

**Workshop to Strengthen National Reporting in Support of the Implementation
Of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests
10-12 October 2011, Bangkok, Thailand**

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

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I. Introduction

The Bangkok 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 first of five capacity-building workshops undertaken jointly by the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFFS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The UNFF Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations has contracted Latin American Consultants for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management (LAGA) to assist in the organization and facilitation of the workshops. Funded by the Development Account of DESA's Capacity Development Office (CDO), the objective of the project and the workshops is to strengthen and support the capacity of UNFF national focal points in developing countries and countries with economies in transition in reporting to the Forum on progress made in the implementation of the Forest Instrument at UNFF10 in 2013, in the context of the overall theme of that session on "forests and economic development", and to strengthen and support their capacity to conduct monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) required for the preparation of national reports. The project will also contribute to prepare countries for the 2015 assessment report of the international arrangement on forests, which calls on countries to provide information on the contribution of forests to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

To this end, the Forum Secretariat is expected to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the CPF, to ensure simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 focused on the implementation of the Forest Instrument and a balanced reporting of all the four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) (UNFF9 Omnibus Resolution Item 3, para1).

The UNFF Secretariat is cooperating closely with FAO, mainly to incorporate elements of the Forest Instrument and its GOFs into reporting on FAO's state of the world's forests and through its global forest resources assessment programme. In addition, the Secretariat will coordinate work with FAO to prepare an analytical report, making best use of existing information systems and inputs from other relevant processes, to serve the UNFF11 (2015) review of effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests, the forest instrument and consideration of all options for the future, as stated by the Council (Resolution 2006/49, para 32). Throu

II. Background

The adoption of the Forest Instrument by the United Nations General Assembly (A/Res/62/98) in September 2007 reinforced the global commitment to sustainable forest management (SFM) as the

covered the initial two days and consisted of four sessions, addressed the strengthening of the capacity

In 2008 FAO received funding from the German Government for pilot project in Ghana on strengthening the implementation of the Forest Instrument. The pilot project brought together all relevant stakeholders in regards to the 25 policies and measures of the Forest Instrument, identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps. According to Ms. Muller, two years later Ghana has found the Forest Instrument to be a positive framework for promoting SFM, including monitoring progress. Three more pilot projects in Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines, with support from Japan and in collaboration with UNFF Secretariat, are currently underway. Ms. Muller concluded in highlighting that FAO can support interested countries in carrying out similar work as pilot projects.

Before commencing the capacity-building sessions of the workshop, Peter Gondo, the FAO consultant, and Jorge Illueca, the UNFF Secretariat advisor, addressed the workshop's purpose and objectives, methodology, as well as their expectations of outcomes.

Country participants were invited to briefly describe their experiences with the Forest Instrument and other forest-related activities. With the exception of a few, most were unfamiliar with the Forest Instrument and the work of the UNFF.

VI. Capacity-building sessions of the workshop

The workshop consisted of five capacity-building sessions. The first four addressed the implementation of the Forest Instrument by countries, with the fifth focusing on national reporting on progress in the implementation of the Forest Instrument and the achievement of its four Global Objectives on Forests to the 10th and 11th sessions of the Forum.

Each of the first four sessions was divided into three parts: presentations, group exercises and interactive discussions of the oral reports emanating from the group exercises.

A. Sessions one to four

First session: Introduction to the Forest Instrument

Before commencing, all workshop participants were invited to introduce themselves. Subsequently, they were requested to provide a brief written description of their expectations for the workshop.

Mr. Gondo then proceeded to provide a historical background on the evolution of forest policy since Rio in 1992. He further described the functions of the UNFF, the purpose and principles of the Forest Instrument, and its component actions at the national and international levels. Upon request, several experts from the countries described what they meant by national forest programmes (NFPs) or similar strategies and how these relate to the Forest Instrument, particularly as regards stakeholder participation, national ownership and multi-sectoral coherence.

Second session: Why should countries implement the Forest Instrument?

