

**T**HE  
**F**ORESTS  
**D**IALOGUE

**ENGAGE! EXPLORE! CHANGE!**



**WELCOME TO THE FORESTS DIALOGUE (TFD)**, a platform and process for multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration on the most pressing local and global issues facing forests and people. Our primary tool – **focused dialogue** – is simple and powerful:

We first **ENGAGE** a diversity of interests to foster relationships and build trust around contentious forest issues, or ‘fracture lines’;

We then **EXPLORE** the issues at hand and craft a shared understanding of the objectives, challenges and opportunities ahead;

We ultimately seek **CHANGE** through consensus-based collaboration aimed at immediate action and long-term progress.

OUR PROCESS

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)





# OUR CHALLENGE

**CONFLICTS RELATED TO FORESTS** are complex and persistent, ranging widely across scales, timeframes, players, and goods and services. Particularly challenging are the inequalities in power, resources and capacity of those with a stake in the forests, which can create fundamental stumbling blocks to finding solutions. A lack of solutions threatens a host of dire environmental, social, and economic consequences: irreversible change to global climate systems, a biodiversity extinction crisis, the exhaustion of resources and collapse of industry sectors, and continued impoverishment of many whose livelihoods depend on forests. TFD works to reduce conflict among forest stakeholders by engaging divergent actors in the pursuit of common action.





# OUR COMMITMENT

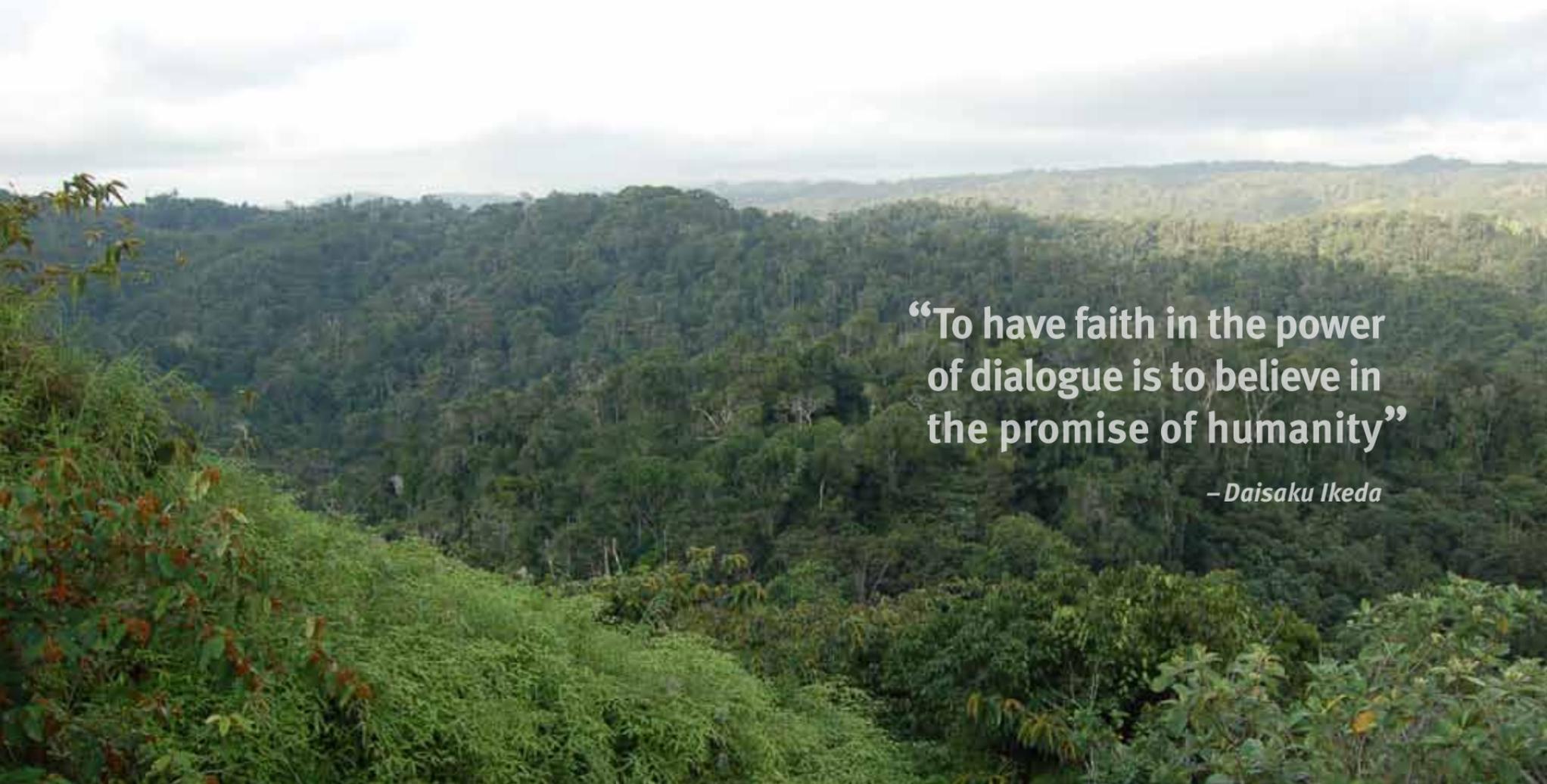
**THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF TFD** are designed to confront a broad and evolving landscape of global forest issues.

