



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

Applying Sustainable Forest Management
to Poverty Reduction:
Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder
Approach within UNFF

Accra, Ghana

26-30 July, 2010

Report of Workshop Proceedings

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Executive Summary

The effective participation of Major Groups is crucial to the success of the United Nations Forum on Forests. 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. To address this need, Major Groups organised a Major Groups led-Initiative workshop in support of UNFF. The workshop took place in Accra, Ghana from the 26th to the 30th of July 2010, and brought together approximately 70 key representatives from 30 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 9th session of the UNFF on the theme *“Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”*.

In approaching the overall theme, participants heard presentations on a number of case studies, and focused their discussions on four topics: Tenure Rights, Access and Benefit Sharing; Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK); Community-Based Forest Enterprises (CBFE); and, Women, Indigenous Peoples and Other Marginalized Groups - Leadership for Sustainable Forest Management. Based on the workshop discussions, key recommendations were developed for presentation at UNFF 9 in January 2011 (Part I). Such recommendations include, inter alia:

- Further concrete steps should be taken to ensure meaningful participation from all stakeholders – including especially Women, Youth and Indigenous Peoples - in order to strengthen policy frameworks.
- Forest policy must address issues associated with equity in terms of access, rights, land and resources tenure, and benefits generated from forests. Reforms should be undertaken where necessary to ensure rights and responsibilities are upheld.
- Forest-dependent peoples must have reliable access to forest resources, and must have a role in the decision-making structures that decide how the resources are to be used, and to whom the benefits from those resources will accrue.
- Research and knowledge generation that emphasizes the needs of forest-dependent communities must be encouraged, supported and enhanced. TFRK must be documented in close collaboration with knowledge-holders, and individuals and communities must receive fair compensation for use of their knowledge.
- More work should be done to integrate the achievements of other UN fora on issues that are vital to forest-dependent communities. Connections between the work of the UNFF and other related UN bodies must be strengthened and enhanced.
- Capacity building efforts must be strengthened at all levels and among all groups (including Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youth and other marginalized groups) in order to effectively implement policies related to sustainable forest management (e.g. livelihoods, poverty reduction).

In addition to developing policy recommendations to UNFF 9, participants also discussed ways to enhance participation of Major Groups in the UNFF (Part II), and began planning activities in support of the UN International Year of Forests (Part III).



Forested hills, Volta Region, Ghana

Background and Context

The effective participation of Major Groups¹ is crucial to the success of the United Nations Forum on Forests. 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.

In 2009, the eighth session of the Forum passed a resolution to “[e]ncourage Member States and request the UNFF secretariat to explore ways to increase stakeholder and civil society participation, including indigenous and other local and forest dependent communities... in future sessions of the Forum”².

Scheduled in early 2011, UNFF 9 will focus on the theme “*Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication*” through: (a) Community-based forest management; (b) Social development and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure; and, (c) Social and cultural aspects.

As the work of Major Groups has significant impact on forest communities, they agreed to organise a multi-stakeholder workshop designed to support the UNFF process and prepare concrete policy recommendations to be presented to UNFF9.

The resulting workshop, which took place at the Alisa hotel in Accra, Ghana from the 26th to the 30th of July 2010, brought together approximately 70 key representatives from 30 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 9th session of the UNFF on the theme “Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication”.

The workshop included presentations of commissioned case studies by selected authors, facilitated discussion group sessions, field visits, and plenary forums, inter alia.

1 The UN has defined Major Groups as: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers and Small Forest Landowners. Represented at the MGI workshop were: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-Governmental Organizations, Workers and Trade Unions, Scientific and Technological Communities, and Farmers and Small Forest Landowners.

2 Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests Eighth Session E/CN.18/2009/20 • E/2009/42

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday, July 26th. Speakers at the opening ceremony included Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, as the keynote speaker, Michael Gort, Chargé D’Affairs, Canadian High Commission and the Hon. Henry Ford Kamel, Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Hon. Collins Dauda, Member of Parliament and Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for Ghana.

Speakers at the opening ceremony emphasised a number of key points:

1. The workshop is a unique opportunity to bring together the Major Groups that are recognised under the UNFF. A wide diversity of expertise and perspectives can contribute to a strong outcome in terms of recommendations to the 9th session of the UNFF.
2. On-the-ground experience is crucial in informing policy decisions. Workshop participants thus bring their knowledge of specific issues to the table in order to enrich the discussion and provide meaningful policy recommendations.
3. Strong participatory models are necessary in order to produce strong policy outcomes. Therefore, Major Groups’ participation in the workshop is a step towards strengthening Major Groups’ participation in the UNFF process.

Individual speakers highlighted a range of important issues:

Lambert Okrah, as chair of the organizing committee and the international coordinator for the workshop, introduced and welcomed participants to the workshop. He highlighted the difficult task ahead, but voiced his enthusiasm for the level of experience and knowledge coming from the diverse Major Groups attending the workshop. He emphasised that governments can only boast of engaging in democratic governance when they create the opportunity for engagement with other stakeholders and take those stakeholders’ contributions into account in arriving at policy decisions.

On behalf of Hon. Minister Collins Dauda, Hon. Henry Ford Kamel welcomed participants to Ghana, thanked the workshop sponsors and organisers, and performed the official opening. He affirmed Ghana’s commitment to sustainable forest management, and to the success of the UNFF process. He highlighted a number of recent initiatives that are underway in Ghana to prevent forest degradation, mainstream forest issues into national plans, and support local forest-dependent peoples. He noted the work that Ghana has done toward implementing the National Forest Programme as well as the important link with the MDGs - particularly the goal of poverty eradication. He appealed to delegates to bring forward constructive suggestions that can make a difference in the livelihoods of local and Indigenous Peoples the world over.

His Excellency Mr. Michael Gort, the Chargé D’Affairs, Canadian High Commission and head of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Ghana welcomed participants on behalf of the government of Canada. He noted the Canadian government’s commitment to good governance and sustainable forest management, and highlighted specific initiatives where Canada is supporting civil society. He noted that an important part of Canada’s work in promoting sustainable forest management involves building institutional capacity and professional skills among local people.

Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat, congratulated Major Groups and the government of Ghana for holding the workshop. She expressed appreciation to the governments and institutions that provided financial support for the event, and highlighted the commitment of the UNFF Secretariat to strengthening the involvement of Major Groups in the work of the UNFF. Noting that Ghana is an example of a member state that is engaged in reforming its forest policies and enhancing the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, Ms. McAlpine stressed the need for Major Groups to utilise the opportunity provided by the broad membership of the UNFF to strategically participate in the forest-policy deliberations. She encouraged Major Groups to put forth ideas for ensuring the success of the 2011 International Year of Forests, which will be officially launched in New York in February 2011 during the High Level Segment of UNFF 9. She argued that there is a unique opportunity to achieve a high-profile focus on forests, and urged participants to utilise the holistic, or “360 degree”, mandate of the UNFF to make effective inputs into other forest-related deliberations. She suggested that the discussions being carried out under other fora, such as the UNFCCC should not be ignored, arguing rather that those concerned with the UNFF should watch those processes closely.



