

UNFF News

Highlights

- UNFF 2 resulted in a Ministerial Declaration and Message to the WSSD, plus six substantive resolutions
- UNFF 3 Bureau elected
- IUCN and ICRAF join CPF
- CPF Network is established to enable a wide stakeholder participation in the work of CPF to support the UNFF

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

Outcomes of the second session of the UNFF

The second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF2) took place at UN Headquarters in New York on 4 – 15 March 2002. For the first time, the UNFF included a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue as well as a High-Level Ministerial Segment. The session resulted in several positive outcomes, including a Ministerial Declaration and Message to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and also six substantive resolutions.

The Declaration and Message reinforce governmental commitment to the international arrangement on forests and aims to raise awareness of the forest issue within the global sustainable development agenda. It also invites the WSSD to take action on several key areas.

The substantive resolutions from UNFF 2 were structured around the themes of:

- Combating deforestation and forest degradation
- Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems
- Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests
- Concepts, terminology and definitions
- Specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

UNFF 2 was also mandated to adopt terms of reference for three *ad hoc* expert

groups on: monitoring, assessment and reporting; finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and, consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. Delegates were not able to reach agreement and instead took a procedural decision to forward to UNFF 3 a bracketed draft terms of reference.

The advance unedited report of the UNFF on its second session will shortly be available on the UNFF web site: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>. The Earth Negotiations Bulletin covered UNFF 2. For their summary of the meeting please go to the following web site: <http://www.iisd.ca/forestry/unff/unff2/>

UNFF 3 Bureau

The UNFF 3 Bureau members were elected, ensuring continuity and preparation for the third session of the UNFF to take place 26 May – 6 June 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. The UNFF 3 Bureau members are:

- Mr. Gustavo Eduardo Ainchil, Argentina
- Mr. Peter Csoka, Hungary
- Ms. Conceição Ferreira, Portugal
- Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Iran
- H.E. Mr. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka, Uganda

It is envisaged that the UNFF 3 Bureau will meet some time during the spring of 2002 to allocate Bureau duties and discuss preparations for UNFF 3.

IUCN and ICRAF – new members of the CPF

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests met twice during the UNFF 2, on 3 and 9 March.

The CPF took a decision to invite two new members, IUCN – The World Conservation Union and ICRAF – International Centre for Research in Agroforestry. Both IUCN and ICRAF play an important role in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

During UNFF 2, a policy dialogue was

organized, for the first time, between Ministers and heads of CPF member organizations. The dialogue focused on four critical issues: (i) cross-sectoral harmonization; (ii) forests and the current international political and policy agendas; (iii) forest conservation, protection and use; (iv) financing for sustainable forest management.

The outcome of the dialogue was a chairman's summary that will be included in the report of the second session of the UNFF.

CPF Network: inaugural meeting

The CPF Network met for the first time on 7 March, in conjunction with the second session of the UNFF. The meeting discussed the objectives, functions and working modalities of the CPF Network.

The CPF Network is open to all interested individuals and its main objective is to share information and foster cooperation among participants.

Some of the next steps include:

- Further develop the CPF website
- Revise and finalize the CPF Network Concept Paper
- Explore the possibility of organizing a CPF Network meeting during COP-6 of the CBD

A summary report of the CPF Network meeting will soon be posted on the UNFF website.

Online access to research

Many researchers in developing countries cannot get access to up-to-date research in their subject, for example university libraries cannot afford the journals.

The International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP) is radically changing this picture. Over the next five years, all researchers with internet connections in up to 40 countries will get online access to over 6000 journals, and abstracts

from another 20,000 titles. Publishers have agreed country-wide access licences at very heavily reduced rates. At the same time, INASP is helping journals published in developing countries to go online and is providing the opportunity for a range of 'Internet' training, to help ensure that the information available is utilised to its fullest potential.

Details are available at: <http://www.inasp.info/peri/index.html>

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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. To subscribe to this free newsletter, please contact the Secretariat at unff@un.org. Please address your comments and suggestions to Ms. Mia Söderlund at soderlund@un.org.

We're on the Web!

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

Upcoming Meetings

UNFF

26 May – 6 June 2003, Geneva.
3rd session of the UNFF.

Other

8 – 26 April 2002, Hague.
COP-6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

13 – 18 May 2002, Bali.
32nd session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

27 May – 7 June 2002, Bali.
4th Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

13 – 14 June, Bonn.
UNFCC session of SBI & SBSTA

22 – 26 July 2002, Guatemala City.
International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

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>