

Major Groups-Led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Sustainable Forest Management: Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation

Kathmandu, Nepal
2-6 March, 2015

Report of Workshop Proceedings



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Executive Summary

Major Groups play a critical role within the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), both in contributing to policy formulation and in the implementation of UNFF decisions at regional, national and local levels. Engaging Major Groups effectively is therefore key to the success of the work of UNFF, and the achievement of the 4 Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) stated in the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI) adopted by the seventh session of UNFF (UNFF7).

In March 2015, a global workshop of the Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of the UNFF (MGI) was hosted by the Government of Nepal. The five-day workshop was attended by 76 participants from 36 countries representing the following 8 of the 9 official Major Groups identified by the United Nations: Children and Youth; Farmers and Small Forests Landowners; Indigenous Peoples; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Scientific and Technological Community; Women; and Wood Workers and Trade Unions. Representatives of the ninth UN Major Group of Business and Industry were not present. Also in attendance were representatives of the Government of Nepal, German Embassy in Nepal, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and UNFF Secretariat.

The workshop was participant-driven and designed to ensure a high level of participation and engagement among delegates. The structure of the event included presentations by invited speakers; interactive presentations of case studies; participatory round-table discussions; facilitated working group sessions; and plenary convocations. There was also a day of field visits for participants to interact with, and learn from, local Community Forest projects.

The central objective was to develop concrete recommendations for the eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11), being held in New York from 4-15 May 2015. In approaching the MGI's overall theme of "*Sustainable forest management: Designing the vehicles for securing the means of implementation*", workshop participants focused their discussions on the following three topics:

- the new United Nations body for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM);
- financial mechanisms for undertaking SFM; and
- enhancing the engagement of Major Groups participation in the UNFF process.

Based on the workshop discussions, key recommendations were developed for presentation to UNFF11 in May 2015 on each of the three topics. The discussions also served as the basis for a communiqué that was issued at the end of the workshop. Both the recommendations and communiqué are presented in Part I of this report.

Background and Context

Since the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Major Groups have played pivotal roles in the global policy debates while also working directly at the grassroots level in the areas of conservation and sustainable forest management.

The engagement of some Major Groups (MGs) at the global policy level has provided a unique opportunity for them to create awareness of policy decisions and their implications, as well as support the drive for implementation among peers at the grassroots level. Building these partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaborations, both from the ground up and from policies down, is vital in the goal to achieve the global objectives and national policy measures as expressed in the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI).

During UNFF8 in 2009, governments passed a resolution that stressed the importance of Major Groups involvement in the UNFF process and called for their active support in enhancing their involvement. In line with this priority, UNFF Major Groups on two occasions jointly organized Global Workshops in support of UNFF to develop policy recommendations for UNFF9 in 2010 and UNFF10 in 2013. These workshops were hosted by the governments of Ghana and Brazil respectively. Major Groups also founded an international body called the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF), registered in Ottawa, Canada, to coordinate their activities and to enhance their contribution to UNFF global policy formulation and implementation.

The workshop held in Nepal from 2-6 March 2015 was the third in the series of Global Workshops to contribute to the UNFF process. It was made possible through the generous financial contribution from the Government of Germany with support from the Government of Nepal, ITTO and the UNFF Secretariat.

In developing their recommendations to address the theme of UNFF11, Major Groups adopted the following theme for their 2015 workshop, “*Sustainable forest management: Designing the vehicles for securing the means of implementation.*” Participants heard presentations on a number of case studies, and focused their discussions on three topics:

- the new United Nations body for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM);
- financial mechanisms for undertaking SFM; and
- enhancing the engagement of Major Groups participation in the UNFF process.

The working groups’ work thus served as the basis for development of Major Groups recommendations for UNFF11. It also served as the basis for a communiqué that was issued by the participants to the media at the end of the workshop.

Organizational Matters

Venue and Duration of the Workshop

The Major Groups-Led Initiative took place at the Park Village Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal from 2-6 March 2015.

Attendance and Participation

The workshop was attended by 76 participants from 36 countries representing the following 8 of the 9 official Major Groups identified by the United Nations: Children and Youth; Farmers and Small Forests Landowners; Indigenous Peoples; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Scientific and Technological community; Women; and Wood Workers and Trade Unions. Representatives of the ninth UN Major Group of Business and Industry were not present. Also in attendance were representatives of the German Embassy in Nepal, Government of Nepal, UNFF Secretariat, ITTO and FAO.

Central Objective

The overarching goal of the workshop was to enhance the implementation of UNFF decisions toward sustainable forest management within the framework of establishing a successor institution with the means for future policy development and implementation. The central objective was to develop concrete recommendations for UNFF11, to be held in New York from 4-15 May 2015.

The 9 Major Groups Defined by the United Nations

- Business and Industry
- Children and Youth
- Farmers and Small Forests Landowners
- Indigenous Peoples
- Local Authorities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Wood Workers and Trade Unions

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday, 2 March 2015. Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included:

- Mr. Lambert Okrah, President of the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF);
- The Hon. Mahesh Acharya, Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal; and
- Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director, UNFF Secretariat

As Co-Chairs of the opening ceremony, **Mr. Krishna Acharya**, UNFF Focal Point for the Government of Nepal, and **Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey**, UNFF Focal Point for Farmers and Small Forest Landowners, made their acceptance remarks by welcoming the participants to Nepal and listing the 8 Major Groups (MGs) in attendance. They encouraged everyone to explore their country of Nepal, and to experience its rich biodiversity, culture, wilderness and beauty. They stressed the importance of the opportunity to strengthen the future of forest management and to develop concrete ideas and recommendations on how to save our forests not just for ourselves, but for future generations. They also thanked the organizers for appointing them as co-chairs of the opening ceremony.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and MGPoF, **Mr. Lambert Okrah** welcomed all participants to the workshop. Mr. Okrah expressed sincere appreciation to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal for accepting to host the workshop, and to both Mr. Acharya and Mr. Pandey who played important roles in making the event possible. He also expressed deep gratitude for the financial contributions from the Federal Government of Germany, as well as for the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization and the UNFF Secretariat. Mr. Okrah cited the vital importance of the role of MGs in the work of the United Nations, and in the UNFF. He reminded participants that UNFF11 marks the end of the mandate of the current UNFF. As such, this MGI Workshop provides a unique opportunity to build on the gains made to date; to re-shape and create a new robust institution that can deal with the SFM challenges of our time; and to address the fractured and fragmented discussions as well as the deforestation and forest degradation that has continued during the UNFF's tenure. Mr. Okrah emphasized that the three sub-themes of the workshop will be to consider issues relating to a new institution to replace the old one; to discuss the financial mechanisms and mode for securing technology transfer for SFM; and to establish modalities for enhancing the participation of Major Groups and other stakeholders. He stressed that UNFF11 is the period to re-build, re-name and re-launch a new UN body on forests that has the capacity to both review policies and facilitate implementation. He closed with a call to participants to bring concrete, creative recommendations to UNFF11 that clearly define what MGs truly value, and showcase what MGs can contribute to the process.

