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**Growing
Forest
Partnerships**



GROWING FOREST PARTNERSHIPS (GFP) IS AN INITIATIVE THAT HELPS develop and support networks of forest-dependent people (smallholders, communities and Indigenous Peoples) at local, national and international levels to work towards an equitable and sustainable management of forestry resources.

IT BRINGS TOGETHER ACTORS WHO MAY not have worked together before, so that global discussions about forests take into account the real and current challenges that forest-dependent people face. Through these discussions, new and innovative ways of tackling those challenges can be developed and tested. GFP is active in five countries: Ghana, Guatemala, Liberia, Mozambique, and Nepal.

Relevance for REDD

GFP's first-hand experience of empowering local communities and forging solid synergies between the interests of local, national and international forest stakeholders shows why a solid foundation of knowledge and awareness is essential for initiatives such as REDD+ and FIP to work effectively.

Building solid grassroots platforms based on principles of equality and participation is no easy task. It requires time and often the results are not immediately tangible. Nonetheless, if forest-dependent people do not have a say in national policies, do not have secure land tenure and are not able to run viable enterprises based on sustainable management of their forest assets, REDD projects risk turning into another unsustainable, top-down initiative.

GFP has engaged in REDD initiatives in different ways depending on specific country needs and context. In **Guatemala** and **Mozambique** the GFP working groups have played a central role in drafting the R-PP. In **Ghana**, GFP has sponsored research and policy work on the crucial issue of statutory and customary land tenure and has contributed to developing the FIP proposal. In all the countries GFP has conducted nationwide consultations on REDD-related issues and organised training and capacity-strengthening programmes.

This newsletter gathers stories from in-country teams and from GFP local journalists, on the implementation of REDD processes across the globe by GFP partners. Reports, analytical studies and more stories about GFP can be found on our web site.

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Nepal forest communities receive REDD payments



Murari Nepal, president of Ramite Community Forest (Nepal), with his son, waiting to receive cheque for community efforts towards REDD
© Ramesh Prasad Bhushal, 2011

Charnawati watershed in Dolakha District, Nepal - pilot site for Forest Carbon Trust Fund (REDD+)
© Ramesh Prasad Bhushal, 2011

IN AUGUST 2011, MURARI NEPAL, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS EIGHT-YEAR OLD SON, RUSHED into the District Development Committee hall at Charikot — the headquarters of Dolakha district in Eastern Nepal. He apologized for being late and took his seat in the hall alongside representatives from 58 community forests. All were gathered to receive money for their efforts under a pilot project linked to the UN programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

This REDD+ pilot project is Nepal's first Forest Carbon Trust Fund (FCTF) and is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Aid Cooperation (Norad). The project was set up in 2009 in three districts (one watershed each): Charnawati in Dolakha, Ludikhola in Gorkha, and Kavarkhola in Chitwan districts, covering an area of 10,000 hectares in total. It is implemented by the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), and the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB). Through this project \$100,000 has been distributed directly to community forest users' groups in the three districts.

Murari is president of the Ramite Community Forest and father and son were there to receive money on behalf of their community. "It's Saturday, so my son accompanied me," he added before anyone could ask. They had walked for four hours in the scorching sun, a journey which represents quite an effort not only for his son but also for Murari who is disabled.

Although Murari was unable to talk much about what REDD is all about, he said "according to the officers [project staff], if we protect forests then we can get money from foreign countries and this is reward for storing carbon in the trees due to our conservation efforts." He received a cheque of Rs 14,000 (about \$200).

The payments to the communities vary according to a set of criteria based on the increase in forest carbon captured per year, number of households and dalits ('untouchables'), as well as the ratio of men and women in the community, and

the number of poor households within the project area. The community forests received amounts which ranged from \$100 dollars to \$2,500 dollars according to these criteria.

