

UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

Please limit response length to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to csoselection@un-redd.org by Friday, 11 September 2009. Self-nominations are accepted.

1. Name of the candidate: Anthony Johnson Akpan
2. Name of organization or network: Pan African Vision for the Environment(PAVE)
3. Title (if applicable): President
4. Country: Nigeria
5. Language(s) spoken: English
6. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

PAVE is interested in environmental issues including climate change, water management, forest management, the organization functions through research and documentation, advocacy, capacity building and networking including community mobilization. We are based in Nigeria but active within the continent and internationally through the various networks we belong to. We are in the process of establishing an African CSO Network on the UN-REDD Programme to further involve African CSOs in the process.

7. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

We have quite a lot of experience in this regards has we are on the steering committee of lot of networks and coordinate some and have been discharging such functions effectively even with Nigeria and beyond, We moderate some of the listservs we disseminate information effectively including the national civil society network on water and sanitation in Nigeria and the African civil society Network on water and sanitation and the Gender and Water Anglophone west Africa Regional network.

8. Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

We have been working with the worldbank on urban water sector reform and UNDP on climate change education and awareness its relationship to water and forests.

As globally important storehouses of carbon, forests play a critical role in influencing the Earth's climate. Forest plants and soils drive the global carbon cycle by sequestering (storing) carbon dioxide through photosynthesis and releasing it through respiration. When the uptake of carbon dioxide (photosynthesis) is greater than losses via respiration, harvest and management then forests store carbon (C sinks).

In an undisturbed forest ~ 74 % of the carbon dioxide (stored as carbon (C)) is stored in live stems and branches, 16 % is stored in roots and 10 % in soils. However, when forests are clear felled or deforested 32 % of the stored C is lost due to decomposition processes. The remaining C is initially retained either on site or in harvested wood products, but this is slowly released over time. Most of the C stored on site will be lost if land is converted to agriculture or settlements. The loss of C due to harvest can be minimised if land is replanted immediately after harvest. The global sink in forest vegetation and soils is estimated to be 1,200 Gt of carbon (1Gt = 1000,000,000 tonnes). This increases at a rate of 1-3 Gt annually. Forest and land-use measures have the potential to reduce net carbon emissions by the equivalent of 10-20% of projected fossil fuel emissions through 2050. In many parts of the world, forests are being rapidly cleared for agriculture or pasture, destructively logged and mined, and degraded by human-set fires. When forests are degraded or cleared, their stored carbon is released back to the atmosphere during harvest and through respiration, thus these forests are net contributors of carbon to the atmosphere. Tropical deforestation is responsible for approximately 20% of total human-caused carbon dioxide emissions each year, and is a primary driver of extinction of forest species.

The net terrestrial sink of northern temperate and boreal forests appears to have increased on average from the 1980s to the 1990s. However, the magnitude of these sink is still highly uncertain. In the tropics, the net carbon flux is close to zero, that is, tropical land areas are in balance with respect to carbon exchange. This suggests that the carbon sink there is large enough to offset carbon emissions associated with deforestation. Due to sparse atmospheric and ecological data for the tropics, however, the uncertainty around this result is significant. Recent information suggest that the tropical forest represent a small sink of ~0.2 Gt C per year. In many parts of the world, forests are being rapidly cleared for agriculture or pasture, destructively logged and mined, and degraded by human-set fires. When forests are degraded or cleared, their stored carbon is released back to the atmosphere during harvest and through respiration, thus these forests are net contributors of carbon to the atmosphere. Tropical deforestation is responsible for approximately 20% of total human-caused carbon dioxide emissions each year, and is a primary driver of extinction of forest species. Forestry-based measures can be an effective complement to abatement options focused on fossil fuel emissions. Forest-based mitigation of global warming include:

- Increasing forest carbon absorption (sequestration) capacity - either by planting trees on un-forested land (i.e. afforestation), facilitating the natural regeneration of forests on marginal land and by managing forests to increase biomass accumulation.
- Conservation of existing forests - to avoid emissions associated with tropical deforestation, forest degradation or clearing.
- Substitution of sustainably produced forestry products - substituting wood products for materials requiring energy-intensive production, such as aluminium or concrete, and substituting woody biomass for fossil fuels as an energy source.

9. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

We are in the process of establishing a relationship with UN-REDD Programme in our quest of establishing an African CSO Network on the UN-REDD Programme to further involve African CSOs in the process.

Please send completed form to csoselection@un-redd.org