In his official opening address, the **Honourable Minister Mahesh Acharya** welcomed participants on behalf of the Government of Nepal. He stressed that nine forests, which occupy not only 40% of Nepal's land area, but also provide vital goods and services, are a very important resource for his country. Forests are the esteemed natural wealth of human beings, and humans are both the major consumer and saviour of its resources. They are not only the means

for survival, but also a major player for the economic prosperity of the millions of poor people who live in the vicinity of forests, and of Nepal as a country. He shared several national initiatives of the Government of Nepal, including successful Community Forest programmes that have been recognized at the global level, and a new Forest Policy endorsed in 2015 for the effective and sustainable management of forests. Mr. Acharya expressed his confidence that the workshop will identify key areas of achievements, convergences and differences with regards to the current international arrangements on forests, and that the participants will develop concrete recommendations for UNFF11.

Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho gave the MGI Workshop's keynote address. He expressed appreciation for Nepal as a leading example of the achievements and continuing challenges of community-based forest management and its contributions to improved forest conditions, greater forest cover, increased economic benefits, social mobilization and the institutionalization of democracy at the grassroots level. Dr. Sobral highlighted the critical advocacy role civil society organizations have in influencing the public and legitimizing global forest-related decisions, and that for this reason, the UNFF has a long standing tradition of openness and transparency in its working modalities to provide opportunities for active civil society stakeholders to participate and present their views on all aspects of SFM policy and practices. He stressed the importance of forests, citing that 80% of humanity depends on the survival of forests that provide fiber and fuel, filter water for crops, maintain the soil and help to stabilize global warming. He also reminded participants that the regenerative aspects of forests make them a far better investment than the unsustainable, non-biodegradable products society are addicted to, like plastics.

Dr. Sobral then focused on the UN agenda around forests. He underscored that forests, for the first time, are featured highly in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. He encouraged participants to consider 5 key needs during their deliberations:

- To mainstream forests by recognizing and showcasing how crucial they are, at all levels of development.
- To create good governance systems to effectively mobilize resources.
- The importance of highlighting the security of forests, including a call to governments to effectively address illegal deforestation.
- To include the private sector in recommendations to mobilize financing for SFM, and to recognize that any funding will have to compete with other urgent issues, like health, particularly in developing countries.
- For a coherent institution on forests at the global level, to build on the work of the UNFF whose mandate is coming to an end.

He stressed that the issue of a legally or non-legally binding agreement on forests should not be a priority discussion point. What's needed is a strong commitment from, and the deep political will of, governments not just to discuss and to plan, but to take action, regardless of whether an agreement is legally-binding or not. He also underscored the need for financing, and to increase the competitiveness of the forest sector to access existing funds. Without these two essential changes, it will be business as usual. In closing, Dr. Sobral made an enthusiastic call to participants to develop quality materials and specific recommendations that will contribute significantly to UNFF11 discussions and shape SFM in the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

Part I

Sustainable Forest Management: Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation – Recommendations to UNFF11

I. Overview Presentations

Two presentations provided an overview of background information and context for participants regarding the UNFF processes to date.

1) Overview of the UN Forum on Forests' Review Process

by Ms. Njeri Kariuki, UNFF Secretariat

Ms. Kariuki set the stage for all participants by reminding them that UN Member States will be reviewing the effectiveness of the International Agreement on Forests (IAF) at the upcoming UNFF11, and will decide on the future of the IAF arrangement beyond 2015. UNFF11's overall theme of "*Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the IAF*" will include a review of the effectiveness of the IAF, the progress achieved towards the global objectives on forests, and the contribution of forests and the IAF to internationally agreed development goals. It will focus on the past performance of the UNFF and its processes, the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument), the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and the UNFF within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Framework, including the outcome of Rio+20 and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Ms. Kariuki explained that, in view of the above, a number of activities have been organized in preparation for UNFF11. These include an independent assessment, intergovernmental ad hoc expert groups 1&2 (AHEG 1&2) on the IAF, Country-Led Initiatives in support of the UNFF in China and Switzerland, and this Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of UNFF. The outcomes, conclusions and recommendations from all of these intersessional activities will be submitted to UNFF11 as inputs for consideration.

2) Food and Agriculture Organization presentation on Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

by Mr. Jeff Campbell, FAO

Mr. Campbell provided an overview of the history, objectives and structure of the CPF as well as a comprehensive analysis of its achievements and challenges to date and a vision for the future. He emphasized that the CPF's mission remains valid but, as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be central to the future International Agreement on Forests (IAF), the CPF will require a stronger focus on the post-2015 UN Development Agenda in its mission and objectives as well as the consistent and strong engagement of individual CPF member organizations. Amended future objectives will include supporting the work of UNFF and its member countries as well as other inter-governmental processes related to forests and the post-2015 Development Agenda; and enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues. Mr. Campbell also underscored the important role of MGs and other non-governmental stakeholders in achieving sustainable forest management (SFM) and the need for the CPF to enhance the engagement of

MGs, particularly in specific activities based on CPF priority actions at the regional and national levels.

II. Presentation of Case Studies

Five case studies were prepared and presented in order to inform and stimulate discussions. Full case study texts are available for download from the workshop website: www.mgp-forests.org

1) The Institutional Framework of an Independent UN Institution: The Case of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

by Dr. Steve Johnson, ITTO

After first clarifying that the ITTO is, in fact, not a UN institution but rather an intergovernmental organization that works with, but outside of, the UN system, Dr. Johnson gave a comprehensive overview of its core priorities, institutional structure, membership, funding, objectives, action plans, achievements and challenges. He stressed that the ITTO's core priority is to promote the conservation, sustainable management, use and trade of tropical timber and non-timber forest products. He also underscored the ITTO's fundamental concept that consumers and producers are equal, and how the organization has structured itself to give equal weight to both groups in terms of voting rights as well as the equal sharing of the results, resources and outcomes.

During a lively discussion in plenary after the case study was presented, several cautionary points of interest to MGs and the objectives of this workshop were raised, including:

- a) the danger of establishing new funds in statutory language without either confirmed donor support or a realistic vision of where the money will come from;
- b) the importance of full-time, permanent, paid staff at the Secretariat of the new UN body on forests to ensure motivation, consistency and momentum;
- c) the need to be aware of, and sensitive to, the perceptions of other agencies when setting up new mechanisms and structures, particularly around funding; and
- d) the risks of putting dates on goals, particularly on international objectives that can only be achieved and measured at the national level. Measurable progress over time leads to credibility and trust, whereas missing a single objective by a specific date undermines all such progress.

