# The FAO Regional Forestry Commissions' contribution to UNFF11

The Regional Forestry Commissions of FAO (RFCs) are part of the governance system of the Organization. Established under Article VI.1 of the FAO Constitution, these forestry statutory bodies advise on the formulation of forest and wildlife management policies and review and coordinate their implementation at the regional level; to exchange information and, generally through special Subsidiary Bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in regard to technical issues; and make appropriate recommendations to the Regional Conferences and to Technical Committees, in particular the Committee on Forestry (COFO). The RFCs are serviced by the respective FAO Regional Offices – with the exception of North America where FAO has no regional office and thus FAO headquarters provides the support - but their technical work is closely related to and supported by the Forestry Department.

There are six RFCs with global coverage (Africa, Asia & the Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, Near East and North America). The Commissions, that meet every other year, are intergovernmental bodies within the UN system. They were established between 1947 and 1959. In addition, a joint commission of three RFCs (Africa, Europe and the Near-East) having the same standing as its parent bodies and called Silva Mediterranea, was established in 1948 for the Mediterranean region.

The thematic focuses of the RFCs largely depend on the specificities of the regions. For this reason in Africa the issue of wildlife is also considered by the commission, and in the Near-East the commission also deals with range-related issues.

While having an intergovernmental basis, their meetings are inclusive and transparent involving major groups and forest stakeholders and relevant development organizations as well as organizations of the United Nations system. Their meetings are often associated with a broader technical and outreach event identified as Regional Forest Weeks, which, in addition to the formal intergovernmental meeting, allow for detailed technical discussions and information exchanges, and continue to advocacy work in the area of forestry. The sessions are normally well attended: for example the Asia Pacific Forest Week in 2011 attracted more than 750 participants from 45 countries

According to the current practice each RFC meets on a biennial basis, normally for 3 to 5 days and is hosted by a member Government. The meeting cycle of the RFCs is established so that they complete their sessions at least 6 months before the COFO session so that their input could be duly considered by COFO. The RFCs meeting cycle is also harmonized with that of the FAO Regional Conferences, for the same reason.

Each RFC has a bureau that is composed of 3 to 5 countries that typically meets 2 or 3 times in-between the formal sessions to plan the next meeting and to review the progress of implementation of the recommendations from the previous meeting. Membership in the bureau including the arrangements for chairing it follows a rotation scheme within the region normally using a subregional approach.

The RFCs have, as their main task, to review the situation of forests and forestry (as well as the associated subject areas) in the region and to advise members and FAO on appropriate actions. RFCs are regularly review major global developments of relevance for their areas of mandate and consider their implications, including UNFF. Although the RFCs do not use a mechanism specifically designed for addressing the implementation of the Non-legally

Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, their work and the guidance given both to members and FAO are directly relevant for the implementation of the NLBI and the progress towards the Global Objectives on Forests.

The current submission also takes note of the fact that while RFCs are important regional policy and technical fora they are also part of FAO's global institutional fabric. The intention of this submission is to inform about key activities and developments relevant for the implementation of the NLBI and the progress towards the Global Objectives on Forest and leaves the evaluation of the IAF for its member countries. For this reason Section II is generally blank in the attached responses.

It was felt necessary to pay particular attention to question II.4. of the Questionnaire which deals with the possible roles of regional entities. RFCs have been playing an active role in supporting the preparation and coordination for UNFF sessions at the regional level. Several of the RFCs have the consideration of developments in the IAF and the reports of UNFF sessions a standing agenda item at their sessions. Depending on the desire of the member States and on the future focuses of the international arrangement on forests (IAF) the RFCs can provide a platform for both stronger coordination of regional actions aiming at the implementation of the NLBI or any regional dialogue within the IAF. We recommend this being considered a generic recommendation for Question 4. FAO, as secretariat of the RFCs, is very open to discuss possible arrangements that ensure streamlining of international meetings that are attended by the same or similar constituencies and help avoid dispersion of related meetings and increased travels as this would be fully consistent with the main recommendation of the 2012 Strategic Evaluation of FAO's program and work in forestry.

Please note that reports of the recent sessions of the Regional Forestry Commissions are available through the http://www.fao.org/forestry/46199/en/ portal, while the reports of Silvamed are available through http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/en/.

Annex 1.

**Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11**

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

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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:*

[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)

*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.

# FAO IN AFRICA

## 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).

**Africa Region**

FAO's regional Statutory Body, the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC), established by the FAO Conference in 1959, holds regular biennial

meetings to provide policy guidance and recommendations to its 47 members on the implementation of sustainable forest and wildlife management. Issues considered include: forest governance, forest financing, forestry and wildlife livelihood related systems, illegal trade, forest ecosystem services, fire management, forestry and agriculture interphase, forest resource assessment, and protected areas management and REDD+ amongst many other sustainable forest management related issues.

At the subregional level in Africa, FAO contributed to the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities through support of participatory and sustainable forest and wildlife management, taking into account emerging issues and cross sectorial policies. Such actions include support to the development or review of sub regional forestry and wildlife policies (convergence) plans, strategies and climate change adaptation and mitigation approach, support to National Forest Monitoring and Assessment (NFMA) and in Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), capacity development and institutional strengthening for forest management and NLBIs, forest products statistics collection and reporting, policy development and/ or implementation.

Technical and financial support was provided to many countries in Africa to prepare national forest genetic resources status reports, enhance forest fire management, combat illegal hunting and trade in forest and wildlife products, and to celebrate important forestry events such as IYF in 2011 and in observing the International Day of Forests (IDF).

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

Governments in almost all the countries in the region have low capacity to sustainably manage and administer their forests, with limited application of policies and legal frameworks. Poor governance and insufficient demonstration of the value of forests is giving a low profile to forestry in the national priorities/economy. However, participative and community-based forest and wildlife management is beginning to demonstrate the importance of forests to policy makers in the region. Countries also faced difficulties to fund their participation in regional and international policy dialogues on forestry impacting on their learning and exchange of experiences.

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.

FAO continued to support participative forest management in Africa. The Regional Office for Africa developed a Guideline for the institutionalization and implementation of community-based forest management which provides proper governance and economic, social an environmental incentives for sustainable forest management. Support was provided for a study on the “Contribution of Forestry sectors to GDP in East African countries” as a way to raise awareness and also to help countries select priorities in implementing a forestry strategy that has key economic considerations. The

study will look into institutional framework issues on the utilization of forest and non-forest products.

2) Support is being provided to some countries in eastern Africa to strengthen capacities, skills and knowledge of stakeholders and communities in bamboo resources management and utilization. In many parts of Africa, FAO is supporting the development of the non-wood forest products (NWFP) sector and the small scale forestry enterprises that create opportunities for rural women, youth and indigenous communities through value addition. Professional forestry associations/societies are also being supported, especially in East Africa to motivate national forestry experts to engage, participate and support governments' effort in implementing sustainable forest management practices. In southern Africa, FAO is providing support for formulation of forest policies that would take into account social, economic and environmental contribution of forest to the national and local economy.

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

Insufficient budgetary allocation and capacity to implement policy and plans remains a hindrance to sustainable forest management in Africa. This situation is further complicated by low awareness and/or appreciation, at both policy and community levels, of the economic importance of forest resources. Furthermore, forestry education seems to be receiving lesser and lesser attention in Africa, which has potentially dare consequence for the sector's growth.

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

Both West and Central Africa have prepared and adopted forest convergence plans to encourage cooperation aimed at ensuring sustainable forest management and to control the illegal exploitation and trade in forest resources. Plans are underway in eastern Africa for the development of a common and inclusive consensus strategy for improving Gum Arabic production and marketing in the sub region. A sub-regional initiative on bushmeat trade in southern Africa is underway in collaboration with SADC Secretariat.

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

Poor organizational and coordination mechanisms and the general lack of knowledge and capacity for forest enterprise development and value addition, as well as insufficient knowledge of and influence on international markets remain constraints to strong participation in international trade in forest products. Inadequate forest products certification is also a limiting factor. The lack of value addition of gum Arabic products severely limits the economic returns of the countries and more so to local communities.

