

UNFF News

Informal Newsletter from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Highlights

- Criteria & Indicators: Guatemala Initiative
- ITTO / IUCN Transboundary Conservation Areas Workshop
- UNFF Voluntary National Reporting Format to be distributed
- CPF Meeting Summary: 3-4 Oct 2002
- CPF Sourcebook: Financing and Funding SFM
- Update on Global Forest Resources Assessment

Criteria & Indicators: a Guatemala Led Initiative

The International Conference on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, hosted by the National Forest Service of the Government of Guatemala and organized in collaboration with FAO, ITTO and the Governments of Finland and USA will take place 3 - 7 February 2003 in Guatemala. The objectives of the conference are to: (i) strengthen the elaboration and application of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; (ii) promote political commitment for the use of criteria and indicators as tools for sustainable forest management; (iii) strengthen institutional capacity and stakeholder partnerships for implementing criteria and indicators and to facilitate the exchange of information between all stakeholders; and (iv) contribute towards the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and to the international initiatives on criteria and indicators related to sustainable development.

Further information: Ms. Glenda Lee, Coordinator (cici2002@inab.gob.gt)

ITTO/IUCN Transboundary Conservation Areas Workshop

The ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) and IUCN - The World Conservation Union are organizing a workshop to increase the effectiveness of Transboundary Conservation Areas in tropical forests. The workshop is set to take place 17-21 February, 2003 in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand and will bring together practitioners involved in the implementation of ITTO's transboundary conservation areas (TBCA) programme, and experts from IUCN and other interested organizations. More detail is available on the web at: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/activities/transboundary1.htm>.

For further information contact: Dena

Cator, IUCN at transboundary@iucn.org;

UNFF Voluntary National Reports Guidelines Available

The UNFF agreed that voluntary national reporting would be done at each session of UNFF, beginning at UNFF2. It further agreed that the reports would focus on the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. National reports are recognized as a useful planning tool for countries as well as a valuable source of information for the Reports of the Secretary General to UNFF sessions.

In support of this decision, the UNFF Secretariat is circulating to all UNFF National Focal Points a voluntary national reporting format and guidelines. Developed in consultation with several government representatives and with the input of several harmonization and reporting studies previously undertaken, the format will hopefully allow better comparability and utility of information received by the UNFF Secretariat on the issues to be discussed at UNFF3, namely Forest Health and Productivity, Economic Aspects of Forests and Maintaining Forest Cover for Present and Future Needs.

The format is available on the UNFF Secretariat website.

For further information contact Ms. Susan Braatz at braatz@un.org.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Meeting Summary

The Eighth Meeting of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests took place 3-4 October 2002 in New York and was chaired by Mr. Hosny El-Lakany, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department FAO and the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The Chairman of the UNFF 3 Bureau, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi, also attended.

Several issues were treated by the CPF including the CPF focal agency system in which the new members, IUCN and ICRAF, agreed to undertake the responsibility of being

(Continued from page 1)

focal agencies and collaborating agencies for certain UNFF elements. CPF members were briefed on the establishment of the CPF Task Force on Harmonizing and Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting, the outcome of COP 6 CBD was reviewed, and progress on the CPF Sourcebook was touched upon.

High upon the agenda of all concerned was a review and follow up of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Discussion on this issue centered upon the linkages of forests to other sections of CPF objectives, such as biodiversity, climate change, desertification and poverty. It was suggested that the CPF Framework could review how CPF's activities are linked to poverty in light of the outcome of the WSSD and the Millennium Development Goals.

For further information please contact: Mia Soderlund at soderlund@un.or

CPF Sourcebook: Financing and Funding Sustainable Forest Management

At the last meeting of the CPF, FAO briefed CPF members on progress on the CPF Sourcebook initiative and demonstrated the interactive and electronic Sourcebook website, including a database on sources of funds for sustainable forest management. CPF members expressed great appreciation to FAO for developing the prototype of the CPF Sourcebook, which could become a useful "broker" between donors and fund seekers for SFM projects. Several CPF members, including World Bank and GEF, agreed to provide additional material for the Sourcebook. CPF members agreed to provide the material directly to FAO.

It is expected that the CPF Sourcebook will be showcased in side events during forest related meetings, including UNFF 3. Another suggestion was to seek CPF Network participants' help in disseminating the Sourcebook. The possibility of organizing a workshop on the Sourcebook was also raised

For further information or to provide funding or finance information the CPF Sourcebook, please contact Tiina Vahanen, FAO at tiina.vahanen@fao.org.

Global Forest Resources Assessment Update

An expert consultation entitled "Global Forest Resources Assessment – Linkages between National and International Efforts" took place in Kotka, Finland from 1-5 July 2000. The meeting was organized by FAO in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with support of the Government of Finland. The most recent assessment, the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (GFRA 2000), reports on the status and trends of forest resources worldwide, including forest land as well as wood and non-wood forest products and various environmental and socio-economic functions of forests. The objective of the "Kotka IV" meeting was to provide FAO and its partners recommendations on the overall direction of future global forest resources assessments and related national capacity building efforts. About 60 experts attended the meeting, including 32 nominated by countries, 10 from intergovernmental organizations, and 15 from other organizations.

The consultation recommended that the interval of comprehensive forest resources assessments be every ten years, with the next one to be published in about 2010. Taking into consideration that the fifth session of the UNFF will take place in 2005, the meeting suggested that an intermediate GFRA report be published in 2005. The participants recommended that the overall scope of the GFRA should remain a broad assessment and that it should be designed so as to facilitate national forest-related reporting to regional and international processes and instruments, including UNFF. Other recommendations were given on the scope of GFRA, related capacity strengthening efforts in national forest inventory and assessment, and on the establishment of an advisory group to GFRA.

The UNFF newsletter aims to provide updated information on matters related to the international arrangement on forests.

This informal newsletter is produced and distributed electronically by the UNFF Secretariat. If you wish to subscribe to this free newsletter contact the Secretariat at unff@un.org. For comments and suggestions, please contact Ms. Abby Sarmac at sarmac@un.org.

Upcoming Meetings

UNFF

26 May – 6 June 2003, Geneva. 3rd session of the UNFF.

Other

20–24 November 2002. Shiga Prefecture, Japan. International Expert Meeting on Forests and Water. Forestry Agency of Japan. Yuuji_imaizumi@nm.maff.go.jp

22–26 November 2002. Oaxaca, Mexico. Forest Stewardship Council General Assembly. FSC Secretariat. www.fscoax.org

25–27 November 2002. Geneva, Switzerland. Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. WTO. www.wto.org.

17-21 February, 2003. Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. ITTO / IUCN. Transboundary Conservation Areas in tropical forests. <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/activities/transboundary1.htm>.

UNFF Secretariat
Two UN Plaza, DC 2-2284

Phone: + 1 212 963-3401/9875
Fax: +1 917 367-3186

We're on the Web!

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>