

UNFF Secretariat Note 23.04.08
Regional and Sub-regional Inputs to UNFF8

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Regional/ Sub-regional Organization [name of the regional/sub-regional organization]:

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This Note has been prepared to highlight aspects for consideration when submitting regional and sub-regional input to the UNFF Secretariat. It consists of two sections:

Section I: Substantive matters of the Forum

Forests in a Changing Environment; and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management (See Annex 3: Provisional Agenda of UNFF8)

1. Forests and climate change
2. Reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries
3. Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas
4. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

a. Please indicate major developments and challenges, discussions and/or analyses carried out in relation to the four topics above.

In relation to the four substantive matters above, AFP has carried out several discussions namely:

1. Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) annual meeting was held from 12-15 November 2007 in Yokohama, Japan. The meeting brought together a broad cross-section of relevant stakeholders, including representatives from governments, civil society, NGOs, academic institutions and the private sector. Discussions revolved around a range of pressing issues including: Illegal Logging and Forest Governance; Forests and Climate Change; Networking and Partnerships; Country Initiatives and Reporting. AFP Partners decided to renew AFP's mandate for a second phase of eight years (2008-2015), and in doing so have revised the Partnership's goal, key themes, important considerations, core functions, and modalities.

The Goal of the Asia Forest Partnership is "to promote cooperation and catalyze action among governments, civil society and business to achieve sustainable forest management in Asia and the Pacific and thereby maintain and enhance the provision of forest products and ecosystem services, and their contribution to human well-being."

The Key Themes that AFP will adopt in pursuit of this goal include.

- **Reducing forest loss and degradation** and enhancing forest cover to maintain the provision of forest products and ecosystem services, including **mitigation of and adaptation to climate change**, watershed and land resource protection, and conserving biological diversity
- **Combating illegal logging and associated trade.**

In place of the “Cross-Cutting Issues” of the first phase, AFP will now recognize “Important Considerations” in addressing its Key Themes.

These include:

- **Protecting and enhancing the livelihoods, rights, security and well-being of forest-dependent people;**
- **Improving forest-related governance;**
- **Strengthening institutions and capacities for sustainable forest management;**
- **Securing and diversifying finance for conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.**

2. Dialogue on Timber Trade, Forest Law Compliance and Governance during Asia Pacific Forestry Week was held on 24 April 2008 in Hanoi.

Highlights from the dialogue:

- Markets are changing in ways that should encourage legal and sustainable forest management and trade
 - This should assist legal and sustainable producers by excluding unfair competition from illegal and unsustainable producers.
 - Governments can help these processes by streamlining regulations for both community and industrial producers to reduce costs and opportunities for corruption
 - Governments should review their charges and royalty structures to provide more direct incentives for producers to adopt legal and sustainable production practices
 - Consumer and producer governments, development agencies, NGO's, and other relevant parties should work together to support accelerated capacity building for both community and commercial enterprises seeking to move towards legal and sustainable production
 - There is an immediate need for credible verification of legality to help buyers and sellers determine what is legal and what is not.
3. AFP in collaboration with Indonesia Ministry of Forestry will host an **Asia Pacific Dialogue on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and Combating illegal Logging** on 30 April-1 May 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. This dialogue will examine the links between schemes to compensate countries on REDD and efforts to combat illegal logging and its associated trade. Little has been said so far about the linkages between the two, but if a country – or, indeed, a global trade system – cannot control illegal logging, it is unlikely to be able to implement REDD.

b. Please indicate regional/ sub-regional level experiences on the application of any of the following cross-cutting issues: finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity building, awareness-raising, education, information-sharing and forest law enforcement and governance, in relation to the four topics above.

- AFP has been working on information sharing and catalytic role from the beginning of its establishment. We conducted thematic dialogues and regularly update our partners and millist subscribers on recent update of forestry issues across Asia Pacific region. AFP secretariat

compiles information from partners and other parties that relevant to AFP themes and area of works. Moreover, we also provided AFP website as an out let tool of information of our partners.

c. In view of challenges identified, please mention key issues, which need to be tackled in the near future, to help contribute to the implementation of the four topics above.

