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*United Nations
Forum on Forests*

United Nations Forum on Forests

**Ad hoc expert group on Consideration with a View to
Recommending the Parameters of a Mandate for Developing a
Legal Framework on All Types of Forests**

New York, 7-10 September 2004

**Recent Developments in Existing Forest-Related
Instruments, Agreements, and Processes
Working Draft**

This document is a non-official working draft, distributed for information only. It contains updated information on related international instruments, agreements and processes.

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Table of Contents

| | | |
|------|---|----|
| I. | Introduction..... | 4 |
| II. | Characteristics of forest-related instruments, agreements and processes..... | 5 |
| III. | General trends..... | 6 |
| IV. | Recent Developments in International Forest-related instruments, agreements and processes | |
| | 11 | |
| A. | Legally Binding Instruments..... | 11 |
| 1. | International..... | 11 |
| | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)..... | 12 |
| | Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) | 13 |
| | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD) | 14 |
| | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)..... | 15 |
| | Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) | 16 |
| | International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)..... | 17 |
| 2. | Regional..... | 18 |
| | The Central American Council for Forests and Protected Areas..... | 18 |
| | Amazonian Co-operation Treaty (ACT)..... | 19 |
| B. | Non-Legally Binding Instruments, Agreements and Processes..... | 19 |
| 1. | International..... | 19 |
| | United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)..... | 19 |
| | Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)..... | 22 |
| | Millennium Development Goals (MDG)..... | 22 |
| | World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation..... | 23 |
| | Asia Forest Partnership..... | 24 |
| | Congo Basin Forest Partnership..... | 24 |
| | Model Forest Network in Latin America and the Caribbean..... | 24 |
| | Other Forest-related Partnerships | 25 |
| | Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) | 25 |
| | FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)..... | 26 |
| | The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution (GPA)..... | 26 |
| | International and Regional Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management | 27 |
| 2. | Regional..... | 28 |
| | Central Africa: Conference on the Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems and the Yaoundé Declaration..... | 28 |
| | Southern African Development Community (SADC)..... | 29 |
| | New Partnership for Africa's Development..... | 30 |
| | African Timber Organization | 30 |
| | Economic Community of West African States | 30 |
| | African Union | 31 |
| | Central African Regional Program for the Environment | 31 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Interstate Committee to Fight Drought in the Sahel (CILSS) | 32 |
| The Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Northeast Pacific | 32 |
| Tehran process..... | 32 |
| South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme | 33 |
| The Secretariat of the Pacific Community | 33 |
| Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) | 34 |
| Group of Eight | 35 |
| Ministerial Processes for Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) | 36 |
| 3. Financial and Trade Institutions..... | 37 |
| World Bank..... | 37 |
| Global Environment Facility (GEF)..... | 38 |
| World Trade Organization | 39 |
| Regional Development Banks | 39 |
| African Development Bank | 39 |
| Asian Development Bank (ADB) | 40 |
| Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) | 40 |
| Inter-american Development Bank (IDB) | 41 |
| 4. Non-governmental processes..... | 41 |
| World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD): forestry working group “Sustainable Forest Products Industry” | 41 |
| The Forests Dialogue (TFD)..... | 42 |
| V. Scope for further analysis..... | 42 |
| Extent of Forest Resources..... | 43 |
| Afforestation..... | 43 |
| Conservation..... | 44 |
| VI. Conclusions..... | 44 |
| ANNEX I: Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments..... | 46 |
| ANNEX II: Forest-related Non-legally Binding Agreements and Processes..... | 52 |
| Bibliography:..... | 55 |

I. Introduction

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in paragraph 3(c)(i) of Resolution 2000/35 decided that the United Nations Forum on Forests will within five years “consider with a view to recommending to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. This process could develop the financial provisions to implement any future agreed legal framework.”. The Council also decided in paragraph 17 of the same resolution “that the international arrangement on forests should be dynamic and adapt to evolving conditions and that the effectiveness of this arrangement would be reviewed in five years”, and further decided “that the five year review of this arrangement will also address the institutional framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests, including its position within the United Nation system”.

Subsequently, through Decision 2003/299 ECOSOC established the Ad hoc Expert Group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests to be held in New York, from 7 to 10 September 2004. Among the tasks assigned to it, the ad hoc expert group is to “assess existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests” and “review the relevant experiences of existing forest-related and other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes, focussing on complementarities, gaps and duplication” (paragraphs 33(a) and (d)).

This background document has been prepared to facilitate the work of the ad hoc expert group in undertaking these tasks. It seeks to do this by providing background discussion on forest instruments and their characteristics (section II); presenting some general trends (section III); and discussing recent developments by instrument, agreement or process (section IV). It also contains (section V) an example of how this analysis might be further developed.

This document focuses on the main international normative (legal and non-legal) developments since 1999, and also includes regional activities. Developments before this time, especially for the period 1992-1998, are dealt with extensively in Background Document number 5, “Information On Forest-Related Work Under Existing Instruments”, which was prepared for the second session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forest (IFF) in 1998, and in the report of the Secretary-General prepared for the same session, E/CN.17/IFF/1998/11, which includes, inter alia, tables on perceived gaps and overlaps at the time. There is also a fair amount of other factual information and background material, including studies and reports on this issue.

This document is based partly on the input from countries received by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat and partly on separate research. It has been compiled by the UNFF Secretariat with the generous assistance of UNEP legal offices and should be viewed as work in progress. It should be emphasised that this is very much a working draft; it is the intention of the Secretariat to conduct further work on this Background Document, based on the discussions of the Ad hoc Expert Group meeting and further research and analysis, and to make a revised version available to the fifth session of the UNFF as background information.

II. Characteristics of forest-related instruments, agreements and processes

This section examines the potential role of international forest-related instruments. Background Document Number 3 outlines some general principles of international law and types of prevailing international legal instruments.

Where there are issues of international concern that can potentially be addressed through a legal instrument, there is generally a need to attempt to strike a balance between cooperation and regulation; to recognise State sovereignty; and to take account of voluntary commitments, the role of stakeholders and the business sector, and the importance of accessible information. These are among the elements that may form part of the basis for an effective international legal regime. It is also important that there is strong political commitment to the development of a legal regime.

International instruments (or agreements) frequently contain an articulation of general principles and frameworks for action to address specific problems under the preview of the instruments. They often call for specific national level actions, such as the adoption of national regulations standards and implementation strategies. Other common provisions of such instruments include international cooperation, monitoring and reporting, research, exchange of information, well established dispute resolution processes, coordination among related agreements, and establishment of independent secretariats.

Generally, international legal instruments contain clear statements regarding jurisdiction; standard, rule or norm formation; and remedial measures including sanctioning. Some scholars argue that international law should create supranational organizations with innovative and unprecedented powers, including trade sanctions and other forms of sanctions. Others believe that international legal instruments can only be successful through participatory efforts; such initiatives could be structured by law but undertaken at the local level or among selective alliances in *ad hoc* ways that take into account the particular circumstances of the issue. Some scholars also consider that other characteristics of an international legal instrument would include: open exchange of relevant information, a hierarchy of progressively applied liability rules, well established dispute resolution processes, coordination among related agreements, and establishment of independent secretariats. Furthermore, scientific consensus, flexibility in achieving the instrument's objectives, involvement of stakeholders, existence of clear relationships to existing institutions, and an economic and political commitment are recognized as possible elements. Some scholars advocate a low threshold for initial entry by interested parties, i.e. a modest commitment and a modest infringement on sovereignty, which may encourage more countries to join, but others perceive this as delaying effectively dealing with the problem.

There are already a considerable number of instruments directly and indirectly affecting aspects of forest. There is also a growing understanding that at present the global aspects of forest issues are being addressed in fragmented and uncoordinated manners by the existing large number of international and regional legal instruments, whose main focus are environment, biological diversity or international trade. Notwithstanding, the international commitments and action to promote sustainable forest management (SFM), deforestation and forest degradation still continue, and the problems associated with forests remain pressing

As with any international legal regime the components that may constitute an effective international instrument/regime for forests may include the following:

- Political support within the participating States.
- Articulation of shared norms. There have to be shared understandings of fundamental values that an instrument should promote.
- A shared understanding of desired policy objectives and strategies to attain those shared objectives;
- Fair amount of forest-related scientific consensus about the existence and causes of the international problem.
- Understandable and legitimate dispute resolution process.
- Openness to public and scientific input, including stakeholder involvement.
- Open communication and access to information
- Compliance prompting mechanisms: establish and strengthen norms for cooperation, implementation, and compliance.
- Recognition of varying capacities of developed and developing countries
- As stated in Chapter 38 of Agenda 21: “Implementation of Agenda 21 and other conclusions of UNCED shall be ... consistent with the principles of universality, democracy, transparency, cost effectiveness and accountability”
- Organizational capability of implementing institutions.
- Adequate human and financial resources and information for the effective operation of the secretariat.
- Financial mechanisms to support programme implementation by countries, particularly developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

III. General trends

This section of the document is intended to present general trends. It does this, first, by considering broad issues of international forest policy development. It then focuses on a number of particular issues – many of which are subsequently discussed further in relation to particular instruments, agreements and processes in section IV.

The outcome of the pre-UNFF process was the development of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) Proposals for Action. While recognised as an important body of policy guidance at the international level, laying out a basic common understanding of forest issues and ways to address them in a holistic and comprehensive manner, they are also criticised as being insufficiently focused, too numerous and with too much internal duplication. In addition, it is said that their implementation is hampered because they are convoluted and not easily understood. The clustering of thematic areas, as developed under the criteria and indicators (C & I) processes and acknowledged by UNFF as a reference framework for SFM is a concrete effort towards more focused and tangible objectives.

Forest-related policy issues are handled in a plethora of instruments and agreements with originally quite narrow mandates, be it from an environmental, social or economic perspective. While the UNFF has the mandate to coordinate forest policy and to provide an integrated and holistic view on forests, this has been challenging because of a number of factors, including differences of approach between the different instruments, the lack of clarity of roles, and the reluctance to pronounce on issues while difficult negotiations are taking place elsewhere. As one member State noted in the views submitted to the secretariat "...while these expanded activities reflect a positive interest in sustainable forest management by the global community, in some cases this is leading to increased duplication, overlap, and even conflicting approaches in regional and international forest efforts."

On the other hand, there is a widely welcomed trend of mutual understanding towards broad approaches in solving specific concerns. It is striking, not only in the UNFF but in many other instruments that there is trend to examine the role of forests in meeting broader development goals within particular spheres of influence. The potential of forests in alleviating poverty, generating income and wealth, and contributing to employment creation is one area that has warranted increasing attention at the international level. The UNFF is in a unique position to contribute to the debate on these issues. As a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and thus the General Assembly (GA), decisions taken at the UNFF can be directly transmitted to these bodies for agreement and thus become part of broader internationally agreed norms. Through the adoption of resolution E/2004/L.48 at its substantive session in 2004, the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to contribute, through the Council, to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly in 2005 that is expected to review progress in implementing commitments made in the Millennium Declaration.

A related development is the increased collaboration, coordination and joint activities undertaken by organisations with an interest in forests. There are a great number of ongoing efforts by organizations, instruments and processes to leverage and share resources as well as technical capacity. Foremost among the partnerships that have been formed since 1999 is the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the UNFF and to coordinate the members' joint activities.

Another important general trend is that National Forest Programmes (NFPs) are increasingly recognised as an important tool for implementation at the national level. Generally speaking, there has been considerable progress in developing NFP processes that are in line with the general definition and broad principles defined by IPF/IFF; 138 countries have NFPs at the planning or implementation phase. As was noted in the UNFF's two previous ad hoc expert groups, there is also an urgent need to ensure that the process of developing NFPs takes full account of inter-sectoral linkages. But significant challenges remain, including cross-sectoral integration with other policies, in particular into poverty reduction strategies and similar development plans, which could gain high-level political support for NFPs and forests as well as for securing adequate financing. The National Forest Programme Facility located in FAO, and started since the establishment of UNFF, has been instrumental in assisting some countries putting into place processes that can work to this effect.

