

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Twenty-second Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC22)
Ninth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA9)
Accra, Ghana, September 26-29, 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-second meeting (PC22) on September 26-28, 2016 in Accra, Ghana, followed by the ninth meeting of the Participants Assembly (PA9) on September 29, 2016.

More than 120 representatives of governments, Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Forest Dwellers organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations participated. We wish to express our [gratitude to the Government of Ghana](#) for the hospitality extended to participants and wish to acknowledge the participation of the Honorable Nii Osah Mills, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana, in the meetings.

All meeting materials are available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/PA9/PC22> 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-second Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC22)

Readiness Packages

The PC adopted resolutions endorsing Readiness Packages from [Chile](#), [Ghana](#), [Nepal](#), [the Republic of Congo](#), and [Vietnam](#). Participants noted the high quality of the information provided in the R-Packages and the rigor of the self-assessments.

Participants recognized good practices demonstrated on different aspects of readiness implementation in each of the five countries. Amongst others, [Chile](#) was recognized for effective cross-sectoral coordination and for pioneering methodologies to measure and monitor forest degradation; [Ghana](#) was praised for achievements in 'mainstreaming' REDD+ in national climate change policies and measures; [Nepal](#) was lauded for its comprehensive stakeholder engagement in the readiness process; [the Republic of Congo](#) was commended for its advancements on technical issues related to carbon accounting, including reference levels and MRV; and [Vietnam](#) was applauded for formulating provincial-level REDD+ action plans based on sub-national analysis of drivers and land tenure.

Participants encouraged countries to take into account the following issues raised at this meeting during further implementation of readiness:

Chile

- Continue the development of the benefit-sharing mechanism, taking into account the findings of the land and resources tenure assessment with special emphasis on the inclusion of those individuals and groups that do not have secured legal title to the land;
- Continue the development of the national REDD+ registry;
- Continue additional work and communication on the REDD+ Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism;
- Continue the process of consultation with civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women.

Ghana

- Fast track the design of the implementation framework for REDD+, including the articulation of the management arrangements of the National Fund, through the use of existing stakeholder engagement platforms and further strengthening as relevant;
- Complete Ghana's national forest reference emissions level and operationalize the National Forest Monitoring System;
- Further strengthen synergies with FLEGT, FIP and other relevant national REDD+ initiatives;
- In the context of the sub-national REDD+ program in the High Forest Zone, continue collaboration with the private sector for the implementation of the REDD+ strategy;
- Share lessons learned from private sector engagement for addressing cocoa expansion as a driver of deforestation with other REDD countries as feasible;
- Enhance policy measures and other strategies, such as law enforcement and community mobilization, to address the challenge of illegal mining, where appropriate;
- In the design and implementation of REDD+ programs, recognize the role of Community Resources Management Areas, and consider appropriate benefit sharing mechanisms with emphasis on enhanced livelihoods incentives.

Nepal

- Strengthen the participation of Indigenous Peoples, CSOs, women and local communities in the development of the Emission Reductions Program, and the efforts to build their capacity to effectively participate in the REDD+ processes;
- Enhance data, capacity, and methodology to improve estimation of emissions from forest degradation.

Republic of Congo

- Strengthen the institutional arrangements to ensure high-level ownership and cross-sectoral coordination, in particular through the REDD+ National Committee (CONA-REDD);
- Establish a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism, complete the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) process and safeguard instruments (including the Environmental and Social Management Framework), and implement the communication plan and improve access to information;
- Strengthen the participation of women in the REDD+ process.

