

JOHN ROOME
Senior Director
Climate Change

January 17, 2018

Rainforest Foundation UK and Partners

Dear Partners,

I am responding to your joint letter of December 8, 2017 regarding the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), whose work we strongly support.

The World Bank shares your determination to implement transparent, equitable and effective programs for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). FCPF has placed enormous emphasis on an open and participatory approach as part of the partnership spirit in which the initiative was designed. Community and self-selected Indigenous Peoples representatives have been involved in all stages of building the framework for the FCPF and its operations. The FCPF capacity building program for Indigenous Peoples and southern civil society organizations has deepened engagement with these key players in the forest sector. The FCPF also aligns its work with the World Bank's Gender Equality Strategy to ensure women are treated as partners in the design and implementation of REDD+.

We concur that REDD+ readiness is critical for the success of these programs. All emission reductions programs in the pipeline have met stringent readiness criteria endorsed by the FCPF's multi-stakeholder governing body. As part of the FCPF Readiness Fund, nearly 50 countries have established the building blocks of programs through policy and technical work. Forest countries, with the aid of FCPF, have progressed in many areas, including REDD+ management agreements, stakeholder consultations and capacity building, REDD+ strategies, Reference Emissions Levels, social and environmental safeguards, analysis of drivers of deforestation and National Forest Monitoring Systems. These readiness efforts have also supported and informed national institutional and policy frameworks.

Through the Carbon Fund, the FCPF is leading work on methodological issues for results-based payments. The guidance produced on these topics will benefit FCPF countries, but the lessons and knowledge products will resonate beyond that, contributing to the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and countries' capacities to deliver on their Nationally Determined Contributions.

We agree that keeping administrative costs low is important. The Carbon Fund uses a results-based finance model, which means that the bulk of the payments from this fund will go toward payments for verified emission reductions and by design will occur in later years. The majority of upfront disbursements are related to administration and management of the fund. It is forecast that over the full term of the fund, Carbon Fund administrative costs will represent approximately 2% of total disbursements.

The work of the FCPF is helping many countries meet the commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement through more sustainable land use and by supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities who are often at the front lines of climate change. We look forward to continued dialogue and partnership with civil society regarding these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roome".

John Roome
Senior Director, Climate Change
World Bank Group