



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION
DES NATIONS
UNIES POUR
L'ALIMENTATION
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة
الاغذية
والزراعة
للأمم
المتحدة

29 September 2004

Report on the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

Prepared in response to the invitation by UNFF-4 to facilitate the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests at UNFF-5

Content

1. The broad scope of FAO support
2. FAO support to countries to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action
3. Proposals directed to FAO have been implemented
4. FAO support through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
5. Additional information and earlier reports

1. The broad scope of FAO support

FAO's role in implementing IPF/IFF proposals is three-fold:

- (i) catalyzing action in countries;
- (ii) implementing those that were directly addressed to it; and
- (iii) actively participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

FAO seeks to respond constructively to the UNFF decisions and IPF/IFF proposals for action. FAO also informs its member countries regularly of the international forest policy process. Developments in UNFF and CPF and implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action have been a recurrent item in all six regional forestry commissions as well as the **Committee on Forestry (COFO)**.

The core of FAO's work is the direct **technical support** offered to countries. FAO also provides **information** and advice on **sustainable forest management**, gathering, analysing and disseminating forest-related information of all kinds; and serves as a **forum**, bringing countries together to discuss technical and policy issues. In assisting member countries to conserve and utilize their forest and tree resources sustainably, FAO works in **partnership** with governments, international organizations, non-governmental groups, the private sector, communities and individuals. FAO works through its headquarters in Rome; a network of decentralized offices at the country, subregional and regional levels; and field projects.

2. FAO support to countries to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action

Regional workshops to advance the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action

In 2004, FAO organized two workshops and two in-session seminars, in conjunction with the **regional forestry commissions** in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Near East and Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically to advance the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and to improve countries' preparedness to participate in the international dialogue. Several countries shared their experiences, providing a range of approaches to categorize, assess, prioritize and implement the relevant proposals. Discussions confirmed that implementation efforts are increasing, mostly through national forest

programmes. However, participants also concluded that a growing number of international calls for action and reporting are overwhelming implementing agencies in many developing countries that lack institutional capacity. Other problems include low levels of stakeholder participation; lack of communication between those who attend meetings and those who should implement; and the absence of material in national languages.

Further, all six FAO regional forestry commissions, both in 2002 and 2004, addressed the developments in the international forest policy dialogue and were informed of the outcomes of UNFF sessions and the process of reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

Support through the FAO Forestry Programme

The following highlights some of the major activities in support of the implementation of IPF/IFF/UNFF decisions, including examples at the regional and national levels. Most of them are carried out in collaboration with partners and focus on capacity building and information sharing. FAO places a high importance of making its global work available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish (official FAO languages). Through the UNECE/FAO integrated programme of work, information is also available in Russian. Activities described below are categorized according to the reporting guidelines from UNFF secretariat.

National forest programmes

- Increasing technical assistance and advisory services to countries for forest policy formulation, strategic planning, inter-sectoral and participatory dialogue and institutional capacity building. Through its Technical Cooperation Programme, FAO provides direct support to 22 countries for implementation.
- The National Forest Programme Facility¹, a partnership of countries, bilateral agencies and international organizations, hosted by FAO, has increased support for the development and implementation of national forest programmes and to the collection of related information. The Facility supports nfp processes in 36 developing countries and two sub-regional entities (as of September 2004) focussing on promoting participatory and multi-stakeholder national process; helping integrate SFM into poverty reduction strategies and broad intersectoral processes; and helping translate forest-related commitments made at the international level into national forest policy and planning.

Participation

- Participatory forestry² is one of FAO's priority areas of work. FAO brings frequently together experts in stakeholder participation 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.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting,

- The global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)³ will be updated in 2005, through country participation and reporting, and building linkages with criteria and indicators by structuring it according to thematic elements of SFM⁴ (acknowledged by UNFF). FRA reports have been issued since 1948.

¹ www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-facility

² www.fao.org/forestry/participatory

³ www.fao.org/forestry/fra

- Capacity building efforts are increased for national forest assessments and to improve forest information base. As of August 2004, projects are underway in seven countries and being considered in another 15.
- FAO promotes the use of the thematic elements of SFM as a reporting structure, including through FRA, work on C&I, and the CPF work on streamlining forest reporting.
- More than 90 country nfp-profiles have been prepared in collaboration with the national focal points. These are gradually available online⁵.
- The State of the World's Forests (SOFO)⁶ is published every two years. Next is due in March 2005.
- The annual Yearbook of Forest Products, the related database and market reviews are published annually, as well as the review of forest products markets for the UNECE region, in collaboration with UNECE.
- Improving data on the production, consumption and trade of non-wood forest products.⁷

Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

- 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).
- Key focus is to help countries develop and implement C&I e.g. through organizing, together with ITTO, a broad expert consultation in March 2004 in the Philippines; and a workshop on C&I in Central Asia countries (Kyrgyztan, August 2004).
- FAO also provides information about the development and implementation of C&I worldwide and easy access to all regional C&I processes is made available through an internet gateway⁸.