Vietnam

- Strengthen REDD+ management arrangements at both national and sub-national levels to actively engage with other sectors, including the private sector, on the development and implementation of the envisioned Emission Reductions Program for the Carbon Fund, and to generate greater support at the highest levels of government policy-making and planning;
- Strengthen inter-sector coordination to more effectively address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and their underlying causes with a view to implement transformative policy measures that would help achieve the emissions reductions envisaged in the national strategy and the Emission Reductions Program for the Carbon Fund in the North Central Coast Area;
- Continue efforts to improve the awareness and capacity of ethnic minorities and other forest dependent communities and civil society organizations in the context of REDD+ readiness, with a view to strengthening their representation and participation in the implementation and monitoring of REDD+;

- Continue to address environmental and social risks in the implementation of REDD+, including as part of the SESA process, and improve the documentation of the outcome of consultations, especially at the provincial level;
- Shift the reference period to a more recent time period to effectively respond to recent revisions made to the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework;
- Foster the collaboration with neighboring countries on transboundary timber flow and FLEGT to minimize the displacement of key drivers for deforestation and forest degradation in the region;
- Produce a short note explaining how the results of the self-assessment with stakeholders at the subnational level aggregated into the overall assessment (such a note may be made available on Vietnam's website alongside the published Readiness Package).

Available funding

The FMT provided an [update on available funding and criteria for additional funding requests](#) in the context of managing the Readiness Fund and limited resources as the term of the Readiness Fund draws closer. Available resources in the FCPF Readiness Fund are sufficient to provide additional grants of up to \$5 million to five more countries^[1]. However, it is expected that up to 20 countries may submit Mid-Term Reports (MTRs) including potential requests for additional funding by fall 2017. Consequently, the FMT provided an initial overview on possible options to be considered in order to manage available funding within the remaining term of the Readiness Fund, which ends in December 2020.

Participants expressed concern that the competition for additional funding amongst REDD+ Country Participants may undermine the spirit of collaboration and knowledge sharing that is a hallmark of the partnership.

Participants further pointed out that additional funding to the IP/CSO Capacity Building Program had not yet been considered for the use of remaining resources in the Readiness Fund. It was emphasized that only eight percent of the grant applications received under the second phase of the Africa IP/CSO program can be funded based on current funding levels.

Participants also suggested that the extension of the term of the Readiness Fund should be discussed as part of the options under consideration.

Follow up action:

It was agreed that the FMT will prepare an FMT Note within the short-term that provides different options on how to address the different requests given limited resources, including imposing potential time limits for signing grants allocated by the PC, reducing the size of additional funding grants, requesting payment of outstanding contributions from donors, extending the term of the Readiness Fund, and leveraging additional contributions. The FMT Note will also include potential options for additional funding for the IP/CSO Capacity Building Program. Subsequent to virtual discussion of options in the FMT Note, it is the intention that a resolution would be circulated for virtual approval prior to PC23.

Mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding

[Cambodia](#), [Madagascar](#), and [Nicaragua](#) presented their mid-term progress reports (MTRs) on their national REDD+ readiness progress and requests for additional funding. The PC adopted resolutions allocating up to \$5 million each, to further support the readiness process in [Cambodia](#), [Madagascar](#), and [Nicaragua](#).

^[1] Subject to currency exchange rate fluctuations that impact final USD values of outstanding pledges to the Readiness Fund, funding may be available for five to seven additional countries.

Cambodia

Participants congratulated Cambodia on the progress made, particularly on completion of the National REDD+ Strategy, progress on a national forest monitoring system, development of forest reference levels, and finalization of a national protected areas strategic management plan. Questions related to the progress on operationalizing the forest monitoring system, on ensuring participation of women in consultation activities, and on the rationale and implication of transferring management responsibilities of the National Committee on Climate Change to the National Council for Sustainable Development were clarified. Participants encouraged Cambodia to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Encourage the Government of Cambodia to endorse its national REDD+ strategy, forest reference level and national forest monitoring system; and
- Encourage mainstreaming of the REDD+ agenda in national policy frameworks and key ministries.

Madagascar

Participants congratulated Madagascar on the progress made, particularly on putting in place institutional arrangements and advancing analytical and consultative work for REDD+ strategy development, as well as improving outreach and communication activities. Participants encouraged Madagascar to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Strengthen the effective participation of civil society organizations, women, and local communities in the REDD+ process; and
- Encourage further coordination of relevant finance instruments for the REDD+ process.

