

**The World Bank**

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June 3, 2008

**Subject: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) -- Consultations with forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers**

Dear Workshop Participants,

This letter is to follow up on the recent regional workshops on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and efforts toward reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD).

As was noted at the workshops, financial contributions to the FCPF were postponed last December until these consultations could be held in order to improve the design of the FCPF. As a result, the FCPF collaborated with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and regional organizations of indigenous peoples to organize three regional workshops in Asia, Africa and Latin America in February and March 2008. The February 28-29 workshop in Kathmandu was organized and facilitated by Tebtebba; the workshop March 13-14 in Bujumbura was organized and facilitated by the Indigenous Peoples African Coordination Committee (IPACC); and the March 17-19 workshop in La Paz was organized and facilitated by Fondo Indígena. These three organizations were responsible for selecting and inviting the regional forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dweller leaders who attended these workshops.

On behalf of the FCPF team I would like to express our gratitude to each of the participants and the organizers of the workshops for this experience. We look forward to continuing what will be a long-term process of consultation with you and emphasize that these first three workshops represent one step towards further interaction at the national level in each 'REDD Country Participant' of the FCPF. This is just the beginning of a dialogue on the potential risks and opportunities associated with this new agenda, and on how to ensure that forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers can best participate in a global effort to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while also benefitting from carbon payments.

The attached matrix provides a summary of the concerns that we heard at the workshops as well as our responses to those concerns. We look forward to working with you to address these concerns in the months ahead. We took note of the view that many governments have not always consulted with you in the past. With this in mind, we want to ensure that consultations will be held at the national level; we will promote regional workshops on different aspects linked to REDD (methodological issues, benefit sharing, carbon finance, etc.) with the support of specialized organizations. This effort will be financed by the FCPF in cooperation with other donors and partners. We will also support capacity building for communities so that forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers can be better prepared to participate in national debates on REDD.

Forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers have historically contributed to the conservation of forests and must therefore play a crucial role in REDD if the latter is to succeed. Therefore, their involvement must be guaranteed in the REDD debate and the national distribution mechanisms for REDD should be fully inclusive and transparent. Thus, the proposals for such a mechanism will need to be made publicly available, shared with stakeholders and broadly consulted upon. Traditional land rights, ownership of emission reductions and access to natural resources are key issues that will have to be addressed and debated when formulating REDD strategies under the FCPF Readiness Mechanism.

Participants in the workshops indicated that effective participation should not only take place at the national level but also at the Facility level, where they requested greater participation in the governance structure of the FCPF. Therefore, a representative of forest-dependent indigenous peoples will be invited to participate as a member in the work of the Technical Advisory Panel, allowing him/her to have both access to FCPF documentation and a role in analyzing and commenting on the issues brought for decision by FCPF Participants. A new official observer position, specifically for forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers, has also been added to the Participants Committee. In addition, indigenous peoples will be invited to participate in the design and execution of regional capacity building and training.

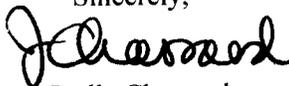
During the workshops, we also heard strong interest in understanding how the World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies would be applicable to the FCPF, especially in the Readiness Mechanism phase. We explained that Bank safeguards policies will apply throughout the FCPF, including the Readiness Mechanism Phase.

All reports prepared by the indigenous peoples organizations are posted on the FCPF website and matrix which contains a summary table of the most frequently raised comments on REDD and the FCPF is being made available, together with some responses and clarifications, at [www.carbonfinance.org/fcpf](http://www.carbonfinance.org/fcpf) (also attached here). The table is in English, but is being translated into French and Spanish and will be sent to you within a week.

The World Bank and the broad partnership group being developed via the FCPF look forward to working with you on these issues to ensure success in achieving the important objectives of REDD and slowing climate change. We fully recognize that forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers are often the most directly affected by climate change, given their special association with land and the natural environment. As a result, the World Bank would like to begin to work with your communities as soon as possible to provide support for regional capacity building activities.

In closing, thanks again to all of you who participated in these highly productive meetings. In particular, we thank the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Tebtebba, IPACC and Fondo Indígena for advising us and making possible these very constructive consultations.

Sincerely,



Joëlle Chassard

Manager

Carbon Finance Unit

(on behalf of the FCPF team)