



The Forest and Farm Facility Global and Regional Grants Inception Meeting
Linking local voices and global decisions



29-30 January 2015

Planning meeting

IUCN HQ, Gland, Switzerland

1. Background

The global and regional efforts of the FFF programme build on the work in our 10 partner countries (Bolivia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Vietnam and Zambia) and are focused around Pillar 3: linking local voices and learning to global processes through genuine participatory processes communication and information sharing.

The planning grants were given to the Global Alliance for Community Forestry (GACF) and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest (IAITPTF). The Asian Farmers Association (AFA) for sustainable rural development, the Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques (AMPB) and the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) were selected for the partnership grants. The planning grants specifically target networks in need of support to improve their strategies for effective engagement in regional/global platforms, and potentially prepare them to be eligible for a partnership grant. The latter allows more in depth work to strengthen the networks. It enables organization to improve their institutional capacity, increase membership base, strengthen regional and global engagement, including policy advocacy, and provide a platform through which knowledge and information can be shared both upwards and downwards for their respective constituencies.

The five organizations form a group reflecting various aspects of forest and farm issues with representation of indigenous peoples, community forestry groups, family forestry and farmers. The inception meeting of the global/regional component of the FFF took place at IUCN Headquarters in Switzerland on January 29-30, 2015.

Objectives of the meeting

First of all it was a good opportunity for the different selected global/regional partners to meet, get to know each other, exchange ideas and if possible create some synergies in their lines of work. Secondly the intention was to discuss the work plans of each partner in more details than the Letters of Agreements. Finally the meeting planned the necessary time and space to present the reporting requirements after a session introducing the FFF Monitoring & Learning (M&L) framework.

Participants¹

Representatives from AMPB, GACF, IFFA, and IAITPTF joined the meeting. Unfortunately no one from AFA could join even though a short presentation by Skype was possible. The FFF management team was present with Jeff Campbell, FFF's manager, from FAO, as well as staff from IIED and IUCN.

2. Summary of the meeting

The meeting started with partners presenting their organizations and the main challenges faced by the groups they represent. It was followed by a short presentation by the FFF manager to remind everyone how the facility works. After all those presentations, fruitful discussions and exchange of ideas were shared during the first morning.

In the afternoon, the partners presented broadly what their plans were in terms of communication and more specifically their plans in terms of attending global and regional events. Synergies and common interest between the partners were identified and discussed. There was also a strong interest in knowing more what was organized in country by the national FFF partners.

¹ Full list in annex with the meeting agenda

The next morning was focused on presenting the M&L framework of the FFF but also the reporting templates specifically tailored for the partners. Many questions were raised and work on reporting was continued during the afternoon.

Bilateral meetings with FFF management team and each partner were held to edit the templates. It was also an opportunity to discuss the work plans in more details even though due to time constraints it was not possible to have a clear plan from each partner, especially in terms of communication and knowledge activities. The M&L template should help shape the partners' work plan in more details as it gives an idea of expected outcome coming out of the grants.

3. Recurring themes

During all the presentations and discussions, two recurring themes were mentioned by each partner without former consultation. Clearly the challenges around communication (internally and external outreach) and youth are concerns shared by all.

The issues surrounding youth are multiple. It raises specific questions around rights and access to land when a forest parcel is inherited in a family for example. Partners also mentioned the problem of keeping the young generation interested in family forestry and forest management in general. Finally there is a clear need to renew and rejuvenate the leadership of the organizations representing indigenous people and community forests. In this case the challenge is to provide incentives by showing to the young generation what the role of the organizations are and how it can improve their future.

An abstract on youth was submitted for the World Forestry Congress (WFC) and the partners have agreed to identify youth representatives that could attend the WFC to share their ideas and concerns. This could be a good opportunity for the organizations to improve their understanding of the needs of youth and create or revive new communication channels between different generations.

Showing the potential value of forest but also the added value of the organizations to the next generation directly links in to communication. Indeed some partners asked for support in terms of communicating both the value of forest and the value of their work. They specifically requested support in terms of storytelling and communication to their constituents but also to a more general public. AMPB has offered to share their expertise and their current campaign with the other partners.

Linking local to global voices and vice versa is clearly difficult but not impossible. Partners agreed that it is a matter of finding a good balance between local interactions, to keep the messaging as close to the reality as possible and attending (time and resource consuming) global/regional events to defend the right of local people. More emphasis should however be put on bringing back the learning and messages of the regional/global policy at the grass root level. In this case, it is important to summarize the messages and share with the local communities how those global decisions might impact them directly or not.

