

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Twentieth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC20)
Eighth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA8)
San Jose, Costa Rica, November 4-6, 2015
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 twentieth meeting (PC20) on November 4-5, 2015 in San Jose, Costa Rica, followed by the eighth meeting of the Participants Assembly (PA8) on November 6, 2015.

More than 100 representatives of governments, Forest-Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Forest Dwellers organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations participated in the meetings. We wish to [express our gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica](#) for the hospitality extended to participants. We wish to acknowledge the participation of the Honorable Vice Minister Fernando Mora, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, in the meetings.

All meeting materials are available at <http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/PA8/PC20> 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.

Twentieth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC20)

Readiness Package

The PC adopted a [resolution](#) endorsing Costa Rica's [Readiness Package](#).

Participants noted the high quality and candidness of the information provided in the R-Package, which offers a good practice example for future submissions.

Participants encouraged Costa Rica to continue the implementation of readiness activities and accelerate disbursement of Readiness Preparation Grant funds as per the agreed work program, and to consider feedback from stakeholders on specific issues going forward.

Mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding

[Chile](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Nepal](#) presented their mid-term progress reports (MTR) on their national REDD+ readiness progress and requests for additional funding. The PC adopted resolutions allocating funds of \$5 million each to further support the readiness process in [Chile](#), [Mozambique](#), and [Nepal](#).

Chile

Participants congratulated Chile on the progress made, particularly on the results achieved in setting up institutional arrangements and in aligning the REDD+ process with a wider range of policies at the national and international levels. Participants also welcomed the level of detail provided in its future work program.

Participants encouraged Chile to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Continue dialoguing with Indigenous Peoples in accordance with the country's obligations under international and domestic law, particularly with regards to effective Indigenous Peoples' participation and consultation.
- Make available existing information on the consultation process carried out between Indigenous Peoples and the Ministry of Social Development.
- Continue its efforts to disburse Readiness Preparation Grant funds.

Mozambique

Participants congratulated Mozambique on the progress made, the clarity of the information provided, and the governance reforms undertaken to integrate and align policy and institutional responsibility around land use, rural development, and forestry.

Participants encouraged Mozambique to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Ensure that readiness work continues to support Emission Reductions Program development.
- Continue to provide opportunities for civil society to provide input into the design of the benefit-sharing-mechanism and the grievance redress mechanism.

Nepal

Participants congratulated Nepal on the progress made, noted the strong ownership and commitment from the Government to REDD+, and appreciated the consultative multi-stakeholder processes that have supported the national readiness progress.

Participants encouraged Nepal to take into account the following issues raised by the PC, during further readiness preparation:

- Adjust the REDD+ work program, including benefit sharing approaches, to the new federal structure, as necessary.
- Address capacity needs and incentivize long term staffing in the REDD+ implementation center.
- Continue to enhance capacity building, timely dissemination of information, and awareness raising of local stakeholders, especially indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Improve coordination in the development of the safeguard information system and SESA/ESMF.
- Improve coordination of forestry and REDD+ related work supported by other development partners.
- Strengthen national and local level grievance redress mechanisms.

Decision-making modalities

Participants agreed that going forward, MTRs and requests for additional funding would by default be considered virtually, including a virtual review and exchange process, plus subsequent decision if relevant and appropriate via the 'Action without Meeting' process outlined in the [Rules of Procedure](#). In line with the [process agreed at PC12](#), both Participants and Observers are invited to contribute to the review and exchange, and no changes will be made at this time to the duration of the review and exchange process. MTRs will be submitted to the PC in batches with appropriate prior notice, to facilitate predictability and planning. The FMT will ensure that modalities are put in place to capture the knowledge exchange dimension of progress reviews.

Countries who wish to present their MTR and/or request for additional funding in-person will continue to be able to do so. The FMT will explore ways to conduct any such in-person reviews in an efficient manner.

Follow-up action:

The FMT has been asked to modify [FMT Note 2012/7 rev](#) so that REDD Countries are not limited to presenting their MTRs during PC meetings only. The FMT will circulate the modified note after PC20 together with a resolution to be adopted on a no-objection basis.

Independent evaluation of the FCPF

The FCPF Charter provides for periodic evaluations of the FCPF. A [first evaluation](#) was completed in 2012 and a second independent evaluation is currently underway. The [evaluation oversight committee](#), the [consultants](#), and the [FMT](#) provided an [update on the status](#) of the evaluation and Participants discussed the approach, process, and timeline for the evaluation. The evaluation is expected to be completed in May 2016.

A [resolution](#) to amend the budget of the Readiness Fund to cover the additional budget for the evaluation was approved.

