

Summary of Proposals Actions and Options from Working Groups 1 and 2

Tuesday, 13 January 2015

1. The Forest Instrument after 2015: Proposed actions and options

Areas of emerging convergence (Working Group 1 and/or Working Group 2)

- Need to better promote and strengthen the visibility of the Forest Instrument (FI) and its GOFs, including (but not limited to) changing the title of the instrument to a more dynamic one which would send a more positive message, improve communication and facilitate wider understanding of the instrument.
- Need to update the Forest Instrument by replacing references to MDGs with SDGs and extending the timeframe of the GOFs to 2030. Further updates to the text should be approached with caution to avoid re-opening negotiations on the substantive text of the Forest Instrument.
- Developing an addendum could be a useful way to address forest-related developments since 2007 (SDGs and role of forests in the sustainable development agenda, REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, etc.).
- An addendum or other document could highlight the importance of cross-sectoral approaches in addressing deforestation and serve as a basis for inter-sectoral discussions.
- Need to establish a clear link between the Forest Instrument and the SDGs/sustainable development agenda (including clear time-bound targets) and how to do this should be explored.
- Need a practical mechanism to catalyze implementation of the Forest Instrument, SFM and other decisions of the Forum, including by building/influencing political will, building capacity within countries, and involving local and indigenous communities.
- A concise strategic plan or similar strategy could be a useful way to focus the work of the IAF, set priorities (including low cost-high value actions), and increase visibility for implementation of the Forest instrument. Each country could develop its own strategy based on the global strategy.

Additional views and proposals

- It would be useful to have a mechanism to upscale lessons learned and successes from pilot implementation of the Forest Instrument, as well as to create guidelines on how to implement the instrument.
- The four options are a point of departure. Their elements are not a package and can be looked at individually.
- Options 1, 3 and 4 are not mutually exclusive and could be pursued in a mutually supporting way.
- If option 4 is considered, regional strategies, including legally binding commitments, could be encouraged under the umbrella of the Forest Instrument, which would build on existing agreements and conventions.
- Area where differences remain: Whether transitioning the NLBI to a legally-binding agreement would ultimately benefit implementation of SFM on the ground.

2. Implementation and financing of SFM after 2015: Proposed actions and options

Financing of SFM after 2015

Areas of emerging convergence (Working Group 1 and/or Working Group 2)

- The UNFF should form closer ties to all existing financing mechanisms to promote coherence and improve access by countries to forest funding.
- Funding the institutional aspects of the IAF is a separate issue from funding national efforts to implement SFM on the ground. Both should be strengthened under the future IAF.
- The Facilitative Process should be strengthened as a catalytic mechanism, building on experiences to date to realize its full potential.
- The Facilitative Process should advise and assist countries in: developing short-, medium- and long-term financing strategies for implementing SFM/the Forest Instrument/GOFs; in accessing financing from a range of sources; attracting investment, including improving enabling environments; in brokering funding and connecting with potential technical cooperation partners; in overcoming financing obstacles; in encouraging South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and in encouraging the private sector to play a greater role in interconnected sectors.
- The UNFF should create a strategic trust fund to strengthen capacity to support the implementation of the Forest Instrument, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition; for example, by providing priority support to develop national action plans for implementation of the Forest Instrument, to prepare national reports on implementation progress, and to help mobilize further resources for the implementation of SFM.

Additional views and proposals

- There is scope to improve management of the FP through, for example, operating rules, priority-setting, governance (e.g. a steering committee), reporting to donors, transparency).
- The Facilitative Process should be a core function of the future IAF, and the secretariat should have the capacity to fully manage a strengthened FP.
- A future Facilitative Process / Strategic Trust Fund should be flexible enough to accommodate contributions from a wide variety of sources, which may have different rules governing their contributions.
- We should clarify the enabling conditions that governments need to have in place to attract investors (e.g. transparency, secure land tenure, stable economic policies, anti-corruption measures) and recognize that creating these conditions has costs.
- The FP should be renamed to better convey and communicate its purpose and attract interest.
- There may be duplication in the functions of the Facilitative Process and the proposed Strategic Trust Fund. Perhaps these mechanisms can be merged.
- The proposed Strategic Trust Fund could provide seed money to help countries develop project proposals for submission to existing funds.
- The feasibility of creating sub-accounts within the UNFF trust fund for specific purposes (e.g. to support CPF, FP, etc.) should be explored since there may some resistance within the UN to creating new trust funds

- Use trust funds to strengthen the science-policy interface (through the CPF successor mechanism/UN Forest), as well as to strengthen the human and budgetary resources of the post-2015 IAF Secretariat in its extended tasks.
- A clear results-based roadmap or strategy could be an important tool for attracting forest financing from a variety of sources to facilitate implementation of the Forest Instrument, including mobilizing resources for monitoring.

Area where differences remain: Need for a dedicated global forest fund for the IAF/UNFF

Implementation of SFM after 2015

Areas of emerging convergence (Working Group 1 and/or Working Group 2)

- On Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR):
 - Institute data-sharing arrangements with CPF partners and synchronize the reporting process with the cycle of other relevant processes, such as the Forest Resources Assessment, for better harmonization and minimization of reporting burdens.
 - Use an ad hoc expert group, subsidiary implementation body or a global forest indicators partnership under the Forum to review progress on implementation of the Forest Instrument after each reporting cycle.
 - Establish a streamlined standard reporting format with a core set of indicators and a time-bound programme of work focused on specific aspects of the Forest Instrument, and identify sets of achievable and measurable actions (linked to the Forum strategic plan).
 - Strengthen capacity of Member States to gather information needed to establish baseline levels for indicators to report on.
- Consider using Forum trust funds to support, inter alia, countries in preparing national reports and Forest Instrument implementation plans.
- Strengthen capacity to support implementation at national and regional levels and improve coordination on forest-related matters within Member States, across ministries and between departments, to deal with forests in a more coordinated, integrated and comprehensive manner.

Additional views and proposals on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

- Develop measurable targets and associated indicators for the GOFs and SDGs.
- Better understand and promote the potential role of the UNFF in the SDG monitoring and review process as related to forests.
- Use MAR to assess the value-added of the Forest Instrument and exchange experiences and success stories
- Identify what UNFF11 decisions need to be taken on MAR and what can be decided later.