

United Nations Forum on Forests
Eighth Session

Achieving the four global objectives on forests and implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Item 3 of the Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General: E/CN.18/2009/2

20 April 2009



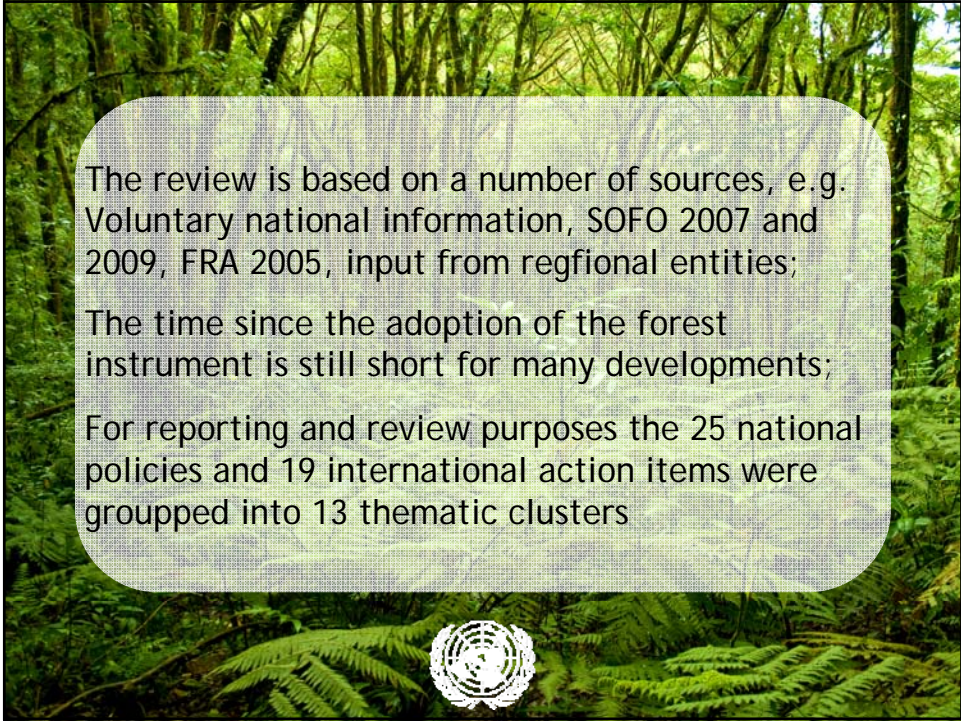
UNFF Resolution 7/1

1. (a) At each session, the Forum will focus on progress towards:
- (i) The achievement of sustainable forest management;
 - (ii) Implementation of the forest instrument;
 - (iii) Achievement of the four global objectives on forests;
 - (iv) Implementation of the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF;
 - (v) Implementation of previous resolutions adopted by the Forum;

(c) At each session, the Forum will have as its main task a discussion on the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the forest instrument;

The ninth session in 2011 and the eleventh session in 2015 play a special role in reviewing progress. (Paragraph 20 and 22)





The review is based on a number of sources, e.g. Voluntary national information, SOFO 2007 and 2009, FRA 2005, input from regional entities;

The time since the adoption of the forest instrument is still short for many developments;

For reporting and review purposes the 25 national policies and 19 international action items were grouped into 13 thematic clusters



Main findings

National forest programs are the main means of setting policies for SFM

SFM is also promoted through rural development policies.

Some countries informed about successful integration of nfps with other sectoral policies.




Major obstacles and challenges

- Heavy pressures on forests due to lack of effective legal and policy frameworks or adequate funding sources;
- Weak law enforcement and governance;
- Weak institutional framework;
- Lack of valuation of forest goods and services, information, research and technology transfer.



Progress Towards Global Objective 1

- Provisions for extension of forests through nfps or existing policies;
- Fight against illegal logging where it is a serious problem;
- Degradation as a concept needs more attention and further clarification.



Progress Towards Global Objective 2
Proved to be particularly relevant for countries with large forest-dependant populations;
Success largely depends on the implementation of policies relating to other sectors;
Major obstacle is the lack of proper valuation of forest goods and services;
Difficult to establish place for these goods and services in the market.



Progress Towards Global Objective 3
Broad range of approaches from strict management planning to certification;
Designation of new areas to protection;
Donor support to intensify protection of forests;
Increased share of products from sustainably managed forest through various ways including procurement schemes.

Progress Towards Global Objective 4

Serious gaps exist in the global financial scheme for SFM;

But serious gaps also exist in the information on forest finance;

Details are presented in the report on finance and other means of implementation.



Recommendations

- note the magnitude of problems;
- invite Member States to increase efforts in using the forest instrument as the main policy tool for integrating sustainable forest management into national development policies;
- invite Member States to consider intersessional activities in support of the implementation of the forest instrument;
- invite the donor community as well as members of the CPF to give priority in their programmes and actions to support aimed at removing obstacles of the implementation of the forest instrument;
- call for enhanced global-regional, as well as regional cooperation to address key impediments and invite the CPF to support these initiatives.



Preparing for future reviews

Need for indicators to measure progress;

FRA has the most comprehensive set of indicators;

Indicators from other global and regional processes could be useful;

Timing of UNFF sessions would allow receiving input from FRA and SOFO.



Future reviews could be based on:

- Enhanced set of indicators, derived from existing reporting processes, in particular FRA, and voluntary national reports;

- Qualitative information related to the implementation of the forest instrument, obtained through voluntary national reports;

- Other existing sources of information, including from members of the CPF, C&I processes as well as relevant regional and sub-regional entities



Recommendations

- Establish a timetable for voluntary reporting for UNFF9;
- Invite the CPF to continue its efforts in harmonizing forest-related reporting;
- Request the secretariat to develop synergies, with relevant members of the CPF, C&I processes and other regional and sub-regional entities, to prepare consolidated reports
- Request the secretariat to engage in collaboration and cooperation with FAO in this regard;
- Consider intersessional work in support of streamlining forest-related reporting and increasing national capacities.



Thank you for your attention