The issue of illegal logging has become more prominent in the international policy agenda since 1999 and is perhaps the emerging issue that is most emphasised at all levels. Intergovernmental meetings, policy processes and agreements have addressed illegal logging; governments are formulating their procurement policies from this viewpoint; and businesses and NGOs are working to halt illegal logging. Good governance, law and effective enforcement are at the heart of the fight

against illegal logging. Indeed, several regional processes have recently addressed forest law enforcement, governance and trade and this trend is gaining strength. As this issue continues to be discussed in new contexts, forests will undoubtedly be introduced in a number of previously unconsidered arenas.

In May 1998, the G-8 launched an action program on forests, which gave high priority to eliminating illegal logging and illegal timber trade. Several Regional Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) processes are now running in parallel. The FLEG processes around the world have also opened space for action and calls for accountability by civil society. In Latin America, for example, where an official FLEG process is in the pipeline, civil society is particularly active.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) marked an important milestone for the forest policy development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation includes the commitment to “take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, and provide human and institutional capacity building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas.” The Asia Forest Partnership and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), both launched at WSSD, also target illegal logging as one of the barriers for sustainable forest management.

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have also expressed their concern regarding the adverse impact of illegal logging on conservation efforts. CBD continues and further strengthens its work on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement. Means of assessing and combating illegal logging and illegal trade of timber has also received special attention in recent ITTO proceedings.

Forest governance is also one of the areas emerging from the World Bank's Forest Policy Implementation Review and Strategy process. Consequently the World Bank Group launched its Forest Governance Program and it has contributed to establishment of several partnerships on forest law enforcement. In addition, a number of NGOs and civil society groups have made efforts to address this issue. The Forests Dialogue will be hosting a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the issue as an Organization-led initiative and will serve as an input to the UNFF process.

Several milestones have reached over the past five years in the field of defining sustainability and development of criteria and indicators. The nine criteria and indicator processes have also played a major role in the development of a common vision of what constitutes sustainable forest management. Country- and organization-led initiatives, such as the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting (established to reduce the reporting burden on countries), have assisted in developing seven thematic elements, now acknowledged by the UNFF as providing a reference framework for SFM. These are the extent of forest resources; biological diversity; forest health and vitality; productive functions of forest resources; protective functions of forest resources; socio-economic functions; and the legal, policy and institutional framework.

At the time of writing this document, negotiations were not completed yet on the successor agreement to the ITTA 1994, document TD/Timber.3.4 contains the first definition of sustainable forest management potentially included in a legally binding instrument. It reads “[... “Sustainable forest management” is the process of managing forests to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest

products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment...].”

Although the regional and organisations led criteria and indicator processes have broken new ground as regards facilitating data collection for sustainable forest management, discussions under the CBD and the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC have the potential to affect the discussions on this issue once again. At its 20th session the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA20) decided on data submissions more ambitious than any criteria and indicator process (which has identified indicators for sustainable forest management down to the forest management unit level), than the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (which is the most comprehensive data collection at a global level to date), or than any other forest-related reporting to date. ITTO has resolved to give special attention to this issue in its new work programme.

The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forest (CPF) have also given considerable attention to forest-related monitoring, assessment and reporting topic in view of the increased requests for reporting and data since 1999. It is recognised that forest-related monitoring, assessment and reporting are not ends in themselves, but a means to facilitate informed decision-making. Despite progress made among organisations concerned, national forest-related reporting to international fora is placing a heavy burden on countries and further efforts at streamlining and coordination at the intergovernmental level are needed in order to avoid duplication and inefficiencies.

The FAO Committee on Forestry has also recognized the importance of cooperating to advance these processes and has requested FAO to collaborate with other agencies and key international conventions related to forests, such as the UNFCCC, IPCC, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in providing technical input regarding elaboration and reconciliation of terms and definitions.

Almost all intergovernmental processes pertaining to forests have placed a renewed emphasis on the importance of regional cooperation and multi-lateral initiatives. This is demonstrated by the multitude of regional processes that have developed since 1999 around different themes of particular importance to a region; these are discussed further in section IV B 2. At the regional level, dialogues on both criteria and indicators and on FLEG, demonstrate how it is possible to achieve networking between regional processes so that they benefit from experience in other parts of the world. UNFF has organised its work during its third and fourth session so as to give some visibility to regional processes, and the FAO has held regional workshops on the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action in conjunction with some of its Regional Forestry Commissions.

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation recognized the key role of UNFF and the important contribution of the CPF members. It called on governments and stakeholders to create and strengthen partnerships and international cooperation. It also encouraged the three Rio conventions to explore and enhance synergies. At its sixth Conference, Parties of the UNCCD welcomed the conclusion of the MOU between the UNCCD and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as the joint work programme with the CBD on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands. It also encouraged the Joint Liaison Group on the three Rio conventions to identify areas for joint activities. Other relevant conventions and organizations, including the GEF, were encouraged to promote synergistic initiatives to foster collaboration with the UNCCD. The COP requested the

Executive Secretary, with the UNFF, the UNFCCC and the CBD, to promote activities with Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) for a joint approach on forests.

The UNCCD and CBD Secretariats with cooperation of the UNFCCC Secretariat held a workshop in 2004 on “Forests and Forest Ecosystems: Promoting Synergy in the Implementation of the three Rio Conventions”. It focused on how forest and forest ecosystems could provide a theme around joint implementation. The workshop addressed ways and means for planning and implementing plans and programmes that address, in a coherent and complementary manner, the provisions of all three Conventions at the national level.

The Ramsar bureau has also formally established collaborative agreements with a number of secretariats and with a wide range of partners. At their eighth Conference, Parties of the Convention took note of the Third Ramsar-CBD Joint Work Plan that covers the period 2002-2006 which includes a provision for the Ramsar Bureau to work with the CBD Secretariat on ways and means for Ramsar “to contribute to the implementation of the new programme of work on forest biological diversity”, particularly on issues related to peatlands and wooded wetlands.

These developments point to real increased efforts to answer the calls for coordination and the creation of synergies among organisations that deal with the many aspects of forests. These organisations have initiated collaborative efforts in many areas which directly benefit the organisations themselves and their clients.. The challenge of securing consistent forest policies from the different fora that deal with forests is seen by many as the core challenge facing international forest policy. There have been several calls by, for example, UNFF for consistent messages by governments in the different fora dealing with forests. One starting point has been a very practical one, that of forest-related reporting and data collection.

The recommendations of the two UNFF ad hoc expert groups, held in December 2003 - particularly the innovative proposals on how to improve transfer of environmentally sound technologies for SFM and financing SFM within and outside the forest sector and at the international level – represent another significant development.

The new financial mechanism provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under its recently established operation programme for land degradation also provides a promising window for the implementation of the SFM component as part of the sustainable land management focal area. The GEF was designated as a financing mechanism for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2003 and has since allocated more than USD\$18 million to new projects. From its inception in 1991 to June 2003, the GEF has committed \$777.6 million for environmental projects that address threats to forests, with nearly \$2 billion in co-financing being leveraged from national, bilateral and multinational partners. These projects focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods by integrating best practices in the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. Nearly 150 projects have been implemented in 76 countries. GEF projects provide support to more than 741 protected areas worldwide. Strong emphasis is also placed on the sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

There are also a number of financial incentives for afforestation and reforestation projects embedded in the implementation mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol under the UNFCCC. Although not yet ratified, the anticipation of these new opportunities has sparked a new interest in

such projects that may continue even if the Protocol is not ratified. There are some risks, that forests are viewed simply as “carbon sinks” which could result in a limited perspective on the value of forests and encourage increasingly narrow forest management practices. These implementation mechanisms, however, may increase the flow of funds going to forests.

This section has identified some of the general trends and emerging issues of recent years, and has sought to relate them to relevant instruments, agreements and processes. The next section considers these instruments, agreements and processes (and others relevant to forests) in more detail.

IV. Recent Developments in International Forest-related instruments, agreements and processes

There are numerous instruments (both legally binding and non-legally binding), agreements and processes that deal with particular aspects of forests internationally and regionally. They involve governments, organisations and civil society. Annexes I & II list many of these instruments, agreements and processes. This listing does not pretend to be comprehensive, but it illustrates the complexity and the multifaceted way in which forests have been treated over the years.

Approximately 40 legally binding instruments related to forests are listed in Annex I. Six are protocols to framework conventions and another 3 are complementary stand alone agreements to other framework conventions.

Of the 5 global non-legally binding forest-related agreements and processes listed in Annex II, those most closely linked to the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests are the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Most of the remaining non-legally binding processes (apart from the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe) tend to be comprised of a set of negotiated proposals of an advisory nature to countries and international organizations. This is particularly so for the 9 criteria and indicators processes, which have contributed substantially to voluntary efforts to attain SFM.

What follows are descriptions of the more visible recent developments, mainly since 1999, in some of the instruments, agreements and processes among those listed in Annexes I and II. The aim is to give a sense of the types of initiatives (both legally binding and non-legally binding) that have been taken to address concerns regarding forests. The information provided is not comprehensive in nature and it is hoped that the discussions during the ad hoc expert group would provide additional information that could be used for a more complete revision of the document.

A. Legally Binding Instruments

1. International

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Background

Forests are an important component of the global carbon cycle. They both influence and are influenced by climate change, and their mismanagement would have a significant impact on the course of global warming in the twenty-first century. Forests contain more than half of all terrestrial carbon. They account for much of the exchange of carbon between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere. Sustainable forest management can contribute towards emissions reductions and to carbon sequestration. When secondary forests and degraded or other lands are restocked or planted, and sustainably managed, they start absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in trees and soil.

The UNFCCC, which was adopted in 1992 at UNCED, aims at stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere so as to prevent dangerous human-induced changes to the global climate system. Parties to the UNFCCC committed themselves to carrying out national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sinks. Industrialized countries and countries with economies in transition (Annex I Parties) committed themselves to working towards voluntary goals in the reduction of emissions. These obligations were intensified and specified in the Kyoto Protocol, which was adopted at COP-3 of the UNFCCC, held in Kyoto, Japan in December 1997. As of 15 April 2004, 84 Parties have signed and 122 Parties have ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol. However, the Kyoto Protocol has not entered into force yet.

Recent Developments

There are mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol which allow for some flexibility in how countries make and measure their emissions reductions. These include the Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) include forestry projects.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) to the UNFCCC examined, with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the state of scientific and technical understanding of land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) issues, and an agreement was reached on forests in 2001.

The Marrakech Accord (signed at COP-7 in November 2001) acknowledged four major roles of forests in climate change: 1) as a source of carbon dioxide when destroyed or degraded; 2) as a sensitive indicator of a changing climate; 3) as a source of biofuels to replace fossil fuels; and 4) as a carbon sink, when managed sustainably.

The use of forests and trees as carbon sinks and other forest-related issues were discussed further at both the COP-8 (2002) and COP-9 (2003). Parties reached an agreement on the inclusion of afforestation and reforestation in the CDM, as well as on a common reporting format for land use, land-use change and forestry in national communications.

During the commitment periods from 2008 onwards, all industrialized countries will accumulate credits and debits for carbon stock changes from afforestation, reforestation and deforestation since 1990. They will also be able to accumulate an allowance of 1 percent of 1990 emissions for

undertaking reforestation or afforestation initiatives in developing countries under the Clean Development Mechanism. These credits could be retroactive from 2000 providing the projects meet certain pre-requisites pertaining to environmental, social and development concerns. During the first commitment period, special waivers apply to debits from harvesting short-rotation forests, and also to net debits that occur for many parties when newly established young forests cannot offset debits from clearing established, usually older, forests.

Negotiations for the next commitment period will begin in 2005. Issues will include the treatment of carbon stored in harvested wood products, forest-related definitions and differentiation between direct human-induced carbon stock changes and those from other causes. Countries will have to establish domestic regimes for climate change mitigation and to decide how these will integrate forests and their owners. Aiding this process, the harmonization of definitions and methods for measuring forest carbon stocks and their changes are rapidly becoming new fields in forest resources assessments.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Background

Although many of the articles of CBD apply to forest ecosystems, the convention itself does not make specific mention of forests. In 1996 the Conference of Parties recommended that CBD develop a work programme in this regard. At the same time, it also discussed developing a protocol that could obviate the need for a global forest convention.

