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# FOREST CARBON, MARKETS AND COMMUNITIES (FCMC) PROGRAM

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (OCTOBER 2012 – APRIL 2013)

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The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program to provide its missions, partner governments, local and international stakeholders with assistance in developing and implementing REDD+ initiatives. FCMC services include analysis, evaluation, tools and guidance for program design support; training materials; and meeting and workshop development and facilitation that support US Government contributions to international REDD+ architecture.



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## **DISCLAIMER**

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB 32	California’s cap-and-trade law
AGRC	Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity
ARCC	African and Latin American Resilience to Climate Change
CAM	Government of Huila
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment
CBMRV	Community-based MRV
CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
CI	Conservation International
COP	Conference of the Parties
COR	Contracting Officer’s Representative
DCA	Development Credit Authority
DGOT	Planning department for the Peruvian Ministry of Environment
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC-LEDS	Enhancing Capacity for LEDS
FCM	Finance and Carbon Markets
FCMC	Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities Program
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
GEO-FCT	Group on Earth Observation Forest Carbon Tracking Task
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHGMI	Greenhouse Gas Management Institute
ICAA	Initiative for Conservation the Andean Amazon
IR	Intermediate Result
ISTF	International Society of Tropical Foresters
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
LISA-REDD	Learning Initiative for Social Assessment of REDD+
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

MARN	Guatemalan Ministry of Natural Resources
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MINAM	Peruvian Ministry of Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
OTCA	Organization of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty
OPIC	Overseas Private Investment Corporation
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation “Plus”
RL	Reference Level
RRI	Rights and Resources Initiative
SEGEPLAN	General Secretariat for Planning
SES	Social and Environmental Soundness
SOW	Scope of Work
STA/M	Senior Technical Advisor/Manager
STEWARD	Sustainable and Thriving Environments for West African Regional Development
TDY	Temporary Duty
TFD	The Forest Dialogue
TIST	International Small Group Tree Planting Program
UMD	University of Maryland
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USG	United States Government
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
VCS JNR	Verified Carbon Standard’s Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ standard
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



# I.0 INTRODUCTION

Tetra Tech was awarded the Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities (FCMC) Program from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in late March 2011. The USAID FCMC Program supports the implementation of the United States National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation “Plus” (REDD+) Strategy by building capacity of USAID/Washington and USAID Mission staff to design and implement REDD+ activities, through capacity building of host country governments and civil society, and through implementation of pilot activities in USAID REDD+ priority countries.

The FCMC Program has two major intermediate results (IR). The first IR aims at building shared understanding and technical capacities on tools, methodologies, and approaches that contribute to the international REDD+ architecture. This consists both of building capacity of international stakeholders and building capacity of USAID staff. The second IR focuses on working with countries on REDD+ readiness activities to undertake actions at a scale that will help them to meet their national commitments. Under this work, tools and methodologies will be field-tested and local capacity built. Actions and deliverables under these two IRs focus on four technical areas:

- 1) Social and Environmental Soundness (SES) for REDD+;
- 2) Finance and Carbon Markets (FCM);
- 3) Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS); and
- 4) Forest and Terrestrial Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV).

In addition to these technical areas a 5<sup>th</sup> element was introduced in April 2012 titled ‘Cross-Cutting,’ with the objective of making links and integrating work, where appropriate, between the thematic areas and undertaking activities that are clearly cross-cutting in nature.

This semi-annual report discusses activities and achievements from October 16, 2012 through April 15, 2013, the second half of the FCMC Program’s second year.

