

United Nations
Forum on Forests

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ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL
ADOPTS
UNFF4
REPORT

The United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted the report of the Fourth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 4) on 20 July. UNFF 4 was held from 3 May to 14 May 2004 at Geneva, Switzerland.

For electronic copies of the report visit our website: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents-unff.html#4>.

REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

At the establishment of UNFF in 2000, Governments agreed to review the effectiveness of the international arrangement five years later in 2005. The review is expected to address the institutional framework of the UNFF and its position within the United Nations system.

During UNFF 4, Governments decided on a process to facilitate the review. Member States, CPF members, other relevant organizations and forest-related processes and major groups were invited to voluntarily submit responses to a questionnaire prepared during the session that was based on 21 specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The UNFF Secretariat has also made guidelines for reporting on IPF/IFF proposals for action implementation, a suggested reporting format and other reference materials available. The deadline for submission of the voluntary reports for CPF



Image courtesy of FAO

members, other organizations and forest-related processes, and major groups is 30 September 2004. Member States are invited to submit their input to the Secretariat by 31 October 2004.

Background documents on the review process are available on the UNFF website, for more information go to: (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff5.html>)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

We welcome two new people to the UNFF Secretariat. Mr David Henderson-Howat and Mr Michel Laverdiere joined the Secretariat this month and will work on forest policy issues.

Mr Henderson-Howat has a Bachelor of Science in Ecological Sciences and an Ma in Land Economy. He has broad experience working on forest management and forest policy issues. Prior to joining UNFFS, Mr Henderson-Howat was the director of policy studies, and the Chief Conservator Scotland at the Forestry Commission of the United Kingdom.

Mr Michel Laverdiere graduated in Forestry at Laval University, Quebec City. He is a recipient of a Certificate of Forestry from Sweden and a Ph. D. coursework from the State University of New York. He has extensive experience working in international forest policy development for the Canadian International Development Agency. Prior to joining UNFFS, Mr Laverdiere worked for FAO on national forestry programmes and national and regional forest policies in East and Southern Africa.

PEKKA'S CORNER

Third Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



In this issue of the UNFF Newsletter I am happy to report to you that the UNFF Secretariat is in the final preparation stages for the third Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting that will consider with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The meeting will take place from 7 to 10 September 2004 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. So far, we have experts from 48 countries nominated to attend the meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to request Governments who have not already done so to nominate their experts and submit their views on the meeting to the Secretariat.

We have prepared two background information papers to assist experts. One of these analyzes the catalysts and obstacles impacting on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. Catalysts such as good governance, national forest programmes, the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM) and stakeholder participation have contributed to the implementation of the proposals for action. Obstacles to implementation at the national level include inadequate institutional mechanisms for assessing progress in the implementation of the proposals for action, insufficient knowledge of the proposals for action and financial constraints, among others. In addition, experts will analyze all resolutions and decisions adopted at past UNFF Sessions.

I would also like to invite non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN Economic and Social Council to attend the meeting. As part of the meeting, we will have a stakeholder panel discussion on "*Raising the Profile of Forests and Forestry*" on 8 September. Experts from the major groups will assess elements of the current international arrangement on forests and other relevant bodies and instruments that have been successful in ensuring the effective participation and substantive input of major groups. We look forward to a fruitful and successful meeting.

For more information on the expert group meeting and to view the background papers, visit our website at: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/adhoc-param.html>.

Pekka Patosaari,
Coordinator and Head, UNFF Secretariat

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS: THIRD UNFF AD HOC EXPERT GROUP UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 7-10 SEPTEMBER 2004

Administrative arrangements for the ad hoc expert group on "consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests" are underway. The following information travel and registration information for participants is now available:

Participants & Travel

The ad hoc expert group will be composed of experts, participating in their personal capacity, from all UNFF Member States. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at the established United Nations rates will be provided to one expert from each developing country, as well as to one expert from countries with economies in transition. While the Secretariat has extended the 31 March 2004 deadline, it is now imperative that those countries that wish to have an expert from their country participate in the ad hoc expert group, send the name of this expert to the UNFF Secretariat through their Mission in New York in the very near future, if they have not done so already. The names and contact of information should be sent to the UNFF Secre-

ariat. Otherwise the Secretariat will not be able to process the necessary travel arrangements, nor will it be able to give the experts the necessary time to arrange for accommodations and necessary travel visas to enter the United States.

Registration

Experts will be registered through the UNFF Secretariat and will be able to pick up their UN grounds passes in the visitors' entrance of the UN headquarters in New York. Member States participants should register in the normal fashion through UN protocol. Major Groups accredited with ECOSOC should register by sending their list of participants on an official letter head to the UNFF Secretariat.

For more information, contact: Elisabeth Barsk-Rundquist; Ph: 1-212-963-3263; E-mail: barsk-rundquist@un.org.

STAKEHOLDER PANEL DISCUSSION ON "RAISING THE PROFILE OF FORESTS AND FORESTRY" 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

Representatives of organizations accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council interested in attending the Third Ad Hoc Expert Group and the panel discussion should submit a letter indicating the names of their nominated representatives to Ms Ghazal Badiozamani, Major Groups Focal Point, E-mail: badiozamani@un.org.

FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF AGROFORESTRY, ORLANDO, FLORIDA 27 JUNE-2 JULY 2004

Close to 700 experts from 82 countries participated in the First World Congress on Agroforestry. The theme of the Congress, *working together for sustainable land-use systems* highlighted 25 years of significant progress in developing a scientific base for the design, installation and management of agroforestry systems.

The meeting adopted the "Orlando Declaration", which focused on the potential contribution of agroforestry systems and technologies in the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development

Goals. It highlighted the potential role of UNFF in promoting the importance of trees outside forests. In addition, participants called on the international community including UNFF to endorse the significant role of and the potentials afforded by agroforestry.

For more information on the Congress go to: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca/>.

SECOND WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER AND FORESTRY KILIMANJARO, TANZANIA 1-10 AUGUST 2004

The Second World Symposium on Gender and Forestry is part of an organization-led initiative in support of UNFF. The Symposium to be held from 1 to 10 August and will focus on access to forest resources, as a way of improving livelihoods for the resource poor and sustainable forest management. It aims to promote new systems that can empower women forest dwellers to effectively participate in processes of good governance and forest industry. Symposium or-

ganizers are IUFRO, ENVIROCARE and Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro -- University of Dar-es-Salaam.

For more information on the Symposium, go to: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/sym/_ref/events/gender_forestry/index.htm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of 20-27 September, Geneva

6th meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert meeting on the Millennium Development Goals indicators scheduled for the week of either the week of the 20th or the 27 of September. For more information contact: Director, Statistics Division, United Nations, NY, NY 10017, US. Fax: +1 212/963 4116, E-mail: statistics@un.org

16-17, September, Geneva

Joint UNECE/FAO workshop on illegal logging in the UNECE region will be held in Geneva. For more information, contact the Forestry Officer – Marketing, Timber Branch, UNECE, E-mail: ED.Pepke@unece.org

5-9 October 2004, Geneva

The Joint FAO European Forestry Commission/ UNECE Timber Committee Meeting will be held in Geneva. For more information, contact the FAO European Forestry Commission: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/>

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