

Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations

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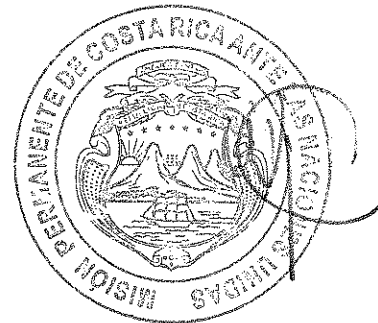
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The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests, and has the honour to submit the document regarding the views and proposals of Member States and other stakeholders on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF).

The Government of Costa Rica would like to thank the Secretariat for its support in this process.

The Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Forum on Forests, the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 10th December, 2013



To the
United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat
New York

Country/Organization: Costa Rica

Date of Submission: November 30, 2013

**UNFF Intersessional Activities on the International Arrangement on Forests
Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
July 2013**

1. According to the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007, the overall theme of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) in 2015 will be “Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement on forests (IAF).” At this session, the Forum will review the effectiveness of the IAF and decide on its future.¹
2. In preparation for UNFF11 in 2015, the Forum has made a number of decisions during the last fourteen years.² Most recently, Member States through Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10 decided to undertake several intersessional activities to ensure UNFF11 has a strong basis to review the effectiveness of the IAF and make a decision on the future of the IAF.
3. One of the three components of the intersessional activities on the IAF, as outlined in Resolution 10/2 of UNFF10, is to solicit views from Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the IAF. Specifically, the Resolution invites countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, its member organizations, other relevant organizations, relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders to submit views and proposals to the Forum’s Secretariat on the six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, and the full range of options on the future international arrangement on forests. The UNFF Secretariat should provide the compilation of these views and proposals to the first meeting of the ad hoc expert group (AHEG1) on the IAF³.
4. This format has been prepared by the Forum’s Secretariat to facilitate submission of the inputs on the IAF to AHEG1. The electronic version of this format is available at: (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/docs/Views-on-IAF.doc>). Member States and other relevant stakeholders are invited to download this format and use it to submit their views and proposals in English. The explanation in each box should not exceed 150 words. Member States and other stakeholders are kindly requested to submit the original copy of the completed format in word processing software, with a scanned copy of the official letter from their respective organization/ministry/mission, via email to: unff@un.org, with copy to Mr. Hossein Moeini-Meybodi at: moeini-meybodi@un.org, and Ms. Thida Sam at: sam2@un.org. All inputs should be sent to the UNFF Secretariat by **30 October 2013**.

¹ Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42), please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

² ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, Resolution 1 of UNFF7 and its annex (E/2007/42) and Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and its annex (E/2013/42)

³ OP 5 and 6 of Resolution 2 of UNFF10 and paragraph 2 of its annex- Please see:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/321/90/PDF/N1332190.pdf?OpenElement>

**Format for Soliciting Views and Proposals on the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)
July 2013**

Ministry / Organization: National System of Conservation Areas, MINAE

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Section A: Full range of options for the IAF

A.1 Please select (with X in front of the options below) and explain the preferred option for the future of the IAF:

- A legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- Strengthening of the current IAF
- Continuation of the current IAF
- Other options (please describe)

- Among the purposes of the IAF, this opportunity to strengthen the sustainable management of forests worldwide and meet the legally binding instrument on all types of forests. In addition, to promote the protection and sustainable management of forests, the contemplation of the many services that ecosystems provide all comprehensive. Also, strengthen action to address threats to which they are exposed by anthropogenic and natural activities, including climate change. -

Section B: Performance of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its processes since 2000, and future options for UNFF

B.1 Please explain if you consider the current UNFF structure and its biennial sessions as sufficient to take necessary actions and to provide policy advice and guidance on all issues related to all types of forests and at all levels: The current structure is considered appropriate UNFF and its biannual meetings, but the facilitation, advice and encouragement for the development of regional activities is recommended, taking advantage of the spaces, the FAO regional commissions, and the like in order to provide information, create synergies and facilitate knowledge, socialization and

strengthening non-legally binding instrument. They must also achieve synergies with related parties and other agreements signed by the countries

We recommend the intersessional meetings at regional and international levels, in order to follow up on the agreements of the UNFF and negotiation issues for the next session..

B.2 Please describe the UNFF's performance and list its key achievements in implementing its principal functions, as stated in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49⁴: UNFF functions are linked to:

- Increasing the contribution of forests to the achievement of internationally agreed development targets;
- Encourage and assist countries to develop and implement strategies to conserve and restore forests
- Strengthen interaction between the Forum and regional organizations / sub-regional level, in order to facilitate cooperation and the implementation of sustainable forest management and to contribute to the work of the Forum.