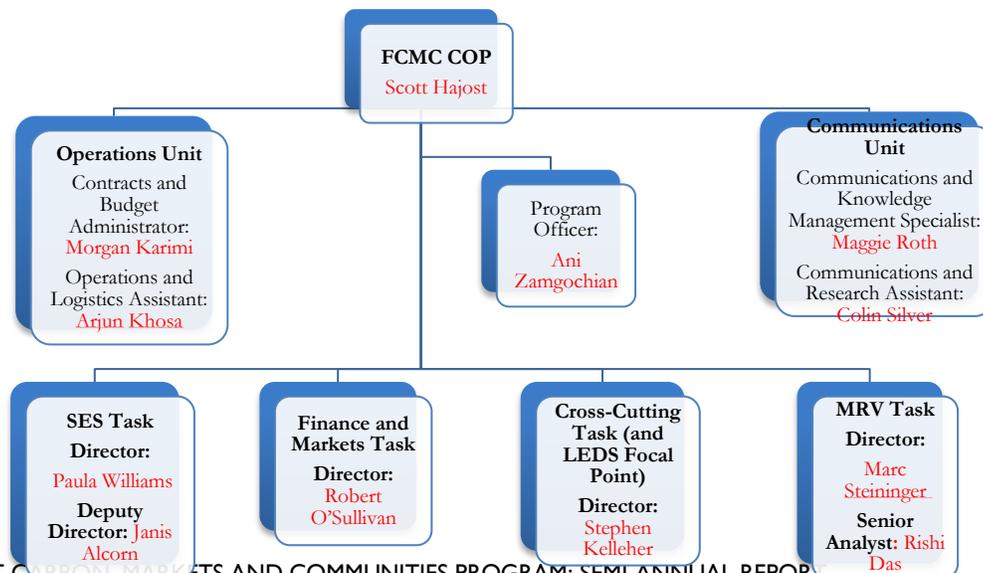
# 2.0 ADMINISTRATION

The beginning of Fiscal Year 2013 saw a number of staffing changes for FCMC. In October, FCMC began the process of increasing staff capacity to address emergent staffing needs by developing scopes of work and recruiting for various positions to be based at the FCMC office in Arlington, Virginia. The first of these was to hire a full-time Deputy Task Lead for the SES task, Dr. Janis Alcorn. Dr. Alcorn assists the SES task in its large and expanding activity portfolio, especially in regards to ongoing work in Latin America. Additionally, FCMC created two new positions related to communications, a Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist and a Communications and Research Assistant. Maggie Roth was hired to fill the Communications and Knowledge Management Specialist role, and Colin Silver, former Operations Assistant, has taken over the responsibility of Communications and Research Assistant. To fill the void left by this reorganization, FCMC hired Arjun Khosa as a new Operations and Logistics Assistant to help manage the administrative needs of the project, as well as provide logistics support for workshops and trainings. With additional work and with a view to taking on more finance, contracting and logistics responsibilities by FCMC itself, Morgan Karimi was approved to fill a new Contracts and Budget Administrator position. Since this position absorbs many of the responsibilities of the previous Operations Manager, Ani Zamgochian has shifted roles to Program Officer to manage the FCMC Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), support cross-cutting activities, as well as remaining and additional LEDES functions, among other program assistance. FCMC finalized its changes in staffing by hiring Rishi Das to fill the post of Senior Analyst for the MRV Task. All of these staffing changes this period are reflected in an updated organizational chart for FCMC, shown below.

To accommodate the expansion in staffing, FCMC assumed additional office space in November left by the African and Latin American Resilience to Climate Change (ARCC) project, another USAID-Tetra Tech project which had originally shared the office suite with FCMC

In February, a number of FCMC staff traveled to Burlington to meet with Tetra Tech staff on various ongoing issues, including communications and budget. This trip was helpful in further identifying strategic paths forward, as well as improving division of labor and roles and responsibilities on the heels of the large increase in staffing.

In addition, during this period Ian Deshmukh assumed the role of Tetra Tech home office Senior Technical Advisor/Manager (STA/M) from Matt Sommerville.



# 3.0 SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 3.1 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDNESS (SES)

This period saw progress in the SES task as well as the hiring of a new Deputy Task Lead, Dr. Janis Alcorn, who will be focusing her efforts on the ongoing work in Latin America. A number of activities and deliverables were advanced, including: an SES training course in Bangkok and preparations for two other regional trainings in Latin America and Africa, progress on the Lessons Learned from Community Forestry study, continuation of a review of the Learning Initiative for Social Assessment of REDD+ (LISA-REDD) methods, approval and release of the REDD+ Safeguards and Standards review and accompanying Spanish translation, assistance to the Environment Ministry of Colombia in their national safeguards system and SOW development for social safeguards work in San Martin, Peru through the REDD+ SES Initiative.

