Financial Times Environment Correspondent Fiona Harvey led the 13th IACC’s third plenary panel in a discussion on climate change and corruption, which focused heavily on deforestation and mitigation approaches such as carbon markets. Harvey introduced the session noting that one fifth of greenhouse gas emissions can be traced to deforestation, with corruption being a key enabler of illegal logging.

Former President of Botswana and recent Mo Ibrahim Prize Winner, Festus Mogae, spoke on resource scarcity as a driver of corrupt activity, with exploitation captured by the rich at the expense of the poor and vulnerable. He also described the UN Convention against Corruption and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as complementary tools and facilitators of international cooperation.

Jacob Werksman, Programme Director at the World Resources Institute, also saw forestry as illustrative of the interface between environment and corruption, pointing to a staggering seventy percent penetration of illegal timber in certain markets. Carbon markets, Werksman said, should reconfigure the drivers of deforestation for positive change, creating a new kind of demand.

Chief executive of WWF UK, David Nussbaum, pointed to UNFCCC reports issued last year that indicated climate change mitigation would generate up to US $133 billion (€104 billion) in money flows, posing an inherent risk for mismanagement and corruption. Nussbaum identified raising, managing and spending these new resources as the key areas for concern when considering the threat of corruption. Looking at calls for resources from wealthy, highly-industrialised states by developing countries as compensation for historic emissions, he identified an interesting parallel with asset recovery efforts under the UNCAC.

Daphne Wysham, Senior Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, stated that less than 10% of carbon funds in the World Banks’s portfolio support clean and renewable energy, and that the voices of indigenous people carried little influence in its dealings.

Hartwig Schafer, Director for Strategy and Operations at the World Bank, cautioned that as long as 1.7 billion people remained without electricity, hydrocarbon fuels such as coal would remain with us. Speaking on the impact of corruption and illegal logging, Schafer noted that World Bank estimates puts the annual value of illegal logging at US $15 billion (€12 billion). On a positive note, Werksman pointed to the potential for carbon markets to disrupt vested interests, but noted the difficulty of guaranteeing that carbon offsets are derived from genuine forest protection projects. A moratorium on logging in the Congo, which was largely successful in conserving large swaths of rainforest, according to investigations carried out by Global Witness, showed the possibility for success.

Panellist Paul Watchman, Partner at the law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf, noted the potential of voluntary initiatives for the private sector to harness bottom-line concerns about climate change to move companies towards more sustainable practices.

Above all, there was a feeling that the environmental and anti-corruption movements had more common ground than either realised and that it was time for closer cooperation.
DO NOT MISS!

Plenary 4: Sustainable Globalisation (09:00 – 10:30)

The stream on Sustainable Globalisation examines the challenges that corruption poses to sustainability and globalisation and the effectiveness of current anti-corruption efforts undertaken by the public sector, private sector and civil society, as well as the achievement of particular development goals as set out in the MDGs.

George A. Papandreou, President of Socialist International, President of PASOK
Claribel David, Executive Director, Asia Fair Trade Forum
Dimitri Vlassis, Secretary of the U.N. Conference of the State Parties
Katherine Marschall, Senior fellow, Georgetown University
Ntombifuthi Mtoba, Chair of the Board, Deloitte and Touche, Southern Africa

Moderated by Daniel Altman, Global economics columnist, International Herald Tribune

Join us for a discussion of the corruption risks faced by a sustainable development approach and the goal of finding policy and market solutions to manage growth in a way that can better serve the world, now and in the future.

Workshop Session 6 (11:00 – 13:00)

6.1 Corruption and Reform Initiatives in the Security Sector in the Arab Region
MC 3.2 / Level -1

6.2 Dismantling Illicit Networks and Corruption Nodes
The Banqueting Hall / Level -2

6.3 Pro-Poor and Pro-Sustainability Anticorruption Work in the Water Sector
MC 2 / Level -1

6.4 Citizens against Corruption in Natural Resource Management
Conference 1 / Level 1

6.5 Financing for Climate Change: An Opportunity for Improved Global Governance, or the Next Resource Curse?
Nikos Skalkotas Hall / Level -1

6.6 Asia Pacific Human Development Report: Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives
Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall / Level 0

6.7 Investigative Journalism, Access to Public Information and Media Corporate Governance: Is There Anything New?
MC 3 / Level -1

The Road Ahead: Global Transparency for a Sustainable Future
Conference Declaration and Closing (15:00 – 15:30)

Farewell Social Event (15:30 – 19:00)
Bus transfer to the National Archeological Museum (16:30 – 18:30)
Return transfer to Megaron Conference Centre

PHOTOS OF THE IACC
IACC Interview:
Mary Robinson
President, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative
Member of the Elders

2008 is the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights do you view corruption as a threat to this vision?

Very much so. I was very keen to ensure that we made good links during this year with the many chapters of Transparency International that are tackling corruption and the human rights people on the ground who are addressing the violations of human rights.

There is a real overlap. When we launched the Elders campaign Every Human Has Rights, which is on the website www.everyhuman-hairstveight.org, Cobus de Swardt [Member of the Advisory Board of Transparency International] came to Cape Town for it. Huguette Labelle [Chair of Transparency International] and I are members of the board of the Global Compact and we had said that this was the year to encourage more linking between human rights and corruption because corruption links to huge violations of human rights.

The Elders has a mission to “support courage where there is fear”, foster agreement where there is conflict, and inspire hope where there is despair”, does corruption represent a hurdle to this and do you have any plans to tackle it?

