Forestry, Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction: Results from Earlier Dialogues

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TFD Priority Issue

• Role of forestry in rural economic development and poverty reduction

• Bring together stakeholders from industry, community, government, NGOs, finance sectors to identify barriers and possibilities

• Dialogues in South Africa, Indonesia, Bolivia and Russia
Forestry’s Role

• Forestry can play a larger role in sustaining rural communities and improving quality of life

• New models and approaches may be necessary to realize the benefits

• Draw from the experience of forestry firms all over the world that are addressing this issue
South Africa

- Small-grower scheme for pine and eucalyptus production
- Employing locals in small-medium forestry enterprises
- Confronting high rates of unemployment, HIV/AIDS, poor infrastructure
Indonesia

• Small-grower scheme for fiber production
• Heavy reliance on contract labor, not employees
• Tension between locals and migrant laborers
• Companies must provide services and infrastructure not supplied by government
Bolivia

- Developing relationships between forest industry and indigenous communities
- Limited markets, poor infrastructure
- Role of forest certification and international funders
- Government anti-poverty policies sometimes hostile to forest industry
Commercial forestry has real potential to produce wealth

- Focus has been on non-timber forest products, not timber
- Must address equity in corporate-community relationship, and in relationship with informal employees
Pro-poor forestry can take many forms

- Must find balance between profit optimization and equitable benefit sharing
- Authoritative conflict-resolution process necessary
Models of pro-poor forestry

- Public forests managed for community benefit
- Small-medium enterprises run by or employing locals
- Large enterprises engaged in equitable partnerships with local communities
Enabling conditions and key drivers

• Policies and institutions
• Social and labor movements
• Long-term partnerships between sectors
Enabling conditions and key drivers

- Effective leadership and advocacy for social issues
- Well-developed markets for “ecosystem services”
- Well-defined standards and indicators of progress, baseline data and monitoring
Barriers

• Lack of established channels for collaboration
• Scale excludes small-medium enterprises
• Finance difficult to procure
Questions and Comments

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