The Bangkok SES training workshop was successful, and provided significant material and lessons learned to build upon for the forthcoming Latin American (Amazonian) training workshop and the (central and West) African training workshop. The Amazonian SES training workshop planning is underway in collaboration with USAID's regional project ICAA (Initiative for the Conservation of the Andean Amazon). The African SES training workshop planning is underway with the US Forest Service, and will work with USAID's West African Regional Mission and regional programs CARPE and STEWARD

Preliminary findings from the Lessons Learned from Community Forestry and their Relevance for REDD+ review were presented at a USAID CBNRM Workshop, in January 2013 in Washington, DC. At this event, FCMC hosted an exhibition table with a poster, fact sheet, and informational postcard regarding the studies. Drafts of the three regional reviews and global synthesis report have been completed and are in the process of being edited and reviewed for submission. A small workshop is being considered to discuss the set of reports.

For the work on reviewing methods for LISA-REDD, the consultant submitted her complete draft report in February. Core members of the LISA-REDD group have reviewed the report and provided feedback. The final draft of the report is expected to be completed by the end of April. The group plans to use the consultant report as input for a resource guide.

The safeguards and standards report was approved by USAID and released in January. The Spanish translation of this report has also been approved by USAID and posted on the FCMC website. An updated version of the short briefing document that summarizes the larger report was also approved and translated into Spanish.

A SOW has been approved by USAID to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Government of Colombia, with the support of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through a subcontract to work with key stakeholder groups to develop a Safeguards System as part of the Colombian national REDD+ Strategy.

The study on shifting cultivation, deforestation, and gender roles in Central Africa is underway. The activity is now being managed by FCMC Cross-cutting Task Lead, Stephen Kelleher, with technical inputs from the SES team.

The revised report on stakeholder engagement has been prepared and is undergoing further review with a view to submission by the end of April.

## **3.2 FINANCE AND CARBON MARKETS**

The FCM task has finalized a number of reports and deliverables initiated in earlier quarters, including a report on California's cap-and-trade law (AB 32), an assessment of demand and supply of forest offsets in emerging compliance markets and an assessment of Colombia's financial readiness to participate in forest carbon markets. Ongoing work on existing tasks continued: FCMC involvement in the FCPF Methodology Framework Design Forums increased; and the REDD Desk task continued with an initial meeting held at FCMC's offices. Three new SOWs were approved: for an event with Bloomberg New Energy Finance; to support the development of a guidance document for the VCS JNR; and to host a small event in FCMC's offices to discuss recent FCM reports.

The Institutional Investor Journal (IIJ) hosted a webcast on California's cap-and-trade law (AB 32) and the implications it may have for institutional investors on November 6th. The webcast focused on the cap-and-trade and REDD+ provisions in the legislation. The webcast had 322 registered participants and 121 attendees, most of whom viewed the entire broadcast. The webcast ran for 1 hour and 19 minutes. The industry standard for average attendance is 23 minutes. IIJ stated the high participation and attendance "point to a very high level of engagement among attendees." A recording of the webcast is available on the IIJ and FCMC websites. A short briefing note to accompany the webcast was prepared and released in advance of the webcast and a full analytic report was submitted and approved by USAID in January.

An assessment of demand and supply in emerging compliance markets was completed and approved by USAID in March. The report was revised and a new standalone "summary for policy makers" was prepared. Both versions were disseminated through the FCMC Distribution List.

A draft of the assessment of Colombia's financial readiness was shared with USAID in January and the USAID Colombian mission and Government of Colombia in February for review. The final report was approved in March. The report has been translated into Spanish, and a draft of this version is being reviewed by the mission in Colombia.