Nicaragua

Participants congratulated Nicaragua on the progress made, particularly on establishing robust national REDD+ management arrangements, progressing on the development of the national REDD+ strategy, placing an emphasis on broad stakeholder engagement, and advancing with the establishment of forest reference levels. Participants encouraged Nicaragua to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Continue promoting and strengthening the current approach to participation and stakeholder engagement in the design of the National REDD+ Strategy (ENDE-REDD+), including producing and disseminating relevant communication materials;
- Continue supporting full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the design of ENDE-REDD+, taking into account relevant aspects of the existing legal framework, as applicable to REDD+;
- Recognizing Nicaragua's efforts to demarcate and title indigenous territories, continue efforts to assess the advance of the agriculture frontier into indigenous territories and manage risks associated to land tenure, as applicable; and
- Accelerate efforts to define and subsequently address forest degradation.

Second independent evaluation of the FCPF

As mandated in the FCPF Charter, a second independent evaluation was commissioned in 2015. The [FMT provided an update](#) on the background and overall status of the evaluation. The [Oversight Committee provided an overview](#) of its role as well as more details about progress made in the evaluation process since PC21 in May 2016. The Oversight Committee also provided its assessment of the final report, as well as proposed next steps to conclude the evaluation and progress to follow-up action. Finally, the [evaluation team provided a summary of its conclusions and recommendations](#) which are elaborated in more detail in the evaluation report. Participants provided feedback and discussed some of the recommendations in more detail.

Key sections of the evaluation report, specifically the [executive summary](#) as well as [conclusions and recommendations](#), have been made available online. The full public evaluation report will include a joint response to the recommendations from the PC, Delivery Partners, and World Bank Management. To this end, the PC authorized the Oversight Committee to endorse the joint response to the recommendations on behalf of the PC.

Follow up action:

- By October 30, 2016, a joint response from the PC, Delivery Partners, and WB Management to the recommendations will be drafted.
- By week of November 7, 2016, the final evaluation report will be circulated to FCPF Participants. Translations will be available by the week of November 21, 2016.
- By November 30, 2016, the Oversight Committee will prepare a draft Action Plan to implement the relevant report recommendations, which will be shared with the PC.
- The draft Action Plan will be presented for adoption at the next PC meeting (PC23).

Change in Delivery Partners

The FMT informed the PC that it will circulate to the PC a resolution for virtual adoption confirming the World Bank as the new Delivery Partner for the Central African Republic and UNDP as the new Delivery Partner for Kenya.

Next meeting

The [twenty-third PC meeting](#) will be held in Washington, DC and is tentatively scheduled for March 27-30, 2017. The FMT will confirm dates and advise on further details as soon as possible.

Deadlines for REDD Country submissions of MTRs, requests for additional funding, and Readiness Packages through the end of 2017 are available on the [FCPF homepage](#).

Ninth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA9)

Progress report from the FMT and the PC

The FMT presented a [progress update on Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2016](#) (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) and key achievements made, which are captured in more detail in the [FCPF Annual Report FY16](#). This update also served the purpose of the PC's report to the Participants Assembly of work done over the past year.

Participants appreciated the overall progress made. Some reflections on key achievements until PA9 include:

- The capital of the FCPF has increased to more than \$1.1 billion, with \$370 million now committed to the Readiness Fund and \$750 million to the Carbon Fund. The substantial increase is the result of additional contributions and pledged funding from Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom.
- \$235 million in Readiness Preparation Grant funding has been allocated, of which \$178 million has been made available for REDD+ readiness through signed grants.
- 39 countries have signed Readiness Preparation Grants (35 by end of FY15).
- Grant disbursements from the Readiness Fund continued to accelerate, and amount to \$90 million at the end of FY16 (compared with \$61 million at the end of FY15).
- A total of 14 countries have reached mid-term of REDD+ readiness (11 by end of FY15).
- Two additional countries presented their Readiness Package by the end of FY16, a total of three countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, and Mexico).

- The first two Emission Reductions Program Documents were presented to Carbon Fund Participants and Costa Rica and the Democratic Republic of Congo are the first two countries provisionally selected into the portfolio of the Carbon Fund.
- Eight additional ideas for large-scale Emissions Reductions Programs were selected in the Carbon Fund pipeline, which now includes 19 countries (11 by end of FY15).

