

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**  
**Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC26)**  
**Eleventh Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA11)**  
**Washington DC, October 9-11, 2018**  
**Co-Chairs' Summary**

Dear Participants and Observers,

We are pleased to report that the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Participants Committee (PC) and Participants Assembly (PA) held their twenty-sixth (PC26) and eleventh (PA11) meetings, respectively, on October 9-11, 2018 in Washington DC.

More than 100 representatives of governments, forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and forest dwellers organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations attended.

We also wish to acknowledge several esteemed guests who participated in the meetings: Her Excellency Lina Pohl, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador and the Honorable Carlos Walberto Ramos Salguero, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala.

All meeting materials are available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/PA11PC26> 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.

**Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC26)**

**Readiness Packages**

The PC adopted resolutions endorsing Readiness Packages from [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [El Salvador](#), and [Uganda](#). 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 on different aspects of readiness implementation in each of the three countries, while encouraging them to take issues raised during the meeting into account during further implementation of readiness.

**Cote d'Ivoire**

Participants congratulated [Côte d'Ivoire](#) on the progress achieved to date under Readiness, specifically its efforts toward sustainable cocoa production. Participants encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Continue to collaborate with the private sector in efforts to achieve a zero-deforestation agriculture objective.
- Continue to strengthen the participative process and stakeholders' awareness through broader consultation, capacity-building, and the implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy.

- Further improve the complementarity and coordination with other REDD+ funding initiatives and the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process in Cote d'Ivoire.
- Continue to strengthen capacity for financial management.
- Continue to clarify the roles of the various inter-ministerial committees at the national and regional level and strengthen the coordination among these committees.
- Strengthen the participation of rural women and address gender issues in the REDD+ process.

### **El Salvador**

The PC appreciated the efforts made by [El Salvador](#) in the REDD+ readiness process, including the elaboration of its 2018-2022 National Restoration Plan, its highly participatory consultation process with IPs and other vulnerable groups, and the development of a strong Grievance Redress Mechanism. Participants encouraged El Salvador to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Continue engaging with the private sector in the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.
- Clarify the legal gaps related to carbon rights.
- Continue to clarify during public consultation the broader benefits related to the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

### **Uganda**

The PC welcomed [Uganda's](#) progress on Readiness, including the country's dedication of its own resources – particularly for stakeholder engagement – to complement donor financing and its work on gender mainstreaming in the REDD+ process. Participants encouraged Uganda to take the following issues into account as they move forward:

- Address land tenure issues, including those related to benefit-sharing, and continue engaging with other entities responsible for land resources.
- Clarify carbon rights, considering both legal and social issues, and taking into account Uganda's experiences under the Voluntary Carbon Standard and the Clean Development Mechanism.
- Strengthen coordination with other sectors and include local government and the private sector in REDD+ processes, considering their importance to the success of ER Programs.
- Complete the next steps for developing a functional National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).

## **Mid-Term Progress Reports**

### **Uruguay**

The PC appreciated the progress made by [Uruguay](#), recognizing that some of the challenges Uruguay faces are similar to other REDD Country Participants. PC members expressed interest in sharing knowledge and experiences with Uruguay, especially on the relationship between native forests and livestock grazing – a priority area for its REDD+ Strategy. PC members encouraged Uruguay to keep in mind the limited time remaining prior to Readiness Fund closure as they finalize their Readiness activities.

## **Update on Funding Availability and the Funding Proposal on Use of Remaining Readiness Funds**

The FMT presented an [FMT Note](#) proposing an approach to allocate remaining funds in the FCPF Readiness Fund given its close in 2020.

The PC agreed to the following in accordance with the revised proposals ([see slides 21 and 22](#)):

- The projected costs for the remainder of the term of the Readiness Fund will include an additional \$5 million of expenditures to be approved through the normal budget approval process. The \$5 million is expected to be spent over the next two-plus years on Knowledge Management of (approximately \$2.75 million), Gender work (approximately \$1.6 million), and translation of additional documents into French and Spanish (approximately \$200k).
- The FMT will implement the following activities, up to a total of \$13 million (depending on actual available funding):
  - up to \$6 million to support MRV systems;
  - up to \$3 million to support the Country Forestry Notes, with an emphasis on Carbon Fund pipeline countries;
  - up to \$3 million to support private sector activities; and
  - up to \$950,000 to capacity building support to IPs/CSOs.
- The FMT agreed to take the comments received during the PC meeting into consideration during the implementation of the proposed additional activities.
- As the Readiness Fund nears its close in 2020, the FMT will revisit options for donors who have not contributed to the Carbon Fund to transfer any unspent balances in the Readiness Fund to the Carbon Fund.
- The deadline for signing the Cameroon grant will be extended to the current final deadline for signing grants –March 28, 2019.
- Financial contributors will consider whether investment income from cash balances in both the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund can be redirected to the Carbon Fund.

## **Update on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and Upcoming Thematic Evaluation**

The FMT presented the updated [M&E Framework](#) baselines, milestones, and targets.

### ***Next Steps***

- The PC asked the FMT to incorporate comments and feedback received from the PC on the M&E framework, as appropriate, and share a final revised framework for PC endorsement electronically, while allowing sufficient time for review.
- The PC requested that the FMT clarify upcoming FCPF evaluation plans.

## **Country Needs Assessments for Implementation of National Forest Monitoring Systems**

The FMT presented an [overview](#) on Country Needs Assessments for Implementation of NFMSs. The PC agreed to encourage countries to use the outputs of these Assessments to prioritize activities to operationalize their NFMS (with

the existing readiness funding or other sources of funding) and provide updates on the actions proposed/implemented based on the Assessments in the country annual progress reports.

