

Workshop on the International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015

**29-31 October 2014,
Beijing, China**



General Information

- Time: 29 to 31 Oct 2014
- Venue: Beijing, China
- Participation: Nearly 100 international participants from 55 countries and 18 international organizations
- Format: plenary(co-chairs) + parallel sessions (Sibylle, Elise); Vicente, Rowena, Aysha and Chip helped with preparation of the outcome document.
- Opening: Minister Zhao Shucong, Minister Messone, DG Clemens Neumann addressed opening of the workshop



Co-Sponsors and Steering Committee

- Seven sponsoring countries: Austria, Canada, China (Host), Finland, Germany, Switzerland and the United States
- Steering Committee members: 7 co-sponsoring countries, as well as Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, South Africa, FAO Forestry Department, ITTO and UNFF Secretariats, and an Independent expert



Theme

Elements for Strengthening the IAF
Beyond 2015 – Ensuring Implementation
of Forest-related Commitments

Six topics were covered under this theme
in relation to both a non-legally binding
future arrangement and a legally binding
instrument.



Major Topics

- Strengthening regional/sub-regional involvement in the IAF
- Strengthening the role and functioning of the CPF
- Strengthening the involvement of Major Groups and other stakeholders in the IAF
- Up-scaling the Facilitative Process under the IAF
- Low-cost—high-value actions (achievable) over a relevant 2-3 year horizon under the IAF
- Possible elements of a “strategic plan” for the IAF

