

Country: **Papua New Guinea**

Date of submission:

## **National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

### **Background**

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. Specifically, UNFF11 will:

1. Review the effectiveness of the IAF and consider all future options,
2. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
3. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of voluntary national reports by UNFF Member States on items (2) and (3) above will provide crucial input to the Forum's deliberations. Based on national reports, as well as globally available information, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) will prepare an analytical report on the progress and trends in the above areas which will be submitted to UNFF11.

At its tenth session the Forum requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to: "*Further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources.*" (WG1 Resolution)<sup>2</sup>

Accordingly, the UNFFS in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and consultations with countries revised and streamlined the reporting format. The revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format, including by asking Member States to submit only information currently not provided to CPF member organizations or unavailable in international data bases.

The attached draft reporting format is presented as a set of questions in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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<sup>1</sup> This draft is a work in progress. After consultations with countries this document will be revised and finalized by the UNFFS.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session\\_documents/unff10/ResolutionWG1UNFF10.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session_documents/unff10/ResolutionWG1UNFF10.pdf)

The information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

### Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national reporting format **electronically (in word processing software) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org)**, at the latest, by **30 September 2014**. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical Secretary-General's report to UNFF11.
2. Submit in a separate electronic file of a **scanned version of the signed letter from their UNFF Focal Point** [or respective Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York] conveying their submission.
3. Submit any **graphic elements** included in their completed reporting questionnaire in a separate electronic file.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents may need to consult with experts from a variety of national ministries to complete the reporting questionnaire, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. The respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

For questions that have multiple choice components, please check all boxes that apply. We encourage countries to fill in the descriptive parts as these parts provide context and background information in addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers. At the same time, please note that space provided for the **descriptive parts is limited to 250 words**, to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds.

Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007) is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document follow the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and definition FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

## General information

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**PART I: Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)**

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, has your country taken actions to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, law enforcement and support of sustainable forest management (SFM)?

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent are these actions effective in supporting the aims of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe these actions and if possible provide 2-3 examples and a web-link to relevant document(s):

It is accepted that new challenges and initiatives will entail new directions and guidelines. Furthermore, experiences from existing practices and processes means that reviews are necessary, including capacity building. Existing initiatives that the Forest Authority and PNG generally is implementing such as the PNG Logging Code of Practice (PNGLCOP), the Timber Legality and Traceability Verification (TLTV) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate will continue and be refined to meet new challenges, including the effects of climate change. A major factor that had hindered and continues to hinder good progress in sustainable forest management (SFM) in PNG is the land tenure system and the absence of a National Land Use Plan (NLUP) for the country.

Two such policy documents are highlighted below:

***The National Forestry Development Guidelines, 2009***

***Forestry and Climate Change Framework for Action 2009-2015***

2. Does your country's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme, contain time-bound and quantified targets related to forest area?

Yes  No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

In further recognition of the forestry sector's role in Papua New Guinea's national economy, particularly in providing services in the rural areas where government presence is limited, the government through the PNG Vision 2050, Development Strategic Plan (DSP) 2010 – 2030 and Medium Term Development plan (MTDP) 2010 – 2015 have tasked the forestry sector to:

- Increase processed timber exports to 80 per cent of all forestry exports by 2030 from the current rate of 20 per cent;
- Have plantations produce all logs and manage forests by 2030; and
- Increase plantation forests from 62,000 hectares to well over 150,000 hectares by 2030.

**3. Has your country undertaken activities since 2007 to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify:

- |   |                            |    |
|---|----------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afforestation            | <input type="text"/>       | ha |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reforestation | 14,411ha new areas planted |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration              | <input type="text"/>       | ha |

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation
- Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- Other

Please describe; if possible, provide 2-3 examples and a web-link to relevant document(s):

Apart from Plantation forestry, logged over forest lands not required for other conversion or use have been allowed to naturally grow with minimal intervention under the program on 'reforestation naturally'. The program has been scaled up throughout the country especially in all Forest Management Agreement timber concession areas where logging has been taking place. To date, a total of more than 46,000 hectares of logged over forests has been rehabilitated. The current target of reforestation naturally country-wide is 4,200 hectares yearly.

**4. Since 2007, has your government raised the importance of forests and SFM in national developments plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?**

Yes  No

If Yes, has this resulted in:

- More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other

Please describe; if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Increased Assistance in Foreign Aid:

A number of foreign aid projects have been implemented in PNG; two of the notable ones are:-

- (1) Capacity Development on Forest Resource Monitoring for addressing Climate Change in Papua New Guinea, funded by the Japanese Government; and
- (2) UNREDD/FAO project on assisting the PNG Forest Authority to implement a “multi-purpose national forest inventory.

Awareness:

A number of activities were undertaken during the IYF – 2011 to raise public awareness and education on the importance of forests. The following are the activities:

- i. Naming of Provincial trees
- ii. Raising and planting over 3 million seedling target and the program still continues
- iii. Pacific Book on Forestry produced and launched
- iv. Forestry Open Days coincides with the international day of forest
- v. Launching of International Year of Forests
- vi. Seminar on forestry to find a way forward in the next decade
- vii. PNG Government approval and gazetting of the International Day of Forest to be observed in the country along with other UN approved days for observation

**5. To what extent are mechanisms for coordination across ministries and agencies whose policies have impact on or may affect forests and SFM effective?**

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and if possible, a web-link to relevant document(s):

Cross-sectoral collaboration approach has been considered important considering the competing land-use factor as an emerging issue due to the growing cash economy need of the people in Papua New Guinea. The two sectors that have a closer working relationship with the PNG Forest Authority as the regulator of forest and forest industry are the Department of Agriculture and the Office of Climate Change and Development.

All big agricultural projects that requires clearance of large tracks fo forest requires both the PNG Forest Authority and the National Agriculture Department working together.Both state agencies have working mechanisms in place making sure that agriculture development takes place with carefull planning ,execution and monitoring of the activities of the projects where the landowners benefit fully and with minimal destruction and degradation to forest and land.

In areas of Climate Change and mitigation, the PNG Forest Authority has a closer working relationship with the Office of Climate Change and REDD+.

The Department of Environment & Conservation and the Department of Lands & Physical Planning, both have a good working relationship with PNG Forest Authority as well in SFM related programs and activities.

**6. To what extent are mechanisms for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation effective?**

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Like many countries, Forestry in PNG hinges onto other stakeholders within the country's development and hence cross stakeholder cooperation is very significant. The current Papua New Guinea Forestry Act provides that all relevant stakeholders must participate in the harvesting and management of the national forest resources.

The decision making process in the management and utilization of the country's forest resources is bottom up approach where it involves key stakeholders, including at the sub-national level. In this case, every Province in Papua New Guinea has a Provincial Forest Management Committee (PFMC), who considers issues on forestry at the provincial (sub-national level) and makes recommendations to the National Forest Board (NFB) for deliberation and decision at the national level. The NFB which primarily deliberates on policy and legislative matters is made up of representatives of key stakeholders.

In developing policies and strategies on forestry, views from other sectoral agencies and the private sector are obtained through normal consultation processes such as workshops and seminars. The PNG Forest Authority does not carry out its forest management activities in isolation but in collaboration with all actors, especially the indigenous land owners.

**7. Do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publically-owned forests?**

Yes  No

If Yes, are the tenure or user rights recognized by law?

Yes  No

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

In Papua New Guinea, nearly 97 percent of land is customarily owned by clans and tribal groups and so are classified as private forests. Public forest is not common, as the PNG government does not own the land.

**8. Are local and indigenous communities benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests?**

Yes  No  Partly

If Yes or Partly, please specify how:

- Income generation
- Food provision
- Energy supply
- Shelter
- Health

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

In Papua New Guinea, more than 85 percent of the population live in rural communities and are classified as forest dependant communities.

The traditional landowners benefit through payment of royalty and premium payment from large scale logging operations which are mainly owned by foreign companies. Other infrastructural benefits such as schools, roads, bridges and other community development are provided as part of timber permit conditions. For small scale operations which harvests less than 5,000 cubic meters, the owners (in many cases, it is the landowner groups) gain 100% from the timber sales proceeds.

Payment for environmental services (PES) has been a topic of discussion for sometime by NGOs in PNG but has never been put into practices because of lack of government policy directives. The only payments made are those minimal fees paid by the public to visit parks and habitats.