Speakers at the Opening Ceremony



Workshop Participants



Participants from the Youth Major Group

Part I

Forests for People,
Livelihoods and
Poverty Eradication –
Recommendations to
UNFF 9



I. Presentation of Case Studies

A number of case studies were prepared and presented in order to inform and stimulate discussions. Full case study texts are available for download from the workshop website: www.mgi-forests.org

(1) Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) Designation and their Impacts on Livelihoods: A case study of the Tano Offin GSBA in the Atwima Mponua and Ahafo Ano Districts of the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

By Matilda Akua Afriyie, Conservation and Development Foundation, Ghana.

The case study highlighted the importance of Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) for forest-dependent communities in Ghana, but noted ongoing challenges. According to Ms. Afriyie's study, many individuals in forest fringe communities experience livelihood difficulties as a result of their lack of access to forest resources. This is accentuated by the designation of Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas due to the restrictive nature of the policy. Ms. Afriyie thus emphasised the importance of promoting alternative livelihood schemes so that GSBAs do not negatively impact the ability for local communities to secure access to forest resources. The case study provided a useful analysis of the GSBA experience in Ghana and underscored the importance of preserving biodiversity, as well as providing alternative livelihood opportunities for individuals in forest fringe communities.



Participants during a plenary session

(2) Harnessing Indigenous and Traditional Forest Related Knowledge: The Case of North Eurasian Countries. Primary Author: Dr. Andrey Laletin, Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia. Co-Author: Vladimir Bocharnikov.

The paper provided an overview of how local and Indigenous Knowledge has contributed to traditional forest management in Eurasia, and examined TFRK in Russia in more detail. Dr. Laletin stressed the importance of valuing TFRK in promoting sustainable forest management. His case study supported the notion that current scientific practices designed for the management of forests may not be as sustainable as those traditionally practiced by various local and indigenous peoples. Therefore, he concludes that it is critical to study, understand, and incorporate traditional forest-related knowledge and practices into sustainable forest management policies.

(3) A New Green Deed: Community Action for Forest Regeneration and Poverty Reduction.

Primary Author: Jyothi Krishnan, Independent Researcher, Local Governance and Natural Resource Management, India. Co-Author: Abey George, State Programme, NREGS State Mission, Government of Kerala, India.

The case study reviewed the implementation of the Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme in one of the forested districts of the state of Kerala, India. Dr. Krishnan argued that JFM has, over the past couple of decades, provided the structural policy framework to support important opportunities for community participation in forest management, but it has not yet reached its potential. The fact that JFM falls under the Forest Department in India creates particular bureaucratic impediments to the policy's potential. The study also explored the possibilities opened up by the implementation of more recent legislation known as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Highlighting both the opportunities and the constraints of these conservation-based livelihood assurance policies, the study argues that the NREGA can complement initiatives taken under the JFM programme in Kerala in significant and beneficial ways. The employment legislation should enhance the participatory elements of JFM and create funding and employment opportunities that are both participatory and environmentally sustainable. However, the study also notes the many challenges that surface in translating legislated forest-related provisions into practice.

(4) Software and Hardware: The Search for Self-sustaining Adaptive Collaborative Management Systems: the Model Forests Response.

By Mariteuw Chimère Diaw, African Model Forests Network Secretariat.

Dr. Diaw presented the Model Forests programme as one response to the critical need for programmes to deliver both development and conservation objectives. He provided an overview of the International Model Forest Network (MFN), which includes dozens of Model Forests in countries around the world, and noted that the Model Forest approach 'provides a framework through which meaningful and inclusive participation can occur in areas such as resource management, and community and economic development'. He discussed each of the programme's key principles: Voluntary partnerships; Commitment to Sustainability; Landscapes; Governance; A programme of work; and Learning and networking. He stressed the importance of ensuring that local communities, including traditionally marginalized groups, are full and active contributors. Among the lessons learned from the programme, he noted that while a Model Forest's governance and activities are defined at a local level, the overall effort must fit within national objectives and must be country-driven.

II. Discussions and Recommendations

Participants joined one of four discussion groups focused around specific topics. Each group had a facilitator and guiding questions related to the topic. The groups were tasked with developing concrete recommendations related to their topic that would be directed toward the work of the 9th session of the UNFF. Recommendations were discussed and refined during plenary.

Discussion topics:

1. Tenure Rights, Access and Benefit Sharing;
2. Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK);
3. Community-Based Forest Enterprises (CBFE);
4. Women, Indigenous Peoples and Other Marginalized Groups Leadership for Sustainable Forest Management.

1. Tenure Rights and Access and Benefit Sharing

(Facilitator: Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey)

Discussion Question(s):

What type of system of tenure rights, access and benefit sharing will best ensure livelihood benefits and sustainable forest management? How can the situation on tenure rights, access and benefit sharing be improved? What can be done to close gaps and identify best practice?

Key points raised during discussions:

- Tenure over forests is determined by statutory and customary law, which differs from country to country
- Tenure rights, ownership rights and access rights are three dimensions that require clarity within stable national legal frameworks
- A clear definition of tenure and rights to access is a pre-requisite for livelihood security and sustainable forest management
- All rights (access, tenure and ownership) need to be accompanied by responsibilities.
- Rights and responsibilities must be governed by a legal regulatory framework that ensures sustainability (including ecological, economic, social and cultural considerations)
- The framework must be implemented with adequate institutional support
- The system of tenure rights and access to resources needs to secure local control over forest lands and forest resources, and assure the livelihood requirements of poor and marginalized forest-dependent communities (including women and indigenous peoples)

- Tangible and intangible forest benefits must be incorporated into the system such that strategic watersheds, ecologically sensitive corridors and biodiversity are protected.
- recognise the multiple uses of forest resources, and
- In addition to access and tenure rights, the system must recognise the multiple uses of forest resources, and ensure market access, sufficient support systems and other rights such as freedom of association
- The system must ensure local participation in decision making and implementation
- The tenure rights and responsibility system must be interlinked with the benefit sharing system
- Process of benefit sharing should include detailed consultation with local and indigenous communities

Narrative summary and highlights:

Participants recognised the significant existing variability in tenure systems, under which tenure over forests is influenced by both statutory and customary laws that differ from country to country. Participants also recognized the complexity of issues associated with tenure rights, access to resources, and the sharing of benefits derived from resources, but emphasised the fact that the goal of improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples and of eradicating poverty is strongly dependent upon secure, sustainable, equitable and transparent land tenure rights.

It was noted that, in both practice and in policy, there are important distinctions between tenure rights, ownership rights and access rights. Policy discussions regarding both national and international legal frameworks must clarify these concepts. Participants also stressed that all rights (access, tenure and ownership) need to be accompanied by responsibilities. The tenure rights and responsibility system must be interlinked with the benefit sharing system.

