

# UNFF News

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

## Highlights

- **Organization for UNFF Third Session Begins**
- **Meeting of the CPF Task Force on Harmonizing and Streamlining Forest-related Reporting**
- **Forests and Climate Change: UNFF at COP8 of UNFCCC**
- **ITTC's 33<sup>rd</sup> Session and the Asia Forest Partnership Meetings Held in Japan**

### **Organization for UNFF Third Session Begins**

The third UNFF Session will take place in Geneva, Switzerland 26 May – 3 June 2003. In order to ensure timely preparation and organization of these events, information such as registration for delegations, intergovernmental organizations and major groups, travel support, side event registration and Multistakeholder Dialogue (MSD) organization are now posted on the UNFF website (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html>). The UNFF Secretariat encourages all who wish to participate to review the information available. If planning on attending UNFF3, please ensure that the necessary endorsements for attendance as part of their official delegation are obtained from your respective Permanent Mission to the United Nations, IGO or accredited NGO in order to ensure timely processing of information.

For further information contact:  
[sarmac@un.org](mailto:sarmac@un.org)

### **First Meeting of the CPF Task Force on Harmonizing and Streamlining Forest-related Reporting**

The first meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Harmonizing and Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting was held in Bonn, Germany on 19-20 November 2002. The Task Force

consists of seven CPF members, including DESA (UNFF Secretariat), ITTO, Secretariat of CBD, Secretariat of UNCCD and Secretariat of UNFCCC, UNEP-WCMC, FAO.

Agreement was reached on two activities that it will carry out over the next several months. It will launch a “portal” for forest-related reporting, which will be accessed from the CPF website. This portal will provide links to information on reporting on CPF Task Force members websites. The portal will thus make easily accessible report content, periodicity and format on the national reports on forests requested by the CPF Task Force members, as well as the national reports themselves. The second activity of the task force will be an analysis of the guidelines and formats of the various reports to identify opportunities for streamlining and/or harmonizing the reporting. The Task Force will use this analysis to identify specific actions that might be taken to streamline reporting. The next meeting of the Task Force members is scheduled for 25-27 February 2003 in Cambridge, UK.

For further information contact:  
[braatz@un.org](mailto:braatz@un.org)

### Forests and Climate Change: UNFF at COP8 of UNFCCC

The UNFF Secretariat participated in the eighth session of the Conference of Parties (COP-8) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held from 23 October – 1 November 2002 in New Delhi, India. Of particular interest to UNFF were the discussions on land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Issues of definitions and modalities for afforestation and reforestation, such as concerns of non-permanence, leakage, socioeconomic and environmental impacts of forest sinks, under the Clean Development Mechanism were discussed. Based on a Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) recommendation, the COP decided to continue further discussion on these issues and to organize a workshop to exchange views in February 2003. Other important outcomes of the COP included the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development and decisions on several issues, including guidance to the Global Environment Facility for managing two new funds established at COP-7 to assist developing countries.

*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](mailto:unff@un.org). For comments and suggestions, please contact Ms. Abby Sarmac at [sarmac@un.org](mailto:sarmac@un.org).*

### ITTC's 33<sup>rd</sup> Session and the Asia Forest Partnership Meetings Held in Japan

The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) held its thirty-third session in Yokohama, Japan 4-9 November 2002. Of interest to the UNFF Secretariat was an agenda item on the International Tropical Timber Organization's participation in other international agreements, including UNFF. The UNFF Secretariat intends to follow the next ITTC sessions, during which the successor to ITTA will be negotiated. These negotiations will determine the future direction of the ITTO, and, in turn, the potential collaboration between UNFF and ITTO. The Asia Forest Partnership (AFP) held its first meeting on 11 November 2002 in Tokyo, Japan. The UNFF Secretariat participated in the discussions of activities related to forest law enforcement, forest fire control, and restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forestland. Indonesia offered to host the next meeting, within a year's time.

For further information contact:  
[braatz@un.org](mailto:braatz@un.org)

## Upcoming Meetings

### UNFF

26 May – 6 June 2003, Geneva. 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the UNFF.

### Other

2-5 December 2002. Strasbourg, France. International Union of Forest Research Organizations & partners. Dynamics and Conservation of Genetic Diversity in Forest Ecosystems. [www.iufro.boku.ac.at](http://www.iufro.boku.ac.at).

13 –15 January 2003. Leuven, Belgium. Symposium on History and Forest Biodiversity: Challenge for Conservation. IUFRO; Laboratory for Forest, Nature and Landscape Research; Catholic University of Leuven. [www.iufro.boku.ac.at](http://www.iufro.boku.ac.at), [www.kuleuven.ac.be/kuleuven/kul\\_en](http://www.kuleuven.ac.be/kuleuven/kul_en)

3-5 Rome, Italy. FAO. Expert Consultation on Trade and Sustainable Forest Management: Interactions and Impacts. [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

17-21 February, 2003. Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. ITTO / IUCN. Transboundary Conservation Areas in tropical forests. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/activities/>

UNFF Secretariat  
Two UN Plaza, DC 2-2284  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Phone: + 1 212 963-3401/9875  
Fax: +1 917 367-3186

## We're on the Web!

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