

# United Nations Forum on Forests

Informal Newsletter by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat

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The past few months the Secretariat has been gearing up for Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) meeting to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework. To facilitate discussions at the AHEG, a [Note by the Secretariat on financing for sustainable forest management: mobilizing financial resources to support the implementation of the NLBI and to promote sustainable forest management](#), has been prepared, which is available on the UNFF website in all UN languages. In addition, the Advisory Group on Finance of the CPF has prepared a study on [Financing Flows and Needs to Implement the NLBI](#), with the support of PROFOR of the World Bank, which is also available in advanced unedited form on the UNFF website. We look forward to thought-provoking and productive discussions on this vital issue, in a few short weeks.

To help the Forum implement its task of reviewing progress towards SFM and ensure that experiences of Member States are fully reflected in the reports for UNFF8, the Forum Secretariat requested voluntary national reports on the implementation of the NLBI and the progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives. In addition, voluntary inputs are also being sought from regional instruments, processes and organizations, to showcase new regional approaches in forest policy integration, and experiences in SFM implementation, and to form the basis for the UNFF8 report on regional and sub-regional inputs.

The Suriname Country-Led Initiative on financing for SFM in September was very successful, attended by over 200

participants and addressed by the Presidents of Suriname and Guyana. The CLI identified key challenges of SFM, including obstacles and underlying causes of forest loss and put forward options for the design of a potential conceptual framework for a portfolio approach on financing SFM. In the past months, the UNFF8 Bureau has met twice to finalize preparations for the AHEG meeting and to review UNFF8 preparations. In addition, the Secretariat has also been participating in various meetings including the CLI on financing for SFM, the Koli Workshop on Pan-European contributions to UNFF8, the Beijing Symposium on SFM which launched APFNet, the first-ever European Forestry week and the sessions of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission, European Forestry Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee.

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## Preparations for UNFF8

### 4th and 5th meetings of the UNFF8 Bureau

The [UNFF8 Bureau](#) held its fourth and fifth meetings in September and October, in Paramaribo and via tele-conference respectively, under the chairmanship of Dr. Boen M. Purnama. The fourth Bureau meeting was held in conjunction with the Country-Led Initiative (CLI) on financing sustainable forest management. Bureau members discussed preparations for the eighth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF8), including the organisation of work and preparations for Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) meeting in Vienna in November. The fifth Bureau meeting was convened to review final preparations for the AHEG meeting, and decided to organise a briefing on the AHEG for delegates based in New York, at UNHQ on Monday, 27 October. The minutes of the Bureau meeting are available on the [UNFF website](#).

### Call for national inputs on implementation of the NLBI and GOFs

In August, UNFF National Focal Points were contacted by the UNFF Secretariat to invite inputs on the most recent national information on implementing the NLBI and on progress made towards the four Global Objectives on Forests. To facilitate inputs, the Secretariat prepared a [suggested format](#). In particular, non-quantitative information is being sought on any relevant national measures, policies, and actions. This is in accordance with the monitoring, assessment and reporting tasks of the Forum's MYPOW.

### Regional and sub-regional inputs to UNFF8

In April, the Secretariat had invited regional and sub-regional entities to submit a concise summary of their deliberations prior to UNFF8, which would form the basis for the Secretary-General's report on regional and sub-regional inputs for the UNFF8 session. These inputs provide an opportunity for greater interaction between the Forum and regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes. In particular inputs were sought on experiences and opportunities on regional and sub-regional cross-sectoral cooperation and partnership approaches, as well as joint activities. The Secretariat is pleased to report that several inputs have already been received by the stated deadline of 30 October, and a number of regional and sub-regional organizations have sent positive indications that additional reports will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

### Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) for SFM

The analytical study by the Advisory Group to map financing needs, available sources and mechanisms for financing SFM was recently completed. The report entitled "[Financing flows and needs to implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on](#)

All Types of Forests" was commissioned by the AGF to facilitate the work of the Vienna AHEG meeting. The study reviews existing, potential and evolving sources and mechanisms of funding, taking into account new developments in the climate change regime relating to forest finance and possible ways to access those sources and mechanisms for the implementation of the NLBI and sustainable forest management. The study also identifies lessons learned, constraints and recommendations related to financing. The advance unedited version of the report is available on the [UNFF website](#).

### Country-Led Initiative (CLI) on Financing SFM

The Paramaribo Dialogue took place from 8 – 12 September in Paramaribo, Suriname. The CLI was organized by the Governments of Suriname, the Netherlands and the United States to identify opportunities to enhance financing for SFM, to share experiences on mobilizing forest funding and generating revenues, to identify existing and emerging public and private financing sources, and examine the relationship between forest financing and forest-related governance and enabling environments for investment. The meeting was attended by 227 participants including international experts, representatives from the Republic of Suriname, from regional and international organizations, NGOs, private sector, and philanthropic organizations. The Co-Chairs' Summary Report of the CLI is expected to be presented as a background document for the upcoming AHEG meeting in Vienna (10-14 November). For more information on the CLI please see: <http://www.clisuriname.com>



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## Recent Forest-related Meetings



### International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The Secretariat sent a [message](#) to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Secretariat on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous People, on 9 August, highlighting the close links between forests and the Indigenous communities that live in and near forests. As forest-dwellers, Indigenous Peoples are key players in the sustainable management of forests, while at the same time the cultural, spiritual, and economic importance of forest resources for Indigenous communities is undeniable. The NLBI includes substantial recognition and concern for the rights and needs of local and Indigenous communities by addressing issues from the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management, to the need for enhanced access to forest resources and relevant markets to support the livelihoods of forest dependent local and Indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas.

