

The first meeting
of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group
on the International Arrangement on Forests
24-28 February 2014, UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya

UNFF's Performance, Achievements; its strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement

Ichiro Nagame
Senior Policy Analyst for International Affairs
Forestry Agency
Min. of Agri., Forestry and Fisheries
Japan



Presentation structure

- Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35
- Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49
- Performance of UNFF in line with the resolution 2000/35
- Performance of UNFF in line with the resolution 2006/49
- Discussion: UNFF's strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35

UNFF is a
vehicle for IAF

The first
resolution

The resolution establishes the UNFF

- an intergovernmental body and as a subsidiary body of the ECOSOC
- to achieve the **objective** (of the international arrangement on forests) and to carry out the **functions**
 - **Objective** of the IAF
 - ① to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests
 - ② to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end
 - Purpose of the IAF
 - ① to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at national, regional and global levels
 - ② to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development
 - ③ to carry out principal functions, based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, the chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the IPF/IFF process

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 (cont'd)

➤ **Functions** of the IAF

- ① Facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for actions
- ② Provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations and others
- ③ Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination among relevant international and regional organizations
- ④ Foster international cooperation
- ⑤ Monitor and assess progress
- ⑥ Strengthen political commitment

Invite the executive heads of relevant organizations to form a **collaborative partnership on forests** to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49

The second resolution

➤ Additional **functions** of the IAF

- ① Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals
- ② Encourage and assist countries to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies
- ③ Strengthen interaction between the UNFF and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms

Function above

➤ Global objectives on forests

- With a view to achieving the **objectives** of the IAF and enhancing the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals
- Decides to set the following shared global objectives on forests and to agree to work globally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 (cont'd)

- Global objectives on forests
 - Four objectives

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 (cont'd)

- Means of implementation (*contents are not listed here*)
- Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination (*contents are not listed here*)
- Working modalities
 - The forum shall meet biennially on the basis of a focused multi-year programme of work
 - Invite forest-related regional and subregional bodies
 - The forum will seek to strengthen interaction with major groups and other forest stakeholders
 - Recommend country-led initiatives address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work
 - Emphasize ad hoc expert groups could be convened to address issues identified in the multi-year programme of work

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 (cont'd)

- Working modalities (*cont'd*)
 - Stress the Forum should consider inputs from regional and subregional forest-related bodies
 - Reaffirm the Forum should continue to support participants from developing countries
 - Decide to consider ways of strengthening the secretariat of the Forum
 - Call upon interested donor Governments to make voluntary financial contributions to the UNFF Trust Fund
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting
 - Agree countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum
 - Invite the member organization of the CPF, in collaboration with the Forum, to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting
 - Also invite the CPF to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the Forum on its initiatives and activities

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 (cont'd)

- Collaborative Partnership on Forests
 - Reaffirm the Forum will provide guidance to the CPF
 - Welcome the joint initiative by IUFRO, CIFOR and ICRAF on science and technology
 - Urge States members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the CPF to help ensure that their forest-related priorities and programmes are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandate
 - Urge countries and parties interested in the work of the CPF to support its joint initiatives by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations
- Non-legally binding instrument
 - Emphasize the importance of strengthening political commitment and action to achieve the global objectives by requesting the Forum to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Mandate of UNFF in ECOSOC Resolution 2006/49 (cont'd)

- Non-legally binding instrument (*continued*)
 - Decide the effectiveness of the IAF will be reviewed in 2015 and that on this basis a full range of options will be considered, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options

Performance of UNFF in line with the resolution 2000/35

Mainly since UNFF7

➤ **Objective** of the IAF

- ① to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests
- ② to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end

➤ **Performance/Achievements**

Global objectives on forests and NLBI

Adopt NLBI and set global objectives on forests within NLBI to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015

High-level ministerial segments, including a dialogue with the heads of the CPF members, as well as other forest-related international/regional organizations commenced in 2011 and 2013 and will be held in 2015 in line with biennial sessions of the Forum