4. Next steps

The partners agreed to refine their work plan based on the discussions of the workshop. They intend to decide what kind of knowledge material they will produce. They agreed to identify the topics they

wish to develop to improve their messaging for policy influencing or their communication with their constituency.

The partners also agreed to attend and organize several regional and global meetings. IFFA shared their plan to organize the Africa Farm Forestry Conference in April, IAITPTF the International Coordinating Committee meeting of the Alliance in March, GACF an Asia Community Forestry Workshop around June, AFA regional sharing sessions with intergovernmental institutions on policy agenda of forest based producers in June. AMPB announced their intention to organize three regional events in Mesoamerica, Asia and Africa (tbc) to build a strong consensus around advocacy priorities of forest-dependent people in view of UNFCCC COP21 in Paris. Most of the partners shared their plan to attend and try to influence UNFF events. All partners agreed to be involved in preparations of the World Forestry Congress and its pre-congress events. They agreed to provide input to the agenda, propose events and collaborate with the FFF management team to bring youth representatives to the Congress. When possible, they agreed to also link in with FFF national events.

5. Action points

Who	Action
<i>G3 partners</i>	<i>G3 partners to prepare abstract for WFC (done)</i>
<i>Pauline</i>	<i>Pauline to share the abstract on Youth for WFC (done)</i>
Regional events organized by the partners	
IFFA – GACF and IAITPTF will collaborate	Organize Africa Forest Producer Conference in Kenya
AMPB - All partners invited to contribute	Organize pre congress in Indonesia in collaboration with AMAN, in Mesoamerica and if possible in DRC
GACF	Asia Community Forestry workshop in Nepal
IAITPTF	Regional meeting back-to-back with UNFF Major Group meeting – potential overlap and collaboration between partners
ALL PARTNERS	Identify youth representatives during the regional events in view of including them in the Youth day at WFC
Work plans	
ALL PARTNERS	Flesh out work plans in detail, especially related to communication and linking with local level, and share with Pauline
Communication	
G3 partners	Share information with their respective members on outcomes of the UNFF Major Group meeting before the UNFF meeting
AMPB	Share their campaigns and commitment to share experience on communication
IIED	Share the document on successful exchange visits with the report on the exchange between Nepal and Myanmar under FFF. If available, share documents on how to improve story telling.
FFF coordination	
Pauline	<i>Compile FFF national events and regional/global partners (done)</i>
Pauline	Send edited reporting templates for comments from partners and final approval
Pauline	Start the coordination between all partners to contribute to the preparation of WFC pre congress
Pauline	Facilitate linkages between partners based on the fleshed out work plans

Annexes

- A. Summary of the meeting minutes
- B. Agenda and list of participants
- C. Presentations

Annex A: Summary of the meeting minutes

DAY ONE

1. Presentation of each partner on their organization structure

Each organisation prepared power point presentations that can be found in Annex 1 of this document. Only a concise summary of the presentations is offered below.

International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)

IFFA provides a common voice for more than twenty-five million private forest owning families from around the world. Their structure comprises twenty national organisations as direct members. IFFA links in with other national organisations through the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), the Union of Foresters of Southern Europe (USSE) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

IFFA also made a brief presentation on the G3 Alliance. We have learned that:

- Family forest owners, community and indigenous forest peoples share a similar set of policy priorities
 - Secure land tenure, freedom to form associations, fair market access and availability of good quality extension and support services
- The G3 represents family forest owners and communities managing more than 30 per cent of the World's forest area
- At least one billion people is involved in owning and managing community, family and indigenous peoples' forests
- The perspective of forest dependent people needs to be clearly represented in all discussions about the future of the world's forests, water, climate and biodiversity. Their cooperation helps ensure that we will be heard.

Main issues:

- Concerns about the way water, agriculture and forests are dealt with in isolated silos
- The forest should be considered as a whole, not separate the biodiversity benefits, timber potential and food security.
- IFFA website is not useful for local forest owners. They are looking into creating an interactive exchange of stories.
- IFFA needs support to become a good story-teller.
- One important topic to address is how to involve young people in the associations.
- Progress on rights related to forest tenure are difficult to monitor, hard data is missing.

Global Alliance for Community Forestry (GACF)

GACF is an alliance of community forestry organisations created in 2004. The members of GACF are UZACHI in Mexico, ACICAFOC in Central America, J.A.E.P. in Colombia, APIS in Ecuador, AILDECO-CONGO in DRC, CAFT in Cameroun, MTK in Finland, FECOFUN in Nepal and Kalimantan Barat in Indonesia.

