

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

Forests and Economic Development: Crafting the Path for Forests
to Contribute to Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
18-22 March, 2013

Report of Workshop Proceedings

Implementing Organization

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Executive Summary

Major Groups continue to play an effective role in global forest policy development and are active in playing major roles in sustainable forest management in countries and communities. Enhancing the participation of Major Groups in the United Nations (UN) forest policy development process, and increasing their role in the implementation,

Background and Context

The effective participation of Major Groups¹ is crucial to the success of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Creating and enhancing opportunities for active and effective Major Groups participation is thus a critical task for Major Groups, as well as Governments and other UNFF stakeholders.

The UNFF Secretariat to explore ways to increase stakeholder and civil society participation, including indigenous and other local and for YghXYdYbXYbhVta a i b]jYgÅ]b Z hi fY'gYggjcbg'cZHAY: cfi a "I²

Scheduled to take place in Istanbul, Turkey from 8-19 April 2013, UNFF10 will focus on the hYa Y'í j"

As the work of Major Groups has significant impact on forest communities, they agreed to organize a multi-stakeholder workshop designed to support the UNFF process and prepare concrete policy recommendations to be presented to UNFF10.

The resulting workshop, which took place at the National Institute of Tropical Botany in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from the 18th to the 22nd of March 2013, brought together approximately 45 key representatives from 21 countries. The central goal of the event was to actively engage Major Groups and support the UNFF process by developing input and policy recommendations for the 10th session of the UNFF.

The workshop included presentations of commissioned case studies by selected academics, facilitated group

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday, March 18th. Guest speakers at the opening ceremony included:

UNFF Secretariat to strengthening the involvement of Major Groups in the work of the UNFF. She stressed that effective participation of stakeholders is critical to the success of the UNFF in its pursuit of sustainable forest management, and emphasized how valuable has been the diligent efforts and contributions of UNFF Major Group focal points and representatives who have actively participated in Forum-related and Forum-associated meetings and activities during the inter-sessional period.

different agencies responsible for different aspects of urban development, and the

1) What Types of Governance Mechanisms can Serve as Catalysts for Enhancing the Role of Forests in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)?

Current Trends in Governance System

Good forest governance systems provide a socially harmonized framework for implementing adaptive and iterative policy planning procedures towards managing forests in a more sustainable way.

The group identified a number of formal and informal governance systems designed to meet the local, national and international governance needs for achieving a sustainable management of forests.

Major challenges to the current governance systems have been the limited participation of the stakeholders and the marginalization of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples in the governance process. These create conflicting

Limitations in Current Governance Systems

Legislative and bureaucratic confusion and institutional overlaps; organizational weaknesses and the existence of shadowy corruptive systems; lack of awareness of the multifunctional importance of forests; land alienation; and exclusion of community participation Å U create substantial obstacles to reform of forest governance in many countries.

The governance over the forests often results in conflicts instead of cooperation and partnerships. Benefit-sharing from forest-related initiatives and programmes such as REDD+ and CDM are unclear. Still, a huge potential for conflicts resolution, solutions, identification and advancing exists through the innovative governance mechanisms.

Concepts, mechanisms, programmes and definitions related to forests are made from the top-down without effective part

2) How Community-Based Forest Enterprises can be Developed to Contribute to Economic Development of Forest Dependent People

Current Cases of Effective Community-Based Forest Enterprises

Kenya coastal mangrove forest for silk worm production for textile making

Walnut production in the Kyrgyzstan forest: More than a third of the local population in this territory live in the forest or not so far from it.

Rattan and bamboo production in most South-East Asian and Latin American nations

Bamboo production in Nepal making cosmetics and handicrafts

Sea-buckthorn juice production in Nepal

Hand-m

Establish and strengthen networks and linkages for CBFEs to share information through means like emails, and journals etc.

III. Key Policy Recommendations from the Workshop Communiqué

Forests are critical for the survival of humanity. Forests contribute in multiple and multifaceted ways to human wellbeing. The true and sustainable contribution of forests to human wellbeing can only be achieved through a holistic approach and understanding of forests that captures the interconnectedness and interdependencies of various aspects including the social, cultural, spiritual, economic and environmental values of forests.

Participants discussed various aspects related to forest governance, role of forest products and services, and community-based forest enterprises in human wellbeing including economic development.

Participants discussed various aspects related to forest governance, role of forest products and services, and community-based forest enterprises in human wellbeing including economic development. The following recommendations:

Rights-based approach: The UNFF and its processes should consistently make use of a right-based approach, respecting international standards and agreements on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and children, trade unions, private sector, NGOs, forest dependent communities and other major groups.

Principles of good forest governance: The UNFF should enable and coordinate the development of a multi-stakeholder process towards a set of principles for good forest governance using the principles of a comprehensive step-by-step bottom-up participatory process.

