



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2007

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The Forests Dialogue

TFD's Dialogue on Tools for Small Landowners

Concept Paper - Europe

Title

Scoping dialogue on strategies and tools to enhance Small/Family Forest Owners practice and recognition of sustainable forest management and equal access to markets.

Introduction

Background

Collectively, small/family forest landowners are responsible for the care and management of the majority of forestland in Europe, North American as well as the intensively managed planted forest development in the “global south”. If combined with forestland under the tenure/control/management of local communities, this sector is responsible for the majority of the world's forests and potentially a significant source of fiber. For The Forests Dialogue, this landowner sector must be in the forefront of our consideration when discussing sustainable forest management (SFM) globally.

However, with the notable exception of a number of well coordinated and engaged groups (Confederation of European Private Forest Owners, American Tree Farm System, etc). and cooperatives acting on regional and local level, this sector tends to be heterogeneous and beyond the reach of most conventional mechanisms to promote and recognize sustainable forest management. The promotion of practical SFM in developing countries where the additional problems of land tenure, lack of skills and scarcity of resources and infrastructure are often limiting factors is of particular relevance to the global industry and society.

The timing appears to be right for TFD to bring together the leading actors that are working to engage this sector of the forest based industry to identify the barriers to expansion of SFM and it's recognition to small holders and discuss the successful means to influence this sector and the tools that are needed to insure sound management and equal market access.

Rationale

As a unique multi-stakeholder process with participants throughout the entire forest value chain, as well as civil society representatives, TFD is ideally positioned to make tangible progress on this issue because TFD can bring together the important parties in a neutral forum to discuss. It is also critical, that any possible models developed through this process find a broad acceptance.

Objectives

- ➔ Identify key barriers to successful implementation of SFM by small holders in various national settings;
- ➔ Review a number of initiatives and tools that can help drive improvement in sustainable forest management of small forest owners and explore the means for that management to be recognized by the public and the markets.

Outcomes

- ➔ Recognition by all social and economic partners of the constraints and opportunities confronting forestry small holder's participation in SFM;
- ➔ Greater understanding of the tools and initiatives available for positively engaging the small/family forest landowner and community forest sector;
- ➔ Further development, wider acceptance and promotion of promising tools and initiatives.

Outputs

- ➔ Co-Chairs Summary
- ➔ TFD Review
- ➔ Guidelines for customers and consumers in working with and structuring partnerships with small forest holders.

Program

Process

TFD will bring together 25-30 key actors and leaders on this issue for an initial 1.5 day scoping dialogue in each of 3 regions (Europe, North America, Global South). The central objective of the dialogues will be to explore and catalogue barriers facing small holders and identify current tools available to ensure sustainability on small/family forests and means available for markets to give recognition to those landowners for sound practices. Each region will initially explore projects and tools specific or directly relevant to that region through a background document, brief presentations and participant discussion. A summary will be produced to widely disseminate findings and conclusions of the dialogues.

After the 3 dialogues, organizers along with the TFD Steering Committee will determine next steps. Likely these steps will include further exploration of common themes and development/promotion of tools likely to positively impact all three regions.

Key Program Elements – Europe Dialogue

- ➔ Public Sector
 - Procurement Programs
 - Support Services (Research and Development)
 - Regulations

- ➔ Private Sector
 - Cooperatives
 - Certification through contractors
 - PEFC and FSC Programs

Preparation and Organization - Europe

Dates and Location

- ➔ 26-27 June 2007 - Brussels, Belgium (hosted at CEPF offices)

Organizers

- ➔ Co-Chairs – Stefan Schenker and James Griffiths
- ➔ With Ragnar Friberg (Stora Enso), Margareta Renstrom (WWF), Peter Gardiner (Mondi), Gary Dunning (TFD Secretariat).

Participants

Key stakeholders

- Multinational companies - dependent on small forest owners/out growers
- Forest owners and associations
- ENGOs
- Social NGOs
- Certifiers
- Schemes
- Resource Persons
- IGO's

Sponsors - Europe

Stora Enso, CEPF, Mondi, WWF

Additional Reading

Anders Lindhe. "Certification of Small Woodlots: How can we improve access and equity". November 2006.