

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



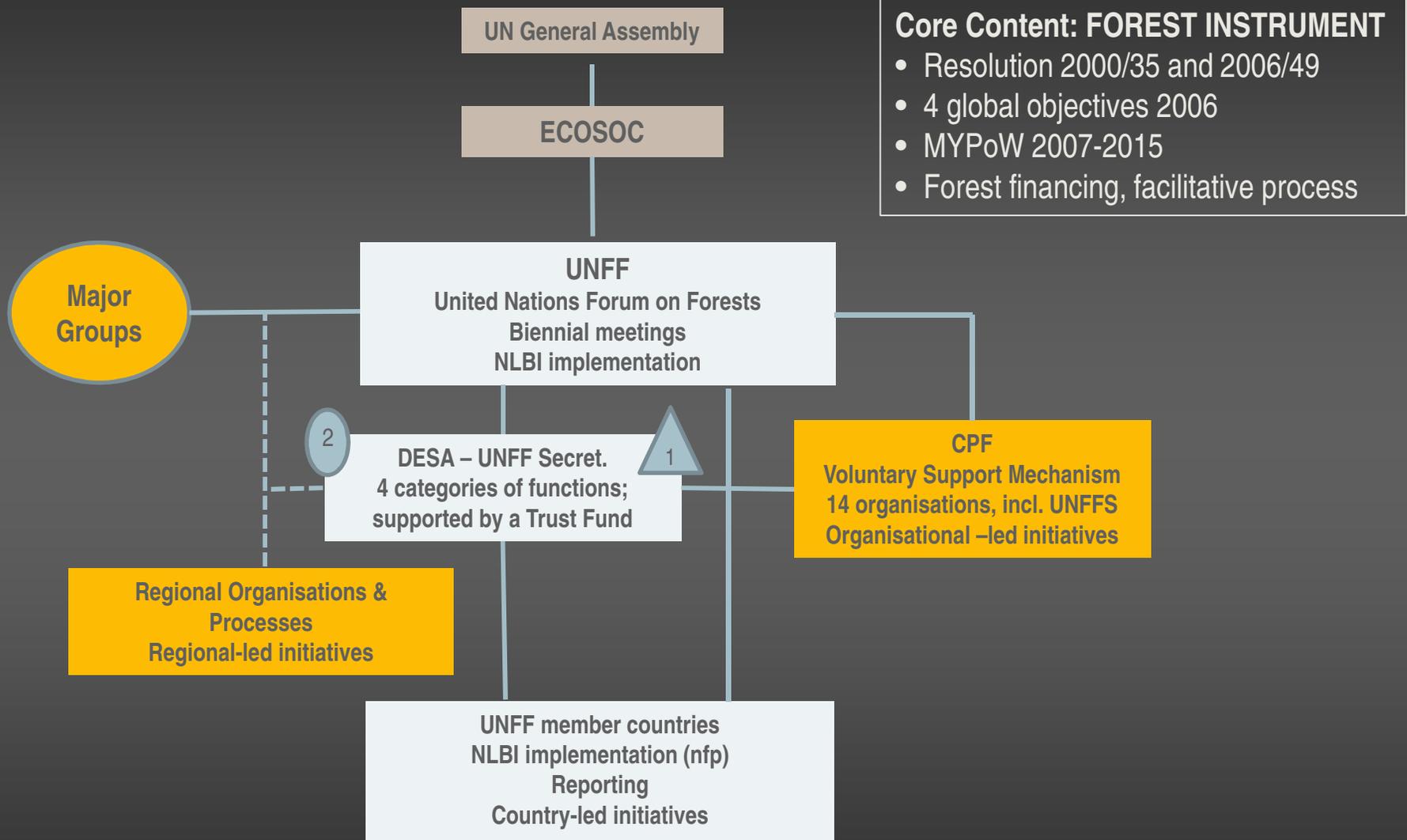
## Scope of the IAF

- ⇒ 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



## Core Content: FOREST INSTRUMENT

- Resolution 2000/35 and 2006/49
- 4 global objectives 2006
- MYPoW 2007-2015
- Forest financing, facilitative process