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.

A number of projects are currently being implemented at country levels with funding from the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade programme (EU-FLEGT) that is being implemented by FAO. They are executed by non-state actors, government departments and international non-governmental organizations. Their activities range from looking at movement of timber across borders, illegality issues, stakeholders awareness, community involvement in law enforcement, promotion of good governance, and capacity strengthening of governments and stakeholders in monitoring of harvesting and trade and others. Through the EU-FLEGT programme workshops and seminars are convened to share experiences on FLEGT implementation; identify the major regional opportunities, challenges/ constraints of the FLEGT process; and develop strategies to support the FLEGT process regionally and nationally.

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

High demand for timber and other forest products in some other parts of the world has opened opportunities for illegal timber trade in many parts of Africa. This has negative implications for sustainable forest management in the region, leading to deforestation and forest degradation. Weak law enforcement organs/institutions, limited human capacity and poor infrastructure have made it impossible to enforce bans on illegal logging. Poor governance, corruption, political interference are contributing challenges.

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

FAO sub-regional offices have been engaging their country offices on the available additional resources from the GEF-6 Star allocations that can support Governments' priority programmes related to climate change adaptation/ mitigation, biodiversity conservation and reversing land degradation. A numbers of project proposals have been developed. Furthermore, implementation of a national forest monitoring (inventory) and the development of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification(MRV) system for REDD+ have attracted finances from development partners and donors. Resources have been obtained from the EU and other donors such as Finland to support forestry and land management in many African countries.

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

Capacity of national institutions is generally weak to fully understand the complexity of the funding arrangements of many multilateral resource partners and REDD+ schemes. There is also a lack of coordination at

national and sub-regional level, and capacities are often inadequate to understand, develop and 'sell' well project proposals on SFM.

***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"

Forest fire management and alien invasive species management projects were implemented in many countries in southern Africa with FAO support. FAO also provided support to sub-regional processes, such as sub-regional forest policy development for West Africa and the development of convergence plans for sustainable forest management in West and Central Africa. Other support work included pilot implementation of the NLBI in Ghana and REDD pilot projects in DRC, Zambia and Tanzania.

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

FAO is implementing capacity development activities to strengthen, skills and knowledge of stakeholders and communities in SME development e.g. bamboo management and utilization in Rwanda, and create employment opportunities for women, youth and indigenous communities through value addition of non-timber forest products (NTFP). FAO also developed a regional guidance document for community engagement in forest management to enhance SFM through secure tenure arrangements and equitable benefit sharing.

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"

The management of forest genetic diversity has received attention in Africa through FAO's support to countries to develop reports on their National Forest Genetic Resources as a step forward towards ensuring the proper management of Forest Genetic Resources in the region. Planted forests, agroforestry outgrower schemes as well as dryland forest management initiatives are being supported at many country and sub-regional levels.

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"

FAO provided support to many African countries to secure funds from the World Bank, GEF, Norway, the EU and many others for implementation of sustainable forest management schemes, including national forest monitoring and MRV system for REDD + readiness as well as to the development of sub-regional project on climate change adaptation in forests and rangelands.

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

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***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.

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| FAO supported the development of a natural resource geo-database for eastern Africa which has made it possible to assess land degradation risks, forest degraded areas, biodiversity hotspots, wildlife corridors and others. In the SADC sub-region, FAO supported a study on illegal hunting and bushmeat trade and its economic impact. |

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

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| • Number of forest communities trained<br>• Number of forest nurseries established<br>• Number of plantations established<br>• Number of wood lots established<br>• Number of forests area restored<br>• Number of local forest communities using appropriate technologies<br>• Incidence of legal forest methods/ SFM approaches<br>• Rate of land degradation<br>• Rate of forest degradation<br>• Rate of deforestation<br>• Number of pieces of forest legislation/laws and policies developed and reviewed<br>• Number of adopted new technologies<br>• Tonnage of forests produce<br>• Early warning and monitoring systems for fire established<br>• Number of measures taken to prevent illegal logging<br>• Number of small and Medium Scale enterprise developed for forest and non-wood forest products processing<br>• Types of governance schemes established to ensure that benefits accrue to communities<br>• Incidence of pests and diseases and vectors<br>• Ratios of men to women participating in forestry activities annually<br>• Contribution to food and nutrition security<br>• Forest related employment generated<br>• Contribution to domestic energy security<br>• Quantity of carbon sequestrated for climate change mitigation<br>• Wood produced for domestic an industrial use<br>• Quantity and types of non-wood forest products for livelihood improvement. |

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

## 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.

N/A

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

While much of forestry issues in Africa have been considered, there is need to give greater attention to dryland forestry and promotion of community-based management, with particular attention to opportunities provided by south-south cooperation schemes.

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

N/A

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

Promote and support more regional consultations to prepare better for future IAF

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.

[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)

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| N/A |

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?

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| Please consult FAO’s submission |

Annex 2.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

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## 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).

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), in support of and in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), has supported a number of activities and initiatives to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management. FAO works with government, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, international organizations (CIFOR, ICRAF, GEF, IUFRO, UNFF, ITTO, APAFRI, APFNet, RECOFTC including other UN agencies), and regional bodies (i.e., APEC, ASEAN, SIDs) to develop and improve policies and legal frameworks through programmes and projects implementation (i.e., UNREDD, FLEGT, Technical Cooperation Programme, GEF). These include:

- APFC and FAO in collaboration with various other organizations organized a series of Executive Forest Policy Short Course focused on policies and approaches for enhancing SFM and forestry's contributions to enhancing livelihoods, income, conservation and green growth.
- A set of eight ***Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS)*** policy briefs on Addressing key forestry issues was prepared. Core APFSOS publications currently include one regional study, five sub-regional studies, one supplementary study (policies, legislation and institutions), a substantive APEC briefing paper and 35 working papers, as well as sundry policy briefs. Building on APFSOS findings, a substantive briefing paper ***Forests and forestry in ASEAN: challenges and opportunities*** was prepared for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Special Ministerial Meeting on Forestry, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in August 2012.
- The ASEAN-FAO workshop on ***Strategic Planning for Southeast Asian Forestry***, conducted in March 2012, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, incorporated elements of green growth strategies. Support was also given to the international symposium on ***Transition to Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation: The Enabling Environment and Roadmap*** held in October 2013 in Beijing, China.
- The FAO/RAP publication, ***Growing green assets: Removing constraints to private sector investment in forestry in Asia and the Pacific***, published in 2010, was used as guidance for policy-makers on approaches and priorities for removing key impediments and streamlining forestry investment in the region.
- Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank network was established in 2011 comprised of 30 founding members. A policy brief was prepared by the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank on green economy issues entitled, ***Post-Rio+20 environment: Challenges and opportunities for forestry in Asia and the Pacific***.
- With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), a study on enhancing investments in Asia-Pacific forestry was undertaken. The study culminated in a publication ***Guidelines for formulating national forest financing strategies*** (2013). An expert consultation to share and review the findings and recommendations of this publication was held in Bangkok, in August 2012.
- FAO promotes sound agroforestry policies and supports agroforestry policy development in the Asia-Pacific Region. For example, In Viet Nam, two phases of an Italian-funded project was implemented which focused on the development of high-quality, market-oriented agroforestry products. The project addressed markets, tenure, and access to finance constraints and emphasized capacity building for both government officials and farmers, and introduction of marketable high-value agroforestry species.
- FAO collaborated with ICRAF, CATIE and CIRAD to produce a publication titled ***Advancing Agroforestry on the Policy Agenda – A guide for decision makers***. It was designed for policy makers, advisers, and other technocrats to help countries establish a supportive enabling environment for agroforestry.

- In response to the 24th session of the APFC, FAO RAP established a forestry communications network in September 2013 through a regional workshop on ***Strengthening Forestry Communications in Asia and the Pacific***, held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in September 2013. The Asia-Pacific Forestry Communications Network is mandated to facilitate sharing of best practices, media contacts, information/knowledge, research initiatives and marketing.

