

IUCNs remarks on behalf of International Organizations
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Participant's Assembly Tenth Meeting (PA10)
September 27th, 2017

Thank you Co-Chairs, Assembly Participants and FMT for the opportunity to deliver some remarks as a representative of International Organizations.

We would like to thank the FMT for the great update on the FCPF progress up to date and congratulate all of those who integrate the FCPF Participants Committee and management team for the valuable achievements and lessons learned thus far.

We want to acknowledge the significant progress achieved by REDD+ countries in their REDD+ readiness processes, and congratulate them. Not only in terms of technical and participations efforts, but mostly concerning the innovative, ambitious and robust strategic thinking used in the definition national strategies for addressing deforestation and forest degradation, in the context of broader national priorities and policies. This is certainly crucial for effective implementation of long-term climate change mitigation efforts as well as for the sustainability of mitigation outcomes in the forest and land sector so congratulations to you all. This said, we would like to acknowledge the role of the Participants Committee and the Carbon Fund in informing and overseeing such processes, as well as the role of the FMT for its technical and strategic support to REDD+ countries. However, there's still work to do.

We are happy to witness the sustained, and ever increasing, high-level political will on REDD+, as demonstrated by the presence of Honourable Ministries here in Luang Prabang. Addressing the diverse, complex and cross-sectoral nature of forces driving deforestation and forest degradation will certainly benefit of such high-level policy support and engagement for the long-term effectiveness of REDD+ implementation.

We are also happy to see that progress at national level in the definition of R-PPs and national REDD+ strategies and action plans and R-PPs is being conducted by having in mind the potential of REDD+ to contribute to achieving countries international commitments under Nationally Determined Contributions. Achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement requires higher ambition from countries, and REDD+ is certainly a crucial means for implementing ambitious NDCs.

We would like to emphasize the relevance of countries' progress moving beyond deforestation-centric approaches for REDD+, by including efforts for addressing drivers of forest degradation as well as ensuring sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks, in the definition of their R-PPs and moreover in their National REDD+ Strategies. Landscape approaches are fundamental for effectively

addressing those direct, indirect and underlying forces driving forest loss and particularly for unlocking the mitigation potential of the forest and land sector not only as a source of emissions but as a carbon sink, as clearly stated in the Paris Agreement. This said, we look forward ERPA's to start being signed in the near future; this will definitely be a strong message to the international community on REDD+ moving forward to implementation.

It is important to acknowledge those challenges faced by countries given the lack of national capacities and resources for accurately assessing and monitoring degradation and restoration, and ultimately measuring and reporting associated emissions reductions and absorptions, which will require additional, sustained and predictable support for forest countries in order to overcome such challenges.

IUCN welcomes the positive outcomes of the revision process of the FCPF's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. We reiterate our commitment with the Participants Committee and the FMT in completing the review of the M&E and look forward to a revised framework, in order to strengthen some weaknesses identified, particularly in terms of effective engagement and gender, as well as to allow the FCPF to capture more accurately the impact and progress of countries and the facility as such, but also the challenges faced in the process when having in mind the dynamic nature of REDD+ and the climate change world.

Finally, we would like to highlight that REDD+ is a learning by doing and dynamic concept. In this sense, it is important to have in mind two important milestones for REDD+ towards the end of 2017: one is the expected GCF decision on a Request for Proposals for REDD+ Results Based Payments (hopefully the up-coming weekend), and also the stock take on the coordination of support for REDD+ finance following up to the REDD+ voluntary meetings to be held during COP23. Lessons learned from the FCPF, countries – both donors and forest countries – and other key constituencies represented in the PC, will be fundamental for informing the global REDD+ agenda in the following weeks.

Thank you!