



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

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Dialogue on Intensively Managed Planted Forests in Brazil

From 13-17 April 2008, The Forests Dialogue (TFD) will convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue in Vitória, Brazil with associated field visits near Vitória and to Mucuri. This dialogue is a continuation of TFD's initiative on Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPFs). The objective of IMPF initiative is to identify the conditions under which IMPFs can deliver an optimal and equitable mix of economic, social and environmental benefits, both locally and globally. The Brazil dialogue is a follow-on to earlier IMPF dialogues in Switzerland, China and Indonesia. Specifically, the dialogue in Brazil aims to expand the group's understanding of trends, opportunities and challenges of IMPF development in Brazil and globally.

Summaries of previous TFD dialogues on IMPFs can be found at:

www.theforestsdialogue.org/ifm.html

Dates Sunday 13th - Thursday 17th April 2008

Location Vitória (Espírito Santo), Brazil

Overview

The shift from natural forest management to IMPFs is one of the most important trends impacting sustainable forest management today. IMPFs contribute one-third of the world's industrial wood and fiber supply. Continuing technological change and increasing global demand for forest products are projected to favor IMPFs over alternative forest resources in the future. Given these trends, the challenge is to optimize the social and environmental benefits of IMPFs while maintaining their competitive advantage and profitability.

IMPFs in Brazil

With a landbase of 851 million hectares, Brazil has the second highest forest cover in the world (after Russia) – 483 hectares – 61% of the South American forest cover. The most deforested of the biomes is the Atlantic Forest, stretching along Brazil's coast, which has lost about 90% of its forest cover due to development in this area.

In 2005, Brazil marked 100 years of eucalyptus culture. This is associated with a regulatory apparatus for the forest sector that developed in the 1920's and 1930's. It is clear that IMPFs have been important in the development of the country. Other prominent legislation that has benefited the sector include the "Code of Forests", created in 1965, and the National Forestry Program implemented in 2000, as a means of "promoting sustainable development, with simultaneous ecosystem

exploitation and conservation.” It is important to note that during the 1970’s there was a big expansion of IMPFs in Brazil due to fiscal incentives that lasted until the 1980’s.

The forest sector in Brazil increased the country’s GDP by 3.5% in 2005. The sector includes cellulose production, paper, processed timber, furniture, charcoal, and non-timber forest products. In that same year, 4.6% of the value of Brazil’s exports was attributed to timber based products. Cellulose from eucalyptus and pine MDF are the most important of the products in this sector in terms of value. Brazil’s Institute of Statistics and Geography Studies (IBGE) states that timber production from planted forests increased from 52% in 2002, to 65% in 2003 and then 68.4% in 2005 of total timber production. In 2005, 0.65% or 5.6 million hectares were planted forests in Brazil. These numbers are expected to rise as the value of timber in the global market grows.

Despite the increase in the production of timber extracted from IMPFs in Brazil, a series of social conflicts have risen in the country with timber harvesting companies facing both indigenous communities and the landless workers movement. The expansion of eucalyptus plantations has clashed with the livelihoods of local communities and the interests of groups seeking land reform. These conflicts have been going on since the 1960’s and the Federal Government has been seeking solutions, having designated indigenous land and expropriated land for land reform. However, it seems that solutions will only come up as the parties continue to engage themselves in intense dialogue.

The conflicts are not only limited to the social dimension of IMPFs. Environmental groups and Brazilian academia have been discussing the impacts of eucalyptus plantations. Some of them condemn the plantations claiming they cause the depletion of the water resources where they are implemented, thus affecting the balance of the whole biodiversity in place. The opposite view claims that besides the fact that forest plantations’ impacts over the environment are lower than those of agriculture and cattle ranching, forest plantations represent only about 0.7% of Brazil’s territory.

Objectives

While the objectives of the Brazil dialogue are similar to the overall objectives of the preceding dialogues, this dialogue will place more emphasis on learning about the social conflicts surrounding timber plantations as well as issues related to the modern production technology utilized in the country.

