Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

9. Virtual decision making in the PC

Seventeenth meeting of the Participants Committee (PC17)

Lima, Peru

July 2-4, 2014

Background and Rationale

- Have moved from 3 PC meetings per year to 2.

- To date, most PC decisions are made in-person at PC meetings.

- But progress in REDD Countries should not be slowed down because of fewer PC meetings per year.

- Quicker/virtual decision-making is needed to achieve goals in both the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund.
  - FCPF requires reviews/decisions at many points, so delays have a domino effect.

- Rules of Procedure allow virtual decision-making. PC16 agreed to undertaking certain decisions and reviews virtually, on a trial basis.

Practice To-Date

- "Action without meeting" has been used for:
  - amendments to Charter
  - M&E framework
  - approval of revised R-PPs when required
  - approval of revised requests for grant funding when required
  - approval of enhanced support for grievance/redress mechanisms

- Virtual decision-making is used by other carbon funds in the World Bank Carbon Finance Unit, and by some climate funds, e.g., FIP

Agreements at PC16

- Agreed to undertake certain decisions/reviews virtually, on a trial basis:
  - R-PP review (for feedback)
  - Allocation of $3.8 million Readiness preparation grants (for decision)
  - Mid-Term Report review (if no additional funding is being requested) (for feedback)

- No agreement yet to undertake virtual review/decision on:
  1) Allocation of $5 million in additional grant funding (for decision)
  2) Readiness Packages (for feedback and/or decision)

What to expect

Item	Objective of virtual review	Number expected after PC17
R-PP review	For feedback	2 outstanding; none expected in near future
Allocation of $3.8 million Readiness preparation grants	For decision	2 outstanding; none expected in near future
Mid-Term Reports (and possibly requests for additional funding)	For feedback (and possibly decision)	42 Mid-Term Reports (14+ with, up to 28 without requests for additional funding)
R-Packages	For decision	Up to 47

When to expect it

	Mid-Term Reports	R-Packages
PC17 (July 2014)	3	
PC18 (Nov 2014)	4	
PC19 (May 2015)	**6**	**1**
PC20 (Oct 2015)	**9**	**3**
PC21 (May 2016)	**9**	**6**
PC22 (Oct 2016)	**8**	**6**
PC23 (May 2017)	3	7
PC24 (Oct 2017)		8
PC25 (May 2018)		7
PC26 (Oct 2018)		5
PC27 (May 2019)		4

- Continuing in-person review and decision-making is unsustainable.

- Impacts processes/timelines in both the Readiness Fund and Carbon Fund (2015-2016 is a critical period for Countries to make progress in the Readiness Fund, to ensure implementation under the Carbon Fund).

Proposed process and sample schedule
(very similar to existing process)

Week	R-PPs and requests for $3.8m	Mid-Term Reports without [with] requests for additional funding
Week 1	Country submits to FMT (for TAP review)	Country submits to FMT (for complete. check)
Week 3		FMT sends to PC for 6-week review
Week 9	FMT sends to PC for 2-week feedback period	Deadline for feedback. If request received, goes to in-person review at PC
		FMT sends draft resolution to PC for 2-week no-objection, if relevant
Weeks 11	If needed, FMT organizes teleconference to discuss feedback, to inform resolution FMT sends draft resolution to PC for 2-week no-objection, if relevant	Deadline for no-objection If needed, FMT organizes teleconference to discuss feedback, sends revised resolution to PC for 2-week no-objection
Week 13	Deadline for no-objection If needed, FMT organizes teleconference, sends revised resolution to PC for 2-week no-objection	If request/objection received, goes to in-person review/decision at PC
Week 15	If request/objection received, goes to in-person review/decision at PC	

Recommendations

- FMT will use discretion on whether virtual review/decision-making is appropriate for a certain case:
  - Based on timing (i.e., If documents from Countries are submitted at a time that would result in a significant delay)
  - Based on agenda constraints (i.e., if many documents are submitted at the same time).
  - If there are no timing or agenda pressures, in-person review/decision will be the default.

- When virtual review/decision is used, FMT will continue to submit items to the PC on a rolling basis as the need arises.
  - i.e., No fixed deadlines for submitting items for virtual review to the PC.
  - Consistent with existing practice and Rules of Procedure.
  - FMT will submit items to the PC in batches to the extent possible (e.g., if multiple requests are received within a couple weeks of each other).
  - Provides FMT with flexibility to manage review schedules as appropriate, and respond to REDD Countries' needs.

Recommendations

- If the need arises, FMT will use virtual review/decision for:
  - R-PP reviews (2) and allocation of $3.8M Readiness preparation grant (2).
  - MTRs that exclude requests for funding (up to 28, mostly in later years).

- FMT proposes to use virtual review for MTRs with requests for funding, if the need arises. In the near future, virtual process would be used as a tool for managing Country work and meeting agendas, not as a default.

- For R-Packages, FMT proposes that the first few R-Packages be reviewed at meetings. FMT to use virtual review/decision as the PC becomes comfortable with virtual-decision making.

- PC should recall that during virtual review/decision, they can call for action to be deferred to a PC meeting.

- To ensure that learning and knowledge exchange continues, FMT may organize knowledge events at PC/PA meetings.

THANK YOU!