Mixed reactions from communities and NGOs

NGOs and donor agencies are excited about being able to deliver money to communities for the first time in Nepal in the name of REDD and are trying to learn as much as possible about how the payment mechanism could be made more effective. On the other hand, the

Watershed	Community Forests	Area(ha)	Carbon Sequestered (2010)	Amount received(\$)
Ludikhola (Gorkha)	31	1888	1.5 million ton	27,560
Kayarkhola (Chitwan)	16	2383	2.5 million ton	21905
Charnawati (Dolakha)	58	5996	4.6 million ton	45,535
Total	105	10267	8.1 million ton	95,000

Source: ICIMOD

For more information: http://books.icimod.org/uploads/tmp/icimod-pilot_forest_carbon_trust_fund_.pdf

communities fear that REDD may curb their use of forest products – such as the harvesting of timber, fuel wood and fodder. Under the terms of the project, the communities have to increase the carbon stock in the forest by reducing the use of these products.

“We have huge investment in these forests as the lands were safeguarded in the past and our voluntary efforts turned these areas to green forests. But over time our efforts have started to ease our daily chores as fuel wood, timber and fodders are available nearby and our earnings from selling timber have also started. We are afraid that REDD will curtail these things. So our rights to ease our livelihood should not be curtailed” said Krishna Bahadur Khadka, president of Amlekharka Community Forest in Dolakha district.

Spending the money... or trying to.

The communities say that the money provided is insufficient compared to the high expectations of the project and that this has created a lot of problems. Despite this, communities have reportedly started taking better care of forests after receiving the money.

“We saw that the communities have become more cautious while using the forest products and have started shifting to the use of alternative energy instead of fuel wood to reduce dependency on forests but the money that has been provided has increased the rift between the members of the communities as some groups within the watershed are getting more money and some getting less due to the criteria of ethnicity, poor, women etc.” says Rajesh Bista, research officer at ForestAction Nepal, who has been conducting the post-payment assessment of the project.

At a global level there is uncertainty on how and when REDD funds will be received so the communities are worried that money distributed through the project for a specific time will raise expectations in the community which will be hard to maintain after the funding stops at the end of the project.

Communities also have the perception that their right to decide on how, where and when to spend the money, has been curtailed as a result of the strict criteria set by the project.

Despite these concerns, what is certain is that the issue of REDD has stirred up debate at the community level and, according to Dil Bahadur Khatri – an ecosystem services specialist working with ForestAction – people have started looking at forests in terms of carbon and not just as fuel-wood, fodder and timber.

Focusing on locally controlled forestry



Forest Dialogue field trip to nursery project near Mombasa, Kenya 2010 © GFP

Forests Dialogue field visit to UGPPK shea butter production cooperative © The Forests Dialogue

A COMMON DENOMINATOR AMONGST ALL GFP REDD EXPERIENCES HAS BEEN TO FOCUS efforts on local control of decision-making through building associations, alliances or federations of forest-dependent people at local and international levels. The aim is to develop technical and market information, build capacity, enable local participation in wider regional or national decision-making processes, and lobby for equitable policies.

Globally, GFP has facilitated the creation a new international alliance – the **G3 Rights Holders' Group** – and has helped the group to capture and share their experiences and disseminate a common message on Locally Controlled Forestry and on REDD and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

GFP has actively collaborated with the **Forests Dialogue** on a series of dialogues on Investing on Locally Controlled Forestry. The dialogues have been instrumental in creating a body of knowledge and evidence about the need to channel investments towards supporting rights holders associations and federations as a means to ensure a sustainable use of natural resources.

GFP has created opportunities for marginalised communities and ordinary Liberians – who tend to have no role in national decision making – to participate in governing chainsaw logging, one of the major uncontrolled and unregulated activities that damage Liberia's forests.

Salome Gofan Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment, Liberia

The development of the G3 [...] is a very positive achievement of GFP. The G3 has the potential to be a powerful advocate and lobby. We've only just begun to scratch the surface of what could be achieved.

Gary Dunning The Forests Dialogue, United States

GFP focuses on linking dialogues and programmes from grassroots to global level, which is completely unique. It has supported multi-stakeholder forums in-country and at the global level also.