Concepts, terms and definitions

- FAO, with partners, organized two expert meetings in 2002 on harmonizing forest-related definitions. Third meeting is planned for January 2005.
- 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.

Combating deforestation and forest degradation

- FAO promotes SFM practices through reviews of legal, policy and institutional frameworks; and helping build institutional capacity of member countries, including to improve forest law compliance in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 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 are development of practical guidelines for responsible forest management and environmentally sound harvesting codes⁹, as well as support for model forests¹⁰.
- The Forestry Department collaborates with other FAO Departments, including Agriculture and Sustainable Development for promoting interdisciplinary activities.
- FRA estimates the world's forest area and changes over time, including the net deforestation rate.

Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

⁴ www.fao.org/forestry/site/24447/en

⁵ www.fao.org/forestry/nfp-udpate

⁶ www.fao.org/forestry/sofo

⁷ www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp

⁸ www.fao.org/forestry/ci

⁹ www.fao.org/forestry/harvesting

¹⁰ www.fao.org/forestry/site/19528/en

- FAO supports three regional CCD networks in Asia (assessment and monitoring of desertification, agroforestry and sand dune fixation) and one network in Africa (agroforestry); the development of national action plans to combat desertification, and sponsors case studies and workshops to promote trees outside forests, especially in Africa, thus contributing to the implementation of the UNCCD.
- 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.
- A Forest Conservation Strategy for Asia-Pacific was commissioned in 2002 in consultation with major nature conservation organizations.
- 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.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands

- Guidelines, workshops and capacity building are part of activities on rehabilitation of degraded tropical forests and mangroves, including by assisted natural regeneration.
- 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).
- FAO is an active member of the Global Partnership on Landscape Restoration, focussing on LFCCs.

Planted forests

- FAO provides status and trends in the development of planted forests¹¹; 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.
- Assistance is provided for the cultivation, conservation and utilization of poplars and willows to member countries of the International Poplar Commission (FAO technical statutory body).
- 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.

Financing SFM

- 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.
- 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.

Trade and SFM

- In 2004, FAO concluded a comprehensive analysis on Impact Assessment of Forest Products Trade in the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management.¹²

¹¹ www.fao.org/forestry/site/planted-forest/en

¹² www.fao.org/forestry/trade

- FAO has also facilitated dialogue between international organisations 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.

Forest health and vitality

- FAO puts significant efforts on forest fire management¹³, including guidelines, fire terminology, and status reports. It provides direct technical assistance around the world to strengthen capabilities of government institutions and stakeholders in dealing with forest fire prevention and management
- FAO also facilitates international agreements that make emergency aid between countries possible.
- Direct technical assistance is provided to countries to help solve forest pest problems¹⁴; 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.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

- FAO global forest sector outlook studies¹⁵ include the Global Forest Products Outlook Study, the Global Fibre Supply Model and the Global Woodfuel Outlook Study.
- Regional Outlook Studies are compiled in collaboration with country partners: Asia-Pacific (1998), Africa (2003), Europe (2004); other regions are under way. Studies identify range of options to assist countries in achieving their goals for forests and the forestry sector, with a view to support to policy review and reform and to shape the future based on policies implemented and investments made today.

Social aspects of forests

- 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.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

- FAO works to expand institutional capacity in Africa, Asia and Latin America for resolving complex rural development problems through multi-stakeholder learning processes. FAO also works with ICRAF and IUFRO to promote links between research networks, extension and education agencies and indigenous institutions in Sahelian West Africa.
- 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.

Scientific forest-related knowledge

- UNASYLVA¹⁶ is an international journal of forestry and forest industries published quarterly.
- 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.

¹³ www.fao.org/forestry/fire and www.fao.org/forestry/fire-alerts

¹⁴ www.fao.org/forestry/pests

¹⁵ www.fao.org/forestry/outlook

¹⁶ www.fao.org/forestry/unasyuva

- Cooperation agreements with academic institutions help in the revision of forestry curricula and identification of training and education needs.

Low forest cover countries

- FAO continues to support forestry development in low forest cover countries, including through its support to the Tehran Process.
- FAO, UNEP and the Secretariat of the Tehran Process organized a regional workshop of 30 LFCCs from Near East and Africa (2004, Mali) to discuss findings of previous activities and to agree the supporting priority action programme for the next five years (2004-2009).
- It also organized regional workshops to enhance the role of planted forests, trees outside forests and urban and peri-urban forests in contributing to SFM in low forest cover countries.

