



## Media Release

1 December 2008

### Call to recognise forestry's positive role in combating climate change

#### Australian forest industry delegation attend UN climate change talks to promote sustainable forest management

An Australian forest industry delegation, led by the National Association of Forest Industries, is calling for this week's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Poznan, Poland to recognise the vital role sustainably managed forests have in combating climate change.

"The delegation will be urging the conference to develop international rules for forest management which recognise the carbon stored in sustainably managed forests as well as the carbon stored in wood products," said Allan Hansard, CEO of National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI) as he left Australia for the conference.

"These talks are a key step on the road to developing a new international framework to address climate change. It is critical that international arrangements to address climate change post-2012 recognise the role of sustainable forest management.

"This forest industry delegation supports the Australian Government's call for international rules for forest management. We urge the Government to take a strong position at these talks so the full environmental benefits of a sustainable forest industry can be realised.

"It's vital that the international rules for climate change recognise the role of Australia's sustainably managed production native and plantation forests in storing carbon. With the right regulatory framework, sustainably managed forests will deliver 81 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by 2020 – that's 20 percent of Australia's current 2050 emission reduction target.

"Australia has a lead role in building capacity in the Asia Pacific region for sustainable forest management. We urge the conference to promote incentives to reduce deforestation and build capacity for sustainable forest management in the Asia Pacific region," Mr Hansard said.

The delegation will hold a permanent exhibition starting on 1 December and lasting the duration of the conference. A side-event presentation will be held on 5 December on sustainable forestry for climate change, employment and the community. The delegation will also host an exhibition at the conference's Forestry Day event on 6 December.

The Australian forest industry delegation acknowledges the support it has received from ForestWorks, FWPA and Bureau of Rural Sciences.

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