2) The Institutional Framework of an ECOSOC Institution: The Case of UNFF

by Mr. Mafa Evaristus Chipeta, independent policy consultant

The case study gave an analysis of the current situation of the International Agreement on Forests (IAF), as UNFF, including its achievements in maintaining momentum on post-Rio forests dialogue and the development of many resolutions and proposed actions, but resulting in little implementation; a Secretariat low in the UN hierarchy with few staff and over half of its budget being voluntary or extra-budgetary; a voluntary Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) that is not coordinated in countries; an inability to mobilize adequate sustained funding for SFM implementation; the constraints of having UNFF under ECOSOC, particularly in diminishing effective convening power and implementation; and the focus of UNFF on foresters with limited links to other sectors and processes.

Recommendations for alternative, desirable attributes for a new body on forests include: maintaining the established, successful dialogue processes; adding and prioritizing implementation of proposed actions and resolutions that arise from such dialogue; developing a focused, strategic plan; building partnerships at the regional level; using country-led initiatives (CLIs), organization-led initiatives (OLIs), major group initiatives (MGIs) and regional-led initiatives (RLIs) to promote action; and broadening the focus beyond the forestry sector.

Mr. Chipeta provided four possible options for a post-UNFF process: a) to keep the new body under ECOSOC but with adaptations; b) to keep it within the UN but move it to an operational agency such as UNDP, FAO or ITTO; c) to keep the policy forum under ECOSOC but build and move implementation to elsewhere within the UN; or d) to move outside the UN and tailor-make a new implementation-focused institution. He then gave a list of benefits and challenges for each of the four options.

In closing, it was emphasized that, irrespective of the chosen option, to make the IAF effective: governments must prove their political commitment with higher forestry budgets and investment incentives, and accept responsibility for their implementation; institutions for economic, environmental and social roles of forests must be unified and harmonized; country-level initiatives must be coordinated and not focus exclusively on bilateral dealings with external development partners; effective IAF Focal Points need to be designated; and donors in countries must respect the Paris Declaration principles on aid harmony and coordination.

3) Targeting International Funding Mechanisms towards Funding Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

presented by Mr. Prajwal Karki, MGPOF

The case study explored the need for funding SFM to meet the direct costs of forest management, to fulfill the gap of economic benefit, to prevent non-sustainable activities of forest products, to save our environment, and to build capacity for SFM. The presentation explained the categories of funding available for financing forestry activities. Mr. Karki categorized them as follows: national and public, national and private, international and public, and international and

private. Key points stressed regarding SFM funding included: the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is the core of international public sector finance; bilateral funds depend on donor policies; SFM is a long term minimum return, high capital investment process; and a general lack of knowledge of the effects of deforestation results in SFM investment not being a priority of funders. It is vital to promote private sector participation in SFM, to compensate for short term costs; to provide subsidies to the capital investment; and that active participation of member-led initiatives be supported.

4) The Institutional Arrangement between an NGO Focal Organization and a UN Body: The Case of Climate Action Network International (CAN) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

by Dr. Christian Holz, independent research consultant

Dr. Holz outlined eight specific policy recommendations, based on lessons learned from CAN's involvement in the UNFCCC process. These recommendations fell into two categories: relationships between observer organizations and UN bodies; and internal organization of the observer network or partnership. In the first category, recommendations included: to establish and maintain an expectation for, and a record of, clear and transparent decision making by the UN body with regards to observer engagement; to demand and defend a status of observer interventions and submissions that is, as far as possible, identical to those of Parties; and to cultivate relationships with Parties which are genuinely interested in effective stakeholder participation. With regards to internal organization of MG networks, recommendations included: being mindful of imbalances in participation in internal deliberations and to plan specific steps to overcome these barriers; selecting a specific, and explicit, mode for consensus in decision-making on internal and external documents; breaking large, complex topics into manageable sub-areas; ensuring participants in collective decision-making or policy formulation are aware of the anticipated timelines and means in which to contribute to the process; and remaining vigilant about both the benefits and potential negative impacts of virtual communications.

5) Strengthening the Mechanisms of Major Groups' Engagement with UN Bodies towards Sustainable Forest Management

by Mr. Lambert Okrah, President, MGPOF

Mr. Okrah gave a brief historical account of the institutionalization of Major Groups' (MGs) engagement within the UN since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and underscored the general understanding that the UN system functions better when the engagement of MGs is enhanced and adequately supported. The presentation made reference to a report (E/CN.17/2013/2) presented at the 20th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the subject and highlighted recommendations from that report. Recommendations to the UN to enhance MGs participation focused on: the establishment of criteria for creating new MGs; enhanced coherence among all UN bodies that deal with MGs; establishing links between the local, regional and global levels; more participation of social movements; the involvement of civil

society on expert panels; and the establishment of better administrative support for MGs. Recommendations for MGs included increased structure in MGs governance; establishing minimum standards for MG statements; strengthening and supporting the non-governmental organizations Major Group; and prioritizing the engagement of people on the front lines. Recommendations for Member States included establishing adequate and predictable funding for MGs; re-establishing multi-stakeholder dialogues; and holding open consultations with public interest.

The case study also reviewed the engagement of MGs in UNFF, including both achievements to date and constraints and challenges faced by MGs within the current ECOSOC and UNFF structures. The evolution of MGs engagement within UNFF since 2009 was highlighted, from the establishment of the Major Groups Partnership on Forests, to the development of joint papers, to the organization of Major Groups-Led Initiative workshops in support of UNFF, and the successful raising of funds and collaboration from certain governments and international organizations.

III. Participant Discussions and Recommendations

An Overview of the Discussion Process

Participants joined one of three discussion groups. Each group had a facilitator and was given five guiding questions. All groups worked on each of the three following discussion topics: the new United Nations body for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); financial mechanisms for undertaking SFM; and enhancing the engagement of Major Groups participation in the UNFF process. All groups were tasked with developing concrete recommendations directed towards the work of UNFF11. Recommendations were discussed in plenary. After all three discussion groups had worked on all three topics and had the opportunity to bring and discuss their recommendations in plenary, participants then joined one of three new working groups, each assigned to focus on one of the three discussion topics. Each working groups was tasked to review, synthesize and refine all of the recommendations made from the previous three discussion groups and to present consolidated reports to the plenary for final discussion and input.

