



The Forests Dialogue

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Scoping Dialogue on Intensively Managed Planted Forests — Phase 2

4–5 September, 2015 | Durban, South Africa
Co-Chairs' Summary Report

By Peter Kanowski, André Guimarães, Antti Marjokorpi, Milagre Nuvunga

The following collaborators provided additional support for this dialogue:



TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2015

Lennart Ackzell
Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners

Chris Buss
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Joji Cariño
Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)

Gary Dunning
The Forests Dialogue (TFD)

Jeannette Gurung
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

Chris Knight
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Skip Krasny
Kimberly-Clark

Eduardo Mansur
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Antti Marjokorpi
Stora Enso

Ivone Namikawa
Klabin

Cécile Ndjebet
African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

Milagre Nuvunga
Micaia Foundation—Mozambique

Ren Peng
Global Environmental Institute—China

Miriam Prochnow
Apremavi—Brazil

Dominic Walubengo
Forest Action Network—Kenya

INTRODUCTION

The Forests Dialogue convened a Scoping Dialogue on the topic of Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPF) on 4-5 September 2015. Its purpose was to:

- ▶ Explore progress made on IMPF since 2008, in the context of the recommendations of TFD's 1st IMPF initiative¹;
- ▶ Explore the changes in the global context of IMPF and their implications;
- ▶ Identify current 'fracture lines' and work to build a shared understanding of drivers, and a shared vision of, and best practices for, IMPF.

Some 25 participants (Annex 1) representing civil society organisations, forestry companies, NGOs and research organisations joined the Scoping Dialogue. It was co-chaired by André Guimarães (IPAM – Amazonian Research Institute) Peter Kanowski (Australian National University), Antti Marjokorpi (Stora Enso), and Milagre Nuvunga (Micaia Foundation). This Co-Chairs' Summary outlines the conduct of the Dialogue and reports its results.

BACKGROUND

TFD convened its first dialogue stream on Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPF) between 2005 and 2008. The stream was initiated by a Scoping Dialogue informed by a Background Paper², included three field dialogues (China, Indonesia, and Brazil), and was concluded with a TFD Review³. The Review identified "factors of critical importance" to successful IMPF projects and practice, and made recommendations for improving IMPF policy and practice⁴.

The global extent of planted forests, including IMPF, and their contribution to global wood supply, have continued to increase since 2008⁵. There have also been many

developments relevant to IMPF: a number of global reviews of IMPF have been published in the academic and civil society literature, a number of other initiatives have explored issues relevant to IMPF, and statements of principle and guidelines have been published⁶.

These and other relevant information were summarized in the Background Paper prepared for this Scoping Dialogue⁷. The Background Paper also presented results of a survey of IMPF stakeholders conducted by TFD in the first part of 2015:

http://theforestdialogue.org/sites/default/files/tfd_impf2_background_paper_24aug15.pdf

AGENDA

The Scoping Dialogue was conducted over two days, and comprised four sessions. It began with participant introductions, and presentation of and responses to the Background Paper. In the second session, breakout groups discussed and identified priority topics for any future dialogue. The third and fourth sessions were conducted in plenary; in these, participants discussed and agreed on a set of priority topics, based on a proposal from the Co-Chairs that consolidated the priorities identified by the breakout groups. They also discussed other initiatives and work already underway in relation to IMPF, and how any TFD initiative might complement them.

PARTICIPANTS' PERSPECTIVES AND REACTIONS TO BACKGROUND PAPER

Initial comments from participants, and their reactions to the Background Paper, reiterated and amplified many of the issues and themes identified in the Paper. Participants noted, for example, the importance of discussing IMPF in the contexts of both global megatrends and drivers, and of local realities; the emerging contexts of deforestation-free and climate change commitments; the evident variation in levels of performance of IMPF businesses, and in the success of plantation forests meeting development needs; the continuing challenges faced by many smallholder and family tree growers, and in developing co-production and benefit-sharing models that met the expectations of all partners; the importance of a landscape context and approach, and of the restoration of degraded landscapes; the continuing concerns of many civil society actors about the environmental and social performance of plantation forests, and the overemphasis on exotic monoculture production systems compared with those based on a diversity of native species; and the emergence and prospect of new technologies and wood-based products.

