

April 3, 2010

Ms. Erin Carey
Climate Change Coordinator
Bank Information Center
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Carey and Colleagues,

Thank you for your letter dated March 10, 2010, in which you expressed concerns related to the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This exchange will enhance the transparency and effectiveness of the TAP process, which is key to the quality of the FCPF's work.

On March 9, 2010, the Facility Management Team (FMT) released a revised version of the Program Document FMT 2009-1-Rev.4 (Review and Assessment of Readiness Preparation Proposals), which you and others had the opportunity to review before the latest meeting of the Participants Committee (PC5) on March 22-25, 2010 in Gabon. As discussed at PC5, the perceived conflict of interest arising from the possibility for REDD Country Participants submitting Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) to also nominate experts to join the ad hoc TAP tasked with reviewing that same country's R-PP is mitigated by the facts that (i) these experts' qualifications are reviewed by the FMT; (ii) the FMT selects maximum one or two such experts to join the ad hoc TAP reviewing that country's R-PP; (iii) these experts do not make up more than 10-20 percent of the members of that ad hoc TAP; (iv) these experts are not the ad hoc TAP leaders; and (v) the FMT obtains a written certification from these experts that they were not involved in formulating the R-PP. As you know, PC5 endorsed the R-PP review and assessment process contained in Program Document FMT 2009-1-Rev.4.

The process described in said Program Document is based on discussions held at PC4 in October 2009 and an email sent by the FMT to the PC and Observers on November 18, 2009. As I explained at PC5, there was a problem in the dissemination of that November 18, 2009 email such that not all Observers received it. That was a mistake of the FMT, for which I am responsible and apologized at PC5. The November 18, 2009 email was not meant to exclude new nominations of TAP experts from Observers, as paragraph 1.1 of said email made clear (see the email at http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Jan2010/FCPF_PC5_involvement_in_TAP_selection_and_R-PP_reviews.pdf). The nomination process is an ongoing one, so please continue to feel free to propose experts to the FMT.

As stated in previous communications with various people, some of whom are co-signatories of your letter, the Bank does not make employment decisions based on political pressure. In the case of the FCPF, none of the ad hoc TAPs that reviewed R-PPs in preparation for PC5 were composed of the same mix of experts as the ad hoc TAPs assembled for PC4. For example, in the case of the ad hoc TAP tasked with reviewing Suriname's R-PP, we did not have access to the same pool of Surinamese experts at the time the first version of the R-PP was reviewed last year as we did for the second version of the R-PP reviewed earlier this year. We anticipate that the ad hoc TAPs will continually evolve for every PC meeting, to reflect technical review expertise required and expert availability.

Regarding Dr. Janette Bulkan, the World Bank has an institutional obligation to respect the personnel information of staff (including Short-Term Consultants) and cannot, therefore, discuss Dr. Bulkan's contract with anyone but her. The World Bank's relationship with Dr. Bulkan is limited to the Terms of Reference of her Short-Term Consultant contract. We have assured Dr. Bulkan, as I assure you now, that the November 26, 2009 letter received from Minister Persaud, which you referenced in footnote no.2 of your letter, had no influence on this relationship.

Let me thank you again for your continuing contributions to the FCPF. Your role as Observer at and in-between meetings is appreciated. Your efforts and those of other colleagues to allow several members of southern NGOs to participate in PC5 are commendable.

Best regards,
Benoit Bosquet
FCPF Coordinator

To:

Erin Carey, *Bank Information Center*
Rosalind Reeve, *Global Witness*
Simon Counsell, *Rainforest Foundation UK*
Lars Løvold, *Rainforest Foundation Norway*
Susanne Breitkopf, *Greenpeace International*
Janet Pritchard, *ClientEarth*
Francesco Martone, *Forest Peoples Programme*
John Palmer, *Forest Management Trust*
Korinna Horta, *Urgewald*
Kate Horner, *Friends of the Earth*
Elena Gerebizza, *Campaign for the Reform of the World Bank*
Philip Otieno, *Kenya Young Greens*
Budi Laksana, *Serikat nelayan Indonesia/ Indonesia Fisherfolk Union*
Barry Ferguson, *School of International Development, University of East Anglia*
Uromi M. Goodale, *University of California San Diego*
Alissa Trotz, *Caribbean Studies, New College University of Toronto*
Arif Bulkan, *Faculty of Law, University of the West Indies*
Maya Trotz, *University of South Florida*
Michael Dove, *School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University*

March 10, 2010

Benoit Bosquet
Carbon Finance Unit, Environment Department
World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433

Dear Benoit Bosquet,

We are writing to express our concerns about three recent developments that call into question the ability of the ad hoc Technical Advisory Panels (TAPs) of the FCPF to be “independent, impartial, and proportionate to the tasks being undertaken” as required by the FCPF’s Charter¹:

1. The politically motivated accusations regarding Dr. Janette Bulkan’s level of competence as a TAP reviewer made by the Government of Guyana both in the public domain and in private communication with the World Bank, and the failure of the World Bank to respond to these accusations;
2. The decision by the World Bank not to reappoint Dr. Bulkan as a member of the reorganized TAP responsible for reviewing *inter alia* the Suriname R-PP despite her strong qualifications, which has raised concerns that the Bank may be allowing political pressure to influence the selection of TAP members;
3. The intersessional decision proposed by the Bank to allow countries submitting R-PPs to PC5 to nominate their own “in-country experts” to the TAP reviewing their R-PPs, and the failure of the Bank to open the nominations process to parties beyond the PC, including official observers to the PC.

