

REDD+, Rights and Results:

Can the FCPF Carbon Fund Help Save the Rainforest?

Recommendations for the Carbon Fund Participants
at CF 14 and beyond



The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, through its Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund, has been setting important precedents for the design of REDD+ implementation in forest countries.

Complementary studies by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) show that the majority of ER submissions in the Fund's pipeline fail to:

- Protect and/or advance the rights of forest communities, and their involvement in relevant decision-making processes;
- Develop fair and equitable benefit sharing schemes, including legal foundations for carbon rights;
- Demonstrate the realization of crucial governance reforms and/or plans to do so; and
- Propose sound strategies for tackling the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and produce credible emissions reductions

Gaps in the readiness of country participants and weak Indigenous Peoples' and CSO engagement were likewise identified in the draft report of the Second FCPF Evaluation. To ensure the realization of REDD+ ambitions, we urge participants at upcoming Carbon Fund and Participants' Committee meetings to:

1. Request the FMT to develop complementary payment schemes to support improvements and steps to reduced deforestation and degradation as countries transition from readiness to performance-based emission reductions, as referenced in the draft Second Evaluation of the FCPF;
2. Require the completion of participatory land tenure assessments, as per the Methodological Framework, and the development of credible time-bound action plans for the legal recognition and enforcement of collectively-held lands and forests before ER-PDs can be approved.
3. Require thorough analyses of the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and ensure consistency between drivers and planned interventions before approving ER-PDs, in alignment with the methodological framework;
4. Insist on the development of equitable benefit sharing plans that improve the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, identifying them as the primary beneficiaries of REDD+ programs, as per the objectives of the FCPF Charter.
5. Require evidence of effective enforcement of applicable laws and regulations by country governments, including tangible action against illegalities, anti-corruption measures and transparency in concession allocation and timber supply chains, prior to ER-PD approval.
6. Revise the Carbon Fund Methodological Framework and pipeline selection processes to ensure progress on key governance issues to prevent countries from sidestepping critical readiness processes, and ensure consistency with the needs of forest communities, participating countries, and UNFCCC guidelines.