Collaboration with the FCPF made significant progress during this period. Two technical reports were prepared for the FCPF, one on leakage and another on MRV. The reports will be used by the FCPF as background papers as it discusses the "methodological framework" that it will develop to quantify emission reductions or removals purchased by the FCPF's carbon fund. FCMC FCM task lead and Terra Global Capital staff attended and presented at the first FCPF Methodology Design Forum in January. The aforementioned papers were presented by Terra Global Capital and the FCM task lead moderated one of the sessions. The FCM and SES task leads attended and participated in the second Design Forum in February. At the request of the FCPF the SOW was revised to increase Terra Global Capital's role in a third paper on Financial Approaches for REDD+ Programs from peer reviewer to lead author. A final draft was submitted to USAID and the FCPF at the end of this reporting period. The paper will be presented at the third design forum in April. The FCM task lead was also invited to continue his contributions as a member of the Technical Advisory Panel through the remainder of the methodological framework process.

The REDD Desk task continued as planned. The kick-off meeting was held in DC and FCMC's offices in February. The work continues to move along as scheduled.

A new SOW to host an event in New York City with Bloomberg New Energy Finance was approved. FCMC will host an event leading up to Bloomberg's annual Summit on April 22 with a focus on emerging opportunities in the forest carbon markets. The event will showcase existing FCMC work products and draw upon recent developments in other agencies and include speakers from Terra Global Capital, Development Credit Authority (DCA), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). A summary post-event report will be produced. A new SOW for a similar,

smaller event to be held in the Tetra Tech offices in Rosslyn was approved. This event will focus on informing USAID, policy makers, donors, civil society and REDD+ developers on recent FCM work and developments in the sector.

A new SOW to develop a guidance document for the VCS JNR was initiated. The guidance document will provide practical advice to governments and other stakeholders on how to develop jurisdiction wide baselines and REDD+ programs following the VCS JNR. The guidance document is expected to be completed in July 2013.

New SOWs are also being considered. These include additional work in Colombia following on from the recently completed financial readiness assessment, analytic work on how to increase finance to support REDD+ and low emission agriculture activities, analytic support to the US Department of State following on from the Conference of the Parties (COP) 18 REDD+ decisions, and analytic support on results based finance for a workshop being sponsored by the Norwegian International Climate and Forests Initiative.

### **3.3 MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION (MRV/INVENTORIES)**

During this period, the MRV task also made progress. Rishi Das joined the MRV team as a Senior Analyst to support a number of current activities and develop others. FCMC co-hosted the seventh regional workshop on Forest Carbon monitoring in Merida, Mexico, part of the GEO-FCT/SilvaCarbon workshops series. The SilvaCarbon-FCMC partnership continues to be productive, with close coordination on research and review of community-based MRV experience and designing and hosting the next regional workshop in the SilvaCarbon series, to be held in May 2013. In the Andean region, FCMC has been very active on MRV work, with approval of the Colombia SOW on MRV reference levels and preliminary planning of the SOW on community-based MRV in Colombia. In Peru, technical capacity building for land use change monitoring is progressing. The MRV Manual Version 1.1 draft has been completed and submitted to USAID for review and comment, with Version 2.0 being planned currently. The MRV Manual is intended as a resource on best practices for establishing a national REDD+ MRV system. Version 1.0 of the manual was reviewed by USAID as a working draft. The review comments were addressed and additional valuable information was included to produce an intermediate Version 1.1. The next version, 2.0, is currently being planned and will include significant new material from SilvaCarbon and other partners and is intended to be a public document in some form. Work on the translation of the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI)'s online training modules into Spanish is set to begin in late March.