Follow-up action:

The oversight committee and consultants will consider feedback provided by Participants as they advance with the evaluation. In particular, they will ensure that the online survey feeding into the evaluation will be announced with due notice and will remain open long enough to allow ample opportunity for feedback. The evaluation is further expected to build on a number of other recent evaluations on multilateral efforts for REDD+ that also reflect on the role of the FCPF.

Status update from the Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) provided a [status update](#) focusing on the GCF's role in international REDD+ finance. Participants welcomed the update and emphasized important experiences in REDD+ readiness, program development and methodology that the FCPF can offer, to inform the GCF engagement in REDD+ finance.

Next meetings

The twenty-first PC meeting will likely be held in late April or early May 2016. The FMT will advise on further details as soon as possible.

Eighth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA8)

Progress report from the FMT and the PC

The FMT presented a [progress report](#) on Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) and key achievements made, which are captured in more detail in the [FCPF Annual Report FY15](#).

Participants appreciated the overall progress made. Some reflections on key achievements until PA8 include:

- \$211 million has now been allocated to countries for readiness and more than \$148 million is available for REDD+ readiness through 36 signed grant agreements (\$143 million and 35 grants by end of FY15).
- Countries leveraged an additional \$186 million of non-FCPF funds for readiness.
- Grant disbursements in FY15 alone were double those in FY14 alone.
- A total of 11 countries have reached mid-term of REDD+ readiness (9 by end of FY15).
- DRC was the first country to have its Readiness Package endorsed in FY15, and Costa Rica followed at PC20.
- 18 ideas for large-scale Emissions Reductions Programs have been selected in the Carbon Fund pipeline (11 by end of FY15).
- Countries leveraged \$1.162 billion of non-FCPF funds for ER Program implementation.
- Approval of the General Conditions for future Emission Reductions Payment Agreements (ERPA) in FY15 completed the operational framework and legal underpinning that is now in place to support implementation of results-based finance at scale.
- The term of the Carbon Fund was extended by 5 years to 2025 to allow for development of sound programs and at least 5 years of implementation of ER programs selected into the portfolio.

Participants appreciated the significant progress made by the Partnership in FY15, and the ongoing transition from readiness toward results-based payments. The focus on advancing innovative public-private partnerships to support REDD+ program design and implementation was welcomed, and good progress with implementation of the Common Approach noted.

Remarks by Observers and Delivery Partners

Observers and Delivery Partners provided remarks, including:

- [IDB's](#) and [UNDP's](#) reports on progress made in countries where IDB and UNDP are Delivery Partners.
- UN-REDD Programme's highlight of its Strategic Framework for 2016-2020 and revamped governance structure, as well as synergies with the FCPF and closer coordination achieved in the past year.
- Indigenous Peoples representatives' appreciation of the FCPF's focus on inclusiveness, and reminder of the importance to sustain capacity building efforts of indigenous peoples' communities to enable their participation also in the more technical aspects of REDD+.
- Southern CSOs' appreciation of the FCPF's unique multi-stakeholder platform. CSOs further called for additional efforts and resources to continue to strengthen civil society capacity to engage in REDD+ processes at country and global levels.
- Northern CSOs' appreciation of the overall progress made, including the FCPF's contribution to strengthen participatory processes in-country. CSOs reminded of the importance of sound safeguard application in the context of land and carbon rights and also urged the FCPF to maintain transparency and inclusiveness in deliberations in the Carbon Fund.
- International Organizations' recommendation to countries to access additional investment funding available for forest landscapes from international organizations and to take advantage of the knowledge and learning opportunities that the FCPF provides.

The Climate Investment Fund Administrative Unit also provided an update on the [Forest Investment Program](#), and the World Bank an update on the [BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes](#).

Election of the new Participants Committee

The Participants Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) electing the Participants Committee, Bureau 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 October/November 2016).

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the hard work and collaboration of Participants and Observers at PC20 and PA8. Over the last year, the FCPF experienced enormous momentum that energized the Partnership and resulted in remarkable progress made in REDD+ Participant Countries. A rapidly growing number of countries are reaching the mid-term and readiness stages, thus pointing to the FCPF's gradual transition from readiness implementation to results-based payments. Going forward, we will see more and more countries demonstrate that they are "ready for REDD+" and thus ready to implement large-scale programs that have the potential to transform landscapes and promote a long-term shift to low-carbon societies and economies. We look forward to learning about countries' success stories in future meetings.

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

Sincerely,

Jorge Mario Rodriguez, Costa Rica, on behalf of REDD Country Participants,

and

Morten Nordskog, Norway, on behalf of Financial Contributor Participants