

**Workshop to Strengthen National Reporting in Support of the Implementation
Of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests
11-13 April 2012, Beirut, Lebanon**

By Latin American Consultants for Sustainable Development
and Environmental Management (LAGA)

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Executive Summary

The Beirut Workshop to Strengthen National Reporting in Support of the Implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, hereinafter referred to as the forest instrument, is the fourth of five capacity-building workshops undertaken jointly by the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of UNFF and FAO/FRA (Forest Resource Assessment) focal points in North Africa, Central and Western Asia and the Mediterranean in reporting to

Global objective 1

She concluded by stressing that the successful implementation of the forest instrument and reporting on its implementation will contribute to a greater understanding and convergence of approaches for forests and people worldwide.

languages of Spanish, Miskito and English. The inventory of on-going forest initiatives is critical in forming the baseline for the implementation of the forest instrument at the national level and involves a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders. Updating the inventory on a regular, consistent manner is an on-going challenge for countries. In all four pilot project countries, the systematic assessment of the status of implementation of the forest instrument's 25 national policies and measures contributed to the prioritization of the policies and measures to be specifically addressed.

Three exercise groups then assessed the status of the implementation of the forest instrument's 25 national policies and measures in one country per group. The groups used the Ghana rating approach and selected 5 priority areas along with corresponding actions to be addressed. The importance of the exercise was to place the experts in a position in which they could systematically assess progress in the implementation of each of the 25 national policies and measures of the instrument in their specific countries.

Based on the outcomes of the assessment of the status of implementation of the 25 national policies and measures of the forest instrument, participants further developed an action plan for implementing the five top priorities selected by each exercise group. In doing so, they (a) identified actions for implementing priority policies and measures, (b) determined the timeline for the proposed actions, (c) identified key stakeholders responsible for the actions to be undertaken and (d) estimated the budgetary requirements for undertaking the actions. The aim of the exercise was to get participants to think about how to plan the implementation of the NLBI.

D. Session 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the forest instrument

ITTO Criteria and Indicator process (33 producing countries + a few consumer countries),
CBD indicators (in process of being developed) (193 Contracting Parties).

One difficulty that needs to be considered is the timing of the national reports emanating from these processes, given that they are issued according to different time cycles.

In this respect, Mr. Illueca informed the workshop that reference to the CBD indicators in the questionnaire/template was eliminated after the Nairobi workshop for two reasons. First, the timing on their agreement will in all likelihood be too late to be used for the country reports for 2013 and 2015. Second, the CBD working group addressing this issue is inclined to recommend pertinent existing indicators used by FAO, which have already been taken into account in the questionnaire/template.

E. Proposed indicators needed that are not covered by on-going C & I processes

Nevertheless, additional information beyond existing criteria and indicators (C & I) processes will be required since the on-going C & I processes only cover some portions of the forest instrument and its Global Objectives on Forests and the overall and special themes of UNFF 10 and 11. In seeking this additional information, the following points should be considered:

Quantifiable if possible

Sharply focused

Yes or no answers

Multiple choice when yes answers provided

Limited number of words to describe qualitative information

Facilitate inputting of information through electronic template format (especially where same information requested more than once)

Where possible, form interagency group to work on preparation of national report (questionnaire/template)

Mr. Illueca suggested that some of the new information requested, particularly those that are quantifiable, could be collected upon request by country statistical offices such as census bureaus, comptrollers, etc. They need to be approached by national focal points in order to determine their willingness to cooperate in the gathering of the new data and information.

He then introduced the revised questionnaire/template for the consideration of the workshop. He also underlined that the national reports are voluntary, as well as the following key points:

The information requested is less than length of the questionnaire/template.

The questionnaire/template will facilitate greatly the processing of data and information across the four layers and by thematic clusters.

For assessment and operational purposes, knowing what data and information is unavailable or where there is inaction is important for future considerations.

Pre-filling of data and information for FRA (2005 and 2010) and ITTO indicators (2006 and 2011) by the UNFF Secretariat may be possible, but has to be decided upon internally.

