

IETA statement to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Participants Assembly Thirteenth Meeting (PA13) 22 October 2020

Based on the materials provided for the Participants Assembly Thirteenth Meeting (PA13)/Participants Committee Twenty-Ninth (PC29) Meeting, as well as the presentations and discussions over the first 2 days of the meeting, IETA offers the following observations as the Private Sector Observer:

Meeting Frequency

IETA realizes that so much has changed in the last 6 months and that we are all looking for ways to ensure that we can continue to deliver on climate goals in the face of COVID. It is also clear that with only 2 years remaining of the readiness grants, the role of the PC has diminished. The FMT note provided a proposed reduction in the number of PC/PA for meetings to once per year with the recommendation that intra-year “virtual communication by email and when necessary by video conference” could be used to conduct the on-going responsibilities of the PC which include:

- Review and approval of the FCPF Readiness Fund budget and Shared Costs
- Review and endorsement of R-Packages
- Reporting to the PA on decisions made and, where appropriate, other issues discussed by the PC.

Similarly, the FMT recommends that Carbon Fund meetings would be reduced to once per year.

IETA does not believe that decisions made via email channels and use of no objections provide the opportunity for meaningful dialogue or transparency. We understand the cost savings and the goal to adapt to COVID restrictions, but see this as a loss of the great value that the FCPF has built up over time where all participants benefited from the open dialogue and exchange through the process of carrying out PC, PA and Carbon Fund meetings.

With “Zoom” meetings here to stay, we would suggest that you retain 2 meetings per year, with one being remote. And to structure these meetings using the technology tools that are available to us to promote small group side dialogues.

Knowledge Day Options

The ability to promote knowledge exchange and bring in outside experts to share their expertise is extremely valuable particularly now that we are rapidly moving to a world where there is high private demand for the emission reductions from REDD+ countries. The 2019 workshop on “Unlocking Private Sector Finance for Sustainable Landscape Management” co hosted by IETA and the World Bank demonstrated this value. Of the options outlined, IETA would recommend doing both Option 4 and Option 1, but with the goal to maximize the number of countries (and their representatives) that can participate.

Country Presentations and Long-Time Financial Sustainability

For this meeting the only Readiness Package Review was Vanuatu. They did a great job of presenting their R-Package and securing approval.

Three other countries (Thailand, Central African Republic and Paraguay) presented their progress on the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Components through their Mid-term progress reports. These red, green and yellow charts map the process on R-PP Components compared to the last report. But these long progress assessment reports do not seem to require details on how countries are securing the long-term financial sustainability for their REDD+ programs nor what they are doing to attract long-term climate finance from non-donor/multilateral sources (i.e. private sector). With all the money that has been spent to get these countries “REDD+ Ready”, particularly for ones that are not part of the Carbon Fund or ISFL, the R-PP process should require they prepare specifically to engage with private sector and for emerging markets. Otherwise, the readiness money has been a waste.