In 1998 CBD adopted the CBD Work Programme for Forest Biological Diversity, which focused on research, cooperation and technology development. It established an ad hoc technical expert group on forest biological diversity to make further progress on the issues.

Recent Developments

CBD has expanded the focus of the Convention's programme of work on forest biological diversity from research to action-oriented activities. CBD has encouraged the application of the ecosystem approach and noted the importance of supporting work on taxonomic, ecological and socio-economic issues for the restoration of forest ecosystems and forest resources. It has also made reference to the IPF and IFF proposals for action, in particular those concerning the valuation of forest goods and services, and it stressed the need to harmonize the Convention's work with the IPF and IFF proposals for action on traditional forest-related knowledge.

In 2002 CBD adopted an expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, composed of three elements: conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing; an enabling institutional and socio-economic environment; and knowledge, assessment and monitoring. It also refers to strategies on *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, sustainable resource use, the need to establish, evaluate and strengthen protected area networks, forest law enforcement, national coordination and the need to facilitate the participation of local and indigenous communities in the management of protected areas. The CBD work programme on forest biological diversity is voluntary and not binding, there are no time-bound commitments or targets in its programme of work.

CBD has highlighted the need to consider forest biological diversity in programmes concerning global forest resources assessments, forest fires, climate change and pollution abatement. Implementation of the work programme should be based on national priorities and needs. It has been particularly emphasizing the need for the CBD Secretariat and parties to it to cooperate with UNFF, CPF and their partners to ensure better implementation of common objectives contained in national forest programmes and national biological diversity strategies and action plans.

When incorporating relevant indicators into the forest work programme, it encourages regional-level cooperation, and invites enhancement of cross-sectoral integration and inter-sectoral collaboration. CBD has closely collaborated with other members of the CPF on harmonizing and streamlining national reporting; and facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders. A concern has been expressed on the effects on forest biological diversity of insufficient forest law enforcement.

CBD has also invited the UNFF and the CPF members to provide further views on the preliminary assessment undertaken by the Executive Secretary on the relationship between the proposals for action of the IPF/IFF and the activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of related activities under these two instruments, and avoiding duplication of effort.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

Background

Forests are an important element to the UNCCD. Forests and trees perform important ecological functions that prevent desertification and arid conditions, stabilizing soils and water resources. Conversely, deforestation can foster both desertification and land degradation, particularly in arid, semiarid and subhumid regions. In addition to this ecological link, forest loss and desertification are inter-connected in that the underlying socio-economic conditions and causes are very similar. Strategies to deal with desertification are likely to mitigate forest loss, and vice versa.

The UNCCD, which entered into force in 1996, aims to combat desertification, mitigate the effects of drought and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This involves long-term strategies that focus on improved productivity of the land and rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, and work leading to improved living conditions; forests, and trees outside of forests, are relevant to all these strategies. The UNCCD has adopted an integrated approach which addresses the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought. Combating desertification requires a broad approach, incorporating most aspects of environmental management in the drylands which comprise one third of the Earth's land surface. This instrument also provides for Regional Implementation Annexes; those for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean require national action programmes to ensure the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, including forests.

Recent Developments

The most important recent development for this instrument is the designation of the GEF as a financial mechanism to the UNCCD. In May 2001, the GEF Council decided to pursue the designation of land degradation as a focal area, and the second Global Environment Facility Assembly adopted this in October 2002. The designation of GEF as a financing mechanism for UNCCD led in 2003 to the allocation of more than US\$18 million by the GEF to new projects under the category of land degradation.

The UNCCD has adopted a decision on “collaboration with the GEF”, which addresses the designation of the GEF as a financial mechanism and the arrangements for establishing a working relationship with the GEF. COP-6 paid attention to the issue of synergies and to promote such synergies, UNCCD is supporting, with the UNFF, the UNFCCC and the CBD, the activities with Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) for a joint approach on forests.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Background

Several threatened and endangered tree species have been listed for many years in the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which place various levels of control or restrictions on their trade.

CITES Appendix III includes all species that any Party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation, and as needing the cooperation of other Parties in the control of trade. Appendix II includes: i) all species that, while not threatened with extinction, may become so unless trade in specimens of the species is subject to strict regulation; and ii) other species that must be subject to regulation so that trade in specimens of species referred to in i) above may be brought under effective control. Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction that are, or may be, affected by trade; trade in specimens of these species must be subject to particularly strict regulation in order not to endanger their survival further, and it must only be authorized in exceptional cases.

Controversy arose when attempts were made to list some major commercial tree species in the appendices. Considerable debate was generated by the listing in Appendix III of big-leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) by Costa Rica (effective 1995) and by Bolivia and Brazil (effective 1998), and by Bolivia's and the United States' subsequent proposals at COP-10 (June 1997) to have the species moved to Appendix II, which would impose stricter trade restrictions.

In 1997 it was agreed that further discussions were needed, and the issue was addressed at an intersessional meeting, held in June 1998 in Brasilia, Brazil. Scientific information on the degree to which trade was influencing the status of the species was found to be insufficient to warrant a proposal to uplist big-leaf mahogany to Appendix II. However, a resolution to establish a mahogany working group was adopted, which would review the effectiveness of the Appendix III listing of big-leaf mahogany, and analyse legal and illegal trade issues.

Recent Developments

The Bigleaf Mahogany Working Group reported its findings in November 2002. This report addressed the effectiveness of current and potential Appendix III listings, provided an analysis of legal and illegal trade, and reported on the status of the species in tropical America. COP-12 then decided to include the species (including logs, sawn wood, veneer sheets and plywood) in Appendix II; this amendment entered into effect 12 months later, i.e. on 15 November 2003.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)

Background

The Ramsar Convention, which is concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, includes in its mandate a range of forested wetland. Parties have agreed to give priority to designating under-represented wetland types, including mangroves and peatlands. “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands” were adopted in 2002.

The Ramsar bureau has formally established collaborative agreements with a number of secretariats and with a wide range of partners. A Joint Work Plan for 2000-2001, developed between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity, reflected an increased emphasis on the conservation of biological diversity in wetlands and continued the collaboration that was formalized between the two conventions in 1996. Forest ecosystems are one of the thematic areas identified for collaboration.

Recent Developments

In November 2002 the Convention took note of the “Progress report on the implementation of the second Joint Work Plan (2000-2001) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands” and of the “Third Joint Work Plan”, covering the period 2002-2006, of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention. The latter Plan includes Activity 4 on forest ecosystems, in which under ‘*Actions to be taken*’ it states that the CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau to explore ways and means on how Ramsar “can contribute to the implementation of the new programme of work on forest biological diversity”, particularly on issues related to peatlands and wooded wetlands.

Contracting Parties to this Convention have concluded, in its Strategic Plan 1997-2002, that mangrove ecosystems are under-represented in the List of Wetlands of International Importance; guidance on the identification and designation of mangrove ecosystems was also adopted.

A recent Resolution VIII.32 on the “Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources” requests Parties to: modify their national policies and strategies that could have harmful effects on mangrove ecosystems; promote conservation, integrated management and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems in accordance with SEAs of the potentially harmful activities; and designate mangrove ecosystems for inclusion in the Ramsar List.

It also exhorts updating and exchanging information on mangroves and their integrated management and sustainable use of agricultural policies with trade-related agreements.

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA)

Background

The International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 came into force on 1 January 1997. It has 59 members divided into two caucuses: producing members (33 members) and consuming members (26 members). The ITTA is a commodity agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The ITTA also established the International Tropical Timber Organization. Its member states accounts for 80 percent of the world's tropical forests and 95 percent of world trade in tropical timber. The IITA 1994 contains the provision for two three-year extensions, effectively giving it a ten-year life span. Accordingly, the ITTA 1994 was extended twice, and is scheduled to expire on 31 December 2006.

The ITTA 1994 aims to provide an effective framework for consultation, international cooperation and policy development with regards to the world timber economy, timber trade and sustainable forest management. Among others, the ITTA 1994 contains the Objective 2000, under which all ITTO member countries committed themselves to exports tropical timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests by the year 2000. ITTO has played a catalytic role in supporting efforts in sustainable forest management through its criteria and indicators, which broke new ground when they were published in 1992. They have stimulated initiatives by producer countries at the national level as well as at the level of forest management units and have provided a focus for ITTO-funded fieldwork.

Recent Developments

Recent activities and issues receiving special attention include: training in applying ITTO Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests; restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests; improved market access; means of assessing and combating illegal logging and illegal trade; encouragement of reduced-impact logging practices; forest certification; mangrove conservation and management; and the establishment and management of transboundary conservation areas.

[Some of the new and emerging issues identified by a document prepared for the thirty-third session of the International Tropical Timber Council (November 2003), include the following:

- Continued increase in worldwide demand for forest products, with relatively greater demand for paper, composite panels and fine veneers, and engineered wood products, and slower demand for lumber and plywood.
- The increasing importance given to domestic processing of logs and further manufacturing in tropical timber producing countries (and declining trade in primary products from tropical forests), and resulting South-South trade in tropical timber and timber products, and of foreign investment in the forest sector by developing countries.

- Growing niche markets within some consumer countries for certified timber.
- Increased political attention on forest governance and law enforcement and commitment to combat illegal logging, associated illegal trade and corruption in the forest sector.
- Increased interest in monitoring and regulating the international trade in high volume commercially traded tropical timber species through CITES.
- Increasing interest in managing natural forests as ecosystems, including maintaining environmental services (e.g. hydrological, aesthetic, biodiversity, carbon sequestration services).
- Increasing recognition of the economic potential in developing national and international markets and market transactions for the environmental services provided by forests.
- Increasing interest in non-timber forest products in the context of timber production.
- Increasing awareness about the impacts of invasive alien species and the possible impacts of genetic manipulation of forest species on tropical forest ecosystems and tropical timber production.
- The establishment of new public-private forest partnerships such as the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asia Forest Partnership.

A successor Agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement is being negotiated under the auspices of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. UNCTAD held the first session of the United Nations Conference for the negotiation of a successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994, in Geneva from 26 to 30 July 2004. The negotiation will resume at its second session, to be held on 14-18 February 2005.

2. Regional

The Central American Council for Forests and Protected Areas

The Central American Council for Forests and Protected Areas (CCAB-AP) is an advisory body of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), a subsidiary body of the Central American Integration System (SICA). It is responsible for the implementation of CCAD policies and strategies on the sustainable use of forest resources and the conservation of biological diversity. CCAB-AP was established in response to the Central American Agreement on Biodiversity, which was signed by the presidents of the region in 1993. It is composed of the heads of forest departments and national parks departments of the seven Central American countries (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua). CCAB-AP's main strategic working areas at present are: research and inventory of species; economically sustainable uses of forests and wildlife; the valorization of environmental services; the strengthening and consolidation of Central America's national systems of protected areas; the economic valuation of forests; the promotion of co-management within protected forests and wildlife areas; studies on the agricultural frontier and on agro-forestry; and the promotion of a regional strategy for the

prevention of forest fires. The Council is currently emphasizing activities related to the economic valuation of environmental benefits of Central America's forest ecosystems, including carbon sequestration

Amazonian Co-operation Treaty (ACT)

Background

Signed in July 1978, the Amazon Co-operation Treaty is a multi-lateral agreement for the promotion of co-operation between the Amazon countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela - in favour of sustainable development in the region. In 1995 at a meeting in Lima in order to reinforce the Treaty from an organizational point of view, the foreign ministers of the eight countries decided to create a Permanent Secretariat for the Amazon Co-operation Treaty to be based in Brasília, Brazil, re-stating the importance of the Amazon as an essential source of raw materials for the food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals industries, recommending the formulation of plans and strategies for environmental conservation and the promotion of the region's sustainable development. They also stressed the importance of the conservation of the environment and of the promotion of sustainable development in the region.