Timing considerations regarding FRA 2015 are being worked out between FAO and the UNFF Secretariat.

Where possible, an interagency group to work on the preparation of the national report (questionnaire/template) could be formed.

Countries are encouraged to fill out the questionnaire/template as best they can. If information is unavailable, indicate so and move on.

The proposed questionnaire/template contains a combined total of 93 points of information (indicators) for UNFF 10. Of these, 78 form the core reporting for both Forum sessions, with the remaining 15 specific to the overall theme of UNFF 10 on forests and economic development. Of the 78 core indicators, 25 are indicators from the on-going FRA and ITTO criteria and indicators processes that can

The general comments by the workshop participants on the questionnaire/template basically echoed views expressed in the previous workshops that are provided immediately below:

1. There was general agreement that national reports are a critical instrument for assessing progress in the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of its four Global Objectives on Forests, and for identifying implementation gaps that need to be addressed both nationally and with bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies.
2. Some forest focal points lack the necessary financial support needed to prepare good country reports and it was felt that the provision of financial assistance in the range of US\$5,000 per country would be desirable for the preparation of future national reports to UNFF.
3. Several participants felt that the final draft of the questionnaire/template has to be provided to countries with sufficient time, preferably at least three months before the submission deadline, for

to begin to gather it in preparation for UNFF 11. He further expressed that Egypt was grateful to the UNFF Secretariat for the effort put into the preparation of the national reporting format.

Some indicated that they did not have sufficient time to go over the questionnaire/template. In order to allow them further opportunity to comment on the questionnaire/template, Mr. Illueca urged them to send him their comments by e-mail by 27 April since he wanted to finalize the draft by early May.

In closing, Mr. Illueca underlined that while the reporting is voluntary, inability to provide specific

Since the workshop participants were either UNFF an



Thursday 12 April

Friday 13 April



APPENDIX 3





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Appendix 4

Questionnaire/Template for National Reports to UNFF 10

Introductory Note and Guidance for the Preparation of National Reports

The information that countries submit in their national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at its tenth and eleventh sessions will be critical in setting the path forward for the international arrangement on forests, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, hereinafter referred to as the forest instrument. These national reports are also critically important to reporting countries for the following reasons:

- Addressing the issue of financial resources for implementing the forest instrument and attaining the global objectives on forests;
- Assisting countries in assessing the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, including the forest instrument;
- Identifying more clearly the needs of countries, particularly developing countries, including low forest cover countries and small island developing states, and countries with economies in transition, for implementing more effectively the forest instrument and achieving its four global objectives on forests. Bilateral and multi-lateral donors could take these needs into account when implementing their international sustainable forest management (SFM) technical cooperation strategies.
- The information and data requested from countries will collectively and nationally serve as a baseline for measuring progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument and its global objectives on forests.

The UNFF at its ninth session in 2011 requested its Secretariat to prepare a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to ensure simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 focused on the implementation of the forest instrument, and a balanced reporting of all four global objectives on forests.

The preliminary design of a questionnaire/template format for national reports was prepared by the UNFF Secretariat in consultation with the members of the CPF Task Force on Forest-Related Reporting, with feedback provided by FAO, ITTO and the CBD Secretariat. Subsequently, country experts consisting mainly of the national focal points of the UNFF and the FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) were invited to five regional capacity-building workshops to discuss the questionnaire/template format and contents. The workshops were organized jointly by the UNFF Secretariat and FAO in Bangkok, Thailand (10-12 October 2011), Nairobi, Kenya (13-15 December 2011), Accra, Ghana (6-8 February 2012), Beirut, Lebanon (11-13 April 2012) and Santiago, Chile (18-20 April 2012). Approximately 160 national and international experts from 100 countries and 15 international organizations participated in the five workshops.¹

order to streamline national forest-related reporting and avoid the duplication of data and information.

The new reporting format is made up of overlapping layers that countries have been requested to report on voluntarily for UNFF 10 and 11. The format has been designed to allow the use of an indicator for more than one of the four layers that will be reported on. The layers are:

- I. The contribution of forests to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in your country
- II. The global objectives on forests
- III. The forest instrument
- IV. The overall theme of the Forum session

The new streamlined approach takes into account qua

It is not the intention of the UNFF Secretariat to duplicate the work of others. However, there is a need to look at forests holistically and identify critical gaps in national reporting, which was taken into account in the preparation of the format and contents for national reports for UNFF 10. Existing criteria and indicators processes are better equipped than the UNFF Secretariat to collect the new indicators (data and information) contained in the questionnaire/template reporting format. It is hoped that consideration will be given to the incorporation of these indicators by existing criteria and indicators processes.

Guidance for the preparation of national reports

Given the cross-sectoral scope of the forest instrument, it is recommended that UNFF national focal points prepare their responses in consultation with representatives of relevant organizations, including ministries/agencies of environment, economic development, finance, agriculture, health and statistics. If possible, this could be achieved through inter-institutional coordination mechanisms on forests already existing in the countries. Hopefully these should include the national focal points for FRA and the NFP Facility and, where applicable, the national focal points for the MDGs, ITTO C & I process, CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD.

The advantage of a template format is that information only has to be input once and will be automatically duplicated in other relevant sections of the questionnaire. The areas where information will be automatically generated are highlighted in grey. It is anticipated that the average national report will vary in length from 15 to 20 pages but the actual information requested will be less in terms of actual text inputted.

If information at the national level does not exist for specific indicators, please enter NA (not available). Remember that it is important for us to know where there exist gaps in data and information.

The template questionnaire contains 18 strategic questions requesting a *yes* or *no* answer in which the opportunity is provided to elaborate on each response to a maximum of either 250 or 500 words, depending on the question. Although the maximum amount of words cannot be exceeded, responses can be shorter and to the point.

The definition of terms that appears in the glossary that follows is simply for the purpose of clarification of terms and to assist in filling out the questionnaire.

Glossary:

Ecosystem services: Are the numerous and diverse services provided by forests and woodlands, including serving as a repository for biodiversity, protecting fragile ecosystems (mountain forests, drylands and small islands), protecting soil and water, sequestering carbon, and providing social (recreation, ecotourism, sports fishing/hunting) and cultural (spiritual, cultural, historical) services.

Forest: Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds *in situ*. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use. (*FRA 2010*).

Forest dependent people: People who are directly reliant on forests for livelihood purposes. These are generally (1) people who live inside of forests, and who are heavily dependent on forests for their livelihood primarily on a subsistence basis and are often indigenous people; (2) people who live near forests, usually involved in agriculture outside the forest, who regularly use forest products (timber, fuelwood, bush foods, medicinal plants, etc.) partly for their own subsistence purposes and partly for income generation; and (3) people engaged in commercial activities such as trapping, collecting minerals or forest industries such as logging, depending on income from forest-dependent labour rather than from direct subsistence use of forest

shelterbelts along infrastructure features and agricultural fields; (b) scattered trees in agricultural landscapes; (c) tree plantations mainly for other purposes than wood, such as fruit orchards and palm plantations; and (d) trees in parks and gardens and around buildings. Trees outside of forest are not assigned an area in the overall land use classification, but occur inside other wooded land and other land in FRA. (FAO, FRA Working Paper No. 33, 2010).

Abbreviations in questionnaire/template:

AQ: Additional question

B.Sc.: Bachelor of Science degree

C & I: Criteria and indicators processes

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FLEGT: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

	Title:
	Address:
	Phone:
	Fax:
	e-mail:
	Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point
	Name:
	Title:
	Address:
	Phone:
	Fax:
	e-mail:
<p>US dollar values: All values for the data in response to the additional questions beyond the FRA and ITTO indicators contained in the questionnaire/template should be provided in US dollars. Please indicate here the exchange rate between the country's national currency and the US dollar used for calculating values:</p>	
Exchange rate:	2005: _____ 2010: _____



following categories (1000 ha)?		
Individual		
Business entities and institutions		
Local, indigenous and tribal communities		
Global objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;		
5. FRA T.3.1: What is the extent of forest designated and managed for production (1000 ha)?		
6. FRA T.3.2: What is the extent of forest designated and managed for protection (1000 ha)?		
7. FRA T.3.3: What is the extent of forest designated and managed for conservation (1000 ha)?		
8. FRA T.3.4: What is the extent of forest designated and managed for social services (1000 ha)?		

increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for

3.			
		Yes	No
UNFFS AQ 16. Has the overall budget for SFM-related science and research increased since 2007?			
If yes, which of the following sources apply?			
If yes, which of the following sources apply?			
	Increased public sector financing		
	Increased funding from private industry		
	Increased funding from other private sector donors, e.g., foundations, NGOs		
	Bilateral cooperation		
	Multilateral cooperation		
	Other (describe in 50 words or less)		
Please check the areas that have been targeted for SFM-related scientific research and other relevant research			
	Forests and climate change		
	Forest biodiversity		
	Land management and rehabilitation		
	Forestry		
	Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests		
	Forest biology		
	Social and cultural values of forests		
	Other (please describe in 50 words or less)		
		2005 (US\$)	2010 (US\$)
UNFFS AQ 17. If available, how much funding in US\$ was designated for SFM-related scientific research and other relevant research? If figures not available, please respond NA.			
Optional: You may use this space if you wish to qualify any of the information provided for in this section (Part 1, Section I) in 500 words or less. For example, is the quantifiable information an estimate or an accurate reflection based on accounting? Or you may wish to explain that the information is currently unavailable but is in the process of being collected.			
II. Achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in your country	<p>Guidance: In its purpose, the forest instrument is to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental stability. The MDG indicators that follow have been adjusted to focus on the contribution of forests to their achievement and, consequently, are closely tied to the global objectives on forests. MDG indicators 7.1, 7.6 and 7.7 are directly related to measuring progress in the achievement of global objective 1; indicators 1.1, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 2.3, 4.1 and 4.2, to global objective 2; 7.6, to global objective 3; and 8.1, to global objective 4.</p> <p>Statistical information for 2012 will be provided, if available, only for UNFF 10, and for 2015, only for UNFF 11.</p> <p>It is possible that information on the MDG indicators for 2015 related to social and economic benefits and finance will not be available in 2015, in which case the</p>		

Repeat here information inputted above for indicator FRA T.1.2.		
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Target 7.B: Reducing biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

24. (7.6.) What proportion (%) of total land area w

management to poverty eradication from 2000 to 2012 with special emphasis on the role of your national forest programme (NFP). If you wish to provide additional information, please provide this in an appendix to this report, but please provide a summary in this space.

Repeat here information inputted above for global objective 4 under indicator ITTO 1.3.			
	Government sources		
	International development partners		
	Private sources		
Additional questions		Not applicable	Yes No

UNFFS AQ 20. For countries whose official language is not one of the 6 official UN languages, has the forest instrument been translated into your country's official language? If No

	National level							
	Regional level							
	Local level							
<p>If yes, in 500 words or less, describe the processes of public participation, indicating the parties involved and their level of involvement. If you wish to provide additional information, please provide this in an appendix to this report, but please provide a summary in this space.</p>								
1E: Enhanced international cooperation								
Additional questions			Yes			No		
UNFFS AQ 26. In which of the following areas is your country participating in regional and international cooperation in the field of sustainable forest management?								
	Combating illicit international trafficking in forest products such as FLEGT							
		Please list						
	Technical assistance such as regional partnership arrangements							
		Please list						
	Scientific cooperation							
	Initiatives of international organizations in support of the forest instrument							
	Other (describe in 50 words or less)							
		Please list						
		Not applicable	1	2	3	4	5	
UNFFS AQ 27. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how effective would you rate support from bilateral and multilateral organizations in supporting your efforts to implement the forest instrument and achieve SFM?								
Please provide in 250 words or less an explanation of your choice.								
2A: Forest law enforcement and governance								
Additional questions			Yes			No		

UNFFS AQ 28. Since the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007,

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	Donor country					
	Recipient country					
Please describe in 250 words or less the principal advances taken leading to enhanced forest law enforcement and governance.						
			2005		2010	
			No. of cases	% prosecuted	No. of cases	% prosecuted

Repeat here information inputted above for indicator MDG 7.6.		
Repeat here information inputted above for indicator FRA T.3.2.		
Repeat here information inputted above for indicator FRA T.3.3.		



	Forest biology		
	Social and cultural values of forests		
	Other (please describe in 50 words or less)		
		2005	2010
If available, how much funding in US\$ was designated for SFM-related scientific research and other relevant research? If figures not available, please respond NA.			
2E: Public awareness and education			
		2005	2008
31. FRA T.16.1: What number of students in forest related education graduated with a M.Sc. degree or equivalent?			
32. FRA T.16.2: What number of students in forest related education graduated with a B.Sc. degree or equivalent?			
33. FRA T.16.3: What number of students in forest related education graduated with a technician certificate/diploma?			
34. FRA T.16.4: What percentage of students in forest related education that graduated with a M.Sc. degree or equivalent were women?			
35. FRA T.16.5: What percentage of students in forest related education that graduated with a B.Sc. degree or equivalent were women?			
36. FRA T.16.6: What percentage of students in forest related education that graduated with a technician certificate/diploma were women?			
Additional questions		Yes	No
UNFFS AQ 35. Did your country organize specific events and activities in support of the International Year on Forests? ⁶			
If yes, please describe them in 250 words or less.			
UNFFS AQ 36. Has your country implemented actions to increase public awareness of the forest instrument and of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management?			
If yes, which of the following approaches have been utilized?			
	Published materials such as brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc.		
	Meetings with public sector stakeholders to inform them of the purpose and scope of the forest instrument and its four global objectives		
	Meetings with private sector stakeholders to inform them of the purpose and scope of the		

			2005	2010
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39. **FRA T.11.1 and ITTO 4.2:**

	on forests.		
	National development policies, plans and strategies incorporate sustainable forest management.		
	National poverty eradication plans and strategies, which in some countries form part of their national development policies/plans/strategies, have been revised to incorporate sustainable forest management.		
	Other (explain in 50 words or less)		
Theme 3: Reducing risks and impacts of disasters	Guidance: Most directly related measure of the forest instrument is 6 (o).		
		2005 ⁹	2010 ¹⁰
44. FRA T.9.1: What is the total land area affected by fires (1000 ha)?			
	Forests		
	Other wooded land		
	Other land		
45. FRA.T.10a: What is the total land area of forests affected by other disturbances (1000 ha)?			
	Insects		
	Diseases		
	Other biotic agents ¹¹		
	Abiotic factors ¹²		
Additional questions		Yes	No
UNFFS AQ 42. Which of the following disasters resulted in the destruction of forests and other wooded lands since 2005?			
	Forest fires		
	Droughts		
	Pests		
	Invasive species		
	Floods		
	Cattle grazing		
	Hurricanes/typhoons		
	Tornados		
	Volcanic eruptions		
	Tsunamis		
	Wars and armed struggles		
	Other (please describe in 50 words or less		
UNFFS AQ 43: Have forest rehabilitation or restoration actions been taken following any of the above disasters?			
If yes, in 500 words or less, please describe the actions taken. If you wish to provide additional information, please provide this in an appendix to this report, but please provide a summary in this space.			

⁹ Annual average for period 1998-2002.

¹⁰ Annual average for period 2003-2007.

UNFFS AQ 44. Have efforts been strengthened to protect and re-establish mangrove forests as buffers against extreme events such as hurricanes/ typhoons and tsunamis originating in oceans? If you are a land-locked country, please respond not applicable.	Not Applicable	Yes	No
Please describe in 500 words or less the actions taken to respond to disasters resulting in loss of forests and forest degradation?			

Theme 4: Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities.

Guidance: Most directly related measures of the for