

**T**HE  
**F**ORESTS  
**D**IALOGUE

**ENGAGE! EXPLORE! CHANGE!**



**WELCOME TO THE FORESTS DIALOGUE (TFD)**, a platform and process for multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration on the most pressing local and global issues facing forests and people. Our primary tool – **focused dialogue** – is simple and powerful:

We first **ENGAGE** a diversity of interests to foster relationships and build trust around contentious forest issues, or ‘fracture lines’;

We then **EXPLORE** the issues at hand and craft a shared understanding of the objectives, challenges and opportunities ahead;

We ultimately seek **CHANGE** through consensus-based collaboration aimed at immediate action and long-term progress.

OUR PROCESS

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)





# OUR CHALLENGE

**CONFLICTS RELATED TO FORESTS** are complex and persistent, ranging widely across scales, timeframes, players, and goods and services. Particularly challenging are the inequalities in power, resources and capacity of those with a stake in the forests, which can create fundamental stumbling blocks to finding solutions. A lack of solutions threatens a host of dire environmental, social, and economic consequences: irreversible change to global climate systems, a biodiversity extinction crisis, the exhaustion of resources and collapse of industry sectors, and continued impoverishment of many whose livelihoods depend on forests. TFD works to reduce conflict among forest stakeholders by engaging divergent actors in the pursuit of common action.





# OUR COMMITMENT

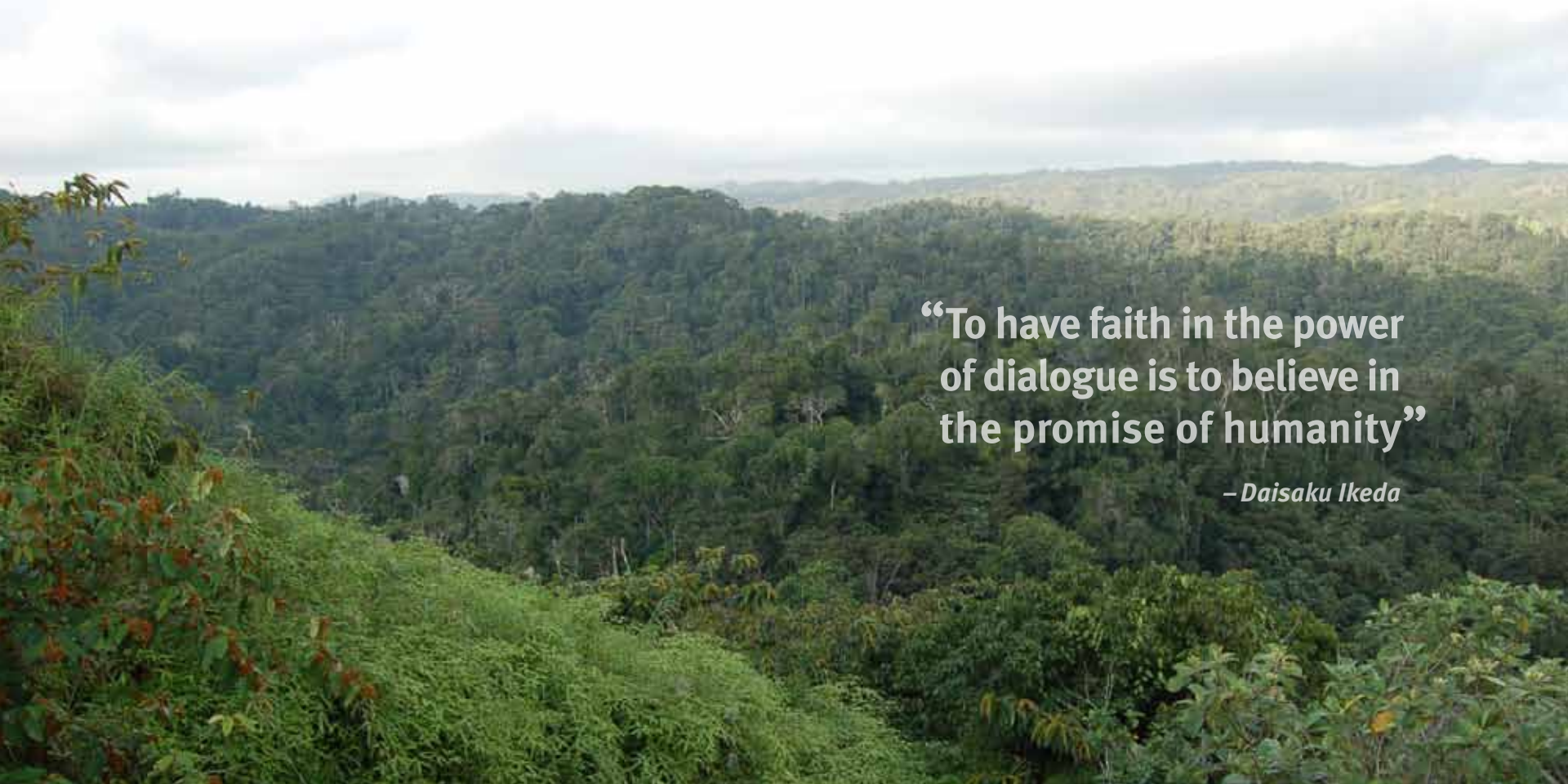
**THE PURPOSE AND MISSION OF TFD** are designed to confront a broad and evolving landscape of global forest issues.