- A Pacific forestry expert group meeting was convened in Wellington, New Zealand in September 2012. The consultation focused on the areas of trade, climate change, REDD+ and illegal logging and discussed implications and future directions for Pacific forestry.

- FAO is conducting a study on ***Drivers of change affecting Forest in the Mekong: Toward the formulation of action plans for Greater Mekong Sub-region countries***. The study will provide policy recommendations and include a national action plan including priority interventions. A regional workshop will be conducted in November 2014.

- ***Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security*** were prepared through a multistakeholder process facilitated by FAO. Regional technical workshops to raise awareness of the Guidelines were organized in Thailand and Fiji in July/August 2013.

- FAO, through the UN-REDD Programme, is working with the governments of 16 Partner Countries in the Asia-Pacific region to build capacity for REDD+ implementation, including through SFM implementation and associated monitoring, measurement and reporting.These interventions include: (1) stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ planning and implementation; (2) cross-sectoral coordination in REDD+ planning and implementation; and (3) legislative review towards reform and enforcement. In particular, FAO is assisting the implementation of National REDD+ Readiness Roadmaps in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands, with a focus on national forest monitoring systems and forest reference (emission) levels for REDD+.

- FAO is implementing a related TCP in Myanmar on "*Strengthening Myanmar's National Forest Monitoring System - Land Use Assessment and Capacity Building*".

- FAO, through its EU-FAO Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Programme, is working with governments in the Asia-Pacific region to improve legality and transparency in the production, processing and trade of timber and forest products. Improved governance and corresponding changes in policy and legal frameworks contribute to SFM and are underpinned by trade related incentives.

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

While FAO's work has been highly appreciated by member countries, it is challenging to attribute impact of FAO's work on mobilizing political commitment and the consequent SFM gains as those results are usually influenced by other actors as well.

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.

FAO, in support of and in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), has implemented a wide range of projects/activities/initiatives to foster measures that act as incentives for SFM. These include:

- FAO is implementing a regional Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on Strengthening Forest Tenure for Sustaining Livelihoods and Generating Income (2014-2016) to enhance the contribution of forests to the livelihoods and income of forest dependent communities. The project outcome is "strengthened regulatory frameworks and institutional capacity of pilot countries on forest tenure".

- FAO supported the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network in 2003. The Network has been very active and successful in playing a variety of important roles, including promotion exchange of information, facilitate access of expertise and resources, strengthening capacities, increasing coordination and cooperation among member countries, and raising awareness of invasive species as a significant issue throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

- A meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forest Invasive Species Network (APFISN) Executive Committee held in Bangkok in November 2012 agreed to establish an APFISN Beijing Office. A publication entitled *Invasive alien species in the forests of Asia and the Pacific* was published in 2013. A subregional FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project on *Control and Management of Destructive Forest Invasive Species in South Asian Natural And Plantation Forests* is being implemented. A workshop on *Tools for Ecological and Economic Impact Assessment of Invasive Alien Species in Forest Ecosystems* was held as a presession event at the 25th session of the APFC.

- FAO has been supporting countries in designing and implementing national forest inventories and information systems for many years. A draft concept note and a road map for the development of the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring have been prepared. The draft concept note was presented in the South American Regional Seminar on National Forest Monitoring held in Valdivia, Chile, in November 2012, organized by FAO and Instituto Forestal de Chile in collaboration with the Brazilian Forest Service, the Comisión Nacional Forestal of Mexico, the United States Forest Service; as well as to the global network of national correspondents to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015 at a meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2013.

- FAO organized an international seminar on the roles of forests in natural disasters in collaboration with Japanese partner agencies, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) in Sendai, Japan, in February 2012. A follow-up seminar was held as a presession event at the 25th session of the APFC. A policy brief summarizing the key messages of the Sendai seminar was prepared. Also relating to the theme of natural disasters, a publication on "*The role of forests and forestry in the prevention of landslides and rehabilitation of landslide-affected areas in Asia"* (and a summary brief) were published in 2013.

- FAO is supporting Mangroves for the Future (MFF) as an institutional partner and a member of its Regional Steering Committee. MFF is a partnership-based initiative promoting investments in coastal ecosystems that support sustainable development. FAO and MFF are working on a regional project that will promote mangrove conservation and sustainable development.

- FAO continues to support TEAKNET, an international network of teak producers and teak-based enterprises. A recent highlight of this support was organization of the five-day *World Teak Conference 2013: Sharing our Planet: Teak Model Development Towards the Improvement of Mankind* in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013.

- FAO implemented the 'Kids-to-Forests' initiative aiming to expose younger generations to the multiple benefits of forests through hands-on learning experiences that can lead to a better understanding of sustainable forest management. Preparation of teaching toolkits and training-for-trainers initiatives are integral parts of current FAO-supported activities contributing to direct forest-related, out-of-school learning and awareness-raising activities for children.

- FAO support various countries through bilateral activities such as community forestry management and climate change, sustainable livelihoods, forest rehabilitation, forest

planning, financial management and enterprise development etc.

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

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

- FAO, through its EU-FAO FLEGT Programme, is facilitating the negotiation and implementation of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) between the EU and timber producing countries. These VPAs are bilateral trade agreements aim at eliminating illegal logging and promoting the trade in legal timber or wood products with the EU but indirectly also with other demanding markets such as the US, Australia and Japan. The VPA also aim at improving legality of trade among timber producing and processing countries in the region. The promotion of legality contributes to sustainability as legal frameworks applied are often based on sustainability requirements. In countries not engaged in VPA, the FAO programme promoted voluntary certification and legality verification, especially for small-holders and SMEs, to help comply with the increasingly demanding market regulations governing the sector globally. region and with other
- A German-funded project on *Moving Forward in the Implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests in Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines* was completed in mid-2013; the project strengthened forest governance through review of forest policies and measures required for effective implementation of the Forest Instrument.
- A regional workshop on *Reduced Impact Logging: Challenges, Opportunities and Strategies in the Emerging Forest Carbon Economy* was held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in May 2012. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss challenges, opportunities and strategies for further developing and promoting the implementation of RIL and explored strategies for improving forest management and reducing carbon emissions under REDD+.

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

The inclusion of small holders and SMEs in both regulatory (VPAs) and voluntary (certification) approaches remains a major challenge primarily due to cost of verification.

Corruption and weak law enforcement remain a major impediment to improving the legality of the production and therefore the trade. The less demanding national and regional trade also hamper international efforts to curb the trade in illegally harvested and processed timber and wood products.

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.

See response to question A3.

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

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

- The TCP project on *Linking Communities to Voluntary Carbon Markets in Forestry* was completed in early 2013. Guidelines for communities in accessing voluntary carbon markets were published and distributed. Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring were prepared and a supporting Web site was launched at http://foris.fao.org/preview/84322/en/.
- FAO has been increasingly involved in the formulation and implementation of forestry-related projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF-PAS Forestry Conservation and Protected Area Management Project in Fiji, Vanuatu, Samoa and Niue has been operational since July 2012. Several baseline exercises and studies have been initiated for proposed protected areas.
- Also in the Pacific, GEF Project Identification Forms (PIFs) have been drafted for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tonga under the GEF-5 STAR Allocation. All have components dealing with improved forestry practices, establishment of forest assessment and monitoring mechanisms and SFM/REDD+.
- SFM-related GEF projects are being/have been formulated in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka on various aspects of forestry and natural resource management.
- In Mongolia, an FAO TCP project on participatory natural resource management is bridging a previous Dutch-funded project and a GEF project that is presently being formulated.
- A GEF project is being developed under LCDF on "Reducing vulnerability to forest fires in Myanmar" with an indicative budget of USD 4 million. A draft PIF is expected to share with the government in late September 2014.
- The EU-FAO FLEGT programme is currently developing a next phase (2015-2020) which will allow FAO to mobilise resources through a multi-donor trust fund.

