



**ASEAN INPUTS TO THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FOREST
(UNFF)**

*Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the
international arrangement on forests (IAF)*

**Prepared by:
ASEAN Secretariat**

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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

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General Information

The multi-year programme of work – MYPOW (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

The eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's MYPOW, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*, with the following sub themes:

1. Reviewing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests and consideration of all future options
2. Reviewing the progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument")
3. Reviewing the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

In completing this questionnaire, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in your submission, if information is already available in existing reports and/or documents. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section. Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), should be used as a baseline throughout the document.

Moreover, in view of the limitation of sizing of the pertinent Secretary-General's report, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than 250 words of written input per answer. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to unff@un.org, fax: +1 917-367-3186, by **30 September 2014**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

¹ The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the parent body of the Forum, through its resolution 2006/49, agreed to "Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum." (paragraph 2)

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFs as well as the contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

A. Progress towards implementation of the Forest Instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

ASEAN reaffirms to continue promoting sustainable forest management (SFM) and eradicating unsustainable forest practices such as illegal logging and illegal trade. At the 14th ASEAN Summit in 2009, ASEAN has put SFM as priority in the ASEAN Economic and Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, together with forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG), and forest and climate change towards 2015 and beyond.

Towards the implementation of SFM in the region, ASEAN has developed tools to support ASEAN Member States in evaluating their efforts in contributing towards the Four Global Forest Objectives and their linkages to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These regional instruments, among others, are the “ASEAN Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests”, the “Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN”, and the “ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action”. Using these documents ASEAN would be able to submit periodic reports on progress of implementation of sustainable forest management and the IPF/IFF Proposal for Action, including lessons learned, constraints and impediments faced in implementing them by ASEAN Member States to the UNFF. Further ASEAN has agreed on MAR online System to report the progress of SFM in the region.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

ASEAN member state would need to adopt innovative measure to address new policy regimes in SFM, Forest Certification, forest law enforcement and governance, forest and climate change, and other forest related issues. It is expected to diverse programs, strategies and approaches to meet these impediments. There are common problems on the need to synchronize forest governance at national and local levels, the increasing power, roles, and functions of Local Government Units in implementing forest related projects and activities, as well as the increasing number

and level of complexity of players in SFM process. Local implementation such as logging operations and forest plantation activities needs to be better enhanced through better effort and regulations, contributing towards achieving sustainable livelihoods and poverty alleviation of the ASEAN people.

Some of the obstacles faced in financing SFM are due to policy and market failures as unsustainable forest practices seem to be more profitable in a short run than sustainable forest management. In addition, current market prices of timber and timber products do not reflect the full values of forest goods and the services provided by forest. The public good benefits SFM do not generate income for the private investor and as such do not provide incentives for investment in the forestry sector; the contributions of SFM to poverty reduction, food supply, water and energy have not been clearly incorporated in Poverty Reduction Strategy processes, nor in other similar macro-level assistance strategies, and the perceived low returns and higher risk in natural forest management by investors as compared to the development and management of forest plantations. In addition, there is no green premium in place for forest products that is secured from sustainably managed forests.

Another issue is on land use change. There are many issues on competition of land between agriculture and forestry, food security and bio-energy, biomass/bio-energy and forestry etc. However this is unavoidable due to increasing demand as the results of growing population. Due to this, the balance between development and environmental protection has to be outlined in the future in all ASEAN Member State (AMS).

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint addresses the issue of environmental sustainability. This includes, among others, intensified regional cooperation on global environmental issues, conservation of biological diversity, as well as promotion of sustainable forest management (SFM) and eradication of unsustainable practices including combating illegal logging and its associated trade. In forestry policy, ASEAN Member States have been pursuing a comprehensive policy approach by implementing the concept of national forest programmes (nfp) order to achieve SFM. It is a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at national and subnational level with the objective of sustainable forest management (SFM).

In the ASEAN Experts Group on International Forest Policy Processes (AEG-IFPP),

ASEAN member state exchange information, experiences, best practices and lessons learnt on country approaches and mechanisms related to the implementation of their nfp processes. For this purpose, the AEG-IFPP has developed specific tools such as the ASEAN Guideline for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and conducted national forest programme (NFP) related capacity building.

In addition, in November 2007 in Singapore signed the "ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability" which calls, among others, to work closely with the international community to better understand and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including, in particular, the related issues of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sinks, as well as to collectively work towards achieving an aspiration goal of significantly increasing the cumulative forest cover in the ASEAN region by at least 10 million hectares by 2020.

