



# A Forest Perspective on Land Use & Environmental changes

CSD17 Informal Ministerial Consultations

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# United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)



- An intergovernmental policy forum established in 2000;
- Promotes management, conservation & sustainable use of all types of forests;
- A unique body that addresses full suite of issues on all types of forests;
- 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 which provides UNFF with the mandate to address forests and other interrelated environmental challenges in an integrated manner.
- 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.

# Deforestation



- Deforestation, forest degradation & desertification affects over 1 billion people, primarily in developing countries;
- Deforestation = approximately 13 million hectares/ year, net loss of forest cover = 7.3 million hectares (2000 -2005)
- 3% of the global forest cover lost (1990 - 2005)
- Deforestation took place mostly in South America & Africa (2000 - 2005)

# Climate Change



- Deforestation & forest degradation account for 17.4 % of total human-generated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;
- Deforestation & forest degradation account for 35% of emissions in developing countries & 65% in LDCs;
- Climate change is significantly affecting forests through changes in physiology, structure, species composition and health, largely due to changes in temperature and rainfall;
- SIDS are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts (land-use changes combined with global warming).

# Forest degradation & desertification



- 25% of land degradation is associated with broad-leaved forests, 17% with boreal forests, and 18% with 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.

# Forest biodiversity



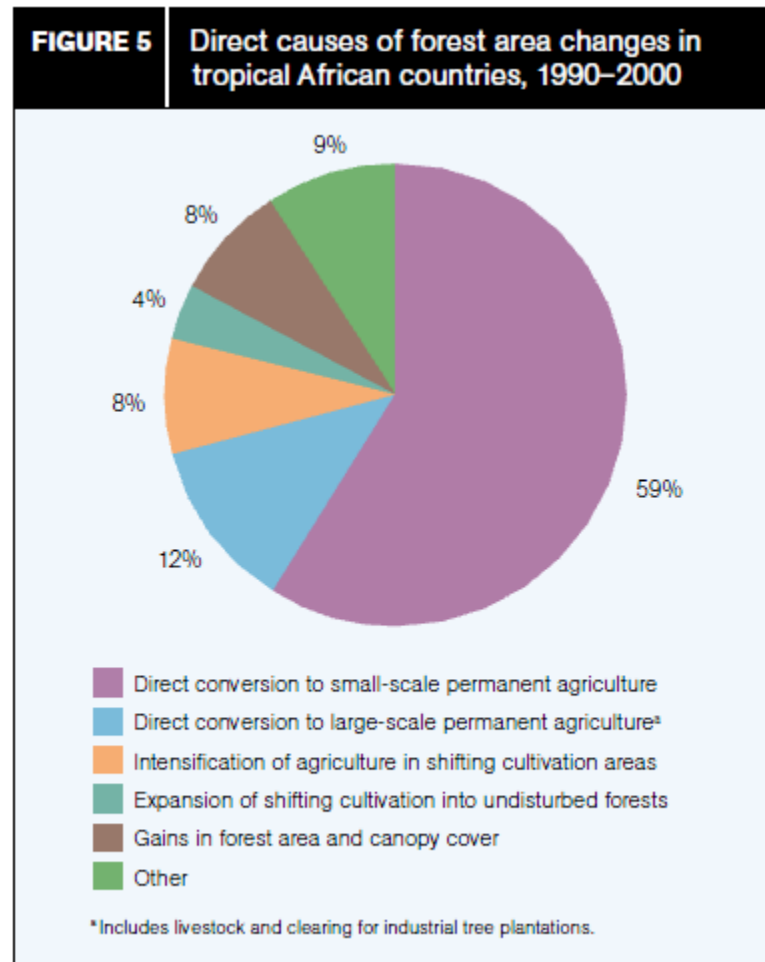
- 80% of terrestrial biodiversity found in forests, mostly in tropical forests;
- Conversion of forests to agricultural land, climate change, natural disasters, forest fires, airborne pollution, forest fragmentation, invasive alien species are main drivers of forest biodiversity loss;
- High and medium forest cover countries possess high biodiversity but also face severe deforestation.



# Forests and Agriculture



- Forests are an integral part of sustainable agriculture, food security and rural livelihoods;
- Conversion of forest areas to small-scale permanent agriculture has been the main driver of forest loss.



SOURCE: FAO, 2001.

# UNFF8 Resolution



- Highlights the urgency to address threats and challenges from climate change, loss of biodiversity & desertification and their interrelation with forests;
- Underscores the role of sustainable forest management in addressing these threats and challenges and contributing to poverty eradication;
- Calls for strengthened unprecedented levels of coordination and enhanced cooperation on sustainable forest management.

# UNFF8 Resolution ...



- Invites governing bodies of CPF members, in particular UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, to integrate sustainable forest management into their strategies;
- Encourages Member States to use national forest programmes or other strategies for sustainable forest management to integrate measures to address climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and deforestation.

# Opportunities & challenges for Copenhagen:



- Ensure climate change and forest policies and programmes are mutually supportive;
- Sustainable forest management is a comprehensive framework which includes forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Build capacity for monitoring, reporting and verification to enable effective monitoring of carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation under REDD.

# Opportunities & challenges for Copenhagen...



- Promote afforestation, reforestation and establishment of planted forests;
- Take into account the CPF Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change, as a unique approach to address climate change through SFM;
- Facilitate multi-level information sharing, transparent decision-making, accountability, well-defined property rights and collaboration between stakeholders.





Thank you!

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