Recent Developments

Following clearance by the Parliaments of all member States, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) has recently begun to function, and a Secretary General has been chosen. The Permanent Secretariat has its headquarters in Brasília, Brazil and is the supportive body to the Treaty. The Secretariat is in charge of promoting and executing the cooperation activities, and the mandates resulting from the Meeting of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Amazon Cooperation Council. The Secretariat has formulated a proposal on the 2004-2010 Strategic Plan outlining its vision and mission. Forestry and the conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources feature prominently in its proposed strategic actions.

In cooperation with FAO, the ACT member states are currently also implementing a forestry programme, based around fifteen sustainability indicators, to continue the process of analyzing and implementing criteria and indicators towards SFM.

B. Non-Legally Binding Instruments, Agreements and Processes

1. International

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Background

One highly significant development in recent years was the establishment of the international arrangement on forests in 2000, with the United Nations Forum on Forests as the main body of that arrangement. In October 2000, the ECOSOC, through its Resolution E/2000/35, established the United Nations Forum on Forests, as a subsidiary body of the Council. The main objective, based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the IPF/IFF Processes is to promote "... the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end...". UNFF functions under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, and reports to General Assembly through ECOSOC.

As an intergovernmental policy forum, the UNFF is composed of all States members of the United Nations and specialized agencies, and meets in annual sessions. The UNFF is unique by being the only subsidiary organ of ECOSOC with universal membership.

ECOSOC, in its resolution E/2000/35, also invited the heads of relevant international organizations to form a Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the work of the UNFF and to foster increased cooperation and coordination on forests. Heads of agencies responded to the invitation positively and, in April 2001, CPF was created.

In order to achieve its main objective, the following principal functions have been identified for the UNFF:

- To facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management;
- To provide for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner,
- To enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues
- To foster international cooperation and
- To monitor, assess and report on progress of the above functions and objectives
- To strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

The IPF/IFF processes produced more than 270 Proposals for Action towards SFM. These proposals formed the basis for the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work and Plan of Action. Country and Organization led initiatives are also contributing to the development of UNFF themes. Multi-stakeholder dialogues are an integral part of the agenda at UNFF sessions, allowing major stakeholders to contribute to the international forest dialogue.

As its objectives and principal functions illustrate, UNFF has a broad mandate on forests and it has been given the central policy forum role under the United Nations system.

Recent Developments

During its previous sessions, UNFF considered the progress made in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action under several broad categories (or elements) including deforestation;

rehabilitation of fragile ecosystems; economic, social and cultural aspects of forests; forest-related scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge; monitoring, assessment and review; C&I; and forest health. Issues of trade, certification and labelling, cross-sectoral linkages, finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, have also been considered by UNFF sessions.

As a part of its multi-year programme of work, UNFF has, at each of its session, examined ways of enhancing cooperation and policy and programme coordination.. This has provided a framework for greater coordination and cooperation with major actors involved in issues that are relevant or otherwise related to forests. The discussion includes members of CPF, other UN bodies, regional entities, and civil society. In addition, the UNFF Bureau and the Secretariat continue to engage in the collaboration and coordination with functional commissions of ECOSOC. As a member of CPF and provider of secretariat service to it, the UNFF Secretariat also substantially contributes to the joint initiatives of CPF, for example, in developing a sourcebook on financing, in an initiative to streamline reporting and on work to foster a common understanding of forest-related definitions.

In order to strengthen political commitment towards SFM and mobilize greater resources and cooperation, UNFF holds high-level ministerial segments that include a one-day policy dialogue between the ministers and heads of CPF members. One such event was held during UNFF 2 in 2002 and another is scheduled at UNFF 5. The 2002 high-level segment also contributed to the preparations for WSSD in the form of a Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration was well received by WSSD and was reflected in the resulting JPOI.

To provide scientific and technical advice in its work, UNFF has established three ad hoc expert groups, including the one for which this document was prepared. The other two ad hoc expert groups, one on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and another on monitoring, assessment and review have already completed their work. The outcomes of those two ad hoc expert groups have been highly acclaimed for their contribution to the work of UNFF.

As a means of exploring the new and emerging issues and also to bring ground level realities to the intergovernmental policy process, UNFF hosted, during its third and fourth sessions, a number of special events such as panel discussions on various issues related to forests, forestry, sustainable livelihoods and regional perspectives. These interactive dialogues, which included representatives from governments, civil society and international organizations, resulted in non-negotiated Chairman's summaries, and helped advance understanding and consensus on sometimes controversial issues.

Country- and organization-led initiatives have been one of the highlights of UNFF. Such initiatives have greatly facilitated the clarification of issues and so advanced subsequent deliberations at UNFF sessions. These initiatives also illustrate the collaborative and constructive spirits of member States, CPF members and other IGOs as well as members of civil society groups. UNFF has been supportive of WSSD partnerships on forests, such as Asia Forest Partnership and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

In 2005, the international arrangement on forests, which includes UNFF, will be reviewed. For this review, specific criteria were agreed at UNFF 2 and a process was agreed at UNFF 4. UNFF 5 will also review progress in implementation of SFM and consider future actions.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Background

The CPF supports the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member countries and reports annually on its progress. It is an innovative partnership, consisting of 14 major forest-related international organizations, both within and outside the UN system. It was established in April 2001, in response to the invitation included in the ECOSOC resolution establishing UNFF.

Collectively, building on the comparative advantage of its members, the CPF supports the implementation of sustainable forest management worldwide.

Recent Developments

Since the establishment of the Partnership, significant and increasing collaborative activities have been demonstrated. The organizations have worked closely together in assisting countries and co-sponsoring and co-organizing meetings and workshops, on a variety of issues such as national forest programmes, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, wildfires, mangroves, forest restoration and projects in low forest cover countries.

The members of the Partnership have embarked on a number of initiatives, including:

- Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management: to make information accessible through an on-line searchable database
- Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting: to reduce the reporting burden on countries
- Initiative on Forest-related Definitions: to foster a common understanding of terms and definitions

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Background

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) summarize the development goals agreed on at international conferences and world summits during the 1990s. At the end of the decade, world leaders summed up the key goals and targets in the Millennium Declaration, which was adopted in September 2000. The MDGs, which includes 8 goals, 18 targets and over 40 indicators, have significantly focused the work of the United Nations over the last few years. The UN General Assembly has approved the MDGs as part of the Secretary-General's Millennium Roadmap. The UN strategy for the MDGs include:

- The Millennium Project, which analyzes policy options and will develop a plan of implementation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- The Millennium Campaign, which mobilizes political support for the Millennium Declaration among developed and developing countries.

- Country-level monitoring of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Operational country-level activities, coordinated across agencies through the UN Development Group, which helps individual countries to implement policies necessary for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Recent Developments

The proportion of forest area is an indicator for environmental sustainability goal. In addition, forests are closely linked to many of the MDGs. Forests are an integral, dynamic resource that play a critical role in poverty alleviation, are vulnerable to the effects of poverty and are a source as well as victim of conflict. According to the World Bank, forest resources directly contribute to the livelihoods of 90 per cent of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty and who depend on forests to enrich their soil, provide food for their livestock and protect their water supply. For these people, forests are a source of food, energy, shelter, medicine, commerce and spiritual well-being. The ILO reports that sixty-three percent of employment from forest based commerce lies in the informal economy, predominantly supporting the livelihoods of the poor. At the same time, it is poverty that is most often the root cause of increasing deforestation levels. The link between the health of people and the health of the environment is undeniable - yet, it is only in the last decade that issues of land use, tenure, social and cultural importance of forests and the relationships between forests and conflict have begun to make their way to the forefront of research and political discussion

In year 2005, a major event will be held to review progress towards the MDGs and implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002, agreed on two main documents, the Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development. The Plan of Implementation is a framework for action to implement Agenda 21, whereas the Declaration outlines the path taken from Rio to Johannesburg. Both documents emphasize the important linkages between poverty eradication, the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Forest-related issues were highlighted at the Summit, particularly in the Plan of Implementation. Paragraph 45 focuses exclusively on forests and sustainable forest management and reflects the outcome of the Ministerial Declaration of the second session of the UNFF. The paragraph stressed, among other things, the key role of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forest to facilitate and coordinate implementation of SFM at the national, regional and global levels. It further identified SFM as essential in achieving sustainable development and as a critical means to eradicate poverty, to significantly reduce deforestation, to halt the loss of biodiversity, to prevent land and resource degradation, to improve food security and access to safe

drinking water and to provide affordable energy. In addition, it recognised the multiple benefits of both natural and planted forests and trees contribute to the well-being of the planet and humanity.

In addition, the Summit was the occasion for several countries to launch official WSSD partnerships. These so called type II initiatives included three major forest partnerships with regional focus, namely the Asia Forest Partnership, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Model Forest Network in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Asia Forest Partnership

The Government of Japan and its partners, including several other governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, launched the Asia Forest Partnership to promote sustainable forest management in the region. The collaborative arrangement addresses issues related to good governance and law enforcement, capacity building, illegal logging, forest fires and degraded lands. Building on current international and regional activities, cooperation will extend to such areas as the development of forest policies, plans and programmes; the use of satellite data and mapping; participatory management; human and institutional development; and intersectoral coordination within governments. The partnership expects to enhance ongoing sustainable forest management initiatives by providing a framework for conducting research,

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

At WSSD, the Governments of South Africa and the United States, along with Conservation International, WWF, the Wildlife Conservation Society and many others, announced the establishment of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership to promote economic development, alleviate poverty, improve governance and enhance conservation of natural resources in the region. These shared goals will be pursued through a network of national parks and protected areas, well managed forestry concessions and assistance to communities that depend on forest and wildlife resources in 11 key landscapes in six Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Working together, governments, business and civil society are committed to investing time, energy and resources to bring about positive change in natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods in one of the world's largest blocks of intact and interconnected tropical forest.

Model Forest Network in Latin America and the Caribbean

This collaborative initiative supports the development and establishment of a Regional Network of Model Forests in Latin America and the Caribbean. Model Forests are about translating higher-level policy goals into achievable and locally relevant models of sustainable use and best practices for the conservation of all forest resources. They use locally-based partnership to find working solutions to forest resource management issues through capacity building, improved decision-making and governance systems, economic diversification, integrated resource management, and poverty alleviation. Its lead partner is the "International Model Forest Network Secretariat" (Canada) and the

Governments of Canada, Argentina, Chile and the Dominican Republic, together with the United Nations Development Programme, are involved in the partnership.

Other Forest-related Partnerships

Several other forest-related partnerships were launched at WSSD, or have been announced since WSSD, including a forest landscape restoration initiative; system planning and management of transboundary ecosystem resources in south-western Amazon; and a public-private partnership for SFM.

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Background

The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the Earth Summit in 1992. The Commission aims to monitor and report on implementation of the Earth Summit agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD is a functional commission of the ECOSOC, with 53 members. A five-year review of Earth Summit progress took place in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session, followed in 2002 by a ten-year review by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The Summit reiterated the initial mandate and functions of the CSD as a high level forum on sustainable development, and deliberated to enhance its role so that it can respond to the new demands emerged from the WSSD Plan of Implementation.

Both the IPF and the IFF (1995-2000) were ad hoc forest processes under the auspices of the CSD, with the main objectives to follow up on the Forest Principles and Chapter 11 of the Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit.

Recent Developments

In the follow-up to the WSSD, the Commission on Sustainable Development decided at its eleventh session that its multi-year programme of work beyond 2003 would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, with each cycle focusing on selected thematic clusters of issues. Among others, it identified the thematic cluster "Forests, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Tourism, Mountains." Forests will remain as part of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as scheduled; unless otherwise agreed by the Commission forests will be reviewed in 2012-2013.

CSD has also been mandated to follow up on the WSSD Partnerships. At each session of the CSD a Partnership Fair is held, which provides a venue for showcasing progress in existing Partnerships for Sustainable Development, launching new partnerships and networking among existing and potential partners.

FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

Background

Foremost among the FAO Forestry statutory bodies is the Committee on Forestry. Heads of forest services and other senior government officials meet at FAO headquarters every two years to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action in forestry.