As most local communities own both the land and forest, provision of traditional and food, water, fuel wood for energy, house building materials and traditional medicine are not a problem to them as products and services are produced or gathered from their individual clan's and tribe's land and forest.



9. **What steps has your government taken since 2007 to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Mechanisms have been devised to prevent and reduce illegally harvested forest products from being exported or imported into the country to assist in the global trade of illegally sourced forest products.

The PNG government as part of a donor assisted project from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has developed a PNG Timber Legality Standard which is about to be approved and implemented to enhance forest law enforcement and governance in the country.

Another mechanism is the development of the PNG Country Specific Guidelines (in its final draft) to assist the Australian Timber importers of the processes that PNG adopts to ensure timber and other wood products coming out from PNG's forest are legally sourced and processed and marketed.

10. **Has your country developed a national set of criteria and indicators for SFM or use a nationally applicable regional/international set of C&I?**

- Yes  No

If Yes, are these C&I used to:

- Generate information on forest conditions and management
- Assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

PNG does not have a nationally developed criteria and indicators for SFM, but because of its membership and strong linkage with the International Tropical Organization (ITTO), PNG uses the ITTO criteria and indicators for SFM in the country.

Please describe; if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

11. **Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?**

- Yes  No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public-funding sources
- Domestic private investment
  - ✓ ODA (including REDD+)
- Foreign investment

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

The government through its PNG Vision 2050, Development Strategic Plan(DSP) 2010-2030 and the recently launched National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development has shifted its focus on relying on non renewable sectors to renewable sector such as Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to channel appropriate funding to diversify the economy to avoid the “Dutch Deases” once the non-renewable reources are depleted. Through this move, the government has proposed to channel appropriate funding to the Forestry sector to enhance the work on sustainable forest management in the country to making sure that the forest resources are sustainably managed and utilized for both today and into the future.

**12. Has your country established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services provided by forests?**

- Yes  No

If Yes, please specify, and if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD
- Nature conservation USD
- Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

**13. Since 2007, what steps has your country taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?**

- ✓ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ✓ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
  - ✓ Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- Other;

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

PNG will be unable to achieve the objectives of SFM in the country without its major partners; the timber industry. As such, the government consults the industry’s views in aspects of forest management and utilization in the country. Tax incentives are also made available for the forest sector industries by the government to grow the sector.

Currently, the forest sector industry has assisted in their inputs to the government in developing policy documents such as the National Downstream Processing of Forest

Products and Reforestation and Afforestation Strategies to ensure that the sector is vibrant in contributing to sustainable resource management and the growing of the country's economy.

**14. Is your country engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Private sector/philanthropy
- NGOs
- Others

Type of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- Triangular

- Technical
- Financial
- Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer
- Other

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation and if possible, a web-link to relevant document(s):

Various CPF members such as ITTO and FAO provide development assistance to PNG forestry sector to undertake sustainable forest management related activities. Donor governments particularly Australia and Japan provide financial and technical assistance to support sustainable forest management in Papua New Guinea. These areas include capacity building and institutional strengthening, research and development, training, forest law enforcement, community forest management and climate change related activities such as REDD+. The significance of such cooperation is strengthening relationship between countries and between organizations not only financial and technical assistance but knowledge and experiences learnt in other countries are imparted when implementing projects.

In the last three (3) years (2011-2013) PNG has implemented projects funded by the Japanese and Australian government and ITTO for enhancing SFM in the country. Three that are worth mentioning are:

1. Capacity Development for addressing Climate Change in Papua New Guinea project funded by the government of Japan. The main output of this project is that PNG has developed a Forest Base Map which will be used as the base for monitoring future changes in forest cover. It was a three year project and completed in March in 2014.

2. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) project funded by the ITTO. The main component of the project is developing a timber tracking system that can be adopted by the PNG Forests Authority to assist in effective monitoring of logging operation. This was a two year project and was completed in 2012.
3. The Decision Support System (DSS) project funded under the auspicious of the Australian government was designed to consolidate all forest related data and data base that are existing in the country. The project has been completed and it is now being rolled out throughout the country. Once the rollout program is completed, it will assist PNG to make sound decision in the management and utilization of the forests resource as well as making reliable reporting to our international partners and other stakeholders within country.

