

# Major GroupsLed Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Sustainable Forest Management: Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation

Kathmandu, Nepal  
2-6 March, 2015

## Report of Workshop Proceedings



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## Acknowledgements

This is a Major Gops -Led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to develop specific policy recommendations for UNFF11 endorsed by the Government of Nepal and organized by Major Gops Partnership on Forests (MGPoF). The initiative was made possible through financial support of the Government of Germany.

Major Gops also enjoyed incredible support of partner organizations which included: the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) which was the project holder on behalf of MGPoF, and the UNFF Secretariat that gave active support to Major Gops focal points during the organization of the workshop.

The organizers express their sincere appreciation to the host country donor and the partner organizations for making the event such a success.

This report was compiled and designed by Lyn Broughton of Broughton Communications, and edited by Lambert Okah of Major Gops Partnership on Forests. The authors are grateful to the participants for their helpful contributions throughout the workshop, and to the workshop facilitators and support staff for their skill and diligence in recording workshop deliberations.

Any parts of this report may be used freely for public purposes in appropriate acknowledgments.

# Executive Summary

Major Groups play a critical role within the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), both in contributing to policy formulation and in the implementation of UNFF decisions at regional, national and local levels. Engaging Major Groups effectively is key to the success of the work of UNFF, and the achievement of the 4 Global Objectives on Forests (GOF) set in the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) adopted by the session of UNFF (UNFF7).

In March 2015, a global workshop of the Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of the UNFF (MGI) was held by the Government of Nepal. The five-day workshop was attended by 76 participants from 36 countries representing the following 8 of the 9 official Major Groups identified by the United Nations: Children and Youth; Farmers and Small Holders; Indigenous Peoples; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); Scientific and Technological Community; Women; and Wood Workers and Trade Unions. Representatives of the ninth UN Major Group of Business and Industry were not present. Also in attendance were representatives of the Griefing ( ) Jm242(fET41Embaon ofE89(is)-92(he4(l)011N(na (omm),JETBT1 0 0 1 321.19 5





# Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday 2 March 2015.  
The opening ceremony included:

Guests peaked at

- x Mr Lambert Okah, President of the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF);
- x The Hon



# Part I

## Sustainable Forest Management Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation– Recommendations to UNFF11

# I. Overview Presentations

Two presentations provided an overview of background information and context for participants regarding the UNFF process to date.

## 1) Overview of the UN Forum on Forests Review Process

by Ms Njeri Kariki, UNFF Secretariat

Ms Kariki set the stage for all participants by reminding them that UN Member States will be reviewing the effectiveness of the International Agreement on Forests (IAF) at the upcoming UNFF11, and will decide on the future of the IAF arrangement beyond 2015. She also presented the overall WKHPHRR Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward for the IAF. She discussed the effectiveness of the IAF, the progress achieved towards the global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests and the IAF to internationally agreed development goals. It will focus on the past performance of the UNFF and its process, the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBFI), the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and the UNFF within the context of the UN Sustainable Development Framework, including the outcome of Rio+20 and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Ms Kariki explained that in view of the above, a number of activities have been organized in preparation for UNFF 11. These include an independent assessment, intergovernmental ad hoc expert groups 1&2 (AHEG 1&2) on the IAF, Country-Led Initiatives in support of the UNFF in China and Switzerland, and the Major Groups-Led Initiative in

MGs, particularly in specific activities based on CPF priorities at the regional and national levels

## II. Presentation of Case Studies

Five case studies were prepared and presented in order to inform and highlight discussions. Full case studies are available for download from the website: [www.mngp.org](http://www.mngp.org) -foetog

## 2) The Institutional Framework of an ECOSOC Institution: The Case of UNFF

by Mr Mafa Ezi Chipea, independent policy consultant

The case study gave an analysis of the continuation of the International Agreement on Forests (IAF), as UNFF, including its achievements in maintaining momentum on positive dialogues and the development of many resolutions and proposed actions being in life implementation; a Secretariat within the UN hierarchy with a staff and over half of its budget being voluntary contributions; a voluntary Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) that is not coordinated in context; an inability to mobilize adequate financial funding for SFM implementation; the constraints of having UNFF under ECOSOC, particularly in diminishing effective convening power and implementation; and the focus of UNFF on forests with limited links to other sectors and processes. -Rio