Discussants agreed that any system of tenure rights and access to forest resources must: a) recognise the importance of multiple uses of forest resources by local people; b) have as a central focus the livelihood requirements of poor and marginalised forest-dependent communities (including women and indigenous peoples); and, c) allow for significant and meaningful levels of access and local control over forest lands and forest resources, including a role in the decision-making structures that determine how the resources are to be used, and to whom the benefits from those resources will accrue. Importantly, tangible and intangible forest benefits must be incorporated into the system such that strategic watersheds, ecologically sensitive corridors, and biodiversity are protected. In addition to access and tenure rights, the system must ensure market access, sufficient support systems and other rights such as freedom of association. It was felt that there is a great need for capacity building programmes at all levels that address educational, institutional, infrastructural, and other tenure-related issues.

Importantly, rights and responsibilities must be governed by a regulatory framework (either a national or international policy framework, or one that is based on customary law) that is developed with the active and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders - including especially women and indigenous peoples - that recognises livelihood security, and that has adequate institutional support.

It was noted that there are particular contexts in which private ownership can enhance incentives for forest sustainability, whereas in other contexts private ownership of forest resources can serve to marginalise under-represented groups. Thus any forest-related policy that designates tenure rights and access to forest resources must take into account the systemic incentives to either conserve or degrade forest resources, as well as the larger institutions that organise benefit sharing within the particular local context. In assessing the tenure rights and the sharing of benefits of forest resources, a range of values must be incorporated into the definition of what it means for something to be "sustainable". Sustainability must include ecological, cultural, economic and social elements. Importantly, both tangible and intangible benefits from forests must be accounted for.

Specific recommendations (inter alia) regarding Tenure Rights and Access and Benefit Sharing:

1. Encourage governments to undertake both land and forest tenure reforms.
2. Ensure discussions and processes related to benefit sharing include meaningful participation of local and indigenous communities.
3. Encourage governments to establish a stable legal framework with the active involvement of all stakeholders including women and indigenous peoples.
4. Facilitate the creation of effective institutions to implement and enforce the legal framework.
5. Promote capacity building programmes at all levels that addresses educational, institutional, infrastructural, and other tenure related issues.
6. Support pilot projects, case studies, and research endeavours that identify gaps and possible solutions.



Group discussions

2. Traditional Forest Related Knowledge (TFRK)

(Facilitator: Mr. Joseph Cobbinah)

Guiding Question(s):

How can indigenous/traditional forest related knowledge be applied to support improved livelihoods and sustainable forest management?

Key points raised during discussion:

The group accepted a simple working understanding of TFRK: "Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge, practices and techniques are distinctive to particular tribes, gender, communities and culture and are generally passed from generation to generation. TFRK is not static, but constantly evolving and can relate to diverse scales (global, regional, national, local)".

- TFRK is applied in myriad ways, including: forecasting seasonal events & weather; timing agricultural activities; effectively using plants and animals for a variety of purposes; protecting watersheds, soil and forest resources; inter alia.
- Traditional knowledge systems and modern scientific knowledge systems are not exclusive or incompatible; TFRK is a complimentary and essential part of scientific knowledge systems.
- Many taboos and beliefs favor SFM. For example locally designated and protected sacred sites have been shown to be effective mechanisms for protection of forests.
- TFRK education is lacking, and formal education in disciplines related to forestry or natural resource management or policy rarely includes TFRK education.
- TFRK has long been known to have important implication for forest management, conservation of forest biodiversity and identification of forest genetic resources.
- TFRK often underpins SFM and sustainable livelihoods.
- Commercialisation and global markets are negatively impacting on SFM.
- Biopiracy of TFRK is an ongoing concern.
- TFRK can play a role in healthy forests which can serve to mitigate impacts of Climate Change (not only carbon, but water, O₂, soil protection, NTFPs, etc.).
- TFRK can support adaptation of IPs and local communities to climate change.
- CBD, IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and UNESCO Convention, as well as some regional and national processes recognise the importance of TFRK.
- There is a serious gap in implementation of global conventions that recognise TFRK at national and local levels.
- Participants recognised a difficulty in obtaining information from users of TFRK. Many practices are shrouded in secrecy, and there is a lack of trust of scientists which can make the goals of protecting and promoting TFRK difficult.

Narrative summary and highlights:

Participants felt that work being done to advance understanding and recognition of TFRK in other UN-related bodies must be recognised. This includes the very helpful deliberations that have been taking place under the UNCBD, particularly in relation to Article 8j. In addition, past recommendations, such as those from the International Expert Meeting on the Implementation of Traditional Forest Related Knowledge and Related International Commitments, San Jose Costa Rica, 6-12 December 2004, are important and should be taken into account.

Participants agreed that national and international forest-related policies, laws, and institutions must recognise the importance and legitimacy of TFRK in maintaining forests and livelihood security for forest dependent peoples. It was noted that, among other things, the best current understanding of TFRK includes the understanding that the protection and promotion of the TFRK is inextricably linked with forest dependent peoples' cultural and intellectual heritage, and to their secure rights to lands. Discussants believed that educational institutions must be leveraged to play a strong role in enhancing understanding of the importance of TFRK. Governments and the UNFF should work to ensure that current curricula related to forest management and conservation include content and inputs related to TFRK. And governments should emphasise the importance of support for further research into TFRK and the positive impact traditional practices can have on sustaining forests. Importantly, TFRK must be recognised as a valuable complement to both past and contemporary scientific practices related to forest management and conservation, and practices utilized in forest management should incorporate relevant aspects of TFRK. Participants agreed that forest-related policies must recognise TFRK as a vital means of protecting forests and enhancing livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples and that concrete measures must be taken to prevent the expropriation of forest-dependent communities' knowledge and resources. The collective, holistic, and intergenerational nature of TFRK must be recognised and supported within forest policy processes.

Specific recommendations (inter alia) regarding Traditional Forest Related Knowledge:

- TFRK should be mainstreamed into National Forest Plans and Programmes with involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including local and Indigenous communities.
- Planning for SFM should be a participatory activity involving both TFRK and modern scientific knowledge systems.
- Countries should support further research on TFRK and work with knowledge holders and users to create archives and novel ways to conserve and promote TFRK.
- An equitable benefit sharing regime should be developed.
- Best practices to secure IPR in different countries should be recognized and a legal system of TFRK protection should be established before creation of TFRK archives and registries.
- Indicators for monitoring of the role of TFRK in SFM should be developed.
- All governments should ratify international conventions relevant to TFRK and forests, and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting of implementation of global conventions should be established at country level involving Major Groups.
- Traditional rights, as well as the social, cultural, spiritual and economic values of Indigenous Peoples should be recognised and respected.
- Sacred sites should be conserved.
- Traditional knowledge systems should be mainstreamed into formal education systems.
- The general public should be educated about TFRK and its importance for SFM.

