



INTERPOL

Letter

Date 22 August 2013

Our Ref.

Contact environmentalcrime@interpol.int

**United Nations Framework – Convention on
Climate Change**

Executive Board of the Clean Development
Mechanism

Subject **Afforestation and Reforestation Projects under the Clean Development Mechanism draft manual**

Dear Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism,

The Environmental Crime Programme at the INTERPOL General Secretariat would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the draft manual on "Afforestation and Reforestation Projects under the Clean Development Mechanism".

Having reviewed the document, our Programme feels the crucial issue surrounding reforestation projects is land ownership.

The draft manual currently identifies land ownership as an important aspect of reforestation projects. It recommends direct flows of benefits of reforestation to local entities would result in stronger engagement of the entities and would enhance the sustainability of forest resources, and emphasizes land ownership issues, tenurial rights and rights to carbon credits should be clarified at the initial project planning stage.

Our Programme is in agreement with this assessment and the recommendations provided in this draft. However, we feel it would be beneficial for the manual to also address verification mechanisms for ensuring no fraud has occurred in securing the land title and ownership rights. Further, policing mechanisms must be put in place to ensure against false claims of land ownership, along with locally based dispute resolution mechanisms to settle land ownership disputes.

Please feel free to contact us at environmentalcrime@interpol.int for any additional concerns.

Yours faithfully / sincerely,

Davyth Stewart
Project Leaf Team Leader