

UNFF News

Highlights

- Forests at WSSD: Paper and Partnerships
- Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest Definitions
- Call for contributions to the World Forestry Congress

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

Forests at the World Summit

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002. About 21,340 participants gathered to mark the tenth anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit and to reaffirm global commitment to achieve sustainable development world-wide. The Summit completed negotiations on two main documents, the Plan of Implementation, a framework for action to implement Agenda 2, and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, which outlines the path taken from Rio to Johannesburg. The UNFF Secretariat is currently preparing an assessment of the possible implications of the WSSD for UNFF, which will be included in the documentation for the third session of the UNFF.

The Summit was also the occasion for several countries to launch official WSSD partnerships (type II outcomes). Three of the forest-related partnerships (summarized below) include the Asia Forest Partnership, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Model Forest Network in Latin America and the Caribbean. The forest issue was further highlighted at the Summit in Paragraph 43 of the Plan of Implementation, which focused on forests and reflects the outcome of the UNFF2 Ministerial Declaration. The paragraph stresses, among other things, the key role of the UNFF and the CPF to facilitate and coordinate implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels. The climate change, desertification and biodiversity sections of the Plan of Implementation also make cross-reference to the role of forests.

Asia Forest Partnership

A number of countries and intergovernmental organizations and NGOs are involved in the Asia Forest Partnership, aimed at promoting sustainable forest management in Asia by ad-

ressing the following urgent issues:

- Good governance and forest law enforcement
- Developing capacity for effective forest management
- Control of illegal logging
- Control of forest fire
- Rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands

Further information: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/sustainable_dev/p2_managing_resources/1508_asia_forest.pdf

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Many countries and international organizations as well as NGOs have joined forces to improve the sustainable forest management practices in the Congo Basin. Priorities are:

- Monitoring and evaluation of forest ecosystems
- Reinforcement and creation of protected forest areas
- Reinforcement of capacities and training
- Participative management, including agro-forestry
- Establishment of markets for environmental services offered by forests
- Sustainable management of harvested forests

Further information: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/sustainable_dev/p2_managing_resources/1508_forest_management_congo.pdf

Model Forest Network in Latin America and the Caribbean

Canada, Chile and Argentina and UNDP launched its Regional Model Forest Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be based at UNDP's office in Santiago, Chile. The Center is envisaged to:

- Provide technical support to promote and strengthen sustainable forest

(Continued from page 1)

management and sustainable development in the region

- Document and demonstrate best practices for sustainable forest management and sustainable economic development opportunities for local communities
- Substantially strengthen the transfer of technology from Canada to the region
- Secure new country and institutional partners and donors

Further information: Mr. Peter Besseau, International Model Forest Network Secretariat, pbesseau@idrc.ca

Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest Definitions

From 11 to 13 September 2002, FAO hosted the Second Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders, jointly organized with IPCC, CIFOR, UNEP and IUFRO under the umbrella of the CPF. Fifty-three experts from these organizations as well as from countries, UNESCO, CBD, UNFCCC, private sector and NGO representatives gathered to develop options for harmonizing core forest-related definitions, on the basis of the first expert meeting held in January.

The meeting reiterated the need of harmonization between forest-related definitions of core terms used by different international processes and instruments to reduce errors in employing terms, the reporting burden of countries and related costs. Harmonization in this context means improved comparability, compatibility and consistency between definitions; establishment of linkages; and description of relationships between terms. The meeting recognized that each international convention or process was context-specific and applied its own definitions. However, these should be as consistent and accurate as possible.

It was recommended to further develop a comparative analytical framework of forest-related definitions, which draws on comparative matrices and the set concepts, identifying (i) the presence of various elements or parameters contained in the respective definitions (e.g. minimum crown cover); and (ii) any quantitative

measure given (e.g. 10%). The experts recommended that FAO, together with other meeting organizers, should present the outcome of the harmonization process to the various international processes, such as UNFF, SBSTA of UNFCCC, SBSTTA of CBD, and COFO. To continue the work, FAO is planning to provide a compilation of the various definitions, with clear references, explanations and descriptions. Further activities in the process will depend on the proposals submitted by the different users of forest-related definitions.

Further information: Mr. Wulf Killmann, FAO, Wulf.Killmann@fao.org

Call for contributions to World Forestry Congress

From September 21 to 28, 2003, the international forestry community will meet in Québec City, Canada, for the XII World Forestry Congress, jointly organized by the Department of Natural Resources Canada and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec in collaboration with the FAO. The XII World Forestry Congress will be an open forum with discussions focused on "Forests, source of life".

Individuals are invited to submit voluntary papers and posters as a means to express new ideas and provide information on practical experiences, conceptual models and interesting initiatives. All papers will be reviewed and considered for publication in the Congress Proceedings and posting on the Congress website. On behalf of the XII World Forestry Congress, we are calling for papers (each with an abstract) or abstracts for posters to be submitted to the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) by November 15, 2002.

Further information: <http://www.wfc2003.org> or WFC-XII@fao.org.

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. Abby Sarmac at sarmac@un.org.

Upcoming Meetings

UNFF

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

CPF

3-4 October 2002, New York, NY. Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting organized by the CPF.

Other

October 7-8 2002, Vienna, Austria. MCPFE Expert Level Meeting organized by MCPFE. www.mcpfe.org

7–10 October 2002, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Bringing Back the Forests: Policies and Practices for Degraded Lands and Forests organized by FAO; IUFRO; Asia Pacific Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI); Forestry Research Support Programme for Asia and the Pacific (FORSPA); Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) apafri.upm.edu.my/reconf/index.html

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