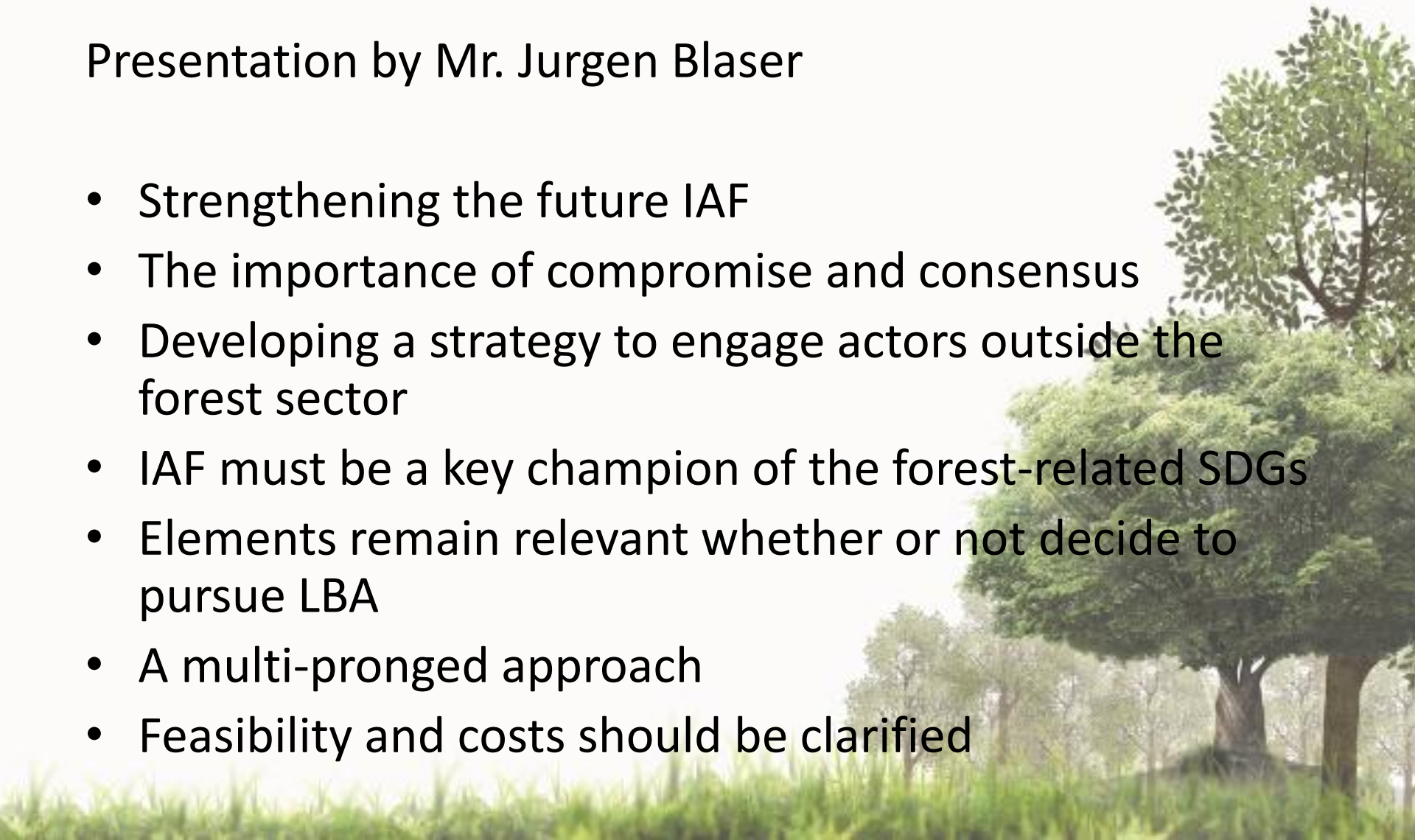
Background documents

- Discussion paper on possible elements of a “strategic plan” for a future IAF
- List of topic questions to help focus discussions
- Compilation of proposals on the six workshop topics from the AHEG1 and Independent Assessment reports on the IAF
- Above documents are available at <http://cli2014china.forestry.gov.cn>

Reflections on the General Findings and Options Contained in the Independent Assessment of the IAF

Presentation by Mr. Jurgen Blaser

- Strengthening the future IAF
- The importance of compromise and consensus
- Developing a strategy to engage actors outside the forest sector
- IAF must be a key champion of the forest-related SDGs
- Elements remain relevant whether or not decide to pursue LBA
- A multi-pronged approach
- Feasibility and costs should be clarified



Reflections on the General Findings and Options Contained in the Independent Assessment of the IAF

- A catalyst for policy implementation
- Effective financial mechanism is needed
- Strategic in the long-term, tactical in the short-term
- Reduce fragmentation & streamlined approach
- UNFF: precious position
- UNFF→UN Forest Assembly
- Policy should be informed by scientific and technological innovations
- UNFF should be flexible through the establishment of working groups



Strengthening Regional/Sub-regional Involvement in the IAF

Presentations on ACTO, Congo Basin Forest Partnership,
Negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe

- Improve regional forest-related cooperation mechanisms
- Providing effective platforms for coordination
- Providing platforms to discuss regional and global LBA options
- Closer to local realities
- Involvement of stakeholders
- SIDS or LFCCs
- Financial and technical support to build capacity
- Stable funding



Strengthening Regional/Sub-regional Involvement in the IAF

- Experiences of other intergovernmental fora & regional platforms in other sectors
- The future IAF adds value to regional organizations/mechanisms/processes
- Enhance exchange of good practices
- Regional/sub-regional bodies are long-standing, with own mandates and priorities
- Link to existing regional/sub-regional processes
- Regional meetings meet back-to-back with UNFF meetings and/or relevant FAO meetings



