



AFRICAN FOREST FORUM

a platform for stakeholders in African forestry

THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS AND POTENTIAL LINKS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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African Forest Forum (AFF)

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UNFF on International Arrangement on Forests**

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WHY INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS-IAFs

IAFs established through ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35:

Objective:

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

Principal functions :

- Catalyse, mobilize and generate financial resources, as well as mobilize and channel technical and scientific resources to implement activities identified at IPF, IFF and UNFF.
- **Provide a forum for continued policy development and dialogues to foster a common understanding on SFM and address forest related issues in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner.**



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WHY INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS-IAFS

- **Enhance** cooperation on forest-related issues **among relevant international and regional institutions.**
- **Foster international cooperation**, including North-South and public-private partnerships and **cross-sectoral cooperation** at national, regional and global levels.
- **Monitor and assess progress** at national, regional and global levels.
- **Strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and development of all types of forests.**

Any future IAFs has to examine at least:

- **Validity of the objective, purpose and functions of the current IAFs**
- **New and emerging issues related to forestry that require modifying the objectives and/or purpose or even coming up with a completely new global IAFs.**



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PROMINENCE OF FORESTRY ISSUES ON THE GLOBAL SCENE

Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)-14 institutions

Mission remains :“to promote sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end”

- UNCBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC , FAO and UNFF shape the policy and development aspects of forestry
- UNEP and IUCN deal with broader environmental issues, a considerable number of which are also related to forestry.
- GEF and the World Bank largely serve as the funding window; the latter is also involved with issues of policy and development that are also forestry related.

Collectively they emphasize the growing relevance of forest and trees and hence the increasing role of IAFs



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PROMINENCE OF FORESTRY ISSUES ON THE GLOBAL SCENE

Any future IAFs has to, in addition, examine at least:

How individual CPF members operate:

- Carved from SFM as stand-alone activities,
- Are delinked from other activities that contribute to SFM,
- Are funded and implemented in a free-standing manner e.g. climate change, illegal forest activities, biodiversity,

All implemented on the same forest ecosystem/area and without visible institutional coordination- to facilitate achievement of SFM

Distortions to compliance to plans by IAFs:

- Funding agencies have own priority areas and countries for funding
- Unfunded areas often not be taken up by private sector and governments
- “Dedicated global forest fund” for issues that “fall in the cracks”?



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MAKING THE IAFS MORE RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

Technical sessions of UNFF-current situation

Country-led Initiatives (CLIs) and Ad-hoc Expert Group (AHEG) meetings/sessions and side events; they:

- **are informed by technical input by linking science with development,**
- **provide a good platform for a more technical and open discussion of issues,**
- **focus on key issues in forestry development,**
- **provide a basis for countries and relevant groups to raise issues they feel are important to forestry in their countries or institutions/groups,**



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MAKING THE IAFS MORE RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

Technical sessions of UNFF-current situation

- allow for a wider participation than would have been possible in regular UNFF biennial sessions,
- provide an opportunity for an early buy-in by countries and groups, thereby cultivating a political momentum on the issues,
- allow more involvement of science based institutions, civil society and the private sector; these are largely absent at the biennial sessions of UNFF.

However, the sessions do not capture the breadth and depth of global discussions and other important events that are related to forests and trees



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MAKING THE IAFS MORE RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

Technical sessions of UNFF-proposed improvements

It is proposed that the UNFF Secretariat:

- **Continues to operate and strengthen how it manages CLIs and AHEGs.**
- **Strengthens how it collaborates with CPF members with regard to tracking implementation of activities related to GOFs and NLBI.**
- **Establishes mechanisms for increased collaboration at regional level; for example, designating staff at the Secretariat to guide the organization of regional sessions that feed into the biennial sessions of UNFF**
- **Strengthens how it collaborates with other key global players and initiatives that relate to GOFs and NLBI, like major groups (that are weakly represented at regular UNFF sessions) and UN-REDD.**
- **Strengthens mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on implementation of its activities.**



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MAKING THE IAFS MORE RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE

Policy sessions-proposed improvements

- **Significantly improve catalyzing, mobilizing and generating financial and technical scientific resources to activities. This is an area that UNFF should put substantially more work into.**
- **Strengthens international cooperation on forestry by increasing the visibility, appreciation and inclusion of forestry in many global and regional initiatives, like SDGs, climate change, and green economy.**
- **Strengthens participation of major groups, academia, private sector and civil society, not only in biennial sessions but in its other activities.**
- **Maintains momentum on issues, until their reasonable resolution is achieved, through regular monitoring and reporting on them.**

Need to evaluate capacity at UNFF Secretariat, organisational structure to make it more focused, effective and efficient.



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FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Highlights on implementing MDGs:

- **MDGs combined** social, economic and environmental goals **to make wise use of available resources to improve the** welfare of people and their nations, **as well as** their environment.
- **No MDG focused exclusively on** any of the three most abundant and life supporting resources; namely **water, air and forests**
- **Utility aspects of these resources feature in practically all MDGs.**
- Forests and trees are implicit in the 'environment' **MDG, and appear only at the indicator level**
- **Many global development goals are formulated to express a desired improvement in human well-being, and less so on the wellness of a specific sector or resource**



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FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In implementing the MDGs it became increasingly clear that:

- **More attention needs to be given to air--its quality to support life was increasingly being impaired - a great challenge to humanity.**
- **Availability of quality water in sufficient quantities to human beings is emerging as a very serious issue, let alone the quality of water in many of the planet's water bodies.**
- **The loss of forest cover** continues to increase, diminishing its capacity to improve air quality, and support other environmental services like quality water supply.
- **Achievement of the MDGs in many countries comes with other immense challenges of restoring and proper development of these resources: water, air and forests.**



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FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

State of global discussions on SDGs

- **Still at their very early stages, and are on-going through the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs**
- **Have so far focused on a shared understanding of important issues that will shape the SDGs- in “stock taking” sessions**
- **From March OWG sessions will begin to craft the SDGs**

Some key issues/questions:

- **How deep have these discussions been at national level? – feature in local media?**
- **Will the crafting of SDGs follow a pattern similar to that of MDGs?**



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Some key issues/questions:

- Will the SDGs now **focus on the three most abundant and life supporting resources: water, air and forests?**
- Will forests and trees feature in SDGs on basis of their utility roles and values?
- Which SDG will house/secure the development and management aspects of forests and trees **in order to sustain the availability of its products and services to the other SDGs (*the utility dimension*)?**



FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Some ideas on SDGs and forestry

1. As a stand-alone or specific goal on forests
 - **Based on the great potential benefits forests have on sustainable development**
 - **Would require considerable promotional efforts by institutions and initiatives dealing with or interested in forestry issues**
2. Forests and trees in the SDGs as cross cutting issues
 - **The utility aspects of forests and trees will be highlighted in SDGs**
 - **No securing the production function of forests through their sustainable management might be left floating.**
3. Forests as a sub-goal in a specific SDG.
 - **Will secure the production aspect of the forests as a sub-goal**
 - **Will at same time profile the utility aspects in relevant SDGs**



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FORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The case of no specific goal or a sub-goal on forests

There is a universal appreciation of the role forests in lives of people and the environment.

Identify **targets and indicators to** be incorporated into the SDGs to, for example, secure that:

- The social and cultural benefits from forests and trees are improved,
- The resilience of forest ecosystems is enhanced,
- The ecosystem benefits of forests are increased,
- Green economy contribution of forests and trees is improved.

The various forestry related institutions could come together to understand the SDGs in the context of forestry **and** strategise how to implement them.



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THANK YOU!