I think we would see it as being implicit in our approach of being humble. That is how Nelson Mandela wonderfully instructed us at our planning meeting. He said to be humble and reach out and listen to those who feel invisible, that feel isolated, that feel voiceless in society and who are victims of fear, foster agreement where there is conflict, and inspire hope where there is despair.

Transparency International (TI) has been working closely with other organisations to assess the scale of the problem and identifies ways of preventing corruption. In 2008, TI, together with the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University and the Humanitarian Policy Group, published a report analysing the corruption risks faced by humanitarian agencies and the measures they use to address those risks.

Peter Walker, of the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University, talked about his research into seven of the major humanitarian agencies and the measures they use to address those risks.

There are a number of factors that make humanitarian assistance particularly prone to corruption. The flood of desperately needed external resources, the urgency of delivering relief and reconstruction supplies, and the breakdown of local institutions and public services, all exacerbate the risks of corruption in emergency situations.

Contributions from Ingrid Milne of Save the Children and Rezki Wibowo of Transparency International Indonesia highlighted the desperate situation in Aceh, Indonesia, after the Tsunami in 2004, but also showed that measures to address corruption in these environments can be successful. Whistleblower mechanisms, audits, strong procurement guidelines and an educated and well trained staff are important factors. The involvement of communities in the allocation and oversight of resources is also an important step in preventing misappropriation and malfeasance.

Corruption in Humanitarian Assistance

In the aftermath of major humanitarian disasters, people’s lives and livelihoods are thrown into turmoil. The presence of corruption can threaten the lifeline that brings food, shelter and other basic services to millions of people caught in the worst of circumstances through war, famine or natural disaster and hinder the important work of rebuilding lives.

Transparency International (TI) has been working closely with other organisations to assess the scale of the problem and identifies ways of preventing corruption. In 2008, TI, together with the Feinstein International Centre at Tufts University and the Humanitarian Policy Group, published a report analysing the corruption risks faced by humanitarian agencies and the measures they use to address those risks.

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Forest Governance and Corruption: Preventing Illegal and Unsustainable Deforestation

A tangled web of corruption and opacity continues to drive the illegal harvesting of timber across the globe. Despite decades of advocacy, intervention and international pressure from global and regional organisations, deforestation remains a serious social, economic and environmental challenge.

Corruption exists at every stage of the timber production and processing chain. Illegal harvesting, damaging local communities and contributing to substantive losses of biodiversity, is driven by an unsustainable demand for timber. The European Union (EU) is focused on corruption and the lack of good governance in the timber trade, in both supply and demand countries to potentially feed into the Forest Governance and Integrity Programme, to be launched by Transparency International (TI) in 2009.

Working with existing organisations, the programme aims to promote coalition building and develop monitoring tools to determine the effectiveness and enforcement of national and international laws. Armed with this knowledge, the programme will work to raise awareness, provide better information and develop long-term solutions.

According to Julian Newman of the Environmental Investigation Agency, the EU’s import of timber increased by 25% from 2007-2008. Despite the large amount of timber being imported to developed countries, international laws and conventions on the harvesting and procurement of timber remain underdeveloped. Wood often travels by complex routes to its final destination, and, at present, national laws on the timber trade are insufficient to provide checks and balances to mitigate corruption risks in the sector.

Developments, such as the US Lacey Act of 2008, which criminalises the importing of illegally harvested timber, provide some hope. Furthermore, the EU encourages the use of already existing Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) between importing and exporting countries to promote sustainable forest management. As this is only voluntary though, its impact will be difficult to predict, but the EU’s proposal is a first step, also, to require timber companies to prove due diligence, is seen as an encouraging step.

In a constructive move, the workshop provided a forum through which to share best practice and lessons learned. These ideas, such as raising community awareness on the consequences of the consumption of forest resources, strengthening the role of civil society, and empowering local communities to act as watchdogs, will be further discussed for inclusion into the programme. Above all, workshop participants noted that corruption-free forest governance and sustainable management is crucial for environmental protection, but also greater economic development and poverty reduction.
We talk to…

Philip Chatzopoulus
Greek

What are you doing?
I am a conference technician. I receive the PowerPoint presentations for the workshops, check them and distribute them to the rooms.

How do you like this conference?
It is the biggest conference I’ve worked for. It is also one of the most interesting.

Do you think corruption is a problem in the world?
You will find corruption everywhere, from the smallest things at a mini-market to the heads of a government.

Have you ever experienced corruption yourself?
You find corruption every day in the news. In my personal life I haven’t experienced corruption yet.

If you think of corruption what do you think of?
I think of dirty money.

What do you think you could do so that there is less corruption?
You should give power to more people and not just one or a few.

Did you know?
In ancient Greece the Olympic games were held in honour of Zeus, King of the Gods. The games were part of a great five day festival held every four years at Olympia, a valley near a city called Elis.

- BBC

See all of Athens spread at your feet from Mount Lycabettus (Lykavittos), the city’s highest vantage point at 295m. Legend has it that wolves once roamed the forests that clad the hillside. Nowadays though, you will find a tiny chapel, a café and restaurant.

Top tip!
Impatient to get to the top? Catch the funicular from Ploutarchou Street in Kolonaki (every 30 minutes, from 9am-till late).

Useful information and important numbers

Business centre in Megaron centre (level -1)
PCs - Internet - Printers - Photocopying

Telephone numbers :
Police emergency: 112
Tourist police: 171
Ambulance: 166
Pharmacies Athens: 107
Greek National Tourist Organisation: 210 327 1300

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