

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility**  
**Thirty-First Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC31)**  
**Fifteenth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA15)**  
**Washington DC, USA**  
**October 18-20, 2022**  
**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 thirty-first (PC31) and fifteenth (PA15) meetings, respectively, from October 18-20, 2022, in Washington DC, USA.

More than 80 representatives of governments, the private sector, forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and forest dwellers organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations attended.

All meeting materials are available at <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/meetings>. Below are the main conclusions of the meeting, which are also available in French and Spanish.

**Thirty-First Meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC31)**

**R-Packages**

The PC adopted resolutions endorsing R-Packages from [Bhutan](#), [Colombia](#) and [Nigeria](#). Participants commended the high quality of the information provided in the R-Packages and the rigor of the self-assessment. 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.

**Bhutan**

Bhutan was commended for its strong commitment in the [Readiness Package](#) to remain carbon neutral, which is also reflected in Bhutan's NDC. Bhutan was also congratulated on its achievement of 71% forest cover, which is beyond what is required by its Constitution (60%). The importance of forests in the Bhutan's Gross National Happiness approach was noted which provides the basis for linking social, economic and environmental objectives related to forest protection and sustainable management.

Participants encouraged Bhutan to take into account the following issues raised during this meeting as they move forward:

- Continue monitoring and addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Further strengthen national legislations and policies addressing land use and land use dynamics;
- Strengthen community-based forest management and the engagement and inclusion of forest dependent communities and disadvantaged groups, especially poor people and women;

- Improve the link between forest conservation/sustainable forest management and support to private sector development, including value chain development; and
- Consider the potential benefits of the development of the national REDD+ registry;

### **Colombia**

Colombia was commended for the good progress made towards readiness, as demonstrated by their [Readiness Package](#) and the reception of result-based payments under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and REDD Early Movers (REM) program. The PC was particularly impressed by the build-up of institutional capacity and the implementation of REDD+ in the Amazonian region, and welcomed Colombia's intention to develop an agenda to regulate Voluntary Carbon Markets and to integrate Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in their national legislation in the future.

The PC encouraged Colombia to take into account the following issues raised during this meeting as they move forward:

- Continue to take measures to support indigenous peoples, afro-descendent communities and environmental community leaders, including the enhancement of their security against violence.
- Continue the development of and make public, when available, the Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism (FGRM), the REDD+ Safeguards Information System, the rules for the development of Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (BSM) and the revised Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
- Continue to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Continue broad public consultations with diverse stakeholders, including women, especially in the development of the FGRM and BSM, improve the transparency of reporting by providing social inclusion indicators and maintain and strengthen the national REDD+ fora and mechanisms for regional dialogue.

### **Nigeria**

Nigeria was commended for the commitment in the [Readiness Package](#) to sustain Nigeria's forest cover and agrees with the overall statement of self-assessment of 2022.

Participants encouraged Nigeria to take into account the following issues raised during this meeting as they move forward:

- Enhance the forest reference emissions level using a stepwise approach to improve the REDD+ Program, by including activity data on degradation and enhancement;
- Further explore opportunities for restoration projects to increase forest cover;
- Continue integrating REDD+ activities into domestic multisectoral processes, including the Nationally Determined Contributions.
- Explore mechanisms that will facilitate access to the carbon markets and further promote investment opportunities in REDD+ activities for the private sector;
- Adopt inclusive community-based forest management practices, including with regards to user rights related to forested land, forest products and ecosystem services; and
- Continue investing in livelihood enhancement opportunities.

### **FCPF Third Program-level Evaluation**

The FMT presented [plans](#) for the third FCPF program-level evaluation to be implemented in 2023, including an overview of evaluation planning and implementation processes and prospective areas of focus.

Participants were generally supportive of plans for the evaluation approach and areas of focus, and confirmed the constitution of the Evaluation Oversight Committee. Additional comments will be incorporated into the work of the Evaluation Oversight Committee as the evaluation is implemented in 2023.

