

**Australian Government**  
 Department of the Environment and Water Resources

## Global Initiative on Forests and Climate

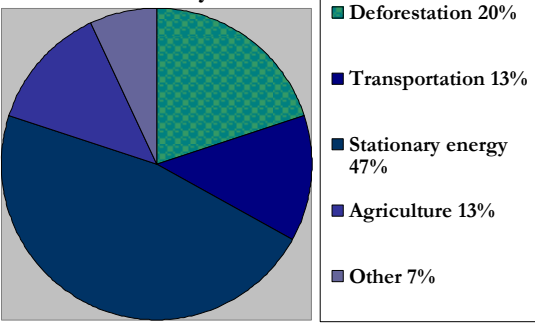


Asia Pacific Seminar, Bangkok, 31 July 2007

## The need for action

- Deforestation is the second largest source of GHG emissions globally
  - ~6 billion tonnes pa
- 13 million ha of forest is cleared each year
  - 71,000 football fields a day

**GHG emissions by source**



Source	Percentage
Stationary energy	47%
Deforestation	20%
Agriculture	13%
Transportation	13%
Other	7%

Data source: World Resources Institute 2005

## Climate benefits for acting

- Addressing deforestation is one of the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions
- If we halve the rate of global deforestation, we could reduce GHG emissions by 10% or 3 billion tonnes a year
- By addressing deforestation now, we can give the world a breathing space
- Action on forests can reduce global emissions in the near term, while we develop and deploy low emissions technologies

## A complex issue

- Various drivers, including:
  - illegal logging—which costs the global market more than \$US10 billion a year
  - conversion to palm oil production
  - slash and burn agricultural practices
- Recognise the need for incentives to support improved livelihoods and more sustainable forest management



## Co-benefits for reducing deforestation

- Poverty reduction and supporting sustainable local economies
- Encouraging sustainable forestry management and agriculture
- Preservation of biodiversity
- Protecting watersheds

## The Global Initiative on Forests and Climate

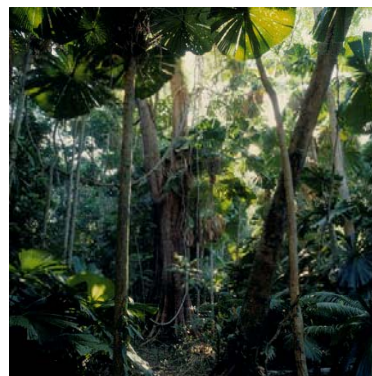
- Australian Government will invest \$200m to tackle climate change and protect the world's forest through:
  - reducing destruction of the world's forests
  - increasing new forest planting
  - promoting sustainable forest management practices
- Jointly led by the Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs

## Complementing other activities

- The Initiative is about practical action, while UNFCCC discussions continue
- Action will be developed in cooperation with partner governments to ensure consistency with development policies
- Will also work closely with other international deforestation activities, such as the World Bank's Global Forest Alliance

## Activities under the Initiative

- Piloting approaches to providing incentives to encourage sustainable use of forests
- Building technical capacity to assess and monitor forest resources
- Assisting development of effective regulatory and law enforcement arrangements



- Diversifying the economic base of forest communities
- Supporting research into the drivers of deforestation
- Encouraging reforestation of degraded forest areas
- Maximising synergies between various national/international efforts



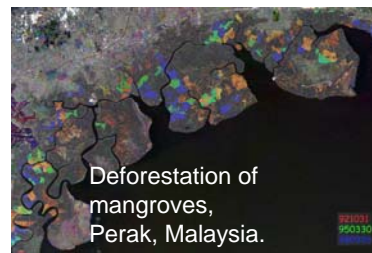
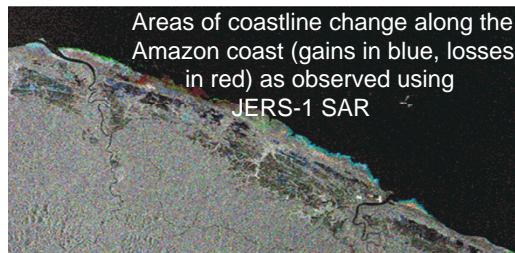
## Overview of the Global Carbon Monitoring System

- Australia invites others to join with us to establish a Global Carbon Monitoring System (GCMS).
- Will improve the capacity of regional countries in making robust forest assessments, and in monitoring and managing their forests
- The GCMS would comprise linked systems supported by remote sensing satellite monitoring integrated with carbon accounting approaches.

## Existing Data and Systems

Existing frameworks such as the Japanese ALOS radar program can contribute to the global monitoring of forests

There are additional co-benefits – beyond supporting improved forests management – emergency management



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

# Thank you



Any questions: [greg.picker@environment.gov.au](mailto:greg.picker@environment.gov.au)