The support to forest monitoring in Peru with the planned contribution of the University of Maryland (UMD) is in progress (a subcontract with UMD is pending). UMD's satellite-data processing and forest-monitoring system has been installed within the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (MINAM) agency. Two iterations of national maps of forest cover and deforestation for 2000 - 2011 have been produced. A working session was held during February, with members from CI and UMD visiting MINAM for one week. This was very productive, and timelines were confirmed and bi-weekly videoconferences are now implemented. Additional specific items in the session include: 1) a definition of the sampling and validation methodology for the current map version, 2) a contract for an independent analyst to interpret validation points and conduct the validation calculations, 3) a strategy to invite others to a multi-map comparison and validation workshop, 4) a strategy to invite another group within MINAM, a planning department for the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (DGOT), to be full partners on the project, 5) a communication protocol, 6) a strategy to define the regional capacitation workshops and coordinate them with other workshops planned by MINAM, and 7) an agreement with SilvaCarbon on budgets for expenses of additional equipment requested by MINAM. The early success of this activity was evidenced by news we received while there. The Organization of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty (OTCA) project, a multi-national Amazon-wide project, seeks to report on Amazonian deforestation in an international meeting in Portugal in April. Peru's Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) had to decide if they felt any existing products were appropriate for this public

venue. In a meeting where all existing products were presented, the current version from the FCMC activity was selected by MINAG as being the most realistic product and most appropriate for providing to OTCA to include in their presentation.

The Colombia MRV reference level (RL) activity is now underway. The FCMC MRV team spent a week in February in Bogota planning the community-based MRV (CBMRV) activity and finalizing the RL activity SOW. There was a productive discussion on the vision and broad issues for CBMRV in Colombia, and a variety of possible activities were discussed and outlined for development in the SOW. The FCMC team also attended an FCPF-hosted international donor meeting in Bogota, and the USAID/FCMC contribution was prominently featured for its contribution to REDD+ Readiness in Colombia. Eric Fernandes of FCPF suggested a follow-up meeting back in DC this spring. FCMC also met with the director of the Environment Office at USAID-Colombia to review FCMC's current and planned activities in Colombia. Finally, FCMC met with the leads of a new German-funded project led by Climate Focus and Winrock on assisting Colombia in a trial of jurisdictional/nested REDD+. That project has no support for in-country partner inputs to technical aspects of reference-level modeling, and it is expected that the FCMC activity will be a major source of support for those needed activities.

Version 1.1 of the MRV manual was submitted for comment to USAID, and will be undergoing revisions at the start of the next reporting period. This version takes into account comments received from USAID and SilvaCarbon colleagues, forwarded to FCMC by USAID. It also includes other modifications based on discussions of the group of authors. Included will be a modification of the structure of the main chapters. In addition, a short associated document on the key aspects of an MRV system targeted to a decision-making audience will be provided. FCMC is looking ahead to begin work on Version 2.0 of the MRV manual once Version 1.1 is approved, and has submitted a work plan for the Version 2.0 preparation.

The translation of two of GHGMI's online training courses on forest carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories began in late March. The translation is expected to be complete by May 2013, and FCMC is working with GHGMI to determine the participants and availability of the English and Spanish course material to select Latin American partners and USG staff.

The FCMC-SilvaCarbon partnership continues to be productive. FCMC contributed to the recent GEO-FCT SilvaCarbon workshop on forest monitoring held in Merida, Mexico in January. FCMC is working closely with SilvaCarbon in coordination of MRV support to Peru and meetings with other donors and partners to ensure coordination among multiple efforts there. FCMC and SilvaCarbon will be designing and hosting the next regional workshop on community-based MRV, which will likely be held in Lima in May 2013. SilvaCarbon is also advising FCMC on co-authors for Version 2 of the MRV manual.

### **3.4 LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LEDS)**

The LEDS portfolio maintains its two main focal areas of support to Huila, Colombia in their preparation of a climate change action plan and development of an analysis of government capacity for LEDS in Guatemala.

In Colombia, a planning workshop was held in late January attended by technical experts as well as representatives of USAID/Washington and the Colombia Mission. Priorities identified and planned in the previous stages were modified to focus more on information management in a way that can support decision making in Huila. A meeting of the Huila Climate Change Task Force convened in March and was joined by the consultant selected to prepare the Climate Change Action Plan. The consultant will first draft the framework for the action plan, to be followed by the development of the action plan itself. The detailed terms of reference and SOW have been finalized and submitted to USAID. The encouraging element of this SOW is that it is being jointly funded by CAM and FCMC, with CAM providing the bulk of resources.

