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In 2015, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) established the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), consistent with the Forum's core objective of mobilizing, catalyzing and facilitating access to financial, technical and scientific resources to implement the UN Forest Instrument and sustainable forest management (SFM). The GFFFN builds on the work of the previous UNFF Facilitative Process.

The UNFF recognized the GFFFN as one of the five main components of the post-2015 International Arrangement on Forests, the other components being the UNFF itself, the UNFF Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the UNFF Trust Fund. Some of the key functions and priority areas of the GFFFN are:

- mobilizing and supporting new and additional financial resources for SFM;
- promoting the effective use of existing financial resources for SFM;
- identifying, facilitating and simplifying access to all sources of finance for SFM;
- identifying barriers to access and gaps and opportunities in finance for SFM;
- the development of national financing strategies;
- facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building;
- providing advice and sharing examples of good practice on financing for SFM;
- enhancing coordination, cooperation and coherence among funding sources and mechanisms;
- facilitating access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund; and
- serving as a clearing house for existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned.



GFFFN

“Builds knowledge & capacity to facilitate access to SFM financing”

SOME LESSONS LEARNED

Forest financing facilitation and promotion activities carried out within the UNFF framework since 2009 point towards the following conclusions:

- ✓ **Barriers to forest financing exist at all levels.** On one hand, levels of financing remain insufficient; on the other, existing official development assistance fails to get allocated to forest financing, mainly as a result of limited absorptive capacity of many countries.
- ✓ **A holistic approach** is crucial because the financing “landscape” can be highly complex. In particular, the multiple values of forests can be enhanced through appropriate instruments, and, in certain circumstances, sources from outside the sector can be critical in supporting SFM.
- ✓ **The potential for forest financing exists at all levels:** (i) there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach at the national level because each country has its own specific financing landscape; (ii) the regional level serves as an opportunity to exchange experiences and learning; and (iii) the international level offers tremendous potential for global cooperation that is beneficial to all countries.
- ✓ **Private-sector financing** is an untapped opportunity. Private financing holds enormous potential, but it is generally drawn to activities that maximize economic profit, which may not always coincide with SFM priorities. Public financing could play a key leveraging role, but monitoring systems should be implemented to ensure that private sources are truly conducive to SFM.
- ✓ **Capacity-building** is a bottom-up approach that can address the lack of absorptive capacity, especially in identifying and harnessing financing by preparing bankable funding proposals, and in enhancing national focal point capacity, particularly in terms of the ability to reach out to other relevant governance entities.
- ✓ **Forest financing strategies** are a potential way of enhancing coordination at the national and regional levels to harness SFM financing. Such strategies, whether national or regional, should set forth realistic actions for improving and increasing SFM financing, allocating deadlines and responsibilities to each action.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

PROJECTS

- Financing SFM in small island developing States (SIDS) and low forest cover countries (LFCCs) - with funding from the Global Environment Facility and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom.
- Financing SFM in Africa and the least developed countries (LDCs) - with support from the Government of Germany.
- Harnessing climate change financing for SFM - with funding from the UN Development Account.

PRODUCTS

- A Guide to a Common Forest Financing Strategy.
- 4 background documents on Forest Financing in LFCCs, SIDS, Africa and LDCs.
- 3 policy briefs on forest financing and the SIDS/LFCCs project.
- 11 country case studies: Cape Verde, Fiji, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Nepal, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda and Uruguay.
- 4 short films highlighting innovative examples of forest financing, in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information.
- An interactive website (<http://unff-fp.un.org>)