

Overview of CPF Members' Work on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action

Working Draft, October 2004

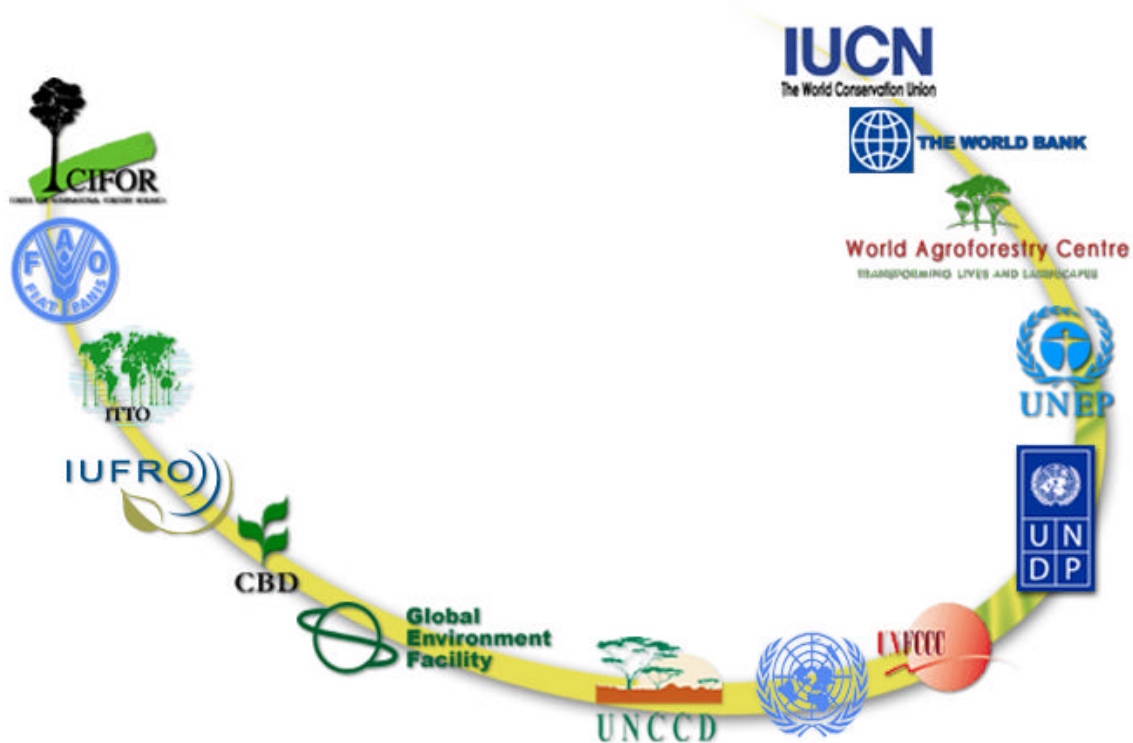


Table of Contents

Introduction 3
National forest programmes 4
Promoting public participation 5
Deforestation and forest degradation 6
Traditional forest-related knowledge 8
Forest-related scientific knowledge 9
Forest health and productivity 10
Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management 11
Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests 12
Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems 14
Monitoring, assessment and reporting; concepts, terms and definitions 16
Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover 18
Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and promotion of natural and planted forests 19
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs 21
Financial resources 22
International trade and sustainable forest management 24
International cooperation in capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technologies 25

INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment in 2001, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has worked to support the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its member countries and to enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues, in order to help achieve sustainable forest management worldwide. The interagency Partnership is comprised of the following 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests:

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
World Bank
World Conservation Union (IUCN)

CPF members advance the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) proposals for action by providing technical assistance and information to countries; supporting regional and international initiatives; identifying and mobilizing financial resources; and by strengthening political support for sustainable forest management. They carry out joint CPF initiatives, collaborate with each other and with governmental and non-governmental partners in various projects, and share information in order to capitalize on synergies and avoid duplication of effort.

The ‘Overview of CPF Members’ Work on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action’ is a working document that illustrates CPF members’ efforts in the implementation of these major forest commitments over the last few years. It is compiled by the UNFF Secretariat based on material that CPF members have submitted for the preparation of the CPF’s annual progress reports (*CPF Framework*) and the reports of the Secretary-General on the substantive themes of the UNFF sessions; as well as CPF members’ individual reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, submitted for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests in September 2004. All these reports are available on the UNFF website: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>.

For further information on the CPF, please visit its website: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf>.