ASEAN has been very active in engaging with global society through the ASEAN Common Position on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to UNFCCC since 2008. The ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forest and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC) plays crucial role in facilitating dialogue on this issue.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

ASEAN member state (AMS) have shared their progresses in adopting the nfp framework that contribute to the implementation of SFM. Some AMS have made progresses in establishing mechanisms for stakeholder participation and facilitating the development of policies and action plans. However, some AMS have not been able to establish the necessary cross-sector linkages and integrate forestry into overarching policies. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is still viewed as a technical issue dealing with logging and plantations. Meanwhile there is a need of improvement in integrating the social environmental values and services provided by forests and trees. AMS also views that reporting requirements on SFM from international organization should be harmonized to be more effective and efficient for country to make a reporting.

ASEAN will need to continue to enhance the sustainable management of forest resources integrated with other sectors related to forestry. In addition to utilizing nfp framework, the implementation of SFM needs improvement using regionally agreed criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Thus this will accelerate in achieving goal of significantly increasing the cumulative forest cover in the ASEAN region mentioned above.

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

In November 2009, in promoting international trade, the ASEAN member states adopted a reference framework for timber legality which define the criteria and indicators for legal timber, as part of a phased approach for timber certification for sustainability. Some ASEAN member states work on additional measures for a more responsible and sustainable trade in forest products through the development of a national Timber Legality Assurance System, which is the core element for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with the European Union (EU).

Under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, targets have been set for the implementation of a common ASEAN market by 2015 with free flow of goods and services. The timber sector is one of the twelve priority sectors identified for accelerated economic integration. Within the overall target date of 2015, the year 2010 was set for the individual ASEAN Member State (AMS) to finalize their respective national standard for chain-of-custody for legal timber and sustainable timber, the year 2011 for their respective national standard for verification of legal timber to be finalized, and the year 2014 for their respective national standard for forest management certification to be finalized.

ASEAN has also initiated to have ASEAN Single Custom Window to regulate regional trade within member states and respond the development of international markets. In 2013, the European Forests Institute (EFI) sponsored a Scoping Study on the ASEAN Single Customs Window and how to document and update timber legality being conducted in several FLEGT VPA countries.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

The development of timber trade regionally and internationally needs comprehensive preparation for ASEAN member state. ASEAN Member States are still in the process of establishing verification systems for legality of timber. Some of member state still need for additional enabling conditions to promote international trade in forest products, including the improvement of forestry governance and policy reform. Additionally, there is a need to support member state in preparing national standards and systems for chain of custody, both in terms of legal timber and sustainable timber. Furthermore, for some member state and EU-FLEGT countries, several steps still need supports in operating this scheme.

Several steps are also required by most member state to implement the principles of ASEAN Guidelines for Chain of Custody for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber

which could be used for ASEAN intra trade in legal timber products. However, there is no agreement regarding this standard to be used or internationally accepted for legal timber trade. Further negotiations or discussions are important for EU-FLEGT countries on the minimum requirements for legal timber being traded between AMS and international market. Additionally, ASEAN needs common views to recognize voluntary legal verification acceptable in the international market.

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint endorsed by the Leaders of ASEAN in their 13th Summit in November 2007 has further called for actions to strengthen efforts to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, promote collaborative research and the transfer of technology in forestry products, and develop a regional reference framework on phased-approach to forest certification. In this regard, ASEAN has recently agreed to a “Work Plan for strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in ASEAN (2008-2015)”, the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (2008), to address the illegal logging and its associated trade in the region while a significant progress has been made towards establishing a regional framework on forest certification by agreeing on six elements regarding the definition of legality of timber.

ASEAN also actively participates in other regional and multi-lateral processes working on these issues such as the Asia Forest Partnership, and the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. In addition, the endorsement of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, the online Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN, the development of the ASEAN Guideline on the Implementation of Phased approach to Forest Certification, ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber (2009), and the ASEAN Chain of Custody Guideline for Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber (2010) provide regional reference frameworks for national initiatives towards SFM. Additionally, a tool of assessing ASEAN FLEG implementation is being developed to support member state in addressing illegal international trafficking in forest products.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

FLEG issues addressed through the ASEAN member state (AMS) is still evolving. The implementation of FLEG requires supports and strong political commitments from AMS by adopting it into national forest programs or other integrated programs relevant to forests. Some member states are still developing an integrated mechanism to avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts in trying to combat illegal activities in the forest sector.

