

International Seminar on Challenges to SFM: Perspectives from Major Groups

Mr. Lambert Okrah

International Programmes Manager
Canadian Environmental Network
lambert@cen-rce.org

8-10 March, 2011

Who Are Major Groups?

According to the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21:

- NGOs
- Women
- Indigenous People.
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Children and Youth
- Forest Workers and Trade Unions
- Business
- Farmers and Small Forest Owners
- Local Authorities

Major Groups' Participation is Vital

- In spite of sustained and lengthy dialogues on forest loss and degradation, we have not been able to halt the problem
- The standard methods don't work because the social, cultural and "people" aspects of forests haven't been taken into account.
- With our participation, we can make it work.

In light of this:

- We convened a Major Group Initiative that was designed to bring diverse Major Groups together to develop innovative and creative ideas.
- Through this workshop, we provided constructive inputs to the 9th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9) (New York, January 28-February 4, 2011).

WORKSHOP:

Major Groups-Led Initiative(MGI)

in support of the

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

- **Date:** 26-30 July, 2010
- **Venue:** Accra, Ghana
- **Workshop Theme:** Applying Sustainable Forest management to Poverty Reduction: Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder Approach within UNFF

Project Management

- We set-up an international steering Committee to oversee the management of the workshop which comprises all focal points of the Major Groups to UNFF, UNFF Secretariat and some governments.
- We appointed a Workshop Coordinator who was responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the activities
- We selected a host organization that was responsible for taking actions on behalf of the Major Groups including signing contracts with donors.

Major Groups-Led Initiative in Support of UNFF

APPLYING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO POVERTY REDUCTION:
Strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach within UNFF

Alisa Hotel | Accra, Ghana | 26-30 July 2010

Coordinated by
ICA
INTERNATIONAL

THE INSTITUTE
OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
INTERNATIONAL

Hosted by



GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

Sponsors



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



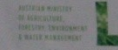
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER ORGANIZATION



Canada



LEADER IN
SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT
& POVERTY REDUCTION



Support for the workshop provided by:

- Government of Ghana
- UNFF Secretariat
- Norway
- Canada
- Finland
- UK
- Austria
- ITTO

We organized intensive discussions at the workshop on a variety of topics that related to the program of work of the UNFF and stakeholder participation



Workshop accomplishments

- Brought together over 70 Major Group representatives from over 30 different countries.
- Some participants have been involved in the forest policy dialogue, but we also had fresh new voices and inputs from people with on-the-ground experiences.
- We were able to capitalize on our strengths—our knowledge and our practical experiences gained through working in locations with forest-dependent people

Workshop Outcomes

- Policy recommendations to UNFF9 (highlights on next slides)
- Valuable networking and enhancing of strength of Major Groups' key contributions to policy—knowledge and experience.
- Innovative ideas for the way ahead.

Highlights of Policy Recommendations to presented to UNFF9 (6 Key Points)

- Forest policy must address issues associated with equity (access, rights, land and resource tenure, and benefit sharing).
- Forest-dependent peoples must have reliable access to forest resources and a role in the decision-making structures that decide how resources are to be used and who benefits from them.
- Policies must take into account local contexts to ensure that policies promote the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.

Highlights of Policy Recommendations to UNFF9 (continued)

- Community-based forest enterprises that focus on sustainable, value added goods and services should be promoted and supported.
- Research and knowledge generation that emphasizes the needs of forest-dependent communities must be encouraged, supported and enhanced.
- Connections between the work of the UNFF and other related UN Bodies must be strengthened and enhanced, with an emphasis on highlighting the achievements of other UN bodies related to forest-dependent communities

Further outcomes of the Workshop: IYF contributions from MGs

International Year of Forests:

Major Groups are crucial to IYF success.

Mr. Arvis Ozols (Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau) stated in his statement to the UNFF plenary, the IYF was launched in New York on February 2, but it will not be a success without the **participation** of local and forest-dependent peoples in various locations around the globe.

IYF and Major Groups

- At our Ghana Workshop, MGs discussed ways to contribute to making the International Year of Forests a Success.
- Major Groups' innovative and dynamic ideas for outreach to a wide range of individuals and organizations is key—must be supported.

Challenges to SFM from the perspective of Major Groups:

- With representatives of different Major Groups, differing points of view have surfaced—but this is also our strength, as we bring a variety of perspectives to the table.
- We lack resources—both at the project level and the institutional level. This was evidenced by our lack of funding for the MGI workshop (only half the budget received funding).
- Governments and Major Groups do not always agree on key or priority issues.

Challenges: *(continued)*

- Adherence to policy agreements is difficult if there are no clear mechanisms established for their implementation (or monitoring and verification).
- Adherence to policy agreements is difficult if there are no clear funding mechanisms.
- Participation of Major Groups in intergovernmental forums is jeopardized by lack of funding and support.

Opportunities

- Working together with different actors enabled us to build a great degree of consensus across all divides relating to environmental, social and economic values of forests
- Common goals enabled people working at the grassroots level to directly contribute to global policy development
- Our workshop efforts clarified our message to governments, which helped us present our recommendations to UNFF9

Opportunities: *(Continued)*

- Our workshop built an understanding between people who are involved in project implementation related to Sustainable Forest Management.
- Our workshop helped to mobilize Major Groups' actions Globally towards SFM

**We look forward to more enhanced
and productive participation in UNFF.**

For more information please contact:

Mr. Lambert Okrah

International Programmes Manager

Canadian Environmental Network

lambert@cen-rce.org

<http://mgi-forests.org/>

Thank you!

