



The Forests Dialogue

ENGAGE. EXPLORE. CHANGE.

Field-Dialogue on Tree Plantations in the Landscape (TPL)

7 – 11 March 2016 | Concepción and Nahuelbuta, Chile

Partners



About the Initiative

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 on TFD's previous IMPF Initiative, conducted from 2005-2008.

Why TPL? Why Chile?

The TPL Chile field dialogue is the first of a series of TFD field dialogues that, through following established TFD processes, will seek to engage key stakeholder groups at international, national and local levels. Chile is one of the major forestry nations of Latin America. Of the 16.1 million hectares of forest in Chile, 84.4% are natural forests, and the rest are tree plantations of pine and eucalyptus.ⁱ In 2007, Chile's forestry sector exported 4952 million dollars' worth of pulp and timber. A few internationally competitive forest companies own the majority (80%) of plantation area in the country. In terms of industrial plantations, Chile is ranked second in Latin America, with 78% of plantation surface area consisting of pine plantations.ⁱⁱ

At the end of 2009, after the announcement by two major Chilean forestry companies of their intention to proceed with FSC certification, a group of civil society organizations saw within this process a great opportunity for change and initiated a participatory process among forest sector actors. In this initial meeting, which led to the formation of the Chilean Forests Dialogue, various aspects related to the forestry plantation model were identified as a basis for the creation of a sustainable long-term strategy for the development of the sector.ⁱⁱⁱ

Three key themes that emerged from that first meeting were the certification of major forestry companies, the FSC certification process and forestry model being practiced in Chile. In this context, Chilean forest actors concluded that there was a need for a space for effective dialogue to touch on themes that negatively affect the quality of life of people living in areas affected by forest management in order to generate concrete consensus among actors. There is a need for new forms of conversation to achieve socio-environmental governance practices that allow Chilean forest actors to overcome challenges in the national forestry sector.

What does TFD bring to the topic of Tree Plantations in the Landscape?

A number of initiatives focused on planted forests and tree plantations have emerged since 2000, including:

- FAO's thematic studies of planted forests, 2002-2007, leading to the publication of FAO's *Statement of Principles for Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management*^{iv};
- TFD's *Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPF)* initiative, 2005-2008, leading to the publication of a *TFD Review*^v, and related TFD initiatives on deforestation-free supply chains, genetically-modified trees, landscapes and locally-controlled forestry^{vi};
- the *New Generation Plantations Platform (NGPP)*^{vii}, established in 2007;
- the 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests, 2013^{viii};
- various civil society initiatives, such as those facilitated by the Forest Peoples Programme, Global Justice Ecology Project, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, and the World Rainforest Movement^{ix}.

TFD's TPL initiative draws from and connects to these initiatives, without being repetitive or duplicative. In order to complement and support existing processes in the sector, the TFD TPL initiative has been developed to:

1. Identify a niche for TFD that complements other international processes;
2. Harvest and share learnings and best practices from related processes;
3. Catalyze and support regional and national level processes;
4. Develop alliances, broaden reach and be implemented in collaboration with partners to avoid duplication; and,
5. Progress dialogue through field dialogues that address the TPL Initiative's five key topic areas (see below).

TFD provides a unique forum in which to complement existing initiatives through providing a neutral platform for dialogue. As no single organization dominates the dialogue process, diverse stakeholders feel welcome and empowered, leading to outcomes that are made durable by the sense of ownership shared by all participants. A dialogue is only as valuable as the breadth and depth of those actors who participate, and TFD's process ensures broad participation that enables strong uptake of dialogue outcomes. TFD's dialogue process seeks to include local and national companies, NGOs, and civil society organizations. The TFD website provides information on past dialogues (<http://theforestdialogue.org>).

What is the focus of the Chile Dialogue? How does it fit into the bigger picture?