The ongoing process of the tool for assessing FLEG implementation containing format , including facilitates description, diagnosis, assessment and reporting on the state of FLEG implementation should be accelerated to document progress, changes and trends in its implementation in ASEAN Member States over time. AMS also need to focus on the type of additional efforts required, including improving policies and strategies and in identifying areas of FLEG that need international and regional cooperation and action. Additionally, there is a need to review and refine the thematic elements used in the tool for assessing FLEG implementation to respond current development and the capability to assess progress in implementing FLEG.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

1. The adopted “Work Plan for Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in ASEAN, 2008-2015” shows a clear commitment and intent of ASEAN and serve as a profound mechanism to work along with and draw more funding support from ASEAN’s partners.
2. The work of the open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing; and ASEAN wishes to call for the establishment of a global forest fund that would greatly facilitate the transfer of financial resources to developing countries. The National Forest Programme Facility (Facility) has provided financial support to six ASEAN Member States (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam) to implement SFM activities, including the IPF/IFF proposals for action. The ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) starting in 2012 have provided support to the forestry cooperation and the ASEAN Secretariat in streamlining forest-related multilateral environmental agreements into ASEAN’s forest policy approach and in developing national forest programmes. ASEAN is now in the process of developing new vision, goals and objectives on Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation from 2016-2025.
3. Close Cooperation with other development partners and initiatives are ongoing, including with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Germany, EU,

(GiZ), and FAO.

4. Periodically, ASEAN hosts partners meeting and invite these partners and other potential partners to discuss current and potential activities in the future.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

The successful implementation of each cooperation between partners and ASEAN for supporting SFM is based on the condition that the cooperation programme is in line with the strategic goals of ASEAN Blueprint and the individual partners. An agreement on the findings outlining common objectives of the future cooperation programme is needed.

Resources have been useful to support different activities, including research-based policy development and recommendations on specific policy priority areas and capacity building related to SFM. It is used to facilitate the development of a common understanding on specific issues and synchronize joint actions on regional issues of common concern such as FLEG and REDD+. More importantly, available resource is used to address forest and forest-related matters in a more integrated, holistic and balanced manner and promote strategic, problem focused interventions.

Additionally, future partnerships should be by strengthening ASEAN cooperation and Joint Approaches in addressing international and regional forestry issues, promotion of intra-and extra-ASEAN trade in forest products and private sector participation, increasing productivity and efficient utilization of forest products, and capacity building and human resources development.

B. Progress towards the achievement of the GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process and/or by other major stakeholders in your region/sub-region to help achieve the following:

GOF1, “Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”

As mentioned earlier that the "Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment" signed by the Leaders of ASEAN plus the other six East Asian Countries (Japan, Korea, China, India, Australia, and New Zealand) on the occasion

of the Third East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore on 21 November 2007, calls for Member States to collectively work towards achieving an aspirational goal of significantly increasing the cumulative forest cover in the East Asia region by at least 15 million hectares by 2020. This political statement is clearly supportive to the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests. Furthermore, as previously mentioned ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability has also declared to increase the cumulative forest cover of ASEAN by at least 10 million hectares by 2020.

ASEAN has been taking significant steps to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including by preventing forest fires, combating illegal logging, rehabilitating degraded forest areas, and establishing new forest plantations. The ASEAN Statement on Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (2007) are examples of regional achievements in this regard. ASEAN also actively participate in other regional and multi-lateral processes working on these issues such as the Asia Forest Partnership, and the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. In addition, the endorsement of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests and development of ASEAN Guideline on the Implementation of Phased-approach to Forest Certification provide regional reference framework for national initiatives towards SFM.

GOF2, “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”

It is important to highlight that the 2003 Declaration of the ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) explicitly underscores to promote the management of forest resources sustainably and to ecologically protect forests, reaffirmed its commitment to reduce poverty and socio-economic disparities, raise the living standards of the rural population, including actively involving civil society and declared as common value the willingness to share information on transboundary issues such as environmental degradation.

In order to follow up this declaration, among other policy frameworks, ASEAN has established the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) in 2005 to promote policy and practices of social forestry in AMS. The network provides sharing of knowledge and experiences on policy and practices in social forestry among countries, as well as a platform for effective communication at the regional level. Through this network, some activities have been carried out, including capacity building on social forestry models within the region to support local livelihood development and forest conservation.

In addition, ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forests and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC) was also established in 2008. The objectives of this network are to broaden the ASEAN knowledge base on forestry and climate change through policy analysis and share experiences among member states. Additionally, it has facilitated in strengthening ASEAN's role in climate change negotiations, especially at the meetings of the COP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as meetings of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Thus it will provide current update of regional and international policy development related to forest-based economic, social and environmental issues.

