

Independent Assessment of the International Arrangements on Forest (IAF)

A first overview on results of the assessment



IAF Assessment Team
Presentation to the UNFF-11 Bureau
1 July 2014

Origin, mandate and working modalities

- ⇒ Originated in Resolution 10/2 of the 10th session of the UNFF (8-19 April 2013, Istanbul, Turkey).
- ⇒ Independent assessment of the IAF works to complement other relevant intersessional activities
- ⇒ Focus on recommendation of a post-2015 international arrangement on forests
- ⇒ 5 experts, one from each UN region, 2 co-facilitators (WEOS, G 77) to assure link with UNFF11 bureau
- ⇒ **Interviews with IAF stakeholders, analysis, exchange**

Purpose of the Independent Assessment

- ⇒ Provides an independent expert input to AHEG. AHEG is tasked to provide its views and recommendations to UNFF11 to arrive at decisions on the future of the IAF.
- ⇒ Analyses whether the IAF
 - Remained relevant and appropriate to its mandate,
 - Secured tangible achievements,
 - Was efficient and effective in its mandate since 2000,
 - Had any impacts on development and sustainability of actions.
- ⇒ Make recommendations for a future arrangement.



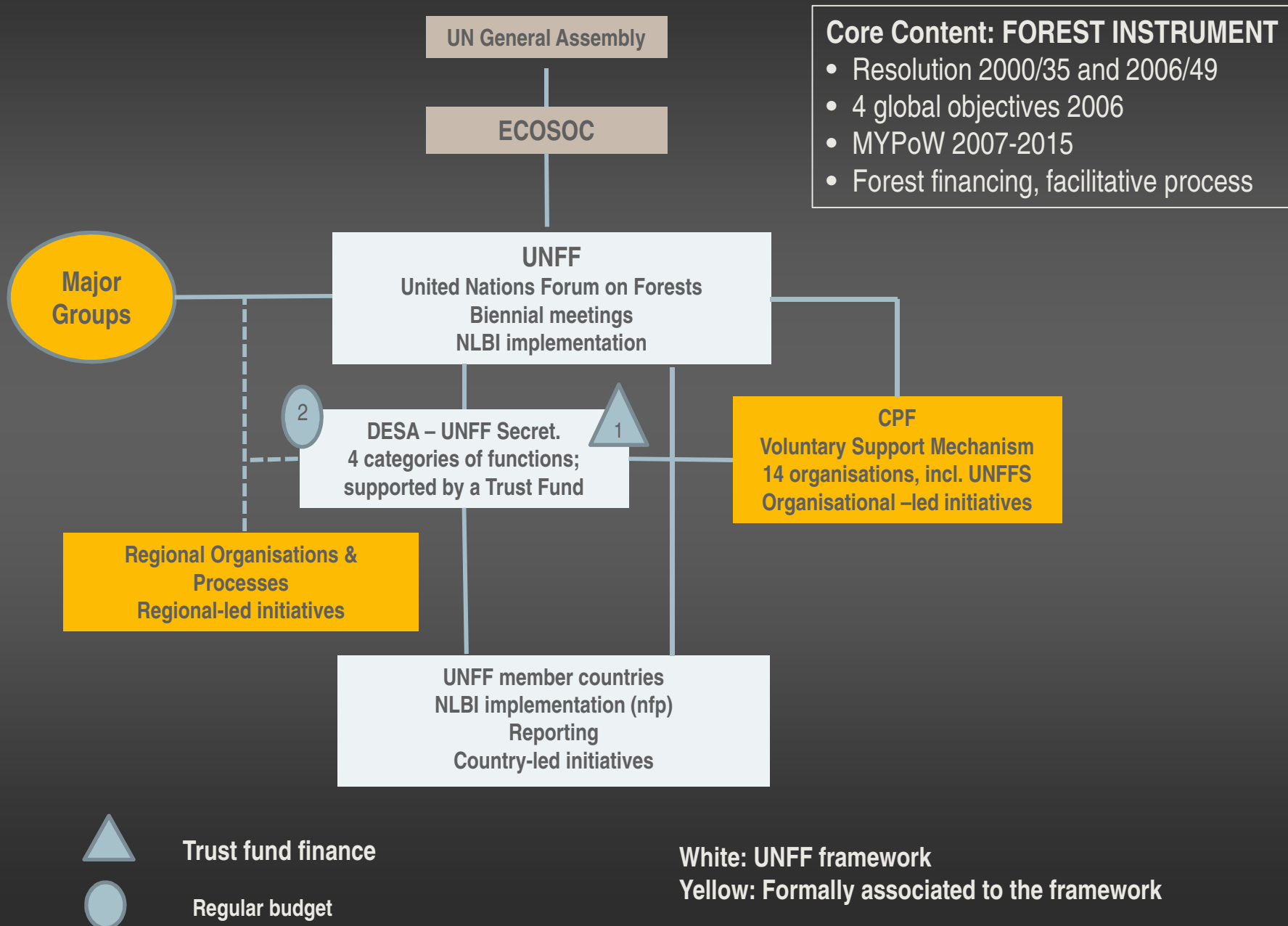
Scope of the IAF

- ⇒ Promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests
- ⇒ Strengthen long-term political commitment