Recommendations for alternative, desirable attributes for a new body on forests include: maintaining the established, successful dialogue process; adding and prioritizing implementation of proposed actions and resolutions that arise from such dialogues; developing a focused, strategic plan; building partnerships at the regional level; initiating country-led initiatives (CLI), organization-led initiatives (OLI), major group initiatives (MGI) and regional-led initiatives (RLI) to promote action; and broadening the focus beyond the forest sector.

private . Keypoints regarding SFM finding include the Overseas Development  
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indicators developed by the ITTO; and, compared to many other UN bodies the UNFF is much  
more open to MG's participation, including a staff liaison at the Secretariat who not only is  
available as a direct contact for MGs but also is able to link MGs with policymakers

## Conclusions

After weighing achievements, constraints and needs participants made the following  
conclusions

- a) 7KH 81))¶V SODFH PHQW ZLWK LQ (&262& KDV OHG WR  
have 270 recommendations but does not provide scope or capacity for implementation.  
The present hierarchy and complexity within ECOSOC at the divisional level hinders  
decision-making as bureaucracy is very high. MGs want to see more focus on  
implementation of the forest management and goals for forests
- b) There is a lack of ownership of UNFF recommendations as seen in some of the language  
XHG WKDW DVNV 3DUWLHV WR FROGLGHU DQ HQKDJH EX GRHV QW FDOO RQDUWLHV



There is not one general mechanism at the international level that specifically supports

- d) Many big forestry-related industrial enterprises are often not sustainable, particularly from the social and environmental perspectives and they provide limited support for economic wellbeing of local communities
- e) Good governance at all levels from national to local, from government to non-government is crucial not just to attract funding, but to build credibility and efficiency of SFM initiatives
- f) Diversity of funding options, the creation of adaptive capacities and responsiveness to emerging issues all play an integral part in ensuring efficient funding mechanisms to meet the needs of SFM and communities who rely on the forests for their livelihood. Funding of a diversity of initiatives from dialogue and policy development to LPSOHPHQDWLRQQRQKHJURQLQ is also key to SFM.
- g) There are many opportunities and initiatives that nations and communities can undertake that do not require financial, or any funding assistance from donors. For example, initiating inter-agency

### Specific Recommendations regarding Financial Mechanisms for Undertaking SFM

- a)



experiences a knowledge base on UNFF processes. MGs are better able to participate; an unprecedented agreement by Major Groups - Led Initiative reports and joint papers become official UNFF documents; and a growing recognition by many governments that MG PoF is the MG stakeholder coordination in the UNFF. MG involvement in side events and inter-personal activities create an environment of engagement that has also increased.

## Conclusions

Discussion on effective MG participation, engagement and its achievements and challenges led to the following conclusions:

- a) MGs engagement is crucial to ensuring that all perspectives, opinions and voices are considered in the UNFF process. They also play a critical role in implementation, reporting and monitoring to fill the gaps between the global and local processes.
- b) During UNFF process cooperation and coordination among MGs has dramatically improved. For example, MG Workshops to provide consistent input and guidance to the UNFF process and MG joint papers that become official UNFF documents. Many governments recognize the importance of MGs and are willing to explore how this could be enhanced.
- c) Intention of MGs have been weakened and sometimes are not reflected in the final reports and decisions. This limits the role of MGs. We need to ensure that the perspectives of MGs are fully recognized, the conditions that the MGs have made in the UNFF process.
- d) While there are good intentions for enabling UNFF within ECOSOC, it is still a challenge to improve the ability of MGs to be fully engaged and inhibit the mobilization of other elements in society in the UNFF process.
- e) Currently there are no incentives for the Major Group of Business and Industry to engage in other MGs.
- f) The interest and commitment of MGs to participate in both the policy dialogue and in the implementation of the recommendations of the UNFF is strong.