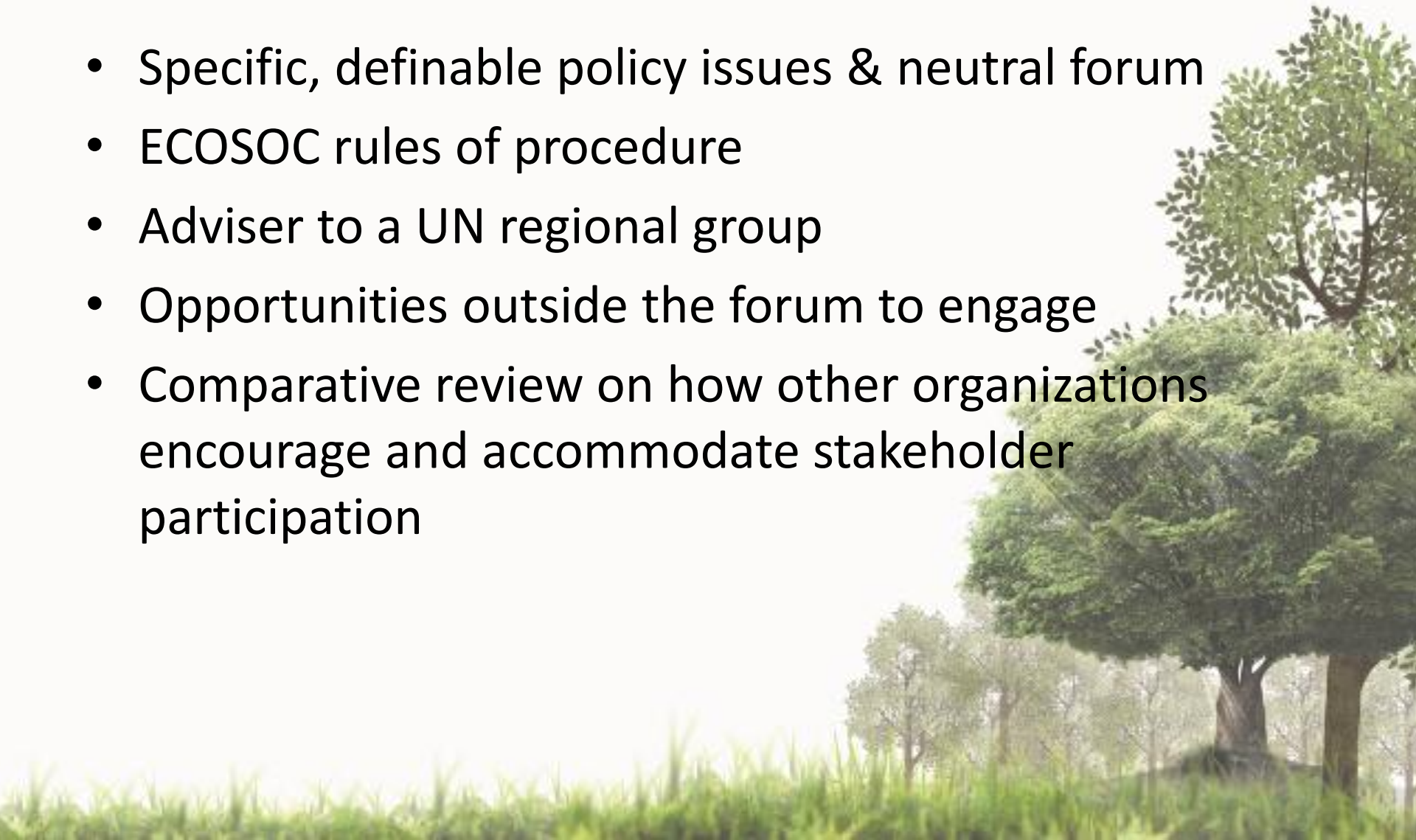
Strengthening the Role and Functioning of the CPF under the Future IAF

- Coordination and harmonization of policy strategies for facilitating implementation
- Further enhancing implementation
- Mobilize non-UN actors
- Formalization of CPF & establishment of a trust fund
- Work plan and budget
- Periodic rotation of the CPF chair
- New partners
- Regular reporting
- Science-policy dialogue
- Coordination at the national level



Strengthening the Involvement of Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the IAF

- Specific, definable policy issues & neutral forum
- ECOSOC rules of procedure
- Adviser to a UN regional group
- Opportunities outside the forum to engage
- Comparative review on how other organizations encourage and accommodate stakeholder participation



