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21st January 2009

Dear Jo,

Thank you for inviting us to join the electronic forum on the Strategic Plan for the CBD.

I have enclosed for you information our PINC Briefing Note. PINC stands for Proactive Investment in Natural Capital. It is a proposed system to economically reward large areas of intact tropical forests that act as 'global utilities' providing ecosystem services (ES) that underpin food and energy security at local to global scales. PINC is therefore not related to carbon emissions reductions but calls for straight-forward funding for forests, which absorb and store carbon, create rain, moderate weather conditions and maintain biodiversity. These are ES that we all currently benefit from but do not yet pay for. Since ES are all public goods, the international community needs to design a system that recognizes and generates revenues to pay for these services. Such a mechanism could come under the remit of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

I thought you may also be interested in our publication "The Little REDD Book" a guide to aid understanding of the UN mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) which was launched at the UN meeting in Poznan in December. The book is a collaborative effort, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

I have also included a copy of our recent publication "Forests Now in the Fight Against Climate Change" for your information. If you would like to discuss any of these further please get in touch.

Kind regards,



Andrew Mitchell

Director
Global Canopy Programme

UNEP/SCBD
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