

THE
FORESTS
DIALOGUE

ENGAGE! EXPLORE! CHANGE!



OUR PROCESS

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.

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

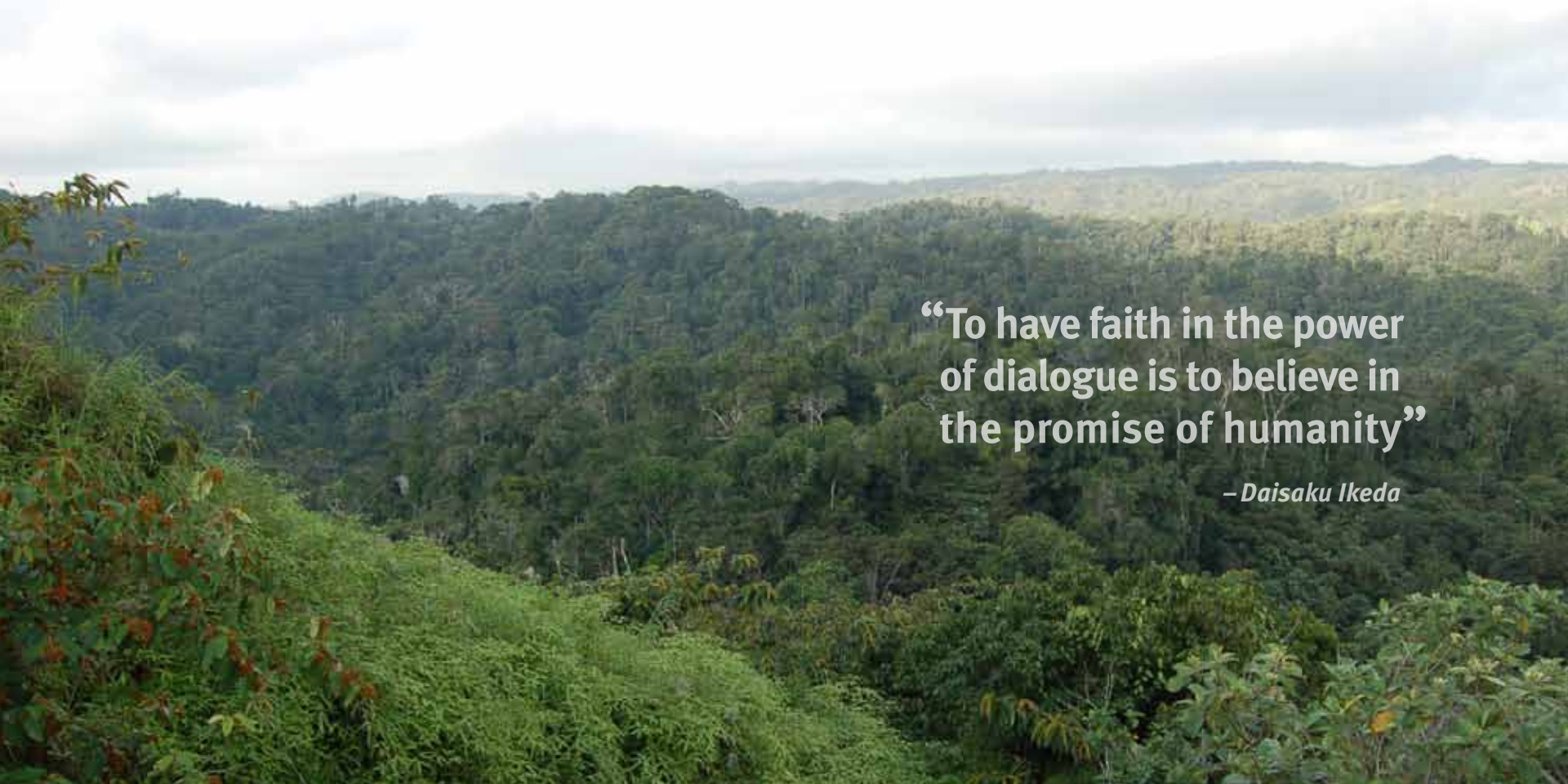
THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF TFD are designed to confront a broad and evolving landscape of global forest issues.