NATIONAL FOREST PROGRAMMES

Focal Agency: FAO
UNFF: Considered as a common item, discussed at each session of UNFF in relation to the main themes for a particular session.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on national forest programmes prepared for UNFF 2; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- All CPF members support national forest programmes in a general sense, through their assistance to countries in forest policy development, capacity building and efforts to implement sustainable forest management.
- Two major entities, hosted by two CPF members, are specifically targeted at support to national forest programmes:
 - The National Forest Programme Facility, hosted by FAO, is a partnership of bilateral donors and international organizations that supports (as of September 2004) 36 countries and two sub-regional entities through grants, to further national forest programmes.
 - PROFOR, hosted by the World Bank, has been working on development and implementation of nfps in Cameroon, Costa Rica, Guyana, Malawi and Viet Nam.
- FAO supports development and implementation of national forest programmes in 22 countries through its technical cooperation programme. FAO is also undertaking studies on financial strategies and mechanisms to support national forest programmes, initially focusing on Latin America, and has convened a technical meeting on cross-sectoral policy impacts between forestry and other sectors, which identified ways to foster cross-sectoral synergies.
- CIFOR, ITTO, the PROFOR (hosted by the World Bank), FAO and the UNFF Secretariat supported the Workshop on Decentralization, Federal Systems in Forestry and National Forest Programmes, a United Nations Forum on Forests country-led initiative that was co-sponsored by the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland, co-organized by several other countries and in April 2004 in Interlaken, Switzerland.
- UNDP supports decentralization and local governance processes by addressing policy reforms and development planning, promoting effective legal frameworks and mobilizing resources for use at the regional and local levels.

PROMOTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Focal Agency: UNFF Secretariat at the international level
UNDP at the local and national levels

UNFF: Considered as a common item to be discussed at each session in relation to the main themes for a particular session.

Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; CPF Network Concept Paper; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- All CPF members have mechanisms in place to facilitate the input of civil society and involve them in their activities. Furthermore, the CPF has met and shared information with a wide range of partners and stakeholders through the informal CPF Network.
- Several CPF members are also active in facilitating participation of civil society at the national level. For example, UNDP through its Civil Society Advisory Committee; CIFOR promotes participatory action research to facilitate collaborative management involving local communities; FAO works on integrating participatory processes into nfps; IUCN supports projects on public involvement in forest management in the Russian Federation; ITTO is establishing civil society and private-sector partnerships to promote sustainable forest management and certification in the field.
- FAO brings frequently together experts in stakeholder participation meetings to share experiences and lessons learned to build partnerships, to harmonize approaches and to make them widely available. Two expert meetings were organized in 2002 and 2003.
- FAO is helping capacity building for private and community forestry in seven countries in Central and Eastern Europe, in partnership with IUCN; training of middle forest managers in participatory processes in six African countries; and helping community-based forest enterprise development through a number of projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, including specifically for the conservation of biological diversity at World Heritage Sites in China and Uganda. A workshop was organized, together with CIFOR (2002, Indonesia) on equitable partnerships between corporate and smallholder actors.

DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION

Focal Agency: UNEP
UNFF: UNFF 2 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on deforestation and forest degradation; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- ITTO is implementing the ITTO Objective 2000, which supports countries to move towards achieving exports of tropical timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests.
- The Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted in 2002 an expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity which includes activities geared towards reducing deforestation and forest degradation.
- IUCN has been facilitating participatory processes in eastern, West and southern Africa to strengthen capacity in developing countries to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation through strengthening forest law enforcement and good governance by, inter alia, encouraging broader participation, exchanging relevant research results and lessons learned from existing local and national initiatives, and identifying policy instruments and other strategies for combating those problems at different levels.
- Several CPF members, including the World Bank, IUCN, CIFOR, ITTO and FAO, were actively involved in the ministerial meeting of African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance process, held in Yaoundé, in October 2003. The African Forest Law Enforcement and Governance process address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation through strengthening forest law enforcement and good governance.
- UNEP is currently undertaking a number of projects related to deforestation, including:
 - The BALANCE project, which is an EU funded project (2002-2005). Its aim is to assess the vulnerabilities of the Barents Sea system in the Arctic region to climate change based on an Integrated Assessment Model. Changes to boreal forest cover under model conditions are assessed.
 - A partnership has been agreed between UNEP-WCMC, RIVM and GRID-Arendal in the area of scenario building. The partnership include work on spatial analysis, identifying areas of high value and threat for ecosystems of interest, such as Mountain Watch, Forests at Risk, and Dryland Watch.
 - UNEP's Regional Office of Europe facilitated a number of processes and partnerships aiming mainly at the development of national policies contributing to the conservation of European forests.
- FAO, in collaboration with ITTO, is preparing a set of guidelines (by early 2005), called Best Practices for Better Law Compliance in the Forest Sector, that decision makers could follow to reduce illegal operations in the sector.
- Other key activities that FAO is involved in include the development of practical guidelines for responsible forest management and environmentally sound harvesting codes, as well as support for model forests.
- Recent collaborative activities of IUFRO on the issues of deforestation and forest degradation, include:

- A two year research and networking activity of IUFRO Research Group “Forest History” (under Division 6 “Social, Economic, Information and Policy Sciences”) has focused on addressing main driving forces and underlying factors of forest degradation in Central Europe within the last 400 years.
- The work of IUFRO Research Groups addressing biodiversity and old-growth forests (under Division 8 “Forest Environment”) has focused on the adaptive traits of late-successional tree species and how these adaptive traits relate to the interspecific competitive advantages or disadvantages of such species under forest harvesting regimes such as clear-cutting. IUFRO’s research has given evidence that clear-cutting has resulted in a loss of late-successional and old-growth forest types with a consequent loss in certain components of forest diversity. These declines and losses have led to forest degradation in terms of biodiversity and possibly to the adaptive potential of certain species. Based on this research, recommendations have been given concerning changes to harvesting practices to accommodate these late-successional species.

TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE

Focal Agency: CBD Secretariat
UNFF: UNFF 4 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on traditional forest-related knowledge for UNFF 4; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- Where applicable, all CPF members take into account the importance and relevance of traditional forest-related knowledge in policy and project activities.
- Article 8 (j) of the CBD is closely linked to TFRK. CBD has established a working group specifically to address the implementation of the Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the convention.
- TFRK is also explicitly considered in the CBD expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2002. Specifically, on actions geared at: (i) establishing protected forest area networks; (ii) developing adaptive community management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biodiversity; (iii) developing equitable information systems for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic diversity; and (iv) increasing the understanding of the value of forest biological diversity.
- The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted in 2004 a series of decisions pertaining to the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions. These pertain to participation mechanisms, the Akwé: Kon guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment, and *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.
- GEF is the financial mechanism of the CBD, and in response to requests for assistance, GEF provides support to countries to meet their obligations as parties to the Convention. Within the biodiversity focal area, the support is provided through the biodiversity Operational Programs which support country implementation of the articles of the Convention, including Article 8(j).
- In 2003, FAO organized a roundtable on Indigenous Partnerships and SFM, during a visit of representatives from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a seminar in indigenous issues in Rural Development, Food and Agriculture.
- UNEP is supporting a project focusing on the involvement of local communities in the development of forest management strategies is *Biodiversity Conservation and Integration of Traditional Knowledge on Medicinal Plants in National Primary Health Care Policy in Central America and the Caribbean*. The project will support conservation and sustainable use of forest ecosystems in Central America and the Caribbean.

FOREST-RELATED SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Focal Agencies: CIFOR/ICRAF/IUFRO

UNFF: UNFF 4 element.

Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on forest-related scientific knowledge for UNFF 4; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- CPF joint initiative: the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) hosted by the IUFRO Secretariat. The GFIS is an Internet gateway that provides access to information on forest resources at a global scale where users can locate maps, datasets, web resources, journal articles, books and other resources related to forests. The Service currently holds more than 120,000 metadata records.
- UNEP activities include to a variety of projects contributing to the collection, editing, dissemination of scientific information, including:
 - UNEP's annual environmental statement, the GEO Year Book 2003, includes discussions on forest-related issues, (forest fire, forest legislation etc) of regional and global importance. The report also highlighted the important role of forest cover in maintaining water quality and quantity. In addition, forest is one of the seven environmental issues chosen in the GEO Indicator Section and reflects headline trends for the major global environmental issues addressed under the GEO reporting process.
 - Forest was one of the environmental issues studied in depth in previous Global Environment Outlook (GEO) reports, and will remain an important subject in the GEO 4 process and its final report.
- FAO is publishing quarterly UNASYLVA an international journal of forestry and forest industries.
- FAO collaborates with IUFRO, ICRAF and CIFOR to strengthen forestry and agroforestry research in developing countries, e.g. by supporting regional networks, such as APAFRI and FORNESSA; collaborating in tree genetic resources, small holder timber marketing, extension, HIV/AIDS and forestry; and hosting IUFRO staff in its regional offices in Africa and Latin America.
- The IUFRO Task Force on the Forest Science/Policy Interface convened its fourth and final workshop in June 2004 in Birmensdorf, Switzerland. The goal of this task force is to explore strategies and mechanisms for improving communication between forest scientists and policy-makers so as to ensure that sound science is considered in the formulation of forest policies and practices.
- IUFRO's Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) has further developed its activities to strengthen the contributions that science can make to local and regional forest development projects. A forest policy seminar for practitioners and forest scientists on "International forest related-initiatives and agreements and their implementation in the context of national forest programmes – linking research and science with practice" has been convened by IUFRO-SPDC in collaboration with GTZ-IWP (International Forest Policy Dialogue) in September 2004 in Jakarta,
- IUFRO has also carried out a number of other activities that have contributed in particular to effectively addressing knowledge gaps and setting research priorities at various levels by organizing and participating in several workshops and international symposiums and conferences.
- Overall, many CPF members support and collaborate with a variety of research networks that carry out policy relevant research and provide a wide array of forest-related knowledge through publications, information systems and databases.

FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Focal Agency: FAO
UNFF: UNFF 3 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on forest health and productivity and for UNFF 3; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- Collaboration related to wildfires:
 - FAO, ITTO, IUCN and others, including the Global Fire Monitoring Centre, are exploring approaches to promote the participation of local communities in fire management and forest fire prevention.
 - UNEP, FAO, ECE, the CBD Secretariat and the World Bank are involved in the Working Group on Wildland Fires which operates under the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction. The Working Group and the Global Fire Monitoring Centre have established joint regional wildland fire networks to intensify collaboration and information exchange globally between forest fire experts. CIFOR, ITTO and IUCN, among others, collaborate with the networks.
 - Project FireFight South-East Asia, operated jointly by IUCN and WWF, was successfully concluded in mid-2003. It was widely recognized for its unique expertise in community involvement in fire management, the economics of fire use and the legal aspects of forest fires. Building on its success, IUCN, with the assistance of WWF, is implementing a joint ITTO-Swiss Government-funded pre-project to extend Project FireFight to other critical regions and countries, in particular West Africa, the Mekong region and the Northern Andes.
 - IUCN, WWF and The Nature Conservancy launched the Global Fire Partnership at the fifth IUCN World Parks Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, September 2003. The partnership will launch the 'Global Fire Assessment' in November 2004 at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress.
- FAO provides direct technical assistance is provided to countries to help solve forest pest problems; and a global information system is being built on insect pest and disease outbreaks and their impact on forests.
- In 2004, FAO played a key role in establishing the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network.
- FAO is also a depository for the International Plant Protection Convention.
- IUFRO has continued to address forest health through a number of collaborative activities of IUFRO Division 7 ("Forest Health") and other IUFRO units. Scientific meetings organized by IUFRO have centred on the thematic cluster of global changes and their relation to forests. The activities have inter alia identified research needs relating to air pollution and global changes, drought events and the restoration of forest soils in polluted areas.

