



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2009

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REDD Readiness and Implementation Dialogues

Concept Paper

Overview and Objectives

As the political process for REDD moves forward along the UNFCCC path to Copenhagen and beyond, concerned stakeholders groups, including government, multilateral institutions, NGOs, indigenous groups, scientists, donors and private sector groups, have begun to address the gaps that exist between a country's willingness to participate in a future REDD mechanism, and its technical and institutional capacity, to do so. While many countries are eager to participate in and prepare for REDD, resources - monetary and technical - for building and conducting readiness processes are limited (for example UN-REDD and FCPF), and are benefiting only a limited set of countries and stakeholders within them. Opportunities for stakeholder debate on vital issues in REDD, and for exchange of thinking between those in different countries, are being lost.

To bridge these gaps between willingness and know-how and to make sure different stakeholders' voices are better heard, TFD has initiated a series of REDD readiness and implementation field dialogues with the following two main objectives:

- ➔ Raise awareness and promote exploration of REDD readiness challenges among a wide spectrum of local stakeholders;
- ➔ Provide well-targeted recommendations to overcome challenges experienced in the REDD readiness phase at the local, national and international levels including the UNFCCC processes.

When the above are achieved across several in-country dialogues, the following additional objectives will be met:

- ➔ Catalyze stakeholder engagement processes and, where necessary, create and support on-going mechanisms to continue REDD readiness discussions at a national and local level;
- ➔ Educate a group of locally-rooted well-connected REDD protagonists that can continue to engage and make progress on the practicalities of in-country implementation of REDD initiatives;
- ➔ Establish a feedback loop between international and local REDD related processes (for example link UN-REDD, FCPF, FIP, IWG-IFR and other multilateral and bilateral funds with national independent projects) on key REDD readiness issues.

Actions

TFD aims to organize and convene three field-based international dialogues in 2009/early 2010. On average around 40 participants will be invited to join each dialogue, including 25 local participants and 15 international participants but larger participant numbers will be accommodated as necessary. Dialogues will be structured to take place over 4 days each, with the first two days spent in the field with local partners and the last two conducted through a plenary and workshop process to review lessons learnt and main findings from the site visits and to further explore key elements for local REDD readiness processes. Since previous dialogues under TFD's Forests and Climate Change Initiative have identified several challenging issues in the

REDD readiness processes, it is suggested that the topics for the REDD readiness dialogues are not made too narrow. Instead some key REDD readiness issues could be covered during the dialogues. Further dialogues may be developed later in 2010.

The first REDD Readiness Field dialogue will take place in Brazil and the second two will likely take place Ghana and Guatemala respectively. These locations were chosen on the basis of a set of criteria Identified by a TFD advisory group, and on initial interactions with in-country stakeholders. An initial one-day planning meeting was convened on August 7th, 2009 in Gland Switzerland to refine the objectives, timing, locations and processes for the dialogues.

A tentative timeline for key actions is presented below:

Date	Event	Location
7 August 2009	TFD REDD Readiness Field Planning Meeting	Gland, Switzerland
26-29 October 2009	1st TFD REDD Readiness Field Dialogue	Belem, Brazil
18-21 November	2nd TFD REDD Readiness Field Dialogue	Ghana
January 2010	3rd TFD REDD Readiness Field Dialogue	Guatemala

Outcomes

Based on background analysis conducted before each dialogue as well as the inputs from participants through the field dialogues, TFD will produce three REDD Readiness Dialogue Reports for the three dialogue-based countries. TFD will work with local and national partners to gather recommendations for national processes in the REDD readiness phase to share with local government and other concerned local stakeholders after each dialogue. The recommendations will be tailored to local situations and needs with respect to REDD readiness issues. Recommendations from these country-based dialogues will likely be shared with international initiatives (e.g. FCPF and UN-REDD) as well.

Immediately following the 2nd REDD Readiness Field dialogue, TFD will review and summarize the experiences and knowledge obtained in the two field dialogues and share the results with all interested stakeholders at COP-15 and beyond. A *TFD Review* on REDD Readiness will be produced after the 3rd dialogue.

Planning and Organization

This dialogue process is being developed and convened by The Forests Dialogue, its Steering Committee and its Secretariat. On behalf of the Steering Committee, several members have taken the lead in organizing the initiative including James Griffiths (WBCSD); Stewart Maginnis (IUCN), Roberto Smeraldi (Amigos da Terra – Amazonia Brasileira), Gerhard Dieterle (World Bank), Lars Laestadius (WRI), James Mayers (IIED), Peter Gardiner (Mondi), Marcus Colchester (Forest Peoples Programme) with Gary Dunning, Executive Director of TFD. Enquires should be directed to Gary Dunning at TFD at info@theforestdialogue.org

TFD has partnered with IUCN and ECON Poyry to develop and implement this REDD Readiness initiative.

Sponsorship

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More information

For more information about The Forests Dialogue please see our website at www.theforestdialogue.org or e-mail info@theforestdialogue.org.