



Pekka's Corner

These past months, I have had the privilege to witness several significant discussions in the global forest policy for a - from plantations in New Zealand and forest monitoring in Viterbo, Italy to technology transfer in Nicaragua. I have been especially excited about the development of relations between UNFF and various stakeholders or, as the UN likes to call these important allies in sustainable development, "major groups". The UNFF Secretariat envisions major groups as full-fledged members of the UNFF process and the multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) is a first step in making this vision a reality. It is now our challenge, in partnership with member governments, intergovernmental organizations and civil society, to follow up on the positive ideas of the last MSD Consultation in Rome, to make relevant the UNFF at all levels of SFM. We look forward to working with you all in these next few exciting months leading to UNFF3.

Pekka Patosaari
Coordinator and Head
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Available Online for UNFF 3: Documents, National Reports, Pre-Registration & Side Events

The UNFF website has been in constant development over the past months. Now available online are the advance unedited versions of the Secretary General's Reports on the UNFF3 discussion elements: Economic Aspects of Forests, Forest Health and Productivity and Maintaining Forest Cover for Present and Future Needs. Also available are the UNFF national reports, which are directly relevant to UNFF3

discussions and can be accessed at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff3.htm>. Twenty-eight reports have been received so far, including from the European Community. Other useful features of the website are UNFF3 online pre-registration and side event applications, as well as registration for UNFF Newsletter, which are now available at <http://esa.un.org/UNFF/personInfo.asp>.

Lessons Learned in MAR in Viterbo, Italy, 17-20 March

This country-led initiative in support of UNFF on "Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for Action" was sponsored by the Governments of Brazil, China, Italy, Japan, Turkey, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States, and was supported by FAO and the UNFF Secretariat. One hundred and nine participants from 50 countries, international organizations and non-governmental groups attended. The key objectives of the initiatives were for countries to share lessons learned from their experiences in

monitoring and assessing their progress in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action, and to identify how UNFF can access and use national information to facilitate further implementation. The meeting recommended a number of actions to support UNFF's work on monitoring, assessment and reporting. The report of the meeting will be available shortly on the UNFF website (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/gov-unff.html>) and will be an official document of the third session of UNFF.

For further information, please contact Susan Braatz at braatz@un.org.

Nicaragua initiative on Tech Transfer for Mangrove Forests

The Government of Nicaragua hosted a Workshop on the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies for the Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests consisting of government-designated experts in Latin America and the Caribbean from 3 to 5 March 2003 in Managua. One of the outcomes of the workshop was an overview paper on the transfer of

environmentally sound forest technologies relevant to the sustainable management of mangrove forests with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean was revised to reflect the needs and priorities of the Governments of the region.

For further information, please contact Jorge Illueca at Illueca@un.org.

Ninth meeting of the CPF: IUFRO Joins the Partnership

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) met on 9 March in Rome. CPF members agreed to invite the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) to join the CPF. CPF also finalized the CPF Framework 2003, which is the Partnership's annual progress report to be presented at UNFF3. An advance unedited

version of the Framework is available on the UNFF website. The Framework highlights some CPF joint initiatives, such as the Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management and the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting.

CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting

The Task Force held its second meeting in Cambridge, UK, 24-26 February 2003. Soon thereafter, it launched the web-based "CPF Portal on Forest Reporting" which provides easy access to national reports submitted to the CPF Task Force member organizations, the corresponding reporting formats, key information on related efforts regarding reporting, and information on the work of the Task Force. The portal is intended

to assist countries in their forest-related reporting efforts by serving as an easily accessible source of national information on forests.

For further information on the Task Force and for access to the portal, please visit the CPF web site: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-mar>

Multistakeholder Dialogue Consultation in Rome

An integral part of UNFF sessions, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) provides a forum for direct interchange of ideas between governments and civil society, represented by 9 major groups: youth, women, business, farmers, local authorities, environmental NGOs, indigenous peoples, trade unions and the scientific/technological communities). The MSD segment will be held at UNFF3 in Geneva, Tuesday 27 March 2003. In preparation for the MSD, a Consultation meeting was held 8 – 9 March 2003 with major group focal points nominated earlier this year by major groups. A list of major group focal points can be found online at http://www.un.org/esa/forests/contacts-major_groups.html.

Highlights of the MSD Consultation included:

*Agreement on synthesis points on all three of the UNFF3 elements that will be presented to governments during the MSD.

*Suggestions of mechanisms to be put into place to facilitate major group input into UNFF deliberations, sessions and inter-sessional activities

A full report on the Consultation will soon be available on the UNFF website at: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/participation-msd-papers.html>

C&I in Guatemala: Links with UNFF

The International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: "The Way Forward" (CICI - 2003) was held in February 2003. Final outcomes and recommendations, including those directly related to UNFF, can be reviewed in the CICI report, available online at: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y8694E/Y8694E00.HTM>

UNFF Session

26 May-6 June 2003. UNFF 3rd Session in Geneva, Switzerland.

CPF Meeting

25 May 2003. Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting organized by CPF Secretariat in Geneva Switzerland.

Other Meetings

25 Mar 2003. UNFF Multi Stakeholder Dialogue Consultation 2 organized by UNFF Secretariat in Geneva Switzerland

6-12 April 2003. World Perspective on Short Rotation Forestry for Industrial and Rural Development organized by IUFRO in Nauni, Solan, India.

28-30 April 2003. 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe organized by MCPFE in Vienna, Austria.

Informal Newsletter Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

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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. If you wish to subscribe to this free newsletter contact the Secretariat at unff@un.org.