**PURPOSE:** *Better forests, improved livelihoods.* To contribute to sustainable land and resource use, the conservation and sustainable management of forests, and improved livelihoods by helping people engage and explore difficult issues, find collaborative solutions, and make positive changes.

**MISSION:** *Dialoguing can bring change.* To pursue our purpose through constructive dialogue processes among all key stakeholders, based on mutual trust, enhanced understanding and commitment to change. Our dialogues are designed to build relationships and to spur collaborative action on the highest priority issues facing the world's forests.

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)



A wide-angle photograph of a lush, green tropical forest. The foreground shows a dense thicket of green plants and trees. The middle ground is dominated by a vast expanse of dense forest, stretching towards the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural beauty and tranquility.

**“To have faith in the power  
of dialogue is to believe in  
the promise of humanity”**

*– Daisaku Ikeda*

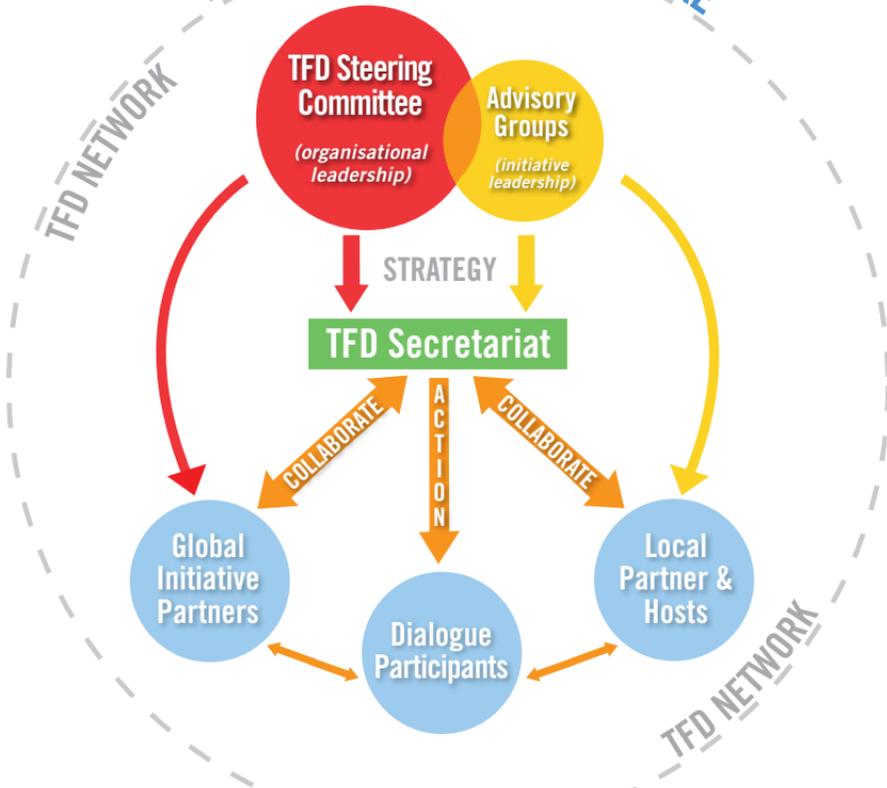


# OUR DIALOGUES

## TFD DEVELOPS AND FACILITATES

multi-stakeholder dialogue-based initiatives on issues key to the forest sector. We build a dynamic, bottom-up form of dialogue to ensure that stakeholders' concerns are well represented. TFD uses techniques that range from intimate, small-group dialogues to large forums involving hundreds of participants. Direct engagement with issues on the ground at field sites is an important component of many dialogue processes. At the conclusion of each dialogue and initiative, we produce summary publications, form coalitions among key actors, and meet with decision-makers to move from ideas to action.

