

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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SUMMARY OF THE FIP PILOT COUNTRY MEETING

I have the pleasure to report on the results of the first meeting of pilot countries participating in the forest investment program.

This meeting took place on November 7 – 8 2010. All pilot countries were represented at the meeting. Representatives of all MDBs, the civil society, the private sector and indigenous and local communities also participated in the meeting.

The program aimed at allowing a space for representatives from countries to know each other, exchange views on expectations about the FIP and learn about the modalities and rules of implementation of the FIP.

The following is a summary of main points raised at the meeting:

Pilot countries presented their forestry context and expectations about the FIP. They bring a wide diversity of realities of the forestry sector, with mitigation potentials that cover the full spectrum of REDD+, from reducing deforestation and degradation, forest conservation, forest sustainable management and the enhancement of carbon stocks.

All countries are still at an early stage of planning the FIP; however, the message of readiness to develop investment strategies was clear. Most pilot countries are ready to move beyond analysis into the planning of action on the ground: a number of investment strategies may be ready for endorsement as early as mid 2011.

Countries are relatively well advanced in the preparation of REDD+ strategies as part of their national climate change programs and/or policies. They see FIP resources contributing to established plans where an also relatively clear picture of other sources of funding exists. On this matter, coordination with bilateral, multilateral and other sources of funding will be critical in ensuring effectiveness of FIP investment strategies.

Given progress with advancing the REDD+ agenda, most countries expect to use existing institutions to implement the FIP. In most cases, interministerial arrangements are already in place and funding mechanisms and channels for FIP have already been identified.

There are wide expectations regarding the concrete use of FIP resources, deriving from plans already established at the national level. FIP resources are expected to be devoted to institutional building and capacity, the development of monitoring and reporting frameworks, legal and institutional development and investments in the ground.

The issue of stakeholder participation, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, will be critical in ensuring a transparent and effective implementation of the FIP. Avenues for the participation of these groups were shared at the meeting.

Participants heard views from indigenous peoples and local communities on the design of the grant mechanism. They would like that the design and implementation of this mechanism is lead by these peoples and communities with a view to building their capacity to participate actively in the CIF, in particular in the implementation of programs and projects.

Some concerns were raised at the meeting:

First, on the need to expedite procedures: given progress at the national level on other fronts of REDD+, they would like to see an expedited endorsement of strategies to be able to move into programs and projects as soon as possible. This includes an early availability of grants to prepare investment strategies

On reporting of results, several countries called for a practical and flexible framework which is compatible with the scope of the FIP and with national reporting systems, takes into account national capacities, does not represent as burden for countries, and does not prejudge the type of interventions to be funded under the FIP nor the outcomes of the UNFCCC on MRV.

Countries also noted the need for support on several technical aspects, namely on reporting on results, including linkages between national and sub-national levels; developing baselines and reference levels; and data availability and access.