1) The New United Nations Body for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Guiding questions

The following five questions were posed to guide discussions:

- a) Why do we need an effective UN body on forests?
- b) Why is the current one not effective?
- c) What are the good elements of the current one?
- d) What conclusions can you draw from your understanding of the current IAF on its institutional and operational systems?
- e) What suggestions do you have for the structure and operation of the new UN body to make it an effective institution?

Narrative summary and highlights

Participants highlighted many reasons to have an effective UN body on forests including: a pressing need to raise the profile of forests to the highest level in the global arena and to clearly articulate the importance of forests; to have an effective platform to work with, and ensure that, governments are active, accountable and transparent in their national commitments around SFM; to bring synergy to address the fragmentation and conflicts between different UN Agencies, Parties and bodies involved in forest-related issues; to bring a holistic approach that mobilizes not just governments, but the MGs that disseminate policies on the ground; to facilitate the implementation of over 270 recommendations that have been identified and agreed upon to date through the UNFF process; and to ensure the interests and rights of all Major Groups as well as all people who “live in it, with it and depend on it” are safeguarded.

Participants noted the following concerns and limitations of the current UNFF process: due, in large part, of the UNFF being hosted within ECOSOC, it has been solely a dialogue-based process without the capacity to take dialogue to implementation; the subsequent lack of decision-making power as well as the high level of bureaucracy and hierarchy has resulted in the UNFF being unable to reach a high level profile forum status; a lack of commitment and political will from Member States on SFM, in part due to other perceived priorities such as climate change; minimal success in centralizing discussions and actions on forest issues which are often discussed outside of UNFF on other platforms or at other UN bodies; the absence of specific targets and indicators for the Global Objective on Forests (GOF); the limited resources to ensure robust MGs participation despite its Agenda 21 commitments; and a bias towards the economic valuation aspects of forests with minimal consideration of the social, ecological and cultural benefits and challenges of forests.

Benefits and achievements of the UNFF recognized by participants included: as an intergovernmental platform, all governments are members of UNFF; over 270 recommendations have been developed and agreed upon; it has been a driving point for international forest policy dialogue, and has raised the attention of the international community to forest-related issues through the establishment of both the International Year of Forests (2011) and the International Day of Forests (March 21); through the CPF, it has helped develop tools for SFM including

FAO's National Forest Program, IUFRO's Climate Action Plan and specific criteria and indicators developed by the ITTO; and, compared to many other UN bodies, the UNFF is much more open to MGs participation, including a staff liaison at the Secretariat who not only is available as a direct contact for MGs, but who is able to link MGs with policy makers.

Conclusions

After weighing achievements, constraints and needs, participants made the following conclusions:

- a) The UNFF's placement within ECOSOC has led to a rich dialogue that resulted in more than 270 recommendations, but it does not provide scope or capacity for implementation. The present hierarchy and complexity within ECOSOC at the divisional level hinders decision-making as bureaucracy is very high. MGs want to see more focus on implementation of the forest instrument and goals on forests.
- b) There is a lack of ownership of UNFF recommendations, as seen in some of the language used that asks Parties to "consider" and "encourage" but does not call on Parties to "commit". With clauses of "national limitations and territorial sovereignty" the Parties are more reluctant to take on recommendations that might be too ambitious.
- c) Any new global body on forests still needs to be part of the UN system so as to ensure full governmental participation and to retain access to processes that are often exclusive.

Specific Recommendations regarding the New UN Body for Sustainable Forest Management

- a) MGs propose a new multi-stakeholder UN Forest Organization, not under ECOSOC, that addresses both policy and implementation, and that will deal with forestry issues in a coordinated and holistic manner at the global, regional, national and local levels.
- b) The issue of forests is included in several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, goals 6, 15 and 17). The new UN body on forests should be responsible for the high political level dialogue on SDGs on forest related issues, including the review of policies and the establishment of dedicated funds to implement its work on the ground. The new body should also be responsible for coordinating all institutions and mechanisms engaged on forest issues within the UN, and to bring synergies between different agencies and stakeholders.
- c) The new UN body on forests must meet more regularly than bi-annually, and/or must have specific working groups that both keep momentum going on agreed upon issues, and address key emerging issues.
- d) Given that current funding for forests is largely within UN funds tied to the climate sector, the new UN body for forests must have a stronger role in providing input into the use of these funds.

- e) While recognizing that such a change may lead to slower agreements from the Parties, MGs propose that forest recommendations need to be legally binding so that there will be a compulsory mechanism to push governments to adopt, and act upon, recommendations already made by the UNFF as well as future recommendations developed by the new UN body on forests.
- f) MGs need to be part of the governing structure of the new UN body on forests.
- g) The new UN body for forests should serve as the coordinating body of CPF.

2) Financial Mechanisms for Undertaking Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

Guiding questions

The following five questions were posed to guide discussions:

- a) What is the MGs perspective on the nature of funding for SFM?
- b) What are the existing financial mechanisms for SFM? And what can be done to attract the needed funds for SFM?
- c) How can the understanding of the value of the goods and services from forests (complete forest valuation) contribute to SFM?
- d) What conclusions can you draw from current funding mechanisms?
- e) What suggestions do you have to target funding mechanisms for SFM?

Narrative summary and highlights

When discussing the nature of funding for SFM, MG participants highlighted that funding for forest issues is inadequate for the issues at hand. Instead, global funding priorities are focused outside of forests on issues such as climate change, food security and economic growth. They also noted that funding is currently fragmented; that the few funding sources and mechanisms that are available are difficult to access due to bureaucracy, complex application processes and a lack of transparency; and that there is a need to explore untapped and alternative funding sources, both from outside of the forest sector and from emerging areas of funding opportunities such as REDD+ and various sectors related to SDGs, both at the international and national levels. They also stated that there needs to be a comprehensive valuation of financial mechanisms including a full economic valuation of all ecosystem services and funding sources that take a wider perspective on forest values; as well as a full economic valuation of in-kind contributions to SFM from stakeholders such as communities, Indigenous Peoples and smallholders.

Participants noted that there are mechanisms for funding at many different levels that address the issues of forests, including multi-lateral UN funding, bilateral funding, national funding and private sector funding. They highlighted that these are still insufficient to support SFM, and that

there is not one general mechanism at the international level that specifically supports implementation processes for SFM. While a Global Forest Fund has been discussed in the UNFF processes, there has been a lack of political will from governments to support the initiative. Concerns were also raised that private company funding often invest in businesses that can be counter-productive to SFM (e.g. oil palm plantations, gold mining etc.)

