United Nations Forum on Forests: Recent developments in international forest policy process

4th China City Forest Forum (May 2007)
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International Dialogue on Forests

- Intergovernmental forest policy process
- United Nations Forum on Forests
- Outcomes of the seventh session
- Looking ahead

Intergovernmental forest dialogue

- 1992 UNCED: Agenda 21, Forest Principles
- 2000 onward: United Nations Forum on Forests

United Nations Forum on Forests

- Unique new UN body, formed in 2000
- Universal membership
- To promote SFM and strengthen political, commitment
- To advance international policy dialogue and cooperation
Global Objectives on Forests

- Reverse the loss of forest cover… and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation
- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, … improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent people
- Increase significantly the area of protected and other sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and
- Reverse the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM

Multi-stakeholder dialogues

- Emphasis on public participation and transparency
- Nine major groups, including Local Authorities
- Focus is on partnership on implementation and policy development

UNFF 7

- 16-27 April 2007, New York
- Non-legally binding instrument
- International Year of Forests 2011

Urban forestry

- City forests provide:
  - Social benefits
  - Communal benefits
  - Environmental benefits
  - Economic benefits
**UNFF and Urban Forestry**

- No explicit agenda but several links
  - Ministerial Declaration of 2002
  - New multi-year programme of work
  - Several IPF/IFF proposals for action
  - CPF activities
- New MYPOW has several links to trees outside forests and urban issues

**Looking ahead**

- UNFF8 in 2009
- UNFF9 in 2011
  - International Year of Forests
  - High-level Ministerial Segment
  - Community Based Forest Management (including, Urban and rural forests)
- UNFF10 (2013)
  - Forest Products and Services (including nature-based tourism)
  - Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities (including water management, upstream-downstream impacts)
- UNFF11 (2015)
  - Review
  - High-level Ministerial Segment

**Summary**

- UNFF addresses policy issues on all types of forests
- Forests have
  - multiple uses, new opportunities
  - multiple stakeholders
  - expanding dimensions
  - national and international policy linkages
- UNFF and the new “instrument” provide a platform for international cooperation
- National initiatives such as the China City Forest Forum can provide a significant input
- Greater participation by local authorities at UNFF needed

**Looking ahead**

- New funding mechanism expected
- Renewed political commitment at national, regional and international levels
- Greater participation of stakeholders
- Urban and community forestry, forest for recreational and cultural values
- Multi-dimensional forestry
Thank You
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
New York
www/un.org/esa/forests/

Urban forestry benefits

- Beauty and pleasant neighborhoods
- Sense of community - trees as living memorials
- Enhance architecture and landscape
- Reduce glare, direct pedestrian traffic
- Carbon, oxygen, water
- Pollution control (water, air, noise)
- Value of property
- Biodiversity (flora, fauna, medicinal plants)