

Concept Note: Joint CSO Self-Selection Process for UN-REDD and FCPF

BACKGROUND

The REDD+ Cancun Safeguards call for the “full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities”. In order to facilitate this, the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank hosted Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) both have provisions for the participation of indigenous peoples (IPs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in global level decision-making processes that are carried out under the auspices of the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board (PB), and the FCPF Participants’ Committee (PC) and Participants Assembly (PA).

The UN-REDD Programme has one Full Member seat for IPs and one Full Member seat for CSOs. The FCPF has one Observer seat for IPs and two Observers seat for CSOs (one northern, one southern). Both initiatives support regional CSO representation for four regions: 1) Africa; 2) Asia-Pacific; 3) Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); and 4) Developed Countries. In addition to this the FCPF supports the participation of a women’s organization representative.

While regional self-selection of IP representatives has been overseen by the Regional Caucuses of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, independent online voting processes have been used by both initiatives to facilitate the self-selection of CSO representatives. Based on previous experience, ways of improving the self-selection process have been identified, including the following:

- More clearly defined parameters for voting eligibility and process: This will include clearly defined countries, organisation types, and technical focus of organisations that are identified as REDD+ CSO stakeholders whom the CSO representatives should serve;
- More clearly defined parameters for the eligibility organisations that can be nominated for self-selection: This will include stressing the ability to effectively represent the views of their constituencies at the regional level;
- Better inclusion of women’s organisations and networks in the self-selection process;
- Creation of Regional Registries of CSOs: These would be databases/listservs of national and regional CSO organizations, and provide current and future regional CSO representatives with an authentic network of CSOs relevant to REDD+ to support communication between the regional CSO representatives and their constituencies.

Activities towards carrying out a voting process and developing regional registries will be coordinated at the international level by a CSO (referred to as “*the Coordinating CSO*” from this point onwards) with previous experience of carrying out CSO self-selection processes for either the UN-REDD Programme or FCPF.

VOTING AND NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

Organisations with voting privileges should:

- Be registered CSOs, community-based organisations, non-profit organisations and/or non-governmental organisations;
- Be based in a partner country of the UN-REDD Programme, FCPF and/or the Forest Investment Program (FIP) (see Annex 1 for list of countries);
- Be actively involved in issues relating to forests as well as community rights/development, and/or natural resource management/biodiversity conservation, and/or climate change/REDD+; and

- Submit an application to vote before the advertised deadline to the Coordinating CSO.

Eligibility criteria for organisations intending to stand for self-selection:

- For the regions of Africa, Asia-Pacific and LAC, only organisations that are based in UN-REDD partner countries are eligible to stand for self-selection as regional CSO representatives for UN-REDD, similarly, only organisations that are based in FCPF partner countries are eligible to stand for self-selection as the regional representatives for FCPF (see Annex 1 for a list of countries included under each initiative);
- Eligible organisations that have a regional identity that includes work in partner countries of the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF respectively will also be permitted to stand for self-selection; and
- A regional CSO network may nominate a single member organization to represent on behalf of the network.

Please refer to the ToR in Annex 2 for more information on the expected role of CSO representatives.

Restrictions on eligibility to vote OR stand for self-selection:

- Academic institutions, private foundations, government affiliated institutions, and discrete projects/activities/programmes/initiatives managed by civil society organisations will NOT be eligible to join the registry;
- For large, multi-national CSOs, country affiliates may join as part of the Regional Registry listservs (see section below on Regional CSO Registries for more information) but nomination and voting privileges will only be afforded to one focal point per organisation per region; and
- For regional and national networks or coalitions, composite CSOs forming these networks/coalitions have the right to join the Regional Registries as separate entities and therefore are entitled to independent nomination and voting privileges.

Notes on the voting process:

- Organisations applying for the voting process should indicate focal point/s who will be placed on a regional listserv and will be able to vote on behalf of the organisation;
- Only ONE vote will be permitted per organisation;
- Selection of regional representatives will be based on:
 - a. Total number of votes – the organisation with the most votes will be invited to serve as regional CSO representative, as long as regional reach is demonstrated through the votes received (see point b. below);
 - b. Regional reach as determined by origination of votes – in addition to receiving the most votes, the regional balance in origination of the votes will be taken into consideration, therefore nominee CSOs that attract significant proportions (e.g., 25-40%) of votes originating from CSOs in the region based in partner countries other than the country of the nominated CSO will be considered favourably, as this demonstrates that the CSO has support from organisations at a regional level.

FORMATION OF REGIONAL CSO REGISTRIES

Function of Regional CSO Registries:

To improve coordination and communication between civil society in participating regions/countries and REDD+ activities supported by UN-REDD and FCPF, Regional Registries of CSOs will be developed for the following four regions: 1) Africa; 2) Asia-Pacific; 3) Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC); and 4) Developed Countries. The registries will serve the following functions:

- Form regional constituencies for the CSO representatives to the UN-REDD PB and the FCPF PC;
- Serve as a mechanism through which this constituency can engage directly with the CSO representatives so that their inputs can be effectively considered in relevant UN-REDD and FCPF processes;
- Serve as a distribution list through which the CSO representatives can share information and seek input on issues regarding UN-REDD and FCPF; and
- Serve as pool of potential candidate nominees for CSO representatives as well as a voting constituency for future CSO self-selection processes for both initiatives.

Process for Developing Regional Registries:

The Coordinating International CSO will contract CSOs based in the regions to compile and create the Regional Registries. The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) on Forests, Rights and Climate Change will provide advice and guidance to ensure that the process is carried out in a transparent and fair manner.

CSOs will be invited to join the registry based on the same criteria as organisations that are eligible to vote in the self-selection process. The Regional Registries will remain open to applications from new CSOs on a rolling basis, so that there will always be opportunities for relevant eligible organisations to join the listserv and participate in future self-selection processes.

PROPOSED PROCESS

The process will be as follows [time line to be added once steps are agreed upon]:

1. Coordinating CSO to supervise voting and Regional Registry process selected and approved in coordination with the IAG;
2. One CSO from each of the three regions selected and approved in coordination with the IAG to support regional-level activities (referred to as Regional Facilitating CSOs) to support regional outreach for the voting process and assist in compiling the Regional Registries;
3. Information on the voting process and call for applications to vote and nominations to serve as CSO representatives circulated through global, regional and country-level networks by Coordinating CSO;
4. Nominations confirmed and communicated widely by Coordinating CSO with the support of Regional Facilitating CSOs;
5. Online voting process carried out by Coordinating CSO;
6. Regional CSO self-selection results circulated on regional listservs and communicated more broadly by Coordinating CSO, Regional Facilitating CSOs, UN-REDD and FCPF.
7. Call for applications for membership to the Regional Registries widely disseminated by the Regional Facilitating CSOs;
8. Applications received and reviewed and Regional Registry compiled;
9. Regional Registry Listservs developed by the Regional Facilitating CSO under the guidance of the Coordinating CSO will be developed and launched.

ANNEX 1: UN-REDD and FCPF Countries

COUNTRY	UN-REDD	FCPF	FIP
Argentina	x	x	
Bangladesh	x		
Benin	x		
Bhutan	x	x	
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	x	x	
Brazil			x
Burkina Faso		x	x
Cambodia	x	x	
Cameroon	x	x	
the Central African Republic	x	x	
Chile	x	x	
Colombia	x	x	
Congo, Republic of	x	x	
Costa Rica	x	x	
Cote d'Ivoire	x	x	
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	x	x	x
Dominican Republic		x	
Ecuador	x		
El Salvador		x	
Ethiopia	x	x	
Fiji		x	
Gabon	x	x	
Ghana	x	x	x
Guatemala	x	x	
Guinea Bissau	x		
Guyana	x	x	
Honduras	x	x	
Indonesia	x	x	x
Kenya	x	x	
Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic	x	x	x
Liberia		x	
Madagascar	x	x	
Malawi	x		
Malaysia	x		
Mexico	x	x	x
Mongolia	x		
Morocco	x		
Mozambique		x	

Myanmar	x		
Nepal	x	x	
Nicaragua		x	
Nigeria	x	x	
Pakistan	x	x	
Panama	x	x	
Papua New Guinea	x	x	
Paraguay	x	x	
Peru	x	x	
the Philippines	x		
Solomon Islands	x		
South Sudan	x		
Sri Lanka	x		
the Sudan	x		
Suriname	x	x	
Tanzania, United Republic of	x	x	
Thailand		x	
Togo		x	
Tunisia	x		
Uganda	x	x	
Vanuatu		x	
Viet Nam	x	x	
Zambia	x		
Zimbabwe	x		

ANNEX 2: Terms of Reference for CSO Representatives to the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF

Role of CSO representatives

UN-REDD Programme Guidance for CSO Representatives¹

- Three representatives shall be chosen from developing countries, one from each of the three regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean.
- One representative shall be from an organisation from a developed country.
- One representative shall be selected as a full member of the Policy Board; three others will be observers. The representatives will choose amongst themselves who will begin as a full member.
- Full-member status shall rotate amongst the representatives so that all the observers act as full member for at least one Policy Board meeting. CSO representatives shall self-select the periodicity and order of this rotation.
- The Policy Board makes decisions by consensus. The CSO representative with full-member status will take part in consensus discussions and decisions.
- Travel to Policy Board meetings, and any other interim meetings or missions that may be organised, for the three developing country CSO representatives is sponsored by the UN-REDD Programme, including roundtrip air ticket, visa fees, airport transfer, accommodation and meals. No other remuneration will be made available for this position. The developed country CSO representative is self-funded.
- The representative will serve on the Policy Board for two years, starting with the date of the first Policy Board meeting attended.

FCPF Guidance for CSO Representatives:

- Observer status is reserved for one representative from a developing country and one representative from a developed country.
- Three representatives shall be chosen from developing countries, one from each of the three regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America-Caribbean.
- One representative shall be from an organisation from a developed country.
- Observer status for the developing country representatives shall rotate amongst the three regional representatives. CSO representatives shall self-select the periodicity and order of this rotation.
- Travel to FCPF PC/PA meetings, and any other interim meetings or missions that may be organised, for the three developing country CSO representatives is sponsored by the FCPF, including roundtrip air ticket, visa fees, airport transfer, accommodation and meals. No other remuneration will be made available for this position. The developed country CSO representative is self-funded.
- In addition, separate resources are made available for the CSO representatives to travel to regional and international conferences/meetings relating to REDD+ and climate change.

Criteria for nomination

¹ As defined in the UN-REDD Programme's Rules of Procedure and Operational Guidance

Nominations are sought from candidate organisations meeting the following criteria:

- Knowledge of the relevant issues of climate change and forests;
- Familiarity with REDD+ processes;
- Experience working on social issues, including gender equality and women's empowerment, around REDD+ processes and activities is an advantage;
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to represent the views of a range of civil society organisations from the appropriate region, including women's organisations and networks;
- Proven capacity to disseminate information back to their respective constituencies, organisations, and networks, at a country and regional level;
- Fluency in at least one of the three working languages of the UN-REDD Programme and FCPF: English, French and Spanish. (Policy Board and Participants meetings are conducted largely in English, with simultaneous translation provided for French and Spanish speakers.);
- Registered as a non-profit organisation/non-governmental organisation (or equivalent) in the country in which they are based.

Self-nominations are accepted.

Duties and Responsibilities of the CSO representatives

CSO representatives for both the FCPF and UN-REDD programs must be committed to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Attend and participate in UN-REDD Programme Policy Board and FCPF Participants Committee meetings respectively until their term is up, which will be held at least twice a year, starting with meetings due to be held in November 2014 (date to be determined).
- UN-REDD Programme CSO representatives are expected to attend the one-day pre-meeting that is organised to allow the CSO and IP representatives to discuss issues before each Policy Board meeting.
- Share and disseminate information among their networks, organisations, and constituencies on the meetings and processes.
- Provide input on meeting agendas and contribute to working groups that may be formed to take Policy Board OR Participants Committee decisions forward, as well as attend interim meetings and missions that may be organised.
- In the interim periods between meetings, solicit issues and concerns to be raised at the meetings on behalf of civil society organisations in the regions and their constituencies, including women's organisations and networks.
- Work together with the other CSO representatives to advise and decide on interventions, recommend agenda items to be presented at FCPF PC/PA and UN-REDD Policy Board meetings and work with indigenous peoples' representatives and observers to strategise on potential issues of mutual concern.