Participants appreciated the significant progress made by the Partnership in FY16, and the ongoing transition from readiness toward results-based payments. The focus on making programs an integral part of national low-carbon development ambitions and building robust finance packages that align public and private finance to achieve emission reductions and eventually trigger results-based finance was welcomed. Progress with advancing the IP and CSO Capacity Building Program, in particular in Africa, was also noted.

Remarks by Observers and Delivery Partners

Observers and Delivery Partners provided remarks, including:

- [IDB's](#) update on progress made in Guatemala, Guyana, and Peru.
- [UNDP's](#) update on progress made in Cambodia, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Suriname.
- [UN-REDD Programme's update](#) on progress made at the programme level, as well as readiness achievements supported at the country level.
- [Indigenous Peoples representatives'](#) appreciation of the FCPF's achievements in social inclusion and supporting capacity building efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, while calling for further strengthening of Indigenous Peoples' rights, including forest and land tenure.
- [Southern CSOs'](#) appreciation of the FCPF's focus on social inclusion. CSOs further called for additional funds to be allocated to the IP and CSO Capacity Building Program.
- [International Organizations'](#) reflection on the international policy context, in particular the Paris Agreement, as well as opportunities for complementarity across different multilateral actors in the REDD+ space.

Updates were also provided on the Forest Investment Program, and the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes.

Election of the new Participants Committee

The [Participants Assembly](#) adopted a [resolution](#) electing the Participants Committee, Bureau and three REDD Country Participants to serve as observers of the Carbon Fund meetings, to serve until the next meeting of the Participants Assembly (expected to be held in September/October 2017).

Knowledge Sharing Sessions

Three knowledge sharing sessions were offered during PA9:

- Ghana, Mexico, and Peru showcased their country experiences with putting in place equitable benefit sharing for REDD+. The session was organized in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
- Chile, Ethiopia, and Vietnam shared their experiences in the learning-by-doing process of creating and submitting forest reference levels to the UNFCCC. Their experiences were complemented with lessons learned from an expert workshop on the same topic held earlier this year. This session was organized in cooperation with the Environmental Defense Fund, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Nature Conservancy, and the World Wildlife Fund.

- Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, and Vietnam discussed experiences and lessons learned from the development of Emission Reductions Program Documents in the FCPF Carbon Fund, including challenges and opportunities in conceptual and methodological design, with validation of program approaches at national level as well as during the review process of the Carbon Fund.

Lastly, [findings](#) from the knowledge needs survey were presented, identifying learning priorities of REDD+ countries as well as opportunities for south-south exchanges among REDD+ countries.

In Closing

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the collaborative spirit and tireless energy demonstrated by Participants and Observers at PC22 and PA9. The large number of Readiness Packages presented at this meeting confirms that the FCPF is at a tipping point from readiness to REDD+ implementation with a rapidly increasing number of countries transitioning to actions and investments that reduce deforestation and forest degradation at scale. This is mirrored by the growing number of detailed large-scale Emission Reductions Programs that have been developed and are currently undergoing review in the context of the FCPF Carbon Fund, bringing the prospect of results-based payments much closer. The success of these large-scale REDD+ Programs will rely to a large extent on the sound enabling environment, the processes for social inclusion, the methodological underpinnings, and the policy, regulatory and governance initiatives that countries have put in place and continue to strengthen as part of their readiness activities. And, while much of the public attention is currently placed on the proof of concept of REDD+, the progress made under the Readiness Fund remains the critical foundation that will enable countries to achieve their low-carbon development aspirations in the land use sector.

At the next meeting, we will discuss the Action Plan that responds to the findings and recommendations of the second independent evaluation of the FCPF, and we look forward to discussing the importance and effectiveness of the FCPF in future meetings.

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

Sincerely,

Yaw Kwakye, Ghana, on behalf of REDD Country Participants,

and

Simon Stumpf, Germany, on behalf of Financial Contributor Participants