

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

Forests and Economic Development: Crafting the Path for Forests to Contribute to Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
18-22 March, 2013

Report of Workshop Proceedings

Implementing Organization



Host Country

Ministry of the Environment



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The organizers therefore wish to express their sincerest appreciation to the host country, the donor and all the partner organizations for making the event such a success.

The organizers also wish to express their appreciation to Friends of the Siberian Forests for serving as the implementation organization on behalf of Major Groups.

This report was compiled and edited by Lambert Okrah of Major Groups Partnership on Forests and Lynn Broughton of Broughton Communications.

Executive Summary

Major Groups continue to play an effective role in global forest policy development and are active in playing major roles in sustainable forest management in countries and communities. Enhancing the participation of Major Groups in the United Nations (UN) forest policy development process, and increasing their role in the implementation, is crucial in meeting the goals of sustainable forest management. To this end, Major Groups organized a Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The workshop took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from the 18th to the 22nd of March, 2013, and brought together approximately 45 key representatives from 21 countries. The main focus of the workshop was to develop policy recommendations for the 10th session of UNFF on the theme, “*Forests and Economic Development*”.

In developing their recommendations to address the theme of UNFF10, Major Groups adopted the following theme for their workshop, “*Crafting the Path for Forests to Contribute to Sustainable Development*”. Participants heard presentations on two case studies and had three working groups under the following headings:

- What types of governance mechanisms can serve as catalysts for enhancing the role of forests sustainable forest management?
- How can community-based forest enterprises be developed to contribute to economic development of forest dependent people?
- How can forest products and services contribute to economic development in a sustainable way?

The working groups’ work thus served as the basis for developing the recommendations for UNFF10. It also served as the basis for the communiqué that was issued at the end of the workshop. Both the recommendations and communiqué are presented in Part I of this report.

In addition to developing policy recommendations for UNFF10, participants were formed into working groups where participants representing the various Major Groups met to discuss the issue of how to increase their effectiveness in the UNFF. These Major Groups working groups included: NGO, Youth and Children, Scientific and Technology Community, Women, Farmers and Small Landowners and Indigenous Peoples. This aspect of the workshop is presented in Part II of this report.

Background and Context

The effective participation of Major Groups¹ is crucial to the success of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Creating and enhancing opportunities for active and effective Major Groups participation is thus a critical task for Major Groups, as well as Governments and other UNFF stakeholders.

In 2009, the eighth session of the Forum passed a resolution to “[e]ncourage Member States and request the UNFF Secretariat to explore ways to increase stakeholder and civil society participation, including indigenous and other local and forest dependent communities... in future sessions of the Forum.”²

Scheduled to take place in Istanbul, Turkey from 8-19 April 2013, UNFF10 will focus on the theme “*Forests and Economic Development*”.

As the work of Major Groups has significant impact on forest communities, they agreed to organize a multi-stakeholder workshop designed to support the UNFF process and prepare concrete policy recommendations to be presented to UNFF10.

The resulting workshop, which took place at the National Institute of Tropical Botany in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from the 18th to the 22nd of March 2013, brought together approximately 45 key representatives from 21 countries. The central goal of the event was to actively engage Major Groups and support the UNFF process by developing input and policy recommendations for the 10th session of the UNFF.

The workshop included presentations of commissioned case studies by selected academics, facilitated group discussion sessions, field visits and plenary forums, inter alia.

1 The UN has defined Major Groups as: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Local Authorities, Works and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers and Small Forest Landowners.

The Major Groups represented at this Major Groups-Led Initiative (MGI) workshop were: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-Governmental Organizations, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers and Small Forest Landowners.

2 Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests Eighth Session E/CN.18/2009/20 - E/2009/42

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday, March 18th. Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included:

- Dr. Andrey Laletin, Chairman of Friends of the Siberian Forests;
- Guido Gelli, on behalf of Ms. Isabella Teixeira, Minister of Environment of Brazil;
- Njeri Kariuki, speaking on behalf of Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat; and
- Dr. Joseph Cobbinah of the Forestry Network of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Andrey Laletin, speaking on behalf of the Workshop's Organizing Committee welcomed participants to the workshop, thanked the workshop hosts, sponsors and organizers, and gave an overview of the agenda and structure of the upcoming five day workshop. He provided an historic summary of the events leading to the workshop, from the first successful meeting of the Major Groups Initiative (MGI) in Ghana in 2010, through UNFF9 in 2011, and to the organization of this second meeting of the MGI upon securing a Government host and Government sponsor. He cited particular appreciation for the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs who helped many participants achieve entry visas.

Dr. Laletin closed with an enthusiastic call to participants to develop quality materials that will significantly contribute to the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue at the UNFF10 in Istanbul in April 2013.

Guido Gelli opened the meeting on behalf of Ms. Isabella Teixeira, the Minister of Environment of Brazil. He said he was very pleased to perform the opening ceremony on behalf of his Minister of Environment of the Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of UNFF in the city of Rio de Janeiro; emphasized how delighted he was that the organizers decided to have the workshop in Brazil; and promised that the Brazilian government would provide the necessary support as the host country during the workshop.

Mr. Gelli stressed that the forest is a very important part of Brazil as the country is home to a large portion of the world's forest. He explained that the size of the Brazilian forest is so significant that whatever goes on in the forests of Brazil have a significant impact on the world's ecological wellbeing. He also mentioned that, apart from the Amazon forest, his country also has Atlantic forest which is as important as the Amazon – the forest many people in the world most affiliate with Brazil.

He indicated that the forests of Brazil are under significant pressure from various interest groups competing for the economic benefits of the forest. In this regard, there is an enormous pressure on the government to ensure the sustainable utilization of forest resources. He explain that this is the challenge the country faces today and assured participants that the Minister is ready to do her utmost best to ensure the sustainability of the forest in Brazil.