Purpose of the International Arrangement on Forests

- ⇒ Promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels
- ⇒ Provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development
- ⇒ Facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements

The current institutional arrangement of the IAF





IAF: Achievements 2000 – 2015 (I)

- Promoted a universal approach to SFM (“all types of forests”) and its implementation (FI)
- Upheld interest in forests in international development agendas, as well as the Rio Conventions
- Consensus building, dialog platforms (CLIs...) and communication
- Supported by a “development-policy” platform with leverage: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
- Supported streamlining of forest reporting requirements
- Substantive analytical work and outputs on critical forest issues
- Facilitative process, Sourcebook
- Increased interactions with regional level
- Promoted the engagement of major groups



IAF: Achievements 2000 – 2015 (II)

Milestones

- Agreement on the NLBI and the Global Objectives on Forests 2007
- Integration of forests in the sustainable development summits (Rio+10, Rio+20, SDGs)
- Constitution of a longer term work plan: 2007-2015
- Forest finance – LFCC/SIDS, AHEG, GEF5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive, GEF6 on SFM
- Communication: International Year on Forests, International Day on Forests

Strengths:

- Forum's universal membership
- CLIs, OLI, RLIs; AHEGs
- Existence of FI, GOFs
- CPF engagement *per se*
- NFPs (in some countries; initially)
- UNFFS in DESA/ECOSOC
- Positioning within SDG context
- Facilitative process



Weaknesses:

- Utility of forum sessions
- SFM in CBD, FCCC, CCD?
- Major Groups involvement
- CPF functioning
- Implementing the FI and GOFs
- Links to regional priorities
- Implementing SFM (NFPs...)
- Means of implementation

Areas for Improvement:

Promote management, conservation and sustainable development...

- Implement decisions at country level

Strengthen long-term political commitment...

- Engagement and reporting quality

Promote implementation of internationally agreed actions...

- Promoting stewardship of forests in wider development/environmental frameworks
- Integrating forests in the broader post-2015 development agenda and SDGs

Global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development...

- Better cooperation/collaboration on forest-related issues (“umbrella” function)
- Strengthen the institutional framework for the future IAF

Main policy challenges to tackle (I)

(1) Implement the Forest Instrument and achieve the Global Objectives on Forests and SDGs as the core of the post-2015 IAF

Streamline and focus functions of IAF, clarify roles of IAF elements:

- “UNFF”: High level policy platform. Catalyst for FI Implementation
- Science/Policy/Implementation Interface («CPF+»?)
- UNFF members: Policy dialogue + SFM implementation
- Major groups (move beyond current format for more efficient models) Engage forest products industry/trade
- UNFF Secretariat and its facilitative process
- UNFF trust fund and the 3-prong approach for financing

(2) Reaffirm FI and extend the GOFs to 2030

- Incorporate forest SDGs into FI, develop an Addendum to the FI
- Addendum with reviewed GOFs (amend, add, define concrete targets?)
- Rename FI to improve marketing and understanding
- Elevate UNFF to be a more effective body for international forest policy

Main policy challenges to tackle (II)

(3) Strategic (rolling, adaptive) planning (based on SDGs, FI+ and GOFs)

- Strategic plan for the IAF over several years linked with broader development agenda and the SDGs
- Biennial program of work instead of an inflexible MYPoW and realignment with the UN Programme and budget cycle

(4) Strengthen Science/Policy/Implementation interface

- CPF or other arrangement? Initial ECOSOC resolution (“call the heads of agencies”)
- TORs for an effective platform and required funding

(5) Strengthen Regional interface

- Regional Liaison for policy and SFM implementation, Facilitative process
- Biennially regional coordination meetings in the 5 UN regions, harmonized/hosted by regional/subregional/thematic entities

Main policy challenges to tackle (III)

(6) Strengthen MAR on FI implementation and engagement

- Streamlined standardized reporting and data sharing
- Efficient MAR triggers engagement, commitment, funding & achievement (see beneath)

(7) Strengthening the post-2015 IAF institutions

- Enable main components of the IAF to fulfill their responsibilities

(8) Adequate financial resources

- Post-2015 IAF funding requirements need to be identified and ensured
- Linking SFM/REDD+/Forest NAMA → New funding mechanisms (GCF?)

