



# THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

## TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2008

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## Dialogue on Forests and Climate Change

24-25 June 2008 – Gland, Switzerland

### Co-Chairs' Summary Report

Stewart Maginnis, James Griffiths, Gerhard Dieterle, Roberto Smeraldi

On 24-25 June 2008 in Gland, Switzerland, The Forests Dialogue convened the second full dialogue under its Forests and Climate Change (FCC) initiative. This dialogue was hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It was preceded by a scoping dialogue held in conjunction with the UNFCCC COP 13 in Bali, Indonesia on 9 December 2007 and by the first full dialogue under this initiative in Washington DC on 1-2 April 2008. Reports and additional information on TFD can be found at [www.theforestsdialogue.org/climate.html](http://www.theforestsdialogue.org/climate.html).

The objectives of the Gland Dialogue were to develop, through multi-stakeholder discussions, key messages for a Global Forest Leaders Statement and establish a roadmap on forests and climate issues to the UNFCCC COP 15 (December 2009, Copenhagen).

The Gland Dialogue reconfirmed that there is an urgent need to find common ground, or a common voice, for forest stakeholders to influence the global climate agenda. The participants in Gland developed 6 core key messages aimed at informing climate negotiators, governments, investors and donors, and the media on the key forest and climate priorities from a prominent group of forest leaders.

### Overview of TFD's Forests and Climate Change Initiative

The forests and climate change related issues have been discussed by TFD's Steering Committee for some time. TFD's Forests and Climate Change (FCC) Initiative was finally catalyzed by the opportunity to convene a small, expert group of forest leaders in Bali in conjunction with CoP 13. TFD wanted to gauge the concern of forest stakeholders over the potential positive and negative impacts on global forests by the current tenor of negotiations over the next international framework agreement on climate. During the TFD Dialogue in Bali, participants supported the idea that the TFD could provide an effective and timely platform for forest stakeholders (the broad forest community) to collectively develop a roadmap for the comprehensive treatment of forests within international climate negotiations over the next two years.

The central premise of TFD's FCC Initiative is that forests have the potential to play a key role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, but climate-related decisions are being made outside the forest sector with little reference to sustainable forest management (SFM), governance and rights. As the collective

forest community has many voices, tends to be reactive and lacks substantial political leverage, there is a risk that SFM will be overtaken by the climate agenda with a singular carbon focus. Forest stakeholders were worried that this could undermine the substantial progress made over several decades toward a more people-centered, multiple-use forest management and conservation paradigm.

The objectives of the FCC initiative are therefore to:

- ➔ Identify ways in which stakeholders can work together to influence forest and climate policy frameworks and decisions that affect the broader forest community;
- ➔ Identify current fracture lines and tension that have emerged between stakeholders;
- ➔ Use a forest leader's statement to influence the forest related components of the global climate agenda.

### **Background to the Forest Leaders Statement**

The key recommendation that came out of the Bali Dialogue was to create a Forest Leaders Statement, as a communication tool for dialogue and discussion with climate negotiators and other interested climate stakeholders. The DC Dialogue confirmed a common cause for concern on how negotiators might handle forests i.e. by solely focusing on carbon or deforestation, and participants began the process to develop key messages on areas of stakeholder agreement as well as identify points of disagreement.

During the previous dialogues, participants agreed that the Forest Leaders Statement should be a compelling and clear communication tool, have several simple core messages, be reflective of the common views of a broad base of forest stakeholders on areas of agreement and disagreement (i.e. the forest community "voice"), be responsive to the post-Bali UNFCCC agenda, timetable and language, be based on the TFD process and inputs, and leverage existing and emerging forest stakeholder statements, positions and processes.

After the DC Dialogue in April 2008, the dialogue's Co-Chairs developed a draft key messages document, based on the inputs gathered through the multi-stakeholder dialogue process. This draft was then reviewed by the TFD Steering Committee and provided as a "discussion starter" for the Gland Dialogue.

### **The Gland Dialogue**

#### *Presentations*

At the previous dialogues, it was noted by the participants that there was a gap in representation by indigenous peoples, forest communities and small forest landowners. Therefore, the Gland dialogue featured presentations and planned interventions by several representatives of these communities.