He wished the participants successful deliberations and thanked the Government of Germany for providing financial support for the event. In closing, he called on the participants to stay a bit longer in Brazil after the workshop to enjoy the ecological richness of the country.

Njeri Kariuki, speaking on behalf of Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, congratulated Major Groups and the organizers for arranging this Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of UNFF10. She expressed appreciation to the governments that provided financial support for the event, and highlighted the commitment of the

UNFF Secretariat to strengthening the involvement of Major Groups in the work of the UNFF. She stressed that effective participation of stakeholders is critical to the success of the UNFF in its pursuit of sustainable forest management, and emphasized how valuable has been the diligent efforts and contributions of UNFF Major Group focal points and representatives who have actively participated in Forum-related and Forum-associated meetings and activities during the inter-sessional period.

Ms. Kariuki encouraged Major Groups to utilize the opportunity provided at this workshop to participate in the forest-policy deliberations, and to contribute to the discussions next month during UNFF10, where Major Group representatives will share their perspectives on issues related to sustainable forest management in the context of the session's theme, "Forests and Economic Development".

She closed by wishing participants a stimulating and enjoyable event, and shared Ms. McAlpine's expressed anticipation of receiving the outcomes of the workshop.

In his contribution on behalf of the focal points of Major Groups, **Dr. Joseph Cobinnah** expressed his gratitude to the participants for accepting the invitation to participate in the initiative though the time was limited. He also highlighted the objectives of the workshop and hoped that after the five days, we would have benefited from the expertise and experiences of the participants that will go a long way to enrich the recommendations for UNFF10.

Part I

Forests for Economic Development – Recommendations to UNFF10

I. Presentation of Case Studies

Two case studies were prepared and presented in order to inform and stimulate discussion.

1) Can Legality Verification Promote “Good Forest Governance?”: Lessons from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil

Primary Author: Professor Ben Cashore, Director of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University, USA.

The case study assessed the emergence of legality verification as a means to address global forest degradation. It focused on mechanisms for successful intersection of global, national, subnational and private institutions, and its potential of leading to more durable form of global authority; and on the emergence of a global scale focus on illegal logging, and legality verification. Dr. Cashore examined eight hypotheses, on issues ranging from coalition-building potential to strategic choices to institution-building, that promote the value of legality verification as rescuing good forest governance. He then reviewed variable degrees of support and lessons learned for legality verification in Indonesia, Malaysia and Brazil.

The case study provided a useful analysis of the effectiveness of legality verification. Among the lessons learned, Dr. Cashore emphasized that the impact and role of legality verification is not preordained; that it could have a positive influence but it requires linking strategic intervention to logic for institutionalization; and that it could be a strategic mistake to use legality verification as a proxy for forest certification and forest conventions. He concluded that legality verification may be most important, not for its direct impacts, but for its intersection effects on areas such as creating global supply chain tracking (which is a prerequisite for certification) and providing incentives and capacity-building for “good forest governance” in ways that reinforce rather than challenge domestic sovereignty.

2) Forests and Economic Development: New Pathways

Primary Author: Professor Shashi Kant, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, Canada.

The case study focused on four new pathways that address both different elements of green economy and emerging challenges due to recent economic, demographic and environmental trends. These new pathways, and their role and potential in sustainable development, are:

1. The forest-based bioproduct sector – Dr. Kant emphasized that while traditional measures of economic development are based on the harvesting of forests, new pathways for sustainable development and green economy - with a focus on bioproducts such as biocomposites, bioplastics, biofuels, biochemicals etc. - are based on the efficient utilization of forest fibre, thereby not only contributing to economic development but also helping to conserve forests.
2. Forests and Indigenous Peoples' welfare – Dr. Kant stressed the critical importance of social, cultural and forest-based activities (gathering, hunting, trapping etc.) for Indigenous Peoples' welfare, and the vital role of conserving forests as forests sustain these activities.
3. Urban green infrastructure and human wellbeing – Dr. Kant highlighted the importance of a sound green infrastructure, specifically in urban areas, and it's essential role in various aspects of human welfare, including air and water quality, recreation and health. He also outlined challenges faced in its implementation, including the poor understanding of policy makers and businesses, poor linkages between

different agencies responsible for different aspects of urban development, and the lower monetary value given to green spaces compared to developed land.

4. Urban green spaces and human health – Dr. Kant showcased evidence showing the positive relationships between green spaces and a multitude of different health attributes, including life longevity, self-reported health, levels of anxiety and depression, asthma, levels of physical activity, the geographic range of insect-transmitted diseases, etc. By investing in green spaces, billions of dollars spent on the health sector would be saved.

In summary, Dr. Kant emphasized that the potential contributions of these four new pathways to sustainable development and green economy is boundless, but that realization of this potential will require very serious efforts and collaboration by all stakeholders, and particularly by governments at all levels.

II. Discussions and Recommendations

Participants were divided into three main groups to focus discussion on each of the following three topics:

- 1) What Type of Governance Mechanisms Can Serve as Catalysts for Enhancing the Role of Forests in Sustainable Management?
- 2) How Can Community-Based Forest Enterprises be Developed to Contribute to Economic Development of Forest Dependent People?
- 3) How Can Forest Products and Services Contribute to Economic Development in a Sustainable Way?

For language purposes, a fourth group comprised of Spanish-speaking participants was created to discuss the three topics for integration into the work of the other groups. With this approach, all participants were able to successfully participate in the working group process, without any limitation based on language.

The groups were tasked with developing concrete recommendations related to their topic that would be directed toward the work of the 10th session of the UNFF. Recommendations were discussed and refined during plenary sessions.