GOF3, "Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests"

ASEAN's commitment to increase the area of protected forests is encapsulated in the specific programme areas and measures in the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP). For example, three ASEAN Member States (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia) in February 2007 had signed the Heart of Borneo Declaration where a total of up to 24 million hectares will be designated as protected areas, production forests and sustainable land-use areas. In fact, Indonesia and Malaysia were among the first few countries in the world to embark on trans-boundary conservation area of biological diversity, the Lanjak-Entimau Sanctuary- Batang Ai National Park—Betung Kerihun National Park with a total area of 1.1 million hectares. Second trans-boundary conservation area is Pulong Tau National Park – Kayan Mentarang National Park with a total area of 1.36 million hectares. This represents one of the largest, most extensive, totally protected areas in the world.

ASEAN has also developed appropriate tools to support ASEAN Member States in evaluating their efforts in contributing towards the Four Global Forest Objectives and their linkages to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These regional instruments, among others, are the "ASEAN Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests", the "Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN", and the "ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action".

GOF4, "Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM"

As mentioned earlier that The adopted “Work Plan for Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in ASEAN, 2008-2015” shows a clear commitment and intent of ASEAN and serve as a profound mechanism to work along with and draw more funding support from ASEAN’s partners. For example, the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) starting in 2012 have provided support to the ASOF and the ASEAN Secretariat in streamlining forest-related multilateral environmental agreements into ASEAN’s forest policy approach and in developing national forest programmes as overall policy framework and implementing its program from 2016-2020.

In addition, Close Cooperation with other development partners and initiatives are ongoing, including with Swiss Development Cooperation, EU, German (GIZ), and FAO.

2. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

Currently, ASEAN is finalizing the “Manual for Assessing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Implementation in ASEAN Member States” (Manual) developed based on the nine thematic elements and 43 sub-elements as agreed by the 13th Meeting of ASOF in 2010, where all the thematic elements and sub-elements were adopted as criteria and indicators respectively. It is important to mention that the manual is generated from several approaches currently used in major forest governance-related processes and initiatives, including (1) the World Resources Institute’s Governance of Forest Initiatives; the Program on Forests (PROFOR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations work on a framework for assessing and monitoring forest governance in 2011, (2) the further work by PROFOR on assessing and monitoring forest governance in 2012, (3) the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, 2007, (4) the Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN, 2007, (5) the ASEAN Peer Consultation Framework (PCF) Exercise in Forestry of the Philippines (Draft Questionnaire), 2008, and (5) the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber, 2009.

C. Contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

ASEAN has embarked on strengthening its institutional capability and building infrastructure to strengthen and support cooperation activities. ASEAN, through its Secretariat, is in the process of developing appropriate tools to facilitate ASEAN Member Countries in evaluating their efforts in contributing towards the IAF objectives and their linkages to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

ASEAN has also developed tools to support ASEAN Member States in evaluating their efforts in contributing towards the Four Global Forest Objectives and their linkages to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These regional instruments, among others, are the “ASEAN Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests”, the “Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN”, and the “ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action”.

2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

Currently, considering ASEAN member state are diverse in their developments, ASEAN has been in facilitating the harmonization of indicators used for tracking the MDGs across the region. This involves the development of a data dictionary, such as definitions of indicators, formulae, terminologies, etc. being used by different ASEAN Member States. However, it is acknowledged that standardization of indicators and data collection and analysis is not practical as ASEAN Member States are in different situations and have different statistical systems. Therefore, technical notes, guidelines, methodologies are prepared and made available for data collection, analysis and reporting is made available that pertain to the different data systems used in ASEAN Member States. One of the concerns pertaining to the MDG targets and indicators is that baseline data may not be available, data on the new indicators may be weak, and expertise limited. While decision regarding data collection on these MDG targets and indicators is up to individual ASEAN Member States, ASEAN will facilitate technical notes and technical assistance on these new indicators.

3. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process on MDGs forest-related work.

It is important to note that the MDGs forest-related work will be in support of the Action Lines of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint, including the goals, expected outcomes, output targets and indicators, not only the quantity of change targeted but also the quality, where applicable. Indicators should specify, where possible and appropriate, both the quantity and quality of the desired change, the target population, the deadline for change, and the location. In developing quality indicators, ASEAN recognizes that the indicators should be in accordance with the internationally recognised guidelines on quality.

Section II: Review of the effectiveness of the current IAF and the future options

1. From the perspective of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process, please provide a general evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement of the current IAF.

ASEAN views comprehensive responses from international community are needed and one among efforts is by supporting the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) through Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The current approach in providing support to Member States apparently tends to prioritize specific agenda to fulfill objectives and goals of CPF Members. However, UNFF should identify a new idea with a support of strong funding mechanism to enable it to implement of any decided policy or objective. It should strengthen the financing mechanism and subsequently establish effective mechanism to distribute/disburse the allocation of funding accordingly, to expedite the implementation of SFM. UNFF should also play significant roles in mobilizing funds, including sourcing for potential donors to support the activities and initiatives of SFM.