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

## ***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"

Sustainable forest management is a cross-cutting concept that is integrated into a majority of work carried out by FAO/RAP in support of and in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC). Our activities with specific relevance to forest restoration include the following:

- FAO, through the UN-REDD Programme is working with the governments of 16 UN-REDD Partner Countries in Asia-Pacific to support the development and implementation of REDD+ readiness roadmaps and national strategies for REDD+ implementation (i.e. reduction of deforestation and forest degradation and SFM including protection, restoration and A/R). The focus of FAO within the UN-REDD Programme (which is a collaborative programme between FAO, UNDP and UNEP) is support on national forest monitoring systems and forest reference emission levels for REDD+.

- An FAO TCP regional project on *Applying Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) for Restoring Forest Ecosystem Services in Southeast Asia* has built on experience with an earlier award-winning project in the Philippines. Under the project, a study tour to the Philippines was organized for Southeast Asian officials to observe advanced implementation of ANR techniques.

- FAO is collaborating with the International Model Forest Network and APFNet to implement a project on

*Forest Restoration at the Landscape Level in Asia: A Unique Model Forest Approach*. The project aims to build the capacity of communities, local officials and other partners to rehabilitate forests as a means to restore degraded land, increase forest cover, improve forest quality and enhance livelihoods. A workshop on forest landscape restoration was held as a presession event at the 25th session of the APFC.

- FAO is conducting a regional synthesis on forest landscape restoration in collaboration with member countries and RECOFTC. The study reviewed the status of forest restoration in seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region, and the policy and technical environments for implementing forest landscape restoration in them. Based on these findings, FAO-RECOFTC are exploring the means to support the countries in the region to expand the forest restoration activities at the national levels.

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

FAO, in support of and in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), has been supporting forest producer organizations for many years in collaboration with various partners, through the 'Forest Connect' initiative and more recently through the Forest & Farm Facility (FFF). In 2012, FAO and its partners published *Strength in numbers: effective forest producer organizations* to provoke discussion among service providers and policy-makers for setting frameworks in which producer organizations can flourish. In November 2013, the International Conference on Forest Producer Organizations was organized in Guilin, China, to follow up on the issues raised in the publication. It brought together representatives of forest producer organizations, service providers and government representatives from around the world to discuss the experiences of producer organizations, the role of support networks and services, and the legal, policy and institutional environment required for successful producer organizations.

A range of local enterprise development activities relating to non-wood forest products are being implemented (or have recently been completed) in projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, including: edible insects, sericulture, bamboo/rattan, lacquerware, hand-made paper, forest fruit wines, black pepper and cinnamon. Edible insects have been a particular focus during the past several years. An FAO TCP project on sustainable collection, farming and marketing of edible insects in Lao PDR was recently concluded. A publication entitled, *Six-legged livestock: edible insect farming, collection and marketing in Thailand* was released in March 2013. Edible insects also featured strongly in the forestry component of an FAO seminar on underutilized foods held in Khon Kaen, Thailand, in June 2012.

The FLEGT approach provides opportunities for generating additional forest or timber based revenues by facilitating trade, decreasing administrative cost but above all providing access to more demanding but also lucrative markets.

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"

Refer to responses to previous questions. Promoting sustainable forest management is a cross-cutting theme that is relevant to most of forestry-related activities of FAO.

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"

See response to question A5.

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

The following programmes and initiatives contribute towards the achievement of GOFs.

- FAO produces the Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA) every five years in an attempt to provide a consistent approach to describing the world's forests and how they are changing. Work towards the 2015 assessment is currently being implemented. An FRA Global Correspondents meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in May 2013.

- A major assessment of the world's forest genetic resources has been completed, and synthesis of country reports for The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources is approaching conclusion. In Asia and the Pacific, funding assistance and technical backstopping were provided to various countries to assist preparation of national reports on the status of forest genetic resources. The first Global Plan for Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources was adopted in April 2013 by FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission has asked FAO to develop an implementation strategy for the Plan of Action and to ensure mobilization of adequate financial resources for its implementation, particularly in support of developing countries.

- The UN-REDD programme is active in the Asia-Pacific region, with 16 partner countries. Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Viet Nam and Sri Lanka have received support to national programmes under the UN-REDD programme. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan are also members and are being supported through the Support to National Actions Programme.

- The EU-FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade programme (EU FAO FLEGT programme) is a four-year initiative (2012-2016) funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO. The overall objective is to improve governance in the forest sector through improvement of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; increasing capacity of civil society, private sector and forest sector staff to manage forest resource; enforcement of forestry legal frameworks; and knowledge sharing on the FLEGT process. A range of activities are being implemented in the Asia-Pacific region under the programme.

- FAO is developing a comprehensive technical package of knowledge tools, best practices, processes and their examples of application to facilitate the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) under varied contexts, referred to as the *SFM Toolbox*. The Toolbox aims to support forest managers and other stakeholders in progressing towards SFM in a more integrated and cohesive way, with solutions tailored to their specific needs, contexts and major areas of interest, while taking into account the socio-economic and environmental contexts. Initial elements of the Toolbox are expected to be available by September 2014.

## ***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.

FAO, in collaboration with APFNet and the Asia Forest Network, implemented a multi-country project and policy study on *Making Forestry Work for the Poor: Adapting Forest Policies to Poverty Alleviation Strategies in Asia and the Pacific*. The study, covering 11 countries, assessed the extent to which poverty has been reduced through forestry activities in the region.

In collaboration with RECOFTC, a multi-country study on Mainstreaming Gender Issues in Forest Policies of Developing Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission Member Countries has been implemented. The study comprises preparation of a baseline analysis of integration of gender in forest policies of representative member countries of the APFC including development of recommendations for mainstreaming gender within forest policies of countries in the region. A regional workshop for policy-makers on mainstreaming gender into forest policy-making was held as a pre-session event at the 25th session of APFC.

FAO's Forest & Farm Facility (FFF) was officially launched in September 2012. Drawing on the lessons learned from both the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility in 80 partner countries and the closely-related Growing Forest Partnerships (GFP) Programme, the FFF addresses the remaining challenges in NFP implementation. It also supports new initiatives to help countries improve governance structures at different levels (local, national and regional) to achieve sustainable forest landscape management, while boosting food security and promoting climate-smart agriculture. During its first meeting held in Rome, in January 2013, the Steering Committee selected six pilot countries, two from each region. For Asia-Pacific, Nepal and Myanmar were selected, the FFF has been launched in both countries and activities underway.

FAO has synthesized and unpacked the potentials of foods and insects from the forests to contribute to nutrition and food security

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

In order to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, a group of experts from the United Nations Secretariat, the IMF, the OECD and the World Bank adopted 48 indicators.The FAO has the task of providing the indicator to measure the proportion of land area covered by forests, over a period from 1990 to 2015, in order to assess the progress made in the 7th Millennium Development goal aimed to ensure environmental sustainability.

Forest Governance indicators could be used to measure governance improvements (MDG8).

FAO has developed new Strategic Objectives (SOs), under each of which a set of organizational outcomes and outputs have been established. These could be used as indicators to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs. FAO's new Strategic Objectives (SOs), include:, SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; SO2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; SO3: Reduce rural

poverty; SO4: Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels; and SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises.

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

The FAO is working towards increasing awareness about the links between forests and the MDGs, in order to highlight forests' contribution to national development goals, and help to adequately reflect poverty reduction and food security in national forest programmes and other sustainable development plans.

Forests have a significant impact on two of the most articulate development goals: Goal 1, on poverty and hunger reduction, and Goal 7, on environmental sustainability. On the one side forests maintain land productivity and the provision of water resources to agricultural systems thus contributing to food production and food security; they provide wood and non wood forest products, income and employment to millions of people. On the other side, they protect biological diversity; maintain and provide clean and reliable water resources to urban and rural population; conserve soils, protect against flooding, enable carbon sequestration to protect the atmosphere and protect coastal and marine resources.

Goals 1 and 7 are addressed in a number of programmes, projects and initatives undertaken by FAO/RAP as described in the previous sections of this report.

## 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.

From FAO's coporate prespective, the areas of strengths of the current IAF are:

- achievements in providing consolidated expert views on key issues;
- its work on forest financing, its joint programmes;
- generation of reliable forest information and harmonization of reporting
- support to country-led initiatives;
- complementarity in mandates
- ability to support country implementation; and
- informal, voluntary and flexible nature of the Partnership.