Post-2015 IAF

«Range of options» (Annexed to the report)

Post-2015 IAF

*UN DESA
based*

Continuation of the current IAF

Strengthening the IAF

Institutional approach: DESA with a global
institutional arrangement

Forest Instrument+ with regional and/or thematic
Annexes

UN Complementary Pathway towards SFM

Forest Convention

Protocol on Forests
under e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

Forest Convention serviced by UNEP

COFO/WFC with FAO as implementing agency

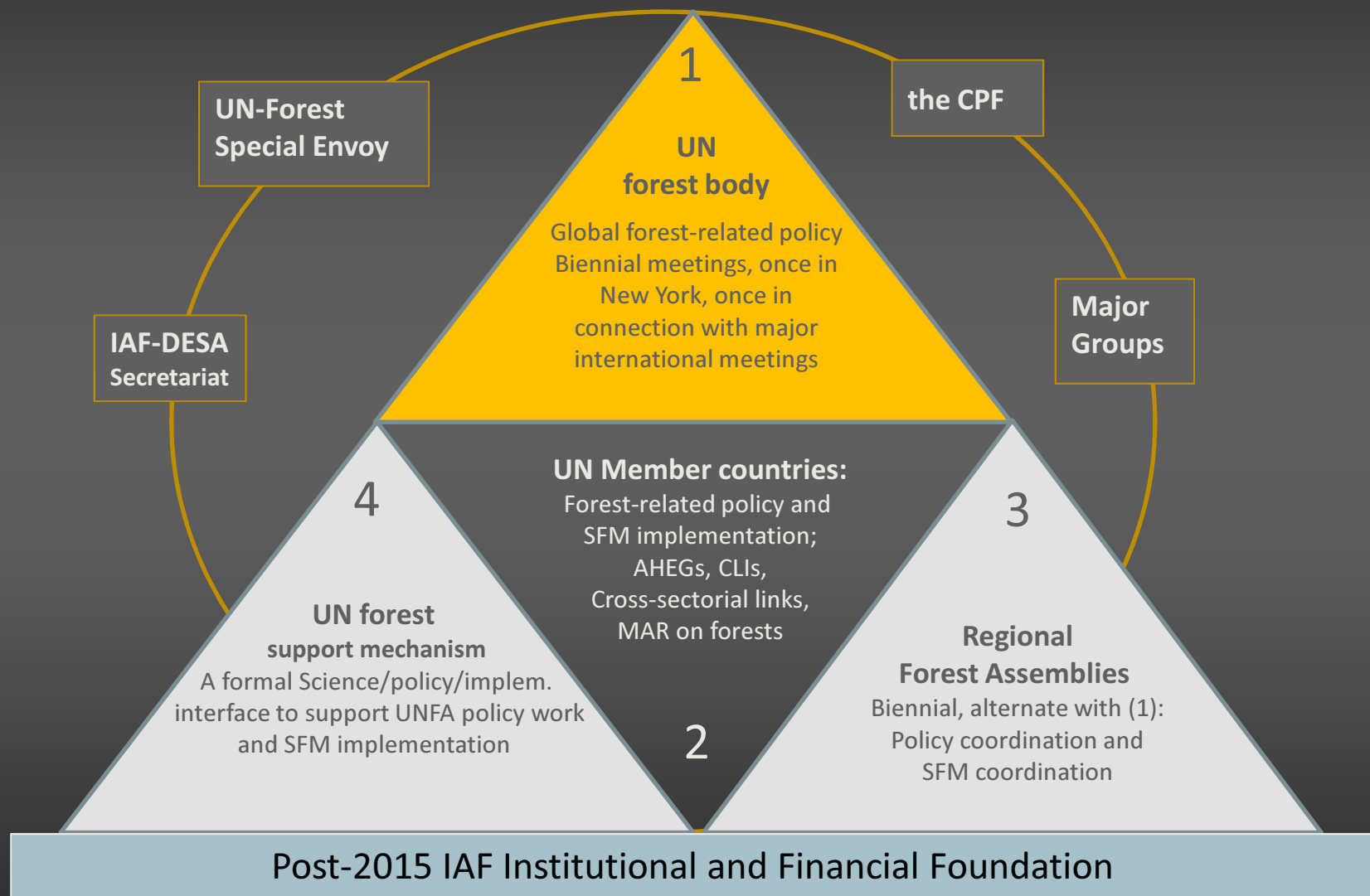
A Science-Policy platform on Forests under UNEP
(serviced by a body/group of bodies, tbd)

*Other UN-System
based:*

Rethinking: the future for IAF

- (1) Shift to a more affirmative language and approach that helps to engage, rather than to disengage in a post 2015 IAF**
- (2) Broaden the framing of forest issues: post-2015 development agenda, SDGs.**
- (3) Shift emphasis from preparing resolutions to facilitating substantive dialogue, cooperation and implementation, including finance**
- (4) Strengthen linkages to other international fora and entities that affect forests (MEAs, agriculture, trade and other agreements)**
- (5) Formalize and increase linkages with regional initiatives**
- (6) Increase leverage of a science/policy/implementation interface to improve effectiveness of international forest-related processes**
- (7) Increase opportunities for meaningful participation by multiple stakeholders, incl. major groups (especially business and industry) and funding mechanisms**

Post-2015 IAF Building Blocks





In summary

Overall mandate for a post-2015 IAF

- ⇒ **Stewardship** for forests in international development/environmental/economic agendas (“policy”)
→ global forest policy harmonization
- ⇒ Support **SFM implementation** in regions and countries
 (“sustainably managing all forests globally by the year 2030”)