Regarding the first part of the second session, participants were requested to consider the benefits that could be provided through the implementation of the Forest Instrument. Following are the benefits that were identified:

- (1) reinforcing government commitment to sustainable forest management,
- (2) influence policy makers to make right decisions,
- (3) an enabling policy environment,
- (4) good governance,
- (5) enforcing effective implementation of existing policies and legislation,
- (6) improved cross-sectoral coordination,
- (7) reverse forest degradation and deforestation,
- (8) enhanced ecosystem services, including adaptation and mitigation to climate change,
- (9) better livelihood options,
- (10) increased employment opportunities, especially for the rural population.
- (11) capacity building leading to poverty reduction,
- (12) more shift to non-timber forest products,
- (13) greater and more coordinated stakeholder participation,
- (14) increased funding from different sources
- (15) sharing of knowhow and technology among countries,
- (16) encourage and facilitate private investments,
- (17) equitable sharing of benefits,
- (18) enhanced global cooperation and
- (19) improved monitoring and assessment.

Jorge Illueca contributed that a major benefit of the Forest Instrument is that it is the product of a distillation process that provides a coherent framework for operationalizing the policies contained in the IPF/IFF proposals for action and resolutions of the Forum.

Peter Gondo added that it is the only international instrument that looks at all aspects of management of all types of forests, providing a holistic 360 degree view of forests, and that can enhance coordination among relevant multilateral environmental agreements such as CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD, as well as cross-sectoral coordination within countries. Furthermore, it provides a good checklist of what we should be doing in order to achieve SFM. Moreover, the Forest Instrument is proving to serve as a basis for resource mobilization in support of SFM. A major challenge that we are facing is linking the Forest

why there is under-reporting on its implementation to the Forum. It has to be stressed to all stakeholders that through the Forest Instrument we have moved from policy-making to the operationalization of SFM policies at the country level.

Third session: Approaches to the implementation of the Forest Instrument

The third session of the workshop focused on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, with Mr. Gondo describing the three steps to be undertaken: awareness raising, inventory of on-going forestry initiatives and assessment of the status of implementation of the 25 national policies and measures of the instrument.

(6-l) and 25 (6-y) were the selected priorities at the national level by the national government. Only 8 (6-h) and 11 (6-l) were priorities that coincided both at the local and national levels.

Fourth session: Monitoring and Evaluation of the Forest Instrument

The fourth session addressed approaches to monitoring and evaluating the status of implementation of the Forest Instrument. Mr. Gondo stressed that sy

B. Session five

This session of the workshop on national reporting to the 10th and 11th sessions of the UNFF in 2013 and 2015 was coordinated by Mr. Illueca. In his power point presentation introducing the subject, he described the purpose of the Forest Instrument and

The challenge in streamlining the reporting process is to seek indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, that can be used in reporting on policies and measures that impact across more than one layer. In other words, data and information can be used for assessing progress across two or more of the above four layers.

Based on this approach, a reporting questionnaire/template with the four overlaying layers has been designed in consultation with the members of the CPF Task Force on Forest-Related Reporting, in particular FAO, ITTO and the CBD Secretariat, which is included as Appendix 4 to the paper presented to the workshop entitled “Strengthening national reporting in support of the implementation of the forest instrument” and which will be examined in closer detail during this session of the workshop.

Mr. Illueca then addressed the issue of possible indicators that could be used for reporting to the 10th and 11th sessions of the Forum. Regarding the use of indicators from on-going processes, the most useful could be provided by the following:

- FAO Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) (all countries),
- UN Millennium Developments Goals indicators (all countries),
- 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.

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)

To better improve the preparation of national reports, Mr. Illueca emphasized that the workshop is being requested to undertake the following tasks:

- Assess the applicability and appropriateness of indicators from existing C & I processes for assessing progress towards the implementation of the Forest Instrument and its four Global Objectives on Forests, including their contributions to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

6. Under additional question for cluster 1A on strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management, in seeking information on the establishment of inter-agency/inter-institutional cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms for SFM, ask at what level

workshop exercises were helpful in clarifying for them the steps and actions that need to be taken to operationalize the Forest Instrument.

