

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

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

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

### **General**

- 1. Please provide additional or new **information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997** further to the information on forests included in your national reports<sup>1</sup> to UNFF 2,*

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<sup>1</sup> National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.jsp?siteId=2461&sitetreeId=6947&langId=1&geoId=0>, however UNFF4 report are available only at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff4.html> at the time of writing.

*UNFF 3 and UNFF 4, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations on the following points:*

- **assessment** (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) **of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context**
- **development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests,**
- **international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,**
- **mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.**

*In this general context member States may wish to refer also to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, in particular resolution 3/4 paras. 1.-13., and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.*

Since UNEP is an institution, some parts of this questionnaire being designed for nation states, do not adequately address the activities undertaken by UNEP. Following all UNFF/IPF/IFF relevant activities of UNEP are described under the paragraph relating best to the main objectives of the respective project, even though a number of activities might have been listed in various paragraphs. In this case a cross reference to relevant projects described in other sections is given.

### **Background on UNEP's forest policy and its role in the CPF**

UNEP has over the past years actively contributed to the intergovernmental forest process, including the IFF, IPF and UNFF through its long-standing mandate in support of these institutions and their work. This mandate has been formulated in various decisions of the Governing Council (GC) of which the most important are described in the following paragraphs.

In decision GC 18/30 of May 1995, UNEP was requested to place its experience and expertise in environmental issues related to forests in support of the IPF process.

In decision GC 21/2 of February 2001 UNEP was (i) commended for the positive outcomes of its support to the IPF and IFF, (ii) requested to continue supporting the UNFF and its secretariat, (iii) encouraged to participate actively in the CPF and to assist enhancing cooperation and coordination within the UN system to achieve UNFF goals, (iv) welcomed as the principal organisation in the field of the environment and its contribution to the multi-year programme of work and Plan of Action of the UNFF. The decision also calls on governments to make financial contribution in order to facilitate UNEP to participate and support the UNFF.

UNEP's Governing Council decision 22/5 of February 2003

- (i) recalls that UNEP is a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests whose task is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and in that regard, the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests,
- (ii) stressed the need to implement the proposals for action submitted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, on

strengthening the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, particularly in developing countries with low forest cover, through international cooperation,

- (iii) recalls the decision of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its first substantive session (New York, 11-22 June 2001) at which Governments and other participants at the Forum were encouraged to provide consistent messages in the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in order to improve coherence and cooperation between them,
- (iv) found UNEP's activities to enhance cooperation and coordination with other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests encouraging,
- (v) welcomed the report of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its second session (New York, 4-15 March 2002) on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover, and
- (vi) requests UNEP in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, to cooperate with other organizations in response to decision C adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its second session as well as other relevant decisions, to support the work of the Teheran Process and its secretariat to strengthen the capacity of low forest cover countries.

UNEP has supported the UNFF secretariat since its inception through the secondment of a staff member at the D1-level. This support has largely been facilitated through a funding agreement with the Government of the Netherlands.

UNEP is a member of the CPF, which has embarked on five joint initiatives since its establishment:

- Establishing a database on funding sources for sustainable forest management,
- Work to streamline reporting on forests,
- Efforts to foster a common understanding of forest-related definitions,
- Information dissemination through the CPF website,
- Cooperation, interface, and communication with a wide range of partners in the CPF Network (an information exchange tool for CPF and non-CPF members).

UNEP has actively provided its technical expertise in the development of the five CPF joint initiatives. One area where UNEP has continued to play a major role has been in the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting. UNEP has also been active through its Division of Policy Development and Law (DPDL) in the CPF initiative on forest-related definitions. Two expert meetings were organized by FAO, IPCC, CIFOR, IUFRO and UNEP on this subject in 2002.

UNEP serves also as the CPF focal agency on the following three elements of the multi-year programme of work of the UNFF:

- 1) Combating deforestation and forest degradation;

- 2) Forest Conservation and Protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems;
- 3) Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover.

In this function UNEP prepared the following Reports of the Secretary-General to the Second Session of the UNFF in 2002:

Report of the Secretary-General on combating deforestation and forest degradation (E/CN.18/2002/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (E/CN.18/2002/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems (E/CN.18/2002/9)

These reports were instrumental in leading to the adoption of Resolution 2/2A on combating deforestation and forest degradation, 2/2 B on forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems and 2/2/ C on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover.

### **Major international partnerships for policy formulation and implementation**

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. Through more than 10 regional and interregional workshops in Latin America, Africa and Asia and technical publications UNFCCC negotiators from over 60 countries were enabled to make informed decisions on various technical options for the accounting of afforestation and reforestation projects under the CDM, highlighting especially the development and implementation of environmentally sound and socially equitable CDM forest projects. The modalities for such projects were finally concluded at UNFCCC COP9, in December 2003 in Milan.

UNEP also joined FAO, ITTO, CIFOR, IUFRO, and IPCC for recommending options for (i) harmonising forest-related definitions and (ii) implementation of such options. Many forest-related definitions, particularly newly developed terms under the UNFCCC but also under other MEAs, lack compatibility and consistency among each other.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) also finances several forest relevant projects managed by UNEP as being one of its implementing agencies. These activities are mostly related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) such as the formulation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). In the biodiversity focal area, such projects are formulated within the context of the operational programmes. The third of these programmes (GEF 3OP) is on Forest Ecosystems, but also projects running in other programmes include important forest components. UNEP-GEF projects that include interventions supporting sustainable management of forest resources and other elements relevant to this report are listed below.

### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2**

Please provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as **relevant information related to means of implementation** (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) **related to the following elements** :

*Combating deforestation and forest degradation*

2. **preparing diagnostic studies** to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector
3. **formulating and implementing national policies and strategies**, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation
4. **raising awareness** of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests

Following a number of projects are described including diagnostic studies, assessment of the current state of forests, and assistance in the preparation of national and international policies relating to the conservation of biodiversity.

The BALANCE project 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. UNEP-WCMC 's role is to contribute a model assessing the potential impacts on terrestrial biodiversity, including indicator species for forest.

A partnership has been agreed between UNEP-WCMC, RIVM and GRID-Arendal in the area of scenario building, in which our strategy is to move towards assessing pressures together, rather than one by one. The GLOBIO3 modelling work being developed by the partnership is part of this; but exercises like Mountain Watch, Forests at Risk, and Dryland Watch take a simpler spatial analysis approach, identifying areas of high value and threat for ecosystems of interest.

UNEP's Regional Office of Europe facilitated the following processes and partnerships aiming mainly at the development of national policies contributing to the conservation of European forests.

- At the 5<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine in May 2003, the European Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegations of the States participating in the process of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity adopted the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and requested the Joint Secretariat of the Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy to operationalize the agreement by identifying objectives and activities in collaboration with the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE.
- The Governments also agreed to halt the loss of biological diversity at all levels in the pan European region by the year 2010 and adopted a target on forest and biodiversity where they committed to contribute to the implementation in the pan European region of the Forest Biodiversity Expanded Programme of Work of the

Convention on Biological Diversity by 2008, through, *inter alia*, the following activities:

1. Implementation of the objectives and activities of the Framework for Co-operation between the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;
  2. National Forest Programmes according to the MCPFE Approach to National Forest Programmes in Europe (adopted at the Vienna Conference in April 2003);
  3. Application of the ecosystem approach.
- The respective priorities of both processes in the conservation of biological diversity in European forests are the basis of an action plan developed jointly to assist in the achievement of the above target. Given the regional contribution of the MCPFE to global level initiatives and the Memorandum of Co-operation between the PEBLDS Joint Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat, the work under this action proposal should also contribute to the deliberation on and implementation of forest biodiversity-related global activities.
  - In this context the action plan focuses on pan-European priorities in forest biodiversity conservation in the implementation of the Expanded Work-Programme of the CBD and the UNFF Multi-year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. Pan-European contributions to the four following themes, which are global and pan-European priorities at the same time, will assist in the achievement of the overall goal to halt the loss of biodiversity in the pan European region by 2010. All these themes refer to commitments made at the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference:
    1. The theme '*Ecosystem approach*' will contribute to the clarification of the relationship between the Ecosystem Approach and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), building on the work achieved so far by MCPFE on SFM.
    2. The theme '*Protected forest areas*' will contribute to the global work on protected forest areas and simultaneously contribute to the general work on protected areas for CBD-COP7 (2004) by making a link between the concepts of protected forest areas and protected areas in general. In the Pan-European context, the work will build on existing work on protected areas of the MCPFE and current work on ecological networks.
    3. The theme '*Forest law enforcement with regard to biodiversity conservation*' is a global cross-cutting issue, which is also of pan-European relevance and refers to the impacts of illegal harvesting and related trade and institutional capacity building.
  - The elaboration of '*Recommendations for site selection for afforestation*' in the context of the decisions of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, taking account of biodiversity interests, was identified as a fourth area of co-operation. This work will build on recent work by IUCN and UNEP, adapted to the European situation.

