

United Nations
Forum on Forests



Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation: Implications for Policy

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Growing concern regarding deforestation and climate change

- December 2005: PNG proposal on avoided deforestation under UNFCCC
- February 2006: UNFF-6 agrees to four Global Objectives on Forests



Brief Policy / Institutional History

- 1972: UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
→ CITES, RAMSAR
- 1992: 2nd UNCED (Rio Earth Summit)
 - first global consensus on forests made by Heads of State: Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21
 - UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD

Brief Policy / Institutional History

- 1995 – 1997: Inter-governmental Panel on Forests (IPF) – ad hoc
- 1997-2000: Inter-governmental Forum on Forests (IPF) – ad hoc

→ 240 Proposals for Action

→ consensus building

→ recurring question of a
Forest Convention



Brief Policy / Institutional History

- UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) created in 2000
 - Increased status in UN hierarchy
 - Universal membership
 - High-level ministerial segment
- 2005 – 2006 : Review of international arrangement on forests
 - strengthened mandate, 3 new principle functions, 4 Global Objectives on Forests

UN Institutional Hierarchy



Global Objectives on Forests

1. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

Global Objectives on Forests

3. Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests;
and
4. Reverse the decline in official development assistance for SFM and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management

Underlying Causes of Deforestation

- 1998-99: Global Workshop in support of IFF-3 and UNFF-2 → very diverse set of causes, including:
 - unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
 - inappropriate development models
 - deleterious effects of international trade agreements
 - perverse subsidies
 - population growth
 - lack of secure land tenure and rights to forests resources on part of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
 - poor governance and lack of transparency in decision making
 - lack of technical capacity and financial resources at the national and local level

Drivers of Deforestation

- Strong relationship between population densities, rate of change of population, market access, soil quality and secure tenure on one side and changes in land use on the other
- Primary drivers: large scale agriculture, unsustainable extraction of timber, small scale commercial or subsistence agriculture – sometimes more than one driver in same locale

Complexity



- Difficult to make generalizations about deforestation and forest degradation – need nuanced understanding at national and local levels and well-informed policy
- For example, World Bank/GEF project in Indonesia: Kerinci-Seblat National Park
 - increased local incomes through transfers
 - but park contains highly prized hardwood and location has ideal climate for cinnamon
 - did not succeed in reducing deforestation

Some Tools for Countries

- **National Forest Programmes (NFP)**
 - cross sector, participatory frameworks
- **Criteria and Indicators Processes**
 - nine processes, 140 countries
- **Community Based Forest Management**
 - ensure sustainable livelihoods
 - effective in preventing forest fires and illegal logging



Realizing a more holistic approach

- The discussion of forests in the climate change arena provides a real opportunity for creating “cross-sectoral linkages”
- Still need to develop these real exchanges with:
 - Agriculture
 - Rural Development / Poverty Alleviation



Forests and the UNFCCC

- April 2006: Workshop on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (Joanneum Research) → Step-Wise approach

Step 1: detailed inventories and assessments of driving forces in various locations; Capacity building for MAR and measuring carbon; country to set own baseline

→ financed by some kind of fund

Forests and the UNFCCC

- Step 2: create comprehensive National Forest Programs and plans to use incentives and regulations to reduce deforestation levels
 - improve governance and law enforcement
 - extension programs for agriculture
- Step 3: some sort of carbon credit scheme
 - important to ensure benefits reach those responsible for stewardship of the land

Climate Change and the UNFF

- UNFF provides a qualitative, normative process for addressing forest issues
- December 2006: begin negotiation of non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
- Negotiations to be completed at UNFF-7
16-25 April 2007
- UNFF-7 will also agree on multi-year program of work for 2008-2015

Non-legally binding instrument

- Conceptualization of SFM
- Global Objectives on Forests
- National actions
- National policies and measures
 - Governance
- Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR)
- Trade
- Research
- Climate Change (?)
- Means of Implementation: capacity building, finance, technology transfer
 - global forest fund



UNFF + UNFCCC

- Need to ensure collaboration and coordination:
 - A robust non-legally binding instrument would provide a framework for ensuring sustainable forest management
 - A financial mechanism to promote reduction of emissions from deforestation could help in implementing mutual objectives