**15. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?**

Yes  No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- Forest inventory systems
- Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- Fuel-wood production
- Wood processing technology
- Waste reduction and recycling

Are these programs directed at:

- Forest owners
- Timber companies/forest products industry
- State agencies
- Local communities
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- General public

Please describe, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

**16. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?**

- Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- Meetings with the general public
- Art events/Exhibitions
- Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- Other;

Please provide 2-3 examples, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

As part of the actions to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by the forests, Papua New Guinea celebrated its first International Day of Forests on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The event was celebrated with tree planting involving, village people, school children and officers of government agencies. TV and printed media personnels were invited and the celebration was reported in the printed media and TV to signal out the importance of forest to the vast majority of people through out the country. The Papua New Guinea Forest Authority is planning for a bigger country wide celebration where marking of the day will be celebrated in all the provinces in 2015 and 2016.

**17. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests:**

Below is a success story of a Protected Forest area between the Madang and Morobe Provinces of Papua New Guinea.

**YUS - Papua New Guinea's first Protected Area**

The YUS conservation area is located in the north coast of the Huon Peninsula bordering Madang and Morobe provinces of Papua New Guinea and covers over more than 78, 000 hectares of tropical rainforest. The area is so remote in terms of accessing most basic government services by the local people. Because of the remoteness, local people have developed an idea into developing parts of their forest as a protected area to protect their unique flora and fauna within their forest. One of their main and foremost reasons is to protect the habitat of the endangered Huon tree kangaroo. Clans from nearly 50 villagers came together and set aside parcels of their clan land to establish the protected area. The protected area was not allowed for human activities such as hunting, logging and other forest resource extraction. A local non-governmental organization, the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-Papua New Guinea (TKCP-PNG) having realized the initiative and enthusiasm of the local people have committed to assist local people in establishing a local forest protected area committee known as the YUS Conservation Organization (YCO) to run and manage the affairs of the protected area. Through YCO, the local communities were empowered to work together to manage the protected area and initiate community development projects that includes health, education and sustainable livelihood initiatives. One such project is the *Healthy Village (HV), Healthy Forest Project (HFP)*. Under this project, YCO partners with the PNG Medical Research Institute and the PNG District and Provincial Health Departments to provide training and medical treatment through YCO-sponsored health patrols across YUS. Maternal and infant health for children and women were the key priorities. Today, YCO with partners have established safe birthing houses, training of village birth assistants and provision of essential basic supplies for mothers & children health. Healthy children and women make for healthy villages, and ultimately a healthy community means a healthy forest and environment (*Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-PNG Annual Report, 2013, P:30.*).

The success story of this project can be accessed through the following web link:

<http://www.zoo.org/document.doc?id=1244>

## **PART II: Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

### **18. Have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?**

- Yes  No  Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

- By improving livelihoods
  - By supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter
  - By providing food and contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems
  - By providing employment, including employment in informal economy
- Other

Please describe, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Traditional forestry and subsistence use of forests continue to be the basis for survival of most rural people in Papua New Guinea. Currently, around 85 percent of PNG's population still lives in rural areas and depend on forests for their traditional and subsistence living. Forests are still major sources of traditional wealth and cultural inheritance. However, traditional forestry management and subsistence use of forests are now transformed into modern market commodities to meet the growing demands of people in rural areas. For instance, traditional medicinal plants and other forest produce that used to be cultivated and domesticated through traditional forestry practices are now sold in the informal sector markets for cash income. Firewood, which used to be the only source of the energy in rural areas for cooking and lighting, is now also sold in towns and cities for additional cash income. Various nuts and fruits obtained from the bush are being sold for cash. As such, traditional and subsistence use of forests continue to maintain their traditional values and significance but in some instances transformed into modern market in Papua New Guinea today, thus contributes to alleviating poverty in the country.

### **19. Have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?**

- Yes  No  Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

- By providing habitat
  - By supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity
  - By stabilizing soils and slopes
  - By safeguarding water resources
  - By sequestering carbon
  - By providing timber, energy and other products
- Other

Please describe, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

The forests provide resilience and stability in changing climatic and ecological regimes. PNG employs selective logging and the forest recovers very fast for the next crop. At the same time, we have a programme on natural forest management where logged-over areas in most timber concessions are reforested with wildings from hardwood timber species that are taken from the same locality. Water catchment areas particularly in the upstream are conserved. Areas above 30 degrees slope are not logged. Many areas are being conserved through the initiative of NGOs and the government with international donor assistance.

