



The Forests Dialogue

TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2011

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THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

History: The Forests Dialogue (TFD), formed in 2000, is an outgrowth of dialogues begun under the auspices of the World Bank, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the World Resources Institute and WWF. These dialogues converged to create TFD when leaders decided to build an on-going, civil society driven, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and process to forge relationships and to spur collaborative action on the highest priority issues facing the world's forests.

Purpose and Mission: To contribute to sustainable land and resource use, the conservation of forests, and improved livelihoods by helping people engage and explore difficult issues, find collaborative solutions, and make positive changes through constructive dialogue processes among all key stakeholders, based on mutual trust, enhanced understanding and commitment to change.

Initiatives: TFD is currently developing international multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives on the following key global challenges:

Food, Fuel, Fiber and Forests (4Fs): Due to growing population and demand for resources pitted against a finite landbase, difficult tradeoffs need to be made in land-use prioritization, trade and lifestyle. TFD's 4Fs Initiative aims to provide thoughtful leadership, catalyze debate and rally influential stakeholders around the role and value of forests in future land-use decisions related to food, fuel and fiber.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): While the principle of FPIC is supported by most stakeholders, the practicalities for non-State parties to implement it is less clear. FPIC is most vital when forest governance is weak. TFD's FPIC Initiative aims to develop answers to such practical implementation oriented challenges.

Genetically Modified Trees: The use of biotechnology on forest plantations could achieve greatly increased yields of fiber. However, the risk of negative impacts on natural forest systems and communities could outweigh any benefits. The objective of this initiative is to enhance understanding of how GM trees will affect forests and stakeholders.

Forests and Climate: TFD is continuing its focus on forests and climate change by bringing leaders together to explore REDD Readiness at the country level. By understanding the current challenges faced by national stakeholders to meet global and local needs for REDD, we are developing recommendations for an engaged "community of practice" to adapt and change as REDD evolves. This community will, in turn, provide a knowledgeable "local" voice in global debate on REDD.

Investing in Locally Controlled Forests: While communities and Indigenous Peoples increasingly (but slowly) gain greater control over their forest resources, we are not seeing a commensurate growth in investment in those resources. TFD's Investing in Locally Controlled Forestry Initiative addresses this issue by trying to develop a guide to merge the key priorities of rights-holders with those of traditional and non-traditional investors.

TFD has also led extensive dialogue initiatives on **Intensively Managed Planted Forests; Forests and Poverty Reduction; Forests and Biodiversity Conservation; Illegal Logging and Forest Governance;** and **Forest Certification** in the past. For more information on all of TFD's initiatives go to www.theforestdialogue.org

Leadership: A dedicated and diverse group of forest, conservation and community leaders govern and steer TFD. They are also key to the planning and execution of its dialogues. There are currently 25 individuals serving on the TFD Steering Committee representing all major forest stakeholder groups from all regions of the globe (*listed at the left*).

Support: TFD's Secretariat and activities are collectively funded by a broad cross-section of stakeholders and donors. Current funders include The World Bank, Forest Peoples Program, WBCSD, Mondi, SIDA, PricewaterhouseCoopers, WRI, MWV, NORAD, WWF, Stora Enso, Kimberly-Clark, IIED, ITTO, Growing Forest Partnerships, Fibria and IUCN.

Secretariat: TFD's work is implemented by a Secretariat housed at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in the United States. The Secretariat operates as an autonomous program within the School.

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