The identified weaknesses are:

- a lack of effective working modalities and common programming;
- members' different agendas, mandates, priorities and governing bodies, which are not all equally engaged in CPF's work;
- a lack of dedicated funds;
- a lack of equitable burden- and credit-sharing among members; and
- no mechanism to assess the extent to which CPF responds to UNFF calls and invitations.

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

Yes.

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

FAO is an active member of CPF.
FAO plays active role in tackling illegal logging, e,g through FLEGT programme
FAO is one of the three agencies delivering the UN-REDD Programme

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

Regional component in a future IAF could be strengthed through stronger roles played by regionally based CPF members (or those with regional offices), such as CIFOR, ICRAF and ITTO. In addition, further collaboration with regional bodies and institutions such as ASEAN, SPC, SAARC, etc. is being actively pursued.

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[4] and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

FAO is a member of CPF, and FAO/RAP has worked closely with a number of CPF partners, including CIFOR, ICRAF, GEF, IUFRO, ITTO and other UN agencies, in implementing activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

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?

We will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate with and furher sterengthen our parternships with CPF member organizations.

[4] 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)

Annex 3.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | European Forestry Commission |
| Address: | Viale delle Terme di Caracalla |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | |

**Person to contact concerning the submission:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Dominique Reeb |
| Title: | Secretary, European Forestry Commission |
| Address: | Viale delle Terme di Caracalla |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | +39-06 570 56774 |
| Fax: | |
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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.[5]

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:

[5] 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)

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.

## 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).

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| The European Forestry Commission (EFC) was established by the Conference at its Third Session (l947) on the recommendation of the FAO Marianské-Lázne (Czechoslovakia) Forestry Conference in |

1947. The EFC meets every two years to advise on the formulation of forest policy and to review and coordinate its implementation at the regional level; to exchange information and, generally through special subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action with regard to technical and economic problems, and make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.

The EFC regularly considers developments in the IAF and their implications for the region and considers appropriate follow up actions.

In December 2013 the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy was prepared under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC). This Action Plan describes how the forest sector in the region could lead the way towards the emerging green bio-based economy at the global level. It identifies an overall vision, strategies and a number of areas of activity. For each area of activity, it proposes objectives and specific actions, and identifies potential actors, who might contribute to achieving the stated objectives. It is not a binding plan, nor does it contain prescriptive recommendations to Governments, international organizations or stakeholders, who are free to adopt, adapt, in full or in part, or not to implement the Action Plan as they wish.

The EFC identifies challenges and opportunities for forestry in European region (e.g. active management in support of wood mobilization) and Central Asia (e.g. the role of forests and trees for combatting desertification and for watershed protection). To address these challenges FAO provides support through the country programme frameworks, government cooperation projects (GCP) and technical cooperation projects (TCP), which use regular as well as extra-budgetary funds.

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

Challenges: the forest sector in the European region lack visibility and is not considered to be a priority. Participation of Central Asian countries is hindered by their lack of human and financial capacity. Processes of democratization/decentralization and empowerment of various stakeholders including forestry are underway in Central Asia and they still need to update their national policies and strategies to international and global initiatives and agreements.

Lessons learned: high level of expertise in the region and willingness to collaborate on technical issues. High level of sustainable forest management in the region

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 joint UNECE/FAO Secretariat produced a publication, "Forests and Economic Development," and was prepared as regional input to the 10th meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10) in April 2013.

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

This paper has demonstrated the major role the forest sector plays in the economic development of the ECE region, a role which is underestimated in conventional economic
analysis, chiefly through the failure to take account of positive externalities

A comprehensive set of financial mechanisms for policy implementation /sector development/ sustainable forest management are not in place in Central Asian countries

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

The joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section monitors and analyses developments in different forest-related areas and also has extensive cooperation with other organizations in this area. This includes the gathering of comprehensive statistics and data (quantitative and qualitative), and developing methodologies for data collection, analysis and assessments on:

• Forest product markets and services in the region.

• All aspects of forests and forest resources, their functions and services, and sustainable forest management.

• Long-term supply of and demand for wood and other forest goods and services.

• Use of wood energy and its implications for sustainable forest management.

Major contributions to the international trade in forest products are the "Forest Products Annual Market Reviews" and the "Joint Wood Energy Enquiries".

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

Lack of reliable data from Central Asian countries.

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.

This has been achieved through the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy, objective A.7:
To ensure that only legally produced forest products enter the market

Through capacity building, guidelines and national forestry programs, FAO is supporting the improvement of enabling environment for forestry sectors in Central Asia countries, which includes promotion of forestry policy, legislation and institutional structures

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

No a major issues in most countries of the region, the topic is thus less relevant

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

The overall goal of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 is to, "*Support member countries and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to sustainably manage and use ECE-region forests so that they provide products and ecosystem services to benefit society . T*he Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a

Green Economy also aims at mobilizing resources for the forest sector by highlighting the significant role forestry can contribute for a green economy.

In Central Asia, FAO is supporting countries to develop and implement full size integrated forest and land management/ restoration project with Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funds, and mobilizing extra resources for forestry sectors through trust funds agreements with upper middle income countries from the region. FAO is also providing technical support for the development of landscape based, multi focal area forest management and landscape restoration projects to improve forestry sector baseline for SFM projects and REDD + readiness, at national and regional levels

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

N/A

***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"

The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been mandated to develop a study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region and to submit the draft off the study for comments to member States during 2014, in order to issue the final study in time for it to be presented at the 11th session of the UNFF in mid 2015

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

The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been mandated to develop a study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region and to submit the draft off the study for comments to member States during 2014, in order to issue the final study in time for it to be presented at the 11th session of the UNFF in mid 2015

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"

The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been mandated to develop a study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region and to submit the draft off the study for comments to member States during 2014, in order to issue the final study in time for it to be presented at the 11th session of the UNFF in mid 2015

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"

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| The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been mandated to develop a study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region and to submit the draft off the study for comments to member States during 2014, in order to issue the final study in time for it to be presented at the 11th session of the UNFF in mid 2015 |

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

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| The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has been mandated to develop a study on progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and on challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region and to submit the draft off the study for comments to member States during 2014, in order to issue the final study in time for it to be presented at the 11th session of the UNFF in mid 2015 |

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

4. 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.

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| In this context, the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organized an expert workshop in Geneva between 22 and 24 January 2014 to exchange views and develop ideas on how to strategically include forests in the sustainable development goals and to report accordingly to the Open Working Group meeting in New York in February 2014. The Committee and the Commission underscored the importance for forests experts to participate actively in the New York meeting. A second expert meeting was organized in June 2014 to further refine proposals. |

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

| |
|---|
| During the meeting of expert that was held in June 2014 it was recommended that forest-related indicators should be developed for all targets with a forest component. These include targets related to: biodiversity and ecosystem management, production and consumption patterns, energy, food security, water and sanitation, climate, poverty eradication, gender, health, cities and urban development |

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

| |
|---|
| See document: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/efsos/general/Annex_I_-_Forests_in_SDGs_-_a_view_from_Europe_-_31_Jan_2014.pdf |

## 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.

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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

| |
|---|
| N/A |

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[6] and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

| |
|---|
| N/A. FAO is chairing the CPF |

[6] 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)

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?

| |
|---|
| N/A. FAO is chairing the CPF |

Annex 4.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission |
| Address: | Santiago, Chile |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | |

**Person to contact concerning the submission:**

| | |
|---|---|
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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.[7]

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:

[7] 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)

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.

## 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).

The FAO Conference established the Commission in1948 to advise on the formulation of forest policy and to review and coordinate its implementation at the regional level; to exchange

information and, generally through special Subsidiary Bodies, advise on suitable practices and action regarding technical and economic problems; and to make appropriate recommendations in this regard.
Every two years a meeting of the forestry directors of Latin American and the Caribbean countries is held, for discussing the most relevant themes in the region related with sustainable forest management.
The conclusions and commitments stablished by the countries in the meeting are the start point for further cooperation of FAO with the countries, mainly for:

- The identification, designing and implementation of specific projects and programmes that promote the sustainable forest management.
- The preparation of specific studies. For instance, a recently study aimed to identify cases of exemplarity in sustainable forest management at local level.