Participants agreed that the Background Paper adequately covered the background relevant to discussions, other than not emphasizing sufficiently the importance of exploring models of development to which planted forests contributed. There were some concerns about the small size and potential bias of survey responses, and requests for further analysis of the survey to illuminate any bias that might be present in the current presentation of results⁸. There were also concerns that the focus and title of the Scoping Dialogue was too narrow, and should encompass "plantation forests" more generally⁹.



Co-Chair Peter Kanowski presents the results of the background paper

PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER DIALOGUE

Participants discussed and agreed a set of five priority topic areas (**Box 1**) for any future dialogue about 'IMPF'; there was general agreement that any such dialogue should be broader in scope than only IMPF, and extend at least to “plantation forests”¹⁰; and that dialogue should be framed in the context of the contributions of various forms of planted forests to development objectives.



Luis Neves Silva

BOX 1 - PRIORITY TOPIC AREAS FOR ANY FUTURE DIALOGUE ABOUT PLANTATION FORESTS¹¹

1. **Plantation forests in the context of the global development agenda** (as represented, for example, by the Sustainable Development Goals¹²) and megatrends, and in the contexts of development at multiple scales, from global to local. This topic would also include consideration of:

- ▶ the definition and scope of plantation forests and 'IMPF', and associated data and reporting issues;
- ▶ articulation of a shared vision for the roles of plantation forests.

2. **The design and implementation of plantation forests in the context of a landscape approach**, and at different scales and geographies. This topic includes consideration of approaches to landscape-scale integration of forestry and agriculture, and of meeting multiple demands from and through sustainable productive landscapes. It also includes exploration of the contribution of plantation forests and planted trees of other forms to landscape restoration¹³.

3. **Approaches to enable good governance and inclusive development**, including (but not limited to):

- ▶ recognition of rights holders¹⁴ in decision processes;
- ▶ implementation of the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent;
- ▶ exploration of how different models of plantation forest development can act as models for inclusive development and locally-controlled forestry¹⁵;
- ▶ exploration of the complementary and synergistic roles of key actor groups (e.g. governments, financiers, businesses, consumers);
- ▶ promoting of the flow of information between stakeholders and across scales.

4. **Identifying key externalities associated with the development and management of plantation forests**, from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders; identifying gaps in knowledge; and considering the net impacts and externalities of plantation forestry as key decision criteria. This topic would also consider the definition and assessment of environmental and social services associated with models of plantation forestry, and how they might be monitored.

5. **The diversification of the forms and species composition of plantation forests, the sustainability of plantation forestry systems, and access to and use of new technologies.**



Sarah Price and Co-Chair Milagre Nuvunga in a small group discussion



Dominic Walubengo

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

After agreeing on the priority topics for future dialogue, participants shared their experiences of activities and work that was underway or planned in other initiatives relevant to plantation forests, as the basis for identifying how any future TFD initiative might best complement and – where appropriate – support them. These activities included the reviews of plantation forest certification standards planned by both forest certification schemes, the workplan of the New Generations Plantations Platform, national-level activities such as the Brazilian Forest Dialogue¹⁶, company – NGO partnerships such as that between Mondi and WWF on resilient landscapes, civil society-led initiatives such as the South African Water Caucus, and the possibilities for further South-South learning (e.g. between Brazil and South Africa).

This discussion identified five principles for a future TFD initiative on plantation forests; these are listed in **Box 2**.