Main challenges of and for the members:

- Members are more focused at the local level and it is difficult to bring them to the national level. Members focusing on national policy don't get involved at the global level.
- Access to funding due to complicated funding approaches (e.g. logframes).
- Access to information and communication are difficult, especially due to technology and language problems.
- Difficult to expand membership to other countries.
- Local knowledge is still not recognized and taken into account as it should.
- A big challenge is finding a way to democratize bureaucracy.

International Alliance for Indigenous and Tribal People of Tropical Forests (IAITPTF)

The Alliance, currently hosted by Indigenous Information Network (IIN) in Kenya, has a flexible structure of nine autonomous regions (representing more than fifty countries) coordinated and supported by a Technical Secretariat. The membership of the Alliance, made up of indigenous and tribal peoples organisations in regional networks, is the highest policy-making body in the network the Alliance is coordinated by an International Coordinating Committee (ICC), which meets at least twice a year to monitor the work of the Alliance. The Committee is constituted of 9 Regional Coordinators.

Main issues raised:

- IAITPTF is working on including more women in regional secretariat and addressing youth involvement to succeed to the current representatives.

Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forest (AMPB)

AMPB has ten members from Mexico to Panama representing fifty million hectares of forest under community influence. They have a mix membership base of indigenous and traditional authorities, autonomous regional governments and community based organizations.

AMPB's Steering Committee meets four times a year to improve local to regional communication. They link with their local members through a yearly national assembly where participants have the responsibility to bring the concerns and needs of the local members to the attention of the alliance.

As an alliance, AMPB is currently focusing on engaging with organizations in other parts of the world. Discussions and exchange of experience are ongoing with COICA and AIDSEP for Latin America. Dialogues with GACF, AMAN in Indonesia and another one with a Congolese network are also taking place. In this broader engagement, AMPB is trying to build a common initiative to defend the rights of the different types of groups depending on forest at the next UNFCCC COP COP21 taking place at the end of the year 2015.

Main issues:

- Finding a way to balance the work between the Secretariat and collecting local concerns in the field
- Need to renew local leaders and train the new generation
- Communication campaigns are very important

Asian Farmers Association (AFA) for Sustainable Rural Development

AFA, unfortunately not present that day, is the FFF partner most linked with the agricultural sector. In a previous meeting with FAO, AFA did emphasize the fact that they were really keen on improving how they include forestry issues in their advocacy work. Many of their members are also forest owners and users but forest issues have not been really captured by AFA yet.

AFA is a regional alliance of 17 cooperatives and federations representing 12 million smallholders in 13 countries in Asia. The association grew out of the need to better communicate smallholder farmers' issues.

They increase their membership base through application to and formal acceptance by their general assembly. The policy priorities are set under the 4As: Ask members about issues and challenges and what they need greater attention to; Analyse- identify policy agenda through information gathered from members; Advocate; Ask.

2. Discussion and exchange of experience

Discussions on several topics were held. The main ones, summarized below, were issues related to communication, the power of exchange visits, issues linked to youth and potential area of collaboration between the partners.

Communication

- It is challenging to find the balance between global and local, i.e. it is important to be rooted in local reality to have the legitimacy to represent local communities at regional and global level.
- Conveying back the message at local level is not always easy even though it is possible.
- One way of effectively communicating a message during congresses or big events is to organize pre-congress events. It allows members of networks to meet and agree on a common position which will make it stronger. In addition, if there is good media coverage of the pre-congress, governments get interested as well and sometimes pushes them to make commitments.
- Videos are great to share knowledge.

Youth

- Legal framework and willingness of youth to take care of the forest. In some places the new generation divides the land. Elsewhere the eldest heir takes over the property undivided and gives the siblings compensation (which is challenged by liberal politics as it is not equal). The legal differences make it sometimes difficult to defend them globally as one group.
- It is important and difficult to provide incentives and show pay-offs of engaging not only in the global/regional associations/networks but also in enterprise development.
- There is a need to renew the leaders in the networks but there is a need to provide training to do it.

Exchange visits

It was emphasized, based on concrete examples in Nepal, Vietnam, Central America and India, how effective exchange visits have proven to be when they are well organized. IIED was asked to share some guidelines on how successful exchange visits could be organized.

3. Group exercise – Synergies

IFFA, IAITPTF and GACF presented their work plans as the G3. The members of the G3 are aiming to improve their communication and strengthen their Alliance. They agreed to try to meet during the Major Groups-led Initiative in support of UNFF meeting taking place in Nepal in March. The G3 members mentioned they plan to collaborate and support IFFA's plan to organize the Africa Farm Forestry meeting. Finally they agreed to try to improve their communication streams, refine the messaging around the Alliance and update their common website. They aim to produce common statements and case studies around the G3 framework for enabling conditions (secure tenure, fair market access, effective associations, and quality support services). They also agreed to look into the possibility of creating videos or organizing exchange visits. The G3 is thinking of maybe organizing a Forest Rights Holders World Congress in 2016.

