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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF11

Regional/Sub-regional Organization/Process:

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Note: The Chair rotates among members at the annual Working Group Meeting.

General Information

The multi-year programme of work – MYPOW (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

The eleventh session of the UNFF (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum’s MYPOW, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*, with the following sub themes:

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

In completing this questionnaire, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in your submission, if information is already available in existing reports and/or documents. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section. Please note that the Year 2007 –

September 2014.

forum, member countries share ideas, address common problems, and foster collaboration toward a shared goal of sustainably managing boreal and temperate forests.

The MPWG is less formal, lower-cost and offers countries more flexibility in how they participate compared with many other international forest-

the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

A. Progress towards implementation of the Forest Instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

Specific actions since 2007 include:

Revised the 1995 criteria and indicators in 2007 and 2009² which are now widely available on the Internet and various publications and being widely used.
Formulated MP's Strategic Action Plan for 2009-2015 in 2007 and reviewed in annual MP Working group meetings.
Published 2nd overview report³ (covers 12 member countries) with respective countries' reports in 2009/2010 in the context of monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest trends and progress toward SFM using MP's C&I.
Contributed to World Forestry Congress Declaration in 2009.
Formulated and coordinated a Joint Statement of MP, ITTO, Forest Europe, FAO to streamline data reporting through FRA 2015 in 2012⁴.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

Main challenges:

Reviewing and improving the original 7 criteria and 67 indicators in 2007 and 2009 which now stands at 7 criteria and 54 indicators.
Also reviewed/improved technical notes on implementation of C&I (rationale and measurement approaches).

Lessons learnt:

The Montréal Process, through its C&I of SFM, provides its member countries with:
An internationally-agreed, locally-supported tool to integrate issues as they apply to forests;
A common ground on which stakeholders, public agencies and countries can work out shared objectives and collaborative actions toward SFM;
A common framework to monitor, assess and report on trends in forest conditions with respect to the full range of forest values and, in turn, on progress toward SFM;
A network and forum for exchanging knowledge and experience deliberating policy tools, maintaining awareness of the important role of forests and fostering collaboration among countries with diverse natural, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.

One of the most notable and valuable achievements of the Montréal Process has been the establishment of mutual trust and confidence, which has encouraged the 12 member countries to develop a "network of knowledge." Through discussion, research, cooperation, communication and capacity-building between countries, this network has enabled member countries to make individual and collective progress in tackling new and emerging issues, such as climate change, water, bioenergy and biodiversity.

² http://www.montrealprocess.org/documents/publications/techreports/2009p_2.pdf

³ <http://www.montrealprocess.org/Resources/Publications/index.shtml>

⁴ http://frdev.ftcol.wo.fs.fed.us:8082/documents/statements/jointStatement2011/2011j_e.pdf

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

To inclusion of MP C&I in the process of forest management at national and regional level in the participating countries
To inclusion of qualitative indicators in the set of MP C&I
To recognize forest ecosystem services in a more comprehensive manner, related Montreal Process indicator's rationale and measurement approaches were revised in 2014.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

Challenges:

Difficult to show standardized approaches/measures across 12 member countries.

Lessons learnt:

Each individual Montreal Process member country, in preparing their first and second Montreal Process Country Reports, has the option of reporting against these indicators, trends in forests and progress toward sustainable forest management. The Montreal Process Country Reports and the Second Edition of the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forest are available at:

<http://montrealprocess.org>

Importance to continue sharing experiences/knowledge within and beyond 12 member countries.

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

NA

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

NA

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

NA

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

NA

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

NA

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

Found little political leadership to introduce new innovative measures/incentives.

B. Progress towards the achievement of the GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your respective regional, sub-regional

MP countries collect data against a range of C&I and published reports that can be used to assess contributions to sustainable forest management. As described above, MP does not make its direct actions related to GOFs in general, however, MP, through its C&I reporting, is enhancing the relevance and use of MP's C&I for policy makers, practitioners and other users and hence will have an impact on the GOFs.

C. Contribution of forests and the IAF to the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your respective regional, sub-regional organization/process that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

As to the MDGs, three indicators are fully or partially captured by the MP C&I as follows:

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator 25: Proportion of land area covered by forest

Indicator 26: Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area

Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator 32: Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)

2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?

The MP's 7 criteria and 54 indicators are directly and indirectly relevant to considering sustainable forest management. Data collected and reported could be used to in part assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs., however, the following indicators in MP C&I are quite relevant:

1.1.a: Area and percent of forest by forest ecosystem type, successional stage, age class, and forest ownership or tenure

1.1.b: Area and percent of forest in protected areas by forest ecosystem type, and by age class or successional stage

2.a: Area and percent of forest land and net area of forest land available for wood production

4.1.a: Area and percent of forest whose designation or land management focus is the protection of soil or water resources.

3. Please provide additional information specific to your respective regional, sub-

The MP recognizes the importance of joint activities with relevant organizations including those of CPF. The MP regularly invites the representatives from FAO, ITTO, UNECE, WB, FE and OFAC