The presentations highlighted the following key issues for the indigenous peoples:

- ➔ Securing land rights and recognizing traditional knowledge pre-requisites to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- ➔ Economic benefits need to accrue to rights holders and carbon rights need to be clarified.
- ➔ The Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) principle needs to be operationalized



Anita Tzec

- ➔ Indigenous peoples are under-represented and their role in forest and climate negotiations is unclear
- ➔ Not enough attention has been given to forest governance issues. New money for forest carbon could reinforce the old exclusionary model or could provide an opportunity to reinforce forest governance reform processes.
- ➔ Food security is a major climate issue affecting indigenous peoples

Representatives of small forest landowners and managers, including both family landowners and community foresters, highlighted the following:



Julia Marton-Lefevre

- ➔ Decision makers must “talk with” not “talk to” those who own and manage forests.
- ➔ SFM is a pre-requisite to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- ➔ Forests have to be economically viable to be preserved by landowners and product substitution is important.
- ➔ Community forestry may considerably impact deforestation and forest degradation.
- ➔ Those who manage forests are effectively being excluded by technical complications, so procedures should be kept simple.
- ➔ What is a source can become a sink and vice versa, so the time perspective is important.



Kanyinke Sena

#### *Key Messages Development Process*

The draft key messages document, based on inputs from the DC dialogue, was presented to participants by the TFD Co-Chairs. The presented version included a disclaimer, preamble, introduction, and five key messages. The participants discussed the version in open plenary and were then asked to consider it in more detail through breakout groups. The first series of breakouts were divided by forest stakeholder groups. All groups were asked to determine if there was broad agreement on the “big ideas” contain in the document and if there was disagreement, what edits if any could address the issues, and what other big ideas needed to be in the statement? All of the breakout groups prepared and presented summaries. The groups, in general, supported the 5 key messages with a few additions and edits suggested. There were also more general comments made, such as the need to keep the document simple, concise and targeted to a specific audience. All breakout group summary reports can be found on TFD’s website at [www.theforestdialogue.org/climate.html](http://www.theforestdialogue.org/climate.html).



Antti Sahi

The input from the groups was incorporated by the co-chairs in the evening and a revised version presented in plenary the following morning. The participants were then again split into breakout groups, this time based on their own interest in certain key messages, other sections of the document such as the preamble and conclusion or lingering questions from the plenary including the need for definitions for key terms or the need for background papers to support the various themes.



Co-Chair James Griffiths

After much hard work, debate and learning, the participants agreed upon the following **6 Key Messages** that would form the core of the Forest Leaders Statement:

- 1. Take a coherent approach to the forest and land-use related elements of future climate arrangements;*
- 2. Recognize and address the barriers to transparent, inclusive, and accountable forest governance;*
- 3. Support, respect and enhance local processes that clarify and strengthen tenure, property and carbon rights, with particular attention to indigenous peoples, forest communities, small forest owners, and their cultures, traditional knowledge systems and territories.*
- 4. Support balanced approaches for both mitigation AND adaptation strategies in both forest rich AND forest poor countries.*
- 5. Direct and prioritize substantial additional funds over the next four years to enable countries, communities, forest managers and owners to build their capacity for effective participation in initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.*
- 6. Recognize and address the main international and national drivers of deforestation which lie outside the forest sector.*

The working groups also added a Process Preamble, Context, explanatory paragraphs for the Key Messages, Recommended Related Actions and a Conclusion section. The current version of the Forest Leaders Statement can be found at [www.theforestsdialogue.org/climate.html](http://www.theforestsdialogue.org/climate.html)

Participants agreed that the audience of the statement should be broadened to include negotiators, governments, parliamentarians, investors and donors, and the media. It was also advised that the Forest Leaders Statement should be understandable by all interested parties. Later, different versions of the document could be tailored to different groups or audiences.

It further recommended that short briefing papers be written that would provide more background and information on the 6 key messages from the Forest Leaders Statement. These briefing papers should aim to bring everyone up to speed on key themes of the forest and climate debate, what has been achieved so far, what works, what are the lessons learned and risks, and what should be done

With these final inputs and the concluding remarks from Julia Marton-Lefevre, Director General of IUCN, the dialogue was adjourned.

### **Next Steps for TFD Forests and Climate Initiative**

Immediately following the Gland dialogue, the Co-Chairs will further refine the Forest Leaders Statement by filling-in where necessary and editing for readability. The Statement will then be presented and discussed at the planned Global Forest Leaders Forum to be co-convened and hosted by The World Bank with TFD in Washington DC on 16-17 September 2008.

This will be followed by media release at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain in October 2008. The Statement will be further disseminated at COP 14 in Poznan, Poland and other appropriate venues and events. It was proposed that TFD's FCC initiative coordinate three policy field tours throughout 2009 in East Asia, West Africa and Latin America.

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