3. Community-Based Forest Enterprises (CBFE)

(Facilitator: Mr. Sim Heok-Choh)

Guiding Question(s):

How can communities improve livelihoods from community based forest enterprises through: a) timber products; b) non-timber products; c) ecosystem services?

Narrative summary and highlights:

Participants accepted a working definition of CBFEs as “enterprises with very strong inputs from communities in managing, exploring and giving values to forest resources, where benefits are shared equitably and accrue largely or wholly to the community’

Participants highlighted a number of common issues important to CBEs, including: Ownership; Empowerment of communities for decision making; Consultation at decisions making processes; Access to markets and market intelligence; Establishment of a mechanism on benefit sharing; Value addition; Financing for local initiatives; Recognising payment for ecosystem services (PES) as an enterprise option; Involvement of NGOs

Participants noted that in order to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples through community-based forest enterprises, local communities must have access and ownership rights to timber products, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and ecosystem services. They suggested that community-based forest enterprises should be based on adding value to raw forest resources so that greater benefits can accrue to the local communities rather than to non-local entities. They agreed that local communities must have access to markets and to market intelligence in order to effectively participate in community-based forest enterprises that increase the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples. Importantly, local communities must be consulted at all levels of decision making regarding community-based forest enterprises. Moreover, discussants agreed that non-governmental organisations, governments and forest-dependent communities should be effectively linked in order to promote community-based forest enterprises that enhance the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.

Importantly, participants noted that measures to safeguard workers’ safety and welfare must be developed and maintained. In order to enhance and maintain effective community-based forest enterprises, capacity building must be geared towards developing local forest-dependent peoples’ skills and technical capabilities. Payment for non-timber ecosystem services must be a viable option for community-based forest enterprises, as forest-dependent communities rely on a range of forest-related resources.

Specific recommendations (inter alia) regarding Community-Based Forest Enterprises:

Developing local businesses:

- Encourage communities to move up the value chain (i.e. not concentrating only on primary production) and develop strategy to position small local businesses in higher-value activities.
- Vigorously support the establishment of CBFE’s based on advanced processing and marketing of timber and non-timber products.
- Support the development of small forest enterprises focused on packaging and delivering high quality environmental services and opportunities for capturing land rents, etc.
- Support and regulate second tier / intermediary organizations linking the CBFE to next users along the value chain.

Creating Enabling Conditions:

- Promote research, development and training programmes as well as academic curricula focused on supporting CBFs and SMFE's.
- Develop mechanisms to improve local understanding and positioning in the value chain for optimal benefits.
- Develop programmes and guidelines to enhance entrepreneurial options/ skills/ know-how and practices for local businesses.
- Institute financing mechanisms with clear focus on developing local businesses and value addition.
- Facilitate financing and technical support to CBF's by national and local governments.
- Develop institutional arrangements for standardisation and certification of CBF's products.
- Facilitate stakeholder agreements and legal arrangements which recognise and protect community rights (e.g. intellectual property rights-IPR, land/trees rights, carbon rights, market and export rights).
- Develop mechanisms to enhance communities' access to markets, market intelligence, and communication.

Ensuring environmental and social safeguards:

- Support multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate good environmental governance and sustainable management of local natural resources.
- Match the development of community based value chain with efforts to analyse, anticipate, monitor and correct negative environmental and social impacts.
- Support and enforce measures to safeguard workers safety, welfare and skill training.
- Address inclusive benefit sharing.
- Strengthen fair private-community partnerships.



Participants during a presentation

4. Women, Indigenous Peoples and Other Marginalised Groups - Leadership for Sustainable Forest Management. (Facilitator: Ms. Wangu Mutua)

Guiding Question(s):

How can women, indigenous peoples, and other underprivileged forest-dependent peoples be recognised as leaders and partners in forest management?

Participants asked 'Why are the groups often not recognised?', 'Where are they currently recognised-are there successes?', and 'How do we assure their recognition at all levels?'

Key points raised during discussions:

Participants noted ways in which these groups are currently recognised:

- Within some Community Forest Associations (CFA's)- although forest access often limited;
- Within Community forest guidelines on participation of women and decision making and management (e.g. case of Nepal);
- as Major groups of UNFF;
- as providers of labor;
- Rights in employment/labor matters but not in reality (ILO 169, CEDAW);
- Recognition by some UN agencies, UNFCCC, UNFRO-gender and youth groups;
- No recognition in some UN bodies and its specialized agencies (FCPF, UN-REDD);
- No safeguard policy in World Bank e.g for forest workers and their unions which often results in laws not being obeyed.

Why are these groups not recognised?

- Urban populations not aware/not concerned with rural issues-need to convey importance of forests management
- Lack effective, strong associations - need to highlight good examples
- Law status and stereotyping of IP's and women – often they are not seen as capable
- Lack of interest to see women as having special needs that differ from "communities"
- Kind of forestry that women do; subsistence farmers, challenge of big companies
- Lack of legal recognitions – limited/no title to land ownership
- Many grassroots women are not educated or informed about key issues
- Gender bias in forestry profession
- Many gender advocates not interested in following developments regarding forests

How do we ensure recognition at all levels?

- Get them into processes: Work at national level with governments and highlight the contribution of each group to forest e.g. link to key issues- food security, energy, livelihoods.
- Use CEDAW: influence CEDAW committee, UNIFEM, high level segment UN, CSW (Year of Rural Women), etc.
- Disseminate case studies on the groups' role in forests.
- Form strategic alliances of MG's, to work collaboratively to gain recognition and asset leadership.
- Get secure tenure/rights to forest and carbon, and recognition of communal-traditional rights-use this to build solidarity.

Four necessary elements for releasing leadership potential of Women, Indigenous Peoples and other marginalised groups:

- Tenure: Individual or collective;
- Fair market access;
- Good quality support services (credit, technical assistance);
- Strong associations (at all levels, linked from community to global level) recognised by governments, that know issues and rights and continual advocacy role-built through consistency and retaining focus.

Narrative summary and highlights:

Participants agreed that equitable and sustainable forest management institutions must ensure that women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised forest-dependent people have secure access to forest resources. Noting that women often have different needs and responsibilities vis a vis forest resources than men, women must be engaged in all levels of forest policy decision making. While women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised peoples have crucial knowledge regarding resource management, and should be encouraged to participate in all levels of forest-related policy making, their marginalisation may also prevent them from accessing education and technical knowledge regarding sustainable forest management. Practical support for their participation must be available in order to ensure that their voices can be integrated into forest policy-related processes. This should include capacity building among marginalised groups (incl. negotiation skills and knowledge of rights, inter alia.).

Discussants noted that as conclusions drawn in forest-policy related arenas outside of the UNFF (such as those related to REDD and REDD+) will impact women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups, linkages must be made between the work of the UNFF and other forest-related policy deliberations. Linkages between women's, Indigenous Peoples', and other marginalised groups' development organisations (such as UNIFEM) and agreements (such as CEDAW) need to be linked with organisations related to the promotion of sustainable forest management.

