



Comments on the Work Program for the REDD+ Partnership 2010
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Submitted by: The Nature Conservancy

Overarching Comments:

- We commend the Partnership for laying out an ambitious workplan for 2010 and urge the Partners to move forward in a coordinated fashion together with stakeholders to achieve the plan's objectives.
- While it is useful to create a workplan for 2010 alone, we believe that it may be more efficient and may promote better coordination to create a workplan that encompasses the next three years. This workplan would clearly need to be revisited and revised as conditions change, but having a three-year vision would provide a much clearer picture of what the Partnership ultimately aims to achieve.
- The strategies for stakeholder involvement are not sufficiently elaborated in the workplan. A well-defined process should be established for stakeholder participation in Partnership meetings. For the overall partnership, we recommend a system similar to that used in the Forest Investment Program (FIP). That is, for each of the main constituent groups (civil society, indigenous peoples and business observers), there be appointed 2 observers and 2 alternates. This would amount to four total from each of these observer constituencies, drawing one from each of the three major developing country regions, and one from a developed country member of that constituency. In addition, we have provided specific recommendations for how a broader group of stakeholders could be engaged in each component of the workplan below; the nature of the stakeholder involvement in each component should correspond to the action involved in that work component.
- The workplan does not place sufficient emphasis on establishing processes for ensuring donor coordination and transparency on the provision of timely information regarding availability and use of financial resources. It is very important that the first investments in REDD+ are well targeted and well-spent in order to provide proof-of-concept and build confidence that can leverage future scaled-up investments. Coordination of bilateral and multilateral efforts is needed to avoid duplication of efforts and to promote synergistic investment. The Partnership document agreed upon in Oslo includes the following principle: "Focus on coordinated delivery

of scaled up REDD+ financing, including coordination of international support at the country level, to seek to close gaps, avoid overlaps, and maximize effective delivery of actions and support.” This objective is not adequately reflected in the workplan, though component 4 touches upon it. Therefore, we recommend that work program component 4 be divided into separate components in order to give each element its due consideration. This is further described below.

Work Program Component 1: Database of REDD+ financing, actions, and results

- It is our understanding that this database is currently being designed. Before finalizing the database, we recommend that the secretariat seek input from organizations with expertise in creating interactive databases, and seek sensible synergies with existing database efforts, such as those of the Global Canopy Programme (www.theredddesk.org), the Forest Carbon Portal (www.forestcarbonportal.com), the UNFCCC REDD Web Platform (http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php), and the IGES REDD+ Database (<http://redd-database.iges.or.jp/redd/>).
- The database should, as a principle, include space for sharing as much information as possible. If the database begins narrowly and later seeks to expand, it will be difficult to fill in gaps in early information.
- The database should be designed to minimize potential double-counting. For example, if a donor reports funding certain actions in a host country, those actions should be cross-referenced within the host country report of actions rather than reported separately as two distinct actions.
- The database should accept submissions from a wide range of stakeholders. As an organization with a large portfolio of REDD+ pilot programs around the world, we look forward to contributing to this database.
- A database is only useful to the extent that information is provided and updated in a regular and timely manner. The Partners should commit to a schedule of regular updates and review of the database. Additionally, regular reports should be created summarizing the information in the database. To the extent that these reports are widely socialized, they will provide an incentive for interested parties to provide reliable information.

Work Program Component 2: Analysis of financing gaps and overlaps

- In analyzing financing needs, bottom-up information should be utilized to the extent possible. Top-down, global estimates, while useful, may not fully capture the unique circumstances of each country. Bottom-up information could efficiently be gathered through a professionally-created survey aimed at governments and a broad range of other stakeholders. This survey should build upon the initial effort by Australia, France, and PNG, but include a broader range of stakeholders and include more targeted questions. In formulating the questions, **it may be useful to consult the readiness templates used by the FCPF and UN-REDD, both of which aim to assess the readiness needs in host countries.** These templates could lead to a format for

soliciting information from a broader range of stakeholders, from a broader range of countries, and perhaps covering a broader range of readiness activities.

- The gap analysis will be much more accurate, and therefore useful, if it includes input from as broad a range of stakeholders as possible. This should include not only environment/forestry ministries in national governments, but also other ministries, sub-national government officials, NGOs, indigenous peoples, forest-dependent communities, potential private investors, and other interested parties. This will require some targeted surveying. Additionally, a publicly available online survey in multiple languages may be beneficial, as long as it is structured in such a way as to be easily analyzed and summarized. Finally, an online, public comment period on the draft report may yield additional insights.
- For the 2011-2012 period, the gap analysis should be expanded to analyze gaps in technical and institutional capacity and governance related to REDD+ readiness and implementation.