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



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.



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.





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



TFD STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2022

ANA BASTOS

Amata – Brazil

CHRIS BUSS

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – Switzerland

KERRY CESAREO

WWF – United States

MARCUS COLCHESTER

Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) – United Kingdom

MINNIE DEGAWAN

Conservation International – Philippines

GARY DUNNING

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) – United States

ARA ERICKSON

Weyerhaeuser – United States

JOSÉ CARLOS FONSECA

Ibá - Indústria Brasileira de Árvores – Brazil

DAVID GANZ

RECOFTC – Thailand

PAULA GUIMARÃES

The Navigator Company – Portugal

PAUL HARTMAN

The World Bank – United States

VICTOR LOPEZ

Ford Foundation – Mexico

ANTTI MARJOKORPI

Stora Enso – Finland

IVONE NAMIKAWA *TFD Co-Leader*

Klabin – Brazil

CÉCILE NDJEBET

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

MILAGRE NUVUNGA *TFD Co-Leader*

MICAIA Foundation – Mozambique

SAMI OKSA

UPM – Finland

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

CAROLINA TOAPANTA

Ceiba – Ecuador

MARK WISHNIE

BTG Pactual – United States

OVERVIEW OF TFD'S INITIATIVES IN 2022

BIOENERGY FROM FORESTS (BEF): The Bioenergy from Forests (BEF) initiative explores the use of bioenergy as a possible natural climate solution in the transition away from fossil fuel use. The initiative will explore the potential drawbacks and benefits (environmental, social, and climate) of bioenergy from forest use and explore concerns, opportunities, and variations across forest geographies in the US.

CLIMATE POSITIVE FOREST PRODUCTS (CPFP): Research indicates that climate-positive forest products have the potential to deliver massive climate change mitigation benefits when substituted for traditional resource-intensive inputs under specific conditions and with appropriate safeguards. The pressing need to respond swiftly and decisively to climate change creates both pressure and opportunity to explore the potential around climate-positive forest products. Despite growing interest, there is disagreement amongst stakeholders across the forest sector, academia, and climate mitigation policy field amongst other around the impacts increasing demand for climate-positive forest products might have on forests. Using mass timber construction materials as an entry point, the Initiative aims to build understanding and agreement amongst stakeholders around the opportunities, challenges, and knowledge gaps related to utilizing forest products as a climate change mitigation tool.

FIRE AND FORESTS: Large-scale wildfires take place in many forest biomes and have major impacts on life, property and infrastructure, forest industries, and forest ecosystem services. The Fire and Forests Initiative seeks to engage fire users, fire-impacted communities, and sectors contributing to the complex and interacting reasons for large-scale fires, to contribute to long-term conversation and solution for fire risks. The multi-stakeholder dialogues facilitated by TFD will foster interaction between stakeholders whose knowledge sharing and coordinated response are urgently needed to manage the increasing risks of fires in the era of climate change.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE (F+C): Forests and trees have long been central in approaches to mitigating climate change. Calls to limit warming to 1.5 degrees are growing and collective and rapid action is required to address climate change on a scale and with the urgency that reflects the magnitude of the threat. However, open questions, new concerns and conflicting views on how to unlock the potential of trees and forests exist and will continue to surface. Scaling nature-based solutions to a level where it generates the necessary climate impact will require transformation at local and landscape levels that must be inclusive and socially just to enable lasting solutions. TFD's F+C initiative seeks to build alignment and agreement on how forest-based solutions can more significantly and effectively contribute to addressing climate change, establish clarity regarding trade-offs, and ensure the deployment of nature-based solutions are inclusive and socially just. F+C compliments TFD's ongoing CPFP initiative and builds on TFD's long history of forest and climate-related work that includes initiatives on deforestation-free commitments, REDD+, and forest product utilization (Food, Fuel, Fiber, and Forests).