Ms. Muller invited country focal points interested in participating in pilot projects such as those undertaken by Ghana and Nicaragua to please send their requests to FAO for consideration and follow-up.

In discussing the questionnaire/template and its guidelines, participants were in agreement in suggesting that participants in future project workshops be allowed to review the reporting format prior to the workshops much earlier. They also suggested the development of a network of focal points that will serve as a knowledge sharing initiative and link all focal points working on the reporting format for the duration of the project.

Ms. Kariuki informed the participants that in the next phase of the project, UNFFS would identify up to 40 interested countries and work with them in preparing their national reports to UNFF 10. In



09:00 – 09:15	Recapitulation of the first day (Peter Gondo)
09:15 – 10:30	Session 3: Approaches to implementation of the Forest Instrument (Peter Gondo)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 continued (exercises)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session 4: Monitoring and evaluation of the Forest Instrument (Peter Gondo)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee/tea break
16:00 – 17:30	Session 4 continued (exercises)
17:30 – 18:00	Wrap-up of the day (Peter Gondo)

Wednesday, 12 October

09:00 – 09:15	Recapitulation of the second day (Jorge Illueca)
09:15 – 10:30	Session 5: Reporting on the Forest Instrument (Jorge Illueca) Introduction
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break
11:00 - 12:30	Session 5 continued
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session 5 continued
15:30 – 16:30	Final session: Conclusions and follow-up
16:30	Closing



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Appendix 3

Questionnaire/Template for Preparing National Reports for UNFF 10 and 11

Trees outside of forests: include: (a) groups of trees covering an area of less than 0.5 ha, including lines and shelterbelts along infrastructure features and agricultural fields; (b) scattered trees in

	<p>specifically the FAO global FRA and the ITTO C & I. Please provide the exact information that your country submitted for the 2005, 2010 and 2015 FRAs (for UNFF 11 only). For global objective 4, ITTO indicators were found to be the most relevant.</p> <p>Funding for sustainable forest management will be at the center of the deliberations of UNFF 10. The indicators and additional questions under Global Objective 4, which take a cross-sectoral approach, will contribute significantly to discussions on this issue.</p>
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Global objective 1: Reverse the loss of cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

	2005	2010	2012/2015
1. FRA T.1.1: What is the extent of the country's forests (1000 ha)?			
2. FRA T.1.2: What is the extent of the country's other wooded lands (1000 ha)?			
3. CBD Target 5: indicators in the process of being developed and approved by CBD.			
4. CBD Target 15: indicators in the process of being developed and approved by CBD.			

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)?			

Global objective 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

	2005	2010	2012/2015
9. FRA T.3.10: What is the extent of forest designated and managed for sustainable forest management (1000 ha)?			
10. FRA T.3.11 and ITTO 1.11: What is the extent of forest with management plans (1000 ha)?			
11. CBD Target 7: indicators in the process of being developed and approved by CBD.			
12. CBD Target 11: indicators in the process			

UNFFS AQ 1. Does your country maintain information on SFM certification programmes for forest products?		
If yes, can you provide information on the		

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	2010
			2012/15

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

17. (1.6.) What is the proportion (%) of employed people in the forest sector living below \$US 1 per day?			
18. (1.6.a.) What is the proportion (%) of employed people in the forest sector below your country's established poverty line?			

for indicator FRA T.3.4.			
Repeat here information inputted above for indicator FRA T.3.10.			
Repeat here information inputted above			

	incorporate sustainable forest management.		
	Other(s) (describe in 50 words or less): (1) (2) (3)		
<p>In 500 words or less, please describe the principle developments in your country in applying sustainable forest management to poverty eradication from 2000 to 2015.² 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>			

**III. Thematic
Clusters of the
Forest Instrument**

	Government sources			
	International development partners			
	Private sources			
Additional questions		Not applicable	Yes	No
UNFFS AQ 17. 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 your country's official language is one of the UN official languages please check "not applicable"				
UNFFS AQ 18. For all countries, has the forest instrument been translated into the principal native language(s)				
If yes, please list the principal language(s) into which the forest instrument has been translated				

UNFFS AQ 19. Have inter-institutional and/or multi-stakeholder mechanisms for improved cross-sectoral coordination leading to SFM been established?