Work Program Component 3: Discussion on the Effectiveness of Multilateral REDD+ Initiatives

- While an analysis of existing multilateral REDD+ initiatives will be very useful, we also urge the Partners to undertake an independent analysis of their bilateral initiatives as well. Some Partners are already undertaking this effort and we urge others to follow their lead.
- Again, this report will be more accurate if it incorporates views from a broad range of stakeholders with familiarity with the multilateral initiatives.
- In designing and developing our REDD+ demonstration activities, we have found it useful to draw lessons learned from initiatives outside of the forest carbon realm. REDD+ goes far beyond a forest conservation strategy and should be seen as a temporary source of revenue to help a country shift its development pathway toward a low carbon future that does not equate economic growth with deforestation and forest degradation. As such, lessons learned from large-scale rural development efforts can be very valuable. As a future activity, the Partnership should consider an analysis of the effectiveness of such initiatives (some examples include Integrated Rural Development, Integrated Conservation and Development, and the global HIV/AIDS efforts).

Work Program Component 4: Share lessons on our REDD+ initiatives, share best practices, and promote and facilitate cooperation among Partners

- We believe that this component encompasses the most important elements of the Partnership. As such, the current work program does not devote sufficient attention to this component. We recommend that the work program be divided into multiple components to ensure that each element is given its due consideration.
- The component on lesson sharing should seek to establish processes and platforms for Partners and stakeholders to share lessons learned from on the ground experiences. Civil society can provide a wealth of knowledge and experience and should be allowed to play an active role in this component. Participation should be determined based on established expertise in relevant areas. We support the creation of regional networks and communities of practice to achieve this objective.

- The component on promoting cooperation among partners is very important to maximize the impact of this Partnership and is not well developed in the workplan. The workplan identifies the need to establish institutions to better channel finance in host countries. As part of that effort, the Partnership may want to identify best practices of existing national and regional financial platforms and institutional frameworks that are properly functioning for climate change related areas, including development and conservation. In addition to focusing on institutional capacity in host countries, this component should include an effort amongst developed countries to better coordinate their financial support. This can be accomplished through regular meetings of donor countries to discuss financing priorities in advance of domestic funding cycles, regional meetings of implementing agencies to coordinate work on the ground, and/or the creation of regional centers of excellence which can be used to help target funding.
- Finally, a separate component on generating best practices should be established with the primary objective of providing input to the UNFCCC negotiations and multilateral REDD+ institutions, as well as to inform the development of domestic programs and policies. This component should focus on consolidating lessons learned into agreed-upon best practices that can be fed into the development of the ultimate international REDD+ framework. The majority of work under this component would likely need to occur in future years.

Work Program Component 5: Institutional Arrangements

- While we support the elements of this component that seek to assess the current capacities and capabilities of developing country institutions, we do not believe that the Partnership itself should attempt to mobilize and deploy enabling institutions in developing countries. The primary objective of the Partnership is to increase coordination and communication, not to establish new institutions.

Phase II

- As previously noted, the Partnership can make a great contribution by coordinating actions and support – to cover identified gaps, to avoid redundancy of efforts, to take advantage of regional and international synergies and economies of scale for certain readiness functions such as monitoring systems, and to pool resources where necessary for larger initiatives and investments. These functions should remain the primary focus of the Partnership throughout the 2011-2012 period.
- We recommend that the Partnership refrain from seeking to establish international norms or overly restrictive guidance for demonstration activities, results-based payments and other early implementation measures; rather, such norms and standards should be informed by those activities and the lessons they generate over time, and should ultimately be determined by decisions made within the UNFCCC. This interim period should serve as a time to test out various approaches within a context of flexibility so that each country may develop strategies that work best for its national circumstances. The Partnership should focus on ensuring the

transparency of these efforts and ensuring effective communication amongst the Partners so that all countries may learn from each other.

- To that end, we urge that the Partnership prioritize the elements of Phase II that focus on methods to exchange information. These elements should be further developed into concrete actions that serve to increase information availability and transparency. Concrete actions to follow-through on the database should be elaborated, including: an assessment of the effectiveness of the database and the generation and socialization of regular reports from the database.
- Regarding the scaling up of finance, these discussions should be firmly based in the gap analysis and the lessons learned from the initial phase of the Partnership – Partners should seek to target increased funding to actions/areas that have proven successful as well as seek to scale up funding to fill identified gaps.