

Indigenous Peoples Observers Meeting Outcomes

Rio Centro – 18th and 21st June, 2012

The indigenous Peoples observers to the FCPF held 2 meetings during the Rio+ 20 conference in Brazil and discussed the following;

- **The African meeting report**

Soikan updated the team on the meeting that was held in Arusha, Tanzania and organized by Mainyoto Pastoralist Integrated Development organization (MPIDO).

The Dialogue was a big success. The meeting was attended by more than 50 representatives of African Indigenous Peoples (IPs) from 17 countries. They met with representatives of the World Bank at Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge, Arusha, Tanzania between 19th and 24th April 2012. The meeting was also attended by the CSOs and 2 IPs observers to the FCPF from Asia and Latin America.

Soikan Meitiaki, the FCPF-IP observer from Africa coordinated and provided advise on the planning and involvement of all stakeholders including the government for successful outcomes of this meeting.

There was a 2-day closed-door meeting held on 20th and 21st April, which served three major purposes, namely:

- Preparatory meeting for African IPs to acquaint themselves with issues and agree on a collective position ahead of their dialogue with the World Bank;
- Opportunity for IPs to reflect on their critical challenges in engagement with governments, international organizations and other development actors and how to address them; and
- Opportunity for IPs of Africa to share and network with a view to strengthening their collective voice and effectiveness in advocacy at national, regional and global levels.

There were submissions of national reports by the indigenous peoples who are engaging on REDD at the national levels. An analysis of the selected R-PPs was also presented and critiqued in the closed door meetings, including feeding it with the national reports for validation. This assisted participants leverage their understanding of the FCPF process. It further helped consolidate issues that were subsequently presented in the formal meeting.

The Arusha meeting report and outcome have been posted in the FCPF website <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/fcp/node/504>

- **The upcoming dialogues –**

- 1. Asia-Pacific Dialogue**

The Asia- Pacific dialogue will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from the September 25th – 28th 2012. The dialogue shall be hosted by; Indigenous Peoples Foundation for Education and Environment (IPFEE), while AIPP will provide technical backstopping.

National preparatory meetings by indigenous peoples in FCPF countries shall precede the regional dialogue. There will be five representatives of indigenous peoples from each the FCPF-REDD countries and two from each of the UNREDD countries. PC members in Asia- Pacific shall be invited, as well as other government officials from FCPF countries. Further, a limited number of CSOs shall also be invited but shall cover their travel and related expenses.

A seven member steering committee is already in place and is working with the host organizations to provide oversight.

Coordination with the government of Thailand is currently being undertaken.

IPFEE is the process of meeting the World Bank's due diligence process, after which it will complete logistics for the meeting.

- 2. Latin America dialogue**

COICA will host the Latin America dialogue. Edwin Vasquez of COICA did not attend the meeting, although he was notified, along with Diego Escobar on the second meeting of the group. Onel Masardule, one of the FCPF IP observers informed the group that, there is little information from COICA regarding the preparation for the meeting. Since the Regional meeting is set on August 2012, the group expressed their collective concern on the preparation of this meeting. Onel took the responsibility to discuss this matter with COICA and other IP organizations and to take immediate action to get clarity on the logistics for the meeting, including the constitution of the steering committee, list of participants and others. Onel will update the other observers on the progress.

- 3. Global Dialogue**

- 1) List of participants - the list of participants for the global dialogue will be drawn from the regional meetings. This will enhance a rich discussion and consistency. The African region already has a list of participants from the Arusha dialogue.

Asia and Latin America will have their names submitted immediately after their dialogues.

The estimated total number of IP participants is 60 from FCPF countries including from regional and international IP organizations working on REDD+

- 1) Venue for the Global dialogue and host organization and logistics - The Global dialogue which was earlier proposed for Indonesia in Asia will be tentatively held in Qatar, Doha. This is to optimize resources and take advantage of the UNFCCC, COP 18.

An indigenous Peoples organization will host and coordinate the meeting, but the Asia Caucus will decide on this and communicate with the FMT. If an indigenous people's organization is not available to conduct logistics arrangements for, this meeting, then the FMT will advise on the way forward.

- 2) Dates - the meeting will tentatively be held from the 23rd -25th November 2012 before COP 18.

- **Capacity building fund**

The indigenous people's observers reiterated that the current Capacity building fund is a recommendation made in Panama, Kuna Yala, where IPs requested the FCPF to increase the current allocation to USD 3.4 million (*Refer to FMT Note 2012-5 IPs and CSOs 03-13-12*)

"On one hand, Forest-Dependent Peoples are often the age-old stewards of forest ecosystems, living in and depending on forests. Their potential roles in REDD+ are multifarious, ranging from design to implementation, monitoring and enforcement. The UNFCCC CoP16 decision on REDD+ calls for the full and effective participation of "indigenous peoples and local communities" and the need to respect their traditional knowledge and rights.

This global dialogue was held in Guna Yala, Panama, in September 2011, and resulted in the adoption by the Indigenous Peoples representatives of an Action Plan.³ One of the requests made by the Action Plan was a proposal to the PC for expanding the existing capacity building program.

The PC responded positively to both the Evaluation Report and the request from the Guna Yala Action Plan and decided to expand the Forest-Dependent Peoples' program by allocating \$3.5 million for fiscal years (FY) 2012-2015. In addition, the PC created of a new capacity building program for Southern CSOs by allocating \$2 million for FY 2012-2015

The Guna Yala Action Plan recommended that, in the context of the requested increase in the FCPF capacity building program, "a Global Advisory body with a decision-making power shall be created and to be composed of the following: Two (2) indigenous peoples representatives from each of these regions – Africa, Latin America and Asia, and one (1) IP representative from the Pacific region: two (2) representatives of the PC and two (2) representatives from the FMT. The indigenous representatives shall be chosen through a self-selection process"

Africa already agreed on its representatives to the global advisory committee by having both the Anglophone and Francophone FCPF-IP representatives sit in the global advisory body for the Capacity Building fund.

The Asia and Latin America regions will both discuss this in their regional dialogues. A final list of representatives to the global advisory body will be submitted to the FMT after the Global dialogue.

Meanwhile indigenous people's organization will access the fund by submitting proposals for approval as has been the case.

A mechanism of having the fund, distributed through an intermediary Indigenous people's organization to other IPs organizations was discussed, with African Dialogue having proposed a system similar with the IPAF, under IFAD. Other regions will discuss this matter during their regional meetings and the final decision on the mechanism shall be decided at the IP Global Meeting to be held in November 2012

- **Upcoming FCPF, PC meeting, Santa Marta**

Further, the Indigenous Peoples observers discussed their engagement with the next where Grace Balawag will stand in for Joan Carling. Soikan will represent Africa, while Onel and Edwin Vasquez will attend for Latin America.

Discussions on the topics and key issues in the PC agenda were discussed.