Each of the groups was given the following guiding parameters for their discussion:

- 1) Assess the current situation in this topic/field, including its benefits and challenges;
- 2) Discuss mechanisms that can deal with the challenges; and
- 3) Come up with conclusions and recommendations.

1) What Types of Governance Mechanisms can Serve as Catalysts for Enhancing the Role of Forests in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)?

Current Trends in Governance System

Good forest governance systems provide a socially harmonized framework for implementing adaptive and iterative policy planning procedures towards managing forests in a more sustainable way.

The group identified a number of formal and informal governance systems designed to meet the local, national and international governance needs for achieving a sustainable management of forests.

Major challenges to the current governance systems have been the limited participation of the stakeholders and the marginalization of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples in the governance process. These create conflicting interests among the policy makers and forest dependent people.

Numbers of existing collaborative forest governance approaches that recognize the social and cultural values of the local and Indigenous Peoples exist. These include: joint-forest governance systems; model forest management systems; co-forest management systems; national sustainability strategies; national forest policies; National Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation strategies; REDD+; national strategies for green economy and development; voluntary partnership agreements; non legally binding instruments, etc.

On the other hand, scores of public private partnerships play a key role in forest management. However, partnership between the public and private organizations is mostly common in the developed countries, whereas there are very few joint ventures in the developing countries.

Benefits of Good Governance System for SFM

The benefits of forest governance (both people and nature approaches) are based on its potential to complement the traditional role of the State in planning, decision-making, monitoring and controlling the use, management and conservation of forests.

A well-structured governance system provides a strategic vision and road map towards SFM. This helps to understand the specific challenges impeding SFM and gives a holistic approach to address these issues.

It helps to create a global platform where success stories (as well as failures) are shared and are taken into account in other regions. The monitoring system and indicators for good forest governance are preconditions for its permanent improvement. In many cases, an efficient governance system is essential for rural poverty alleviation and economic development. Also, it strengthens and recognizes tenure rights, including the conservation and preservation of the forest and cultural values of the local people, and it supports the resilience and wellbeing of local communities.

Good governance mechanisms identify innovations and strategies that empower the local communities to be less vulnerable and provide an opportunity for equity in benefit sharing in the case of; for example, payments for ecosystems services. These processes also recognize the right of the Indigenous Peoples and bring communities together in a joint and significant project that promotes sustainable forest management.

Limitations in Current Governance Systems

- Legislative and bureaucratic confusion and institutional overlaps; organizational weaknesses and the existence of shadowy corruptive systems; lack of awareness of the multifunctional importance of forests; land alienation; and exclusion of community participation ... all create substantial obstacles to reform of forest governance in many countries.
- The governance over the forests often results in conflicts instead of cooperation and partnerships. Benefit-sharing from forest-related initiatives and programmes such as REDD+ and CDM are unclear. Still, a huge potential for conflicts resolution, solutions, identification and advancing exists through the innovative governance mechanisms.
- Concepts, mechanisms, programmes and definitions related to forests are made from the top-down without effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities. They are often dumped on these communities and do not work.
- Due to rising environmental awareness, international conventions and globalisation of markets, most countries now want to manage their forests more sustainably than they have in the past. However, progress is hindered by:
 - Lack of suitable financing
 - Limited or no micro finance support
 - Taking an ad-hoc approach to financing, using a small number of mechanisms such as grants and subsidies that often cover only a few activities
 - Over reliance on government budgets and overseas development assistance (ODA) as funding sources. Furthermore, it is necessary to examine how to expand and diversify financing mechanisms and sources of finance.
- Constraints that limit the financing of sustainable forest management include lack of revenue generation for forest owners and managers.
- Lack of incentive to produce the full range of benefits from forests results in the continuation of focus on the production of timber and a few other marketed products.
- Complexity and generally higher costs and perceived risks of sustainable forest management compared to other land uses, including unsustainable forest practices.
- Weak institutions for implementation, lack of policy co-ordination across sectors, unresolved land tenure issues and weak governance, as well as a lack of technical capacity, especially in developing countries.

Specific Recommendations (inter alia) regarding Governance Mechanisms that can Serve as Catalysts for Enhancing the Role of Forests in Sustainable Forest Management

Good governance mechanism development requires new modes in many specific fields of forest decision making, including forest disaster management; forest management planning; wood logistic chain optimization; fair access of business and local communities to forest resources; access to information about the state of the forests; and increase in the use of modern technologies both for efficient decision-making, control of forest resource management and forest protection.

To this end, we identify the need to ensure:

- Participatory Rural Appraisal: Ensure participation and deliberation amongst the local communities, indigenous people, youth and women in any process towards formulation and implementation of forest policy and legislations.
- Update of old governance systems to ones that are consistent to current governance needs for a sustainable forest management.
- The formulation and enactment of a comprehensive road map of inclusive forest policy and legislations that address the local national and international forest governance needs.
- Continuity and promotion of existing governance systems that have been proven efficient towards addressing forest governance mechanisms.
- Recognition of right of ownership, respect for culture and social values, tradition and customs of the forest dependent communities and Indigenous Peoples in any activities whatsoever towards sustainable forest management.
- Integration of existing traditional knowledge into every governance mechanism – both old and new systems of governance.
- Modification of international treaties to fit into the local principles; and ensure the necessary resources needed to implement such policies, including educating and increasing awareness of the importance of new legislations on forest policy while ensuring the local communities are carried along in the process.
- Increasing emphasis directed on testing new instruments based on incentives, persuasion and voluntary participatory procedures instead of regulations, and provision of strong finance systems towards forest governance.

Overarching Recommendation:

Implementation of a *singular* “global forestry governance system” that will serve as a global template for a Sustainable Forest Management (based on the needs of different regions and cultural values) and that is established on the principle of a comprehensive, step by step process for a good forest governance system.