Recent Developments

FAO provides strong support to the UNFF process and in collaboration with other CPF members assists the UNFF in its work related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards IPF and IFF proposals for action. Considerable efforts have been made in harmonizing national inventory information in a global synthesis for the Forest Resources Assessment 2000 (FRA 2000). FRA 2000 findings are of utmost importance when carrying out policy development and planning.

FAO also supports countries in their implementation of the IPF/IFF plan for action and is to report about it at the next COFO session. FAO also collaborates with other agencies and key international conventions related to forests, such as the UNFCCC, IPCC, CBD and UNCCD in providing technical input regarding elaboration and reconciliation of terms and definitions.

COFO has focused on the role of the Regional Forestry Commissions in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action. Regional Forestry Commissions have recently facilitated an assessment of implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and other internationally agreed actions in countries and is about to establish a roster of persons familiar in each country with the IPF/IFF proposals for action to assist countries in prioritizing them. FAO and other CPF members have been asked to help fund such an approach.

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution (GPA)

Background

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution was adopted as a non-legally binding, “soft legal” instrument in 1995. Negotiated by 108 governments and the European Commission, it was established to strengthen regional and national efforts to tackle the most important threat to the marine environment: the flow of chemicals, wastes and other materials into the sea via air, rivers and coastal areas. It targets pollution from entire catchment areas, taking in sources such as agriculture and forestry, among others. Of the nine land-based sources of pollution addressed by the GPA, two are forest-related: sedimentation and physical alteration and destruction of coastal ecosystems, including mangrove and other coastal forests. Given that most sedimentation is transported by rivers and streams, the GPA promotes the integrated management of river basins, including their forests.

While it is a non-legally binding, soft legal instrument, the GPA has an unusual broader legal framework through which it operates. It is based on the provisions contained in articles 207 and 213 on the protection and preservation of the marine environment from all sources of pollution, including land-based activities, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); and it is largely implemented through 16 regional seas programmes, of which 12 have legally-binding conventions and 4 have action plans that are soft legal instruments.

Recent Developments

The First Intergovernmental Review of the Implementation of the GPA took place in 2001. While it was recognized that there had been significant progress in its implementation since 1995, it was also concluded that the pace of implementation, particularly in developing countries, had been constrained by a lack of new and additional financial resources. The meeting did recognize the financial contributions of the GEF and the World Bank. Nevertheless, although the GPA has institutional arrangements and strategies for its implementation, it lacks the supportive financial mechanisms at the global level.

Most of the progress in the implementation of the GPA was due to the efforts of the regional seas programmes, which have all prioritized the problems of marine pollution from land-based activities. The Antigua Guatemala Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific, adopted in February 2002, approved an Action Plan with a Regional Strategy on Land-based Sources of Pollution that prioritized the sustainable management of mangrove and other coastal forests. The East Asian Seas Action Plan adopted a similar regional strategy in 2001. The Cartagena Convention for the Wider Caribbean adopted the Aruba Protocol on Land-based Sources and Activities in 1999. The Bucharest Convention for the Black Sea is currently addressing the revision of its protocol. Several others have either adopted or revised their regional strategies during the past five years.

International and Regional Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management

Background

Stakeholders at the international, regional, national and sub-national levels increasingly acknowledge the importance of criteria and indicators as a framework for policy formulation and monitoring sustainable forest management and national forest programmes. At present the nine major international criteria and indicators processes (African Timber Organisation, Dry Forest Asia Initiative, Dry-Zone Africa Process, ITTO, Lepaterique Process, Montreal Process, Near East Process, Pan-European Process, Tarapoto Proposal) involve 149 countries and 85 percent of the world's forests. International organizations, including several members of the CPF, as well as non governmental organisations have provided support to the development of these processes and have assisted countries in testing and implementing criteria and indicators at the national and subnational levels.

As might be expected with such extensive coverage, the degree of implementation varies both among processes and among member countries within them. In this regard, it is encouraging to note that some processes, notably the Pan-European (MCPFE), and the Montreal process issued a report on the status of sustainable forest management in their member countries in 2003 and ITTO is doing so in 2004 Other processes are also working towards this end. While action was originally

directed to the national level, efforts to develop and implement criteria and indicators at the forest management unit level have recently been intensified, with governments continuing to involve a range of partners, including forest owners, NGOs and the private sector.

Recent Developments

Following a recommendation from the Expert Consultation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, held in Rome in November 2000, the International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management was held in Guatemala City from 3-7 February 2003 (CICI-2003). The main objectives were to improve development and implementation of criteria and indicators, foster political commitment, strengthen institutional capacity and stakeholder participation, and contribute to the work of UNFF. One of the most important outcomes of the Conference was the identification of the seven thematic areas of sustainable forest management, which were later noted by the FAO Committee on Forestry in 2003, and most recently acknowledged by the fourth session of UNFF in 2004. The Global Forest Resources Assessment update in 2005 is being built around six of the seven thematic elements, thus contributing in a harmonised way to the global overview of progress towards sustainable forest management to be conducted at UNFF 5.

Based on the CICI-2003 recommendations a follow-up Expert Consultation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management was conducted on 2-4 March 2004 in Cebu City, Philippines with the focus on Communication and information management for enhancing the implementation of C&I, terms and definitions and strengthening the C&I processes for better implementation.

Being closely related items, the important meetings on monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR), such as the International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress towards Sustainable Forest Management in 2002 Yokohama, Japan, the Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action in 2003 Viterbo Italy and the UNFF ad hoc expert group on Approaches and Mechanisms for Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting in 2003 Geneva, Switzerland provided substantive input and guidance for the work on criteria and indicators.

UNFF 4 recognised this close link by considering these issues in one resolution which encouraged member States to continue their work on C&I and MAR and invited CPF members and regional and subregional organisations and processes to provide support to this end.

2. Regional

Central Africa: Conference on the Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems and the Yaoundé Declaration

Two initiatives are under way to enhance cooperation in forestry among central African nations: the Conference on the Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), a multistakeholder, governmental and nongovernmental process; and the Yaoundé Declaration and its related efforts,

which are essentially governmental. These two processes are mutually reinforcing and have the potential to coalesce in the future.

CEFDHAC, also known as the Brazzaville Process, was launched in May 1996 as a forum for consultation, information exchange and the strengthening of sub-regional cooperation in matters concerning central African forests. The member countries are Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. CEFDHAC is open to governments, NGOs, the private sector, research institutions and development agencies.

The third CEFDHAC meeting, held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 5 to 7 June 2000, focused on governance and joint management of central African moist forest ecosystems. Also discussed were the Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Congo Basin, which is being formulated; the need for further work to set in place a timber certification system for the Congo basin – based on the standards, criteria and indicators of ITTO and the African Timber Organization (ATO); and various options for institutionalizing CEFDHAC.

The Yaoundé Declaration was adopted by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held in March 1999 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The following countries participated in the summit: Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Among other activities and aims, the Yaoundé Declaration calls for action towards harmonized national policies; participation of the rural population and the private sector in decisions on forests; transboundary protected areas; the fight against poaching and other unsustainable exploitation; financial systems that support sustainable forest management; and international cooperation. An expert meeting was held in September 2000 to prepare for the first ministerial conference, scheduled for December 2000, to follow up on the Yaoundé Summit.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The Southern African Development Community provides a framework for cooperation in forestry among its 14 member nations through its Forestry Sector Policy and Development Strategy of 1997. Issues addressed in the Community's Forestry Sector Policy are reflected in the SADC Forestry Programme of Action, which is aimed at developing and implementing regional projects. The six programme components include: forestry training and education; improved knowledge of the forest resource base (e.g. forest resources assessment and monitoring); forestry research; forest resources management (of "indigenous", or natural, forests and plantations); forest industries, markets and marketing; and environmental protection.

Current SADC initiatives include:

- Establishment of the Forest Resource Data Bank;
- Development of a Forestry Protocol for SADC;
- Support to a regional programme on biological diversity;
- Development of a regional project for the domestication and marketing of indigenous fruit-trees.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

Background

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a holistic, comprehensive, integrated, strategic framework for the socio-economic development of Africa. The NEPAD document provides the vision for Africa, a statement of the problems facing the continent and a programme of action to resolve these problems in order to reach the vision. Its primary objective is to eradicate poverty in Africa and to place African countries both individually and collectively on a path of sustainable growth and development to thus halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalisation process. Essentially, it calls for a new relationship of partnership between African and the international community. NEPAD's priority areas are political governance, economic governance, market access and agriculture, human development, infrastructure, science and technology, environment and tourism.

Recent Developments

Recently the NEPAD Secretariat is becoming more involved in forestry, including through the participation in African forestry related meetings.

African Timber Organization

The African Timber Organization (ATO) was formed in 1976 by Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, and Tanzania. Collectively, these countries have more than 80 percent of the total African forest cover. At its first regional seminar (Gabon, 1993) the ATO agreed to establish a regional sustainable forest management process with the ATO coordinating the programme and ensuring transparency and credibility. The ATO has developed principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, with assistance from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the ITTO. In May 1996, a preliminary version of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management was approved. By 2000, several African countries had embarked on a programme of developing and implementing criteria and indicators, either through the ATO or alternative organizations active in other sub-regions.

In Southern Africa, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have criteria and indicator programmes set up through the Dry Zone Africa Process, and also some of their forest areas certified by the FSC.

Economic Community of West African States

Background

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional group of fifteen countries, founded in 1975. Its mission is to promote economic integration in the field of economic activity, particularly industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, commerce, monetary and financial matters, social and cultural issues, among others.

Recent Developments

The Annual Report of the ECOWAS, 2002, on “*Fostering Regional Integration through NEPAD Implementation*” focuses on economic integration in West Africa and ECOWAS’s role in contributing to an enabling environment to support NEPAD.

Among the activities that feature prominently as priority programmes are the promotion of peace, stability and security; judicious management of member country’s economies; human resource development; protection of the environment, food security and the development of infrastructures and agriculture.

African Union

In 1999, the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) issued the Sirte Declaration calling for the establishment of an African Union (AU), with a view to accelerate the process of integration in the continent and its role in the global economy. The main objectives of the OAU were to: divest colonization and apartheid; promote unity and solidarity among African States; coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and promote international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.

Central African Regional Program for the Environment

Background

The USAID Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) is a 20-year regional initiative that was intended to coordinate work on identifying and establishing the conditions and practices required to reduce deforestation and loss of biological diversity in Central Africa.

Recent Developments

CARPE has recently shifted its strategic focus and changed the location of its management functions. The focus is now on applying and implementing sustainable natural resources management practices in the field with an added emphasis on the US contribution to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (see section under WSSD above). CARPE will also improve environmental governance in the region, and strengthen natural resources monitoring capacity.

Interstate Committee to Fight Drought in the Sahel (CILSS)

Background

CILSS is as an intergovernmental organisation composed of nine Sahelian countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Cape-Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. It was formed in 1973 with the mandate to invest in research for food security and in the struggle against the effects of drought and desertification to achieve a new ecological equilibrium in the Sahel.

The Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Northeast Pacific

The Second Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan of the Antigua Guatemala Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific in March 2003 in Managua, Nicaragua adopted, as a priority, the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests. The Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation (COCATRAM), which is also a subsidiary body of SICA, serves as the Secretariat of the Action Plan. Member States include Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. The strategy strives to achieve a balance between conservation and sustainable use of mangrove forests, focussing on the establishment of a regional network of protected mangrove areas, re-establishment of mangrove forests and integrated sustainable management and development of mangroves and their products.

Tehran process

Background

A meeting of Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs) was held with the participation of representatives of thirty nine countries and international agencies, in Tehran, 1999. The meeting focused on identifying issues, constraints and achievements in forest-related issues in LFCCs. The meeting adopted the "Tehran Process" for the needs and requirements of LFCCs and countries with unique types of forests.