As key themes can be noted the following

- Development and implementation of national forest programs and equivalent strategies;
- Promote cooperation and coordination between sectoral policies and programs
- International trade in forest products
- Participation of stakeholders in civil society
- Consolidated scientific basis for forest policy
- Public awareness and education on forest
- Means of implementation, including financing
- The coordination of priorities and programs with members of the Collaborative
- Principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting-progress Instrument

B.3 Please provide your view on the future options for the UNFF:

- UNFF should lead a process of communication of their work and the results of the forum, the non-legally binding instrument, the GOFs and the importance of sustainable forest management of all types of forests.
- The permanent communication mechanisms with the focal points of the countries. Political and technical information is provided by the CAP. Including interregional and intersectoral synergies.
- Facilitate assistance to countries on the knowledge of the UNFF, the general objectives of the woods and the Non-Legally Binding Instrument, and promoting their inclusion in regional and national processes.

⁴ Please see these documents at:

- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/2000_35_E.pdf
- http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/iaf/2006_49_E.pdf

B.4 Please describe the potential roles for UNFF in implementing the UN post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs:

- Active participation in processes developing Sustainable Development Goals and the Development Agenda Post-2015, to ensure the relevance of different types of forests and sustainable management, taking into account environmental, social and economic aspects, the poverty reduction, climate change, and many other subjects
- Keep informed the parties of the developed processes and determine the best way to take into account the positions and contributions.
- Conducting the assessment of overall forest objectives and their contribution to SDGs is recommended.

B.5 Please describe the role and impact of Country-Led Initiatives and ad hoc expert groups in the work of the UNFF:

- Incorporation into national forest policies and programs
- Generating processes of communication and disclosure sectoral and intersectoral, multilevel, etc..
- Synergies with UN conventions you link (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, etc.)
- Sustainable forest management

B.6 Please indicate how effective you consider the engagement of major groups in the work of the UNFF and provide suggestions on their further engagement:

- Participation and the role of different actors that are related to forest ecosystems is very wide, have a variety of interests and needs related to forests and sustainable management thereof.
- Should characterize and measure the effective participation of different organizations and their contribution to the scope of the UNFF.
- Synergies and harmonization of roles and interests. Identifying opportunities for participation in international, regional and national level is suitable.
- Determine communication and coordination mechanisms established at regional and national level, with relevant actors and sectors.

B.7 Please explain the role and impact of the International Year of Forests and the International Day of Forests in promoting greater awareness and strengthening political and public commitment for forests:

It is very important to use these celebrations in order to provide information through different media and create awareness of the importance of all types of forest ecosystems for sustainable development.

- Social, economic and environmental benefits that forests provide to humanity at all levels
- Generation of goods and ecosystem services
- Relevance to different natural hazards.
- Importance in terms of food security, livelihood and production of vital resources for humans (wood, water).
- Importance in mitigating and adapting to the impacts and effects of climate change. But these important ecosystems are being threatened and are more vulnerable to climate change.

- Promote the reduction of deforestation and degradation, forest fires, pests and diseases, and contributing the reduction of poverty and improvement of sustainable livelihoods.

Plan and coordinate activities with various stakeholders as part of these celebrations, in order to communicate effectively to multilevel and multi-sectoral.

Create synergies with other similar activities at international and national level.

Section C: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) and the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

C.1 Please indicate progress in the implementation of the forest instrument:

- Adequate
- Inadequate
- Not sure

C.2 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

- It is necessary to promote the dissemination and knowledge to the countries within the scope of NLBI. Facilitating linkage to regional processes and national forest programs and any regional process
- Because the organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which are operating in most countries of the world, it is important to create synergies and actions to provide information and collaboration in knowledge and implementation NLBI.

As examples:

- COFLAC
- Technical Group of Forestry Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Regional Strategic Program for Management of Forest Ecosystems (PERFOR)
- Generate pilot in interested countries, fostering experiences and lessons learned in their implementation and their relationship with forest planning tools. This will allow countries or parties, to appropriate and internalize their importance and strengthen implementation.

- Formulating guidelines and technical series, in different languages to guide the incorporation into national forest programs, as well as other technical and political issues.

C.3 Please indicate progress in achieving the GOFs:

	Adequate	Inadequate	Not sure
GOF1:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF2:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF3:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOF4:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.4 Please provide suggestions on how to improve progress:

It is recommended to establish criteria and indicators specifically aimed at these objectives, allowing more easily associate programs and regional and national policies. Generate support to member countries, with the support of organizations for cooperation and assistance, creating synergies with other relevant bodies

C.5 Please explain how implementation of the forest instrument has contributed to the implementation of forest-related international conventions, and vice versa:

- With the incorporation of the Convention in the CAP, you can create synergies between conventions, and agreements approved in different areas of the conferences of the parties and UNFF sessions.
- Considering the important role of forests and sustainable forest management in Sustainable Development
- The growing concern about the vulnerability, loss and degradation of forest ecosystems, human and natural causes

C.6 Please describe how the forest instrument and the GOFs can contribute to the post-2015 UN development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

- Consider political consensus on the vision for an agenda of the United Nations development after 2015 and the commitment of all stakeholders in discussions on the development after 2015. Which must be present to incorporate issues related to UNFF, instruments and structures.
- Note that the development of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), it is useful to develop a focused and coherent action on sustainable development tool.
- Promoting the participation of the member countries of the UNFF in participating in national consultations to gain the commitment of stakeholders.
- The UNFF should actively participate in the process of thematic consultations, organized jointly by various agencies of the UN family with the support of civil society and other international organizations.
- Establish links with eleven thematic consultations on: Conflict and fragility, Education,

Environmental Sustainability, Governance, Growth and Employment, Health, Hunger, nutrition and food security, inequalities, population dynamics, energy and water. There is a direct and indirect relationship with the UNFF, the non-legal

- Track and active participation in the processes followed to prepare the agenda and the development of ODS from 2015.