Specific recommendations (inter alia) regarding Women, Indigenous Peoples and Other Marginalised Groups:

- Develop case studies highlighting situations where communities/individuals have clear rights and where those rights have shown to contribute to results for environment and equity, in order to show both the importance of secure tenure is critical and how to achieve it.
- Link to land rights advocates under CEDAW, UNIFEM, social movements, strategies for political empowerment.
- Deliver gender awareness and sensitivity training for diverse stakeholders, including: international agencies; government policy makers; forestry institutions (including forestry schools, departments); extension service providers; NGOs; community members.
- Provide training in practical leadership skills, negotiation, etc. for women, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups, to help them know and articulate their rights and provide strong leadership for SFM.
- Advocate for marginalised groups to participate fully in consultations at all levels; MGs could monitor participation to ensure diversity and effectiveness.
- Share information and examples of inter-linkages (e.g. between tenure and poverty).
- Focus on tenure and political/economic empowerment to address larger social obstacles to the participation of marginalised groups.
- Support processes of organisational change within forestry institutions.

Key cross-cutting issues that emerged across all topics:

- Meaningful participation is needed in order to strengthen policy frameworks.
- Individual contexts need to be taken into account in order to ensure that policies are equitable and promote the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.
- A strong forest policy needs to address issues associated with equity in terms of access, rights, land and resources tenure, and benefits generated from forests.
- Capacity building is needed in order to effectively implement policies related to sustainable forest management (livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc) and ensure active inclusion of marginalised people
- More work should be done to integrate the achievements made in other UN fora on issues that are vital to forest-dependent communities. Connections between the work of the UNFF and other related UN bodies must be strengthened and enhanced.
- Research and knowledge generation that emphasises the needs of forest-dependent communities must be encouraged, supported and enhanced.

III. Key Policy Recommendations from the Workshop Communiqué

During the workshop, participants underscored the importance of forests in providing diverse livelihood benefits, ecosystem services, and biodiversity stores, and stressed the fact that livelihoods of forest-dependent people are integrally linked to the sustainability of forests.

Participants acknowledged the many attempts to date of member governments and other stakeholders to advance SFM through the UNFF, and developed key recommendations linked to the themes of: Tenure Rights, Access and Benefit Sharing; Traditional Forest Related Knowledge; Community-Based Forest Enterprises; and Leadership for SFM among women, Indigenous Peoples and Other Marginalised Groups.

The meeting produced a number of key recommendations:

- Further concrete steps should be taken to ensure meaningful participation from all stakeholders – incl. especially Women, Youth and Indigenous Peoples - in order to strengthen policy frameworks.
- Forest policy must address issues associated with equity in terms of access, rights, land and resources tenure, and benefits generated from forests. Reforms should be undertaken where necessary to ensure rights and responsibilities are upheld.
- Case studies that demonstrate innovative practice (such as participatory mapping) and successful implementation, should be highlighted, shared, and used to inform policy decisions.
- Forest-dependent peoples must have reliable access to forest resources, and must have a role in the decision-making structures that decide how the resources are to be used, and to whom the benefits from those resources will accrue.
- Policies must take into account local contexts in order to ensure that they are equitable and promote the livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples.
- Capacity building efforts must be strengthened at all levels and among all groups (including Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youth and other marginalised groups) in order to effectively implement policies related to sustainable forest management (e.g. livelihoods, poverty reduction).
- Community based forest enterprises that focus on sustainable, valued added goods and services should be promoted and supported, and payment for ecosystem services must be a viable option.
- National and international forest-related policies, laws, and institutions should recognise the importance and legitimacy of TFRK and local knowledge in maintaining forests and livelihood security for forest dependent peoples, and take steps to incorporate TFRK in planning and implementation.
- Research and knowledge generation that emphasises the needs of forest-dependent communities must be encouraged, supported and enhanced. TFRK must be documented in close collaboration with knowledge-holders, and individuals and communities must receive fair compensation for use of their knowledge.
- More work should be done to integrate the achievements of other UN fora on issues that are vital to forest-dependent communities. Connections between the work of the UNFF and other related UN bodies must be strengthened and enhanced.

Part II

Enhancing Major Groups Participation in UNFF

Participants addressed the question of how best to enhance Major Groups participation in the UNFF process. Dr. Tim Cadman from the University of Southern Queensland set the context for the discussion by sharing the results of his research on Major Group involvement in the UNFF. Participants then approached the question by examining three themes. Theme one addressed the effective representation of Major Groups at UNFF. Theme two addressed the strengths and weaknesses of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue process within UNFF. Theme three explored the question of how to enhance activities and engagement of MGs in the UNFF during the intersessional periods between UNFF meetings. Participants developed recommendations linked to each theme that were presented during plenary for discussion and refinement. Highlights and recommendations on each theme are presented here.



I. MG Participation in UNFF: Framing the Discussion

Dr. Cadman has been studying the effectiveness of participation of Major Groups in a number of UN processes. Thus his talk served to frame the discussion on the effectiveness of MG involvement in the UNFF process. His results, which also included findings from a survey of UNFF participants, shed light on the current and future participation of Major Groups:

1. Major Group participation in UNFF deliberations has been inconsistent over time. After an initial period of significant involvement at the inception of UNFF, Major Groups' involvement have declined in recent fora, to the extent that some groups no longer participate. This relative lack of MG participation threatens to undermine the credibility of UNFF in the eyes of both state and non-state interests.
2. Future success of UNFF and re-engagement of Major Groups will depend significantly on governance arrangements that are: Broadly representative of diverse interest types and groups; Accountable and transparent; Effective in terms of decision-making processes; Able to change behaviour on the ground and create lasting solutions and problem-solving mechanisms.

II. Effective representation of Major Groups in the UNFF

Participants proposed the following recommendations in order enhance effective representation of Major Groups in the UNFF:

- Strengthen consultations at country/ regional level between governments and Major groups;
- Secure funds to ensure representation of focal points for Major Groups;
- Secure funds to facilitate country/ regional consultations;
- Include one or two Major Groups representatives within country delegations, chosen on the advice of Major Groups, who would act as expert advisors to the delegation;
- Map existing experts and processes at the country and regional levels;
- Capture and produce combined messages and best practices in a video;
- Build on global and regional networks.

III. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

Participants discussed the multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) process, highlighting weakness in the current process, and proposing recommendations to strengthen the MSD.

Weaknesses of MSD

- MGs are mostly seated at the back and generally only read statements, with little additional interaction or activity;
- MG statements rarely elicit reaction, comments or questions from government delegates;
- At times governments misunderstand or downplay issues important to MGs (e.g. tenure issues);
- There is a gap in the use of terminology and definitions;
- MGs can become discouraged by the perceived lack of interest of some governments, which can discourage participation of MGs in subsequent sessions;
- Presentation of statements has often involved the rushed reading of long documents, which does not allow the effective communication of MG ideas and concerns.