The UN designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests and the International Day of forests on 21 March

Performance of UNFF in line with the resolution 2000/35 (cont'd)

➤ **Functions** of the IAF

- ① Facilitate and promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for actions
- ② Provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations and others
- ③ Enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination among relevant international and regional organizations
- ④ Foster international cooperation
- ⑤ Monitor and assess progress
- ⑥ Strengthen political commitment

→ this function is related to the 2nd objective

➤ **Performance/Achievements**

The Forum held its biennial sessions from 2009 to 2015 with its Multi-Year Programme of Work

The purpose of NLBI is to provide a framework for national action and international cooperation

To achieve the purpose of NLBI, Member States should consider the seven thematic elements of SFM as a reference framework

For the 9th and 11th session, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare, in collaboration and coordination with the FAO, analytical consolidated reports

Performance of UNFF in line with the resolution 2006/49

➤ Additional **functions** of the IAF

- ① Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals
- ② Encourage and assist countries to develop and implement forest conservation and rehabilitation strategies
- ③ Strengthen interaction between the UNFF and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms



➤ **Performance/Achievements**

The Forum will review the contribution made by forests to the achievement at its eleventh session in 2015

Discussion: UNFF's strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement

1. As to the performance related to the objectives, UNFF has indicated its strength than the past process, i.e. IPF and IFF, through **adoption of NLBI and global objectives on forests**.

Also the designation of **2011 as the International Year of Forests** as well as of **21 March as the International Day of Forests** deems to be a part of UNFF's strength associated with its objectives.

2. As to the performance related to the functions, UNFF has indicated its strength in **provision of a forum for policy development** and **dialogue with high-level participation** through its biennial sessions from 2009 up to 2013 with its **Multi-Year Programme of Work**.

Also the adoption **of the seven thematic elements of SFM** as a reference framework to achieve the purpose of NLBI deems to be UNFF's strength.

However, as to **facilitation and promotion of the past resolutions, enhancement of cooperation and policy/programme coordination among relevant organizations** and **monitoring and assessment of its progress** deems to be limited.

Discussion: UNFF's strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement (cont'd)

3. Why did UNFF indicate its weakness in performing its functions?

There are voices pointing out the reasons in **the voluntary nature of UNFF** and **the weakness of its secretariat** services, however, there seems to be a **fundamentally difficulty in monitoring and assessment** of progress towards SFM based upon a global compulsory set of indicators in line with seven thematic elements.