Section D: The Forum's Secretariat

D.1 Please indicate if you consider the structure, human and financial resources of the compact Secretariat of the UNFF adequate to fulfill its mandates:

- Adequate
 Inadequate
 Not sure

Additional explanation:

Provide required human and financial resources to strengthen the Secretariat of the UNFF, allowing the implementation of its functions efficiently and effectively. Also, to facilitate knowledge and implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument.

D.2 Please provide suggestion(s) on strengthening the Secretariat of the Forum to enable it to fulfill its functions more effectively:

- Negotiations with the United Nations, states and organizations, and others deemed relevant, to improve funding for the UNFF
- Should design and implement communication mechanisms to publicize the extent of the UNFF and its instruments, as well as contribute to a better understanding of the importance of sustainable forest management. Undoubtedly these measures will help to improve the information and performance of its members and their national focal points.
- Designing publications in different languages on the UNFF, their structures, the Non-Legally Binding Instrument and GOPS, which facilitates communication actions that take place at different levels.

D.3 Please provide suggestion(s) on how the Forum Secretariat's role, as a CPF member and as CPF secretariat, should be strengthened:

- Develop technical guidelines to facilitate understanding and issues related to UNFF and sustainable forest management
- Create networks with organizations and member states.
- Define and implement mechanisms for collaboration with members
- Facilitate coordination with organizations that build and national processes of member countries.

Section E: CPF and CPF Member Organizations

E.1 Please explain the impacts and sufficiency of the programs and actions taken by CPF and CPF member organizations in implementing resolutions and supporting the work of UNFF since its inception:

- The work of the CPF is fundamental with respect to their duties entrusted by the ECOSOC, referring to support UNFF and its member countries as well as promoting the coordination and cooperation of forest
- We think that you should evaluate and improve coordination mechanisms and target both member countries and organizations that shape communication. Take this instance created to promote synergies among the agencies that make up that are represented or have some relationship with the different regions of the world where they operate.
- Create communication mechanisms that allow to provide information to members of the UNFF. Since it is important to keep in mind the mission of the CPF, as to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen the commitment of long-term policies to accomplish that purpose. So it is suitable and necessary, improve the relationship with the CPF members

E.2 Please describe how the CPF and its member organizations can further contribute to the work of the UNFF, and how to ensure availability of necessary resources for its activities in support of the work of the Forum:

- First, improved reporting mechanisms, since many members have little information about this partnership
- Improve the agendas and interests of cooperation between organizations that comprise, actions and resources around the responsibilities of the UNFF and its member countries are facing.
- Build communication mechanisms with the focal points of the countries, in order to have information on the actions that are linked to the UNFF, the non-legally binding instrument, and activities that develop with their mandates.
- The same agencies that constitute the CPF should become spokespersons about its existence and its mission and objectives in order to achieve full link to the UNFF and its member countries.
- What kind of agendas are developed?, which are the channels of communication to members that synergies mechanisms apply?, as the responsibilities of the UNFF and its member countries with the mission of CPF is associated?

Section F: Financing options and strategies

F.1 Please provide views on financing options and strategies, including the creation of a voluntary Global Forest Fund, to generate resources from all sources for sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests:

- Costa Rica's position on this issue is that you must establish a "Global Forest Fund".
- It should use all sources, including new and additional resources for developing

countries.

- Promote the effective implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument for all types of forest
- Define and strengthen the implementation of the four global objectives on forests.
- Promote sustainable management of forests
- Funding for the implementation of sustainable forest management is very important for developing countries, and the economic contribution of the forest sector is still of great importance to the sustainable development agenda.

F.2 Please suggest concrete steps that UNFF, CPF members and other organizations should undertake to develop forest financing options:

- The thematic areas of sustainable forest management at different levels, needs, complexities, strengths, weaknesses, progress, etc..
- Emphasize the need to improve coordination between the different instruments and mechanisms as a priority.
- Conduct an assessment to consider different actions at all levels, of all actors and stakeholders and all sources, public and private, national and international, bilateral and multilateral.
- Addressing gaps thematic, geographic and data on forest financing, and increase funding for implementing the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI)
- Promotion and incorporation of the responsibilities of the UNFF, the member countries, the non-legally binding instrument and overall objectives, policies and programs. Well as on issues of concern to ensure its effectiveness, in terms of forest governance and participation of different actors.
- Strengthen cooperation in the areas of finance related to forests, trade, technology transfer and capacity building, and improving the coverage and effectiveness of finance for sustainable forest management.
- Improve and simplify access current and potential financing for sustainable forest management and forest policies and national