Recommendations

- The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue should begin early in home countries, not just in New York. For example, MGs should have a draft position which can be discussed at national and regional level for feedback far in advance of NY sessions;
- Major Groups should network, lobby and dialogue at country and regional level. E.g. ECOWAS, SADC, EAC etc.
- There must be serious efforts to identify and explore ways of involving governments.
- Members of MGs should be included in government delegations.
- MGs must work to improve delivery of statements (for example by using creative and/or multi-media approaches, such as video).
- MGs should explore the possibility of preparing joint statements.
- Good examples from countries should be documented and shared as case studies.
- Specific efforts should be made to ensure that MG recommendations are taken seriously and incorporated (MGs should politely insist on reactions from governments on MG statements).
- Space in the official programme should be created for MG communication with delegates, beyond merely reading of statements.
- Greater efforts should be made to include groups left out in the delegations.
- MGs should be engaged more actively between sessions.

IV. Engagement of Major Groups between UNFF sessions

Interseasonal activities are important to the effective engagement of stakeholders and the ultimate success of the UNFF. Participants thus identified specific intersessional activities and plans for the period between UNFF 9 and UNFF10, while answering the question, 'How can MGs participate and play a key role at national and regional levels'?

Key recommendations for enhancing intersessional activities

- MGs should make efforts to participate in existing events related to SFM at national and regional level, including engaging in forest-related events linked to different UN processes and institutions.
- The concept and roles of MGs must be promoted at country level as a way to generate greater involvement of all stakeholders.
- MGs could provide information and raise awareness on UNFF through seminars, workshops and other activities.
- MG representatives working on forests should engage other MG members at national level.
- Governments should involve MGs in national activities related to SFM.
- MGs should submit their recommendations at national level before every UNFF meeting.
- MGs of UNFF should prepare for forest discussions at CSD in 2012-2013 and cooperate with CDS Groups at national and regional levels.
- Intersessional meetings of MGs should be organised by region or by MG, and MGs should organise an MGI workshop on economic aspects of SFM in preparation for UNFF 10.
- MGs could be active in monitoring NFP and the forest instrument (NLBI) implementation in pilot countries.
- There should be capacity building activities for MGs through workshops seminars etc.
- MGs should be involved as experts in the preparation of country presentations to UNFF as well as reporting back for monitoring.
- The issue of regular and ongoing funding for intersessional MG initiatives should be addressed as part of forest financing discussions.

Part III

The UN International Year of Forests (2011): Major Groups Activities

Participants discussed the upcoming UN International Year of Forests (2011), and began planning for activities related to the celebration. Goals of the sessions were to identify specific activities for Major Groups' contribution to the UN International Year of Forests and to foster alliances, partnerships and networking within Major Groups and between Major Groups and other key players in the UNFF process.



I. Presentation from UNFF: Plans and Opportunities for IYF Engagement

The UNFF Secretariat gave a presentation on the International Year of Forests (IYF). The launching of the IYF will take place in New York in early February 2011, during the High Level segment in the second week of UNFF9. The presentation from the Secretariat emphasised the goals of the IYF which are, to amplify the issues related to forests in order to increase visibility of forests and raise the profile of forest-related dynamics. The Secretariat noted that throughout the International Year of Forests in 2011 a variety of activities will be taking place that are designed to raise awareness about the importance of forests.

The target audiences of the IYF activities are policy makers, media, stakeholders (such as Major Group organisations), and a wider audience of individuals who may not otherwise be engaged in forest-related issues. The primary theme of the IYF is "Forests for People" which is intended to emphasise not only the importance of forests for individuals' livelihoods, but also the collaborative work that needs to be done in order to make progress towards achieving such goals as the Millennium Development Goals and other UN-related agreements. "Forest Ambassadors" will be selected to promote the IYF by associating the importance of sustainable forests with individuals who can champion the cause. Ultimately, the presentation from the UNFF Secretariat emphasised the importance of engaging Major Groups in developing their own celebrations and activities surrounding the IYF in order to ensure its broad success.



Participants listening to a speaker's presentation

II. Celebrating the International Year of Forests: Major Groups Planning

Following the UNFF Secretariat's presentation on the IYF, each Major Group discussed plans for activities during the year. Major Groups present at the MGI workshop identified key goals and messages, as well as activities to be undertaken by their groups during the year:

Key General Suggestions

MGs highlighted the importance of some key points relative to the celebration of IYF:

- Reaching out to a wide audience (including people not currently engaged in forest issues)
- Cooperating amongst MGs to amplify messages and increase reach
- Promoting a holistic view on forests
 - o Forest and peoples are inseparable
 - o Healthy forest = healthy people
 - o Forest vital part of poverty eradication
- Finding 'Ambassadors' from all regions to promote IYF and SFM
- Linking with education systems and community groups to get the message out
- Partnerships with media organizations
- Partnership with and support from UNFF (UNFF can help with outreach, sponsor identification and approach, etc.)
- Using creativity and emphasising a hopeful message
 - o Setting up awards for videos made by students – for use at web pages and events
 - o Music concerts
 - o Contests – songs, poetry, art
 - o Tree planting – in schools, companies, communities

Following are activities that individual Major Groups planned to undertake during the IYF.

1. Indigenous People

Indigenous Peoples agreed that they should use the opportunities provided by IYF to showcase and emphasise the importance of forests to them and their way of life, and to highlight Indigenous Peoples' critical contributions to the health of forests.

A key message for the celebrations, in line with the UNFF message, is 'healthy forests = healthy people'. It is important for Indigenous Peoples that during IYF they provide a holistic view on forests and emphasise that forests and people are inseparable.

Basic Approach

- Indigenous peoples are organized into 5 regions; the proposed IYF 2011 celebration will focus on three (3) regions i.e. Asia, Africa and Latin America
- The majority of concrete IYF activities will be undertaken at national levels
- There will be the formation of a small committee to steer the process
- Alliances will be important to help amplify impact

Information and Outreach Materials

- Informational materials (brochures, posters, stickers) with information on what the IYF means to indigenous peoples - translated into local languages
- Selected important publications translated into local languages.

Possible Events and Activities

- Traditional ceremony by elders during the launch of the IYF 2011
- Participatory Film Festivals
- Contests: Poems, songs
- Tree planting: Involve schools and community members

2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs believed that the celebration of IYF should embrace a wide diversity of activities to reflect the diversity in issues and organisations involved, and to reach the greatest number of people throughout the year.