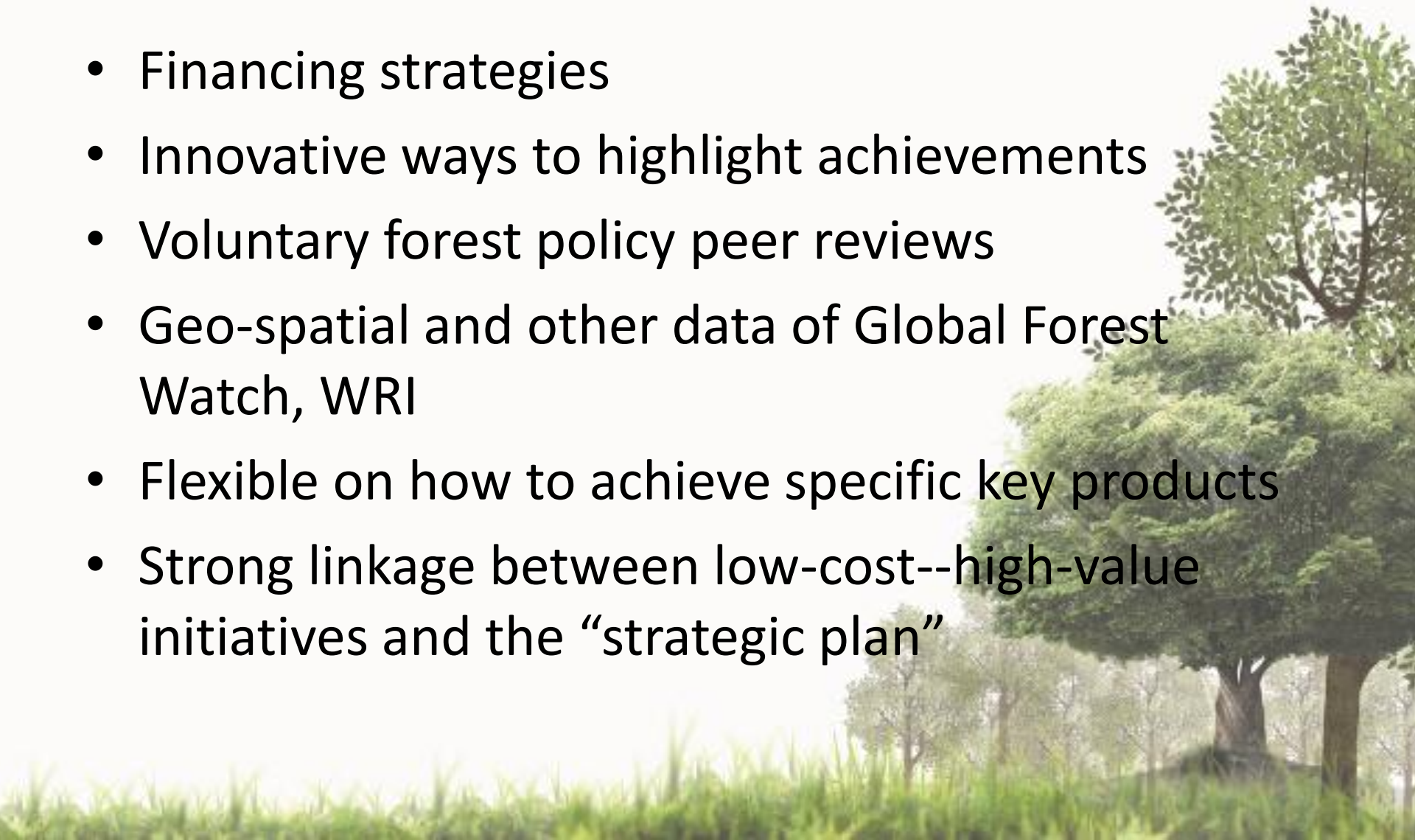
Low-cost—high-value Actions (Achievable) over a Relevant 2-3 Year Horizon under the IAF

- Harmonize reporting templates and synchronize reporting cycles
- Coordination and communication products
- Coordination on themes
- Make use of the annual International Day of Forests
- Identify other key dates, events and opportunities
- Identify gaps in the implementation on the Forest Instrument