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

The main challenge is to bring again the forest issues to the international discussion in the region at the highest political level possible.
The forest administrations in countries are normally positioned at lower levels of hierarchy in the national administration, showing that the forest issues are understood mainly as technical issues. The impacts in social and economic aspects of national development are not very evident. Therefore, it is unlikely that great achievements could be reached.

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.

One important incentive for SFM is the recognition and payment of the forest environmental services. As there is not a formal international market for environmental services, to keep the attention of the national financial capacity for promoting national systems of environmental services is of strong relevance. This year an international workshop was held in Costa Rica around payments for forest environmental services. Some experiences at country level were presented and discussed.

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

The major cases of payment for environmental services are relevant at local level with important socio-economical impacts, but limited in coverage. These payments should be part of the national development agenda so that they could enhance the impacts of and serve as a source of promotion for promoting sustainable forest management at broader scale. In any case, these payments are an important incentive for SFM.

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

A FLEGT Programme is being executed in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project aims to promote better governance in forest sector for strengthening the national and international markets of legal wood products. Several countries are benefiting from the Programme that incorporates also the civil society in the discussions regarding good forestry governance. The project is funded by EU.

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

| |
|---|
| Some countries see the international cooperation around promoting legal market of woods as an effort of some developed countries to establish barriers that will results in limitations for accessing international markets.<br>Working with civil society for its engagement in actions aiming to foster legal markets for wood could attract the attention of governments and also could provide exemplary cases for other countries, however, a bigger impact could be achieved if the national authorities in a country, at highest political level, have a commitment for promoting sustainable forest management and legal markets for wood. |

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.

| |
|---|
| Idem 3. |

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

| |
|---|
| Idem 3. |

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

| |
|---|
| The GEF has included SFM as a theme of cooperation and support. Some countries have requested the assistance of FAO as an implementing agency for GEF. FAO is assisting countries in the region for designing and implementing GEF projects related to SFM. The demand of countries for GEF resources for SFM is increasing. |

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

| |
|---|
| GEF seemingly has a strong focus on the conservation of forest, however a broader focus that includes elements for promoting social development around forest management and through it promotes conservation is seen more influential and efficient than the other way around. Conservation of forest is more effective when it is coupled with and achieved through social-economic 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"

The protection, restoration, afforestation, reforestation and prevention of forest degradation are being supported by FAO in the region through the UNREDD Programme and other projects. FAO is supporting the implementation of UNREDD programmes in Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panamá and Colombia and also the designing of new programmes for Argentina and Honduras. The key cooperation areas of FAO and countries are forest monitoring systems, carbon accountability, scenarios of reference and REDD national strategies.

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

The Forest & Farm Facility works actively in the region, supporting countries in the implementation of initiatives for improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people and also for people whose livelihoods come from agriculture and could increase their family income through forest management. Three countries are the partners in the region: Nicaragua, Guatemala and most recently, Bolivia. The Facility finances and provides technical cooperation directly to civil society organizations and stakeholders, in coordination with the governments.

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"

In Latin America and The Caribbean, FAO acts as Secretary of the "Red Latinoamericana de Coopración Técnica en Parques Nacionales, otras Areas Protegidas, Flora y Fauna Silvestres" (REDPARQUES). In the framework of REDPARQUES some capacity building processes have been executed. Most recently, an on-line course about protected area management has been prepared and completed and three additional courses are under preparation: i) management of buffer zones (in coordination with GIZ); ii) on-line parks rangers course (in coordination with CONAF/Chile); iii) design and implementation of forest policy (in coordination with GIZ).
Also an Amazonian Vision Project is in progress for supporting the implementation of a regional strategy for strengthening the national parks management in Amazonian region.

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"

Countries are been supported in designing technical cooperation projects related to sustainable forest management. In the region, the FAO assistance is been increasingly demanded for GEF projects. FAO is also supporting countries in preparing their REDD programmes with the aim of enabling them to successfully access an official international market of avoided carbon emissions.

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

FAO is supporting the preparation of the Programa Estratégico Regional de Centroamérica para el Manejo de los Ecosistemas Forestales (PERFOR). This programme aims to improve the management of the forest ecosystems of the Central American region and the Dominican Republic, recovering its potential for generation of goods and ecosystem services to improve the well-being of the inhabitants of the sub-region.

***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.

Exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in Latin America and The Caribbean (FAO,2011).- This study collects 35 experiences of sustainable forest management of a diverse nature in 14 countries of the region, presenting its positive aspects and synthesizing lessons to carry out an exemplary management of the forest resource.
Agro-environmental policies (FAO, 2014).- The first stage of this study documented the knowledge acquired from the systematization of outstanding experiences and the exchange of lessons learned in five countries, involving different actors including, *inter alia*, governments, civil society, academia, , participating in the formulation and implementation of public policies and strategies for rural development and natural resources management (including forest resources).

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

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Yearly consumption of wild animal protein per capita (terrestrial animals and fish).
- Domestic income as a result of forestry, fishing and hunting.

Ensure environmental sustainability
- Forest area
- Forest under SFM.
- Forest in protected areas.

Global partnership for development.-
- Amount of financial and technical cooperation for SFM and issues related with forest.
- Payment and transfer for forest ecosystem services to developing countries.

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

## 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.

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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

| |
|---|
| N/A. |

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

| |
|---|
| The regional forestry commissions of FAO could be considered as a part of the new IAF. The new IAF should consider the already existing institutions and platforms dealing with forest. |

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[8] and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

| |
|---|
| N/A |

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?

[8] 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)

| |
|---|
| Please see the FAO submission |

Annex 6.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Near East Forestry and Range Commission |
| Address: | FAO Regional Office for the Near East, Cairo, Egypt |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | +202 33316000 |
| Fax: | +202 33373419 - 37495981 |
| Email: | AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org |

**Person to contact concerning the submission:**

| | |
|---|---|
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| Phone: | +202 33316000 |
| Fax: | +202 33373419 - 37495981 |
| Email: | AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org |

**General Information**

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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:*

[9] 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)

*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.

## 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).

The NEFRC was established by the FAO Conference at its Seventh Session in 1953. Taking note of important developments in the forest and range sectors in the region the FAO Council decided at its 139th Session to expand the mandate and change the name from Near East Forestry Commission to Near East Forestry and Range Commission.

The main functions of the Commission are to:

- To advise on the formulation of management policy of forests, trees, range and their products, and to review and coordinate its implementation at the national and regional levels;
- to exchange views and experiences and, generally, through special subsidiary bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in regard to technical problems and make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing;
- to examine the widening gap between present trends and the potential of forests and rangelands;
- to identify the threats to forests and rangelands and recommend possible action.
-

Major actions taken by NEFRC to foster political commitment for SFM are the following:

1) Organization of the Near East Forestry and Range Commissions (every two years) where heads of the forestry and range institutions meat and discuss forest and range development issues and advise members and come out with recommendations that shape FAO technical support to the forestry sector in the region.
2) Organization of the Near East Forestry Week in conjunction with the Commission sessions (the fourth one planned to be held in Algeria in December 2015). The Week provides a forum for dialogue with forestry and rangelands public institutions and all other non-governmental stakeholders.
3) Publication of a report on the state of forests and rangelands in the Near East: "Near East forest and rangelands facts and figures".
4) Publication of a report on "Forests, Rangelands and Climate Change in the Near East region"
5) Publication of a study on "Experience of Near East countries in the utilization and processing of Non-Wood Forestry Products". The study which highlighted the importance of forestry and rangelands in the livelihood of rural people and food security, aims to broaden and deepen the understanding and inform the dialogue on models of governance of forests and rangelands and stimulate actions and more financing to the sector in the region.

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

The main challenges include weak institutions, limited finance to the sector and lack of intersectoral coordination.