Funding assistance from international organizations has assisted PNG on many occasions for the conservation of forest and environment. The recent assistance from FAO has assisted PNG in reviewing its Logging Code of Practice (PNGLCOP) to making sure that proper standards are set in place for developers to adhere to for ensuring environment sustainability.

**20. Have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

By engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance

Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)

By fostering partnerships with the private sector

By attracting foreign investment in the forest sector

By fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation

By fostering north-south, south-south and triangular technical, technological and scientific partnerships

Other

Please describe, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Australia and Papua New Guinea signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on 10 June 2009. The aim of the MOU was to encourage greater cooperation in relation to:

- Sustainable forest management and the certification of forests and forestry activities.
- Promoting improved trade, investment and sustainable development that includes; improvements in the legal verification of the origins of timber and timber products.
- Identifying the capacity building needs to support future growth in the forest industry of both countries.
- Identifying areas for closer collaboration on forestry matters through the existing multilateral forestry forums.
- Identifying opportunities for closer collaboration on forest research activities which support mutually beneficial outcomes.

During the fourth Australia – Papua New Guinea forestry cooperation bilateral meeting held in Madang, Papua New Guinea, on 29-30 May 2014, the 2009 MOU was reviewed and a new MOU drafted to come into effect in 2014.

**21. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?**

✓ Yes  No

If Yes, please describe, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

Forests has in the past contributed immensely to the development of the country and is seen to continue into the future. Most rural areas in PNG can now access government services through the infrastructures build by forestry developers. Forestry operations also contribute significantly to the countries development by generating export taxes and levies for the government and the customary landowners (*PNG Vision 2050,P:42, 2009; PNGDSP,2010-2030, P:94,2010*). Web link to these document are as follows:

[http://www.treasury.gov.pg/html/publications/files/pub\\_files/2011/2011.png.vision.2050.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.pg/html/publications/files/pub_files/2011/2011.png.vision.2050.pdf)

<http://www.ohe.gov.pg/index.php/downloads/policy-papers/38-development-strategic-plan-2010-2030>

**MDG2: Achieving universal primary education**

Indirect links exist through increased income from forest-based sales and enterprises that can help to pay for school fees. More classrooms and teachers houses are built in the timber concession areas under Timber Permit Agreements to bring services to the forest dwelling people. The road access built by the timber industries makes access to remote schools possible for travel of teachers and school supplies (*ITS Global, P: 6, 2007*).

**MDG3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

Women are at the forefront to support their family units enter into a male dominated area in Forestry. There is an increase in women's participation among family units in reforestation and forest extension activities in tree planting in a number of forestry projects in PNG. Women are increasingly taking up senior managerial positions within the Forestry agency and the timber industry. This trend of forestry contribution by women to poverty alleviation currently may not be significant, but will certainly be a force as forest resources become scarce and demands for improved living standards in rural community increases where women will be involved as a family unit (*FAO, P: 241,2012,*).

**MDG4: Reducing child mortality**



Through the means of developing forest resources, most rural areas within the forest resource projects gets improved health and living standards by the establishment of medical facilities whereby relevant medications are available to provide first aid to children thus reducing chances of child mortality (*ITS Global, P: 6, 2007*).

**MDG5: Improving maternal health**

Again,through the development of forestry projects areas within the vicinity of these projects receive infrastructural projects like health centers and aid posts for aiding mothers and young women in health and maternal related health issues that arises with the most remotest parts of the country (*ITS Global, P: 6, 2007*).

**MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDSs, malaria and other diseases**

Awareness in logging operations are made on HIV/AIDS at logging sites and other areas where there is forestry related activity. Mosquito nets are provided for industry workers and to communities by some industry players to prevent the spread of malarial infections.

**Reference Cited :**

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5. Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program-Papua New Guinea (TKCP-PNG).,(2013).Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program Annual Report,Lae, Papua New Guinea.