Legal and policy framework for community forestry: The UNFF should promote the development of enabling national-level legal and policy frameworks for community forestry, which will include provisions for secure land ownership and tenure rights, equitable benefit-sharing, indigenous governance systems, traditional knowledge systems, role of women and youth, access to financing and markets, access to information, transfer of technology, and long-term sustainability of community forestry programs.

Public and private partnerships: Public and private partnerships should be developed to support forest dependent communities and sustainable forest management through research and development, transfer of technology, and other extension activities.

Financing mechanisms: Innovative financing mechanisms, including special funds for targeted purposes such as community-based forest enterprises, at international, national, and local levels should be developed.

Part II

Reports of Major Groups' on How to Effectively Participate in UNFF

Major Groups' reports on their participation in the UNFF process, focusing more UNFF10 and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue. The following reports summarize their presentations back to the full plenary.

2) Youth and Children

Context for Discussion

The theme for UNFF10 is *Forest and Economic Development* with the following sub-themes:

- Forest products and services
- National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies
- Reducing risks and impacts of disasters
- Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities

Goals and Objectives

The overarching goal of the programme is to enhance the implementation of UNFF decisions toward sustainable forest management within the framework of Forests and Economic Development.

How Children and Youth Want to Participate in the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

3) NGOs

Importance of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

- MSD gives MGs the opportunity to give their views on international forest policy
- MSD outcomes are included into main documents of UNFF sessions
- MSD gives possibility for MGs to discuss major forest issues with governments and international organizations - members of Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

Problems of MSD at UNFF10

- Sessions are too short (3 hours are not enough)

4) Scientific and Technology Community

Future of the Scientific and Technology Community Major Group for the UNFF

Status of the implementation of the previous recommendations (UNFF8 and UNFF9)

UNFF should promote scientific discussion and global scale studies on major forest issues during UNFF intersessional periods

Support activities of scientific networks

- Ensure the full and effective participation, and inclusion of the role of indigenous women, in all UNFF processes
- Promote the full respect and recognition of the rights of Indigenous Peoples over their traditional knowledge
- Promote a process for the discussion on historic ecological debt
- Promote a process for the discussion on underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation
- Provide all the documentation in Spanish as well

6) Farmers and Small Forest Landowners

How to Organize Effective Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in UNFF10

- Organize at the regional level where there are shared issues, history, sense of current trends and opportunities
- Every Major Group/sector should prepare a statement that targets the theme on their specific aspects. All those statements are to be made available to all participants

Annex 1: Statement Relating to Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives

The definitions of forests are not taking into account the many values of forests. This

Annex 2: List of Workshop Participants

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Annex 3: Official Workshop Programme

Monday, March 18th

08:30-10:00	Registration
09:30-10:40	Opening Ceremony
10:40-11:00	BREAK
11:00-13:00	Plenary Session Presentation by UNFF Secretariat of the main theme of UNFF10 (Forests and Economic Development) Presentation and discussion of the first IUFRO case study
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-15:20	Continuation of Plenary Session Presentation of the second IUFRO case study Formation of Working Groups
15:20-15:40	BREAK
15:40-17:00	Working Group Sessions
19:00-21:00	Welcome Reception for Participants

Tuesday, March 19th

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 09:30-10:40 | Plenary Session
Preliminary reports from each Working Group |
| | Working Group Sessions
Continued discussion within Working Groups |
| 10:40-11:00 | BREAK |
| 11:00-13:00 | Working Group Sessions continue |
| 13:00-14:00 | LUNCH |
| 14:00-15:20 | Working Group Sessions continue |
| 15:20-15:40 | BREAK |
| 15:40-17:00 | Working Group Sessions continue |

Wednesday, March 20th

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 08:00 | Bus departs from the hotel |
| 20:00 | Approximate return to hotel |

Thursday, March 21st

- 09:30-10:40 Plenary Session
Presentations by Working Groups
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session continues
Working Groups present results and recommendations
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-14:10 Focus: Effectiveness of MG Participation in the UNFF
- Plenary Session
Instructions on tasks for Major Groups participation in UNFF
- 14:10-15:20 Planning Sessions
Major Groups meet separately and begin discussions/planning
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-17:00 Planning Sessions continue
Major Groups meet separately and continue discussions/planning

Friday, March 22nd

- 09:30-10:40 Plenary Session
Major Groups present their plans and strategies
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary Session
Major Groups discuss their plans and strategies
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Plenary Session
Overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF10
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-16:00 Issue workshop communiqué
- 16:00-16:30 Closing Ceremony

Annex 4: Glossary of Acronyms

CBRE	Community-Based Forest Enterprise
CDM.....	Clean Development Mechanism (a flexibility mechanism defined in the Kyoto Protocol)
CFM	Community Forest Management
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
EE	Environmental Education
ESIA.....	Employment Support and Income Assistance
GFIS.....	

Annex 5: MGI Steering Committee Members

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