

## Session 16. The “Swedish Model” as a Tool for Global Carbon Mitigation Summary report

Active investments in forestry have led to almost a doubling of the carbon stock (in trees and soil) in Swedish forests over the past 100 years. Over the same time period, the sustainable wood harvest level has also doubled, resulting in high and sustainable production of wood and renewable energy.

The drivers that together have led to these developments have been:

- economic development leading to reduction of marginal agriculture and consequent return of forests over large land areas;
- long-term subsidies and regulations to stimulate raw material supply to the forest industry.

Similar drivers are now present in many developing countries. Forests are returning to marginal agricultural land following economic growth (at the same time as conversions of forest to commercial agriculture continues in some regions). Planted forests are expanding to meet increasing demands.

There is a biophysical potential to store very large quantities of carbon in forest landscapes that could significantly mitigate human-induced climate change at the global level. Following the Swedish experiences, this may be combined with an increased production and use of wood and fibre.

There is a market demand for mitigating climate change through forestry. Financial mechanisms are currently negotiated under the climate change convention, although the focus of the debate is often on reducing deforestation (i.e. reducing the conversion to commercial agriculture).

As an alternative, the opportunities to stimulate, through market mechanisms, increased carbon stocks in forests and landscapes on all land should be better investigated to inform the convention process that aim at a post-Kyoto mechanism in the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen in December 2009.