2) How Community-Based Forest Enterprises can be Developed to Contribute to Economic Development of Forest Dependent People

Current Cases of Effective Community-Based Forest Enterprises

- Kenya coastal mangrove forest for silk worm production for textile making
- Walnut production in the Kyrgyzstan forest: More than a third of the local population in this territory live in the forest or not so far from it.
- Rattan and bamboo production in most South-East Asian and Latin American nations
- Bamboo production in Nepal making cosmetics and handicrafts
- Sea-buckthorn juice production in Nepal
- Hand-made paper from *Daphne* spp
- Shorea leaf plates
- Women in Ndokoyi, Cameroon harvest *irvingia gabonensis* for soap production. They also establish nurseries and sell seedlings
- In Burkina Faso, women harvest Shae leaves for medicine, soap and oil
- Briquette production in Nepal

Benefits Accrued from Community-Based Forest Enterprises

- Provision of alternative livelihoods, especially NTFPs
- Ecotourism attraction: Community-based forest enterprisers are attractive for tourism organizing. These initiatives support local communities and assist getting extra financial support for people who live in the local territories
- Improvement of forest value
- Protection of the forest: Particularly by virtue of people locating people who use traditional technology of forest conservation and sustainable use of natural resources from the forest
- Income generation through job creation
- Wellness and the promotion of human health
- Community empowerment, especially for disfranchised and marginalized communities

Challenges Community-Based Forest Enterprises Face

- The lack of and access to niche eco-markets. There is an enormous problem for local communities and enterprises to access markets for forest products due to issues such as certification and market information systems
- There are many transportation barriers, as most community-based forest enterprises are located in rural areas
- Security of tenure (ownership rights of community forest resources)
- Lack of access to appropriate technology
- Lack of capacity (all aspects of the enterprise, value addition and organization)
- Rural-urban drifts within a country. Whereby populations, including youth, are attracted to urban centres for better employment opportunities.
- Cultural issues like women or children only collecting non-timber forest resources. For example, the women and children in Kyrgyzstan walnut forest are limited to collecting nuts and marketing them, but they have no voice around high value forest resources.
- Certification of community-based forest products
- Lack of links between forestry and other sectors such as agriculture

- A lack of protection of indigenous knowledge in community-based forest enterprises
- Lack of a pro-poor approach in community-based forest enterprise development

Mechanisms Addressing the Challenges

- Access to financing
- Inclusion of community in decision-making
- Community education
- Global common and general policy enactment
- Infrastructure benefit to community
- Technology transfer: new technologies, adaptation of technologies, appropriate technology
- Private-public partnerships

Conclusion

It is evident that Community-Based Forest Enterprises (CBFEs) can be the key drivers of the global green economic development. In order to achieve this, all stakeholders must come together to address a number of challenges such as access to finance and credit; capacity building and access to appropriate technology, proper policy and legal framework especially in relation to forest, land and resource ownership for women; social equity; access to markets; and research and information sharing.

Specific Recommendations (inter alia) regarding How Community-Based Forest Enterprises can be Developed to Contribute to Economic Development of Forest Dependent People

- Formulate, review and develop legal instruments and policy, especially regarding community forestry resource (land tenure and ownership): There must be a distinct tenure system to protect the ownership right of the people who are directly involved in forest enterprise. This depends largely on the policy and reforms. We are strongly anticipating a common policy that would be enforced to influence the different policies in existence in the countries of the world which would operate such that the interest of the locals is protected.
- More financial support for community-based forest enterprise (CBFEs): There's a need for strengthened access; more diversification; longer-term and sustained investment opportunities.
- The UNFF should promote the establishment of collaborative mechanisms for research and information sharing in relation to CBFEs.
- Capacity building: Trainings should be directed towards improving the knowledge base and skills which over time influence the growth of CBFEs.
- The UNFF should facilitate (through national and local mechanisms) exchange-visits for CBFEs to share information and experiences.
- Access to information: Must be strengthened and improved in order for all stakeholders to make informed decisions, have access to comparative and relevant examples, and be better informed about the ways and means to design and implement their own, self-defined strategies for setting up and running community-based enterprises.

- Establish and strengthen networks and linkages for CBFEs to share information through means like emails, and journals etc.
- Technology: Promote the development of appropriate technology that is well tailored with local CBFEs production needs without necessarily effecting or overhauling the entire production system.
- Promotion of local products: Promotional processes that add value to products over time would improve the status of the general outlook of the proceeds obtained from the forest, which in turn could promote both the local and external market value.
- Social welfare, gender and other related issues, funding and financial access for women: Essential welfare condition of the population in concern is of importance for overall efficiency. And various forms of empowerment as fits for each local policy and tradition must be inculcated to enhance efficiency of involvement.
- There is the need for a specific funding mechanism for women participation in adaptation and mitigation processes in community forest enterprise.
- Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities need to have more participation in, control of, and benefits from the activities that are related to the use of forest “resources”.
- Regulations and legislation related to enterprises needs to take into account the traditional ownership and collective approach of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities, rather than presupposing individual or corporate ownership.
- Access to markets: Particularly the factors of transportation of proceeds to ready markets. This ranges from the provision of good link roads, a reliable form of transportation and storage facilities for perishable proceeds.
- Research and development and sharing best practice and experiences: There is the need for improvement in forest extension services to facilitate transfer of technologies and sharing experiences and best practices.

3) How Can Forest Products and Services Contribute to Economic Development in a Sustainable Way?

