

Highlights of 2nd Participants Committee Meeting of FCPF
By the Bank Information Center as NGO Observer
March 16, 2009

The second meeting of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Participants Committee was held in Panama on March 11-13, 2009 and attended by donor and REDD countries as well as observers from NGO's, Indigenous Peoples, the Private Sector and International Organizations. It was held immediately after the UNREDD Policy Board meeting. **Many of the documents for the meeting, including the agenda, the R-Pins reviewed and the R-Plan approval process are still not publically available**, and so no link is provided here. One interesting document, on the costs of REDD at the country level, is available [here](#)).

A number of important decisions were made:

- **New countries were admitted** to the FCPF through approval of their R-Pins (or draft R-Plan in the case of Indonesia NOTE: IND R-PLAN STILL NOT POSTED), these include: **Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Mozambique, Suriname, Tanzania, and Thailand.**
- This expands the number of FCPF eligible countries to 37, it also expands the funding gap (based on a US\$5m basic readiness package per country) to about \$78m.
- The FCPF was closed for the time being to further participants.
- NGO proposals for **greater transparency** were met with support from a number of donor countries as well as **verbal approval by the FMT**, including:
 - Posting the agenda and all program documents for PC meetings on the public section of the FCPF website as soon as they are available, and at least two weeks prior to the meetings.
 - Posting R-Plans on the website when they are received or at least two weeks before they are considered by the PC.
 - Posting the TAP synthesis review on the public website at least two weeks before the meetings.
- The NGO proposal on posting the FMT's *Readiness Plan Assessment Memorandum* when they are finished, with time to review them before the meetings, **was not accepted** by the FMT pending further internal discussions.
- Proposals by the UK and US on the need for PC member countries to have **access to R-Plans when they were received** (to allow for informal comments to be made) was approved, which should allow NGO and IP observers access to these documents as well.
- Revisions to the R-plan criteria and standards for approval were discussed, and a number of important **changes proposed by NGO's and others were incorporated**, including:
 - reference to governance arrangements and indigenous land tenure rights in criteria on coherence.

- A new criteria on multiple benefits of forests, including biodiversity, poverty reduction and benefit sharing and monitoring those impacts;
- A new criteria on including identification drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- A reference to land tenure issues, drivers of deforestation and relevant economic sectors in the component standard in the “land use, forest policy and governance quick assessment”.
- A specific mention to including representatives of forest dependant peoples and civil society in the National REDD Working Group;
- A tightening of language around the component standard for consultation and participation.
- A specific mention of livelihood, biodiversity and ecosystem services in the component standard for evaluating the additional benefits for REDD.
- Specific mention of the broader impacts on forests from energy and transportation infrastructure tourism, industrial agriculture and extractive industries in the component standard on trade-off analysis
- Incorporation of the need for transparency of monitoring systems and data for biodiversity, livelihoods and social and environmental impacts in the component standard for monitoring and verification.
- **An additional week was authorized for the FMT to receive comments and suggestions before the revised R-Plan approval document will be approved electronically on a provisional basis (thru PC4) by the PC on a no-objection basis.**
- Coordination between UNREDD and the FCPF was strengthened, including use of joint roster of experts and agreement to try to harmonize grant formats.
- Circulation and provisional approval by PC of a roster of experts for the TAP.
- Panama (available [here](#)) and Guyana (available [here](#)) R-Plans, and possibly Indonesia’s (not yet available), will be considered for approval at the next meeting in June.

A number of lessons were learned by the NGO observer:

- Importance of having a written submission of proposals, which allowed Bank staff to directly incorporate text into revisions of program documents which were done behind closed doors.
- Importance of having NGO participation in Government delegations (RF-Norway) to facilitate access to voting PC member to raise issues.
- In terms of IP/civil society issues, there are clear allies (Norway, UK, US) on PC, as well as clear opponents (Gabon), with a variety of countries in the middle or unknown.
- Some countries appear to have greater weight on FMT (donors), some countries appear to take commitment to PC more seriously than others in terms of level of preparedness and how active their participation is.