## TFD's ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# OUR ORGANISATION

**TFD FORMED IN 2000** under the guidance of a dedicated group of civil society/private sector leaders who care about forests. Our diverse and representative Steering Committee agrees on each initiative and leads its development. A small and experienced Secretariat staff based at Yale University coordinates and manages the daily operations of TFD, using its extensive network of forest-sector leaders and community members to provide input and support for each ambitious initiative. Finally, TFD relies on a broad donor base to support all of its operations.

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)





# OUR INITIATIVES

From year 2000, **TFD** has developed 20 different initiatives, convened 75+ dialogues and engaged more than 3000 participants. We encourage you to explore our work online at [www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)



## TFD STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2020

**CHRIS BUSS**

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) –  
*Switzerland*

**KERRY CESAREO**

WWF – *United States*

**MARCUS COLCHESTER**

Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) – *United Kingdom*

**YULIA CUTHBERTSON**

International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) –  
*Australia*

**CRYSTAL DAVIS**

World Resources Institute – *United States*

**GERHARD DIETERLE**

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) – *Japan*

**GARY DUNNING**

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) – *United States*

**JOSÉ CARLOS FONSECA**

Ibá - Indústria Brasileira de Árvores – *Brazil*

**DAVID GANZ**

The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) – *Thailand*

**PAULA GUIMARÃES**

The Navigator Company – *Portugal*

**PAUL HARTMAN**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) – *United States*

**JUAN CARLOS JINTIACH**

Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indigenas de la Cuenca  
Amazónica (COICA) – *Ecuador*

**VICTOR LOPEZ**

Ford Foundation – *Mexico*

**ANTTI MARJOKORPI**

Stora Enso – *Finland*

**IVONE NAMIKAWA** *TFD Co-Leader*

Klabin – *Brazil*

**MARY NDARO**

Care – *Tanzania*

**CÉCILE NDJEBET**

African Women's Network for Community Management  
of Forests (REFACOF) – *Cameroon*

**MILAGRE NUVUNGA** *TFD Co-Leader*

MICAIA Foundation – *Mozambique*

**SARAH PRICE**

Sappi – *Belgium/Switzerland*

**KITTISAK RATTANAKRAJANGSRI**

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) – *Thailand*

**FERNANDA RODRIGUES**

Diálogo Florestal - Brazilian Forest Dialogue – *Brazil*

**FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**

CMPC – *Chile*

**CHRISTOPHER STEWART**

Olam – *United Kingdom*

**RUTH THOMAS**

Global Agribusiness Alliance (GAA) – *United Kingdom*

**MARK WISHNIE**

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – *United States*

## OVERVIEW OF TFD'S INITIATIVES IN 2020

**LAND TENURE REFORM (LTR):** Land and forest tenure security has been recognized globally as a catalyzer for stronger governance, improved livelihoods and increased conservation of natural resources. In the previous decades, governments have gradually recognized local peoples' rights to forests and land. However, tenure rights remain unclear and with wide gaps across many countries. Uncertain land and forest tenure represent a great risk to sustainable landscape initiatives. Therefore, it is crucial to address current tenure problems for local and indigenous communities by learning from previous experiences to accelerate recognition in countries where processes are underway. TFD'S LTR Initiative aims to identify key fracture lines within land tenure to create opportunities for improvement and collaboration across stakeholders in reform processes.

**LAND-USE DIALOGUES (LUD):** The 'landscape approach' has been advocated as an inclusive, adaptive approach to managing and allocating land to achieve multiple objectives. Despite strong and renewed emphasis on the 'landscape approach' from the conservation and development communities, few examples of successful implementation exist. TFD's LUD Initiative aims to create ongoing stakeholder engagement platforms in landscapes with actual or high risk of deforestation for the purpose of gathering knowledge and leading processes to enable responsible business, improved governance and inclusive development that will strengthen the implementation of landscape approach concepts.