3. 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.

- Support to a regional study on "challenges in adopting an integrated approach to managing forests and rangelands in the Near East" .

- Support to enhancing capacities for the management of wildlife and protected areas.

- Support countries to report on the state of their forest genetic resources

- Support countries to develop effective national forest communication system

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

Lack of clear sector policies and appropriate legislative frameworks in many countries in the region and the low positioning of the forest and rangelands institutions within the government hierarcy.

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

Not relevant to this region

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

Not relevant to this region

5. 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.

Not relevant to this region

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

Not relevant to this region

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

Organization of a regional workshop on forest finance

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

Limited non-public funding sources due to the general perception that the Near East is a rich region. Few countries have accessed GEF funds while others have solicited financial resources for the implementation of REDD+ projects.

***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"

- Many countries are actively involved in tree planting programmes, due to the fact that they either don't have or have limited area of natural forests. As such, the region has shown some improvement in the area of planted forests.

- Efforts on forest fire prevention are going in some North African countries for developing national fire prevention programmes taking into account climate change issues and promoting resilience by the use of the relevant Forest Genetic Resources and adaptive silvicultural practices.
- There is a growing focus in establishing participatory forest management systems and supporting community-based forest management programmes.

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

More focus in this region in the utilization and management of non-wood forest products and few exapmles of developing small non-wood forest enterprises were established.

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"

Most of the forests in this region are protection forests and only few countries have production forests. In addition, significant progress was made in establishing a network of protected area in the last years. Countries developed plans for a protected area system, adopted legislations and trained protected area managers and rangers. Most countries of the region have endorsed the international convention relevant to biodiversity conservation and protection of threatened species and wetlands.

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"

In addition to the government financial allocations, some countries have accessed finance from international funding institutions or on bilateral bases.

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

## ***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.

| |
|---|
| The development of non-wood forest products-based microenterprises represents a clear poverty reduction initiative as most of those involved in the collection of NWFPs are poor rural people, hence, this contributes to MDG1 on poverty reduction. |

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

| |
|---|
| Not fully assessed |

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

| |
|---|
| Most of the forestry activities in this region (afforestation, restoration of degraded areas, urban forestry programmes, protection of watershed areas, management of protected areas, etc.) contribute to MDG7 on ensuring environmental sustainability |

## 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.

| |
|---|
| Not applicable |

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

| |
|---|
| Not applicable |

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

| |
|---|
| Not applicable |

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

| |
|---|
| Not applicable |

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[10] and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

| Not applicable |
|---|

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?

| Not applicable |
|---|

[10] 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)

Annex 5.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | North American Forest Commission |
| Address: | |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | |

**Person to contact concerning the submission:**

| | |
|---|---|
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[11] 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)

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.

## 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).

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| FAO's regional forestry commissions do not have a specific mandate or focus on the NLBI. However, many of the issues they work on support the |

overall goals embodied within the NLBI.

The North American Forest Commission, one of FAO's seven regional statutory bodies in forestry, regularly reviews major developments in the areas of policy and implementation of sustainable forest management in its member countries and on the international level with the intention of sharing experiences and lessons learned and making policy recommendations for members and also for FAO through the Informal Regional Conference for North America and the Committee on Forestry. NAFC also serves as a regional platform between its three members on technical cooperation on specific issues through its working groups (further explained in B1).

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

Since 1958, Canada, Mexico and the United States—the three member countries in the North American Forest Commission (NAFC)—have worked together diligently and strategically to shape forestry policy, support forest-related activities, and exchange scientific and technical information on issues of mutual concern to the forest sector of all three nations. It should be noted that over the past 50 years, the NAFC has facilitated innumerable formal and informal exchanges between its members—exchanges that would not have occurred otherwise. From working group meetings, study tours and field trips to the official Commission and FAO sessions, the bilateral and trilateral sharing of knowledge and experience is seen as a key value of the Commission. Over the decades of relationship-building and collaboration, the NAFC has developed a robust, widely integrated network. This is a significant advantage, and one that means the NAFC is well positioned to continue helping its member countries tackle ongoing forestry issues together in the future

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 Commisison suggested that appropriate attention is given to forests and green economy, in particular through optimizing forest value, innovation and sound use of wood; green jobs and green infrastructure; supporting forest sector competitiveness and measures to increase the sector's productivity and suggested that these be addressed by COFO and incorporated in FAO's priorities in forestry.

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

Mobilizing knowledge and building on existing expertise have been identified as important elements in successfully expanding markets and partnerships. In addition, innovation for competitiveness also requires collaborative work, such as through the use of international standards and accepted best practices, to facilitate the adoption and use of new wood products.

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

While the Commission provides a platform for a close collaboration between its members, there was a deliberate decision taken to limit or avoid addressing issues which may be in the area of other instruments and where other government agencies lead the discussions.

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

N/A

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.

See answer under Q3.

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

N/A

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

It was stressed during the last session fo the Commission that there was a need for sound economic data showing clearly the importance of forests.The need for FAO to work on valuation of forest ecosystem services was also recognized. These issues were recommended for COFO to address.

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

It has been recognized that there are important information gaps regarding the clear presentation of forests' economic importance and methodological and capacity development is needed to address those. FAO's work needs to address the obstacles identified.

***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"

NAFC has established seven Working Groups in order to provide a platform for regular exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned among specialists of the NAFC countries (see A1).

Of NAFC's seven working groups the following are working on areas related to GOF1:

1. Ad-hoc Working Group on Resilience: the Ad-hoc WG has recently initiated a multi-year project for “Futuring and Scenarios for Building a more Resilient Forest Sector”. The project is expected to deliver:
   - A report to NAFC that outlines accepted practices in building foresight capacity;
   - A scenario-based strategic assessment process that engages NAFC officers and members in developing and evaluating alternative futures and recommending resilience/adaptation strategies for anticipating emerging issues;
   - A “North American Forest Futures” report that presents a set of working scenarios, trend and issue descriptions, and implications for forestry institutions;
   - An active community of practice for foresight capacity building, populated by planners, analysts, leaders, and managers in the North American forest sector.

   These outputs will be relevant to also GOF2 and GOF3.

2. Working Group on Silviculture:
   - revised its report on plantations in North America;
   - completed a silvicultural guide on *Pinus ponderosa*;
   - initiated a new guide on mahagony.

3. Working Group on Forest Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants:
   - has been dealing with technical issues of monitoring forest health;
   - exchanged information on quarantine species
   - started to develop a list of high priority invasive plant species common to North America.
   -

4. Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources:
   - published several scientific papers on the subject
   - contributed to the development of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources Report
   - helped develop a North American report on the above subject
   - Worked on increasing emphasis on issues related to adaptation to climate change.

5. Working Group on Fire Management:
   - provided fire fighting support and helped establish incident management teams in member countries;
   - prepared training materials and conducted several training courses
   - developed fire management guidelines
   - created a model for quantifying carbon emissions from wildland fires.

6. Working Group on Atmospheric Change and Forests:
   - foster international cooperation in the field of detection and effects of atmospheric changes on forests, within North America among scientists and forest managers and other natural resources agencies.

7. Working Group on Forest, Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment:
   - develop a joint North American Resource Report with Canada, USA, Mexico, Montreal Process, FAO and CEC for availability at the FAO World Forestry Congress in Durban

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

Although priorities and actions implemented in each country depend largely on their national circumstances, NAFC Commissioners have emphasized the importance of forests to provide multiple economic, social and environmental benefits through sustainable forest management. Through their previous sessions NAFC countries have highlighted their priorities, strategies and actions implemented, as well as their achivements to enhance forest-based

benefits, whether they are increasing the contribution of forests and forest products to their national economies, supporting livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and populations, or addressing mitigation and adaptation to climate change effects, and forest biodiversity conservation, among others.

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"

Various NAFC working group activities and NAFC session deliberations have addressed the relevance of of SFM in contriibuting to the protection and conservation of forest lands and as a means of supplying a variety of forest goods and services both locally and regionally. However, actions and efforts taken by each member country to increase area of protected and sustainably managed forests depend largely on their national priorities and circumstances.