Ghan Pandey Global Alliance of Community Forestry, Nepal

Building a common REDD approach for West African forests



Ghana, Liberia, Burkina Faso GFP country exchange, 2010
© GFP

ALL AROUND THE GLOBE REDD IS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS AND IN WEST AFRICA, three countries involved in REDD discussions have been sharing experiences and comparing notes.

In December 2010, participants from Liberia and Burkina Faso travelled to Accra to take part in a learning exchange with their Ghanaian counterparts, sponsored by Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP).

All three countries were at different stages of involvement with REDD. Whilst Ghana's R-PP had been approved, Liberia was working towards submitting its R-PP and Burkina Faso was not part of the FCPF REDD process. In addition, Burkina Faso and Ghana are two of the countries selected to benefit from the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) funds, aimed at supporting REDD processes and financing efforts to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

As part of the Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) initiative, Ghana and Liberia have held a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues over the last two years through which priorities and challenges for their forest sectors have been identified, as well as emerging issues, including REDD.

One of the aims of GFP is to strengthen and forge new alliances between forest stakeholders and establish national and local platforms to foster discussion and equitable decision-making processes. These platforms then serve as a space in which to

craft a shared vision for tackling relevant forest issues and for working towards the sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of those depending on them.

The GFP country exchange programme – which has also involved exchanges between Peru-Guatemala and Nepal-Lao PDR – was designed to capture the richness and diversity of the experiences accumulated by the various country initiatives and to document and disseminate models used and can be applied and used in a number of other initiatives and contexts.

The idea for a West Africa exchange originally came from Burkinabe government officials who hoped to learn from the Ghanaian experience as Ghana is further ahead in the REDD readiness process, having finalized its REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and having been selected to be part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

At the heart of the exchange was the desire to share ideas and learn lessons learned on REDD-related processes and to establish a common agenda to reinforce the conservation and sustainable management of West African forest and to respond to newly emerging financing opportunities.

The exchange was a mix of practical

and theoretical sessions through which representatives of key forestry stakeholders – including government, civil society, the private sector, and land owners – from the three countries made presentations on the status of their respective national forest sector development and levels of involvement.

The ensuing discussions highlighted that the three countries have much to learn from each other and that they were at different stages in their REDD Readiness. The approaches of Ghana and Liberia in the preparations of their R-PPs were notably different.

Although the agenda of the exchange visit was built around REDD issues, the discussions and deliberations extended to fundamental issues regarding non-state stakeholder's participation in forest policy review, formulation and implementation, as well as incentives and other modalities for their effective participation and contribution to the national Forest programme processes in Africa.

At the end of the visit, participants agreed that REDD is basically a good governance promotion initiative, expressed their appreciation of the exchange visit and reiterated the fact that such visits have value beyond the technical aspects. They called for repeating and institutionalizing such exchange visits in the future. Participants also stated that, exchange visits have value beyond the technical aspects.

Safeguard Measures in the Ghana REDD Readiness Process



Forest Investment Program (FIP) consultation for local communities and Indigenous Peoples, organised by Growing Forest Partnerships. © GFP Ghana

A NATIONAL CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATORY WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED to incorporate the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)¹ into Ghana's Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) Readiness Preparatory Plan (R-PP). The group was formed in May 2010 following a series of stakeholder consultations held from mid-2009 to early-2010 to formulate the Ghana R-PP.

The consultations were held in stages. The first stage was organised by the REDD Secretariat at the Forestry Commission (FC) for representatives of major stakeholders including: government ministries, institutions and agencies; the timber industry and private sector; CSOs/NGOs; and the media. These were held in Accra, Cape Coast, Kumasi, Sunyani and Tamale.

According to Sule Adamu of the REDD Secretariat, a second stage of consultations was held to widen the scope of participation and collate more information to authenticate the final R-PP document. In December 2009, the Forestry Commission engaged Tropenbos International-Ghana and the HATOF foundation to facilitate these consultations which focused on traditional authorities, forest-dependent communities, opinion leaders, women, farmers and youth groups. These consultations were held between January and March 2010 in Kumasi, Sunyani, Agona Nkwanta, Ho, Tamale and Bolgatanga.