- UNEP also continues as a partner in the Global Forests Resources Assessment 2005 (FRA2005) coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and (DEWA) serves as a member of the Advisory Group to FRA2005.

The GEF supports the formulation of *Biodiversity Country Studies, Phase I and II*. The primary objective of the Biodiversity Country Studies is to gather and analyse the data required to drive forward the process of developing national strategies, plans, or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to integrate these activities with other relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs, or policies.

An important project financed by GEF in the context of policy development is the *Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) of Natural Resources in the Transboundary Areas of Niger Republic and Nigeria (Phase 1 - Strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks for collaboration and pilot demonstrations of IEM)*. The project when implemented will consolidate regional cooperation, conserve habitats and biodiversity, manage water resources, promote sustainable land use practices, control degradation trends, build institutional capacity, improve equity and reduce the vulnerability of local communities to environmental change.

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

5. **creating or expanding protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems** and their full range of values and, developing and applying criteria and methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in protected forest areas
6. **developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector, indigenous people and local communities** in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation
7. **giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas**, recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development and improving the coordination among such policies and programmes

UNEP works on a wide variety of forest biodiversity related issues, most of them realised 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. Land-use decision tools are being developed following field work ranging from population genetics to restoration experiments
- "**Forests at Risk**. Assessing 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 - in progress.

- Mountain **Cloud Forest** Initiative established with IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme, *Cloud Forest Agenda* released in February 2004 at CBD COP. 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-on 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. A monitoring system will be developed using as a baseline the databases and maps which the Atlas project has compiled. A spin-off project to conserve great apes and forests in three African range states has been developed jointly with the NGO Living Earth, and is being processed for UNEP approval.

The GEF OP3 on forest ecosystems include the project *People, Land Management, and Environmental Change (PLEC)*. PLEC is a global project\* on agrodiversity of different ecosystems (semi-arid, mountain, forest, wetland) in the tropics & sub-tropics. Its purpose is to establish how sustainable development can be achieved by participatory methods, bringing together the knowledge of farmers and scientists to identify conservation approaches appropriate to the socio-economic setting. Major activities include demonstration, biodiversity assessments, participatory rural appraisals, experimental work and outreach, capacity strengthening and training, and networking and dissemination. Another GEF OP3 project is *Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below-Ground Biodiversity (Phase 1)*. The objective of this project is to enhance awareness, knowledge and understanding of below-ground biological diversity important to sustainable agricultural production in tropical landscapes by the demonstration of methods for conservation and sustainable management.

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. Specific objectives are: to assess the conservation status and management needs of medicinal plants; to work with indigenous and local communities to develop appropriate management strategies; and to work with research institutions, NGOs, and national government agencies to integrate conservation and management of medicinal plants with rational use of traditional remedies in primary health care (PHC).

Other relevant GEF projects are (i) *Emergency Response to Combat Forest Fires in Indonesia to Prevent Haze in South East Asia*, (ii) *Integrated Management of Cedar Forests in Lebanon in Cooperation with other Mediterranean Countries (Lebanon)* and (iii) *Nature Conservation and Flood Control in the Yangtze River Basin*.

See also under *monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions* the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)

### *Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover*

8. **expanding forested area**, establishing and managing plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, **while avoiding the replacement of natural ecosystems**, and recognizing the role of imports in satisfying the needs for forest products and services
9. **promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities** to promote effective participation in decision making, **and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies**
10. **improving the efficiency of international cooperation** to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources

UNEP serves as focal agency for the CPF topic “Rehabilitation and Conservation Strategies for Countries with Low Forest Cover”. Therefore UNEP supported together with FAO emphatically the process of policy and strategy formulation concerning conservation and rehabilitation of forests in Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs).

The Teheran process, which was initiated by the Government of Iran in 1999, addresses the specific needs of LFCCs and has held several meetings in this regard. UNEP and FAO have supported the LFCC process from its inception. Approximately 50 proposals for action on rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover were adopted during IPF and IFF. The latest LFCC meeting, which was sponsored by UNEP and FAO, was held in Bamako, Mali in February 2004. A detailed report on LFCC issues was presented and discussed during UNFF 2 in 2002, which invites the donor community, the member organizations of the CPF and major groups to support, as appropriate, the work of the Tehran Process to strengthen the capacity of low forest countries to give priority to forests in their national development agendas and to develop and implement their national forest policies and programmes.

