

CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)

13th Meeting of the Independent Steering Committee (ISC)

Thursday 20 February 2020

2-4pm London time

(Virtual on Bluejeans.com – see Lucya’s invitation)

Doc 1 – Update on ONE CGIAR

Since the ISC last discussed the issue on 4th November 2019 in Rome, there have been several developments regarding the One CGIAR process:

- 1) The [SRG recommendations](#) towards One CGIAR have been unanimously endorsed in block by the [System Council](#) on 13-14 November 2019.
- 2) CIFOR-ICRAF Common Board has met on 18-22 November and considered the implications of the SC decisions on CIFOR-ICRAF, and agreed on CIFOR-ICRAF’s position for the immediate next steps.
- 3) The [General Assembly of the Centers](#) have met on 12-13 December 2019 to look at implications of the SC decisions for centers and exchange on their position. It confirmed the Centers’ broad overall agreement on the direction of the reform, with some centers (including CIFOR-ICRAF) expressing several reserves on a range of issues and uncertainties.
- 4) The [System Management Board](#) has met on 28-29 January 2020 and took a series of decisions to move ahead processes according to the document on [Initial Steps and Transition Support to One CGIAR](#).

The related processes foresee, inter-alia:

- The appointment of an Executive Management Team (EMT) in the SMO, comprised of three managing directors to which the set of 15 DGs will report, and that will oversee and direct the whole change process. As a first step, an interim EMT is to be appointed by 30 April 2020 (search is underway).
- That by 1st October 2020, the CGIAR will operate with One CGIAR common board (members to be approved by 31 July 2020), and that by 1st October, all 15 centers will have renewed their own board so that a majority of at least 2/3rd of their board members do come from the One CGIAR common board.

5) An informal **“big lifts” workshop** took place in Eschborn (Germany) on 5-7 February 2020, organized by the System council and involving a set of representative in the system. It enabled to have a first brainstorming around possible big programmatic areas (the big lifts) of the One CGIAR. Four areas were preliminarily identified at this workshop: “Intensify, Protect (protect,

promote, restore), Diversity, De-risk”, with a call to add a 5th one “empower, and a preliminary problem statement and scope for these was brainstormed.

6) A series of six Transition Advisory Groups (TAGs) will be created to guide the different process. One of them concerns research (SRG recommendations 1 and 4). Tags will be high level (for the research TAG are envisaged: 3 DGs, 3 system council members, 3 Center Board Chairs, 2 SMB members and the ISDC Chair). The TAGs will be backed-up by support teams managed by the SMO (under the auspices of the Executive Management Team). It is unclear how the membership of the TAG support teams will be formed and by whom it will be agreed, but probably by the EMT.

The calendar foresees that the new **CGIAR research strategy including the big lifts to be elaborated by the research TAG are presented for endorsement by the System Council in November 2020**. Some consultation of partners and stakeholders on a draft proposal should be organized by the SMO around September 2020. It is unclear how the current CRPs will be associated to the process → the membership of the TAG and its support team will be critical for this.

The following web page gathers information on the process ongoing.

<https://www.cgiar.org/how-we-work/strategy/transition-consultation-forum/>