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Focal Agencies: FAO/ITTO
UNFF: UNFF 4 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on criteria and indicators for UNFF 4; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- Several CPF members have been involved in work on criteria and indicators over the past decade, by providing support to the regional processes, the development and use of criteria and indicators at the national and forest management unit level, and fostering collaboration between countries and between processes.
- FAO and ITTO were among the co-sponsors of the International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward, which was held in February 2003 in Guatemala City, with a follow-up expert meeting in Philippines in March 2004.
- IUFRO organized in collaboration with CIFOR and FAO an Expert Meeting on Capacity-Building for Forest Scientists in Latin America on Criteria and Indicators, Auditing of Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification in May 2003, in Turrialba, Costa Rica.
- FAO facilitates and catalyzes regional and international processes, including through technical and financial support (Dry-Zone Africa, Near East, Tarapoto, Lepaterique, and Dry Forests in Asia).
- FAO also provides information about the development and implementation of C&I worldwide. Easy access to all regional C&I processes is made available through an internet gateway from FAO website.
- The CBD expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, adopted in 2002, contains a set of actions geared at advancing the development and implementation of criteria and indicators within the framework of sustainable forest management. An expert group meeting was held on this topic in Montreal in February 2003.
- UNEP is involved into two projects aiming at the development of and use of indicators related to biodiversity, such as the "Developing and Testing Policy-relevant Biodiversity Trend Indicators for Europe" (the BTTE project) and the "Biodiversity Indicators for National Use" (the BINU project), a UNEP-GEF-funded project involving partners in Ukraine, Ecuador, the Philippines and Kenya, co-ordinated by UNEP-WCMC.
- The IUFRO Conference "Monitoring and indicators of forest biodiversity in Europe - from ideas to operationality", held in November 2003, aimed at further developing biodiversity assessment tools, including indicators of biodiversity and preferred methodologies to collect data.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF FORESTS

Focal Agencies: World Bank for economic aspects
CIFOR for cultural and social aspects

UNFF: UNFF 4 element.

Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on economic aspects for UNFF 3 and for social and cultural aspects for UNFF 4; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- The World Bank organized, in collaboration with other partners, the International Workshop on Reform of Forest Fiscal Systems, held at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., in October 2003. As a follow-up to discussions, the PROFOR, hosted by the World Bank, is supporting an informal learning group that will continue to share experiences with forest fiscal reform processes.
- FAO has published a field manual for market analysis and development to enhance community-based enterprises. This work also supports GEF/World Bank projects in Latin America.
- CIFOR, ICRAF, IUCN and WWF established the Rainforest Challenge Partnership to enhance the productivity, sustainability and diversity of landscape mosaics in the humid tropics, so as to meet the needs of rural poor people, while maintaining the flow of environmental goods and services and conserving forest biodiversity.
- UNEP-WCMC is leading one project focusing primarily on economic aspects of sustainable forest use. The "Commercialisation of Non-Timber Forest Products in Mexico and Bolivia: factors influencing success". In analysis and writing up of final outputs stage, this project has assessed the impact of NTFP commercialisation on poverty alleviation, gender equality, access and tenure, and the natural resource base, in 17 communities across Mexico and Bolivia. In addition, the project has evaluated factors influencing "success" at household, community and product levels. Outputs, scheduled for late 2004, include a publication with electronic decision-support tools to help both the NGO sector, and donor and policy level decision makers, take better informed decisions pertaining to NTFP commercialisation.
- FAO together with CIFOR, FAO published "Towards Equitable Partnerships between Corporate and Smallholder Partners" which included a revised set of principles on mutually beneficial partnerships.
- FAO has brought up actively the issue of HIV/AIDS and forestry, e.g. by organizing a Southern Africa regional meeting and providing publications and an e-discussion forum.
- Strengthening private forestry is a focus of FAO support to Central and Eastern European Countries.
- Economic aspects of forests have been the topic of several IUFRO activities and international meetings in 2004, such as the International Conference on "Economics of Sustainable Forest Management" in May 2004, which discussed in a comprehensive way the economic principles, theories, methods, and models that reflect the distinct features of SFM.
- Gender issues as well as forest and woodland history have been the dominating themes of IUFRO's work on social and cultural aspects of forests in the past year.
 - IUFRO's Research Group "Gender and Forestry" has continued to be very active in developing and disseminating knowledge of how management and use of forest resources affect and are affected by gender.