FCMC has been providing cross-sectoral technical assistance to the USAID Guatemala Mission in collaboration with the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB). A team of six sectoral experts in land use, industrial processes, agriculture/livestock, energy, transportation and information management worked with

the Guatemalan Ministry of Natural Resources (MARN) and the General Secretariat for Planning (SEGEPLAN) during a two week field visit from 25 February – 4 March 2013. The team conducted an institutional capacity assessment of SEGEPLAN and MARN to implement LEDS work, and performed a gap assessment on information availability in Guatemala to contribute to evaluating LEDS activities. The team's visit coincided with the US interagency Enhancing Capacity for LEDS (EC-LEDS) scoping visit and many interviews were conducted jointly. A member of the FCMC team also participated on the EC-LEDS team, ensuring complementarity between the work of the two teams. The team delivered a draft report to USAID-Guatemala in early April 2013, and anticipates building on this report by providing additional technical support in the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector over the coming months, within the original budget for the activity.

### **3.5 CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES**

During this reporting period, a number of Cross-cutting-managed tasks advanced, including the East Africa Regreening Study, the study on Shifting Cultivation, REDD+ and Gender in Central Africa, assisting to organize a CARPE workshop and an options paper on the joint FCMC-USFS mission to West Africa.

The East Africa Regreening Study received a green light from USAID to proceed into the scoping phase. Tetra Tech Senior Associate and FCMC STA/M Ian Deshmukh is serving as team leader and, for the initial scoping phase, working with a Nairobi-based consultant serving as Deputy Team Leader. An initial scoping mission to Uganda and Ethiopia was agreed in January and took place in February. The mission visited the ECOTRUST Uganda/Plan Vivo Team in Uganda and the World Vision Humbo Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration team in Addis Ababa, as well as the USAID Missions and other relevant partners in both countries. The scoping trip to the third focal country, Kenya, to include the International Small Group Tree Planting Program (TIST) and Greenbelt Movement, could not take place due to a Temporary Duty (TDY) travel ban related to the Kenyan election and will be undertaken during the next mission, planned for late April-May. The objective of the scoping phase was to present and discuss the draft SOW for the study, generate feedback on the questions and methods proposed and to assess existing information to adequately answer key questions and revise and finalize the scope of work and methodology for the study. The full study, based on the results of the scoping mission and revised SOW, will take place in the April/May with an expanded study team recruited during the scoping phase that reflects outcomes from that phase and the technical expertise required for the full study. As the Kenya elections were largely peaceful, USAID is expected to lift the TDY restrictions in time for a scoping visit in late May, with the Phase 2 field work following in June.

Work on the comprehensive Shifting Cultivation, REDD+ and Gender Study in Central and West Africa advanced significantly and all field work for the Central Africa elements of the study were completed. The West Africa portion of the study will be considered at a later date, pending decisions on the allocation of FCMC funds. The initial findings of the DRC field work conducted last quarter were presented at a meeting of the USAID Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and other partners in DRC and to the Yale University chapter of the ISTF. Initial findings were well received. The DRC team reconvened in DRC in February and visited two additional landscapes there. A Cameroun-specific support team was assembled to join the Team Leader to undertake field work in Cameroun and the initial summary reports were submitted for review in mid-April, and the review is ongoing. A final report summarizing the findings of the Central Africa study will be prepared in the coming months. The most recent findings from the DRC and Cameroun up visits were presented at meetings in Kinshasa and Yaounde and the initial findings were met with positive reactions.

An options paper was prepared based on the ideas and inputs generated during the joint USFS-FCMC mission to West Africa during the last quarter. Feedback on the paper is being solicited from USAID Missions and partners interviewed during the scoping mission. The budget for this engagement has been reduced and the final option or options in the region will be extremely focused given the limited resources.

