

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Twenty-first Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC21)
Washington, DC, May 3-5, 2016
Co-Chairs' Summary**

Dear Participants and Observers,

We are pleased to report that the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) held its twenty-first meeting (PC21) on May 3-5, 2016 in Washington, DC.

More than 100 representatives of governments, Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dwellers organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations participated. We wish to acknowledge the participation of the Honorable Vice Minister, Fernando Coronado, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala, in the meetings.

All meeting materials are available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/pc21-may-3-5-2016-washington-dc> and photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fcpf>. Below are the main conclusions of the meeting, which will also be available in French and Spanish.

Twenty-first Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC21)

Progress update

The Facility Management Team (FMT) presented an [update on progress made since PC20](#) including:

- Committed funds to the facility now total over \$1 billion;
- FCPF's contributions to the progress on REDD+ were featured at COP21 in Paris;
- 13 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) refer to REDD+ strategy or readiness activities;
- Strategic engagement of Ministers of Finance took place during the World Bank Group's Spring Meetings;
- Additional grants have been signed (one readiness grant, two additional financing grants);
- Three mid-term reports were completed (Ethiopia, Guatemala, Uganda);
- One Readiness Package was completed (Mexico);
- Additional \$18.5 million have been disbursed since PC20 making for a total of \$57 million;
- Grant Agreements for the Africa portion of the Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Southern Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been signed.

Participants appreciated overall progress made and welcomed that for the first time a review of the portfolio was included in the progress update identifying bottlenecks and exceptions of progress on portfolio milestones in some countries. Participants welcomed the FMT's suggestion to provide such portfolio reviews in more granularity going forward.

CSO and IP Observers raised concern about the continued delays of grant signature and flow of funds under the Capacity Building Program.

Several REDD+ countries were concerned about high expectations that have been raised with local stakeholders on REDD+ and emphasized the need to manage these expectations collectively across the broader global REDD+ community.

Follow up action:

A portfolio review identifying delays in country progress on readiness milestones will be included in FMT progress updates to the PC going forward.

Readiness Packages

The PC adopted a [resolution](#) endorsing [Mexico's Readiness Package](#). Participants noted the high quality of the information provided in the R-Package and the rigor of the self-assessment.

Participants recognized that Mexico developed a highly inclusive and participatory REDD+ Readiness process that is considered a best practice. In this sense, Participants encouraged Mexico to continue with the REDD+ readiness process while strengthening activities of dissemination, consensus building and communication around REDD+, and to provide conditions for the participation of all relevant stakeholders and interested parties, including civil society, indigenous peoples and the local communities, taking into account aspects relevant to gender and youth.

Participants further invited Mexico to assess possible follow-up actions to strengthen the REDD+ readiness process taking into account the recommendations that resulted from the participatory self-assessment process.

Participants also encouraged Mexico and the World Bank to accelerate the process of signing the grant for additional funding.

Mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding

[Guatemala](#) and [Uganda](#) presented their mid-term progress reports (MTRs) on their national REDD+ readiness progress and requests for additional funding. The PC adopted [resolutions allocating funds of \\$5 million](#) and [\\$3.75 million](#), respectively, to further support the readiness process in Uganda and Guatemala.

Guatemala

Participants congratulated Guatemala on the progress made, particularly on institutional arrangements for REDD+, on reference levels, including on forest, land use, and carbon stock mapping. Participants appreciated the high level of government ownership demonstrated to deliver on an ambitious landscape restoration strategy and international commitments as per the Bonn Challenge. Participants also noted that Guatemala was the first country to reach mid-term under the Common Approach. Participants encouraged Guatemala to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Provide more detailed information on how the Government of Guatemala will use additional funding resources to support activities addressing the causes of deforestation in sectors other than forestry.
- Ensure that at minimum the resources currently allocated in the additional funding budget for consultation, participation and community monitoring will be used for said purposes.
- Continue reporting on the progress in nesting early REDD+ activities in the National Reference Level and the efforts done to avoid multiple claims of emission reductions.
- Advance the definition of the link between the national benefit sharing mechanism currently under preparation for REDD+ and the GuateCarbon's benefit sharing mechanism, among others. This should be done taking into account the need for managing expectations on REDD+ benefits.
- Accelerate disbursement of readiness funds and use the Inter-Institutional Coordination Group (GCI) structure to facilitate additional funding expenditure, as applicable.