**PURPOSE:** *Better forests, improved livelihoods.* To contribute to sustainable land and resource use, the conservation and sustainable management of forests, and improved livelihoods by helping people engage and explore difficult issues, find collaborative solutions, and make positive changes.

**MISSION:** *Dialoguing can bring change.* To pursue our purpose through constructive dialogue processes among all key stakeholders, based on mutual trust, enhanced understanding and commitment to change. Our dialogues are designed to build relationships and to spur collaborative action on the highest priority issues facing the world's forests.

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)



A wide-angle photograph of a lush, green tropical forest. The foreground shows a dense thicket of green plants and trees. The middle ground is dominated by a vast expanse of dense forest stretching across rolling hills. The background shows more distant, hazy forested hills under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is a serene and expansive natural landscape.

“To have faith in the power  
of dialogue is to believe in  
the promise of humanity”

*– Daisaku Ikeda*

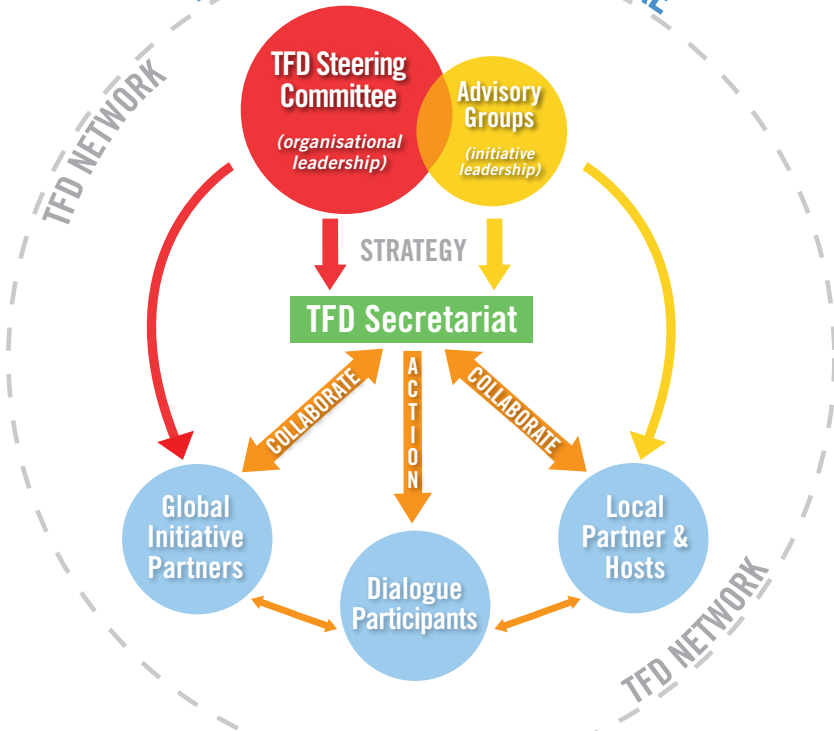


# OUR DIALOGUES

## TFD DEVELOPS AND FACILITATES

multi-stakeholder dialogue-based initiatives on issues key to the forest sector. We build a dynamic, bottom-up form of dialogue to ensure that stakeholders' concerns are well represented. TFD uses techniques that range from intimate, small-group dialogues to large forums involving hundreds of participants. Direct engagement with issues on the ground at field sites is an important component of many dialogue processes. At the conclusion of each dialogue and initiative, we produce summary publications, form coalitions among key actors, and meet with decision-makers to move from ideas to action.

## TFD's ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# OUR ORGANISATION

**TFD FORMED IN 2000** under the guidance of a dedicated group of civil society/private sector leaders who care about forests. Our diverse and representative Steering Committee agrees on each initiative and leads its development. A small and experienced Secretariat staff based at Yale University coordinates and manages the daily operations of TFD, using its extensive network of forest-sector leaders and community members to provide input and support for each ambitious initiative. Finally, TFD relies on a broad donor base to support all of its operations.

