

UNFF News

Informal Newsletter from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Highlights

- Change of venue for UNFF 2; the second session to be held at UN Headquarters in New York, 4–15 March, 2002
- UNFF 2 Bureau met on 27-28 January
- CPF Network to be meet during UNFF 2 and a concept paper is currently being prepared by the CPF to serve as the basis for the meeting
- Many side events scheduled for UNFF 2

UNFF 2 to be held in New York

The UNFF Bureau held its third meeting in New York, 27-28 January, 2002. One of the objectives of the meeting were to review the preparations for the second session of the UNFF.

Ms. Patricia Chaves, the Bureau member of Costa Rica, informed the Bureau that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Government of Costa Rica had regretfully decided to withdraw its offer to host the second session of the UNFF, which had been scheduled for 4-15 March, in San José, Costa Rica.

After consultations with the respective UN departments, the Bureau decided to change the venue to New York, and to keep the same dates. UNFF 2 will now be held on 4-15 March, 2002, at UN Headquarters in New York. The high-level ministerial segment is scheduled for 13-14 March. The same dates as previously scheduled were maintained in order to minimize any adverse impacts from the change in venue.

The UNFF Secretariat would like to encourage UNFF 2 participants to make appropriate travel arrangements and to register delegations, as soon as possible. Further information on the registration procedures are available on the UNFF's website.

Regarding the dialogue between the Ministers and heads of CPF member organizations (13 March), the Bureau reconfirmed its earlier selection of critical issues. Furthermore, at the dialogue, the Bureau proposed that a Minister be invited to make an opening statement on one particular critical issue to start the discussion on that issue. Selected heads of CPF member organizations would then respond to the Minister's opening statement. This would set the stage for a more interactive dialogue between the

Ministers and CPF heads, on the critical issues.

The Bureau also noted that the outcome of the Ministerial deliberations on 14 March would be: an endorsement of UNFF Plan of Action and political commitment towards its implementation; enhanced international cooperation, including recognition of the role of CPF to facilitate countries' implementation of the Plan of Action; repositioning of forests on the national and international political agendas; and, a Ministerial message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as well as other fora.

The Bureau also considered draft terms of reference for the three ad hoc expert groups to be established at UNFF 2. The drafts prepared by the UNFF Secretariat were based on suggestions from the UNFF Member States and the members of CPF. The drafts will shortly be posted on the UNFF website and will serve as a background information for the informal consultations on the expert groups, scheduled for 2-3 March in New York, in conjunction with UNFF 2.

The minutes of the UNFF Bureau meeting 27-28 January will be posted on the UNFF website in the near future.

UNFF 2 Bureau meets the WSSD Bureau

The UNFF 2 Bureau also met with the Bureau of the WSSD on 27 January, 2002, and discussed the issue of changing the venue and inputs from the UNFF to the WSSD process. The second preparatory committee of the WSSD is currently meeting in New York, 28 January –8 February, 2002.

CPF Network

The CPF has initiated efforts to cooperate and communicate with relevant stakeholders in an informal network, by drafting a concept paper on the CPF Network. The concept paper has been prepared in close consultation with many stakeholders and outlines the objectives, functions, participants and working modalities of the CPF Network. The concept paper will serve as the basis for the first CPF Network meeting, scheduled on

Tuesday 6 March in the evening at UN Headquarters (location to be announced), open to all UNFF 2 participants. The concept paper will be available in English, French and Spanish at the meeting of the CPF Network. However, the English version will be posted on the UNFF website in the near future. It is envisaged that the participation in the CPF Network will be open-ended and broad.

Proposed Side Events during UNFF 2

The UNFF Secretariat has received many requests for side events during the UNFF 2 session. Due to the change of venue, the UNFF Secretariat requests all organizers to reconfirm the organization of their side event. Also, due to other scheduled UN meetings and ongoing renovations at UN Headquarters, rooms for side events will be limited during the second session of UNFF. Therefore, organizers are urged to limit their requests to one side event each. All requests should be sent to Ms. Abigale Sarmac, UNFF Secretariat, at sarmac@un.org or fax: 917 367-3186. Request forms for side events are available on UNFF's website.

Some of the planned side events include:

- Presentation of the report from the meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting held in Yokohama, Japan, 5-8 November, 2001;

- Forest Resources Assessments: The Way Forward. Organizer FAO;
- Forestry and WTO. Organizer WTO;
- Implementing the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action: Approach and Guide. Organizers PROFOR and partners;
- Perspectives on Local Participation in Forest Management. Organizers CIFOR and IGES;
- Tehran Process Strategy and Plan of Action to implement IPF/IFF Proposals for Action. Organizer the Government of the I.R. Iran;
- Trading Away the Ancient Forests. Organizer Greenpeace;
- Creating Forests to Inspire Environmental, Social and Economic Regeneration. Organizer the UK Forestry Commission;
- MCPFE and UNFF. Organizer MCPFE Liaison Unit Vienna.

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>

The UNFF newsletter aims to provide updated information on matters related to the international arrangement on forests.

This informal newsletter is produced and distributed electronically by the UNFF Secretariat. If you wish to subscribe to this free newsletter contact the Secretariat at unff@un.org. For comments and suggestions, please contact Ms. Mia Söderlund at soderlund@un.org.

Upcoming Meetings

UNFF

4–15 March 2002. New York, USA. 2nd session of the UNFF, including High-level Ministerial Segment.

CPF

3 March 2002. New York, USA. 6th meeting of the CPF.

9 March 2002. New York, USA. 7th meeting of the CPF.

Other

27 Feb–2 March 2002. San José, Costa Rica. Building Assets for People and Nature: International Expert Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration. Sponsored by IUCN, WWF, ITTO and a number of governments. Contact: Dagmar Timmer, IUCN, forests@iucn.org and/or Stephanie Mansourian, WWF-International, smansourian@wwfint.org

25 March – 5 April 2002. New York, USA. 3rd Prep. Com. for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

For more information regarding upcoming forest-related meetings visit UNFF's website and view Calendar of Events: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>