- Possible Events and Activities
- Provide micro-grants for NGOs and local communities to work on forest issues
- Organise national launches for IYF
- Organise parades celebrating International Year of Forests;
- Organise mass-media and PR campaigns about IYF (in TV, radio, Newspapers);
- Make videos (for example, about forest restoration);
- Identify community best practices on forest protection and restoration and organize conferences and events to promote these practices;
- Organise competitions of local communities on forest local initiatives;
- Undertake local information and publicity campaigns - translate the IYF logos, messages, and information into local languages;
- Share experiences of forest initiatives of local communities through publications and multi-media;
- Involve the public in activities to clean forests and to plant native trees
- Connect with Ministries of Education and Ecology/Environment to invite children and students into the celebration process (actions, campaigns, competitions, etc.) in the framework of both curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Organise activities with children and youth on forest issues:
 - o Debates and discussions between students
 - o Art performances (dramas, art concerts, etc.)
 - o Tree planting competitions

3. Workers and Trade Unions

Workers and Trade Unions agreed that the activities planned for the IYF should support the theme of UNFF 9 'Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication' and should reflect a basic perspective that sustainable forestry management cannot become a reality where social actors such as Workers and Trade Unions are neglected, especially when addressing aspects of inequality, income disparity and social security.

Proposed Activities

- Mobilise internal resources, including from workers themselves, to ensure that forest issues are profiled at various levels and more sustainable forestry activities are undertaken.
- Launch campaigns (tree planting, workplace greening, forestry conference) at local, national, regional and international levels within our membership and our existing structures.
- Develop IEC and "how to" materials.
- Campaign for socially acceptable timber trade by engaging in processes such as the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative.
- Document best practices in community afforestation and plantation development initiatives in selected countries (ie. Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Burkina Faso).
- Influence policy through participation in various forestry fora
- Campaign against illegal logging and unsustainable practices
- Enhance workers education on sustainable forest management
- Produce newsletters and other education and outreach materials

4. Women

Participants embraced the concept of 'Forest Ambassadors' as suggested by the UNFF Secretariat, and made some initial suggestions of women who could be such ambassadors:

- Wangari Maathai, Kenya's Green Belt Movement and the Congo Basin Fund
- Gro Harlem Brundtland, Special Envoy of the UN on Climate Change, member of the Council of Women World Leaders
- Salamatu: a poor woman from northern region of Ghana with no education who became a successful entrepreneur of forest herbal medicines and was awarded an honorary Doctorate degree by University of Development Studies, Ghana.

The group identified a number of key messages that should be promoted within any activities related to IYF:

- Despite their integral roles in using and managing the forest for livelihood needs, including fuel wood, fodder, food and medicine, women are not currently seen as an important stakeholder in SFM and REDD related policies, globally and nationally.
- Women are often users but not holders of rights when it comes to forest resources
- Women are too often excluded from information, decisions and resources.
- They don't have control over fate of resources they depend on.
- Without access to forests, women and their families suffer.
- Women are vital to solution.

5. Children and Youth

The IYF activities planned by the Children and Youth MG are motivated by a belief that 'Public institutions and practices become unsustainable when young people are excluded from important spheres of public life'- *Degirmencioglu 2005*.

Possible Events and Activities

Sensitise LCs through town-wide/campus-wide awareness campaign

- International Forestry Students' Society (IFSS) 2010
- LC meetings
- Regional meetings
- Posters and souvenirs (t-shirts, caps, sticky notes e.t.c)

Provide elaborate information on IYF within and outside our current network

- Dedicated page on IFSA website
- Presentation at IFISO
- Inclusion of IYF logo & theme in official documents and e-signatures
- IFSA Newsletter

Raise individual students' interest to participate in IYF

- Picture contest
- Poem/ Prose Contest
- Video Clip Contest
- Catchy phrases
- Website exhibition

Demonstrate the theme of IYF in practical terms "Forests for People"

- Tree planting
- Draft a support letter (funding, demo land, service)
- Mentors for high-school students
- Field trips
- GAPFE Launch

6. Scientific and Technological Communities

The Scientific and Technological Communities MG agreed that one of their major tasks during the IYF is to generate and disseminate information based on a common theme across regions. The proposed theme is: Forests, People and Climate Change, and the key activity is the compilation and dissemination of state of the art knowledge on the theme.

Basic Strategy

Forge links/Anchor on existing regional networks

- Africa : FORNESSA
- Asia Pacific: APAFRI
- Latin America: IUFRO-SPDC

Adopt a common theme across regions to:

- Showcase existing knowledge
- Mobilize resources for immediate and future work
- Strengthen networks

Deliverables

- Short Term (By June 2011) : Mobilise and share existing/available information on **“forest, people and climate change”** with a focus on *Climate change, Biodiversity, Poverty alleviation, etc.*
- Medium-Long Term (Beyond June 2011) : Generate and share new knowledge on the theme

Specific Outputs

1. *Publications*
Policy briefs, fact sheet, flyers, posters, technical documents
Educational materials for schools
2. *Public awareness*
Regional seminars/workshops on topical issues
Media- Print, Radio/TV campaigns
3. *Promote dissemination of case studies of best practices on sustainable forest management*
4. *Research cross-cutting issues* on the theme including gaps identified during packaging of existing knowledge

7. Farmers and Small Forest Landowners

The Farmers and Small Forest Landowners proposed a collaborative, inclusive approach to celebrating IYF, that is built around a central concept, and that involves activities at multiple scales.

Linking Three Alliances (creating a 'G3' for IYF)

GACF (The Global Alliance of Community Forestry)

IFFA (The International Alliance of Family Forestry)

IAITPTF (The International Alliance of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Forest)

Basic Approach

- Strengthening the messages by giving them “faces”
- Use all Major Groups as a showcase to reach out to a wider audience
- Portray a holistic view on forest
 - Forest and peoples are inseparable
 - Healthy forest = healthy people
 - Use of peoples as opposed to abuse of people
 - Forest vital part of poverty eradication
- Combine the ideas and preparations for UNFF 9 with the plans and preparations for IYF
- Undertake events at global, regional and local levels
- Global level – engage Major groups and Alliances
- Connect Regional events to other existing events (e.g. International conference on locally controlled forestry; Forest Europe Ministerial conference (Oslo in June) etc.)
- Each Alliance is discussing national level plans and events
- Inclusivity: Invite other major groups in our concept, be inclusive in our organizations (esp. with respect to women and youth, and be open to all MGs at all levels.

Central Concept

Framing celebrations of IYF around a central concept that uses images and symbols, and targets emotions. Key issues are ‘forest, people, health, livelihood, sustainability’.