See also under *Scientific forest-related knowledge* the project **Forest Restoration Information Service** website.

### *Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests*

11. **promoting the creation of new forest resources** through plantations and recognizing their role in rehabilitation of degraded lands and forests in environmentally critical areas
12. **promoting policies to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services**, through sustainable forest management.

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolution 2/2 A paras. 1.-7., 2/2 B paras. 1.-6., 2/2 C paras.1.-3, 2/2 D paras. 1.-4., respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

### *Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3*

**Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) to support the following actions:**

#### *Economic aspects of forests, including trade*

13. **valuation of forest goods and services** (this may include, among other things, the development and use of new valuation methodologies, valuation of a wider range of goods and services, and policy decisions that reflect a more comprehensive assessment of forest values)
14. **the amount, scope, or quality of market data** and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes
15. **use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management** (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)
16. **efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,**
17. **participation in forest certification and labelling schemes** and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and
18. **efforts to reduce illegal trade** (exports from or imports into your country) in wood or non-wood forest products. Please indicate achievements made, lessons learned, constraints encountered, and planned initiatives.

UNEP-WCMC lead 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" (**NTFP project**) is the largest project ever funded by the UK Forestry Research Programme. 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 expected Autumn 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

See also under **General** UNEP workshops on CDM forest projects.

### ***Forest health and productivity***

19. **If damage to forests from air pollution is a significant problem in your country, please provide information** on recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution. Please indicate if your country is involved in **any international cooperation efforts** aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge, increasing information access or reducing the impacts of long-range air pollution on forests, **as well as your views on the role of enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.**

### ***Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs***

20. **Please indicate progress made and lessons learned in efforts to harmonize or to make compatible policy frameworks** in your country (e.g. national forest programme or a similar policy framework for forests, biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plans to combat desertification, etc.) that collectively address the full range of forest values.
21. **Please provide information on recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood, non-wood forest products and services** and whether your country's national forest programme or similar policy framework for forests takes into consideration future needs for forest goods and services. **Please provide views on how enhanced cooperation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action**

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolutions 3/1 paras. 1.-12., 3/2 paras. 1.-7., 3/3 paras. 1.-13., respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

See under *Combating deforestation and forest degradation* the activities of UNEP's Regional Office of Europe to facilitate processes and partnerships aiming at the development of national policies contributing to the conservation of European forests.

### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4**

**Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) related to the following elements :**

#### ***Social and cultural aspects of forests***

22. **promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights**, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements
23. **strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management**, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management

24. **integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes**, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities

See under section *Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems* the GEF-UNEP project *People, Land Management, and Environmental Change (PLEC)* and *Biodiversity Conservation and Integration of Traditional Knowledge on Medicinal Plants in National Primary Health Care Policy in Central America and the Caribbean*.

See under *Economic aspects of forests, including trade* the project "Commercialisation of Non-Timber Forest Products in Mexico and Bolivia: factors influencing success".

#### *Traditional forest-related knowledge*

25. **inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge** for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders
26. **supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge**, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices

#### *Scientific forest-related knowledge*

27. **disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties**, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks
28. **enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes**, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making

UNEP activities include to a variety of projects contributing to the collection, editing, dissemination of scientific information and traditional knowledge (see relation to *Traditional forest-related knowledge*). UNEP is participating in the following forest relevant projects including primarily information distribution, capacity building and the design of information tools such as land degradation maps.

In the first UNEP's annual environmental statement, the GEO Year Book 2003, events related to forests (forest fire, forest legislation etc) with regional and global importance have been reviewed. The report's feature Focus is on freshwater and the important role of forest cover in maintaining water quality and quantity are highlighted. Forests is one of the seven environmental issues chosen in the GEO Indicator Section of the GEO Year Book 2003. The GEO indicators reflect headline trends for the major global environmental issues addressed under the GEO reporting process.

Forests 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. The UNFF Secretariat participated in the GEO-4 Planning Meeting held in Nairobi from 16 to 18 June 2004; consideration is being given to the preparation of a stand alone module on forests.

**Forest Restoration** Information Service website updated and promoted with WWF and UK Forestry Commission support, currently being expanded to include web-accessible database of projects.

UK Darwin Initiative project “Building Capacity for **Biodiversity Assessment & Monitoring in Nepal**” – now in its second year of training and production of guideline materials.

A partnership has been agreed between UNEP-WCMC and the CBD Secretariat to take forward mapping and information consolidation work under the PoW on dry and sub-humid lands, to implement the proposal in COP/7/INF/30 through a process known as **Drylands Watch**.