Capacity building

- Capacity building is an integral component of FAO technical cooperation for strengthening institutions and information base for decision-making at the national level.
- Best practices for and successful experiences in SFM were identified in Central Africa and Asia-Pacific.
- FAO works on forestry extension and communication systems especially in Sahelian Africa; and provides material for local trainers on conflict management and gender issues. A symposium was organized with IUFRO and Italy on communication strategies for partner involvement in forestry extension (Orvieto, Italy, 2004).
- FAO also disseminates information on wood energy and develops institutional synergies, in order to promote sustainable wood energy systems.¹⁷

In addition to the above elements and items of UNFF sessions:

Forest biological diversity

- FAO participates actively in CBD meetings and contributes to the implementation of the CBD expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity through various programmes and projects.
- It has also clarified the concepts of “sustainable forest management” and “ecosystem approach”, discussed at CBD and UNFF¹⁸.

Forest and climate change

- FAO supports UNFCCC through document reviews and participation in working groups on the CDM and technology transfer. It works closely with IPCC on forest definitions and carbon assessment in the Good Practice Guidance; as well as contributes its experience in harmonizing country information to the European Community’s effort to harmonize its members’ reporting obligations under UNFCCC.
- FAO also works to strengthen capacity of countries to participate in CDM negotiations, through regional workshops organized together with IUCN and UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

¹⁷ www.fao.org/forestry/energy

¹⁸ www.fao.org/forestry/site/3861/en

3. Proposals directed to FAO have been implemented

Table 1. Status in implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action addressed to FAO.

PROPOSAL FOR ACTION ADDRESSED TO FAO	STATUS IN IMPLEMENTATION
FRA 2000	
Prepare a plan for the implementation of the global forest resources assessment (FRA) for the year 2000. (IPF 89.d)	IMPLEMENTED
Implement the FRA 2000 and share the results. (IPF 89.e)	IMPLEMENTED
Formulate internationally acceptable definitions. (IPF 89.f)	IMPLEMENTED
Coordination on forest information	
Address better coordination among information systems and prioritization in data collection. (IPF 89.g)	IMPLEMENTED through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire of FAO/ITTO/UNECE/Eurostat on forest products and trade; and IN PROGRESS , within the CPF work on streamlining forest reporting
Criteria and indicators for SFM	
Undertake efforts to achieve a common understanding on terms and definitions; indicators in similar ecological zones; mutual recognition among sets of C&I; methods for indicator measurement; and collection/dissemination of data; (IPF 115.d)	IMPLEMENTED
Draw on commonalities between C&I initiatives; and use C&I to improve consistency in reporting on forest assessment and SFM; (IPF 115.e)	IMPLEMENTED , especially through the update of global FRA in 2005.
Definition of low forest cover	
Develop a definition of low forest cover. (IPF 58.a)	LIMITED PROGRESS. UNEP, IUFRO and the expert meetings organized by FAO and partners have explored options but due to political sensitivities, the issue has remained unsolved.
Directory of forest-related organizations and instruments	
Lead the development of a directory of forest-related international and regional organizations and instruments. (IFF 141.c)	IMPLEMENTED. Directory is available on CPF website ¹⁹

4. FAO support through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

FAO chairs the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and is the focal point for six out of 17 key elements.

As part of the collaborative effort of CPF, FAO has initiated and currently coordinates and maintains a number of CPF joint activities:

- CPF Sourcebook on Funding for Sustainable Forest Management²⁰
- CPF Task Force for Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting, including its web-based portal²¹ on national information submitted to major forest-related international organizations and instruments
- Development and technical maintenance of the CPF website²²
- Harmonization of forest-related definitions²³
- Directory of forest-related international and regional institutions, instruments and organizations²⁴

¹⁹ www.fao.org/forestry/site/1662/en

²⁰ www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-sourcebook

²¹ www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-mar

²² www.fao.org/forestry/cpf

²³ www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/definitions

²⁴ www.fao.org/forestry/site/1662/en

5. Additional information and earlier reports

Since the establishment of UNFF, FAO has submitted information on its activities related to the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action for the preparation of:

- CPF Frameworks 2002, 2003 and 2004 that describe CPF progress and plans;
- a number of Secretary-General's reports to UNFF-2, UNFF-3 and UNFF-4;
- note by the Secretariat on catalysts and obstacles to IPF/IFF implementation for the third UNFF ad hoc expert group;
- document on baseline information prepared by the UNFF Secretariat.

The rising number of reporting requests from UNFF creates a significant burden for developing countries but for others as well, including CPF members. For example, UNFF invited CPF members to provide information on the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action by January 2004 to help prepare for the meeting of its third ad hoc expert group. It asked for a similar report for the review at UNFF-5 by September 2004, eight months from the previous submission. This type of duplication should be avoided, especially given that CPF members report progress and activities to every UNFF session and provide substantial inputs to Secretary-General's reports which specifically describe the status of implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals. Therefore, much of the information that UNFF is seeking has already been provided.

For further information on FAO activities, especially those in collaboration with other partners, please see the CPF annual progress reports to UNFF (CPF Framework)²⁵, and summaries²⁶ of FAO's work in forestry, available at www.fao.org/forestry.

²⁵ CPF reports are available at www.fao.org/forestry/site/2087/en

²⁶ www.fao.org/forestry/infonote