The objectives are to:

- ➔ Learn about current and future plans for planted forests in Brazil;
- ➔ Understand the context in which those plans are implemented as well as the competition for land use with other sectors of the country’s society;
- ➔ Raise awareness about the unique issues presented by IMPFs in Brazil;
- ➔ Review and solicit input on systems of best management practices in the context of their implementation in Brazil, with consideration of lessons learned from experience to date;
- ➔ Explore social aspects such as tenure, property rights and environmental concerns related to large-scale plantations and balancing supply and demand drivers of major investment projects in Brazil;

- ➔ Explore the use of technology to improve IMPF development as well as biodiversity preservation in core habitats.

The Brazil dialogue will also expand on the themes that arose in the China and Indonesia dialogues including:

- a) Use of best practices models to guide IMPF development strategies, build partnerships, encourage government towards more progressive and enabling frameworks, and identify and replicate best practices to allow newly-developing countries to leapfrog ahead in technology;
- b) Creation of a common standard for reporting to facilitate independent analysis of company performance and practices, create transparency, help level the playing field, and strengthen partnerships between NGOs and businesses;
- c) Participation of additional sectors (particularly banking and finance) to promote the progress of equitable, sustainable, and competitive IMPF management, reduce poverty in remote rural areas, and create conditions that favor forests and forestry as a profitable engine of sustainable development.

The engagement of local actors in the dialogue and the exchange of experiences amongst stakeholders are key to the understanding of community involvement in IMPFs and biodiversity conservation in Brazil. The dialogue will provide an opportunity for the participants to learn and discuss about existing social conflicts related to IMPFs and about other economic activities performed by local communities that are related to IMPFs.

Expected Outcomes

- ➔ Refined understanding on IMPFs, by comparing the Brazilian experience, current context and potential IMPFs development to those of the previous visited countries;
- ➔ Contribute to the working group's collective learning and knowledge on the ongoing development of best management practice systems in Brazil and its sustainable development framework for IMPFs.

Format and Content

Two days of field visits will immediately precede the dialogue. The trips will be to Aracruz Celulose managed land, in the State of Espírito Santos, and Suzano Papel e Celulose, in the State of Bahia. Participants will not only learn about these companies and the technologies of IMPFs utilized by them, but also will learn about related social conflicts and have contact with local communities. Two days of dialogue will follow in Vitória to review what we saw and discuss its local and global implications.

Preliminary Itinerary

13 April Arrive in Vitória, Espírito Santo
Opening dinner at 8:00 pm

- 14 April* Trip to Aracruz Celulose
Visit Nursery, Harvesting operations and Agroforestry site
Fly to Mucuri, Bahia
Visit Suzano Papel e Celulose, Fomentados and Native Forest
Overnight in Mucuri
- 15 April* Meeting with local communities and stakeholders on charcoal production social and environmental impacts
Fly to Aracruz, Espírito Santo
Meet with local indigenous communities
Bus back to Vitória
- 16 April* Dialogue from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
- 17 April* Dialogue from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Adjourn at 4:00 pm

Outputs

Following the dialogue, a summary of the outcomes will be distributed broadly.

Participants

Approximately 45 invited individuals will participate in the Brazil IMPF dialogue. Participants include leaders from environmental and social NGOs, forest owners, forest products industry, retailers, researchers, intergovernmental organizations, investors, academics, and government authorities.

Although there is no fee for participation, participants are expected to cover their own travel-related expenses. Those invited participants who are unable to do so should contact the TFD Secretariat immediately to discuss options for support. (info@theforestdialogue.org).

Planning and Organization

A small group composed by TFD Steering Committee Members and local partners is working to carry out the Brazil IMPF dialogue. They include Carlos Roxo (Aracruz Celulose), James Griffiths (WBCSD), Stewart Maginnis (IUCN), Gerhard Dieterle (World Bank), Luiz Cornacchioni (Suzano) with Gary Dunning (TFD's Secretariat). The Instituto BioAtlântica (IBio) through André Guimarães and Beto Mesquita is partnering with TFD to provide local coordination and support.

More Information

For further information about The Forests Dialogue and presentations and publications related to previous IMPF meetings, please visit our website at www.theforestdialogue.org or send an e-mail to info@theforestdialogue.org.