

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC27)
Washington DC, March 18-20, 2019
Co-Chairs' Summary

Dear Participants and Observers,

We are pleased to report that the Participants Committee (PC) of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) held its twenty-seventh meeting (PC27) on March 18-20, 2019 in Washington, DC. More than 100 representatives of governments, Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Forest Dwellers organizations, private sector and international and non-governmental organizations participated. We wish to acknowledge the participation of His Excellency Mr. Penesio Nonu Garisau Baleinabuli, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forest, Fiji.

All meeting materials are available [here](#) and photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/fcpf>. Below are the main conclusions of the meeting, which will also be available in French and Spanish.

Readiness Packages

The PC adopted resolutions endorsing Readiness Packages from [Cameroon](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [Fiji](#), [Peru](#) and [Sudan](#). Participants noted the high quality of the information provided in the R-Packages and the rigor of the self-assessments. Participants recognized good practices demonstrated through different aspects of readiness implementation in each of the countries, while encouraging them to take issues raised during the meeting into account during further implementation of readiness.

Cameroon

Participants commended Cameroon on the good progress made toward readiness, as demonstrated by their [R-Package](#), and for having a clear path forward to address remaining Readiness activities. The Participants also recognized the Government's efforts to improve dialogue with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and IPs, appreciating their proposal to move the REDD+ Steering Committee to the Prime Minister's Office to ensure proper intersectoral coordination.

Participants encouraged Cameroon to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Develop and test the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM).
- Develop and implement a private sector engagement strategy.
- Improve the existing multi-stakeholder decision-making structure for the REDD+ process to enhance collaboration among relevant sectors on REDD+, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- Enhance complementarity and avoid duplication of the FCPF central registry if Cameroon continues developing a national registry.
- Continue to coordinate funding from the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) grant, the FCPF, and other sources (including KfW, AFD, US Forest Services, and JICA) in a complementary manner.
- Develop the national reference level, taking into consideration deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the link between the reference level and the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).
- Strengthen program outreach, including revising the outreach strategy for IPs to include local communities; developing an outreach strategy for CSOs; and improving implementation of the outreach strategy for women.
- Improve the mainstreaming of gender in program documents.
- Strengthen the capacity of existing institutions with a view to promote the sustainability of the REDD+ process.

- Mainstream considerations on REDD+ when developing national strategies and laws.

Dominican Republic

Participants commended the good progress made by the Dominican Republic on REDD+ Readiness, as demonstrated by their [R-Package](#), particularly on stakeholder engagement, and improvements to the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL). The Participants encouraged the Dominican Republic to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Include non-agricultural sectors that are significant drivers of deforestation and degradation in the REDD+ Strategy.
- Develop the benefit-sharing arrangement, including as many details as possible on the arrangement in the Emission Reductions Program Document.
- Finalize and implement the gender analysis and action plan.
- Find ways to reduce the financial gaps for the ER Program and REDD+ strategy, including by engaging with the private sector—such as in the cocoa, coffee and livestock sectors.
- Design the legal road map for demonstrating the Government's ability to transfer ER titles to the Carbon Fund based on the existing legal studies, including as many details as possible on the title issue in the Emission Reductions Program Document.
- Consider conducting studies to highlight the value of forests and raise awareness on the REDD+ objectives.
- Strengthen community participation, incorporating relevant considerations into the REDD+ Strategy currently under development.

Fiji

The participants congratulated Fiji for their excellent presentation, comprehensive [R-package](#), strong political leadership and commitment, and progress made on Readiness and ER Program preparation—including on the NFMS and capacity building. The Participants also recognized the synergies between the TAP assessment and Fiji's self-assessment. They encouraged Fiji to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Continue to improve the Forest Reference Level activity data and emission factors pursuant to the Methodological Framework.
- Strengthen communication of the results of studies such as the REDD+ strategy, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and the FGRM, with key stakeholders in a manner that is gender inclusive and allows for the enhanced participation of CSOs.
- Explore opportunities to engage the private sector in the implementation of the REDD+ strategy and as a potential additional funding source.
- Build in-house government capacity to enhance inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial coordination and build sustainability of the REDD+ strategy.
- Improve financial and procurement management to ensure timely completion of the proposed Readiness activities and disbursement of funds from the Readiness Grant.
- Encourage institutional support for sustained implementation of the MRV system beyond the period of the Readiness Grant.