Trust fund finance



Regular budget

White: UNFF framework

Yellow: Formally associated to the framework



## **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, OLIs, 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

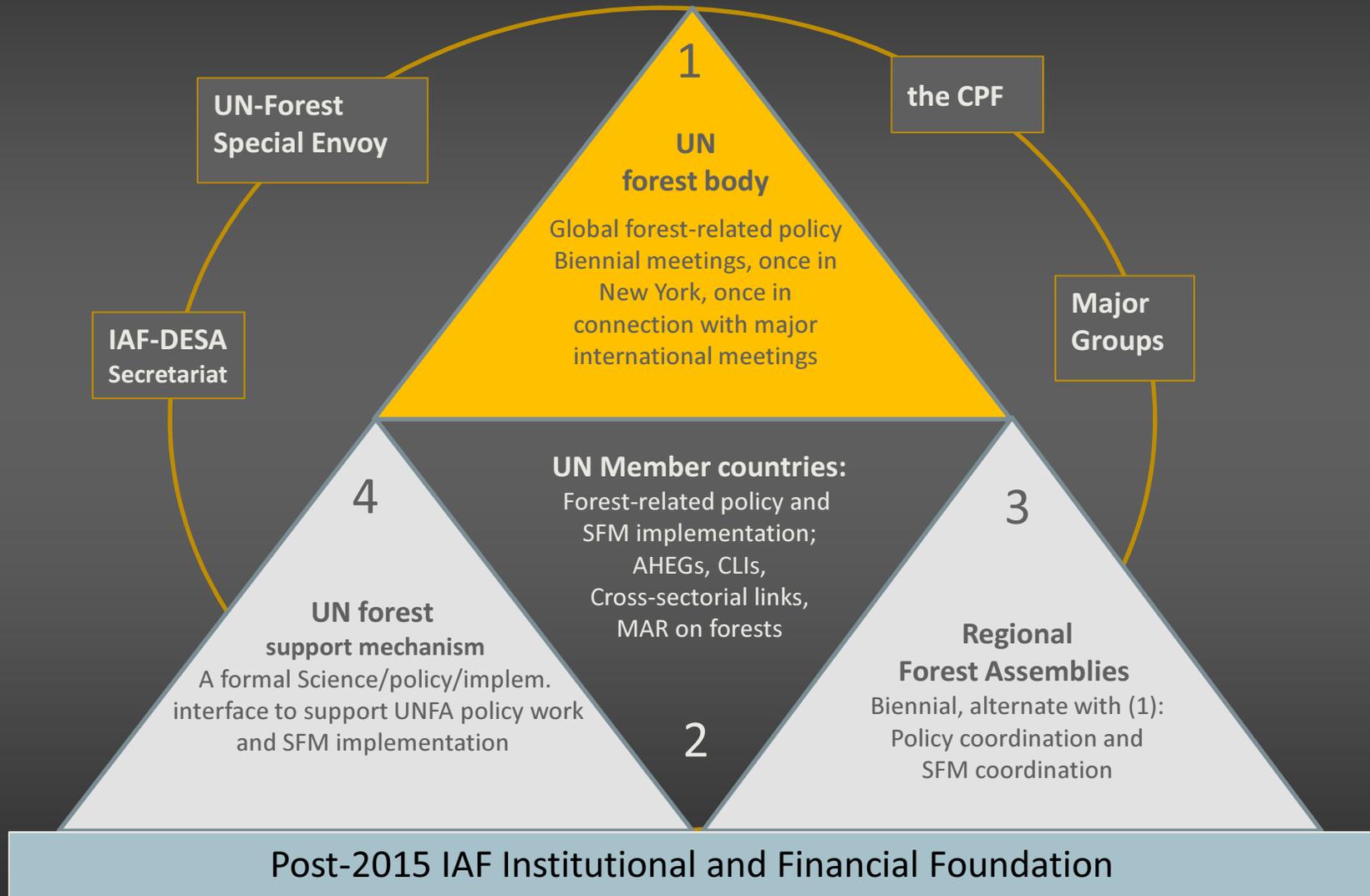
A Science-Policy platform on Forests under UNEP  
(serviced by a body/group of bodies, tbd)

