THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) was created in 1998 to provide international leaders in the forest sector with an ongoing, multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and process focused on developing mutual trust, a shared understanding, and collaborative solutions to challenges in achieving sustainable forest management and forest conservation around the world. In recent years, TFD has expanded its remit to include all actors across the landscape. TFD is an autonomous, unincorporated organization hosted by Yale University and with a Secretariat based at F&ES since 2000.

The goal of TFD is to reduce conflict among stakeholders over the use and protection of vital forest resources. Over the past eighteen years, TFD has brought together more than 3,000 diverse leaders to work through nineteen key compelling forest and landscape sustainability challenges. Current TFD initiatives include: Land Tenure Reform (LTR), The Land Use Dialogues (LUD), Tree Plantations in the Landscape (TPL), and Understanding Deforestation-Free (UDF). TFD uses the multi-stakeholder dialogue model to progress from building trust among participants to achieving substantive, tangible outcomes in such a way that participants are committed to advocate for and work to implement those consensus-based outcomes.

TFD is governed by a steering committee composed of a diverse group of individuals representing key stakeholder groups from around the world. TFD hires F&ES students as program associates each term to work with the Secretariat and steering committee members. Duties include background research, Secretariat support, dialogue planning, and implementation. Students who are interested in forest and landscape-related issues as well as those who are interested in stakeholder engagement are encouraged to apply to work with TFD.