Traits of Forest Products

- Timber
- Non-Timber Forest Products(NTFPs) – medicinals, rattans, bamboo
- Bush food (meats and fruits)
- Fodder
- Fuel wood
- Honey
- Extractives – resins and oils
- Fibres

Traits of Forest Services

- Water
- Soil stabilization
- Climate and micro climate regulation and stabilization
- Air, noise, dust pollution control
- Tourism and recreation
- Pollination
- Biodiversity and genetic resources
- Cultural and spiritual
- Educational

Benefits

- Livelihoods (household incomes/employment)
- Health and wellbeing
- Contribution to food security
- Environmental services

Pre -conditions for Economic Development Must Include:

- Rights to ancestral indigenous lands and resources, and full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples, respecting their holistic vision of forests and livelihoods (including Convention #169, 61/295 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- Any intervention must be meaningful to the target group to address the underlying issues. Must have bottom-up / local community empowerment and leadership

Challenges and Mechanisms to Meet the Challenges

| The Challenge | Mechanism(s) to Meet the Challenge |
|---|--|
| Insufficient involvement of local communities in the management of local lands/resources and/or access barriers to forest products and services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen local communities knowledge systems and promote governance systems that respect local communities rights to forest resources |
| Lack of a real market for products; markets are monopolized by large producers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market research on behalf of local producers • Cooperative/collaborative marketing to increase opportunities • Micro financing • Capacity building |
| Technologies for processing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately sized technology for the small scale • Extension services to transfer appropriate technology • Investment available for start-up infrastructure |
| Over exploitation of resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ principles of sustainable management • Enforcement and compliance to forest laws. E.g., FLEGT • Building local capacity for environmental stewardship • Bridging traditional and scientific knowledge in forest management |
| Inadequate data to inform sustainable decision making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in research and development |
| Lack of entrepreneurial skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building/training that stimulate/inspire business principles and potential of forest wealth • Access to business start-up capital and support |
| Products and services are under-valued in the markets and in the mind of the consumer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example: pollination is a service that can be measured monetarily in agricultural production when bee populations are reduced • Improve methodologies to assess the values of services |
| No premium price for sustainably managed products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term consumer education • Recognition that this is a long term issue • 3rd party legality verification can address a portion of this issue |
| Lack of information of the use, benefits and management of NTFPs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research, development and education |
| Lack of NTFP markets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro financing and market support for local groups (esp. women) to benefit from local NTFPs • Agroforestry initiatives support |

| The Challenge | Mechanism(s) to Meet the Challenge |
|--|--|
| Overlapping forest uses (mining, agriculture, energy) negatively impacting forests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated resource management and cross-sectoral collaboration • Specific land use planning and enforcement • Fight against corruption |
| Tenure rights and benefit sharing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy reforms with due consideration to inclusion of Indigenous and Local Peoples and local historical and cultural use • Community stewardship of local resources enhances the quality of the resources |
| Community access to commercial plantations is denied | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification that includes a ESIA plan for integration of community interests |
| Political agendas that change with election cycles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term coalition and consensus building |
| Short cycle processes/projects that require heavy investments or import resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New activities require long term support to be successful including building capacity and governance framework, start-up financing, infrastructure and technology, extension services, marketing support |
| Need to understand UN definition of local community and Indigenous Peoples | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education |

Specific Recommendations (inter alia) regarding How Forest Products and Services Can Contribute to Economic Development in a Sustainable Way

- Streamline tenure rights and install equitable benefit-sharing systems **
- Develop and implement appropriate valuation methodologies for forest products and services **
- Develop mechanisms to build inter-sectoral collaboration and Land Use Planning to minimize land use conflicts (forestry, mining, agriculture, infrastructure) **
- Promote long term investment for communities to be successful. This must include building capacity and a local governance framework, start-up financing, infrastructure and technology, extension services, market development and marketing support **
- Include recognition of the role of women in the stewardship and utilization of NTFPs *
- Promote ownership of land by women in countries where this right does not exist **
- Include other values of forests in current models of forest goods and services, including traditional knowledge, Indigenous products, cultural and spiritual values, etc. Traditional knowledge and the holistic

vision of Indigenous Peoples of ecosystems must be recognized and respected, including legally, as having at least the same value and importance as western knowledge and science **

- Support extension and research and development activities to improve forest knowledge systems and technology transfer that involve collaborative partnerships with the local communities **
- Facilitate creation of information platforms for meaningful knowledge sharing and technology development across the stream of users and which bridges science with traditional knowledge **

Where,

- * Relates to Forest Products only
- ** Relates to Forest Products and Services

III. Key Policy Recommendations from the Workshop Communiqué

Forests are critical for the survival of humanity. Forests contribute in multiple and multifaceted ways to human wellbeing. The true and sustainable contribution of forests to human wellbeing can only be achieved through a holistic approach and understanding of forests that captures the interconnectedness and interdependencies of various aspects including the social, cultural, spiritual, economic and environmental values of forests.

Participants discussed various aspects related to forest governance, role of forest products and services, and community-based forest enterprises in human wellbeing including economic development.

To realize the full potential of forests' contribution to human wellbeing, we make the following recommendations:

- **Rights-based approach:** The UNFF and its processes should consistently make use of a right-based approach, respecting international standards and agreements on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and children, trade unions, private sector, NGOs, forest dependent communities and other major groups.
- **Principles of good forest governance:** The UNFF should enable and coordinate the development of a multi-stakeholder process towards a set of principles for good forest governance using the principles of a comprehensive step-by-step bottom-up participatory process.
- **Legal and policy framework for community forestry:** The UNFF should promote the development of enabling national-level legal and policy frameworks for community forestry, which will include provisions for secure land ownership and tenure rights, equitable benefit-sharing, indigenous governance systems, traditional knowledge systems, role of women and youth, access to financing and markets, access to information, transfer of technology, and long-term sustainability of community forestry programs.
- **Public and private partnerships:** Public and private partnerships should be developed to support Indigenous Peoples' and forest-dependent communities and sustainable forest management through research and development, transfer of technology, and other extension activities.
- **Financing mechanisms:** Innovative financing mechanisms, including special funds for targeted purposes such as community-based forest enterprises, at international, national, and local levels should be developed to enhance forests' contributions to human wellbeing. A special emphasis should be given to appropriate and easily accessible mechanisms for community-based forest enterprises, Indigenous Peoples, and women.
- **Community empowerment:** Policies and programmes should be developed for sustainable empowerment, including ownership and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities to start, manage and promote community-based forest enterprises that will include skills enhancement in product development and value addition, market development, quality and financial control, and monitoring and evaluation of enterprise's performance.