## Specific Recommendations regarding Enhancing the Engagement of Major Groups Participation in the UNFF Process

- a) Recognize MG PoF as a legitimate coordinating body for Major Groups involvement in UNFF process; grant it official Permanent Observer Status in the post-2015 UNFF process and make MGs a partner.
- b) At the global, regional and national levels, any working groups that focus on, delegations or other mechanisms addressing SFM issues should include MGs representation to ensure

development planning, implementation, review and other important decision-making process

- c) Financial support for MGs involvement in post-UNFF process must be increased. This should include core funding for MGPoF.
- d) MGPoF should be granted the status of Observer on the CPF, and a cooperation and collaboration mechanism between CPF and MGPoF should be proposed.
- e) MGs should have representation on the governing body on the new UN body on forests.
- f) An independent mechanism for enabling MGs willing to participate in a session should be created to avoid the limitations imposed by following the ECOSOC accreditation process.
- g) Communications within, and from, the UNFF Secretariat need to be strengthened, particularly regarding understanding and championing the role of MGs.

## IV.

Under the theme of a new global body for SFM, to replace the UNFF that will soon be concluding its mandate, participants concluded that

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## Introduction

During the course of discussion on the above topics, it was agreed on providing specific recommendations to UNFF11, which are related to the dialogue. It should be noted that the following issues are not official agenda items and, as such, the following points cannot be considered as comprehensive lists. They are simply an amalgamation of points raised during UNFF11 related to ongoing discussions. It is intended to capture the key points in this report particularly those that may directly or indirectly influence the strategic planning or focus of MGPOF and/or workshop participants.

## Financial Distribution of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Funds to Beneficiaries

During discussion on specific financial mechanisms to support and undertake SFM, specific ideas regarding the distribution of such SFM funds to beneficiaries were also raised, including :

- x Financial institutions should recognize SFM as a pre-condition for investment and support companies should be tied to their commitment to SFM.
- x Fair and equitable benefit distribution mechanisms for performance-based payment

## Enhancing the Engagement, and Coordination Between Major Groups

During the course of discussion on initial recommendations for UNFF11, points were raised regarding organizational ideas for within and between Major Groups themselves that collectively they can more effectively engage in the UNFF process. Some of the proposed

- x Improve transparency and clarity of the MG PoF process and governance.
- x Clearly define the expanded role of MGs and MG PoF to play and how they are expected to realize this.
- x Enhance the capacity-building of MG organizations in the UNFF process. This includes capacity-building on advocacy tools and techniques; how to navigate a UN meeting from corridor negotiations to the realities of official statement processes; bringing new organizations to date on the content of proceedings; building a clear and political agenda; guidance in complex application processes and lobbying for funds and proposal writing.
- x Identify diplomats who could champion their cases.
- x Build strategic partnerships among Member States.
- x Reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of MGs and engagement practices in the UNFF.
- x Be mindful of imbalances in participation in internal deliberations and plan specific steps to overcome such barriers.
- x Ensure participants in collective decision-making or policy formulation are aware of the anticipated timelines and means in which to contribute to the process.
- x Remain vigilant about both the benefits and potential negative impacts of internal communications.
- x Proceed immediately on these and other goals, irrespective of the outcomes of UNFF11.

## The Strengths and Focus of Specific Major Groups

Each of the Major Groups in participant representation at the workshop briefly summarized how they not only sought to be able, but that their primary focus was. The following key points were raised for the eight MGs in attendance:



# Closing Ceremony

The official closing ceremony was held on the afternoon of Friday 6 March 2015. Mr. Lambert Okrah officially commenced the ceremony by reading the workshop communiqué for the assembled delegates and journalists. Following the presentation of the communiqué, the MGPF encouraged participants to continue in earnest their work in contributing to the UNFF. Participants were also reminded that this workshop was simply one step in an important ongoing journey.

