



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Report of Switzerland on 2007-2008 UNFF-related activities

International Activities

Australian – Swiss Region-Led Initiative on regional input in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (28-30 January 2008, Geneva, Switzerland)



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Switzerland and Australia organized on 28-30 January 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland a Australian-Swiss Region-Led Initiative on regional input in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests. In strengthening the work of the UNFF, countries agreed that there should be a greater interaction between the UNFF and the work being carried out by forest-related organizations and processes that operate at the regional level. In resolution 2006/49 ECOSOC decided, as an additional principal function, to strengthen interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organisations and processes. The scope of the RLI was to promote, stimulate and enhance the contributions and participation of regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes in UNFF work with a view to contribute to enhanced implementation of sustainable forest management.

Objectives of the RLI:

- Raise awareness at the regional and sub-regional levels of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and the role and work of the UNFF, especially its mandate to strengthen interaction between the UNFF and regional and sub-regional mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organisations and processes;
- Inform on the topics identified in the UNFF MYPOW with a view to sharing regional and sub-regional perspectives on these topics with the UNFF;
- Examine opportunities for and constraints to integrating the planned UNFF agenda items into meetings of the regional or sub-regional processes;
- Identify practical mechanisms and timelines for ensuring that the outputs from regional meetings are submitted to the Forum secretariat and integrated into the UNFF sessions, as appropriate and likewise enhancing outputs from the global level to the regional level;
- Encourage inputs from forest-related regional and sub-regional mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organisations and processes to UNFF, by 1) sending written focused contributions; 2) and/or participating in the sessions of the UNFF.

Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa, a South African-Swiss Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in Support of the UN Forum on Forests (8-11 April 2008, Durban, South Africa)



Durban Workshop
Final Report 10.11.0

In April 2008, the Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa brought together diverse stakeholders, policy makers and international experts to share experiences and explore opportunities for generating concrete gains from governance reforms and decentralized forest management. This initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests provided a platform for learning lessons from diverse international and national processes. It also facilitated the expression of voices of stakeholders at different levels and experience sharing, especially of local people in their struggle to manage locally important resources that are, at the same time, of global interest. As local perspectives also enriched international discussions, the workshop aimed to strengthen local involvement in the regional and global dialogue on forests.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To distill and share lessons learned from experiences of African countries, including from regional initiatives, in their implementation of decentralization and broader governance reforms in the forest sector;
- To facilitate broader, shared understanding of key trends and issues and sharing of lessons and workable approaches, especially as they relate to poverty reduction and sustainable forest management, including forest conservation;
- To strengthen cooperation and to enhance partnerships among countries and key stakeholders in addressing common challenges; and
- To recommend approaches for strengthening policies, institutions and practices of decentralized forest governance systems to reduce the gap between theory and practice.

Translation of the NLBI in German



NLBI German
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Switzerland with Germany and Austria translated the NLBI in German.

Financial support for SFM

The financial support for SFM of Switzerland is included in the paper “Financing flows and needs to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests” (http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/aheg/finance/AGF_Financing_Study.pdf), prepared by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests with the support of the Program on Forests (PROFOR) of the World Bank for the AHEG in Vienna.

Core Contribution to the National Forest Program Facility (NFP-Facility) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation <http://www.nfp-facility.org/home/en/>

The Swiss Confederation, the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC) are supporting the *National Forest Program Facility* in its efforts to build consensus on the national level on how to address key issues relevant to forests & trees, to integrate Sustainable Forest Management into broader inter-sectoral processes at the national level, with a clear focus on poverty alleviation and integrate commitments made at the international level in other forest relevant processes (e.g. UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) into national forest policy and planning.

Core Contribution to the Program on Forests (PROFOR) of the World Bank - <http://www.profor.info/>

PROFOR is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in its overall objective to strengthen the capacity of *national forest programs* and other forest related processes to better address poverty alleviation, sustainable development and forest conservation needs. PROFOR allows financing cutting edge studies on livelihoods, governance, enhanced financing options and cross-sectoral and macro-economic measures on forests. PROFOR had a direct impact on the actual discussion on means of implementation by contributing a widely distributed study on the subject: “Financing flows and needs to implement the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests”, prepared for the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for the AHEG in Vienna.

Core Contribution to the Rights and Resources Group of the Rights and Resources Initiative - <http://www.rightsandresources.org/>

The Rights and Resources Initiative is pushing forest tenure, policy and market reforms on the global level. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is supporting the Group in the spirit of Switzerland’s administrative and political culture of decentralization: Clear rights to own and use land and trade in forest products will prevent millions of forest dwellers from falling into poverty and will encourage forest conservation and their sustainable use for local development.

Intersessional Training for African Forest Experts

The Swiss Confederation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported the South African-Swiss Country-Led Initiative (CLI) - the Workshop on Forest Governance and Decentralization in Africa in Support of the UN Forum on Forests and contributes to the preparation of African Experts for the negotiations in UNFF 8 in New York through capacity building with regard to upcoming negotiation issues, but also negotiation skills.

Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) (5-7 November 2007, Warsaw, Poland)

Switzerland has been one of the main drafters of both the Warsaw Ministerial Declaration (http://www.mcpfe.org/files/u1/warsaw_declaration.pdf) and the Resolution 2 on Forests and Water (http://www.mcpfe.org/files/u1/warsaw_resolution_2.pdf). The results of the Ministerial Conference can be seen as a regional input to UNFF8.

Workshop on Harvested Wood Products in the Context of Climate Change Policies (9-10 September 2008, Geneva, Switzerland)

The Swiss Confederation, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) Liaison Unit Oslo, organized jointly the workshop on Harvested Wood Products in the Context of Climate Change Policies on 9-10 September 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Chairman's conclusions:

http://www.unece.org/timber/workshops/2008/hwp/HWP_conclusions_24Sept.pdf

DRAFT Proceedings of the Workshop:

http://www.unece.org/timber/workshops/2008/hwp/Proceedings_28Oct08.pdf

European Forest Week (20-24 October 2008, Rom, Italy)

(<http://www.europeanforestweek.org/home/en/>)

Switzerland chaired and delivered the keynote speech of the plenary on Forests and Water with a view to contribute to the implementation of Resolution 2 on Forests and Water adopted at the 5th MCPFE, especially looking into possible joint activities with the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. Further activities are being now started, in particular with a workshop on Forests and Water in Turkey in May 2009.



Keynote

Forests_Water EFW

National Activities

Swiss National Forest Programme (NFP)

Switzerland has developed since 2002/2003 a National Forest Programme which can be seen as a way to implement SFM as well as the NLBI.



Swiss National
Forest Programm...