

Announcement of the Australian – Swiss Region-Led Initiative

Australia and Switzerland have the pleasure to announce a **region-led initiative (RLI) on regional processes in support of the UN Forum on Forests**.

In reforming the future work of the UNFF countries agreed that there should be a greater interaction between the UNFF and the work being carried out by forest-related organizations and processes that operate at the regional level. At the 6th and 7th sessions of UNFF, regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, were invited to address issues and agenda items planned for each UNFF session, to provide a concise summary of their deliberations to the UNFF secretariat, and to contribute to the discussions of UNFF sessions.

UNFF also agreed that the first round of regional meetings should occur in 2008 in order to provide input to the next global UNFF session which will occur in early 2009.

To respond to this new modality, forest-related regional/sub-regional meetings will need to give consideration as to how they can best address the UNFF issues and contribute positively to policy deliberations at future UNFF meetings. The aim is to find practical ways to incorporate the UNFF work into the existing regional processes in a way that provides positive benefits to the regional processes.

The scope of the RLI is to promote/stimulate and enhance the contribution and participation of regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in the UNFF work with a view to contribute to enhanced implementation of sustainable forest management.

The meeting will be limited to 50 participants, giving the priority to regional and sub-regional entities. Invitations will be sent soon. It will take place on 28-30 January 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The report from the RLI will be circulated to countries, the UNFF and regional forest-related organizations and processes to help them with implementing the required interactions during 2008.



Australian Government
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