### Forests in the Changing Environment: Pan-European workshop as a regional contribution to the UNFF

The Forests in the Changing Environment: Pan-European workshop took place from 3 – 5 September in Koli, Joensuu, Finland. The workshop was organized by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to discuss Europe's regional contribution to UNFF8. Issues discussed included: the role of forests and SFM in climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification, biodiversity, protected areas; the need for coherent actions at the all levels; and the basis for the regional contribution to UNFF8. The workshop was attended by 37 participants from 18 countries and 14 participants from 13 organizations from Europe and globally. The UNFF Secretariat presented a statement raising the questions of how the UNFF and the NLBI could advance the work on climate change,



biodiversity and deforestation, how the profile of SFM could be enhanced in other international processes and highlighting the importance of regional inputs in the work of the Forum. For the full report of the workshop see: <http://www.mmm.fi>



#### **Global Forest Leaders Forum on Forests and Climate Change**

The Global Forest Leaders Forum took place at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. from 16-17 September 2008. The meeting was organized by the World Bank and the Forests Dialogue in collaboration with IUCN, WRI, WBCSD and PROFOR to develop and adopt a common vision for the role of SFM in addressing climate change. Six principles were agreed upon in this regard, relating to: forests and land use, governance; Indigenous peoples, forest communities, and small forest owners; balancing mitigation and adaptation; participation of stakeholders; and drivers of deforestation. The Forum's final statement stresses the role of SFM in climate change but also underlines its role in environmental sustainability and poverty eradication. The statement is to be presented to the UNFCCC COP14 in Poznan, Poland, in December. The meeting was attended by international business leaders as well as representatives of the Indigenous Communities, international NGOs and IGOs including FAO, IUFRO, IFAD and the GEF. The UNFF Secretariat participated in the meeting and highlighted the importance of UNFF in global forest policy and international cooperation, the NLBI and the upcoming session of UNFF8 which will discuss forests and climate change. For more information on the Forum see: <http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/>

#### **International Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management**

The International Symposium on Sustainable Forest Management took place from 25 -27 September in Beijing, China and was organized to launch the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet). This Network was first proposed by China at the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in September 2007 in Sydney, Australia, and subsequently endorsed by the meeting and incorporated in the Sydney APEC Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security and Clean Development. The Network is being established to share information and expertise on SFM and rehabilitation, towards addressing deforestation and forest degradation in the region. The UNFF Secretariat presented a statement on recent developments and highlighted synergies between the NLBI and GOFs and the APFNet objectives, particularly in areas of capacity-building and information-sharing, as well as in the contribution of regional perspectives to UNFF8. For more information on the meeting see: <http://www.sfmchina.cn/>



#### **25th Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)**

The 25th session of the LACFC took place from 29 September to 3 October 2008, in Quito, Ecuador, and was attended by delegates from 25 member countries and representatives of 51 United Nations agencies and international IGOs and NGOs, as observers. Issues discussed included the state of forestry in the region and follow-up to the recommendations of the 24th session of the commission; forest institutions and legislation; forests and climate change; forest genetics resources; regional issues identified for the attention of COFO; inputs to FAO's forestry strategy; Global forest resources assessment 2010 and the World Forestry Congress in 2009. The UNFF Secretariat presented a statement to the session, providing updates on recent UNFF-related activities, highlighting the importance of regional inputs to the work of the Forum, and the opportunities for regional organizations to actively participate in UNFF8 deliberations. For the full report of the session see:

<http://www.rlc.fao.org>

### **Joint Sessions of the European Forestry Commission and the UNECE Timber Committee and European Forest Week**

The first-ever European Forest week, and the joint session of 34th session of the European Forestry Commission and the 66th session of the UNECE Timber Committee took place during the week of 20-24 October in Rome, Italy. The joint session included plenary discussions of the European Forest Week on climate change, energy and water. The meeting also discussed Green building impacts on the forest sector, and adopted the Joint Timber Committee and European Forestry Commission Market Statement. In addition, the session adopted the Strategic Plan 2008-2013 of the integrated UNECE/FAO programme of work on timber and forestry. The joint session also discussed the European regional input to UNFF 8, which was being prepared by the UNECE and FAO Secretariats in collaboration with various other European forestry related bodies including MCPFE, EFe/PEBLDS and EFI. For the reports of the sessions see the [FAO](#) and [UNECE](#) websites.