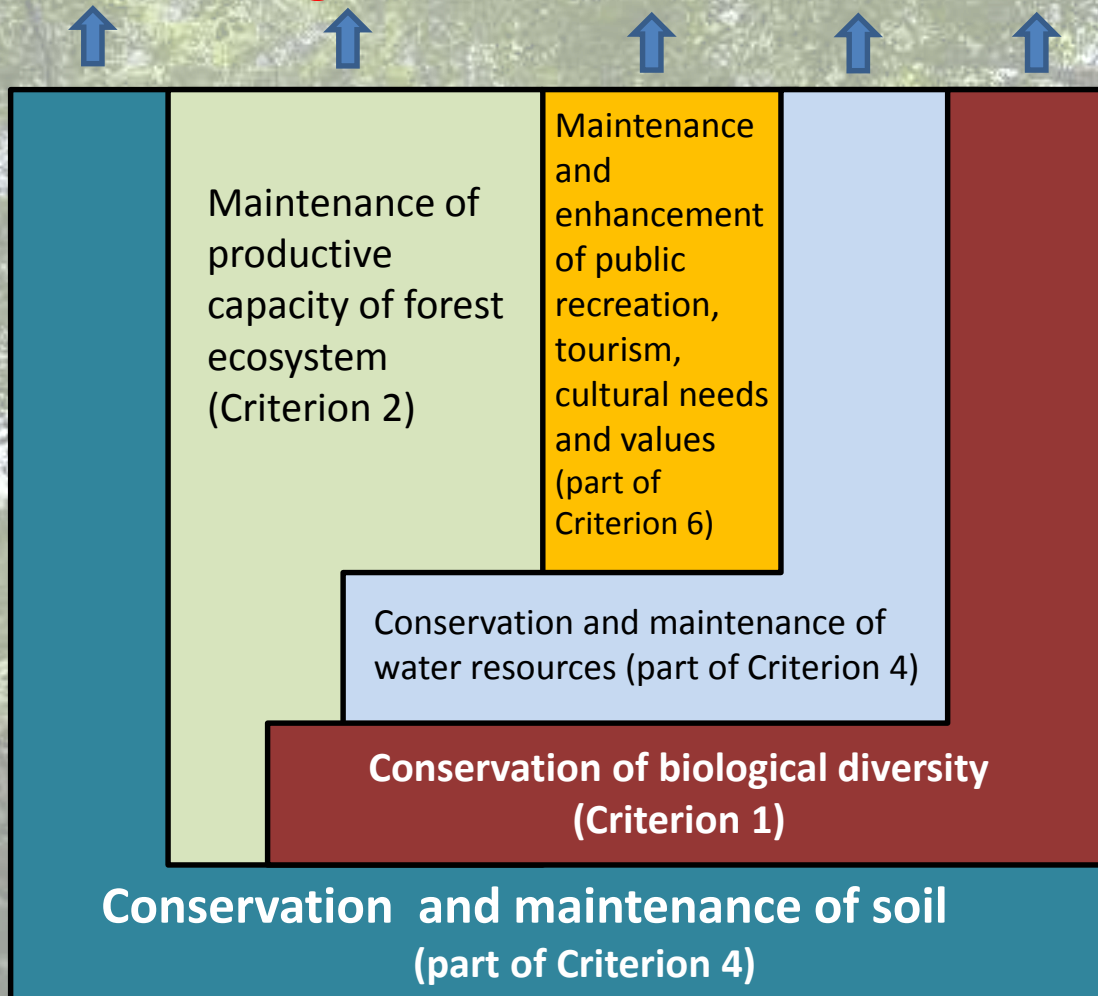
It is because **the ecological, economic, social and institutional conditions and needs of each region** are different and to be adjusted. In addition, **hierarchical decomposition linkages** or **cause-effect/trade-off linkages** among the thematic elements/indicators are not fully analyzed.

4. What does it mean by a hierarchical decomposition linkage?

Allow me to show an example of diagram of hierarchical relation among "criteria" in the Montréal Process.

Discussion: UNFF's strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement (cont'd)

Fulfilling functions of multi-services



Masakazu Suzuki (2007), partly modified

- Soil conservation service is located as the base of this diagram, since no vegetation exists in the area where soil erosion prevails.
- Under this condition, biological diversity service is ensured.
- Then with these two pre-conditions, water resources service is functioned under a hierarchical structure.
- If forest is managed primary for wood production service, water resources service and biological diversity service may not be fully functioned. This trade-off relation is found in step-wise structure between wood production service and , biological diversity and water resources services. Even under such case, soil conservation service should not be damaged.

Discussion: UNFF's strength, weakness and the areas for its improvement (cont'd)

5. Conclusions

- UNFF's new role as a **“platform”** in addition to “forum”

Current achievement in collaboration towards harmonization in reporting through creation of the **Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ)** in FRA2015 data collection by FAO, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Forest Europe (FE), ITTO, Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC) and the Montréal Process (MP) indicates the need in creation of **Global Forest Indicators Partnership**.

→ The CFRQ, could be comparable among the partner organizations/processes, covers 63% (76 out of 120) in variables and also 88% (104 countries) of global forest area in FRA2015.

Since UNFF adopted the seven thematic elements for SFM, i.e. “criteria” under C&I processes, UNFF deems to serve as a platform for “indicators”.



Thank you for your attention.