



NINTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING FAO HQ, Rome, 10 - 11 February 2010

MINUTES

The Ninth Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the National Forest Programme Facility (NFP Facility) took place at the FAO Headquarters in Rome on February 10 and 11, 2010. As in past years, the SC meeting was organized back-to-back with the meeting of the PROFOR Advisory Board (on February 8 and 9, 2010). In between the PROFOR and SC meetings, the NFP Facility Donor meeting ("Friends of the Facility") was held on February 9 (in the afternoon). After the NFP Facility SC, the third Reference Group meeting of the Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) took place (on February 11 in the afternoon and on February 12).

Ten of the eleven members of the SC participated in the meeting (Mr. Campbell could not make it due to other commitments and Mr. Hudson participated in the Donor meeting and was replaced by Mr. Aho in the SC meeting). The list of participants and observers at the SC meeting, as well as FAO and NFP Facility staff present, is provided in Annex I.

Following a welcome address by the Chair, including a special welcome to the new SC members, the following issues were presented and discussed (for the Detailed Meeting Agenda see Annex II).

2009 Progress Report

The brief presentations focused on (i) reflections and challenges ahead, (ii) results and conclusions from OIMES, (iii) Country Support, including the "Nfp's for All" capacity building initiative, (iv) Information Services, focused on the new Web platform, and finally, (v) the 2009 budget implementation and funding situation at the end of the year. In addition, various presentations on the nfp progress around the world were made by Facility coaches.

Conclusions of the discussion:

On the nfp platform:

- Took note of the difficulties met in many partner countries to establish and maintain the nfp process and stakeholder committee as "the" platform for forest and forest-related policy issues (including initiatives like REDD, FLEGT, VPA, FCPF, CBFP, NLBI, etc).
- Appreciated that 50% of the National Stakeholder Steering Committees (NMSC) function well.
- Noted that the original programme target of 60 active and sustainable nfp processes by mid 2012 has been maintained and proposed that emphasis now be placed on consolidation of existing active processes, and on strengthening those country processes operating as "NFP Facility projects" in order to reach the target. Reiterated that NFP Facility support to countries is not just about forestry, but also about governance in general and the move towards democratisation.
- Discussed what a sustainable nfp process would mean and agreed that the NFP Facility supports the creation of stakeholder platforms that would become the "normal way of working," leading to more efficient policies and policy implementation.
- Proposed that a re-grouping of the country list according to performance be made for the next SC meeting.

- Appreciated that value has been added to the nfp processes by the GFP support in Guatemala and Liberia, particularly regarding participation of marginalized groups and their access to financing.
- Highly appreciated the presence and enriching and well-informed presentations of the Facility coaches.

On the Information Services:

- Welcomed the ongoing revision of thematic areas supported by the NFP Facility, the analysis of changes occurring over time and the comparisons being made between regions and sub-regions.
- Proposed the clearer inclusion of gender issues and the possibility of including a new indicator in OIMES to that effect.
- Welcomed the increased focus on south to south cooperation on capacity building and experience sharing and proposed that more emphasis be given to the establishment of regional networks so as to learn from the well-functioning country processes.
- Congratulated the Information Services Team for their achievements and work done on the Information Management System, including the FORIS database, and on the new and user-friendly website which provides easy access to activity details by country.
- Provided the following comments about the website:
 - Take care using acronyms on the website;
 - Display the NMSC members for each partner country;
 - Make a list available of all institutions receiving NFP Facility support;
 - Display all of the nfp matrices for countries (not just the most recent ones);
 - Add "Become a Donor" to the website;
 - Consider making the good country project proposals that have not been selected by the NMSC for NFP Facility funding available for other donors.
- Welcomed the on-going collaboration with PROFOR on the dissemination of the Poverty – Forests Linkages Toolkit and the Forest Connect project.
- Welcomed the implementation of Training of Trainers (ToT) on participation and conflict management and the use of "south to south" knowledge and experience sharing as an important strategy.

On the budget:

- Noted that the budget for 2009 was implemented at 86%; that the country support was 1 million higher than in 2008 and that the programme delivery cost was 24% of total expenditures.
- Noted that the 2009 level of country support as well as programme delivery are believed to correspond to the present recipient capacity of the NFP Facility partner countries.
- Welcomed the continued support provided for the development of National Forest Financing Strategies (NFFS) and requested that the NFP Facility be prepared to scale up the support, including the south to south experience sharing, in case demand from countries increases.
- Welcomed the encouraging financial situation, but emphasized the need to seek new commitments from existing and new donors for the period up to mid 2012.
- Welcomed the willingness from EC and UK to accept requests for new agreements under the present programme period and the positive indications for continued annual contributions from most of the donors present.
- Noted that WB Development Grant NFP Facility (DGF) support for the implementation of GFP would continue for 2010 and 2011, but not beyond.
- Appreciated the considerable and increased in-kind support from FAO during 2009.

