



**Contributions from SAI Platform
Advisory Council Members to
October 2009 meeting:
IUCN**



Strengths & weaknesses of the SAI Platform value proposition

Strengths:

- Crop-specific groups facilitate strategic action and shared learning
- Working on a pre-competitive basis to focus on common challenges and risks
- Raising awareness and understanding among a broad array of stakeholders

Weaknesses:

- Crop-specific groups may miss ecosystem or landscape-level inter-linkages among users
- Working on a pre-competitive basis may miss identifying competitive approaches and opportunities
- Risk of raising concerns and misunderstanding among a broad array of stakeholders



Critical trends related to SA experienced over the last year

List:

- Increasing focus on SA within the IUCN community
- New SA expertise at IUCN headquarters
- New IUCN partnerships with SAI members
- SA featured prominently in the IUCN 4th WCC
- IUCN members support SA in the context of periurban areas
- New focus on SA in the IUCN programme
- Particular focus on sustainable biofuels

Specific remarks:

- Vice-Chair of IUCN CEESP is SA Director at IIED; increase in Rainforest Alliance certifications with SAI members
- New IUCN Business Unit Director with SA expertise, also UEBT board member & SAN's Standards Committee member
- New partnerships with Danone, Nestlé/Nespresso , etc
- Large number of SA-related events at the 4th WCC
- Rec 4.128 “[to] accelerate the protection.. of natural and rural areas located near to cities... encourage the maintenance and diversification of sustainable agriculture”
- An emerging programmatic focus on ‘ ecosystems, livelihoods and food security’
- New IUCN guidelines on biofuels and invasive species



Suggestions for action by SAI Platform

List:

- Working group to promote sustainable landscape management (SLM)
- Working group to develop soil carbon methodologies
- Initiative supporting a green development mechanism (GDM)

Specific remarks:

- SAI engagement in SLM-related programmes (e.g. UNCCD, GM, GEF, FAO, World Bank, IUCN, ...)
- SAI support to ongoing soil carbon initiatives (e.g. Soil Carbon Center, UNEP Carbon Benefits Project, Carbon Farming Group)
- SAI collaboration with the GDM Steering Committee (CBD, IUCN, OECD, UNEP, NL Gov)



Thoughts about the buying up of land by foreign entities

- **Answer?**

IUCN has no position on this issue.

From an IUCN perspective, however, large scale agricultural land purchases by foreigners are likely to be less risky if national regulatory frameworks and international accountability processes are in place to ensure that these purchases maintain the integrity and diversity of natural landscapes and ensure that the any land uses are both equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Hence, SAI could support efforts to strengthen national regulatory frameworks and improve international accountability processes related to foreign land purchases, particularly with respect to ensuring ecological sustainability and social equity.