



# THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

## TFD STEERING COMMITTEE 2008

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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 Bank, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute. These dialogues converged to create TFD when leaders decided to create an on-going, civil society driven, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and process to address important global forestry issues.

**Mission:** To address significant obstacles to sustainable forest management through a constructive dialogue process among all key stakeholders. The Forests Dialogue's approach is 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.

**Initiatives:** TFD is currently developing or convening international multi-stakeholder dialogue processes on the following topics:

**Forests and Climate:** In '07 TFD will bring leaders together to consider the interaction between forests and climate change with a particular focus on whether the potential contribution of sustainable forest management to international and national mitigation and adaptation strategies is being fully realized.

**Intensively Managed Planted Forests:** TFD has been working with a broad group of stakeholders to develop consensus and understanding on when, where and with whom intensive forest management is an appropriate and feasible land use strategy.

**Forests and Poverty Reduction:** Many experts believe that commercial forestry can and should be pro-poor. TFD has been working to understand the conditions and enabling environment for successful pro-poor forestry projects as well as the barriers to them.

**Forest Owners and SFM:** TFD recently began a dialogue series examining the tools available to small/family forest owners to pursue and demonstrate sustainable forest management on their lands. More is being asked of forest owners so there needs to be more direct engagement among the stakeholders concerned.

**Forests and Biodiversity Conservation:** For the past two years, TFD has supported a regional dialogue process solely focused on collaborative conservation of the Atlantic Forest region in Brazil. The dialogues were held primarily among Brazilian NGOs and companies. The dialogues have resulted in several on the ground, joint projects among the stakeholders.

TFD has also led extensive dialogue initiatives on **Illegal Logging and Forest Governance** and **Forest Certification** in the past but is not active on those issues currently. For more information on all of TFD's initiatives go to [www.theforestdialogue.org](http://www.theforestdialogue.org)

**Governance:** A group of 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. There are currently 21 members serving on the TFD Steering Committee representing all the major forest stakeholder groups (*listed at the left of this page*).

**Funding:** TFD's Secretariat and activities are collectively funded by a broad cross-section of stakeholders. 2007 funders include The World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, WBCSD, Conservation International, Mondi, SIDA, FPAC, Building and Woodworkers International, Weyerhaeuser, WWF, International Paper, Stora Enso, Kimberly-Clark, USAID and IUCN.

**Secretariat:** TFD's work is implemented by a Secretariat hosted by Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in the United States. The Forests Dialogue is an autonomous program and its Secretariat operates within the structure of the School's Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry.