



The UN Forum on Forests: Recent developments and Regional Cooperation

African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, 16th Session
Near East Forestry Commission, 18th Session

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Khartoum, Republic of Sudan

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Overview



- **Recent UNFF Developments**
 - Global Objectives on Forests
 - Non-legally Binding Instrument on all types of Forests
- **Regional and sub-regional Interactions with UNFF**
 - Previous activities
 - New MYPOW
 - Potential contributions



Recent Developments



- ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 strengthened the international arrangement on forests, added three new principal functions and agreed four Global Objectives on Forests.
- It further decided that UNFF conclude and adopt a Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI)
- UNFF7 adopted the NLBI on 28 April 2007, then adopted by ECOSOC on 17 October 2007 and adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2007



Global Objectives on Forests



Global Objective 1

- Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global Objective 2

- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;



Global Objectives on Forests



Global Objective 3

- Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide & other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global Objective 4

- Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.



Purpose of the NLBI



- (a) To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement SFM and to achieve the Global objectives on forests;
- (b) To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the IADGs, including the MDGs, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;
- (c) To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.



Added Value of the NLBI




- Provides more articulated and practical framework for SFM and achievement of Global Objectives
- Strengthens the principle of SFM as basic tenet of sustainable development
- Reinforces recognition of the need for financial resources for implementation
- Reinforces the UNFF as global body for deliberations on international forest policy
- Offers a platform for coordinating forest-related agreements and processes




Previous Regional and sub-regional activities related to UNFF



- Regional Panel Events and Workshops
- Preparation for UNFF negotiations
- Civil society engagement
- Accreditation of regional entities
- Information exchange & awareness building



Regional and sub-regional perspectives at UNFF




Outcome of the 6th and 7th sessions


- Gearing UNFF discussions towards sharing regional and sub-regional experiences and activities

New UNFF principal function

- Calls for strengthening interaction between the UNFF and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum (ECOSOC resolution 2006/49)



MYPOW 2007-2015



- The sessions are built around the main pillars of SFM
- The main tasks for each session:
 - Progress in implementing the NLBI, the IPF/IFF PfA, the UNFF resolutions and achieving the GOF
 - Cross-cutting issues: Mol and FLEG in the context of themes
 - Common agenda items: Regional Inputs, Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, Enhanced Cooperation and inputs from CPF



NLBI -regional cooperation references



7 (g) ...promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests, harvested according to domestic legislation;


7 (h)address illicit international trafficking in forest products through promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance;

7 (i) Strengthen capacity of countries to combat illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;


7 (n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

7 (p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition; and

7 (q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management.



Thematic focus of future Sessions



- **UNFF8 in 2009** – Environmental focus
 - Forests & Climate Change
 - Loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification / LFCCs
 - Forests & Biodiversity
- Means of Implementation focus
 - Funding mechanism
- **UNFF9 in 2011** – Social focus
 - International Year of Forests
 - High-level Ministerial Segment
- **UNFF10 in 2013** – Economic focus
- **UNFF11 in 2015** – Review focus
 - High-level Ministerial Segment



Potential Regional Contributions



- Regional and sub-regional inputs on agenda items & issues
- Identifying emerging issues
- Identifying gaps & constraints
- Platform for dialogue & exchange
- Partnerships, synergies & joint activities
- Participation in High-Level Segments
- Intersessional activities



Thank you!

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