Recent Developments

In 2002 the FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme (FNPP), as follow up action to the Tehran meeting, supported the preparation of case studies on the roles that planted forests, trees outside forests, and urban and peri-urban forests in Iran, Oman, Tunisia, Mali, Ethiopia and Namibia play in sustainable forest development. The partnership programme also jointly supported with the Government of the I.R. of Iran, the organization of three workshops gathering 25 countries to discuss case study reports, and formulate conclusions and recommendations on the contribution of

forestry in sustainable livelihoods and on sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry and green spaces in the LFCCs.

Further to the Tehran Declaration and the Proposed Strategy for LFCC, the LFCC Secretariat has maintained close collaboration with UNFF and FAO throughout 2002 and 2003. The Secretariat has been actively participating in several international side events. At the third session of the UNFF (2003) the LFCC Secretariat became accredited with the Forum.

A Strategic Framework was also prepared highlighting the priority actions and programmes for the period 2004-2005, which includes natural resource management, planted forests, urban and peri-urban forests and green spaces, trees outside forests, water and watershed management, and national forest programmes.

South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme

Background

South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.

Since its inception, SACEP has promoted sustainable development in the region by implementing a number of projects and programmes in the fields of environment education, environment legislation, biodiversity, air pollution, and the protection and management of the coastal environment with the assistance of various bilateral and multilateral funding agencies. Furthermore, UNEP's Environment Assessment Programme for Asia Pacific has made use of SACEP as a sub-regional partner in the field of environment assessment, reporting, data management and capacity building by establishing the South Asia Environment and Natural Resources Information Centre (SENRIC) with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

Recent developments

The adoption of the Malé Declaration by its member states, in 1998, has enhanced the role of SACEP to encourage intergovernmental cooperation to address the increasing threat of transboundary air pollution and its impacts. It is expected that within the next few years, there will be a substantial increase in sub-regional environmental programmes, including environmental law, legislation and monitoring, biodiversity and land management.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), formerly known as the South Pacific Commission, was founded in 1947. Currently, all 22 Island countries and territories are members. The Secretariat is based in Fiji, and is a regional technical and development organization of the Pacific, working in partnership with its members, other organizations and donors to deliver priority work programs to member countries and territories. Its work programs aim to develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capability of Pacific Island people and directly

provide information and advice to enable them to make informed decisions about their future development and well-being.

Recent developments

The Regional Forestry Programme was formally established within the Land Resources Division in 2000. The Programme provides a focal point for collaboration, coordination and implementation, working together with associate programmes and regional initiatives, towards strengthening national capacity in promoting sustainable land-use, forest management and utilisation in the region. Key objectives of the Forestry Programme include:

- Strengthening national capacity to formulate and implement sound forest policies and practices that achieve sustainable forest management, improved utilisation of timber and non-timber forest products, and conservation of endangered species and biodiversity; Promoting the application and adoption of multiple land-use systems such as agro-forestry and traditional forest-related knowledge, including non-timber forest products, and appropriated technologies for rural-based communities;
- Promoting community awareness and participation in the management, utilisation and protection of remaining forest, water catchment areas, and littoral forests; and
- Providing focal point for advocacy, collaboration, information dissemination, and resource mobilisation.

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

The “Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe” is a high-level political initiative for co-operation. At present 44 European countries and the European Community are represented in the MCPFE. Furthermore 13 non-European countries and 27 international and non-governmental organisations participate as observers. Thus, the MCPFE provides not only a forum for co-operation of ministers responsible for forests, but also allows non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations to contribute with their knowledge and ideas.

Launched in 1990, MCPFE is the political platform for the dialogue on common opportunities, threats and challenges that face forests and forestry; it promotes sustainable management of forests in Europe. This process is based on a chain of conferences of ministers and expert level follow-up meetings. The four ministerial conferences taken place so far (Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki, 1993, Lisbon 1998, Vienna 2003) are regarded as milestones in the development of the European forest policy.

The current work of the MCPFE focuses on putting into action the commitments made by ministers at the Vienna Conference, and on the further implementation of commitments made at previous conferences. All activities are integrated into the MCPFE Work Programme, adopted by the Expert Level Meeting in October 2003. The Work Programme covers five main areas: cross-sectoral coordination and national forest programmes; economic viability of SFM social and cultural dimension of SFM; forest biological diversity; climate change and SFM. In addition, the Work Programme includes the ongoing implementation of the resolutions of the previous conferences.

The signatory states and the European Community are responsible for implementing the MCPFE resolutions at regional, national and sub-national levels. Based on voluntary commitments, governments all over Europe have taken initiatives to ensure and improve the sustainable management and protection of forests.

Through its resolutions MCPFE has been contributing to the implementation of the forest related decisions of the UNCED and its follow-up the IPF/IFF/UNFF process as well. The MCPFE obtained observer status to the UNFF in June 2001 and participates in its work.

Furthermore the MCPFE has also been contributing to the provisions of other United Nations Conventions, e.g. the CBD: the “Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000” (Biodiversity Work Programme) was implemented in co-operation with “Environment for Europe”, the similar process of ministers responsible for the environment.

Group of Eight

Background

The Heads of State of the G8 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) approved an action programme on forests at its summit in Birmingham, the United Kingdom in May 1998. The G8 Action Programme on Forests has five elements: the monitoring and assessment of forests, national forest programmes, protected areas, the private sector and illegal logging. An initial report on the implementation of the programme was presented at the G8 Summit in Miyazaki, Japan on 12 and 13 July 2000. At Miyazaki, the countries reaffirmed their commitment to and practice of sustainable forest management, agreed to take initiatives to implement the IPF and IFF proposals for action, and reaffirmed their commitment to combating illegal logging. The FLEG process is closely associated with the G-8 process.

Recent Developments

A final progress report was provided to the G8 in 2002, which highlighted that the Action Programme on Forests launched in 1998 represented the first consolidated experience for the G8 members in working together on the world's forests. It focused on individual G8 member's experiences and was characterized as complementing an extensive range of actions that had been undertaken by the international community in various regional and international processes during that time. The report also illustrated where the G8 members had capitalized on their strengths and worked cooperatively on a number of issues as opportunities arose, including in support of the IFF. The report concluded that while the actions taken had been important contributions towards sustainable forest management and in turn sustainable development, further efforts are needed by all G-8 members.

During its meeting in 2003 in Evian, France, the G-8 confirmed their determination to strengthen international efforts to tackle the problem of illegal logging from the perspective of sustainable forest management.

In the G8 meeting held in 2004 on Sea Island, the USA, in describing some of its activities in agriculture and biodiversity, made particular mention of the promotion of SFM and control of illegal logging through Asia Forest Partnership, Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and others as well as the preparations for the Paris Conference on Biodiversity to be held in January 2005.

Ministerial Processes for Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG)

Background

In May, 1998, the G-8 launched an action program on forests, which gives high priority to eliminating illegal logging and illegal timber trade. The action programme sought to complement actions undertaken at regional and international levels, and states the G-8's commitment to identifying actions in both producer and consumer countries. Several FLEG processes are now running in parallel.

Recent Developments

The issue of illegal logging has come to the fore in international forest policy debates since 2000, highlighting much wider issues such as appropriate forest governance, effective law enforcement, sustainable trade, and ethical investment.

The G-8 action programme motivated a partnership on forest law enforcement for East Asia between the World Bank, the UK and the US, which led to the FLEG East Asia Ministerial Conference in September 2001. The Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration, whereby participating countries committed themselves to, *inter alia*, intensify national efforts and strengthen bilateral, regional and multilateral collaboration to address forest crime and violations of forest law. The Declaration also contained a commitment to create a regional task force on FLEG to advance the Declaration's objectives. The task force held a follow-up meeting on the Declaration's implementation in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2002. The first working meeting of the FLEG Task Force and Advisory Group was held in Jakarta in January 2003. The participants – who represented a broad range of governments, NGOs and private sector organizations – cooperated to produce action plans for initial actions in four key areas to be undertaken to curb illegal logging. Moving forward, the participants are committed to continuing to push for specific national and regional actions to combat forest degradation.

More recently, Ministers from several countries in Africa expressed interest in focusing specifically on forest law enforcement and governance, and asked assistance from the World Bank (with sponsorship from the United States, UK and France) to convene an African FLEG Ministerial process. The AFLEG Ministerial Conference convened in Yaoundé, Cameroon from October 13-16, 2003, drawing together ministers from Africa, Europe and North America to consider how partnerships between producers and consumers, donors, civil society and the private sector could

potentially address illegal forest exploitation and associated trade in Africa. The Conference resulted in the endorsement of a Ministerial Declaration and Action Plan for AFLEG. The AFLEG process is part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and is intended to strengthen international and multi-stakeholder commitment. The objectives of the AFLEG process are to confirm the will and commitment of producer and consumer country governments and other stakeholders to FLEG, address the need for shared responsibility and cooperation between stakeholders, and develop a programme of action.

In May 2003, the European Union published its Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. This outlines proposals for voluntary licensing to ensure that only legally verified timber could be imported into the EU, procurement policies that discriminate against illegal timber, encouragement of responsible financing, and support for private sector-led trade initiatives.

The FLEG processes around the world have also opened space for action and calls for accountability by civil society. In Latin America, for example, where an official FLEG process is in the pipeline, civil society is particularly active.

3. Financial and Trade Institutions

World Bank

Background

The World Bank Group's mission is to fight poverty and improve the living standards of people in the developing world. It is a development Bank which provides loans, policy advice, technical assistance and knowledge sharing services to low and middle income countries to reduce poverty.

The World Bank is one of the United Nations' specialized agencies, and is made up of 184 member countries. These countries are jointly responsible for how the institution is financed and how its money is spent. Several Banks make up for the World Bank Group: these are the World Bank itself, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA) which provide low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries; the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which promotes private sector investment by supporting high-risk sectors and countries; the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), which provides political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors in and lenders to developing countries; and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), which settles investment disputes between foreign investors and their host countries

Recent developments

In October 2002, the Board and Executive Directors of the World Bank approved its new Forests Strategy and operational policy for the forest sector. These recognize that forests are critical in alleviating poverty and developing sustainable economies and environments. The policy is based on

three interdependent components: harnessing the potential of forests to reduce poverty; integrating forests into sustainable economic development in client countries; protecting vital local and global forest services and values.

In broad terms, the Bank will focus on economic policy and rural strategies that embrace both conservation of vital environmental services and sustainable use. It will provide institutional and policy support for community and joint forest management, governance and control of illegal activities, building markets, and financial instruments in support of private investment in sustainable forest conservation and management. It will emphasize the development of new markets and marketing arrangements for the full range of goods and environmental services available from well-managed forests.

Forest governance is one of the areas emerging from the World Bank's Forest Policy Implementation Review and Strategy process. Consequently the World Bank Group launched its Forest Governance Program and it has contributed to establishment of several partnerships on forest law enforcement (see section on FLEG). Some of the other priority areas have been investments in forest sector (Forest Investment Forum 2003), Institutional changes in forest sector (International Workshop on Institutional Changes in Forest Management in Transition Economies, 2003) and forest fiscal systems (International Workshop on Reform of Forest Fiscal System 2003).

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Background

The Global Environment Facility was formally established as a mechanism in 1994 by the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility. GEF is a financial mechanism of CBD and UNCCD. It provides funding to eligible countries for incremental costs of measures to achieve global environmental benefits in four focal areas specified in the Instrument: climate change, biological diversity, international waters, and ozone layer depletion. GEF projects are implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Bank.

The Global Environment Facility has provided support for protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity in forest management systems and landscapes through its forest ecosystem operational program. From its inception in 1991 to June 2003, the GEF has committed \$777.6 million for environmental projects that address threats to forests, with nearly \$2 billion in co-financing being leveraged from national, bilateral and multinational partners. These projects focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods by integrating best practices in the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources. Nearly 150 projects have been implemented in 76 countries. GEF projects provide support to more than 741 protected areas worldwide. Strong emphasis is also placed on the sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

Recent Developments

Perhaps the most significant recent development in the area of forests is the new mechanism under GEF's function for the implementation of SFM, as part of the sustainable land management focal area. The Second GEF Assembly in Beijing in October 2002, designated land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation as a focal area of the GEF. Strategic considerations include the need to guide the development and implementation of programs, and to promote synergies among the program priorities on sustainable land management of the UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC, and other relevant conventions in projects developed with GEF funding, as well as with the CPF. Total GEF allocation to land degradation focal area in 1993 was \$19.2 million.

