



**Donor Support Group Meeting
Friends of the Facility
(Rome, Italy, Tuesday 9 February 2010)**

MINUTES

The Donor Support Group (DSG), ("Friends of the Facility"), met on Tuesday February 9, 2010 at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. As in past years, the DSG meeting was organized back-to-back with the meeting of the annual Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Facility.

Present were representatives of the European Commission, FAO, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the World Bank (see **Annex I**). There were also observers from the UNFF and FAO staff/coaches in attendance.

Following the adoption of the agenda (see **Annex II**), the representative of the EC chaired the first part of the meeting and the representative of the UK the second part.

At the beginning of the meeting, it was decided that the EC and Finland (replacing the UK) would represent the donors in the next-day's Facility Steering Committee meeting.

Presentations:

- by the Facility Manager (Mr Jerker Thunberg), focusing (i) on reflections and challenges ahead, (ii) on nfp as a coordination platform, (iii) on forest finance, (iv) on SFM and REDD, (v) on communication and education, and (vi) on the inter- and intra-sectoral linkages;
- by the Facility Manager covering (i) the 2009 Country Support, (ii) the activities of the Information Services team, (iii) budget implementation and funding situation at the end of the year, (iv) Programme Delivery, and (v) the 2010 Workplan and Budget proposal;
- by the Secretariat of the UNFF (Ms Jan McAlpine) on the mandate of the UNFF, the facilitative mechanism on financing and the role the Facility could play in bringing together stakeholders;
- by the Chief of FOEP (Ms Eva Muller) on experiences from NLBI implementation in Ghana, emphasizing that the establishment of nfps is one of the country actions to be undertaken in the NLBI.

Discussed:

- that the Facility 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;
- that Programme Delivery is higher than the figure in the Programme Document 2007-2012 (14%) and that, given the experience, 20% is a more realistic figure;
- that FAO's significant in-kind support is not calculated in the overall programme delivery;
- that the Facility still needs approx. 2 million US\$ to continue its operation as planned through mid 2012;
- the need for an external evaluation before the end of 2010 to justify continued financial support to the Facility; the ToR should be circulated to Donors and SC Members and should include visits to some Partner Countries;
- the need for donors to use the nfp platforms rather than setting up parallel structures to manage and monitor their projects and programmes; the learning from the 35 countries

where the nfp-platform is functioning well, and 25 others where they were only started up, should be used for improving donor coordination;

- that existing nfp platforms, supported by the Facility, could add value to other initiatives, such as FLEGT and REDD;
- that the Facility should continue consolidating the work in the 50% (35) well performing countries and concentrate time and funds to strengthen the nfps in the other 25 countries implementing their nfp as a "project";
- that data required for the policy dialogue is poor in many countries and a pilot to improve this situation will be implemented through a special fund using Swedish expertise;
- the need for the FAO Regular Programme to integrate Facility work related to policy in their advice to partner countries and to support forest financing strategies;
- the need for the Facility to remain strategic in its approach given its rather small amount of funds as compared with other donor supported programmes in partner countries;
- that the Facility should use the abbreviation EU, and not EC, in its reports.

On Donor Indications:

- Facility Management is invited to send new requests for funding to the EU and to the UK (DFID) in order to continue operations until 2012;
- Sweden has an ongoing agreement until 2012 and will, in addition, provide in-kind support through Swedish organisations and agencies;
- Finland expressed readiness to continue supporting the Facility at the same level as in 2009; binding funding decisions will be made in the near future;
- Germany will continue as a donor providing in-kind support and will also continue to look for ways to also contribute in cash;
- The Netherlands will continue supporting the Facility through its FMPP programme, if extended, with FAO;
- Switzerland has no current funding available to continue supporting the Facility, but the final decision has yet to be made in Bern;
- The World Bank Development Grant Facility (DGF), in support of the implementation of GFP in Facility partner countries, will continue its funding for 2010 and 2011, but not beyond;
- FAO's considerable in-kind support during 2009 will continue at the same level for the years to come.

On the UNFF presentation:

- the Facility provides an important service to countries in terms of strengthening capacities of governments to coordinate and bring stakeholders together;
- the UNFF would benefit from the experience of the Facility and through further expansion of its support to national forest financing strategies;
- the Facility could play an important role in facilitating access to financing at the national level by making use of its established structure;
- the Facility should work closely with PROFOR, the Global Mechanism and other initiatives on financing.

Conclusions

The donor's main message for the SC meeting the next day was that (i) SFM is still the main agenda for forestry, (ii) keep the nfp support demand driven and country owned, (iii) maintain the strategic focus of the Facility, (iv) enhance coordination at the country level, and (v) mainstream cross-cutting issues, like financing.

It was suggested to include an in-depth review of the NFP Facility in the study "joint mapping exercise" of forest interventions with international organisations. The NFPF review would include up to 5 pilot countries.

The next meeting of the Donor Support Group will tentatively take place in a European country as the SC intends to organise its next meeting in a facility partner country in order to link it to a field visit.

Participants in the Donor Support Meeting

Donors and International Partners

NAME	REPRESENTATION	POSITION
Frank Jacobs	European Commission	Europe Aid Co-operation Office, Brussels, Belgium,
Markku Aho	Finland	Counsellor, Global Environmental Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Helsinki
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
John Hudson	UK	Senior policy Advisor, DFID
Ueli Maudeli	Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Mikaela Nilsson Rosander	Sweden	Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Sida, Stockholm
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
Peter Dewees	World Bank	PROFOR Manager, The World Bank, Washington, USA
Michael Martin	FAO	Director, Forest Economics & Policy Division, Italy

Observers

NAME	REPRESENTATION	POSITION
Hooi Chiew Thang	NFP Facility	Chairperson, Steering Committee
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	Chief, FOEP
Jerker Thunberg	NFP Facility	Manager, FAO, Rome
Johan Lejeune	NFP Facility	Senior Operations Officer, FAO, Rome



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FAO, Rome
Tuesday 9 February 2010

Agenda

Tuesday 9 February 2010	
Time	
14:00	Selection of chair for DSG meeting Welcome and presentation of donors, nfpf team and observers
14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlights 2009 Progress Report (10 min., as full presentation at SC next day) ▪ Round table Q/A. Two donor members in SC collect all observations. ▪ Highlights work plan 2010 (10 min., as full presentation at SC next day) ▪ Round table Q/A. Two donor members in SC collect all observations. ▪ Discussion on possible ways forward, after 2012, for the Facility and the future role and linkages to other international initiatives and partnerships
15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion on forest financing and on how the Facility, PROFOR and UNFF can work together in a complimentary way ▪ Lisbon Treaty – changes with regard to EU Delegations ▪ Presentation NLBI in Ghana ▪ AOB ▪ Conclusions of the Steering Committee ▪ Closure DSG meeting
18:00	Closure