Joseph Cobbinah, Chair of the Board of MGPF, formally thanked the Government of Nepal for hosting the workshop, Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey and his staff for their administrative and organizational support and the German Government for sponsoring. He also expressed deep gratitude to the UNFF Secretariat and ITTO for their administrative support to the hospitality of the Nepalese people and to all the participants for their meaningful contributions to the success of the workshop. Mr. Cobbinah closed by thanking Lambert Okrah for his contributions and leadership, through whom the workshop could not have been realized.

Dr. Stephen Johnson, Assistant Director of Trade and Industry, ITTO, spoke on behalf of both the ITTO and UNFF Secretariat. Dr. Johnson thanked both he and Dr. Manoel Sobal Filho, Director of UNFF Secretariat, for the organization of, and work undertaken at the workshop. He expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process.

In the official closing address by Mr. Sharad Chandra Paudel, Secretary Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, Government of Nepal, he expressed his appreciation of the scope and scale of the workshop, and of the work undertaken and outcomes that had been achieved. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process. In particular, he expressed appreciation to the participants for their valuable insights and inputs to the UNFF process.

The workshop was officially closed in the closing remarks by Mr. Lambert Okrah who thanked all participants and in particular the focal points and organizing committee who worked hard for a successful event. After wishing everyone a safe journey back, and a reminder that UNFF11 is where the work really begins, he declared the workshop officially closed.





2 – 6 March, 2015



# Annex 2: Official Workshop Programme

## Monday, March 2

- 09:00-11:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session
- ‡ Presentation by UNFF Secretariat on the review process
  - ‡ FAO presentation on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
  - ‡ Case study 1: The institutional framework of an independent UN institution: The case of the International Tropical Timber Organization
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Continuation of Plenary Session
- ‡ Case study 2: The institutional framework of an ECOSOC institution: The case of UNFF
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Continuation of Plenary Session
- ‡ Case study 3: Targeting international funding mechanisms towards funding sustainable forest management
  - ‡ Case study 4: The institutional arrangement between an NGO focal organization and a UN body: The case of Climate Action Network International in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- 18:00-20:00 Welcome Reception for Participants

## Tuesday, March 3

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session
- ‡ Case study 5: Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management
  - ‡ Formation of Working Groups
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Group Sessions
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Working Group Sessions continue
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Working Group Sessions continue

## Wednesday March 4

*Field Trips (participants signed up for the trip of their choice on the opening day of the workshop)*

Buses depart from Park Village Hotel at 9:00am. Return to hotel by approximately 5:00pm.

Option 1: Dhaneshwor Baikiwa Community Forest

## Thursday, March<sup>th</sup>5

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session  
‡ Field trip debriefs  
‡ Working Groups presentations and discussions
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Group Sessions
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-16:00 Planning Session  
‡ Final presentations by Working Groups
- 16:00-16:20 BREAK
- 16:20-17:30 Planning Sessions continue  
‡ Final presentations by Working Groups

## Friday, March<sup>th</sup>6

- 09:00-10:40 Plenary Session  
‡ Presentation of Final Report by Drafting Group and Discussion
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Continuation of Plenary Session  
‡ Final report adoption (including overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF11)
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Plenary Session  
‡ Overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF10
- 14:00-16:00 Continuation of Plenary Session  
‡ Issue workshop communiqué  
‡ Closing Ceremony



# Annex 4: MGI Steering Committee Members

## Implementing Organization

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Lambert Okrah  
Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF)  
2 Canada  
' lambert@mgp-forests.org

## Sponsoring Country

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Matthias Schwoerer  
German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
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' matthias.schwoerer@bmelv.bund.de

## Partner Organizations

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Steven Johnson

## Host Country

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Krishna Prashad Acharya  
Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Government  
of Nepal  
2 Nepal  
' kpacharya1@hotmail.com

# Major Groups Led Initiative in Support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

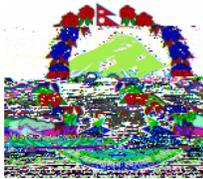
Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in  
Partnerships

Organizer:



Major Groups Partnership on Forests

Host Country:



Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

Sponsor:



Federal Republic of Germany

Partners