The SC members approved the draft 2009 Progress Report.

Second country partnership agreement applications

Brief presentations were given by the NFP Facility Manager on (i) evaluation criteria, (ii) key activities proposed, and (iii) evaluation process and ranking with respect to countries applying for a second agreement.

Conclusions of the discussion:

- Approved to enter into a second partnership agreement with Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan and the Central American organisation ACICAFOC. With respect to Nicaragua and Sudan, prior consent should be sought from the EU delegations in those countries.
- Approved to allow countries to apply for a second agreement during the whole of 2010. Evaluations, based on existing criteria, will be conducted by the NFP Facility Team and the result, along with a two page summary of the application, will be sent to the SC members for consensus approval as they are received and processed.
- Emphasized the importance of introducing OIMES, linking up with other ongoing initiatives and supporting cross-sector integration when launching the 2nd agreements.

Proposed Workplan and Budget, 2010

Brief presentations covered (i) overall considerations for the planning, including the funding situation, (ii) Country Support, (iii) Information Services, including knowledge and experience sharing initiatives, (iv) Programme Delivery, and (v) Budget proposal for 2010.

Conclusions of the discussion:

- Reconfirmed the 2009 SC decision that the NFP Facility should continue operation in 70 partner countries and with 4 regional partners through mid 2012, focusing on consolidation of active and functioning processes and strengthening of the weaker "project set-up" NFP Facility processes.
- Discussed the possibility of a special "ad hoc" approach for Haiti and other countries in similar emergency situations.
- Agreed to the strategic direction of not undertaking any further coaching efforts in the 10 countries presently not active.
- Emphasized that the present strategy, of providing NFP Facility support based on country demand, should be maintained, and any increased focus on cross-cutting issues, communication or financing has to be manoeuvred within existing donor agreements.
- Emphasized the need to study and learn from well established nfp platforms, to share the learning between countries and to more proactively facilitate the establishment of inter- and intra-sector linkages, in particular with regards to climate change actors and the financing sector.
- Requested that the NFP Facility consider implementing a special training for members of the NMSC on "the role of the nfp as a platform."
- Proposed that the experience and learning from the GFP cooperation, in terms of value added, be documented and presented at the next SC.
- Noted the urgent need for improving the communication skills of forest administrations and other direct stakeholders and welcomed the initiative on the need for reform of Forest Education.
- Welcomed the cooperation with Agricord and the Finnish and Swedish Forest Owners Associations in support of the establishment of Smallholder Forest Producer Associations in the south.
- Welcomed the NFP Facility planned presence at the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions and COFO in 2010 and at the UNFF9 in January 2011, and proposed that the NFP Facility should make an effort to also be present in non-forestry events, like the World Agricultural Forum.

- Welcomed the continued in-kind support from Germany on the new publication "Implementing nfps".
- Noted with satisfaction the commitment of FAO for continued substantial in-kind support.
- Welcomed the positive indications made by most of the present donors of continued support, including the possibility of new long-term agreements with EC and UK.
- Approved the 2010 workplan and budget as proposed, and entrusted the NFP Facility management with a high degree of flexibility to respond to increased demands from countries on the development of, in particular, National Forest Financing Strategies.

NFP Facility beyond 2012

The NFP Facility Manager presented the considerations for the future as developed over time by the NFP Facility Team.

Conclusions of the discussion:

- Expressed support, in general, for a continuation of the NFP Facility beyond 2012 and for making use of the established operational structure.
- Looked forward to the outcome of the EC evaluation planned to be undertaken during the first half of 2010.
- Proposed that the role of FAO, including budgetary support, with respect to the continuation of the NFP Facility be raised and discussed at the next COFO meeting in October 2010.
- Emphasized that the NFP Facility should not try to solve or work on all forest related issues and reiterated the need for the NFP Facility to focus on what it is good at ("the niche"): to facilitate the establishment of stakeholder platforms as a normal way of working (a sustainable process) leading to better policy decisions on forestry related issues.
- Recognized the importance of the NFP Facility in delivering services and small grants at the local level.
- Identified Financing, Communication, Climate change and NLBI implementation as areas to be further explored.
- Requested the NFP Facility Management to document their proposal for a continuation beyond 2012, to be presented and discussed at the next Donor and SC meetings.

NFP Facility Governance

The Chair presented briefly the issues to be discussed: (i) SC memberships, and (ii) date and place for next meeting.

Conclusions of the discussion:

- Noted that the present SC would remain with its present members until mid 2012.
- Decided that the Tenth Steering Committee meeting will be held during the week 21 – 25 of February 2011.
- Decided that the meeting in 2011 will be held in a NFP Facility partner country. Michael Peters offered South Africa and Ronnie de Camino proposed CATIE, Costa Rica, to host the next SC meeting. Based on written affirmation of both offers and a comparative analysis of costs and administrative issues (visa requirements, etc.), a final decision will be made by NFP Facility Management.