Water Concept

- Water as symbol of forest, people, health, livelihood, sustainability
- Healthy forests are key to clean water
- Without tenure rights and sustainable forest management – no water

Faces Concept

- Give forestry a face (or many faces) to create a connection with the issues
- Faces would be from different countries and Major Groups
- Faces would help make forest people and issues more visible

Combining the Concepts (Water and Faces)

- Faces connected to water in videos to illustrate main messages
- Launch the video at UNFF
- Use the video, posters and other material throughout IYF
- Have creative action at UNFF 9 (e.g. provide water supplied by forest owners)
- Have similar actions in cities where other events are being held
- Possible messaging: 'forests for all forever'

Communication and Outreach

- Develop information package (e.g. Brochures and posters, Stickers etc.)
- Prepare newsletters and position papers (web based)
- Make active use of web and electronic communication
- Use UNFF poster material supplementing with specialised G3 / Major Group posters
- Encourage national television programs (possible link to UNFFs initiative with National Geographic)
- Use the launch of our joint G3 web site and the sites of the Alliances (and all major groups) to promote the 'forests: water and faces' concept
- Connect to the UNFF web
- Use schools and community members
- Engage forest and communications students: set up awards for student videos
- Develop contact with 'learning with forest' networks

International Forest Festival

- Explore the possibility of an international festival for locally controlled forestry in cooperation with UNFF and involving all Major Groups



Participants from the Women Major Group



Participants on a field visit to Kakum National Park, Ghana

Closing Ceremony

The official Closing Ceremony for the workshop was held on the afternoon of Friday July 30th, 2010. The chair of the organising committee, Lambert Okrah, officially commenced the ceremony by reading the workshop communiqué for the assembled delegates and journalists. Following the presentation of the communiqué he encouraged MGs to continue in earnest their work in contributing to the UNFF, and asked participants to consider how they could further enhance this process. Mr. Okrah underscored how pleased he was about the quality of discussions during the workshop, and how enthusiastic he is about the ideas that emerged throughout the week. He stressed that this was one step on an important ongoing journey.

Representing participants, Wangu Mutua formally thanked the Steering Committee, the supporting governments, and the host Government of Ghana. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to engage in a workshop in order to contribute directly and meaningfully to UNFF. She emphasised participants' hope that Major Groups can not only sustain but also enhance their participation in the work of the UNFF in the months and years ahead.

Wisdom Mensah, local workshop co-organiser and Executive Director of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Ghana, expressed his appreciation for the workshop and for the efforts made by participants. He introduced the Hon. Henry Ford Kamel, Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources of Ghana who delivered the closing address on behalf of the Hon. Collins Dauda, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for Ghana.

Hon. Deputy Minister Kamel thanked the sponsors, organisers, and participants for contributing to the success of the event. He stressed the importance of events such as this that help to build necessary momentum for advancing the work of the UNFF toward sustainable forest management and poverty eradication. He underscored Ghana's continued commitment towards sustainable forest management, and expressed confidence in the measures that are being undertaken in this direction. Finally, he noted that the government of Ghana is looking forward to submitting the report of this initiative to the UNFF, as part of the official documents submitted to UNFF 9.



Canopy walkway, Kakum National Park, Ghana

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Mangrove swamp, Takoradi, Ghana

Annex 2: Official Workshop Programme

Monday- July 26th

- 8:00-10:00 Registration
- 9:30-10:40 Opening Ceremony (see below for details)
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary session
- Presentation and discussion of case studies
 - Formation of Working Groups
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Working Group Sessions
- Working Group discussions
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-17:00 Working Group Sessions continue until close of day
- 18:00-20:00 Welcome Reception for participants hosted by Governments of Ghana and Canada

Opening Ceremony Programme Monday - July 26th

- 09:30 Introduction of Chair
- 09:35 Chairperson's acceptance remarks
- 09:40 Opening remarks on behalf of steering committee -- Lambert Okrah, Steering Committee Chair
- 09:45 Opening address -- Hon. Collins Dauda, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ghana
- 10:00 Remarks on behalf of Canadian Government -- Michael Gort, Chargé D'Affaires, Canadian High Commission and head of CIDA in Ghana
- 10:05 Keynote address -- Jan McAlpine, Director of UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
- 10:35 Chair's closing remarks
- 10:40 Vote of thanks

Tuesday - July 27th

- 9:00-10:40 Plenary session
- Preliminary reports from each Working Group
- Working Group session
- Continued discussion within WGs
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Working Groups continue
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-15:20 Working Groups continue
- 15:20-15:40 BREAK
- 15:40-17:00 Plenary session
- Presentation and discussion of WG results and recommendations

Wednesday - July 28th

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

Option 1: Kakum National Park— Bus departs 7:00am from Alisa Hote l(return to hotel by approx. 7:00pm)

Participants will visit Kakum National Park. Covering an area of 350 km², the park is situated 33km north of Cape Coast. The park's protected evergreen rainforest is enriched with a wide range of wildlife, including elephants, buffalo, leopard, bongo, yellow backed duiker, red river hog, many reptiles and amphibians, and over 400 species of butterflies. The park features a impressive forestwalk and an award-winning canopy walkway that is suspended 40 metres in the air, providing a fantastic observation point. Time permitting, this field trip will also feature a short visit to Cape Coast Castle, one of Ghana'soldest castles.

Option 2: Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine (CSRPM) and Aburi Botanical Gardens

Bus departs 7:30am from Alisa Hotel (return to hotel by approximately 5:30pm)

On this field trip participants will travel to Mampong Akropong in order to visit the Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine (CSRPM), Africa's leading research centre in the field of herbal medicine. Participants will also visit the Aburi Botanical Gardens, home to a wide variety of species. Finally participants will have the rare opportunity to visit the Aburiwood carving centre, where they will see an incredible variety of artifacts carved from many different species of wood.

Thursday - July 29th

9:00-10:40 **Focus: Effectiveness of MG participation in the UNFF**

Plenary session

- Presentation on participation of Major Groups in UNFF

Concurrent Working Groups:

1. Effective representation in UNFF
2. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)
3. Engagement of MGs between UNFF sessions

Selected steering committee members make presentations within each Working Group

10:40-11:00 BREAK

11:00-13:00 Working Groups continue

Plenary session

- WGs present results and recommendations

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:20 Focus: UN International Year of the Forest (IYF)

Plenary session

- Presentation by UNFF Secretariat

Planning session

- Major Groups meet separately and begin discussions / planning

15:20-15:40 BREAK

Friday - July 30th

- 9:00-10:40 Plenary session
- MGs present their plans and strategies for the participation in IYF in plenary
- Open Space session for further discussion / collaborative planning
- 10:40-11:00 BREAK
- 11:00-13:00 Plenary session
- Overall conclusions and policy recommendations for UNFF 9
- Rapporteur's report
- 13:00-14:00 LUNCH
- 14:00-14:30 Issue workshop communiqué
- 14:30-15:30 Closing Ceremony
- 15:30-16:30 Refreshments

Closing Ceremony Programme Friday - July 30

- 14:30 Introduction of Chair
- 14:40 Closing remarks by a representative of participants
- 14:50 Closing remarks by an official from the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
- 15:00 Closing address --Hon. Collins Dauda, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Ghana
- 15:20 Chair's closing remarks
- 15:25 Vote of thanks
- 15:30 Refreshments



Canopy walkway, Kakum National Park, Ghana



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

Applying Sustainable Forest Management to Poverty Reduction:
Strengthening the Multi-Stakeholder Approach within UNFF

Coordinating Organisation:



Host Country:



Government of Ghana

Sponsors:



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