We have learned of several letters of inquiry on the removal of Dr. Bulkan from the TAP process, and are aware of the Facility Management Team’s (FMT) response posted on February 1, 2010. We note however, that this response does not address the concern that the exclusion of Dr. Bulkan from participating in the ongoing review of Suriname’s R-PP is associated with a request from the Government of Guyana. The Government of Guyana has publicly admitted to asking for Dr. Bulkan’s removal on the basis of incompetence and her failure to comment on a map submitted by Suriname implying ownership of the New River Triangle, an area currently disputed by Guyana and Suriname.²

Given Dr. Bulkan’s accomplishments and expertise, the accusations of incompetence by the Government of Guyana are not credible, raising the question of why she was excluded from working on a TAP following its reorganization. Her research on forest policy, illegal logging, and indigenous issues in the Guiana Shield has been widely published and is well respected by her peers. Dr. Bulkan

¹ Article 13, paragraph (b) of the Charter.

² This conclusion is based on: (i) on November 26, 2009 Robert Persaud, Guyana’s Minister of Agriculture, submitted a letter to the FMT requesting that Dr. Bulkan be removed from the TAP due to incompetence and failure to comment on a map submitted by Suriname; and (ii) that on December 23, 2009 Dr. Bulkan received a letter from Ken Andrasko of the FMT ending her work as a member of the TAP. Subsequently, articles ran in the Guyana Times and Kaieteur News on January 16 and 17 reporting that the Government of Guyana had demanded Janette Bulkan be removed from the World Bank panel; the Kaieteur News article quoted the letter from Minister Persaud. On January 19, Dr. Bulkan published responses to these articles in both Kaieteur News and Stabroek News and noted that she was not present at the meeting where the map was presented. On January 23, Guyana issued a statement in Stabroek News acknowledging- and defending- the letter submitted to the World Bank from Minister Persaud.

holds a Ph.D. degree from Yale University, where her research focused specifically on forest policy in Guyana. Prior to that, she was for many years the Director of the Amerindian Research Unit at the University of Guyana. Dr. Bulkan has also consulted for the World Bank, UNDP, IADB and DFID, and participated in missions to Latin America and Europe for research and training. Earlier in her career, she served as a Foreign Service Officer with Guyana's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She is fluent in Spanish and English.

It is surprising that the World Bank would allow accusations that have been made both in public and in a private letter to the World Bank, to lie on the file of a staff member, even a temporary staff member. We request that the World Bank issue a public statement acknowledging the receipt of the letter and addressing concerns that this letter influenced the selection of TAP experts to review Suriname's R-PP. We further encourage, given the valuable expertise that Dr. Bulkan has to offer, that the World Bank reinstate her to the TAP responsible for reviewing *inter alia* Suriname's R-PP.

More broadly, we are concerned about the decision by the World Bank to allow countries submitting R-PPs to PC5 to essentially select their own in-country experts to review their R-PPs. This change was announced intersessionally by the FMT following PC4 and communicated in a letter dated November 18, 2009. Although the letter calls for nominations of country experts by the PC, observers and others, we note that the letter was disseminated only to the members of the PC. This decision seriously undermines the ability of the TAPs to fulfill their role under the FCPF Charter. The importance of the independence and impartiality of TAP inputs was highlighted by the member-states of the FCPF when they enshrined these principles in Article 13 of the FCPF Charter. The TAPs have so far been a key source of independent expert analysis informing the development and assessment of country Readiness strategies. We urge the World Bank to work to ensure that the TAP selection process remains independent and free from political influence. Countries should not be allowed to hand-select their own TAP reviewers. Rather, the World Bank should ensure that TAP members, including country experts, are nominated and selected in a fair and transparent manner strictly on the basis of their qualifications and their ability to meet the requirements of the Charter.

In the interest of maintaining the highest standards of transparency, impartiality, accountability and professional conduct, we ask that our concerns are addressed as a matter of urgency.

Sincerely,

Erin Carey, *Bank Information Center*
Rosalind Reeve, *Global Witness*
Simon Counsell, *Rainforest Foundation UK*
Lars Løvold, *Rainforest Foundation Norway*
Susanne Breitkopf, *Greenpeace International*
Janet Pritchard, *ClientEarth*
Francesco Martone, *Forest Peoples Programme*
John Palmer, *Forest Management Trust*
Korinna Horta, *Urgewald*
Kate Horner, *Friends of the Earth*
Elena Gerebizza, *Campaign for the Reform of the World Bank*
Philip Otieno, *Kenya Young Greens*

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