.../continues

Communiqué continued:

- **Valuation methods:** Appropriate scientific methods should be developed to study the quantitative and qualitative contributions of various forest products and services to human wellbeing.
- **Traditional knowledge:** Supportive policies should be developed to ensure and promote respect for traditional knowledge rights and values, and to design mechanisms for synergies with other knowledge systems, where applicable and appropriate.
- **Information-sharing platforms:** The establishment of platforms and mechanisms, at different levels such as community, district, state, national, and international, for information sharing on various aspects of sustainable forest management, community forestry, and community-based forest enterprises, should be promoted.
- **Inter-sectoral collaboration:** Inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and a comprehensive land-use planning should be promoted to minimize land use conflicts and maximize forests contributions to human wellbeing.

Part II

Reports of Major Groups' on How to Effectively Participate in UNFF

The six Major Groups' met separately to discuss, plan for and strategize on their participation in the UNFF process, focusing more UNFF10 and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. The following reports summarize their presentations back to the full plenary.

1) Women

How Women Groups Will Improve Their Effective Participation in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in UNFF10's Session in Istanbul (April 2013)

- Organize the MSD to focus more on women's issues in Istanbul
- Develop a common statement for women's voices based on issues
- Different women groups (indigenous, local community, etc.) raise their voice from different side events and from major group and side meetings also

UNFF Issues of Most Importance to Women

- Access to land and forest
- Participation of women in Community Forest Management
- Empower women in small Community Forest Enterprise
- Sharing equitability and benefits
- Compensation of Environmental Services in REDD+ Process
- Women should be given significant participation in the Istanbul Dialogue
- Promote appropriate process of Technology for Women Enterprise in the forest sector

Statement of What the Women Major Group Wants to Achieve in UNFF Processes

- Recognizing women's essential and central role in general development, and in the sustainable management of resources specifically,
- Recognizing the discrimination against women in terms of access to land and forest property to develop economic activities,
- Recognizing the discrimination against women in terms of access to necessary capital for developing economic activities,

the Women Major Group (WGM) seeks to promote the rights of women in the world and to influence policies for gender equity in land, forest, access to technology and equity in management. Convinced that women's access to land and forest is necessary for the success of sustainable management of natural resources (REDD+ and the fight against climate change), we WGM gathered this day, the 22nd of March 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, call on the UNFF to:

- Push all Governments to make Woman-friendly policies;
- Develop enabling mechanisms for women access to ownership of land and forest;
- Create a special fund for financing activities of mitigation and adaptation to climate change for women;
- Support strengthening for Women regional and global networks;
- Have more women engagement and participation in higher level meetings and policy-making processes;
- Have appropriate coordination and good partnership from UNFF to women;
- Prioritize programmes and projects in the management of sustainable resources that provide mechanisms for efficient and equitable distribution of benefits;
- Develop mechanisms for capacity building and training of women, including their access to credit and tools of sustainable management of forests;
- Develop mechanisms to strengthen women's capacity to ensure their qualitative and quantitative representation in the decision making process, particularly those related to all the processes of sustainable management resources at all levels of intervention;
- Prioritize women in the dissemination of information and education; and
- Develop a mechanism of sharing experience between women of different regions.

2) Youth and Children

Context for Discussion

The theme for UNFF10 is “*Forests and Economic Development*” with the following sub-themes:

- Forest products and services
- National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies
- Reducing risks and impacts of disasters
- Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities

Goals and Objectives

The overarching goal of the programme is to enhance the implementation of UNFF decisions toward sustainable forest management within the framework of Forests and Economic Development.

How Children and Youth Want to Participate in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

- Mainstream the Children and Youth agenda into the UNFF
- Improvement to make Forestry Education more accessible to both academic and non-academic children and youth
- Create a youth forum in the UNFF meeting to facilitate youth to be able to raise their common voice, to exchange experience and knowledge, and to facilitate the implementation of the information generated
- To have a UNFF representative who will work closely with a Children and Youth Major focal point to provide general support for the Major Group, particularly in terms of funding to enable youth and children participation in the UNFF
- Create a page in the UNFF website to allow the Major Groups to present their work on the implementation of recommendations
- To hold a youth event where youth and children projects can be showcased and to extend special invitations to forestry academics, professionals, industry, government, intergovernmental, etc. to facilitate dialogue and mutual understanding
- Establish a youth ambassador in each region of the world whose role would be directed towards the coordination of youth actions. This is necessary to ensure both continuity of, and active, youth participation. Therefore, there will be the need for an enabling environment in terms of capacity support
- To have Children and Youth local regional meetings as platforms for them to create provisional agenda before they come to the MGI. These meetings will be led by the youth ambassador
- *To create a linkage between youth in the UNFF and other national and local youth and forestry institutions*

What do Children and Youth Truly Want/Expect in the UNFF for the Future

- Have an evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations to see which ones succeed and which ones do not, so the strength and weaknesses of the processes can be determined and improved upon

3) NGOs

Importance of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

- MSD gives MGs the opportunity to give their views on international forest policy
- MSD outcomes are included into main documents of UNFF sessions
- MSD gives possibility for MGs to discuss major forest issues with governments and international organizations - members of Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Problems of MSD at UNFF10