Participants underscored the need to attract new and additional funds for SFM and for strong political will of Member States to prioritize SFM. Initiatives that would support both objectives include: improved forest governance at the community level and in forest institutions; clear and transparent mechanisms for fund allocation; enhanced engagement of MGs in fora such as the World Business Forum, where they can advocate for direct funding to forests; the development of clear communication advocacy strategies and best practices; capacity building of MGs and community groups on how to fill out complex funding applications; and linking forest initiatives and SFM to climate change, food security and other issues for which significant funds exist. Additional suggestions included performance-based payments and the development of national roadmaps for SFM.

Participants stressed that a complete forest valuation must recognize that forests, and the ecosystems they form, comprise a rich wealth of natural capital that sustains both life and economic activity. While there is common understanding, appreciation and measurements for the value of timber, forest carbon and some ecosystem services such as water and eco-tourism, current methodologies that value forests do not give measurable significance to a range of other forest goods and benefits, such as non-timber forest products, food, extractives, pollution control, pollination, watersheds, wind breaks, the nutrient cycle etc. The interdependence and benefits of social, cultural and spiritual connections with forests have also not been sufficiently considered in forest valuation.

Conclusions

After reviewing the nature of funding, existing financial mechanisms and their understanding of complete forest valuation, participants made the following conclusions:

- a) The lack and inconsistencies of funding mechanisms reflect the lack of political willingness among the governments to prioritize SFM. As a result, funding for SFM is not only extremely fragmented, but the existing funding mechanisms emphasize more on the economic value and less on the conservation, cultural and social value of forests.
- b) A large proportion of existing funds have been spent in bureaucratic processes, leaving less funds available for the implementation of SFM. This makes it difficult for communities to get fair compensation for their efforts in forest protection as well as restoration.
- c) Funding mechanisms are varied, complex and confusing, which thereby hinders MGs and communities that depend on forests from accessing funds for SFM.

- d) Many big forestry-related industrial enterprises are often not sustainable, particularly from the social and environmental perspectives, and they provide limited support for economic wellbeing of local communities.
- e) Good governance at all levels, from national to local, from government to non-government, is crucial not just to attract funding, but to build credibility and efficiency of SFM initiatives.
- f) Diversity of funding options, the creation of adaptive capacities, and responsiveness to emerging issues all play an integral part in ensuring sufficient funding mechanisms to meet the needs of SFM and communities who rely on the forests for their survival. Funding of a diversity of interests, from dialogue and policy development to implementation and “on the ground” initiatives, is also key to SFM.
- g) There are many opportunities and initiatives nations and communities can undertake that do not require substantial, or any, funding assistance from donors. For example, instituting volunteer programs.

Specific Recommendations regarding Financial Mechanisms for Undertaking SFM

- a) The UNFF should set up a strategic trust fund for SFM, which will play a catalytic role to leverage other sources of funding. The new UN body on forests should set up modalities for contributing monies to this strategic trust fund. Seed money from the strategic trust fund should be made available for developing countries to develop their implementation actions.
- b) Establish national funds for SFM that can be borne out of mechanisms, such as taxation from forestry related industries, and ensure that the funds are allocated for SFM implementation, capacity-building and technology transfer.
- c) Create a financial clearing house of all existing funds on forests to assist in implementing SFM in developing countries. This includes funds not necessarily earmarked specifically for SFM but which have intrinsic ties to forests, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Capacity-building on understanding these funding mechanisms is also required, to provide clarity and accessibility to all stakeholders, and to reduce often lengthy and poorly streamlined application processes and negotiations.
- d) The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) need to simplify their procedures to be more accessible and accountable. The Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) Fund needs to establish a clear and transparent mechanism to enable both government and relevant stakeholders to access the fund.
- e) Industrial enterprises and businesses that benefit both directly and indirectly from forests and forestry services need to be required to invest a large proportion of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding into SFM initiatives.

3) Enhancing the Engagement of Major Groups Participation in the UNFF Process

Guiding questions

The following five questions were posed to guide discussions:

- a) Why do we need effective MGs engagement?
- b) Why is the current MGs engagement not effective?
- c) What are the good elements of the current MGs engagement?
- d) What conclusions can you draw from your understanding of the current MGs engagement in the UNFF process?
- e) What suggestions do you have for future MGs engagement in the new UN body on forests?

Narrative summary and highlights

The forest is not only the domain of government but of the peoples and so, for effective SFM, the involvement of all stakeholders is not only needed, but required, when making decisions on forests. Effective MGs engagement is essential as MGs are best positioned to ensure respect for human rights in the policy process; to keep a close watch on decision-making to ensure an inclusive and transparent process; to advocate on behalf of forest stakeholders, particularly communities, as a safeguard against potential negative impacts of international forest initiatives; and to serve as a feedback mechanism and provide interactions in both the top-down and bottom-up processes. They bring diverse perspectives on forests across all sectors, including the perspectives of marginalized voices often neglected at national levels, which range from forest conservation to the extraction of forest resources, and from economic, environmental, social, cultural and spiritual perspectives, all of which are crucial for SFM. MGs also bring legitimacy, collaborations, partnerships and networks that can assist the UNFF to implement actions at regional, national and local levels. And at both the local and national levels, MGs are able to translate what's happening into language that people understand.

The effectiveness of MGs engagement is currently hindered by a lack of clear institutional or financial mechanisms for mobilization, coordination and capacity-building; a fragmented, inconsistent communications strategy between MGs as well as a predominantly one-way communication to MGs from the UNFF processes; and the challenges for MGs to build collective consensus and agendas at the regional and international levels. Within the UN system, many governments are not embracing the Agenda 21's provision of MGs engagement and don't understand the value and role of MGs. MGs status is limited to being observers; they can only give recommendations that may be watered down or even disappear entirely from reports because they have no decision-making capacity in the discussions; and often do not have access to financial resources.

The establishment of MGPoF has developed an increased capacity, effectiveness and coordination for MGs in the UNFF process. Its efforts have led directly to the provision of constructive MGs inputs into UNFF processes; a platform for participants' sharing of

experiences; a knowledge base on UNFF processes so MGs are better able to participate; an unprecedented agreement whereby Major Groups-Led Initiative reports and joint papers become official UNFF documents; and a growing recognition by many governments that MGPoF is the MGs stakeholder coordination in the UNFF. MGs involvement in side events and intersessional activities that create an environment of engagement have also increased.