- The Second World Wide Symposium “Gender and Forestry: Challenges to Sustainable Livelihoods and Forestry Management” took place in August 2004 in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. This symposium was held as an organization-led initiative in support of the UNFF.
- IUFRO’s Research Group “Forest History” co-organized the International Conference on Forest and Woodland History “Woodlands – cultural heritage” in May 2004 at the IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The proceedings of this meeting will be published in the “News of Forest History” edited by the Research Group and the Austria Ministry of Agriculture Forestry Environment and Water management.

FOREST CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF UNIQUE TYPES OF FORESTS AND FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS

Focal Agency: UNEP
UNFF: UNFF 4 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems for UNFF 2; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- ITTO is currently implementing 10 transboundary conservation projects that cover 10.3 million hectares of tropical forests.
- ITTO and IUCN jointly organized the International Workshop on Increasing the Effectiveness of Transboundary Conservation Areas in Tropical Forests in 2003 in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand, catalyzing wider and deeper interest in these issues in more than 25 countries.
- UNDP is working on 29 GEF-funded projects on forest conservation in 27 countries. During 2003, UNDP analysed UNDP-GEF experiences and lessons learned in implementing 40 forest conservation projects around the world. Two projects in which some Partnership members are involved are the Meso-America forest conservation project, supported by GEF, the World Bank and UNDP, and the World Bank's corridor project in rainforest regions in Brazil.
- ITTO, in collaboration with the UNEP World Climate Monitoring Centre, FAO and others, is currently updating the World Mangrove Atlas.
- UNEP works on a wide variety of forest biodiversity related issues, most of them in cooperation with WCMC. The following is a list of current activities and outputs:
 - "Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use in Fragmented Landscapes" (the BIOCORES project) - an EC-funded project, co-ordinated by UNEP-WCMC with partners from Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Germany & Spain. The research investigates human impacts on biodiversity in the fragmented forest landscapes of Chile and Mexico.
 - Assessment of the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to environmental change. An analysis of pressures on forest ecosystems and identification of unique forest types, to highlight areas of value for biodiversity under threat are currently in progress.
 - Mountain Cloud Forest Initiative established with IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme. Cloud forests are assessed in terms of ecological service functions and biodiversity attributes as one of the most valuable kinds of ecosystem on Earth. Follow-up projects are being developed with UNEP-DEWA encouragement and/or participation in Mexico, East Africa, Malaysian Borneo and elsewhere.
 - Analyses of distribution of forest bamboo species, resulting in two publications *Bamboo biodiversity – information for planning conservation and management in the Asia-Pacific region*, released last year and *Bamboo Biodiversity: Africa, Madagascar and the Americas* which was released with considerable international media coverage in May 2004.
 - A programme of restoration using threatened trees is integral to the joint UNEP-WCMC and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) Global Trees Campaign. This was initiated following the 1998 *World List of Threatened Trees*, compiled by UNEP-WCMC, which showed that more than 8,000 tree species were threatened with extinction, or nine percent of the world's tree species. The Campaign aims to help save the world's most threatened tree species and their habitats.
 - The *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation* is being compiled by UNEP-WCMC as a public communication tool to make accurate and up-to-date information on great apes and tropical moist forests widely available. It will be used by the UNEP-UNESCO led Great Apes

Survival Project (GRASP) partnership for political awareness-raising and public and institutional fund-raising.

- FAO works with many countries on innovative approaches for the conservation and sustainable development of watersheds, especially in mountains; and on best forestry practices to conserve water resources in lowland landscapes.
- FAO was commissioned in 2002 to develop with major nature conservation organizations a Forest Conservation Strategy for Asia-Pacific.
- FAO carried out, together with UNEP and IUCN, a regional review on Latin American protected areas in 2003; supports Central American countries in defining a sub-regional strategy for the protection of native forests; and also promotes forest protection activities in the Southern Cone.
- The international workshop on “Balancing Ecosystem Values – Innovative Experiments for Sustainable Forestry” was held in August 2004, sponsored by IUFRO Division 4 “Inventory, Growth, Yield, Quantitative and Management Sciences”.

MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING, CONCEPTS, TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Focal Agency: FAO
UNFF: UNFF 2 & 4 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on MAR for UNFF2 and UNFF4, documents from the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- Major joint activities of CPF members related to this element are carried out by the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting and by CPF members' efforts in harmonizing forest-related definitions.
- FAO, ITTO and CIFOR supported and participated in the country-led initiative by Japan, the "International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Progress toward Sustainable Forest Management", held in Yokohama, November 2001. FAO, the UNFF Secretariat and ITTO supported the "Lessons Learned in the Assessment of the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action" which was hosted by Italy, co-sponsored by several countries, and held in Viterbo in March 2003.
- Several Partnership members also actively participated in the meeting of the UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group on Approaches and Mechanisms on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, December 2003.
- The global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) provides a comprehensive report on forest resources, their management and uses every 5-10 years. FRA reports have been issued since 1948. The next update is scheduled for 2005, to be carried out through country participation and reporting, and building linkages with criteria and indicators by using thematic elements of SFM (acknowledged by UNFF 4) as a reporting framework. As part of preparations, FAO and ITTO, with participation from UNEP, co-sponsored a meeting of some 120 national FRA correspondents in November 2003.
- FAO has recently increased its effort to build capacity for national forest assessments and to improve forest information base. Currently projects are underway in seven countries and being considered in another 15.
- ITTO, ECE, FAO and the Statistical Office of the European Communities collaborated in the further development of the Joint Forest Statistics Questionnaire to enhance accuracy and reliability of information on forest products production and trade.
- UNEP's divisions of Environmental Conventions (DEC) and Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) are working on several projects focusing on the assessment of the state of forests, and the improvement and reporting of information on natural forest ecosystems and biodiversity.
- FAO, IPCC, ITTO, CIFOR, IUFRO, UNEP organized two expert meetings in 2002 that resulted a number of recommendations for harmonizing forest-related definitions for consideration by these organizations and some governing bodies. When presenting the recommendations to UNFF, UNFCCC, CBD and COFO, these partners were requested to continue the harmonizing process. Third meeting is planned for January 2005 to harmonize definitions related to biophysical constitutions of forest resources, and human interventions to manage forests for various purposes.
- In 2000-2001, UNEP and its partners conducted a comprehensive study on the assessment of the status of the World's remaining closed forests. Recently, new datasets such as Global Land Cover

2000 (GLC-2000), Gridded Population of the World 2000 (GPW-2000), and updated protected areas and political boundaries database have become available.

- Work is underway to harmonize core terms in Spanish and French, and to clarify terms related to the naturalness of forests, including planted forests, and low forest cover.
- FRA is refining reporting tables and definitions in all FAO languages for the 2005 update, in order to respond to calls from various expert meetings; use of thematic elements of SFM to structure reporting; and to harmonize with reporting requirements of other reporting processes, such as UNFCCC.

REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR COUNTRIES WITH LOW FOREST COVER

Focal Agency: UNEP
UNFF: UNFF 2 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover for UNFF 2; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- The Tehran Process provides an important framework for CPF members' cooperation and collaboration among low forest cover countries (LFCCs). UNEP, FAO, ICRAF and the secretariat of the Tehran process organized an international workshop for low forest cover countries in the Near East and Africa in Mali, in January 2004, with the theme of how to translate proposals for action into implementation. FAO, in collaboration with UNEP and others, completed case studies (on Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mali, Namibia, Oman and Tunisia) for the meeting and conducted three regional workshops (two in the Near East and one in Africa) to develop proposals to enhance the role of planted forests, trees outside forests and urban and peri-urban forests in achieving sustainable forest management in low forest cover countries.
- Some Partnership members are supporting land degradation assessments. FAO and UNEP, with funding from the GEF, are implementing the global project on land degradation assessment. UNEP and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat are collaborating on a project on land degradation assessment in drylands, aimed to provide standardized information and methodologies for land degradation assessment at the national, regional and global levels.
- UNDP implements a number of GEF-funded forest conservation projects in countries with low forest cover. In addition, through its Dryland Development Centre, UNDP has assisted many countries in the development and implementation of national action plans under the UNCCD
- In 2004, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD welcomed the joint work programme with the UNCCD on dry and sub-humid lands.
- Within the framework of the IUFRO's support to GFIS in Africa, a scientific networking initiative on "Rehabilitation of degraded lands in Africa" aimed at demonstrating the added value of scientific output that can be achieved through enhanced collaboration and information sharing among scientists working in different countries and environments. The results of this thematic networking have been published as scientific synthesis in 2004.

REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION OF DEGRADED LANDS, AND PROMOTION OF NATURAL AND PLANTED FORESTS

Focal Agencies: FAO/ICRAF/UNCCD Secretariat
UNFF: UNFF 2 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests for UNFF 2; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- Several CPF members are partners of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, including IUCN, the UNFF Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, CIFOR, the World Bank/PROFOR, ICRAF, UNEP-WCMC and the CBD Secretariat. The Global Partnership is a network of Governments, organizations, communities and individuals who recognize the importance of forest landscape restoration and want to be part of a coordinated global effort to promote it. The Global Partnership is organizing a workshop on forest landscape restoration, to be held in early 2005, as a UNFF country and organization-led initiative. Several regional workshops were held in 2003 under the umbrella of the Global Partnership.
- Some CPF members are working together on advancing the plantation issue.
 - ITTO, FAO, CIFOR, UNFF Secretariat and IUFRO) supported the country- and organization-led initiative "Expert Meeting on Maximizing the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management", held in Wellington, March 2003.
 - CIFOR, FAO and collaborators have issued a publication on partnerships between corporate and smallholder partners, primarily related to planted forest development and practical guidelines on plantation is currently being developed as well.
 - ITTO will also be conducting a market study on tropical plantation timber in 2004.
 - FAO provides status and trends in the development of planted forests; and technical support, definitions and guidelines to countries (public and private sectors) to select appropriate germplasm and implement afforestation and reforestation programmes for both protection and production purposes.
 - In 2004, FAO carried out a study on the impact of incentives on the development of forest plantation resources in the Asia-Pacific region, which emphasized enabling investment climate and the removal of structural impediments.
 - FAO also provides technical advice in the use of treated waste water in irrigation of forest plantations in the Near East region.
 - IUFRO organized the International Meeting "The Economics and Management of High Productivity Plantations" tackled a range of economic aspects of planted forests (such as plantation wood demand, supply and prices), but also related social and environmental considerations, such as planning and management techniques to optimize profitability while meeting environmental and social constraints, or the importance of plantations for carbon sequestration and biomass production.