- We identified bellow key issues that need to be tackled in the near future in regard to SFM:

Timber trade issues:

1. Markets are changing in ways that should encourage legal and sustainable forest management and trade
2. This should assist legal and sustainable producers by excluding unfair competition from illegal and unsustainable producers.
3. Governments can help these processes by streamlining regulations for both community and industrial producers to reduce costs and opportunities for corruption
4. Governments should review their charges and royalty structures to provide more direct incentives for producers to adopt legal and sustainable production practices
5. Consumer and producer governments, development agencies, NGO's, and other relevant parties should work together to support accelerated capacity building for both community and commercial enterprises seeking to move towards legal and sustainable production
6. There is an immediate need for credible verification of legality to help buyers and sellers determine what is legal and what is not.

Community issues:

1. There is a need to protect and enhance the livelihoods, rights, security and well-being of forest-dependent people.

Governance issues:

1. Improving forest-related governance;
2. Strengthening institutions and capacities for sustainable forest management;
3. Securing and diversifying finance for conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.

Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships

a. Please provide examples of how existing regional and/or sub-regional cooperation, including the following cross-cutting issues: financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building and education, have played a catalytic role in supporting the efforts of countries to achieve sustainable forest management. Kindly indicate any relevant lessons learned related to the application of these cross-cutting issues.

- When the establishment of AFP was being discussed many regional/international initiatives and work programmes to promote sustainable forest management already existed, and many of AFP's partners were active in these. How, then, was AFP expected to relate to these initiatives and how does it differ from these?
- AFP was expected to:
 1. Strengthen and enhance the efficiency of existing programs by increasing synergies and reducing duplication through information sharing, and;
 2. Provide a framework for identifying and implementing new collaborative work programs.
- What makes AFP different from other initiatives? First, AFP has a very broad mandate (to promote SFM) and flexibility that allows the partners to address any issues they deem critical to SFM, in much broader perspectives and without being necessary linked to any formal government position . Second, intergovernmental organizations, governments and civil society organisations are all eligible, and encouraged, to become partners. All partners are considered equal with respect to decision-making, participation and setting the direction of the partnership. Third, AFP

is intended to promote constructive and open debate between partners. Fourth, formality is minimal and procedures for entry and exit are simple. AFP's open, equal, and voluntary nature is intended to create space where ideas, approaches, lessons, and concerns can be exchanged between a diverse set of partners.

- Lesson learned:
 1. Recognizing the existence of numerous forest-related initiatives in the region, AFP explicitly aimed at being a catalyst for pre-existing initiatives, by increasing synergies and reducing duplication.
 2. Information sharing was the initial function of AFP. However, partners were also interested in joint action and collaboration between partners towards problem solving.

b. Please indicate how you have addressed multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation.
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- To achieve the purpose of Non-legally Binding instrument AFP aimed at (g, h and q point of UNFF Secretariat Note 23.04.08)

c. Please describe any joint activity relevant to the Forum's work undertaken with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and/or major groups (as identified by Agenda 21).

- AFP has implemented the following discussions with CPF members
 1. AFP 2007 annual meeting with CIFOR in Japan.
 2. AFP Timber Trade, Forest Law Compliance and Governance during Asia Pacific Forestry Week., 24 April 2008 in Hanoi with FAO.
 3. AFP will also co-host the REDD dialogue and combating illegal logging with CIFOR in the upcoming year of 2009.

d. Please mention whether this input was prepared in consultation with government representatives, other regional bodies and stakeholder groups, and the extent to which they contributed.

- Direct consultation was not done as the mentioned stakeholders above have contributed in preparing the discussion result and highlights, secretariat just compiled and summarized them in this input survey.

e. Please provide information on lessons learned, challenges and the value added in preparing this input.

- Encourage participation from institutions that involved in this survey will be one of challenging issues as relatively low concentration will be given to online survey and consultation if we compare to direct discussion.
- Value added of this input process is enable UNFF to gather broad range information of initiatives across so many intuitions and hopefully will harmonize them.