Conclusions

Discussions on effective MGs engagement, and its current achievements and challenges, led to the following conclusions:

- a) MGs engagement is crucial to ensuring that all perspectives, aspirations and voices are considered in the UNFF process. They also play a critical role in implementation, reporting and monitoring to fill the gaps between the global and local processes.
- b) During UNFF processes, cooperation and coordination among MGs has drastically improved. For example, MGI Workshops to provide constructive inputs and guidance to the UNFF processes; and MG joint papers that become official UNFF documents. Many governments recognize the importance of MGs and are willing to explore how this could be enhanced.
- c) Interventions of MGs have been watered down and sometimes are not reflected in the final reports and decisions. This limits the role of MGs to “really” engage and have “real” dialogue and “real” discussions instead of just being a tokenism that does not reflect their perspectives rightfully or recognize the contributions that the MGs have made in the UNFF processes.
- d) While there were good intentions for establishing UNFF within ECOSOC, its rules and status limits the ability of MGs to be fully engaged and inhibits the mobilization of other relevant civil society groups in the UNFF process.
- e) Currently, there are no incentives for the Major Group of Business and Industry to engage with other MGs.
- f) The interest and commitment of MGs to participate in both the policy dialogue and in the implementation of the recommendations of the UNFF is strong.

Specific Recommendations regarding Enhancing the Engagement of Major Groups Participation in the UNFF Process

- a) Recognize MGPoF as a legitimate coordinating body for Major Groups involvement in UNFF processes; grant it official Permanent Observer Status in the post-UNFF process; and make MGs true partners.
- b) At the global, regional and national levels, any working groups, task forces, delegations or other mechanisms addressing SFM issues must have MGs representation to ensure their meaningful, full and effective engagement. Involve MG representatives in policy

development, planning, implementation, reviews and other important decision-making processes.

- c) Financial support for MGs involvement in post-UNFF processes must be increased. This should include core funding for MGPoF.
- d) MGPoF should be granted the status of Observer on the CPF, and a cooperation and collaboration mechanism between CPF and MGPoF should be supported.
- e) MGs should have representation on the governing body on the new UN body on forests.
- f) An independent mechanism for registering MGs wishing to participate in a session should be created to avoid the limitations imposed by following the ECOSOC accreditation process.
- g) Communications within, and from, the UNFF Secretariat need to be strengthened, particularly with regards to understanding and championing the role of MGs.

IV. The Workshop's Communiqué on Key Recommendations for UNFF11

From 2-6 March 2015, Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF), the coordinating organization of Major Groups involved in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) process, organized a five day international workshop, hosted by the government of Nepal, on one of the major issues of our time: Sustainable Forests Management.

Climate change, water shortages for drinking and irrigation, and loss of biodiversity are huge challenges for our planet Earth. Sustainable management of forests can make a big contribution to overcoming these crises.

As part of our five-day conference, we visited three Community Forests here in Nepal where we saw for ourselves how local communities are restoring forests, increasing water supplies and protecting wildlife.

Civil society in Nepal includes many representatives of Major Groups. Many are essential participants in the work of the Community Forests we visited. They are demonstrating the importance of the active involvement of women, youth, small farmers and local authorities with support from scientific research institutions, labour and environmental organizations.

Without the leadership of the communities and the support of government and other organizations, the benefits from sustainable forest management would not happen. We saw this for ourselves here in Nepal. We can tell you this is also true around the world. When civil society groups are actively involved, there are solutions to the local and global crises we all face.

The workshop brought together 76 participants from 36 countries representing the following 8 of the 9 official Major Groups identified by the United Nations: Women; Children and Youth; Scientific and Technological community; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Indigenous Peoples; Workers and Trade Unions; Farmers and Small Forests Landowners; and Local Authorities.

The theme of the workshop was “*Sustainable Forest Management: Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation*”. Discussions focused on three themes: the new United Nations body for Sustainable Forests Management (SFM); financial mechanisms for undertaking SFM; and enhancing the engagement of Major Groups participation in the UNFF process.

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Under the first theme of a new global body for SFM, to replace the UNFF that will soon be concluding its mandate, participants concluded that:

- The UNFF's placement within ECOSOC has led to a rich dialogue that resulted in more than 270 recommendations, but it does not provide scope or capacity for implementation. The present hierarchy and complexity within ECOSOC at the divisional level hinders decision-making as bureaucracy is very high. Major Groups want to see more focus on implementation of the forest instrument and goals on forests.
- There is a lack of ownership of UNFF recommendations, as seen in some of the language used that asks Parties to "consider" and "encourage" but does not call on Parties to "commit". With clauses of "national limitations and territorial sovereignty" the Parties are more reluctant to take on recommendations that might be too ambitious.

and made the following recommendations:

- We propose a new multi-stakeholder UN Forest Organization, not under ECOSOC, that addresses both policy and implementation, and that will deal with forestry issues in a coordinated and holistic manner at the global, regional, national and local levels.
- The issue of forests is included in several of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, goals 6, 15 and 17). The new UN body on forests should be responsible for the high political level dialogue on SDGs on forest related issues, including the review of policies and the establishment of dedicated funds to implement its work on the ground. The new body should also be responsible for coordinating all institutions and mechanisms engaged on forest issues within the UN.
- Major Groups need to be part of the governing structure of the new UN body on forests.

For the second theme of financial mechanisms for undertaking SFM, participants concluded that:

- The lack and inconsistencies of funding mechanisms reflect the lack of political willingness among the governments to prioritize SFM. As a result, funding for SFM is not only extremely fragmented but the existing funding mechanisms emphasize more on economic value and less on the conservation, cultural and social value of forests.
- A large proportion of existing funds have been spent in bureaucratic processes, leaving less funds available for the implementation of SFM. This makes it difficult for communities to get fair compensation for their efforts in forest protection as well as restoration.

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and made the following recommendations:

- The UNFF should set up a strategic trust fund for SFM, which will play a catalytic role to leverage other sources of funding. The new UN body on forests should set up modalities for contributing monies to this strategic trust fund. Seed money from the strategic trust fund should be made available for developing countries to develop their implementation actions.
- Establish national funds for SFM that can be borne out of mechanisms, such as taxation from forestry related industries, and ensure that the funds are allocated for SFM implementation, capacity-building and technology transfer.
- Create a financial clearing house of all existing funds on forests to assist in implementing SFM in developing countries.

On the issue of enhancing the engagement of Major Groups participation in the UNFF process, participants concluded that:

- During UNFF processes, cooperation and coordination among Major Groups has drastically improved. For example, workshops to provide constructive inputs and guidance to the UNFF processes; and Major Group joint papers that become official UNFF documents. Many governments recognize the importance of Major Groups and are willing to explore how this could be enhanced
- Interventions of Major Groups have been watered down and sometimes are not reflected in the final reports and decisions. That limits the role of Major Groups to “really” engage and have “real” dialogue and “real” discussions instead of just being a tokenism that does not reflect rightfully or recognize the contributions that the Major Groups have made in the UNFF processes;

and made the following recommendations:

- Recognize the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF) as a legitimate coordinating body for Major Groups involvement in post-UNFF processes. Give MGPoF official Permanent Observer Status in the post-UNFF process; and make Major Groups true partners in the full process of the realization of actions.
- At the global, regional and national levels, any working groups, task forces or other mechanisms addressing SFM issues must have Major Groups representation to ensure their meaningful, full and effective engagement. Involve Major Groups representatives in review processes and other important decision-making processes.
- Financial support for Major Groups involvement in post-UNFF processes should be increased. This should include funds for the MGPoF to do its work and successfully implement its institutional goals.

