

**Draft National Report to the Fifth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

Sweden

2004-12-21

II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

The national situation on individual IPF/IFF proposals for action is previously described in our national reports to UNFF, and in a report from the National Board of Forestry (enclosure 1). This report has been the most overall review on how the IPF/IFF proposals for action are used in our national context. Sweden would thus like to refer to these previous reports, but would also like to highlight the following recent developments, initiatives and lessons learnt, which we hope will be of relevance and interest to parties of UNFF.

1. Development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests

How the Swedish forest policy process relates to the IPF requirements on nfp is presented in a recent report from the National Board of Forestry (enclosure 2).

The implementation of our national forest policy was evaluated for the second time by the National Board of Forestry in 2001. A report from government to parliament was submitted in December 2003 on the development and status of the Swedish forest policy. The policy from 1993 has during this time only gone through minor alterations, one example being to better provide for the use of improved regeneration methods. The government has in 2004 then also appointed an independent reviewer to evaluate the forest policy and its implementation during the 10 years in force. The aim of the review is not to change the fundamentals in the current policy, with the two equal goals for environment and production, but still identify opportunities for improvements.

The national environmental goals have also been reviewed and government is to report back to parliament during 2005. The environmental goals include one specific and overall forest sector goal "Living forests" for which the National Board of Forest hold the implementation responsibility.

The National Board of Forestry has started a process to further clarify the forest policy, e.g. through quantifiable targets. For this purpose a national forest sector council has been established. The council has, in a series of consultations, constructively participated in the development of the national forest sector goals. The aim of the consultations has been to develop an interpretation of the current national policies on forestry and environment that has a broad acceptance by the stakeholders, thus also creating a favourable momentum to achieve the forest sector goals.

The forest sector goals are a holistic interpretation of the forest policy, covering economic, social/cultural and environmental aspects. The goals include quantitative interim targets in key areas as well as a long term target frame. Most of the interim targets are set at year 2010. Examples of these goals are:

- To enhance the biological diversity in the forests, the amount of hard dead wood should increase by 40%.
- The share of unsatisfactory regenerations should be reduced by half.
- Establish agreements between the forest administration and 80% of the municipalities about the long term forest management of urban woods.

2. International cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,

1. Initiative on Sustainable Forestry in Africa.

Results from the project, including work shop in Nairobi was reported at UNFF 4 and a final report will be presented at UNFF5. This will include results from a work shop in Uppsala, Sweden, October 2004. This project is jointly organised by the *African Academy of Sciences (AAS), Sweden, and FAO*; AAS acting through the Secretariat and Board of the *African Forestry Research Network (AFORNET)*, Sweden through the *Committee on International Forestry of the Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)*, and FAO through its *Forestry Department*.

The project objectives are to:

- Analyse and establish the lessons learnt from positive and negative experiences of various initiatives, projects and programmes aiming at sustainable management, use and conservation of forest resources in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Analyse and establish the ecological, economic, social, and other prerequisites for extending positive lessons to wider use (to more people, larger areas, other countries, etc.).

Based on the above analyses, the most urgent issues and concerns for which Africa should be identified and given priority in international processes such as UNFF and other environment-related conventions and processes where an increased African participation are promoted. The aim is also to start a process versus a new strategy, plans and priorities on how to extend SFM in Africa, and to enhance African participation in international forest-related processes, e.g. UNFF.

2. Forest policy training programme

Sweden has during the last eight years carried out an international training programme on "Development of National Forest Policies and Strategies". The training addresses developing countries and about 160 participants from more than 30 countries have so far participated in the training.

The main objective of the programme is to promote an understanding of the objectives of a well formulated forest policy, and knowledge of means and methods available to policy makers for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of forest policy measures. The programme aims at transferring relevant knowledge to the participants in order to make future policy formulation processes more efficient in their respective countries. Major topics include; objectives of a forest policy, involvement of relevant stakeholders and the importance of a transparent and participatory policy process.

3. Model forest

Sweden has established a model forest as platform for enhanced cooperation between the countries of the Barents Region of northern Scandinavia and north-western Russia. The model forest approach, is thought as a method to tackle a wide variety of SFM issues, and was introduced in Canada in the early 1990's. Model forests has since then been established in South America, the Russian Far East, and Asia. Through the Vilhelmina Model Forest, Sweden became in 2004 the first country in Europe to adopt the model forest approach. The Vilhelmina model forest in north of Sweden has become the first of several in a planned model forest network within the Barents Region, an interconnected geographical area covering 755 600 km² that encompasses the northern parts of Sweden, Norway, Finland and Russia.

The Vilhelmina Model Forest covers 120 000 ha that include 58 000 ha of forested land, northern ecosystems and a number of indigenous communities. The main objectives of the Barents Region Model Forest Network are sustainable forestry development and the conservation of biological diversity.

Model forests also emphasize the formation of partnerships, in which stakeholders have opportunities to participate in developing local solutions to their SFM and land use issues. As members of an international network of some 30 model forests, they can draw on the knowledge and experiences of others facing similar challenges.

4 Bilateral agreement with Russia

Sweden has through its National Board of Forestry established a 4-year program with Russia, a Russian-Swedish Forest Sector Cooperation Programme. The program will run during 2005-2008. Main objective for the program is to support the transition of the Russian forest sector towards a more economic viable and environmentally friendly direction. In January 2005 a memorandum will be signed with both the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Education and Science, of the Russian Federation, for implementation of the programme. The program will mainly target the NW region and program consists of three major parts (blocks): Extension and dissemination of sustainable forest management principles and experiences; Developing forest policies and strategies, and restructuring state forest administration; Upgrading higher education and training in selected fields of the forest sector.

The overall purpose of the project are to: Visualise and disseminate knowledge on economic viable and environmentally friendly forest management; To remove bottlenecks in the institutional framework and to facilitate for its implementation; To secure its long lasting application by providing training and education. Ways to mitigate and eliminate illegal logging is central part in each block, and the programme will facilitate for participation of stakeholders.

5. Bilateral memorandum of understanding with China

During 2004 the National Board of Forestry of Sweden and the State Forest Administration in China has initiated work to increase cooperation in the forest sector. A memorandum of understanding was signed in October 2004, which stipulates possible areas and forms for cooperation, which are: Sustainable Forest Management; Forest Policy and Legislation; Forest Inventories; Biodiversity conservation; Training, education and research

3. Mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

The forest sector council, which was established to set national forest sector goals (see above on national forest policy development), have had regular meetings. The council covers a broad range of forest stakeholders i.e. forest owners associations, industry, social and environmental NGOs, research organisations, indigenous people (Sami), workers unions and other related government agencies. All together more than 15 organisations.

The current review of the national forest policy is another possibility for stakeholders to influence the development. One reference group from parliament and one advisory group with stakeholders follow the work. The review has initially also included a number of regional and open discussion meetings.

Enclosure 1. Report 3, 2001 on the proposals for action submitted by IPF and IFF- in the Swedish context, National Board of Forestry.

Enclosure 2. Report 5, 2004, How Sweden meets the IPF requirements on nfp, National Board of Forestry.