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"

NAFC did not perform specific activities on this area, however its members reported their own national actions.

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

The NAFC Working Groups have been particularly active in facilitating the exchange of information, providing a discussion forum and contribute to or catalyze the development of new knowledge on their respective subject areas. According the a recent self evaluation of NAFC's 50 years history, thanks to the Commission, member countries "have a robust, well-integrated structure through which research resources can be deployed to tackle issues of
mutual concern"

***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.

All three countries are members of the Montreal Process, applying criteria and indicators for national-level reporting, and are actively contributing to the development of the 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment. There is - no specific work in NAFC on measuring forests' contribution to the MDGs; all three countries have active international technical cooperation on forest management and forest conservation (ranging from tropical to boreal forest types)..

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

| See above |
|---|

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

| See above |
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## 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.

| Member countries of the Commission have provided their views on the IAF but the Commission did not address this issue in its work programme. Any input in this regard can be found in the national responses. |
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2. Has the input of your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process been adequately taken into account in the Forum's deliberations?

| N/A |
|---|

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

| N/A |
|---|

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

| N/A |
|---|

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[12] and/or

[12] 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

major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

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| N/A |

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?

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| N/A Please see also the FAO input to the review. |

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)

Annex 7.

## Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

**Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:**

| | |
|---|---|
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| Address: | Viale delle Terme di Caracalla |
| Organization: | FAO |
| Phone: | +39 06 57055 508 |
| Fax: | +39 06 57055 137 |
| Email: | christophe.besacier@fao.org and susan.braatz@fao.org |

**Person to contact concerning the submission:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name: | Christophe Besacier |
| Title: | Secretariat of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions |
| Address: | Viale delle Terme di Caracalla |
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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.[13]

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:*

[13] 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)

*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.

**All relevant information on the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea (Status, role and key achievements are available on the Website: http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4900/en/**

## 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).

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea* is not formally an instrument directly linked to UNFF. It is a Statutory Body of FAO on Mediterranean Forestry Questions which contributes indirectly to the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the GOFs. The recent key achievements of the Committee are the following:

6) Publication of the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests (SoMF)
7) Adoption by several Mediterranean partners of a new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests focused on three main objectives and nine Strategic Lines:
    a. Developing and promoting forest goods and services ;
    b. Promoting resilience under global changes ;
    c. Enhancing capacities and mobilizing resources ;
8) Adoption of a polictical declaration in Tlemcen (Tlemcen Declaration) during the last Mediterranean Forest Week held in Algeria in March 2013
9) Organization every two years of Mediterranean Forest Weeks with the next one to be held in Barcelona from 17 to 20 March 2015
10) Publication of a special issue of Unasylva (FAO journal dedicated to Forestry) on the new Dynamic on Mediterranean Forests.

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

The main challenges encountered includes lack of intersectoral policies, inadequate collaboration in forests management among the different sectors at national level (forest, agriculture, tourism, water, energy...), inadequate capacity in planning and program implementation at national level and insufficient commitment of all member States at the regional level within the regional dynamic of cooperation led by the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*.

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.

Support to the development of a share vision on the sustainabe management of forests with the adoption of the new Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests focused on three main objectives and nine Strategic Lines.

Support to a regional study on ''Estimation of the social and economical value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems'' to raise awareness, support decision and promote integration among sectoral policies.

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

Lack of harmonized methodologies for the estimation of the social and economical value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems. Lack of financial instruments and institutionnal frameworks at

national level to develop positive incentives for the payment of ecosystems services (including carbon sequestration). Lack of involvement of the private sector in sustainable forest management both at national, regional and international levels

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

Mediterranean forest are not really dedicated to wood production as other more productive types of forests. Nevertheless we supported initiative to promote the FSC certification in the Cork Value Chain (See example in the Unasylva 242) and we are working on a study on the Cork Oak Landscapes, Their Products and Climate Change Policies.

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

See special issue of Unasylva on Mediterranean Forests

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.

Not a key issue in the Mediterranean region

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

Not a key issue in the Mediterranean region

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

We launched a regional reflexion on the mitigation potential of the Mediterranean Forests with several partners with : REDD+ Cost and Benefits analysis in several mediterranean countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), the adoption of a regional Road Map on "REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector" and sessions on mobilization of new and additional financial resources for Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands on the occasion of the upcoming fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW) to be held in Barcelona from 17 to 20 March 2015 (See Leaflet of the IV MFW)

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

Lack of interest at the international level on Mediterranean Forests

***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"

See the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests and examples of ongoing actions/projects in the last special Unasylva on Mediterranean Forests . Efforts are currently done mainly on Forest Fires Prevention, preparation of a new generation of Management Plans taking into account climate changes issues and promoting resilience by the use of the relevant Forest Genetic Resources and adaptive silvicultural practices and, also, development of landscape approaches in partnership with the Mediterranean Model Forest Network and other partners like the International Association on Mediterranean Forests.

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

See the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests and examples of ongoing actions/projects in the last special Unasylva on Mediterranean Forests. Efforts are currently done on ''Estimation of the social and economical value of goods and services provided by Mediterranean forest ecosystems'' to raise awareness, support decision and promote integration among sectoral policies. The Strategic Line 2 of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest is focused on ''Enhance the role of Mediterranean Forests in rural development'' with the following expected results :

1) Income and employment are created in rural areas
2) Local resources are valorized and their local added value is enhanced to benefit rural population
3) Local population is involved in maintenance, protection and development of forest resources
4) The role of Mediterranean forests is increased in rural development policies

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"

See the first edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests and examples of ongoing actions/projects in the last special Unasylva on Mediterranean Forests. Efforts are currently done on the management of the genetic diversity of Forest Genetic Resources in the Mediterranean with a focused on Marginal and Peripheral Population of Trees (See Website of the project MaP-FGR). The Strategic Line 5 of the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forest is focused on ''Manage Forest Genetic Resources and biodiversity to enhance adaptation'' with the following expected results :

1) Management rules practices and tools are improved to enhance forest resilience to climate change ;

2) Quality and genetic diversity of reproductive materials are improved in order to build resilient landscapes

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"

We launched a regional reflexion on the mitigation potential of the Mediterranean Forests with several partners with REDD+ Cost and Benefits analysis in several mediterranean countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), the adoption of a regional Road Map on "REDD+ and carbon finance in the AFOLU sector" and sessions on mobilization of new and additional financial resources for Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands on the occasion of the upcoming fourth Mediterranean Forest Week (IV MFW) to be held in Barcelona from 17 to 20 March 2015 (See Leaflet of the IV MFW)

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

See the Website of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-*Silva Mediterranea*

***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.

No specific action on MDGs

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

No specific action on MDGs

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

No specific action on MDGs

## 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.

As a regional Statutory Body of FAO the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea and its Secretariat led by FAO cannot provide comments on the IAF. This kind of comments should be proposed by member States (or at least discussed during a formal session with probably different visions between our several member States).

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

As a regional Statutory Body of FAO the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea and its Secretariat led by FAO cannot provide comments on the IAF. This kind of comments should be proposed by member States (or at least discussed during a formal session with probably different visions between our several member States).

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

As a regional Statutory Body of FAO the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea and its Secretariat led by FAO cannot provide comments on the IAF. This kind of comments should be proposed by member States (or at least discussed during a formal session with probably different visions between our several member States).

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

As a regional Statutory Body of FAO the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea and its Secretariat led by FAO cannot provide comments on the IAF. This kind of comments should be proposed by member States (or at least discussed during a formal session with probably different visions between our several member States).

5. Has your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process worked jointly with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)[14] and/or major stakeholders to support the work of UNFF? If yes, please evaluate the overall collaboration.

Our collaboration with the CPF is done in the context of the FAO Forestry

[14] 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)

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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?

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|---|
| As a regional Statutory Body of FAO the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea and its Secretariat led by FAO cannot provide comments on the IAF. This kind of comments should be proposed by member States (or at least discussed during a formal session with probably different visions between our several member States). |