OVERVIEW OF TFD'S INITIATIVES IN 2022

LAND-USE DIALOGUES (LUD): The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) initiative supports multi-stakeholder learning and decision making around key socio-environmental and ecological issues at the landscape level. The LUD approach is designed to support multi-stakeholder processes for collaborative, adaptive, land management across sectors. Rather than orchestrating a single dialogue focused on a specific issue, the LUD approach supports the implementation of a long-term process, led by landscape actors, based in a culture of dialogue and collaborative decision-making to enable responsible business, improve governance, and mobilize inclusive development.

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.

WATER INITIATIVE: Effective water conservation requires understanding environmental, social and economic dynamics at the landscape level and then sharing these learnings with a global audience of stakeholders. Beyond water's critical role in maintaining health, sanitation and hygiene globally, the availability and quality of water affects global supply chains in agriculture, forestry and non-bioeconomy industries. Considering a growing global demand for forest products, this initiative is proposed as a means to engage local, national and international stakeholders to generate greater understanding and collaboration around the issues impacting water conservation in the context of forest plantations and the potential role for forest plantations as a nature-based solution to water scarcity and climate change.

BIOENERGY FROM FORESTS (BEF) INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE GOAL: Using the 2016 Scoping Dialogue on Sustainable Wood Energy as an entry point, the Initiative aims to build understanding and agreement amongst stakeholders around the opportunities, challenges, and knowledge gaps related to utilizing forest biomass as a climate change mitigation tool.

THE CHALLENGE: *Energy generated from the combustion of wood and wood wastes or biofuels derived from wood, which is called bioenergy from forests, has been heralded by some as a promising renewable energy source. Yet others raise concerns over negative impacts on the environment and human health and potential increases in green-house gas emissions. Though the environmental footprint of bioenergy from forests has been the subject of substantial analysis and engagement by academic researchers, private sector stakeholders, NGOs, and government entities, disagreement remains about the ultimate environmental, climate, and economic impacts of biomass combustion.*

OBJECTIVES:

- Build a collective understanding of stakeholder perspectives, concerns and priorities related to scaling up bioenergy from forests to mitigate climate change;
- Identify areas of agreement and disagreement, and knowledge and research gaps;
- Build trust across stakeholder groups and foster collaboration through learning from one another and a synthesis of current scientific knowledge on the topic;
- Co-create an actionable plan that presents a path forward and will mobilize stakeholder networks.

OUTPUTS:

- Background papers on the baseline understanding of the current state of knowledge and potential gaps;
- Analysis of localized and landscape-level effects experienced under proposed guidelines or accounting frameworks at different levels of biomass use;
- Four Co-Chair Summaries of the Scoping Dialogue and field dialogues capturing major discussions, synthesizing learnings, and identifying actionable steps generated with broad stakeholder agreement;
- TFD review publication synthesizing dialogue learnings and recommendations;
- Policy paper(s) to inform decision makers about key considerations regarding the use of bioenergy from forests as a strategy to mitigation climate change.

PROCESS TO DATE: TFD will be launching the BEF initiative soon and is currently working to bring together a committee of advisors to coordinate and convene a U.S. focused Scoping Dialogue in the near future.

CLIMATE POSITIVE FOREST PRODUCTS (CPFP)

INITIATIVE GOAL: Using 'Mass Timber' construction materials as an entry point, the CPFP Initiative aims to build understanding and agreement amongst stakeholders around the opportunities, challenges, and knowledge gaps related to utilizing forest products as a climate change mitigation tool.

THE CHALLENGE: *Buildings currently account for 39% of global GHG emissions, and of that the emissions associated with the material used in construction (building embodied carbon), accounts for 28% of this sector. GHG emissions will increase as current estimates show that global building stock is expected to double by 2050. Research indicates that climate positive forest products have the potential to deliver significant climate change mitigation benefits when substituted for traditional resource-intensive inputs under specific conditions and with sustainable sourcing. This could include mass timber construction materials if specific conditions are adopted and met. Despite the promising potential, disagreements remain on key aspects and knowledge gaps persist - especially when it comes to the impacts and unintended consequences an increase in demand for mass timber materials may have on forests and human communities.*

