



**CONCEPT NOTE | UNFF14 Panel**

**Item 5 of the UNFF 14 provisional agenda**

***Means of implementation for Sustainable Forest Management***

**Wednesday, 8 May 2019, 5:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Introduction**

The UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) was established by ECOSOC resolution 2015/33. The purpose of the GFFFN, as set out in paragraph 62 of the UNSPF 2030, is to contribute to scaling up SFM by facilitating access by countries to resources to implement the UNSPF 2030 and achieve its GFGs and targets. The four priorities for the Network are to:

1. Promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management;
2. Assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for SFM;
3. Serve as a clearing house and database on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects; and
4. Serve to contribute to the achievement of the GFGs and targets as well as priorities contained in the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum (4POW).

Since UNFF13, the Network has initiated support to 11 countries under Priorities 1 and 2 above, bringing the total number of countries supported to 24. In the past year, this support has been made possible by voluntary contributions from China, Finland and Switzerland and by funding secured by the Secretariat from the UN Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC).

UNFF13 adopted guidelines for the operation of the GFFFN which are contained in annex II of the UNFF13 resolution. Paragraph 17 of the resolution requests the Secretariat, in consultation with interested members of the Forum and CPF members, to initiate development of the Network's clearing house (Priority 3 above) based on guidance contained in section 7 of the GFFFN Guidelines, bearing in mind the benefits of a step-wise approach.

Thus far, the Forum has not discussed Priority 4, a broad formulation that echoes the purpose of the Network and encompasses Priorities 1-3 and related work. The Network, which is a standing item in the 4POW 2017-2020 agenda (Tables 1-4) under "means of implementation", clearly contributes to achieving the GFGs and targets set out in the UNSPF 2030, particularly GFG 4. However, further clarification of priority 4 and its interlinkages with other Network and Forum priorities could be useful.

**Intersessional work**

Since UNFF13, the Secretariat has organized several capacity building and validation workshops in client countries and established teams of national and international consultants to assist in developing financing strategies and project concepts. The Secretariat also commissioned Ms Jan McAlpine and Mr Juergen Blaser to prepare background papers on, respectively, "Finding Finance for Forests: An Overview Survey of Known Sources" and



“Proposals for initiating and operationalizing the Clearing House of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network”<sup>1</sup>. These papers were discussed at an Expert Meeting on the clearing house organized by the Secretariat from 9 to 11 January 2019 in New York<sup>2</sup>. The Note by the Secretariat on Agenda item 5 (E/CN.18/2019/4)<sup>3</sup> provides further information on the Secretariat’s intersessional activities and actions by relevant CPF members. Paragraph 62 of the Note contains suggestions and proposals.

### **Panel objective, modalities and output**

The panel will explore how Priority 4 of the GFFFN relates to Priorities 1-3 and to other areas of the Forum’s work which support achievement of the GFGs. Presentations by the panelists and the subsequent interactive discussions among UNFF14 participants and the panelists will address the following questions:

1. How can the GFFFN further support Member States to achieve the GFGs, consistent with the Network’s stated purpose?
2. How does Priority 4 of the GFFFN complement or add value to the activities already carried out under Priorities 1-3?
3. How does Priority 4 of the GFFFN complement other areas of the Forum’s work in support of the GFGs (e.g. voluntary national reporting, communication and outreach strategy, work of the CPF and other partners)?

Key points and proposals emerging from the presentations and discussion will be reflected as appropriate in the Chair’s summary report to UNFF15.

### **Panel composition (TBC)**

Moderator: Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Lead Policy Adviser Water, Forests and Wetlands, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Switzerland

Panelists:

1. Ms. Marilyn Headley, Forestry Department, Jamaica
2. Mr. Avhashoni Renny Madula, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa

### **Panel Coordinator**

For further information, please contact Mr Benjamin Singer ([singerb@un.org](mailto:singerb@un.org)) at the UNFF Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> McAlpine: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/EGM-CH-2019-Survey-of-finance.pdf>

Blaser: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/EGM-CH-2019-Proposals-for-initiating-operationalizing.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Co-Chairs Summary: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/EGM-CH-2019-CH-CoChairs-Summary.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Secretariat Note: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/043/81/PDF/N1904381.pdf?OpenElement>