A partnership has been agreed between UNEP-WCMC and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, and 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

See also the UNEP project ‘Developing and Testing Policy-relevant Biodiversity Trend Indicators for Europe’ in section *criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*.

The GEF hosts the project *Development of the Econet for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecoregions*. The existing system of protected areas in Central Asia cannot currently guarantee long-term survival of biodiversity within the many and varied habitats and landscapes of the region due to lack of scientific basis for its creation, fragmentation and isolation of some areas, and weak legislation. The project aims to integrate data on the biodiversity of the region within a GIS database using universal international standards and formats. This will be used as a basis for gap analysis of the existing system of protected areas, establishment of a long-term program to develop the system further to include key habitats presently outside the system, and to develop proposals for management plans for key landscapes.

#### *monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions*

29. **improving information on national forest resources**, making the information widely available, assisting other countries in their related efforts

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.

In 2000-2001, UNEP and its partners conducted a comprehensive study on the assessment of the status of the World's remaining closed forests. The conclusions drew wide attention by policy-makers and media. 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. The purposes of the assessment:

- Assess the World's remaining closed forests using recently available Global Land Cover and human population distribution data
- Identify major change areas (hot spots) in and around the World's remaining closed forests
- Investigate identified change areas using high resolution satellite data (e.g. Landsat, SPOT)
- Identify new and emerging threats

Furthermore the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) has been established in 2001 as an innovative and ambitious project with the immediate challenge to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans. GRASP is a WSSD type II partnership led by UNEP and UNESCO and involves biodiversity related conventions, international NGOs dealing with great apes conservation and the 23 range states. Great apes are key indicator species for primary forests with no or low disturbance (cloud forests, lowland tropical forests). Several projects have been funded by GRASP with the aim to preserve forests inhabited by great apes in Africa and Asia.

See also under 1. *General* UNEP partnerships in developing improved definitions of forestry terms.

See also under *Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems* the *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation* being produced by UNEP-WCMC.

### *criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*

30. **developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management** (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions and decision of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolutions 2/2 E paras. 1.-4., 4/1 paras. 1.-16., 4/2 paras. 1.-8., 4/3 paras. 1.-18, respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

UNEP is involved into two projects aiming at the development of and use of indicators, which are described as following.

'Developing and Testing Policy-relevant Biodiversity Trend Indicators for Europe' (**the BTTE project**) - continued & successful contacts made with European NGOs and policy-supporting institutions (EEA and ETCNPB). Databases received on population

trends among butterflies, carnivores and birds by ecological zone and country, with databases for herbivores expected shortly and the availability of Pan-European plant data under evaluation (while case studies of Sweden, the Netherlands and UK are underway). Data analysis and report writing is proceeding. Dramatic differences in population diversity indices and trends since 1970 are already apparent between, for example, the EU 15 countries, the accession states, and the rest of Pan-Europe.

'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. A major stakeholder workshop to review and consolidate outputs is scheduled for June 2004 in Cambridge.

See also under *Combating deforestation and forest degradation* the BALANCE project on vulnerability assessment of the Barents Sea.

See also under section *Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems* the GEF project *Biodiversity Conservation and Integration of Traditional Knowledge on Medicinal Plants in National Primary Health Care Policy in Central America and the Caribbean*.

### **III. Preparation of the Report**

31. **Describe the process of preparing this report**, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

This report was compiled from the results of an internal, cross divisional assessment, which has been undertaken in an effort to consolidate further UNEP's activities in the international forest process. This includes the contribution of UNEP to the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as UNEP's active participation as CPF mentor. The assessment comprised the divisions of UNEP, collaborating centres, and associated UN institutions and programmes.

#### **Abbreviations used in this report**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>CBD</b>    | Convention on Biological Diversity                    |
| <b>CPF</b>    | Collaborative Partnership on Forests                  |
| <b>FRA</b>    | Forest Resource Assessment                            |
| <b>GEF</b>    | Global Environment Facility                           |
| <b>IFF</b>    | Intergovernmental Forum on Forests                    |
| <b>IPF</b>    | Intergovernmental Panel on Forests                    |
| <b>MEA</b>    | Multilateral Environmental Agreement                  |
| <b>SFM</b>    | Sustainable Forest Management                         |
| <b>UNEP</b>   | United Nations Environment Programme                  |
| <b>UNFCCC</b> | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |

**UNFF**  
**WCMC**

United Nations Forum on Forests  
World Conservation Monitoring Centre