OBJECTIVES:

- **Build a collective understanding** of stakeholder perspectives and concerns; knowledge and research gaps; and priorities related to using 'mass timber' construction practices to mitigate climate change; and identify areas of disagreement and agreement, especially as these issues relate to forests;
- **Foster collaboration** across stakeholders that care about the mass timber value chain, allowing forest owners, timber producers, policy makers, NGOs, and architects/developers to learn from one another and a synthesis of the current scientific knowledge on the topic;
- **Co-create an actionable** plan that presents a path forward and will mobilize stakeholder networks.

OUTPUTS:

- Background paper that synthesizes best available research and includes relevant information on the barriers to adoption, conflicting view points, and opportunities related to scaling up mass timber construction as a potential climate solution;
- Co-Chairs' Summary Report with major themes, decisions, and actions discussed during the Scoping Dialogue;
- Yale Forests Forum speaker series featuring stakeholders and key themes from the CPFP Scoping Dialogue

PROCESS TO DATE: TFD launched the initiative in 2020 and convened a virtual Scoping Dialogue in April 2021.

GOING FORWARD: TFD will continue supporting stakeholders to drive action and share knowledge identified in the Scoping Dialogue. TFD and partners are also exploring opportunities for CPFP field dialogues in key regions including Europe and Brazil.

FIRE AND FORESTS INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE GOAL: The Fire and Forests Initiative seeks to engage fire users, fire-impacted communities, and sectors contributing to the complex and interacting reasons for large-scale fires, to contribute to long-term conversation and solution for fire risks. The multi-stakeholder dialogues facilitated by TFD will foster interaction between stakeholders whose knowledge sharing and coordinated response are urgently needed to manage the increasing risks of fires in the era of climate change. .

THE CHALLENGE:

Large-scale wildfires take place in many forest biomes and have major impacts on life, property and infrastructure, forest industries, and forest ecosystem services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and water quality and yield. While fire can be a natural occurrence and a management tool, climate change and other factors are driving catastrophic fires in areas not adapted to fire and with increased intensity that threaten communities and are difficult to suppress. Managing risks of extreme fires requires coordinated responses across sectors and sharing of learning across regions. However, currently, there are limited opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogues at regional and international levels.

OBJECTIVES:

- Foster engagement across the full spectrum of sectors and stakeholders on the issues of wildfire risks, risk management and responses;
- Develop a sound understanding of the short, medium, and long term factors and influences contributing to wildfire risk;
- Identify lessons learned from effective actions to reduce the fire risks and increase the resilience of forested landscapes and people to wildfires;
- Enable sharing of challenges and lessons learned under various fire regimes and social and biophysical conditions.

GOING FORWARD: Collaborating with local partners, TFD will convene a series of region-specific roundtable discussions surrounding challenges and issues about forest and fire in a specific region. These discussions will feed into the Fire Management Forum at the World Forestry Congress in Seoul in May, 2022.

FORESTS AND CLIMATE (F+C) INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE GOAL: The F+C initiative seeks to build alignment and agreement on how forest-based solutions can more significantly and effectively contribute to addressing the climate change crisis. Stakeholders will share perspectives, information, and work towards establishing understanding around the key topics and themes that need to be addressed to move forward. TFD will facilitate stakeholder dialogues to foster more rapid exchange and interaction between stakeholders while actively focusing on recognized challenges & conflict issues to help accelerate climate action with nature-based solutions.

