



## Outcomes of UNFF3

### Pekka's Corner

Dear Friends of UNFF,

In this edition of the UNFF Newsletter, I am happy to report to you the several successes achieved by UNFF3. Consensus was attained on all substantive items of UNFF3, and the long awaited establishment of all three ad hoc expert groups was realized. The importance of developing countries and countries in transition was acknowledged and concrete steps were taken to facilitate their participation, in the form of a decision to expand travel support of these countries. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was also viewed as quite successful, with civil society participants setting the agenda, conducting the programme, and, as a result, major group concerns are well reflected in several UNFF3 decisions. In view of these accomplishments, it is clear that significant strides forward can only happen through the effective mobilization of political support of all members of the global community and for this, I congratulate those who have actively participated to facilitate the UNFF process.

However, rest assured that we do not plan to rest on our laurels. In light of our experiences at UNFF3, recognize that there are many areas that we can improve and the UNFF

#### *Resolutions and Decisions*

At its Third Session (26 May-6 June 2003), UNFF passed resolutions on economic aspects of forests; forest health and productivity, maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs, enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination, on strengthening the UNFF Secretariat and a decision on the reporting format for UNFF4. The Forum agreed to forward resolutions for ECOSOC approval on the use of Trust Funds for the DSA or travel expenses of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. UNFF also succeeded in forwarding to ECOSOC a resolution establishing three ad hoc expert groups on: 1) finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; 2) approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, as-

essment and reporting; and 3) consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The draft UNFF3 report that is available on the UNFF website, along with all draft decisions, will be presented to ECOSOC for approval in July 2003. The final, approved report will be posted on the UNFF website.

#### *Panel Discussions*

Two panels, one on Economic Aspects on Forests and another on Regional Implementation of SFM were organized at UNFF3. Both panels were regarded as valuable catalysts for discussions. The Regional Panel encouraged regional institutions, bodies and processes to further cooperate on SFM at the regional and sub-regional levels.

### *UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Groups Established*

With the establishment at UNFF3 of the ad hoc expert groups, preparations are in full swing for the first meetings of two of these groups: on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting. The meetings will likely be held in December 2003, although exact dates and venue have yet to be set. Following the decision made at UNFF3, intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups with relevant expertise may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions. The UNFF Secretariat will post additional information on the ad hoc expert groups on the UNFF website.

#### *Pekka's Corner, cont.*

Secretariat has already begun strategic planning for UNFF4, which will take place in Geneva from 3-14 May 2004. We, of course, plan to share these ideas soon in order to encourage the best quality participation at all levels. Participation of all important parties is crucial to the serious consideration of the topics of UNFF4, which include traditional forest related knowledge, scientific forest related knowledge, social

and cultural aspects of forests, monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts terminology and definitions, as well as criteria & indicators. UNFF is taking successful advantage of effective consensus building between the myriad of actors in the international community - governments, intergovernmental organization and major groups and we hope you will also take an active role in the months to come.

## New Forests Listserve Launched

### UNFF3 Outcomes continued.

#### Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

The multi-stakeholder dialogue was viewed quite positively, with major groups including women, youth, trade unions, small forest land-owners, business, scientific and technological community, environmental NGOs and indigenous peoples setting the agenda for the dialogue and facilitating the discussion. The Chairman's Summary of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue was adopted as part of the UNFF3 report and outcomes of this stakeholder process will be followed up during the inter-sessional period leading up to UNFF4.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), providers of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests, has created FORESTS-L, a new e-mail list for news and announcements related to forest policy issues. During its first week, more than 1,000 individuals interested in forest issues subscribed to the list. Similar to CLIMATE-L and WATER-L, FORESTS-L is a peer-to-peer announcement list and any subscriber to FORESTS-L can post to this list. Postings such as forest related announcements and information on upcoming meetings, publications, website updates, availability of documentation for negotiations, academic and scientific research, professional vacancies, best practices, fall within the list guidelines and will be distributed to all other subscribers. To sign up to Forests-L, go to: <http://www.iisd.ca/email/subscribe.htm>

## Expert Meeting on the Ecosystem Approach Montreal, 7-11 July

This expert meeting was held in response to a decision of the Sixth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It addressed the further elaboration and guidelines for implementation of the ecosystem approach, as well as the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to the concept of sustainable forest management. For more information, see the CBD website ([www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org))

## Second Meeting of the Asia Forest Partnership

The Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), was launched at WSSD in Johannesburg last year, held its second meeting in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 9-10 July 2003. The Objectives of AFP are to promote sustainable forest management in Asia by addressing the issues of: (a) good governance and forest law enforcement; (b) capacity building; (c) control of illegal logging; (d) control of forest fire; and (e) rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands. Partici-

pants exchanged views on the issues of illegal logging and certification; forest fire and haze pollution; and rehabilitation and reforestation in the region. Participants were keen on further clarifying the purpose and making AFP a real value added initiative. AFP currently has, as its members, 14 governments, 8 international organizations and 2 civil society organizations. The third meeting of AFP will take place in Japan in late November 2003.

### UNFF Session

UNFF 4th Session in Geneva, Switzerland. 3-14 May 2004.

### CPF Meeting

CPF 11th Meeting in Quebec City, Canada. 20 Sept 2003.

### Other Meetings

6th Session of the COP to the Convention on Combat Desertification. Havana, Cuba. 31 Aug - 2 Sept 2003. CCD Secretariat, [secretariat@unccd.de](mailto:secretariat@unccd.de)

58th Session of the U.N. General Assembly New York, USA. Sept - Dec 2003. ECOSOC, [www.un.org/ga/57/](http://www.un.org/ga/57/)

The 5th World Parks Congress: Benefits beyond Boundaries. Durban, South Africa. 8 - 17 Sept 2003. IUCN, [wcpa.iucn.org/wpc./wpc.html](http://wcpa.iucn.org/wpc./wpc.html)

12th World Forestry Congress. Quebec City, Canada. 21 - 28 Sept 2003. World Forestry Congress Secretariat, [www.wfc2003.org](http://www.wfc2003.org)

### Informal Newsletter

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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](mailto:unff@un.org).