Uganda

Participants congratulated Uganda on the progress made, particularly on national REDD+ management arrangements, on setting national Reference Levels, and on establishing guidelines for subnational implementation. Participants also welcomed efforts made on donor coordination to address gaps in readiness

finance and a resulting request for additional funding from the FCPF that is targeted and taking into consideration absorptive capacity. Participants encouraged Uganda to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Foster gender integration in national REDD processes, and monitor progress thereof through inclusion of appropriate indicators in national REDD monitoring framework;
- Continue to strengthen national and subnational consultation platforms for participation of relevant stakeholder groups especially Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and Civil Society Organizations whilst ensuring efficiencies in use of funding available for consultations through multiple financing sources;
- Continue to carefully coordinate FCPF, Forest Investment Program (FIP), and other financing sources as part of the national REDD+ Strategy and national REDD+ agenda.

Independent evaluation of the FCPF

As mandated in the FCPF Charter, a [first evaluation](#) was completed in 2012 and a second independent evaluation was commissioned in 2015 and is currently underway. The [evaluation oversight committee provided an overview of its role](#) in managing and supervising the evaluation and also provided its assessment of the zero draft of the evaluation. The [FMT provided an update on key steps in the evaluation](#) process made since the last PC20 in Costa Rica, and the [evaluation team provided an overview on the evaluation process, its scope, data collection and evaluation methods, analysis and initial findings](#). During a second session, [the evaluation team provided responses](#) to questions raised by Participants.

The PC thanked the evaluation team for the presentation of key findings, and the progress made on the evaluation so far. Participants provided feedback on key findings for the evaluation team to consider as the first draft report is finalized. The PC urged the evaluation team to further sharpen the analysis informing the final findings and conclusions in the final draft evaluation report.

The PC noted that some issues that were highlighted by Participants as areas of interest for evaluating FCPF impact level results may not be covered within the scope of the current evaluation as defined in the Terms of Reference. The evaluation team will consider those as possible.

The PC encouraged Participants to provide feedback on the draft evaluation report that will be shared with all for comments from May 19 to June 3, 2016, noting that this is an opportunity for participants to provide comments that could be useful to inform actions on recommendations proposed in the evaluation report.

The PC thanked the oversight committee for ensuring the quality of evaluation, and requested the oversight committee to engage proactively with the PC in the next phase when work on drafting the action plan on the evaluation's recommendations begins in July 2016.

Budget

The FMT presented the [status of the Fiscal Year 2016 \(FY16\) budget and the proposed FY17 budget](#) (see also [FMT Note 2016-1](#)). Final accounts of FY16 will be provided as part of the FY16 Annual Report for PA9/PC22. The PC adopted a [resolution approving the FY17 budget](#).

Participants took note of moderate increases in budget mainly related to: i) REDD+ methodology support, ii) country advisory services, iii) gender activities, as well as iv) communications and knowledge activities, including

south-south exchanges, and specifically welcomed the latter two increases. In response to questions from Participants on the flexibility of the budget to ensure the Facility's ability to respond swiftly to recommendations from the second independent evaluation, the FMT confirmed that the budget provides some flexibility.

Updates from the World Bank Group and from other Initiatives

An [update](#) was provided on the World Bank Group's [Climate Change Action Plan \(CCAP\)](#) and on the [Forest Action Plan \(FAP\)](#), which were publically announced by the World Bank on April 7 and April 6, 2016, respectively. Short overviews for the [CCAP](#) and [FAP](#) are available online.

Updates were further provided by the [Green Climate Fund](#), UNREDD, the Forest Investment Program (FIP), [PROFOR](#), and the [BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes \(ISFL\)](#).

