

Advancing Global Commitments to Promote Sustainable Forest Management

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Background to Global Sustainable Development Dialogues

Realization that production and consumption patterns are not aligned with the ability of the earth to cope: 1972 and 1992 Summits on Sustainable Development in Copenhagen and Rio respectively were the initial attempts by the global community to address that

Constraints at achieving sustainable development

- Global institutions continue to mirror environment and development as separate entities
- Continue to allocate resources in line with that resulting in competition for resources
- Institutional gaps between global institutional apparatus at the international level and decision making process at the national level - Executive and Bureaucrats at international level versus Legislators and Executives at national level.
- Lobbying by those benefitting from the current production and consumption patterns to maintain the status quo.
- Large numbers of global population left out from the current attempts to deal with the challenge.

The Mandate of UNFF

- Developing sustainable forest management policies
- Overseeing the implementation of those policies

Constraints at achieving SFM

- Challenge of addressing the needs of all stakeholders involved with different interest groups who are sometimes opposed to each others acting within and outside the forest sectors
- UNFF basically focusing only on policy development without concrete road map on how these policies will be implemented as mandated by the resolution establishing UNFF
- At the national level, mechanisms have not been put in place to ensure that there are follow-up actions involving all stakeholders to implement policies agreed to at the international level
- Resource mobilization and allocation at the national level for SFM is not systematic and in many cases non-existent.

The Way Forward for Advancing SFM Commitments

1. UNFF and SDGs: With the adoption of UNFF11 resolution, the foundation has been laid for advancing policy deliberation and implementation
 - ❖ UNFF sessions devoted to policy discussions should be directly linked to the institutional mechanisms established for deliberating on SDGs at the HLPF/UN General Assembly
 - ❖ UNFF Secretariat must play a leading role in coordination and reporting on implementation of SFM during SDGs deliberations
 - ❖ UNFF Secretariat should establish a staff position for UN inter-agency collaboration that will be responsible for SDGs issues within the UN system and CPF

Way Forward Continue...

2. UNFF and CPF

- ❖ UNFF Secretariat should serve as the coordinating body of CPF to ensure inter-agency collaboration to improve efficiency and effectiveness and avoid unnecessary competition and duplication
- ❖ Rather than being partial observers, CPF members should input into policy deliberations at UNFF as partners
- ❖ Each CPF member should advise on areas that they have comparative advantage and wish to implement with their own resources and share those with their governing bodies for approval
- ❖ CPF must decide on areas that they wish to work together as a team or jointly with others in the team
- ❖ Resources made available through UNFF and managed by UNFF Secretariat for extra funding not covered by their internal funding for activities identified by CPF
- ❖ MGPOF, the coordinating body of Major Groups at UNFF be invited as an observer to CPF and funding made available to make it play an effective role

Way Forward Continue.....

3. Regional Processes and sfm

- ❖ UNFF Secretariat should work with UN regional Economic Commissions to set up mechanisms by which they can coordinate with other regional and sub-regional bodies operating in the respective regions to incorporate sfm in their work

Way Forward Continue....

4 UNFF and Governments at National Level

- ❖ Inter-sectoral planning and implementation is key to ensuring SFM at the national level involving institutions that directly or indirectly impact forests through their actions
- ❖ National legislators responsible for approving budgets and the executives and bureaucrats responsible for international policies should put in place mechanisms at the national level for planning with other stakeholders in developing implementation strategies.
- ❖ There must be resource allocation through regular budgets for developed countries for contributions to sfm through UNFF and for developing countries for advancing sfm activities.
- ❖ Major Groups and non-state actors must be engaged as partners at the national level relating to sfm and resources made available to them through national apparatus for their active engagement

Way Forward Continue.....

5. Major Groups Engagement

- ❖ Engagement of Major Groups, other stakeholders and the global community as a whole holds the key to the realization of sfm. The ability of governments to engage the global community will determine whether sfm will be achieved or not and activities that undermine sfm take place within and outside the forest.

Who are Major Groups?

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- Women
 - Children and Youth
 - Indigenous Peoples
 - Workers and Trade Unions
 - Farmers and Small Forest Landowners
 - Non Governmental Organizations
 - Scientific and Technological Community
 - Local Authorities
 - Business and Industry



Major Groups are categorized in respective constituencies and accredited by ECOSOC

The Engagement of Major Groups in UNFF

- The establishment of Major Groups Focal Points of UNFF
- Holding of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) during sessions
- Development of policy documents which are considered as UN Secretary-General reports for each session
- Making statements on the floor during the debate session
- Organizing of Major Groups-Led Initiatives (MGI) in support of UNFF with the reports considered as official documents of the sessions
- Invitation to participate in UNFF intersessional activities
- UNFF Secretariat providing financial support for Major Groups representatives/Focal Points to attend UNFF sessions