**TREE PLANTATIONS IN THE LANDSCAPE (TPL):** Tree plantations currently provide a third of the world's industrial wood, a proportion expected to increase significantly in coming decades. They also have great potential to deliver environmental services and social benefits. However, many aspects of tree plantations have been and remain controversial, with concerns that associated environmental and social costs often outweigh economic and other benefits. TFD's Tree Plantations in the Landscape (TPL) Initiative explores the evolving state of issues related to tree plantations and planted forests within the larger landscape context through engaging key stakeholder groups at the international, national, and local levels. The TPL Initiative will build and expand on TFD's previous Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPF) Initiative, conducted from 2005-2008.

**UNDERSTANDING DEFORESTATION-FREE (UDF):** The wave of recent 'deforestation-free' commitments from governments, major corporations and civil society groups has infused new hope into efforts to address the problem of deforestation. However, varied definitions, starting dates, implementation methodologies, and systems for verifying progress on these commitments have created confusion and delay for actors trying to realize deforestation-free pledges and frustration for those promoting and tracking movement toward meeting deforestation-free targets. TFD's UDF Initiative aims to develop a common understanding of key definitions, targets, and workable approaches for developing and effectively implementing deforestation-free commitments.

# LAND TENURE REFORM (LTR)

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Several of TFD's previous dialogues (e.g. Intensively Managed Planted Forests; Free, Prior and Informed Consent; Poverty and Forests; Understanding Deforestation Free), have all highlighted the importance of secure tenure for farmers, local communities and indigenous peoples as required conditions for sustainable forest and land management. Building upon the recognition of this important issue, TFD's LTR initiative aims to identify key fracture lines within land tenure to create opportunities for improvement and collaboration across stakeholders in reform processes.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *The need for land and forest tenure reforms to provide a more secure basis for forest and land management has been widely acknowledged, notably through the decisions of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Forests, the UN Forum on Forests, and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of national food security (tenure guidelines, VGGT). At the national level, there are also some encouraging signs of growing political commitment to reform, particularly in Indonesia, Liberia and Cameroon. Despite this progress at the policy level, actual transfers of lands and forests to local communities or recognition of the customary rights of indigenous peoples are very slow and, some reports suggest, may even be slowing down.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Engage stakeholders to identify the main obstacles to devolving tenure to local communities and indigenous peoples;
- Explore the governance failures or vested interests that are blocking land transfers and the recognition of rights;
- Seek consensus on the institutional and technical incentives that are needed to encourage sustainable land use in reform processes.

## OUTPUTS:

- Background paper on forest and land tenure highlighting the importance, challenges, governmental and international approaches, and fracture lines of the issue;
- Co-chairs' summary report of the 2018 Scoping Dialogue on Forest and Land Tenure.

**PROCESS TO DATE:** TFD convened a scoping dialogue in New Haven, USA in February 2018, and is planning a future field dialogue in Indonesia.

# LAND-USE DIALOGUES (LUD) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Along with its partners, TFD has developed the LUD to address specific landscape challenges in key high risk geographies around the world. TFD's role in this initiative is as an engagement platform to gather knowledge and lead processes to enable responsible business, improved governance, and inclusive development in landscapes at risk.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Despite renewed emphasis on a landscape approach, there are few examples of successful implementation. Landscape initiatives have difficulty in engaging the private sector in particular, with private-sector stakeholders participating in less than 10% of African and 22% of Latin American landscape initiatives. Governments increasingly seek solutions to optimize land-use decision-making, while civil society seeks regular and collaborative engagement processes to discuss challenges that extend across individual organizational priorities and geographic regions.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Create an ongoing platform for engagement among all stakeholders in a specific landscape that will develop solutions to implement, test and reevaluate impact;
- Support policy making, and development assistance programming and implementation;
- Resolve conflicts and creation of new partnerships between and within the forest, agriculture and other sectors that have stakes in the identified landscape;
- Encourage global commodity supply chain initiatives, and support improved land use governance;
- Develop local ideas and activity plans for sustainable development to enable implementation of international initiatives and commitments.

