

UNFF Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (AHEG2)
which will take place in Vienna from 14 to 18 January 2013.

WORKSHOP ON FOREST FINANCING IN LFCCS : CO-CHAIRS REPPORT

Teheran, Iran, 12-17 November 2011
Niamey, Niger, January 30th – 3rd February 2012

Presented by Mr Oyetounde DJIWA, from Togo

BACKGROUND

- ❑ 30 October 2009, a landmark resolution was adopted at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) on the means of implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM).
- ❑ Project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs).
- ❑ Teheran and Niamey workshops : first steps of four workshops

OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP :

1. Validate the findings of the preliminary studies (prepared as part of the first component), particularly to identify gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in LFCCs,
2. Initiate a network of forest financing stakeholders in the LFCCs and at the international level.

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETINGS :

The meetings was structured in two parts : Field trip and workshop

The first day of the workshop included election of co-chairs, opening ceremonies comprising a speech by host countries representatives and UNFF Secretariat

□ **Oyétoundé Djiwa** (Togo) and **Mr. Aliost Montazeri** (Iran) as the Co-chairs of Teheran workshop

□ **Ms Alicia Aguerre** (Uruguay) and **Mr Ibro Adamou** (Niger) , co-chairs at Niamey



Niamey workshop : 14 LFCCs

1. Bangladesh,
2. Burundi,
3. Egypt,
4. Islamic Republic of Iran,
5. Kenya,
6. Lesotho,
7. Mali,
8. Mongolia,
9. Namibia,
10. Niger,
11. South Africa
12. Togo,
13. Tunisia
14. Uruguay



At Teheran, 11 LFCCs were present

1. Afghanistan,
2. Chad,
3. Iraq,
4. Iran,
5. Jordan,
6. Kyrgyzstan,
7. Tajikistan,
8. Togo,
9. Turkmenistan,
10. Uzbekistan
11. Yemen



At both meetings, experts from different institutions were present :

AFF,
CILSS,
REFACOF,
WB,
UNFF,
DB, FAO,
UNDP,
GEF,

UNECA,
MAJOR GROUP,
GIZ,



Two-day field trip at Teheran :

Mazandaran and Gilan Provinces on the
Caspian Sea (Téhéran) : Forest Cooperative



One-day field trip at Niamey :



❑ Fuel wood market at Mossipaga,

❑ Arabic gum production organisation at Torodi



AGREED AND MAIN CONCLUSIONS FROM LFCC

1. To overcome limited political will to address forest financing and reveal the full value of forests in LFCC, it is necessary to:

- a. Undertake national inventories to reveal the full potential of forests;
- b. Develop a cross-sectoral communication strategy
- c. Integrate forest financing within national frameworks for planning, budgeting and fiscal channeling, and develop National Forest Programs and National Forest Financing Strategies.
- d. Undertake a capacity assessment of all public agencies involved in financing SFM in LFCCs.

2. Promote cross-sectoral cooperation by taking forests beyond the forest sector and overcome weak inter-ministerial and inter-sectorial dialogue :

- a. Develop and coordinate between National Forest Programs and National Forest Financing Strategies (facilitated by the UNFF Secretariat) in a participatory and integrated manner;
- b. Promote the Green Economy as an integrated approach;
- c. Make national forest financing central to stimulate dialogue between the forest sector and other national sectors; and

3. Ensure that forest financing remains sustainable over the long term :

a) In recognition of the fact that ecological and social processes in LFCCs take place over long periods;

b) Gender mainstreaming : A long-term financing must be associated with a systematic integration of gender issues at all stages and an appropriate communication strategy to convince all stakeholders of the need to include gender;

c) Include the social aspects of LFCCs : local communities, youth, children and women contribution to poverty alleviation;

d) Private sources of financing, particularly when relying on forest products (both timber and non-timber) should be promoted especially if they depend on sustainable harvesting methods; and

4. The full range of forest products and services needs to be tapped into, particularly non timber forest products, as sources of forest financing:

- a. In recognition of the fact that LFCC forests and trees outside of forests may not be as rich in timber or carbon as in high forest cover countries, but they often harbor valuable NTFPs (fruit, nuts, gum, Shea, etc.). Many agro biodiversity hotspots are located in LFCCs;
- b. The example of Gum Arabic in Niger shows that (i) community organization is essential; (ii) value must be added primarily at community level to ensure that SFM also reduces poverty;
- c. In particular, the entire chain of custody of NTFPs should be improved.

5. The important role of private sector in mobilizing additional financing and investments in forests is real,

- a. The importance of adequate rules and regulations as well as law enforcement to secure the sustainability of forest utilization and fair income and benefit sharing within the society
- b. The government's role in providing an enabling environment particularly in reducing the risks of investments in sustainable forest management and utilization, including of NTFPs, was emphasized.

6. The specificities, and in particular the strengths, of forests and trees outside of forests in LFCCs must be recognized :

a. Forests and trees outside of forests in LFCCs are valuable in their own right, It is necessary to establish a niche/specific path to improving forest financing building on the strengths of dry land forests and trees outside of forests.

b. LFCCs should aim to access funds not only through carbon, but also through values

c. LFCCs are high in – agro forestry, climate change adaptation, forest landscape restoration, food security and agro biodiversity;

7. ■ The UNFF Secretariat should play a catalysing role in all of the above in the following ways:

- a. Assist the TPS for LFCCs by facilitating a ministerial meeting and catalyzing the creation of TPS focal points within individual LFCCs
- b. Develop the UNFF's 360-degree perspective for greater recognition of the full range of values of forests, and deepen collaboration with the 3 Rio Conventions to promote a cross-sectoral perspective
- c. strengthening international coordination to provide a voice for all LFCCs in international for a
 - a. Focus on the specific conditions of LFCCs and encourage other CPF Members to take account of them in their programs of work in order to overcome the perceived handicap that most innovative financing mechanisms, especially REDD+, are primarily aimed, and thus designed and adapted to, high forest cover countries.

8. Strengthen the Tehran Process Secretariat for Low Forest Cover Countries, and in particular seek greater ownership of the Process and involvement by LFCCs through :

- a. The presence of the Tehran Process Secretariat at regional and national levels, particularly through the nomination TPS national and regional focal points before UNFF10;
- b. Holding a Ministerial Meeting before UNFF10 in coordination with the UNFF Secretariat.
 - a. supporting information generation and information management as well as promoting media coverage and specialized communication on the full value of forests to the national development,

9. Regional economic committees (REC) and the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Combating Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), etc.

could be used as “nodes” of communication between the intergovernmental and national levels in order to further bolster coordination between LFCCs at the supranational level.

Merci pour votre attention

Thank you for your attention