The nature of this investment will be determined early in the next quarter in consultation with USAID and USFS, including its STEWARD program

One area of collaboration between USFS and FCMC that is moving forward is cooperation on a West and Central Africa workshop on SES. The detailed planning for this activity has begun and will accelerate in the next quarter. The workshop is tentatively planned for the 1st quarter of FY14.

Coordination continued with CI on the development of the AGRC REDD+ competencies framework. A revised budget and timeline was prepared for AGRC partners and a similar revision is pending for CI. Preparations are underway to present the initial framework at the meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) SBSTA and/or the REDD+ Partnership next quarter, with the planned global workshop currently planned for July 2013. A first complete draft of the framework was created and submitted to AGRC partners and FCMC for review. The Chief of Party and Task Leads across all four technical areas of the program provided detailed comments, and FCMC will continue to work with CI and other AGRC partners to further develop, review and finalize the Framework.

FCMC was requested to support USAID/CARPE to develop and organize a workshop for CARPE partners and related technical experts in May 2013. FCMC is working with Ken Creighton of USAID/Kinshasa and the USFS on the workshop. Final dates, a venue and participants have been identified and work is continuing on the final agenda.

### **3.6 COMMUNICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

FCMC began increasing internal capacity for communications on a large scale during this period, through staffing changes and new organizational capacity. There has been an increase in use of the FCMC website, including posting regular news stories that detail involvement in various workshops and scoping missions. The website has undergone an aesthetic and presentational review to better serve the needs of FCMC products and outcomes. Strategic mailings to the FCMC distribution list have been reviewed and enhanced, including a well-received quarterly newsletter. Updates and adaptive management of FCMC brochures, power point presentations, and fact sheets have been undertaken to ensure consistency, compliance and timeliness for all FCMC communication. More formal incorporation of communications planning into SOW development and activity implementation is also being implemented, particularly for activities that require active outreach.

FCMC is in the process of revising targets related to indicators in its PMP and standardizing templates for data capture. Revisions will reflect priority activities as directed by FCMC's Contracting Officer's Representative (COR). Following the most recent update, FCMC's indicators are as follows:

- Indicator 1 - Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation provided to counterparts or stakeholders
- Indicator 2 - Number of days of USG funded technical assistance in climate change provided to counterparts or stakeholders
- Indicator 3 - Person hours of training completed in climate change supported by USG assistance
- Indicator 4 – Number of institutions with improved capacity to address climate change issues as a result of USG assistance (Sustainable Landscapes)
- Indicator 5 – Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance (Sustainable Landscapes)

## 4.0 ISSUES TO CONSIDER/ RESOLVE

This period saw a significant amount of work approved and underway. FCMC is making progress in expanding the project's activity portfolio and committed funding. Work is underway by USAID to obligate the remaining funds to reach the FCMC contract ceiling and to extend the contract by six months. There is interest from the US State Department to commit \$2 million to FCMC via USAID. One important issue is resolving intellectual property issues related to completing the UMD subcontract to support the Peru MRV work. Discussions are ongoing with USAID on this matter.

# 5.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

As this report indicates, there has been significant progress on a number of diverse deliverables and activities, including analytical studies and in-country work across the range of FCMC themes. This includes a major SES training course in Bangkok, LEDS work in Guatemala got underway, and completion of reports on safeguards, Colombia REDD+ finance and markets, California cap-and-trade, and emerging compliance markets. Substantial work progressed on the shifting cultivation study, including the culmination of the second field study in Cameroon. Preliminary findings on FCMC work on lessons learned from community forestry and REDD+ were represented at a USAID CBNRM workshop in January. Agendas have been drafted and invites sent out to communicate and deliver some of FCMC's recent FCM work at events in New York City with Bloomberg and in DC. MRV work in Peru was begun and the groundwork for FCMC MRV work in Colombia was laid. A draft version 1.1 of the MRV manual was finalized towards the end of this period along with a work plan for Version 2.0, which were submitted to USAID for review. The East Africa Regreening Study also was initiated.

Through the addition of new staff, FCMC has ramped up capacity for activity design, implementation and communications. The project expects a continuation of robust activity heading into the start of its third year.

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