- Sessions are too short (3 hours are not enough)
- Small participation of MG representatives (only 7 focal points and 3 alternates) are supported by the UNFF Secretariat
- MSD will be only in the first week (cannot contribute into the second week of work)
- No clear mechanism of considering of MSD outcomes in the final UNFF documents

Solutions for these Problems

- To organize 2 sessions of MSD (half day first week and half day second week, as it was at UNFF8)
- To increase the number of sponsored MG representatives
- To sponsor MG representatives during both weeks of UNFF (as it was during UNFF8)
- To create mechanism of coordination between MGs, CPF and UNFF Bureau
- To ask IUFRO to moderate MSD at UNFF10

NGOs Role in the UNFF Process

- Coordination of MG focal points in the MG Initiative
- Combining efforts from different NGOs from different countries
- Cooperation with other MGs in different issues, including SD, EE, NRM, etc.
- Development of a common position from NGOs and promoting it in the UNFF process
- Informing NGOs and the general public in outcomes of UNFF

Future of NGO Involvement in UNFF

- Organize 3rd meeting of MGI in 2014 to contribute to UNFF11
- To make an analysis of outcomes of UNFF10 from an NGO point of view
- Development of a common position from NGOs on lessons learnt at UNFF10 and promoting it for improvement of UNFF process
- Informing NGOs and the general public in outcomes of UNFF10 and about the NGOs common position

4) Scientific and Technology Community

Future of the Scientific and Technology Community Major Group for the UNFF

- Status of the implementation of the previous recommendations (UNFF8 and UNFF9)
- UNFF should promote scientific discussion and global scale studies on major forest issues during UNFF intersessional periods
- Support activities of scientific networks
- Facilitate the work of information networks such as GFIS, FORNIS to improve forest databases and information exchange and sharing
- Organize thematic conferences/workshops to deliberate on issues of global concern focusing on sustainable forest management
- Provide financial support for increased participation of scientists in UNFF sessions and related events
- Promote inter-institutional coordination of Research and Development activities that addresses the needs of forest dependent communities

5) Indigenous Peoples

How to Organize Effective Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in UNFF10's Session in Istanbul (April 2013)

- Good coordination between each other's contribution in order to have synergies
- Ensure direct dialogue between multi-stakeholder groups and governments on content issues
- Ensure direct tabling of documents to be included in the official UNFF documentation and distribution channels
- Monitoring of the implementation of agreements/conclusions reached during previous UNFF and multi-stakeholder dialogues

Indigenous Peoples' Participation in UNFF

- Ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples (IP) in intersessional, preparatory and multi-stakeholder meetings
- Facilitation of regional preparatory meetings
- Financing of communication and information
- Website for Major Groups
- Facilitation of a focal point
- Financing of IPs to participate in meetings and processes
- IP focal points in different languages within UNFF Secretariat; at least English, Spanish and French speaking
- Internship for IPs in UNFF Secretariat, taking into account indigenous experts
- Establish a roster of indigenous experts
- Improve collaboration and synergies with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, including annual reports to inform the Forum on progress made with regard to the implementation of the UNDRIP in UNFF processes
- Solicit periodic reports from governments in relation to the participation and inclusion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in their development and implementation of forest-related policies and programmes
- Creation of a voluntary fund for Indigenous Peoples for their more effective participation and empowerment in relation to forest-related processes and programmes
- Create an Advisory Group to the UNFF to provide advice and support to the activities of the Forum
- Create an experts' working group on Forests and Indigenous Peoples

- Ensure the full and effective participation, and inclusion of the role of indigenous women, in all UNFF processes
- Promote the full respect and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples over their traditional knowledge
- Promote a process for the discussion on historic ecological debt
- Promote a process for the discussion on underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation
- Provide all the documentation in Spanish as well

6) Farmers and Small Forest Landowners

How to Organize Effective Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in UNFF10's Session in Istanbul (April 2013)

- Organize at the regional level where there are shared issues, history, sense of current trends and opportunities
- Every Major Group/sector should prepare a statement that targets the theme on their specific aspects. All those statements are to be made available to all participants
- Collaborative statements should be developed where consensus is possible

Future Involvement of the Farmers and Small Forest Landowners Major Group in the UNFF

- Each Major Group should be supported financially on a geographic basis to organize, to address their issues, and to build appropriate collaboration and partnerships
- Major Groups to meet every 2 years to ensure evaluation and a feedback loop on UNFF policies. This will facilitate, evolve, move forward, and implement progress in each country
- More farmer and community engagement and participation in higher level policy discussions and development
- An effective larger network that is organized from local to regional levels is needed for appropriate policy development
- Establish an annual community forest day
- Every 5 years have an international community forestry event for networking, information sharing and policy advancement
- Place a particular emphasis on small scale green forest /social forestry enterprise development

Closing Ceremony

The official Closing Ceremony for the workshop was held on the afternoon of Friday March 22nd. To commence the ceremony, the workshop communiqué developed by representatives of the thematic working groups (under the leadership of Professor Shashi Kant) was read for the assembled participants. 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, **Andrey Laletin** formally thanked the Government of Brazil and the Directors and staff of the Rio Botanical Garden for hosting, and the German Government for sponsoring, the workshop. He also expressed great appreciation for the participants who contributing so meaningfully to the success of the event, and made a special mention of the contributions of Lambert Okrah, without whom the workshop would not have been realized.

As a special treat, one of the youth participants performed the following song they had composed:

Lyrics to a Song Composed and Performed by Bamidele Oni

“There is a voice that calls to all, from the north to the south.
To the young and the old, no matter who you are or where you come from.
A call to take a stand to save this home, the earth.
Though so little I bear, but my best would I give to bring back its beauty.
I am green impact, and I stand to restore the true value of the earth.”

