

**Response to Concerns Raised about the Employment of Dr. Janette Bulkan as a Member of the
Ad Hoc Technical Advisory Panel of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**

February 1, 2010

The World Bank has recently received a number of inquiries in regards to the employment of Dr. Janette Bulkan as a Short-Term Consultant (STC) by the World Bank. The World Bank has an obligation to respect the confidentiality of personnel information of staff members and, as such, is constrained to share Dr. Bulkan's personnel information with persons outside the World Bank.

STC contracts that the World Bank signs with consultants are meant for a specific assignment, as per their terms of reference (ToR). In most cases, only an estimate of the number of days to be worked can be provided, with the World Bank reserving the right to shorten or lengthen the number of days, with appropriate notice.

In the case of the latest ad hoc Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), and in compliance with World Bank Consultant Guidelines, the World Bank signed STC contracts with a number of consultants, and asked them to review the draft Suriname and Ghana Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) in advance of the FCPF Participants Committee meeting of October 2009 (PC4). Once this review was completed, the consultants were asked to submit their requests for payment. For efficiency purposes, these contracts were kept open through June 30, 2010 (end of the World Bank's fiscal year) in the event the same consultants might be asked to perform additional work for which new terms of reference would be issued.

An ad hoc TAP, as its name indicates, is a technical advisory panel that is put together with a configuration of different consultants depending on the country submitting the R-PP and the required expertise. As a result of discussions held at the PC4, the selection process for future TAPs was slightly altered in order to be able to handle the larger number of R-PPs that were expected to be submitted for consideration at the forthcoming FCPF PC meetings of March and June 2010. As a result, the FCPF Facility Management Team plans to establish new teams that would review three to four R-PPs each, not just one, ensuring a greater degree of consistency across different countries. An email communication was sent to PC members on November 18, 2009, summarizing the discussion at the October PC4 meeting and the proposed R-PP review process to be followed on a pilot basis for the March 2010 round of reviews (this communication can be found on the FCPF website at <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/26>). We are in the process of implementing these changes and all TAP members have been informed of this change.

In the specific case of Dr. Bulkan, she was nominated to serve on the FCPF TAP by the FCPF NGO observer, the Bank Information Center, which is the NGO observer in the FCPF. Dr. Bulkan was then selected to the FCPF TAP for Suriname by the Facility Management Team (FMT) in August 2009, based on her curriculum vitae and in the context of the pool of candidates knowledgeable about questions relevant to REDD in Guiana Shield countries and known to the FMT at the time.

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