Minimising the impact of aviation emissions: what way forward?
An expert meeting aiming to lift off sustainable academic travelling
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Prof dr René G.A. Boot: BIO and Abstract

BIO

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René Boot is director of Tropenbos International, a Dutch foundation governed by an international board. The mission of the foundation is to improve governance and management of tropical forests through research, capacity building and promoting dialogue. The foundation funded by the Dutch government, EU and other donors works in Colombia, Bolivia and Suriname in South America, Ghana, DR Congo, Liberia, Ivory coast and Uganda in Africa and Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines in Southeast Asia.

He is adjunct professor in Sustainable tropical forest management at Utrecht University, The Netherlands where he teaches research policy linkages to MSc and PhD students. He further supervises PhD students working on forest ecology and forest dependent livelihoods.

René Boot studied ecology and graduated (PhD) in 1990 at Utrecht University. After graduating he worked for fifteen years in forest research and development projects in Guyana and Bolivia.

He is member of the editorial board of the Journal Tropical Ecology, the Journal of Forests, trees and livelihoods, member of the Independent Steering Committee of CGIAR's research programme Forests, Trees and Agroforestry led by CIFOR and ICRFAF and member of the board of the Prince Bernhard Chair for International Nature Conservation housed at Utrecht University.

Abstract

Title: Forest and their contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change

Due to their capacity for carbon sequestration and storage, forests have been part of the climate change negotiations since the early days of the UNFCCC. They were a prominent item on the mitigation agenda after evidence showed that their conversion in other land uses, mostly agriculture, is a substantial source of global carbon dioxide emissions. Their contribution to climate adaptation for smallholders and forest dependent communities have gained more attention in the more recent negotiations on the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

My presentation will first deal with the current state of the world's forests, the main drivers of forests conversion and forest degradation in different parts of the world, and their linkages with some key sustainable development goals. In the second part of the presentation I will explain the mechanisms that have been developed to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and forest restoration and the development of tree plantations as a way to capture or sequester carbon dioxide. Finally, I will make the case for investing in forests, in their capacity for so called negative emissions as part of global efforts to reduce carbon emissions and our global commitment to the SDGs.