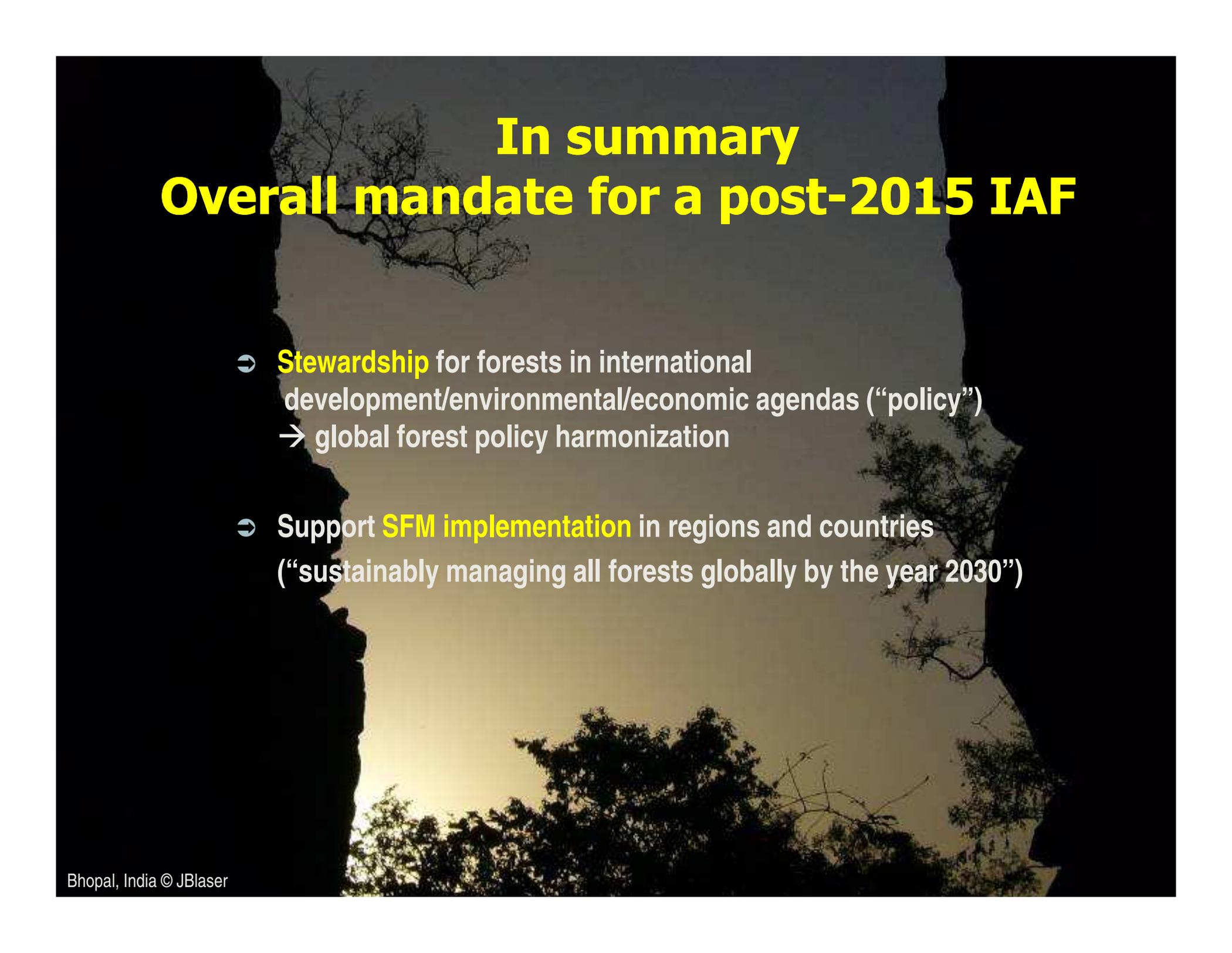
*Other UN-System  
based:*

# 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”)