The European Forest Week organized jointly by the European Commission, FAO, MCPFE and the UNECE, in close collaboration with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, France. Over 450 participants from 46 countries, representing governments, NGOs, research institutions, regional and international networks, United Nations agencies and the private sector took part in the event. The purpose of the event was to increase visibility and raise awareness of forests and the forest sector; key themes included climate change, energy and water. Discussions on forests and climate change highlighted the role of SFM in climate change, mitigation and adaptation, and called for development of integrated multi-sectoral strategies. Discussions on forests and energy discussion recognized the role of wood in energy production, energy consumption and production patterns, and noted the need for the multiple functions of forests to be safeguarded. The discussion on water recognized the role of forests in safeguarding water resources, payments for environmental services, and called for integrated approaches and international cooperation. For more information on the event see: <http://www.europeanforestweek.org>



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## **Upcoming Forest-related Events**

### **November**

3 - 5 November 2008 (Budapest, Hungary)

[Russian Speaking Workshop on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010](#), organized by FAO Forestry Department

3 - 7 November 2008 (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

[Sustainable Forest Management in Africa - African Solutions to African Problems](#), organized by Stellenbosch University, Copperbelt University, Eduardo Mondlane University, the Research Institute in Tropical Ecology of the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research (Gabon), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the International Union of Forest Research

Organisations (IUFRO)

3 - 8 November 2008 (Yokohama, Japan)

44th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council, organized by ITTO

4 - 6 November 2008 (Solsona , Lleida , Spain)

VI Forum on Forest Policy: Forests and Society in a Global Change Framework: Challenges and Opportunities, organized by Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC); Government of Spain; and Generalitat de Catalunya, Department de Medi Ambient i Habitatge

4 - 7 November 2008 (Foz do Iguaçu, State of Parana, Brazil)

GEO Forest Monitoring Symposium, organized by National Institute for Space Research (INPE), Brazil and Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

6 - 8 November 2008 (Nancy, France)

The European Forest-Based Sector : Bio-Responses to Address New Climate and Energy Challenges?, organized by French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

8 November 2008 (Kathmandu, Nepal)

International Workshop on Strengthening Network/Federation of Community Forestry in Asia, organized by Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)

10 - 14 November 2008 (UNOV, Vienna, Austria)

UNFF Ad-Hoc Expert Group to develop proposals for the development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, organized by UNFF Secretariat

12 - 13 November 2008 (Geneva, Switzerland)

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) Expert Level Meeting, organized by MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo

12 - 14 November 2008 (Baguio, Philippines)

4Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD): Impacts on Indigenous and Local Communities, organized by Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, Tebtebba Foundation and United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)

17 - 20 November 2008 (Bangkok, Thailand)

Tropical Forestry Change in a Changing World, organized by Kasetsart University

17 - 20 November 2008 (Seattle, USA)

Forest Sector Modeling: State-of-the-Art and Future Challenges in an Expanding Global Marketplace,

organized by Center for International Trade in Forest Products (CINTRAFOR) and Oregon State University

17 - 21 November 2008 (London, United Kingdom )

First meeting of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change, organized by Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat

24 - 26 November 2008 (Freiburg, Germany)

Figures for Forests: Accountancy Networks and Data Collection Technologies as Tools for Monitoring, Explaining and Supporting Economic Forest Development and Forest Owners' Behaviour, organized by Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg (FVA), Germany and IUFRO

25 November 2008 (Brussels, Belgium)

From forest management to wood products and paper: The unique link against climate change, organized by European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), and Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI)

26 - 28 November 2008 (Nadi, Fiji Islands)

Workshop on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 in the Pacific, organized by FAO Forestry Department

## **December**

1 - 5 December 2008 (Castries, Saint Lucia)

Workshop on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 in the Caribbean, organized by FAO Forestry Department

1 - 12 December 2008 (Poznan, Poland)

UN Climate Change Conference (COP 14, CMP 4 and sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies), organized by UNFCCC Secretariat

6 December 2008 (Poznan, Poland)


Forest Day 2, a UNFCCC COP 14 Parallel Event: Shaping the Global Agenda for Forests and Climate Change, organized by CIFOR, the Government of Poland & the Polish State Forests NFH, CIFOR, CBD Secretariat, FAO, GEF, ICRAF, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO Secretariat, UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFF Secretariat, World Bank

3 - 10 December 2008 (Haikou, Hainan, China)

International Workshop on Promotion of Rubberwood Processing Technology in the Asia-Pacific Region, organized by Research Institute of Wood Industry, the Chinese Academy of Forestry (CRIWI), the Hainan Wood Industry Co. Ltd. (GBHSF), and Yunnan Natural latex Co

10 - 12 December 2008 (Bamako, Mali)

Francophone Africa Workshop on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, organized by FAO Forestry Department

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## Information Requests

### Update your National Focal Points Information

We would like to invite all member States to review the national focal point name and contact information currently listed on our website to ensure that the information is correct and up to date. Please send any corrections to the UNFF Secretariat [via email](#).

New nominations of national focal points should be sent in hard copy through mail or fax (+1 917 367 3186). Please [contact us](#) if you require templates of nomination letters or copies of past communications regarding this matter.

### NLBI translation in languages other than official UN languages?

We would like to request all member States who may have translated the [Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests \(NLBI\)](#) into their official languages to inform the UNFF Secretariat as this would greatly facilitate our efforts to widely disseminate the instrument.

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