Representing the Minister of Environment of Brazil, Mr. **Guido Gelli** stated that he has been informed that the participants have worked hard and have crafted very relevant recommendations to be presented to UNFF10 in Istanbul. He assured the participants that the recommendations will be given the serious considerations they deserve.

He wished the participants a safe trip back and hoped that they enjoyed their stay in Rio. With that, he declared the workshop officially closed.

Annex 1: Statement Relating to Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives

The definitions of forests are not taking into account the many values of forests. This is a fundamental and perpetuating weakness in every aspect of the topic of the role of forests for economic development. Also, fundamental weaknesses of the current paradigm of 'economic development' are not dealt with; and almost all proposals dealing with forests and economic development are simply building on the current economic world order which in itself is not sustainable. As such, the so-called 'green' paths will only be cosmetic or symptomatic solutions if the underlying issues are not dealt with.

One of the other underlying factors affecting the role of forests in sustainable development is the non-recognition and non-respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, in particular rights to self-determination, rights over ancestral indigenous lands, territories and resources, and full and effective participation by Indigenous Peoples, respecting their holistic vision of forests and livelihoods. This results in so-called 'solutions' and proposals for sustainable forest management, use of forests as economic resources, and forests as commodities, that are against, and often detrimental to the rights and lives of Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities, and do not result in any sustainable benefits to them.

The MGI theme of "*crafting a path...*" presupposes that everyone is content with or in agreement with what is meant by "economic development". It does not challenge the underlying economic model, which in itself is not sustainable, nor does it recognize different models of "development" and wellbeing, and thus can be considered assimilatory and discriminatory for Indigenous Peoples' cultures and collective livelihoods.

The path of forests to contribute to sustainable development therefore must include respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples as recognized by the world community in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and other relevant national and international instruments and standards including the Convention 169 of the ILO and Court judgments. Particularly important is the respect for the self-determination, autonomous governance systems, land rights, rights of full and effective participation, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and respect for (and inclusion of) the cosmo-vision of Indigenous Peoples. Forest processes and programmes, including forest reform processes, must respect Indigenous Peoples' as rights-holders with established, recognized rights enshrined in international law, in particular in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169. Articles 41 and 42 oblige States and UN agencies, programmes and other bodies to respect and promote these rights. It is necessary to have more awareness of the fact that Indigenous Peoples are rights-holders with established rights, not just stakeholders.

We propose to have a process that will re-define forests. The perspective of looking at, and defining forests and related issues such as 'benefits' and 'services' need to be changed fundamentally, from a top-down exploitative perspective, to a rights-based, community-based and gender-sensitive perspective.

In addition, we propose to look into the historic and future opportunity costs of Indigenous Peoples when discussing the contribution of forests to economic development. Indigenous Peoples have conserved, protected, managed and enriched the forests for many centuries, and now others, including governments and private companies, want to pick the fruits of the work of our ancestors without acknowledging and compensating for this and without respecting our rights over our lands, territories and resources.

Annex 2: List of Workshop Participants

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Annex 3: Official Workshop Programme

Monday, March 18th

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 08:30-10:00 | Registration |
| 09:30-10:40 | Opening Ceremony |
| 10:40-11:00 | BREAK |
| 11:00-13:00 | Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by UNFF Secretariat of the main theme of UNFF10 (Forests and Economic Development)• Presentation and discussion of the first IUFRO case study |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH |
| 14:00-15:20 | Continuation of Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the second IUFRO case study• Formation of Working Groups |
| 15:20-15:40 | BREAK |
| 15:40-17:00 | Working Group Sessions |
| 19:00-21:00 | Welcome Reception for Participants |

Tuesday, March 19th

- 09:30-10:40 Plenary Session
- Preliminary reports from each Working Group
- Working Group Sessions
- Continued discussion within Working Groups
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Group Sessions continue
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Working Group Sessions continue
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-17:00 Working Group Sessions continue

Wednesday, March 20th

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

- 08:00 Bus departs from the hotel
- 20:00 Approximate return to hotel

Thursday, March 21st

- 09:30-10:40 Plenary Session
- Presentations by Working Groups
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session continues
- Working Groups present results and recommendations
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-14:10 **Focus: Effectiveness of MG Participation in the UNFF**
- Plenary Session
- Instructions on tasks for Major Groups participation in UNFF
- 14:10-15:20 Planning Sessions
- Major Groups meet separately and begin discussions/planning
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-17:00 Planning Sessions continue
- Major Groups meet separately and continue discussions/planning

Friday, March 22nd

- 09:30-10:40 Plenary Session
- Major Groups present their plans and strategies
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session
- Major Groups discuss their plans and strategies
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Plenary Session
- Overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF10
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-16:00 Issue workshop communiqué
- 16:00-16:30 Closing Ceremony

Annex 4: Glossary of Acronyms

| | |
|--------|---|
| CBRE | Community-Based Forest Enterprise |
| CDM | Clean Development Mechanism (a flexibility mechanism defined in the Kyoto Protocol) |
| CFM | Community Forest Management |
| CPF | Collaborative Partnership on Forests |
| EE | Environmental Education |
| ESIA | Employment Support and Income Assistance |
| GFIS | Global Forest Information Service |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (an Action Plan of the European Union) |
| FORNIS | Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa's Information Service |
| FPIC | Free, Prior and Informed Consent |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IP | Indigenous Peoples |
| 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 |
| NRM | Natural Resources Management |
| NTFP | Non-Timber Forest Products, "all biological materials, other than timber, which are extracted from forests for human use" |
| ODA | Overseas Development Assistance |
| REDD+ | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation |
| SD | Sustainable Development |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDRIP | UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| 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) |

Annex 5: MGI Steering Committee Members

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