramsar, WHC) are legally binding but they have limited scope.
- Overlapping between international laws exist.

Responding to a question raised about the approach of CBD she answered CBD is a framework for different protocols such as Nagoya Protocol and Cartagena Protocol. There are a lot of forest conventions, so she suggested adopting CBD as an umbrella convention for all the related forest conventions in order to reduce the conflict within the conventions. Similarly, in another question about the meaning of fragmentation of international laws she answered that though countries agree during the law formulation, there are a lot of regulatory problems due to different kinds of memberships of the member countries.

Almut Jenke: She presented on the topic “International reporting processes on sustainable forest management and evolving issues of fragmentation of forest information.” According to her, there has been an evolution of a broader concept of forestry over time. There are a lot of factors not only inside the forests but also outside that play role in forestry. She also added that there has been fragmentation in the reporting process and there needs to be a harmony in reporting process of the countries. There was a comment made in her presentation by a participant. Different countries adopt different methodology to gather forest data and the data they submit doesn’t cover each and every aspects of forest. Moreover, how these reports can support in the sustainability of the forests is still questionable. Responding to the comment, she said that there exists this sort of problem and there is a need of a comprehensive forest data and also the coherence among data of the countries.

Prof. Ohn Lwin: The title of his presentation was “Is the Forestry Sector in Myanmar approaching International Context? Potential and Challenges.” In his presentation, Prof. Lwin focused on the challenges and opportunities of the forest policy of Myanmar. One of the interesting parts of his presentation was to know that the University of Forestry is directly under the Department of Forests. As the presenter himself is a staff of the University and also a staff of the Ministry of Forests. In this regard, he was questioned whether he could influence in the forest policy decision. Responding to the question, he said that he can make some suggestions but did not possess power to influence in the decision making process. Yet another question raised in his presentation was about the difference between protected public forests and reserved forests. He replied stating that in the protected forests there can be no use of the forest resource and is completely protected whereas, reserved forests can be used or exploited but in a sustainable manner. Another question raised was about the forest exploitation. The question was whether the forests have been exploited by the community user groups or by the government. He answered that there has been over use of forest products in some areas by the user groups but the government is trying to resolve this issue by applying working cycles in the areas that are more exploited.

Meeting minutes by Utsab Thapa & Check Abdel Kadir Baba