[www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)





# OUR INITIATIVES

From 2000-2010, **TFD** developed 10 different initiatives, convened over 40 dialogues and engaged more than 2000 individuals. We encourage you to explore our work online at [www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)





## OVERVIEW OF 2012 TFD DIALOGUE INITIATIVES

**FOOD, FUEL, FIBER AND FORESTS (4F):** Due to growing population and demand for resources pitted against a finite land-base, trade-offs need to be made in land-use prioritization, trade, and lifestyle. TFD aims to provide leadership and rally influential stakeholders around the role and value of forests in future land-use decisions.

**FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONESENT (FPIC):** While the principle of FPIC is supported by most stakeholders, the practicalities for implementation of FPIC on the ground is less clear. As a result, FPIC is most vital when forest governance is weak. TFD's FPIC Initiative aims to develop answers to such implementation challenges.

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED TREES (GMT):** The use of biotechnology in forest plantations could result in greatly improved yields. However, the risk of negative impacts on natural forest systems and communities could outweigh benefits. The objective of this initiative is to enhance understanding of how employment of genetically modified trees would affect forests and stakeholders.

**FORESTS AND CLIMATE:** TFD continues its focus on climate change by bringing leaders together to explore REDD+ readiness at the country level. By understanding the current challenges faced by national stakeholders to meet global and local needs for REDD+, we are developing recommendations for an engaged "community of practice" to adapt and change as REDD+ evolves. This community will, in turn, provide a knowledgeable local voice in global debate on REDD+.

**INVESTING IN LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTS (ILCF):** While communities and indigenous peoples increasingly gain control over their own forest resources, a commensurate growth of investment in locally controlled forests has not taken place. TFD addresses this issue by developing an investment guide that takes into consideration key priorities of both community owners and investors.

## 2012 TFD STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**GEORGE ASHER**  
**CHRIS BUSS**

Lake Taupo Forest Trust – New Zealand  
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) –  
United Kingdom

**ESTEBANCIO CASTRO DIAZ**

International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the  
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**MARCUS COLCHESTER**  
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Forest Peoples Programme – United Kingdom  
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**JOE LAWSON**  
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The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) – Cambodia  
PricewaterhouseCoopers – United Kingdom  
Kimberly-Clark – United States

MeadWestvaco Corporation – United States  
Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de  
Agroforestería Comunitaria Centroamericana (ACICAFOC) –  
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**JAMES MAYERS** *TFD Co-Leader*

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**MIRIAM PROCHNOW**  
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**ANTTI SAHI**

United Nations Forum on Forests – United States  
Global Alliance of Community Forestry (GACF) – Nepal  
Stora Enso – China

Apremavi – Brazil  
Fibria – Brazil  
Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners  
(MTK) – Finland

**PÄIVI SALPAKIVI-SALOMAA**  
**NIGEL SIZER**  
**ROD TAYLOR**

UPM-Kymmene – Finland  
World Resources Institute – United States  
WWF International – Indonesia

# FOOD, FUEL, FIBER AND FORESTS (4Fs) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** A multi-stakeholder dialogue between leaders from forest and agriculture sectors focused on the conservation of forest values amid growing global demand for food, fuel, and fiber.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Meeting the demands of a growing population and development pressures with a finite resource base.*

- By 2050, it is expected that food supplies must expand by 70 percent;
- Food, fuel, and fiber production will compete in a limited pool of resources;
- Deforestation reduction efforts must be sensitive to the needs of the poor.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- Effective, multi-stakeholder dialogue around the role and value of forests, and the supply of food, fuel and fiber in a more equitable and resource-restricted future;
- Broad political support for land-use decision-making principles that account for numerous competing land claims.

## **OUTPUTS:**

- One international and three country-specific dialogues;
- Dialogue summaries and a synthesis document of Initiative;
- Defined principles of land-use decision-making endorsed by stakeholders.

**TO DATE:** TFD began the 4Fs Initiative with a scoping dialogue in Washington D.C. in June 2011.

**GOING FORWARD:** 2012 dialogues aim to bring leading organizations together and to form a collaborative partnership on 4Fs.

# FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) refers to the right of indigenous peoples to withhold their consent to activities that will affect rights to their land and resources. The FPIC Initiative will define this principle in terms agreeable to and implementable by actors of competing interests.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *The role of FPIC is under scrutiny in sectors of resource use or extraction, and the practicality of implementing FPIC on the ground remains unclear.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- A shared understanding of the basis for FPIC among various stakeholders;
- Examination of and learning from specific situations in which FPIC-based approaches have been, or are being, used;
- Develop mutually agreeable recommendations and improved guidance on implementation for stakeholders.

## OUTPUTS:

- Summaries from the Dialogues and a TFD Review document for the Initiative; Background paper “Free, Prior and Informed Consent: Making FPIC work for Forests and Peoples”;
- Recommendations on practical means to implement FPIC;
- Follow-up activities with key partners to facilitate commitment and preparedness to incorporate FPIC in project implementation, including REDD+ projects to the benefit of affected parties;
- Follow-up activities with UNREDD, UNFF, World Bank, ITTO, WBCSD, and others.