Participants suggested to examine the different financing streams and the cross-cutting operational frameworks offered by key REDD+ initiatives in the post-Paris context, including FCPF, FIP, and UNREDD. The FMT was requested to follow up with other initiatives on a possible note that helps to provide a better overview on this.

Thematic Session on Integrating Gender Dimensions into the work of the FCPF

A panel discussed the integration of gender dimensions into the work of the FCPF. Speakers underscored the important role of women in forest and landscape management as well as remaining challenges to close gender gaps in land and forest tenure, decision making processes, benefits sharing arrangements and beyond. The panel of speakers, which included the World Bank's Senior Director for gender, exchanged experiences and identified concrete opportunities to address gender gaps in the context of REDD+ strategy implementation and through FCPF operations. Suggested action included, but were not limited to: i) Development of gender roadmaps or action plans, ii) Inclusion of representatives of women's organizations in decision making and advisory bodies, such as national REDD+ Steering Committees; iii) Capacity building and awareness raising on gender issues; iv) Advocacy for strengthening land and resource rights for women; v) Collection of sex-aggregated data; vi) Promotion of income-diversification for women; vii) Identification of gender focal points in sectoral ministries; viii) Facilitation of inclusive engagement processes; ix) Awareness raising on the role that women play in land and forest stewardship through innovative communication strategies; and x) Strengthening of local, regional, and international women's groups and networks.

The [World Bank Group's 2016-23 Gender Strategy](#) provides a broader framework as well as additional momentum for integration of gender dimension into the FCPF's operational work.

Follow-up action:

Feedback from the discussion will further feed into the development of a work plan for integrating gender dimensions in FCPF operations going forward.

Remarks by Observers and Delivery Partners

Observers and Delivery Partners provided remarks, including:

- IDB's and UNDP's reports on progress made in countries where IDB and UNDP are Delivery Partners.

- UN-REDD Programme’s update on proceedings as per its revamped governance structure and Strategic Framework for 2016-2020.
- Indigenous Peoples representatives’ appreciation of the FCPF’s focus on inclusiveness during REDD+ readiness, and [appeal to strengthen participation of Indigenous Peoples in the next phases of REDD+, in particular the activities of the Carbon Fund](#).
- Southern CSOs’ appreciation of the FCPF’s unique multi-stakeholder platform, but also call for additional efforts and resources to further strengthen civil society capacity to engage in REDD+ processes at country and global levels, including in the Carbon Fund.
- Northern CSOs’ appreciation of the overall progress made, including the FCPF’s contribution to strengthen participatory processes in-country. CSOs reminded of the importance of sound safeguard application in the context of land and carbon rights and also urged the FCPF to maintain transparency and inclusiveness in deliberations in the Carbon Fund and to further strengthen Observer participation.
- International Organizations’ encouragement to countries to access additional investment funding available from other sources to help address financing gaps for readiness as well as REDD+ Strategy implementation and recommendation to continue to broaden the knowledge sharing and learning opportunities across the Partnership.

Next meetings

The twenty-second PC meeting and ninth Participants Assembly will be held in Ghana during the week of September 25th, 2015. The FMT will advise on further details as soon as possible.

In Closing

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the collaboration of Participants and Observers at PC21. The recent Paris Agreement provides enormous momentum as countries committed to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of an collective agreement to limit global warming to less than 2°C by 2100, and make best efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Action to reduce forest loss and to transform rural landscapes clearly plays an important factor to achieving these targets. With a growing number of countries rapidly reaching the mid-term and REDD+ readiness stages, the FCPF is now at a tipping point in a number of countries to transition from readiness preparation to actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation at scale and bring the prospect of results-based payments. At the Facility level, the findings and recommendations of the second independent evaluation of the FCPF will guide the Partnership to assess its relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency in the context of a changing global context and to maintain its responsiveness to Countries’ strategic priorities and their evolving capacities. We look forward to continue these discussions in future meetings.

Please do not hesitate to contact the FMT at fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Eliki Senivasa Siga, Fiji, on behalf of REDD Country Participants,

and

John Verdieck, US, on behalf of Financial Contributor Participants