World Trade Organization

Background

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business.

The WTO has no specific agreement dealing with the forests. However, a number of the WTO agreements include provisions dealing with environmental concerns. Furthermore, the objectives of sustainable development and environmental protection are stated in the preamble to the Agreement Establishing the WTO.

Recent Developments

The increased emphasis on environmental policies is relatively recent. At the end of the Uruguay Round in 1994, trade ministers from participating countries decided to begin a comprehensive work programme on trade and environment in the WTO. They created the Trade and Environment Committee. This has brought environmental and sustainable development issues into the mainstream of WTO work. This work is potentially relevant to forests.

Regional Development Banks

African Development Bank

The African Development Bank Group is a multinational development bank supported by 77 member countries: 53 independent African Countries (regional) and 24 non-African Countries (non-regional) from North and South America, Europe and Asia. Headquartered in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, the Bank Group consists of three institutions: The African Development Bank (ADB); The African Development Fund (ADF); The Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF).

The African Development Bank is a financial development institution dedicated to combating poverty, improving social quality, mobilizing the flow of external and domestic public and private resources, promoting investments, and providing technical assistance and policy advice. The agreement establishing the African Development Bank was drawn under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Africa and entered into force in 1964. It began its operations in 1966.

The ADB's Forestry Policy Paper (1994) was designed to derive maximum economic and environmental benefits from their forest resources. The priority areas of ABD's forest policy included: conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forests; fuelwood and industrial plantations establishment; raising sawn timber production capacity; natural resources conservation; training and technical assistance; and sectoral analyses.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Asian Development Bank is a multilateral development finance institution, dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific. Established in 1966 under the auspices of ECAFE (today ESCAP), the Bank fosters economic growth and cooperation, uses its resources for financing development and provides loans for the economic and social advancement of the developing member countries (DMCs). The Bank is represented by 61 members, mostly from the region.

In 1995 the Bank prepared a document on 'Guiding Principles for assistance to the Forestry Sector'. These principles stress the multiple and complimentary uses of forests for their economic, environmental, and social values; the renewable character of forest resources; forest development strategies; identity, culture and rights of forest-dwelling communities; and the role of forests in maintaining biodiversity, global carbon storage and air pollution.

In 2002 a regional workshop on ADB's Forest Policy Review was undertaken. The review presented the results of the Bank's forestry portfolio, including the effectiveness and impact of past ADB forestry activities. It identified forest sector policy, legal and institutional constraints and the marco forest resource demand and supply trends, and technological challenges in Asia. This workshop resulted in a draft of the Bank's forest sector strategic framework and areas of priority which cover: forest governance, forest resources security and development, poverty reduction and environmental protection, and global environmental aspects.

Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration specializes in the capturing and channelling of foreign resources complementary to those supplied by other sources, in order to promote the balanced economic integration and development of the Central American countries.

CABEI was created in 1960, by four founding member countries, as the financial arm of the Central American integration and development process. In 1992, in order to strengthen the Bank financially and institutionally and tighten relations with the international community, reforms were made to the

Constitutive Agreement that allowed for the participation of members from outside the region in the equity capital.

Inter-american Development Bank (IDB)

The Inter-American Development Bank is an international financial institution created in 1959 to help accelerate the economic and social development of member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bank is owned by 46 member countries: twenty-eight from the Western Hemisphere, and 18 from Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The purpose of the Bank's activities in the forest sector is to assist member countries to utilize and conserve their forest resources to provide social, economic and environmental benefits. The Bank seeks to ensure the maintenance and improvement of forests in order to increase the sector's production and productivity, with due regard to the function these forests perform in protecting the environment and in supporting the livelihood of various groups.

In accordance with the objectives of its forest policy, the Bank provides financing and technical cooperation for forest activities aiming at the utilization and conservation of forest resources to provide long-term social, economic and environmental benefits, in areas such as: institutional strengthening; research and studies; forest management, reforestation, afforestation and restoration programmes; agroforestry systems to enhance rural development; establishment of forest based industries; forest conservation and protection measures; and other forest related services.

4. Non-governmental processes

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD): forestry working group “Sustainable Forest Products Industry”

In its report *Towards a Sustainable Paper Cycle*, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) emphasized the need for increased dialogue among forest industry, environmental, governmental, and private stakeholders regarding forest management. Drawing from an array of existing proposals, IIED urged the forest industry to synthesize a globally acceptable set of guiding principles for SFM that involved these stakeholders. In the beginning of 1998, the Working Group Towards a Sustainable Forest Industry, an international group of individual forest companies within The World Business Council for Sustainable Development, began discussions.

In June of 1999, individuals from the WBCSD, WRI, WWF, and IIED invited representatives of private forest owners to join a discussion group in London that was facilitated by The Environmental Council. This meeting led to a second facilitated dialogue in August of 1999 that included private industry representatives, environmental groups, and private forest owners. As a result of this meeting, the group recommended the creation of a steering committee, which would initiate dialogue among individuals from forest products businesses, social and environmental groups, and private forest owners from around the world. The members, who perceived opportunities to reduce conflict and find common cause, created an ad hoc dialogue group to pursue

this objective. Originally called The Continued Dialogue on Sustainable Forest Management, the group changed its name to The Forests Dialogue when it met in June of 2000.

Recent Developments

In 2001, leaders of the world's largest forest companies formed The Global Forest Industry CEO Forum, further expanding the platform for discussing forestry issues.

In January 2003, the WBCSD signed a Collaborative Framework agreement with WWF International to undertake joint efforts to improve sustainable forest management outcomes.

At the "4th Certification Watch Conference" conference in Quebec City in September 2003, the WBCSD presented a discussion paper Forest certification systems and the "Legitimacy" Thresholds Model (LTM). The paper urges the creation of a core alliance of stakeholders to establish an independent assessment framework.

The Forests Dialogue (TFD)

Background

In 1999, in cooperation with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Forest working group convened The Forests Dialogue, involving a wide range of stakeholders from both developed and developing countries – forest representatives, labour, academics, the World Bank, NGOs and Yale University's Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry.

Recent Developments

TFD has launched a dialogue between the different forest certification systems (2002 & 2003) and will run further dialogues on high conservation forests, intensive forestry, illegal logging and forests & social development during 2003-2005.

V. Scope for further analysis

As explained in the Introduction, there is scope for further analysis. For example, it might be possible to examine the role of existing instruments, agreements and processes in relation to different elements of SFM. This section therefore attempts a cursory analysis of one of the thematic elements acknowledged by the UNFF as a reference criteria (as in C&I) for SFM – extent of forest resources. This example provides an illustration of some of the complexities involved as well as some of the ramifications of a fragmented treatment of forests. However, this cursory attempt may not provide the necessary nuances and it is hoped that expert observations can give a fuller picture, including about the implications at the national level of interrelationships between the instruments.

Extent of Forest Resources

Forest resources are affected by a complex web of policies and circumstances. A varied set of policy developments can all have very significant direct and indirect impacts on changes in the level of forest resources. Over the last ten years, policy and decision-making has been increasingly moving toward integrated and holistic assessment of economic, social and environmental issues. As such, the multiple aspects and potential benefits of forest resources are being directly considered by a rather large number of inter-governmental processes, as shown in the Annexes of this document.

The importance of forests as tools to ensure economic, social and environmental products and services are highlighted in a number of instruments and the critical need for ensuring forest resources grow is increasingly recognized as a priority. Both the UN Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), agreed during the WSSD, explicitly recognize the link between sustainable forest management and development. Both place emphasis on the rapid rate of deforestation, especially in tropical countries, and call for new commitment to be made by both governments and stakeholders to finding ways to address this complex problem. There are a number of international and regional instruments and processes that address the issue of deforestation from different perspectives. In this section only those dealing with afforestation and conservation are briefly considered.

Afforestation

There are a number of inter-governmental bodies that have recently turned to forests as a tool for mitigating other environmental problems and thus see afforestation as increasingly important to sustainability. Governments that are party to the UNFCCC see expanding forest resources as a means to decreasing the level of carbon in the atmosphere. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution, a non-legally binding instrument, and the Southern African Development Community recognize the strong role forests play in mitigating water pollution and parties to the UNCCD see forests as critical to the prevention of desertification and soil erosion. All have considered closely the issue of land use and afforestation in their deliberations and have created recommendations in this regard. To support this activity, the Global Environment Facility has also created a new operational program on land use. Although formally linked to implementation of the UNCCD, the US\$18 million allotted to combating land degradation can be used for a wide range of forest related activities. Small scale reforestation and afforestation activities are also a part of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

These are all positive developments and indicate a clear strengthening of political commitment on forest issues. At the same time, there exists a potential for a certain lack of coherence and even some duplication of efforts. For example, discussions taking place at the UNFCCC on land use and forests have resulted in reporting guidelines for countries and will continue to produce definitions and recommendations that may not be in line with those created under the framework of the UNFF.

Conservation

There is also a very wide array of instruments and processes that address aspects of conservation of existing forest resources. International legally binding instruments such as the CBD, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)² under CMS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, CITES, the Convention Placing the International Poplar Commission within the Framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Plant Protection Convention all consider conservation as a means toward an alternate end of preserving a natural habitat or ecosystem. Organizations indirectly concerned with the implementation of forest principles (management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests) are also placing increased emphasis on restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests. While most instruments kept to this narrow scope in the early years of their adoption, many have since expanded their mandate of negotiations to include issues related to access and benefit sharing and stakeholder participation. Many also now include discussions of socio-economic aspects of forests as critical to conservation efforts, very often duplicating discussions in other fora, such as the UNFF. Most of the resolutions adopted by these bodies on these tangential elements remain voluntary.

Regional instruments and processes that have a direct mandate for conservation include the Antigua Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific, the European Landscape Convention, the Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, the Latin American Regional Convention for the management and conservation of natural forest ecosystems and the development of forest plantations, the Convention concerning the Protection of the Alps and its various protocols, the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources, and the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation. All act independently of each other and often also independently of international legally binding instruments. Like the international instruments, socio-economic concerns are also being included in discussions in these bodies.

An analysis of this sort could be developed further, considering in more detail the ways in which existing instruments, agreements and processes influence different aspects of SFM.

VI. Conclusions

This paper describes in detail recent developments of some instruments, agreements and processes both in general and individually. Annex I and Annex II provide a more comprehensive list.

Of the 19 international forest-related legally binding instruments, 18 deal with forests only as part of another issue; of these 16 focus on sectoral or very specific issues and two deal only with specific forest types. Only one is dedicated exclusively to forests, namely the International Tropical Timber Agreement, focusing on tropical timber.

However, of the 21 regional forest-related legally binding instruments, few limit themselves to narrow aspects of forests, even if they are addressing other subjects. Three deal exclusively with

forests, while several of the others treat forests in a more holistic manner than many of the global instruments. In this regard, it should be noted that the United Nations Forum on Forests is the only one intergovernmental body that is addressing, in a comprehensive manner, all policy and management aspects of all types of forests.

An examination of the institutional arrangements for both legally binding and non-legally binding instruments, agreements and processes revealed that forestry issues are being addressed by a large number of organizations. Nine different organizations, 6 of which are members of the CPF, provide the secretariats of the 19 global conventions and instruments. As would be expected, the number of organizations providing the secretariats of regional legally-binding instruments is greater, in this case numbering 16 organizations. A total of 33 organizations serve as the secretariats or principal responsible bodies for the 60 forest-related legally binding and non-legally binding instruments, agreements and processes examined.

It appears that fragmentation of forest policy has not abated since 1999. It also seems like there are more overlaps and duplications, while it is not apparent from a cursory examination that gaps have been filled since that time either. A closer examination may reveal a more nuanced picture than was possible within this document. In any case, this points to a risk of inefficiencies and conflicting messages from different bodies at least at the international level

On the other hand significant strides have been made in coordination and collaboration at an organisational level, in particular through the work of the International Arrangement on Forests, namely the UNFF and the CPF. Greater attention now needs to be given to the issue of improved coordination of international bodies at the global, regional and sub-regional levels in support of sustainable forest management. International efforts on forests should attempt to build on the work and experiences of existing forest related agreements and processes, devising enhanced mechanisms for coordination at the intergovernmental policy level so as to avoid duplication and conflict as well as fill gaps.