## **Fifteenth Meeting of the FCPF Participants Assembly (PA15)**

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

As the PA15 is the final PA before the FCPF Readiness Fund closes on December 31, 2022, the FMT presented a review of the key achievements of the Readiness Fund since it was first initiated. The FMT also presented a [progress update](#) on Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022) and key achievements, which are captured in more detail in the [FCPF Annual Report FY22](#). 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 and the continuing transition from readiness toward results-based payments.

### **Post-2022 FCPF Governance Structure, Knowledge Sharing and Outreach**

The Readiness Fund (RF) will terminate on December 31, 2022, while the Carbon Fund (CF) will end on December 31, 2025. The FMT presented the [governance structure, knowledge sharing and communication](#) arrangements from 2022 to 2025. For governance structure, the Carbon Fund Participants (CFPs) will continue inviting three self-elected former REDD+ Country Participants, and observers from International Organizations, non-governmental organization (one from 'North', one from 'South'), Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, UN-REDD Programme and UNFCCC Secretariat, to all future Carbon Fund meetings after the closure of the Readiness Fund on December 31, 2022. For knowledge sharing, the Carbon Fund will allocate budget to support FCPF knowledge sharing activities from 2022- 2025. The FMT will also continue the outreach to Readiness Countries.

### **Election of REDD+ Country as Observers to Attend the CF Meetings for 2023**

The following three REDD Country Participants have been selected by the REDD Country members on the PC Bureau to attend the Carbon Fund Meetings for 2023 as Observers: **Nepal, Ghana and Guatemala**.

### **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](#), [UNFCCC](#), the [International Organizations Observer](#), and the [Private Sector Observer](#).

### **Discussion on REDD+ financing**

The Nature Conservancy provided an [overview](#) of the complex landscape of both existing international REDD+ standards and their eligibility requirements, as well as the current state of financing in this area. They explained the development of the voluntary carbon market as well as the possible implications of Article 6. The FMT complemented the

presentation by providing an [overview](#) of the emerging requirements to access to climate finance under SCALE (Scaling Climate Action by Lowering Emissions, formerly known as the Climate Emission Reduction Facility or CERF).

### **Concluding Remarks**

We are very encouraged by all the progress we have made together over the past year. After Mozambique, Costa Rica has now received the second payment for emission reductions under FCPF; 13 programs met their Conditions of Effectiveness, 13 final Benefit-Sharing Plans have been finalized and published, there are 10 submitted first ER Monitoring Reports, and 1 second ER Monitoring Report, which indicates that this excellent progress is expected to continue at a solid pace.

In addition, we congratulate the advancement of several readiness programs, which is demonstrated by the R-Package approvals of Bhutan, Colombia and Nigeria. We also observed the progression of several important tools on a range of technical topics such as registries and verifications; a deepening engagement with private sectors; and the continued progress of the Capacity Building Program activities.

The focus of the FCPF will continue to support the implementation of programs, and move into validation and verification, as well as payments for emission reductions, through the Carbon Fund.

The 31st PC meeting was the last meeting before the FCPF Readiness Fund closes on December 31, 2022. Since the FCPF was first initiated 14 years ago, the collaboration among REDD+ country participants, delivery partners including the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Inter-American Development Bank, and donors, have produced remarkable results. We also thank the participation of observers including indigenous people, civil society organizations, UNFCCC, international organizations, and private sectors. It has been a unique partnership and a challenging but fruitful journey. It took several generations of FCPF stakeholders to get where we are nowadays. The stakeholders' commitment, dedication and perseverance in this vital work has been key to its success. It is the end but also a new beginning. We look forward to new opportunities to further collaborate in the future.

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

Sincerely,

Paris Chuop, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia (on behalf of REDD Country Participants)

and

Darinka Blies, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany (on behalf of Donor Participants)