

UNFF News

Highlights

- UNFF 3 Bureau holds its first meeting
- UNFF Secretariat receives new Staff Member
- The Mountain Forum: A Partnership towards common Forest Goals

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

Bureau of UNFF 3 holds its first meeting

The UNFF3 Bureau held its first meeting in New York, 9 May, 2002. The objectives of the meeting included review and follow up of UNFF2 decisions, as well as initial preparations for UNFF3. Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, Bureau member from Iran, was unanimously nominated to chair the meetings of the Bureau. Several issues were considered, including negotiations on the establishment of the ad hoc Expert Groups and inter-sessional activities.

UNFF2 deliberations on the establishment of Ad Hoc Expert Groups ended inconclusively in the form of a bracketed negotiations text. Accordingly, the Forum decided to further discuss the expert groups at its third session. The Bureau noted that it is not desirable to undertake any consultative activities prior to UNFF. Country-led initiatives on the issues to be considered by the Expert Groups may facilitate the process.

Several planned and proposed Inter-sessional activities were also discussed during the Bureau meeting, specifically: Criteria & Indicators (FAO and C&I Processes); role of planted forests (New Zealand et al); Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (USA); Devolution of Forest Management (Switzerland and CIFOR). The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of its thoughts on advancing the understanding of some important issues relevant to UNFF, in particular, the gathering and analysis of information on "technologies" relevant to promote sustainable forest management. The Bureau recognized that the outcomes of these activities will provide valuable background information to the inter-governmental process of UNFF.

UNFF 2, through its decision 2/1, requested the Secretariat suggest a format to serve as a basis for countries to report on their implementation of the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action for UNFF3. The Bureau advised the Secretariat to develop a format based on the experiences of CSD and CBD, providing a simple and practical format that

is relevant to the substantive issues of the third and subsequent sessions. Development of this format will be an important issue in preparations for UNFF3 and input would be most appreciated.

Further details on follow up on UNFF2 decisions including the issues of: concepts, terminology and definitions; specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests at the fifth session and preparation for WSSD, can be found in the minutes of the first UNFF3 Bureau meeting 9 May 2002 which will be posted on the UNFF website in the near future.

UNFF Secretariat Welcomes New Staff

Dr. Jorge Illueca recently joined the UNFF Secretariat staff in early May 2002. He comes to New York with several distinguished professional and academic achievements. Dr. Illueca received his PH.D. in History with specializations in environmental and agricultural histories from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1983. Earlier from 1969 to 1980 he was an Assistant Professor at California State University, Los Angeles.

From 1983 to 1989 he was the Executive Secretary of the National Commission on the Environment of the Government of Panama, during which time he directed the preparation of the *National Plan for Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation* (1989) and wrote the *State of the Environment Report of the Republic of Panama* (1987). During this period, he also held the following presidential appointments: Advisor of the Panamanian Members of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Commission; Panamanian Delegate to the Meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Study of Alternatives to the Panama Canal (Panama-USA-Japan); and Panamanian Member of the Joint Commission on the Environment (Panama-USA), mandated by the 1997 Panama Canal Treaty. He was elected President of the Fourteenth Session of the Gov-

erning Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (June 1987) and President of the First Special Session of the Governing Council of UNEP (March 1988).

In June 1989 he joined UNEP as Coordinator of Environmental Management and Chief of the Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, his responsibilities including the supervision of the UNEP team facilitating the negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, Dr. Illueca began working at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in 1992 as a Research Fellow investigating the history of invasive species of grass and their role in deforestation in the Neotropics. Since 1994 he has remained with STRI as a Research Affiliate in environmental history and is currently on leave.

Dr. Illueca returned to UNEP in 1994 as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of UNEP in Biodiversity, guiding the preparation of the organization's Biodiversity Programme

and Implementation Strategy (1996). In January 1995 he was appointed Assistant Executive Director of UNEP's Division of Environmental Management. One year later, he was named Managing Director and Assistant Executive Director of UNEP's restructured Programme Division. As a follow-up to the Programme for the Further Development of Agenda 21 and the Report of the Secretary General of the UN Task Force on Environment and Human Settlements, in July of 1998 he was appointed Assistant Executive Director of the newly created Division of Environmental Conventions in UNEP.

Further related to staff matters at the UNFF Secretariat, it is hoped that an announcement on the next UNFF Coordinator and Head will be made in early June 2002. The Secretariat has also circulated two other professional posts, Program Officer (Forest Affairs), P4, and Program Manager (Forest Affairs), P5. Applications are welcome and vacancy announcements will soon be posted on the UNFF website.

The Mountain Forum: A Partnership towards Common Forest Goals

The Mountain Forum is an international forum whose mission is to promote global action towards equitable and ecologically sustainable mountain development through information sharing, mutual support and advocacy, a goal which necessarily involves several forest related issues in common with the UNFF and its partners.

The Mountain forum was established in 1995 through international collaboration from NGO, universities, governments, multi-lateral agencies and the private sector and works closely in collaboration with the Inter-

national Year on Mountains 2002. It encompasses a global network composed of thousands of people, professionals and organizations from over 100 countries. Membership of the Mountain Forum is open to individuals and organizations concerned with sustainable mountain development and conservation.

For more information on the Mountain Forum and the various regional and thematic information networks it facilitates, please contact mfsupport@mtnforum.org or see their website <http://www.mtnforum.org/index.html>.

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

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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

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

Other

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.

28 July – 1 August, Vernon, Canada
Mountain Forests: Conservation and Management. IUFRO & Partners.

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>