ANNEX I: Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| <u>Global:</u> | | | |
| 1. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants | Protects human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Two of 12 POPs are relevant to wood products: Heptachlor and Chlordane are used extensively to control termites. A third, Mirex, is also a termiticide and can be relevant for protection of trees and plantations against ants. | 2001 | UNEP |
| 2. Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade | Promotes shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export. Heptachlor and Chlordane are listed in Annex III. | 1998 | UNEP and FAO jointly |
| 3. International Tropical Timber Agreement | Promote international trade in tropical timber, the sustainable management of tropical forests and the development of forest industries through international consultation and cooperation, policy work and project activities. | 1994 | ITTO |
| 4. World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements consisting of approximately 60 agreements, annexes, decisions and understandings | Rules of trade covering goods, services and intellectual property, including timber and non-timber forest products. | 1994 post-1994 | WTO |
| 5. Convention on Biological Diversity | Conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity and the fair and | 1992 | UNEP |

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| | equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of forest genetic resources. | | |
| 6. <i>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity</i> ¹ | <i>Biosafety related to genetically modified forest species.</i> | 2001 | UNEP |
| 7. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | Aims at stabilizing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere so as to prevent dangerous human-induced changes to the global climate system, and in so doing is considering the role that could be played by forests. | 1992 | UN |
| 8. <i>Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i> ¹ | <i>Considering flexible implementation mechanisms, including Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism, which will include forestry projects that address climate change.</i> | 1997 | UN |
| 9. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification | Forests are addressed as an important element for the prevention of drought and desertification, at the same time that deforestation is acknowledged as a contributor de desertification and land degradation. | 1992 | UN |
| 10. Convention Concerning Occupational Health Services | Providing health services and a healthy working environment for workers in all economic branches, including forestry. | 1985 | ILO |
| 11. Convention Concerning Occupational Safety and Health and the Working Environment | Safety and health and the working environment for workers in all economic branches, including forestry. | 1981 | ILO |
| 12. Convention Concerning the Protection of Workers against Occupational Hazards due to Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration | Occupational health hazards for workers in all economic branches, including forestry. | 1977 | ILO |
| 13. Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) | Protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological and geological formations, habitats of | 1972 | UNESCO |

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| | threatened species of animals and plants and areas with scientific, conservation or aesthetic value, several of which include forests. | | |
| 14. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) | Protected forest habitats for endangered migratory species. | 1979 | UNEP |
| 15. <i>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)² under CMS</i> | <i>Protected forest habitats for endangered migratory waterbirds.</i> | 1995 | UNEP |
| 16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species | Endangered forest species subject to international trade. | 1973 | UNEP |
| 17. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands | Protection of wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat, including mangrove forests; guidelines for river basin management taking into account the role of forests. | 1971 | IUCN |
| 18. Convention Placing the International Poplar Commission within the Framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Promotes the cultivation, conservation and utilization of members of the family Salicaceae, which includes poplars and willows that are native to temperate and subtropical areas. | 1959 | FAO |
| 19. International Plant Protection Convention (text revised in 1979 and 1997) | Protection against pests affecting plants and plant products, including forest products; phytosanitary measures. | 1951 | FAO |
| | | | |
| Regional: | | | |
| 20. Treaty of the Southern African Development Community | Regional cooperation agreement for coordinating development. One of its objectives is to achieve the sustainable utilization of natural resources and effective protection of the environment. | 1992 | SADC Secretariat |
| 21. <i>SADC Protocol on Forestry¹</i> | <i>Comprehensive agreement on forests signed by the 10 Member States of SADC.</i> | 2002 | SADC Secretariat |
| 22. Antigua Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal | The Convention provides the legal framework for the Action Plan that has prioritized the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Management | 2002 | COCATR AM |

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| Environment of the Northeast Pacific | of Mangrove Forests. | | |
| 23. European Landscape Convention | Applies to natural, rural, urban and periurban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas. Actions address forests, lands, protected areas, natural resources and nature conservation. | 2000 | Council of Europe Secretariat |
| 24. Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora | Like CITES, addresses illegal trade in species of flora and fauna in Africa, including those related to forests. | 1994 | Kenya Wildlife Service |
| 25. North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) | Trade agreement involving U.S., Canada and Mexico, which will soon include 8 more countries in the Americas. Forest products are one of the commodities covered by the Agreement. It has provisions on sustainable development and environmental regulations. | 1993 | NAFTA Secretariat |
| 26. North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) | The Agreement complements the environmental provisions of NAFTA and establishes the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. The CEC, comprised of the U.S., Canada and Mexico, addresses regional environmental concerns, helps prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts and promotes the effective enforcement of environmental law. Its Programme on Environment, Economy and Trade; and Conservation of Biodiversity are specially relevant to forests. | 1993 | CEC Secretariat |
| 27. Regional Convention for the management and conservation of natural forest ecosystems and the development of forest plantations | Comprehensive treaty covering the management and conservation of forests in Central America that comes under the Central American Integration System. | 1993 | CCAD |
| 28. Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic | The Convention provides the legal framework for the work of the Helsinki Commission on the integrated management | 1992 | HELCO M ⁴ |

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| Sea Area (Helsinki) | of the Baltic Sea and its catchment area, which includes large tracts of forests. Baltic Sea Protected areas include coastal forests, and forests feature in sustainable development and recreation. | | |
| 29. Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea from Pollution (Bucharest) | The Strategic Action Plan of the Convention addresses issues such as protection of habitat and landscape, including forest dominated river flood plains. Its Protocol on land-based sources of pollution addresses pollution from forested areas. | 1992 | Black Sea Commission |
| 30. Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community | Covers wide range of issues including water, sea, flora, forests, fauna, hazardous substances and radiation, wastes, renewable energy sources and energy conservation, environmental conservation. | 1991 | AEC General Secretariat |
| 31. Convention concerning the Protection of the Alps | Covers wide range of issues including soil, water, air, flora, forests, fauna, lands, wastes (general), renewable energy sources and energy conservation, and environmental conservation. | 1991 | CPA Secretariat |
| 32. Protocol for the implementation of the Alpine Convention in the field of mountain forests ¹ | <i>Focuses on forests, including the hunting, management and use of harvestable species.</i> | 1996 | CPA Secretariat |
| 33. Protocol for the implementation of the Alpine Convention in the field of mountain agriculture ¹ | <i>Addresses soil, flora, forests, fauna and lands.</i> | 1994 | CPA Secretariat |
| 34. Protocol for the implementation of the Alpine Convention in the field of nature protection and landscape conservation ¹ | <i>Protection of forests, landscapes and alpine fauna.</i> | 1994 | CPA Secretariat |
| 35. Fourth ACP-EEC Convention (Lomé 4 Convention) | Support provided by European Economic Community for the economic, social and cultural development of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries , | 1989 | General Secretariat of the EU Council |

| Forest-related Legally Binding Instruments | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Instrument | Forest-related focus | Date adopted | Secretariat |
| | covering a wide variety of issues including environment, agriculture, drought, desertification and deforestation. | | and ACP Secretariat |
| 36. ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources | Addresses several subjects including soil, water, sea, air, flora, forests, fauna, lands, protected areas, natural resources and nature conservation. | 1985 | ASEAN Secretariat |
| 37. Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena) | The Convention provides the legal framework for its project on Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in SIDs project that addresses deforestation of river fringes and coastal areas and the resultant impact of pollution by suspended solids on the marine environment. | 1983 | UNEP |
| 38. Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation | Joint cooperation by member countries in their respective Amazonian territories, including on the preservation of the environment and the conservation and rationale use of natural resources. Working on the development of 15 prioritized indicators for Amazonian forest sustainability. | 1978 | Pro Tempore Secretariat |
| 39. Plant Protection Agreement for Asia and the Pacific Region (amended 1967, 1969, 1979, 1983, 1983 and 1990) | Regional supplementary agreement under the International Plant Protection Convention. | 1956 | FAO |
| 40. Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission | Covers a wide range of related issues including forests, fishing, conservation of natural resources and nature, and environmental conservation. | 1947 | SPC |

¹Italics indicate a protocol or protocols of the preceding framework convention.

²This agreement, while an independent treaty, was concluded under the auspices of CMS.

ANNEX II: Forest-related Non-legally Binding Agreements and Processes

| Forest-related Non-legally Binding Agreements and Processes | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Agreement or process | Forest-related focus | Date adopted/established | Secretariat/responsible body |
| <u>Global non-legally binding instruments:</u> | | | |
| 1. Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities | Two of 9 land-based sources of pollution are relevant to forests: sedimentation and physical alteration and destruction of coastal ecosystems, including mangrove and other coastal forests. | 1995 | UNEP |
| <u>Global intergovernmental processes:</u> | | | |
| 2. Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development | The achievement of sustainable forest management through partnerships involving Governments and stakeholders, including all major groups, is an essential goal of sustainable development. To this end, several key actions were adopted. | 2002 | UN |
| 3. The United Nations Forum on Forests | Intergovernmental policy forum to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. | 2000 | UNFF Secretariat |
| 4. G8 Action Programme on Forests (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) | Focuses on 5 elements: monitoring and assessment of forests, national forest programmes, protected areas, the private sector and illegal logging. Actions are directed both nationally and internationally through bilateral assistance programmes and support to international processes. | 1998 | |
| 5. Commission on Sustainable Development | Monitoring and assessment of the implementation of <i>Agenda 21</i> , including Chapter 11 on Combating Deforestation, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, including paragraph 45 on sustainable forest management. | 1992 | Division for Sustainable Development, |

| | | | |
|--|---|------|---------------------------------|
| | | | UNDESA |
| 6. FAO Committee on Forestry | Comprised of senior government representatives, the Committee advises FAO on its work related to forests, including reviewing international forestry problems and FAO's work programme on forestry. | 1973 | FAO |
| | | | |
| <u>Regional intergovernmental processes</u> | | | |
| 7. European Union Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade | Proposes voluntary licensing to ensure that only legally verified timber is imported into the EU, as well as procurement policies for discriminating against illegal timber. | 2003 | European Union |
| 8. Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance initiative (AFLEG) | Addresses illegal forest exploitation and associated trade in Africa through partnerships involving Governments, producers, consumers, donors, civil society and the private sector. | 2001 | World Bank |
| 9. East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance initiative (East Asia FLEG) | Intensification of national efforts and strengthening of bilateral, regional and international collaboration to address forest crime and violations of forest law. | 2001 | World Bank |
| 10. Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) | Promotes cooperation on the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe. | 1990 | MCPFE Liaison Unit |
| | | | |
| | Region (vegetation zone/geographic area) | | Supporting body |
| <u>Criteria and Indicators Processes</u> | | | |
| 11. Dry Forest Asia Initiative | South Asia and Mongolia, China, Myanmar, Thailand | 1999 | FAO/UN EP/ITTO |
| 12. Lepaterique Process | Central America | 1997 | CCAD/FAO |
| 13. African Timber Organization | Tropical forests of Africa | 1996 | ATO |
| 14. Near East Process | Near East | 1996 | FAO/UN EP |
| 15. Montreal Process | Mainly temperate and boreal forests in North and South America, Asia and Oceania | 1995 | Liaison Office hosted by Canada |
| 16. Tarapoto Proposal | Amazon basin | 1995 | ACT Pro |

| | | | |
|--|--|------|---------------------|
| | | | Tempore Secretariat |
| 17. Dry-Zone Africa Process | Sub-Saharan Africa | 1995 | UNEP/F AO |
| 18. Pan-European Process | European boreal and temperate forests, including the portion of Russia's forests in Asia | 1994 | MCPFE |
| 19. Sustainable management of natural tropical forests | Tropics | 1992 | ITTO |

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