BOX 2 - PRINCIPLES FOR A FUTURE TFD INITIATIVE ON PLANTATION FORESTS

1. Identify a niche for TFD that complements other international processes (e.g. IUFRO, NGPP). In this context, TFD is seen to have a key role as a global network and a mechanism for linking between global, 'regional', national and local levels.
2. TFD initiative should both harvest and share learnings and best practices from related processes and activities; both those conducted by TFD (e.g. Investing in Locally Controlled Forestry or Understanding Deforestation-Free dialogues) and by other institutions. These learnings should inform the design and conduct of future TFD plantation dialogues.
3. TFD should catalyse and support regional and national-level dialogue processes (e.g. the Brazilian Forest Dialogue¹⁷).
4. Any TFD initiative should develop alliances, broaden reach, and be implemented in collaboration with partners to avoid duplication, and capitalise on synergies.
5. Progress a dialogue initiative through field dialogues that address the 5 priority topic areas (Box 1) jointly, in recognition of their interconnectedness, noting that field dialogue locations could be chosen to emphasize different topic areas; and, as with all TFD initiatives, focus on realities and not only 'best cases'.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, participants agreed that a TFD dialogue initiative that was based on these principles, and that focused on the topic areas identified in Box 1, was likely to be worthwhile. They reiterated that any dialogue should not assume that plantation forests were appropriate in a particular development or landscape context, but explore how various models and forms of plantation forestry could contribute to development and other objectives in those particular contexts.



Co-Chair André Guimarães

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPANT LIST

Lennart Ackzell	Federation of Swedish Family Forest Owners
Anna Bolin	International Institute for Environment and Development
Gary Dunning	The Forests Dialogue
David Everard	Sappi
Peter Gardiner	Mondi
André Guimarães	Amazonian Research Institute (IPAM)
John Hontelez	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
Uta Jungermann	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
Peter Kanowski	Australia National University (ANU)
Timo Lehesvirta	UPM
Petri Lehtonen	INDUFOR
Antti Marjokorpi	Stora Enso
Mike May	Suzano
Ivone Namikawa	Klabin
Sara Namirembe	World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
Cecille Ndjebet	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)
Luis Neves Silva	New Generation Plantations (WWF)
Milagre Nuvunga	MICAIA Foundation
Philp Owens	Geosphere
Sarah Price	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
Augusto Robert Schwerter	CMPC Forestal
Carlos Roxo	Fibria
Rodney Schmidt	Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)
Andrew St. Ledger	Woodland League
Rodney Taylor	WWF International
Roberto Waack	Amata
Dominic Walubengo	Forest Action Network (FAN)



Anna Bolin



Co-Chair Antti Marjokorpi



Andrew St. Ledger

ENDNOTES

1. Kanowski, P & Murray, H (Lead Authors). 2008. TFD review: intensively-managed planted forests. www.theforestdialogue.org/publication/tfd-review-intensively-managed-planted-forests
2. Kanowski, P. 2005. Intensively managed planted forests. Background paper for The Forests Dialogue. www.theforestdialogue.org/publication/intensively-managed-planted-forests-0
3. Kanowski & Murray. 2008. TFD review
4. Kanowski & Murray. 2008. TFD review, Ch 6.
5. Payn, T. et al. 2015. Changes in planted forests and future global implications. *Forest Ecology and Management* 352(C): 57–67.
6. See Kanowski, P. 2015. Background Paper, TFD IMPF2 Scoping Dialogue.
7. www.theforestdialogue.org/dialogue/scoping-dialogue-intensively-managed-planted-forests-2
8. Kanowski. 2015. Ibid
9. These will be reported separately to participants and addressed in any subsequent publication of results.
10. Noting that there are both imprecise and contested definitional issues; the intended scope would approximate that of “productive plantation forests” used by FAO – see www.fao.org/forestry/plantedforests/67504/en/.
11. As for Footnote 9
12. The term “plantation forests” is used here in the terms, and for the reasons, already described.
13. See: www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015
14. Participants noted that there should also be exploration of definitions associated with concepts of restoration. IUCN, for example, describes forest landscape restoration as a process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well being in deforested or degraded forest landscapes. www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/fp_our_work/fp_our_work_thematic/fp_our_work_flr/
15. In TFD processes, these are usually characterized as Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and smallholders
16. Participants noted in this context the outcomes of TFD’s Investing in Locally-Controlled Forestry Dialogue, and of similar initiatives; and the particular interests of smallholders, women, youth, and small-to-medium enterprises.
17. www.dialogoflorestal.org.br
18. www.dialogoflorestal.org.br