Peru

The Participants congratulated Peru for its comprehensive [R-Package](#), including a clear path forward in addressing identified bottlenecks. The Participants also recognized Peru's strong commitment as demonstrated by the approval of its national REDD+ Strategy, advancement in the implementation of its NFMS, and the alignment of the country's REDD+ process with its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Participants encouraged Peru to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- As recommended by the TAP, improve multi-stakeholder consultations at the national and sub-national level, including with other sectors, such as infrastructure and the private sector.
- Develop an accounting framework, including nesting mechanisms, and the National GHG Mitigation Actions registry to enable the integration of existing REDD+ initiatives as well as address and prevent double counting.
- Continue the development of the indigenous approach as part of the forest cover monitoring module (MMCB).
- Finalize a robust mechanism for implementation and reporting on environmental and social safeguards, as well as operationalizing a FGRM (MAC REDD+) aligned with existing national mechanisms, while continuing to make progress in improving land tenure security.

Sudan

The participants commended the impressive progress made by Sudan on REDD+ Readiness, as demonstrated by their [R-package](#), including a clear path forward in addressing remaining Readiness activities. The Participants also recognized the efforts by the Government in mainstreaming gender and for their expansive consultation process which covered a wide range of stakeholders, including an impressive number of women. The Participants encouraged Sudan to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Continue to consider the steps necessary for the development of the pilot-programs.
- Build technical capacity to monitor forest degradations.
- Elaborate the methodology for estimating the FREL.
- Elaborate concrete steps to involve forest dependent communities in decision-making and strengthen transparency in the benefit-sharing model, including clarifying land tenure issues.
- Improve multi-stakeholder coordination to increase collaboration among relevant sectors.
- Strengthen private sector engagement for reforestation and other REDD+ activities.
- Strengthen engagement of high-level actors towards securing political commitment.
- Elaborate the approaches to enhance the sustainability of REDD+ activities that are under development, taking into account potential domestic resources, as well as support from public and private sector partners.

Budget

The FMT [presented](#) the proposed FY19 budget (see [FMT Note 2019-1](#)). Final accounts of FY19 will be provided as part of the FY19 Annual Report for PA12/PC28. The PC adopted a [resolution](#) approving the FY19 budget.

The PC increased the Bank-executed budget for support to IPs and CSOs from \$950,000 (as approved and recorded in the Co-Chairs summary from PC26) to \$1.3 million.

FMT Progress Update

The PC appreciated the FMT's comprehensive [update on progress](#) made since PC26, especially on the Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Peoples and Southern Civil Society Organizations; gender mainstreaming; and the allocations of the Bank-executed activities.

The FMT was requested to work with REDD+ Countries on how they address gender as part of the preparation of R-Packages.

Capacity Building Program

Participants welcomed the FMT's [presentation](#) on options for the continuation of the Capacity Building Program, recognizing its importance and sharing their initial thoughts on the options presented.

Registries

Participants welcomed an [update](#) by the FMT on registry work, particularly on progress determining the business requirements and initial development of the registry. The FMT confirmed that the Centralized Transaction Registry solution will fully meet the criteria and requirements for both the FCPF Carbon Fund and the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (BioCF ISFL), as well as the requirements of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) under the UN International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The FMT also confirmed that implementation of the registry on time is one of its top priorities.

M&E Framework

The FCPF presented a [revised M&E Framework](#) to the Participants' Committee, including an evaluation plan.

Next Steps

The FCPF will circulate a revised version of the MEF post-PC27 for electronic endorsement.

Next Meetings

The twenty-eight Participants Committee meeting (PC28) and twelfth Participants Assembly (PA12) will be held in the Dominican Republic in November 2019. The FMT will advise on further details as soon as possible. Deadlines for submission of MTRs and Readiness Packages are available on the [FCPF homepage](#).

In Closing

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to all the Participants and Observers at PC27 for their collaborative spirit and unflagging enthusiasm. By endorsing R-Packages from an additional five countries—Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Peru, and Sudan—at this meeting, the Participants Committee has now endorsed a total of 24 R-Packages—

which is more than half the participating REDD+ Countries. And with the close of Readiness around the corner in 2020, we expect the pace of activity to only increase.

In addition, we saw glimpses into the future of the FCPF with the advancement of technical tools, such as registries, and options for a potential future phase of the Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Peoples and Southern Civil Society Organizations.

Meanwhile, in welcome news the Carbon Fund has signed its first two ERPA— with DRC and Mozambique— with several others anticipated in the coming months. These agreements, the first of their kind globally, will provide important lessons and experiences for ‘proving the concept’ of jurisdictional REDD+ and catalyzing the realization of REDD+ at scale.

We look forward to seeing you all in the Dominican Republic at the PA/PC later in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the FMT at fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Moses Ama, Nigeria (on behalf of REDD Country Participants)
and
Daniel Kandy, United States (on behalf of Donor Participants)