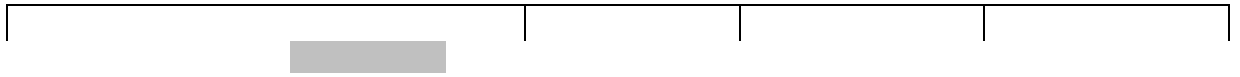
	partners			
	Private sources			
Repeat here information inputted above for global objective 4 under indicator ITTO 1.4.				
Repeat below the information inputted for these additional questions under Global Objective 4.				
UNFFS AQ 3. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by overall biodiversity funding (multi-sectoral)?				
UNFFS AQ 4. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by overall climate change funding (multi-sectoral)?				
UNFFS AQ 5. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by overall land management and land rehabilitation funding (multi-sectoral)?				
UNFFS AQ 6. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by the energy sector?				
UNFFS AQ 7. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by the transportation sector?				
UNFFS AQ 8. How much funding related to forests, other wooded land and trees outside of forests was provided by the agricultural sector?				

UNFFS AQ 20. Have financing strategies been developed that outline the short-, medium- and long term financial planning for achieving SFM, taking into account domestic, private sector and foreign funding sources?			
If yes, in 500 words or less, please describe these strategies, the year they were established and the main institutions responsible for their implementation. If you wish to provide additional information, please provide this in an appendix to this report, but please provide a summary in this space.			
1C: Capacity building and technology transfer			
		2005	2010
28. FRA T.15.b and ITTO 1.5: What is the total number of staff working in public forest institutions?			2012/2015
		Yes	No
29. ITTO 1.8: Does there exist and is there the ability to apply, appropriate technology to practice sustainable forest management and the efficient utilization and marketing of forest products?			

If no, in 250 words or less, please describe institutional priority needs and technology and know-how areas of particular concern. If you wish to provide additional information, please provide this in an appendix to this

1D: Stakeholder participation				
			Yes	No
30. ITTO 1.11 related: Does your country have institutional mechanisms for involving stakeholders in SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation at the following levels?				
	National level			
	Regional level			
	Local level			

If yes, in 500 words or less, describe the processes of public participation, indicating the parties involved and their level of involvement.



	Forest biology		
	Social and cultural values of forests		



	Meetings with public officials from the most relevant sectors to inform them of the purpose and scope of the forest instrument and its four global objectives		
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Meetings with stakeholders to inform them of the purpose and scope of the forest instrument and its four global objectives

If yes, please explain in 500 words or less how it is used and by whom.

Additional questions			Yes	No

**Part 2. Overall Theme for UNFF 10: forests and economic development,
with the following four themes:**

Theme 1: Forest products and services;

value of certified forest products (US\$)? If not, please respond with NA.			
Please provide 3-5 concise examples of actions taken by your country in applying SFM for forest products and services.			
Example 1 (100 words or less)			
Example 1 (100 words or less)			
Example 1 (100 words or less)			
Example 1 (100 words or less)			
Example 1 (100 words or less)			

Theme 2: National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies

	Droughts			
	Pests			
	Hurricanes/typhoons			
	Tornados			

<p>your country's official language? If your country's official language is one of the UN official languages please check "not applicable"</p>			
<p>Repeat here information inputted above for forest instrument cluster 1A under UNFFS AQ 18: For all countries, has the forest instrument been translated into the principal native language(s)</p>			



towards their achievement beyond 2015?			
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