

Minutes, meeting on Landscape Day

Doha, 4 December 2012, 9.30-11.30 (Draft 5 December 2012, PH)

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(some participants came late, did not sign up and are therefore not in the list)

Background

The meeting was held after the Forest and Agriculture Days (2-3 December) bringing together members of the two consortiums for the respective Day, to continue the discussions to merge the two days in future COPs under the proposed name "Landscape Day".

The meeting was organized by CIFOR and CCAFS as the lead organisations for Forest and Agriculture Day. Peter Holmgren moderated the meeting.

Tour-de-table, summary

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the proposal to organise a joint Landscape Day during UNFCCC COP-19 in 2013, including to identify specific opportunities and risks. The following is a summary of views expressed.

Opportunities

- The planned 2015 climate agreement is a good motivation for organizing Landscape Day(s) and provides an opportunity to frame comprehensive knowledge support to the negotiations;
- It is a natural point in time after a series of successful Forest/Agriculture Days and accomplished mission to move on to a new approach;
- A Landscape Day process provides an opportunity to define a Landscape from the perspective of the concerned economic sectors;

- Organizing a joint Day will be more cost-effective, cutting back on the escalating costs of organizing events during the COPs;
- Increasingly, forest/forestry and agriculture issues are discussed together in UNFCCC, e.g. in the context of drivers of deforestation and in the context of ecosystem services for adaptation. It would be good to frame these discussions together;
- Organizing Day(s) at COPs provides a unique opportunity to bridge science and policy, and the cross-cutting nature of climate change provides a unique opportunity to do this across the sectors;
- Joint communication efforts could make a considerable impact;
- Reaching out to each others audience will create more learning across sectors in a way that has proven difficult in other institutional circumstances;
- A single day arrangement means we can use the Sunday between negotiation weeks, which is the best for participation;
- Other “Days” may join to add further synergy, e.g. Land Day and Mountain Day;
- A Landscape Day process could be influential also beyond UNFCCC.

Risks

- There is a risk that sector-specific issues and specialist topics will have a lower profile leading to less focus and impact;
- Risk of imbalance between Forest and Agriculture issues;
- Issues addressed will be broader and focus therefore move away from UNFCCC issues;
- The Landscape concept is fuzzy and difficult to define as well as sell in to policy processes;
- There may not be enough time for interaction and dialogue in a single day;
- Will a broader (and fuzzier) approach really help negotiators?;
- Risk to lose audience that come for the sector-specific contents.

Options put on the table

The discussion resulted in a number of options to consider for a future Landscape Day, including:

- The mid-year UNFCCC meetings in Bonn can be used as well, providing a cost-effective venue and potentially more timely support to the negotiations;
- The day(s) preceding the Landscape Day could be used for more specialized workshops. The Landscape Day arrangements could help facilitate cost-effective venues for these;
- The Landscape Day arrangement can reach beyond the Agriculture and Forestry sectors;
- A strategic approach could include joint submissions, targeted communication to negotiators;

Next steps

Consensus was reached that:

- CCAFS and CIFOR prepare a concept note by end-January to elaborate on the process towards Landscape Day 1 at COP-19
- A Steering Committee will be formed with 8 members, 4 from each consortium and with CCAFS and CIFOR leading it. The SC would start operating as each consortium have identified their 3 additional members.
- All current members of the respective consortium remain stakeholders in the Landscape Day and additional memberships in the Landscape Day can be considered.
- The cost for organizing Landscape Day should be shared equitably, but not necessarily equally, across the members.