

New era of international cooperation on forests: An Update from the Eighth Session of the UNFF

AFP-8, Bali, Indonesia

Jan L. McAlpine

Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat



United Nations Forum on Forests

- Intergovernmental body established in 2000 to
 - promote SFM and strengthen political commitment
 - Universal membership
 - Supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a 14 member unique partnership
- SFM = 360° view of managing forest resources for conservation, sustainable development and utilization
- Adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (forest instrument) in 2007.



Global Objectives on Forests

- The forest instrument includes four Global Objectives on Forests:
 - GOF1: reverse the loss of forest cover;
 - GOF2: enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits;
 - GOF3: increase protected and other areas of sustainably managed forests;
 - GOF4: reverse decline in ODA for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources
- It also includes specific national and international measures to attain GOFs; SFM



UNFF8

- First session since the forest instrument and new MYPOW were adopted in 2007
- Key agenda items:
 - Forests in a changing environment
 - Financing arrangement for SFM
 - Enhanced cooperation
 - Regional inputs
 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue
 - Progress in achieving SFM
 - FLEG as a cross-cutting issue
- Focus of UNFF8 and AFP-8 are similar: CC and FLEG



UNFF8 discussions

- *“Forests in a changing environment”*

- links between forests and climate change, deforestation, desertification, loss of forest cover and biodiversity

- First ever discussion on regional, sub-regional inputs to UNFF
- Serious negotiations on finance



Key challenges to forests from climate change, deforestation, desertification, loss of forest cover and biodiversity

- Increasing evidence that CC is seriously affecting forests through changes in physiology, structure, species composition and health
- But also that forests can mitigate and help adapt to impacts of CC
- Deforestation and forest degradation are primary cause of carbon emissions
 - 17.4 % of total human-generated CO₂ emissions (2004)
 - 35% of emissions in developing countries and 65% in LDCs
- Deforestation, forest degradation and desertification affects over one billion people, principally in developing countries
- Deforestation = approximately 13 million hectares/ year, net loss of forest cover = 7.3 million hectares (2000 –2005)



Key challenges to forests from climate change, deforestation, desertification, loss of forest cover and biodiversity

- Deforestation, forest degradation & desertification affects over 1 billion people, primarily in developing countries;
- Land degradation:
 - 25% in broad-leaved forests
 - 17% in boreal forests
 - 18% in agricultural lands;
- By 2020, 135 million people are at risk of being driven from their lands because of desertification,
- nearly half of them (60 million) are in sub-Saharan Africa;
- LFCCs in arid and semi-arid areas are particularly susceptible to land degradation and desertification.



Key challenges to forests from climate change, deforestation, desertification, loss of forest cover and biodiversity

- 80% of terrestrial biodiversity found in forests, mostly in tropical forests but is in risk of rapid loss.
- Main drivers of forest biodiversity loss include:
 - deforestation and forest degradation due to conversion of forests to other land uses,
 - climate change,
 - natural disasters, forest fires, airborne pollution,
 - forest fragmentation,
 - invasive alien species
 - Market and policy failures



Highlights of UNFF8 resolution on forests in a changing environment

- Highlights the urgency to address threats and challenges from climate change, loss of biodiversity & desertification and their interrelation with forests;
- Underscores the role of SFM in addressing these threats and challenges and contributing to poverty eradication;
- Emphasizes the forest instrument as an integrated framework to implement SFM & addressing these threats and challenges.
- Calls for strengthened coordination and enhanced cooperation on SFM;
- Invites governing bodies of CPF members, in particular UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, to integrate SFM into their strategies;
- Encourages Member States to use national forest programmes or other strategies for SFM to integrate measures to address climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and deforestation.



UNFF8 on forest finance

- Negotiations on two key complementary elements:
 - global forest fund
 - Facilitative process
- Politically complex negotiations
- Negotiations incomplete due to limited time frame
- UNFF9 to conclude negotiations



Regional inputs

- Unique and important element of UNFF work
- Valuable inputs received from 29 regional/sub-regional entities
- Provided a platform to strengthen global-regional interaction
- Very successful panel discussion
- AFP has a potential to contribute



Upcoming important events

- ECOSOC session: July
- UNFCCC: COP15 in December and subsidiary meetings leading to it
- *(relevant info on follow-up activities on finance negotiations, if any, at that time)*

UNFF9: 24 Jan – 4 Feb 2011

- Focus on forests for people, livelihoods and poverty
- High-level segment
- International Year of Forests 2011



UNFF and AFP

- Historical relationship
- Common mission
- More role for AFP in '*forest instrument*' implementation and inputs to UNFF sessions
- UNFFS is committed to continue its support to AFP



Thank you!

United Nations Forum on Forests
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests>

