



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2006

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The Forests Dialogue

History: The Forests Dialogue (TFD), formed in 1999, is an outgrowth of dialogues begun under the auspices of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, The World Bank and The World Resources Institute. These dialogues converged to create TFD when leaders decided there needed to be an on-going, civil society driven, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to address important global forestry issues.

Mission and Purpose: To bring key leaders together to build relationships based on trust, commitment and understanding and through them, generate substantive discussion on key issues related to achieving sustainable forest management around the world. TFD's dialogues are a transparent forum to share aspirations and learning and to seek ways to take collaborative action on the highest priority forest conservation and management issues.

TFD Steering Committee (TFD SC): International forest and biodiversity leaders oversee the governance of TFD and the planning and execution of its dialogues. They are selected as individuals based on their personal interest and leadership, not as official delegates of any organization or sector. There are currently 23 members of the TFD SC from the major stakeholder groups including private landowners, forest products industry, ENGOs, retailers, aid organizations, unions, and academia.

Issues and Dialogues: The TFD SC is developing and conducting international multi-stakeholder dialogues on the following issues:

- ➔ *Forest Certification* - 5 dialogues held.
- ➔ *Illegal Logging and Forest Governance* - 2 dialogues held.
- ➔ *Intensive Forest Management* - 1st dialogue June 2005.
- ➔ *Forests and Biodiversity Conservation* - 1 int. dialogue held. 1 regional held
- ➔ *Forests and Poverty Reduction* - 1st dialogue slated for early 2006.

Results: Into its third year of multi-stakeholder dialogues, TFD's activities have led to a number of positive outcomes including:

- Durable relationships developed through the TFD Steering Committee. These personal relationships have fostered a number of collaborative actions by members to curb potentially volatile situations and bring about positive partnerships based on shared understanding and trust.
- TFD convened a "first ever" dialogue among certification system stakeholders to improve the tool of certification through collaboration rather than "conflict". That process led to the 1st private dialogue among executives of the major certification systems. Follow-up dialogues have continued to build on those opportunities.
- TFD's biodiversity dialogue has led to further collaboration among NGO and forest industry scientists in sharing conservation methodology and technology.

Funding: TFD is funded by a mix of core and dialogue-specific funding. Current funders include The World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, IKEA, The Ford Foundation, Aracruz Celulose, Conservation International, Swedish International Development Agency, Forest Products Association of Canada, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, Weyerhaeuser, WWF, the UK's DFID, International Tropical Timber Organization.

Secretariat: TFD's work is supported by a Secretariat housed at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in the United States.

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