Part II

Key Points Raised That Were Not Specific to UNFF11 But That Did Relate to SFM and/or Major Groups Engagement

Introduction

During the course of discussions on the three topics that were targeted on providing specific recommendations to UNFF11, several related issues naturally emerged during the dialogue. It should be noted that the following issues were *not* official agenda items and, as such, the following points cannot be construed as comprehensive lists. They are simply an amalgamation of points that were raised during UNFF11-related working group discussions. But we wanted to capture these points in this report, particularly those that may directly or indirectly influence the strategic planning or focus of MGPoF and/or workshop participants.

Financial Distribution of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Funds to Beneficiaries

During discussions on specific financial mechanisms to support and undertake SFM, specific ideas regarding the distribution of such SFM funds to beneficiaries were also raised, including:

- Financial institutions should recognize SFM as a pre-condition for investment, and support to companies should be tied to their commitment to SFM.
- Fair and equitable benefit distribution mechanisms for performance-based payment initiatives like Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) need to be established and implemented. Gender responsive indicators should also be included in the benefit mechanisms. As well, social and environmental safeguards such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) should be a mandatory requirement in designing and implementing performance-based payment initiatives.
- The adoption of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 100 on equal payment must be applied to women in the forestry sector, including equal access to forest ownership.
- Traditional forest-related knowledge must be recognized and financial resources need to be allocated to support the documentation and continued practices of the knowledge.
- Whatever institutional arrangement is created post-UNFF, funds cannot be used simply to manage and maintain a high level institution. They must go to the grassroots and local communities where concrete action is taken and measurable results are created.
- Significant funding needs to be provided for MGPoF, as the coordinating Major Groups institution within UNFF in support of SFM implementation in the post-UNFF processes.

Enhancing the Engagement of, and Coordination Between, Major Groups

During the course of discussions on institutional recommendations for UNFF11, points were raised regarding **organizational ideas for within and between Major Groups themselves** so that collectively they can more effectively engage in the UNFF process. Some of the expressed “needs” going forward are that MGs should:

- Improve transparency and clarity of the MGPoF process and governance.
- Clearly define what expanded role MGs want MGPoF to play, and what structures and steps are required to realize that vision.
- Enhance the capacity-building of MG organizations new to the UNFF process. This includes capacity-building on advocacy tools and techniques; how to navigate a UN meeting – from corridor negotiations to the realities of official statement processes; bringing new organizations up to date on the current status of proceedings; building a clear shared political agenda; guidance in complex application processes; and lobbying for funds and proposal writing.
- Identify diplomats who could champion their cause.
- Build strategic partners among Member States.
- Reflect on the current strengths and weaknesses of MGs engagement practices in the UNFF.
- Be mindful of imbalances in participation in internal deliberations and plan specific steps to overcome such barriers.
- Ensure participants in collective decision-making or policy formulation are aware of the anticipated timelines and means in which to contribute to the process.
- Remain vigilant about both the benefits and potential negative impacts of virtual communications.
- Proceed immediately on these and other goals, irrespective of the outcomes of UNFF11.

The Strengths and Focus of Specific Major Groups

Each of the Major Groups with participant representation at the workshop briefly summarized what they not only brought to the table, but what their primary focus was. The following key points were raised for the eight MGs in attendance:

- **Children and Youth** are actively involved in community challenges and solutions about forest management and need to be actively engaged as they are working on the ground. It is important to remember that while they may be seen as the future of human society, they are also very much part of the present.
- **Farmers and Small Forest Landowners** need to be engaged at the global level to obtain safeguards and protect their rights. Not only do they produce much of the food, agricultural, timber and non-timber forest products that the world consumes, but they make significant economic, social and cultural contributions at the local, regional and global levels.
- Engagement for **Indigenous Peoples** is an essential rights issue as it concerns their lives directly and they are the right holders. Forests are crucial not only for their livelihood but also for the cultural aspirations of Indigenous Peoples. As they are the closest to the forests, it is important to acknowledge their traditional knowledge and role in the protection of the forests and that they need full and effective access to the new UN body that makes decisions that will affect the forests they depend on.
- **Local Authorities** construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and assist in implementing national and subnational environmental policies. As the level of governance closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote and implement SFM.
- **NGOs** protect the interests of people who live in forests, support local forest communities, play a vital role in the shaping and implementation of participatory democracy, and are involved in forest and biodiversity conservation as well as climate change processes.
- The involvement of, and investment in, the **Scientific and Technological Community** is crucial to SFM, including understanding the limitations and parameters imposed by the laws of nature and indicating what is scientifically and technologically achievable based on what is known now and on what can be done with the knowledge and technological tools that are in hand. This MG is also instrumental in researching, measuring and introducing sustainable solutions and practices that ensure forests contribute to increasing peoples' quality of life.
- **Women** play a key role in forest management and yet are under-represented in many decision levels. There are also gender differentiated needs and interests toward forest resources. Therefore the engagement of women MGs is essential in the UNFF process, particularly to ensure the rights of women to influence policies for gender equity in land, forest, management and access to technology.
- From those that work in the forests to those who work in forest-related industries (e.g. paper), for the **Wood Workers and Trade Unions** MG, the use of forest resources, and in particular local forest management practices, have direct implications on many aspects of their livelihoods, including issues like wages, worker exploitation, rights to decent work etc. This MG works to organize and defend human rights and labour standards, to ensure that people have access to a decent life and decent work in a healthy environment, and to overcome poverty and inequality through social justice.

Closing Ceremony

The official closing ceremony was held on the afternoon of Friday, 6 March 2015. **Mr. Lambert Okrah** officially commenced the ceremony by reading the workshop communiqué for the assembled delegates and journalists. Following the presentation of the communiqué, the MGs were encouraged to continue in earnest their work in contributing to the UNFF. Participants were also reminded that this workshop was simply one step in an important ongoing journey.