**TO DATE:** TFD convened one scoping dialogue and two field dialogues.

**GOING FORWARD:** TFD will lead two more FPIC field dialogues, as well as a dialogue hosted by the World Bank.

## INVESTING IN LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTRY (ILCF) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Research indicates that there are huge opportunities to invest in small-scale forestry projects. The Initiative on Investing in Locally Controlled Forestry (ILCF) will build stakeholder relationships, identify obstacles to investment in LCF, and increase the potential of LCF.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Investing in locally controlled forestry, though critical to the development of resilient small-scale economies in an increasingly resource-constrained world, is seen as an overly complicated and risky process by most investors.*

### OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure that investment streams address forest communities' concerns;
- Help bridge the gap in understanding, and foster productive partnerships, between investors and rights-holder groups;
- Contribute to preparedness for investing in LCF.

**OUTPUTS:** This Initiative has already produced a strong portfolio of publications as well as an alliance among three major international rights-holder groups and national networks of community groups. Other outcomes include,

- Co-chair Summaries of each dialogue; Guide to ILCF; TFD Review on ILCF;
- Recommendations for the investment community on how best to engage in ILCF;
- Improved network between rights-holders and investors;
- Continued engagement with development agencies to strengthen the key role they play in supporting ILCF.

**PROCESS TO DATE:** After an initial scoping in Belgium in 2009, TFD has convened 7 field dialogues (Panama, Nepal, Macedonia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Sweden), 1 investor focused dialogue, and 2 workshops. The dialogue phase has now ended for the LCF Initiative.

**GOING FORWARD:** The *TFD Review on ILCF* will be released in September 2012. TFD is also working with partners, IUCN and IIED, to release the ILCF Investment Support Guide in September as well.

# GENETICALLY MODIFIED TREES (GMT) INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** To establish a multi-stakeholder dialogue process to share information and perspectives on GM tree research and development as well as potential safeguards for deployment. Although support for GM trees is mixed, the technology will likely continue to be developed and potentially deployed in Intensively Managed Planted Forests (IMPF). This initiative makes use of this window in time, where concerns can still be constructively and proactively addressed.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Much contention and controversy exist surrounding the development of GM trees and the perceived risks and benefits of their deployment vary profoundly among stakeholders.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Engage the full breadth of stakeholders and geographical areas in this dialogue initiative to obtain a comprehensive understanding of perceived advantages and disadvantages of GM trees;
- Create a clearer view on the value of research in the area of GM trees and IMPF;
- Identify current developments in GM tree technology, associated concerns and necessary safeguards;
- Identify points of agreement and work to develop recommendations that address specific stakeholder concerns.

## OUTPUTS:

- Scoping Paper for Scoping Dialogue;
- Co-chair Summary of Scoping Dialogue;
- GMT Concept Paper;

**PROCESS TO DATE:** *TFD convened a scoping dialogue in New Haven, USA in 2011.*

**GOING FORWARD:** A second scoping dialogue on GM trees hosted by IUCN in Switzerland is scheduled to take place this year.

# REDD READINESS INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE GOAL:** Amid the political process to build a REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) mechanism, concerned stakeholders have started to address the gap between national willingness to participate in REDD+ schemes and the technical and institutional capacity to do so. TFD has launched the REDD+ Readiness Initiative to bridge this gap, and to assure better communication between stakeholders and better outcomes for REDD+.

**THE CHALLENGE:** *Many countries are eager to participate in REDD, but monetary and technical resources for building readiness are limited. This diminishes the program's robustness.*

## OBJECTIVES:

- Raise awareness and promote engagement and exploration of REDD+ readiness challenges among local and national stakeholders;
- Provide well-targeted recommendations to overcome challenges at the local, national and international levels;
- Build a “community of practice” among a group of local REDD+ partners who will continue to implement REDD+ initiatives.

**OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES:** TFD will present its findings from the REDD+ Readiness Initiative at COP17 in Durban, South Africa.

- Published “Giving REDD Life: Integrating REDD+ with Broader Development Goals”  
This publication is a synthesis of learnings and recommendations from the initiative; published numerous country reports and cooperated directly with national governments and UNFCCC negotiators to improve the national REDD+ process;
- Further strengthen the community of practice by sharing lessons and experiences;
- Cultivate links between local, national and international discussion on REDD+ Readiness.

**TO DATE:** From 2009 to 2011, the REDD Readiness Initiative has convened five field dialogues (Brazil, Ghana, Guatemala, Ecuador, Cambodia) and two workshops (Switzerland).

**GOING FORWARD:** This phase of the REDD+ Readiness Initiative has ended. A possible follow-up phase will focus on the complexities of benefit sharing at the national and local level.

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