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Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the GOFs & the implementation of the Forest Instrument

Item 3: Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the IAF

4 May 2015 | E/CN.18/2015/3

Sources of information

National reports submitted to UNFF supplemented by

- FAO/FRA 2010
- SOFO 2014
- ITTO
- Independent assessment of the IAF

Overall 181 submissions from 100 countries since 2007
81 reports to UNFF11= 72 % of world’s forests

Reporting on the Forest Instrument

- Continues to provide a comprehensive framework for actions/activities on all aspects of SFM
- Has been a helpful point of reference for their forest laws, policies and programmes, especially for developing countries
- Actions reported by developed countries are in line with Instrument’s provisions but not always in response to them
- The Instrument’s provisions have helped create an enabling environment for forest-related initiatives such as REDD+ & FLEGT VPAs
Reporting on the Global Objectives on Forests (I)

GOF1
- Forest cover loss continues globally but at a reduced rate
- Afforestation, enforcement of existing legislation, REDD+, other carbon-finance initiatives help to reverse this trend
- 75% of countries indicated having time bound and quantified targets on forest area

GOF2
- Increased recognition of social and economic benefits from forests
- The benefits, however, are often not measured or valued in quantifiable terms
- Socio-economic data still mostly anecdotal => the assessment of progress towards GOF2 is problematic

Reporting on the Global Objectives on Forests (II):

GOF3
- Area of protected forests continue to increase
- Increased area of forest under management plans and certification schemes
- More countries with procurement policies requiring timber from sustainably managed forests

GOF4
- Positive trends in ODA for forests, however, geared mainly towards REDD+ and carbon funds
- Some countries reported increased mobilization of domestic public funding for SFM
- Many countries have taken steps to encourage greater private investment in forests, with only limited success
Contribution of Forests & SFM to MDGs

Forests and SFM contribute to all MDGs

- MDG1 (poverty and hunger eradication)
- MDG7 (environmental sustainability)
- MDG8 (partnership for development)

Around 85% of countries provided examples on how forests/SFM contribute to:

Apart from MDG7, however, this contribution is mostly not measured or/and recognized

National report demonstrated clear links between the Forest Instrument, GOFs and MDGs

Conclusions

Progress in implementation of the Forest Instrument, however, potential is not fully utilized

Some progress made towards all GOFs, however, without quantitative targets is difficult to assess extent of progress

The Instrument increased contribution of forests & SFM to MDGs. It could perform a similar role in achieving the future SDGs

Need for a robust monitoring framework to measure the contributions of forests to the SDGs

Monitoring framework should be based on global indicators that integrate reporting on the GOFs and forest related SDG and targets
More detailed information:

“Background document on the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (Forest Instrument) Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs), and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – actions reported by countries to UNFF”

available at: