

1. Mongolia: Views and proposals to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph (1b) of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests with an appropriate reference to the sustainable development goals and targets

In order to create sound policy frameworks at the national level, based on environmental safety and pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions, Mongolia has made ambitious environmental commitments through the Green Development Policy of Mongolia (2014) and has placed the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism at the center of policy making with high consideration of sustainable development of the country.

It is requested to develop and implement a national strategy or sub-sectoral action plan including sustainable forestry program in Mongolia which should address: drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations, safeguards and the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, and local communities in Mongolia.

Participatory approaches in public policy in Mongolia are emerging together with the democratic process wherein the emphasis is placed on participation of people in public affairs and on the need to involve as many groups in policy making as possible. Public involvement in sustainable forestry is difficult to apply because of traditional pastoral experiences of local herding communities with the engagement of different environmental NGOs in nature protection activities in Mongolia.

Social acceptance of forest management also enhances public commitment to Sustainable Forest Management of Mongolia. Therefore, it is essential that the public is involved in forestry planning at the forest management unit level. Most forests in Mongolia have a forest management plan or some equivalent as the non-legally binding instrument for Sustainable Forest Management, but there are substantial differences in form and content, and public participation is addressed differently.

Nevertheless, a lot has been done for public participation in Sustainable Forest Management in Mongolia since 2007 and 2012, when the completely new Forest Law with public participatory approach was passed. Participation in sustainable forestry is supported by legislation, but there are still many problems to be solved (integration, negotiation and performances in the practice). It seems that the majority of practical problems originate from the conflict between the economic interests of forest users and the environmental interests of society, and some of them still even originate from rather strict forest legislation.

Public participation in sustainable forestry in Mongolia with high recognition of livelihood improvement of forest dependent communities could be considered a means to develop better

informed and more widely accepted forest management outcomes according to New Forest Policy of Mongolia which was approved recently by Mongolian Parliament in 2015.

The participation in Forest Management Planning elaboration and adoption is open to the general public of the country and all process details are described by forest law, but the involvement of actors other than public authorities is relatively low.

In the future, some techniques and procedures aimed at opening the forest planning process to include all stakeholders, general public and representatives of civil society organizations should be developed at national and sub-regional level. The first step would be to greater engage forest user groups in decision making on the forest unit level of Forest Management Planning which also requires relevant changes in forest legislation.

2. Mongolia: Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests Strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 and the quadrennial program of work for the period of 2017-2020

In order to enhance inter-sessional work of the Forum and referring paragraph 38 and 40 of the UNFF 11 resolution, it is recommendable to be taken into consideration in the future:

- a) Organize forest research and policy dialogues in annual basis in geographical basis with regular rotation to share and deliver experiences and lessons among the countries;
- b) Create some new mechanisms of Collaborative Partnerships on Forests at country level in order to facilitate the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests;
- c) Seek opportunities to demonstrate implementation cases of result based financing of REDD+ and elaborate new mechanism of land degradation offset in forest areas;
- d) Call all member countries to initiate country level work focused on nexus of Forest biodiversity conservation and traditional use of non-timber forest products under changing environment;
- e) Engage holistic approach of public participation in Sustainable Forest Management planning by involving with forest user groups and civil society organizations
- f) Accelerate coordinating activities of Regional Forest Monitoring and Data Centers to provide decision support in forest planning process in low forest cover countries with emerging situation of deforestation and forest degradation;

Strategic frame of implementation of above proposed activities could be defined according to their importance and needs in certain conditions.

