

The second meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee took place March 11-13, 2009 in Gamboa, Panama. Participants represented a broad range of stakeholders, including donors, REDD countries, and observers from international organizations, NGOs and indigenous peoples.

12 New REDD Country Participants Selected into FCPF Readiness Fund

Twelve countries that submitted Readiness Plan Idea Notes (R-PINs) or the equivalent for consideration by the PC were selected as new REDD Country Participants at the PC meeting, bringing the total number of REDD country participants to 37 and increasing the target size of the Readiness Fund to US\$185 million.

As of March 2009, donors have pledged US\$107 million to the Readiness Fund, enabling financial assistance for approximately 20 countries. This includes grants of up to US\$3.6 million to help countries develop and implement Readiness Plans and cover associated expenses..

An additional US\$78 million is needed to enable full grant support to the remaining countries, in order to help them prepare their Readiness Plans (R-Plans). In light of this funding gap, donors are encouraged to increase their contributions, additional donors are invited to contribute and the 12 new REDD Country Participants have been selected with no pledge of FCPF financial assistance for preparing their R-Plans until sufficient funding is available. Instead, REDD Countries are encouraged to develop R-Plans using other sources of financing, if they wish to do so, to begin the important process towards REDD readiness.

Interim Procedure for Reviewing REDD Country Participants' R-Plans Developed

In addition to the selection of new REDD Country Participants, three countries—Guyana, Indonesia and Panama—presented draft R-Plans to the PC at the Panama meeting, and are currently revising their R-Plans for formal submission to and approval by the PC. These are the first three countries to submit draft R-Plans, with more countries expected to submit R-Plans for PC consideration in the coming months.

The PC concluded that while it is important to show progress in the readiness process, it is equally important to ensure the quality of country proposals, in particular with regard to the extent of in-country consultation and participation in the formulation and implementation of proposals. To that end an Interim R-Plan Review Process has been developed. It includes 1) work parameters for experts serving on the Technical Advisory Panel that is commissioned to review R-Plans and to provide technical expertise, and 2) a process for approval of R-Plans. This review process is being applied on a provisional basis to gain experience and learn lessons in order to refine the procedure as needed.

Collaboration between FCPF and UN-REDD Programme is Encouraged

The PC noted the respective strengths of the FCPF and the UN-REDD Programme, and—pointing to the success of joint missions and collaboration efforts already accomplished in several countries—highlighted the importance of collaboration between the FCPF and UN-REDD in order to share knowledge, and leverage experience and expertise. The FCPF and UN-REDD are now working to harmonize document templates and operational guidance in order to facilitate countries' participation in both programs, for example by harmonizing the FCPF R-Plan and UN-REDD Joint National Program Document; developing a joint Roster of Experts; and undertaking future combined missions in REDD countries, in close collaboration with civil society, including indigenous peoples and other relevant partners.

Next meetings

The PC will next meet June 16-18, 2009 in Montreux, Switzerland, to discuss procedures for R-Plan review and assessment by the PC, and to review the first few R-Plans. The meeting that will follow, which will be a combined Participants Assembly and Participants Committee meeting, is expected to be held in October 2009.