The Chile Dialogue is the first in a series of field dialogues that will apply the learnings from an initial scoping dialogue (<http://theforestdialogue.org/dialogue/scoping-dialogue-intensively-managed-planted-forests-2>)—held in September, 2015 in Durban, South Africa—to particular geographic contexts. The TPL Field Dialogue in Chile has the objective of addressing the following 5 key priority topic areas identified during the TPL Initiative Scoping Dialogue within the Chilean context. These 5 key priority topic areas are:

1. Plantation forests in the context of the global development agenda (as represented, for example, by the Sustainable Development Goals) & 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 & geographies. This topic includes consideration of approaches to landscape-scale integration of forestry & 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 restoration.
3. Approaches to enable good governance and inclusive development, including (but not limited to):
 - recognition of rights holders 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 forestry;
 - 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.

Process, Dates, Location

This multi-stakeholder field dialogue will convene approximately 20 international and 30 Chilean experts from **7-10 March in Concepción and Nahuelbuta, Chile**. Participants will spend two days at field sites in Nahuelbuta. Possible field sites are being evaluated by TFD's local partner, the Chilean Forests Dialogue. Building on the site visits and on a background paper (described below), dialogue participants will take part in a two-day facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue, using both plenary and small working group formats to work through the challenges and opportunities facing landscapes with tree plantations, both in Chile and internationally.

Our Partners

The Chilean Forests Dialogue is the primary partner and local host for the Chile Dialogue. Other partners include the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Australian National University (ANU).

Outputs

1. A background paper will be commissioned prior to the field dialogue to provide participants with a baseline understanding of the concept and context of tree plantations in Chilean landscapes, and to present ideas to stimulate discussion. It will give an overview of key issues related to tree plantations in Chilean landscapes, as well as pertinent government policies, and will discuss key challenges. The paper will be finalized and made publicly available after the dialogue.
2. The dialogue co-chairs will prepare an official report summarizing participants' experiences during the site visits and the discussions during the dialogue. The summary report will be distributed widely, and key findings will be presented to priority stakeholders in Chile.
3. Other communications-related outputs will include press conferences before and after the dialogue coordinated with local media outlets, targeted outreach via social media to opinion-shapers, and one or more news articles to be published online immediately following the dialogue in regional and international outlets that will report out on key messages.

Looking Ahead

At the national level, the field dialogue will strengthen the stakeholder network created by the Chilean Forests Dialogue to support policy initiatives relevant to tree plantations in the landscape. Local communities, in particular, will be empowered to play an active, leading role.

Internationally, findings from the Chilean field dialogue will provide case information that can inform the design and implementation of policies related to tree plantations in other landscapes around the world. This field dialogue will be the first in a planned series under TFD's multi-year TPL Initiative. Findings from the dialogue will help frame field dialogues being planned in Africa and Asia. A wrap-up meeting will synthesize learnings, create consensus recommendations, and develop a concrete action plan with partners.

ⁱ FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2010. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al477S/al477S.pdf>

ⁱⁱ FAO. Socioeconomic Trends and Outlook in Latin America. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/J2459E/j2459e12.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ Diálogo Nacional Forestal. <http://www.dialogoforestal.cl/que-es-el-dialogo/>

^{iv} FAO. 2010. *Planted forests in sustainable forest management. A statement of principles.*

www.fao.org/forestry/plantedforests

^v Kanowski, P & Murray, H (Lead Authors). 2008. *TFD Review: intensively-managed planted forests.*

<http://theforestdialogue.org/publication/tfd-review-intensively-managed-planted-forests>

^{vi} <http://theforestdialogue.org/initiatives/4Fs>; <http://theforestdialogue.org/initiatives/GMT>;

<http://theforestdialogue.org/initiatives/ILCF>; <http://theforestdialogue.org/initiative/understanding-deforestation-free-udf>

^{vii} <http://newgenerationplantations.org>

^{viii} http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/past_events/2013/icpf/

^{ix} <http://www.forestpeoples.org>, <http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/planted-forests/>,

<http://globaljusticeecology.org>, <http://wrm.org.uy>