- Some CPF members are also involved in efforts regarding secondary forests:
 - FAO and the National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (Netherlands), in collaboration with IUCN, CIFOR and others, organized a workshop on “Tropical Secondary Forest Management for Francophone Africa: reality and perspectives”, which was held in Douala, Cameroon, in November 2003.
 - In 2002, FAO organized a workshop on tropical secondary forest management for anglophone Africa: (Kenya); and a conference on forest rehabilitation “Bringing back the forests: policies and practices for degraded lands and forests” (Malaysia).
 - ITTO collaborated with IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, Intercooperation and WWF International to prepare the ITTO Guidelines on the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests and then convened six sub-regional workshops to promote their use. A second phase of the work has been initiated, in which ITTO, again in collaboration with IUCN and other partners, will develop a field manual for restoration practitioners and conduct ten national-level workshops to introduce the manual and to further promote the implementation of the Guidelines.
 - IUFRO organized the international Conference on Restoration of Boreal and Temperate Forests in April/May 2002.
- Agroforestry is another area where some CPF members are working on:
 - The fourth Africa-Asia Forum on Combating Desertification was organized in Cotonou, in June 2003, to stimulate interregional cooperation between Africa and Asia, particularly in agroforestry and soil conservation. Following the Forum, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification secretariat, in collaboration with others, organized regional workshops in Botswana, India and Peru.
 - ICRAF, with many partners, convened the first World Agroforestry Congress in Orlando, Florida, United States, 30 June 2004.
 - A partnership has been agreed between UNEP-WCMC and ICRAF, funding is being sought (from UNEP-GEF and others) to support preparation of land degradation maps to assist the strategic targeting of agroforestry and ecological restoration interventions to encourage sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

MAINTAINING FOREST COVER TO MEET PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

Focal Agency: UNFF Secretariat
UNFF: UNFF 3 element.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs for UNFF 3; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- There has been a steady development of forest sector planning efforts at the national level, complemented by regional and global outlook studies for the forest sector. There has been an evolution in the approach to these studies, reflecting concern for a broad array of forest goods and services and also emphasizing countries' ability to shape their future through the policy decisions they make today.
- Some CPF members are involved in preparing outlook studies for the forest sector, such as the UNEP Global Environmental Outlook and FAO global forest sector outlook studies, including the Global Forest Products Outlook Study, the Global Fibre Supply Model and the Global Woodfuel Outlook Study.
- FAO also assists developing countries through regional forest sector outlook studies, regional criteria and indicators processes, and, along with other partners, through the National Forest Programme Facility. In 2003, FAO published the Forestry Outlook Study for Africa and is conducting similar exercises in Europe (2004) the Near East and Western Asia region and Latin America and the Caribbean are under way.
- FAO also publishes every two years the State of the World's Forests (SOFO). Next is due in March 2005.
- The annual Yearbook of Forest Products, the related database and market reviews are published annually by FAO in collaboration with UNECE, as the review of forest products markets for the UNECE region.
- Against the background of an increasing demand for teak timber, the domestication and cultivation of teak in countries/regions beyond its natural habitat in the tropics, but also the potential benefits for rural employment, income and development, the International Conference on Quality Timber Products of Teak from Sustainable Forest Management, co-organized by IUFRO and held under the auspices of ITTO in December 2003, has discussed the role of teak plantations in tropical timber development programmes and market situations, including the recent research findings, in environmentally acceptable and socially desirable conditions.
- In the Northern hemisphere, forest decline and the certification debate have stimulated greater public involvement favoring environmentally-friendly forest management. An international conference organized by IUFRO and the European Forest Institute (EFI) on "Transformation to Continuous Cover Forestry in a Changing Environment" in September 2004.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Focal Agencies:	World Bank and the GEF Secretariat
UNFF:	Considered as a common item to be discussed at each session in relation to the main themes for a particular session.
Main source of information:	CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on UNFF elements for each session of the UNFF; Note by the Secretariat for the AHEG-Finance as well as its report; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- CPF has, as a joint initiative, developed a Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management. The Sourcebook is intended to facilitate information dissemination on available funding to assist developing countries. It is an interactive database on-line containing several hundreds on sources of external financing (e.g., from bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, etc.).
- CIFOR organized the International Workshop on Financing Sustainable Forest Management, with co-sponsorship of several countries, held in Oslo in January 2001. The workshop provided a basis for further dialogue in UNFF on financing SFM.
- GEF is the financial mechanism for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The GEF also serves as a financial mechanism for the Convention to Combat Desertification. UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank serve as GEF implementing agencies and considerable collaboration exists among these partners on several GEF forest conservation projects.
- As at June 2004, GEF has provided US\$ 822 million in support of projects that address threats to forests through its Operational Program on Forest Ecosystems. This funding leveraged nearly US \$1.2 billion in co-financing. Additional financing is directed to forest conservation through projects supported under other GEF biodiversity Operational Programs, particularly the Operational Program on Mountain Ecosystems which has received US\$ 440 million of GEF support. Through Operational Program 15, Sustainable Land Management, the GEF is providing approximately US\$ 177 million to support forest management. The majority of the projects funded through this operational program, address sustainable forest management in the wider context of sustainable land management and therefore include support to sustainable agriculture and rangeland management within the same project intervention.
- The Global Mechanism under the UNCCD will focus on the mobilization of financial resources for co-funding projects on land degradation, including those related to the GEF Operational Programme on Sustainable Land Management.
- ITTO continues to mobilize financial resources for the sustainable management of tropical forests through its policy work and project activities. Since its establishment in late 1986, ITTO has mobilized some US\$ 250 million to fund more than 500 projects and activities through its own mechanisms, including the ITTO Special Account and the Bali Partnership Fund.
- Forestry has been a central activity of FAO since its establishment in 1945. Between 2002-03, FAO contributed to forest activities \$31 million through its regular programme and \$62 million through its field programme, including trust funds and technical cooperation and emergency projects.
- FAO's normative work on forest finance examines the ways that forestry policies can use financial and economic forces to improve forest management.