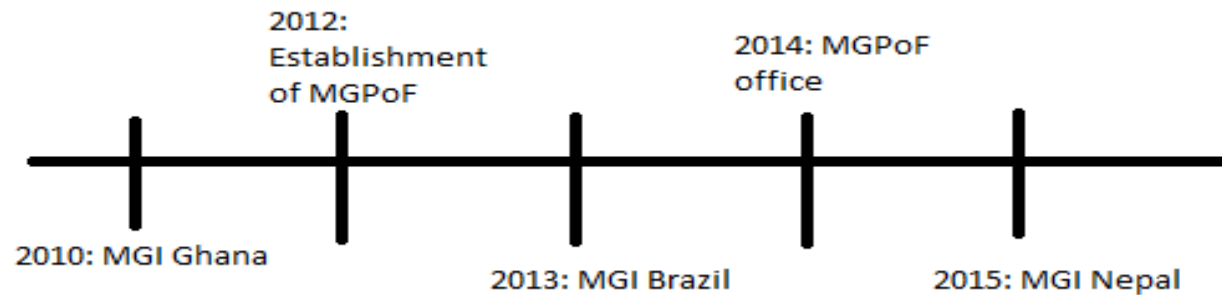
Roles of Focal points to UNFF

- Serve as a liaison between UNFF secretariat and their individual constituencies
- Help identify participants for specific UNFF events
- Coordinate preparation of official papers to UNFF sessions



Major Groups Partnership on Forests

- Who are we?
- Origins of MGPoF - Established as a coordinating body for all Major Groups



- Vision: We envisage a world where forests are managed sustainably and all benefits shared in an equitable manner among all stakeholders.
- Mission: We exist to collaborate with all interested parties in taking those actions needed to ensure sustainability, equity and social justice in dealing with forest issues.

MGPoF Objectives

1. Serve as liaison between Major Groups focal points of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other related organizations
2. Coordinate participation of MGs representatives in international forest policy fora
3. Organize forest policy workshops and conferences to develop recommendations and provide technical advice to UNFF
4. Support and facilitate the collaboration of MGs with other forest-related organizations and governments to implement sustainable forest management at all levels
5. Facilitate forest research to strengthen the contribution of MGs in international policy process
6. Disseminate and publish information on the contribution of MGs to sustainable forest management
7. Support efforts by MGs to collaborate at all levels
8. Support the work of MGs to strengthen their networks

MGPoF – Statement of Principle

We are committed to forest management practices that are:

- Socially responsible
- Environmentally sustainable
- Economically viable
- Inclusive
- Gender sensitive



MGPoF - Areas of work

- Organize global workshops to develop policy recommendations for SFM
- Participate in international workshops and conferences relating to SFM
- Undertake awareness creation and capacity building for our constituencies - IYF, IDF, explaining global forest policy implications
- Coordinate the preparation of joint Major Groups papers for UNFF
- Support participating organizations in implementing SFM

Who can be members?

To participate in the work of MGPOF an organization must be legally registered with their countries' authorities and classify itself as any of the Major Groups.

Benefits to members

1. Be part of a global network of Major Groups participating in the work of United Nations Forum on Forests.
2. Participate in events organized by MGPOF.
3. Participate in knowledge sharing events on sustainable forest management organized by MGPOF.
4. Possibilities for support to participate in UNFF Sessions.
5. Sharing your expertise and experiences at the global level to influence policy makers.
6. Build collaboration with organizations/businesses of other Major Groups to implement sustainable forest management.
7. Build partnership with donors.

Activities undertaken by MGPoF

- Strategic planning meeting in Ghana (2013)
- Developing joint papers for sessions rather than each Major Group developing its own policy discussion papers while still able to present the specific views of their Major Group
- Organizing of Major Groups-Led Initiative in support of UNFF prior to a session to develop policy recommendations for that particular session
- Initiated a process for Major Groups organizations that want to be active in UNFF process to register with Major Groups Partnership on Forests
- Coordinate the organization of MSD
- Fundraising



How is MGPoF organized?

- National level
- Regional level
- International level
- Focal points
- Secretariat

Enhancing the engagement of MG participation in UNFF

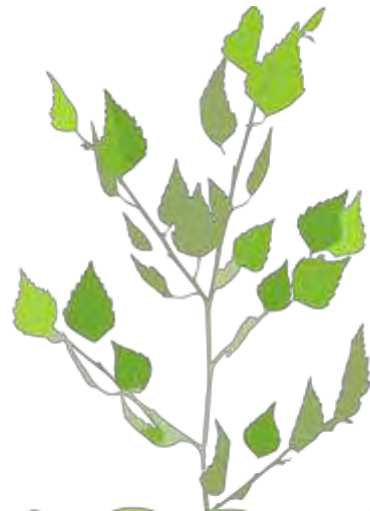
- Recognize MGPoF as a legitimate coordinating body for Major Groups involvement in UNFF processes; grant it official Permanent Observer Status in the new IAF; and make MGs true partners.
- At the global, regional and national levels, any working groups, task forces, delegations or other mechanisms addressing SFM issues must have MGs representation to ensure their meaningful, full and effective engagement. Involve MG representatives in policy development, planning, implementation, reviews and other important decision-making processes.

Enhancing the engagement of MGs participation in UNFF

- Financial support for MGs involvement in post-UNFF processes must be increased. This should include core funding for MGPoF.
- MGPoF should be granted the status of Observer on the CPF, and a cooperation and collaboration mechanism between CPF and MGPoF should be supported.
- MGs should have representation on the governing body of the new IAF



Thank You



MGPFoF