2. Has the input of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process been adequately taken into account in the Forum's deliberations?

ASEAN concerns has been accommodated by United Nations Forum on Forests 10th session in Istanbul, Turkey, 8-19 April 2013. It was mentioned the efforts of ASEAN in strengthening sustainable forest management through the improvement of its

monitoring, assessment and reporting format with agreed criteria and indicators. Also indicated that ASEAN member states developed and agreed to use the online format as a regional reporting mechanism. The ASEAN Declaration of Environmental Sustainability aims to strengthen law enforcement, combating illegal logging and illegal trade.

3. What measures has your organization undertaken to strengthen the current IAF?
Please list the most important measures (maximum five):

1. ASEAN contributed to the development of the UNFF's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2007-2015. The ASEAN common position on regional perspectives towards a MYPOW was submitted to the Country-led Initiative (CLI) Meeting in support to the UNFF organized by Indonesia and Germany held from 13 – 16 February 2007 in Bali.
2. The implementation of the UNFF's MYPOW in the region uses the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests and the Format for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN (MAR Format), as well as the ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Actions.
3. Currently, experts from ASEAN member states have contributed to the effort of CPF organizations and provided important role in supporting the UNFF works and in the implementation of UNFF resolutions. It will continue to involve in current dialogue on international forest policy to exchange national and regional experiences, best practices and lessons learned.
- 4.

4. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened regional/sub-regional component in a future IAF?

In the views of ASEAN, the substantial role of UNFF on international forest governance should be strengthened in the near future considering it is still effective in providing a forum for forest-related deliberation, both on the substance and the involvement of all stakeholders. However, in order to function effectively, it should develop strategic engagement with actors from the non-forestry-sector, such as stakeholders from industry, mining, agriculture, public works and human settlements. It is envisaged that UNFF should be more active in identifying and

collaborating partnerships with other UN related agencies and encouraging their involvements in major activities by synergizing its activities with these agencies. In many instances, try to avoid duplication of actions and activities in order to maximize the usage of limited resources.

ASEAN considers that UNFF would need to improve its secretariat including the structure, human and financial resources in order to enhance its role and function, especially in fulfilling its mandates effectively. It is expected UNFF will be able to facilitate activities in overcoming pressing challenges in regards to the implementation of SFM, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and other forest related issues. For this purpose, governments should consider providing and increasing their non-earmarked budgets to the work of the Secretariat. UNFF should also initiate and come out with an innovative funding mechanism to enable every Member States to acquire enough fund to manage their forest resource sustainably. In addition, the increased number of governments' seconded officers into the Secretariat should be considered for improving the efficiency of its work and to ensure concerns and welfare of each region are addressed and considered.

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)² and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

FAO has been supporting ASEAN to identify elements for assessing FLEG implementation in AMS. Together with ASEAN_German Regional Forestry Programme (ReFOP), the ASEAN Secretariat and the World Bank FAO had organized the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Strengthening FLEG that was held in Malaysia in 2009. FAO is committed to provide technical support to ASEAN to implement the strategies and activities of the “Work Plan for Strengthening Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in ASEAN, 2008-2015” and is working

² CPF member organizations: Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF), Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), The World Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

closely with the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on FLEG.

FAO is supporting ASEAN in furthering the application of the Online Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN (MAR Format) at the national level and the Offline MAR Format at the forest management unit level which were developed through ReFOP. In this regard, FAO, the ASEAN Secretariat and Member States have organized several regional training workshops.

Overall these collaborations have been important for ASEAN and member state in supporting policy frameworks development and implementation. The ongoing cooperation in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Networks ARKN and affiliated organizations will provide a good basis for cooperation with Non-Profit and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Through donors, for example, GAP-CC and others will actively search such cooperation when implementing the various analytical steps, networking activities, and stakeholder fora. Potential cooperation partners will include RECOFTC, CIFOR and IUFRO.

6. How would your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process envisage a strengthened collaboration with CPF member organizations and/or major stakeholders in a revised IAF?

It is expected that there will be a streamline of priorities of the CPF in terms of programs and fund dissemination and the need for the forum to identify and establish its niche which is not duplicative of the work of other organizations. Although CPF members have different mandates they pursue with various Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) related programs and projects in member states, appropriate coordination among them are needed to avoid repetition which may result in inefficiency and diminished impacts. These inputs will provide baseline support to strengthen ASEAN collaboration with CPF member organizations and/or major stakeholders.