

Sent by Katie Berg, U.S. Department of Treasury, 4/03/2009

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Subje ct US Comments on the FIP Design Document

Dear All

We thank the Chairs and the Administrative Unit for their work in revising the Design Document and offer the following comments:

1. FIP Programming Processes

It is not clear that the proposed process (paragraphs 24 and 25) is consistent with the FIP goal of transformational impact through a few programs (paragraph 14). We suggest a PPCR-type selection process, in which a short list of countries is invited to submit an expression of interest.

2. Sub-Committee Membership

We recommend that the two representatives each from indigenous peoples, NGOs, and the private sector have the status of active observers, consistent with the practice of other CIF funds.

3. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Dedicated Initiative

In paragraph 31, replace the clause after "inter alia" with "support for clarifying and securing land tenure and natural resource rights and sustainable traditional forest management systems of indigenous peoples and local communities;".

#### 4. Disclosure

We support a high degree of disclosure. In paragraph 27, remove the brackets from the last sentence. In paragraph 28, delete "including the relevant MDB's disclosure policy." Remove the brackets from the last sentence of paragraph 28, and revise to read as follows: Proposed programs and projects will be made publicly available in-country and on the FIP website at the same time as they are submitted to the FIP-SC, with appropriate redaction of sensitive information (such as business confidential information), allowing sufficient time for public review and comment before FIP-SC approval.

#### 5. Information Notes

We appreciate efforts to provide ideas for the development of particular aspects of FIP operations through the information notes. However, we understand that the information notes will not form part of the agreed FIP documentation. We are concerned that comments on, and revision of, these notes creates confusion about the extent to which the language in them is binding on the FIP-SC and request that their status be clarified. If the existing notes are carried forward into the next meeting, we believe that (a) the information note on "FIP Complementarity with FCPF and UN-REDD" requires significant revision as the current version (particularly Section III and Annex I) suggests a more direct link between the FIP and FCPF than we believe was envisioned at the last design meeting; (b) the "Illustrative List of Potential Investments" would benefit from examples of how potential activities can be implemented in a way that is transformational; and (c) the "Engagement of the Private Sector in the FIP" note requires additional work to set forth principles for private sector involvement in a context specific to the FIP.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Best,

Katie Berg  
U.S. Department of the Treasury