



1 | UN Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is an open, transparent and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation and coordination on issues related to all types of forests. It was established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations. The UNFF works in the following areas:

- **Promoting, monitoring and assessing** the implementation of sustainable forest management, in particular the UN Forest Instrument and the achievement of its Global Objectives on Forests.
- **Governance frameworks** and enabling conditions at all levels to achieve sustainable forest management.
- **Policy coherence** and collaborative international policy development on issues related to all types of forests.
- **High-level political engagement** in support of sustainable forest management, with the participation of Major Groups and other stakeholders.

Another priority area is raising awareness of the role of forests in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the broader post-2015 development agenda. An effective follow-up and review architecture will be critical to support the implementation of this agenda.

Through the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, the UNFF works to facilitate access to financing for forests, including by promoting the design of national forest financing strategies and assisting in the formulation of projects and programmes.

The UNFF is part of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), which also includes Member States of the UNFF, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Forum Trust Fund.

The UNFF Secretariat provides substantive and logistical support for all UNFF-related meetings, including inter-sessional activities, such as ad hoc expert groups and country-led initiatives.





UNFF

“Promotes SFM action, access to finance and knowledge exchange”

WHO PARTICIPATES?

Active participation of a wide range of forest-related stakeholders is crucial for the effective implementation of sustainable forest management. Governments, international organizations, instruments and processes, and Major Groups are actively involved in the Forum.

The UNFF welcomes the participation of the following nine major groups identified in Agenda 21: 1) women; 2) children and youth; 3) Indigenous Peoples; 4) non-governmental organizations; 5) local authorities; 6) workers and trade unions; 7) business and industry; 8) scientific and technological communities; and 9) farmers and small forest landowners.

WHEN IS THE NEXT UNFF SESSION?

The 12th session of the UNFF will take place in mid-2017 at UN Headquarters in New York. A Strategic Plan for the IAF for the 2017-2030 period will be developed through meetings of UNFF ad hoc expert groups (2016) and a UNFF working group and UNFF Special Session (early 2017). The UNFF will operationalize the Strategic Plan through quadrennial programmes of work starting with 2017-2020.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) supports the work of the UNFF and its member countries, fosters increased cooperation and coordination on forests and provides scientific and technical advice to the Forum. The UNFF Secretariat is a member of the CPF, and also serves as its Secretariat.

The CPF comprises 14 international organizations: Centre for International Forestry Research, UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Global Environmental Facility Secretariat, International Tropical Timber Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature, International Union of Forestry Research Organizations, UN Convention to Combat Desertification Secretariat, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UNFF Secretariat, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, World Agroforestry Centre and World Bank.

MILESTONES

- ✓ **1992** | UN Conference on Environment & Development adopts the Forest Principles and Agenda 21.
- ✓ **1995/1997** | Inter-governmental Panel on Forests & the Inter-governmental Forum on Forests are established to implement the Forest Principles till 2000.
- ✓ **2000** | UNFF is established as a functional commission of the UN Economic & Social Council.
- ✓ **2001** | Collaborative Partnership on Forests is created to support the UNFF and to foster increased cooperation on forests.
- ✓ **2006** | UNFF agrees on four Global Objectives on Forests.
- ✓ **2007** | UNFF and UN General Assembly adopt the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (UN Forest Instrument).
- ✓ **2009** | UNFF creates the UNFF Facilitative Process to assist countries in accessing forest financing.
- ✓ **2011** | International Year of Forests is celebrated.
- ✓ **2012** | International Day of Forests, 21 March, created by the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ **2015** | UNFF11 extends the IAF to 2030, upgrades the UNFF Facilitative Process to the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and agrees to develop a Strategic Plan for the IAF (2017-2030).