### **Next Meetings**

The twenty-seventh PC (PC27) meeting is [scheduled](#) for March 19-21, 2019 in Washington DC. The FMT will advise on further details as soon as possible.

Deadlines for REDD+ Country submissions of MTRs and Readiness Packages are available on the [FCPF homepage](#).

## **Eleventh Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA11)**

### **Progress Report from the FMT and the PC**

The FMT presented a [progress update](#) on Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018) and key achievements, which are captured in more detail in the FCPF [Annual Report FY18](#). This update also served as the PC's report to the PA of work done over the past year.

Participants appreciated the impressive progress made by FCPF in FY18 and the continuing transition from readiness toward results-based payments.

Participants requested that a discussion on extending the term of the Readiness Fund beyond 31 December 2020 be tabled for the next PA meeting (PA12).

The Government of Costa Rica shared [correspondence](#) from the Minister of Environment highlighting concerns emerging from the ERPA negotiation process.

### ***Next Steps***

- The FMT will prepare an FMT Note on options for extending the Term of the Readiness Fund to be discussed at PA12.

### **Remarks by Observers and Delivery Partners**

The following Observers and Delivery Partners were invited to provide remarks: the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), the [United Nations Development Program](#), the [UN-REDD Programme](#), the [Indigenous Peoples Observer](#), the [Southern Civil Society Organizations Observer](#), the Northern Civil Society Organizations Observer, the [International Organizations Observer](#), the Private Sector Observer, and the Green Climate Fund.

## **Election of New Participants Committee**

The Participants Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) electing the Participants Committee, the Bureau of the PC, and three REDD Country Participants to serve as observers of the Carbon Fund meetings, to serve until the next meeting of the Participants Assembly (expected to be held in September/October 2019).

- The following REDD Country Participants are elected as Members of the PC: Belize, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, and Uruguay
- The following Financial Contributors are elected as the Members of the PC: Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway, The Nature Conservancy, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
- The following PC Members shall serve as the Bureau of the PC: Belize, Cameroon, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Nepal, The Nature Conservancy, United States of America.
- The following three REDD Country Participants have been selected by the REDD Country members on the PC Bureau to attend the Carbon Fund Meetings as Observers: Costa Rica, Ghana, Laos PDR.

## **Knowledge Day**

The FCPF hosted a knowledge-sharing day, consisting of five ninety-minute knowledge sessions and a “knowledge café” featuring over 10 fast-paced 45-minute-long discussions (in two rounds).

### **Knowledge Sessions**

#### **Engaging the Private Sector in Forest Landscape Programs**

Discussants shared key achievements and lessons learned from the Cocoa and Forests Initiative—a set of public-private actions that represent unprecedented commitments on forest protection and restoration, sustainable cocoa production, and farmer livelihoods—providing insights on how to replicate its success in other sectors.

#### **Using New Technology for Better MRV**

The combination of advances in cloud computing and machine learning with the generation of unprecedented volumes of imagery data at increasingly rapid speeds has the potential to greatly enhance forest monitoring capabilities. Experts in the sector shared insights on how REDD Countries, at different levels of capacity, can best leverage and implement these operational or emerging technologies moving forward, particularly in the near term.

#### **Leveraging and Scaling Up Financing for ER Programs**

Finance flows to sustainable forest and landscapes management, especially REDD activities, must be scaled up significantly to deliver on countries’ NDCs. Part of this involves bringing together the different actors involved in forests, agriculture, and REDD+ around comprehensive strategies and combining efforts to delivering progress. Discussants shared how their countries aligned different public and private financing sources at the national and international levels to develop pathways for creating a step change in investment in forest sustainability.

## **Building Inclusive Approaches to Sustainable Forest Management**

A diverse array of discussants shared good practices and lessons on mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples, CSOs, and women into REDD Readiness and ER Programs, while highlighting the key role they can play in community-based forest management, the sustainability of conservation efforts, and natural resource management.

## **Designing Effective Benefit-Sharing Plans**

Discussants shared experiences on the ‘nuts and bolts’ of developing benefit-sharing arrangements for ER Programs, such as who was involved, when stakeholders were consulted, what program sustainability considerations were taken into account, which existing systems were used or modified, and how the FCPF and countries engaged throughout this process.

## **Concluding Remarks**

We are very encouraged by all the progress we have made together over the past year. The endorsement of three additional R-Packages this meeting (Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, and Uganda) – bringing the total number to 19 – underscores how far countries have come in establishing the building blocks for REDD+. This momentum is also reflected in the expanding portfolio of the Carbon Fund, which saw the addition of five countries (Lao PDR, Mozambique, Madagascar, Nepal, and Vietnam) this past fiscal year.

In addition, we saw the advancement of several important tools on a range of technical topics such as registries, verifications, and REDD+ and ER financing Plans; a deepening engagement with the private sector via work with the World Cocoa Foundation and International Finance Corporation; and the continued success of the Capacity Building Program for Forest-Dependent Peoples and Southern Civil Society Organizations.

We look forward to the year ahead, where the prospect of several signed Emission Reductions Payment Agreements is anticipated in the coming months. This progress will yield important lessons and experiences for “proving the concept” of REDD+ and catalyzing the realization of REDD+ at scale. We wish you all a successful and productive FY19.

Please do not hesitate to contact the FMT at [fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org](mailto:fcpfsecretariat@worldbank.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Javier Antonio Gutierrez Ramirez, Nicaragua, on behalf of REDD Country Participants

and

Lisa Schindler Murray, The Nature Conservancy, on behalf of Donor Participants