IAITPTF will be organizing the International Coordinating Committee meeting of the Alliance back to back to the Major Group meeting to support UNFF. To prepare for WFC they agreed to try to focus their case studies on Africa and relevant themes for the congress. They then shared their plans to participate in UNFIP and will engage in CBD processes.

GACF mentioned their intention to organize an Asia Community Forestry Workshop in collaboration with FECOFUN. They agreed to see how AFA could be linked in.

AMPB is planning to organize regional events to build a consensus around Indigenous Peoples and locally controlled forestry stakeholders to impose their territorial demands at the next UNFCCC COP21. They are organizing in collaboration with AMAN an event in Indonesia in March to build the consensus. This will be followed up by a pre-congress of the Mesoamerican Forest Congress in Panama in May and maybe a pre-congress of WFC to be held in Kinshasa. All these events will build their messaging and strengthen their position in view of the negotiations at COP21.

AMPB has put forward three potential areas of joint work between the partners:

1. Joint proposals and campaigns aiming at major events such as WFC and UNFCCC COP.
2. Collaboration around the issue of youth. Building local to global strong messaging by linking with youth councils
3. Exchange visits: capitalize on each other's learning exchanges to be more effective and have a wider impact.

AMPB shared the fact that they were organizing "Young Indigenous Lawyers" meeting in Guatemala to exchange experience on issues related to rights and natural resource governance of Indigenous People and local communities. They will document case studies based on the participants' experiences. AMPB is looking into doing a similar meeting with Young communicators. It was offered to the FFF partners to be invited to take part to the meeting.

DAY TWO

4. Monitoring and learning (M&L)

The M&L session was started with a presentation giving a brief introduction to the M&L framework; an overview of the entire FFF M&L system (the 3 pillars, expected outcomes and outputs, indicators and learning questions); roles and responsibilities within the system; specific role of global grantees; reporting requirements and some information on country feedback, challenges and approaches.

The presentation and the distribution of tailored reporting templates were followed by question and answers. The main points were:

- Even though some of the partners' activities are related to Pillar one, it is important that the FFF management team gets information that can be tracked under Pillar 3, i.e. linking local voices and learning to global processes through genuine participatory processes communication and information sharing.
- The M&L system is useful to the organization to track changes and give some orientation to their work. It also allows identifying some unexpected results that should be pointed out. It was discussed that perhaps a line in the M&L template could be added with something such as "what was the most amazing story that happened in the last reporting period?".
- The way to report on policy change is to demonstrate how the partners influenced and informed the policy process. It will be reported around networking, capacity building and other opportunities to change the mind-set of relevant stakeholders.
- AMPB suggested adding to the reporting template the following questions: 1) how FFF project/initiative fits into organisation's plans and strategies? Are goals and indicators well integrated in planning framework? Can they be better integrated? 2) is FFF project complementary with some other initiatives or projects within organisation's plans and strategies? Are there any coordination, information sharing and synergies between joint initiatives? How can they be improved?

This was followed by an entire afternoon of bilateral meeting to explain in more details and improve the M&L reporting template. More details on the work plans were also shared and the partners agreed to share more details on their plans with the FFF management team.

Annex B: List of participants and agenda

List of participants	
AFA	Esther Penunia (Skype)
AMPB	Victor Lopez Illescas, Carolina Navarro
FAO	Jeff Campbell
GACF	Ghan Shyam Pandey
IAITPTF	Edna Kaptoyo
IFFA	Ellen Alfsen, Peter de Marsh, Ivar Legallais-Korsbakken, Dominic Walubengo
IIED	Anna Bolin
IUCN	Pauline Buffle, Chris Buss, Julien Colomer, Mark Gnad

Agenda	
Thursday 29.01	
9:00	Welcome
9:30-10:30	Presentation of each partner on their organization structure
<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45-11:00	FFF structure and linking with FFF countries
11:00-12:00	Discussion and exchange of experience – linking local to global
<i>Lunch</i>	
13:00 – 17:30	Group exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping upcoming activities - Discussing synergies
<i>Dinner</i>	
Friday 30.01	
9:00-11:00	Introduction to the M&L Reporting and storytelling requirements
11:00-12:30	Moving forward together
<i>Lunch</i>	
Afternoon	AMPB – Anna on M&L (tbc) Dominic, Lennart, Jeff, Pauline on Africa meeting