- At the national level, FAO provides technical guidance, tools and analyses, for example on forest valuation; economic analysis of forestry policies; trends in costs and prices; and forest revenue systems.
- At the local level, FAO helps analyze costs and benefits of forestry projects and policies and valuation of non-market goods and services; provides training and guidelines for economic appraisal; and helps establish community-based enterprises for revenue generation in Africa and Latin America.
- FAO also supported a workshop on financial mechanisms for SFM in Southern Cone countries was held in March 2004, leading to a project for the whole Latin America and the Caribbean region.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Focal Agency: ITTO
UNFF: Considered as a common item to be discussed at each session in relation to the main themes for a particular session.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report on trade and sustainable forest management for UNFF 4; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.
Highlights of activities:

- ITTO has been taking the lead on trade issues within the CPF and continues to promote international trade in tropical timber, including trade from sustainably managed sources.
- ITTO and FAO are collaborating on several initiatives related to trade and sustainable forest management, including a major project entitled "Impact assessment of forest products trade in the promotion of sustainable forest management". The project aims to identify the dynamics between trade and forest management and to analyze market forces in order to work more effectively towards sustainable livelihoods and to sustain the forest resource base.
- FAO organized the expert consultation "Trade and sustainable forest management: impacts and interactions" in Rome in February 2003, which was attended by several CPF members and other key international organizations, including ITTO, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.
- In the field of forest and timber certification, ITTO has, in collaboration with relevant organizations, conducted three regional workshops on phased approaches to certification and has finalized a study on the potential role of phased approaches to certification in tropical timber-producing countries. Follow-up work on phased approaches to certification is being undertaken. CPF members' progress reported in CPF Framework 2003
- In 2004, FAO concluded a comprehensive analysis on Impact Assessment of Forest Products Trade in the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management.
- FAO has also facilitated dialogue between international organizations and forest certification schemes.
- A regional workshop on payment for environmental services was organized in Peru in 2003, followed by a regional e-forum on the same topic from March to May 2004.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES

Focal Agency: FAO
UNFF: Considered as a common item to be discussed at each session in relation to the main themes for a particular session.
Main source of information: CPF Framework 2002-2004; S-G report for ad hoc expert group on financing and transfer of environmental sound technologies and the report of the expert group meeting; individual CPF members' reports on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

Highlights of activities:

- International cooperation in capacity-building and the transfer of technology is an essential part of Partnership member organizations' work in support of sustainable forest management.
- Some CPF members work on forest extension and supporting research capacity in developing countries, such as CIFOR and ICRAF's dissemination of results of forest-related research, IUFRO and FAO support for regional research networks and efforts to strengthen forest education and extension systems and to establish related communities of practices. The IUFRO Extension Working Party organized an international symposium entitled "Forestry extension: building capacity through collaboration", held in Troutdale, Oregon, United States, September /October 2003. Another symposium was organized by FAO with IUFRO and the government of Italy on communication strategies for partner involvement in forestry extension (Orvieto, Italy, 2004).
- Other capacity building projects and activities currently being undertaken by CPF members include, UNDP's Capacity 2015 support to developing countries in capacity-building related to socio-economic development and FAO, CIFOR and IUCN are collaborating on a series of capacity-building workshops on forests and climate change, especially in Latin America.
- UNEP, in partnership with FAO and IUCN, over the past two years supported developing countries on technical issues related to the UNFCCC negotiations on modalities for forest CDM projects.
- ITTO, FAO and the UNFF Secretariat supported a UNFF country-led initiative on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for mangrove forests, sponsored by the Government of Nicaragua and held in Managua in March 2003. CIFOR, the UNFF Secretariat, ITTO, FAO, IUCN, ICRAF and others co-sponsored and gave technical support to the global workshop on transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management, also as a UNFF country-led initiative, held in Brazzaville, February 2004.
- Several CPF members participated in the Forum's ad hoc expert group on financing and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, held in Geneva in December 2003.
- The Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted in 2004 its programme of work on technology transfer and cooperation. The programme of work aims at promoting and facilitating the transfer of and access to technologies from developed to developing countries, in support of the target to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010 and also of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.