Concluding the meeting, the Chair thanked the SC members for their engaged contributions to the meeting and the NFP Facility Team for their excellent work, for arranging the logistics and for organising the meeting.

Annex I: List of participants

Members of the Steering Committee Participating in its ninth Meeting (Rome, 10 - 11 February 2010)

| NAME | REPRESENTATION | POSITION |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Godwin Kowero | Africa | Executive Secretary, African Forestry Forum, Kenya |
| Ronnie de Camino Velozo | Latin America | Sub-Director General, CATIE, Costa Rica |
| Hooi Chiew Thang (Chairperson) | Asia | International Forestry Consultant |
| Michael Peter | Private Sector | Executive Director, Forestry South Africa, South Africa |
| Doris Capistrano | Research | Visiting Professor, Wageningen University, Netherlands |
| Emelia Arthur | Non Governmental Organization | Forest Watch, Ghana |
| Frank Jacobs | Donor | European Commission, EuropeAid Co-operation Office, Belgium |
| Markku Aho (replacement for John Hudson) | Donor | Counsellor, Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland |
| Peter Dewees | World Bank | PROFOR Manager, The World Bank, Washington, USA |
| Michael Martin | FAO | Director, Forest Economics & Policy Division, Italy |

Observers to the Steering Committee

| NAME | REPRESENTATION | POSITION |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Evy von Pfeil | Germany | GTZ International Forest Policy / Senior Forest Policy Advisor, West Africa Region based in Accra |
| Matthias Schwoerer | Germany | Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection |
| Ueli Maudeli | Switzerland | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| Antje van Driel | The Netherlands | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Herman Savenije | The Netherlands | Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality |
| Mikaela Nilsson Rosander | Sweden | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| Jan McAlpine | UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Secretariat, New York, USA |
| Catalina Santamaria | UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Secretariat, New York, USA |
| Eva Muller | FAO | Forest Policy and Economics Team, Rome |
| Jerker Thunberg | NFP Facility | Manager, FAO, Rome |
| Johan Lejeune | NFP Facility | Senior Operations Officer, FAO, Rome |

NFP Facility and FAO staff present at the Steering Committee

| NAME | POSITION |
|--------------------------|---|
| Marco Boscolo | Financing Strategies, based at FAO HQ |
| Ignacio Bustos | Coach South America, based in Colombia |
| Michael Chihambakwe | Coach Southern Africa, based in South Africa |
| Claus Eckelmann | Coach Caribbean, based in Barbados |
| Xiaojie Fan | Coach Asia, based in Thailand |
| Marguerite France-Lanord | Information Services & Communication, based at FAO HQ |
| Zoraya Gonzales | Administration Team, based at FAO HQ |
| Sophie Grouwels | Coach and Coordinator GFP, based at FAO HQ |
| Ulrika Haggmark | Facility Admin Team, based at FAO HQ |
| Fred Kafeero | Coach East Africa, based at FAO HQ |
| Arvydas Lebedys | Coach Central Asia, based at FAO HQ |
| Quiang Ma | Coach Near East, based at FAO HQ |
| Daniela Mercuri | Administration Team, based at FAO HQ |
| Luca Paolini | Information Services, based at FAO HQ |
| Marco Perri | Information Services, based at FAO HQ |
| Ewald Rametsteiner | Forest Policy and Economics Team, based at FAO HQ |
| Laura Schweitzer | Information Services, based at FAO HQ |
| Atse Yapi | Coach West Africa, based in Ghana |
| Jhony Zapata | Coach Central America, based at FAO HQ |

Annex II: DRAFT AGENDA

Ninth Steering Committee

Rome, Italy

FAO, Pakistan Room (A-127)

10-11 February 2010

| Wednesday 10 February 2010 | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Time | |
| 09:00 | Welcome |
| 09:15 | Progress Report 2009, presentation and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Key activities and results- Country Support- Information Services |
| 10:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 11:00 | Financial Aspects, presentation and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budget Implementation- Overall funding situation at the end of 2009 Feedback from the Donor meeting |
| 12:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 14:00 | Continued discussion and approval of Progress Report 2009 |
| 15:00 | Country applications for 2 nd Partnership Agreement <ul style="list-style-type: none">- NFP Facility evaluation and proposal- SC comments and approval |
| 15:30 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 16:00 | Proposed Workplan and Budget 2010, presentation and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overall considerations- Country Support- Information Services- Programme Delivery |
| 17:30 | Closure of the day |
| 19:30 | <i>Dinner, hosted by the NFP Facility</i> |

| Thursday 11 February 2010 | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Time | |
| 09:00 | The NFP Facility beyond 2012, discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evaluation and Horizon Searching |
| 10:15 | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 10:30 | Outstanding issues (SC membership, next meeting etc) AOB |
| 12:15 | Closure of the meeting |
| 12:30 | <i>Lunch</i> |