Stream 5 Outputs
What Stream 5 Did

• Addressed the Key Issues through a series of presentations, moderated discussions, and information gathering from other stakeholders

• Generated additional data to help shape our engagement with CBFP

• We’re going to review the draft outcomes by key issue, and then discuss additional potential recommendations or action items
1. Priority Topics to be Addressed by Scientists

• Findings:
  • Data gaps and research priorities are not being communicated from decision makers to researchers
  • Priorities (from interviews):
    • Assessment of efficacy of interventions/programs
    • Understanding of the role of land tenure
    • Baseline measurements for forest conservation programs
  • We have a better understanding of priorities, but the interviews were not comprehensive.

• Recommendations:
  • Given the general applicability of much research, CBFP should consider developing and communicating clear research priorities (should College 6 discuss/raise this?)
2. Current Impact of Research

• Findings:
  • There is a lot of research being produced, but it is being under-utilized
  • Research has the most impact when it is presented to the right people at the right time
  • Most impact when translated to Development and Policy recommendations

• Recommendations/Outcomes:
  • Implement communication strategies (Key Issue #3) recommendations
  • Researchers must make an effort to promote their research to other stakeholders at CBFP
  • Academic Consortium developed a list of the current research being conducted by its members, and distributed it to interviewees
3. Communication Strategies

• Findings:
  • Researchers are publishing, but language barriers can be a problem
  • Research is not being communicated to decision makers in an effective manner
  • Using research findings in teaching is a key communication strategy
  • Communication is more effective when:
    • You draft separate communications for decision makers that are clear and concise
    • Identify all key players involved and communicate findings
    • Follow-up with decision makers after providing information
3. Communication Strategies (cont.)

• Recommendations:
  • Immediate:
    • Use COMIFAC Convergence Plan/priorities as working document for objectives
    • College 6 discusses role in furnishing research results and supporting decision making
    • Ask to present summary of research conducted to College 1 (Member states) and College X (Civil Society)?
      • Include research communication in project design and budgets
      • Share research results in different formats and tools that are more easily accessible
      • Give research results to decision makers in clear and concise format
  • Medium-term:
    • Develop science communication curricula
    • Make research results more accessible to the public (individual researchers and College)
    • Leverage people and institutions with influence to spread results (e.g. media, celebrities)
    • Share final results of interviews, which include many suggestions on how to improve communication with decision makers
    • Ask decision makers how they use information, when, and in what form
4. Research Capacity in the Region

• Findings:
  • Interviewees thought more capacity was needed, but that we need to focus on specific skill sets
    • Need graduates with critical thinking skills who can compare and summarize contradicting information
  • There examples of successes (RIFFEAC, CEEAC, CBI), but brain drain and lack of funding is a serious issue
    • Did a brief assessment of capacity building efforts by theme
  • Short-term funding/projects not sustainable
  • Lack of permanent, sustainable facilities
  • The existing capacity building efforts are not well known
4. Research Capacity in the Region (cont.)

• Recommendations/
  • Continue effort coordinate education efforts in the region: discuss in College 6
  • College 6 communicate the importance of targeted capacity building
  • College 6 members take the suggestions about what is needed for capacity building (from semi-structured interviews and research plan revision) and internalize them
  • Political support from CBFP/COMIFAC for increased research and education funding
  • College 6/Stream 5 develops 2-3 research projects to propose (including potentially on about an assessment of decision making in the region)

• Outcomes:
  • Researchers learned about accessing new funding sources
5. Ideas for Joint Research Projects

• Findings:
  • Overlap with #1 (identification of priority topics)

• Outcomes:
  • Some connections made for researchers to collaborate, but lack of funding is a major hurdle to collaborative research
  • Inventory of existing networks and efforts and identify gaps
Additional Work: Assessing Science in Decision Making

• There is currently a very large gap between research and decision making

• Decision-making happens at different levels (functional unit, country, region). What is CBFP’s role in impacting non-regional decision making?

• Links with capacity building: Need to teach critical thinking and decision making skills.

• Need for innovative approach – permanent presence in the region?
Additional Work: Assessing Science in Decision Making (cont.)

- Recommendations/Outcomes:
  - Researchers invest time and effort to connect with decision makers, share results, and provide advice
  - Learn from existing efforts to communicate
    - CBI biodiversity and climate change project
    - CIRAD research prioritizations
  - Raise the issue in College 6 and the council?
  - Pilot decision support tools?
Potential Key Issues for College 6

• Develop/finalize official research and education priorities
• Invest in human capacity building through funding for schools and research stations
• Develop a process for providing research and expert advice to decision makers
• Organizing existing networks for research and education in the region
• Assessment of projects in existing countries (what has worked and what hasn’t)
Other issues to consider

• How do we make Stream 5 more than just researchers?
• How do we want to use the interview results?