UNFF & Forest law enforcement and governance

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Background

• UNCED 1992
  - Forest principles
  - Agenda 21

• IPF/IFF (1995-2000)

• UNFF (2000 – present): unique subsidiary body of ECOSOC
UN Forum on Forests:

- Situated in UN DESA
- Universal UN membership – 197 countries
- Biennial Sessions
- Supported by CPF (14 forest related organizations)
- Regional Organizations & Processes
UNFF: 360 degree perspective on all aspects of forests

- Promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment

- Core content:
  - Forest Instrument
  - Means of implementation: Forest financing, facilitative process, forest law enforcement and governance
  - Forests in the context of sustainable development
Forest Instrument (NLBI):

- Adopted by GA in 2007
- Conceptualization of SFM
- Global Objectives on Forests
- International cooperation and MoI: capacity building, finance, technology transfer
- National actions and measures
- Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR)
Global Objectives on Forests

1. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management;
2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
3. Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests;
4. 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 sustainable forest management.
Forest Instrument, Art 6

• (n)… strengthen forest law enforcement, promote good governance…and to combat and eradicate illegal practices according to national legislation;

• (x)… implement in a transparent manner voluntary instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation, and to improve market transparency.
MAR: 57 reporting countries = 52% of world’s forests

Map source: FAO
Monitoring progress - actions reported by countries:

Steps taken by Governments Since 2007, to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources:

- Improved enforcement of existing legislation: 70%
- Export controls: 60%
- Import controls: 50%
- New legislation: 40%
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries: 30%
- None: 10%
FLEG related actions reported by countries (i):

• Membership in CITES, CBD
• Implementation of EU-wide legislation EU FLEG, VPAs, EU Timber Regulations (Croatia, Ghana, Liberia, Guyana, Jamaica, Germany, UK)
• Establishment of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN): (Nepal)
• Development of East African Community protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management (Kenya)
• European neighborhood and partnership instrument for east countries on forest law enforcement and governance (Azerbaijan)
• Bilateral cooperation: e.g. MoU between Japan and China on combating illegal logging and associated trade
• MoU on forest law enforcement between Vietnam with Laos, Cambodia and South Korea
FLEGT related actions reported by countries (ii):

- New/amended/transparent timber procurement policies (Cyprus, Finland, Ghana, Georgia, Jamaica);
- Chain of custody system for timber harvesting (Liberia);
- Enhancing monitoring capabilities/timber traceability and verification systems (PNG);
- System for Timber Flow Control and for Tracking the Wood Source (Romania);
- Protocols to determine the legality of timber and timber products found in the market/Certificate of Timber or Lumber Origin (Philippines);
- Provision of funds to INTERPOL’s Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests (LEAF project), support for combating transnational organized forest crime/illegal logging through the UNODC project Organized Forest Crime (ORGFORC) by Norway.
Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- Formed in 2001 to support work of UNFF
- 14 key international organizations - providing information and technical support and mobilizing financial resources
- The main activities: support to CLIs and organization of OLIs, events, analytical document, reports technical inputs to UNFF sessions
- Elaboration of studies e.g. “2012 Study on forest financing”
CPF Study on forest financing & FLEGT:

• Provides an overview of FLEGT initiatives and programmes
• Demonstrates flows of funding for FLEGT and identifies the main donors and recipients
• Some FLEGT related findings:
  – funding for forest law enforcement remains limited;
  – lack of awareness among legislators and policy makers about the role of FLEG in national development, resulting in a lack of political will to support the sector;
  – poor governance and limited law enforcement make the forest sector less attractive to investments by the private sector.
UNFF current issues:

• Submission of National Reports to UNFF11
• Workshop on International Arrangement on forests beyond – CLI in support of UNFF (29-31 October 2015, China)
• AHEG2 (12-16 January 2015 in UNHQ, NY)
• Following up SDGs and post 2015 Development agenda
• Preparation for UNFF11 (4-15 May 2015, UNHQ New York) - Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests
Forest related Goal and targets, as proposed by OWG on SD:

Goal 15 : Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

• 15 (1) by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, ..... 
• 15 (2) by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally
• 15 (3) take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
• 15 (b) mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation
Thank you for your attention!

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