During these consultations, the following major drivers of deforestation in the country were identified as priorities: agricultural practices, fuel and charcoal wood production, and illegal logging. Other drivers identified were institutional and policy-related, such

as tree tenure and benefits-sharing, which "currently are a disincentive for farmers to keep mature trees or nurture young ones in their farms," according to the Chairman for the Working Group, Kwabena Nketiah, also a member of Ghana's Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) team.

According to Nketiah, plans are now far advanced for further in-depth consultations to be held to develop strategies to address the drivers of deforestation identified in the earlier consultations. One of the proposed strategies is 'Cocoa Carbon', a mitigation measure which aims to address the issue of how to integrate trees with cocoa plantation and define optimum shade cover to increase yields.² Relevant stakeholders to be consulted on this measure include: officials of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, COCOBOD, the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) and the Forest Research Institute of Ghana. They will develop policies and action plans to respond to context-specific needs of cocoa farmers. For instance, by addressing cocoa farmers' concern that retaining more trees on their farms results in low yields, which makes them reluctant to accept this agro-forestry method.

Nketiah said that the new consultations would begin as soon as funds are released

By **Mary Ama Kudom-Agyemang** –
GFP in-country journalist, Ghana

and that Ghana is to benefit from an amount of 3.4 million USD under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). According to Adamu, the Grant Agreement documents are ready for signing by the World Bank and the Ghanaian government, which will then release the funds.

The consultations will help formulate frameworks for environmental and social management, institutional and policy management, impact mitigation and benefit enhancement as well as participatory monitoring and evaluation. The SESA will also assess the extent to which Ghana's REDD strategy addresses the existing institutional, policy, legal, regulatory and capacity gaps to manage the previously-identified priorities. It will also examine the potential socio-economic impacts of the proposed adjustments, interventions and projects within the REDD strategy. Once the SESA is integrated into the REDD Strategy for implementation, Ghana's R-PP will be rolled out.

For Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) in Ghana, the main interest is to ensure that once the next round of consultations starts, mitigation measures evolved will address the fears and concerns of all stakeholders particularly those at the grassroots. The Coordinator of GFP Ghana, Wale Adeleke, explained that once this is done, GFP Ghana will actively participate in the actual implementation process.



Cutting cocoa in Ghana
© James Mayers

¹ A Review of Three REDD+ Safeguard Initiatives – Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and UN-REDD Programme http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=5578&Itemid=53
SESA, Safeguards and the FCPF: A Guide for Civil Society – Bank Information Centre, www.bicusa.org/en/Document.102224.aspx

² Sweetening the Deal for Shade-Grown Cocoa: A Preliminary Review of Constraints and Feasibility of 'Cocoa Carbon' in Ghana – Forest Trends, NCRC, the Katoomba Group, 2009. http://www.forest-trends.org/documents/files/doc_2352.pdf

Partnerships shape Guatemala's REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)



Training for community representatives in the process of building a REDD strategy, Guatemala.
© Programa Forestal Nacional/Growing Forest Partnerships

GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMME (NFP) WAS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT dialogue, analysis, and the design, proposal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies on forests. These activities are taken forward by different forest stakeholder groups (the public sector, community groups, private sector organisations, academia, and non-governmental organisations). The overall aim is to improve the management of forest ecosystems and contribute to local, regional and national sustainable development processes. The NFP also focuses on climate change and its effects on forests.

A National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation

Initially, the NFP was aimed at supporting the efforts of the public and private sector and community groups in the creation of a 'National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation', which is currently in the design and preparation phase. This initiative responds to national concern about deforestation. It has been identified that the agents and causes of the loss of our forests are not only to be found in forestry and environmental policies, but also in other productive sectors and public policies in other areas.

The NFP shares the view that there is a need to increase and unite the efforts of the institutions responsible for regulating the use and protection of the country's forests. In addition, greater commitment and stronger alliances are needed between government bodies, the private sector, municipal governments and civil society to tackle the causes of deforestation and achieve a balance and good governance of our forests.

For more information: <http://www.growingforestpartnerships.org/guatemala>
<http://www.pfnuate.org/pages/index.htm>

Guatemala's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

The Programme is also supporting the preparation of Guatemala's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), which has been identified as a mechanism that will help to reduce deforestation in the country, with external funding.¹

Support is being provided for agreements to be reached between national institutions, including the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the National Forests Institute (INAB), and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP), to work together on the issues involved in REDD+ and take forward the technical preparation process. This will be done through the Forests, Biodiversity and Climate Change Group (BB&CC), in which community and indigenous peoples' groups participate. The R-PP is expected to be approved by the Technical Advisory Panel of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) in early 2012.

In the first phase, with financial and technical support from Growing Forest

By Ogden Antonio Rodas – Coordinator of the GFP/FAO National Forest Programme;
Ebal Abdiel Sales – Assistant Coordinator of the National Forest Programme, Guatemala.

Partnerships (GFP), training courses were held to enable technical and operational staff from INAB and CONAP to reach a better understanding of the issues. These courses were also attended by representatives of community groups such as the National Alliance of Community Forestry Organisations (the 'Alianza'), the Indigenous Authorities and Organisations Network, the Working Group on Climate Change and other regional community organisations.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Food (MAGA) is now participating as well, and as a result of this work the four governmental institutions involved signed a "Technical cooperation agreement for the sustainable management of natural resources" in June 2011. Following the signing of the Agreement, the Inter-Institutional Coordination Group (GCI) for natural resources management was set up. This group will coordinate and endorse the work that takes place at government level during the REDD+ preparation process in Guatemala.

One of the key areas of this coordination group's work will be to focus on forest management and conservation, including mechanisms and actions to reduce deforestation and damage to forests. Although the responsibilities that each institution will have in the design and preparation of the National Strategy to Reduce Deforestation have not yet been agreed by the GCI, the overall roles, attributes and responsibilities of each of the institutions are already clear. Based on these, roles and leadership for each of the components of the R-PP will be agreed, as one of the first steps to be taken.

The NFP also supports the participation of institutional staff and community representatives in the international talks on climate change, specifically in the preparations for the 2010 and 2011 Conferences of Parties (COP) and the summit meetings themselves.

¹ For the last 14 years, Guatemala has had economic mechanisms in place to promote reforestation and the management of natural forests for protection and production purposes. The funds for these come from the national treasury.

No REDD+ without Indigenous Peoples



The coordinator of the Arimae project with the IAITPTF Secretary General and a member of the International Coordination Committee. © IAITPTF

Field trip to the Arimae project. © IAITPTF

A WORKSHOP WHICH SOUGHT TO CRITICALLY EXAMINE THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS Peoples in relation to REDD+ and carbon markets was held in October 2011 in Panama by the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests (IAITPTF) and the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazonian Basin (COICA).

The workshop identified some key issues and concerns which Indigenous Peoples organizations have around the development and implementation of REDD+.

Marcial Arias, IAITPTF policy adviser, spoke about REDD+ safeguard measures and highlighted the weaknesses and ambiguities of the safeguard measures approved a year ago in Cancun at COP16. Arias emphasized the need for Indigenous Peoples to do more lobbying to convince governments to take the interests of Indigenous and other local communities who depend on tropical forests into account.

COICA, a member of IAITPTF, has many years of experience lobbying for the rights of Indigenous People through dialogue and public and private consensus-building. COICA representative

Juan Carlos Jintiach stated that the first step towards implementing any project such as REDD+ is to guarantee the land rights of Indigenous people. He also announced that COICA is working to develop activities under the 'REDD+ Indigenous' initiative.

Another example of the important role of Indigenous Peoples' in the development and implementation of REDD processes was highlighted by Estebancio Castro, Secretary General of the IAITPTF, in relation to safeguards for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) on REDD+. This is a clear objective of the Indigenous Peoples Action Plan regarding the FCPF which arose out of the Global Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) which was also held in Panama, in September 2011.

