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Your reference

To the Second session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests

On behalf of the Ministry of Industry,  
Employment and Communication.

## Swedish Report on the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action

The Swedish Forest Administration has performed a thorough study of the proposals for action from the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) documented in Report No3, 2001, National Board of Forestry 125 pp (ISSN 1100-0295). The purpose of this study was to structure and analyse the IPF/IFF proposals for action from a Swedish point of view. The study was performed in collaboration with the following actors: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swedish Forest Industries Federation, Federation of Swedish Farmers and Forest Owners, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

There are some features of the Swedish situation and way of working that are of particular importance in relation to the proposals for action. Policy building within the forestry sector has a long tradition in Sweden. Ever since the first forestry act from 1903 the forest policy formulation has been an evolving process. This process is characterised by cooperation and consultation between interested parties with the aim to reach consensus. The current Swedish forest policy is from 1993, and it corresponds, among others, to the goals reflected in the Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles. The two goals of the new policy, one for the environment and one for the production should be equally prioritised in forest management.

Conclusions drawn from the Swedish study on IPF/IFF Proposals for action were that the Swedish situation and way of working correspond largely to the requirements of the proposals for action, although the measures have not been taken as a direct consequence of the IPF/IFF proposals. There are several fields where Sweden fulfils, or even is ahead of, the requirements of

the proposals, but also some fields where further action can be recommended. Sweden is well ahead in, for example, policy formulation, capacity-building, implementation of forest policy through information and training, forest inventories and certification.

Matters in the proposals for action where further efforts can be recommended, include criteria and indicators, traditional forest-related knowledge, full-cost internalisation, and inventories of non-wood values.

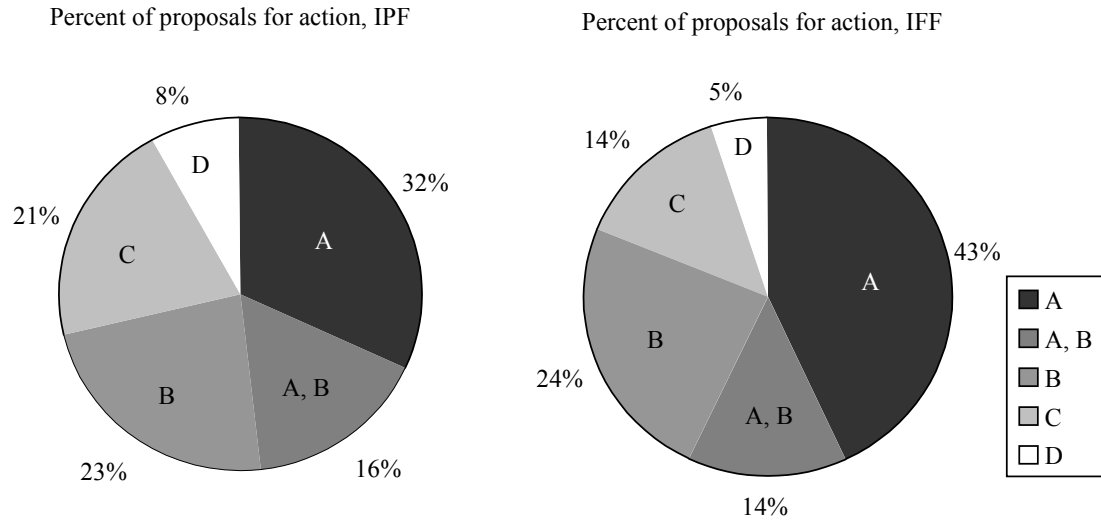
Further, the contents, and even the existence, of the IPF/IFF proposals for action are relatively unknown in Sweden. Further work on disseminating information on the content of the proposals for action is now important.

The Proposals for action has been structured from a Swedish context in order to identify priorities and appropriate actors. It was found that slightly more than half of the proposals for action include actions to be implemented within Sweden (Category A) (See Fig 1). The proposals for action that require international commitment, in some way, by Sweden (Category B) constitute around 39% of the total number of proposals. These are to be implemented outside of the Swedish borders. The proposals for action that do not require direct action or initiative by Sweden or are not applicable in the Swedish context (Category C) constitute a considerable part of the proposals for action, particularly the IPF proposals, with a little less than one-fifth of the proposals in this category. The proposals for action where no consensus could be reached but still are enclosed in the reports of the IPF and IFF (Category D) naturally constitute the smallest part of the proposals, and are reduced in the IFF process compared with the IPF. The Category D proposals constitute around 6% of the proposals for action.

The proposals for action that only include actions that are to be implemented within Sweden (classified only as Category A), constitute around 37% of the total number of IPF/IFF proposals. This figure is larger for the IFF proposals, compared with the IPF proposals.

The proposals that require actions both within Sweden and internationally (classified as both Category A and B) are roughly the same for the two processes, and constitute around 15% of the total number of proposals.

The part of the proposals that only requires action at the international arena (classified only as Category B) constitutes slightly more than one-fifth of the proposals for action.



*Fig 1. The percentage of the proposals for action, of the IPF and IFF processes, classified in the different Categories. The proposals for action classified as both Category A and B are represented by a separate part of the diagram. Categories are defined in the previous paragraph .*

At present the Swedish Forestry Administration conduct a thoroughgoing examination of the implementation of the current forest policy i.e. the national forestry programme. The result of this examination will be presented on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2002. The Swedish Government will thereafter, if appropriate, propose changes and amendments to the forest policy including legislation, taking the IPF/IFF proposals for action into account, to the Swedish parliament.

Reporting on the IPF/IFF proposals for action which require action by Swedish actors outside Sweden will be presented to coming UNFF sessions in accordance with a common reporting format.