## OUTPUTS:

- Global partnership to address land-use issues;
- Establishment of several landscape-specific platforms;
- Research and publications that describe actions and recommendations for ongoing engagement;
- Private sector commitments to reduce deforestation.

**PROCESS TO DATE:** TFD and their partners convened the following LUD's to date: scoping LUD in Santa Catarina, Brazil in April 2016; scoping LUD in Iringa, Tanzania in November 2016 with a second in June 2017; and an LUD in Wassa Amenfi, Ghana. In 2019, LUD's have also been held for Agoro Agu, Uganda; Kilombero, Tanzania; DRC; and Mole National Park, Ghana.

**GOING FORWARD:** TFD will continue to support ongoing LUD's and anticipate launching new LUD's in Myanmar and Brazil.

# TREE PLANTATIONS IN THE LANDSCAPE (TPL)

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** TFD's TPL initiative builds upon TFD's previous IMPF Initiative (2005-2008) to explore the evolving state of issues related to tree plantations and planted forests within the larger landscape context through engaging key stakeholders at the international, national, and local levels.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Planted forests, including tree plantations established for wood production, continue to grow in both extent and significance. Tree plantations currently provide a third of the world's industrial wood, a proportion expected to increase significantly in coming decades. They also have great potential to deliver environmental services and social benefits. However, many aspects of tree plantations have been and remain controversial, with concerns that associated environmental and social costs often outweigh economic and other benefits.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Explore the identified priority topics, including: Plantation forests in the context of the global development agenda; Design/implementation of plantation forests through the landscape approach; Approaches to enable good governance and inclusive development; Identifying key externalities; and Diversification of the composition of plantation forests;
- Establish specific, practical, context-dependent ways forward on these priority issues;
- Link to and share learnings from related initiatives, inform and connect key audiences and influence policy and practice.

## OUTPUTS:

- Background papers and summaries for each dialogue in the Initiative; *TFD Review* outlining the conclusions and recommendations from the full Initiative;
- Press conferences coordinated with local media outlets, targeted outreach via social media to opinion-shapers, news articles reporting out on key messages, edited videos to be posted on TFD and partner websites, and webinars on the subject of TPL and on the dialogue concept.

**PROCESS TO DATE:** TFD convened a scoping dialogue in Durban, South Africa in September 2015; and field dialogue's in Temuco, Chile in April 2016, Porto Seguro, Brazil in March 2018, and Rotorua, New Zealand in October 2018.

# UNDERSTANDING DEFORESTATION-FREE (UDF) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Develop a common understanding of key definitions, targets and workable approaches for developing and effectively implementing deforestation-free commitments.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Various definitions, starting dates, implementation methodologies, and systems for verifying progress have created confusion and delay for actors trying to realize deforestation-free pledges and frustration for those promoting and tracking movement toward meeting deforestation-free targets.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Explore commonly held views on what is meant by ‘deforestation-free’;
- Identify risks and opportunities associated with implementing deforestation-free policies;
- Establish specific, practical ways forward on key issues, and ensure preparedness to pursue them.

## OUTPUTS:

- Background papers and summaries for each dialogue in the Initiative; *TFD Review* outlining the conclusions and recommendations from the full Initiative;
- Press conferences coordinated with local media outlets, targeted outreach via social media to opinion-shapers, news articles reporting out on key messages, edited videos to be posted on TFD and partner websites, and webinars on the subject of UDF and on the dialogue concept.

**PROCESS TO DATE:** TFD convened a scoping dialogue in New Haven, USA in October 2014, a field dialogue in Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia in April 2015, and a field dialogue in Mouila, Gabon in October 2017.

## **The Forests Dialogue**

360 Prospect Street  
New Haven, Connecticut 06511 USA

+1 203 432 5966  
[www.theforestsdialogue.org](http://www.theforestsdialogue.org)  
[info@theforestsdialogue.org](mailto:info@theforestsdialogue.org)

 *Follow us on Twitter: [@forestsdialogue](https://twitter.com/forestsdialogue)*

 *Like us on Facebook: [The Forests Dialogue](https://www.facebook.com/TheForestsDialogue)*

 *Follow us on Instagram: [@forestsdialogue](https://www.instagram.com/forestsdialogue)*