Overall the conclusion was clear: without the participation of Indigenous Peoples, without guaranteeing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and without integrating these rights and their traditional knowledge into REDD+ safeguards, there will be no REDD+.

***The IAITPTF is a member of the G3 – the Three Rightsholders Group – a network for the collaboration between family forest owners, community forestry and tribal and Indigenous Peoples of the tropical forest. The three alliances form the G3 network cooperating to promote locally controlled forestry and sustainable forest management.
www.g3forest.org***

**For more information: Full text of the Indigenous Peoples Action Plan regarding the FCPF - <http://tinyurl.com/6ejvf82>
IAITPTF website: <http://www.international-alliance.org/>**



South-South REDD: Mozambique – Brazil



Villagers walking back to their village, Meceburri near Nampula, Mozambique © Mike Goldwater

IN MOZAMBIQUE, GROWING FOREST PARTNERSHIPS (GFP) HAS HELPED TO BROKER A multi-institutional partnership between institutions working on a diverse range of decision-making and research issues that have a bearing on REDD implementation.

This initiative named South-South REDD: A Brazil-Mozambique Initiative for Zero Deforestation with Pan-African Relevance involves collaboration between the Ministries of Environment (MICOA) and Agriculture (MINAG), FAS (Sustainable Amazon Foundation), the University Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Centro Terra Viva (CTV), IIED and Indufor, with financial support from the Norwegian Embassy.

The central focus of this project, which started in 2009, is to create the conditions under which Mozambique could embark on a national REDD initiative. One important component of the collaboration is the sharing of experiences on the approach used by FAS to curb deforestation in Amazonia and the experience of REDD payment mechanisms in the Brazilian Bolsa Floresta programme as

well as building on lessons and knowledge from elsewhere across the globe.

Centro Terra Viva (CTV), for example, ensured that broad consultation with civil society, the private sector and communities was prioritised through its facilitation of the Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) initiative.

Consultations to inform the development of Mozambique's REDD+ readiness preparation plan (R-PP) were conducted in 2010 in several provinces of the north (Niassa, Nampula), centre (Zambézia, Tete) and south (Gaza) of the country. Regional consultations were held in the south (Maputo), centre (Sofala) and north (Nampula). Participants in these consultations included representatives from national, provincial and district government authorities, local civil society organisations, some private companies and academia.

In addition, discussions were held with the private sector and local communities through field visits conducted by a multi-disciplinary team of researchers from UEM, MINAG, MICOA working in Gaza, Maputo, Tete, Sofala, Niassa and Zambézia.

2011 has been dedicated to consultations on the draft REDD+ strategy and extensive campaign of awareness raising and information dissemination, with greater emphasis on subnational levels and the private sector.

One of the results of the national consultations has been the selection of two GFP sites, the forest reserves of Morrribane-Maronga-Zomba (Manica province) and Mecuburi (Nampula province) for REDD+ testing. This includes further community consultations on the REDD+ actions and strategies, training on REDD concepts, MRV, business development and the Bolsa Floresta experience of payment mechanisms, and mapping land use and land use changes to assess carbon stocks and establish reference levels. REDD+ implementation will certainly build on GFP work around business approaches in conservation areas. Activities supported include the development of business models and feasibility studies for processing of natural products such as fruits, honey and mushrooms.

Thanks to all these efforts, alliances and complementary South-South REDD and GFP interventions, the Mozambican R-PP has recently been submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and is in process of revision and finalisation.

For more information: <http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/south-south-redd-brazil-mozambique-initiative>



Sophie Grouwels
GFP Project Coordinator
Food and Agriculture Organization
(FAO)
Sophie.Grouwels@fao.org
T: +39 06570 55299



Grazia Piras
GFP Project Coordinator
International Institute for
Environment and Development (IIED)
Grazia.Piras@iied.org
T: +44 (0) 207 388 2117



Chris Buss
GFP Project Coordinator
International Union for the
Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Chris.Buss@iucn.org
T: +41 22 999 0265



Supported by The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433 USA
tel: (202) 473-1000
fax: (202) 477-6391

visit us at: www.growingforestpartnerships.org