United Nations Forum on Forests
Ninth Session
New York, 24 January – 4 February 2011
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

The Forum Trust Funds
United Nations Trust Funds to Support the United Nations Forum on Forests

Note by the Secretariat

Summary
The present note covers the programme activities of the Forum secretariat funded from the Trust Fund in support of the UN Forum on Forests (KSA) and the Capacity Development Office funds as of 22 October 2010. The generous contributions of donor countries to the Trust Funds are gratefully acknowledged. Many implementing activities would not have possible without those contributions to both Trust Funds.

*E/CN.18/2011/1
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I. Introduction

Paragraph 25 of UNFF Resolution 7/1 on the multi year programme of work for the period 2007-2015 (MYPOW), called upon interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum trust funds. Other countries in a position to do so and other interested parties were also urged to contribute to the trust fund. In order to ensure transparency paragraph 27 requested the secretariat to prepare a report to the Forum at each session on the operations of the Forum trust funds, including on the amount and source of contributions and a description of how funds were spent.

1. In 2010, the Forum secretariat carried out a series of activities financed by the Trust Fund to Support the United Nations Forum on Forests (KSA) as well as the UN DESA Capacity Development Office (CDO) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. All the activities relate to the UNFF-8 Session resolution on Forests in a changing environment and the UNFF-9 special session resolution on Means of Implementation and other aspects of the of the multi-year programme of work of the Forum for the period 2007-2015. The KSA was also used to supplement funds from the Regular Budget (programme budget of the United Nations Secretariat, programme 7: Economic and Social Affairs, Subprogramme 9: Sustainable Forest Management), in implementing the programme of work for the first year of the current biennium.

The generous contributions of the donor countries to the Trust Fund are gratefully acknowledged, which greatly enhanced the work of the Forum secretariat, and at the present level of activities, the work would not have been possible without these funds. More specifically, a substantial part of the activities of the secretariat in the year 2010 supported by the Trust Fund include: (i) cost of conference services for the Open ended Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing held in Nairobi, 13 -17 September 2010 and two smaller expert group meetings in New York, one on “Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication” held on 23 April 2010 in New York, and the other on “ Regional Processes and Forest Financing “ held on 8 June 2010, also in New York.(ii) travel of representatives of developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, to expert group meetings, as well as to the Ninth Session of the Forum; (iii) travel of staff to participate in various forest-related meetings and events; (vi) support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Forum, as per ECOSOC decision 2007/278; and (v) salaries of temporary staff members of the Secretariat. The CDO Trust Fund was mainly used to launch the facilitative process as per the UNFF-9 Special Session resolution on means of implementation.

2. The 2010 allotment from the Trust Fund is US$1,725,736 inclusive of programme support costs. The total contributions to the Trust Fund in support of UNFF (KSA) in 2010 to date amount to US$670,208, approximately only a third of the funds needed to implement the programme of work for 2010.

3. In 2010 project funding was received in the Capacity Development Office of DESA for capacity building projects. One of the projects funded is Component 1 of the Facilitative Process for US$624,750 contributed by the Government of the United Kingdom. In addition, US$20,000 were received in 2009 from the Swiss Government to cover the cost of travel and services provided by the Secretariat to the Workshop on Forest Governance and REDD+ in Latin America.

II. Conference Services for expert group meetings

4. According to UN rules, ad-hoc expert group meetings do not carry the entitlement for interpretation services, these can only be provided on an “as available basis”. As there were no available interpretation services for the planned meetings the secretariat was obligated to incur these expenses from the Trust Fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Relationship to programme element 2010–2011 programme budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of conference services at UNON, Nairobi (13-17 September, 2010) including conference rooms, technical support and interpretation in all UN languages;</td>
<td>Programme budget 2010-2011, output 9.79 (a) (i) a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. Travel of experts and representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition

Travel assistance was provided to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the Ad-hoc Expert Group Meeting on Forest Financing held in Nairobi, 13 – 17 September 2010. As at the writing of this Note, only an amount of US$50,000 is available to support travel of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in UNFF9. An approximate amount of US$400,000 is required to cover this travel.

IV. Travel of staff members of the UNFF Secretariat

5. Staff members of the Secretariat participated in many key forest-related events, inter alia, the Governing Council of African Forum on Forests (AFF), Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Meeting, Meeting of the Steering Committee for the CLI on Forest Governance, Decentralization and REDD in Latin America; the UN REDD 4th Policy Board Meeting, the Central African Forests and Institutions (CAF) meeting, the Session on “Enhancing Cooperation and Seeking Coherence between REDD + Institutions to support Countries REDD+ efforts, REDD, meeting on REDD and Fragile Economies, the Major-Group led Initiative in Support of UNFF, the Scoping meeting to discuss the area of supporting total restoration of degraded forest ecosystems in Rwanda, Participation in a panel at the 7th Annual American Renewable Energy Day Summit, IUFRO World Congress and CPF Meeting, Seminar on “Developing an effective international legal instrument – learning from the experience of the ECE Conventions and beyond”, International Symposium on Forest Governance Indicators and the annual meeting of the European Tropical Forest Advisors Group (ETFAG), AHEG on Forest Financing, COFO 20th Session, Meeting with the GTZ regional officers, the Sustainable Forest Initiative annual conference, Steering Committee Meeting of the Forest Dialogue, CBD COP 10, UNFCCC COP 16 and the 46th Session International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees.
V. Support to the Bureau in preparing for future sessions of the Forum

6. As per ECOSOC decision 2007/278 support can be provided to Bureau members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to cover participation in at least one meeting a year of the Bureau held in or outside New York, from designated contributions to the Trust Fund. By the time of writing this Note the US$41,000 contributed by Switzerland in 2009 had been exhausted.

VI. Temporary staff and general temporary assistance

7. Staff members at professional and other levels were engaged using the extra budgetary resources of the Trust Fund. On the professional level temporary staff includes a P-5; a P-4, and a P-3, general temporary assistance includes two P-4 level staff members, two P-3 level and one P-2 level. Other levels include three general service support staff members.

VII. Contributions to the Trust Funds

The contributions in 2010 to the Trust Fund in support of UNFF as well as the Capacity Development Office capacity development funds are reflected in Annex I.
Annex 1: Contributions to the Trust Fund in support of activities for the UNFF (KSA) and the Capacity Development Office Technical Cooperation trust fund for the period January – December 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>150,208</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (DFID-CDO)</td>
<td>624,750</td>
<td>48.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,294,958</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. In addition to the contribution of US$150,208, in 2010, the Government of Finland has contributed to the cost of a Junior Programme Officer for a two year period starting in October 2010 at an approximate cost of US$320,000.
2. At the writing of this report, the Government of Austria had pledged an amount of approximately US$75,000 in support of the International Year of Forests, travel of representatives from developing countries to the UNFF9 Session and travel support to Bureau Members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
3. It should be noted that the Secretariat signed an MOU with GEF for US$1,000,000 for 2010 – 2012 in support of the facilitative process.
4. At the writing of this report, the UNFFS is expecting to sign a MoU with the Government of Germany for US$500,000 for 2010-2011 in support of the facilitative process and the International Year of Forests, and approximately another $400,000 pending for 2011/2012.
5. The Government of Norway has indicated that they will contribute approximately US$400,000 to support the International Year of Forests and the facilitative process activities as at the writing of this report.
6. It should be noted that the contribution from Korea was received at the end of 2009.