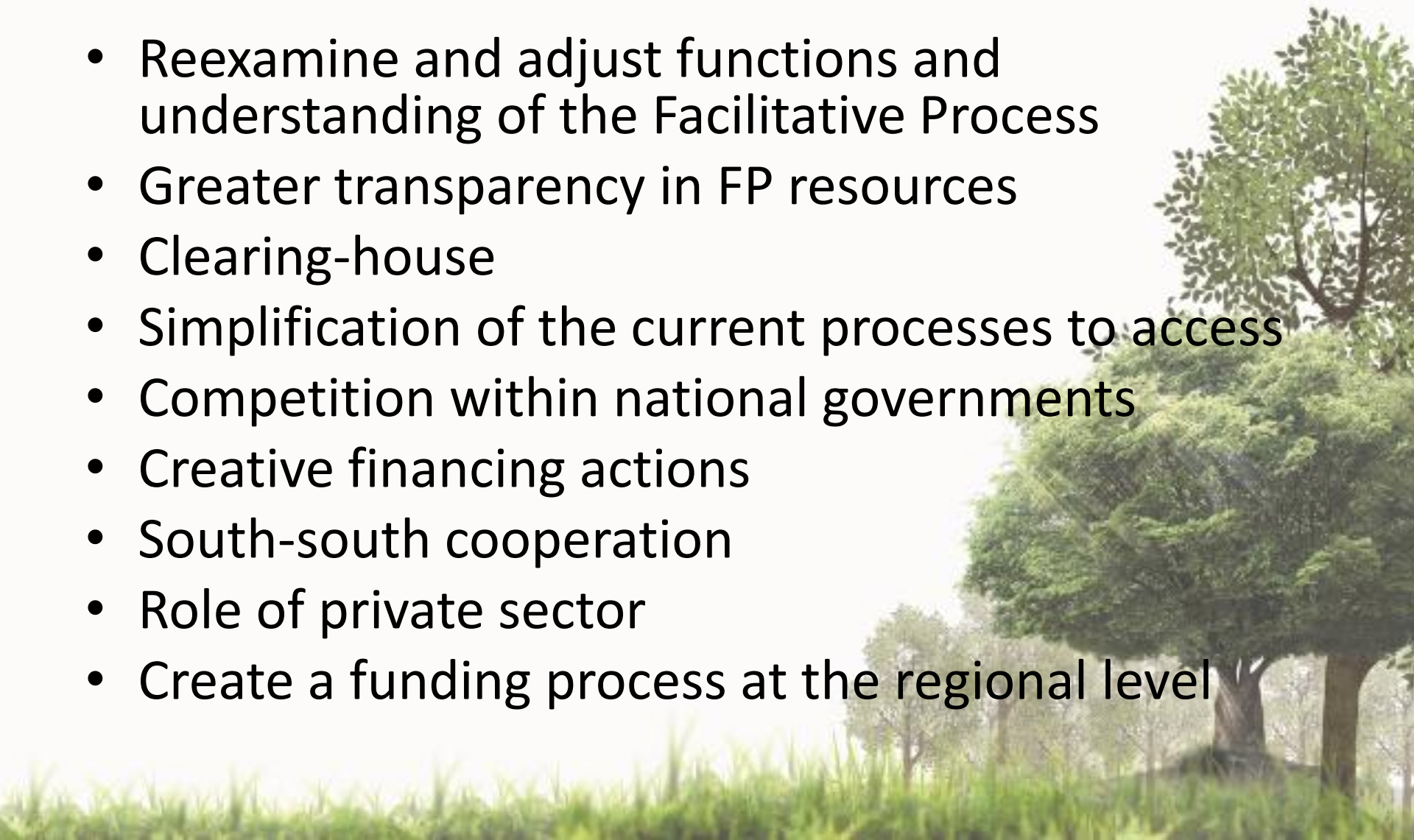
Low-cost—high-value Actions (Achievable) over a Relevant 2-3 Year Horizon under the IAF

- Financing strategies
- Innovative ways to highlight achievements
- Voluntary forest policy peer reviews
- Geo-spatial and other data of Global Forest Watch, WRI
- Flexible on how to achieve specific key products
- Strong linkage between low-cost--high-value initiatives and the “strategic plan”



Up-scaling the Facilitative Process under the IAF

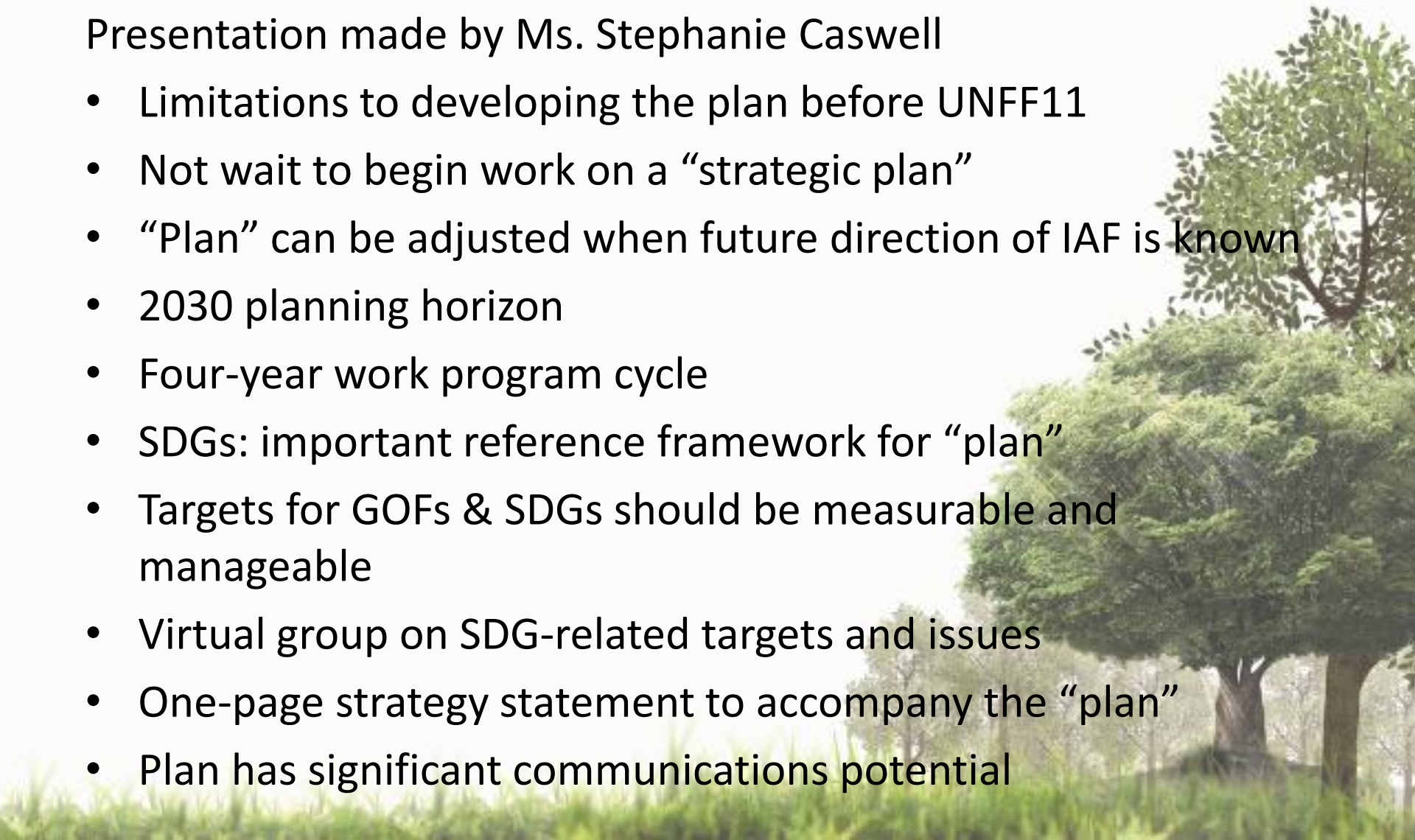
- Reexamine and adjust functions and understanding of the Facilitative Process
- Greater transparency in FP resources
- Clearing-house
- Simplification of the current processes to access
- Competition within national governments
- Creative financing actions
- South-south cooperation
- Role of private sector
- Create a funding process at the regional level



Possible Elements of a “Strategic Plan” for the IAF

Presentation made by Ms. Stephanie Caswell

- Limitations to developing the plan before UNFF11
- Not wait to begin work on a “strategic plan”
- “Plan” can be adjusted when future direction of IAF is known
- 2030 planning horizon
- Four-year work program cycle
- SDGs: important reference framework for “plan”
- Targets for GOFs & SDGs should be measurable and manageable
- Virtual group on SDG-related targets and issues
- One-page strategy statement to accompany the “plan”
- Plan has significant communications potential



Key Messages and Follow up Points

- Business as usual not acceptable
- Better understanding of:
 - Budgetary implications of the IAF options
 - The feasibility of moving forward on components associated with each option
 - The current terms of reference, modalities, and funding sources and levels for possible models for strengthening and possibly formalizing the CPF
 - ECOSOC rules of procedure on participation and intervention in Forum sessions by NGOs, Major Groups, regional/sub-regional bodies

Key Message and Follow up Points

- The UN regular budgetary cycle and preparatory process
- Forests' contribution to SDGs and ways to communicate such contributions
- The contribution of a possible “strategic plan” for the IAF beyond 2015
- CPF members would be developing views and proposals on strengthening CPF
- Appreciation to the host country & co-sponsors



Thank you!

For more information on the Workshop, please visit:
<http://cli2014china.forestry.gov.cn>

