

concluding Speech Tineke 17 March 2016 Ghana conference

introduction by moderator - giuseppe van der helm: tineke lambooy, professor at nyenrode business university in the netherlands.

Dear honourable minister ayariga, and distinguished delegates

1. it has been my pleasure, and of my colleague michiel brandt, to help develop the plans for this conference. for the last half year, we have worked intensely together with paul hol and his team to design the content and form of the programme. we visited and/or spoke with most of the speakers and moderators. i am very happy that the conference turned out so well.

2. why am i promoting the business case of planting trees? and the financing of these initiatives?

since a long time, my hobby has been hiking in the jungle.

as was mentioned by the honourable kofi annan, the fascinating experience of walking in the jungle is that what you see, all sorts of plants, colours, light effects, and of course animals. and that what you hear, the cacophony of sounds, the noise of the insects, and the melodies of the birds.

However, however, in the last 20-30 years,

3. the harvesting of timber from natural forest in Africa has turned into a disaster. mr kofi annan rightly indicated that you cannot harvest without planting something.

4. hence it is high time for restoring the landscape and greening africa, for all the good reasons that have been mentioned these days. the commitments for this were made in paris at the cop 21. And these ambitions have been endorsed by the various politicians, former politicians and government officials who spoke in this conference.

They came from ghana, tanzania, niger, Liberia and the netherlands (mrs Reina Buijs) and shared with us their sense of urgency. Even so, honourable mr kofi

annan, former president kufuor, minister osa mills, minister january mkamba from tanzania and mrs gladness mkamba.

5. however, implementating the afr 100 ambitions requires action, that is why we are all here this week.

6. i am very happy that in this conference positive examples were offered for the business case of planting trees. mads asprem, largest plantation company in africa shared his insights and business case, paul hol, finn jacobson and andrew collins showed where they are planting trees in ghana, and hans lemm in tanzania. And Philip Hird of New Forests, which company invests in many countries in africa.

tevis komaza showed us an alternative business model, ie setting up microforestry projects,

and we also heard the enthusiastic story of camille rebello of ecoplanet bamboo, about the business case of planting bamboo.

putting the puzzle together with a landscape approach view was demonstrated by willem ferweda with his common land organisation

7. on the finance side, a collaborative approach was showcased by gerhard engel (FMO) and hanna skelly (Finnfund) with their duo presentation. magchiel groot (of FMO) moderated the experiences of jim heyas (GEF) and hans lemm (..) in working together in financing and managing a forestry plantation company.

we had some interesting finance panels, in which the african development bank, the eib, finnfund and deg explained their strategies and track record.

8. without trying to sum up every talk which is stated in the programme, i wish to thank all speakers and moderators for performing so well and taking up the challenge so seriously.

9. i come to drawing some conclusions. on tuesday we had a premeeting with some of the key stakeholders - as a follow up to the earlier events in november last year in helsinki and two weeks ago at fmo. although many challenges and

possible roads to solutions came by these days, i want to limit myself to discussing the main challenge of private sector plantation companies, and that is access to finance.

i think that we can resume that it is necessary and can be helpful to promote this promising sector. We can do so by taking up the following challenges:

- we need to invest in research and stock taking, i.e. where are we, where do new opportunities lie; we must also create publicly accessible data bases with good market information. I see here a task for consultants like Indufor, WRI, dfig, universities, and governments --> they could work together

- We need to engage the afr 100 pledgors in our discussion: where when and how will the pledgors take action? how can we help to make this effective and to indeed realise pledges. We need to discuss the numbers and name the parties. who will dive into which opportunity? Here lies certainly a role for wri, the plantation companies and investors.

- All of us can help in expanding the communication on the positive impact of the forestry plantation sector - on conservation, biodiversity, water retention, rain, restoring and maintaining ecosystem services, climate change - carbon sequestration services, business opportunities, job creation, etc.

--> by showcasing good examples and sharing best practices.

This must be done both to the broader public and to the parties working in the financial sector

There is probably a role to play here for a supporting sector organisation or initiative (as discussed in our Tuesday premeeting).

- Most importantly: a collective approach is needed to lobby for accessing existing and future public funds designed for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as development and conservation funds. We must make the link to the private sector efforts.

10. We as the organising team are very happy to see so many participants signing up for a collaborative approach of the sector. perhaps the tanzania conference can serve as a next moment to convene and demonstrate progress. however, that means that we should all start planting trees tomorrow, so that we indeed can show intermediate results in november. that would be very exiting. saying it all in ten words of two letters: if it is to be, it is up to me!

Final sentence: let us return to the old situation of 50-100 years ago where Forests supported livelihoods. Things were in balance. People lived in harmony with Nature.

Thank you