THE CHALLENGE: *The importance of forests and trees in mitigating climate change has long been a pillar in climate negotiations and continues to be central in emissions reduction commitments from private, national, and subnational actors to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Well-managed forests and trees offer massive climate mitigation potential through (i) protection and enhancement of forest carbon sinks and sequestration, (ii) large-scale restoration and reforestation, and (iii) increased sustainable use of wood and fiber as natural, renewable materials within a bio-based circular economy. Collective and rapid action is required to address climate change on a scale and with urgency that reflects the magnitude of the threat. However, open questions, long standing debates, new concerns and conflicting views on how to unlock the potential of trees and forests exist and will continue to surface. Further, this action must be inclusive and socially just to enable lasting solutions. It will require broad agreement*

OBJECTIVES:

- **Support the deployment of nature-based solutions** in a way that (1) leads to optimal outcomes for climate and nature, (2) respects the rights of, and ensure benefits for, Indigenous peoples and local communities, and (3) avoids unintended consequences on the livelihoods of local people, human health, ecosystems or economies;
- **Enable emerging initiatives and first-movers** to receive diverse stakeholder inputs and feedback to inform, de-risk, and refine approaches to delivering forest-related climate action;
- **Explore divergent stakeholder views or knowledge gaps** on issues and topics that are holding back progress in the deployment of forest-related climate action.

GOING FORWARD: Building from a COP26 Nature Zone event organized in partnership with WBCSD, IUCN, EIT Climate-KIC, and WEF, TFD will convene a series of roundtable discussions with leading actors to create a broader view of the diverse actions and ideas emerging amongst stakeholders in the forest sector. Meetings will identify opportunities to scale-up actions and collaborate, as well as challenges or approaches that need more reflection and debate.

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 to support engagement processes to gather knowledge and mobilize actions to enable responsible business, improved governance, and inclusive development in landscapes at risk. The global initiative and community of practice is coordinated by The Forests Dialogue and implemented by partners at regional, national, and landscape levels.

THE CHALLENGE: *Despite renewed emphasis on landscape approaches for multi-sectoral environmental decision-making, there remains a need for tested methods for engaging stakeholders to mobilize innovative collaborations, build trust, and learn across sectoral and disciplinary silos. 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 include marginalized peoples and discuss challenges that extend across individual organizational priorities and geographic regions.*

OBJECTIVES:

- Create an ongoing process 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 LUDs 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, LUDs were held in Agoro Agu, Uganda; Kilombero, Tanzania; Mangai, DRC; Mole Landscape, Ghana; and Endemism Center of Belem, Brazil. In 2020 the LUD Bahia was launched in Brazil.

GOING FORWARD: TFD will continue to support ongoing LUDs and anticipate launching new LUDs in Indonesia, Mozambique, and additional Brazilian landscapes including São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Espírito Santo.

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.

WATER INITIATIVE

INITIATIVE GOAL: TFD's Water initiative aims to engage local, national and international stakeholders to generate greater understanding and collaboration around the issues impacting water conservation in the context of managed forests, for example the challenges and opportunities of forest plantations as a nature-based solution to water scarcity and climate change.

THE CHALLENGE: *The relationship between forestry and its effects on water resources can be complicated. For example, the loss of natural forest may increase water yields in the short term while decreasing water quality and quantity in the long term. Furthermore, forests impact hydrology and the water cycle not only within a watershed but also in distant locations. Understanding the hydrological effects of changes in land use, forest management practices, and water use for industrial purposes is critical to determining sustainability of the forest-based economy.*

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify 'fracture lines', discuss challenges, and explore opportunities;
- Identify areas of agreement and disagreement, and knowledge and research gaps;
- Facilitate collaboration and mutual trust across stakeholder groups, allowing for unique partnerships and collaborative research to foster engagement in dialogues around water and managed forests at the international, national and landscape level;
- identify potential initiatives that respond to priority challenges within water conservation in the global context of the forest-based economy;
- Build a network of forest and water stakeholders.

OUTPUTS:

- Dialogues that catalyze constructive engagement with water issues;
- Initiative reports exploring the relation of water and managed forests, particularly forest plantations in key geographies;
- Understanding of the role of adaptive management of forests for industry and water conservation in the context of climate change globally;
- Mapping the connections between water conservation and the other strategies discussed within TFD to maximize opportunities that cut across initiatives.

PROCESS TO DATE: Forming an Advisory Group to lead a Scoping Dialogue in preparation for Field Dialogues in 2022.

The Forests Dialogue

360 Prospect Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511 USA

+1 203 432 5966
www.theforestsdialogue.org
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)*