Representing the Workshop's Organizing Committee, **Mr. Joseph Cobbinah**, Chair of the Board of MGPOF, formally thanked the Government of Nepal for hosting the workshop, Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey and his staff for their administrative and organizational support, and the German Government for sponsoring. He also expressed deep gratitude to the UNFF Secretariat and ITTO for their administrative support, to the hospitality of the Nepalese people and to all the participants for their meaningful contributions to the success of the workshop. Mr. Cobbinah closed by thanking Lambert Okrah for his contributions and leadership, without whom the workshop would not have been realized.

Dr. Stephen Johnson, Assistant Director of Trade and Industry, ITTO, spoke on behalf of both of the workshop's partner organizations: the ITTO and UNFF Secretariat. Dr. Johnson shared that both he and Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of UNFF Secretariat, were impressed with the organization of, and work undertaken at, the workshop. He expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he was pleased, and agreed, with several specific proposals that were made in the communiqué, including recommendations around financing options and that the new UN body needs to move beyond dialogue to implementation. In closing, he shared how pleased both he and Dr. Sobral were to have been able to support the workshop, and he encouraged MGPOF to be patient and persistent in reaching their goals and to stay actively involved in the UNFF process.

In the official closing address by **Mr. Sharad Chandra Paudel**, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal shared his appreciation of the scope and scale of the workshop, and of the work undertaken and outcomes that resulted. In particular, he was pleased that everyone had had the opportunity to visit several Community Forest projects and to have first-hand experience seeing how Nepalese people are engaged in the management of forests and SFM. Mr. Paudel stressed that we need to highlight and champion the interdependence of the sustainable use of forests and development, not only for the UN system's realization of the SDGs, but also to ensure the continued subsistence of humans around the world. He assured the participants that, as the hosting country, Nepal will submit the final report to the UN Secretary-General so that the recommendations will be given the serious considerations they deserve during UNFF11. He wished the participants a safe trip home, and hoped they enjoyed their stay in Kathmandu.

The workshop was officially closed with short closing remarks by **Mr. Lambert Okrah** who thanked all participants, and in particular, the focal points and organizing committee who worked hard for a successful event. After wishing everyone a safe journey back, and a reminder that UNFF11 is where the work really begins, he declared the workshop officially closed.

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Annex 2: Official Workshop Programme

Monday, March 2nd

- 09:00-11:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session
- Presentation by UNFF Secretariat on the review process
 - FAO presentation on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
 - Case study 1: The institutional framework of an independent UN institution: The case of International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Continuation of Plenary Session
- Case study 2: The institutional framework of an ECOSOC institution: The case of UNFF
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Continuation of Plenary Session
- Case study 3: Targeting international funding mechanisms towards funding sustainable forest management
 - Case study 4: The institutional arrangement between an NGO focal organization and a UN body: The case of Climate Action Network International and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 18:00-20:00 Welcome Reception for Participants

Tuesday, March 3rd

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session
- Case study 5: Strengthening the mechanisms of Major Groups' engagement with UN Bodies towards sustainable forest management
 - Formation of Working Groups
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Group Sessions
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Working Group Sessions continue
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Working Group Sessions continue

Wednesday, March 4th

Field Trips (participants signed up for the trip of their choice on the opening day of the workshop)

Buses depart from Park Village Hotel at 9:00am. Return to hotel by approximately 5:00pm.

Option 1: Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest, municipality of Panauti
Approx. 17 km from hotel, 75 ha, 155 households, handover date: 2004

Before the Community Forest, this forest was being degraded and diminished by rampant and haphazard collection of forest products, encroachment of the forest land, illegal poaching, free grazing of cattle, and extraction of sand, stone and boulders for building purposes. Key objectives of the CF are to supply daily needs of forest products (fodder, timber, fuelwood, leaf litters) to local forest users, to control soil erosion, to conserve the forest as a source of clean drinking water, to promote public participation in forest conservation and to increase revenue for the community through the implementation of different income-generating activities.

Recent forest development for future income-generating initiatives include the cultivation of Lapsi (a native fruit tree), broom grass and cardamom. A plantation of Chinese Moso bamboo with forest research and survey is also underway, with plans for first harvesting in 7 years. Future strategies include the promotion of ecotourism, the continued promotion of sustainable scientific forest management rather than traditional practices, and handing over a portion of the forest land to local poor and marginalized people for income-generating activities.

Option 2: Surya Vinayak Community Forest, municipality of Bhaktapur
Approx. 14 km from hotel, 67 ha, 129 households, handover date: 1996

This forested area was once a center of illegal logging. Since being handed over to CF in 1996, Surya Vinayak has been given a prestigious award 4 times by the Nepal government for excellence in management, conservation and account keeping.

Current income-generating enterprises include charcoal production for local markets. Future visions for Surya Vinayak CF include a proposed zoo to attract tourism; the production of local wood-based handicrafts to be sold at nearby religious gatherings and temples; and involving poor and marginalized people in the production of equipment from bamboo.

Option 3: Sano Ban Community Forest, municipality of Banepa
Approx. 28 km from hotel, 18 ha, 62 households, handover date: 1988

Sano Ban CF is the first community forest created in Nepal, and was instrumental in developing and setting up many of the conservation practices used by other future CFs. The forest is divided into 4 blocks – 3 of which are naturally generated forest, and 1 of which is a plantation of pine species.

Current income-generating enterprises include the selling of deadwood, fuel and timber. Future plans include initiatives to promote and attract tourism, including eco-tourism and home stays in the forest area.

Thursday, March 5th

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session
- Field trip debriefs
 - Working Groups presentations and discussions
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Group Sessions
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Planning Session
- Final presentations by Working Groups
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Planning Sessions continue
- Final presentations by Working Groups

Friday, March 6th

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session
- Presentation of Final Report by Drafting Group and Discussion
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Continuation of Plenary Session
- Final report adoption (including overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF11)
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Plenary Session
- Overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF10
- 14:00-16:00 Continuation of Plenary Session
- Issue workshop communiqué
 - Closing Ceremony

Annex 3: Glossary of Acronyms

AHEG	Ad-Hoc Expert Group
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CF	Community Forest
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ECOSOC	UN's Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GCF	Global Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
IAF	International Agreement on Forests
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
MG	Major Groups
MGI	Major Groups-Led Initiative
MGPoF	Major Groups Partnership on Forests
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLBI	Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (also known as the Forest Instrument)
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SD	Sustainable Development
SDGs	The UN's Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFF9	9 th Session of the UNFF (24 January-4 February 2010, New York, USA)
UNFF10	10 th Session of the UNFF (8-19 April 2013, Istanbul, Turkey)
UNFF11	11 th Session of the UNFF (4-15 May 2015, New York, USA)

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Major Groups-Led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in
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Organizer:



Major Groups Partnership on Forests

Host Country:



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Sponsor:



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